

Feser named to national hoops team

Wheelchair athlete from St. Albert eyes 2012 Paralympics

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Tara Feser has been on the national women's wheelchair basketball team since the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games and will once again represent Canada at the 2011 Parapan American Games Nov. 12-20 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Feser, 31, grew up in Edmonton, but calls St. Albert home. She wasn't surprised to hear she had been named to the 12-woman team, but said it was a relief.

She added the squad is young, but hopes she can do her part to help the team nab one of the tournament's three qualifying spots for the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

"Hopefully I will bring more leadership and experience going into London in 2012 and that will give us confidence," Feser said.

She hopes that the Parapan Games will serve as a launching pad for the team's expected qualification for London.

"I'm looking forward to watching the team develop," Feser said. "We're such a young team with so many retirements since Beijing, so this event will serve as a stepping stone for London."

Canada is a world power in international women's wheelchair basketball.

In six Paralympic Games, Canada has won three golds and a bronze, and the team is coming off a third place showing at the 2010 world championships in Birmingham, England.

Feser is currently a player/coach with the Trier Dolphins, a semi-pro coed wheelchair team in western Germany, and is using her time overseas to continue training and improving her game.

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