

BCWBS: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

On May 19, 1983 the Greater Vancouver Wheelchair Basketball Society was incorporated under the Society Act of BC. The society later changed its name to the Maple Leaf Wheelchair Basketball Society and lastly to the BC Wheelchair Basketball Society (BCWBS). This represented an important step in the development of wheelchair basketball in BC as the society embraced a provincial focus to its program delivery and leadership. The first directors and founders of the BC Wheelchair Basketball Society were Stanley Noble Stronge, William Lynes, Wayne Moser, Rick Hansen, Norah Fladgate and Peter Colistro. These directors had great vision and insight for the development of wheelchair basketball in BC.

As BCWBS delves into a full season of events and activities for 2007-08 we would like to take the time to reflect on where we have come from and all our organization and its members have accomplished over the years. We will be sharing stories and member highlights in the 'Net'Work News, on our website and at our



Founding member and sporting legend, Stan Stronge.

events throughout the season. Our anniversary celebrations will culminate in May 2008 as BCWBS hosts the National Wheelchair Basketball Championships at the Pinetree Community Centre in Coquitlam. Should you have any historical pictures or stories you would like to share with BCWBS we welcome your contributions. We hope to see you all at our upcoming events to further support and development the game of wheelchair basketball here in BC. For our 1st member highlight in recognition of our anniversary it is only fitting to recognize our founding member and sporting Legend – Stanley Noble Stronge.

REMEMBERING STAN STRONGE, A SPORTING LEGEND

One cannot speak of the history of wheelchair sports in Canada without mentioning the name Stan Stronge. Stan was an accomplished athlete who represented Canada numerous times as a soccer player prior to a car accident that left him paralyzed in 1940. In 1950, he founded and played on Vancouver's first wheelchair basketball team, the "Dueck Powerglides", and acted as both a coach and manager in the sports of soccer, basketball and swimming at an international level. Stan was also a founding member of the Greater Vancouver Wheelchair Basketball Society in May 1983 and a co-founder of the Canadian Wheelchair Sports and Recreation Association in 1967.

In recognition of his contribution to disabled sports both in British Columbia and Canada as a whole, Stan Stronge received the Order of Canada in 1981. Stan is still honored today with the Stan Stronge Memorial Award which is given to the CWSA athlete whose qualities of fair play and dedication to excellence exemplify the spirit of Stan Stronge, who dedicated a lifetime encouraging and mentoring young athletes to succeed in wheelchair sport.

We acknowledge Stan for the great mentor and builder he was in laying the ground work for what has become a great history of wheelchair basketball in British Columbia!

BC WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING
COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR THEIR
GENEROUS SUPPORT:



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Program & Member Services
Co-ordinator *Scott Stefani*

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JUNIORS

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 8TH ANNUAL JUNIOR WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CHALLENGE



**November 10/11, 2007 at McRoberts
Secondary School, Richmond, BC**

Mark your calendars for the 8th Annual BC Junior Wheelchair Basketball Challenge Tournament. The tournament features two divisions (8 ½ ft and 10 ft hoop heights) to provide all of our junior players with the most positive and successful experience. Junior players from around BC, as well as teams from across Canada and our friends from Seattle are invited to participate. Registration information

is available on-line and through your coaches at weekly BCWBS Junior programs. BCWBS members can apply to receive travel support to this event through the Sportsfunder program. Visit www.bcwheelchairsports.com for application forms, due by December 15, 2007.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Registration Fee: \$10/person with payment by October 24.

Late Registration Fee: \$15/person after October 24.

There will also be a \$20 jersey cost for BCWBS players who do not already have a reversible jersey.

You may register as a team or an individual and you will be placed on a team. Lower Mainland players will likely be divided into teams based on your appropriate division of play. Registration deadline is **October 24**.

