

Wheelchair rugby

Wheelchair rugby combines elements of basketball, football and ice hockey and is an intense, physical team sport for men and women athletes with quadriplegia or a disability that affects all four limbs. Known as 'Murderball', the sport originated in Canada in 1977 and has since achieved cult sporting status worldwide.

The sport can be very physical as athletes attempt to carry the ball over the opponent's goal line. The four players on the court cannot exceed a combined total of eight points. A volleyball is used and it can be carried, dribbled, or passed in any way except by kicking. The ball must be bounced at least once every 10 seconds and wheelchair rugby is played in eight-minute quarters.

The players are classified according to their level of functional ability and are assigned a point value from 0.5 to 3.5 points – the higher the points, the more functional ability the athlete has.

Fast facts – wheelchair rugby

- Wheelchair rugby was introduced as a demonstration sport in Atlanta 1996.
- It became an official Paralympic medal sport in Sydney 2000 when Australia won the silver medal.
- Six out of the 11 athletes on the 2012 team will compete at their first Paralympic Games in London.
- Australia has never won a Paralympic gold medal in the sport.
- Australia boasts the world's best player Ryley Ball, who at 25 is competing at his first Paralympics.
- Australia is currently ranked third in the world behind USA and Canada.
- Australia won the silver medals at the 2004 Paralympics and 2010 World Championships, defeated in both gold medal matches by the United States of America.

Australia's Paralympic Games medals in wheelchair rugby

Gold – 0

Silver – 2

Bronze – 0

Total – 2

London venue

The wheelchair rugby competition will be held at the Basketball Centre at Olympic Park. The venue holds 10,000 and will also host the wheelchair basketball competition.

Results leading up to the Games

Having lost to USA in the gold medal match in Beijing, the Australian wheelchair rugby team, the Steelers, have been on a mission to beat USA and become world number one. The Steelers again lost to the USA at the 2010 World Championships, maintaining their number two world ranking. The Steelers won the 2011 Asia/Oceania Regional Championships, qualifying for the London Games in the process. In 2012, after a five-game demolition of Japan at a friendly test series in Sydney, the Steelers competed at the Canada Cup – the last major tournament before the Games. Winning each of their pool games, Australia met USA in the semi-final and lost by one point. The Steelers then defeated Japan in the bronze medal playoff – a result which saw Australia's world ranking drop from two to three. The team now has its sights set on nothing less than gold in London.

Athletes



Ryley Ball – Port Macquarie, NSW

Born: 22 May 1987

Classification: 3.5

Disability: Limb deficiency – arms and legs

How acquired: Birth

Previous Games: 2004, 2008

Twitter: @RyleyBall

Paralympic Games results:

2008 – silver

2004 – 5th

World Championships results:

2010 – silver

2006 – 6th



Chris Bond – Fitzgibbon, QLD

Born: 26 May 1986

Classification: 3.5

Disability: Limb lost – double below knee, left wrist and right four fingers

How acquired: Viral infection

Previous Games: Debut



Cameron Carr – Wellington Point, QLD

Born: 13 Aug 1977

Classification: 2.0

Disability: Quadriplegia

How acquired: Car accident

Previous Games: 2008

Twitter: @camerocar13

Paralympic Games results:

2008 – silver

World Championships results:

2010 – silver

2006 – 6th



Nazim Erdem – Roxburgh Park, VIC

Born: 1 Aug 1976

Classification: 6.5

Disability: Quadriplegia

How acquired: Diving into shallow water

Previous Games: 2000, 2004, 2008

Paralympic Games results:

2008 – silver

2004 – 5th

2000 – silver

World Championships results:

2010 – silver

2006 – 6th

2002 – bronze



Andrew Newton - Bayswater North, VIC
 Born: 07 Jun 1987
 Classification: 2.0
 Disability: Quadriplegia
 How acquired: Diving accident
 Previous Games: Debut
 World Championships results:
 2010 - silver



Josh Rose - Featherston, VIC
 Born: 1 Dec 1986
 Classification: 3.0
 Disability: Quadriplegia
 How acquired: Car accident
 Previous Games: Debut
 World Championships results:
 2010 - silver



Jason Lees - Hoppers Crossing, VIC
 Born: 1 Mar 1977
 Classification: 1.0
 Disability: Quadriplegia
 How acquired: Motor-cross accident
 Previous Games: Debut
 World Championships results:
 2010 - silver



Cody Meakin - Newstead, QLD
 Born: 27 Dec 1989
 Classification: 2.0
 Disability: Quadriplegia
 How acquired: Birth
 Previous Games: Debut



