

AAASP

Report

OFF THE SIDELINES - INTO THE GAME

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GHSA & AAASP Push Georgia to the Forefront of High School Athletics With America's First State Basketball Championship to Feature Wheelchair Basketball Competition

Georgia Public Broadcasting to Air Historic Event

For the first time in U.S. history, interscholastic wheelchair basketball teams will take part in the time-honored tradition of high school basketball championship competition. On March 5, 2004, the American Association of AdaptedSports™ Program's (AAASP) Georgia Wheelchair Basketball Championship will be held in conjunction with the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) State Basketball Championships at Gwinnett Arena, a 12,000-seat state-of-the-art entertainment venue in metro Atlanta.

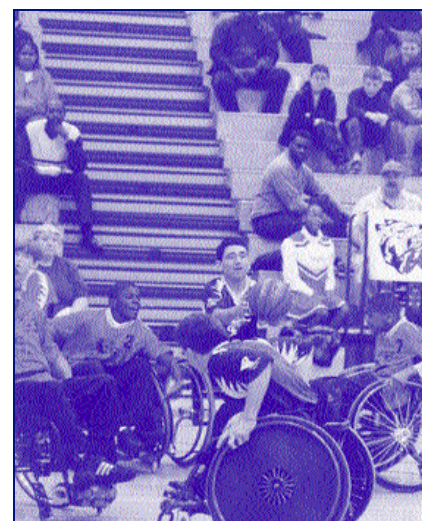
The AAASP Georgia Wheelchair Basketball Championship will also be

added to Georgia Public Broadcasting's (GPB) annual coverage of the GHSA State Boys and Girls Basketball Championships; 2004 marks GPB's seventh year covering and broadcasting the championships. The AAASP Georgia Wheelchair Basketball Championship airs Saturday, March 6 at 9:30 AM on GPB's nine stations: Atlanta - Channel 8; Albany - WABW/14, Augusta - WCES/20, Chatsworth - WCLP/18, Columbus - WJSP/28, Dawson - WACS/25, Macon - WDCO/29, Savannah - WVAN/9, Waycross - WXGA/8.

"GPB is pleased to be able to include the AAASP wheelchair championship event as part of our state basketball championship coverage this year," said James M. Lyle, GPB Executive Director. "Our broadcast will give Georgians a chance to see highly competitive basketball played as they've never seen it played before."

This event marks AAASP's eighth consecutive state wheelchair basketball tournament, however, it is the first time that the GHSA has played host to the state boy's basketball championship combined with the interscholastic wheelchair basketball final championship, and the first time the event has been broadcast to a statewide audience.

"The GHSA is pleased to take our



Court action during 2003 AAASP Georgia Wheelchair Basketball Championship

alliance with AAASP to another level. The inclusion of the wheelchair basketball game will provide an exciting dimension to the GHSA tournament, and we look forward to this being the first of many events such as this," said Ralph Swearngin, GHSA Executive Director.

As with high school basketball, the AAASP wheelchair basketball teams compete throughout the winter school season. AAASP governs 12 interscholastic wheelchair basketball teams throughout Georgia. At the conclusion of 10 weeks of competition, AAASP's top four varsity teams compete for the semi-final championship and the top two junior varsity teamscontinued on page 2

ABOUT AAASP & GHSA

AAASP and the GHSA are part of an historic alliance making Georgia the first state in America to employ a dual interscholastic athletic governing system: the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) on behalf of student athletes who are not disabled, and AAASP on behalf of student athletes with physical disabilities or visual impairments. AAASP athletes are students in grades one through 12 who participate in sports leagues such as beep baseball, indoor wheelchair soccer, wheelchair basketball, power wheelchair hockey, and track and field.

compete for their division championship. This year's varsity semi-finals and junior varsity finals will be held February 28 in Augusta, Georgia. The winners of the semi-final competition will advance to the state championship round on March 5.

"Those who witness this historic event will undoubtedly come away with a greater appreciation of the talents and abilities of student athletes with physical disabilities and recognize that there is little difference between the non-disabled and the disabled competitor," said Bev Vaughn, AAASP President.

