

**December 06, 2007: Vancouver** - BC athletes Richard Peter(Vancouver), Jennifer Krempien (Vancouver) and Jessica DesMazes (Vancouver); volunteer Steve Campbell (Coquitlam); and the BC Men's Wheelchair Basketball team were honoured at a recent Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association Awards banquet.

## Stan Stronge Memorial Award

**Jennifer Krempien** - Vancouver (Flag bearer, ParapanAmerican Games)

Jennifer ("Goose") Krempien has been a member of the Women's National Wheelchair Basketball Team since 1992. The high praise and respect Jennifer has earned over the last fifteen years from athletes throughout the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball community, her team-mates, coaches and trainers extends worldwide. Jennifer continues to raise the bar to the highest standard with her work ethic, commitments and dedication impacting not only her own life, but inspiring and encouraging others.

Jennifer is without a doubt a world class leader in sport. Internationally she has been named twice to the World All-Star Team at the 2002 and 1998 World Championships. Jennifer was a member of the Gold Medalist teams at the 2006, 2002, 1998 & 1994 Gold Cup World Championships, a member of the Gold Medalist team at the 2000, 1996 & 1992 Paralympic Games, and member of the Bronze medalist team at the 2004 Paralympic Games. Nationally Jennifer has been a member of teams who have won Gold at the CWBA National Championships in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 1996, 1994, and it is even more impressive to note that since 1993, Jennifer has received a medal in every single national championships event.

"Jennifer can always be relied upon to play well, either as a starter or coming in from the bench," says National team Head Coach Tim Frick. "She has shown tremendous poise under pressure, and is counted on to always defend a player of a higher classification point value. This last trait gives the Canadian team an advantage in balance and stability elsewhere

on defence."

When not working as a dietician at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver, BC, and not on a basketball court playing with one of the two club teams she belongs to, or at a national team basketball competition and training, Jennifer is studying as a graduate student at the University of British Columbia pursuing her Masters degree in Nutrition.

She also volunteers her time in a number of initiatives as Vice-President of the Inferno Wheelchair Basketball Society, as a motivational speaker at business conventions, school groups, university lectures, various youth sport groups and teams, and in sport demonstrations and community awareness initiatives.

"Most importantly though is Jennifer's status as a role model," continues Frick. "She takes the time to encourage up and coming players and she demonstrates on the court that a class one player can effectively compete at the highest level. As a national team co-captain, Jennifer is well respected by both her peers and the coaching staff."

Jennifer Krempien's dedication to excellence in wheelchair basketball and her contributions in the sport community have been widely acknowledged for over a decade, her leadership continues to inspire, encourage, and influence athletes world wide, and will for many years to come.

## CWSA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**Steven Campbell** - Coquitlam, Wheelchair Rugby

Steven Campbell has been a member of the B.C. Wheelchair Rugby Team since 1995 and a member of the provincial developmental team since 2000. He was also the 2004 winner of the B.C. Wheelchair Sports award for Volunteer of the Year.

Steven's role as equipment manager is often a demanding one. It required

a lot of hard work, as he was often the only able-bodied person with the team when they go on three or four day trips to compete. This was a very challenging time, for him, as the team often has eight to 10 players all travelling with an extra wheelchair and their luggage. His ability to work under strict time deadlines during competition quickly made him a valuable member of the team.

The sport of wheelchair rugby has seen significant change over the past several years creating a need for those involved to adapt or get left behind and Steven was quick to change. He has emerged as a leader for the program and is excelling in this role. He leads one of our most profitable funding raising efforts every year. He is now the leader of a team of support staff and he has learned to referee the sport.

Steven is as dedicated to the community at the local level as anyone and this can be seen by his support of new players as they begin their transition into athletes. Steven helps to create an environment that ensures the first few experiences in the program are positive and enjoyable. Steve is now the leader of several volunteers in the program and he has supported and taught them well.

Steven and his contributions to the team are held in the highest regard.

