



**Wheelchair
Basketball**

**Wheelchair
Rugby**

**Para Ice
Hockey**

National Champions

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Wheelchair Sports Alberta
Annual General Meeting March 25, 2020



WSA
WHEELCHAIR SPORTS ALBERTA



OUR MISSION

To facilitate sporting opportunities to Albertans from the development level to high performance level of participation in athletic competitions, technical development, leadership and integration.

OUR VISION

To achieve Excellence through Parasport.

OUR VALUES

Opportunity, Support, Empowerment, Excellence



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2019 has been an exciting and successful year for WSA. We represented our province in all five of our sports achieving gold medals in Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby and Para Ice Hockey. We also hired two new staff members to better serve our athletes and increase our program base. Our door-to-door and telemarketing campaigns along with our casino and Alberta Sports Connection funding have provided us with the funds to move forward with new initiatives and provide greater support to our athletes through our grant program. Our Board has been very active in all decisions with regard to our five sports and thanks to the dedicated commitment of our Executive Director and staff we can look forward to another year of growth and success.

Andy Wigston

AND OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2019, Wheelchair Sports Alberta had our most successful season to date. We brought home 3 gold medals. Our Team Alberta's took home some serious hardware from our competitions. We are so proud of all of our athletes, coaches, families, volunteers, and staff for these tremendous accomplishments. Due to our continuing success with our door to door campaign we have been able to introduce a schools program, which also initiated us hiring Rachel Kuz, our Marketing and Programs Coordinator. We had a turn over in our Technical Director role, and have also welcomed Barb Adamson onto our team. We have had success with both of these new staff and their accomplishments. We have had the ability to give out \$37,000 in grants. WSA has benefited from our partnerships with both Engage Interactive and Zenith Advertising. This campaign made it possible to increase supports available for our provincial teams, notably this was the year we were able to invest completely in the provincial sledge hockey team, and we are grateful for that opportunity. We want to thank all of our donors and funders that supported us in 2019 and we will continue in our success in 2020. All the best,

Jen Sales



Funding Program Overview



Alberta Sports Connection

Wheelchair Sports Alberta continues to receive critical provincial sport funding through Alberta Sports Connection and Canada Games grants. In 2019, with a change in our provincial government, Alberta Sport Connection has been brought into the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism, and Status of Women. We will continue to work closely with our sports representative.

Grants

WSA was approved for a \$9,000 grant to purchase equipment for a new sledge club in Hinton. We also continued to purchase athletics equipment from the 2017 CIP grant in 2019. A grant was received from Canada Summer Jobs in support of bringing in a summer Marketing and Administration position. This student helped with marketing, social media, and our WinSport program. We also spent our jumpstart grant from 2018 to purchase new basketball chairs for the Fort McMurray program.

Fundraising

WSA built a relationship with Zenith Advertising in May of 2018 and we have continued to foster it in 2019. We have a door to door campaign in Calgary as well as tables set up in different grocery stores throughout the city. In Edmonton we are collecting donations throughout the city in grocery stores. We are looking forward to what this relationship will do for us in the future. We also continue our telemarketing campaign with Engage Interactive. With both of these campaigns we have purchased an entire set of schools chairs, a trailer, we matched the Jumpstart grant to double the equipment in Hinton, and started the marketing and programs coordinator position.

AGLC

We were fortunate to be able to have our AGLC funds available to purchase Team Alberta flights, hotels, facility rentals, and equipment. We hosted our Casino in September 2019 and we want to thank our team of volunteers that made this possible.

WSA's Grant Program

WSA gave our \$36,909.50 in individual and organization grants. With this funding we supported our high performance athletes with equipment purchases, program fees, technical training, and more. We were able to support our clubs and organizations who are hosting events, bringing in national coaches to develop their club teams, and purchasing equipment.



BRIDGING THE GAP PROGRAM

In all BTG activities: Rehab Sports Program, Have-A-Go Days, Multi-Sport Events, Developmental Sessions, and School Presentations/Demonstrations. We continue to promote the WSA core sports while maintaining a fun atmosphere where participants and community members can enjoy a wide variety of adapted leisure activities. Bringing in peer athletes is key to delivering effective sport programming. It gives the participants a chance to interact with people with similar injuries and those who can describe the positive impact of wheelchair sports.

Weekly Sports Programs

Calgary, AB—Continued efforts are in place to establish a continuous program at or near a hospital or rehabilitation center. Issues around a similar program to the Glenrose WC Sports night is many of the facilities in Calgary do not have the required spaces needed to host activities.