TOURNAMENT HOTEL: Holiday Inn Express Vancouver Airport

Reservations Direct: 604 214 8450 Carolyn – Assistant Guest Service Manager

Rate: \$99 Cdn. per night (single –quad occupancy) + 16% tax

Hotel rooms must be booked by October 19, 2007.



BCWBS MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

ATHLETE JAIMIE BORISOFF INTRODUCES NEW ULTRA LIGHT WHEELCHAIR – ELEVATION™

BC Wheelchair Basketball would like to congratulate provincial and national team athlete Jaimie Borisoff on the introduction of an exciting new product to the wheelchair marketplace. This new wheelchair, named elevation™, is the culmination of over three years of designing, prototyping, and testing. Jaimie has combined his engineering background and personal insight as a wheelchair user to create an innovative wheelchair which has broadened the function provided to users of an everyday wheelchair. elevation™ provides all the benefits afforded by rigid ultra-light wheelchairs, plus many additional benefits by the ability to adjust both seat height and backrest recline in real-time.

“Our hope is that elevation™ will improve people's lives by enabling greater function, independence, comfort, and versatility throughout the entire day-to-day use of the wheelchair,” says Jaimie. To learn more about elevation and Jaimie's company Instinct Mobility you can visit www.useyourinstinct.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2007

- 21 Okanagan Skill Development Camp, Kelowna, BC
- 27/28 High Performance Camp & CP Camp, Douglas College, New West

NOVEMBER 2007

- 3/4 BC-CWBL Div. 1 Tournament, Semiahmoo Sec. School
- 10/11 Junior Wheelchair Basketball Challenge, McRoberts Sec. School, Richmond BC
- 24 BCWBS Annual General Meeting Douglas College, New West
- 24/25 BC-CWBL Div. 2 Tournament Douglas College, New West
- 30-2 Dec. NWBA Div. 1 Tournament Douglas College, New West

DECEMBER 2007

- 15/16 Centre for Performance Camp Douglas College, New West

JANUARY 2007

- 4-6 High Performance Training Camp & Coaching Clinic Douglas College, New West
- 12/13 BC-CWBL Div. 2 Tournament TCC, Kamloops

FEBRUARY 2007

- 1-3 NWBA Div. 1 Tournament Mississauga, Ontario
- 21-24 BC Winter Games Kimberley/Cranbrook

MARCH 2007

- 1/2 BC-CWBL Div. 1 & 2 Finals Douglas College, New West
- 22/23 Western Mini-Basket Wheelchair Basketball Festival, TBC
- 28-30 Western Regional Jr. Nationals Winnipeg, Manitoba

April 2007

- 4/5 NWBA D1 Championships Lexington, KT
- 11-13 2008 CWBL Finals, Regina, SK

2007-08 BC-CWBL LEAGUE INFORMATION

It's that time again...time to dust the cobwebs off your sport chair and head to the basketball court for another year of competitive and friendly games in the BC-CWBL. The BC-CWBL is a league that provides competitive opportunities for teams throughout British Columbia. The league also features two divisions to cater to different levels of ability and experience. The league features tournaments throughout the season and culminates in an annual provincial championship tournament and awards banquet for all participants, coaches, and officials. This league is open to any team interested in participating.

All teams must submit a team roster along with their league registration fee by November 1, 2007 in order to be eligible to play. Players must also be current BCWBS members in good standing. The registration fee for both division one and two is \$500. The late registration fee is \$600 if paid after November 1. A rules and registration package is available on-line and at the BCWBS office. If you or someone you now who would like to play on a BC-CWBL team, please call the BCWBS office as soon as possible and we will do our best to link you with an existing team. Please note that deadlines for team registration, roster submissions and tournament entry will be closely adhered to, so make sure to submit necessary information and fees in time.

