

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



Saturday, July 1, 2006 LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

The 26th National Veterans Wheelchair Games take place all this week (July 3 through July 8) at the Egan Convention Center, Bartlett High School, Sullivan Arena and other area venues. The Games, a great patriotic, sports, and health/fitness story, **are the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world.** The event is co-presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. **Actress Bo Derek**, National Honorary Chairperson of VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events, is at the Games early in the week. For media information about the event or to arrange for interviews, call the National Veterans Wheelchair Games Media Center (at the Hilton Hotel), at (907) 257-6768 or (970) 257-6769. For continuing updates during the week, visit the Games Web site at www.wheelchairgames.org.

Sunday, July 2, 2006 – Veterans Arrive in Anchorage!

- More than 500 veterans with disabilities from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain will arrive in Anchorage all day to prepare for the Games. More than 30 veterans injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom are joining the competition this year, most for the first time.

Monday, July 3, 2006 – Here Come the Veterans!

- **Games Kick-off/Quad Rugby Exhibition**, Town Square, 11:30 a.m. The Kick-off includes a welcome to the city, followed by a spirited quad rugby ("Murderball") exhibition. Athlete Wayne Miller will sing the national anthem. Great sports action to kick off the Games!

- **Opening Ceremonies**, Sullivan Arena, 6:30 p.m. – Top VA and PVA leaders will also address the athletes, including VA's Under Secretary for Health Dr. Jonathan Perlin and PVA National President Randy L. Pleva, Jr. Athletes parade in with their teams from across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Great Britain, in colorful Team attire. Special treats are Alaska Native dancers, balladeer "Hobo Jim," and country star Luke Stricklin, who will lead the national anthem with the athletes' children. A Vietnam veterans motorcycle club and wheelchair honor guard present the colors. Later, the torch comes in by dog sled! After the torch is lit, a welcome reception follows with food and entertainment.

Tuesday, July 4, 2006 – Competitors Test Their Mettle!

- **Fourth of July Parade**, Downtown, 11:00 a.m. – More than 500 registered wheelchair athletes will lead off Anchorage's annual Fourth of July Parade through downtown Anchorage, with competitor and 2005 "Spirit of the Games" winner Orlando Perez serving as this year's Grand Marshall.

- **Handcycling**, Downtown, 2:30 p.m. Event begins just as Sadler's Ultra Challenge ends.

- **Slalom**, Bartlett High School, 3:00 p.m. – High emotion, lots of action as wheelchairs go for the gold in this unique obstacle course competition.

- **Basketball**, Sullivan Arena, 3:00, 7:30, 9:00 p.m. – Great basketball action, colliding chairs, cheering crowds! Watch games 1-6 today. More basketball is on Thursday evening and Friday.

- **Power Soccer**, Cellular One Sports Center, 7:30 & 9:00 p.m. – Soccer for power wheelchairs.

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2. National Veterans Wheelchair Games Week at a Glance, continued

Tuesday, July 4, 2006, continued

- **Bowling** (adaptive, stick and handleball) Polar Bowl (at Elmendorf AFB), 7:30 p.m. – Bowling is a popular wheelchair sport, with some excellent action!
- **Other Events:** Air Guns (3:00 & 7:30 p.m., Egan Convention Center); Table Tennis (3:00 p.m., Egan Convention Center).

Wednesday, July 5, 2006 – Wheelchair Vets say “Yes” to the Challenge of the Games!

- **Bowling**, Polar Bowl, 9:00 a.m., 2:00 & 6:30 p.m. – Bowling is a popular wheelchair sport, with some excellent action! Paraplegic bowlers compete today, with ramp bowling this evening.
- **Slalom**, Bartlett High School, 9:00 a.m., 2:00 & 7:30 p.m. – High emotion, lots of action as wheelchairs go for the gold in this unique obstacle course competition. Motorized slalom starts at 9.
- **Quad Rugby**, Sullivan Arena, 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. – High-action team sport for quadriplegic athletes. **If you saw the movie “Murderball,” you won’t want to miss this!** The Consolation Game is at 7:30.
- **Power Soccer**, Sullivan Arena, 2:00 & 4:00 p.m., – Soccer for power wheelchairs continues. Consolation Game begins at 4:00 p.m.
- **Other Events:** Air Guns (8:00 & 10:00 a.m., 1:00, 3:00 & 7:30 p.m., Egan Convention Center); Table Tennis (9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., Egan Convention Center).

Thursday, July 6, 2006 – “Kids Day” at the Games

Local children enjoy a special program at Bartlett High School beginning at 10:30 a.m., where they learn about wheelchair sports and try out some of the events. Athlete “mentors” help them learn.

- **Field Events**, Park Strip, 9th and L Street, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. – Events include shot-put, discus, javelin and the club throw.
- **Track Events**, Bartlett High School, 2:00 & 4:00 p.m. – Great action, high-tech wheelchairs, who will speed around the track in events that include 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1500-meter runs.
- **Power Chair 220**, AFS/Sullivan, 3:30 p.m. A track event for motorized wheelchairs to see whose chair goes fastest.
- **Power Chair Relay**, AFS/Sullivan, 4:00 p.m. – A great, fun, exhibition event just for motorized wheelchairs.
- **Block Party**, Town Square, 5:30 p.m. Anchorage welcomes the veterans and their guests.
- **Basketball**, Sullivan Arena, 7:30 & 9:00 p.m. – Lots of fast action and loud cheers for the winners in Games 7,8,9 & 10. See who will be in the basketball finals tomorrow!

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3. National Veterans Wheelchair Games Week at a Glance, continued

Friday, July 7, 2006

- **Archery**, Bartlett High School 9:00 a.m. Watch some world class archers hit the target!
- **Slalom**, Bartlett High School, 9:00 a.m. – High emotion, lots of action as wheelchairs *go for the gold* in this unique obstacle course competition. **Paraplegics compete today – don't miss this one!**
- **Swimming**, Bartlett High School, 2:00 p.m. – Lots of action, determination, and spirit as swimmers (most with no leg movement) compete in the pool in the backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle and butterfly.
- **Weightlifting**, Egan Convention Center, 2:30 p.m. – **Watch as some of our wheelchair competitors lift close to 300 lbs.!**
- **Basketball Finals**, Sullivan Arena, Consolation Game is at 7:30 p.m., and the Championship Game is at 9:00 p.m. **Lots of fast action, loud cheers and crashing wheelchairs!**
- **Power Soccer Finals**, Sullivan Arena, Championship Game is at 7:30 p.m.
- **Quad Rugby Finals**, Sullivan Arena, Championship Game is at 9:00 p.m. Don't miss it!

Saturday, July 8, 2006

- **Softball**, Bartlett High School, Takes place all day at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.; and 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. Softball finals begin at 3:30. Great action sport for the final day of competition.
- **Motorized Wheelchair Rally**, Westchester Lagoon, 8:00 a.m. This is a spirited event, where quiz questions often pertain to the host location of the Games. See how much our athletes know about Alaska!
- **Slalom "Super G,"** Bartlett High School, 10:00 a.m. – The "best of the best" top slalom winners challenge themselves even more. This one will leave you breathless!
- **Closing Ceremonies and Banquet**, Sullivan Arena, 7:30 p.m. – The torch is passed to next year's Wheelchair Games hosts from Milwaukee. VA Secretary R. James Nicholson and PVA Acting National Executive Director Homer Townsend, will also congratulate the athletes. A special video highlighting the past week in Anchorage will close out the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

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