

# Media Release

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## Two Manitobans Make National Wheelchair Rugby Team

The Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association is proud to announce that Jared Funk and Ian Crowe have been named to Canada's National Wheelchair Rugby Team.

Jared Funk of Niverville is a returning 10-year veteran wheelchair rugby player. He is one of Canada's RBC Olympians with a biography available here: [http://www.rbc.com/sponsorship/olympics/bio/jared\\_funk.html](http://www.rbc.com/sponsorship/olympics/bio/jared_funk.html)

While Ian Crowe of Winnipeg has played rugby in Manitoba for the last seven years, this is his first National team appointment. Ian decided to move from recreation to high performance a couple of years ago. "The coaches said I have the potential," states Ian. "I have to train as hard and as much as I can to increase my athletic performance and to become one of the top players not only in Canada but in the world."

Ian says he gave it his all at the camp and is happy to be on the team. He is taking steps towards being "on the podium in the Paralympics in London in 2012."

The national team selection camp was held this past weekend in Vancouver at the new Richmond Olympic Oval. The Olympic Oval is the site for the 2010 Olympic speed skating events followed by the World Wheelchair Rugby Championships September 16 – 25, 2010.

Wheelchair rugby, often referred to as "Murder Ball", is a team sport for quadriplegic athletes, created in Winnipeg in 1977. Played indoors, it is a fast-paced and exciting contact sport. The 2006 Wheelchair Rugby World Championships were held in New Zealand with the United States finishing first and Canada third.

The Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association is committed to leadership in the promotion of well being and a healthy lifestyle through the development of sport and fitness related opportunities for physically disabled Manitobans.

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