BC-CWBL TOURNAMENT DATES:

DIVISION 1

November 3/4 2007	Semiahmoo Secondary School
Nov/Dec 2007, Jan '08	6 Weekly Games at Douglas College, New West
March 1/2, 2008	Douglas College, New West (BC-CWBL Finals)
April 11-13, 2008	Saskatchewan (CWBL Finals)

DIVISION 2

November 24/25, 2007	Douglas College, New West
January 12/13, 2008	Tournament Capital Centre, Kamloops
March 1/2, 2008	Douglas College, New West (BC-CWBL Finals)



SUPPORT BCWBS AT CANADA HELPS

BC Wheelchair Basketball Society is a non-profit organization and registered charity. To that extent many of our services are made possible only by the generosity of individuals who donate to our cause. If you would like to make a one-time donation or sign up for a monthly giving program to BCWBS, please visit Canada Helps at www.canadahelps.org. Thank you for your support!



CWBA UPDATE PARAPANAMERICAN GAMES RIO 2007, TEAM CANADA TAKES SILVER

Both of Canada's wheelchair basketball teams settled for silver as the men lost a squeaker 52–50 to the United States, and the women fell 50–44 to the Americans at the 2007 Rio Parapanamerican Games August 12–19, 2007. Both of Canada's wheelchair basketball teams have now earned the right to play at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Summer Games. BCWBS members attending the Games and representing Canada include Jennifer Krempien, Jessica DesMazes, Misty Thomas, Elisha Williams, Bo Hedges, Richard Peter, and Patrick Anderson as athletes, and Tim Frick, Trish Nicholson, and Bruce Enns as part of the coaching staff and former BC Breaker Laura Goertz as team massage therapist.

In addition to the on-court success, three-time Paralympic gold medalist Jennifer Krempien was named Canada's flag bearer for the 2007 Parapanamerican Games. She joined Canada's national wheelchair basketball team in 1992. With the team, she has won three Paralympic gold medals and four World Championship gold medals, as well as a bronze medal from the Athens 2004 Paralympic Summer Games. Krempien has been named twice to the World All-Star Wheelchair Basketball team – at the 2002 and 1998 World Championships.

“It is an honour and a privilege for myself and the women's team to represent my country and lead the Canadian delegation at the Parapanamerican Games,” said Krempien, a 15-year veteran of the Canadian women's wheelchair basketball team. “To be selected from among so many talented and dedicated athletes makes this a very special honour.”

Men's Division Scores:

Canada 72 – Mexico 37
Canada 78 – Venezuela 40
Canada 73 – Brazil 41
Canada 75 – Puerto Rico 28
Canada 72 – Argentina 30 (semi final)
Canada 50 – USA 52 (final)

Women's Division Scores:

Canada 72 – Brazil 33
Canada 43 – USA 57
Canada 54 – Mexico 31
Canada 51 – Argentina 12
Canada 66 – El Salvador 14
Canada 44 – USA 50 (final)

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TEAMS QUALIFY FOR 2008 BEIJING PARALYMPIC GAMES

All Zone Qualification tournaments have been completed and as a result the following teams will be participating at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China September 6–17, 2008.

WOMEN:

Asia Oceania: Australia, China, Japan
Americas: Brazil, Canada, Mexico, USA
Europe: Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands

MEN:

Africa: South Africa
Asia Oceania: Australia, China, Iran, Japan,
Americas: Brazil, Canada, USA
Europe: Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Sweden

2009 U23 MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDED TO FRANCE

After a very successful site visit by IWBF President Maureen Orchard and Competitions Commission President Ron Coppentrath a decision was taken by the Executive Council to award the 2009 U23 Championship for Men to Fédération Française Handisport. The tournament will take place from July 7 until July 15, 2009. Teams will arrive July 5 and depart July 16, 2009. The teams will be accommodated in the newly renovated Résidence Internationale de Paris.

Coppentrath mentioned that with the announcement of the dates and site the Zones will now be able to call for bids for the Qualification tournaments.

