



Men's **U23** World Wheelchair Basketball  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**CHAMPIONNAT**  
du monde masculin **M23** de basketball en fauteuil roulant

# MEDIA KIT

June 8 - 16 juin 2017  
Mattamy Athletic Centre  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
#2017u23wwbc



[www.2017u23wwbc.com](http://www.2017u23wwbc.com) | [#2017u23wwbc](https://twitter.com/2017u23wwbc)



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## About the 2017 Men's U23 World Wheelchair Basketball Championship.

Wheelchair Basketball Canada is pleased to host the top junior male wheelchair basketball players on the planet from June 8-16, 2017 for the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation Men's U23 World Wheelchair Basketball Championship.

Hosted at the Mattamy Athletic Centre, the tournament will be featuring 12 participating countries representing four international zones. The teams will showcase the elite skill and athleticism that make wheelchair basketball a thrilling spectator sport and one of the most popular sports for athletes with a disability in the world.

The 2017 Men's U23 World Championship marks the 20-year anniversary since Canada hosted the inaugural world championship for junior men in 1997 in Toronto. Team Canada won back-to-back gold medals at the world championship for junior men in 1997 and 2001.

- *All Games will be webcast live by sportscanada.tv through the official event website*
- *High-res images will be available daily*
- *Interviews (live in-person, phone or via skype) can be arranged*
- *Flash quotes will be available*
- *Daily recaps with boxscores will be available*

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**ONLINE** - [www.2017u23wwbc.com](http://www.2017u23wwbc.com)  
**FACEBOOK** - [Facebook.com/wheelchairbasketball](https://www.facebook.com/wheelchairbasketball)  
**TWITTER** - @WCBballCanada - #2017u23wwbc  
**INSTAGRAM** - @WheelchairBasketballCanada  
**YOUTUBE** - [youtube.com/wheelchairbball](https://www.youtube.com/wheelchairbball)  
**FLICKR** - [Flickr.com/photos/wheelchairbasketball](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wheelchairbasketball)

## Tournament Preview

### Team Canada

The Canadian U23 men have competed at each of world championship for junior men since hosting the inaugural event in 1997 in Toronto. Canada claimed back-to-back gold medals at the event in 1997 and 2001, and most recently placed sixth in 2013.

The Canadian roster features offensive stars Liam Hickey and Ben Moronchuk who joined the Canadian Senior Men's Team at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. Hickey and Vincent Dallaire were part of the Canadian team that fought for a second place finish at the 2015 Parapan Am Games and are also the two returning players from the Canadian side that competed at the last world championship for junior men in 2013.

Canada will be looking to seize home court advantage to battle their way to the podium. They will play their first game against Italy at 12 p.m. on June 8th following the Opening Ceremony.

### Team Rankings

Team rankings for the 2017 U23WWBC are based off of the last junior men's tournament: the 2013 Men's U23 World Championship.

Germany is ranked first going into the tournament. Powerhouse, the United States, is arguably the team to beat, while Australia and Turkey will all also provide stiff competition during the championship.

### Webcast

SportsCanada.tv is the official webcaster of the 2017 Men's U23 World Wheelchair Basketball Championship. All games will be webcast live in HD via the event website at [www.wheelchairbasketball.ca/2017u23wwbc/watch-live](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca/2017u23wwbc/watch-live)

Recaps, interviews, highlights and daily recaps will be available via the website for media access.

## About Wheelchair Basketball Canada

Wheelchair Basketball Canada is the host of the 2017 Men's U23 World Wheelchair Basketball Championship. WBC is the national sport governing body responsible for the organization of wheelchair basketball in Canada. It is a non-profit, charitable organization that is the Canadian member of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF).



Wheelchair Basketball Canada delivers programs and services that strengthen the sport from the grassroots level to high performance athletes competing in the Paralympic Games. Canada's senior national teams are held in high esteem around the world for the elite skill and control that has placed them on the podium with a combined six gold, and one silver medal in the last seven Paralympic Games.

The event marks Canada's fifth opportunity to host a landmark international wheelchair basketball championship – having previously hosted the Men's World Championship in 1994, the inaugural Men's U23 World Championship in 1997, the first-ever Women's U25 World Championship in 2011 and the 2014 Women's World Championship.





## POOL A / GROUPE A



Turkey / Turquie (TUR)



Iran (IRI)



Brazil / Brésil (BRA)



Australia / Australie (AUS)



Canada (CAN)



Italy / Italie (ITA)

## POOL B / GROUPE B



Great Britain / Grande-Bretagne (GBR)



Japan / Japon (JPN)



United States / États-Unis (USA)



France (FRA)



South Africa / Afrique du Sud (RSA)



Germany / Allemagne (GER)

SESSION	TIME / HEURE	GAME / MATCH	HOME / DOMICILE	AWAY / VISITEUR
Day 1 - Thursday June 8, 2017   Jour 1 - Jeudi 8 juin 2017				
1	8:00	1	AUS	IRI
	10:00	2	GBR	USA
	12:00	3	ITA	CAN
2	15:00	4	RSA	GER
	18:00	5	TUR	BRA
	20:00	6	JPN	FRA
Day 2 - Friday June 9, 2017   Jour 2 - Vendredi 9 juin 2017				
1	8:00	7	BRA	ITA
	10:00	8	JPN	GBR
	12:00	9	FRA	RSA
2	15:00	10	USA	GER
	18:00	11	CAN	AUS
	20:00	12	IRI	TUR
Day 3 - Saturday June 10, 2017   Jour 3 - Samedi 10 juin 2017				
1	8:00	13	USA	FRA
	10:00	14	BRA	AUS
	12:00	15	RSA	JPN
2	15:00	16	GER	GBR
	18:00	17	CAN	IRI
	20:00	18	ITA	TUR
Day 4 - Sunday June 11, 2017   Jour 4 - Dimanche 11 juin 2017				
1	8:00	19	GBR	RSA
	10:00	20	FRA	GER
	12:00	21	JPN	USA
2	15:00	22	TUR	CAN
	18:00	23	AUS	ITA
	20:00	24	IRI	BRA
Day 5 - Monday June 12, 2017   Jour 5 - Lundi 12 juin 2017				
1	8:00	25	GER	JPN
	10:00	26	ITA	IRI
	12:00	27	USA	RSA
2	15:00	28	FRA	GBR
	18:00	29	CAN	BRA
	20:00	30	AUS	TUR
Day 6 - Wednesday June 14, 2017   Jour 6 - Mercredi 14 juin 2017				
1	10:00	31	11th/12th / 11e/12e place	
	12:00	32	Quarter-final / Quart de finale	
	15:00	33	Quarter-final / Quart de finale	
2	18:00	34	Quarter-final / Quart de finale	
	20:00	35	Quarter-final / Quart de finale	
Day 7 - Thursday June 15, 2017   Jour 7 - Jeudi 15 juin 2017				
1	10:00	36	9th/10th / 9e/10e place	
	12:00	37	7th/8th / 7e/8e place	
	15:00	38	5th/6th / 5e/6e place	
2	18:00	39	Semifinal / Demi-finale	
	20:00	40	Semifinal / Demi-finale	
Day 8 - Friday June 16, 2017   Jour 8 - Vendredi 16 juin 2017				
1	10:00	41	Bronze	
	12:00	42	Gold / Or	

## About the sport

Wheelchair basketball is a fast-paced game played by two teams of 5 players where the object is to toss the ball through the opposing teams basket. Every team is comprised of five players and seven substitutes. The match consists of four periods of ten minutes. After the first and the third period there is an interval of two minutes. There is a 15-minute interval between the second and third period. If the score is tied at the end of playing time for the fourth period, the match will be continued with an extra period of five minutes or with as many such periods of five minutes as are necessary to break the tie.