Tickets can be purchased at Gwinnett Arena on championship day, beginning at 11:00 a.m. The price is \$10 for an all-day ticket. Proceeds from all tickets purchased between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. will benefit AAASP's Georgia adapted sports programs. The wheelchair basketball championship begins at 12:30 p.m.

The GPB broadcast of the AAASP Georgia Wheelchair Basketball Championship is made possible by the generous support of Slappey & Sadd, Attorneys; DS Medical Supply, Inc.; the Atlanta Hawks; and IBEW Local 613.



Upcoming Events

Jan. 10
Wheelchair Basketball Season Begins

Team Holyfield competes at NWBA junior national wheelchair basketball qualifying tournament at Univ. of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Jan. 16-18
AAASP/NDSA Indoor Wheelchair Soccer Jr. Nationals in San Diego

Feb. 7
Power Hockey Season Starts

Feb 16
GHSA Girls Track & Field Starts

Feb 23
GHSA Boys Track & Field Starts

Feb. 26
Disability Day at the GA State Capitol

Mar 5
AAASP GA Wheelchair Basketball Championship at Gwinnett Arena

Mar 6
GPB Airs Historic Mar 5th Game

Mar 15
Beep Baseball Starts

Mar 15
AAASP Track & Field Starts

Mar 13
Adapted Sports Night w/ Atlanta Thrashers

Mar 26
50/50 Raffle w/ Atlanta Thrashers

Mar 30
AAASP Coaches Training and Certification at AAPHERD National Conference in New Orleans

May 1
AAASP Georgia Track & Field Meet

May 6-8
GHSA Girls State Track & Field Meet

May 13-15
GHSA Boy's State Track & Field Meet

GHSA & AAASP Open Track & Field Divisions for High School Athletes With Physical Disabilities

Georgia high school athletes with physical disabilities can now join their school's track team to compete in the wheelchair track and the field divisions of GHSA's Track and Field Program. Two wheelchair events - the 200 and 800 meter races - were introduced in Spring 2003. A shot put event has been added this 2004 season.

In 2003, the inaugural year of this AAASP/GHSA initiative, Brian Mason, a senior at Temple High School participated in both wheelchair track events. This year, approximately 24 wheelchair athletes will represent their high schools as competing members of their track teams.

To prepare coaches to oversee the development of track and field athletes who have physical disabilities, a special training clinic was provided at the January 24th GHSA training day for track coaches. Paralympic athlete Teresa Lannon and AAASP Director of Training and Head Coach for the U.S. Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team, Ron Lykins, conducted the wheelchair track clinic.

High school students who wish to join their track teams to compete in the wheelchair division should contact their school's track coach or contact AAASP at 404/294-0070.

AAASP is Georgia's governing body for interscholastic adapted athletics in member schools of the Georgia High School Association. AAASP and GHSA work together to open up opportunities in athletics for students with physical disabilities or visual impairments. AAASP also provides training and certification for coaches throughout the U.S., and is the lead partner in Project ASPIRE, a campaign to help communities nationwide build their own interscholastic adapted athletic programs. AAASP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information, contact:
P.O. Box 538
Pine Lake, Georgia 30072
(404) 294-0070 www.aaasp.org

2003 AAASP Georgia Indoor Wheelchair Soccer Championship

November 15, 2003 - Augusta, Georgia



Varsity Champs Clayton Eagles

*Four time Georgia
soccer champs, three-
time wheelchair
basketball champs*

Junior Varsity Champs West Georgia Wolverines

*Add Georgia soccer
championship to
2003-04 victories*



Muscogee County Public Schools & Columbus Department of Parks & Rec Becomes Newest AAASP Members

Georgia's Muscogee County Public School System and Columbus Parks and Recreation Department partnered with AAASP to launch an adapted sports program at the beginning of the 2003-04 school year. As the newest members of AAASP, these two agencies are making it possible for numerous school-aged children and adolescents to compete in sports leagues throughout the school year.

