



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HPARD To Host National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

Come watch and cheer-on the best in youth wheelchair basketball, including your own Houston TIRR Hotwheels, as they burn up the court! The Houston Parks and Recreation Department welcomes top teams from across the nation as it proudly plays host to the 24th Annual National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament on March 24th through March 26th. Tournament games will be played at the University of Houston-Central Campus Recreation and Wellness Center and will begin at 9:00 a.m. lasting throughout each day.

“What an exciting event for Houston, for Parks and Recreation, and for the advancement and awareness of adaptive sports,” said Joe Turner, Director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “A heartfelt welcome to all the athletes, parents, and sponsors. Houston is ready to watch some great games of wheelchair basketball.”

The exciting three-day event brings the nation’s sixteen top youth wheelchair basketball teams to Houston to compete for the National Championship. The accomplished teams that include players aged 13-18 who hail from states across the nation including New York, Michigan, California, Washington, Georgia and Texas have already achieved regional championship status and include the most outstanding athletes in the league.

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“This event will offer a unique opportunity for able-bodied children and adults to see sports at a whole new level,” said Peggy Turner, Division Manager for HPARD’s Adaptive Recreation Program and NJWBT Tournament Director. “Watching this sport and these athletes, it is apparent that they achieve their goals using hard work, determination, but most of all, a sincere love for sport and competition. I congratulate them all and look forward to a great tournament.”

The Houston TIRR Hotwheels will once again take the court in search of a National Championship. Last year, the Hotwheels placed 10th and expect to improve on this showing at the 2006 tournament. They enter this year’s competition ranked 5th.

For additional information on **The National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament**, adaptive recreation, or the Houston Parks and Recreation Department call 713-845-1135 or visit our web site at www.houstonparks.org