

The Full Court Press

USQRA Newsletter
December 4, 2006
Volume 1, Issue 4

Season's On

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Ten! Ten tournaments in October and November. That's up from 7 last year and 6 from 2004. That's growth.

The Chicago Bears, with new Canadian speedster Fabian Lavoie, are undefeated. The Bears won the Halloween Havoc in St. Louis, the Rugby Rage in Tucson, and capped it off by winning the Iron Horse Rumble in Milwaukee. Da Bears.

Interestingly, at the Rumble two women - 2.5 Kerri Morgan from St. Louis and 1.5 Anita Buntea from Michigan - won Best of Class. When has that happened? Morgan also took class honors at the Havoc. We welcome women ruggers to the league and wish them much continued success.

The Helter Skelter tournament in Vegas featured what most thought was the last stand for the California Quake. But the Quake is reborn, alive and well with Garrett Hickling returning as their international player, as Dave Willsie moves south to play with Northridge.

Two staple tournaments were held. The Andy Beck Classic and the Beast of the East. The Stampede won Andy Beck, but the real victor of this tournament is the USQRA with the Ruff Ryders back in action. Welcome back Garcias and company.

The Beast was won by Philadelphia A, which featured Adam Benschik and the core of the

D-II starters from last season. It was great to see New York, Connecticut and newcomer DC (the Capital Punishers) playing.

There was also the Steel City Slam that we don't have scores on yet, and, the Fall Brawl in Indianapolis where TNT was victorious over St. Louis. And it looks like the Buckeye Blitz got

their feet wet. We hope they officially have the fever.

Last but not least, the Best of the West was played for what must be in its 16th or 17th year. BOW was won by Phoenix after the Heat lost 2 games a week earlier at Disney, finishing 2nd there.

The season is on, and so is controversy over the 40-second clock. It's too soon to make judgments about the clock, but strong opinions are already forming. As we adapt to the strategy and play and tweak it where it needs tweaking, we feel we will come to embrace the speed and excitement the clock brings.

*National Championships: April 20-22, 2007
Louisville, KY. AGM: April 19, 2007.*



Kerri Morgan in action at the Havoc



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Our National Sponsors:



President's Message

By [Ed Hooper](#)

Our Commissioner, Tom Hamill, has had some health problems. We finally know he is okay and recovering.

Get better soon, Tom.

For now, mandated by our by-laws, I am acting Commissioner. However, we need solid experience at that job, especially at this critical part of the season. The board has asked Kevin Orr - a previous USQRA Commissioner - to be an ad hoc advisor to the board, and he will do most of the heavy lifting on commissioner duties.

Please submit questions, business and issues to both Kevin and me. He will respond and/or bring the matter to the board.

RACs you will be working with Kevin until we know Tom's is able to carry out his duties.

Please send all score sheets to Bob Crandall our Secretary.

'Friday Night Lights'

Check out the quad rugby on the new hit on NBC, Tuesdays at 8 ET. On the heels of *Murderball* comes this prime time show that features quad rugby as a competitive outlet for a young man who was spinal cord injured while playing football.

What a fine job Coach Gumbert and Texas have done advising on this great show.

http://www.nbc.com/Friday_Night_Lights/. Tell them what you think.

Post Season Sponsors Needed

The USQRA is looking for sponsors for post season. This is a great opportunity to support quad rugby.

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

Reports

[Secretary](#)

December 15 is the official deadline, but for all intent and purposes, USQRA team registration is complete.

There are a total of 39 teams up from 32 last season. We lost three teams, the Minnesota Ice, one of the original USQRA teams, the OGs and Albany. The Murderball effect is still working though as we added ten teams, some are reincarnations, others genuinely new. As it is, there will be 34 teams in the post season, so it looks good for four competitive eight team sectionals.

Playerwise, we have 463 registered players, with several teams carrying the full 15 player roster. Of the 29 players who transferred teams, only four players are ineligible for post season play as a result of transferring to a higher ranked team: Jeromy Brown from Minnesota to U of A Wild Cats, Eddie Crouch from TNT to Lakeshore, Kurt Lawton from Shepherd to the Wild Cats and Aaron Roux from Chicago to the Wild Cats. Finally, there are eleven registered international players.

Some of you might have noticed a changed look to the team rep and roster pages. This is a result of the work of Bobbie Fortune of [Fortune Technologies](#) who donated a major portion of her company's time spent integrating the website and the USQRA database. This process should lead directly to online registration next season

SCORESHEETS - Send them to me for now at the address listed at USQRA BOD on quadrugby.com. They will be scanned for easier reference.

Note: The new Top 20 will be compiled in the next few days after we get input from RACs and board approval.