BCWBS MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

ATHLETE ROBERTO MOLINA OPENS HIS NEW RESTAURANT “MI MEXICO”

In February of 2007, Provincial Team Member Roberto Molina opened his restaurant “Mi Mexico”. Located at 3853 Hastings Street, Mi Mexico offers a solid mix of refreshing drinks and authentic Mexican food. In response to being asked what inspired him to open his restaurant Roberto says, “I have been to a lot of Latin restaurants, and a lot of them were not really authentic and not what they should be. A lot of them were also not wheelchair accessible.” Seeing this opportunity is what inspired Roberto to open an authentic Latin restaurant that all can enjoy.

Mi Mexico offers a wide array of tropical smoothies, homemade salsa and appetising main courses. For more information, Mi Mexico can be contacted at 604-677-1602. Congratulations Roberto!

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PROGRAMS AROUND BC

CITY	LOCATION	DAY/TIME	CONTACT	COMMENTS*
*Abbotsford	Rick Hansen Secondary	Thurs 7:00-8:30pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	Recreational
*Kamloops	Tournament Capital Centre	Tues 8:15-10:15pm	Bob Thorpe 250-377-7502	Adult Program
*Kelowna	Parkinson Rec Centre	Sun 10:30am-12:00pm	Joe Higgins 604-940-7719	Recreational
	Quigley Elementary	Wed 8:00-10:00pm		Okanagan Thunder & City League
*New Westminster	Douglas College	Mon & Wed 2:30-4:30pm	Marni Abbott-Peter 604-737-3193	Skill Development Drop-In
	Douglas College	Mon 6:00-8:00pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	City League ends Nov 5 High Performance Group
	Douglas College	Wed 8:00-10:00pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	High Performance Training Group
	New West Secondary	Fri 7:00-9:00pm	Gaby Gasztonyi 604-290-7450	Adult Drop-In
*Nanaimo	Coal Tyee Elementary	Thurs 7:00-8:30pm	Bert Abbott 250-741-9889	Jr. Program
*North Vancouver	Carisbrooke Elementary	Thurs 7:00-8:30pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	Jr. Program
*Parksville	Oceanside Middle School	Mon 7:00-9:00pm	Bert Abbott 250-741-9889	Adult Program
*Prince George	Kinsmen Complex	Mon 5:30-7:00pm	Pat Harris 250-563-6942	Jr. Program – minis
	Kinsmen Complex	Wed 5:30-7:00pm	Pat Harris 250-563-6942	Recreational
	Kinsmen Complex	Mon 7:00-9:00pm	Pat Harris 250-563-6942	Recreational
*Quesnel	TBC	TBC	Jodie Vliegenthart 250-249-5581	Mixed Jr & Adult
*Richmond	Steveston Comm. Ctr.	Thurs 6:45-8:00pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	Mixed Jr & Adult
*Surrey	Guilford Rec Centre	Tues 5:45 – 7:15pm	Rec Centre 604-502-6360	\$3.00 drop-in fee
	Surrey Family YMCA	Fri 5:30 – 7:00pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	Jr. Program
*Victoria	Central Baptist Church	Mon 6:00-7:30pm	Marilyn LaPointe 250-595-5039	Jr. Program
	Stelley's High School	Thur 7:00-9:00pm	Shaun Kennett 250-652-0357	Adult Program

JUNIORS

ZONES TRAINING FOR THE 2008 BC WINTER GAMES IN KIMBERLEY/CRANBROOK



February 21–24, 2008

Planning continues for the 2008 BC Winter Games taking place February 21–24 in Kimberley-Cranbrook.

Zones two, three, four, five, and eight have all held training camps with the

zone six camp scheduled for late October to identify and select athletes in each area of the province to attend the Games. In preparation for the BC Games the athletes will train with their club and junior program coaches and they will also attend the BCWBS Annual Junior Challenge Tournament in Richmond. If you missed your zone camp please contact your zone representative to express your interest in participating and determine if final team selections have already taken place.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Athletes must turn 13–21 years of age in 2008 to be eligible to participate (athletes born Jan 1, 1987 to Dec 31, 1995).
- Eight players per zone team, plus one coach and one manager per team – both male and female athletes are eligible (zone try-outs will be held.)