He is an honest, hardworking and caring friend to rugby who bends over backwards to help the team in any way. His commitment is amazing and rarely do you hear any negative thoughts from him. Team BC is lucky to have such an outstanding person involved in the program.

## **Doug Grant Memorial Award - Team of the Year**

**BC Men's Basketball Team** - Gold Nationals; Silver NWBA

The BC Men's team entered this year's Nationals with a clear goal to take home gold - the first time since 2001. In the round robin BC saw convincing wins over Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia on the first day, but

had a wake-up call in their early morning game against Manitoba losing 74 - 59 to finish pool play. The team rebounded to win their semi-final against Quebec 71 - 52. Their semi-final win was a scrappy game which saw BC hustle and work hard for everything and fight their way into the final championship game.

In the final the team was able keep their hustle and drive but add the finesse and finish they needed to outplay Manitoba for a 69 - 59 gold medal win. The team played solid the whole way through and got easier looks at the basket than their opponents due to strong defensive play. Richard Peter was recognized with a tournament all-star award.

The BC Men's team included: Richard Peter, Erik Hagreen, Richard Poon, Brian McLennon, Jaimie Borisoff, Kevin Bowie (all from Vancouver), Roberto Molina, Ross MacDonald, Sunera Samarakoon, Don Turner (all from Burnaby), Nick Konishi (Richmond), Bo Hedges (Prince George) and Coach Peter Taylor (Surrey) and Bruce Enns.

BC re-entered the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Division 1 league for the 2006-07 season. The team, composed entirely of BCWBS members, participated in four tournaments including hosting one in Vancouver prior to attending the NWBA Finals in Lexington. BC entered the finals with a 10-2 record and was the top seed.

British Columbia looked like a team on a mission to start the Division I title game. They paired a balanced offensive game with excellent defense to take a 36-27 lead into half time. B.C. held Dallas to 33% shooting and allowed Mavs standout Paul Schulte only one point in the half. Coming out of the break, B.C. superstar Patrick Anderson took control and seemingly put his team on the road to victory. Anderson scored 24 of his game-high 37 points in the third quarter and helped B.C. to a commanding 66-52 lead heading into the final frame. It seemed as though Dallas would be faced with more of the same in the fourth as Anderson opened the period with

another of his four 3-point field goals. But, just 37 seconds into the fourth Anderson was whistled for his sixth foul on a questionable call that could have easily gone against Dallas' Willie Hernandez. Anderson took to the bench with 11:23 left in the game and his team leading 69-52.

"That's not the way we drew it up," said Anderson. "When I picked up my fifth, my coach trusted me to be able to stay in the game and not foul out. On the other hand, Willie trusted that he would be able to draw the contact and get the foul called on me and that's how it worked out."

Dallas immediately put on the press to try to rattle B.C. who was now without its best ball handler. B.C. struggled a bit with the pressure, but managed to continue to get the ball down the floor and score some baskets while playing significantly under points with 12 and then 10 on the floor compared to Dallas' 16. On the other end, Dallas was doing a phenomenal job of rebounding the ball, but the big men were having a hard time finishing on the put-backs. While Dallas has closed the gap, B.C. still held on to a solid 11 point lead with 5:30 to go. As the quarter wound down, the Mavericks successfully continued to extend and pressure B.C. on defense and on the offensive end, Jeff Glasbrenner and Raul Ortega stepped up to carry the inside-outside attack. Ortega hit back-to-back jumpers to get Dallas within one, 81-80, and just 32 seconds remaining. B.C.'s Richard Peter countered with a transition lay-up for a three point B.C. lead and only 21 seconds left. On the next possession, Dallas' Jason Van Beek picked up the hoop and the harm and knocked down the free throw to tie the score at 83 and send the game into overtime.

"When Anderson fouled out of the game we all looked up at the clock and went, 'Wow,' there's a lot of time left," said Schulte. "We knew we had to go out there and chip away and we couldn't try to hit a home run right out of the gate. We were never discourage and knew we just needed to stay patient."