Ben Newton - Fitzgibbon, QLD
 Born: 14 Feb 1988
 Classification: 3.0
 Disability: Incomplete Quadriplegia
 How acquired: Car accident
 Previous Games: Debut
 Twitter: @BenNewton_1



Ryan Scott - Billmere, QLD
 Born: 3 Mar 1982
 Classification: 0.5
 Disability: Quadriplegia
 How acquired: Car accident
 Previous Games: 2004, 2008
 Paralympic Games results:
 2008 - silver
 2004 - 5th
 World Championships results:
 2010 - silver
 2006 - 6th
 2002 - 3rd



Greg Smith - Buninyong, VIC
 Born: 19 Aug 1967
 Classification: 2.0
 Disability: Quadriplegia
 How acquired: Car accident
 Previous Games: 1992, 1996, 2000, 2008
 Paralympic Games results:
 2008 - silver
 2000 - 3 gold, 1 silver (athletics)
 1996 - 1 silver (athletics)
 1992 - 1 silver, 2 bronze (athletics)
 World Championships results:
 2010 - silver

Staff



Brad Dutton
 Brunswick East, VIC
 Position: Head Coach



Paul Ebley
 Sandridge, VIC
 Position: Section Manager



Chevy Cooper
 Montrose, VIC
 Position: Technical Support



Angela Mansell
 Birkenhead, SA
 Position: Personal Care Attendant

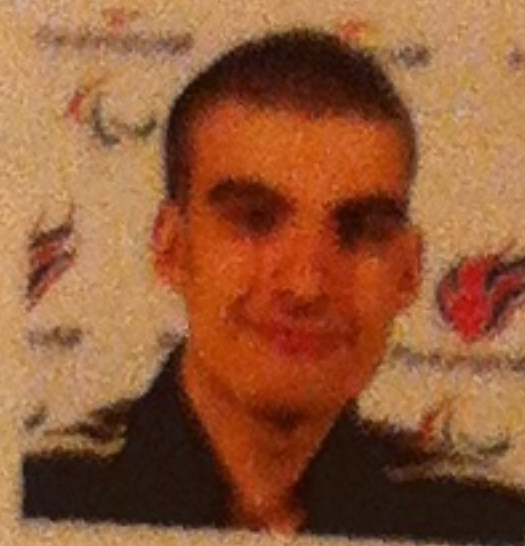


Simon Mole
 Merewether, NSW
 Position: Physiotherapist

Full biographies can be found online at www.paralympics.org.uk

DAVID ANTHONY

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
Home Town: Neath, Glamorgan
Lives: Neath, Glamorgan
Trains: Cardiff Pirates
Date Of Birth: 18/12/89
Games Attended: none



David began training with the Cardiff Pirates in 2006 and made his debut for the British team in 2008, competing at the Maximus Tournament, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where the team won gold.

David is classified as a 2.5 point player and he plays with the Cardiff Pirates.

Major Results

2011 European Championships, Notwill, Switzerland: silver

2010 World Championships, Vancouver, Canada: 6th

2009 European Championships, Hillerod, Denmark: 4th

ANDY BARROW

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
Home Town: New Eltham, London
Lives: Greenwich, London
Trains: Kent Crusaders
Date Of Birth: 20/08/79
Games Attended: Beijing 08, Athens 04



Andy first heard about Wheelchair Rugby when he was undergoing rehabilitation treatment following a Rugby injury in 1997. After watching his first match he was determined to start playing himself.

Andy is one of the more experienced members of the team, after making his debut at the 2002 World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden. Andy also captained the Wheelchair Rugby team at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

During his time on the British team, Andy has also won a hat-trick of titles at the European Championships in 2003, 2005 and 2007.

Andy lives just minutes from the Olympic Park, in Greenwich, which serves to increase his enthusiasm to compete at a home Games.

Andy is classified as a 2.0 player and he plays with the Kent Crusaders.

Major Results

2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: 4th

2004 Athens Paralympic Games: 4th
Switzerland: silver

2010 World Championships, Vancouver, Canada: 6th

2009 European Championships, Hillerod, Denmark: 4th

STEVE BROWN

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
Home Town: Chatham, Kent
Lives: Sittingbourne, Kent
Trains: Kent Crusaders
Date Of Birth: 02/06/81
Games Attended: none



Steve is currently captain of the Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby team and one of the most recognised members of the team.

