



## Press Release

For Immediate Release:

February 20, 2013

### 2013 CANADIAN JUNIOR ROSTER NAMED FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

**(Ottawa, Ont.)** Wheelchair Basketball Canada is pleased to name the 12 athletes that will represent Canada at the 2013 World Junior Wheelchair Basketball Championships Americas Zone Qualification Tournament taking place at the Paralympic Training Centre in Mexico City March 11-17, 2013.

Canada will be one of six teams competing for two available berths into the Men's U23 World Wheelchair Basketball Championships, which is set for September 12-22, 2013 in Adana, Turkey.

"We have assembled an outstanding group of young men who possess unbelievable character, determination, and a relentless drive to succeed. These are the attributes which will determine our success in the year to come," said Team Canada U23 Men's Head Coach Stephen Bialowas.

First up, the newly assembled team will be holding a training camp in Champaign, Illinois and playing a series of friendly games against the University of Illinois men's and women's collegiate wheelchair basketball teams at Huff Hall February 22-24, 2013.

The 2013 Canadian roster includes three returning players from the team that placed eighth at the last Junior Men's World Championship in 2009.

The 12 junior men are: *(athletes' city of residence indicated / returning players from the 2009 team denoted with a \*)*:

Alexandre Courcelles (Saint-Roch Ouest, Que.)  
Eric Voss (St. Mary's, Ont.)  
Jeremy Watts (Charlottetown, P.E.I.)  
Joel Watts (Charlottetown, P.E.I.)

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Wheelchair Basketball Canada

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Jonathan Vermette (Sherbrooke, Que.) \*  
Justin Johnson (Milner, B.C.)  
Kevin Wakeling (Cambridge, Ont.)  
Mitchel Bossaer (Saskatoon, Sask.)  
Nikola Goncin (Regina, Sask.) \*  
Philippe Vermette (Sherbrooke, Que.) \*  
Reid Richard (Regina, Sask.)  
Vincent Dallaire (Quebec City, Que.)

Head Coach: Stephen Bialowas (Toronto, Ont.)

### **About Team Canada**

The Canadian Junior Men’s Wheelchair Basketball Team consists of the top male athletes under 23-years-of-age from across the Country. They are assembled with the ultimate goal of competing in, and winning the U23 Men’s World Championships, which are held every four years. Canada hosted the inaugural tournament in 1997 and won back-to-back World Championships in 1997 and 2001.

### **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 six gold and one silver medal in the last six Paralympic Games.

**For more information, visit:** [www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca)





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