

# **NWBA Intercollegiate Division Annual Report 2012-2013 Season**

The NWBA's Intercollegiate Division recently concluded another successful season. Lakeshore hosted the annual National Invitational Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in Birmingham, Alabama in early March 2013. The University of Wisconsin – Whitewater defeated the University of Alabama to claim the women's national championship. The University of Alabama defeated the University of Texas – Arlington to win the men's national championship. The Intercollegiate Division also welcomed a new member school this season – Auburn University.

The Intercollegiate Division teams separated into two conferences for this season. The National Conference followed a "NCAA" model and the American Conference followed a "club" model. The following schools were members of the National Conference: Edinboro University (men and women), Southwest Minnesota State University, University of Illinois (men and women), University of Missouri and the University of Texas – Arlington. The following schools were members of the American Conference: Auburn University, University of Alabama (men and women) and the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater (men and women).

The coaches in the Intercollegiate Division primarily governed the Division's matters in the past. This year, the Division decided to move away from "self-governance." Dug Jones took over as President and Jon Burford became the Commissioner. These changes assisted the coaches by removing most of their administrative responsibilities. This allowed them to focus more on coaching their teams.

The Intercollegiate Division will examine the two-conference model this summer and determine whether or not to continue with it. The Division hopes to add teams in the future. It also hopes to work with the NCAA to potentially add intercollegiate wheelchair basketball as a NCAA recognized sport.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Burford  
Commissioner

## **Women's Division Report 2012-2013 Season**

Seven teams registered to play in the Women's Division and paid for the 2012-2013 season through the NWBA.

1. Denver Lady Rolling Nuggets
2. Lady Mavericks
3. Phoenix Banner Wheelchair Mercury
4. RIC Sky
5. University of Arizona Wildcats
6. Seattle Storm
7. San Diego Hammer

Only 5 of the seven teams registered through the NWBA paid Division dues. No waivers were requested.

The 2012-2013 Women's Division National Championships took place in Phoenix, AZ February 22-24, 2013.

Four women's teams attended the tournament. The final results were:

1. Dallas Lady Mavericks
2. University of Arizona
3. Denver Lady Nuggets
4. Phoenix Mercury

### **Tournament Awards:**

**First Team All-Tournament:** Andrea Woodson-Smith- Dallas Lady Mavericks  
Korina Keck- Dallas Lady Mavericks  
Courtney Ryan- University of Arizona Lady Wildcats  
Jen Chew- Denver Lady Rollin' Mavericks  
Natalie Schneider- Denver Lady Rollin' Nuggets

**Second Team All-Tournament:** Tiffany Wilkinson- University of Arizona Lady Wildcats  
Kaitlin Verfueth- Phoenix Banner Wheelchair Mercury  
Jen Poist- University of Arizona Lady Wildcats  
Darlene Hunter- Dallas Lady Mavericks  
Mariah Alexander- University of Arizona Lady Wildcats

**Sportsmanship Award:** Molly Bloom, University of Arizona Lady Wildcats

**Most Improved Player:** Kaitlyn Verfueth, University of Arizona

**Most Valuable Player:** Andrea Woodson-Smith, Dallas Lady Mavericks

The Women's National Tournament also hosted a junior development camp that weekend. Ten junior girls attended the camp. There was a one-day camp held on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and the

girls played in 2, 5-on-5 games against each other between the women's round robin on Saturday, February 23, 2013. We were very excited to host the junior girls' development camp and are planning to host another during the summer. The WD will be looking at various locations in order to spread the camps across the U.S. This camp will be designed for all females of all ages interested in the sport of wheelchair basketball.

**Next Season:**

Next season, only a regional tournament will be played to determine the top 2 teams. These teams are expected to attend the NWBA National Championship Tournament the first weekend of April in Louisville, KY. The Women's Division is tentatively looking at hosting the Regional on February 21-23, 2014. Location TBD.

The WD is also developing a fundraising/welcome packet for all teams that register in the upcoming year. Our goal is to try and support and maintain what remains of the WD, and continue to look at ways to grow the division, promote the sport of wheelchair basketball, and encourage participation of women across the United States.

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Leah R. Gray, MBA*

Leah R. Gray, MBA  
NWBA WD Commissioner



NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION  
Championship Division  
2012-2013  
Commissioner's Report  
April 5, 2012

### **TEAMS**

We had 34 teams register in the Championship Division (hereafter CD), an increase of three teams from the 2011-2012 season.

