**HISTORY OF WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL**

Basketball was invented in America in 1981 by a Canadian PE teacher who wanted to develop an indoor sport that his students could play during the winter months.

Following the formation of the International Basketball Federation in Switzerland in 1932 the popularity of the sport grew throughout the world and in 1936 Basketball made its debut at the Olympic Games.

Wheelchair Basketball is one of the oldest established wheelchair sports and dates back to the 1940’s.

The sport was first played in the USA, when a group of basketball players – injured during World War Two, adapted the running game to wheelchairs in order to continue playing. At around the same time Sir Ludwig Guttmann, a neurologist working with the WW2 injured veterans at the **Stoke Mandeville Hospital** in England, also developed the sport as a form of Rehabilitation for his patients.

In 1955 the touring US Pam AM Jets went to Britain to take part in the first international competition at Stoke Mandeville and competitive game developed from there

Wheelchair Basketball was included in the Paralympics Program at the very first games in Rome in 1960 and the inaugural World Championships took place in the 1970s.

Paralympic Winners (MEN) **WOMAN**

**ROME/ITALY - 1960 – USA 1960 – NO COMPETITION**

**TOKYO/JAPAN – 1964 – USA 1964 – NO Competition**

**TEL AVIV/ISRAEL – 1968 – ISRAEL 1968 - ISRAEL**

**HEIDELBERG/GERMANY – 1972 – USA 1972 - ARGENTINA**

**TORONTO/CANADA – 1976 – USA 1976 - ISRAEL**

**ARNEHEIM/NETHERLANDS – 1980 – ISRAEL 1980 - GERMANY**

**STOCK MANDEVILLE/ENGLAND – 1984 – FRANCE 1984 - GERMANY**

**SEOUL/KOREA – 1988 – USA 1988 - USA**

**BARCELONA/SPAIN – 1992 – THE NETHERLANDS 1992 - CANADA**

**ATLANTA/USA – 1996 – AUSTRALIA 1996 – CANADA**

**SYDNEY/AUSTRALIA – 2000 –CANADA 2000 - CANADA**

**ATHENS / GREECE – 2004 – CANADA 2004 - USA**

**BEIJING/ CHINA – 2008 – AUSTRALIA 2008 - USA**