

RACQUEBALL

**Sports
Illustrated's
2000 Young
Sportsman of
the Year
Prime-Time
Chris Coy!**



U.S. Racquetball Association • 1685 West Uintah
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... on the cover ... Chris Coy is in good company as he accepts Sports Illustrated's "Young Sportsman of the Year" Award from presenters Chris Kirkpatrick and Justin Timberlake (far left and right, respectively) of *NSYNC and tennis star Serena Williams. Photo courtesy AP/Wide World Photos, by Suzanne Plunkett.

from the editor

As I recall, I actually became involved in this "RB thing" just as the sport was ramping-down in the late 80s (oh, that's where my youth went). Since then, I've often wondered what I would do if racquetball became even slightly more

"conventional" again — you know, integral to the cultural landscape, when people freely *admit* to having a little obsession going? That sort of thing? Lately, I'm having to do a bit more than wonder.



As I mentioned in the last issue, we're all very proud of our cover subject — Chris Coy — for his role in bringing racquetball way up on the radar screen with his high-profile award from Sports Illustrated back in

December. His story, in itself, is inspirational and the recognition by SI was well-deserved. You can read all about this special youngster, beginning on page 8.

Then, just before press time, we received copies of the February issue of Southwest Airlines in-flight magazine (see page 31). Unless you flew with them last month, you missed it, but racquetball was the cover story on that far-flung publication. With a circulation of over 300,000 it's quite possible that we recovered more than just a few over-stressed executives from that piece alone. We hear it all the time: *"I used to play racquetball ... liked it a lot. I just don't have time anymore."* The article "Strung Too Tight" suggested that racquetball is one of those things that *relieves* the stress of overburdened schedules. If you make the time, it will make you feel better. That sells.

On the global front, our internet projects continue to develop nicely. At the Leadership Conference, we announced the latest new component to our Active.com partnership: online membership sign-ups and renewals. No more arguments at the tournament desk ... you can now renew your membership online just days before an event and receive an instant email confirmation of your transaction, at the same time that a duplicate notification arrives at the national office with your application details. Bam! You're in the computer. For those of you, like myself, who can't function without a little instant gratification now and then, doesn't that make you feel better? Find links at www.usra.org.

Next we'll work on an online calendar (the entire USRA sanctioned event listing in one spot) ... and oh, I don't know ... maybe working with a cable channel to provide racquetball coverage on a regular basis ... more mini-posters to dress up your club bulletin boards (see pages 32/33). With racquetball becoming so popular again (it's a Survivor alright), I just can't imagine what's next ... (sigh).

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reader forum

As expected, most of our letters to the editor were on the subject of RACQUETBALL's own January/February swimsuit issue. Despite these published few, the overall response was overwhelmingly in favor of presenting our sport's elite athletes in a more mainstream fashion. With all of sport being so closely tied to body image, racquetball simply can't afford to be "above it all" in marketing itself as a healthy fitness activity with an attractive player base. That was the point. "Mikey's Angels" showed some beautiful women who are among the best in their sport, and are proud of their bodies. There's just nothing wrong with sending that message.

We hope that •••• one thirty-ish woman decides to return to racquetball — because she thinks it will help her approach 40 looking like Laura Fenton ••• one single mother is inspired to join a club, use its childcare and pick up a racquet — because Jackie Paraiso can do it, plus play on the pro tour •• one overworked professional pencils in an hour to get to the health club — because Michelle Lucas fits it into her schedule • one young athlete decides that she wants to add racquetball to her varsity sports lineup — because Rhonda Rajsich can play two sports, and excell in each.

If there's a chance — at all — of any of those motivators being realized from that two-page investment, then it was well worth it. To think that the layout was designed "just for the boys" is to have missed the point entirely.

A Clear Mandate — Speedos!

Just a quick note to let you know that I look forward to seeing the racquetball men in their thongs, holding their racquets. After all, fair is fair ... right? I'm sure you want to make your female readers happy too!

*Deb Calista
Dover, New Hampshire*

I am writing, and I am sure you have heard other feedback as well, on the inclusion of the Pro Kennex ladies in suits

included in the recent issue. I must admit I was surprised to see this layout, and although I am in favor of admiring exceptional athletes, I wasn't prepared to see this forum in your publication.

I am not necessarily offended, although the gender issue is certainly an issue, and I suspect the overwhelming response will be favorable, given the large number of men in the sport. I would like to heavily lobby you to include men in seductive poses, skimpily clad, so that the next magazine will have me riveted the way my male counterparts have no doubt been to this spread.

*Susan Serfass
Eliot, Maine*

I am a Women's Open player from Wisconsin, and played in the Women's Masters tournament in Canoga Park, California. What a great event! While I was there, the topic of discussion was the pictorial entitled "Mikeys Angels." No one in my gathering could comprehend the point of this "article." Could you please explain to me what evening gowns, and swimsuits have to do with the game of racquetball, and the skill level of the competitors?

I really do not understand the message you were trying to convey. I have been playing the game for many years, and hope we do not have to rely on these types of "articles" to promote this wonderful sport! If that's the case, when is the comparable photo shoot scheduled for the Men's Pro players?

*Laura Olson
Muskwanoago, Wisconsin*

I regularly enjoy reading my Racquetball magazine. However, I was shocked, insulted, and disgusted with this presentation. I was not disgusted by the women, they are undoubtedly beautiful and sexy. But this does not need to be displayed in such a limiting and stereotyped fashion. These women are terrific racquetball players. I think their beauty and sexuality comes through in

their perfection of their sport and the magazine's typical shots of these women playing.

I don't think anyone would argue that these players are beautiful, strong women who can be glamorous. But what is the point of this presentation? Sure I like to know about training and goals of top women players who I can look up to. When I am on the court I want to be strong, competitive, decisive, precise (which can be sexy in its own right). I will save the glamor and sexy playfulness for another time. I personally feel that this presentation of top-ranked LRA players was detracting from their identity as racquetball players - especially in its contrived nature.

If you are going to publish these "fun shoots" at least have the decency to present male versions as well, then it may not smack so much of belittling women to mere sex objects.

*Maureen Claussen
Dover, NH*

Okay, gentlemen, I believe the gauntlet has been thrown. So which company boasts the best "stable" of male specimens to provide the backdrop for a similar "fun photo shoot?" Step forward ... summer is just around the corner! — Editor.

Congratulations to Laura Fenton, Michelle Lucas, Jackie Paraiso, and Rhonda Rajsich for gracing the pages of the Jan-Feb issue of Racquetball. Great! Watch out Sports Illustrated because the sexy stars of racquetball are making a statement. The stands at future matches will surely be full of their new fans!

*Dick Barton
Asheville, New York*

This has to be the best issue yet! Thanks for highlighting the women and the promise of the upcoming article on Chris Coy! Keep up the good work!

*Pamela Trent
Nashville, TN*

Prime-time Chris Coy

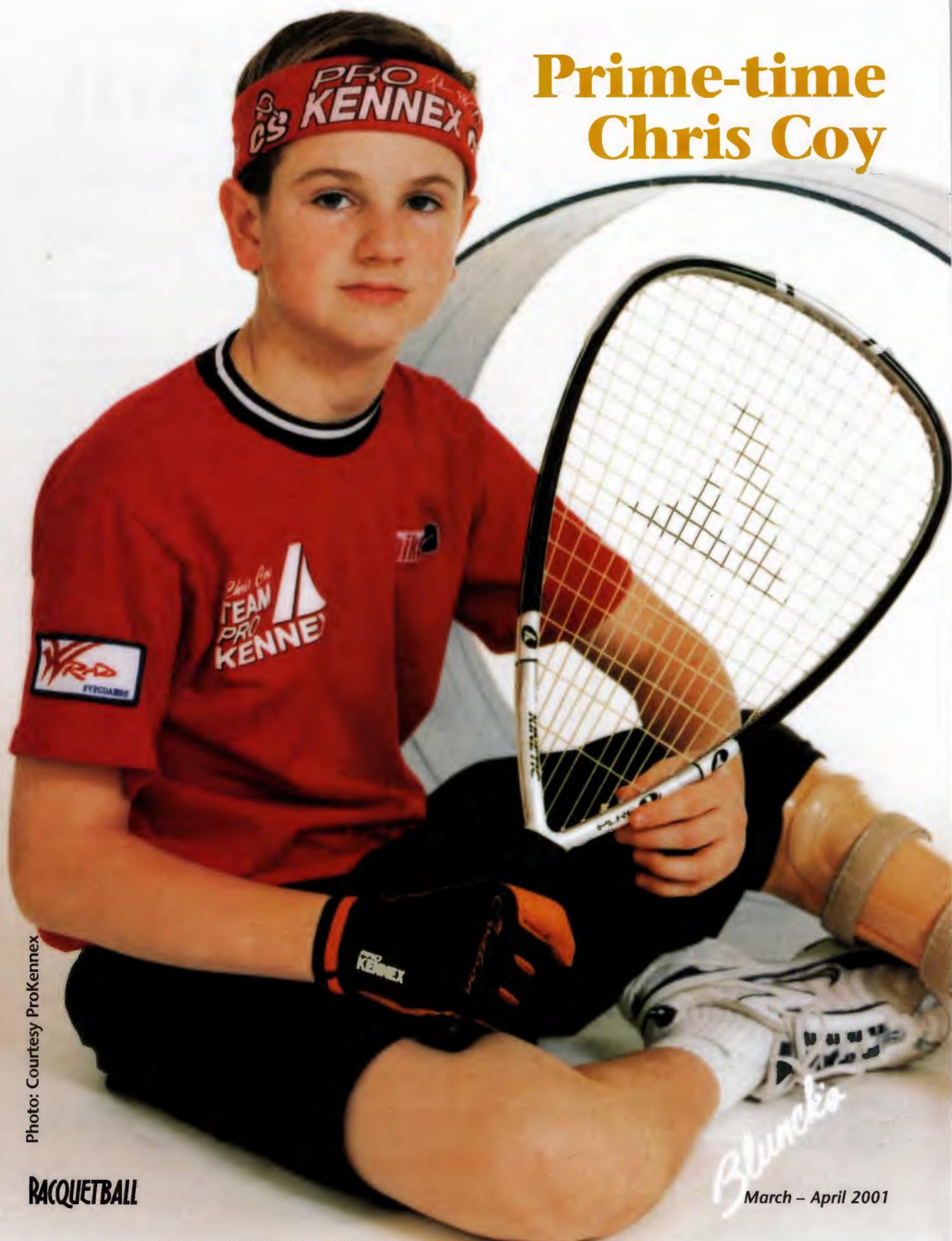


Photo: Courtesy ProKennex

RACQUETBALL

March - April 2001

Some 13-year-old boys like to watch television or play video games to fill their time. Others might wander outside to ride bicycles, scooters, and hang out with friends. Chris Coy's parents did not expect him to ever ride a bicycle, let alone be awarded Sports Illustrated's inaugural "Young Sportsman of the Year" award last December.

This future racquetball champion had been born with cancer in his stomach, which was discovered at five weeks of age. At three, he was diagnosed with a vascular infection that spread down his leg. The Coys endured three years of chemotherapy and Chris's left foot and ankle were amputated at age four. He began preschool using a prosthetic limb below the knee.

"In the beginning, there was a lot of adjustment," Coy's mother, Susan, said. "He didn't want to wear (his leg) to preschool. So we decided that we would cover it up, so that the other kids wouldn't see it. That seemed to help him, and as he got more comfortable, he began wearing shorts."

At age seven, Coy first became interested in racquetball when his parents bought "The Health Club" in his hometown of Elk City, Oklahoma. "I spent a lot of time watching the guys play and would get in the court and practice on shots that I watched them do," he said. Everyone at the club would show him the game, but Coy always had his dad coach him at every tournament.

"I learned a lot from these guys," Coy said. "One man in particular, his name is Mike Dobson. He used to always tell me, 'Chris shoot your shots. It doesn't matter if you skip it, because eventually you're gonna have those shots down so good that no one will be able to return them'." Coy said he learned from that advice and realizes now that good shots and consistency is what it takes to win.

And his love of racquetball has also helped to manage his other medical conditions. "Many of the kids with prosthetics become

couch potatoes. They don't get out and become active, which Chris needs to do in order to stay in shape to help combat his other conditions. Racquetball has been a great way for him to stay in shape," Susan said.

But there are still barriers to overcome. The family must deal with the cancer issue and Coy has suffered some heart damage from the chemotherapy. There is no bend or flex in his prosthetic leg, making it difficult for him to hit forehands. Doctors at the Shriner's Hospital in Dallas have said they will be able to fit the youngster with a workable leg in the future, allowing flexibility in the foot and ankle area. Right now, the prosthetic leg is easily broken. Susan said, "Every few months we have to get a new one, because he'll dive and slide on the court with his leg and tear it up. He wants that mobility, and tries the best he can to get it out of what he has."

This determination has brought the youngster extraordinary success. Chris played in his first Junior World tournament at the age of eight, boasting a sponsorship from Pro Kennex. He continued to play and improve his game with his dedication and four-hour-a-day practices. Susan said, "Pro Kennex believed in him." In 1998, he captured his first medal at the Junior Olympic



Photo: John Foust

Pint-sized Inspiration
• Story by Billie Jo Lucero • Photos by John Foust, USRA staff



championships: a silver with partner David Lewis of Colorado in the boys' 10-and-under doubles. Later that year, Coy earned two silver medals in the boys' 10- world junior singles and doubles competitions.

Last year, Coy also played at the adult U.S. National Singles Championships, where he won the men's 24- C/D skill-level division, playing against opponents over 10 years his senior. In Men's C, Coy went on to win the gold medal after beating the top-seeded player (who was 41) in the semis.

Even with his tournament successes, Coy feels the Sports Illustrated award was one of the most prestigious awards he has ever received.

"This award was not just for racquetball, but for all sports and junior athletes of all ages," he said. "I was extremely proud that the sport of racquetball got noticed and hope it will help in the future of our sport."

The award was presented to Coy on December 14 by tennis star Serena Williams and *NSync's Justin Timberlake and Chris Kirkpatrick at the Beacon Theatre in New York City. After CBS's one-hour telecast of SI's "Sportsmen of the Year Awards 2000" the word was out on the street.

Other athletes receiving awards on the broadcast included Tiger Woods (golf), Venus Williams (tennis), Derek Jeter (baseball), Curt Warner (football), Shaquille O'Neal (basketball), and the U.S. Olympic Team's gold medalists from the Sydney Games. Coy said he watches a lot of sports on television and "it was awesome to see those athletes in person."

He got a chance to speak to Woods, former boxers Joe Frazier and Sugar Ray Leonard, former basketball player Bill Walton, several of the gold medalists, and many others.

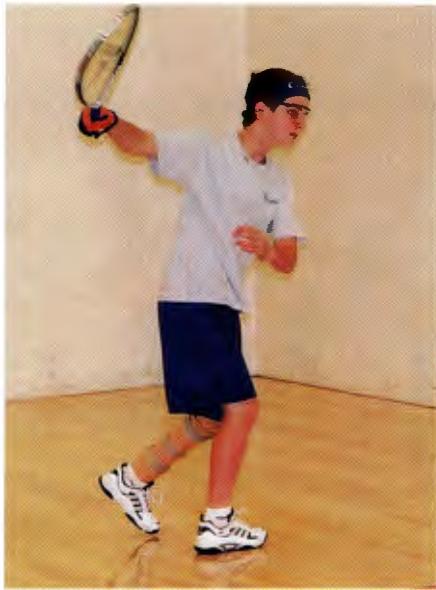
Coy found out he was being considered for the award on his way to the U.S. Open in

Memphis last November. His family received a call from Sports Illustrated's New York office, saying that out of 200 junior athletes, the magazine had chosen six finalists. "I thought it was pretty awesome just to be in the top six," Coy said.

Upon arrival in New York, the family met with Sports Illustrated, along with the other five finalists. "They explained the details and told us then that I had won. I was shocked and a bit overwhelmed."

But Coy recovered quickly. He was already focused on his next event, the World Juniors in California which started on Saturday the 16th. Reportedly, he turned down an appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, excusing himself because he "had to go play in a tournament."

