

June 19, 2013

Wheelchair Basketball Report for MWSA AGM

Successes:

* Joey Johnson member of Canada’s National Wheelchair Basketball Team at the London 2012 Paralympics. GOLD medal winner.
* Bill Johnson, Head Coach of Women’s National Wheelchair Basketball Team at London 2012 Paralympics.
* Bill Johnson currently Head Coach of Women’s National Wheelchair Basketball Team.
* Aaron Mosely-Williams was named to 2013 Men’s Wheelchair Basketball Team.
* Joey Johnson selected to be inducted in to the Manitoba Basketball Hall of Fame. Ceremony to take place in October 2013.
* Wheelchair basketball recreation program attracted 5-7 participants.
* Received a grant from Wheelchai r Basketball Canada that was for recruitment and promotion.

Challenges:

* Wheelchair Basketball program had a slow season. Many former athletes/participants have moved on and many times, the gym space was not being utilized. The office aggressively promoted the program via E-newsletter, Facebook, MWSA website, MPETA e-newletter.
* Canada Games 2015 – MWSA currently does not have a team in place. Ongoing communication between office and Ted Bigelow (Sport Manitoba) has resulted in a few initiatives coming to fruition (Ex. Inviting 2011 team athletes to assist with the development of the program).
* Wheelchair Basketball Canada concerned that a team is not in place. They have offered to assist when and where needed.

Looking Ahead:

* Duncan Campbell from Bridging The Gap was in Winnipeg June 12, 2013. He, along with office staff, Board members, and parties involved with the sport (past and present) met to discuss the program. MWSA will begin offering wheelchair basketball during the summer months in the hopes that we can attract new participants; adults and youth. Chantelle Horel, 2011 team member for Canada Games will assist with the delivery of the program.
* MWSA will continue to promote the sport via school programs, community initiatives (City of Winnipeg), and social media.