ZONE SPORT REPRESENTATIVES:

Zone 2: Thompson/Okanagan

Tracy Ficocelli – (250) 764-4179 or email: trymatt@telus.net

Zone 3: Fraser Valley

Emily Herd – (604) 584-3330 or email: emme_02@hotmail.com

Zone 4: Fraser River/Delta

Mike Prescott – (604) 604-271-9363 or email: mandala.mike@gmail.com

Zone 5: Vancouver/Squamish

Mike Prescott – (604) 604-271-9363 or email: mandala.mike@gmail.com

Zone 6: Vancouver Island/Central Coast

Pat Bishop – (250) 743-7458 or email: pebishop@telus.net

Zone 8: Cariboo/North East

Nancy Harris – (250) 967-4665 or email: pgtitans@hotmail.com

For more information please contact BCWBS or check out our website at www.bcwbs.ca, or the BC Games website at www.bcgames.org.

BCWBS HOSTS YARROW COMMUNITY SCHOOL INTEGRATED WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CAMP

BC Wheelchair Basketball and the Yarrow Community School hosted an exciting two days of wheelchair basketball as part of a multi sport youth camp this past summer. The camp was aimed at learning and improving wheelchair basketball skills while having a ton of fun! Participants had the opportunity to develop their skills and then use these skills in game situations under the guidance of BCWBS Provincial Coach Marni Abbott-Peter. The camp was a great success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite the extreme heat in the Fraser Valley. BCWBS would like to thank Sally Lum at Yarrow Community School and Elisha Williams, BCWBS volunteer for their assistance in providing this great experience for the youth in the Chilliwack Yarrow area.

BCWBS ANNOUNCEMENT

SCOTT STEFANI JOINS BCWBS

The BC Wheelchair Basketball Society is pleased to announce that Scott Stefani has joined our team as Program & Member Services Coordinator. Scott completed a Masters degree in Sport Administration and Technology from the International Academy of Sport Science and Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland and also holds a Bachelor of Arts with a Communications major from Simon Fraser University. Scott's sport experiences include working with Football BC and working in the Communications Department with the BC Lions Football Club and International Management Group. Scott's sport management and educational experience combined with his professionalism and enthusiasm make him a welcome addition to our team at BCWBS.

As Program & Member Services Coordinator, Scott will be responsible for the administration and organization of BCWBS programs including the BC-CWBL, developmental initiatives, junior programs and tournaments, wheelchair loan program and Provincial Team programs. Scott will also take a lead role in BCWBS communications contributing to the organization's website, newsletter, and media relations. Please join us in welcoming Scott to the BC Wheelchair Basketball Community. You can reach him at scott@bcwbs.ca or 604-737-3193.

SPORT WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

BCWBS has a limited number of sport wheelchairs available for rental. The program requires you to sign a one-year loan agreement and submit a \$100/year or \$10/month rental fee.

If you are interested please visit www.bcwbs.ca, click 'For Athletes' and then 'Wheelchair Loan Program', and fill out the application form on-line.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

TEAM BC RETURNING TO NWBA DIV. 1

BCWBS is pleased to announce that BCWBS will return to participate in Division One of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association League (NWBA) for 2007-08 under the guidance of Coach Peter Taylor. Leading the team will be national team veterans Richard Peter, Patrick Anderson, Jaimie Borisoff, and Bo Hedges joined by players from our Men's Provincial Team Program. The purpose of the BCWBS Team is to provide a high performance competitive opportunity for elite athletes living and training in BC. Even better news for the wheelchair basketball community is that BCWBS will once again be hosting one of the league tournaments at Douglas College in New Westminster November 30–December 2, 2007. We encourage everyone to come out and see some of the top players in North America battle it out on the basketball court. Stay tuned for league news and tournament results over the course of the season at www.bcwbs.ca. For more information on the NWBA league you can check out their website at: www.nwba.org or call the BCWBS office to learn more about our BC Team. Special thanks to the Rick Hansen Foundation for your continued support of this unique initiative.

