

# QUAD RUGBY NEWS

USQRA Newsletter  
August 1, 2006  
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## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Ableman's Soapbox
- The Commish
- Committees
- Spotlight
- 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

## TEAM USA 10-0 IN CUP PLAY

BY JOHN ERSHEK AND ED HOOPER

Welcome back, Team USA! Having just completed the North America and Canada Cups, in Birmingham, Alabama and Vancouver, B.C., Team USA rugby looks ready for the world stage.

The newest version of Team USA went 10-0 during these two tournaments, winning both Cups.

Perhaps the results can best be summed up by Team USA member Scott Hogsett: "This team is gelling much more than the team we had in Athens. All 12 guys on this team, every one of them wants to win for each other. This team has heart."

Most players say that the World Championships will be a 5 to 6 team race. And Coaches agree.

"Team USA is looking very strong," says Great Britain coach Joe Soares. "But

### Name the Newsletter

Name the Newsletter and win a USQRA polo shirt. Come up with a name and submit it to [Bob Crandall](#). Be clever. Be obvious. Whatever. We want the best name.

Germany played the US a 1-point game... Australia beat us, and the Kiwis got better and better."



Team USA players pressure the ball against Team New Zealand  
Photo courtesy Kevin Bogetti-Smith

In team USA's final in Vancouver, it took 3 overtimes before Team USA beat Team New Zealand 49-48.

Hogsett says, "All the teams in the world have gotten better. Playing all the close

games we had to play...brought us closer together as teammates. We can play any style of rugby and find a way to win."

So, who is the team to beat in Christchurch in September? New Zealand, playing at home and reigning Paralympic gold medalists, will be very tough.

"You can throw a blanket over the top 5-6 teams with any one on their day able to come through and win," says New Zealand coach Grant Sharman.

Continued on Page 4



# QUAD RUGBY NEWS



PAGE 2 of 4

## Our National Sponsors:



## Ableman's Soapbox

By [Spokes Ableman](#)

Happy to report, the Prez has been benched. He's too politically correct these days. All his PC-ness got me to thinking about what the international rugby boys might be saying publicly about one another, and then what they might really be thinking/saying. So, I went through an exercise in discovery. Now, I admit to making up these little ditties, but I wonder... . Oh yeah, I am not allowed, by penalty of having to watch Hooper play quad rugby, to divulge who's who.

Here goes:

**What's said:** He's the best rugby head in the game today.

**What's thought:** *I'd like to tattoo the Union Jack on the top of his dome with an ice pick and hot ink.*

**What's said:** Great job of coaching what most are calling "the team to beat."

**What's thought:** *I'd like to break off one of those steer horns and put it where the sun don't shine.*

**What's said:** Great team chemistry and amazingly quick studies.

**What's thought:** *Put them all in the next Peter Jackson movie and have them learn the lines to Frodo Coughs Up the Ring.*

**What's said:** Tough job taking over an accomplished team and keeping the ship righted.

**What's thought:** *Take the whole lot of 'em, put 'em in a barrel, and send 'em over Niagara Falls. Bon Voyage, eh!*

Obviously no one will ever be able to figure whose being referenced here, so there are no worries about offending anyone. But Mr. Chicken insists on a disclaimer, so here

**goes:** All characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

If you must know who's who, contact [Bob Crandall](#).

## 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.



There is a Name Sponsorship still available whereby the tournament will be named for your company. There are also Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsorships available.

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

## The Commish

By [Thomas Hamill](#)

I join everybody in the USA Rugby community in saying way to go Team USA. Now bring back the gold!

It's exciting that we're hearing about several new teams forming and not about teams folding.

Also, the Summer Blast phenomenon has been joined by a well attended event in Atlanta and what looks to be a big three day event in Philadelphia.

Remember going into the season: Any player rostered on a team in 2005-06 who moves to a new team in 2006-07 will be considered to be transferring, even if the 2005-06 team does not register this year. The old team must be notified of the transfer by September 15. Notify me by email within the next two weeks at [USQRACommish@hotmail.com](mailto:USQRACommish@hotmail.com) Also remember that a transferring player must establish residency within 150 miles of the new team. Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you this season.

