

[Power Wheels: Wheelchair Basketball](#)

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<Let's learn!>

- ... is one of the
- not only A but also B
- focus on ...
- win an award

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Basketball is one of the most popular and exciting sports in the world. More Japanese fans are being inspired by new players every year. The First Slam Dunk was the best Japanese anime box office hit movie in 2023 as well. Did you know that basketball can also be played in a wheelchair?

Wheelchair basketball started in the US after World War II . It was a rehabilitation activity for soldiers recovering after the war. In 1956, it was one of the first sports made for wheelchair users. Today, it is the most popular wheelchair sport for many wheelchair users around the world. Why? One reason is that many athletes of different disability levels can participate and build good teamwork and social skills.

“Win and enjoy yourself” is the motto of the wheelchair basketball club called Tokyo Fighters. This motto is liked by some Japanese athletes and fans because of its meaning: “to be a winning athlete but also to focus on having fun playing the sport.” This motto can be a motivation for everyone, both able bodied and wheelchair athletes.

Inoue Takahiko, the manga artist of Slam Dunk, also created a wheelchair basketball manga called Real. This showed the sport to manga readers. The manga won an award for talking about some of the victories and challenges the team members experience.

Wheelchair basketball was popular at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. Trevon Jenifer, one of the Team USA players, helped the team win the gold medal. It was the first time for the team to win a gold medal at the Olympic level. Other athletes like Chokai Renshi and Amimoto Mari also helped bring more attention to the sport. The power of sport continues. The future of wheelchair basketball is very bright.

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Key Phrases 重要表現

...is one of the	…のうちの一つ、…の一人
(not only) A but also B	AだけでなくBもまた
focus on …	…に焦点を合わせる、…に集中する
win an award	受賞する、賞を勝ち取る

Key Vocabulary 重要単語・熟語

単語	発音記号	品詞	意味
inspire	ɪnˈspaɪr	動詞	刺激を与える、奮い立たせる、鼓舞する
rehabilitation	riːhəˌbɪl.əˈteɪ.ʃən	名詞	リハビリテーション、社会復帰、名誉回復
soldier	sˈəʊldʒə	名詞	軍人、兵士
recover	rɪˈkʌv.ə	動詞	回復する、取り戻す
disability	ˌdɪs.əˈbɪl.ə.tɪ	名詞	身体障害、障害
motto	ˈmɑː.təʊ	名詞	座右の銘、標語、モットー

Others その他

単語	発音記号	品詞	意味
box office	ˈbɔːks ˌɑːfɪs	名詞	興行収入
able bodied	ˌeɪ.bəlˈbɔːdɪd	形容詞	身体障害のない、頑健な
Paralympics	ˌper.əˈlɪm.pɪks	名詞	パラリンピック