Coy has also received awards from his home state. January 5, 2000 was proclaimed "Chris Coy Day" in Elk City, Oklahoma. Governor Frank Keating, Senator



Gilmer Capps, and the Oklahoma House of Representatives also have presented Coy with awards.

He is seen as a role model in Oklahoma and throughout the racquetball community. Coy said classmates at Grandview School in Elk City are proud of his achievements. Likewise, teachers and parents have been very supportive. This support has helped to give Coy the confidence he needed to succeed. "They don't look at Chris as having a handicap, but as an example for their own kids," Susan said.

Racquetball has given Coy a new set of friends and family. "He seems to know everyone when we come to these competitions," Susan said. "And if he doesn't know them, he will by the time it ends. Everyone seems to love him."

Coy named several athletes who he looks up to. "In racquetball there's Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain, Rocky Carson, Jack



Huczek, Jason Mannino, John Ellis, Kane Waselenchuk, Mike Guidry, Mike Locker, Todd O'Neil and Ruben Gonzalez. Of course there are the girls: Christie Van Hees, Jackie Paraiso, and Cheryl Gudinas." In other sports, he looks up to Tiger Woods, Venus and Serena Williams, and Gustavo Kuerten, among others.

At his young age, Coy has already set goals for his future that include following in the footsteps of some of his role models.

"I want to win a national and junior world title. And when I'm old enough, I want to play on the U.S. Junior National Team." He'll become eligible to qualify for the team when he turns 14. Other plans for Coy are to get a good educa-



Coy gets some coaching from Jim Garner during his Men's C final against Ohio's Jim Zimmerer last May. Photos: John Foust.



tion, and move to California to work in the racquet industry, designing new racquets. And he wants to eventually play on the International Racquetball Tour.

Seeing how much he's already accomplished, there's little doubt that he'll manage all that, and much more.

THE STATS ... THE STATS ... THE STATS ... THE STATS ...

FULL NAME:	CHRIS COY
DATE OF BIRTH:	October 7, 1987
PLACE OF BIRTH:	Elk City, Oklahoma
HOMETOWN:	Elk City, Oklahoma
SCHOOL:	Pioneer Elementary
PARENTS:	Susan & Mike Coy
SPONSOR:	ProKennex

COMPETITIVE RECORD:

Year	Event/Site	Finish
2000	World Juniors	3rd/B12- Gold singles
2000	World Juniors	1st/B12- dbls w/Grissom
2000	World Juniors	1st/MX12- dbls w/Moyle
2000	National Singles	1st/Men's C
2000	National Singles	1st/Men's 24- C/D
1999	Schomp Pro-Am, Denver	1st/B12- singles
1998	World Juniors	2nd/B10- Gold singles
1998	World Juniors	2nd/B10- Gold dbls w/Lewis
1998	Junior Olympics	2nd/B10- Gold dbls w/Lewis
1998	Junior Olympics	Round of 16/B10- Gold singles
1998	Junior Olympics	1st/10- Blue singles
1997	World Juniors	Qtrs/B10- Gold singles
1997	Junior Olympics	Qtrs/B10- Gold singles
1996	World Juniors	3rd/B10- Red singles
1996	Arkansas Regionals	1st/B10- singles



team usa juniors hold onto world title



Out of Uniform. Top: The U.S. Junior Team posed for a group shot at the banquet. Bottom: A partial Team Mexico shows off their medal haul. Photos: Peter McMillin.

Closing out the year at the 2000 ProKennex 12th IRF World Junior Championships in December, U.S. juniors continued to dominate, with wins in 13 out of 15 girls' divisions and 8 of the 15 boys' divisions. And although the United States held on to the title by a margin of over 700 points, the depth and potential of the up-and-coming Mexican Team was noteworthy.

Due to qualifying problems, the Mexican Team only brought along half of their team, leaving many world champions like David Ortega unable to compete. But even with this limited participation, Mexico had a strong showing, with two players reaching the semi-finals in the Boys' 16- for the first time, positioning a shutout in the Boys' 14-, and logging wins in both the Boys' 16- and 14- doubles.

The strength of the U.S. Team is derived, in large part, from extremely strong junior programs in Oregon and Ohio. Players groomed in these two programs alone contributed eight golds to the U.S. Team medal

count. For the U.S. to hold onto its legacy in junior achievement, these programs will have to be duplicated in other states.

Canada surged slightly with a win in the Boys' 14-, where Eric DesRochers, coached by Canadian World Team member Mike Ceresia, demonstrated why he will be a force to be reckoned with over the next four years. Another good sign for the Canadian presence was the debut by the girls' team from Quebec, indicating that the Canadian junior program may be experiencing a resurgence.

In the Girls' 18-, Kristen Walsh of Utah defeated fellow U.S. Team member Krystal Czuk in a hotly contested tiebreaker. Kristen, who now attends Baldwin Wallace College in Ohio, seemed determined to improve, with the hope of someday qualifying for the adult national team. Her tenacious, never-say-die attitude will lead her teammates in their defense of their collegiate national title in April.

Perhaps the biggest upset of the tournament was Shane Vanderson's victory over last falls open division champ at the U.S. Open, Jack Huczak in the Boys' 18-. Although Jack had easily won the Boys' 16- singles earlier in the day, most people expected a repeat win the 18s. But Shane had definitely peaked for the California event. An avid golfer, Shane continually plays just well enough to qualify for the team at the Junior Olympics each summer, but then trains hard to give his best performances at the Junior Worlds. His consistency had been questioned after his semi-final loss at Junior Nationals, but this may have been his greatest victory to date, and it was not a fluke. A questionable forehand, but devastating backhand, have been Shane's trademarks, along with unforced errors that have plagued him in some big matches.

With two serves (as opposed to one in the open division he routinely plays), Shane served flawlessly, ace-ing Jack seven times in the first game and even forcing him to dive to return serves in the tiebreaker. Jack did not play badly; Shane just played



Headshots by John Foust

Top (L-R): Boy's 18- Champion Shane Vanderson, Cheryl Gudinas, Jack Huczak. Center (L-R) Girl's 18- Champion Kristen Walsh & runner-up Krystal Csuk. Bottom (L-R): Coaches Cheryl Gudinas, Gregg Peck and Kelley Beane.

2000 Pro Kennex 12th IRF World Junior Championships

• Story by Jim Hiser • Photos by Peter McMillin & John Foust

better and was simply too much for his opponent on this particular day. Shane broke into tears after winning his first 18- world title, and it's hoped that he will continue to work hard on his game at Baldwin Wallace so he can make a strong bid to qualify for the U.S. Adult Team.

A discouraged Jack had to accept that Shane had enjoyed "one of those days," and later said he would use this defeat to motivate himself to go back and train even harder.

The U.S. Junior Team, led by coaches Gregg Peck, Mike Guidry, Kelley Beane, and Cheryl Gudinas, are to be congratulated for defending their World title and once again molding sixteen young athletes into a cohesive team. The team itself should be congratulated as well, but they can't afford to rest on their laurels for too long, since the Mexican and Canadian teams seem poised for a big push in next year's event.



In a special ceremony at the World Juniors banquet, Chris Coy was "represented" with his SI Award by Junior Team Head Coach Gregg Peck.



ProKennex 12th IRF World Junior Championships Fountain Valley, California: December 17-21, 2000

FINAL RESULTS — SINGLES DIVISIONS

B18:Shane Vanderson, Dublin, OH def. Jack Huczek, Rochester Hills, MI 15-13; 3-15; 11-6
 B16:Jack Huczek, Rochester Hills, MI def. Leopoldo Gutierrez, Mexico 15-6; 15-6
 B14:Eric DesRochers, Canada def. Ben Croft, Lake Bluff, IL 15-13; 15-4
 B12:Nick Arturo, Eagle River, AK def. Edson Martinez 15-4; 14-15; 11-9
 B10:Jose Rojas, Stockton, CA def. Ismael Aldana, Stockton, CA 10-15; 15-1; 11-8
 B8:Jake Bredenbeck, Scandia, MN def. Joseph Lee, Baton Rouge, LA 15-5; 15-10
 B8MB:Taylor Regier, Gladstone, OR def. Miguel Martinez, Anchorage, AK 11-2; 4-11; 11-7
 B6MB:Marco Rojas, Stockton, CA def. Sam Reig, Portland, OR 11-7, 11-8
 G18:Kristen Walsh, Salt Lake City, UT def. Krystal Csuk, Naperville, IL 15-12; 14-15; 11-5
 G16:Crystal Winfrey, Powell, OH def. Adrienne Fisher, Dayton, OH 15-12; 13-15; 11-7
 G14:Adrienne Fisher, Dayton, OH def. Brandi Prentice, Saskatoon, Sask 15-11; 15-1
 G12:Ashley Willhite, Klamath Falls, OR def. Stacey Northrop, Klamath Falls, OR 15-4; 15-2
 G10:Shannon Inglesby, Portland, OR def. Sharon Jackson, Shelbyville, IN 15-6; 15-12
 G8:Nicole Grundman, St. Cloud, MN def. Karen DeLuna, Mexico 15-13; 15-12
 G8MB: ...Yesenia Malvaez, Mexico def. Karen DeLuna, Mexico 11-9, 11-10
 G6MB: ...Elizabeth Brenner, Portland, OR def. Brittany Larson, Birch Hills, Saskatoon 11-7, 11-1

DOUBLES DIVISIONS

B18:Mark Harmon, Sarasota, FL/Matthew McElhiney, Bradenton, FL def. Brent Walters, Greenville, NC/ Mitch

Williams, Washington, NC 15-11; 8-15; 11-6
 B16:Carlos Bacmeister/Abraham Pena, Mexico def. Bart Crawford, Klamath Falls, OR/ Steven Klaiman, Houston, TX 15-11; 15-7
 B14:Jesus Jasso/Agustin Tristan, Chihuahua, Mexico def. Shane Karmelin, Dacula, GA/Brad Slocum, Sarasota, FL 15-5; 15-7
 B12:Chris Coy, Elk City, OK/Andrew Grissom, San Jose, CA def. Nick Arturo, Eagle River, AK/David LaForest, Queens Village, NY 15-2; 15-12
 B10:Ismael Aldana/Jose Rojas, Stockton, CA def. Jonathan Doyle, Cincinnati, OH/Sean McGrath, Indianapolis, IN 15-1; 15-3
 G18:Krystal Csuk, Naperville, IL/Kristen Walsh, Salt Lake City, UT def. Karine Odegard/Brandi Prentice, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan 5-15; 15-6; 11-2
 G16:Janel Tisinger, Simi, CA/Crystal Winfrey, Powell, OH def. Jeni Fuller/Jesi Fuller, Albuquerque, NM 15-10; 15-3
 G14:Kelley Fisher, Dayton, OH/Ashley Legget, Klamath Falls, OR def. Samantha Anguiano/Samantha Salas, Mexico 7-15; 15-6; 11-6
 G12:Stacey Northrop/Ashley Willhite, Klamath Falls, OR def. Shannon Inglesby, Portland, OR/Brittany Legget, Klamath Falls, OR 15-11; 15-1
 MX18: ...Adlisha Payne, Sacramento, CA/Brad Bodai, Carmichael, CA def. Jeni Fuller, Albuquerque, NM/Mitch Williams, Washington, NC 10-15; 15-8; 11-5
 MX14: ...Samantha Salas/Agustin Tristan, Mexico def. Jesi Fuller, Albuquerque, NM/Dan Sheppick, Milwaukee, OR 15-10; 15-12
 MX16: ...Carla Loma/Santiago Canedo, Mexico def. Da'monique Davis, San Antonio, TX/Cory Martin, Kenosha, WI 15-3; 15-3
 MX12: ..Sarah Moyle, Beaverton, OR/Chris Coy, Elk City, OK def. Ashley Willhite, Klamath Falls, OR/Andrew Grissom, San Jose, CA 15-9; 15-14
 MX10: ..Brittany Legget, Klamath Falls, OR/Trevor Smith, Pendleton, OR def. Holly Hettesheimer/Jonathan Doyle, Cincinnati, OH 15-10; 15-12

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The Spectrum Club in Canoga Park, California was the site of the 12th Annual Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Championships in mid-January, where over ninety women enjoyed near-perfect southern California weather, fun, friendship and lots of excellent competition.

The club's facilities and hospitality were first-rate and contributed to a very enjoyable tournament. The Saturday night banquet was a highlight of the weekend, featuring entertainment by the Shenandoah Trio, a folk group whose lead singer was none other than tournament director Debbie Tisinger's father (he also designed the great logo on the tournament shirts). A first-time silent auction, arranged by Paula Sperling and Carol Gellman, was held to raise money for the USRA women's collegiate initiative, and after some spirited banquet bidding, over \$650 was raised for the project.

Round-robin play began Friday morning and by Saturday afternoon quarterfinalists had been seeded for the playoffs in the larger divisions with flights. Semis and finals were held Sunday morning and produced interesting results and some new champions. In the 35+ division semi-final, Wisconsin's Kelly Whalen had to get past her twin sister Kim, the defending 35+ champ, after losing to her last year in the same round. Kelly then took first place over Mae Chin Varon of California. In the 40+, Debbie Tisinger of California defeated Linda Moore of Nebraska.

The 45+ final was a repeat of last year's match-up, but this time the outcome was reversed, as Meena Evans of North Carolina upset defending champ Susan Pfahler of Florida. In the 50+ bracket, newcomer to the division Nancy Kronenfeld of Illinois beat defending champion Terry Rogers of California for the crown.

Sharon Hastings-Welty of Oregon repeated as 55+ champion over newcomer to the division Merijean Kelley. Mildred Gwinn of North

Carolina, moving up a division, took the 60+ crown over Marquita Molina of California, another new player in 60+. In the 65+, Jo Kenyon repeated, as did Reta Harring in the 70+ and Helen Deysher in the 75+. Mary Low Acuff returned as the 80+ champion after a one year absence.

This Level Five tournament has steadily grown since its inception in 1990 and now regularly attracts 100 or more of the best 35-and-over female players. Next year's tournament will be held January 18-20, 2002 at the Players Athletic Club in Warren, Michigan (Detroit suburb). Plan now to attend for great competition, friends and fun! For more information or to join the Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association, call or write Kendra Tutsch, 7562 Fellows Road, Lodi, WI 53555 (608/592-2497) or send e-mail to kdtutsch@facstaff.wisc.edu.

12th Women's Senior/Master Championships

• Story and photos, courtesy Kendra Tutsch

2001 FINAL RESULTS

- 35+: Kelly Whalen (WI) def. Mae Chin Varon (CA)
- 40+: Debra Tisinger (CA) def. Linda Moore (NE)
- 45+: Meena Evans (NC) def. Susan Pfahler (FL)
- 50+: Nancy Kronenfeld (IL) def. Terry Rogers (CA)
- 55+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (OR) def. Merijean Kelley (CA)
- 60+: Mildred Gwinn (NC) def. Marquita Molina (CA)
- 65+: Jo Kenyon (FL) def. Lola Markus (IL)
- 70+: Reta Harring (WI) unchallenged
- 75+: Helen Deysher (PA) def. Beth Keene (TX)
- 80+: Mary Low Acuff (NC) unchallenged

Camp Impresses First-Timer

by Dick Barton

If someone had told me years ago that driving 600 miles, spending nearly \$500, eating fast food for every meal, staying in a cheap motel, and sweating all weekend was worth something, I might have told them to see a psychologist. But, after doing just that I can tell you . . . it *was* worth something to me.

My long-awaited weekend with the High Priestess of Racquetball, Fran Davis, and the reigning King of the Courts, Sudsy Monchik, was nothing short of fantastic. I consider my first-time experience as racquetball's version of a Fantasy Camp. Not only did I learn more than I could possibly put into practice, but I simply had a great time "hanging out" with a dozen or so folks who love the game.

I even got a chance to play the No.1 player in the world and score a point. Just one point, mind you, but I have proof on videotape so I can relive the moment for years!

