

US National Team Dominates Canada Cup - Beijing Up Next

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Canada Cup MVP Will Groulx #10 and Bryan Kirkland #14 pressure New Zealand's Tim Johnson Photo by Bogetti-Smith

The US National Team is a team no one will beat by 3 plus points. Won't happen. Try running with these boys and you'll lose. The more possessions they have, the larger their margin of victory will be. Team Canada has known this for years, going back to the 2002 World Championships and the 2004 Athens Paralympics.

In Birmingham, AL, at the North American Cup this June, Canada employed that same strategy and won 32-31 in overtime, the first loss for the US in over 2 years (see quadrugby.com Scoreboard).

The following week the team headed to Vancouver for the Canada Cup, where Australia, Japan, Great Britain, New Zealand, Germany, and Canada were set to do battle.

After watching that action on xable.com, it became crystal clear why this team is so dominant. I don't know what their depth chart looks like, but players 8 through 11 could win Gold. That's how deep they are. Depth and pressure, add lightning

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Setting up our web site has been a gargantuan task. The design and getting it working right is one thing, but migrating over 12 years of info from old to new is even bigger. We have volunteers - mainly Chris Rathke and Bob Crandall - working on that and can only ask for your patience in this labor-intensive transition.



There's a **Players Corner** set up that requires a password, otherwise spammers find their way in. Go there! Take the time to sign up and sign in. Be members.

There's also a section devoted to the US National Team. Check it out. Sign up. The team loves to hear from family, friends, and fans. So go to the Forum and root them on.

The old site set a large footprint. We are trying to fill it. If you have input, contact Jason Regier or Bob Crandall.



The Commish

New Rules

The IWRF passed several rule changes in June. The USQRA Board has adopted these changes for the 2008-09 season in order to remain consistent with IWRF play.

Mechanical Advantage: Devices that provide a mechanical advantage in holding the ball are illegal. It is the USQRA's understanding and the referees have been instructed that this rule outlaws any device that impedes the ball from being swatted off a player's lap.

12 Seconds: Time to cross halfcourt has been reduced to 12 seconds. The count starts on possession, not touch. "Possession" would be the same as required to score.

Timeouts: Teams are allowed four 30 second timeouts per game as well as two one minute bench timeouts.

Quarters: Time between quarters and overtime periods has been extended to two minutes.

Equipment Time Outs: No substitutions are allowed on equipment timeouts except to replace the player needing the timeout if he or she cannot continue.

Inbounds: Players may now bounce or drop the ball before inbound, as long as the inbinder is the last thing the ball touches before it is inbound.

Equipment Protests: A team that unsuccessfully challenges equipment will be assessed a technical foul and charged a timeout. If the penalized team has no timeouts available, a second consecutive technical foul will be assessed.

Flagrant Fouls: The flagrant foul penalty is increased to be served as one regular and two technical fouls, consecutively. A yellow and red card system is also implemented. Two yellow cards in a tournament or a red card result in a one game suspension. The definition of flagrant (yellow card) and disqualifying (red card) fouls is unchanged.

Finally, the IWRF joins the USQRA in reducing the classification of female players and implementing the 40 second clock. It should be a fun season!

Treasurer Report

John Ershek

Hello everyone. I want to thank all the sponsors we had from last season: Coloplast, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Eagle Sportschairs, RAM, Astra Tech, The Roho Group, Spinerger, Fusion Medical and NuprodX. I would also like to thank Xable for their commitment to the sport.

If anyone knows of any new sponsors we can contact, please let me know.

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Links FYI

[Code of Ethics and Complaint Procedure for USQRA](#)

[Deadlines](#)

[AGM Minutes](#)

[Constitution and By-Laws](#)

[Grant Info](#)

Interested in joining the dynamic team updating the web site? contact: [Jason Regier](#).

All Links and Rugby Store

@

[quadrugby.com](#)

[Murderball DVD here.](#)

CLINICS

[2008-09 Clinic grant application](#)

Information? Contact [Wendy Gumbert](#)

Chuck Aoki is a bright young guy with aspirations of play on the US National Team in 2010 and 2012. He is only 17, still in high school, but he seems a lot older when you talk to him.

