



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Madonna ProActive to host Nebraska's first quad rugby tournament**

*Lincoln, Neb.* – You won't see Matt Damon, Morgan Freeman or Nelson Mandela. And U.S. Paralympian and celebrity Mark Zupan won't be in attendance either. But spectators at this weekend's quad rugby tournament—the first ever in Nebraska—are likely to experience the “never quit” spirit apparent in both “Invictus” and the 2005 documentary “Murderball.”

**Beginning Saturday, Jan. 23 at 10:15 a.m., four teams of athletes from Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska will square off in 10 matches of quad rugby. The games will be played at Madonna ProActive, 7111 Stephanie Lane (55<sup>th</sup> & Pine Lake Road). The local team, the Nebraska Rebels, is comprised of players from the Lincoln and Omaha areas.**

Quad rugby is a simple game with complex strategies for playing both offense and defense. It is played with a volleyball on a basketball-size court with goal lines marked by cones and a lined-off “key” area. Each team has four players on the court at a time.

The object of the game is to score a goal (1 point) by crossing the goal line with possession of the ball while the opposing team is defending that goal. The team with the most points when time runs out wins. Quad rugby is a full contact sport, but no personal contact is allowed: Slapping, hitting, punching, gouging out eyes, biting off ears, etc. is not allowed and penalties are enforced, usually requiring time in the penalty box.

To be eligible for the sanctioned sport, a player must have some limitation in all four limbs. People with amputations, a person with post-polio symptoms and anyone with other activity limitations might also be eligible to play, but most players have sustained cervical spinal cord injuries. There is a classification system that identifies levels of function, giving a broad range of persons an opportunity to play quad rugby. Classification is based on function, not athletic ability.

For more information about the quad rugby tournament, hosted by Madonna ProActive and Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital's Adaptive Sports and Recreation Team, call Ian Thompson at (402) 486-7766 or (402) 416-6667.

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