Calling on fifteen years of experience, Fran teaches what she calls "K.I.S.S. Racquetball" (Keep It Simple, But S.M.A.R.T.) and has worked with some of the best players in the game along with a string of junior champions and hundreds of club players like me. She has known Sudsy for 15 years, worked with him over the last 10 years, and continues to help him these days with the mental aspects of the game.

Her camp format is straightforward. She tells you what to do with your swing, where to stand on the court, what shots to use, and how to mentally and physically prepare to play. Then the tour's top pro shows you how to *do* those things. Of course, at times it was hard to take notes while watching the Sudsy Magic Show and balls ripping by at 180 miles per hour.

Throughout the weekend, both Fran and Sudsy spend a lot of time with each "camper" to correct and fine-tune their individual games and playing styles. This included learning how to play smart by improving your physical and mental approach to matches.

"Every player, regardless of level, gets something from Fran's camp," assured Sudsy. He started attending Fran's

camps early in his career and remains one of her biggest fans. "I only work with Fran in doing these camps because she is simply the best. In fact, I still send her my game tapes for analysis and we talk frequently before and after big matches."

"Coming to a camp like this reminds me of the fundamentals and aspects of mental toughness which are so important even to a professional," he adds. "The main difference between the pros and other players is consistency. We do the right things -- just like Fran teaches -- but we do them more often."

Fran works with several pros in her camps, including Sudsy's biggest rival, Cliff Swain. Other "assisting" pros are John Ellis, Jason Mannino, and Adam Karp. The week-long Aruba camp is the only one that does not have a pro as a teaching partner.



It was hard to keep Sudsy's presence at the Waycross Fitness Center a secret for the whole weekend, and it wasn't long before young fans discovered him and flocked for autographs from the top pro.

"We're able to do these camps because [my sponsors] see the value of a grassroots educational effort for the sport," says Fran. "With their support, my staff and I am able to organize and conduct over 400 demonstration nights each year around the country plus I put on 12-15 camps worldwide."

This camp's location was due in part to the involvement of Cincinnati's Waycross Fitness Center owner, Don

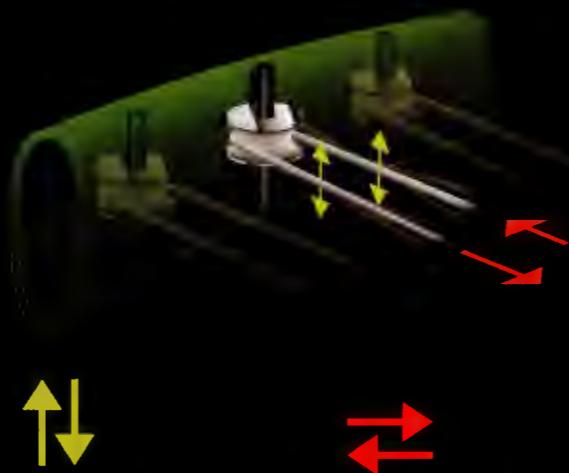
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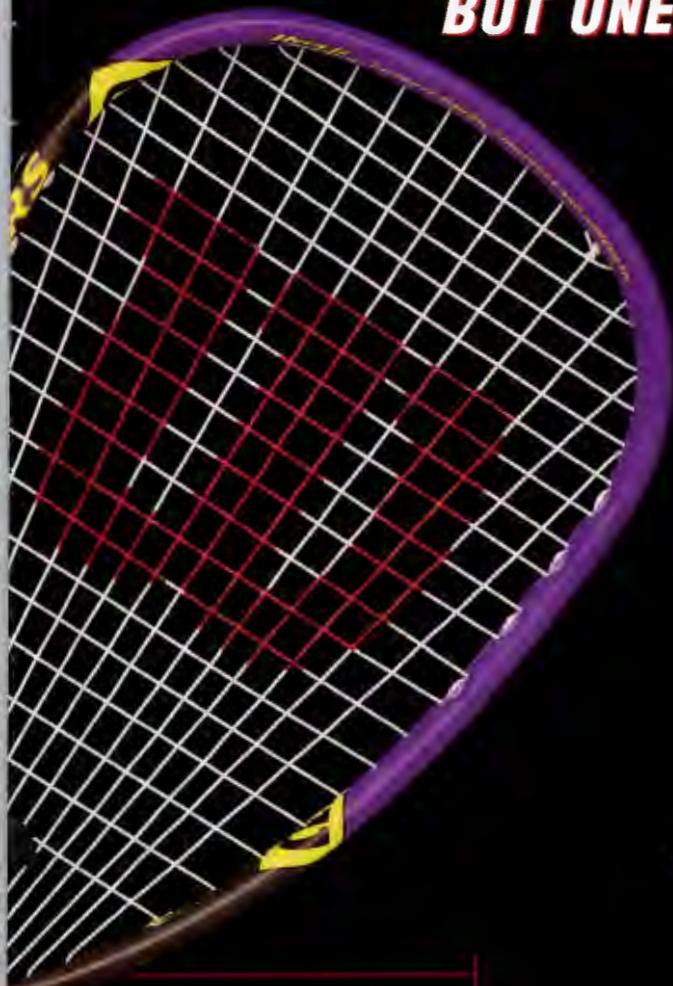
Derek Robinson, #6 Ranked on the IRT™ Pro Tour.

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Balance: Head Light

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AUTHOR BARTON, DAVIS & MONCHIK

Bates, who is also sponsored by HEAD and a champion in his own right after winning state and national doubles honors last year. Don says, "a camp like this at my club has a positive affect on my members. They get excited over having professionals such as Fran and Sudsy here."

Don adds that professional appearances and camps help energize the area and state racquetball activity anywhere they are held. Don not only handled the camp logistics but also helped with some videotaping, along with Ron Coates, who was also on hand to lend additional support.

While driving back to Chicago on Sunday, my mind was flooded with the images of my first racquetball camp. I had flashes of Sudsy showing off by climbing the side wall of the court to return a shot, a dozen sweaty folks doing the "monkey crawl" drill, but, most of all, I recalled the laughter and fun of spending two and a half days studying the finer points of my favorite sport with other people who love it just as much as I.

Those memories and the extra points I will now be scoring in future matches did, indeed, make all the time and effort worth it. Find Fran's clinic schedule on page 55!

how racquetball saved my marriage

Sometimes you need to play rough with your husband ...

by Laurie Wagner

My husband and I used to wrestle. We were younger then, more nimble, more sassy, more agile and a lot more fun. We'd wrestle when we were mad — not big-time mad, just frustrated, "you're driving me crazy" kind of mad. It would start with a growl, then a yelp, and the next thing you know we'd be on the floor of our loft, tumbling and twisting, one under the other, relieving pent-up frustration and laughing maniacally until one of us would shout, "Uncle!" That would usually be *moi*, not because my husband is bigger than me — he isn't, we're about the same size — but because he was a wrestler in high school and knows all the sexy moves. Anyway, we would usually end up in some loving embrace and then calmly resume whatever we'd been doing before — bills, dinner, washing our socks or having a conversation about houseplants.

But those days are gone. We traded the loft for a house, had a couple of kids, got some life insurance, made a will and started the slow climb toward 40. Needless to say, we don't wrestle anymore. I'm sure if we did, we'd be spending a lot more time with our chiropractor, Jay, and we can't afford that with all the other domestic expenses we've incurred.

Yet, what to do with those wacky marital emotions, all those annoying and evil thoughts we've had about each other all week? I told him to buy milk! She's frigid! I haven't had sex in three weeks! When was the last time you changed a diaper? Where are my socks? Try your sock drawer, for God's sake!

And on and on. Marriage can be one giant wrestling match of the heart, and navigating yourselves toward harmony, humor and happiness can be a mighty big challenge. Throw in a teether, a toddler and way too many sleepless nights and you've got yourself a lot of potential negative energy. The wise couple needs to have things in place. We've got our Friday night dates — candles in the bedroom, a sex toy, a trusty babysitter, a great local movie theater and cheap Vietnamese food. But best of all, we have racquetball.

Racquetball, game of love. Racquetball, that crazy, whack 'em, smack 'em, "I'll show you who's boss" game. We love it. I think it's saving our marriage. We joined a health club a couple of years ago because between working and keeping up with the needs of our small family, we weren't spending enough quality time together. We needed something just for us. We needed some fun.



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Now, racquetball is not a nice game. It's not a gentleman's sport like, say, badminton or croquet. Racquetball is a nasty, aggressive, foulmouthed game. It's perfect for couples who need to exorcise their mean and evil ways.

The game itself is sort of like tennis's bad-boy cousin. You've got a racket, a hard little rubber ball and a room big enough to dodge, dash, scramble and slam around in. The ball comes at you fast and there's no time to think or orient yourself. You've got to get in the ball's way and out of the ball's way; you've got to jump, leap, hustle and lunge. It's got a rabid quality about it, just this side of ferocious.

I must admit, in the beginning I was not a good sport. If my husband was beating me, my bottom lip would jut out and steam would pour from my ears. I'd whack the ball really hard and shout things like, "Come on, just play!" Sometimes my racket would fly out of my hands. (OK, I threw it a couple of times.)

Racquetball, game of love. Racquetball, that crazy, whack 'em, smack 'em, "I'll show you who's boss" game. We love it. I think it's saving our marriage.

acting like a 4-year-old, but sometimes I couldn't and he'd call it quits. Still, after two years of playing together, I've become a much more grown-up partner, and it's probably had an effect on other areas of our marriage where I had wanted to spit and kick and claw instead of using my words.

Line calls can be troubling, however. I had to get some prescription goggles so I could actually see the ball. But sometimes there's a discrepancy between what I think I see and what Mark thinks he sees. In those cases, we leave the line calls up to Jesus, the Lord, our Savior. We take it over, and whoever wins the next point was right all along. "Thank you, Jesus," the victor will mutter. It's usually me, because I'm Jewish and I get a thrill out of getting the Lord to help me with my game. But Mark, a Methodist by birth, will also sometimes pray on the court. These spontaneous moments of reli-

"I am not going to play with a bad sport!" Mark would say. "If you're going to play like that, I'm going to go back to my yoga."

"OK, OK," I'd say, "just calm down." Sometimes I could pull it together and restrain myself from

gious devotion are, for us, a very tender perk that we didn't expect to have included in our price of membership when we joined the club.

Sometimes one of us will hit the other person with the ball. At first I took it personally. "Hey!" I would scream. "That hurts!" And then I'd get all fussy, as if he'd done it on purpose. Sometimes this would result in a thrown racket. But since I started using my words and told him that I needed him to apologize, he now comes up to me with a big smile and says, "I'm sorry," and I immediately feel much better. It's so preschool, but it's great. It's worth the whole game to me.

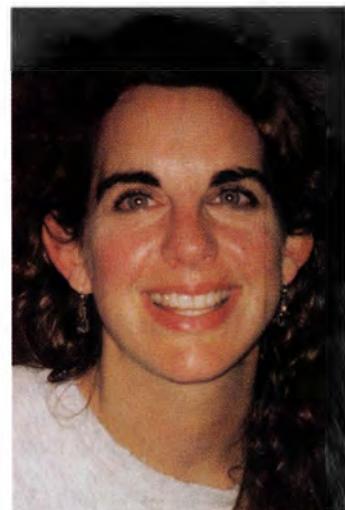
And then there's just the pure joy of being in a little, white room, sweating and screaming at the top of our lungs. I always find I have more than enough to scream about: the mounting bills, my fledgling career as a freelance writer, our toddler who moonlights as the devil, fears that my St. John's wort will run out before I have a chance to get more. Not even our therapist can give us that kind of release.

Sure, we miss the wrestling. But occasionally my husband and I will both smash into the racquetball wall at the same time and fall into each other. Dazed and starry-eyed, we'll look at each other with crooked little smiles.

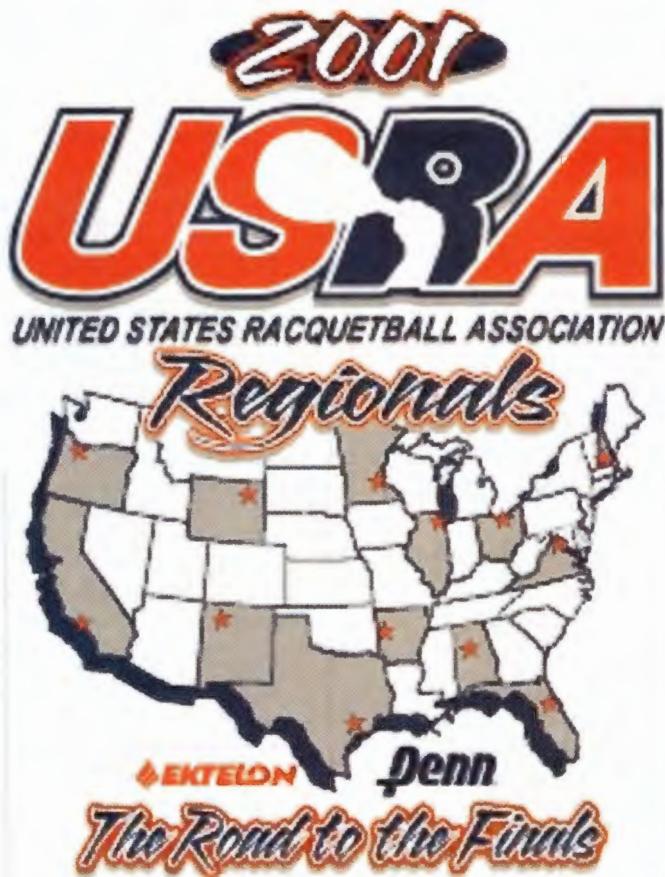
"You look really good in those shorts," Mark will say. "Yeah?" I'll say. "I feel pretty good." "Good game," he'll say. "Yeah, good game."

About the writer

Laurie Wagner is a freelance writer. She is the author of "Expectations: 30 Women Talk About Becoming a Mother" and "Living Happily Ever After: Couples Talk About Lasting Love." — Special thanks to Ed Arias, who discovered this piece online at Salon.com.



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Classic Rivalry in Denver

Story by Tom Rall • Photos by John Foust

In men's tennis, just when Bjorn Borg had figured out how to beat his then-only rival Jimmy Connors, along came John McEnroe who provided them both with a rivalry like no other in the history of their sport. On the ladies side, after Chris Evert had won every major tennis championship there was on the planet and was beginning to show signs of boredom, along came Martina Navratilova. The two women developed a competitive rivalry that lasted over a decade and a friendship that continues to this day. In golf, Jack Nicholas had Gary Player and Arnold Palmer. In ladies squash, Heather McKay had no peer for eighteen years, during which time she was undefeated. I get a kick out of hearing people murmur about some tennis player winning thirty or forty matches in a row. Try winning eighteen years in a row and retiring undefeated! Heather, as we all know, then decided to pick up racquetball and soared to the top of that sport as well! But that's another story. What's my point? Well, it appears that there are now two racquetball players who have developed that same type of competitive rivalry between them: Cliff Swain and Sudsy Monchik.

The Coca-Cola Pro Am at the Lakewood Athletic Club in the 'Mile High City' once again featured these two great rivals — Swain and Monchik — in the IRT's pro finals. For those who haven't been keeping track, this happens regularly. Both men are remarkable players and amazing athletes. We all know this. But what we can't imagine is what it's like to be at the highest pro level and once again make it to the finals, only to have to face your competitive rival.



Somehow I have to think that it must get tiresome, or at least repetitive, seeing the draw shape up after advancing through the first few rounds and realizing, if all goes well, you'll end up playing the same opponent that you played in the finals of your last tournament. Of course, this is probably how it was when Hogan and Peck were at the top of their games, and the way it was for the great Lynn Adams and Heather McKay, too. So it is today for Sudsy and Cliff. The rivalry continues.

In Denver, the only difference for each of these players had been in their respective semi-final rounds, where international qualifying opponents had advanced through two rounds of upsets to go up against the top seeds. In the top half, Canada's Mike Green had eliminated No.5 seeded Rocky Carson in the round of 16, followed by a four-game quarterfinal advance past No.4

Jason Mannino. His run ended quickly against Swain, who took three swift games to move into the final.

