



## **HOT SHEET**

**Tuesday, July 4, 2006**

## **Games Athletes Celebrate America's Independence!**

NOTE TO EDITORS: The 26<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games take place all this week at the Egan Convention Center, Bartlett High School, Sullivan Arena and other area venues. More than 500 veterans with disabilities (including more than 30 recently injured in Iraq) begin competing today in largest annual wheelchair sports competition in the world! The Games, a great patriotic, sports, and health/fitness story, run through Saturday, July 8, 2006. Today's highlights include the Fourth of July Parade, handcycling, slalom, basketball and power soccer. For more information or to arrange for interviews or media opportunities, call the National Veterans Wheelchair Games Media Center at the Hilton, at (907) 257-6768; or (970) 257-6769. For continuing updates throughout the week, visit the Games Web site at [www.wheelchairgames.org](http://www.wheelchairgames.org).

### **FOURTH OF JULY PARADE**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Downtown Anchorage**

More than 500 registered wheelchair athletes will lead the parade this morning through downtown Anchorage. Games competitor Orlando Perez from Orlando, Fla., will serve as Grand Master. Don't miss this patriotic sight as these inspiring athletes celebrate their independence.

### **HANDCYCLING**

**2:30 p.m.**

**Downtown Anchorage**

Today's event kicks off just as the Sadler's Ultra Challenge handcycle race from Fairbanks concludes. Handcycling allows wheelchair users to cycle, using a sit-down three-wheel cycle with hand pedals. The 5K race is timed, run on an asymmetrical course designed to measure both speed and endurance. An open classification, all athletes compete at once. Will David Nau (from Ohio) bring home the gold again this year? Army veteran Don Peters from Anchorage is also competing.

### **SLALOM**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Bartlett High School**

A true wheelchair sport, the slalom is a test of agility, skill, speed and strength around a challenging obstacle course. The course is on a smooth surface, defined by flag gates around which the athlete must maneuver both forward and backward. An extremely emotional event with incredible displays of the athletes' strength, willpower and sheer determination! High emotion, lots of action as wheelchairs go for the gold in this unique obstacle course competition. Today's slalom event is for motorized wheelchairs. Watch Susan Macaulay from Juneau as she tries the slalom course for the first time.

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# National Veterans Wheelchair Games



**HOT SHEET, continued**  
**Tuesday, July 4, 2006**

## **\*BASKETBALL**

**3:00, 7:30 & 9:00 p.m.**  
**Sullivan Arena**

The rules for wheelchair basketball are essentially the same as the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, with the wheelchair considered part of the player's body in determining physical contact fouls. Three levels of player classification are used to achieve team balance, and players are allowed two pushes between dribbles. This is a fast and furious competition. **Don't let the wheelchairs fool you—this is hard-core, spirited, exciting basketball with lots of crashing wheelchairs and occasional collisions!** Finals are on Friday with the Consolation Game beginning at 7:30 p.m. and the Championship Game beginning at 9:00 p.m.

## **\*POWER SOCCER**

**7:30 & 9:00 p.m.**  
**Cellular One Sports Center**

Power soccer is a unique, competitive sport for motorized wheelchair users, played on a basketball size court by two 4-member teams (one member as goalie) using a large rubberized ball. The object is to maneuver the ball across the opponent's goal line and to keep them from doing the same. **Great action!** Games 1-4 are today. Consolation Game is tomorrow at Sullivan Arena, and the Championship Games is Friday, also at Sullivan.

## **BOWLING**

**7:30 p.m.**  
**Polar Bowl**

Bowling is a very popular sport among wheelchair users with all types of disabilities. The Games follow the rules of the American Wheelchair Bowling Association. Total pins in three complete games determine winners. Handleball and stick bowling are allowed for quadriplegic classes only, and takes place this evening for those competitors. Ramp bowling, tomorrow evening, is allowed for quadriplegics using motorized wheelchairs. All others bowl tomorrow beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Polar Bowl is located at Elmendorf AFB. Steven Ray from Texas took the gold last year with a score of 417. Bowling 446 last year, Gustave Sorenson from Wisconsin is another one to watch. See if they do it again!

**\*Great action photo opportunities!**

## **OTHER EVENTS ON TUESDAY**

- Air Guns – Egan Convention Center, 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.
- Table Tennis – Egan Convention Center, 3:00 p.m., quadriplegics compete today.

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