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 2007-2008 season: | 48 teams                  |
| 2008-2009 season: | 40 teams (16.7% decline)  |
| 2009-2010 season: | 35 teams (12.5% decline)  |
| 2010-2011 season: | 29 teams (17.2% decline)  |
| 2011-2012 season: | 31 teams (00.9% increase) |
| 2012-2013 season: | 34 teams (00.9% increase) |

Division III (D3) made it a requirement for any team dropping down to D3 to be a "probationary team" for one year so that the team or teams could be evaluated to determine if they meet the D3 requirements. There were two teams dropping down this year, the Magee Sixers and Virginia Sunwheelers.

One team folded:

- AHI So-Cal Sol

We added six teams this season:

- Bay City Thunder & Lightning
- Denver Nuggets
- MAPVA Chargers
- Missouri Predators
- RIC Hornets
- Wisconsin Thunder

### **TRANSFERS**

There were a total of thirty-six transfers; twenty-two were between season and fourteen were in-season. Twelve players have returned from overseas to again play with the NWBA.

## **TOURNAMENT RANKING COMMITTEE**

Paul Jackson, Chairman of the Tournament Ranking Committee (hereafter TRC) and his committee members continued to do an excellent job. As in the past, the TRC submitted their top twenty teams to the chairman and this was then posted monthly, leading to the top sixteen for the post-season.

Team Reps who were the hosts of tournaments have done a better job of posting tournament scores in a timely manner. We are working diligently to ensure that this is completed after every tournament.

## **CONFERENCES**

I would like to thank each Conference Commissioner that I have worked with this season. The CD Committee and I are continuing to search for ways to strengthen and promote conference membership and participation.

## **GOALS**

- Educational opportunities for team reps & coaches in the areas of community outreach & fundraising.
- There are four teams out of the 34 registered teams that have Facebook Pages. Each team should endeavor to have a Facebook Page as a means of communication and outreach.
- The Championship Division Committee and I will support the member teams in areas needed for growth in order that the teams may develop and so our sport may have a more effective outreach and community involvement.

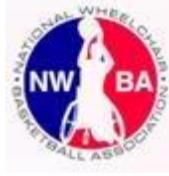
## **CLOSING REMARKS**

The Championship Division Committee members have worked diligently this season reviewing the By-Laws and cleaning up verbiage from years past pertaining to the non-existent Division II. We have continued the growth process and I believe that with the continued efforts of the Committee the growth will continue in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Buddy Barnes,  
Division Commissioner



## NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Division III

2012-2013

Commissioner's Report

April 5, 2012

### **TEAMS**

There are seventy-six registered teams in Division III (hereafter referred to as D3). D3 approved teams that were probationary last season:

- CRS Hotwheels
- DFW Freewheelers
- Fusion Firestorm
- The Rollin' Tigers (Jackson, MS)
- UDLA Kodiaks

After being on Probationary Status last season, the D3 Committee placed the Arkansas Rollin' Razorbacks in the Championship Division this season. The Probationary Status teams for this season are:

- Magee Sixers
- Virginia Sunwheelers

New Teams are:

- Georgia Hawks
- Keystone State Royals
- Phoenix Banner Suns
- Sacramento Royals
- San Diego Wolfpack
- Tucson Coyotes

### **TRANSFERS**

There were a total of seventy-nine transfers; seventy-seven were approved; two were denied and not appealed.

### **CONFERENCES**

I would like to thank the Conference Commissioners for their continued efforts in their respective Conferences as they work with the D3 Committee and me to continue to search for ways to strengthen and promote conference membership and participation.

## GOALS

- Stronger support from D3 Committee Members to team reps/coaches in the area of community outreach and involvement
- Growth of our Conferences via growth of our teams which will also lead to growth in our Division

## CLOSING REMARKS

I would like to thank the Committee for all their efforts as we continue to strive to improve Division III.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buddy Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Buddy Barnes,  
Division Commissioner

NWBA Junior Division  
2013 National Meeting  
Louisville, KY

The Junior Division brought 46 teams to the 2013 National Championships after playing over 1000 games across the country in two divisions – 10' division play and Prep (under 12) play. Team registration increased slightly this year as well, with several new teams establishing in almost all of our Conferences.

#### Conference Play

Our Conference Commissioners do a GREAT job of coordinating Conference play in six different Conferences: Southwest Conference (Bradley Forbes, Commissioner), Mid-West Conference (Kevin Nay, outgoing Commissioner/Adam Kramer, incoming Commissioner), East Coast Conference (Gerry Herman, Commissioner), West Coast Conference (Trooper Johnson, Commissioner), Northern Conference (Kelli Fischbach, Commissioner) and Southern Conference (Mandy Goff, Commissioner).

