



Wheelchair Basketball Canada Annual General Meeting

Alberta – Provincial Report

Submitted – November 6th , 2011

The province of Alberta has completed another successful year in all areas related to wheelchair sports. Our club base continues to thrive and we are very fortunate to have a wide variety of membership representation from across the province with an astounding array of talent on every level. All regions within the province are represented including: Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Red Deer. Strong efforts are being made to increase expansion into additional locations such as medicine Hat and Ft. MacMurray.

The 2010 / 11 season could best be termed as one of transition as there was a significant change both in participants and in program. Some positive outcomes along with some ongoing challenges presented themselves to our Basketball community during the 2010 - 11 season.

Alberta continues to be very fortunate in the areas of fundraising and sponsorship. WSA received an unprecedented level of support both in resource and financial from the Alberta Sport Recreation Parks & Wildlife Foundation (ASRPWF), Alberta Gaming, Alberta Community Spirit Foundation and others.

WSA continued with coordination of the new Bridging the Gap program that was launched in 2008. Efforts towards initiating ongoing programming associated with the Bridging the Gap program was undertaken throughout 2011. Regional have-a-go days along with supporting weekly sessions have been setup in all regions of the province. WSA has been working closely with rehabilitation centers throughout Alberta to help bring the BTG program to fruition.

WSA continues to maintain strong support and partnership with several organizations and facilities located throughout the province. These include the Steadward Centre (Calgary & Edmonton), Canadian Paraplegic Association, Paralympic Sport Association, MS Society, U of A, U of C, Sait, MRC and Grande Prairie Regional College. Strong efforts have been made to re-ignite relationships with all special needs organizations throughout the province by initiating a strong presence at interagency meetings and special interest events.

In roads towards a strong awareness / promotional presence have been established with committee representation at the board level with the following organizations: Edmonton Sport Council, City of Edmonton, Community Services Advisory Board, SCI Alliance and Active Living – Physical Activity For All.

Alberta Provincial Wheelchair Basketball Programs

Wheelchair Basketball Alberta Leadership Team –

The WBA Leadership Team continues to thrive and provide strong leadership to the Alberta Basketball Community. Under the guidance of Chairmen Joe Sask this highly dedicated team of key individuals from throughout the wheelchair basketball community in Alberta has been instrumental in forging a new direction and helped to re-vitalize the overall wheelchair basketball program. Team members include: Lorna Shannon, Darrell Nordell, Lori Radke, Steve Ryan, Mike Evjen and Sergio Geordano.

Men's Provincial Program –

Our Men's Provincial program saw some nice re-grouping under the leadership of Provincial Head Coach Darrell Nordell. A structured program with several development camps was put into place during the winter months leading up to a competition in Vancouver and the National Championship. We feel our men did respectably in performance at all tournaments in 2011 laying the ground work for future success.

The Provincial Men's program gained some strong momentum leading up to a solid performance at the National Championships. A solid team of experienced players that included Ross Norton, Curtiss Matson, Chad Jassman, Greg Sadler, Mike Evjen, Kelly Angus, Max McMillian, Ranjit Sidhu and Joe Sask. Darrell Nordell and Danny Brinton provided coaching expertise. The team placed 4th overall with solid performances throughout the tournament. Chad Jassman was selected as a Tournament All Star.

Women's Program –

Alberta once again had a strong showing from within our club structure at the Women's CWBL Finals held in Saskatoon May 13 – 15, 2011. Edmonton Inferno took the Silver medal followed closely by Calgary Rollers with the Bronze. Congratulations to all of the women from Alberta who participated and did their clubs and the province proud with outstanding results. Karla Tritten and Kendra Ohama were chosen as tournament All Stars.

Edmonton Inferno: Helaina Cyr, Jamie Danskin, Kylee Evjen, Tara Feser, Alarissa Haak, Caroline Hilliard, Rebecca MacMillan, Francis Miller, Karla Tritten

Calgary Rollers: Mackenzie Doll, Deb Dyck, Audrey Hefner, Casey Holberton, Kendra Ohama, Natalie Piche, Lori Radke, Diane Sorensen, Andrea Wojcik

Junior Provincial Program –

Our Junior Program continued to be re-vamped throughout 2010 - 11 and tied into the existing CWBL structure and the existing club programs running independently in both Edmonton and Calgary. Karla Tritten, Lori Radke, Lorna Shannon, Chad Jassman, Jamie Peers and Daniel Peers all contributed significant effort and time in streamlining this program and were instrumental in setting a solid direction with the ongoing development of our Junior programs.

Canada Winter Games – The main focus for this season was to begin rebuilding our base with a strong junior program and an eighth place finish does not tell the true story of what was a very successful campaign for Alberta's junior program. With only 5 participants a year ago (and only 3 who had experienced an actual game), we found ourselves having to make some roster decisions to keep only 14 athletes in the competitive program in the fall. This group included 10 athletes who will still be of age at the next games (4 years from now) and 4 athletes with at least 8 years of junior eligibility left.