Before his injury, Steve was very athletic and played Football and Cricket amongst other sports. Steve first got involved in Wheelchair Rugby following his accident in 2005. After trying Archery and Table Tennis, he watched his first game and decided it was the sport for him.

Steve narrowly missed selection for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, but following the return of ParalympicsGB he represented the 2012 Paralympic hopefuls and led the parade of athletes through London.

Steve also featured on Channel 4's 'Inside Incredible Athletes'.

Steve is classified as a 2.0 point player and plays with the Kent Crusaders.

Major Results

2011 European Championships, Notwill, Switzerland: silver

JONATHAN COGGAN

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
Home Town: Chelmsford, Essex
Lives: South Woodham Ferris, Essex
Trains: Stoke Mandeville Storm
Date Of Birth: 25/04/83
Games Attended: Beijing 08, Athens 04



Jonathan has been involved in Wheelchair Rugby since 2001 and he made his Paralympic debut for the British team at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games.

...the greatest moment in the sport as the
 ...Australia in the 2006 World Cup in
 ...New Zealand, where he was awarded
 ...best in Your Class.
 ...classified as a 0.5 player and he plays
 ...Stoke Mandeville Storm.

- Major Results**
- 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: 4th
 - 2004 Athens Paralympic Games: 4th
 - 2011 European Championships, Notwill, Switzerland: silver
 - 2010 World Championships, Vancouver, Canada: 6th
 - 2009 European Championships, Hillerød, Denmark: 4th

Bulbul first started competing in Wheelchair Rugby in 1997 during treatment at Stoke Mandeville following a road traffic accident. Attracted to the sport because of its speed and the competitive element, Bulbul won a gold medal when he played in his first major tournament at the National Championships in Stoke Mandeville.

Bulbul's sporting inspiration is Mohammed Ali, whom he describes as the 'ultimate competitor'. Bulbul is classified as a 1.0 player and he plays with the Kent Crusaders.

- Major Results**
- 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: 4th
 - 2011 European Championships, Notwill, Switzerland: silver
 - 2010 World Champs, Vancouver, Canada: 6th

MILIE GRIMES

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
 Home Town: Aldershot
 Lives: Farnham, Surrey
 Teams: London Wheelchair Rugby Club
 Date Of Birth: 03/12/87
 Games Attended: none



Milie has been involved in Wheelchair Rugby for two years. She made her debut with the British team in London at a friendly match against Canada.

Milie loves Wheelchair Rugby as it is a male-orientated sport that tends to be fast, strong and very competitive. Milie also enjoys Athletics and Handcycling, and she has three horses.

Milie is classified as a 0.5 player and she plays with London Wheelchair Rugby Club.

- Major Results**
- 2011 European Championships, Notwill, Switzerland: silver

MIKE KERR

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
 Home Town: Bellshill
 Lives: Glasgow
 Teams: North East Bulls
 Date Of Birth: 13/10/82
 Games Attended: none



Mike started competing in Wheelchair Rugby in 2002, when he began playing for a local club. Having been a lifelong Rugby fan, Mike took to Wheelchair Rugby because it is a fast and aggressive full-contact sport. He made his debut for the British team at the 2006 Demolition Derby in Alabama, USA. Mike is classified as a 1.5 player and now plays with the North East Bulls.

- Major Results**
- 2011 European Championships, Notwill, Switzerland: silver

BULBUL HUSSAIN

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
 Home Town: Sylhet, Bangladesh
 Lives: Whitechapel, London
 Teams: Kent Crusaders
 Date Of Birth: 03/01/72
 Games Attended: Beijing 08



Bulbul is originally from Bangladesh but now lives in Whitechapel, London, and is looking forward to seeing the London 2012 Paralympic Games take place on his doorstep.

ROSS MORRISON

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
Home Town: Yeovil, Somerset
Lives: Farnborough, Hampshire
Trains: London Wheelchair Rugby Club
Date Of Birth: 22/06/79
Games Attended: Beijing 08, Athens 04



Ross first started playing Wheelchair Rugby in 1998 and he made his debut for the British team at the 2002 Roosevelt Challenge tournament, in Warm Springs, USA. He made his Paralympic debut at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games.

He describes the greatest moment of his career to date as winning the gold medal in the 2003 European Championships in Belgium as he was awarded the title of Most Valuable Player.

Ross is classified as a 2.5 player and he plays with London Wheelchair Rugby Club.

