ECU’s Inline Hockey Club Team competes in exhibition game with NC Wheelchair Association

The East Carolina University Inline Club Hockey Team recently played the Carolina Fury, a team for the North Carolina Electric Wheelchair Hockey Association. The actual game was held on Aug. 18 at the Drew Steele Center in Greenville.

ECU inline hockey club president and senior engineering major Joey Iannuzzelli helped organize the match against the Carolina Fury. “The experience was humbling. It made you appreciate what you have and it was exciting to see the game of hockey transcend past physical limitations,” said Iannuzzelli.

Stephen Tucci, a second year graduate student, is also part of the club inline hockey team and served as a referee during the game. “As a ref I was able to see a different perspective of the game,” said Tucci, majoring in parks and recreation. “It was cool to see that we all loved the same sport and that we could all be out there enjoying it.”

This was the first event hosted at the newly opened center and the event was held in order to promote the Drew Steele Center as well as the electric wheelchair hockey sport.

The North Carolina Electric Wheelchair Hockey Association (NCEWHA) was created in 2003 to allow people who rely on the use of a wheel chair the opportunity to participate in an organized hockey league. The NCEWHA allows people of any gender or age to participate.

The Carolina Fury is the only power hockey team in North Carolina and is composed of members from all over North Carolina. The team currently practices in Pikeville, N.C. at Charles B. Aycock High School.

The Drew Steele Center is named after Greenville native, Drew Steele, who is also the son of former ECU basketball coach Mike Steele. Drew Steele has Down Syndrome and the center was designed to cater to those with special needs, as well as the general public. The Steele family teamed up with former ECU football coach Skip Holtz to obtain donations that were required to start the project.

The Drew Steele center is located at the old Elm Street Gym building, which was completely renovated. The facility recently opened its doors August 1st.

For more information about the North Carolina Electric Wheelchair Hockey Association, visit http://www.ncpowerhockey.com/ or to learn more about ECU’s Inline Club Hockey team, please go to www.ecu.edu/crw and click on Club Sports.

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