

**WHAT'S
INSIDE**

- D-II
- Player Spotlight
- Awards Banquet
- President's Soapbox
- Awards

Results

- D-I
1. Denver
 2. Lakeshore Dem
 3. Portland
 4. Phoenix
 5. Hoveround
 6. Northridge
 7. Chicago
 8. U of A
- D-II
1. Texas
 2. Philadelphia
 3. Sharp
 4. Michigan Storm
 5. Lakeshore Des
 6. Tampa
 7. Pasadena, TX
 8. Kentucky

Mountain Quins Win!

“Pass the bourbon, Hoops, these Nationals are making me thirsty,” said my smart-aleck para buddy Spokes Ableman.

“Are you kidding me, Spokes? I don’t have any bourbon.”

“Hoops, you of such little breeding - this is Kentucky: The Bourbon Capitol of the World. Bourbon is more plentiful than water here, and, truth be told, probably better for you. Get some.”

“You really are nuts, Ableman.”

“You quads all gather here in beautiful Louisville - that’s Luh-vuhl to the natives - to beat the stuffing out of one another several miles from Churchill Downs. And you say I’m nuts? This carnage is taking place near where the prestigious 133rd Kentucky Derby will be run.

“Know this, the great Secretariat is whinnying in his grave right now,” Spokes grinned.

“All right, Ableman, tell us about the tournament,” I said.

“The tournament was fantastic, Hoops. This was number twenty for you quadnics. The BIG 2 OH. Twenty years of officially pounding the crap out of one another.

“Anyway, something amazing happened here, and I can sum it up in two words, Chance Sumner. This sometimes fiery

fellow has turned into one helluva rugby player,” Spokes lauded.

“But even more of a story is the Denver Harlequins team. MVP Sumner, a 3.0, came of age. But the Quins seemed to have aligned the stars at the right time, and these upstarts from the Mile High City took home the Division I Championship in a 48-46 thriller.



Sumner pushes past Lujano ©Paralyzed Veterans of America; Sports 'n Spokes. Photo by Mark Cowan

”And it’s not like the Lakeshore Demolition rolled over. Champs themselves (their 10th consecutive final!), Bryan Kirkland, Willard Brooks, Dan Buckingham, Bobby Lujano, Tom “V” Vinzant, and Tommy Sullivan battled back and got the score to within one late in the fourth quarter, but this one the Quins latched onto early, and they would not be denied.”

“You know, Spokes, this team and the rest of the starters also came of age - 2.5 Ross Morrison, 1.5 Adam Scaturro, and .5 Jason Reiger played brilliantly together - each elevating their play to win it all. And they had terrific bench support as well. They started the season strong at Disney last November and just kept getting better.”

Then Spokes said, “Regier told me, ‘We left everything out on the court and fortunately that was good enough to win the championship.’ (Cont Page 2)

Stampede Dominate D-II



“The Demolition couldn’t pry the Cup away from these guys. In their first trip to the finals - first ever in semis! - the mountain men played with the poise of seasoned champions.

“Kevin Orr, the Demolition coach, said this: ‘Chance, Ross, Adam and Jason were a well oiled machine. They made all the plays necessary to win. They showed great composure and poise throughout the final. They earned this Championship!’”

“Yeah, Spokes, this was a great game. All the hotly contested games in D-I were great games. Same in D-II.”

“One problem, Hoopster, the Texas Stampede trampled all the competition in D-II by double digits. They should have been in D-I, right?”

“Well, Spokes, no. They finished third in their section, and by rule, they qualified for Division two.”

“Oh, please,” Spokes replied. “’06 D-II Champs Magee Eagles came closest. Led by D-II MVP



Michigan’s Sheridan and Zimmer try to stop Zupan ©Paralyzed Veterans of America; Sports ‘n Spokes Photo by Mark Dowan

Adam Bencsik, Magee had an early lead in pool play only to be hoofed into the hardwood by 12. Later Philly lost in the final by 19. Let’s be real here, Hoops, Mark Zupan, Bobby Boothby and Troy Collins were all Best of Class, and the longhorns dominated.”

“Spokes, there was very competitive action in the rest of D-II. Pasadena

Texans, led by 1.5 Steve Kearley and 3.0 Dave Bynum, lost an overtime heartbreaker to the Michigan Storm and suffered a one-point loss to the Lakeshore Destruction, and then later lost to the Tampa Generals by 1 in crossover play. That’s three losses by a total of 4 points.”

“Ok, you big cry baby,” Spokes said. “Those teams all played well. Sharp Edge took third place by 1 over the Michigan Storm. All solid teams; solid games. I’ll give you that.”

“Right, Spokes, great rugby was played at this 20th Championship. We again thank Louisville, Frazier Rehab and all of our great sponsors.”

