



Wheelchair Basketball Canada 2015 AGM

Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association Wheelchair Basketball/Canada Games Report 2015

Successes

- MWSA fielded the Manitoba Junior Wheelchair Basketball team at the 2015 Canada Winter Games. 9 athletes, 2 coaches and 1 team manager attended the games in Prince George, BC.
- The Canada Games Junior wheelchair basketball team received funding from Sport Manitoba of \$25,000. Sport Manitoba also served as a resource for our athletes leading up to the games, providing strength and conditioning, sport psychology and nutritional guidance. Sport Manitoba served as a valuable resource to the team's staff leading up to and during the Canada Games.
- The Canada Games Junior wheelchair basketball team received funding from Coaching Manitoba for Approximately \$6000 and Wheelchair Basketball Canada in the amount of \$4000 for the purpose of development, awareness, recruitment and coach certification.
- The Junior basketball team attended a pre-Canada Games tournament in Saskatoon in October.
- Jarret Yaworski and Chantel Horel achieved their Level 3 coaching certification (NCCP).
- Significant growth was seen in the wheelchair basketball athlete pool this year including alumni, junior, mini and recreational athletes. A total of 21 new participants took part in one or many Tuesday night practices or weekend camp events.
- Spencer Lambert and Josh Brown (Junior program athletes) attended a U19 National Camp at the National Academy in May.
- 2 new chairs were acquired by the program- One through the Goldeyes grant and another on a donation from Aaron Moseley-Williams.
- Bethany Johnson and Rhys Pratt (Mini program athletes) attended a mini's tournament in Regina in May
- 3 Weekend Junior Basketball camps were held this year. One was run by Steve Bialowas as guest coach from Wheelchair Basketball Canada.
- New competition jerseys as well as reversible practice jerseys were acquired this year.

- Jarret attended U23 camp at the National Academy for coaching mentorship in May
- A wheelchair basketball Facebook page was developed and maintained over the course of the year.
- Aaron Moseley-Williams has continued to train with the Men's National Team at the National Academy over the past year.
- MWSA alumni Jeff Watson played wheelchair basketball for a club team in Germany this past year.

Challenges

- Sustained and continued recruitment is an ongoing challenge. Individuals to participate in recreational, developmental and competitive wheelchair basketball streams are continually being sought. Lower-classed athletes have been particularly difficult to recruit.
- As the programs numbers increase, managing a growing and diversified group of athletes has presented challenges in terms of court time, floor space, equipment and coaching time. As such, ascertaining adequate funding and maximizing current assets to meet the needs of the athletes will continue to be a challenge.
- The number of wheelchair basketball officials in the province is low. MWSA faces the challenge of recruiting more individuals interested in learning to officiate the game.

Future

- MWSA and Wheelchair basketball staff are looking to develop a quadrennial plan to help guide the direction of the wheelchair basketball program into the next Canada Games.
- MWSA and wheelchair basketball staff would like to continue building the strength and numbers of their Mini, Junior and Recreational streams of wheelchair basketball. Ongoing efforts will be committed through school programs, mini Paralympic camps, social media, and collaboration with partner programs, organizations and PSOs.
- MWSA and wheelchair basketball staff would like to further establish a recreational league with a consistent showing of athletes and officials. A potential offshoot of this would be the re-emergence of a Manitoba team in the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League (CWBL) in future years.
- MWSA and wheelchair basketball staff would like to host a Junior and/ or Mini's wheelchair basketball event in Winnipeg.

Report Submitted By Cameron Bell, Executive Director.