

OWSA report for Wheelchair Basketball Canada's AGM September 26, 2016



Many changes took place in Ontario during the 2015-16 season thanks in part to funding from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport. The funding allowed us to increase our staff capacity and we were able to hire Josée Matte in the role of Wheelchair Basketball Provincial Coordinator. Josée has been a tremendous asset to our association and has worked diligently to restructure our wheelchair basketball leagues and create more development opportunities for our athletes and coaches.

Clubs and Programs:

11 active established clubs

- Burlington Vipers (Hamilton, Burlington, Oakville)
- Brock Niagara Penguins (St. Catharines, Niagara)
- Cruisers Sports for the Physically Disabled (Halton & Peel Regions)
- LaSalle Lightning (Windsor)
- London Forest City Flyers (London)
- Ottawa Carleton Wheelchair Sports Association (Ottawa)
- Tillsonburg Dragons (Tillsonburg)
- Toronto Tornadoes (North York)
- Twin City Spinners (Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph)
- Variety Village Rolling Rebels (Scarborough)
- Vaughan City Lashers (Vaughan)

6 regular drop-in & short term programs

- Abilities Centre (Whitby) *drop in*
- Bloorview School (Toronto) *drop in*
- Hamilton Program (Hamilton) *short term*
- KidsAbility Program (Kitchener-Waterloo) *short term*
- Sault Ste Marie *drop in*
- Wheelchair Basketball Belleville (Bay of Quinte Region) *drop in*
- Collingwood Program *short term*

Great Lakes Conference:

Division 1 (Elite)

The 2015-16 season saw three teams competing in Division 1 of the Great Lakes Conference – the Twin City Spinners (7-3), the Scarberian Tigers (National Academy) (5-5), and the Variety Village Rolling Rebels (3-7). A total of 5 tournaments/15 games were played throughout the season (November to March) with each club hosting approximately twice.

Division 2 (Competitive)

The 2015-16 season saw three teams competing in Division 2 of the Great Lakes Conference – the Brampton Suns (Cruisers) (9-3), the London Flyers (8-4), and the Burlington Vipers (1-11). A total of 6 tournaments/18 games were played throughout the season (October to March) with each club hosting twice.

Division 3 (Recreational)

Division 3 featured six monthly full-day instructional clinics throughout the season (November to April). These clinics were held in different and varied locations throughout the province (Belleville, Burlington, Kitchener, Brampton, Tillsonburg, Vaughan) in order to encourage greater participation while minimizing travel for athletes not located in the Greater Toronto Area. Athletes from nine different clubs/programs regularly attended the sessions. Each Division 3 clinic included skill development activities/drills and structured game-play facilitated by a rotating lead facilitator (paid) and a team of volunteer coaches.

Short-Term Programs

This past year, we partnered with support agencies such as the Children's Treatment Network and Erin Oak Kids Centre for Treatment and Development as well as local municipalities to offer six or eight week introductory wheelchair basketball sessions. These sessions allowed us to reach young athletes that had not tried wheelchair basketball before. The goal was to identify new athletes, introduce them to the sport and then direct them to their local club in order to keep them playing. The programs in Hamilton and in Kitchener were particularly successful in achieving that result.

CWBL Women's Nationals – Longueuil, Québec

A full roster of twelve athletes competed at Women's Nationals under the leadership of our new Provincial Women's Head Coach Paul Bowes (London) and Assistant Coaches Annie Goodchild (Ottawa) and Martin Corriveau (Ottawa). Josée Matte also accompanied the team in the role of Team Manager.

Overall, the experience was very positive for all those involved, including athletes, coaches, and staff. The team consisted of athletes with a wide range of playing experience and skill levels (and ages!) that made for an interesting dynamic full of learning opportunities for all! Everyone came together as a team extremely fast and the energy and tone throughout the weekend was very positive, encouraging, and supportive. According to Coach Bowes, "Team Ontario finished with a 0-4 record on the game scoreboard, but a perfect 4-0 in their positivity, communication, compete and respect scoreboard!"

We look forward to hosting CWBL Women's Nationals next season.

Défi Sportif – Longueuil, Québec

A team of nine (9) athletes competed in Division 3 at Défi Sportif under the leadership of Head Coach Christina Swett (Toronto) and Assistant Coach Paul Bowes (London). This was a great development opportunity for Christina.

The experience was positive and rewarding for all those involved as it brought together a team of players looking for development opportunities and tournament experience. The athletes competed, pushed hard, and most importantly never gave up throughout the tournament regardless of the results on the scoreboard. The experience was an opportunity to continue to develop the supportive, dynamic and spirited culture of Ontario's women's program that Paul Bowes has created.

Team Ontario Juniors

Junior East Regionals – Charlottetown, PEI

Our new Junior Provincial Coach, Kathy Ludwig took two squads to the 3 on 3 competition in PEI. It was a very successful weekend with Ontario taking both the Silver and Bronze medals. Two Ontario athletes, Pui Sand Lai and Aaron McDonald, were named to the all-star team. This event also saw the debut of Josh Davies in his coaching role.

Quest for Gold

Nine athletes received Quest for Gold provincial carding in order to assist them with their training. The athletes are required to submit monthly training logs to Josée and selection criteria was based on several of the tests used by the National Academy.

Coach Development

OWSA hosted one Competition Introduction coaching clinic last year where a total of 6 new wheelchair basketball coaches were trained. This course was run in conjunction with the City of Toronto and was free to Toronto residents.

Bridging the Gap

A total of 47 Wheelchair Basketball Bridging the Gap sessions were delivered last season.

In closing we would like to thank Mike Frogley at the National Academy, Wendy Gittens and Ryan Lauzon for all of their time, advice and support. We look forward to continuing to work with Wheelchair Basketball Canada to build a strong sport system for our athletes in Ontario.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Wilson
Executive Director
Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association