Glenrose WC Sports Night— We have found tremendous success at the Glenrose programming since 2017. We continued relationships with the Wheelchair Curling club in Edmonton who provided us with indoor equipment to put on wheelchair curling. Our core four volunteers have been amazing over the past 18 months which has seen consistent attendance (6-12 individuals) by both in/out patients of the Glenrose Hospital each week.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

Edmonton & Calgary Wheelchair Basketball – We continue to work with the WSA Regional Wheelchair Basketball Reps to funnel adult and junior participants into the weekly development program at Mount Royal and the Saville Centre.

Wheelchair Tennis Program – In 2019, WSA collaborated with Tennis Alberta to include a wheelchair division at 5 tournaments. Unfortunately, no previous athlete showed any interest in attending these tournaments.

On a positive note, Edmonton is on the verge of establishing a new club.

Wheelchair Rugby— We held an inter provincial camps in November and had an excellent turnout from both teams. As a province, both teams saw growth in their participant numbers and competition opportunities.

Have-A-Go Days and Multi-Sport Events

HAG Days: While using the LTAD model we focus on introducing new fundamental movement skills to participants through all levels of physical impairment.

Schools: The WSA School Program was started this fall, with the first school visited in November. The goal was to recruit athletes in the schools and create awareness and empathy in students.

Have a Go Day/ Multi Sports Events—103 Participants

Weekly Programs (Rehab & Tennis) - 458 Participants

School and Awareness Programs—342 Participants





PARA ATHLETICS

Maegan Ciesielski

There were many exciting moments in 2019 in Para Athletics. Three athletes represented Alberta in wheelchair racing at the Canada Summer Games held in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, bringing home three gold medals, 4 silver medals, 2 bronze medals, and setting personal bests!

Athletes also participated in high school provincials and local track meets throughout the year. Several athletes from Alberta also participated in wheelchair racing and seated throws at the 2019 National Track & Field Championships.



The Steadward Centre hosted a “Learn to Wheelchair Race” series in the spring of 2019, in which a chair from WSA helped our youngest member try out the sport! The Steadward Centre has also created a resource to help school and track clubs become para ready, which will contribute to building capacity for the sport.



WSA also worked closely with Athletics Alberta to host a classification course. We were fortunate enough to be able to certify 4 new classifiers in our province. This will help us to get our new athletes classification before competing internationally. This will be able to ensure our athletes and coaches are better prepared for competitions. Each classification will have a provincial, national, and world record per sport. Depending on their classification, will change the goals that they would set for themselves. We are happy to be able to provide that to our province.

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Mackenzie Quigley

The Birmingham National Wheelchair Tennis Championships were a huge success!

This years event was in Montreal and hosted by Parasports Quebec

Our Alberta athletes had tough draws but both Kyle Thompson and Laurie Zalmanowitz rose to the challenge by each taking out a seeded player in the first round!

Alberta had 2 top 10 finishers in the Para division with Laurie finishing in 6th and Kyle placing 8th. Souheil Saab had a top 15 finish this year and ended up in 14th overall!

In the Quad division our newbie to tennis Zak Madell placed third!!

Thank you to Wheelchair Sports Alberta and Wheelchair Tennis at Tennis Canada for this incredible opportunity!

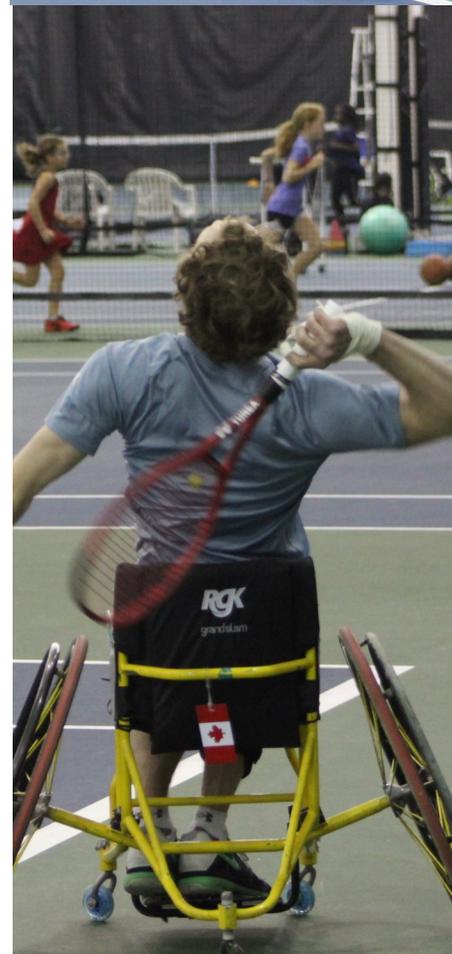
Our athletes are Nationally Ranked as:

MALE

18	Laurence Zalmanowitz	Edmonton, AB
21	Kyle Thompson	Edmonton, AB
28	Souheil Saab	Calgary, AB

QUAD

4	Zachary David Madell	Calgary, AB
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WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

TEAM ALBERTA JUNIOR REPORT 2019

Darrell Nordell Head Coach Team Alberta

Level 3 NCCP, Member of Coaches of Canada

Four years of hard work went into the Gold Medal Team Alberta program at last years Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alberta. Returning six athletes has not stopped the Alberta Jr squad from setting their sights for the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Charlottetown, PEI in four years time.

