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USA RACQUETBALL ANNOUNCES US JUNIOR TEAM HEAD COACH

Colorado Springs, CO -- USA Racquetball announced today that Charles “Charlie” Pratt has accepted the position of US Junior Team Head Coach.



Pratt, 31, was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, and he and his wife Ceci now live in Gainesville, Florida, where he is part owner, manager, master trainer, and nutritionist at Zen Fitness, a small gym on a tennis facility with two racquetball courts. Pratt provides personal training and nutritional counseling to his clients. He is ranked #22 in the USA Racquetball rankings and #16 on the International Racquetball Tour.

When asked what it means to him to take the role of US Junior

Team Head Coach, Pratt replied, “I am excited to be a part of the US Junior Team once again. I played on the team for five years, and they were some of the best years of my life. I have no doubt that this experience will be the same.” His goal? To bring the best possible junior team to Junior Worlds (in Minneapolis this November), and he delivers this message to juniors competing at the Junior Olympic Championships in Stockton, California, next week: “Play hard and have fun!”

USA Racquetball Executive Director Jason Thoerner said, “We are pleased that Charlie is assuming this position, and we are looking forward to working with this accomplished individual who has a lot of racquetball experience as a US Junior Team player, a certified nutritionist, an extremely accomplished referee, and much more. Charlie recently competed with the US Team at the Pan American Racquetball Championships in San José, Costa Rica, and earned the silver medal at the event.”

US Junior Team Leader Cheryl Kirk added, “Congratulations to Charlie on this appointment and for the opportunity to impact racquetball’s next generation of elite players. He will continue the legacy of former US Junior Team Coaches Kelley Beane and Cheryl Gudinas who have both contributed immeasurably to the lives of hundreds of junior players on and off the court. We can’t thank them enough for their service and dedication.”

Pratt’s coaching staff will be announced soon. In the meantime, he will be in Stockton next week to meet players and their families and to congratulate the players who will represent the United States on the US Junior National Team.

About USA Racquetball

USA Racquetball, founded in 1969, is recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport. The organization annually conducts six national championships and sanctions hundreds of tournaments for players of all ages and skill levels. The organization also organizes the Adult and Junior National Racquetball Teams, oversees the Official Rules of Racquetball, administers National Player Rankings, manages a college scholarship program, and supports the introduction of new players to the sport.