

# The Full Court Press

USQRA Newsletter  
February 1, 2007  
Volume 2, Issue 1

## Rollin' Forward

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### TOP 20

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

The tournaments are stacking up and the post-season picture gets a little clearer.

U of A and St. Louis have transferred into the Atlantic Section. This year Denver did not transfer, but will stay in the Mountain Section.

With perennial powers Texas and Phoenix in that section as well, it should be very interesting.

Albany held its first ever tournament, the Southwest Georgia Cup won by Lakeshore's Developmental team. Meanwhile, up in Connecticut, it was great to see Maine, New York and Connecticut banging. Magee (Philly) won the tourney.

Da Bears are still undefeated, winning the RIC tournament in Chicago. The five-team round robin had St. Louis, Minnesota, Great Lakes, and Milwaukee competing.

The Pasadena Open was a hotly contested tournament with Denver coming out on top. Crown Rugby had a good showing. Tampa played well, but lost a one-point game to Pasadena who had a solid tournament.

*Sorry, we don't have Columbus Collision results.*

Shepherd is back hosting full tournaments thanks in large part to Amy Bohn. Michigan swept almost everything - including first place and 4 out of the 5 Best of Class awards with Erica Schmutz voted to the All Tournament Team. The women are really excelling this year, especially in the Heartland.



Willsie hawks Kearley Photo: Debbie Thatcher

This year's Knock & Roll in South Florida had European visitors with the #2 seeded German National Team making their first appearance. After a relatively easy game against Tampa, the Germans struggled to a 4 point victory against a very spirited #3 seed London (Ontario)

team on opening day. In day-two action, Germany beat Magee and were put to the test in the crossover game, narrowly beating the injury depleted Hoveround Gunners.

Lakeshore rolled through all competition winning its five games and the tournament by an average of almost 15 goals (*excerpt from John Bishop web story*).

As we know, these tournaments don't run themselves. Great job by all you dedicated volunteers who make these events happen.

**Special props to the 19 athletes who made Team USA. Congratulations all!**

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



## Our National Sponsors:



## President's Soapbox

By [Ed Hooper](#)

Hate the 40-second clock? Love international players? Don't like Team Transfers? Want to get your proposal in at the AGM? Proposals are due in to the Secretary before March 1, 2007 (Note: Constitution proposals: Feb 20, 2007).

It's a little different this year. An AGM proposal form (on the web) will need to be filled out for consideration. It will require you to identify if your proposal amends the constitution or amends the bylaws.

- Will it change a rule or is it a resolution (sets a short term policy)?
- You must Identify the specific provision that will be changed.
- Check if the proposal only adds language or if current language will be removed.
- State the language of the proposal.
- Finally, state the reason the proposal should be passed.

We decided to do this because some proposals have been incomplete. People would make proposals without reviewing what was on the books and how the rules got there. The best proposals are those that are detailed and well thought out. Following the above will help do that.

So, if you have a beef or just want to propose innovative ideas and changes to the USQRA, now is your chance.

The AGM is the place to voice your views. We want to hear them. We need to hear them. We need you at the AGM!

## 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

The Commish by Tom Hamill

Team transfers for postseason were completed on January 16. This year four teams applied for a transfer and University of Arizona and St. Louis exercised the option to transfer, both transferring to the Atlantic Section. The transfer process allows any team the option to transfer upon paying a \$50 fee. On transfer day, the teams get to choose a Region to transfer to in the order that they are ranked. A team can decide not to exercise the transfer option.

What looks to be another exciting postseason will start the weekend of February 23-25 in Saginaw, Michigan with the Heartland North Regional.

Make sure your chairs are legal before you play. Sectionals will follow

March 2-4 in Montgomery, Alabama and Vancouver, Washington; March 9-11 in Birmingham, Alabama; and March 23-25 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Nationals will be in Louisville, Kentucky April 20-22. Don't forget to send a representative to the AGM on April 19 as decisions are made there that will affect your team. I expect there will be proposed rule changes regarding the 40 second clock.

## Keep the "Lights"

Wednesdays at 8PM *Friday Night Lights* is on. This is great TV. It gives people a look at disability and quad rugby like nothing nothing else that's ever been on the tube.

Tell your family, tell your friends to watch because, while the critical acclaim has been overwhelming, the ratings are not what they could be right now.

