



# Four-wheelers court sport

Two members of the wheelchair basketball team agree that playing is "improving their whole outlook on life."

Robert Ross, who was an athlete before he was involved in a motorcycle accident, finds basketball a worthwhile event.

Both Ross and David Thornton played wheelchair basketball even before coming to UTA.

UTA is the only university in the state, however, that offers basketball for credit to the handicapped.

Ross said the program has gotten him back into athletics and has helped him in day-to-day living.

"We want to set an example for UTA and to help the school out and ourselves," said Ross. "We can help the handicapped in the long run achieve their goals in physical education."

"Being the first wheelchair basketball team has given me a great incentive," he added. Ross, a freshman, said the only disadvantage in the program is "if people do not show up for the game."

Wheelchair basketball players have practiced two hours every Monday and Wednesday and extra time by themselves for the past month.

Jim Hayes, coordinator of special

support services for handicapped students, said the players follow no special regulations.

The basket is standard height, he said, and "if you don't pass, bounce or shoot the ball, and roll three times, you are penalized for traveling."

Ross noted that the participation has increased his self-confidence.

Thornton, junior business major, agrees with Ross on basketball being a great incentive.

Thornton was in a similar program at Tarrant County Junior College South Campus. He's an 80 per cent shooter.