Major Results

- 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games:** 4th
- 2004 Athens Paralympic Games:** 4th
- 2010 World Championships, Vancouver, Canada:** 6th

MYLES PEARSON

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
Home Town: Ashton under Lyne
Lives: St Annes on Sea, Lancashire
Trains: West Coast Crash
Date Of Birth: 15/03/93
Games Attended: none



Myles used to play Wheelchair Tennis. He initially started playing Wheelchair Rugby for the fitness benefits that it brought him, but he fell in love with the sport as it is a fast-paced game and he also enjoyed being part of a highly supportive team.

Myles made his debut for the GB Wheelchair Rugby team in May 2011 in a friendly match against Finland at Stoke Mandeville. Selection to ParalympicsGB fulfils one of Myles' greatest sporting ambitions and he is looking forward to experiencing the atmosphere of the stadium during the Paralympic Games and the opportunity to compete in front of so many people.

Myles is classified as a 1.0 player and he plays with West Coast Crash.

Major Results

- 2011 European Championships, Notwill, Switzerland:** silver

AARON PHIPPS

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
Home Town: Southampton
Lives: Southampton
Trains:
Date Of Birth: 07/04/83
Games Attended: none



Aaron initially competed in Wheelchair Tennis from 2007 onwards, but since he was introduced to Wheelchair Rugby in 2009 he has never looked back.

Aaron works as the Assistant London 2012 Co-ordinator for Hampshire County Council.

Aaron is classified as a 3.5 player.

Major Results

- 2011 European Championships, Notwill, Switzerland:** silver
- 2009 European Champs, Hillerod, Denmark:** 4th

MANDIP SEHMI

Events: Wheelchair Rugby
Home Town: Leamington Spa
Lives: Warwick
Trains: Stoke Mandeville Storm
Date Of Birth: 13/12/80
Games Attended: Beijing 08



Mandip was first introduced to the sport by Bob O'Shea, the captain of the Wheelchair Rugby team at the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games, whilst he was at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

In 2002, Mandip was scouted as a potential talent and went on a World Friendship Tour. He made his debut for the British team at the 2005 European Championships in Denmark, which is when he decided that he wanted to compete at the highest level possible.

Mandip is classified as a 2.5 player and he plays with Stoke Mandeville Storm.

Major Results

- 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games:** 4th
- 2011 European Championships, Notwill, Switzerland:** silver
- 2010 World Championships, Vancouver, Canada:** 6th
- 2009 European Championships, Hillerod, Denmark:** 4th



Wheelchair rugby is a team sport for male and female athletes with a mobility-related disability in at least three limbs. It is a unique sport created by athletes with a disability that combines elements of basketball, handball, and ice hockey. Wheelchair rugby was invented in 1977 in Winnipeg, Canada and was originally known as "Murderball" because of its aggressive nature. Today, wheelchair rugby is played in 26 countries and is under development in several more.

The basic rules of wheelchair rugby:

- The object of the game is to carry the ball across the opposing team's goal line.
- Two wheels must cross the line for the goal to count, and the player must have firm control of the ball when he or she crosses the line.
- The game is played on a hardwood basketball court that is marked by boundary lines, a center line, a center circle and two key areas. A standard volleyball is used.
- The game consists of four eight-minute quarters. There is a two-minute break between quarters and a five-minute break at halftime.
- Teams have 40 seconds to score on each possession.
- After a goal or stoppage of play, the player has 10 seconds to inbound the ball.
- A player whose team has control of the ball cannot remain in the opposing team's key for more than 10 seconds.
- A player must dribble the ball once every 10 seconds.
- The defending team must have no more than three players in the key.
- Wheelchair rugby is a full-contact game and chair contact is encouraged to ensure player safety, however, players cannot strike another player's wheelchair anywhere behind the axle of the rear wheel if it causes the chair to move horizontally or vertically. Physical body contact is also not permitted.
- After inbounding the ball, a team has 12 seconds to bring the ball over the half-court line.
- Each team has four time-outs of 30 seconds each, which may be used during regulation play and may be called by players on the floor and two on the bench.
- If the score is tied, an overtime period of three minutes will be played.

