# SPECIAL REPORT

#### WHEELERS JOIN HALL OF FAME

October 19, 1990, was a hallmark date in the history of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) and wheelchair basketball in general. On that date, the NWBA Hall of Fame (HOF) was formally integrated into basketball's Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA. The ceremony was attended by 22 of the 44 living NWBA HOF members.

The exhibit, located on the main floor next to the popular Spalding Shootout, is the first of its kind in a sports Hall of Fame. The permanent display, which will be updated regularly, consists of photographs of the great players and top teams in the game. Also shown are the rules and regulations of the sport, lists of past champions and most valuable players, a plaque listing the members of the NWBA HOF, a brief history of wheel-chair basketball, and various medals won by American competitors in international wheelchair basketball competition.

Working together to make the display



a reality were Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame Curator Michael W. Brooslin, NWBA Hall of Fame Chairman Saul Welger, S'NS Senior Editor Cliff Crase, and NWBA Hall of Fame Member Bernie Hengber. Sunrise-Quickie Designs, Inc., provided corporate support. Abova: (From left) Tim Nugent, George Veenstra, and Stan Labanowich are pleased with the new wheelchair basketball Hall of Fame exhibit. Photo by Norman McGee. Below: Posing in front of the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame, Springfield, MA, are NWBA Hall of Famers (from left) George Conn, Saul Weiger, Carl Cash, Russ Churchman, and Bill Johnson. Photo courtesy of Saul Weiger.



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#### **BASKETBALL BUSINESS**

A crowd of more than 100 attending the dedication ceremonies was addressed by some of wheelchair basketball's greatest promoters:

 Saul Weiger, who first approached Hall of Fame Executive Director Joe O'Brien about including the NWBA, recounted events leading to the installation of the display. "For 17 years the NWBA Hall of Fame existed in a binder in my bookcase, to which I added new names and biographies each year," he said, "Tonight, we have found a home."

Tim Nugent, NWBA founder and former commissioner, reminisced about the breakthroughs made by players in the NWBA HOF and their relevance for today's cagers. "I don't think I ever thought we'd be in the Hall of Fame," he told the gathering, "but I had a lot of dreams. And you guys made them all come true."

 Stan Labanowich, current NWBA commissioner, emphasized the legitimacy integration into the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame lends to wheelchair basketball and to the whole sports movement for athletes with disabilities.

NWBA Hall of Famers present for the



Bill Johnson (left) and Tim Nugent unveil the plaque that lists the 44 individuals inducted into the NWBA Hall of Fame. Photo by Norman McGee.

ceremonies were Bill Johnson, Tim Nugent, Russ Churchman, Carl Cash, Dan DeDeo, Julie Jiaccopo, Saul Welger, George Conn, Bernie Hengber, Ted McLean, Pete Acca, Junius Kellogg, Ron Stein, Al Youakim, Jack Graff, Bill Mathis, Sy Bloom, Roger Davis, Henry Bowman, Norman McGee, George Veenstra, and Bill Kennedy.



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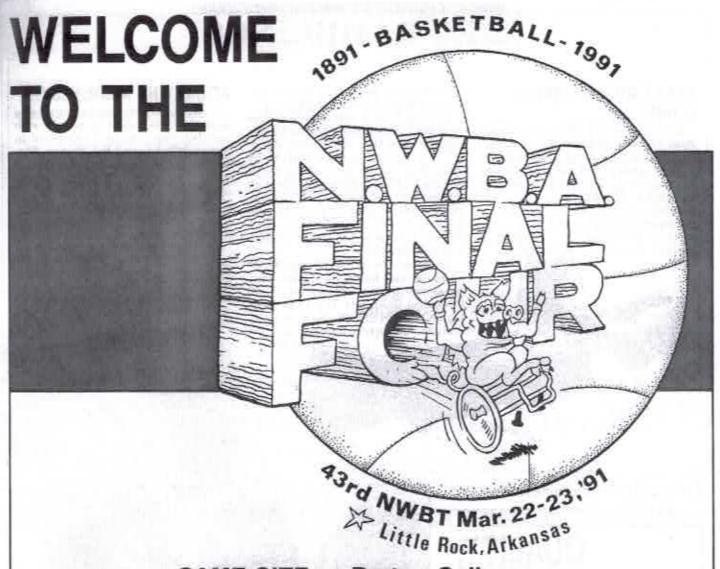
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