



Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA CONGRATULATES DAVE DUREPOS FOR BEING NAMED CANADA'S FLAG BEARER AT THE 2011 PARAPAN AMERICAN GAMES

Guadalajara, MX – Wheelchair Basketball Canada proudly congratulates two-time Paralympic gold medallist and World Champion athlete Dave Durepos for being selected as Canada's flag-bearer at the 2011 Parapan American Games, which run November 12-20 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Durepos, a veteran member of the Sr. Men's National Wheelchair Basketball Team, will carry the national flag as he leads the Canadian contingent of 121 athletes into Telmex Athletics Stadium for the Parapan American Games Opening Ceremony on November 12, 2011.

"I'm clearly very honoured to be named flag bearer," said Durepos. "I've been at this a long time and any time you get to represent your country, it means a lot."

"We are thrilled that Dave has been chosen to represent Canada and his fellow teammates by carrying our country's flag at the opening ceremony," said Wheelchair Basketball Canada Executive Director Wendy Gittens. "Dave is a phenomenal athlete and a tremendous leader on and off the basketball court who continues to give back to our sport and the greater community."

For Durepos and his wheelchair basketball teammates the road to the London 2012 Paralympic Games begins in Guadalajara. Both the Canadian Men's and Women's National Teams are vying for a top three finish at the 2011 Parapan American Games to secure a berth in the Paralympic Games next summer.

The Canadian Paralympic Committee announced Durepos' selection as Canada's flag-bearer at a team pep rally yesterday.

A native of Fredericton, NB, Durepos captained the Canadian men's wheelchair basketball team to its first Paralympic gold medal at the Games in Sydney in 2000.

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With the victory Durepos became the first-ever athlete to bring home an Olympic or Paralympic gold medal for the province of New Brunswick.

Durepos also helped lead Team Canada to a second consecutive gold medal at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, as well as a World Championship title in Amsterdam in 2006.

Durepos will follow in the path of former Women's National Team athlete Jennifer Kremipen, who carried Canada's flag at the 2007 Parapan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

For more information, visit: www.wheelchairbasketball.ca

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Qualifier for London 2012

The London 2012 Paralympic Games will be held Aug. 29 to Sept. 9, 2012.

Guadalajara will be a direct qualifier for the London 2012 Paralympic Games in the sports of Wheelchair Basketball and Sitting Volleyball. To earn berths in London, the Men's and Women's Wheelchair Basketball Teams must place in the top three in Guadalajara.

About the Parapan American Games

The IV Parapan American Games take place November 12-20, 2011 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The Games are a continental, multi-sport event that feature more than 1,500 athletes from 26 countries competing in 13 different sports: archery, athletics, boccia, cycling, football (5-a-side), goalball, judo, powerlifting, sitting volleyball, swimming, table tennis, wheelchair tennis and wheelchair basketball.

The Parapan American Games have been increasing in size and competitiveness since the inaugural event in Mexico City in 1999.

Wheelchair Basketball at the Parapan American Games

Sixteen national wheelchair basketball teams will play in Guadalajara for the right to compete in London 2012. The men's division features contenders Canada and the United States, as well as Brazil and host Mexico. Argentina, Columbia, El Salvador,

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and Guatemala are the other hopefuls on the men's side. Meanwhile, the women's division features two of the top three teams in the world in Canada and the United States, along with Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, host Mexico, and Peru.

Team Canada Men at the Parapan American Games

The Canadian Men's National Team has reached the podium in each of its three appearances at the Parapan American Games since their inception in 1999. The team's medal count stands at two silver (1999, 2007) and one gold (2003) going into the 2011 edition of the Games. Thanks to their podium performances at the Parapan Ams, the Canadian Men went on to win three consecutive medals at the Paralympic Games, including back-to-back gold medals in 2000 and 2004 and a silver medal in 2008.

Team Canada Women at the Parapan American Games

The Canadian Women's National Team will also look to extend its winning tradition at the Parapan American Games, having captured two gold medals (1999, 2003) and one silver (2007) in three appearances. The Canadian Women are strong candidates to qualify for London 2012 and build upon a prolific Paralympic portfolio that includes three consecutive gold medals in 1992, 1996, and 2000, as well as a bronze medal in 2004.

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.

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