The new team, the Muscogee Lions, will compete against other Georgia teams in indoor wheelchair soccer, wheelchair basketball, and track & field. Log on to www.aaasp.org to view the weekly game scores for all the AAASP teams each sports season.



POWER PLAYS

The **Atlanta Thrashers** honor student athletes with physical disabilities or visual impairments on **Adapted Sports Night** at Philips Arena on March 13. The Thrashers are sponsors for AAASP's Power Wheelchair Hockey league. The final game of the power wheelchair hockey season between the Atlanta Dragons and the DeKalb Cobras will be featured in the CNN Center at 4:30 p.m., prior to the Atlanta Thrashers v. Washington Capitals at 7:00 p.m.

The **AAASP Georgia Track and Field Meet** (formerly the Victory Games) will be held May 1 at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation in Warm Springs, GA. To better serve AAASP's growing membership, the meet is open only to AAASP member teams. AAASP athletes who are also on their high school track teams may compete to qualify for the GHSA State Track and Field Meet on May 6-8 (Girls) and May 13-15 (Boys).

Ron Lykins, AAASP Director of Training has been designated as the head coach to the U.S. Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team, who will compete in the 2004 Paralympics in Athens, Greece in September.

Ed Owen, AAASP area coordinator, was recently named the best wheelchair basketball player of all-time by the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA). Owen is a multi-Olympic and Paralympic medallist and internationally acclaimed athlete.

Volunteers Needed!

March 13

Adapted Sports Night w/ Atlanta Thrashers

March 26

50/50 Raffle w/ Atlanta Thrashers

May 1

AAASP Georgia Track & Field Meet at Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation

Call AAASP or register online at
www.aaasp.org

Project ASPIRE:

Putting the power of athletics within reach of America's youth with physical disabilities or visual impairments.

Project ASPIRE is the nationwide expansion of interscholastic adapted sports programs to each state by making the resources and tools of AAASP and its Partners-in-Progress widely available and easily accessible. The basis for Project ASPIRE is to gain agreement to put into place a basic infrastructure, parallel to traditional interscholastic athletics, through which new programs will spring and existing programs will thrive. For more information about Project ASPIRE, go to www.projectaspire.org.

Partners-In-Progress



As the lead partner in Project ASPIRE, AAASP is nationally known for its groundbreaking work in developing and implementing the AdaptedSports™ model. www.aaasp.org



Represents the nation's largest population of adapted physical educators. www.aaalf.org



The official source for AdaptedSports™ equipment and competition rules. www.flaghouse.com



Information resource promoting the health benefits of physical activity. www.ncpad.org



Premier magazine and resource on adapted physical activity, published in cooperation with the Adapted Physical Activity Council and the U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee. www.palaestra.com



National Coordinating Body for competitive sports for individuals with cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injuries and survivors of stroke. It is a CBO (Community Based Organization) member of the U.S. Olympic Committee. www.ndsaonline.org

2003 ASPIRE AWARDS

The ASPIRE Awards (Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education) honor individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions in promoting the physical, social, and intellectual well-being of children and adolescents with physical disabilities or visual impairments through the power of athletics. **We proudly honor the 2003 ASPIRE Award recipients:**

Award for Education
Richmond County Board of Education

Award for Community Programs
Dan Pile, Exec. Director
Ed Isakson YMCA

Award for Community Partnerships
Scott Doll, Exec. Director
Carl E. Sanders YMCA

Award for Advocacy
Mitzi Oxford, Development Director
American Red Cross
West Central GA Chapter

Award for Media
Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

Gail Hendrick Volunteerism Award
Anthony White, Volunteer Referee

Project ASPIRE Education Series

Project ASPIRE features an education series aimed at teaching professionals in education and sports how the AdaptedSports™ model works within their own communities, and how to oversee the aspects of AdaptedSports™ programming. Call 404/294-0070 for details and to book a workshop or training session.

Two components are offered within the Project ASPIRE Education Series:

Professional Training and Certification Program for Coaches and Sports Professionals

This professional education program focuses on quality sport training and certification of coaches, referees, officials and other sport professionals who have direct involvement with young people in AdaptedSports™ leagues. This training and certification program ensures that all persons involved with youth AdaptedSports™ teams follow the AAASP philosophy and coaching principles, and therefore enhance the playing experiences of the athletes.