Current IRT world champion and top Mexican team player Alvaro Beltran also logged an upset in the 16s, past No.3 John Ellis in straight games, followed by a five-game marathon win over No.6, Derek Robinson to go up against Monchik in their semi. Although he scored slightly more than his Canadian counterpart had done against Swain, Beltran was also polished off in three to set up the Monchik-Swain rematch.

For that final, Erin Brannigan was in the cat bird's seat as the referee, who saw game one start with Sudsy running off six straight points to Cliff's one. Then it was quickly 7-1, then 8-1. When Cliff finally did make it to the service box, his serves eluded him and he faulted short twice, leaving

the door wide open for Sudsy, who capitalized immediately by winning another two points. Cliff got back into the service box and served an ace, but the deficit was too big to overcome, even for Cliff Swain! Sudsy won the serve and the first game 11-3. Time: 16 minutes.

Game two clearly proved that Cliff's consistency was gone while Sudsy, on the other hand, couldn't seem to miss. A few near-flat rollout pinches, a couple of wide angle passes, and one amazing get later and it was 7-1 Sudsy. When Cliff finally won serve and found himself in the service box, his serve again eluded him and he shorted out. And as he'd done in the first game, Sudsy capitalized on this and won another two points. At 1-9, Cliff short-served once more. Sudsy won the next point to go to game point, 10-1. The following rally was long and ended with Cliff drilling an easy forehand into the floor. 11-1, Sudsy. Time: 14 minutes.

The third game was not at all like the first two, as Cliff found his focus and Sudsy found himself pressed to think of what to do. Early on, as Cliff was about to serve, the crowd let out a loud cheer for Cliff! He smiled a bit, gained his composure, went into his service motion and served. Rollout! Sudsy seemed to be all over it and just let it all go. He guessed right and made perfect contact with the ball. It was a very good and well-placed serve. But the return was better. Cliff walked back to the back of the court with a previously unseen determined look on his face. Sudsy served. Rollout! Then Cliff served. Then Sudsy served. It went on and on like this, with each player losing his serve on a better return. A point was made here and there. Rallies were short. After four sideouts each, the score remained 2-1 Cliff. Twice again, both players won serve and tried to win points to no avail. For what seemed like forever, neither player could earn a point. The consistency was



there. Their serves were good, but the service returns by both players were simply flawless. It was a 'tight' game and it was about to get even tighter!

Sudsy finally skipped one, making it 3-1 in Cliff's favor, only to have Sudsy roll out the next serve. With his own good serve and a crisp passing shot, Sudsy earned another point to bring it to 2-3. Then another good serve and another good pass put him at 3-3. Then 4-3, then 5-3. Cliff served at 3-5. Rollout! Sudsy served well to earn another two points and the 7-3 lead, when a replay was called. Cliff questioned Brannigan and the two politely argued the point but the call stood and after Cliff took a time out, the point was replayed. When the play continued Sudsy hit what can only be called a phenomenal sidewall roll out. 8-3, Monchik! Cliff

slowed the action down with a great ceiling ball that left Sudsy perplexed trying to hit it. At 3-8 Cliff replayed a hinder and Sudsy skipped the next point making it 4-8. He skipped the next one too. 5-8. The next rally was one of the longest, going on for five hits by each player, and ending with Cliff finding himself turned around and trying to hit the ball behind his back. He made good contact but the ball just barely missed the front wall. "Side out!" called the ref.

Sudsy served and the rally went nine shots before Sudsy 'splatted' the ball, making it 9-5. Then he skipped the next one. At 5-9 Cliff put the ball just out of Sudsy's reach on its second bounce, making it 6-9. Sudsy hit the next ball out of court: 7-9. After taking a break, Sudsy skipped the next ball: 8-9. A replay, a good serve, a good kill shot and the score was tied at 9-9. But Sudsy thought that Cliff had put his hand up during this rally to indicate a hinder, but Cliff disagreed. Sudsy remained a little upset at this incident and replied by blasting his next serve to Cliff's forehand, a place he hadn't gone in



two games. Acel 10-9 Sudsy. Cliff then won serve and earned another point on a skip by Sudsy to tie it up at 10-10.

At this juncture (10-10 in the third game, Sudsy up 2-0) the third game had already run thirty-six minutes, or six minutes longer than the half-hour it had taken for the first two games combined. But this game was all new. Both were playing very, very tight and it was a game that showed very clearly just how close these two great champions really are. Naturally there were a few outbursts, but nothing to speak of. There were also a few disappointments in the many rallies that followed, but none of any merit. Certainly, when Sudsy hit the ball out of the court, he was disappointed. And Cliff would have been very pleased to see his behind-the-back shot make it. But neither player was giving an inch and it was an excellent game to watch!

At 10-10 Cliff served short. Sudsy then drove a serve to Cliff's backhand forcing a weak return, which Sudsy drilled into the front left corner for an absolute kill.

Match point for Sudsy, but Cliff won serve and the next rally went on forever! Each player must have hit the ball eight or nine times. There were many set ups, but neither could put it away. Great gets kept the rally alive until it ended with Sudsy's ball falling just short of the play wall to tie it up again at 11-11. The next service exchange brought the score to 12-12. With Sudsy serving, Cliff skipped the return making it 13-12. Cliff then won serve. The next rally went on all over the court with both players reaching and stretching, running and diving until Sudsy made the last shot. Side out! But Sudsy short served.

Side out! Again serving at 12-13 Cliff hit the ball out of the court and wanted a hinder. It was not awarded. Sudsy then served at 13-12, made many excellent gets and eventually won the rally with a roll out! The third game barnburner was finally over. 14-12 Sudsy! Time: 47 minutes.

So the first two games had depicted one player on the receiving end of excellent serving and even better shot making. The third game featured two players executing flawlessly, with outstanding shots, remarkable gets and roughly equal serving. Statistically, it was a lop-sided match, due to the early back-to-back game wins by Monchik. But the third game clearly showed what these two outstanding individuals are made of. These rivals met again here in the 'Mile High City' and played their hearts out as they have done so many times before. Congratulations are in order for them both! And as another pro stop concludes, one can only wonder if the Swain-Monchik rivalry will continue as long as the other great ones did, like Adams-McKay, Hogan-Peck, Borg-McEnroe, Nicholas-Palmer. Time will tell. But no matter how long it lasts one thing will remain certain — racquetball will be the better for it.



irt-tour.com



2000-2001 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCORECARD & SCHEDULE

New Orleans.....	Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik	10, (9) 4, 7
Stockton.....	Jason Mannino def. Sudsy Monchik.....	5, (9) 5, 9
Las Vegas.....	Swain/Mannino def. Robinson O'Neil	5, 3, 4
Albuquerque.....	Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis	4, (7) 4, 1
Chicago	Cliff Swain def. John Ellis	9, 4, 1
Memphis.....	Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain	8, 9 (9) 3
Denver	Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain.....	3, 1, 12
Boston.....	Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain	(7) 7 (8) 3, 6
Fairfield.....	Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain.....	6, 10, 10
Minneapolis, MN.....	Sudsy Monchik def. Rocky Carson	10, 7, 3

March 15-18.....	Greensboro, NC.....	TBA
May 2-6	Las Vegas, NV.....	PRO NATIONALS @ The Sporting House
May 17-20.....	Modesto, CA.....	The Court Room
June 1-3	Portland, OR.....	Tournament of Champions @ Multnomah Athletic Club

• men's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR RANKINGS

[Through Boston, 02/05/2001]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 3743	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	1	2
2. 3581	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	2	1
3. 2714	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	3	3
4. 2500	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	4	4
5. 2124	Tim Doyle	San Diego, CA	5	5
6. 2008	Mike Guidry	Carrolton, TX	6	7
7. 1726	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	7	9
8. 1725	Derek Robinson	Kennewick, WA	8	8
9. 1417	Mike Locker	Minneapolis, MN	10	12
10. 1360	Adam Karp	Stockton, CA	9	6
11. 1340	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	11	10
12. 1200	Alvaro Beltran	Chihuahua, Mexico	12	55
13. 923	Kane Waselenchuk	Alberta, Canada	16	n/a
14. 896	Louis Vogel	Albuquerque, NM	13	14
15. 792	Erin Brannigan	Sagle, ID	15	23
16. 778	Luis Bustillos	Chihuahua, Mexico	14	17
17. 590	Greg Thomas	Bend, OR	17	40
18. 573	Jack Huczak	Rochester Hills, MI	18	45
19. 515	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada	23	48
20. 485	Ryan Homa	Eagan, MN	22	32

IRT BONUS POOL STANDINGS

E-Force, HEAD, ProKENNEX Official Racquets of the IRT

1. Sudsy Monchik
2. Jason Mannino
3. John Ellis
- 4T. Tim Doyle
- 4T. Kane Waselenchuk

Next Up

Official Shoe of the IRT

1. Rocky Carson
2. Mike Locker
3. Ryan Homa
4. Erin Brannigan

Ashaway

Official String of the IRT

1. Derek Robinson
2. Erin Brannigan
3. Kirs Odegard
4. Brian Pointelin





ProFILE Tour News



Paraiso Back on Track

by Johanna Shattuck • Photos by John Foust

Over a year ago, in December of 1999, Jackie Paraiso had captured her first win of the season at the Lakewood Athletic Club. In this year's Coca-Cola Pro Am in Denver, Paraiso finally recovered from a slow start in the beginning of the current season, to earn her first win on the new LPRA tour with a straight game defeat over Cheryl Gudinas. At press time, each of the top three ranked players on the tour each have two wins to their credit, and four stops left in the season. Of the six events already played, Paraiso has been in the finals of five.

On her way to Denver's final, Paraiso beat Colorado's Jessie Carbajal, and No.9 seeded Michelle Lucas of Virginia to get to the semifinal. There, Rhonda Rajsich, of Phoenix, could not stop her progress either, as Paraiso logged her third consecutive straight-game match win.

From her No.2 spot on the lower half of the draw, Vancouver's Christie Van Hees defeated Texan Denise Mock in three games, then played Canadian national team-member Lori-Jane Powell in the quarterfinals. "It's always tough to play a fellow teammate" she said. Van

Hees dropped a close third game to Powell, but won the fourth and final game of the match to earn her rematch against Cheryl Gudinas in the semi.

In the third seed position, current world champion Cheryl Gudinas plowed through Ohio's Kerri Stroffregen and No. 6 Laura Fenton, then VanHees to make the finals without losing a game. Against VanHees, Gudinas said she "felt confident and flowing" in defeating the former world champ in three games. Van Hees commented that she "wasn't mentally where she needed to be," and that Cheryl had definitely "showed up to win" their semifinal round.

But on Saturday the crowd watched Paraiso shoot her way to a victory over Gudinas in three straight games to overturn the result of their last meeting, in Albuquerque last September. Gudinas said that she had remembered what worked in the fall, but "those things didn't work today. Jackie took me out of my flow state."

It was the first win for Paraiso since the LPRA changed the rules on her, and the momentum of the victory would carry over for at least one more event. The ladies enjoyed their holiday, then set out for a seaside resort in Mexico for the first event of the new year in Rosarito Beach!





Left: Jackie Paraiso's daughter Danielle explains her mom's strategy to Cliff Swain in Denver. Opposite page (L-R): Jackie warms up prior to the final. Cheryl Gudinas agonizes.

New Year Kicks off at the Beach

Story by Jim Hiser, photos by Denise Frank & event staff

Jackie is back! After being plagued by a series of injuries, plus a slow adjustment to the new LPRA rules that went into effect last September, Jackie bounced back from inconsistent performances early in the season to climb within 30 points of the number one position on the LPRA tour. After a strong showing in Denver, where she advanced with

straight game wins all the way to the event victory, everyone was waiting to see if Jackie could maintain her momentum to claim another tour title.

The Rosarito Beach event had all the fanfare and luxuries of a true professional sporting event. Dignitaries, great press and television coverage, an exclusive ocean-front resort setting, tremendous hospitality, exuberant fans, three national and five world champions in the mix, and of course, great competition.

In the early rounds, tour veteran Janet Myers surprised everyone by systematically dismantling Mexico's women's open champion Lupita Torres. Janet's control and off-speed passing game had Lupita both frustrated and exhausted after their five-game marathon.

Canada's Lori Jane Powell continued to draw some of the most difficult first round matches, going up against U.S. Junior Team member

Brooke Crawford of Oregon. But Powell's experience seemed too much for Crawford in her first LPRA event. "I loved the scoring system, and would like to see Juniors use it, but I would have to get in much better shape for future events" gasped Crawford, after losing in a close 21-18 tiebreaker.

The round of 16 played out much as expected, except for the win by Michelle Lucas, who upset No.7 seeded Kim Machiran. Michelle seemed on top of her game in overpowering Kim and consistently keeping her off balance with precise drive serves. Kersten Hallander and Lori Jane Powell had another of their close fought battles with Kersten outlasting her opponent in four. The difference continues to be Kersten's ability — and L.J.'s inability — to make critical shots at crucial times. A long serve at 20-19 that cost L.J. the fourth game was indicative of that inconsistency.

In the quarterfinal round, No.5 seeded Laura Fenton proved to everyone that experience does love its advantages. Playing consistently solid and using high percentage shots, she beat U.S. Open phenom and No. 4 seeded Rhonda Rajsich in four very close games. After her career high finish in Memphis, Rhonda has faltered as her "go for broke" shot selection continues to cost her critical points. Her tremendous physical ability



LPRA tour regulars check out the pier!



Semifinalists (above) Jackie Paraiso & Cheryl Gudinas; (below) Christie Van Hees & Laura Fenton. Photos: Denise Frank. Bottom: Jackie Paraiso is interviewed following her win. Staff photo.



keeps pressure on her opponents, but numerous errors and poor shot selection has cost her matches in both of the follow-up LPRA events.

Two of the remaining top three seeds advanced in four games (Van Hees over Acosta, and Gudinas over Hallander), while Paraiso stuck with her "no losses" game plan with an advance over Lucas in three.

In the semi's Christie Van Hees proved why she has claimed the No.1 spot, by defeating Fenton in three straight games (although the close second game went to 25-23). Boasting a very consistent game style, Christie seldom beats herself, and her ability to retrieve Laura's passing shots forced Fenton to go for the bottom board to win whatever rallies she could.

Jackie Paraiso once again completely controlled national rival Cheryl Gudinas, who hadn't won an event since the season opener in September. Her earlier-than-expected losses have lowered Cheryl's ranking position and held her in the No.3 spot, at least for the time being.

This Mexican beachfront final was a true international dogfight with USA's Paraiso and Canada's Van Hees alternating games right up to the fifth game tiebreaker. Although Jackie had seemed to be over the "back-hand problems" that had troubled her early in the season, they dramatically re-appeared in the finals. In the second game, she shot 32 backhands, only 4 of which scored her points, while the remaining 28 were – to term it politely – a bit high. The errors showed up early in the match, at 20-19 in the first game, when she backhanded a ball completely out of court.

Luckily for Jackie, Christie was unable to capitalize on that strange "around the world" weakness, which kept the match both exciting and unbelievably close. Jackie successfully served for the match in the fifth, to close out the 21-19 win.