## Basic Rules

The basic rules of wheelchair basketball are very similar to stand-up basketball (for example, the height of the basket, distance to the foul line, three point line, etc., are the same measurements as in the game of stand-up basketball). However, over time the rules of the game have evolved. In 1964, basic international rules were adopted which included minor adjustments to meet the needs of the game in a wheelchair.

Originally, the participants were primarily individuals who had a spinal cord injury or had developed polio. It was not until the late 70's that the wheelchair basketball community decided to allow and encourage individuals with other disabilities to participate.

Wheelchair basketball in Canada is played in accordance with the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) rules which have been modified from the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). There are some adaptations for play in the various divisions of the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League (CWBL) to encourage development.

### Scoring:

A goal is credited to the team attacking the basket into which the ball has entered as follows: a goal from a free throw counts as one (1) point; a goal from the two-point field goal area counts (2) points; and a goal from beyond the three-point field goal area (three-point line) counts three (3) points.

Every team has 24 seconds to complete its attempt to score a basket. If the team with the ball exceeds this time limit, the ball possession and the right of play is granted to the opposing team.



### Dribbling:

A player may wheel the chair and bounce the ball simultaneously, however, if the ball is picked up and/or placed on the players lap, the player is only allowed to push twice before they are obligated to shoot, pass, or dribble the ball again. There is no double dribble rule in wheelchair basketball. A traveling violation occurs if the player takes more than two pushes while in possession of the ball and not dribbling.

## About the sport (continued)

### Fouls:

The wheelchair is considered part of the player's body in relation to establishing responsibility for contact on court in the case of charging, blocking, going out of bounds, and other violations.

An offensive player may not remain in the key area for more than three seconds.

In addition to the technical fouls that may be assessed from time to time as in stand up basketball, a player lifting their legs to gain an advantage or lifting out of their chair is given a technical foul. The player must remain firmly seated in their chair and must not use their lower limbs to steer the chair or gain an unfair advantage. In the event that a player falls out of their chair a referee may stop the play if, in their opinion, the player is at risk of being injured, otherwise play will continue.

On an in-bounds play, the offensive player is not allowed to go into the key until the ball is handed to the in-bounding player by the referee.

### Equipment

One of the attractions to wheelchair basketball is that it is relatively inexpensive because of the lack of required equipment. All players need for this fun team game is a sporty wheelchair and a basketball.

### The Chair:

The majority of chairs used in the sport today are constructed from titanium or aircraft aluminum and include an additional fifth and sixth wheel for added stability and mobility. The front bumper is designed so that it will not lock with or be held by the opponent. The angle of the wheel base, or "camber", is optimized for each athlete to allow for stability and quick turns. The wheels on the chair often now use cables rather than the traditional steel spokes as the cables are three times stronger and 50 per cent lighter than steel. Chairs can be customized for each individual athlete.



### Chair Regulations:

The wheelchair, the primary equipment of the game, has evolved as the sport grew. In the early days players used the typical everyday stainless steel wheelchair with foot and armrests, weighing about 30 pounds. Today the wheelchairs are lightweight and streamlined to allow for speed and agility with many cutting-edge, sport-enhancing design features.

Wheelchair modifications, however, are restricted by total chair height, wheel size, and the use of protection materials.

# Classification

## Overview:

In wheelchair basketball, a system of classification is in place to allow athletes of widely differing functional capacities to compete fairly against each other. It is the process by which a team's total functional potential on the court is leveled off with respect to its opponent.

## Classification Philosophy

Wheelchair basketball classification is based on the players' functional capacity to complete the skills necessary to play - pushing, pivoting, shooting, rebounding, dribbling, passing and catching. It is not an assessment of a player's level of skill, merely his/her functional capacity to complete the task. In particular, the trunk movement and stability observed during these actual basketball situations form the basis for the assignment of a player to a particular class.

## Classes

Players are assigned points as per their classification. 1, 2, 3 and 4 are the recognized classes, with 0.5 classes between for the exceptional cases which do not fit exactly into one class, and the 4.5 category for the player with the least or minimal disability.

## Volume of Action

Classes are defined according to players' "volume of action." Each class has a clearly defined maximal volume of action, which the player may exhibit. The volume of action refers to the extremes to which a player's trunk stability will allow them to reach without holding on to the wheelchair, before overbalancing.

## Class Characteristics

Each class has characteristics unique to that class, which are used by the classifier. These characteristics are evident in each of the basketball skills as observed as part of the classification process.

## How to Classify

Players are observed in their competition wheelchairs, complete with all the strapping they use, in a training situation before the tournament commences. From this initial observation, a player is assigned a class with which they will begin the tournament. The player is then observed in an actual competition game, at which time their classification will be confirmed or modified if the classification panel feels it necessary. Only a new player who has not been previously internationally classified need undergo this process. Players holding an international card do not require re-classification at each tournament they attend.

## Team Balance

The total number of points allowed on court at any time by one team is 14.0. That is, the total points of all five players actually playing. If a coach allows the team to have over 14.0 points, they will incur a technical foul on the bench.



For more information about classification, visit the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation website at [www.iwbf.org](http://www.iwbf.org).



## History of the Sport

Wheelchair basketball's roots date back to World War II in the 1940's, when veterans invented the sport as an alternative to stand up basketball. Today, wheelchair basketball is one of the premier draws at the Paralympic Games and boasts more than 100,000 participants around the world. It is a sport known for its fast pace, intensity, and athleticism. These attributes make the sport a popular choice among athletes with a disability, but it is also widely enjoyed by able-bodied athletes – particularly here in Canada where we encourage a policy of inclusion.

1946	Organized wheelchair basketball first played by World War II veterans
1948	Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Games (pre-cursor to Paralympic Games) established by Sir Ludwig Guttman
1949	First National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament held in the United States; creation of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association
1953	Montreal Wheelchair Wonders represented Canada in the Stoke Games, marking our nation's start in world competition
1960	Wheelchair basketball played at the first Paralympic Games in Rome
1968	First Canadian National Championship held in Edmonton, AB
1973	International Stoke Mandeville Games Federation (ISMGF) established sub-section for wheelchair basketball; first world championship for men held in Belgium
1986	Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League (CWBL) established
1989	ISMGF wheelchair basketball sub-section renamed International Wheelchair Basketball Federation
1990	First world championship for women held in France
1993	International Wheelchair Basketball Federation established as the independent world body for wheelchair basketball
1994	Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association (now Wheelchair Basketball Canada) established as the first independent disability sport organization in Canada
1997	First world championship for junior men (U23) held in Toronto, Canada
2011	First world championship for junior women (U25) held in St. Catharines, Canada
2014	Largest world championship for women held in Toronto, Canada

## About the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation

The International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide opportunities for persons with a lower limb disability to play the game of wheelchair basketball. Among other duties, it establishes the official wheelchair basketball rules, the standards for the training and certification of referees and classifiers, it controls and maintains the classification of players and issuance of Player Identity Cards. For more information visit the IWBF website at [www.iwbf.org](http://www.iwbf.org).



