

MEDIA RELEASE
11 APRIL, 2011

BARTY SET TO CROSS ENEMY LINES AT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Western Australia's State Paralympic goalkeeper Chris Barty will be taking part in this week's National Paralympic Football Championships, representing rivals Victoria.

WA does not have enough numbers to field a senior side in the annual Championships, despite flourishing in the junior department.

Barty has been granted special permission to play for Victoria, but is confident WA will be able to have its own team at next year's event.

"We just don't have enough senior athletes at the moment in WA," said Barty.

"As we don't have a side, I've nominated myself to play for Victoria.

"I do hope that this is a one-off - I think the work that we're doing here with Paralympic Football, the work that (Football West Inclusive Development Officer) Gordon Duus has done over the past 12 months, along with (WA State Paralympic coach) David Cantoni and (WA State Paralympic goalkeeping coach) Dave Whalley has been fantastic.

"If you look at the growth that we've had since November, I think we will be able to have a team next year and I'm quietly confident that we'll be competitive."

Despite having only taken up the sport last November after a career in wheelchair basketball, Barty has flourished and hopes this week's tournament can catapult him into Paul Brown's National team.

"I'm not playing football to muck around," he said.

"I've just come back from my first National camp and I felt that I was pretty competitive and we've got another selection camp coming up at the back of this tournament which will be used as final selection for the World Championships.

"I think I'm as good a chance as anybody."

The 2011 National Paralympic Football Championships kick off in South Australia tomorrow, Tuesday 12th April and run through until Friday 15th April at Adelaide Shores.

For more information on Football West's WA Paralympic Football program, please click [here](#)

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**Attached is a photo courtesy Football West of WA State Paralympic goalkeeper Chris Barty*

