



CURRENTS

SPRING ISSUE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
PACIFIC POWER SOCCER

APRIL-JUNE 2016

PPS HONORS TWO SUPERB ATHLETES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BILL BALLE



I hope everyone is having a good year and are enjoying the competition season. For me after playing Power Soccer for over 10 years I had to take this year off of Power Soccer, to

move and get relocated in a new area. I will be back next season and I look forward to seeing everybody on and off the court again next season.

In this issue of the PPS newsletter, you will find power soccer news from the west and remembrances of two superb athletes who we lost recently. We encourage contributions from all our member teams - if there is something or someone you want to highlight in upcoming issues, please feel free to contact editor **Gordon Cardona**. Also, please feel free to update Gordon with any new people or organizations or new e-mail addresses that you wish. Please forward this newsletter to your friends and associates. Good luck to everyone on your upcoming games and Conference tournaments this season. ❖

Bill



Glendale Rough Riders
story on page 5

*Pacific Power Soccer
Wishes All the Teams*

Good Luck & Play Hard

*in their Conference Cups
in Indiana
This June.*

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ARIZONA LEAGUE WEEKEND

STEVE EVERETT
SoCal Vaqueros



It was an exciting weekend of Power Soccer hosted by AZ Disabled Sports (ADS) and held at the beautiful Ability 360 Sports & Fitness Center. Multiple local teams competed in this event such as AZ Heat Elite, Sun Devil PSC, Desert Outlaws, Ability 360 United and AZ Heat Destroyers. Also, two out of state teams came into town, the RHI Sudden Impact from Indiana and SoCal Vaqueros from California. All teams were excited to put their skills to the test.

The weekend produced some hard fought games throughout. Some of the weekend highlights came between the two of top Premier teams, the defending National Champions Sun Devils lead by Team USA member **Katie Dickey** and RHI Sudden Impact lead by **Jordan Dickey** also a member of Team USA. Both teams beat each other once earlier in the competition and on their third go around the game ended in a 3-3 tie.

Other exciting games that produced a high level of skill and teamwork were when the SoCal Vaqueros broke a 0-0 score early in the 2nd half to defeat a very tough Heat Elite team lead by **Joey Wells**. SoCal also put together a couple of strong performances in a 6-5 loss to Sudden Impact as well as a 3-3 tie against the Sun Devils. The battle between the Desert Outlaws and Ability 360 United was another fun game to watch where the score was no indication to how close the game really was. Due to the lack of Destroyers players, it was decided to have a mixed fun game for anyone who wanted to play. It was great to see the smiles from those players! ❖

NANCY'S NOTES

NANCY MITCHELL
SAN JOSE STEAMROLLERS



Thank you to **Gordon Cardona** for taking on the job of newsletter editor. I expect him to whip up great enthusiasm in all our west coast/Arizona teams. Communication binds us together and helps us make progress. Please feel free to submit anything about power soccer to Gordon so he may tell all of us! Inquiring minds want to know...

Fall Tune-up

Although the San Jose team(s) did not bid for the 2016 Founders Cup Tournament, they are planning a Fall Tune-up for any team that would like to participate. The tournament will be open to USPSA teams of all skill levels and will be held in conjunction with Far West Wheelchair Sports – the Flash/Rockets/Steamrollers parent organization – and San Jose State University and the S.J. City Department of Parks and Recreation. Tentative date will be in early October. Yes, we know you won't have all those new plays down pat yet, but this will be a good chance to try them out. Being a USPSA sanctioned tournament, the games will count toward your total of 12 for the competition year. So, plan on getting in some early fun games with a whole bunch of your friends!

Remembrances

As most of you know, San Jose Steamroller (and former San Jose Rocket) **Kenny Tran** passed away on January 26th. He was 23 years old. His soccer family will miss him deeply. Services were held February 5th and were attended by his many friends

and teammates from the power soccer community. He will be missed.

Grants Available

PPS Grants are now open for our seven member teams – Arizona Heat Elite, Sun Devils PS Club, San Jose Steamrollers, Ability360 United (formerly Spofit Spark), Sac Valley Flames, SoCal Vaqueros, and Glendale Rough Riders. Due date for grant applications is April 15th. Keep in mind that our budget is very small and our contribution won't make much of a dent in your costs, but we do want to start someplace and this is it! Preference will be given first to those projects that serve more than one team, and secondly for those teams wishing to reduce their own travel costs.