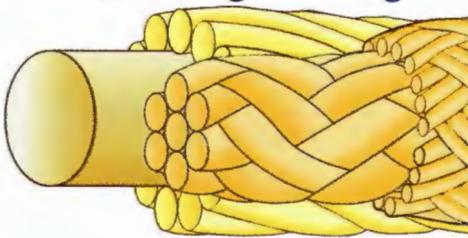
Ashaway Multifilament Strings— the Choice of Racquetball Champions

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Fabian Balmori *SuperKill 17*
Chuck Davis *Killfire Pro*
Kory Duarte *SuperKill 17*
Shannon Feaster-Stewart *PowerKill Pro*
Kori Grasha *SuperKill II*
Dennis Guaglione *PowerKill Pro*
Sameer Hadid *SuperKill 17*
Don Harrington *PowerKill Pro*
Steve Lerner *Killfire XL*
Aimee Roehler *Killfire XL*
Shawn Royster *SuperKill 17*
Dan Sheppick *SuperKill 17*
Ellie Stucker *PowerKill Pro*
Isabel Tabares *SuperKill 17*
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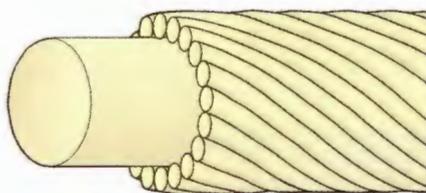
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Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Rankings

[Through Watertown, 02/05/2001]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 420.00	Christie Van Hees	Vancouver, B.C. Canada	1	3
2. 382.50	Jackie Paraiso	San Diego, CA	2	1
3. 362.50	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	3	2
4. 172.50	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	4	n/a
5. 146.25	Laura Fenton	Overland Park, KS	5	19
6. 101.25	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	6	4
7. 73.75	Susana Acosta	Chihuahua, Mexico	8	5
8. 56.25	Kim Machiran	Ballwin, MO	7	8
9. 53.75	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD	9	10
10. 46.75	Michelle Lucas	Annandale, VA	10	11
11. 34.75	Lori-Jane Powell	Calgary, Alberta, Canada	11	12
12. 33.75	Janet Myers	Charlotte, NC	13	9
13. 26.25	Chris Evon	Wheeling, IL	12	n/a
14. 25.75	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO	14	14
15. 18.75	Kristen Walsh	Berea, OH	15	22
16. 15.00	Josee Grand'Maitre	Longueuil, Quebec, Canada	16	17
17. 13.75	Angela Burth	Las Vegas, NV	19	15
18. 13.50	Denise Mock	Allen, TX	22	29
19. 12.75	Lourdes Sanders	Ft. Collins, CO	17	16
20. 10.10	Kari McDonough	Carmichael, CA	26	n/a



• women's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2000-2001 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCORECARD & SCHEDULE

Albuquerque	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso	17, 18, 16
Colorado Springs	Christie Van Hees def. Jackie Paraiso	(15) 21, 19 (18) 14
Memphis	Christie Van Hees def. Rhonda Rajsich	7, 12 (22) 11
Denver.....	Jackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas	14, 17, 9
Rosarito Beach.....	Jackie Paraiso def. Christie Van Hees	(19) 18 (15) 17, 19
Watertown	Cheryl Gudinas def. Christie Van Hees.....	17 (15) (16) 15, 16
Minneapolis, MN	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso	14, 15, injury forfeit
March 23-25	Chicago, IL.....	Athletic Club of Bloomingdale
May 2-6.....	Las Vegas, NV.....	PRO NATIONALS @ The Sporting House
June 1-3.....	Portland, OR.....	Tournament of Champions @ Multnomah Athletic Club

2001-2002 SEASON

August 3-5.....	San Luis Potosi, MX.....	La Loma Sports Complex
September 7-9	California (Doubles Event).....	TBA
September 20-23	North Carolina.....	TBA
October 18-20	Albuquerque, NM	Tom Young's Athletic Club
November 2-4.....	Colorado Springs, CO	Lynmar Racquet & Health Club
November 15-19	Memphis, TN.....	Racquet Club of Memphis
December 6-8	Denver, CO	Lakewood Athletic Club

industry news industry news

Adams Retires from Wilson >>

Wilson Racquet Sports regrettfully announced the retirement of former racquetball pro Lynn Adams, a valuable employee for the past six years.

A seven-time national champion, Adams began her professional racquetball career in 1979. Her first national title came three years later in 1982 and in 1985 she ended the season undefeated. Also a five-time national doubles champion, Adams was inducted into the Racquetball Hall of Fame in 1998.

Adams retired from the sport in 1991 and came to Wilson's racquetball department in 1994, where she managed the company's clinic program, conducting over 100 clinics throughout the United States. With her enthusiastic style she was a hands-down favorite and quickly became one of the best clinicians in the country.

"Lynn Adams is one of the greatest things to happen to racquetball," says Racquetball Business Director Terri Graham. "She has spent her entire career giving back to the sport that she loved. We need more Lynn Adams's in this sport."

In 2000, Adams made a decision to cut down on traveling, and will now be spending more time with her family, husband Rich Clay (USRA National Rules Commissioner), and their two daughters, as well as working for her church as a music director.

Carson Signs with HEAD/Penn >>

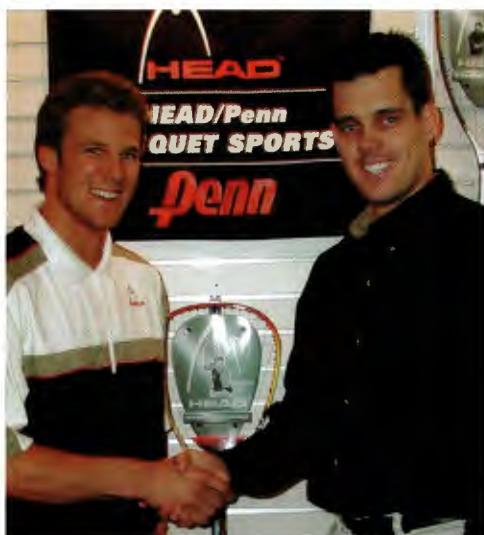
HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports has signed 21-year-old racquetball phenom Rocky Carson to a three-year contract with the company, effective immediately. Rocky is now part of the HEAD/Penn racquetball team, joining top ranked pros Sudsy Monchik and Christie Van Hees.

Rocky is currently ranked No.7 on the International Racquetball Tour and is the youngest top-ten player on the pro circuit. He is the reigning U.S. National Singles champion and a member of the U.S. National Racquetball Team. Coming up through the junior ranks, Rocky holds Junior National titles in every singles age division between 8- and-under through 18-.

"HEAD/Penn is excited to promote great talent in the game of racquetball," stated Ben Simons, Product Manager for Indoor Court Sports [shown far right, center photo, with Carson], "Rocky promises to be a dominant force in racquetball for many years to come and we look forward to his success as a HEAD/Penn player."

Roberts named Ektelon Promotions Manager >>

Ektelon recently announced the promotion of Andy Roberts from Team Manager to Promotions Manager. In his new position, Roberts will play an integral part in a renewed emphasis on the role of "grass roots" events in the company's marketing plan.



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"Roberts will be an incredible asset as we increase our grassroots marketing efforts," commented Scott Winters, senior director of Ektelon. "Roberts' promotion is part of our increasing focus on demo days, free clinics, and several other game-growing initiatives."

"Clinics and demo days are great, they allow us to interact on a personal level with players throughout the country while introducing the game to new people," said Roberts. Ektelon plans on setting up hundreds of demos and clinics across the country this season.

Roberts will continue to serve as a liaison for Ektelon's sponsored players in his new role, plus will oversee the activity of Ektelon's Regional Coordinators (ERC), who are key influencers, tournament players, or "specialty shop" owners. Ektelon sponsored Roberts throughout his pro tour career (1981-1999), during which he was ranked in the top three for nine years and finished #1 in 1998.

The SGMA State of the Industry Report — Steady Growth in 2000

By Mike May, SGMA Director of Communications

Inventory efficiency, controlled growth and sports participation are the keys to future growth in the sporting goods industry — according to the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) in its annual State of the Industry report. This report was released on January 22 during The Super Show® in Las Vegas.

The core components of the industry — sporting goods equipment, sports apparel and athletic footwear — are profiled in this report. Each category exhibited growth in 2000 and additional increases are expected in 2001. The SGMA State of the Industry Report, sponsored by The Nasdaq Market Group, is an annual analysis of the sporting goods industry.

In 2000, sporting goods equipment sales were \$18.03 billion — a 3.9% increase since 1999. Equipment sales are expected to reach \$18.65 billion this year — a 3.4% gain. The top two categories for equipment sales in 2000 were exercise machines (\$3.7 billion) and golf (\$2.8 billion). A number of activities showed positive signs in 2000 — frequent golf participation is on the upswing; girls fast-pitch softball play is at an all-time high; interest in tennis is rebounding from a mid-'90s low; basketball remains America's favorite team sport; and health club memberships are at record levels.

Sports apparel sales last year were \$20.4 billion (a 2.1% boost since 1999) and are expected to reach \$21.1 billion in 2001 (a 3% expansion). In 2000, this dollar amount represented approximately 22% of all apparel sales. This slow rate of growth is a reflection of the overall clothing market. Despite this slowdown, the women's apparel market is getting more attention because of increased participation in basketball, soccer, softball, and fitness activities.

Athletic footwear sales in 2000 were \$9.05 billion — a 4.4% climb since 1999. Sales are expected to reach \$9.5 billion in 2001 — a 4.7% increase. The top three categories of athletic footwear are running, basketball and cross-training. For the first time since 1997, back-to-school sales showed a definite spike, which is a sign the teen market is renewing its interest in the category. According to The NPD Group, 5% of athletic footwear sales were conducted online in 2000. The top three categories for online purchasers were running, basketball and hiking.

SGMA's State of the Industry Report is available online at: http://www.sgma.com/research/2001_research/soti2001.html — For SGMA members, this report is free. For non-members, the PDF version is \$175 and the four-color printed version is \$200.

The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), owner of The Super Show® is the trade association of North American manufacturers, producers, and distributors of sports apparel, athletic footwear, fitness, and sporting goods equipment. SGMA represents and supports its members through programs and strategies for sports participation, market intelligence and public policy.

Ashaway Racket Strings

As the official string of the USRA, Ashaway Racket Strings has introduced its new 2001 Racket Strings catalog, showcasing its line of tennis, squash, racquetball, and badminton strings. The colorful guide has all the information needed to select the right string for the desired combination of power, control, and durability for all styles of play, at every level of competition.

The catalog also features athletes sponsored by Ashaway, like the IRT's No.8 ranked Derek Robinson, giving readers a sneak peak into the high quality competition strings from Ashaway these top players use to win.

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For additional information on Ashaway Racket Strings, call 1-800-556-7260 or visit their web site at www.ashawayusa.com.

In Flight with Southwest Airlines >>

The cover story of the February edition of Southwest Airlines "Spirit" in flight magazine was an article entitled "Strung too Tight?" which suggested to business travelers that racquetball might be just what they need to de-stress after a day of travel and out-of-town business meetings. Author Dan Morrison interviewed USRA Executive Director Luke St. Onge and researched a series of clubs in the airline's hub cities — Chicago, Los Angeles, Orlando, San Antonio and Washington, DC — for details on how to set up a match on the road.

In his opening editorial, Executive Editor Don Nichols related "I still recall how much I looked forward to a racquetball match after a long workday. I would start a game stressed out and always end it dripping with sweat, but so much more relaxed — from sheer exhaustion. Whether I won or lost didn't matter (well, maybe it did). Today, I know several business executives in much better shape than *moi* who like racquetball for that same reason."

Online.Finds

The Athletic Women's Sourcebook >>> "Pretty good for a girl." A phrase mercifully outdated ... and now, all female athletes — from future champions who aspire to heightened sports challenges, to women who want to stay fit and avoid injury as they grow older — can refer to *The Athletic Women's Sourcebook: How to Stay Healthy and Competitive in any Sport*, by Janis Graham. Graham interviewed several racquetball athletes, like Jo Kenyon and Michelle Gould, for content in this research work, recently published by Avon Books. Find it online at: www.harpercollins.com (search under "author" or "title").

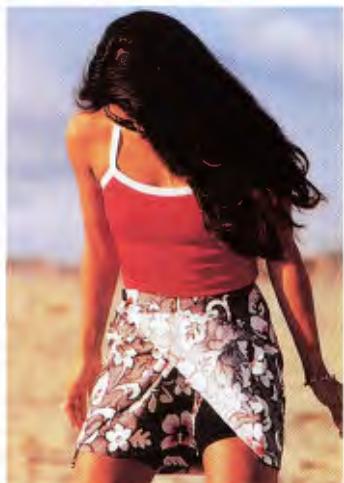
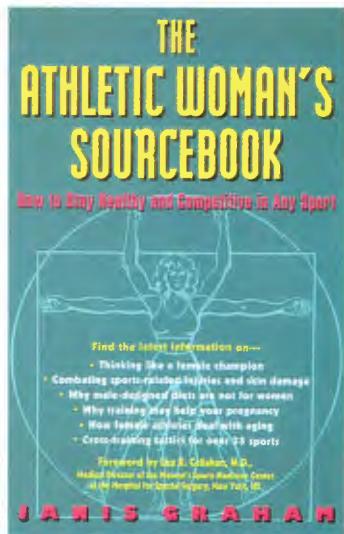
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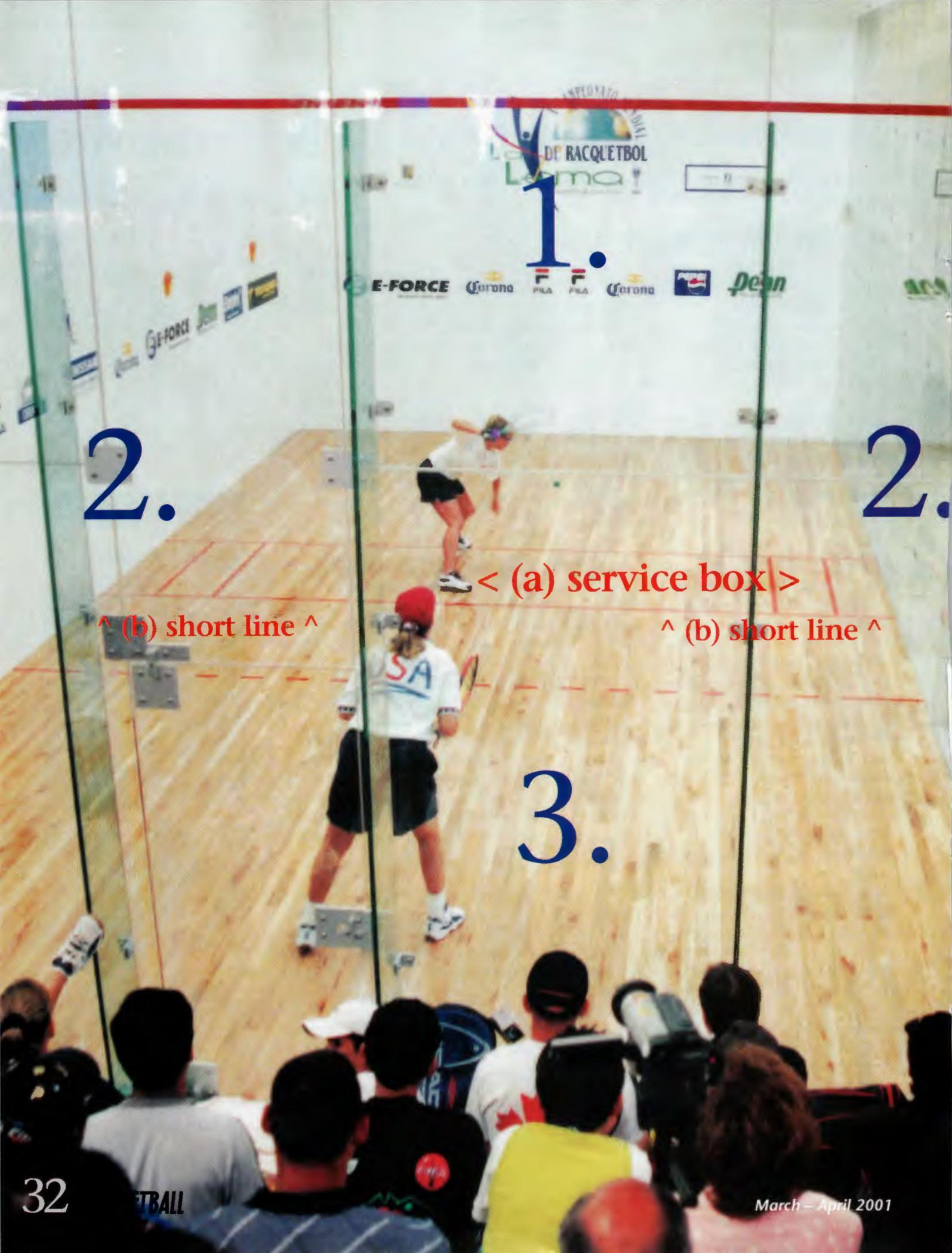
Terry Sportskorts >>> What is a skort? It's a skirt from the outside with high-performance athletic shorts underneath. The skirt is made of sanded polyester microfiber, which is non-wrinkling, color-fast, and quick-drying with a smooth, soft texture that maintains its shape. The shorts are eight-ounce matte nylon-Lycra or Supplex-Lycra, quick-drying synthetics that transfer moisture away from the skin. To order, call 1-800-289-8379 or visit www.terrybicycles.com.

