

# Freewheelers to play Houston

When UTA's wheelchair basketball team hits the floor at Texas Hall Nov. 3 against the University of Houston, spectators will see "one of the roughest and wildest games ever played," predicts Jim Hayes, handicapped students adviser.

Houston will use three players from a professional wheelchair league against UTA's Freewheelers, but only

one pro will be on the court at a time.

Since Houston was recently placed on a one-year probation following violations of recruiting restrictions, Hayes said he hopes the professionals will be barred from the game.

Proceeds will go to the Handicap Scholarship Fund. The scholarship, based on financial need with academic consideration, was awarded last year

to two students who had grade averages of 3.9 and 4.0.

The Freewheelers lost to Houston 32-19 last year, but player-coach Hayes said his squad has "improved 100 per cent." The team members practice usually one night a week and play teams from Brazos House or Pacht Hall Friday afternoons.

"Many eyes are on this game," Hayes said, "and many schools may install wheelchair basketball programs if ours is very successful." North Texas State University, Texas Woman's University and Eastfield College in Dallas will have representatives at the game.

"It's more than a bunch of jocks saying 'hey, come see me play,'" said Hayes. "It's a demonstration of abilities rather than limitations."

Ron La Bar is the team's 30-point man and Robert Ross scores an average of 20 points a game. Hayes terms Mark Knoblock the best defensive player on the team. Paul Pettigrew, Jimmy Strader and Dale Patterson complete the team.

"I'd like to be able to look up and see the hallways of Texas Hall filled with screaming band members," said Hayes. "Come see us, and I promise you won't be disappointed."