# 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

Park City, Utah  
Aug. 4-6  
Albany, Georgia  
Aug. 11-13  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Aug. 25-27  
Santa Barbara, CA  
Sept. 8-10  
Omaha, Nebraska  
Sept. 22-24  
Missoula, Montana  
Sept. 29-Oct. 1  
Virginia Beach, VA  
Oct. 6-8  
Northridge, CA  
Oct. 20-22  
Information? Contact  
[Wendy Gumbert](#)

## Player Spotlight

**Eric Anderson 1.5**

**Magee Eagles**

Eric started playing quad rugby 8 years ago. A physical therapist told him about rugby; he tried it and he liked it.

Now 27, E, as he's known by his teammates, is a computer help desk technician. He lives in South Philly, single but looking. Eric sees a family and a new house in his future.

"My best memory in rugby is winning Division 2," Eric says. He's shown here (left) in the Championship game trying to stop OG's Dean MacCabe. And he has lots of other good rugby memories, including the first tournament he went to in North Carolina.



©Paralyzed Veterans of America/  
*Sports 'n Spokes*, photo by Mark Cowan

They won!

It hasn't all been upside, though. "My biggest disappointment was not making Team USA Rio." But he still wants to try out again and make Team USA Beijing.

"My most embarrassing moment in rugby is when I went to get a ball above my head and my tricep gave out and hit my head."

List of Favorites: Old School, Life of Pi (book), Family Guy, Pearl Jam.

If Eric had to name one teammate as most valuable, he says, "Adam Benschik."

## Committee Watch

### Ref's Corner – Bob Lopez

The rule for Leaving the Court (Art. 93) reads as follows:

- A player may not leave the court when the ball is dead unless permitted by the referee or other articles of the rules.
- A player who does not have the possession of the ball may not leave the court deliberately or to gain an advantage when the ball is live. He may leave the court to avoid an injury to himself or others. If circumstances cause him to leave the court, he must return to the court at the point nearest to where he exited. When he returns, he may not gain an advantage he did not have while on the court, and he may not reclaim any advantage he lost by leaving the court.
- A player whose team does not have the possession of the ball may not leave the court by crossing his goal line for any reason, unless the play is far removed from the key area.
- A player whose teammate has possession of the ball may not leave the court by crossing the opposing team's

goal line for any reason. Penalty - Loss of possession for offense, penalty box for defense.

### Equipment Committee

by Bob Crandall

FYI - Offensive chairs with wings that extend beyond the width at the 11cm height have been questioned re: IWRF rule §4, Article 29a.

Also: Defensive chairs with "flat T" pickers that curve seamlessly into the 45° connecting bar-IWRF rule §4, Article 28l.

The USQRA is working with the IWRF to clarify these rules.

### Classifiers

To get a copy of the classification manual: click [IWRF 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

September 7-17  
WORLD  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Christchurch,  
New Zealand

November 10-12  
NORTH AMERICAN  
Wheelchair Rugby  
Challenge  
Disney World  
Orlando, Florida

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Suggestions and  
comments,  
Contact:  
Bob Crandall  
Secretary

Ed Hooper  
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## International Scene

### Continued From Page 1

He added, "USA would have to start as tournament favorites, and deserve their new number one ranking."

Team Canada is quiet - maybe too quiet. We asked for a comment on Worlds, but received nothing back.

Team USA coach James Gumbert has set the bar as high as it can go.

"We came into these 2 tournaments (Cups) with very high goals," he said. "And through teamwork, effort, belief in one another, and never quitting, accomplished our first step in a long path to World Championship Gold.

"The work in front of us - while daunting - is what drives us daily to push, pass, and pick our way to bringing it home."

Hogsett too has no illusions, "We will be tested mentally and physically in a very hostile environment. It will take all 12 players to win. Our goal is to win the gold."

Will Team USA win the gold? That will be decided on the court. They will be traveling to Birmingham for a long training camp in August. They will certainly be ready for the challenge in September as they prepare for it in the USQRA Heartland. Not a bad place for a team full of heart.

So, the stage is set - the rivalries firmly in place. There is no love lost between some of these teams and players. The best in the world are converging, and there is only one Gold Metal.

Next stop: Christchurch.

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

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

**SMASHING STEREOTYPES ONE HIT AT A TIME**