# CANADA

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 12:00 vs ITA
- June 9 @ 18:00 vs AUS
- June 10 @ 18:00 vs IRI
- June 11 @ 15:00 vs TUR
- June 12 @ 18:00 vs BRA



The Canadian U23 Men have competed at each of the U23 world championships since hosting the inaugural even in 1997 in Toronto. Canada enjoyed success at the first two events by reaching the top of the podium in 1997 and 2001, but the U23 men have since placed no higher than sixth in the following world championships. Team Canada is in pursuit of the podium once again as the country and the world celebrate the event's return to the inaugural city on its 20th anniversary.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2013 - Adana - 6th / 6e place  
 2009 - Paris - 8th / 8e place  
 2005 - Birmingham - 6th / 6e place  
 2001 - Blumenau - Gold / Or  
 1997 - Toronto - Gold / Or

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	Eric Voss	3.0	23-Feb-1996	St. Marys, Ontario
5	Ben Moronchuk	4.5	29-May-1996	Edmonton, Alberta
6	Lee Melymick	1.0	09-Jan-1995	Toronto, Ontario
7	Vincent Dallaire	1.5	07-Mar-1995	Quebec City, Quebec
8	Liam Hickey	4.0	25-Mar-1998	St. John's, Newfoundland
9	Tanner Jung	4.0	21-Apr-2000	Langley, British Columbia
10	Garrett Ostepchuk	1.5	12-Mar-2000	Regina, Saskatchewan
11	Ben Hagkull	2.5	05-Feb-1999	Chilliwack, British Columbia
12	Ben Tumack	4.5	26-Mar-1997	Edmonton, Alberta
13	Adel Akhmed	1.0	03-Sep-1999	Toronto, Ontario
14	Alex Hayward	2.0	04-Mar-1997	Quispamsis, New Brunswick
15	Westley Johnston	4.0	25-Apr-1995	Kinkora, Prince Edward Island

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Darrell Nordell / Assistant Coach : Dave Durepos / Assistant Coach : Steve Sampson /  
 Manager : Erik Robeznieks / Therapist : Adrienne Murawiecki

## #4 - ERIC VOSS



### Personal Info:

Resides: St. Marys, Ont.  
Birthplace: St. Marys, Ont.  
Birth Date: February 23, 1996  
Height: 5'2"  
Occupation: Student

### Athlete Info:

Club: National Academy, London Forest City Flyers  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2006  
Classification: 3.0

### Interesting Facts:

- His role model is Rick Hansen; Voss was a medal bearer during the Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay
- Voss lives on a farm

### Awards/Highlights:

- Silver medallist at Canada Games with Team Ontario (2011)

Eric Voss looks forward to the challenge every time he wheels onto the basketball court. A star on the rise, he thrives in the midst of heated competition and constantly pushes himself to better his game.

Voss's passion for the game began when he was just 10 years old, after he discovered wheelchair basketball thanks to a friend of his father's who encouraged him to come out to a practice and give the sport a try.

He developed his skills with the London Forest City Flash junior program and joined the London Forest City Flyers club team competing within the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League. Voss has also competed at national competitions with Team Ontario.

In 2013, Voss propelled his career to the next level and became the youngest player on the Canadian Men's U23 National Team, helping them qualify for the 2013 Men's U23 World Championship in Turkey.

Off the court, Voss dedicates his spare time to raising awareness for wheelchair basketball and disability by taking part in sport demonstrations at schools in Ontario. He also enjoys cycling, swimming, and camping.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
5th	2015	Canada Games	Team Ontario
6th	2012	Junior East Regional Championship * All Star	Team Ontario
4th	2012	Ontario ParaSport Games	London Forest City Flyers
2nd	2011	Canada Games	Team Ontario
2nd	2010	National Junior Championship	Team Ontario

### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Location
1st	2013	Men's U23 Americas Zone Qualifier	Mexico City, Mexico

## #5 BEN MORONCHUK



### Personal Info:

Resides: Edmonton, Alta.  
Birthplace: Edmonton, Alta.  
Birth Date: May 29, 1996  
Height: 5'9"  
Occupation: Student

### Athlete Info:

Club: National Academy, Alberta Northern Lights  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2010  
Classification: 4.5

### Interesting Facts:

- He goes by the nickname Willy and outside of basketball he is avid music fan who enjoys both listening to music and playing the guitar.

Ben Moronchuk was first introduced to wheelchair basketball in 2010 after an injury prompted family friend and world-class player Danielle Peers to recommend it. He fell in love with the sport after witnessing the speed of the game and getting to know the great wheelchair basketball community.

Since taking to the courts the Edmonton native has displayed a solid two-way game while playing for the Alberta Northern Lights as well as the Alberta junior team, competing for the province at the 2011 and 2015 Canada Winter Games.

His passion and talent for the game caught the eye of the National Academy and he soon joined the program alongside other elite athletes to further develop their skills.

In 2016, Moronchuk was named to the Canadian senior men's national team for the first time and made his major international debut at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

### STATISTICS: Paralympic Games (2016)

	GP	Min	M/G	Field Goals		3 Points		Free Throws		Rebounds			AS	TO	ST	BS	PF	FO	PTS	P/G
				M/A	%	M/A	%	M/A	%	OR	DR	TOT								
Total:	6	37	6:06	4/16	25	1/8	13	1/1	100	3	8	11	4	2	-	-	2	3	10	1.7

### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Location
11th	2016	Paralympic Games	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
3rd	2017	CWBL National Championship * All Star	Alberta Northern Lights
2nd	2016	Junior West Regional Championship * MVP	Team Alberta
5th	2016	CWBL National Championship	Alberta Northern Lights
3rd	2015	Canada Games	Team Alberta
6th	2015	CWBL National Championship	Alberta Northern Lights
6th	2014	CWBL National Championship	Alberta Northern Lights
3rd	2014	Junior National Championship	Team Alberta



## #6 LEE MELYMICK



### Personal Info:

Resides: Toronto, Ont.  
Birthplace: Toronto, Ont.  
Birth Date: January 9, 1995  
Height: 6'5"  
Occupation: Student

### Athlete Info:

Club: Variety Viillage  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2015  
Classification: 1.0

### Interesting Facts:

- Working to complete his studies in chemical engineering at Ryerson University

Melymick turned to wheelchair basketball after an injury in 2015. As a natural competitor, he immediately embraced the game and its aggressive style of play.

Melymick began playing locally with Variety Village in Toronto and has progressed quickly in the sport, representing the club at the 2017 Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League National Championship. In the same year Melymick was selected for the Canadian Men's U23 Team to mark his national team debut.

On the court Melymick is a strong supportive player, setting picks and seals to get his teammates open, while keeping an eye out for openings to make use of his ranged shot. A strong team player, he hopes to help Team Canada to a podium finish as they compete in his hometown of Toronto at the Men's U23 World Championship.

"Representing Canada means I get to compete for purpose and pride. It means I can show the world what Canada can do," said Melymick.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
4th	2017	CWBL National Championship	Variety Village

## #7 VINCENT DALLAIRE



### Personal Info:

Resides: Quebec City, Que.  
Birthplace: Quebec City, Que.  
Birth Date: March 7, 1995  
Height: 5'6"  
Occupation: Student

### Athlete Info:

Club: National Academy, Bulldogs de Quebec  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2002  
Classification: 3.5

### Interesting Facts:

- Dallaire is an avid video game fan
- His arm span measures 6 feet, 6 inches

### Awards/Highlights:

- Named All-Star at the 2013 Junior World Wheelchair Basketball Championship
- Named an All-Star at the Junior East Regional Championship

Vincent Dallaire began playing wheelchair basketball in 2002, following an introduction to the sport by his physiotherapist. He has been honing his basketball skills ever since and grew up playing with recreational and competitive club teams in his native Quebec.

A true team player, Dallaire loves the camaraderie within wheelchair basketball. He also doesn't shy away from the speed of execution and the intensity of the sport.

Dallaire earned roster spots with the Canadian junior men's national team in 2013 and 2017. He considers the opportunity to compete for Canada to be both a personal triumph and a great honour given that the Canadian basketball program is one of the most successful in the world.

He made the Senior Men's National Team roster in 2014.

His role model is Canadian wheelchair basketball great Patrick Anderson because of his poise and ability to remain humble no matter what the situation.