“True enough, Hoops,” Spokes replied. But how can you top those Quins? Last year it was Shinichi Shimakawa and the Phoenix Heat. This year the Denver Harlequins were the story. By the way, Hoops, what the heck is a harlequin?”

Special Note: An expanded Spokes story will appear in Sports n Spokes. We thank the PVA and photographer Mark Cowan.



United States Quad Rugby Association

Links FYI

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

AGM Minutes
Due out June 8

[Constitution and By-Laws Update](#)

[Cliff Chunn's Hall of Fame acceptance speech](#)

Murderball
#2 Sports Movie of all time. See: [RottenTomatoes.com](#)

All Links and Rugby Store @ [quadrugby.com](#)
Murderball DVD [here.](#)

CLINICS

Information?
Contact [Wendy Gumbert](#)

Adam, a 3.0 player, is the Division II Nationals MVP for the past three years. He has only been playing for four.

Just before his 16th birthday, Adam contracted meningococcal disease. He lost both his legs, much of his hands, and a chunk of his shoulder.

Before his illness, he played baseball and guitar. Adam discovered rugby while he was training for track where the rugby team practices. He participated in just one rugby practice, and then was off to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. He became captain of the Fighting Scots wheelchair basketball team. When he returned to Philadelphia, he began rugby again.

He credits the chair skills he learned playing basketball with giving him an edge in rugby. Year one, he pushed a teammate's

old chair. He now uses a new Eagle chair.



Bencsik in action ©Paralyzed Veterans of America; Sports 'n Spokes Photo Mark Cowan

Adam works full-time for a non-profit trade association, the Mobile Air Conditioning Society. He also works part-time for Staples. He still plays basketball, and likes doing web design.

Adam says, "Rugby makes me feel part of a community. I am not the only person in a wheelchair. Also, I am a competitive person; it gives me a way to get my competitive nature out. And I really like playing with the Eagle guys."

Adam and Leigh have been together for ten years, married for four, and are expecting their first child in January. He plans to leave his position with Staples then, but he will continue playing rugby.

President's Soapbox

Well, it was a swift and productive 2007 AGM. The old guys get to play a half point lower. You get a reset to 15 on the score clock with a timeout.

Restructuring post season failed, not because membership doesn't want some form of restructuring, but because the proposal itself had some problems. The intent was seen as good.

Our system now is not perfect, but it works most of the time. Is the Texas Stampede a D-I team? Of course they are. Would D-I have been even more competitive with them? Absolutely. But Texas, Phoenix, and Denver did at least have a choice.

How do we structure post season in such a way that is not exclusionary at any level? I

suggested a selection committee and the roof practically fell in. What then? What doesn't discourage and perhaps ultimately destroy some member teams in weaker sections? What strengthens those sections?

We are hearing some grassroots rumbling of D-III. How will it be identified and where will they play? Can a D-III even sustain itself like D-II did? These are challenges to those interested teams. The USQRA will support the efforts, but to have a DI, DII, DIII Nationals right now is financially and organizationally undoable.

If you are interested in change, we need solid proposals submitted. What puts the best teams in play without stepping on our fellow member's opportunity to compete?

International Tournaments

2007 Canadian Nationals Results
Quebec Impact Champions

see

www.cwsa.ca/nat-07.html

See quadrugby.com for other results and the many International tournaments scheduled for 2007.

September 5-16, 2008

Paralympic Games
Beijing, China

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The banquet was held on Friday.

Kentucky Chicken was the main course, not the colonel's KFC, but chicken LUH-VUHL style. We ate well.

Team USA was honored by calling out the names of each player and each staff person. They got a much deserved round of applause for their Gold-winning 17 and 0 run in 2006.

Sponsor plaques were awarded, and Frazier Rehab was thanked along with tournament volunteers.

An ovation was given to all the team volunteers who do everything from change tires to fetch water. We honored them as well as every USQRA volunteer (present or not) because they MORE than earned it.

Trisha Suhr proudly presented the Spirit of Achievement Award to her husband Ed Suhr. She poignantly called him, "the love of my life." Ed was President of the USQRA for ten years. 10!

Cliff Chunn accepted Hall of Fame honors from his friends and ex-teammates Eddie Crouch and Wayne Romero. In a touching thank you speech, Cliff - the youngest player ever inducted - personified what this sport is all about. Unfortunately, some in the room couldn't hear him, but we have the text (minus his great emotion, of course) available through this link.

Finally, it was time for our version of MVP, the Player of the Year. Andy Cohn presented the award to Scott Hogsett who was surprised and gave a short but heartfelt thank-you. Cohn himself was nominated, along with Portland's Will Groulx and Northridge's Dave Willisie.

After the awards were presented, the band cranked up and played to 11.

Thank you, Louisville.

For information on how to obtain the latest coaching aid, follow this link
[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 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.

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Ad appearing here is what was to have appeared in 2007 Nationals program



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