The teams traded baskets for most of the overtime period and with 1:33 to go, B.C.'s Ross MacDonald hit a long jumper to tie the game and he was fouled on the shot. MacDonald proceeded to miss the free throw, leaving the score knotted at 88. Glasbrenner was then fouled with 20 seconds left in overtime and he hit one of his two free throws to give Dallas the slim 89-88 advantage. B.C. got the ball back for a final shot and though they were able to attempt four shots from in the lane, none would fall and Dallas would win its third consecutive title, 89-88. Glasbrenner led the Mavericks with 25 points, closely followed by Schulte who added 19 points and 13 assists. High Scorers for BC were Patrick Anderson with 37 points following by Richard Peter with 26.

"I give kudos to our guys for hanging in there, but Dallas did what they had to do to take it home," added Anderson.

Team BC was recognized for their outstanding play as Patrick Anderson was awarded the D1 MVP, Richard Peter was named a 1st team all-star and Jaimie Borisoff and Brian McLennon were named to the 2nd all-star team.

## Judith Zelman Memorial Award

**Jessica Desmazes** - Burnaby (Wheelchair basketball and athletics)

"Strength comes from the core, what is left when everything else has been ripped away; it is having a goal that seems impossible, but knowing that it is entirely within your grasp if you choose to fight for it. It is deciding that even though you cannot move, you will one day compete with the best at the Paralympics" Jessica DesMazes, 2007

In August of 2004, Jessica DesMazes was fire fighting in the North West Territories when she got into a vehicle to go to another site. The vehicle flipped over and she broke her back in the accident. She says she suffered no depression or anger - all she wanted to do was get out of the hospital and get her life back.

"My dad was in a wheelchair when I was younger," she says. "So I knew my life wouldn't end just because I couldn't walk."

It didn't take her long to get moving. Not one to sit around and complain, she was inspired by the achievements of women at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece. "I watched Chantal Petticlerc race to five gold medals and the Canadian women's wheelchair basketball team win bronze in Athens from my bed in the hospital after my injury," continues DesMazes. "Watching those women compete and win and knowing that they had all come from exactly where I was in that moment was a big motivator for me. I decided I was going to be competing with and/or against them as soon as possible."

With a background in stand-up basketball (she was recruited by Red Deer College and the University of Northern British Columbia) she put that athletic experience to work. She participated on Team BC at the 2007 Canada Winter Games, she attended a national team training camp later that spring and was subsequently named to the Women's National Espoir Team and received federal Developmental Carding status. Jessica was selected to the BC Women's Provincial Team, the BC Breakers, and attended the Nationals championships for the 1st time - winning a bronze medal.

A Dean's List scholar at Simon Fraser University (Communications), DesMazes was selected to attend the 2007 Para-Pan American Games in Brazil with the National Senior Team. Jessica, in her international debut, put in an outstanding rookie performance and proved she is ready to play at the Paralympic level.

"Jessica has a great future ahead of her in wheelchair basketball. She is the type of person who is not afraid to work hard in order to achieve her goals," says national team coach Tim Frick. "Even with her limited wheelchair basketball experience she is a great asset to the national team

program and has the attitude and sparkle of a champion!"

Jessica was recently recognized with a Simon Fraser University Terry Fox Gold Medal, which recognizes her courage in the face of adversity. The award, inspired and named after the Port Coquitlam icon, includes \$1,000 in cash and three semesters of tuition.