Off the basketball court, Dallaire enjoys reading books and spending time with friends.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
1st	2017	CWBL National Championship	Gladiateurs de Laval
1st	2015	Canada Games	Team Quebec
4th	2015	CWBL National Championship	National Academy
1st	2014	CWBL National Championship * All Star	Bulldogs de Quebec
2nd	2014	Junior National Championship * All Star	Team Quebec
2nd	2013	CWBL National Championship	Bulldogs de Quebec
4th	2013	Junior East Regional Championship * All Star	Team Quebec

### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Location
2nd	2015	Parapan Am Games	Toronto, Ontario
6th	2013	Men's U23 World Championship * All Star	Adana, Turkey

## #8 LIAM HICKEY



### Personal Info:

Resides: St. John's, N.L.  
Birthplace: St. John's, N.L.  
Birth Date: March 25, 1998  
Height: 5'11"  
Occupation: Athlete

### Athlete Info:

Club: PEI Mustangs  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2008  
Classification: 4.0

### Interesting Facts:

- Hickey is also part of Canada's national sledge hockey program

### Awards/Highlights:

- Named Junior Male Athlete of the Year by Sport Newfoundland and Labrador (2016)
- Named Junior Athlete of the Year by Wheelchair Basketball Canada (2015)
- Named Male Youth Athlete of the Year by the city of Mount Pearl, N.L. (2014)
- Recipient of 2014 Petro-Canada 'Fuelling Athletes and Coaching Excellence' Program
- Named Rookie of the Year by the Maritime Wheelchair Basketball Association

Liam Hickey grew up as a regular in his community's stand-up basketball program from as early as kindergarten. It wasn't until he was 10 that he first got introduced to wheelchair basketball through the local Easter Seals program. From that point on, he was hooked by the game's high rate of speed and intense contact.

To gain experience playing competitive basketball Hickey began to play for the PEI Mustangs in the Maritime Wheelchair Basketball League (MWBL), which has allowed him to compete against and learn from other top players. Playing in the MWBL means a lot of travelling and fundraising for Hickey and his family, but he says access to good competition is important to the development of his game.

The travelling paid off for Hickey, who was named to the Men's U23 National Team that competed at the junior men's world championship in 2013. In 2015, Hickey earned a roster spot on the Senior Men's National Team. He competed at his first Paralympic Games in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Outside of basketball, Hickey enjoys riding his dirt bike, fishing, playing baseball, playing sledge hockey and most recently, golf. His role models are his parents.

### STATISTICS: Paralympic Games (2016)

	GP	Min	M/G	Field Goals		3 Points		Free Throws		Rebounds			AS	TO	ST	BS	PF	FO	PTS	P/G
				M/A	%	M/A	%	M/A	%	OR	DR	TOT								
Total:	6	90	15	11/27	40	0/4	0	6/9	67	2	13	15	8	4	5	0	7	7	28	4.7

### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Location
11th	2016	Paralympic Games	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2nd	2015	Parapan Am Games	Toronto, Ontario
6th	2013	Men's U23 World Championship	Adana, Turkey

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
4th	2015	Canada Games	Team Prince Edward Island
2nd	2013	Junior East Regional Championship	Team Prince Edward Island
5th	2012	Junior East Regional Championship	Team Prince Edward Island

## #9 TANNER JUNG



### Personal Info:

Resides: Langley, B.C.  
Birthplace: Langley, B.C.  
Birth Date: April 21, 2000

### Athlete Info:

Club: Langley Goldrush  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2012  
Classification: 2.5

### Interesting Facts:

- In his spare time he enjoys working on cars

Jung made his wheelchair basketball debut in 2012 following an introduction to the sport by his physiotherapist. The young athlete took quickly to the sport and his passion for the game continues to flourish to this day.

The Langley native thrives in the team atmosphere of wheelchair basketball. He began his career with his local club team in Langley and has quickly progressed to the national level. He competed for British Columbia at the 2016 Canadian Wheelchair Basketball National Championships and most recently helped his team secure gold at the 2017 Junior West Regional Championship.

Jung will get his first shot playing internationally for Canada at the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship. He considers playing for his country to be a great accomplishment and privilege.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
1st	2017	Junior West Regional Championship	BC Royals
4th	2016	CWBL National Championship	BC Royals



## #10 GARRETT OSTEPHCHUK



### Personal Info:

Resides: Regina, Sask.  
Birthplace: Regina, Sask.  
Birth Date: March 12, 2000  
Height: 5'1"  
Occupation: Student

### Athlete Info:

Club: Team Saskatchewan  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2007  
Classification: 1.5

### Interesting Facts:

- His role models are Patrick Anderson and Luca Patuelli

Ostepchuk made his wheelchair basketball debut at the age of seven following an introduction to the sport through a demonstration at his school. The passionate young athlete quickly embraced the sport and has worked tirelessly to refine his skills on the court.

The native of Regina, Saskatchewan has been a mainstay on his provincial team for a number of years and has already helped Team Saskatchewan to a number of podium finishes at junior national championships. Ostepchuk boasts a gold medal finish at the Junior West Regional Championships in 2014 and a silver medal performance at the 2015 Canada Games.

Ostepchuk earned a roster spot on the Men's U23 National Team in 2017. He considers the accomplishment to be an amazing opportunity to play at a high level and compete against the top athletes from around the world.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
7th	2017	CWBL National Championship	Team Saskatchewan
1st	2016	CWBL National Championship *Tier 2	Team Saskatchewan
2nd	2015	Canada Games	Team Saskatchewan
1st	2014	Junior National Championship	Team Saskatchewan

## #11 BEN HAGKULL



### Personal Info:

Resides: Chilliwack, B.C.  
 Birthplace: Chilliwack, B.C.  
 Birth Date: February 5, 1999  
 Height: 5'4"

### Athlete Info:

Club: Langley Goldrush  
 Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2006  
 Classification: 2.5

### Interesting Facts:

- His role model is Rick Hansen, for teaching him that you can achieve anything you put your mind to
- Has competed in over 15 triathlons

Hagkull discovered wheelchair basketball in 2006 when looking for a new challenge he found himself drawn to the competitive nature and fast pace of the game.

His experience competing in triathlons translated easily to the courts where he uses his speed to provide a challenge to defenders while he looks for fast breaks.

Hagkull splits playing between both the Langley Goldrush and the provincial team. He has represented British Columbia at several national championships as well as the 2015 Canada Games. In 2017, he earned a roster spot on the Canadian Men's U23 National Team.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
1st	2017	Junior West Regional Championship	BC Royals
4th	2016	CWBL National Championship	BC Royals
7th	2015	Canada Games	Team BC
4th	2014	Junior National Championship	Team BC

## #12 BEN TUMACK



### Personal Info:

Resides: Toronto, Ont.  
Birthplace: Edmonton, Alta.  
Birth Date: March 26, 1997  
Height: 5'7"

### Athlete Info:

Club: National Academy, Alberta Northern Lights  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2005  
Classification: 4.5

### Interesting Facts:

- Was a Rick Hansen medal bearer when the Man in Motion 25th Anniversary Tour passed through Edmonton

Tumack fell in love with wheelchair basketball when he met Paralympians Danielle Peers and Karla Tritten at a demonstration of the sport in his hometown of Edmonton. At eight years of age he entered the Edmonton Mini Lights program and he has since forged his path toward the Canadian junior national team.

Tumack loves the strategy of the game and working with his teammates to put together game changing plays. He continues to push his game forward by training with the high performance athletes at the National Training Centre in Toronto.

He has represented Alberta at several national competitions, including the 2015 Canada Games where he helped the team earn bronze. He also helped the Alberta junior team place on the top of the podium at the 2016 Junior West Regional Championship.

Tumack made his national team debut in 2017 with the Canadian Men's U23 team. He considers representing his country to be an incredible honour and is extremely proud to be playing for Canada on home soil at the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
5th	2017	Junior West Regional Championship	Team Alberta
1st	2016	Junior West Regional Championship	Team Alberta
5th	2016	CWBL National Championship	Alberta Northern Lights
3rd	2015	Canada Games	Team Alberta
6th	2014	CWBL National Championship	Alberta Northern Lights
3rd	2014	Junior National Championship	Team Alberta

## #13 ADEL AKHMED



### Personal Info:

Resides: Toronto, Ont.  
 Birthplace: Volgograd, Russia  
 Birth Date: September 3, 1999

### Athlete Info:

Club: Variety Village  
 Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2013  
 Classification: 1.0

### Interesting Facts:

- His role models are Lionel Messi and Patrick Anderson because of their hard work, intelligence, modesty and talent
- His hobbies include track and field and playing the guitar

Akhmed discovered wheelchair basketball in 2013 and immediately fell in love with the sport. He joined a local club and dedicated himself to improving his skills on the court aiming to one day be a part of the national team.

