



For Immediate Release:

January 6, 2010

DEFENDING WORLD CHAMPIONS TO KICKSTART 2010 AT PIONEER CLASSIC

Birmingham, AL – Team Canada Head Coach Bill Johnson (Winnipeg, MB) will lead a group of Canadian Women to their first competition of the 2010 season - the Pioneer Classic (January 8-10 at the Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, Alabama). The tournament serves as a warm-up event for the athletes who are preparing for the Sr. Women's National Team Selection Camp beginning January 20, 2010.

The team in attendance for the Pioneer Classic will be a mix of Sr. National Team veterans and aspiring youths hoping to crack the Sr. Women's National Team lineup that will compete in the 2010 World Championships (July 5-17, 2010 in Birmingham, GB).

This year the Canadian Women are striving for an incredible fifth straight Gold medal finish at the World Championships (held every four years) following 1st Place finishes in 1994, 1998, 2002, and 2006.

Team Canada Roster

(* Member of the 2009 Sr. Women's National Team)

- * Sabrina Pettinicchi (*Fredericton, NB*)
- * Chantal Benoit (*Mont-Saint Hilaire, QC*)
- * Elaine Allard (*St. Eustache, QC*)
- Maude Jacques (*Montréal, QC*)
- Karine Chicoine (*Montréal, QC*)
- * Kendra Ohama (*Calgary, AB*)
- * Jessica Vliegenthart (*Victoria, BC*)
- * Tracey Ferguson (*Holland Landing, ON*)
- Elisha Williams (*Prince George, BC*)
- * Nancy Lafleche (*Vancouver, BC*)

Head Coach: Bill Johnson

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA

Wheelchair Basketball Canada

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Four other members from the 2009 Sr. Women's National Team will also be attendance playing for the University of Alabama:

- * Janet McLachlan (*Vancouver, BC*)
- * Tara Feser (*St. Albert, AB*)
- * Cindy Ouellet (*Québec, QC*)
- * Katie Harnock (*Elmira, ON*)

The Canadian Men and Women are the reigning World Champions, having dominated the previous Championships in 2006.

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).

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