Cleanztowel — Clean up quick after a game with a facial cleansing towelette, blemish and acne inhibitor in a convenient single-use package for your gym bag. Clean citrus scent dissipates quickly. www.tantowel.com.

Cap Flap — If you play outdoors in Florida or California during the summer months, protect your neck and shoulders with a Cap Flap. The adjustable 80/20 poly/cotton flap attaches to your baseball cap and can be imprinted with your company logo. Check out www.capflap.com.

PHOENIX RESTAURANT GUIDE • PRIVACY UNDER SIEGE
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2.

^ (b) short line ^

< (a) service box >

^ (b) short line ^

3.

start me up!

Getting started in racquetball is easy ...

From inside the service box (a), the server
1. hits the ball to the *front wall*, then
2. the ball can hit either *side wall* [but not both] on its way to the back court.

Once the ball crosses the short line (b), it's in play, and it has to *bounce once*
3. in *back court* before hitting a third surface (back wall or another side wall).

After that, players take turns hitting the ball on one bounce and returning it to the front wall (just like "going over the net" in tennis — except the "net" is the front wall). Add hustle, lots of laughter, and you're playing!

Want to learn more? Go online to find rules and terminology, certified teaching professionals, state associations that can give you information about local activity in your area, and much more. And check out RACQUETBALL magazine online for all the latest news about the sport!

www.usra.org
www.racqmag.com

BEGINNER SERVE & RETURN BASICS

Servers get two chances at a good serve, with the ball following this path ...

front wall > passes over short line > bounces in back court = ball in play

front wall > side wall > passes short line > bounces in back court = ball in play

front wall > passes short line > side wall > bounces in back court = ball in play

front wall > bounces in front of short line = fault serve (short)

front wall > back wall = fault serve (long)

front wall > ceiling = fault serve (ceiling)

front wall > side wall > other side wall = fault serve (three wall)

Receiver contacts ball before it bounces twice, then hits ...

front wall = ball in play

side wall > front wall = ball in play

ceiling > front wall = ball in play

back wall > front wall = ball in play

back wall > side wall > front wall = ball in play

floor = loss of rally

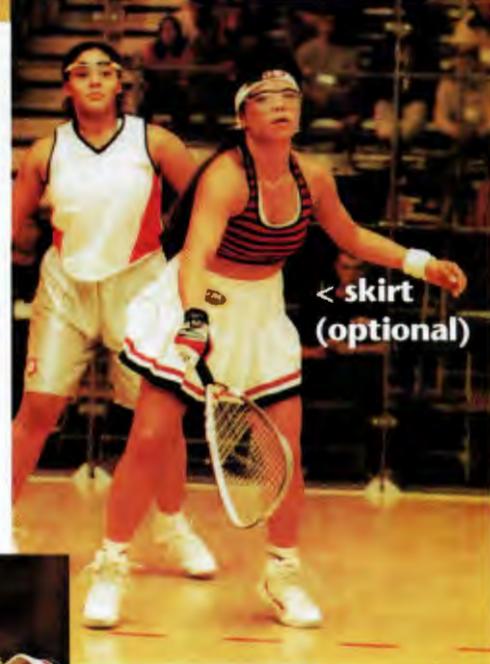
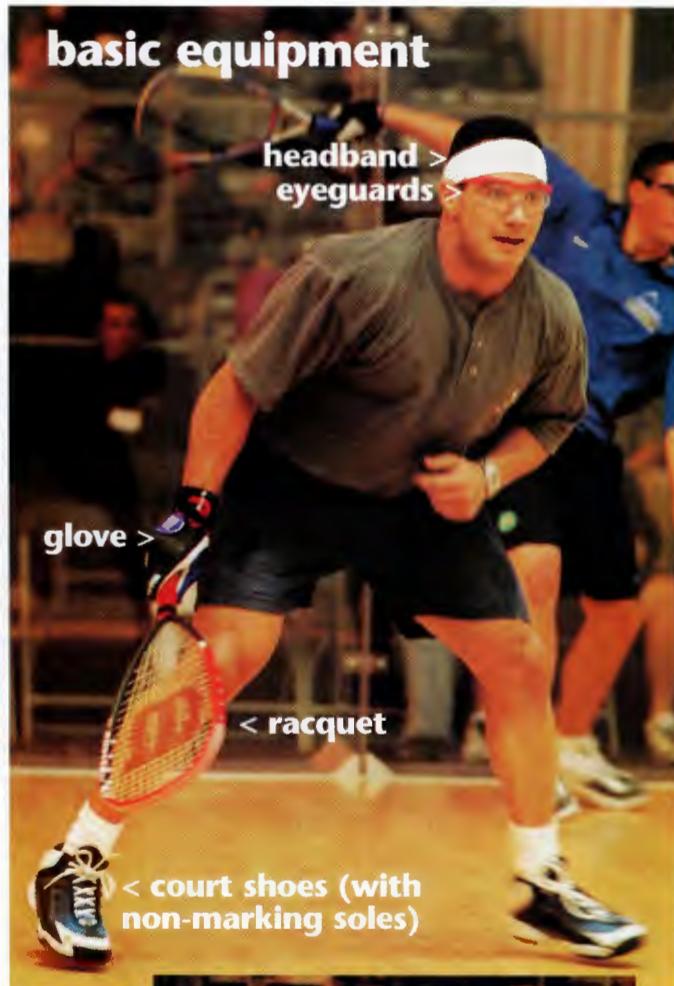
any surface > floor = loss of rally

ceiling > floor = loss of rally

out of court = loss of rally

Games are to 15, with 11-point tiebreaker (win by one), and only the server can score points.

basic equipment



ASTM F803 is the safety standard for eye protection, specific to racquetball [See Rule 2.5(a)]. Don't get on the court without your eyeguards!

Photos this page: Vicki Hughes, Hilton U.S. Open 2000



In the last issue I went out on a limb to teach you my Magical "Dive." Today I'm going to take it one step further and teach you my Magical "Jump." If you've ever gone to an IRT pro stop, or a top amateur event, you know what I'm talking about. The action happens so fast and the play develops so quickly that the defensive player ends up directly in the line of fire (see the photos of myself and Adam Karp). Several things could happen in this scenario if you don't jump (this is advanced stuff I'm talking about):

1. You would get hit and it might even be called an avoidable hinder – for a side out or point, depending on who's serving.
2. You could duck (as many lower level players do), but you're still in the way and it could still be called an avoidable hinder – with the same results as above.
3. You could move to one side or the other giving the offensive player a direct line to the front wall – ideal and best to do.

I always try to make #3 my first choice. It gives my opponent their shot and keeps my feet on the ground, which puts my body in position to be down and ready to retrieve the ball they just hit. It creates leverage and gives me the time I need to react.

As I said about diving: jumping is a last resort – when there's just no other way around it. Jumping may get you out of the way, but you are completely in the air when your opponent hits the ball (see the picture for trick #4). Then you have to land, set your feet and push off to move to the ball, which takes an enormous amount of timing, athleticism, balance and strength. Remember: it's better than standing there and not moving, but don't become "jump happy." Use it only when necessary, when the ball is moving too fast for you to get out of the way...and that's the only option you have left.

With that important piece of information in mind, let me break down my Magical "Jump" so you can see the particular steps of this action.

Sudsy's Magic Show ... The Jump!

Photos: Kurt Silvershield

TRICK #1: **Ready Position**

- Good center court position
- Down and ready
- Body square to front wall
- Feet wider than shoulder width apart
- Knees flexed
- Weight on balls of feet ready to push off – definitely not flatfooted
- Body low, catlike, ready to explode to the ball
- Racquet in a relaxed backhand grip, up and ready, wrist cocked
- Head turned completely with eyes on the ball

TRICK #2: **The Step**

- Move right foot around
- Square to side wall
- Knees flexing even more getting ready to spring up
- Arms move into swaying motion
- Head and shoulders completely turned with eyes on the ball
- Racquet up

TRICK #3: **The Jump**

- Body has pushed off in a coiled tucked motion
- Body at highest point
- Head and shoulders still completely turned with eyes on the ball
- Racquet up

TRICK #4: **The Descent**

- Body descending – coming down
- Knees opening up
- Arms up for balance
- Head and shoulders still turned with eyes on the ball

TRICK #5: **The Landing**

- Both feet land
- Knees flexed and relaxed to absorb the shock of the landing
- Body down low ready to move toward the ball
- Head and shoulders follow the ball to the front wall.



There you have it — my Magical "Jump." I've given you an effective and safe way to jump if you decide to use this advanced technique in your game. Jumping can be hard on your body and can lead to knee or back injuries if you land improperly, so be careful and smart when you do it. There is no question it is wonderful to watch and spectacular to observe (another real crowd pleaser) but it's not necessarily the best for your body. Take it from me, at the ripe young age of 25, I do feel it in my knees and ice has become my best friend.

So keep in mind, if you have the time to choose between moving out of the way or jumping out of the way, always take the easy and safe way out: moving. Jumping is a great skill to possess, but only lean on it if you have no other options. If and when you jump, pay close attention to the proper technique to avoid unnecessary injuries!



The Forgotten Ceiling Ball

By Mike Guidry

With the current power game style and players always going bottom board on every shot, the ceiling ball is often overlooked in situations where it would be the wiser choice. Many players try to hit offensive shots when they should be going to the ceiling, then end up getting themselves into trouble later in the rally. The ceiling ball should be used to get yourself back into the rally. A well-executed ceiling shot will allow you an opportunity to gain control of center court and the rally. Here are a few things that will help improve your ceiling game.

Never Face the Front Wall

One of the most common mistakes made by the average player is that they face the front wall when they are hitting the ceiling ball. There are a couple of negative things (they've happened to all of us from time to time) that are caused by facing the front wall when hitting. The first is that when we try to hit a ceiling ball, we contact the ball too far in front of us and the ball never makes it to the ceiling. The ball ends up going from the front wall to the back wall, and ultimately giving our opponent a set-up in center court. The other thing that could happen is that our contact point is too far behind us and the ball goes straight up into the ceiling (and straight down) so the ball never makes the front wall. That's the worst thing that can happen, for obvious reasons.

Stay off your Back Foot

Another common problem is that many players float back with the ball when going to the backcourt to hit a ceiling ball. The



performance series

problem with doing this is that the ball will end up getting behind them and they have to hit the ball off of their back foot. Once again, one of the most common results from this is that the ball hits the ceiling and doesn't make the front wall. At the very least, the ball hits too far back on the ceiling, falls too short and gives a set-up for the opponent. The key to this is a hurry-up-and-wait mentality. You have to hurry up to get back into position before the ball gets there so you can always step forward into it. This will allow you to reach out for the ball and hit it in the correct contact position.

Face the Side wall and reach out for the Ball

Having said what shouldn't be done, it's only fair that I tell you what you should do. When preparing to hit your ceiling shot, make sure that you are always facing the side wall as opposed to the front wall. Whether you are hitting a forehand or a backhand, you want to be facing the side wall.

Almost every court that I have ever played on has a row of lights about 5-8 feet back from the front wall on the ceiling. A little trick to hitting a good ceiling ball is to use the same motion that you would use on a forehand or a backhand, but to tilt your shoulders and point your front shoulder to the front row of lights. Next, make sure that you reach out for the ball and contact it out away from your body. Make sure that you are on your front foot and follow through on your stroke.

Hopefully, these tips will help to improve your ceiling game. Remember, a good ceiling ball is much better than a bad kill attempt. Use it wisely and watch your game improve.





Head Rules by Fran Davis

Return of Serve

email your questions to:
fran@frandavisracquetball.com

Q:&A...Q&A

I'm getting beat on my return of serve. I'm truly frustrated ... what advice can you give me?

You are not alone. The return of serve is one of the primary reasons that players – of all levels, not just club players – lose matches. That fact motivates the pros to spend hours working on this game component, because it is worth 25% of all points scored. In our camps, Sudsy, Cliff, John and Jason can't stress enough how important the return of serve really is – particularly at their level. We all agree that if your return of serve is solid, it will accomplish what you set out to do ... which is draw your opponent out of center court and put them in the most difficult position to score: the last 3-5 feet of back court. Let's take a closer look at the Return of Serve ...

1. Goal – Gain center court position from the server by moving your opponent back.

Will the serve come off the back wall?
 Will the serve hit the side- or back wall?
 Is the serve perfect and going to end up in the corner?

2. How to Accomplish this Goal?

The ceiling shot or a passing shot are excellent choices.

Take high percentage shots — remember you are 35 feet back and your opponent is in front of you.

3. Return of Serve Position and Stance

- Midway between side walls
- Four or five feet from back wall
- Feet shoulder width apart, knees flexed
- Weight is on the balls of your feet
- Backhand grip
- Racquet is relaxed, in front of body
- Eyes focused on racquet face of server, ball, stride position, or body position.

Choose between a ceiling ball and a pass shot or a pass shot and a pass/kill – never choose between a ceiling and a kill. (Remember 30% of all balls can be killed from the dotted line, 25 feet, so the deeper you are in the court, 35 feet for return of serve, the percentages go down, way down).

4. Footwork

- Take a cross over step first and move aggressively at a 45 degree angle toward the ball
- Body turned, racquet up (early racquet preparation =ERP)
- Don't rush into the corners, stay relaxed, and give yourself space from the ball for a proper stroke
- Keep knees flexed and torso upright as you hit the ball.

6. Other Return of Serve Factors

- How well was the serve hit? Ask the same questions from shot selection.
- How does your opponent come out of the box? — do they look at the ball or do they come out of the box without looking (back pedaling?) — do they stand to one side or the other? — are they too far up or too far back? Check out their court position carefully.
- What is your skill level? – Make sure you hit the shots you are capable of hitting within your own skill level.

5. Shot Selection
 Make sure you ask yourself:

Don't take the return of serve lightly. It's one of those areas of the game that can make or break you! If 25% of all points are scored on return of serve, you should spend 25% of your time practicing this very skill. It will make a difference, just ask the pros!



MAINS & CROSSES

By Steve Crandall
Vice President, Sales & Marketing

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT STRING (AND MORE): Long-awaited answers to some tricky racquetball string questions ...

There were 86 winners of the racquet stringing quiz which appeared recently in this column. These daring individuals sent in their quizzes to be graded, and each received their

test results along with a free set of Ashaway SuperKill® 17 Racquetball string.

As a group, our contestants got 73% of the questions right. For everyone's edification we'll review the toughest questions here.

— 36% did not know the standard length for racquetball string sets. Answer: 40 feet.

— 45% could not tell us which of the following characteristics (elongation, creep, denier, and moisture absorption) does not affect the performance of racquetball string. Answer: Denier.

Denier, a term originating in the textile industry, refers to the weight in grams of 9,000 meters of a given type of filament. The lower the denier, the finer the fibers. Many players report that thinner strings give them better feel. But denier does not necessarily relate directly to how thin the string is.

A multifilament string may be composed of a number of different fibers, which can range from 15 denier to 1,600 denier. The thinness of the string has more to do with the overall design than the denier of any one of its fibers.

— 47% were unable to say which racquetball stringing material (Vectran®, Zyex® or Kevlar®) is not used in body armor. Answer: Zyex.

Since power is a subject that is near and dear to most racquetball players, you might think that materials used in body armor would make for a super-powerful racquetball string. After all, if a material can stop a bullet, imagine what it might do

to a little rubber ball. Unfortunately, this is not a valid assumption.

The materials that make good body armor are very dense and can absorb a shock without breaking or deforming. This kind of strength is called tenacity. Vectran and Kevlar have a tenacity of 20 to 30 grams per denier. The tenacity of Zyex (and nylon) is 6-7 grams per denier.