AdaptedSports™: A National Model workshop

This workshop is an introduction to the AdaptedSports™ model. It demonstrates how standardization is the key to rapid growth and long-term stability of its athletic programs. AAASP trainers provide hands-on demonstrations of the AdaptedSports™ so that attendees acquire first-hand knowledge of how to apply AdaptedSports™ standards through training and certification of physical educators and coaches; rules of competition for each adapted sport; and sports equipment that helps youth athletes learn the physical skills that lead to athletic and academic achievement.

AAASP/NDSA Jr. Nationals Puts the Spotlight on the Future of Indoor Wheelchair Soccer

The future of indoor wheelchair soccer was clear at the **2nd Annual**

AAASP/NDSA Indoor

Wheelchair Soccer Jr. Nationals

(formerly the IWS Coast to Coast Jr. Nationals) in San Diego on January 16-18. Seven youth teams from Georgia and California put on a competitive and fast-paced performance in pursuit of national titles in varsity and junior varsity divisions over the three-day weekend.



"What is so exciting is that we have people working to cover the full spectrum from juniors to adults."

Kim Kelly
NDSA Sr. Project Manager

For the first time, the Jr. Nationals, an event sanctioned by AAASP, was held in conjunction with the adult **IWS National Championship**, sanctioned by the National Disability Sports Alliance (NDSA). AAASP and the NDSA plan to continue a combined tournament format

as part of a growth strategy for the sport of indoor wheelchair soccer.

"AAASP and NDSA have created a formal partnership to grow this sport," said Kim Kelly, NDSA Senior Project Manager. "We can provide athletes the opportunity to participate in an AAASP-structured junior program and educate them about the sport and teach them the necessary skills. From there we can provide them with a bridge to moving into the adult version of the sport by participating on adult teams."



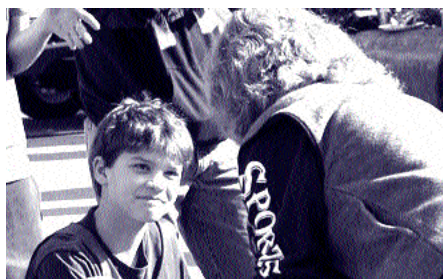
San Diego Hammer - Varsity National Champs



W. GA Wolverines - JV National Champs



Ryan Prioleau - Varsity Most Valuable Player



Matthew Golembeski - JV Most Valuable Player

Thanks to 2003/2004 Sponsors!

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Janie Thompson Avant

NDSA - Youth Indoor Wheelchair Soccer Authority

Jean Driscoll

Author, Speaker, Olympic and Paralympic Medallist

Steve Henson

Georgia State Senator

Ron Lykins

U.S.A. Paralympic Coach

James (Jay) Sadd

Law Firm of Slappey and Sadd

Janet A. Seaman, Ph.D.

Executive Director for the American Association for Active Lifestyles and Fitness

Tommie Storms

AAASP Cofounder and Vice President, COO

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Executive Director for the Georgia High School Association

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AAASP Cofounder and President, CEO



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JOIN!

Friends of AAASP

A small donation to AAASP will help to continue the important programs offered to these hard-working young athletes. AAASP is the only program of its kind in the the United States.

I would like to be a FRIEND OF AAASP.

Enclosed is my donation of:

___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___Other

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State____Zip_____

Phone (____)_____

Please make checks payable to:

AAASP, Inc.

P.O. Box 538

Pine Lake, GA 30072

Fast Facts. . . .

AAASP is America's 1st interscholastic athletic governing body exclusively for students with physical disabilities or visual impairments.

AAASP oversees the only adapted sports program in America that requires ASEP and AAASP certification of coaches.

Through the AAASP/GHSA alliance, students with physical disabilities can now join their high school track teams to compete in wheelchair track events and field competitions.

This year, the AAASP/GHSA alliance presents America's first dual high school championship for boy's basketball and wheelchair basketball.