Her athletics achievements are just as impressive:

- Vancouver Sun Run 10k 1st place 36.28
- Victoria Times Colonist 10k - 1st place - 37.06
- Richmond Flatlands 10k - 1st - 35.23
- Dogwood track meet in May 12-13 2007 she achieved developmental standards in T53 200m, 300m, 800m
- BC track championships June 23-24 2007 was first in all 5 disciplines 100m, 200, 400, 800, 1500m

Windsor, Ontario Boiling Point Track Classic July 6-8 2007, T53

- 3rd - 200m - 37.05
- 3rd - 400m - 1.10.14
- 1st - 800m - 2.24.21

Windsor Canadian National Championship July 12-15, 2007 T53

- 3rd -100m - 23.57
- 3rd - 200m - 35.85
- 2nd - 400m - 1.17.54
- 1st - 800m 2.22.92

## MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

**Richard Peter** - Vancouver (Gold medal at Visa Paralympic Cup and Silver at ParapanAmerican Games)

Canada and Australia met in the final of the Visa Paralympic World Cup

final. Australia was undefeated for the week of play while Canada's only loss was to the Aussies. Both teams opened the game tentatively but the fourth quarter was all Canada and defense wins championships and the smothering defense finally paid dividends. Canada's press was not working early in the game; however, Brad Bowden and Richard Peter stepped it up in the fourth quarter and made some key steals that led to immediate points for Canada. Canada brought the game to within four points with just over five minutes to play, however the Aussies to it back up to eight points by Brad Ness and Mike Hartnett. Then Peter and Joey Johnson took over and inched ever closer. Joey Johnson brought the game to within one point with two free throws and then on the next possession and time winding down, Peter was intentionally fouled and promptly went to the line and sunk both free throws to give Canada its first lead, 44 - 43 with under 40 seconds to play. Canada went on to win the Visa Cup 49 - 47 for the second year in a row.

Canada's men's wheelchair basketball teams settled for silver as they lost a squeaker 52-50 to the United States at the Parapanamerican Games in Brazil. Canada's men's wheelchair basketball team fought hard, but Patrick Anderson was unable to sink a three pointer with several seconds on the clock to take the game. The game was tight throughout. Team Canada men faced Argentina in Semi-Final where Peter scored 13 points.

The BC Men's team entered this year's Nationals with a clear goal to take home gold - the first time since 2001. In the final the team was able keep their hustle and drive but add the finesse and finish they needed to outplay Manitoba for a 69 - 59 gold medal win. Richard Peter was recognized with a tournament all-star award.

BC re-entered the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Division 1 league for the 2006-07 season. The team, composed entirely of BCWBS members, participated in four tournaments including hosting one in Vancouver prior to attending the NWBA Finals in Lexington. BC entered the

finals with a 10-2 record and was the top seed. British Columbia looked like a team on a mission to start the Division I title game. They paired a balanced offensive game with excellent defense to take a 36-27 lead into half time. B.C. held Dallas to 33% shooting and allowed Mavs standout Paul Schulte only one point in the half. Dallas went on to win the final 89-88. High Scorers for BC were Patrick Anderson with 37 points following by Richard Peter with 26. Team BC was recognized for their outstanding play as Patrick Anderson was awarded the D1 MVP, Richard Peter was named a 1st team all-star and Jaimie Borisoff and Brian McLennon were named to the 2nd all-star team.

In the provincial championships, Richard's Douglas College lost to the Prince George Titans in the final. Richard was named a 1st Team All-Star in the tournament.

In 2007, Richard became one of a prestigious number of athletes on Team VISA. Team Visa supports athletes during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and throughout the 1,460 days of training in between. Team Visa provides both financial support and access to mentors to help guide their way through the challenges they may face in preparing to compete at the Games.

BCWSA is a non-profit organization committed to leadership in the promotion and development of wheelchair sport opportunities for British Columbians with physical disabilities.

- 30 -

For more information contact, Kathy Newman, Executive Director, BCWSA  
604-737-3197 or [knewman@bcwheelchairsports.com](mailto:knewman@bcwheelchairsports.com)  
[www.bcwheelchairsports.com](http://www.bcwheelchairsports.com)

Or contact Carrie Linegar, Managing Director, BC Wheelchair Basketball Society, 604-737-3138 or [carrie@bcwbs.ca](mailto:carrie@bcwbs.ca)