***Director’s Message***

 ***November, 2021***

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**In every group, ‘there is one.’ This individual stands out; via leadership, physical stature, work acumen, or other. In the racquetball world, it may be an administrator, a coach, or a player. Perhaps it is one who creates havoc, is self-centered, and bends the rules. Whomever; the quest is to make our engagement a win-win! Selecting those who shine; grasp their ideas, read their comportment, and borrow from their nuances. Then ingest them into your gut, methodology, and lifestyle. Regarding those at the other end of the spectrum, create strategies to help elevate their behavior upward a tier or two. Offer common sense suggestions; and, give praise after their mistakes. Use each encounter as a tool for growth and learning. Think half-filled versus half-empty.**

**How can we be the best we can be? It comes by placing ourselves in the proper frame of mind. I remember a junior player named Kyle; who spoke out of turn, was impolite, and impeded group cohesion. I altered my original strategy: I named him my teaching assistant. Instead of alienating him from the group with negative words and actions, he answered to my beck and call; retrieved loose balls across the court, opened and closed court doors, and served as a prop for demonstrations. Soon the environment changed! Eyes from his peers and spectators opened wide and student interactions became smoother. His posture changed; from shoulders hunched to back, from chin down to up, and from walking short to tall. His newly developed ‘stage presence’ enhanced his enjoyment, performance, and self-worth.**

**During classes, encourage highly skilled students to be assistants. Adjust practice drills to accommodate all skill groups, thus enhancing participation and success. Build up or tone down performance requirements accordingly. Use complimentary words and a pleasing delivery to help students ‘feel good about themselves’ and to bring them back for more. Words are powerful! Use them wisely and know when not to speak.**

**In closing, let us be cautious about a quick assessment of others. We all deserve some time and space. Let us try to surround ourselves with those who make us feel good and ultimately make us better individuals.**

***Quote of the month***

***‘I don’t know the rules; I’m just a good ref’ Ward Myers***

***Upcoming:***

***2021* November 12-14 US National Paddleball Singles Championships,**

 **Midtown Sports & Wellness; Albuquerque, NM**

 **November 28 Level 3 Official Seminar, Domo Complejo de Racquetball;**

 **Guatemala City, GUA Gary Mazaroff & Dean Schear**

 **Nov 29-Dec 6 IRF World Championships, Domo Complejo de Racquetball;**

 **Guatemala City, GUA**

 **Dec 2-Dec 11 IRF World Jr Championships, Domo Complejo de Racquetball;**

 **Guatemala City, GUA**

***2022* July 10-13 World Games Racquetball, UAB Rec Center;**

 **Birmingham, AL USA**

 **Aug 30-Sept 3 37th IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships,**

 **NM Sports & Wellness clubs; Albuquerque, NM USA**

***2023* Oct 20-Nov 5 19th Pan American Games; site being constructed, Santiago, CHI**

**IRF & IOC Logos—sent to you**