Territory to host elite wheelchair basketball

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Karl Hampton, said the National Wheel Chair Basketball League (NWBL) is coming to Darwin for the first time this weekend with the 2011 National Champions, Wollongong Rollerhawks taking on the Sydney Uni Wheelkings at Marrara Indoor Stadium, Darwin.

“For the first time in Darwin an exciting opportunity to see the Territory’s own Wheelchair Basketball stars CJ Grogan and Melanie Hall battle it out in Australia’s NWBL this weekend at the Marrara Indoor Stadium,” Mr Hampton said.

“Darwin’s own Beijing Paralympian and London Paralympic prospect Melanie Hall will line up with 2011 national champions the Wollongong Roller Hawks to play against the Sydney Uni Wheel Kings with young Territorian CJ Grogan returning to the Kings after winning the gold medal with the Emerging Australian Rollers in Dubai earlier this month.

“The Northern Territory has a distinguished history in Wheelchair Basketball representation and with young players CJ Grogan and Tom O’Neill Thorn competing on the international stage with the Emerging Rollers this trend is set to continue.

“Two games at the Marrara Indoor Stadium this weekend will showcase some of Australia’s most talented wheelchair basketball players. Get behind the NWBL and support the local talent in this exhilarating Paralympic sport.

“Many thanks to the supporters of this event - Northern Territory Government, Basketball Australia, Basketball NT, Australian Athletes With a Disability, the Australia Paralympic Committee

“Wheelchair Basketball is a growing sport in the Northern Territory with a junior competition established in Darwin and the Northern Territory Government has provided Basketball Australia a $25,000 grant to host the games,” Mr Hampton said.

Tip-off is from Saturday, 28 April 2012 at 7pm and Sunday 29 April 2012 at 12pm.
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