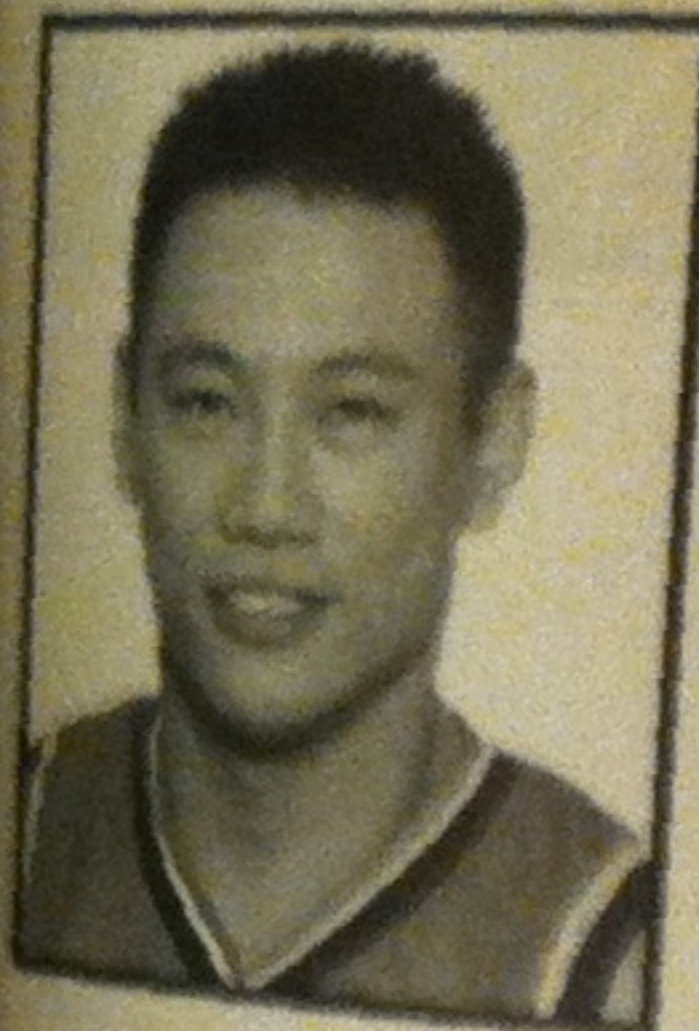
Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association: www.cwsa.ca
 International Wheelchair Rugby Federation: www.iwrif.com

Ian Chan

Ian Chan is the co-captain of the Canadian team along with David Willsie. He was inspired to get started in the sport by wheelchair rugby inventor Duncan Campbell, who was his recreation therapist at C.F. Strong Rehabilitation Hospital. Chan was the subject of the documentary "Can't Stop, Won't Stop" and was also featured in the Academy Award-nominated documentary "Murderball".

Major Games:

- 1998 World Championships: 3rd
- 2000 Sydney Paralympics: 4th
- 2002 World Championships: 1st
- 2004 Athens Paralympics: 2nd
- 2006 World Championships: 3rd
- 2008 Beijing Paralympics: 3rd
- 2010 World Championships: 5th



Date of Birth:	May 8, 1977
Birth Place:	Winnipeg, MB
Hometown:	Richmond, BC
Started Sport:	1995
Made National Team:	1997
Classification:	3.0

Jason Crone

After completing his undergraduate degree in Business Administration, Jason Crone worked for several years in the financial services industry. He then joined the University of Regina as an assistant coach for the men's hockey team in 2007. In 2011, he was promoted to head coach of the team. Under his leadership, the team has achieved significant success, including winning the national championship in 2011 and 2012. Jason is also a member of the International Hockey Federation and the Canadian Hockey Association.

Major Games

2011 Canada Cup
2012 World Championship



Date of Birth	July 25, 1967
Birth Place	Northampton, ON
Hometown	Northampton, ON
Started Sport	1985
Make National	
Years	1987
Classification	C

Patrice Dagenais

Patrice Dagenais is known as a hard-working, intelligent player with excellent leadership skills. Dagenais played for the Canadian national team and was a key player in the 2002 World Championship. He was also a member of the Canadian national team for the 2004 and 2006 Winter Olympics. Dagenais has a strong background in hockey, having played for several years in the NHL. He is also a member of the International Hockey Federation and the Canadian Hockey Association.

2002 World Championship
2004 and 2006 Winter Olympics



Date of Birth	October 4, 1968
Birth Place	Ottawa, ON
Hometown	Ottawa, ON
Started Sport	1985
Make National	
Years	1988, 2011-present
Classification	C

Jared Funk

Jared Funk has been one of Canada's most reliable low-point players for the past decade. In addition to his training as an athlete, he is also a stay-at-home dad to his two daughters, Mackenzie and Trinity (Mackenzie appeared as a "Junior Reporter" in several web videos). Funk is also a welder and has even built his own set of rollers that he produces for the team. His other hobbies include computers and hand cycling.