A Team Alberta selection camp was held in Edmonton at the Saville Centre in mid February for team selection to the Jr West Regionals in Kamloops, BC on April 17-19, 2020. This year in my 25yrs of basketball was the highest number of Junior athletes I have seen identified in the Province of Alberta that were interested in competing for wheelchair basketball. 22 athletes in total came to train and compete for a spot on the team. Athletes from Grand Prairie, Edmonton, Camrose, Sherwood Park, Stettler, Medicine Hat, Calgary and Airdrie. This truly shows the level of interest for wheelchair basketball in the province.

Unfortunately the reality is the COVID-19 Pandemic has cut the program short this season as both our tune up camp mid March in Red Deer and the Jr West Regionals were cancelled. This will not stop the Alberta Jr Team and discussion is ongoing that once the Pandemic is over that camps and tournaments with other provinces can be played out later on in 2020. Team Alberta Motto:

- I - Integrity
- C - Commitment
- E - Excellence
- T - Team Work

Team Alberta - Junior (U23) Program

Team Alberta defended their 2018 Junior National Championship Gold Metal with a strong performance at the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer. This was the first time that Alberta won gold metal at the Canada Winter Games since 1995 in Grand Prairie. The team was lead by Brandon Doll (Camrose) who was the 2018 MVP. The team faced a strong Ontario team in the last game of the round robin and once again in the Gold Metal Game. The team went 6-0 throughout the tournament. The team will now start to rebuild the team that will have 6 players that are eligible to return to the 2023 Canada Winter Games.

Class 2.0	Savannah Hauk	Calgary
Class 1 .0	Jonathan Bilan	Edmonton
Class 2.5	Ceilidh Nordell	Edmonton
Class 4.5	Romissaa Hassan	Calgary
Class 2.0	Brandon Troutman	Lloydminster
Class 4.5	Jayna Doll	Camrose
Class 4.5	Ben Tumack	Edmonton
Class 4.5	Braden Doll	Camrose
Class 4.5	Jamie Cole	Camrose
Class 4.5	Reed D'Aerth	Sherwood Park
Class 1.5	Andrea Nickerson	Grand Prairie
Class 4.5	Jalen Shannon	Calgary

Head Coach: Darrell Nordell

Assistant Coach: Karla Tritten

Assistant Coach: Ross Norton





WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

Bruce Crosby and Cliff Wooden

Edmonton Steel Wheels Report:

In 2018-2019 The Edmonton Steel Wheels attended three tournaments. We finished in 2nd place in both the Capital City Showdown in Edmonton September 2018 and the Ignite Tournament in Calgary February 2019. Both losses where close ones against a very strong Calgary Inferno squad. We traveled to Reno Nevada to compete at the Rumble Invitational in October 2018. The Steel Wheels where in every game losing close ones by 2 or 3 goals. We finished the tournament in 4th place. Due to injuries and retirement of several players, the Steel Wheels season was cut short after the Ignite tournament in February 2019.



Calgary Report:

Calgary Inferno attended multiple tournaments in 2018 –2019 and hosted their annual tournament. Due to the additional costs the team did not attend any tournaments in the USA. The team continues to see good player development and we are looking forward for this trend to continue. The player development is due to the strong veteran core and consistent attendance at practices. .



PROVINCIAL REPORT

Bruce Crosby

The 2018-2019 was a great one for Alberta Rugby. It was the first year we had several key players returning to compete for the province which allowed us to build off the success we had in 2017-2018. Once again we were able to send two squads to Vancouver for the invitational. The Roughnecks bolstered a solid team which included Branden Troutman and Zak Madell who both play for the Canadian Nationals and Rob MacIsaac, Ashley Munroe, Denolm Stephens and Kendall Winter who compete for the Team Canada developmental team. Although we lost our first two games to both Ontario teams, we finished with strong wins against Quebec and BC and an easy route of Team Germany in the final game of the tournament.