His hard work and dedication paid off as Akhmed has shown tremendous development in a short period of time. This Toronto native has already represented his club, Variety Village, at two Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League National Championships, helping them earn third place on the podium in 2015.

In 2017, he achieved his goal of donning the maple leaf on the hard court when he earned a spot on Canada's Men's U23 National Team. Akhmed will continue to push himself further in his wheelchair basketball career as he ultimately aims for a spot on the Senior Men's National Team.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
4th	2017	CWBL National Championship	Variety Village
3rd	2015	CWBL National Championship	Variety Village



## #14 ALEX HAYWARD



### Personal Info:

Resides: Quispamsis, N.B.  
Birthplace: Campbellton, N.B.  
Birth Date: March 4, 1997  
Height: 5'11"  
Occupation: Student

### Athlete Info:

Club: National Academy, Saint John Mavericks  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2012  
Classification: 2.0

### Interesting Facts:

- His role model is five-time Paralympian and three-time Paralympic gold medalist wheelchair basketball player Dave Durepos

### Awards/Highlights:

- Named Wheelchair Basketball Canada's Junior Athlete of the Year (2017)

Alexandre Hayward began his wheelchair basketball journey after first discovering the sport in 2012 at a parasport demonstration in Moncton, N.B. It was there that Hayward met former Team Canada veteran and local parasport hero Dave Durepos, who would introduce the teen to the hardcourt.

After being recruited by Durepos, Hayward joined the local club team in Saint John, N.B. A product of Campbellton, N.B., Hayward worked his way onto the provincial junior team and represented New Brunswick at the Canada Games in 2015.

Hayward enjoys the competitiveness and teamwork involved in wheelchair basketball. He plays a 'versatile' game and focuses on creating opportunities for his teammates on the court.

His quick progression in the sport caught the eye of National Team coaches and Hayward earned an invite to attend the National Academy in Toronto in the 2015-2016 season. He is a hopeful for the Canadian Men's U23 National Team in 2017.

"I have always dreamed of representing my country," says Hayward. "I am honored and excited to have that opportunity."

Outside of basketball, Hayward enjoys working on his car and spending time with family and friends.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
1st	2016	Junior East Regional Championship	Team New Brunswick
6th	2015	Canada Games	Team New Brunswick



Men's U23 World Wheelchair Basketball  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**CHAMPIONNAT**  
du monde masculin M23 de basketball en fauteuil roulant

## MEDIA CONTACT

Lindsay Crone - 613-724-0792 - lcrone@wheelchairbasketball.ca

## #15 WESTLEY JOHNSTON



### Personal Info:

Resides: Charlottetown, P.E.I.  
Birthplace: Summerside, P.E.I.  
Birth Date: April 25, 1995  
Height: 6'2"  
Occupation: Student

### Athlete Info:

Club: PEI Mustangs  
Began Wheelchair Basketball: 2010  
Classification: 4.0

### Interesting Facts:

- His role models include his step-father and LeBron James

Johnston began his basketball journey playing stand up basketball but after acquiring an injury switched to wheelchair basketball and immediately developed a passion for the sport and the community.

Johnston has worked hard to steadily make a name for himself within the Canadian wheelchair basketball scene. He first started playing with the PEI Mustangs and has since competed for his home province at the 2015 Canada Games. In 2017, he made the jump to the national team and looks forward to making his Men's U23 National Team debut.

He considers playing for his country to be the highest honour that an athlete of any sport can achieve and is excited to push Canada to the podium at the men's junior world championship.

### DOMESTIC COMPETITION:

Place	Year	Tournament	Team
4th	2015	Canada Games	Team Prince Edward Island

# AUSTRALIA

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 8:00 vs IRI
- June 9 @ 18:00 vs CAN
- June 10 @ 10:00 vs BRA
- June 11 @ 18:00 vs ITA
- June 12 @ 20:00 vs TUR



The Australian Men's U23 National Team has competed at four of the five previous world championships. Throughout these appearances Australia has claimed bronze three times and narrowly missed the podium in 2009 with a fourth place finish. The Australian men head into the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship in search of another back-to-back finish on the podium and look to improve upon their #3 ranking after the last world championship in 2013.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2013 - Adana - Bronze  
2009 - Paris - 4th / 4e place  
2005 - Birmingham - Bronze  
1997 - Toronto - Bronze

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	Nicholas Scott	1.0	05-Nov-1996	Shellharbour
5	Lachlan Dalton	2.5	20-Apr-2001	Brisbane
6	Hayden Siebuhr	1.0	10-Aug-1999	Ipswich
7	Bailey Rowland	1.5	16-Aug-1996	Gold Coast
8	Jontee Brown	4.5	24-Dec-1997	Brisbane
9	Anderson Parker	4.5	28-Jan-1998	Bendigo
10	Jeremy Tyndall	1.5	05-Apr-1996	Melbourne
11	Tom O'Neill-Thorne	3.0	08-Apr-1997	Darwin
12	Steven Elliott	4.0	22-Feb-1995	-
13	Brian Carminati	4.0	19-Mar-1996	Melbourne
14	Jake Fulwood	4.0	03-Aug-1995	Sunshine Coast
15	Thomas Holland	3.0	23-Feb-1995	Brisbane

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Luke Brennan / Assistant Coach : Craig Campbell / Assistant Coach : Shane Furness  
Manager : Tom Kyle / Physiotherapist : Ryan Campbell / Program Manager : Leigh Gooding

# BRAZIL

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 18:00 vs TUR
- June 9 @ 8:00 vs ITA
- June 10 @ 10:00 vs AUS
- June 11 @ 20:00 vs IRI
- June 12 @ 18:00 vs CAN



2017 marks the fourth trip to the world championship for the Brazilian Men's U23 National Team. Brazil last competed at the world championship in 2009, where the team placed seventh. Brazil has placed as high as second throughout their history at the tournament, when they hosted the event in Blumenau, Brazil in 2001. The Brazilian team heads into the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship hoping for a return to the podium.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2009 - Paris - 7th / 7e place  
2005 - Birmingham - 7th / 7e place  
2001 - Blumenau - Silver

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	Anderson Braz da Silva	4.5	31-Jan-1996	Olinda
5	Elias Rosa da Silva	4.0	21-Mar-1996	Asis
6	João Paulo de Souza Madureira	4.5	18-Aug-1999	Niquelândia
7	Francisco Denilson de Sousa Sampaio	4.5	30-Jan-1998	Fortaleza
8	Roger Rodrigues Oliveira	3.0	18-Nov-1995	São Leopoldo
9	Wellington de Souza Silva	1.0	09-Feb-1998	Brasilia
10	Reyson da Silva Souza	3.0	18-Oct-1998	Recife
11	Thyago Alves de Deus	1.0	16-May-1998	Belém
12	Renan Mariano Miranda	2.0	02-Feb-1998	Formosa
13	Lucas Fernando dos Santos	2.5	13-May-2000	Cascavel
14	Milley Nunes Lopes	3.5	12-Jun-1999	Brasilia
15	Phillipe Gonçalves	4.5	06-May-1998	Camboriu

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Mauricio Leonardo de Souza Lemos / Assistant Coach : Sileno Santos / Doctor : Leonardo Pereira Guedes de Moura

