

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



Hot Sheet

Wednesday, July 5, 2006

The Competition Continues!

The 26th National Veterans Wheelchair Games take place all this week (running through July 8) at the Egan Convention Center, Bartlett High School, Sullivan Arena and other area venues. More than 500 disabled veteran athletes (including more than 301 recently injured in Iraq) continue competing today in the largest annual wheelchair sports competition in the world! The Games are a great patriotic, sports, and health/fitness story. Bowling, slalom, quad rugby and power soccer are some of today's highlights. For more information or to arrange for interviews or media opportunities, call the National Veterans Wheelchair Games Media Center (at the Hilton Hotel) at (907) 257-6768 or (907) 257-6769. For continuing updates throughout the week, visit the Games web site at www.wheelchairgames.org.

BOWLING

9:00 a.m., 2:00 & 6:30 p.m.

POLAR BOWL

Bowling is a very popular sport among wheelchair users with all types of disabilities. The Games follow the rules of the American Wheelchair Bowling Association. Total pins in three complete games determine winners. Ramp bowling takes place at 6:30 for quadriplegic bowlers using motorized wheelchairs. Paraplegic athletes bowl at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Scott Severn from Michigan took the gold with a 445 score last year. Look for James Balfe from Pennsylvania who had a 597 in 2005 in ramp bowling. Anchorage bowlers Vern Bussing and Susan Macaulay also compete this evening.

***SLALOM**

9:00 a.m., 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Bartlett High School

A true wheelchair sport, the slalom is a test of agility, skill, speed and strength around a challenging obstacle course. The course is on a smooth surface, defined by flag gates around which the athlete must maneuver both forward and backward. An extremely emotional event with incredible displays of the athletes' strength, willpower and sheer determination! High emotion, lots of action as wheelchairs go for the gold in this unique obstacle course competition. Motorized slalom is this morning. Iraqi Freedom veteran Jamey Bollinger from Illinois can't wait for this event. Jody Shifflett from Virginia Beach is always one to watch at slalom.

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***QUAD RUGBY**

9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sullivan Arena

Quad Rugby is a unique, tough, competitive contact sport especially developed for quadriplegics. It is played on a basketball court by four-member teams. Unique to wheelchairs, this is an interesting event for the sports-viewing public and fun to watch. Rough and tumble, high-action, great action photo and interview opportunities. Lots of emotion in the final round on Friday at 9:00 p.m. **Great opportunity to show true wheelchair rugby, just like it was played in the recent documentary "Murderball." Watch Seattle veteran Gary Pearson demonstrate his techniques to Iraqi Freedom veteran Alan Babin from Texas.**

***POWER SOCCER**

2:00 & 4:00 p.m.
Sullivan Arena

Power soccer is a unique, competitive sport for motorized wheelchair users, played on a basketball size court by two 4-member teams (one member as goalie) using a large rubberized ball. The object is to maneuver the ball across the opponent's goal line – and to keep them from doing the same. **Great action!** Come watch greats David Fowler and William Sundberg, past medal winners, show how it's done! The Consolation Game begins today at 4:00 pm, with the Championship Game on Friday at 7:30 pm.

***Great action photo opportunities!**

OTHER EVENTS ON WEDNESDAY

- Air Guns – Egan Convention Center, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., 1:00, 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.
- Table Tennis – Egan Convention Center, 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.; paraplegic classes compete today.

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