So, watch the show, and go to [www.nbc.com](http://www.nbc.com) and tell them what you think. Keep those lights lit.

## USQRA DEADLINES

**Sept. 15, 2006**

Players must notify former team of intent to 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 bus 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

Information?  
Contact  
Wendy Gumbert

## Player Spotlight

**Ryan Kress**  
**Tampa Generals**

Ryan, 21, is the starting high-pointer for the Tampa Generals. He lives in the Tampa Bay area with girlfriend Brandi and their 2 1/2-year old daughter Serena. The couple are expecting their second child soon.

He was born in St. Louis, Mo., and contracted polio from the vaccine when he was two months old. He is one of the last post-polios playing quad rugby.

Ryan says, "Growing up I was the manager for the basketball team in middle school, always a huge baseball fan, and of course I have always loved football. I found rugby after High School - sitting at home bored I looked



Photo courtesy of Justin Stark

up wheelchair sports, and there it was!

"Since my first time in a chair I knew that this was the sport for me. The best thing about rugby for me is the ability to compete at a high level with other world class athletes."

Ryan has been playing now for 5 years and he works very hard to get to the next level.

His goal: "I have dreams of playing on the national team someday."

As much as he wants it, that dream could easily become a reality. *(In the photo here he protects the ball from the Phoenix Heat).*

## Committee Watch

### Ref's Corner

1. International Players: At the 2006 AGM, a rule was passed adopting the International Classification System. International Players will play with their International Classification Card, not a USQRA card. We will be collecting all USQRA cards from the players who already have them.

2. Female players: A rule was passed to lower female classifications 0.5. To avoid confusion, temporary cards will be issued with the "new" classification on them.

### Equipment Committee by Bob Crandall

Article 28: Bumper

l. There must be a bar connecting the bumper to the main frame of the wheelchair

extending from the widest point of the bumper. This connection must be straight, and must be made at an angle of 45° or greater to the bumper and to the main frame, measured in the horizontal plane as viewed from above.

[My note - But this does not require that the connection itself be in the horizontal]

### Classifiers

If you need help or clarification on rules stated in this issue's Ref's Corner, contact Lauren or Trisha.

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

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

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

## International Tournaments

See [quadrugby.com](http://quadrugby.com) for the many International tournaments scheduled for 2007.

September 5-16, 2008

Paralympic Games  
Beijing, China

## USQRA BOARD

Ed Hooper  
President

Tom Hamill  
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1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

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Suggestions and  
comments,  
Contact:  
Bob Crandall  
Secretary

Ed Hooper  
Editor

## Coloplast

“Well, Germany was there and some Molson-eyed deuces from Canada, but other than that the international teams were no shows,” said Spokes Ableman, my smart-aleck pal.

“It’s an off year, Spokes. Paralympics are in 08 so this tournament and others will have more international flavor next year.”

“This was pretty good though, Hoop. 5 of the top 6 were in Tampa battling. My God, Portland picked up Steve Pate and Ian Chan. Isn’t that illegal?”

“No, Spokes, it’s not illegal.”

“Well, it should be!” Spokes blurted.

“Hey Hoop, no 40-second clock? How are you guys going to get ready to play that in Louisville? I saw Lakeshore play Key down in West Palm, and you couldn’t find enough room between those big bodies to fit a small child, otherwise a rugby chair.

“Anyway,” Spokes continued, “Coloplast was won by Phoenix who flexed their muscles big time, but the tournament created more questions than answers. Portland played a great game against Hoveround, but went on to lose 3 of the next 4. Hoveround beat Texas for the second time this season, but lost 3 themselves.

“Denver played extremely well, but it took them 4 OT’s to beat those Deuces Wild from Canada. A loss there would have dropped them down. Point is: they won.

“Phoenix looks tough and if things don’t change much the rest of the season, it will again be Lakeshore / Phoenix as post-season favorites.”

“Are you finished, Ableman?”

“Yep, except to compliment Justin Stark, Tampa, and its volunteers for putting on another awesome tournament.

For information on how to obtain the latest coaching aid, follow this link  
[2006 USQRA Coaches Manual](#)

## About the USQRA

The United States Quad Rugby Association 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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Explore the USQRA web site [quadrugby.com](http://quadrugby.com) and [MURDERBALL](#)