#### Qualification for Nationals

Bids for the National Championship Tournament were awarded to the top team at the end of the season in each Conference, as well as through top finishes at designated Regional Tournaments. Once bid qualifiers were determined, the Junior Division EC then filled the top 32 teams qualified for the National Championship Tournament in the 10' divisions and seeded based on records, strength of schedule and other factors. The top 16 teams in the 10' division were ranked in the Varsity National Championship Division and the next 16 teams were ranked in the Junior National Invitational Tournament. Fourteen teams entered the National Championships in the Prep (ages 6-12) Division.

With the clarification from the Department of Education on the enforcement of current mandates regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA, further growth of athletes for NWBA teams may be increased because of increased participation opportunities. The NWBA, as well as individual teams and Divisions of the NWBA, will need to continue to be strong and loud advocates for the sport, working with local schools to help grow opportunities for training and development of professionals and athletes within the organization.



CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
APRIL, 2012

For the past several years, Classification was not a structured/formal committee within the NWBA. This year the NWBA has assisted with restructuring the Classification Committee in order to be more efficient and meet the growing needs of the Association.

Head Classifier: Jayne Marie Chilutti  
Classification Chairperson: Jen Ruddell (Player Rep)  
MaryKate Madden (East Coast)  
Sarah Gassman-Schultz (South)  
Gretchen Backer (Mid-West)  
      VACANT       (West)

Working with Sherrice Fox we outlined responsibilities for both classification and administrative aspects for all roles/members. Committee members were selected for their individual skills as well as geographic representation.

**Functional System Transition**

This past summer the BOD reassessed the plan to transition to the Functional System as well as the purpose of the transition. It was determined that moving to a modified IWBF system of using 4 classes did not meet the objectives that initiated the transition. It was determined, with feedback from current classifiers, that the NWBA should adopt the IWBF Functional system as a whole and without modification with respect to the 8 classes.

The BOD and ED determined a timeline for implementation starting with the 2013-14 season for the College and Women's Divisions and D-III and CD to follow in subsequent years.

With input from Head of Classification, 17 current classifiers were selected to participate in NWBA sponsored training in the 8 class system and a more extensive testing process. I am pleased that we

have 14 classifiers that are currently certified as National Classifiers and are competent in the IWBF 8 class system. These individuals will be wearing Carolina Blue shirts designating their National Level certification and are:

Jen Ruddell  
Gretchen Backer  
Jeannette Elliott  
Susan Brown  
Bernice Kegal  
Jennith Bernstein  
Tom McDowell  
Sarah Gassman-Schultz  
Rachel Burnette  
Lisa Hilborn  
Shelley Hockensmith  
Billy Eddins  
Sue Silgailis  
MaryKate Madden

Classification Tournaments were held at UWW, Women's Nationals and Lakeshore for College Nationals.

I want to thank Anne Lachance and Karen Furgeson from Canada for assisting at the UWW College Tournament this year so all athletes attending could be seen and classified in the IWBF system.

Thank you to Gary Venjohn for his hospitality at Women's Nationals and Lisa Hilborn for her assistance at College Nationals.

I would like to thank all the Classifiers that volunteer their time to attend training and Classification Tournaments. We could not do it without these dedicated volunteers.

### **Medical System**

The NWBA currently utilizes the Medical 3 class system for all athletes playing the in Adult Divisions. The only exception is Juniors playing only in the Jr Division. All athletes must be medically classified and Jr in the Junior system must have a Minimal Disability Form certified by physician or classifier. I understand and appreciate the difficulty teams are encountering finding a Medical Classifier that is still active within their community. The NWBA is not investing resources in training new classifiers in this system. We will continue to help you reach out to medical classifiers as requested.

### **International Classification Tournaments**

Doug Garner participated in the Central America Tournament in Nicaragua in June, 2012.  
Jayne Chilutti participated in the London 2012 Paralympics in August, 2012.

**Team USA**

Jayne Chilutti attended both the Under-23 Men's team and the Women's National team tryouts to assist coaches with proposed classifications and rationale during team selection. I would like to mention that the High Performance Committee's inclusion of Classification in its planning and goal setting as a model of team work and collaboration.

Thank you to the coaches Lew Shaver and Stephanie Wheeler as well as the assistant coaches and the respective selection committees for their assistance during each trials.

**GOALS:**

- 1- Electronic Data Management: This is the development of an electronic database of functional classifications of athletes and contact information of current classifiers.
- 2- Classifier training: Remaining classifiers need to be trained in the IWBF 8 class system as well as train new classifiers in all regions.
- 3- Classification Tournaments: Athletes in D-III and CD need to be classified in the Functional system this coming year. Identification of regional Classification Tournaments and marketing of these tournaments is necessary in order to classify teams not attending the NWBT.
- 4- Transition Planning: Changes in classification affect Rules, Legislation, and Divisions. We need to identify areas and collaborate with other committees and the National Office staff as well as BOD to address these areas in preparation for the transition.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne Marie Chilutti  
Head of Classification, NWBA

NWBA HALL OF FAME  
Committee Report  
2013

Introduction: 2013 marked the year that the NWBA administration focused on the reestablishment of the dignity and honor that comes with induction to the NWBA Hall of Fame (HF). The following are areas that have been explored and researched to ensure the growth and development of the H of F.