# FRANCE

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 20:00 vs JPN
- June 9 @ 12:00 vs RSA
- June 10 @ 8:00 vs USA
- June 11 @ 10:00 vs GER
- June 12 @ 15:00 vs GBR



France is set to return to the world championship stage after hosting the event in Paris in 2009. The French men are coming off of a fifth place finish at the 2017 U22 European Championship, where the team seized the final qualification spot for the right to compete at the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship. They are looking to improve upon their 10th place finish at their most recent world championship appearance.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2009 - Paris - 10th / 10e place  
 2005 - Birmingham - 8th / 8e place  
 1997 - Toronto - 6th / 6e place

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	Manuel Gomez	2.5	21-Aug-2002	Marseille
5	Alexis Ramonet	4.0	08-Oct-1995	Le Cannet
6	Samih Mohamed Khalil	2.0	15-Mar-1999	Centre fédéral
7	Abdelghanee Boughania	3.5	22-Jul-1995	Le puy en velay
8	Jean Alexandre Alpin	4.5	04-Oct-1997	Poitiers
9	Sébastien Evanno	4.0	31-May-1995	Centre fédéral
10	Esteban Henriot	1.0	03-Jun-1998	Centre fédéral
11	Louis Hardouin	2.5	19-Nov-2001	Meaux
12	Enzo Trabuchet	4.0	11-Jun-2001	Centre fédéral
13	Romain Damoizeau	3.0	16-Jan-1998	Centré fédéral
14	Hugo Barbe	3.0	12-Aug-2000	Dijon
15	Anthony Laurent	3.5	24-Dec-1999	Centre fédéral

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Stéphane Binot / Assistant Coach : Antony Joubert / Manager : Antoine Vitrant / Physiotherapist : Manon Camboulives / Mechanic : Yannick Caroff



# GERMANY

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 15:00 vs RSA
- June 9 @ 15:00 vs USA
- June 10 @ 15:00 vs GBR
- June 11 @ 10:00 vs FRA
- June 12 @ 8:00 vs JPN



The German Men's U23 National Team enters the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship on a high note. As the reigning world champions from 2013, Germany is one of the teams to beat in Toronto. Germany has achieved podium success only once at past world championships for junior men. After qualifying with a bronze finish at the 2017 U22 European Championship, the German men will have to work hard to defend their title.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2013 - Adana - Gold / Or  
2005 - Birmingham - 5th / 5e place  
2001 - Blumenau - 5th / 5e place  
1997 - Toronto - 4th / 4e place

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	Oliver Jantz	2.0	18-Feb-1998	Koldenbüttel
5	Dominik Vogt	2.5	03-Jul-1996	Wüstenrot
6	Marcel Gerber	2.5	31-Dec-1996	Bonn
7	Christopher Huber	1.0	09-Oct-1995	Rockenberg
8	Lukas Jung	1.0	26-May-1995	Rathsweiler
9	Urs Rechtsteiner	2.0	19-Aug-1999	Ulm
10	Patrick Dorner	3.5	06-Aug-1998	Amstetten
11	Alexander Budde	3.5	20-Apr-2000	Hannover
12	Nico Dreimüller	2.0	10-Dec-1997	Frankfurt
13	Leon Ole Schöneberg	4.5	24-Dec-1996	Tübingen
14	Matthias Güntner	4.5	10-Nov-1998	Vallendar
15	Marvin Malsy	3.0	29-Apr-1997	Erfurt

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Peter Richarz / Assistant Coach : Benjamin Ryklin / Manager : Günther Mayer / Doctor : Dr. Petra Michel-Leutheuser / Physiotherapist : Uwe Geiselman / Mechanic : Wolfgang Böhme / Staff : Jutta Retzer

# GREAT BRITAIN

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 10:00 vs USA
- June 9 @ 10:00 vs JPN
- June 10 @ 15:00 vs GER
- June 11 @ 8:00 vs RSA
- June 12 @ 15:00 vs FRA



The British Men's U23 National Team has battled to fourth place finishes at the past three world championships for junior men, including in 2005 on home soil in Birmingham, Great Britain. With consecutive finishes falling just shy of a medal, Great Britain is in search of its first podium finish at the world championship and will look to challenge in 2017.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2013 - Adana - 4th / 4e place  
 2005 - Birmingham - 4th / 4e place  
 2001 - Blumenau - 4th / 4e place  
 1997 - Toronto - 5th / 5e place

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	James Palmer	1.0	23-Apr-1997	Chelmsford, England
5	Jake Robinson	1.5	15-Jul-1997	Kettering, England
6	Jack Perry	4.5	3-Dec-1995	Cambridge, England
7	Lee Fryer	4.5	23-Mar-2000	Nr Pontefract, England
8	Billy Bridge	3.0	8-Aug-1995	Ellesmere Port, England
9	Ben Fox	3.5	16-Aug-1995	Swindon, England
10	Lewis Edwards	3.0	6-Jul-1998	Littlehampton, England
11	Samuel Mack	2.0	3-Jan-1998	Norwich, England
12	Gregg Warburton	2.0	19-Nov-1996	Leigh, England
13	Peter Cusack	3.5	9-Apr-1999	Coventry, England
14	James Macsorley	2.0	13-Feb-1995	Belfast, Northern Ireland
15	Nathaniel Pattinson	3.5	31-Jan-1996	Carlisle, England

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Scott Wallace / Assistant Coach : Peter Finbow / Manager : Philip Robinson / Physiotherapist : Rachel Spanner

# IRAN

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 8:00 vs AUS
- June 9 @ 20:00 vs TUR
- June 10 @ 18:00 vs CAN
- June 11 @ 20:00 vs BRA
- June 12 @ 10:00 vs ITA



The 2017 Men's U23 World Championship marks Iran's second appearance at the tournament after a fifth place finish in 2013. In lead up to the tournament, the Iranian men are coming off their second consecutive first place finish at the Asia-Oceania U23 qualifier and are poised to start climbing up the world rankings as they gain more experience.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

2013 - Adana - 5th / 5e place



## TEAM ROSTER

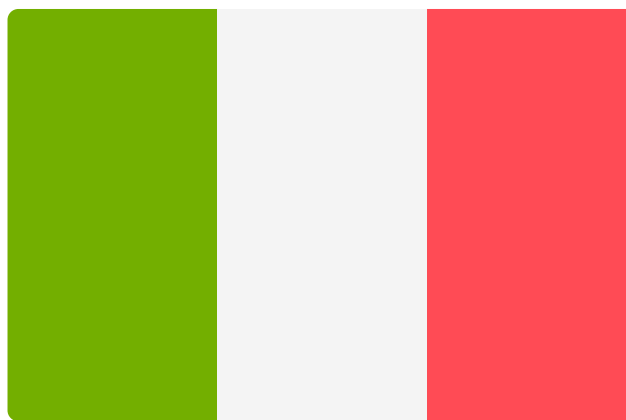
Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	Mehdi Mazloun	1.5	27-Sep-2001	Kashan
5	Hassanali Kaab Amir	2.5	23-May-1995	Tehran
6	Amirreza Ahmadi	3.5	16-Oct-2000	Eilam
7	Peyman Mizan	2.0	07-Jan-2000	Tehran
8	Mehdi Mandegari	1.5	28-Dec-1997	Bandar Abbas
9	Ali Karimi Kerdabadi	1.5	20-Nov-1996	Esfahan
10	Mojtaba Kamali	4.5	09-Oct-1998	Shiraz
11	Syedmahdi Mousavi	4.5	29-Jan-1995	Tehran
12	Reza Eivazi	4.0	02-Jan-1999	Qom
13	Mohammadhassan Sayari	4.0	17-Aug-1997	Arak
14	Mahdi Abbasishotoryeh	3.5	23-Oct-2002	Arak
15	Homayoun Askari Mehrabadi	3.5	24-Jan-1998	Arak