Thank you everyone for all of your support. Contrary to what I was told, this is not a thankless job.

USQRA DEADLINES

Sept. 15, 2006

Players must notify
former team of
inventory transfer

Oct. 1, 2006

Team registration due

Currently ongoing

Player 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

Jan. 15, 2007

Team Transfers See
Section 6: Option to
Transfer

CLINICS

Seattle, Washington
December 8-10, 2006

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

Player Spotlight

Scott Hogsett 1.0 Phoenix Heat

Scott was injured in Idaho in 1993. He was top athlete in high school, competing in golf, racquetball and baseball. He was a wild risk taker, voted most likely to die before age 20 by his high school classmates. He broke his neck at a Super Bowl party at Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Just 6 months out of rehab Scott tried rugby. He liked it, but did not stick with it. After moving to Phoenix, he was approached by Eddie Alexander about playing for the local team. His first full season was 1996.

Quad rugby gave him a direction in life, focus and passion.

"I am a Paralympic athlete, a world class athlete. It would not have happened before my injury," he says. He loves the hitting, meeting all the people he has met, and competing against the best athletes from around the world.



This sport has also led to some amazing things for him. He is the captain, coach and general manager of the defending national champion Phoenix Heat. He is a starter for the 2006 World Champion Team USA.

"I am proud to be a member of this particular team. We are a family. We had 12 players that all wanted to win for one another. We had a ton of heart," he says with pride.

"Murderball is one of the coolest things I have ever done," Scott remembers. He did it to promote and increase the popularity of the sport. He really likes that the characters are shown as athletes and people, not just as inspirational figures.

Scott is now married. He works out year round, training in Lake Coeur d'Alene in the summer with handcycling, swimming, weightlifting and water skiing.

He also likes to kick back and have a few every now and then. He's a rugby player.

Committee Watch

Ref's Corner

Art 50. Physical Advantage: (This is a simple rule that often is misunderstood and challenged.)

A player may not touch the floor with any part of his body or any part of the chair except the four (4) wheels, and/or the anti-tip device on the back of the chair while contacting the ball.

Penalty: loss of possession.

Equipment Committee by Dan McCauley

Two important documents were recently released by the IWRF Technical Commissioner, Stan Battock. The first document is the IWRF's official ruling on bumper measurements for wheelchairs

used in the sport of Wheelchair Rugby. The second document is the IWRF Casebook for the sport of Wheelchair Rugby, and is provided as a reference to be used in conjunction with the Official Game Rules.

These documents can be downloaded from the IWRF web site www.iwrf.com in the File Library.

The bumper rule is effective 1/1/07.

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.

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International Tournaments

January 19-21,
2007

Coloplast International
Tampa, FL

See quadrugby.com
for the many International
tournaments
scheduled for 2007.

September 5-16,
2008

Paralympic Games
Beijing, China

USQRA BOARD

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Suggestions and
comments,
Contact:
Bob Crandall
Secretary

Ed Hooper
Editor

NAWRC Disney

“Can I take these silly mouse ears off now, Hoops?” Ask my smart-aleck pal Spokes Ableman.

“Spokes, you were asked to the North American Wheelchair Rugby Challenge to comment on the event, not take cheap shots at our fantastic Disney hosts.”

“Sorry. By the way, could you have chosen a longer name for this tournament?”

“Spokes, we had the top teams from Canada and the USA competing, please focus on the tournament.”

“Hoops, the tournament was action-filled. Upsets from the get-go. Denver shocking Phoenix and you Hoveround boys taking out BC. What a start.

“BC and Quebec didn’t have good weekends, but Ontario did well, losing a 1-point game in the semis to the eventual champs, Lakeshore. And Phoenix rebounded from a slow start and played in the Championship game.

“Hoops, what’s the deal with this shot clock controversy? Spokes asked.

“Don’t start, Ableman. Let’s just say it’s a work in progress.”

“Oh, really. Do you have a clock running on that?” Spokes grinned.

“Where was I?” Spokes continued. “Oh, yeah, the action. There were some weird goings-on. Texas had Ontario’s number, but the horns lost to Hoveround who in turn got their butts kicked by Ontario. No team escaped without a loss.

“Lakeshore played extremely well. Phoenix wasn’t thrilled with their performance, but did play for the title.

“Overall, Hoops, great action. Thanks to Disney Wide World of Sports and our great sponsors and volunteers. See you at Knock and Roll, and Conveen, Hoops.”

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

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[Click here](#) to be added to our mailing list.

Explore the USQRA web site quadrugby.com and [MURDERBALL](#)

SMASHING STEREOTYPES ONE HIT AT A TIME