



Press Release

For Immediate Release:

May 15, 2011

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIVE-PEATS AS NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

Longueuil, QC – Team British Columbia won a fifth consecutive National Championship title by conquering rival Ontario 58-53 in the final game at the 2011 National Wheelchair Basketball Championships in Longueuil, QC.

Both teams came out strong and BC held a slight 12-11 edge on the scoreboard at the end of the opening frame. BC extended the lead to 24-18 at the conclusion of the defensively stingy first half.

The teams put the pieces together offensively in the third quarter, as the sharp shooters from Ontario outscored their BC counterparts 17-16 in the frame. Despite the offensive push by Ontario, BC held the 40-35 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Ontario overcame the deficit in the final frame, as Adam Lancia dropped a basket from beyond the arc to give Ontario a 47-46 lead with under five minutes to go. The teams then traded the lead back-and-forth and the heated contest stood at a 52-52 deadlock with 2:40 left in the game. BC pulled ahead to a 56-53 lead with one minute left on the clock before Richard Peter and all-star Bo Hedges each added a basket from the free throw line to seal the victory.

"As long as we keep getting solid contributions from our young guys coming in and the veterans keep playing at the same level hopefully we can keep the streak going. The same core group guys have been playing together for 10 years which really helps," said BC's Hedges.

"We knew BC was going to come out and really go hard like they did in the round-robin - typical British Columbia basketball. They are quick, aggressive with the chair, they have good outside shooting, and good finishing inside. And that's what they did that this afternoon. They rocked us back on our heels a little bit. Their press worked a little bit better than it did in the round robin and they played a little cleaner. A lot of their guys picked up early fouls in the round robin which helped us

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Wheelchair Basketball Canada

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out last time, but this game they were a lot cleaner or the refs were letting a lot more go, but either way we didn't get that edge this time," said Lancia.

Hedges and Peter, both members of the Sr. Men's National Team, led BC in scoring with 17 and 15 points, respectively. Team Canada teammate Lancia dropped a game-high 27 points for Ontario and was named the tournament MVP.

The teams collided in the championship game for the second straight year with BC prevailing once again.

Bronze Medal Game

Earlier in the day, host Quebec won a second consecutive bronze medal in a decisive 74-38 win over Alberta. Quebec dominated on both sides of the ball and received a 28-point contribution from the bench. Montreal native David Eng scored a game-high 18 points and 16 rebounds to pick up the double-double for Quebec. Chad Jassman tallied a team-leading 14 points for Alberta, which finished in fourth place following a string of fifth place results in six of the last seven National Championships. Eng and Jassman each earned tournament all-star honours.

2011 National Championships – Final Results

Gold – British Columbia

Silver – Ontario

Bronze – Quebec

4th Place – Alberta

5th Place – Nova Scotia

MVP

Adam Lancia – Ontario

All-Stars

Abdi Dini - Ontario

David Eng – Quebec

Eric Hagreen – British Columbia

Bo Hedges – British Columbia

Chad Jassman – Alberta

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA



High-resolution photos from the National & Women's CWBL National Championships are available for download (please credit Wheelchair Basketball Canada):

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wheelchairbasketball/sets/72157626714107934/>

Schedule & Results:

2011 National Championships –

<http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca/en/tournament.aspx?id=3725>

2011 CWBL Women's National Championships –

<http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca/en/tournament.aspx?id=3728>

Team Rosters:

2011 National Championships –

<http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca/en/content.aspx?id=3726>

2011 CWBL Women's National Championships –

<http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca/en/content.aspx?id=3729>

The tournament was held in conjunction with the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League (CWBL) Women's National Championships - where the best female club teams in the country will also compete to decide a National Champion.

The tournament features elite players from across Canada including members of the Canadian Senior Men's, Senior Women's, and Under-25 Women's National Teams.

Both Senior National Teams are preparing to embark on the road to the 2012 Paralympic Games. They will compete at the 2011 Parapan American Games (November 12-20) in Guadalajara, Mexico, which double as the qualification tournament for London 2012.

The Women's U25 National Team is preparing to host the world at the first-ever Women's U25 World Wheelchair Basketball Championships (July 15-21, 2011) in St. Catharines, ON.





For more information visit: www.wheelchairbasketball.ca

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About l'Association québécoise des sports en fauteuil roulant

AQSFR is a non-profit organization officially recognized as the governing body of wheelchair sports by the Quebec government. The organization works to develop programs and services that benefit people with physical limitations while promoting a healthy, active lifestyle and access to wheelchair sports.

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 is a fast paced, hard-hitting, competitive sport that has emerged as one of the most competitive and athletic sports played at the Paralympic Games. Our senior national teams are held in high esteem around the world for the elite skill and control that placed them on the podium with a combined five gold and one silver medal in the last five Paralympic Games.

For more information or to schedule an interview contact:

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