



2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships

September 16 – 26

Richmond Olympic Oval

MEDIA KIT

www.2010wwrc.com

Meet the Teams

Country	About the Team	Team Schedule	Team Highlights
USA	America has long been a powerhouse in the sport of wheelchair rugby, winning gold medals at 6 of the 8 major international tournaments. In fact, in the 30-year history of the sport, the USA has only lost on the international stage a handful of times. One such defeat was captured in the Academy Award-nominated documentary "Murderball," when the USA was ousted from the finals of the 2004 Paralympics by Team Canada. Now, Team USA will look to take revenge on Canada's home soil by capturing the gold.	<p>Tuesday, Sept 21 9:30 AM USA vs. GER</p> <p>Wednesday, Sept 22 7 PM USA vs. GBR</p> <p>Thursday, Sept 23 noon USA vs. FIN 7 pm USA vs. SWE</p> <p>Friday, Sept 24 7 pm USA vs. CAN</p>	<p>1995: 1st – World Championships, Nottwil, SWI 1996: 1st – Paralympics, Atlanta, USA 1998: 1st – World Championships, Toronto, CAN 2000: 1st – Paralympics, Sydney, AUS 2002: 2nd – World Championships, Gothenberg, SWE 2004: 3rd – Paralympics, Athens, GRE 2006: 1st – World Championships, Christchurch, NZL 2008: 1st – Paralympics, Beijing, CHN</p>
Australia	Australia heads into the 2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships ranked second. But after defeating the USA earlier this year, Australia has proved that they're not content to play second fiddle. In Team Australia's arsenal: powerful 3.5 Ryley Batt, who is considered one of the best players in the world, and an experienced, well-rounded squad.	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 17:00 AUS vs. JPN</p> <p>Wednesday, Sept 22 9:30 AUS vs. POL</p> <p>Thursday, Sept 23 17:00 AUS vs. NZL</p> <p>Friday, Sept 24 9:30 AUS vs. BEL 17:00 AUS vs. ARG</p>	<p>1995: 5th – World Championships, Nottwil, SWI 1996: 6th – Paralympics, Atlanta, USA 1998: 5th – World Championships, Toronto, CAN 2000: 2nd – Paralympics, Sydney, AUS 2002: 2nd – World Championships, Gothenberg, SWE 2004: 5th – Paralympics, Athens, GRE 2006: 6th – World Championships, Christchurch, NZL 2008: 2nd – Paralympics, Beijing, CHN</p>

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Belgium	Team Belgium is the only national team at the 2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships that doubles as a club team. Because the country is so small, the team is able to practice together every week, giving them unmatched chemistry. One athlete on Team Belgium will be pulling double duty; Bob Vanacker is not only an athlete, he's also the head coach.	<p>Tuesday, Sept 21 12:00 FIN vs. USA</p> <p>Wednesday, Sept 22 17:00 BEL vs. NZL</p> <p>Thursday, Sept 23 9:30 BEL vs. ARG 17:00 BEL vs. JPN</p> <p>Friday, Sept 24 9:30 AUS vs. BEL</p>	<p>1998: 8th – World Championships, Toronto, CAN</p> <p>2002: 4th – World Championships, Gothenberg, SWE</p> <p>2004: 6th – Paralympics, Athens, GRE</p> <p>2006: 8th – World Championships, Christchurch, NZL</p>
New Zealand	Team New Zealand, also known as the Wheelblacks, is known for two things: its version of the “Haka” and upsetting top teams. The Wheelblacks captured the gold at the 2004 Paralympics, beating both the USA and the Canadians, and went on to win silver at the 2006 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships. Though the Wheelblacks are currently ranked 5th, no team is taking them lightly.	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 12:00 NZL vs. ARG</p> <p>Wednesday, Sept 22 12:00 FIN vs. USA</p> <p>Thursday, Sept. 23 9:30 NZL vs. POL 17:00 AUS vs. NZL</p> <p>Friday, Sept 24 9:30 NZL vs. JPN</p>	<p>1995: 3rd – World Championships, Nottwill, SWI</p> <p>1996: 2nd – Paralympics, Atlanta, USA</p> <p>1998: 2nd – World Ch, Toronto, CAN</p> <p>2000: 3rd – Paralympics, Sydney, AUS</p> <p>2002: 6th – World Ch, Gothenberg, SWE</p> <p>2004: 1st - Paralympics, Athens, GRE</p> <p>2006: 2nd – World Ch, Christchurch, NZL</p> <p>2008: 5th – Paralympics, Beijing, CHN</p>