Major Games:

- 2002 World Championships: 1st
- 2004 Athens Paralympics: 2nd
- 2006 World Championships: 3rd
- 2008 Beijing Paralympics: 3rd
- 2010 World Championships: 5th



Date of Birth:	January 30, 1974
Birth Place:	Winnipeg, MB
Hometown:	Niverville, MB
Started Sport:	1993
Years on National Team:	1994-95, 2002-present
Classification:	0.5

Garett Hickling

@garett_garett

Garett Hickling is one of wheelchair rugby's greatest players. He was MVP of the first three World Championships in the sport and has competed in every Paralympics that wheelchair rugby has been included in – since 1996. Hickling, also known as 'G', recently took his game to the next level by moving to Ontario to train with David Willsie. While there, he developed a love of coaching and was instrumental in starting a new team in Toronto. Hickling is a quiet leader of Team Canada and his experience will be instrumental in Team Canada's quest for gold.

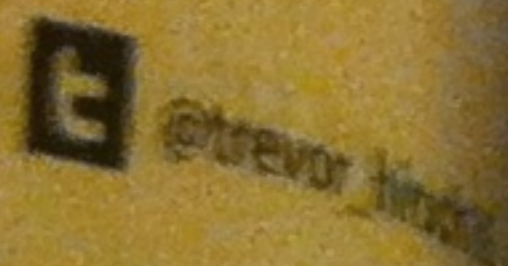
Major Games:

- 1996 World Championships: 2nd
- 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games: 2nd
- 1998 World Championships: 3rd
- 2000 Sydney Paralympics: 4th
- 2002 World Championships: 1st
- 2004 Athens Paralympics: 2nd
- 2006 World Championships: 3rd
- 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: 3rd
- 2010 World Championships: 5th



Date of Birth:	September 18, 1970
Birth Place:	Mica Creek, BC
Hometown:	Kelowna, BC (But currently lives in Dorchester, ON)
Started Sport:	1993
Years on National Team:	1993-present
Classification:	3.5