If you're looking for a string to generate power, the body armor fibers are not a good choice because of this energy-absorbing characteristic. If you are looking for control, they could be ideal. Zyex, which is not strong enough to stop a bullet, will stretch and then redirect a lot of energy back into the ball (the infamous trampoline effect). Interestingly enough, this property is called toughness. So you macho racquetball guys, do you want your string to be strong or tough? They can't be both.

— 51% did not know the definition of hybrid stringing. A: Stringing with two different types of strings. We started discussing hybrid stringing in the November/December issue, and we'll have more to say about it in our next column.

— 60% could not tell us which of the following countries (USA, Canada, Japan or France) is not home to a racket string manufacturer. Answer: Canada.

— And, finally, a full 65% of the quiz participants (be still my heart) did not know the year this column first appeared. Answer: 1995.

Thank you to all who participated in the string quiz. I hope that those new strings, and the additional stringing knowledge, help win you a few games.

Vectran is a registered trademark of Celanese Acetate L.L.C. Zyex is a registered trademark of ZYEX Limited. Kevlar is a registered trademark of DuPont.



Skill Practice for Racquetball ***by Marcy Lynch***

In the last article, I talked about four areas to focus on in order to improve: skill practice, physical training, nutrition, and mental practice. I mentioned that a good place to start is to establish proper grip and stroke mechanics. The instructional articles in this magazine review them nicely and an AmPRO certified instructor will be able to teach them as well.

Remember, proper shot execution precedes proper shot selection.

Once stroke mechanics are established, then skill practice is possible. It's difficult to practice skills in the course of playing a game without first isolating them in a non-game situation. Practice sessions, both alone and with partners, offer the opportunity to focus more exclusively on one or two things. The following is one example of how to develop a particular skill:

1. Pick something to work on. Take the forehand pinch, for example.
2. Go on the court alone and practice executing the pinch by dropping and hitting the ball. Move around to various places on the court; the middle of the court, close to the forehand side wall, close to the front wall, deep court, etc.
3. Work with a moving ball by hitting setups or having a partner hit them to you. Vary the set up (i.e. front wall, front wall/side wall, front wall/back wall, short ceiling ball).
4. Simulate a game situation by hitting continuous setups, alone or with a partner (hit a short ceiling ball, pinch it, retrieve the pinch and hit it to the ceiling, pinch it, etc.).
5. Integrate the skill in a game situation by playing a game with a partner and ending as many rallies as possible and reasonable with a forehand pinch.

This process can work for any skill, including serves. The better you get at executing your skills

outside of a competitive atmosphere, the better your skills will hold up under the pressure of competition. In addition to the specific steps suggested above, here are some general tips for designing practice sessions:

1. Practice doesn't need to be long. A focused half hour is more effective than an unfocused hour.
2. Isolate skills as much as possible by taking them out of game situations.
3. Pick from 1-3 things to work on in any practice session. Too many things to work on can lead to frustration.
4. Be precise and specific in your execution. The more precise you are in practice, the more precise you will become in a game situation.
5. Plan your practice sessions ahead of time.
6. Make practice more meaningful by setting goals for the session. For example; "I will hit myself 3 sets of 10 setups. My goal is to execute at least 7 (or 8, 9, 10) out of each 10 setups correctly".
7. Keep a sense of fun/play about practice. If practice becomes extremely frustrating, then either your goals are too strict or you're taking it too seriously. Stop and take a break or get off the court and come back another day.

The biggest objection to practicing is that it is boring. The best way to keep this from happening is to follow the tips outlined above. As long as there is a goal, a focus, and a sense of play, practice can be engaging and fun. The best part, however, is seeing a skill you have practiced show up in a match. Then practice will feel all the more worthwhile.

In the next issue I'll address physical training. Have fun and enjoy your practicing!

As always, I welcome your questions and feedback. I also invite you to visit my web page at: marcylynch.com and to receive my free monthly e-newsletter by sending an e-mail request to marcy@marcylynch.com.

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new directions ***by Luke St. Onge***

The year has really gotten off to a great start. The 17th Annual Leadership Conference was held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, with over 70 people in attendance. Between them, 35 states and four manufacturers were represented, with appearances by Scott Winters from Ektelon, Mike Martinez from Pro Kennex, Doug Ganim and Ben Simons from HEAD/Penn, Ron Grimes from E-Force. The two main themes of this Conference were a "Grow the Sport" initiative by the Racquetball Industry Association and increasing the USRA membership to its goal of 22,000 by January of 2002.

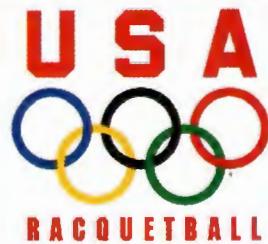
Probably the most notable achievement of the three-day meeting was the solidarity across all segments of the industry toward these common goals. State associations, USRA Board, the Racquetball Industry Association [RIA], International Racquetball Federation, LPRA, IRT, IHRSA and the USOC all came together to discuss, debate and agree on programs to develop and promote racquetball.

This was a vision of the 1990 USRA Strategic Plan which had held the highest priority. At that time, the sport as a whole was fragmented – and it had been divided for over 15 years, making the outlook for unification seem bleak. But new blood came into Leadership roles and slowly but surely we worked towards the goal of having all factions in the industry form a collective effort to develop and promote our sport.

So, after this decade-long effort, this was truly an historic moment for racquetball and for those who were

in attendance at the conference. It's very difficult to fight a battle on two fronts. Our struggle is now on the outside, not on the inside. A unified focus within the sport is crucial to its continued development and progress. Thanks to all those who made it happen!

PLUS! ... For the first time since the USRA gained acceptance as a recognized national governing body for the sport of racquetball, the U.S. Olympic Committee has granted the association the right to use the Olympic Rings logo on its official merchandise and apparel. This visual association with the exclusive five rings logo gives racquetball an exciting new visibility and exposure in the sports marketplace.



The premiere release of the USRA's new Olympic Rings merchandise appears on the inside back cover and will be available for purchase online through the USRA storefront at: usrastore.active.com. Be among the first to show your colors with "Olympic Racquetball" clothing.

AmPRO Instructor Certification Clinic Schedule

DATE	HOST CLUB	CITY/STATE	CLINICIAN	CONTACT
March 9-11	Ft. Myers Army Base Ath. Complex	Arlington, VA	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960
March 12-13	Tyson's Sport & Health	McLean, VA	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960
March 19-20	The Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	Dan Davis	817-275-3348
March 23-25	Kingman Wellnes & Rehab center	Kingman, AZ	Karen Key	480-545-1363
May 11-13	Riverpoint Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	Joe Wittenbrink	505-890-0096
May 21-22	Downtown YMCA	Houston, TX	Ken Woodfin	281-280-8408
June 1-3	Modesto Court Room	Modesto, CA	Dave George	650-589-6904

For more information about conducting an AmPRO Instructor Certification clinic, or about becoming certified, please contact Gary Mazaroff [Director of AmPRO Instructor Certification] at 505/266-8960, email GMazaroff@usra.org.

AmPRO Instructors! Check your online directory listing for accuracy! Follow links from www.usra.org | "AmPRO" | "Instructors" to see if we have your most recent contact information, then email us corrections, if needed!

Winter tapped as Puerto Rico's Athlete of the Year

By David Marrero

Every year the Puerto Rico Olympic Committee holds an awards banquet honoring top athletes in every sport, recognizing their accomplishments on and off the court. Curtis Winter, of Jacksonville, Florida, was selected to receive the year 2000 honor as the top racquetball athlete for his accomplishments in the World Championships, the Puerto Rican National Championships, the U.S. National Doubles, the PR International Invitational and other tournaments throughout the year. [Photo: courtesy Usher Barnoff, 2000 Worlds].



Most recently, in the Men's Open doubles at the Puerto Rican Invitational, he and partner David Marrero earned a grudge rematch win against the Guatemalan team of Manolo Bendfelt and Juan Galvez in straight games of 15-9, 15-8. Winter and Marrero had lost to the Guatemalan team in the Panam Games in Winnepeg.

The award ceremony was held February 24, and Winter joins recent medal winners Rob de Jesus (1999), Anita Maldonado (1998) Gilbert Rodriguez (1997) in this honor.

Military Captures Gold at French Open

by Mike Bowers

It was U.S. entrants, led by military players, who gamered the lion's share of trophies at the annual French Open Racquetball Tournament, which featured the current world champion Alvaro Beltran and 90 of the best players from six European countries.

Performances by the military players were somewhat overshadowed by the appearance of International Racquetball Tour pros Beltran of Mexico and Shawn Royster of the United States. In addition to being this year's world champion, Beltran is the IRT's 12th-ranked player. Royster is ranked No.36.

In reaching the finals, Beltran used his precision and power to slice through the competition with relative ease. He easily defeated Trevor Hayter, Germany's former No. 1 in the round of 16 and took out Pascal Matla, The Netherlands top player in the quarters.

Germany's number one player, Martin Klipper, spoiled an all-pro final by taking out Royster in the semifinals to set up a meeting between the two hard-hitting youngsters. Klipper, also the European Racquetball

Tour top-rated player, surprised a standing-room-only crowd by taking the first game off Beltran in the best-of-five match.

Beltran upped the intensity and bounced back to tie the match and forge ahead 2-1 before Klipper used his powerful backhand and crisp passes to force game five. In that tiebreaker, Beltran attacked Klipper's lob serve with deadly accuracy and, aided by a few untimely mistakes by Klipper, lived up to his billing as the next superstar on the IRT.

"I didn't think winning this tournament would be easy, but I didn't think it would be that tough," said Beltran, a native of Tijuana who plays out of San Diego. "I played very hard, but Martin played at my level."

Two of five military players entered in the pro-open made it to the quarterfinals. Air Force member William Smith of Geilenkirchen, ranked ninth in the ERT, lost to Klipper in the quarterfinals and Rey Duron, an Air Force member stationed in England, came up short against Matla.

American Civilian Bob Bagley of Ramstein Air Base made it to the pro-open consolation quarterfinals before losing to Germany's Mike Mesecke.

The Netherlands' Daphne Wanee, ranked number one in the ERT, stopped Air Force Lieutenant Becky Neel of Ramstein in the quarterfinals, then defended her title in the women's pro-open division by besting second-ranked Kathy Tritsman of Belgium. American military family member Rita Mitchell of Hohenfels, Germany, lost to Tritsman in the semi-finals.

It was an all-American final in the 40+ division as Mike Bowers of Kaiserslautern, Germany, defeated James Johnson of



L-R: PHILIPPE LECOMpte, MARTIN KLIPPEL, ALVARO BELTRAN, ERIC MEYER. PHOTO: COURTESY RAMONA VONONDARZA.

Heidelberg. Both are Department of the Army civilians working overseas. Bowers advanced to the finals by defeating Ireland's John Comerford, while Johnson downed David Szafranski, an American civilian living in Paris, to advance to the finals.

Air Force member Ray Garcia of Ramstein and ranked fifth in the ERT won the 40+-consolation division with a victory over Karl-Heinz Kortes of Germany.

Heidelberg's Army member Stanley Johnson was crowned men's B division champion after his victory over fellow civilian Chris Morgan of Spangdahlem. Johnson's road to victory included having to edge out American civilian Stuart Karmelin, also of Heidelberg.

Mannheim's Army member James Meeks was one point from winning the C division, but had to settle for second place after losing an 11-10 tiebreaker to Ryan Joseph, an Air Force member assigned to Paris. Meeks made it to the finals by slipping past Army warrant officer Robert Rosier, also of Mannheim.

The next military tournament is scheduled in Wiesbaden. Check out www.racquetball.de/ and click on "turnierkalender" for the entire tournament schedule, results and other racquetball information. The next ERT event is the Antwerp Open in Antwerp, Belgium.

Players receive points that count toward the IRT rankings in all ERT-sponsored tournaments.

German Federation Executive Committee Re-elected

By Mike Mesecke

At its annual Congress, the German Racquetball Federation re-elected its executive committee under the leadership of President Jörg Ludwig (Hamburg) for another year in office.

President: Jörg Ludwig (Hamburg)
Vice-president: Hermann Bachmaier (Bad Tölz)
Treasurer: Götz Schulte-Langforth (Worms)
General Secretary: Mike Mesecke (Hamburg)
National Team Coach: Björn Jensen (Hamburg)



When Worlds [Champs] Collide ... Current world racquetball champion Alvaro Beltran of Mexico (left) and world squash champion Peter Nicol of Scotland got together during the PNC Investments Florida Open last fall in Delray Beach. Photo: Randall Scott.

DATE CHANGE: The German Open will now be held on June 8-10, 2001 (formerly scheduled in April).

Puerto Rico International Invitational

Submitted by David Marrero

The tournament was a big success, the new courts are excellent and everyone had a great time. The award ceremony was held on the poolside terrace at my house with over 100 people on hand, for music, tons of food and lots of partying.

Results — Men's Open: Manolo Bendfelt (Guatemala) def. Miguel Santiago (Puerto Rico, residing in Germany) 15-4, 11-15, 11-4; Women's Open: Claudine Garcia (Dominican Republic) def. Maria Silva (PUR); Men's Open Doubles: Curtis Winter/David Marrero (Puerto Rico) def. Fernando Rivera/Miguel Santiago 15-9, 15-5; Women's Open Doubles: Marta Cañellas/Patricia Malley (PUR) def. Maria Silva/Vivian Rodriguez (Ft Lewis).

Next up is the Puerto Rico National Championships, which will be held March 15 - 18 in new Central Park Facilities to select the 2001 team that will compete in the Tournament of the Americas. Interested players should contact David_marrero@toyota.com for more information.

Asia Open 2001

submitted by Yasushi Tanahara

Japan Racquetball Association

The first Asia Open was held on January 6-7 in Fukuoka City. Although it was right after the New Year vacation, about 100 players participated from Korea and all over Japan. There were also five entries from Pakistan, but unfortunately they could not come.

We are hoping to gather more players from more countries to make this event an Asian version of U.S. Open. So please wait for the next Asia Open and start planning ahead.

Results — Men's Open: Shimizu Hiroshi (Japan) def. Sakai Shoichi (Japan); Men's B: Hisakado Yoshiaki (Japan) def. Kim Ji Hun (Korea); Women's Open: Noda Etuko (Japan) def. Sakamoto Toshiko (Japan); Women's B: Kan Moung Suk (Korea) def. Nasu Michiko (Japan); (Family names are written first as is traditional in Asian countries).

rb:people & places



Megan Bals

USRA Scholarship Winners

Megan Bals (Lincoln, Nebraska/University of Arkansas)

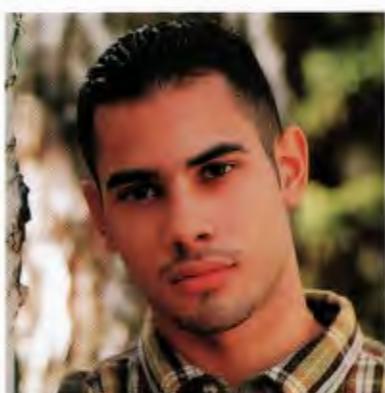
At 20, Megan Bals has been juggling a host of activities for nearly half her life. She started playing racquetball at 10 and in her second tournament, at 11, faced one of Lincoln, Nebraska's top junior players before earning her first silver medal. At the time, she also was taking piano lessons, being a soccer goalie and playing on a basketball team.

At Pius X High School in Lincoln, Bals also participated in the French Club, Student Council, National Honor Society, Jazz Band and still found time to play soccer, softball, basketball, and run cross-country. "In addition to these sports, I was playing as much racquetball as time allowed" she said. All that and she graduated with a 3.8 grade-point average, along with earning three national doubles titles and two silver medals at the Junior World Championships, and claiming the #1 national ranking in Girl's 16-and-under.

Bals attends the University of Arkansas and is pursuing a biology degree, with plans to go on to veterinary school upon graduation. She still plays soccer — for the University — and continues to play racquetball, since "It helps me a lot in soccer, with the quickness."

