

HP Report for the WBC AGM
September 2016

I prepare this report for the AGM just a few short days in advance of the 2016 Paralympics. Our hopes are for outstanding results from both teams, with the knowledge that regardless of their placings, they will surely make us proud by their efforts.

Programs

The **Senior Men** had a very busy season preparing for the Paralympics. A familiarization trip to Rio in April was followed by 3 weeks of centralization in Toronto in May. That 3 weeks was concluded with a tournament at Mattamy against USA, TUR and GBR. More centralization in June led to the team's trip to Great Britain for a 5 team tournament in Leicester. The men's team from Spain visited Toronto for 4 games in July and the men wrapped up their preparations with a 2 week centralized camp in August.

Thanks to the "Black Aces" for their assistance in preparing the Men for their Paralympic experience. These able-bodied and/or retired top-level player provide an excellent level of competition.

The **Senior Women** have also had a very busy season preparing the Paralympics. The Toronto Challenge in March with NED, GBR and USA was followed by a familiarization trip to Rio de Janeiro to play against Brazil. 3 weeks of centralization at the Academy in May. A tournament in Colorado Springs against USA, CHN and BRA was followed by a brief centralized period in Toronto and another trip to Lake Placid to play USA, NED and GER. The Women also had a European Tour with stops in the Netherlands and Great Britain before returning to Toronto for 2 more weeks of centralized training before heading off to Rio.

Thanks to the "Red Aces" for their contribution to the team's development. The players involved volunteer their time and energy to give our Women the simulation of various high level opponents that is invaluable in their preparations.

The **Academy** once again had a very successful season, with the ongoing daily training environment for up to 22 athletes last year.

There were multiple hosting opportunities during the year which saw teams from the U of I, Edinboro, New York Rolling Knicks, multiple CWBL club teams and the Men's National team from Japan come in for training and games.

We are grateful to our partners for continuing to support this world-class initiative. OTP, CPC, CSIO, the Province of Ontario and the WBC Board have supported this idea so fully.

The **U25 Women** have had an off year, with no Qualification Tournament announced for 2019 and much of the focus being placed on the Senior teams preparing for Rio.

The **U23 Men** have staged a few camps at the Academy and have been folded into the Senior program on occasion this year. The vast majority of the funding this year will be spent on getting our Senior teams ready for Rio, so there has not been very much opportunity for the Juniors to train and compete.

Darrell Nordell has taken over the Head Coach duties for the U23 Men, as they prepare for the 2017 U23 Men's World Championships, which will be hosted by WBC in Toronto in June 2017. This will continue WBC's long tradition of hosting world-leading international events.

Jerry Tonello

As you will all know, the WBC family suffered a great loss in January with the passing of Jerry Tonello.

Jerry's long-time contribution to the sport of wheelchair basketball was even recognized at the British Continental Clash where the British Wheelchair Basketball recognized Jerry as one of "Our Heroes" A first for a foreign player or coach in Great Britain. We thank BWB for their kind tribute to Jerry.

We'll certainly miss Jerry's energy and passion for the game.

Funding support

Significant financial support continues to be provided by OTP. Annual funding provided to WBC for both the Men's and Women's programs rose to \$1.65 million for this current fiscal year. This includes funding for training camps, competitions, coaches salaries, IST support, the National Academy and all of the innovative research projects that are being implemented. We are very grateful for OTP's ongoing funding support.

There will be no rest after the Paralympics for the HP leadership group as the next OTP submission will be prepared by late-October. We will have a preliminary indication of the funding provided to the HP program by early January 2017.

I'd like to thank Wendy for her ongoing leadership and guidance. Thanks also to the Office Staff for their hard work and support. To our coaches, athletes and IST members, thank you for your continued dedication to the WBC National Team Programs.

I have enjoyed my 12 years on the Board of Directors for WBC, and although I will no longer serve as a member of the Board, I will continue to be a passionate supporter of the people and programs of WBC.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharron St. Croix, VP High Performance