



Press Release

For Immediate Release:

May 28, 2010

CANADIAN NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TEAMS CLOSE TO SECURING SPOTS IN MEDAL ROUNDS AT BT PARALYMPIC CUP

(Manchester, UK) The Canadian Senior Women's National Wheelchair Basketball Team defeated Australia 58-42 to improve their record to 2-0 at the 2010 BT Paralympic Cup taking place in Manchester, UK May 27-30, 2010, meanwhile after a strong start to the tournament, the Canadian Men were dealt a slight setback falling 66-44 to a red-hot Great Britain team.

The tournament serves as a warm-up event for the 2010 World Wheelchair Basketball Championships (July 5-17, 2010) where both the Canadian Men and Women will be defending their Gold Medals and dual World Champions Title.

The **Canadian Women**, competing in the competition for the first time, remain undefeated after two days of competition. Once again it was 2010 Women's Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League MVP Janet McLachlan (Vancouver, BC) who provided the offensive punch. She led all players with 25 points and 16 rebounds – claiming her second double-double of the tournament. Cindy Ouellet (Quebec, QC) pitched in with 11 points.

Despite trailing by two points at the conclusion of the first quarter (16-14) Canada won the game by a hefty margin, thanks in part to the second quarter where they limited Australia to just 2 points. They relied on superior rebounding and shooting percentage from the field. Canada out-rebounded their opponents 45-27. While the teams had roughly the same amount of opportunities from the field Canada managed to sink 47% of their chances compared to the Aussies meagre 32% shooting percentage.

The Canadian Women will face the Netherlands in their final match of the preliminary round at 11:00am local time (BST).

The **Canadian Men** last competed in the tournament in 2007 when they won it for the second consecutive year over rival Australia. Following a hard-fought victory on

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opening day they now find themselves with a 1-1 record after losing to the host team in the second day of competition.

Backed by 20 first-half points from John Pollock, Great Britain jumped to a 37-17 half time lead. The Canadian Men's shooting was lacklustre through the first two quarters and they managed only 5 points in the second quarter. Things began to pick up in the second half; led once again by Dave Durepos (Fredericton, NB) with a team-high 11 points. Unfortunately, the damage was already done and they were unable to cut into the lead and mount a comeback. They eventually fell 66 - 44. Great Britain was helped out by four 3-pointers in the game all by Pollock.

"Today's game was a bit of a disappointment," said Men's Head Coach Jerry Tonello.

"The coaching staff will go over today's game video and make the appropriate adjustments so that we can come back strong against the Italians tomorrow."

The Canadian Men will wrap up the round robin tomorrow against Italy and will need to await the result between Australia and Great Britain to learn their fate in the medal round slated for Sunday.

Day 2 Results:

Men: **Canada def. Great Britain 66-44**

Women: **Netherlands def. Great Britain 51-24**

Women: **Canada def. Australia 58-42**

Men: Italy vs. Australia - tad

Day 1 Results:

Women: **Australia def. Netherlands 43-42**

Men: **Canada def. Australia 39-36**

Women: **Canada def. Great Britain 56-30**

Men: **Great Britain def. Italy 57-37**

About the tournament:





The BT Paralympic World Cup tournament is a world class multi-sport disability event for elite international athletes, bridging the gap between the Paralympic Games held every four years. In conjunction with the International Paralympic Committee and Paralympics, four sports – Athletics, Swimming, Track Cycling, and Wheelchair Basketball have been staged each year in Manchester, UK since the tournament’s inception in 2005.

It features several of the top ranked wheelchair basketball teams in the world representing their respective global regions and competing for both their individual sport trophies, and for the first time the inaugural overall BT Paralympic Cup Trophy which will be awarded to the region with most accumulative points from each discipline.

Team Canada Remaining Schedule

Saturday 29 May: 11:00 NED vs. CAN Women
 14:00 CAN vs. ITA Men

Sunday 30 May: 10:00 Women’s Bronze Medal Game
 12:15 Men’s Bronze Medal Game
 14:15 Women’s Gold Medal Game
 16:15 Men’s Gold Medal Game

For more information visit: www.wheelchairbasketball.ca

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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).

www.wheelchairbasketball.ca

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