The Alberta Roughnecks won the national title at the 2019 Canadian National Championships in Ottawa. After finishing the round robin 3-1 which included a lopsided loss to the Ontario Thunder. The Roughnecks played hard in the gold medal game, keeping the score within one point for the full 32 minutes. A pass from Branden Troutman to Jared Funk with 12 seconds left on the clock started the winning play. Jared caught the ball and flipped it over his head to a streaking Zak Madell who scored with 4 seconds remaining. The continued development of athletes and high level competitions are the reasons Alberta has risen to the top in the last two years. We are looking to continue the success in 2020.

2019 Team Alberta Roster

Div. 1		Div. 2	
Zak Madell	3.5	Kyle Riva	2.5
Branden Troutman	3.5	Lana Cicko	3.5
Denolm Stephens	2.5	Andrew Chung	2.0
Ashley Munro	1.5	Jeff Dow	2.5
Kendall Winter	2.0	Terry Tenove	1.5
Rob MacIsaac	1.5	Mike Barker	3.0
Jared Funk	0.5	Kasey Aiello	2.0
Dave Guiry	1.0	Terry Tenove	1.0

Zak Madell won tournament MVP, Branden Troutman was best in class in Div 1, Kyle Riva and Andrew Chung both got best in class in Div 2.





SLEDGE HOCKEY

Dean Krawec, Team Director

Alberta Sledge; Provincial Elite Program

Team Alberta had a selection camp on October 27-28, 2018 and players were picked to take part in 5 camps over the 2018-19 season to prepare for the 2019 Canadian Sledge Hockey Championship (CSHC) in Ontario. There are 9 rookies to the CSHC roster this season that represented Team Alberta Sledge in Ontario; Jason Beaman, Tyler Christou, Jake Fowlie, Auren Halbert, Brandon Ignjatic, Colton Ribling, Adam King-smill, Zack Tarr and Brayden Tomc. The other players have been on the team in the past or for all the winning seasons.

Camp #1: Dec. 27-29

Camp #2: Feb. 17-18

Camp #3: March 16-17

Camp #4: Apr. 5-7

Camp #5: May 4-5

At the end of these camps the Coaching Staff decided on the Final roster that will represent Team Alberta at the 2019 CSHC in Elmira, ON, on May 10-12. It was announced on the Alberta Sledge website and Facebook page in April 019 and the roster is attached to this report.



The players and staff went to go and defend our title in Ontario for the 4th straight year. Those 5 camps got us in that mind set of making that four peat of National Champs come to fruition for Team Alberta. This solidified the province as the best in Canada once again.



Alberta Sledge would like to say thanks for its great partnership with WSA in the past 4 seasons. With WSA's support in our stand-alone group of Alberta Sledge and helping to control this elite Team Alberta sledge program in the province. WSA helped our team and coaching staff get to the 2019 CSHC and represent Alberta as a strong and powerful unit when we defended our National title for the 4th time in a row.

Inactive & Injured Players

Mike Machuk	Calgary, AB
Shyanne Moore	Calgary, AB
Spencer Tomc	Sherwood Park, AB



Active Players & 2019 CSHC Roster

#4 – Zack Tarr	July 12/1996	Calgary, AB
#6 – Brayden Tomc	April 21/2003	Sherwood Park, AB
#7 – Zach Lavin	Jan. 31/1997	Okotoks, AB
#8 – Branden Sison “A”	Feb. 8/2000	Edmonton, AB
#9 – Auren Halbert	Dec. 3/2002	Calgary, AB
#10 – Brandon Ignjatic	Feb. 19/1994	Calgary, AB
#11 – Kurt McDorman	Sept. 22/1983	Thorsby, AB
#12 – Jason Beaman	May 1/1973	Calgary, AB
#14 – Tyler Christou	March 27/2000	Sherwood Park, AB
#19 – Colton Ribling	July 10/1996	Fort MacLeod, AB
#20 – Jordan Bullchild “C”	Feb. 23/1997	Edmonton, AB
#21 – Braden Close “A”	July 11/1995	Kindersley, SK
#32 – Jacob Fowlie	Jan. 22/1998	Airdrie, AB
#33 – Tyson Rietveld	Dec. 14/1999	Fort Saskatchewan, AB
#52 – Adam Kingsmill	March 3/2000	Calgary, AB
#88 – Cody Dolan	Dec. 16/1995	Calgary, AB
#97 – Micah Kovacevich	Oct. 2/1997	Edmonton, AB

Staff

Head Coach – Steve Arsenault	Stony Plain, AB
Assistant Coach – Chris Cederstrand	Okotoks, AB
Travers Roy – Trainer	Leduc, AB
Dean Krawec – Team Director	St. Albert, AB
Andy Wigston – Director	Sherwood Park, AB
Brynna Robinson – Media Comm.	St. Albert, AB