Chuck has Hereditary Sensory Autonomic Neuropathy Type II - one of 500 with this neuropathy in the world. It has wrecked havoc with his bones, and he has no sensation from both his elbows and knees down.

“When I saw the movie Murderball, I was intrigued to see if I could qualify. I’ve played basketball since I was 7 and played on the 2008 National Junior Championship team,” Chuck said.

“I went to a Northstar practice. After that first practice, I was hooked,” he added.

The basketball explains why, with only a little more than a year of playing quad rugby, Chuck plays at such a high level (Best



heal some nagging injuries and then get right back at it.”

That’s what it takes to play at the next level. Chuck is a player to watch now and for years to come.

He asked that the USQRA look at doing more in establishing something for younger players - a junior league like basketball.

of Class D-II).

Chuck likes hanging out with friends, movies, and music. He also follows his favorite Minnesota teams: Twins, Timberwolves, Vikings, Wild.

And what does he like best about quad rugby? “I like the intensity of the game - the toughness. The fact that it is so physical challenges you to be tough.

“After the season is over, I rest for a couple of weeks to

Treasurer (Cont from 2) - I want to thank all the post-season hosts and their volunteers, especially Alice Krauss/Brooks Bandits, A.J. Nanayakkarra/Magee Foundation, Debbie Meyers/NCSCIA, Jason Regier/Denver Harlequins, Elisabeth Slator/CSUN Foundation, Brett Harbage/OWAA, Jeff Coupie/Michigan Sports Unlimited, Karey McDowell and Jill Farmer/Jewish Hospital and Frazier Rehab (Nationals).

The Finance Committee is working on a Quickbooks project and a Grant proposal project. Thanks to Wimsey Cherrington, Max Woodbury, Birdie Dapples and Mary Dickinson for all their help.

It has been my privilege to serve as the

USQRA Treasurer for the past five seasons. My love and passion for the sport has grown in the 15 years I have been associated with it, as a coach, referee, equipment manager and Board member. Although I will continue to support the growth of the sport, I will be stepping down as treasurer following this upcoming season. I would like to encourage everyone out there with an equal love and passion for this great sport to entertain the idea of serving as the new treasurer for the league. It is time for the new generation of players, coaches, support staff, referees and classifiers to join the Board and help carry the torch. The future lies in your hands.

International News Tournaments

SEE

iwrf.com

www.cwsa.ca

wheelblacks.com

quadrugby.com

September 5-16, 2008

Paralympic Games
Beijing, China

Links to Coverage
(BBC and ABC
blacked out in US)

BBC

ABC (Australia)

ParalympicSport TV

fast speed, size and power, and that spells dominance. Who can beat them? Well, Canada, for one. And at that level of play, any team can rise to the occasion on a given day. Stuff happens, especially in sports. So, no one is counting any chickens here, but after watching this team at the Canada Cup, they are going to be extremely tough to beat in Beijing. They crushed an excellent New Zealand team in the Cup final 44-31 and no one else got closer than 5. That's dominance!



US Team: Canada Cup, Vancouver – Photo Bogetti-Smith

The Players: Jason Regier 0.5, Scott Hogsett 1.0, Norm Lyduch 1.0, Andy Cohn 2.0, Will Groulx 2.0, Bryan Kirkland 2.0, Seth McBride 2.0, Nick Springer 2.0, Chance Sumner 3.0, Mark Zupan 3.0, Joel Wilmoth 3.5.

The Staff: James Gumbert, Ed Suhr, Patty Cornelious, Jim Murdock, Marty Frierson, Kelly Schwan, Robert Murray. Goin' for Gold!

Click for information on how to obtain the latest coaching aid:
[2006 USQRA Coaches Manual](#)

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

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

About Us

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 is the main message of our players and our sport. Quad rugby is a tough, give-no-quarter game. Our players' lives - their successes and trials on and off the court - are a continuous example of smashing stereotypes. The sport is about ability and competitive fire. It is testament to the spirit of our great athletes, 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.

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