



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

Oct. 4, 2006

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dwight Bachman

Public Relations Officer

(860) 465-5114 or Bachman@easternct.edu

Edward Osborn, Director of University Relations

(860) 465-5043 or Osborne@easternct.edu

Jennifer Kuhn, Public Relations Assistant

(860)465-5734

Wheelchair Rugby Exhibition at Eastern

Willimantic, Conn. – Ready for a joke? Q. Why didn't the bicycle play rugby?

A. It was two tired.

While you may not see bicycles on the rugby pitch, there's plenty of room for wheelchairs. The Connecticut Jammers Quad Rugby Team will play in the Quad Rugby Exhibition at Eastern Connecticut State University, Oct. 14, 2006, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. This event is presented to the public free of charge by the University's Office of AccessAbility Services.

The Connecticut Jammers is a 9-man team of players hailing from Wallingford that won't let their disabilities get them down. According to the rules set forth by the United States Quad Rugby Association (USQRA), "Players must have a combination of upper and lower extremity impairment to be considered eligible to participate" in Quad Rugby. The rules of Quad Rugby stray from those of the traditional game for the able-bodied, mainly because of its 8-minute periods and scoring policies. "Rule 5: To score a point, a player must cross the goal line with 2 of their 4 wheels retaining possession of the ball."

The sport was introduced to the United States in 1981 as an equivalent to Wheelchair Basketball. By then "Murderball" as it has been called, was already quite popular in Canada where it was created. Over the years the sport has enjoyed enormous

support and growth. There are now 45 teams in the United States and it has been featured as a demonstration sport in Atlanta during the 1996 Paralympics. The sport is currently played in 24 countries throughout the world.

Rob Ellis, Chic Oppenheimer, Andrew Vilardo, Jeff (Murph) Johnson, Joe Palladino, Tom Branchaud, Jim Quick, Karl Pepin and Jaime Zuluaga make up the Jammers' 2005-2006 roster, managed by Todd Munn. Check them out and support Quad Rugby at the exhibition next week.

###

Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

#