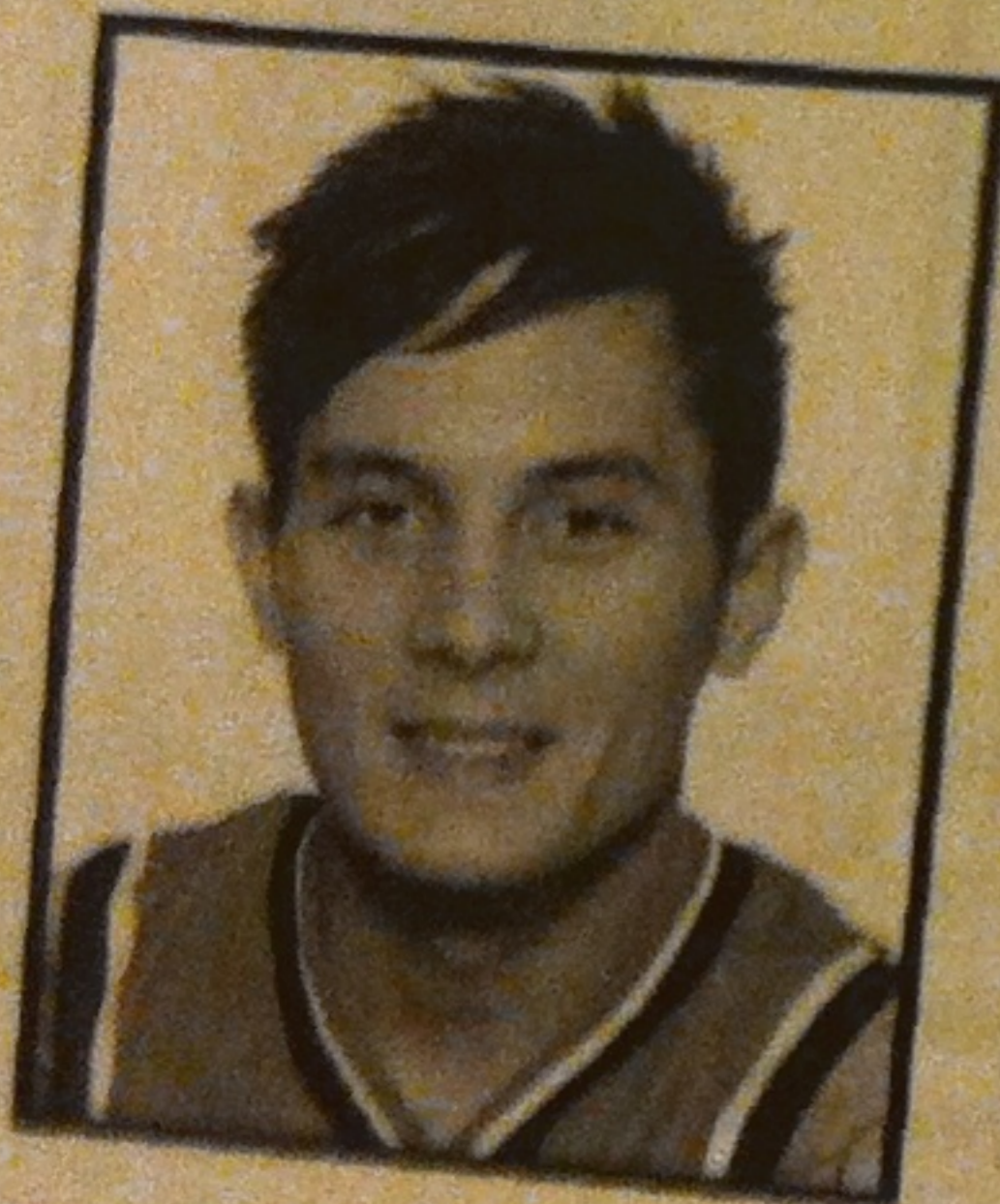
Trevor Hirschfield



Trevor "T-Bone" Hirschfield is one of the world's best low-point players. He was named an All Star at the 2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships and was also awarded the 2010 Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association Male Athlete of the Year award. Hirschfield got involved in the sport after Duncan Campbell, one of the inventors of wheelchair rugby, pushed him to attend a Bridging the Gap event. Hirschfield's tattooed appearance has earned him popularity with the local press. He has appeared in several commercials. His father, Bobby Hirschfield, is the equipment manager for Team Canada.

Major Games:

- 2006 World Championships: 3rd
- 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: 3rd
- 2010 World Championships: 5th



Date of Birth:	December 21, 1983
Birth Place:	Langley, BC
Hometown:	Parksville, BC
Residence:	Vancouver, BC
Started Sport:	2002
Years on National Team:	Since 2006
Classification:	1.0

Fabien Lavoie

Fabien Lavoie is Canada's fieriest player. He's known for his incredible physical fitness and his tremendous reach and speed. "Fab" was introduced to the sport while in rehab and took to it immediately. Recently, he moved to Vancouver, BC to train with several other national team members. He has quickly adapted to the West Coast lifestyle and even bought a dog. Lavoie speaks both French and English. His hobbies are weight training and video games.

Major Games:

- 2002 World Championships: 1st
- 2004 Athens Paralympics: 2nd
- 2006 World Championships: 3rd
- 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: 3rd
- 2010 World Championships: 5th



Date of Birth:	July 2, 1981
Birth Place:	Kapuskasing, ON
Hometown:	Quebec, QC
Started Sport:	1999
Made National Team:	2002
Classification:	3.0

Zak Madell

Eighteen-year-old Zak Madell is Canada's fastest-rung wheelchair hockey player. This young phenomenon was recruited from wheelchair basketball and he competed at the 2011 Canada Winter Games for Team Alberta. He is a quick hockey player on wheelchair rugby and has enjoyed meteoric success. He made his debut at the 2011 Americas Zone Qualifier Tournament. Madell will graduate this year from Inow Timby Academy in Okotoks. He will be pursuing post-secondary education.

The London 2012 Paralympic Games are Madell's first Paralympic appearance.



Date of Birth:	March 26, 1994
Birth Place:	Edmonton, AB
Hometown:	Okotoks, AB
Started Sport:	2011
Made National Team:	2012
Classification:	3.5

Travis Murao

 @travis_murao12

Travis was introduced to wheelchair rugby by Duncan Campbell, a former member of the sport. He became involved in rehab shortly after his accident and was quickly hooked on the sport. Murao attended the University of Arizona where he studied English and won a USQRA national championship with the Tucson Pterodactyls. An avid reader, Murao blogged for the 2011 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships and the Canadian national team and his writing style and sense of humor have earned him a wide audience. Murao did not compete at the 2008 Beijing Games but was on the team for the 2006-2007 season and from 2009 to present.

