

QUAD RUGBY NEWS

USQRA Newsletter
June 1, 2006
Volume 1, Issue 1

WHAT'S INSIDE

- President's Soapbox
- The Commish
- Committees
- Your Money
- 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

Phoenix/Magee Win D-I & D-II

By [Tom Hamill](#)

The USQRA needs to extend a huge round of applause to Kelly Gumbert and the Texas Stampede for producing an incredible National Championship Tournament. Despite incredible transportation logistical issues, the tournament went off without a hitch, everybody was well fed and the competitors were able to play some super rugby. When the dust settled, Phoenix Heat finished off a dream season winning Division 1 and Philadelphia's Magee Eagles followed the lead of Cal, Quake, Boston and Portland by winning Division 2 their second year in the championship game.



Marketing News

By [Jason Regier](#)

After a very busy last year we look forward to our new season. We will continue to keep the momentum from Murderball going with the new interest it has created in our sport. Our primary focus of the marketing committee is to develop materials that create interest and help promote our sport. We would like to develop marketing materials such as brochures and posters that our membership can use to promote rugby in their local area. If you have ideas or suggestions please forward those to me so I can take those ideas to the marketing committee.

How Are We Spending Your Money

By [John Ershek](#)

- \$6000 - Christopher Reeve foundation grant for rugby clinics. We have several requests.
- USQRA brochure.
- The USQRA taxes have been filed before the May 15th deadline.

We are doing a fundraising effort with state centers for independent living.



Photography by: Chris Lawson



SMASHING STEREOTYPES ONE HIT AT A TIME



Our National Sponsors:



President's Soapbox

By [Ed Hooper](#)

Say AGM and a typical response might be "boring" or "waste of time." And God knows we have had our dull moments. But the real response to AGM should be "necessary." The Annual General Meeting shapes our association and our game now and into the future. It's critical to the league and to each individual team. You need to be there if you can.

The USQRA is becoming progressive with things like a "score clock" and reducing women's point value by a half a point. Discussions about our league and its affiliation with the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF) take place and help shape the sport throughout the world. It's business. It's necessary.

There might also be a feeling by some that all we care about is the top teams and Team USA - that what you say doesn't matter. Trust me when I tell you that running each board position within the league takes up far too much time for anything else to be going on. Attend the AGM, join our committees, and you'll see that the forums are open, and that you do have a voice. Those who get involved make the decisions. True, it can be hard work and sometimes even "boring," but it's never a "waste of time." It is necessary. Come join us.

Developmental Grant Recipient

Kip Johnson, 0.5 for the Portland Pounders is due to receive a \$500 grant from the USQRA Developmental Fund to help him purchase a new rugby chair. He hopes to help the Pounders make the National finals.



Division II Champions - Magee Eagles

The Commish Report

By [Thomas Hamill](#)

The 2006-2007 season will see some changes to game play and the duties of USQRA members:

- The 40 second scoring clock will be implemented.
- Tournament hosts where an unregistered domestic team plays will be assessed a \$300 fee.
- Post-season hosts must submit bids by November 1. The USQRA will name tournament hosts for unbid tournaments.

Here is the preliminary list, as promised at the AGM:

Atlantic Sectional	Maine
Atlantic North	Connecticut
Atlantic South	Tampa
Heartland Sectional	Pittsburgh
Heartland North	Minnesota
Heartland South	Jackson
Mountain Sectional	U of A
Mountain West	Utah
Mountain Texas	Pasadena
Pacific Sectional	OGs
Pacific North	Quake
Pacific South	Northridge

QUAD RUGBY NEWS



PAGE 3 of 4

USQRA DEADLINES

Sept. 15, 2006

Players must notify former team of intent to transfer

Oct. 1, 2006

Team registration due

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

CLINICS

Albany, Georgia
Aug. 11-13

Omaha, Nebraska
Aug. 25-27 or
Sept. 22-24

Virginia Beach, VA
Oct. 6-8

Santa Barbara, CA
(TBD Summer)

To schedule a clinic or for more information, contact [Wendy Gumbert](mailto:Wendy_Gumbert)

Player Spotlight

Kevin Brown 2.0 St. Louis Rugby Rams

Kevin broke his neck in a motorcycle accident in 1993. "I flew down a steep embankment and when I reached the bottom I thought 'ok, this isn't that bad' that's when my motorcycle landed on top of me and broke my neck."

