



Coach Tim Frick and our Chantal Benoit have been given the honor of cutting the net down at the Paralympics in 1992 the 1994 World Championships, the 1996 Paralympics, the 1998 World Championships, the 2000 Paralympics, the 2002 World Championships, and the 2006 event.



Canada's men's team cracked the big one this year as well, unseating the USA!

## Gold Cup World Championships

A total of 20 teams, 8 women's and 12 men's competed in the Gold Cup 2006 tournament, the world championships of wheelchair basketball! As predicted, this edition of the extravaganza held every four years featured the USA and Canada in the final in both the men's and women's division. Countries that took part in the event were (rankings after the event as noted in brackets):

### MEN

- (3) AUS: Australia**
- (9) BRA: Brazil
- (1) CAN: Canada**
- (11) FRA: France
- (5) GBR: Great Britain
- (10) ISR: Israel
- (8) ITA: Italy
- (7) JPN: Japan USA:
- (4) NED: The Netherlands
- (12) RSA: South Africa
- (6) SWE: Sweden
- (2) USA: United States**

### WOMEN

- (4) AUS: Australia
- (1) CAN: Canada**
- (8) FRA: France
- (3) GER: Germany**
- (6) JPN: Japan
- (7) MEX: Mexico
- (5) NED: The Netherlands
- (2) United States**

*There is no doubt that this event appears to bode well for the development of the game in North America, but we are only too aware that the game is fragile at best here and if we do not turn around the domestic development issues North America will be relegated to lower positions in the international arena.*

Congratulations to all the competitors representing their countries and the organizing committee who produced a functional web presence for this event and to the NWBA who provided a web cast for the final games. Gold Cup 2010 will be in Birmingham, Great Britain in RGK's back yard!

Noticeably absent from this world championship was, arguably the best wheelchair basketball referee in the world, Gilles Briere, from Lorraine, Quebec who suffered the wrath of politics after 20 plus years of top service and dedication to the game. There is no referee around that has introduced so many new referee's to the game, performed at the highest level for so long, and remained a player favorite out of respect and admiration for a fair and objective job done. Good job Gilles!

## Warranty on VARILITE® Products

Limited Warranty for Cascade Designs, Inc. d.b.a. **VARILITE®** ("**VARILITE**"), to the original owner ("Owner"), under intended use and maintenance, warrants their product ("Product") to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for two years from date of purchase of the Product. We have had very few issues, but if there is a concern in Canada, call us and if warranted, we will provide a return authorization and assist with the process. Check out [www.varilite.com](http://www.varilite.com) for the complete warranty information.

RGK Wheelchairs, Ltd., relayed: (1) Carbon Fibre Side guards and foot rests covers are available once again; (2) Schwalbe Marathon Plus Tires are in stock for new orders in 24" and 25"; (3) Titanium Castor Forks have been discontinued; (4) Tufo tires are no longer available on new orders or as replacement parts.

Jennifer Giblin, Varilite® reports that the current hardware back order concern will be over July 21. Canadian customers have not had issues as we have been using the hardware from the 100 plus backs in stock that allow us to deliver as needed!

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An item we have occasional questions on is the indentation on the top back side of the **Evolution™, Meridian™, Solo™, and Wave™** products. Once these cushions have been used a number of times, the sacral-ischial foam area may appear to become indented, as shown in the figure to the right. It is important to note that the cushion has NOT bottomed out, set or failed. The cushion is designed to indent in the sacral-ischial area. The soft, less firm foam of the sacral-ischial area, by design, exerts less "push back" on the cushion fabric than the surrounding firmer foam. The four-way stretch cushion fabric accentuates the indentation. There is air in the sacral-ischial area foam, and the air is supporting the load, providing enhanced pressure displacement. The role of the foam is to keep the air where it is needed most and preserve the cushion shape. This kind of indentation would be of concern for foam-only cushions, as it would indicate that the foam had developed a permanent set. The air-foam floatation technology of VARILITE® cushions prevents this from happening.



**What can you do to maintain the foam integrity?** We recommend that you leave the valve open when not in use and allow your VARILITE® air-foam floatation cushion to fully inflate (ie: over night, at least once a week) to maintain optimal cushion performance. Our products are virtually maintenance free, but providing a little exercise for the open cell foam now and again will keep the elasticity and provide years more service than if you set and forget!

## Warranty on RGK Products

RGK Wheelchairs, Ltd., warranty is extended to the original purchaser/user of our products. This warranty gives the end user specific legal rights. RGK warrants the RGK frame to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for the lifetime of the original purchaser. All component parts including, but not limited to camber tubes, castor forks, armrests and upholstery are warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year from the original invoice date except push handle grips, foam parts, plasticsol coated parts, bushings, bearings and tires/tubes. If, within such warranty period any such product shall be proven to be defective, such product shall be repaired or replaced, at RGK's option. This warranty does not include any labor or shipping charges incurred in replacement, part installation or repair of said product. For more information on RGK's warranty policy see [www.RGKLife.com](http://www.RGKLife.com) or call.

## Bits and Bytes

- REE 2006 Vancouver Armoury September 12, 2006;
- MedTrade Atlanta September 19-26, 2006.

**BESPOKE PLUS** helps market and promotes **RGK Wheelchairs, VARILITE®** Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA** Tires, **SPINERGY** Wheels, and other products through the North American company called **RGK Wheelchairs, Inc.** Back issues on [www.4RGK.com](http://www.4RGK.com).

**If you have something that you think we should be expounding on, please contact the editor, Reg McClellan.**