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Hasan Farshid Palar / Manager : Hadi Rezaeigarkani / Staff : Hamed Jolaei / Interpreter : Mahmoud Irandoust

# ITALY

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 12:00 vs CAN
- June 9 @ 8:00 vs BRA
- June 10 @ 20:00 vs TUR
- June 11 @ 18:00 vs AUS
- June 12 @ 10:00 vs IRI



The Italian U23 men have competed at only one previous world championship where they fought to an eighth place finish in 2013. After placing fourth at the 2017 U22 European qualifier, Italy is looking to improve upon their standing at the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2013 - Adana - 8th / 8e place

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	Dario Di Francesco	3.0	24-Aug-1995	Roma
5	Alessandro Nava	2.5	03-Jun-1996	Lecco
6	Mattia Scandolaro	2.5	07-Jun-2000	Padova
7	Alessio Torquati	1.5	27-Jul-1996	Roma
8	Francesco Cancelli	2.5	10-Nov-1995	Brescia
9	Samuele Cini	3.5	30-Oct-2001	Firenze
10	Massimiliano Segreto	1.0	24-Jun-1997	Milano
11	Andrea Molaro	1.5	19-Feb-1999	Bologna
12	Raimondo Canu	4.0	17-Jan-1995	Sassari
13	Tobia Di Monte	4.0	20-Jul-1996	Napoli
14	Sabri Bedzeti	4.0	31-Jan-1995	Macedonia

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Marco Bergna / Assistant Coach : Fabio Castellucci / Assistant Coach : Carlo Di Giusto / Manager : Eleonora Tramontana / Physiotherapist : Susan Ercolin / Mechanic : Emanuele Castorino / Doctor : Luigi Gatta

# JAPAN

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 20:00 vs FRA
- June 9 @ 10:00 vs GBR
- June 10 @ 12:00 vs RSA
- June 11 @ 12:00 vs USA
- June 12 @ 8:00 vs GER



The Japanese Men's U23 National Team has competed at the past three world championships. The team has placed as high as second in its history at the tournament, reaching the podium only once in their debut appearance in 2005. Most recently, Japan placed ninth at the last world championship for junior men in 2013.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2013 - Adana - 9th / 9e place  
2009 - Paris - 6th / 6e place  
2005 - Birmingham - Silver / Argent

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
2	Renshi Chokai	2.5	02-Feb-1999	Nagasaki
5	Rintaro Furusaki	3.0	24-May-2001	Fukui
7	Takuya Furusawa	3.0	08-May-1996	Kanagawa
9	Koki Maruyama	2.5	04-Sep-1996	Nagano
10	Takayoshi Iwai	1.0	28-Jun-1996	Toyama
11	Kazuma Terauchi	4.5	21-Oct-1998	Toyama
12	Satoru Kumagai	3.5	05-Sep-1996	Nagano
13	Ryuga Akaishi	2.5	11-Sep-2000	Saitama
14	Yoshinobu Takamatsu	4.0	20-Nov-1999	Tochigi
18	Rin Kawahara	1.5	03-Dec-1996	Nagasaki
46	Shuya Tanaka	4.0	27-May-1995	Gifu
92	Takahiro Akeda	1.0	26-Jun-1995	Osaka

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Kazuyuki Kyoya / Assistant Coach : Sayaka Yamasaki / Team Leader : Satoshi Nishida / Trainer : Hironori Kino / Trainer : Takumi Saito / Team Staff : Eriko Yokose / Translator : Miki Matheson



# SOUTH AFRICA

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 15:00 vs GER
- June 9 @ 12:00 vs FRA
- June 10 @ 12:00 vs JPN
- June 11 @ 8:00 vs GBR
- June 12 @ 12:00 vs USA



The 2017 Men's U23 World Championship marks South Africa's third appearance at the event, having played at the most recent championships in 2013 and 2009. After dominating opposing teams at the U23 African World Championship qualifier, the South African team enters the tournament looking to improve on their previous two 11th place finishes.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2013 - Adana - 11th / 11e place  
 2009 - Paris - 11th / 11e place

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	Bofelo Ramonne	3.0	27-Jul-2002	Kuruman
6	Siyanda Dube	1.0	11-Apr-1997	Durban
7	Warren Tefu	3.5	26-Feb-1997	Johannesburg
8	Zakhele Shelembe	1.5	19-Aug-1996	Durban
9	Gcina Musawenkosi Dlamini	2.0	09-May-1995	Durban
10	Simangaye Shabalala	4.5	02-Sep-1997	Durban
11	Ayabonga Jim	3.0	09-Jan-2001	East London
12	Ronald Nkomo	2.5	11-Apr-1996	Johannesburg
13	Kwazi Kubheka	3.5	02-Jun-1997	Johannesburg
14	Elverno Rossouw	2.5	22-May-2001	Cape Town

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Gerhard Smith / Manager : Allen Mtatase / Physiotherapist : Riali Roos

# TURKEY

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 18:00 vs BRA
- June 9 @ 20:00 vs IRI
- June 10 @ 20:00 vs ITA
- June 11 @ 15:00 vs CAN
- June 12 @ 20:00 vs AUS



Turkey returns to the world championship stage after hosting the 2013 tournament in Adana. Although the team has fallen short of the podium at their previous three world championship appearances, Turkey took the top spot at the 2017 U22 European Championship and has set their sights on a higher finish this year against the rest of the world.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2013 - Adana - 7th / 7e place



2009 - Paris - 5th / 5e place



2005 - Birmingham - 10th / 10e place

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
4	Gürkan Taş	2.0	05-Aug-1999	İstanbul
5	Halil İbrahim Bağlı	3.5	24-Nov-1998	İzmir
6	Mücahit Günaydin	4.0	25-Mar-1999	İstanbul
7	Ahmet Efe Türk	4.0	31-Aug-1995	İzmir
8	Burak Şen	1.5	18-Jun-1998	Kayseri
9	Rıdvan Aksoy	1.0	02-Feb-2000	İzmir
10	Enes Bulut	4.0	23-Nov-1998	Balıkesir
11	Volkan Gülem	2.0	16-Feb-1998	Ankara
12	Ali Kabakülekler	1.0	28-Jan-1997	Şanlıurfa
13	Mevlüt Erdenci	4.0	01-Jan-1999	Muş
14	Ebu Bekir Yıldırım	1.0	07-May-1998	Ankara
15	Ahmet Umut Can Dolaşan	3.5	21-Jul-1997	Şanlıurfa

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Mahmut Kemal Okur / Assistant Coach : Caner Cesur / Assistant Coach : Ali Arda Öztürk / Manager : Ömer Erdener Atalan / Physiotherapist : Ali İmran Yalçın / Mechanic : Haluk Taşkınçay

# UNITED STATES

## Preliminary Game Schedule

- June 8 @ 10:00 vs GBR
- June 9 @ 15:00 vs GER
- June 10 @ 8:00 vs FRA
- June 11 @ 12:00 vs JPN
- June 12 @ 12:00 vs RSA



Team USA has been among the top powerhouses in junior men's wheelchair basketball, having enjoyed great success at four of the past five world championships. The American men enter the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship boasting podium finishes in all of their previous appearances at the event, including back-to-back gold medals in 2009 and 2005. The American team will look for a return to the podium after an absence from the event in 2013 and a dominant performance at the 2017 Americas Cup qualification tournament.