Division 1 Tournament Dates:

Nov 30–Dec 2, 2007	New Westminster, BC
Feb 1–3, 2008	Toronto, ON
March 7–9, 2008	Milwaukee, WI
March 21–23, 2008	Dallas, TX; Baylor Institute/ American Airlines Invitational
April 4–5, 2008	NWBA Finals in Lexington, KY

BCWBS HIGH PERFORMANCE CAMP

BCWBS is pleased to be hosting a pre-season High Performance training camp for BC's top wheelchair basketball athletes October 27–28 at Douglas College in New Westminster. The camp will include senior men and women, junior and IPS targeted athletes. Guest coaches are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact Coach Marni at BCWBS if you are interested in attending.

CITY LEAGUE COMING TO KELOWNA. REGISTER NOW!

BC Wheelchair Basketball and People in Motion are thrilled to offer the 1st Okanagan City League this fall in 2007. The Okanagan City League is a rousing eight-week recreational league, where new players, juniors, and some seasoned veterans can develop their game skills and have some competitive fun mixed with skill development

sessions each night. The structure of the league will include the division of players into teams playing in a round-robin tournament over the course of eight weeks, with a championship game to determine our 1st Okanagan league champions. The league will run weekly with the help of local player Paul Clark. Thanks Paul!

OKANAGAN FALL 2007 CITY LEAGUE

Dates: Wed, Oct 17–Dec 5, 2007 (8 weeks)

Time: 8–10pm

Location: Quigley Elementary School, 705 Kitch Road, Kelowna BC

Registration Fee: \$70 by Oct 9

Late Registration Fee: \$85.00 after Oct 9

CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE CAMPS

The CWBA Centre for/de Performance is a unified, nation-wide Athlete Identification and Athlete Development Program rolling out under the guidance of Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association. It is intended to identify potential elite-level classifiable development athletes in Canada (men and women) and to then give these athletes the chance to be coached and trained in the sport of Wheelchair Basketball under a standardized Centre for Performance curriculum. This teaching curriculum is aligned with our NT programs (men and women) and is designed to best prepare our future National Team Athletes in all aspects of Elite Development.

Once selected as a Centre for Performance participant and under the guidance of the Regional Head Coach, athletes will be brought together for Centre for Performance training weekends three to four times throughout the year. Athletes will receive coaching and instruction in skill development from National Level Coaches. Participants will also receive an introduction to Sport Science Principles (Nutrition and Sport Psychology) from Canadian Sport Centre experts where applicable.

Every regional Centre for Performance will have one Head Coach and two to three assistant coaches. Some regions will also incorporate regional apprentice coaches. Each coach will be assigned a pool of athletes for the purpose of evaluation and communication. BCWBS will be hosting three Centres of Performance Camps this season at Douglas College in New Westminster. These camps to be held in conjunction with other BCWBS initiatives will allow local and regional athletes and coaches to participate in the program. The following dates have been designated: Oct 27/28, Dec 15/16, and March 16/17. For more information on the CWBA Centre for Performance Program for BC please contact Provincial Coach Marni Abbott-Peter.

Stay connected to all BCWBS news & events at www.bcwbs.ca

COACHES CORNER

Marni Abbott-Peter – Provincial Coach

We have had a few changes in coaching personnel over the past few months. Regional Coach Mike Prescott has moved onto a position with 2010 LegaciesNow and Coach Joe Higgins is now responsible for both the Okanagan and Lower Mainland-Fraser Valley Regions. Coach Pat Harris remains Head Coach in the Northern Region, with Coach Mark Cormack taking on the Assistant Coach position for the region. Mark is based out of Vanderhoof.

The extensive planning for the upcoming season has been completed. We have, as usual, a busy season jam packed with camps, tournaments and special events. The regions, clubs and juniors have all started their weekly programs. The BC conference of the CWBL Division One and Two are gearing up for the first league tournaments in November.

