



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2009

### BC THREE-PEATS AS NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

(Montreal, QC) – BC won their third straight wheelchair basketball National Championships Sunday in Montréal, defeating Québec 74-68 Sunday the Collège Édouard-Montpetit sport centre. Along with their gold medals BC captures the Robert W. Jackson Trophy as top team in the country while Team Ontario took third place.

Led by Richard Peter (Team Canada Men) with 24 points, BC captured and held the lead for almost the entire game. Peter showed his veteran grit in the paint where he earned most of his baskets. Peter was also money from the free-throw line going 6-for-8. Bo Hedges (Team Canada Men) was another catalyst for BC. He finished his day with 16 points and 5 rebounds.

Top scorer of the game honours go to Québec's Maxime Poulin (Team Canada Juniors) who amassed 30 points and 7 rebounds for the hometown team. David Eng (Team Canada Men) was the game's top player on the glass with 12 rebounds to match his game-high 12 assists

Poulin and Peter found themselves at the center of attention early on as Poulin set the pace with 13 points in the first half. But it was his speed at both ends of the court that kept the game so close. He and Eng controlled the breakouts, and setup the offense for Québec, however it was a number of big defensive blocks that helped steal the momentum for the local team prior to the break. Peter was alone on his way to the hoop and it looked like he was going to sink the uncontested basket when a streaking Eng seemingly appeared out of nowhere to get his hand on the ball. That got the crowd, who outfitted with thunder-sticks, really going.

Peter, who had 11 first half points of his own at half, didn't miss much else. Fellow Team Canada Men teammates Jaimie Borisoff and Bo Hedges dished the ball out on offense, while Erik Hagreen and Ross MacDonald combined for 8 rebounds at halftime. BC led by a single point after two quarters 33-32.

BC's defense went to work in the second half, but a pair of timely 3-pointers by Poulin and Eng brought the game back into reach. Eng put in an easy two points off the glass late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to give Québec their only lead of the game with only 2:43 remaining on the clock.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA

Wheelchair Basketball Canada

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BC's Erik Hagreen responded immediately to put BC back on top. Then a huge second effort steal by Hedges ultimately led to easy points for BC and ultimately put the icing on the cake.

After two days of heavy competition BC came within a single point of emerging from the round robin as the tournament's only undefeated team, but a last minute loss to Manitoba charged them with their only loss (the finish with a 4-1 record). Meanwhile Québec also finishes with a (3-2) record, their only losses of the tournament coming at the hands of BC.

### **BRONZE MEDAL GAME**

Ontario won the bronze medal by defeating Manitoba 64-56 in a come from behind thriller that saw Adam Lancia (Team Canada Men) set the court ablaze with an incredible game turning performance in the second half. Lancia proved unstoppable scoring a tournament best 49 points, (39 of which game in the second half alone), and 12 rebounds. The sheer determination could be seen in his eyes as he outworked his opponents and drove to the hoop time and time again. At one point Lancia completely took the game over scoring three buckets in a row, including back-to-back breakaway layups before Manitoba was able to settle down and regroup.

Overall Ontario tripled their point production in the second half scoring 48 points, while limiting their opponents to 22 points to secure the victory. Manitoba's Joey Johnson (Team Canada Men) also put in a stellar effort. He picked up where he left off the day before, notching 25 points in the first frames, but Ontario buckled down after the break and limited him to a more modest 10 point second half. Johnson hauled in a dozen rebounds and dropped four buckets.

The 2009 National Wheelchair Basketball Championships are hosted by Wheelchair Basketball Canada and AQSFR (Association québécoise des sports en fauteuil roulant).

### **About Wheelchair Basketball Canada**

Wheelchair Basketball Canada is the national sports governing body responsible for the organization of wheelchair basketball in Canada. It is a non-profit, charitable organization that is the Canadian member to the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF). Wheelchair Basketball Canada delivers programs and services that strengthen the sport from the grassroots level to high performance athlete's competing in the Paralympic Games. Representatives from the Provinces elect the Board of Directors which establishes policy and lends guidance to the development of wheelchair basketball in Canada.

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