

# Clinics: Our Lifeblood

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These photos (by Char Meigs) are snapshots of the Seattle Referee and Classifier clinic held in October. Everyone who plays quad rugby

seriously has been at a clinic. They are the lifeblood of our sport along with exhibitions of the game. Now, these things don't just happen. Like tournaments, they require a ton of work and another ton of dedication to our sport. This is where players, refs, and classifiers learn the basics. This is that



training ground. (cont pp 4)

(Big photo: Ref Andy Miller points to chair as Kelli Kaliszewski and others look on. Left: Andy counts Just above Trisha Suhr and Paul Sawicki observe)



## Prez Soapbox

Well, the season is cooking right along. We've had 16 tournaments contested since October. Because clinics are the featured news in this issue, go to [quadrugby.com](http://quadrugby.com) to get caught up on all the scores and standings. D-I and D-II should be great!

A big factor in reporting tournaments is getting the scores from tournament directors. Please make getting those scores and score sheets into Bob Crandall a priority. People are interested. Also, when you are hosting a tournament or clinic, take some photos. Send them to me or Bob and we will post them on the web and use what we can or the newsletter. It's up to all of us to spread the good news, and photos and scores go a long way in accomplishing that.

The talk already this season is Riley Batt (shown right) and Sharp. Not since the Shimakawa-buzz have we heard such a commotion. Put Batt on the floor with Andy Cohn and Brent Poppin, a solid low-pointer like Paul Richardson, and clearly that's something to buzz about.



Photo by Kevin Bogetti-Smith

Changing the subject, I thought the NBC hour and a half coverage of the Paralympics was very disappointing. Nothing on quad rugby. It was more human interest, inspirational stuff. Please, NBC, these sports are all contested by highly trained athletes. First, cover us. Second, cover us accurately. Thankfully, Universal Sports (affiliated with NBC) and Paralympicsport.TV stepped up. Obviously the goal of us all is to break quad rugby and disability sport into the mainstream. Now, we must convince NBC and whoever else to give us that opportunity.

## Ref's Corner

Andy Miller

Congratulations to Steve Wagner who re-certified in Seattle! Welcome new refs Steve Campbell and Kevin Bowie in the Pacific and Alex Drummond, Gary Pate and Crystal Royall in the Heartland.

The Regional Area Contacts are as follows:

Atlantic: Marianne Duda [duda@mindspring.com](mailto:duda@mindspring.com) (704) 893-4553

Heartland: Mitch Carr [mcarr1@rehabchicago.org](mailto:mcarr1@rehabchicago.org) (312) 765-0562.

Mountain: Genny Marshall [Genny.marshall@memorialhermann.com](mailto:Genny.marshall@memorialhermann.com) (832) 816-7179.

Pacific: Kelli Kaliszewski [kellirugby1@hotmail.com](mailto:kellirugby1@hotmail.com) (858) 336-7048 .

## Classification

Trisha Suhr

I want to remind teams of a few things: All international players must have their IWRP cards to play.

Females must get their card with a self addressed stamped envelope to me ASAP, you are not allowed to play with your card and a sticker. If you are over 45, you get your sticker from Tom Hamill, with the appropriate paperwork.

I am currently reviewing all rosters and we are working hard to get panels around the country. Thus far, we have had panels at tournaments in Seattle, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, New England and San Diego. We are looking at getting tournaments in Jacksonville and Las Vegas. If you are interested in having a panel at your tournament please contact me at [trishasuhr@aol.com](mailto:trishasuhr@aol.com).

Trisha Suhr: USQRA Classification Committee, chairperson

### Links FYI

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

[AGM Minutes](#)

[Constitution and By-Laws](#)

[Team Grant Info](#)

[Players Grant Info](#)

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

**All Links and Rugby Store**  
@  
[quadrugby.com](#)

Nick contracted a bacterial blood infection when he was 14 years old and began playing rugby while still in high school in the NYC area. He moved to Florida to attend Eckerd College and graduates next year with a degree in Communications. He's played with the Hoveround Gunners for five years.

Nick describes his relationship to rugby, "It's more than just a sport - it's a lifestyle. When I was first hurt I hated rehab, but when I oriented it with sports, it changed that. Rugby allows me to travel, have new experiences, lots of friends around the world, has enriched my life, and is a lot of fun."

He has dedicated his life to rugby, given a lot to the sport, and it has paid off - he is rewarded when he watches newly-injured players' faces light up when they take their first hit, when he motivates and inspires the kids he works with in clinics because



he knows how hard it is to grow up using a wheelchair, and when he brings gold home from Beijing with Team USA.

Trivia question: Who has the distinction of owning the first Vesco chair ever made? Answer: that would be Nick. Back when Neil Vesco was still working with Colors and VMC was just starting up, Nick and Neil collaborated on that chair's design, and Nick has been playing in Vesco chairs ever since.

When he isn't on the court or studying, Nick likes to fish, scuba dive, meet new people and to travel. He's also been known to dance while warming up before a game.

Nick has come a long way from his first memorable hit. Now he's a role model for rookies: a successful guy having a really good time with rugby!

## Team/Player Deadlines

See Bylaws and Constitution for details.

**10.1.08:** Team Registration due.

- Player transfer requests due to BOD.

**10.31.08:** Registration is LATE \$100 fine assessed.

- Last day to roster an international player.

**11.1.08:** Post season bids due.

**12.15.08:** Last day to roster a team or to add a player .

- For post season eligibility: players must have played two games (see 2.15.09 below).

- Last day for transferring players to produce proof of residency to the commissioner.

**1.15.09:** Post season team transfers.

- Last day to withdraw from post season.

**2.15.09:** Players must have two games played in two different tournaments.

### CLINICS

[2008-09 Clinic grant application](#)

Information? Contact  
[Wendy Gumbert](#)

**International  
News  
Tournaments**

SEE

[iwrf.com](http://iwrf.com)

[www.cwsa.ca](http://www.cwsa.ca)

[wheelblacks.com](http://wheelblacks.com)

[quadrugby.com](http://quadrugby.com)

**USQRA  
Tournament  
Results**

**USQRA  
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Suggestions and  
comments,  
Contact:  
Bob Crandall  
Secretary

Ed Hooper  
Editor

And experienced players take it to the next level at advanced clinics.

Who is responsible for these quad rugby workshops/training clinics? Well, they're hosted at locations across the country by various teams and staffed by elite instructors. USQRA clinic grants help, and the hosts dig into their pockets and tap their sponsors to fund the rest. Five clinics were held this year.

The mother of rugby clinics in the USQRA is Wendy Gumbert. I had no clue how



much work, coordination, and dedication she put into clinics until I got involved with the USQRA board. Wendy is in the Hall of Fame in no small measure because of her years of service to this effort.

Huge thanks to Wendy, the clinic hosts, and to all of the instructors: the referees, classifiers, players and coaches who come out and give of themselves to keep our sport thriving.



Director Wimsey Cherrington takes some video of the clinic.

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](http://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.

## Our Sponsors

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