I will be coaching the BC Breakers women's team this season as Coach Frick has a full plate preparing the national team for the 2008 Paralympic games. Coach Peter Taylor will once again be taking on the duties as head coach for the Men's Provincial and NWBA teams. Along with his regional obligations Coach Higgins will be coaching the Men's Provincial B squad.

We have held BC games ID/Selection Camps in the Lower Mainland, Okanagan, and Northern BC, and we have plans in place for the Island Zone camp. We are encouraging these young athletes to participate in the BCWBS Junior Challenge in November, as a lead up to the games in February. The BC Winter Games are to be held in the Kimberley-Cranbrook region of the province and are an important stepping stone in the development of our young athletes.

We are looking forward to a very exciting season there will be many highlights in the upcoming months, including hosting the NWBA teams, the national team selection camps and Senior National championships. BC will also be the staging point for our national teams who are heading to Beijing in September 2008 for the Paralympic Games.

Regional Coach Updates

Greater Vancouver – Joe Higgins

Wheelchair Basketball in Vancouver is off to a strong start this season. City League at Douglas College is well underway with all four teams fielding full rosters. Thanks to all new and returning players, city league continues to be a great experience for all involved.

In addition, the 8th Annual Junior Wheelchair Basketball challenge is open for registration. Running from November 10–11, this is a great chance for players from all over BC, Washington and Alberta to get together and enjoy the sport. For adult competitive players, CWBL Division One and Two teams will be starting soon so be sure to register your team. We also have an additional drop in time on Fridays from 7–9pm at New West Secondary School. All are welcome at no cost to you!

Finally, all programs in the Lower Mainland are running and looking for players. Everyone's welcome so come out and give it a try!

Okanagan – Joe Higgins

It is an exciting new season for Wheelchair Basketball in the Okanagan. The first ever Okanagan City League is set to begin October 17, 2007 at Quigley Elementary School. Thanks to the hard work of Paul Clark, Brian Shore and the generosity of *People in Motion*, this eight-week recreational league is sure to get off to a strong start. Registration is now open and we are always looking for new players.

In addition, we are excited for the arrival of four new high-end sport wheelchairs that will be part of the Okanagan Program. Thanks to the Regional District of the Central Okanagan, these chairs will go a long way to enhancing wheelchair sport opportunities in the Okanagan.

On the developmental side, we are excited to announce that Pacific Sport will be running a Sport Leadership Conference, October 20. National Women's Team Coach Tim Frick will offer the keynote speech on the topic of Wheelchair Sport so please contact Pacific Sport Okanagan if you would like to attend. In addition, Tim Frick will be running a Kickoff Basketball Camp on October 21 from 9am–12pm.

Finally, a big thank you to all you juniors that came out to the BC Games Identification Camp. It was a big success and we hope that you will all participate as we send an Okanagan team to the 8th Annual Junior Wheelchair Basketball Challenge November 10–11 in Richmond, BC.



Northern BC – Pat Harris and Mark Cormack

How quickly the summer came and went. The PG Titans have started local basketball programming as of Sept 24. We are running our programs in the Kinsmen Community Complex. We will continue to run our mini hoops on Monday evening from 5:30–7:00pm and encourage any youngsters to come out and enjoy the sport of wheelchair basketball. Our adult recreation program runs on Mondays from 7–9pm and on Wednesdays from 5:30–7:00pm.

Our club was pleased to be involved in the grand opening of the Northern Sport Centre on Sept 21. We were privileged to be part of the parade of athletes as well as providing wheelchair basketball demos to the public over the weekend. The Northern Sport Centre boasts three indoor college size basketball courts, two full sized soccer pitches, extensive weight training facilities and a 280 metre running track. It will also be the new home of Pacific Sport and offer other services in the sport sciences. We look forward to our players taking advantage of the services available at the new Northern Sport Centre.