

# The Full Court Press

USQRA Newsletter  
October 4, 2006  
Volume 1, Issue 3

## Color USA Gold

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- President's Soapbox
- Player Spotlight
- Committees
- International Scene

### TOP 20

1. Phoenix
2. Lakeshore
3. Texas
4. Hoveround
5. Denver
6. Cal Quake
7. Portland
8. Philadelphia
9. Kentucky
10. S. Cal OGs
11. U of A
12. Pasadena, TX
13. Tampa
14. Chicago
15. Northridge
16. Great Lakes
17. Sharp
18. Utah
19. Atlanta
20. St. Louis

BY JOHN ERSHEK AND STAFF

17 and 0. Perfect!

Starting out at the North America Cup, Team USA went 5-0 and then 5-0 at the Canada Cup. Overtimes, close games, they played their way to the top -10-0 heading into the World Wheelchair Rugby Championships.

Christchurch was going to be a challenge with all 12 teams having to play 7 games.

The Americans made their way through pool play 5-0 with surprising ease. The Kiwi's presented the best challenge, losing by 8. The best game of pool play saw Team Denmark upsetting Team Japan in 4 overtimes, winning by 1 point.

Great Britain and Canada also advanced along with host Team New Zealand to round out the final competitors for the semifinal games. Team GB also went 5-0 during pool play, barely winning by 1 point against Team Canada and Team Australia. This was the same final 4 as the World Championships in 2002, with the same match ups. Would this be Murderball 2?

Team Canada was beaten by Team USA in the first semi final game by 2. This game was a closely played match up between two teams that each had an opportunity to win.

The critical part of the game came in the 4th period. It occurred when USA's Bryan Kirkland came up with a huge save of a loose ball (as he seemed to do in many key moments all week). The only noticeable weakness of Team USA was exposed during this game, as they struggled to score on a couple of last goal opportunities. Would the winner of NZ and GB be



USA's Mark Zupan and Will Groulx send Kiwi Sholto Taylor flying. - Photo courtesy CorsonHarris Consulting

able to use this to their advantage?

In the other semi final, Team NZ won handily against Team GB. This set up the match ups for the last day of play. USA versus NZ for gold. GB versus Canada for bronze.

The final day of play showcased many great match ups. The upset of the day had Japan beating heavily favored Australia in the 5th place game. This win assured Team Japan a spot in the 2008 Paralympics. It also exposed some problems Australia needs to correct.

Team GB was no match for Team Canada in the bronze medal game. (con't page 2)



SMASHING STEREOTYPES ONE HIT AT A TIME

# The Full Court Press



PAGE 2 of 4

## Our National Sponsors:



## President's Soapbox

By [Ed Hooper](#)

Quad rugby is a tough game - emotions sometimes flare, and actions and words can run amuck.

With our season upon us and games again starting, we must all be careful of our conduct while playing this great game. The USQRA has a code of conduct that we expect all of our players, coaches, and volunteers to follow. We will enforce this conduct and make sure that anyone who steps over the line is held accountable.

We can and we will suspend for either flagrant or consistently inappropriate behavior. Those suspensions could be for as little as one game or as much as a full year - or in extreme cases, a lifetime ban.

We have an unwritten obligation to our sport and to those newly injured individuals who can use quad rugby, like many of us have, to make their lives better and fuller. We play a game that literally has saved people's lives. That's a pretty big deal, and an even bigger responsibility.

When you are in a situation where you are representing our league and our game, be smart. Be role models.

Have a great season, and play the game the way it was meant to be played.

## Sponsors Needed

The USQRA is looking for sponsors for the North American Wheelchair Rugby Challenge being held at Disney Wide World of Sports® near Orlando, FL on November 10-12, 2006.

Program ad-space is available.

Details: Call John Ershek (615) 294-8184.



## Color USA Gold

Continued from page one.

After coming in 2nd in the North America Cup and going 4-1 at the Canada Cup, GB ran out of gas. (GB protested quad amp Mark Fosbrook to try to get him a 3.5 classification. That protest was denied). Canada won in a low scoring possession game, 23-19, sending GB home once again without a medal in World play.

The gold medal game was played before a crowd of approximately 3000 people in spacious Westpac Centre. TV One broadcast the game throughout NZ and live over the internet. (When is American TV going to wake up?) Veteran player, Peter Martin provided excellent expert commentary.

Coach Gumbert had been going deep into his bench all week. The 4 deuce lineups were critical, playing stifling defense. He turned the Gold-medal game over to a rested Mark Zupan, Bryan Kirkland, Andy Cohn and Scott Hogsett in the 4th. They were as well rested as any team at that point of the tournament.

Dan Buckingham, Tim Johnson and the rest of their NZ mates played with the desire Coach Sharman wanted, but it was the depth and execution of Team USA that sealed the 30-34 victory.

The celebration erupted into cheers and hugs on the floor, joined by family, friends and fans, and the party continued at the banquet and late into the night.

Get the feed on the World's web site and watch the game (<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/536641/828157>). The few words we have here cannot do the game justice. Team USA had no turnovers in the gold medal game. It was an unbelievable performance at such a high level of play.

Heart, desire depth and execution had led Team USA to a 17 and 0 run.

Well done, mates. Well done.