Referee Stipends

Center Referee stipends are available for our member teams. All requests will be fulfilled. The stipend form and the grant form will soon be appearing on our web site www.pacificpower-soccer.org. You should also have those documents that were sent previously via e-mail. Please contact me if you need a copy. Please encourage your referees to actually CASH these checks!

Welcome!

We are pleased to announce the addition of **Julio Llerenas** to the PPS Advisory Board. Julio is a Therapeutic Recreation Leader with the San Jose City Parks and Recreation Department. He is a knowledgeable and energetic fellow with a lot of good ideas. Welcome, Julio, to Pacific Power Soccer!

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REMEMBERING KENNY VAN TRAN

The Steamrollers lost a good friend and teammate on January 26, 2016, at the age of 23. Kenny Tran lost his battle with Duchene Muscular Dystrophy surrounded by loving family and friends. It was my pleasure and honor to know Kenny and coach him through his development in the game of Power Soccer. The Steamrollers and I will miss him greatly, but we are comforted by the fact that he is now in the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Kenny joined the San Jose Power Soccer program in the Fall of 2009. His played steadily improved from year to year. Kenny was one of the core players that led the San Jose Rockets to their 3rd place finish in their Rockets first National Conference Cup competition held in Minneapolis, MN in June 2013. This was also Kenny's first airplane trip and first trip outside the state of CA. In the Fall of 2013 Kenny was promoted to the San Jose Steamrollers, who were competing in the Champions Conference of the USPSA. At the 2014 Champions Cup National Tournament, held in Indianapolis, Indiana, Kenny's play was instrumental in garnering the team a 5th place finish, and in the 2015 National Tournament, held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, his play elevated the team to a 3rd place finish.

Many of you on the West Coast may have played against Kenny, but

for those of you who didn't have that pleasure; Kenny was an intense, but quiet competitor. He had a devilish smile, most often seen after scoring a goal, or after providing the assist for a goal scored. He was an awesome goalie, but an even more proficient wing and center. Kenny was a good friend, a great teammate, and an awesome brother.

Whenever the team needed players for a Power Soccer demonstration, Kenny always volunteered. He was a passionate ambassador for the sport and worked with potential players at Ability Expos, Disability Awareness Days, and the Valor Games. Kenny also convinced his brother, Tommy, to play Power Soccer, so be on the lookout for another Tran on the West Coast Power Soccer circuit. Tommy is currently playing for the San Jose Rockets.

Kenny was loyal, trustworthy, kind, compassionate, friendly, dedicated, committed, respectful, and above all else punctual.

Kenny was always the first one to practice, rain or shine, despite having to take multiple buses, and trains. His journey to practice each week, up until the last year, was over 1.5 hours each way, with the last mile rolling to the gym in his chair and over a Highway overpass. His journey was never easy, but he gladly made this journey to play the sport he loved and to interact with his teammates. In

addition to being punctual, Kenny constantly worked to improve his game. He would stay late, or come early to watch how the more experienced athletes maneuvered their chair to better work the ball, or better position themselves on the court. Whenever extra practice sessions were offered, Kenny was there and because of this commitment his game steadily improved every year.

One of the interesting personality traits that I witnessed in Kenny was the transformation that came over him as he rolled onto the court. Off the court, he was kind, quiet, and it seemed at times almost timid. On the court, it was if a switch was flipped. Immediately, he was hyper aggressive. He would lock his eyes on to the ball with a laser like focus and just go for it, at times banging into his opponent on his way to the ball. When he was in a game, he was in a different zone, singularly focused on helping his team win.

These were my observations about Kenny, but how did Kenny really feel about Power Soccer? What follows are some of the quotes Kenny has provided in interviews for grant applications and fundraising campaigns.

Kenny says:

"Power Soccer provides me the ability to be social and the confidence to live independently."

"Playing power soccer gives me a sense of accomplishment. It gives me purpose."

Kenny's Power Soccer skills and calming personality will be deeply missed by the Steamrollers and the Power Soccer community. ❖

*contributed by
John Connolly,
San Jose Steamrollers*



HONORING JORDAN RUTLEDGE

“No matter what I’m going through in life, it all gets put aside when I’m on the court.” Those were the words of **Jordan Rutledge** #2, founding member of the Central Valley Ghost riderz, who passed away on December 4, 2015 at the age of 22.

Jordan, also known as "FLASH," graced the sport of power soccer for almost 5 years in Fresno and was the motivation behind the start of the first central valley power soccer team in 2010. Jordan played striker for the Ghost riderz and dazzled many with his skilled ball control and exciting plays. He was extremely proud of his game stats (60 goals, 23 assists - USPSA web site) and he brought a pas-

sion to the game, not only as a player, but also as an encouraging teammate to many, instructing fellow players to improve their game and become more competitive. Beyond the game of power soccer, Jordan was an inspiration to many in the Fresno and Clovis community. He was active as a dedicated supporter of his siblings, Jahvon and Soraya, and his mother Mikki was his biggest fan. We will forever remember the impact Jordan had on each of us as individuals, and on the sport of power soccer. We love you Jordan! ❖

*contributed by
Nikki Cornell,
Central Valley Ghost riderz*

*We Will Miss You,
Jordan!*



JORDAN RUTLEDGE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

On March 5th the NorCal power soccer community came together for a great day on the pitch and to remember Ghost riderz athlete **Jordan Rutledge** who died in December 2015. The event was kicked off by a match-up between home team Ghost riderz and the Sac Valley Flames. The Ghost riderz took the lead in the first half 2-0 and ended with a 6-0 victory over the Flames. **Danny Cornejo** and **Tim McPheeters** both notched two goals apiece with **Rodrigo Campos** and **Alfonso Reyes** each contributing a goal for the Ghost riderz.

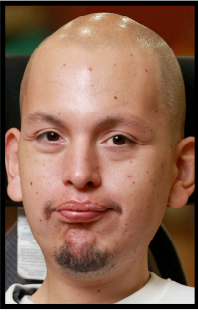
The next match up pitted the BORP Shockers against the SJ Steamrollers. The 5-1 final score does not do justice to the competitiveness of the match-up as both teams played some fast and fierce power soccer. **Jenny Mitchell** scored twice and had an assist. **Omar Solorio** also had two goals and **Chris Faria** contributed a goal to the Steamrollers offense. **Ryan Connolly**, although scoreless, led his team with 3 assists. Five goals with four assists shows the unity and teamwork of this powerful Champions division team. A late game goal by Shockers center **Ian Kinmont** got the BORP team on the boards to prevent the shutout.

In the next game, bolstered by his goal against the Steamrollers, **Kinmont** put two between the posts in the first half of the BORP Shockers/Sac Valley Flames game. The Flames played shut down defense with keeper **Zach Reynolds** and center **Hunter Horkheimer** keeping the Shockers to a scoreless second half. However, the Flames were unable to get any traction offensively ending their tournament day with a 0-2 loss to the Shockers.

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GLENDALE ROUGH RIDERS POWER SOCCER

BENNY AVILES
GLENDALE ROUGH RIDERS



Being in a power wheelchair all my life meant that my role in sports was limited to watching it from the sideline or on television. When power soccer came to Glendale,

California, I had no idea that it was going to change my life. I have been a power soccer athlete with the Glendale Rough Riders since its inception in 2008. It has brought me many new experiences, new friendships, relationships, unforgettable memories, and most importantly, the opportunity to be part of a competitive team sport. Ever since I realized the strong impact power soccer has had on my life, it has become a mission of mine to spread power soccer to other individuals and communities throughout Southern California. As I continued this incredible journey, season after season, a new life-changing relationship blossomed and the opportunity for personal development presented itself.

I never imagined that love and leadership would be the two things that power soccer would bring to my life. In 2012, two things happened to me that would significantly change my life: I met my current fiancé and was given the opportunity to be the

Glendale Rough Riders' Head Coach. Sharing the rest of my life with someone I love is the best thing I could ask for, but having a teammate in life, in power soccer, and professionally as financial professionals is more than I could ever imagine. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the team's leader for the past four power soccer seasons, but I honestly attribute our success to one word: TEAMWORK. My guidance and leadership is only a fraction of what makes our team complete; the dedication and commitment of our athletes, family, volunteers, supporters/donors, and our fellow teammates of the SoCal Vaqueros makes up the rest. Together as a team, the next goal is traveling to a national tournament and winning a championship that will not only prove us as champions, but will also praise the belief that our fans, supporters, and donors has in our abilities of being power soccer champions.

Currently, the team is working hard on and off the court to compete and win a championship at the 2016 President's Cup in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In an attempt to be champions, the Glendale Rough Riders, throughout the years, have traveled the country competing in tournaments, hosted numerous games in Glendale, California, raised thousands of dollars, and have spread the aware-

ness of this great sport to individuals, families, and local businesses. It is our mission to get to Indiana and put Glendale, California on the map. We want the country to know that the Glendale Rough Riders is a team that needs to be taken seriously. In order for our team of five athletes to attend this tournament, we eagerly are trying to raise over \$10,000 by seeking online and corporate donations, and playing the minimum game requirements. To date, we have played a total of 9 games and looking forward to tough competition at this year's Bash at the Beach power soccer tournament in April. This tournament will be the first time ever that teams from Santa Barbara and Glendale will join forces to create a weekend-long power soccer tournament. After this tournament, our championship run will continue until the Rough Riders make their presence in Indiana.

Follow our progress at <https://www.facebook.com/GlendaleRoughRiders/>

Please contribute to our Championship Run at <https://www.piggybackr.com/roughriders/2016-president-cup-national-championship-2016-national-fundraiser>. ❖

Benny

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 9-10 Bash @ the Beach Tourny
Carpinteria Middle School
- 30 Last day for sanctioned gms

June

- 17-21 USPSA Conf. Cup Series
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Pacific Power Soccer

2015-16 Board

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MARCH MADNESS IN SAN JOSE

MARGO ROECKE
SACRAMENTO VALLEY FLAMES

San Jose hosted a March Madness tournament of its own to herald in the spring with fast paced action on Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20.

Rockets 10 v. Bombers White 0

The play on Saturday started off with a match up between the hometown Rockets and the BORP Bombers Blue. **Lola Moorhead** of the Rockets was the high scorer for her team with 6 goals and teammate **Max Zonana** had two goals and one assist. **Tommy Tran** and **Pedro Aldana** each had a goal for their team earning a 10-0 victory for the Rockets over the Bombers.

Kryptonite Pride 1 v. BORP Bombers Blue 0

The defensive battle of the day was hard fought by both teams. Despite many opportunities the score was nil all at the half. A second half goal by Captain and center **Jessica Lehman** of the Pride was enough to give the Haward based team a win for the match.

Flash 1 v. Shockers 2

Within 30 seconds **Mariah Serratos** from the Flash had put one in the goal earning her team a 1-0 lead. Demonstrating their finely tuned teamwork the Shockers answered with a goal by **April Bryant** fed by **Kayvan Zayhiri** and assisted by **Ian Kinmont** late in the first half for a 1-1 score at the mid game break. It was the Shockers that came out swinging in the second half with an unassisted goal by Zayhiri a mere 4 minutes in. This was the last goal of the game, giving the Shockers a 2-1 victory.

Rockets 2 v. Flames 1

Next the Sac Valley Flames squared off against the SJ Rockets. **Tommy Tran** of the Rockets had two goals in the first half, one with an assist from teammate

Lola Moorehead. Flames keeper **Zach Reynolds** successfully defended a PK and was then released to the field where he scored a goal for his team for a halftime score of 2-1 Rockets. The score remained the same as Reynolds had a shutdown half between the posts and neither team was able to convert any offensive momentum into goals.

Shockers 4 v. Pride 1

Pride player Lehman put her team on the board converting a PK early in the 1st half but the Shockers' Zayhiri was a force to be reckoned with feeding the ball to teammate Kinmont for a goal and scoring one unassisted for a 2-1 Shockers lead at the halfway mark. The Shockers did not let up with Zayhiri feeding another ball to teammate Bryant and Kinmont banging in another shot for a 4-1 Shockers win.

Flash 2 v. Flames 1

The final game of the day was a highly competitive matchup between the SJ Flash and SV Flames. Serratos again scored quickly, just 2.5 minutes into the game putting the Flash on the scoreboard. Despite several opportunities on both sides the score was 1-0 for the Flash midway through the match. **Alejandro Aguirre** made his presence felt with an unassisted goal in the second half but Flames center **Hunter Horkheimer** was able to get one back for his team. The final minutes were fast and furious with many scoring chances and near misses but in the end the Flames could not get back any more goals leaving the Flash with a 2-1 victory.

As always the San Jose teams provided a wonderful venue, excellent food and friendly competitive environment for all teams and their athletes. ❖

Margo

SHOP AMAZONSMILE

Pacific Power Soccer is signed up with AmazonSmile! If you are a vehicle challenged (like Bill) or are shopping challenged (like Nancy), and you order merchandise through Amazon.com, please sign up for the AmazonSmile program and choose us as your nonprofit recipient. A small portion of your purchases will be credited to us. Help us help you! There is no such thing as a donation too small. Please contact **Jenny Mitchell** if you have any questions. Thank you. ❖



CONTACT PPS

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Web Site: pacificpowersoccer.org

Bash @ the Beach Power Soccer Tournament

April 9-10, 2016

9:00am-6:00pm

Carpinteria Middle School Gym

Competing Teams

BORP Shockers

San Jose Steamrollers

Competing & Hosted by:

Glendale Rough Riders

Santa Barbara Rollin' Rebels

Southern California Vaqueros

Nancy's Notes

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Action Shots

We all have games coming up soon, and...we all have phones with cameras on them, and so....we would like to have some pictures of your teams in the heat of battle! Or, even cheering from the sidelines. Pictures make a newsletter so much more interesting, so please send them in. Please turn your phone horizontally to take the picture!

Profiles Needed

Do you have an athlete, a coach, or a parent that you would like to profile? Then, by all means, send an article to Editor Gordon for the next issue. Don't worry if you don't feel you can write well, Gordon will make you look good – that's what an editor does!

This 'n Tat

As a nonprofit organization, we are required to fill out various government forms each year. Our 990N, 199N, RRF-1 and SI100 were completed on February 1st. We are good with the government for another year!

Thanks to all those who are committed to power soccer across the country! ❖

Nancy

Rutledge Tournament

continued -- p. 4

The Central Valley Ghost riderz were next to try their luck against the Steamrollers but the juggernaut could not be stopped. **Connolly** and **Mitchell** each contributed a goal to the effort and brothers **Omar and Jairo Solorio** each had a goal, plus Jairo was credited with an assist. Ghost riderz athlete **Cornejo** was able to get one through the defense in the first half making the score 2-1 but the Central Valley team was unable to penetrate the Steamrollers defense in the second half. The final was Steamrollers 4, Ghost riderz 1.

The last matchup of the day was the BORP Shockers and the Ghost riderz. With both teams hoping to wrap up with another win the late in the day, competition was fierce and determined from the first whistle til the last. **McPheeters** once again made his presence felt on the court with a quick score in the first half while teammate **Victor Guerra** made his first goal of the tournament for a 2-0 Ghost riderz finish to the first half. Despite coming out with some fast-paced offense action in the second half **Kinmont** was the sole Shocker athlete to score, his goal coming late in the half.

Kudos to the Ghost riderz for hosting another top-notch tournament. Play on! ❖

*contributed by
Margo Roecki,
Sacramento Valley Flames*

SPEED TESTS CHRIS MULHOLLAND

In accordance with USPSA's Laws of the Game, "the maximum speed allowable during the match for power chairs is 10 kph (6.2 mph). This applies to both forward and backward direction".

In order to ensure the integrity of the sport, referees must ensure that each chair is speed tested BEFORE EVERY match.

There are three recognized methods to speed test chairs:

1. Manual testing by two officials with stop watches.
2. Electronic testing by running chairs between two electronic "gates".
3. Stationary testing on rollers (this is the only testing method whereby chairs can be measured going in reverse.)

The referee assigned as the center official for the match is responsible for supervising and verifying the speed tests through the use of certified assistant referees, club linesmen, or designated speed testers. Referees are reminded that when they sign the official score sheet they are verifying that all the chairs used in that game have been speed tested before play.

Referees are instructed to adhere to this requirement immediately. ❖

SPECIAL THANKS

Benny Aviles
Bill Balles
John Connolly
Nikki Cornell
Steve Everett
Jenny Mitchell
Nancy Mitchell
Margo Roecki

PACIFIC POWER SOCCER 2015-16 MEMBER TEAMS

Arizona Heat Elite
Arizona Sun Devils
Glendale Rough Riders
Sacramento Valley Flames
San Jose Steamrollers
Southern California Vaqueros
SpoFit Spark

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CARDONA COMMUNICATIONS

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