

# International Basketball Legend Ed Owen Passes Friday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

Seven Time Paralympian, Coach, and Author



The disability sport community across the world will mourn Ed's passing and remember his contributions for generations. Ed will be remembered as a brother, teammate, respected mentor and cherished friend. We were blessed to know you.

Go with God Ed.

**SPORT HIGHLIGHTS:** Ed Owen achieved legendary status in sport of wheelchair basketball. His expertise in wheelchair basketball spanned nearly 50 years as an athlete and coach, and author of *Playing and Coaching Wheelchair Basketball* (University of Illinois Press), known as the definitive resource for coaching wheelchair basketball. Owen had completed the long awaited second edition of his book and was compiling photos for it at the time of his passing.

Owen attended the University of Illinois at Champaign–Urbana where he earned a B.S. degree in Physical Education and completed three years of graduate–level coursework.

Owen was inducted into the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Hall of Fame (NWBA), and **named by the NWBA as the best wheelchair basketball player of all time.** He received the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation's Gold Medal Triad Award for his work worldwide — the first–ever awarded to a U.S. citizen. As a seven–time Paralympic athlete, Owen won numerous gold medals in wheelchair basketball, as well as medals in swimming, the pentathlon, and the discus. He

also served as head coach for the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation's European Zone.

**RECENT WORK:** Owen acted as Assistant State Coordinator for the American Association of Adapted Sport Programs (AAASP) school-based adaptedSPORTS™ leagues in Georgia and as Area Coordinator for Atlanta Public Schools AAASP teams until 2004. His expertise and contributions continued to be a vital part of AAASP's statewide interscholastic sports operations, player recruitment, coaching standards, player development and community education. Owen played essential roles in developing and conducting training programs for coaches and officials. His involvement included coaching fieldwork to enhance the development of coaches and players during league seasons, and conducting coach and athlete workshops and clinics throughout the year.

Owen also directed the development of AAASP's state all-star wheelchair basketball team, Team Holyfield, (named for its sponsor, Evander Holyfield) now called the Georgia Eagles. Under his leadership, Team Holyfield qualified to compete in the 2002 National Wheelchair Basketball Association's Junior National Tournament, becoming the first team in Georgia to do so. Owen also coached both the Men's and Women's Shepherd Wheelchair Basketball teams.

**MEMORIAL SERVICES:**

2-3pm on the Basketball Court  
Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 The Shepherd Center  
2020 Peachtree Road NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465 phone 404.552.2020

**Donations and Contributions:** Funeral service assistance would be appreciated. Support may be sent directly to Ed's, sister:

Suzan Owen  
519 Granite Ridge Place  
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

# In Memory of Ed Owen

You and your family are invited to the Memorial Service:

2-3pm on the Basketball Court  
Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 The Shepherd Center  
2020 Peachtree Road NW  
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Next of Kin: Suzan Owen  
519 Granite Ridge Place  
Sandy Springs, GA 30350