



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USA Wins Gold, Canada Takes Bronze at International Wheelchair Rugby Tournament

Burnaby, BC – The USA won the gold medal Sunday at the 2008 Canada Cup International Wheelchair Rugby Tournament winning over New Zealand 44-31. With Canada winning over Great Britain 32-30 to take the bronze medal, the final standings mirrored the results of the 2006 Canada Cup finals last held here in 2006.

“We know that whenever we play them it’s going to be a strong match,” said USA head coach James Gumbert. “We played an incredible opponent. I think we were very prepared. To our credit we aren’t happy with playing just okay. We treat every game we are going into now as if our life depended on it.”

The gold medal game was a far cry from the final two years ago when the US took the gold by only one goal after three overtime periods.. The outcome of this year’s final was pretty much determined at half time when the US led by 8 goals. New Zealand coach Grant Sharman summed it up saying, "They beat us in all aspects of the game. They were fresher and faster, and certainly showed why they are the best team in the world. But I'll guarantee you, we'll be 100% fit and fresh for Beijing." New Zealand won the gold medal at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens.

In Sunday’s bronze medal game Canada and Great Britain matched goal for goal until the end of the 3rd quarter when Canada went up by one. They led throughout the 4th quarter, and Mike Whitehead’s goal with 14 seconds to go sealed the win. The final score was 32-30. “I’m pretty proud of my players because we did what we didn’t do yesterday against New Zealand,” said Canadian head coach Benoit Labrecque. “We controlled most of the game.”

“It was a great confidence booster for our team,” said Canada’s co-captain, Ian Chan of Richmond. “We had a really tough loss yesterday with New Zealand. It was definitely a heartbreaker but our team definitely showed some serious character coming back today to take the bronze medal.”

The eight teams at the Canada Cup now turn their attention to preparing for the Paralympic Games in Beijing where they meet in competition September 12 - 16. British Columbia will host the 2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships at the Richmond Olympic Oval in September, 2010.

Sunday’s medal games can be viewed at www.Xable.com, the interactive media network for the disability community. For a full re-cap of the 2008 Canada Cup go to www.bcwheelchairsports.com.

Final Results
2008 Canada Cup International Wheelchair Rugby Tournament
Burnaby, BC, CAN

Gold: USA; **Silver:** NZL; **Bronze:** Canada

Sunday's Results:

USA 44 NZL 31
CAN 32 GBR 30
GER 51 CHN 32
AUS 42 JPN 41

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