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<p>Japan</p>	<p>Though Team Japan is currently ranked 7th, the recent addition of former wheelchair basketball player Daisuke Ikezaki and the speed of the two “Shins,” (Shin Nakazato and Shin Shimakawa) makes them a team to watch. Japan medaled for the first time on the international scene at the 2010 Coupe Canada Cup, beating Team Sweden to win bronze and proving that they’re not a team to take for granted.</p>	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 17:00 JPN vs. AUS Wednesday, Sept 22 9:30 JPN vs ARG Thursday, Sept 23 17:00 BEL vs. JPN Friday, Sept 24 9:30 NZL vs. JPN 17:00 JPN vs. POL</p>	<p>2002: 8th – World Championships, Gothenberg, SWE 2004: 8th - Paralympics, Athens, GRE 2006: 5th – World Championships, Christchurch, NZL 2008: 7th – Paralympics, Beijing, CHN</p>
<p>Great Britain</p>	<p>Great Britain has consistently been one of the top 4 teams in the world, placing 4th at both the 2008 Paralympics and 2006 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships. Though they’re currently ranked 9th, Great Britain is working hard to welcome the world at the 2012 London Paralympics and would love to go into the next Paralympics with the confidence of a medal under their belt.</p>	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 9:30 GBR vs. CAN Wednesday, Sept 22 12:00 GBR vs. SWE 19:00 GBR vs. USA Thursday, Sept 23 19:00 GBR vs. GER Friday, Sept 24 12:00 GBR vs. FIN</p>	<p>1995: 4th – World Championships, Nottwill, SWI 1996: 4th – Paralympics, Atlanta, USA 1998: 7th – World Championships, Toronto, CAN 2000: 5th – Paralympics, Sydney, AUS 2002: 5th – World Championships, Gothenberg, SWE 2004: 4th - Paralympics, Athens, GRE 2006: 4th – World Championships, Christchurch, NZL 2008: 4th - Paralympics, Beijing, CHN</p>
<p>Germany</p>	<p>Germany qualified for the 2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships at the European Zone Championships in Hillerod, Denmark. Though they are currently ranked 8th, they are looking to best their 6th-place finish at the 2008 Paralympics.</p>	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 9:30 GER vs. USA Wednesday, Sept 22 19:00 GER vs. CAN Thursday, Sept 23 19:00 GER vs. GBR Friday, Sept 24 12:00 GER vs. SWE 19:00 GER vs. FIN</p>	<p>1998: 6th – World Championships, Toronto, CAN 2000: 8th – Paralympics, Sydney, AUS 2002: 9th – World Championships, Gothenberg, SWE 2004: 7th - Paralympics, Athens, GRE 2006: 7th – World Championships, Christchurch, NZL 2008: 6th – Paralympics, Beijing, CHN</p>

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Sweden	<p>Sixth-ranked Team Sweden is a young team, but a combination of speed and aggressiveness has them climbing up the international ranks quickly. Sweden is coached by former Canadian head coach Marco Dispaltro, who keeps the team grounded in the fundamentals.</p>	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 12:00 SWE vs FIN Wed, Sept 22 12:00 SWE vs GBR Thurs, Sept 23 12:00 CAN vs SWE 19:00 USA vs SWE Friday, Sept 24 12:00 SWE vs GER</p>	<p>1995: 6th – World Championships, Nottwill, SWI 1996: 5th – Paralympics, Atlanta, USA 1998: 4th – World Championships, Toronto, CAN 2000: 6th – Paralympics, Sydney, AUS 2002: 7th – World Championships, Gothenberg, SWE 2006: 9th - World Championships, Christchurch, NZL</p>
Finland	<p>This is Finland's first appearance at a major international tournament. Team Finland qualified by winning one of three Wild Card spots and the players are eager to get some international experience under their belts.</p>	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 Wednesday, Sept 22 Thursday, Sept 23 Friday, Sept 24</p>	<p>12:00 FIN vs. SWE 12:00 FIN vs. CAN 12:00 FIN vs. USA 12:00 FIN vs. GBR 19:00 FIN vs. GER</p>
Poland	<p>This is Poland's first appearance at a major international tournament. Team Poland qualified by winning one of three Wild Card spots and is eager to get some international experience under their belt.</p>	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 Wednesday, Sept 22 Thursday, Sept 23 Friday, Sept 24</p>	<p>17:00 POL vs. BEL 9:30 POL vs. AUS 17:00 POL vs. ARG 9:30 POL vs. NZL 17:00 POL vs. JPN</p>
Argentina	<p>This is Argentina's first major international tournament. Argentina qualified for the first time by placing third at the 2009 Americas Zone Qualifier and the players are eager to test themselves on the international stage.</p>	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 Wednesday, Sept 22 Thursday, Sept 23 Friday, Sept 24</p>	<p>12:00 ARG vs. NZL 9:30 ARG vs. JPN 17:00 ARG vs POL 9:30 ARG vs. BEL 17:00 ARG vs. AUS</p>

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