After being too busy 10-years earlier, Kevin met Coach Sue Tucker 3 1/2 years ago, and she talked him into coming out to a practice. He's been hooked ever since.

It's a long way to practice - 2 hours to St. Louis twice a week. But Kevin says it's been worth it: "I've met a lot of great people...players, volunteers and fans. I also completed my first triathlon."



When he's not banging, he spends time with his family. "I spend a lot of time with my daughter," he says. Kevin is a busy man. He co-owns a restaurant, writes books, is a professional speaker, and CEO of Shae Communications.

What does he like best about quad rugby? "I love being able to get out

there and just hit people hard and be an athlete, to feel my heart pumping and my arms burning. And always trying to figure out how to outsmart my opponent."

Committee Watch

Ref's Corner

Next season, (2006-2007), the USQRRR will be using the IWRFF rules that were released this past March with the following changes:

1. Team roster limited to 15 not 12 players.
2. Captain's arm band not required.
3. Uniform numbers are not restricted to numbers 1-15.
4. 40 second clock for offense to score.

Equipment

To create fair play and prevent controversial protests at Nationals, the Specs Committee took on the monumental task of checking all chairs prior to play.

We checked 133 chairs - half failed the first inspection. Biggest Violations:

1. Rear wheels spaced in, exposing less than 50% of the wheel width.
2. The 45 degree connection to the widest point of the front bumper. Some had bent over time, some had rough unsafe edges, and some were simply welded incorrectly.

We recommend the USQRA purchase the Vesco tool or something similar and provide these to all head officials.

We also recommend that each team have such a device.

We also recommend the chair checks by the referees be reinstated. This will greatly reduce these infractions.

Finally, we stress that it is ultimately the PLAYERS' responsibility to educate themselves on the rules and make sure their chair conforms to the rules.

Classifiers

In 2005-06, at 12 tournaments, we classed in 64 new athletes and made 5 athletes ineligible.

We were able to see 21 of 32 teams this season. We have been increasing the experience of our younger, less experienced classifiers, to give the USQRA a larger pool of experienced classifiers.

For your Information:

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

USQRA Policies and procedures are currently being revamped and will be available later this year.

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

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

QUAD RUGBY NEWS



PAGE 4 of 4

International Tournaments

June 16-18
NORTH AMERICA
CUP
Birmingham, AL

June 21-25
CANADA CUP
Vancouver, BC

September 7-17
WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS
Christchurch,
New Zealand

USQRA BOARD

Ed Hooper
President

Tom Hamill
Commissioner

Lynn Nelson
1st Vice President

Jason Regier
Vice President

John Ershek
Treasurer

Suggestions and
comments,
Contact:
Bob Crandall
Secretary

Ed Hooper
Editor

International Scene

By [Lynn Nelson](#)

A few questions for Team USA Head Coach James T. Gumbert:

What are your thoughts on the group of athletes trying out for the 2006 World Championships?

Gumbie: I am very excited. We have a mixture of experience with 3 players with 2 Paralympics under their belts, 6 with 1 Paralympic experience and 15 others with either World Championship or World Game experience. With that type of experience it boils down to execution and team cohesiveness as far as selection is concerned. Each of the players has a chance to make the upcoming international squad that will compete in June and September. It is up to them to earn a spot and build towards the future of Team USA Paralympic Rugby.

What are your expectations for the upcoming tournaments for Team USA?

Gumbie: My expectations: 1. Play as a team, 2. Develop team chemistry, 3. Win all three tournaments.

What are your thoughts on limiting the Paralympic rosters to 11 men and 1 woman?

Gumbie: I am against it. I have always believed that you EARN a spot on a team. Team USA has never discriminated against anyone because of race, creed, color, or gender. You are selected based on your abilities to play rugby. I feel that if a female in the United States is able to play at the same level as her male counterpart, then she should be considered for the team.

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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Check out the [MURDERBALL](#) site

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

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