



For Immediate Release April 1, 2010 (*Contact Cydney Ricker*)

HARD WORK HAS PAID OFF FOR RACQUETBALL

BOULDER—The University of Colorado’s Club Racquetball team hosted the Collegiate Nationals Fundraiser tournament on March 13 at the CU Recreation Center to raise money for nationals.

During this round robin style tournament, the club was able to raise 265 dollars in order to send six boys and four girls from their team to the national tournament on April 6 in Missouri. This tournament hosted players from racquetball leagues in Erie and Longmont, Colo.

At the beginning of their season, the team was split between competitive players and other members who preferred to play at a more recreational level. In order to maximize the potential for this team and meet everyone’s needs, head coach Ed Eng decided to split the team into two groups of athletes. The competitive players were one group, and those wanting to just play for fun made up the second group. Coach Jerry Siravo formulated a new fitness plan for both groups while shortening practice times in order to make practice more efficient for both groups. After a few months into the season, the coaches saw not only a big improvement in both groups, but both groups were looking significantly more competitive than ever before.

Now the entire team has workouts three days a week and court times two days. The team is still split into two groups for practices, which allows the coaches and players enough room and time to play real matches.

“This is the first semester we have tried this system, and it has increased the organization of the team and strengthened our players mentally and physically on the court,” Vice President Connie Vargas said. “We hope and expect for this to keep improving as we establish this system during upcoming seasons.”

The team has participated in one other collegiate tournament this season in Highlands Ranch, Colo., and two athletes attended the State Singles Championship Tournament on Mar. 22-28 including Vargas who placed fourth overall. Graduate student Luis Castro was the other Buff to compete at the State Tournament, but his finishing place is unknown.

Ten members of the team will look forward to competing at Nationals next week in Missouri.

“It will be nice to see how much we have improved in only one semester, and it will be helpful to be able to set the bar high for the next competition,” said Vargas.