

Handicapped slate tilt

Wonder how great a basketball player Bill Walton would have been if he had to lug some 20 pounds of metal around with him on the court?

You may not see Walton doing this feat any time soon, but you can see some people who do — UTA's wheelchair basketball team.

The Freewheelers are scheduled to play during halftime of an NTSU women's basketball game Wednesday night in Denton. UTA's contribution is primarily a demonstration designed to promote wheelchair basketball on college campuses.

The UTA group will be divided into a blue and a white section which will play each other for 10 minutes.

Jim Hayes, coordinator of the Educational Support Services Office here, says the men play basketball to demonstrate that the handicapped have just as much ability to do things as able-bodied individuals do.

"The primary purpose is to have fun and develop skills," Hayes said.

"These men are jocks at heart."

The statement can be proven by the

spring game schedule. Feb. 25 the Freewheelers will play the Dallas Raiders, a professional wheelchair basketball team.

In March the team plans to host a scrimmage game against the Wheelers of UT Austin. In April UTA will face a nemesis, the University of Houston, in Houston. UTA topped UH's Rolling Cougars 39-31 last year.

Hayes and his team had hoped to travel to Columbus, Ohio, in May for the NCAA Invitational Wheelchair Basketball Tournament but a lack of funds postponed the trip.

The team hopes to play September in the tentatively planned Governors Conference Cup tourney, a championship game for wheelchair basket-

ball squads in Texas.

Hayes predicts the team will increase ten times in skill and ability if the players keep progressing at their current rate.