Major Games:

- 2011 World Championships: 3rd
- 2009 World Championships: 5th



Date of Birth:	January 12, 1983
Birth Place:	New Westminster, BC
Hometown:	Richmond, BC
Started Sport:	2001
Made National Team:	2006
Classification:	2.0

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

Patrice Simard

Patrice Simard is regarded as one of the world's best low-pointers. Along with Trevor Hirschfield, he was selected as an All Star at the 2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships. Simard's strength and quickness allow him to defend against the best players in the world and he is one of the low-pointers to routinely play a scoring role.

This year, Simard was featured in the Canadian Paralympic Committee's Super Athletes marketing campaign, where he was given the nickname "The Pitbull." Simard speaks French and English and his hobbies are working out and wheelchair tennis.

Major Games:

2000 Sydney Paralympics: 4th
 2002 World Championships: 1st
 2004 Athens Paralympics: 2nd
 2006 World Championships: 3rd
 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: 3rd
 2010 World Championships: 5th



Date of Birth:	January 19, 1979
Birth Place:	Alma, QC
Hometown:	Quebec, QC
Started Sport:	1997
Made National Team:	1999
Classification:	P-5

Mike Whitehead

Mike Whitehead is the heavy hitter of Team Canada. His impressive ball handling and scoring skills make him such a threat on offense that he is rarely double teamed. On defense, his big hits cause turnovers and allow Canada to build a lead. Off the court, "Whitey" is a stay-at-home dad to his two children. His wife, Kerri, is the head physical therapist for the Women's Tennis Association tour.

Major Games:

2000 World Championships: 1st
 2004 Athens Paralympics: 2nd
 2006 World Championships: 3rd
 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: 3rd
 2010 World Championships: 5th



Date of Birth:	November 25, 1975
Birth Place:	Windsor, ON
Hometown:	Marion, ON
Residence:	Bradenton, FL
Started Sport:	2000
Made National Team:	2001
Classification:	3.0

David Willsie

David Willsie was injured in a recreational hockey game in 1995. He has extensive experience as a semi-pro baseball player and cross-country runner. He was diagnosed with a spinal cord injury in 1998. Since then, Willsie has become co-captain of the national team and is considered one of Canada's best wheelchair rugby players.

Career highlights include bronze at the 2006 World Championships and 2008 Paralympics, silver at the 2004 Paralympics and gold at the 2010 World Championships.

Off the court, Willsie has become a public face for the sport of wheelchair rugby; he was featured in the Academy Award-nominated documentary "Murderball" and has been seen on the Rick Mercer Report and other television appearances.

Willsie is a mentor to up-and-coming athletes and the player-coach of the Ontario Thunder, which recently won their second consecutive national championship. He also runs the popular "Crash for Cash" tournament, which attracts wheelchair rugby teams from around the world.

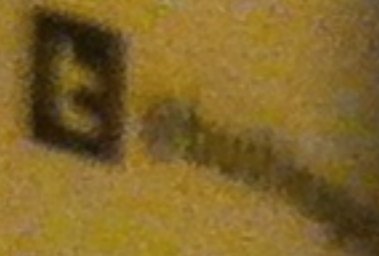
Despite his heavy training schedule, Willsie and his brothers run the family business - Lind Lumber - where he works as an estimator.

Major Games:

- 1998 World Championships: 3rd
- 2000 Sydney Paralympics: 4th
- 2002 World Championships: 1st
- 2004 Athens Paralympics: 2nd
- 2006 World Championships: 3rd
- 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games: 3rd
- 2010 World Championships: 5th



Date of Birth:	March 23, 1968
Birth Place:	London, ON
Hometown:	Dorchester, ON
Residence:	Dorchester, ON
Started Sport:	1997
Wade National Team:	1998
Classification:	2-0



Kevin Orr

HEAD COACH



Kevin Orr was a wheelchair racer, winning Paralympic bronze medals for the U.S. in both the 800 and 5000 meters in Seoul 1988. He also competed in wheelchair basketball at the University of Illinois, winning four national championships.

Orr began to coach wheelchair rugby and lead his club team to the US National championships and 10 straight finals appearances. Orr is the former head coach of the USA national team and was featured in the 2005 documentary "Murderball." Orr coached USA Wheelchair Rugby at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games and USA Wheelchair Track at the Beijing Paralympic Games in 2008.

Orr began coaching the Canadian team in 2009.



Date of Birth:	June 29, 1968
Birthplace:	Elgin, IL, USA
Hometown:	Algonquin, IL, USA
Residence:	Pelham, Alabama, USA
Coached Wheelchair Rugby Since:	1989
Involved with Canadian National Team Since:	2009
Hobbies:	Bass fishing, family and church