

Atlanta Hawks Host Wheelchair Basketball Clinic for Adapted Sports Athletes

Atlanta, March 21, 2013 - AAASP/GHSA Interscholastic Wheelchair Basketball State Champions. Houston County Sharks and runners-up, Henry County Hurricanes got some great tips from Atlanta Hawks players, Al Horford and Mike Muscala, and coaches Kenny Atkinson and Jim Thomas at the Hawks Wheelchair Basketball clinic on Thursday, March 20th. Hawks Director of Player Personnel Duane Ferrell and Manager of Event Marketing and Sports Programs Ion Babul also took to the court as coaches for the day, to help with instruction and organization of the fast-paced clinic.

The Hawks partnered with the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP) to host the clinic for the student athletes. The hour-long clinic took part on the Hawks practice court at Philips Arena with the coaches and players taking the athletes through stations of shooting and passing drills. The clinic ended with Henry County Hurricanes' Jerome Payne winning the exciting Hawks Free Throw Challenge contest! Each team received a 2013-14 Atlanta Hawks Team Autographed ball, t-shirts and other Hawks goodies.

The AAASP Wheelchair Basketball State Championship team and coaches will be honored with the Be Greater Atlanta Award at the Hawks game vs. the Miami Heat on Saturday, April 12th. (Houston County Sharks will be at the game on April 12th.)

AAASP wheelchair football and GHSA wheelchair track and field events regular season and postseason competition will take place in March, April and May.

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP), headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, has developed one of the nation's most comprehensive school-based athletic programs for children with physical disabilities attending grades 1-12. Many prominent individuals and national organizations in the industry have recognized AAASP as the model for the nation. For more information about AAASP, please visit our website at <u>adaptedsports.org</u> or join our conversations on Twitter at: @AdaptedSports.

The Atlanta Hawks, a member of the National Basketball Association since 1949, play in the Southeast Division, along with the Charlotte Bobcats, Miami Heat, Orlando Magic and Washington Wizards. Atlanta Hawks Memberships for the 2013-14 season are on sale now! For more information on the Hawks, log on to www.hawks.com.

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