

# Dartfish Makes Officiating History in Denver at the 2007 WSSA World Sport Stacking Championships April 14-15



The hand is quicker than the eye. That is the difficulty in judging the World Sport Stacking Championships, held each spring in Denver, Colorado. Matt Reed, the Executive Director of the World Sport Stacking Association, contacted Dartfish, because teams from the UK and Germany encouraged the Americans to purchase Dartfish software to improve the officiating process.

**What is Sport Stacking you ask?** Known as a 'track meet for your hands' this eye-catching sport began in the early 1980's in Southern California, and developed into an international competition. Competing against the clock, the competition involves upstacking and downstacking 12 specially designed cups called Speed Stacks. Contestants rest both hands on a timer pallet, called a StackMat Competition Timer, which is triggered when the stackers hands are raised. Contestants must stack the brightly colored cups in predetermined sequences (3-3-3, 3-6-3 or Cycle Stacks). The new sport is great family fun that attracts contestants from ages 4 to age 80. There are Individual, Doubles and Team Relay Events. This sport has become a popular Physical Education sport, because success is not limited to size, gender, age or athletic ability.

This pattern building activity, engages the contestants' abilities to concentrate and to develop mathematical thinking as well as efficiency in the technique of eye hand coordination. Each table has three trained judges who concentrate on the contestant's hand leaving one stack before contact is made with the next stack or pattern. Times are shown on a lighted digital display. Although three judges are watching each contestant, the hand is quicker than the eye. World class stackers can complete their attempts in a range between 2.10 and 8.00 seconds.



## 2007 WSSA World Sport Stacking Championships....

All judging is verified by taping the three attempts. Verification tapes must be reviewed by the WSSA committee for questionable rule violations. In the past, this verification process was time consuming because tapes had to be taken to a TV/VCR and replayed for review. **The ability to have instant 'In the Action' video analysis, created a heightened experience for competitors, coaches and spectators!**

**This year's World Championships were history in the making as a result of incorporating Dartfish software into the Officiating Review.** Using Dartfish high quality review and ease of video tape replay, frame by frame, simplified the verification process. **Video tape review that took days took only two hours**, because judges used computers equipped with Dartfish software to verify the records and promote contestants to the Final Stage for the Sport Stacking Championships.



**Over 1100 contestants from seven countries participated in the Championships this year held at the Denver Coliseum in Colorado.** Teams were present from Germany, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Columbia. The USA had 32 states represented. Many contestants practice an average of 2-3 hours per day to develop their lightning hand speed.

Eager finalists waited, while the verifications were studied by officials, who allowed the top 3 in each of 5 events to advance to the 'Stack of Champions' round. Pola Metz and her team of officials, with assistance from Deborah Stuard of Dartfish, all completed verification within two hours and the stage was set for the 'Stack Off'.

# ESPN Will Air World Sport Stacking Championships on August 17, 2007 at 1:00 EDT

Emceed by Bob Fox, Owner and Founder of Speed Stacks, Inc., the 38 competitors took to the stage for the televised 'Stack of Champions'. **The World Championships were filmed by ESPN Sports Network of America. The programming will air in America on August 17, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. EDT.** An eager audience of onlookers cheered as contestants raced against the clock. Four overall world records were broken on stage and Dartfish assisted the WSSA in verifying these on the spot - a first for the 5 year old governing body. Dartfish Instant Replay took in broadcast quality film during the live competition. Using the 'In the Action' feature, each attempt was captured by remote control. If the time was a lead record, the Instant Replay was reviewed instantly by two officials. The audience knew within seconds, if each attempt was a 'clean' run.

"The ability to produce twice the standard video frame rate, is the feature that made Dartfish software most valuable in the judging process for Sports Stacking."  
Bob Fox – Owner and Founder of Speed Stacks, Inc.



In the past, this judging and feedback process took over 10 days to verify and film, using expensive film broadcast crews feeding video into a TV VCR system. Using Dartfish software, **WSSA officials had results within seconds**, saving the WSSA valuable time and money. This year, the competitors and the audience were able to celebrate minutes after receiving the results. Historically, the results were posted weeks after the competition, when excitement had faded and teams were back in their own countries. **Because of Dartfish software's ease of use and instant verification, five new World Champions were crowned in a TV final that took no more than three hours to complete.**

Although David Wolf and his teammates from Germany took numerous honors, the USA Sport Stacking Program has a very bright future. Results are posted at:  
<http://www.worldsportstackingassociation.org/results.htm>

To find out more about Sport Stacking, check out these website sources as well:

[http://www.worldsportstackingassociation.org/wssa\\_news.htm](http://www.worldsportstackingassociation.org/wssa_news.htm)

[www.speedstacks.com](http://www.speedstacks.com)