1. History and Archive: In June, Ex Dir Randy Schubert, Bob Szyman, Curt Beamer, and Frank Burns met with the University of Illinois Library Department to explore the process and cost to archive the history of the NWBA. It became evident, that our history has not been a priority and the whereabouts of critical, historical documentation is fragmented. Tim Nugent's papers have been archived and includes his significant role in the creation and development of the NWBA. We met to determine the process and cost to archive the NWBA history as one of the oldest basketball organizations in the United States. Right now there are three or four reference points:
  - a. Dr Nugent's Archived papers
  - b. Stan Labanowich's Dissertation about the history of the NWBA  
(Note: Stan's dissertation was stolen from the library but fortunately they had it on microfilm and they sent me a copy)
  - c. Tip's Book, "Wheelchairs Can Jump"
  - d. The Bob Rynerson Library.

This will be a long term, ongoing project with the objective to create a culture where we have a place to send and receive historical artifacts upon the passing of a Hall of Fame members and other significant contributors to the NWBA

2. NWBA Museum: Along with the archive project, was a parallel project to raise money and build a *National Wheelchair Basketball Hall of Fame*. The concept would have it placed in Champaign/Urbana with a curator. But the significant development of this project would be the creation of a *NWBA Virtual Hall of Fame*. The Virtual Hall of Fame would be able to be packed up and transported to major tournaments around the country. Volunteer local Hall of Fame members would man the historical display. This very much in the conceptual stage.
3. NWBA Hall of Fame Website: Frank Burns and Randy Schubert have been working hard to redeveloping the website which was neglected for several years. The updated and new website will be of NWBA.org. There needs to be much backtracking to give appropriate due to all inducted members. We hope to have it up and running soon and as part of my responsibilities as committee chair...kepp it updated annually.

### Hall of Fame Concerns:

1. The H of F Committee received 3 unsolicited nominations and 3 nominations based on committee member's encouragement. It becomes paramount to utilize and advertise the Hall of Fame and procedures for nomination. The website now contains this nomination process based/paraphrased from the Constitution and Bylaws. I received several incomplete nominations and letters of support. This will continue to be an educational process.
2. Of major concern is the lack of nominations from major teams in the 80' and 90's. Teams such as Grand Rapids, Toledo, North Florida, Dallas, LA Stars, to name a few. The Southern Conference, at one time, had twenty teams complete with players and contributors worthy of the Hall of Fame. The major reason for this, I believe is two-fold:
  - a. The change in format of the tournament from a final four to a 30-team tournament in 3 divisions does not leave time for the promotion or recognition of the Hall of Fame.
  - b. There lacks the initiative, for unknown reasons, to nominate a teammate, coach or administrator. This will continue to be a challenge.
3. There continues to be a paucity of nominees for the women's' division. I have asked H of F member Pam Fontaine as well as continue to work with Susie G and Sue H. to rectify this concern. The focus is before we begin the nomination of women player's from the 2000's, we must make sure not to forget or ignore significant women players from the 80's and 90's.
4. Old Timer' Division: I propose a suggestion to examine, the role, purpose and procedures of the Old Timer's Div. of the Hall of Fame. As it is defined now...it could be virtually impossible for someone to be nominated with the present process. This is one of the topics for the meeting in Louisville.
5. Relationship to the Naismith Hall of Fame: FTB will need to be briefed on the relationship with the Naismith Hall of Fame in Springfield and the procedure and contact to keep the NWBA contemporary. This is another topic for Louisville.

### Conclusion:

Thanks you to our Executive Randy Schubert for his continued commitment to the NWBA and the creation of the 65<sup>th</sup> NWBA Championship with the focus on the Hall of Fame. Of note, Hallof Famer Billy Clem a member of the Kansas City Rolling Pioneers the 1st NWBA National championship 65 years ago will join us

Thank you to Bob Szyman, Marv Lapicola, Tip, Curt Beamer and Tim Stout for your help and support on the archive and history projects.

Thank you Tim Nugent for your experience and guidance every time I ask.

Thank you Pat McCoy for your support of the Hall of Fame Celebration in Louisville.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank T. Burns, Chairman  
NWBA Hall of Fame Committee  
April 10, 2013