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Houston County Sharks Win Two State Championships



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - The Houston County Sharks won the 2019 State Wheelchair Handball Championships for both the varsity and junior varsity teams this past Saturday. The American Association of Adapted Sports/Georgia High School Association handball championship tournament was held Nov. 2, 2019, at the J.P. Moseley Recreation Center in Stockbridge, Ga.

The Sharks Varsity Team beat the DeKalb Silver Streaks 8 - 4 in the semi-final game, and then went on to beat their longtime rivals, the Gwinnett Heat, 14 - 1 in the championship game.

The Jr. Sharks took on the Muscogee Lions in the junior varsity championship game and won 10-2. This is the JV's first state championship since this second team was added in 2015.

Christy Jones, orthopedic impaired teacher and program area coordinator, commented, "This summer both teams attended a camp with Coach Rob Lykins, U.S. Men's Paralympic Basketball Coach. Since the camp, all of our players have continued to work tirelessly to improve their chair and basketball skills. That commitment paid off last weekend. I am extremely proud of how hard our athletes work to improve as an individual and as a team!"

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The Sharks team consists of the following players:

- Tajah Battle, Feagin Mill Middle;
- Ger'mir Gordon, Mossy Creek Middle;
- Ca'ron Harris, Northside High;
- O'Lando Hicks, Transition Academy;
- Annabelle Putnam, Perry High;
- Elianna Stevens, Feagin Mill Middle;
- Jacob Stevens, Houston County High; and
- Langley Yoh, Houston County High.

The Varsity coaches are:

- Christy Jones;
- Jeff McDaniels, community coach;
- Denise Potts, interpreter; and
- Melissa Ring-Hartman, Northside High teacher; and
- Jamie Schneller, interpreter.

The Jr. Sharks team consists of the following members:

- Leya Allen, Matt Arthur Elementary;
- Leeza Brown, Northside High;
- Dalton Crosby, Huntington Middle;
- Josh Cruz, Mossy Creek Middle;
- Caleb Jordan, Feagin Mill Middle;
- Jaden Screen, Mossy Creek Middle;
- Naomie Wilson, Mossy Creek Middle; and
- Jaquavious West, Huntington Middle.

The JV coaches are:

- Tracy Fendley, adapted PE specialist;
- Anna Henry, Langston Road Elementary teacher;
- Renee Langlois, interpreter; and
- Melissa Wells, interpreter.



The coaches are pictured with the two championship trophies and banners: (from left) Langlois, McDaniels, Ring-Hartman, Jones, Fendley, Henry and Potts. Not pictured are Schneller and Wells.

In 2008, the Houston County Board of Education approved adding this adapted sports program to offer students with physical disabilities the opportunity to play wheelchair basketball, football and handball. The sports are sanctioned by the Georgia High School Association.

The teams will be recognized during the Dec. 10, 2019, Board of Education monthly meeting. For more information, contact Jones at 478-396-2022 or Christy.Jones@hcbe.net. Further information may also be found online at www.adaptedsports.org/.

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