# The Full Court Press



PAGE 3 of 4

## USQRA DEADLINES

**Sept. 15, 2006**

Players must notify former team of intent to transfer

**Oct. 1, 2006**

Team registration due  
Currently ongoing

Players transfer Requests Due to BOD

**Oct. 31, 2006**

Registration is LATE  
\$100 fine assessed

Last day to roster an international player

**Nov. 1, 2006**

Post season bids due

**Dec. 15, 2006**

Last day to roster a team or to add a player

For transferring players to produce proof of residency to the commissioner

Players must have played two games

## CLINICS

Virginia Beach, VA  
Oct. 6-8

Northridge, CA  
Oct. 20-22

Information?  
Contact  
[Wendy Gumbert](mailto:Wendy.Gumbert@usqra.org)

## Player Spotlight

**Seth McBride 2.0**  
**Portland Pounders**  
**Team USA 2006**

Seth has been playing quad rugby for 4 years. He was 17 and a senior in high school when he was injured. "I was on a summer trip skiing at Whistler, doing tricks when I over rotated a back-flip and landed on my neck," Seth recounts.

"I was in my freshman year at college in Oregon, looking online for disabled sports when I found the web site for the Portland Pounders. I went out to a practice, I've been doing it ever since."

He continues, "I've been an athlete all my life. Right after I was injured it was tough not having that as part of my life. Rugby's been great to get back in competition and training, burn off stress, basically everything that's good about physical activity."

When Seth isn't playing he reads, and writes. "I'm getting ready to apply to masters programs in non-fiction writing. I play harmonica, do a lot of handcycling, and I'm starting to get into road racing.



Photograph by: Kevin Bogetti-Smith

Other than that, I just hang out with my friends, try not to work, dream about winning Worlds. Now that I've starting playing with the national team there isn't really an off season, so my year is pretty much rugby, rugby, and a little

more rugby."

There's a lot Seth likes about the game: "The intensity of the game is miles above anything else that's going on in wheelchair sports right now. Travel and meeting people." But "the competition is what makes the training all worthwhile," he concludes.

After Worlds, Seth said, "To sit in a sports bar, drink a beer and watch yourself playing USA rugby on New Zealand National television after winning Gold, as Ed Suhr said, 'Well, this is just about perfect.'"

Yep, 17 and 0.

## Committee Watch

### Ref's Corner

**Equipment Timeout: The rule for equipment timeout reads as follows:**

If any part of a player's wheelchair or equipment malfunctions, becomes damaged, or requires some adjustment, he may request a stoppage in play. The referee will grant the stoppage as follows:

- If the equipment problem is placing anyone in danger, the referee shall stop play immediately.
- If there is no danger and the player is mobile, the referee shall stop play at the next stoppage in play.
- If there is no danger, the player is immobile, and the offensive team is not in a scoring position, the referee shall stop play immediately

d. If there is no danger, the player is immobile, and the offensive team is in a scoring position, the referee shall stop the play as soon as the current scoring opportunity has ended.

When an equipment time-out is granted, the affected player has one minute to resolve the problem. If the problem cannot be resolved in one minute, a time-out must be requested or another player must be substituted.

### Classifiers

To get a copy of the classification manual: click [IWRF manual](#)

For a classification clinic or a panel next season please contact [Lauren Rosen](#)

Questions? Contact [Trisha Suhr](#) or Lauren.

SMASHING STEREOTYPES ONE HIT AT A TIME

# The Full Court Press



PAGE 4 of 4

## International Tournaments

November 10-12

NORTH AMERICAN

Wheelchair Rugby Challenge

Disney Wide World of Sport®

near Orlando, Florida

## International Scene: 2 Coaches

To reword NBA coach Phil Jackson's basketball quote: "Not only is there more to life than quad rugby, there's a lot more to quad rugby than quad rugby."

Such was the World Championships, as Grant Sharman said, "a magnificent tournament... as a result the publicity of all disabled sport has been huge."

"Coach Gumbie did a great job, rotating his bench well and his athletes displayed a real urgency. I was very proud of my team and take away some great memories."

Sharman had many positive things to say, but offered a shorter version of his overall reaction: "Second sucks!"

Coach James Gumbert also praised at length the event and all the teams, especially his own team, their heart and desire.

"I was most nervous in our first game against Japan," he said, citing all that led team USA to this point. The first game!

"These guys played unselfishly and supported each other to a man." He told them all later to "cherish the moment because this particular team would never be together again."

Gumbert was very proud of his team and pointed to Andy Cohn as its rock. But Gumbie also knows it's a total team effort, including staff, volunteers, and fans.

Both Gumbert and Sharman also gave warning: "Watch out for Japan."

Sharman concluded, "Both teams share strong friendships and so we applaud their (USA's) win but we know there isn't much between us on a given day!"

This day it was the USA.

For information on how to obtain the latest coaching aid, follow this link

[2006 USQRA Coaches Manual](#)

## About the USQRA

The USQRA exists to provide support, structure, and opportunity for competitive wheelchair rugby to people with disabilities.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit At A Time we feel best captures the main message of our players and our sport. Quad rugby is a tough, give-no-quarter game. Our player's lives - their successes and trials on and off the court - are a continuous example of smashing stereotypes. The sport is testament to the spirit of our players, their humanity, and the intensity of our game.

We are here to help people get involved in the fastest growing wheelchair sport in the world.

## Our Sponsors

Sponsor	Contact
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