These athletes were extremely dedicated with most of them participating in an additional conditioning program (with the Alberta Sport Development Council). 4 of these athletes have since been identified as part of the nationally identified junior group, and almost all of them are continuing to be actively involved in local club activity.

Their performance at the games included very close battles with both the third and fifth place teams, and their first win in a battle with New Brunswick. All players contributed with everyone participating in every game.

A special thanks goes out to Karla Tritten who was instrumental in the retention and development of a core junior group in Edmonton that is the envy of the country.

2010 - 2011 CWBL Alberta Division

Participation numbers in our CWBL league were up significantly as Edmonton went from 1 team to 1 national division team and 2 provincial division teams. Calgary also increased from 2 to 3 teams and Grande Prairie, which had often struggled to field a roster last season, was able to field a solid team, energized with some new young players. We also welcomed to the fold, a provincial junior team and a team from Saskatchewan.

Declared Teams:	Tournament Dates:
1. Edmonton	Edmonton - November 6 - 7, 2010
2. Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie - November 20 - 21, 2010
3. Saskatoon	Saskatoon - January 15 - 16, 2011
4. Calgary Grizzlies	Calgary - January 29 - 30, 2011
5. Lethbridge	Lethbridge - February 26 - 27, 2011
6. Calgary Rollers	March 12 - 13, 2011

We did experience some participation setbacks. A struggling Lethbridge program decided to fold their program for this season and it will be a battle to get them back to a viable level. Edmonton also saw a great deal of attrition as 5 of their senior players decided to step away for various reasons.

We are very hopeful for the future as we endeavor to build off of Edmonton's junior success to build a similar program in Calgary. We would like to help Lethbridge recover if possible, we are expecting additional entries from Regina and Saskatchewan, and we are exploring new centers with Red Deer as a top priority and several additional areas on the radar.

Future Initiatives

WSA will continue to coordinate and organize wheelchair basketball programs for the provincial men's, women's and junior teams under the guidance of the Wheelchair Basketball Alberta Leadership Team. WSA's focus for the up coming years will be on initiating a more integrated approach to provincial programs aligning the men, women and junior teams.

WSA will work closely with the revised Wheelchair Basketball Canada strategic plan incorporating many of its initiatives by integrating those ideas into our own overall big picture direction(s).

Coach and official development have been identified as a much neglected area of training in Alberta. It is WSA's hopes to initiate more opportunity to host developmental clinics for both coaches and officials.

Additional strategies will include developing partnerships in fund raising and sponsorship, the development and recruitment from grassroots to high performance athletes. BTG will remain an integral part of our overall recruitment strategy allowing for a more widespread approach to grass root development.

New Chairs – based on processed and anticipated orders, it is estimated that Alberta will have added over 100 new chairs to its various programs across the province in over the course of one year.

School Program – Alberta is already a national leader in its school based program, and we have now made the progressive step of developing a complete curriculum to go with it. It is our hope to one day have it a recognized part of the provincial physical education program.

Long Term Athlete Development Model – It is Alberta’s intention to be national leaders in implementing the new LTAD model that is being promoted nationally from both the sport and governmental level. We were the best represented province at the recently held summit, and we feel that many of our current initiatives put us well on our way to championing a model that promotes holistic development, sport for life and a focused approach on developing national caliber athletes

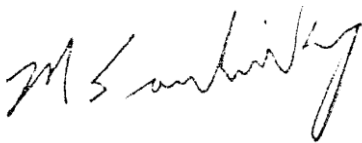
Non sport specific wheelchair fitness, skills and programs – It is our belief that with the size and diversity of the wheelchair sporting community in Alberta, we are not properly serving many of our members by trying to draw them exclusively into particular team sports in this province. We are looking to take leadership by working with various groups (including Bridging the Gap, Alberta Sport Development Council and specific sporting organizations) on providing more general wheelchair programs where participants can become involved at their own level, participate with a goal of fun and fitness, learn chair skills that will apply across various sports and experience more of what the different sporting groups have to offer.

CWBL changes – We have made significant changes to our league structure over the past 2 years and continue to modify it to make it as friendly as possible to all levels of play.

Conclusion

Once again it has been a real pleasure working alongside nsuch a dedicated group from within the Alberta Wheelchair Basketball family. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those involved in the wheelchair basketball community at large and all those who have provided me with guidance and/or assistance in our efforts to solidify the growth and development of all areas within wheelchair basketball. The future looks bright for wheelchair basketball in Alberta and I look forward to continuing to help shape the direction and vision of this great sport.

Respectfully Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Sandomirsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mike Sandomirsky
Executive Director