## HISTORY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



2009 - Paris - Gold / Or  
 2005 - Birmingham - Gold / Or  
 2001 - Blumenau - Bronze  
 1997 - Toronto - Silver / Argent

## TEAM ROSTER

Nº.	NAME	CLASS	DATE OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN
7	Chayse Wolf	3.0	09-Dec-1996	Wilmington, Ohio
11	Brenton Regier	4.5	01-Feb-1995	Henderson, Nebraska
13	Jeromie Meyer	2.0	11-Apr-1997	Woodbine, Iowa
14	John Schwartz	2.0	17-Mar-1996	Osceola, Indiana
15	Tyler Malone	1.0	03-Jul-1997	Corsicana, Texas
21	Marshall Lindsay	3.5	13-Feb-1996	Stansbury Park, Utah
23	Kyle Gribble	3.5	08-Feb-1996	Crystal Lake, Illinois
24	Collin Evans	1.0	28-Dec-1997	Mondovi, Wisconsin
32	Fabian Romo	4.0	22-Jan-1997	Houston, Texas
33	Joseph Underwood	2.5	29-Aug-1996	Phoenix, Arizona
44	Mark Krenz	2.5	28-Nov-1996	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
52	Drew Selz	4.5	10-Jul-1997	Waterford, Wisconsin

**Coaching Staff:** Head Coach : Jeremy Lade / Assistant Coach : Scott Meyer / Assistant Coach : Christian Burkett /  
 Athletic Therapist : Michael Lenser / Team Leader : Kelly Fischbach



## Story Ideas

Wheelchair Basketball Canada is committed to helping journalists find interesting stories and angles to report on, and is fully dedicated to helping facilitate all interview requests and media inquiries that do not interfere with athlete training and competition schedules or transportation limitations. *Here are some story ideas relation to the 2017U23WWBC:*

- 1) **A return to the inaugural city on the 20th anniversary** - The 2017 Men's U23 World Championship marks the 20-year anniversary since Canada hosted the inaugural world championship for junior men in 1997 in Toronto. Team Canada won back-to-back gold medals at the world championship for junior men in 1997 and 2001. A commemorative ceremony will take place on court on June 10th before Canada's game at 6 p.m. for the 1997 Team Canada alumni. Notable alumni include Paralympians Patrick Anderson, Joey Johnson, Bo Hedges, Abdi Dini, Adam Lancia, and Brent Lakatos.
- 2) **Liam Hickey: Dual Sport Athlete** - When not training on the basketball court, #8 Liam Hickey can be found on the ice; playing sledge hockey. Hickey's unrivaled athletic talent has allowed him to represent Team Canada in wheelchair basketball at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games as well as in sledge hockey at the World Sledge Hockey Challenge. After donning the maple leaf for the 2017 Men's U23 Wheelchair Basketball World Championship, Hickey's sights will be set on earning a roster spot with the Canadian sledge hockey team for the upcoming 2018 Winter Paralympics in PyeongChang.
- 3) **Home Grown** - Toronto's #6 Lee Melymick and #13 Adel Akhmed are both new to the world wheelchair basketball stage however their passion for the sport found its roots at Variety Village in Toronto. The two athletes represented Variety Village at the 2017 Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League National Championships where they pushed the team to a fourth place finish, narrowly missing the podium. Melymick is also completing his higher education in Toronto at Ryerson University, working towards a degree in chemical engineering.
- 4) **The Young Ones** - At 17, #9 Tanner Jung and #10 Garrett Ostepchuk are the youngest members of Team Canada. Named to the team in May, both athletes will make their international debut in wheelchair basketball at the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship. While they may be new to the international stage, Jung and Ostepchuk have represented their respective provinces at a number of national events. Jung earned the BC Royals first place at the 2017 Junior West Regional Championship while Ostepchuk brought Team Saskatchewan to the top of the podium at the 2016 CWBL National Championship.
- 5) **Schools Out** - Relaunched in January of this year, the Wheelchair Basketball Canada Schools Program will have reached 124 elementary, middle, and high schools in the Greater Toronto Area by the time the basketball is thrown for opening tip-off at the junior world championship. More than 40,000 students will have participated in the Schools Program, which is designed to educate teachers and students about the sport of wheelchair basketball and encourage youth, with or without a disability to be physically active. Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the program provides teachers with a resource guide and lesson plans, a demonstration team that visits schools giving students a chance to try the sport, and provides access to sport wheelchairs for the school to use for a week.
- 6) **Paralympic Prowess** - Team Canada's #8 Liam Hickey and #5 Ben Moronchuk earned National Team positions in 2016 and went on to play at the Rio Paralympic Games. However the two young athletes aren't the only Team Canada members with Paralympic experience. Assistant coach, Dave Durepos, boasts an astounding four Paralympic medals, three gold and one silver. Durepos played at five Paralympic Games during his 19 years on the senior men's wheelchair basketball team. Head coach Darrell Nordell has also found Paralympic podium success as assistant coach to the senior men's team in 2012 when he helped coach the team to a gold medal performance.
- 7) **East Coast Connection** - Former national team athlete Dave Durepos' greatest accomplishment in sport was captaining Team Canada to its first Paralympic gold medal at the 2000 Games in Sydney, becoming the first-ever athlete to bring home an Olympic or Paralympic gold medal for the province of New Brunswick. Now as assistant coach with Team Canada at the Men's U23 World Championship, Durepos is sharing his knowledge with the next generation, including #14 Alex Hayward, a Quispamsis, New Brunswick native. Hayward lists Durepos as his role model and will make his debut for Team Canada under the guidance of his accomplished mentor.

8) **Canadian Rivals** - Team Canada national athletes have long had a tie in with the Canada Games. #4 Eric Voss, #5 Ben Moronchuk, #7 Vincent Dallaire, #8 Liam Hickey, #10 Garrett Ostepchuk, #11 Ben Hagkull, #12 Ben Tumack, #14 Alex Hayward and #15 Westley Johnston all competed at the 2015 Canada Games in Prince George. These nine athletes represented seven Canadian provinces. Even head coach Darrell Nordell and assistant coach Steve Sampson participated in the games as head coaches of Team Alberta and Team Nova Scotia, respectively.

## Tips for Reporting on Athletes With a Disability

### Aim to:

- Always identify the athlete and the sport first, then the disability. Often it is not necessary or relevant to the report or mention the disability
- Emphasize the ability rather than the limitation. Try to avoid using emotional words that dramatize the athlete's lifestyle.
- Portray the athletes as they are in real life. Along with being an athlete, they may also be a parent, a civil engineer, a doctor, etc.
- Act naturally at all times. The athlete will tell you if they require assistance. If in doubt, ask.

### Things to avoid:

- Avoid focusing the whole story on the disability by constantly referring to it. Remember the disability is only one aspect of the athlete's life, so try to keep it in proper perspective without magnifying its importance.
- Avoid using "disabled" as a noun or adjective (most people with a disability do not see themselves as disabled, as they are able to accomplish their goals).
- Avoid portraying an athlete who succeeds as extraordinary or superhuman
- Avoid using terms like courage or courageous that suggest the athletes are performing a brave feat or facing a fear. These words are often misused to describe an athlete that is inspirational, determined, motivated etc.
- Avoid using terms such as 'suffering from,' 'is a victim of,' or 'afflicted with.' Most people with a disability do not see themselves as afflicted and many do not actually suffer at all. This is an over-used term and often inappropriate.

## Preferred Words and Phrasing

### Avoid:

- Disabled (as a noun or adjective, most athletes with a disability do not see themselves as disabled - they are able to accomplish their goals)
- Courage/courageous
- Handicapped/crippled
- Suffering from / is a victim of / afflicted with
- Confined to a wheelchair (a wheelchair provides mobility and is not confining)
- Stumps (connotes the persons's limbs like a tree)
- Disease (many disabilities, such as Cerebral Palsy and spinal cord injuries are not caused by illness or disease)
- Spastic
- Physically challenged
- Normal athlete
- a paraplegic, a quadraplegic

### Suggested:

- An athlete with a disability
- Determined/motivated/dedicated/inspirational
- An athlete with a disability
- Person has (name of disability)
- Person/athlete who uses a wheelchair
- An amputee
- Condition
- Person with Cerebral Palsy
- Person with a disability
- Able-bodied athlete
- A person with paraplegia/quadriplegia

With information from the Canadian Paralympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee



