

MEDIA RELEASE

2006 WSSA WORLD SPORT STACKING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nearly 1,100 competitors from across the United States and around the world compete in premier sport stacking event in Colorado

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DENVER (April 11, 2006) The 2006 WSSA World Sport Stacking Championships had the best attendance rate, the highest number of participants and the broadest representation of any other tournament in sport stacking history. On top of that it was filmed for ESPN!

This year, 1,066 stackers competed in the event, sanctioned by the World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA), and filled Colorado's Denver Coliseum on Saturday, April 8th. Stackers young and old, representing five foreign countries and 21 states, competed in a variety of individual timed events, doubles and relay matches. International participants hailed from Canada, England, Japan, Australia and Germany, and many are flying home with medals and trophies as proof of their stacking prowess.

The premier event of the day was the Cycle Stack, which involves a complex set of sequences and more than 40 separate moves. Taking the overall championship trophy for the Cycle was Shane Grinnell, a 14-year-old from Morrison, Colorado, who hit a time of 7.58 seconds. The Doubles event continued to be dominated by last year's winners Chase Demelio and Andy Retting from Colorado Springs who had the best overall time of 10.11 seconds. Lexi Rindone, from Prescott, Arizona proved she was the most consistent stacker of the day, and her combined time of 13.48 seconds for the 3-3-3, 3-6-3 and Cycle earned her the trophy for top Individual All-Around.

"It was an awesome day," said Grinnell, who attended last year's Championships, but only as a spectator. His practice and dedication to sport stacking over the past year has now put him on the sport stacking map. "I definitely wanted to compete this year, and the adrenaline was flowing," he said. "I was pumped!"

A strong showing by Team Germany yielded top overall winners in three events. Eleven-year-old Colin Stangenberg won overall honors in the 3-3-3 with a time of 2.40 seconds. Timo Reuhl was the overall winner in the 3-6-3 with a time of 2.78 seconds. These two titles were awarded after official video review of these events by the WSSA found that David Wolf, a 10-year old from Germany who was thought to have set a new world record in the 3-3-3 and won the overall 3-6-3, used an improper technique in down stacking. The video replay showed Wolf having both hands on two stacks simultaneously in the down stack in both the 3-3-3 and the 3-6-3, which constitutes a scratch of both events.

Even with this news, Team Germany brought home an impressive collection of hardware. In addition to the overall awards, the 29 German stackers took home 91 medals and 23 trophies in the various events and age divisions. According to Team Germany Leader Burkhard Reuhl, the German stackers trained very hard for the World Championships and it really paid off for them.

For the uninitiated, sport stacking (formerly called cup stacking) is an emerging individual and team sport where participants stack and unstack 12 specially designed cups (Speed Stacks®) in pre-determined sequences at lightning speed. (Some call it a "track meet for your hands!") This unique sport promotes hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity, focus, concentration, team skills and sportsmanship. Competitors race against the clock for individual times, on doubles teams, and in relays in head-to-head competitions. A division for stackers with special needs is also included. Sport stacking is practiced in more than 11,000 schools around the world.

The profile of sport stacking has elevated to the point that film crews were in attendance gathering footage of nearly every moment of the stacking excitement. A stage and set was specially designed for ESPN to

capture the Finals events. ESPN is slated to air a one-hour special on the World Championships later this summer.