

Fall Tournament

Western Collegiate Racquetball Conference

The Western Collegiate Racquetball Conference (WCRC) is reinvigorated and growing as over 40 men and women players from seven schools converged on Berkeley for the first tournament of the 2005-2006 intercollegiate season.

Sacramento State, UC Berkeley, and UC Davis teams returned to compete with new teams from Stanford, UC Santa Cruz, San Jose State and CSU East Bay.

Despite missing several of their strong players, national powerhouse Sacramento State won the overall team title by taking top spots in both Men's and Women's Division I. They were led by their top player Mark Salinas, a senior at Sacramento State, who is also playing in the open division at CSRA tournaments.

Stanford's new team was a close-second due to the depth on its men's team, sweeping top spots in Men Div II and Div III. Berkeley finished a strong third, with the best women's team overall. UC Davis placed fourth, with a balanced team of men and women.

New programs at UC Santa Cruz and San Jose State fielded enthusiastic teams who've been tearing up the courts with inter-school scrimmages - we're looking for some great competition as these new teams gain experience!

The next tournament is tentatively scheduled for February 4th - details should be set by January 6th. Contact John Bardos (jbardos@ucsc.edu, 831-335-3308) if you are a collegiate student wishing to participate.



Tournament pictures and results can be found on the WCRC website:

www.WCRRacquetball.org



Always having fun ...

Western Collegiate Racquetball Conference

Collegiate racquetball has been one of the sport's bright spots in recent years. Shane Wood, USAR Intercollegiate Program Director, wrote in May about the year-over-year growth they have had in collegiate racquetball in the eastern region (see <http://meetandplay.com/Forum-CollegiateRacquetball>) ...

The ECRC has pretty steadily grown 50-100% each year for the last 3 or 4 years. We used to have a base of 5-7 teams. This year, we had 28 teams compete, and 5 more already that we got set up at clubs at their schools and will be participating next season.

Our goal is to bring this same opportunity and growth to the schools here on the west coast. The first tournament of the 2005-2006 season had over 40 players from 7 colleges and universities complete in a fun day-long tournament at UC Berkeley. Racquetball clubs are reforming and growing at other colleges and universities in Reno and Southern California, and we look forward to an expanding 2006-2007 season.

Collegiate tournaments are all about teamwork and fun competition, and are one of the best ways to grow your game. All players will score points based on how they finish in the tournament, and all players will contribute to their team's overall success.

Our tournaments are easy one day tournaments, and we're usually done by the afternoon. We are using the "Olympic" format for tournament play, which assures all players that they will play a number of matches throughout the day - win or lose!

Collegiate racquetball clubs and teams are also all about meeting new people, and playing racquetball with new players on new courts! The players in our new club this year at UC Santa Cruz have already played at 4 new clubs, got good experience playing on glass back wall courts, had a great opportunity to "played the pro" at a clinic, and had a great time competing in our fall tournament.

Schools in the conference also scrimmage against one another regularly throughout the school year. These fun informal events are a great chance to play a variety of people, and to learn and try out new shots. Scrimmages include all club members - not just team members - and are a great way to involve more people and grow the racquetball community!

We are looking to help other schools, especially in Southern California and Reno, build programs, get involved in collegiate tournaments in their area, and get involved in the fun! If you'd like to play in an intercollegiate event, or to get help in starting a club, contact:

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Find out more about the WCRC at:
www.WCRRacquetball.org