Oregon State University Captures National Racquetball Titles

Tempe, Ariz. – Led by a group of alumni from the Oregon High School Racquetball League, the Oregon State University Racquetball Team won the Overall Team and Women’s Team National Championships at the 2006 USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships. The event was held March 29 – April 1 on the campus of Arizona State University.

Of the 12 members on the Beaver racquetball team, 11 are graduates from Oregon high schools and past participants in the Oregon High School Racquetball League. The OSU women’s team was lead by Ashley Legget (sophomore) and Ashley Willhite (freshman) who teamed up to win the Women’s Doubles National Championship. Individually, Legget finished second in the top women’s division. Willhite won the 2005 Oregon High School Girl’s Singles Championship representing Klamath Union High School, while Legget won the same title in 2004, 2003 and 2002 for Mazama High School.

The USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships are played in a format similar to collegiate tennis. There are six singles divisions for both boys and girls and one player from each school can play in each division. The top division (or the “The #1 Bracket”) features the top players from each school, and the winners in the “#1 Divisions” are considered National Champions. Winners in the upper divisions earn more points for their teams than the winners in the lower divisions. The same format is used for doubles, but there are only three divisions.

In 2005, Oregon State finished fourth overall, fourth among women’s teams and fourth in the men’s team standings. The University of Oregon did not send a team this year due to many of its top players having prior commitments for Spring Break. In 2005, the Ducks finished ninth overall, seventh place in the men’s race and 15th in the women’s standings.

The two team titles won by Oregon State are the first for an Oregon school in the 34 year history of the event. Legget and Willhite’s national women’s doubles championship is the second to come the state of Oregon, the other title being earned by Erin Frost and Liana Kerwood for the University of Oregon in 1998.

The performance of the Beavers at this year’s tournament adds to the progression of the rich racquetball tradition in Oregon. Since USA Racquetball started its National Junior Team in 1991, junior athletes from Oregon have earned more appointments than any other state. Of the 118 junior athletes who have made the team, 15 have been Oregonians. Players from California have earned 14 spots, 12 have come from Ohio and six each from Florida, Missouri and Massachusetts. In addition to the individual successes, for the past 14 years the team trophy from the annual junior national tournament has remained in the grasp of the Oregon Junior Racquetball Association. High School racquetball teams from Oregon have won 8 of the
last 11 overall team championships at the annual national high school racquetball tournament. The 2006 overall high school team was Beaverton High School, the school’s fourth overall championship. Of the 31 2006 High School Racquetball All-Americans, 14 were from Oregon.

Below are the individual finish results for the Oregon State team:

**Women’s Doubles #1 – National Championship**  
Ashley Legget - Ashley Willhite (Oregon State) def. Dominique Davis - Adrienne Fisher (Alabama) 15-7, 15-6

**Women’s Doubles #2 – Championship**  
Jenny Cary - Kaylee Pfennig (Oregon State) def. Abby Boone - Holly Heiner (Brigham Young) 15-7, 15-6

**Women’s Doubles #3 – Championship**  
Dianne Meyer - Michelle Carrington (Oregon State) def. Allison Kerivan - Jenna Klinke (Penn State) 15-0, 15-1

**Women’s Singles #1 – National Championship**  
Adrienne Fisher (Alabama) def. Ashley Legget (Oregon State) 15-5, 7-15, 11-7

**Women’s Singles #2 – Championship**  
Dominique Davis (Alabama) def. Ashley Willhite (Oregon State) 15-8, 11-15, 11-3

**Women’s Singles #3 - Championship**  
Kelley Fisher (Alabama) def. Kaylee Pfennig (Oregon State) 15-3, 6-15, 11-1

**Women’s Singles #4 - Championship**  
Jenny Cary (Oregon State) def. Holly Heiner (Brigham Young) 15-7, 15-4  
* NOTE – Cary is a three time Oregon Girl’s Singles Champions for Aloha High School (1999-2001)

**Women’s Singles #5 - Championship**  
Michelle Carrington (Oregon State) def. Amanda Haren (Baldwin Wallace) 15-1, 15-1

**Women’s Singles #6 - Championship**  
Diane Meyer (Oregon State) def. Veronica Foote (Colorado State – Pueblo) 15-0, 15-1

**Men’s Doubles #1 – Quarterfinals**  

**Men’s Doubles #2 – Third Place**  
Ryan Lindell – Cris Campbell (Oregon State) def. Justin Cone - Scott Ferrel (California – Sacramento) 15-9, 15-6

**Men’s Doubles #3 – Championship**  
David LaForest – Greg Purdy (Oregon State) def. Jeff Skanchy – Robert Plowman (Brigham Young) 15-10, 15-8  
* NOTE – LaForest is the lone Beaver that didn’t attend an Oregon High School. He came to Corvallis from Queens Village, New York.

**Men’s Singles #1 - Quarterfinals**  
Ben Croft (Colorado State - Pueblo) def. Ryan Lindell (Oregon State) No Score Available  
* NOTE – Croft was the eventual 2006 National Boy’s Singles Champion

**Men’s Singles #2 – Championship**  
Mitch Williams (Colorado State - Pueblo) def. Dan Cramer (Oregon State) 15-3, 15-6
Men’s Singles #3 – Quarterfinals
Chris Barton (Colorado State - Pueblo) def. Cris Campbell (Oregon State) 15-10, 15-13
* NOTE – Barton was the eventual division champion and was the 2000 Oregon Boy’s Singles Champion (Reynolds High School).

Men’s Singles #4 – Championship
Matt Melstar (Colorado State - Pueblo) def. David LaForest (Oregon State) 15-6, 15-13

Men’s Singles #5 - Championship
Lee Cramer (Oregon State) def. Cliff Aldredge (Texas A&M) 15-3, 15-6

Men’s Singles #6 – Consolation Championship
Greg Purdy (Oregon State) def. David Montgomery (California – Berkley) 6-15, 15-1, 11-2