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NEWS RELEASE

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Sharks Win State Wheelchair Football Championship



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County Sharks won the 2019 State Wheelchair Football Championship at the Veterans High School Gymnasium on May 4, 2019. The Sharks beat the Gwinnett Heat 44 to 33 in the American Association of Adapted Sports Program tournament, defeating the state title holder. This is the Varsity Sharks' 23rd state wheelchair championship and 8th football championship in 11 school years.

In an intense battle between what has become one of the biggest Adapted Sports rivalries, the Gwinnett Heat took the championship last year by a slim margin of two points. The Houston County Sharks took home the 2019 State Championship title with an 11-point victory.

The team consists of the following players:

- Leeza Brown, Northside High,
- Emanuel Dawson, Huntington Middle;
- Ca'ron Harris, Northside Middle;
- O'Lando Hicks, Warner Robins High;
- Jordan Kozloski, Houston County High;
- Annabelle Putman, Perry High;
- Gavin Siens, Bonaire Middle;
- Elianna Stevens, Feagin Mill Middle;
- Jacob Stevens, Houston County High; and
- Langley Yoh, Houston County High.

Christy Jones, orthopedic impaired teacher, is the area coordinator of the program. In addition to Jones, the Sharks coaches are: Adapted PE Specialists Stephen Roberson and Tracy Fendley; Anna Henry, Langston Road Elementary teacher; Melissa Ring-Hartman, Northside High teacher; Bryan Watts, Warner Robins High teacher; and Community Coaches Jeff McDaniels, Ben Masters and Ryan Brown.

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 Sharks will be recognized at the May 14 Board of Education monthly meeting. For more information, please contact Jones at 478-396-2022. Further information may also be found online at www.adaptedsports.org/.

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