

Sport Stacking **MEDIA NOTES**

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What is sport stacking?

Sport stacking has been described as “a track meet for your hands at warp speed!” “A jaw-dropping display of dexterity!” However you describe it, sport stacking is truly one of those things “you must see to believe!” Sport Stacking is a unique and exciting sport where competitors stack and unstack 12 specially designed cups (*Speed Stacks*) in predetermined sequences at lightning speed! The sport helps develop hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity, quickness and concentration—important skills that translate to all other sports. ***(To see video clips of sport stackers in action, go to www.speedstacks.com)***

2005 World Sport Stacking Championships

Nearly 1,000 stackers from 21 states and 5 foreign countries (as close as Colorado to as far away as Canada, England, Japan, Australia, and Germany) participated in the highly successful 2005 World Sport Stacking Championships on April 9, 2005 at the Denver Coliseum in Colorado. Stackers competed in individual timed events, team relays and a new “Doubles” competition. Sport stacking competitors ranged in age from preschool through high school and competed in their respective age divisions. There was also a Collegiate, Masters and Seniors divisions for college students and adults and a Special Stackers division for students with special needs. Competitors stacked in three different individual events, which include: the **3-3-3 stack**, for preschool, kindergarten and Special Stacker divisions; the **3-6-3 stack**, all divisions; and the **Cycle stack**, all divisions. Teams also competed against each other in relay events in the 3-6-3 and the Cycle stacks. This year’s tournament also included the highly successful “Doubles” competition. Trophies and medals were awarded to top stackers in each age group.

A quick history

Sport stacking (originally called cup stacking) began in the early 1980s, but it wasn’t until the mid-90s that it really started to boom. It was in 1995 that sport stacking caught the imagination of Bob Fox. As a Colorado PE teacher, Fox held the state’s first sport stacking tournament at his elementary school in Highlands Ranch. Some 250 students competed. With Bob’s inspiration, the sport continued to grow throughout Colorado, and the tradition of an annual state tournament began in 1997. He then expanded to other states and a regional tournament was hosted in 2002, which attracted hundreds of stackers from Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma and Florida. Sport stacking has now grown to all 50 states and has generated interest in countries from around the world. The 2005 World Sport Stacking Championships was sanctioned by the World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA) for the third year in a row. .

World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA)

The World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA) was formed in 2001 (originally as the World Cup Stacking Association—WCSA) to promote the standardization and advancement of sport stacking worldwide. This non-profit organization serves as the governing body for sport stacking rules and regulations, provides a uniform framework for sport stacking events, and sanctions sport stacking competitions and records. ***(To learn more, go to www.worldsportstackingassociation.org)***

Current sport stacking world record holders

Emily Fox, a 12th-grader at ThunderRidge High School in Highlands Ranch, CO, is the current WSSA world record holder in the Cycle stack with a time of 7.43 seconds, which was set at the 2002 Rocky Mountain Cup Stacking Championships. Emily also holds the world record in the 3-6-3 stack with a time 2.72 seconds. In August, 2003, Emily was recognized as the Guinness World Record holder in sport stacking at a media event in Times Square in New York City. Emily’s sport stacking has served her well on the basketball court where she’s been a Varsity player since her freshman year. The All-Colorado player helped ThunderRidge win the 2003, 2004 and 2005 State Basketball Championships in the state’s top division. Emily attributes her strong ball-handling skills (left and right), as well as her quickness as a point guard directly to sport stacking, which enhances hand-eye coordination and ambidexterity. After being recruited by several Division I colleges from around the country, Emily will play next year for the University of Minnesota, a Final Four team in the 2004 playoffs and Sweet 16 contender in 2005.

Two new world records were also established at the 2005 World Sport Stacking Championships. **Chase Demelio**, and **Andy Retting**, both from Colorado Springs and in the 14 & Under division, combined their stacking talents and set a world record of 9.97 seconds in the new Doubles Cycle competition. **Kit Fox**, 13, from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, earned a world record time in the 3-3-3 stack with a time of 2.43 seconds. Board members from the World Sport Stacking Association and a representative from Guinness World Records were on hand at the 2005 championships to validate the new world records.