Raymundo "Rey" Garcia, Jr. (Kaiserslautern, Germany/Univ. of Arizona)

Raymundo "Rey" Garcia understands the difference between how racquetball is perceived in the United States compared to Europe. The son of an active duty U.S.A.F. member, the 18-year-old "Air Force brat" has lived in Germany for the past two years, attending Kaiserslautern American High School.



Rey Garcia

Garcia is ranked ninth on the European Racquetball Tour and first in the 18-and-under division. He is also ranked third in the men's American/European Racquetball Association. He and brother Marco have been ranked fifth in the adult men's open doubles division in Germany, which is the toughest amateur division. In last year's stateside High School Championships, he took second in doubles with Marco, and he has held the number one ranking for 14-and-under juniors in California and the number one ranking for 12-juniors in Idaho.



Renee Markham

Outside of racquetball, Garcia's favorite subjects in high school were math and science. He won an award in Germany at the Kaiserslautern District Science Fair for mastering the science curriculum standard. This interest has carried over to college, where he is currently attending the University of Arizona with a major in computer science.

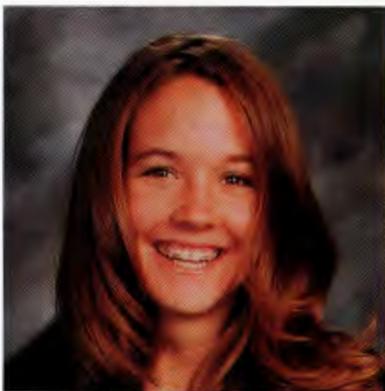
Renee Markham (Big Lake, Minnesota/University of Minnesota)

Co-valedictorian of her graduating class at Big Lake High School, Renee Markham understands the value of education along with extracurricular activities. Not only was Markham a National Honor Society member, but also a representative on the high school Knowledge Bowl team for four years. She was one of the few students to be appointed to the team as a freshman.

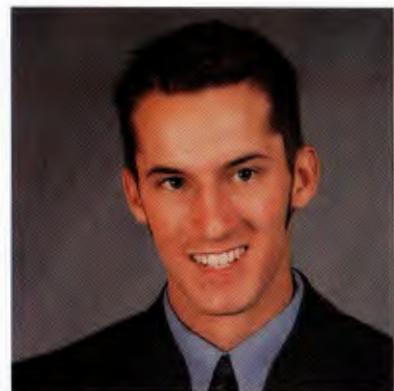
Outside of academics, 18-year-old Markham participates in the Minnesota State Racquetball Association and has been ranked among that state's top ten players. Markham also excels in



Jane Rombach



Kristen Walsh



Joel Worthington

volleyball, as captain of the Junior Olympic volleyball team, the Junior Varsity and Varsity high school teams, and as a member of the All-State Academic Volleyball team.

"To me, sportsmanship starts before you even enter a court. Sportsmanship is having the decency to properly introduce yourself to your opponent and become acquainted with them in a friendly manner," she said. These communication skills should help Markham with her aspirations of becoming a physical therapist. She is currently enrolled at the University of Minnesota with a major in kinesiology.

Jane Rombach (St. Louis, Missouri/Univ. of Dayton) Teamwork can improve individual performance. This is what 18-year-old Jane Rombach discovered since she began playing the sport ten years ago. At last year's National High School Championships, she spent a lot of time preparing for individual matches but also knew she had to cheer on her Nerinx Hall High School teammates. Rombach tied for third, and her team won the girl's team title for the fifth consecutive year.

That same month, Rombach was awarded Nerinx Hall's Sportsmanship award — the highest honor an athlete can receive at the school for academic achievement and community service. Rombach believes that "sportsmanship is often created and nurtured on a team."

Rombach maintained a 3.86 grade-point average in high school, while serving as president of Outreach, a service club that volunteers at local soup kitchens, daycare centers, and shelters. Visitors to Nerinx Hall may also have received a tour guided by Rombach, as one of her duties as a Presidential Aid. She plans to continue her extracurricular activities, including racquetball, while attending the University of Dayton (Ohio). She'll even be teaching a racquetball class. "I am very excited to be starting college and I look forward to finding new people

with different ability levels to play," Rombach said.

Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah/Baldwin Wallace) Determination has paid off for 18-year-old Kristen Walsh. The current World Junior Champion and U.S. Junior Olympic Champion went through some challenging times on the road to achieving her accomplishments. She started playing racquetball at age five, and after her first tournament she recalled, "I lost every single match and cried after it was all over."

The first time Walsh tried out for the U.S. Junior Racquetball Team, she didn't make the cut. She is now a third-year member. "I've learned determination, how to follow and reach my goals and dreams, and mental toughness," she said. This drive has led Walsh to also compete on the LPRA pro tour, where she has yet to make it past the round of 16 to date, but she's steadily advanced up the rankings to reach the #15 spot.

Walsh lends her experience and knowledge to other phases of the sport as a certified referee and an AmPRO instructor. Giving back to her home state, Walsh is currently on the Utah Racquetball Association Board of Directors and, according to her coach, Rick Strout, she is the driving force behind the Utah state high school and junior racquetball programs. And she's found another way to share her talents with others. She is currently attending Baldwin Wallace College in Cleveland, Ohio, majoring in physical therapy.

Joel Worthington (Overland Park./Univ. of Kansas) Current Kansas state racquetball champion Joel Worthington has had a passion for athletics since he was a youngster, when having an older brother who excelled in sports gave him all the motivation he needed. In racquetball, the turning point came in December 1995 when, with partner Kristen Walsh, he won the 12-and-under mixed doubles Junior World Championship. That win convinced him that he had a future in the sport, but

rb:people & places

he still needed to balance it against his academic curriculum, baseball, basketball, and community service work.

That balance has proven successful. The 18-year-old state champion was named the Kansas Junior Racquetball Player of the Year as a sophomore. As a freshman, he was ranked third nationally in his age division. At the Junior National and Junior World Championships, Worthington has won red division gold and silver medals, two bronze medals in blue divisions, and finished in the top four three times in boys' doubles.

Motivation has also helped Worthington get a head start on his chosen career path. Before beginning classes for his intended degree, he interned with an architectural firm during his senior year at Olathe East High School. Worthington is currently attending the University of Kansas with a major in architecture.

10th Mitch Nathanson Classic

Story & photos by Kelly Beane

The Mitch Nathanson Classic was held January 19-21 at The Executive Health & Sports Center in Manchester, New Hampshire, and what a great event it was! This annual tournament began with the first "Mitch" in 1992, and has grown to be the biggest racquetball event in the northeast. For those of you who didn't know Mitch, let me fill you in.

Mitch Nathanson was a young open player who, at the age of 25, died in a tragic car accident in Newton, Massachusetts. Popular at tournaments, he had always been a big hit with all the kids. He'd spend countless hours horsing around with them, and also spent a lot of time working with juniors at the clubs he

played at in and around the Boston area. A dear friend to Cliff Swain, Mitch was very much a part of the racquetball community and when we lost him, we needed to heal. To help with that process, we decided to establish an event in his name and to donate the proceeds to junior development in the New England area.

Well, the first year we had a lot of entries and everyone played to remember him, but as the years went on interest waned as new people – who hadn't known Mitch – came to the game and the old timers sort of faded away. At a turning point we decided to offer prize money and to make this event the biggest event of them all by going out and getting some major sponsors. This year's tournament marked the best so far in both fundraising and attendance, with big prize money (over \$6,000) and lots of players (241) but it has still maintained the environment of caring and giving that it was based on. I have yet to hear any yelling, or see any poor sportsmanship, at this particular event.

The Mitch Nathanson Trust Fund receives 100% of the income from the tournament and it is then given out to kids in the New England area who complete applications for assistance. Last year alone we helped send eleven players to junior nationals, who might not otherwise have been able to go. It's wonderful to get the thank you notes from these kids, read how they did at the tournaments and know how much we helped.

But we couldn't do it alone, and this year we had a staff of twelve people, of which many of them took time off from work that week to help with all the errands and yucky pre-tournament chores. We also had the Executive Health and Sports Center donate their facility for the event, which puts a lot more money in the trust fund.



Left: At the tournament desk, Cliff Swain (trying to look busy) and another friend of Mitch's, Rich Barber (relief pitcher for the Chicago Cubs). Right: Juniors wait for a shot at Swain (L-R) Mike Keddie, Matt Keddie, Matt Sauter, Billy Bayliss.



On top of that, we had major corporate sponsors Paine Webber, Sovereign Bank, US Air, Northeast Delta Dental, Thrifty Car Rental, Wilson and E-Force.

Another great part of this event is having some of the U.S. Junior National Team on hand, like Utah's Kristen Walsh, winner of the Women's Open, and Adrienne Fisher of Ohio and her sister Kelley. We also had many Canadian team members and coaches in attendance, including Josee Grand'maitre, Michel Gagnon, Veronique Guillemette, and Chantal Turgeon. It is great for the people in New England – and over 40 of the juniors entered in this event – to see the potential of what they could be. These juniors and our international guests were wonderful on the court and great role models.

This year's event was preceded by a snowstorm on Friday night, and we were socked with another one on Sunday morning. A big thank-you to all who didn't cancel! Of the twelve who had to cancel, two sent checks for payment in full anyway. One person who did make it up on Sunday morning was Cliff Swain, who had a friend with a big truck help him make the normally one-hour ride (more like three that day) to the event. He was scheduled to play every junior in the event on our show court and he was a class act. Some were as young as eight years old, but others were national team members who made him work a little! I bet it will be a great memory for all of them, and their pictures are on the way.

The 10th annual Mitch Nathanson Classic raised about \$3,000.00 and that will send a lot of juniors to a lot of events! Thanks to all who took part and everyone who sent donations. Please read the boxed excerpt from the eulogy given at Mitch's funeral and try to apply as many principles as you can. It will make you a great person, as was my friend, Mitch Nathanson.

- Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- Talk of health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- Always make your friends feel that there is something in them.
- Look to the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- Think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best.
- Be as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the great achievements of the future.
- Wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give a smile to every living creature you meet.
- Give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- Life is precious but often too short, so live each moment to the fullest.

WEST MICHIGAN OPEN

By Twayne M. Howard

The first tournament of the season, the Michigan Open, took place October 20-22, 2000 at the Michigan Athletic Club in Grand Rapids, where nearly 100 competitors vied for championship titles in what has become a premier event on the state circuit.

Participants received an embroidered golf shirt and were eligible for over \$1000 in door prizes, including certificates from Comfort Inn, a boom box from Philips, lessons from Mike Anderson, Chris Cole, and Jim Hamilton, massage therapy from A Balanced Life, gear from Ektelon, stringing by Twayne Howard and others. A separate raffle for nearly \$2,000 worth of E-Force equipment raised \$450 for local juniors programs.

On Saturday morning, fourteen of Michigan's best juniors took to the courts to battle it out in two divisions. The Junior A Division went to reigning Mens D state champ J.D. Brown, who defeated Alex Brown. Brian Stafford won the Junior B Championship over Nick Tloczynski from Muskegon.

An already tough Mens Open got a lot tougher when former World Champion Chris Cole entered the division. Shannon Kohl fought his way into the finals against Cole and despite his best efforts, the Hope College Freshman succumbed to nerves, and it was over quickly.

The Women's Open division featured great round robin competition as the ladies offered up their usual, exceptional play. In the end, Laura Patterson edged out Paula Saad for the championship. In Womens B, another round robin was hotly contested and a bit physical, when Beth Feiertag had an unfortunate run-in with Wendy Ford's racquet. Fortunately, Beth had already earned enough points to win the championship, beating out runner-up Madhu Sahaney.

In the Men's A play off, John Gervasi faced off with Jeff Connell in the finals, where the match was as close as can be as Jeff edged John out. When the Mens B Division was finished, Mark Berishaj was the only man left standing ... literally. After he and Mike Sobczyk battled to 7-6 in the tiebreaker, Mike suffered an apparent injury and was forced to retire.

rb:people & places

In Men's C, Mike Bowden faced off against Corey Sobczyk, who lost out to a head cold that finally caught up with him, allowing Mike to take home the title and the hardware. In Men's D, Dean Horiski defeated challenger Wendy Ford who showed that the ladies can keep up with the boys.

In open age divisions, the highly competitive Mens 25+ saw Chuck White square off against last year's winner, Gordon Gallagher. The match was decided by an 11-10 tiebreaker, with Chuck coming out ahead.

Some of the best racquetball at any tournament takes place in the 45+ and this was no exception. Lewis Forrest has seldom looked better in defeating Bob Gravelyn in another tiebreaker.

On Saturday evening, eighteen teams began their doubles playoffs. Felicia Mann and Stacey Barbas won the Womens Open doubles by narrowly defeating the second place team of Laura Paterson and Stephanie Cobb as well as Phyllis Westveer and Maureen Price the previous round. Mike Anderson and Chris Cole blew through the competition in Men's Open, handily defeating Bob Gravelyn and John Coaker in their final. The Mixed Open went to Paula Saad and Jeff Connell. This experienced team looked ready for States in defeating the second place team of Felicia Mann and Ron Barton as well as semi-final opponents Attica Mitchell and Phyllis Westveer. The Mens B/C saw Scott and Chris Goudie defeat Tony Connell and Twayne Howard, but Tony got to take home two E-Force racquets from the raffle!

Dale Brown, Dean Cline, John Coaker, Twayne Howard, Paula Spagnuolo and Lucy Levy put on a first-class tour-

nament and welcomed 28 members to the USRA. Over seven months, we have now signed up 45 players, helping Michigan to its highest membership level in years. Thanks go to sponsors The Nicholas Plastics Group, Ad Design, Perrigo Printing, Penn, and the Michigan Athletic Club for their generous support, as well as to Natalie K. Howard for helping out when we needed her most. Congratulations to all the winners, both on and off the court. We're only going to get better.

Rumble in Alabama

Submitted by Jim Garner

The 11th annual "Rumble," a USRA sanctioned elite camp for juniors, was held at the University of Alabama recreation center this past June. Started in 1990 by the late Jack Sorenson, the camp offers juniors from all over the country a chance to hone their skills before the Junior Olympics. Rumbler eat, sleep and train at the University recreation center during the camp, which includes an all-star coaching staff, this year led by Hall of Famer Ruben Gonzalez and Cheryl Gudinas. Others on the staff included veteran event coaches John Davis and Bo Champagne along with former participants Jeff Garner and Kris Odegard.

Jim Garner again served as director with help from associate directors Bud and Natalie Crockett and Marcia Lee, who put together an intense week of training that included early morning runs, aerobics, shot selection, court positioning, nutrition and refereeing sessions along with the opportunity to test their skills against each other. Twenty-eight junior players, ages 7 to 18,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

If you're a USRA member in good standing, your issue of RACQUETBALL will contain a postcard ballot for your use in casting a vote for the USRA Board of Directors. Only USRA members may vote! Questions? Call 719-635-5396, or see information online at www.usra.org > Index > "Board Elections"

usra board of directors election 2001

There are four (4) candidates for three (3) vacancies on the USRA Board of Directors. Candidate information is published on the facing page. For your ballot to be valid, the following is required:

- **Ballot must bear a legible signature, plus the mailing label from this publication [March/April 2001], attached where indicated.**
- **Voter must be a current USRA member in good standing.**
- **Only one ballot per member may be cast (either with a national singles entry or this postcard ballot delivered via RACQUETBALL, not both).**
- **Any number of candidates, up to the maximum of three (3) may be chosen.**
- **Ballot must be received by Wednesday, MAY 9.**

usra board of directors election | official ballot

There are four (4) candidates for three (3) vacancies on the USRA Board of Directors. Candidate information is published on page 49 of the March/April 2001 issue of RACQUETBALL. For this ballot to be valid, the following is required:

- *Ballot must bear a legible signature, plus the mailing label from this publication [March/April 2001], attached where indicated.*
- *Voter must be a current USRA member in good standing.*
- *Only one ballot per member may be cast (either with a national singles entry or this postcard ballot delivered via RACQUETBALL, not both).*
- *Any number of candidates, up to the maximum of three (3) may be chosen.*
- *Ballot must be received by Wednesday, MAY 9.*

Vote for UP TO THREE (3) persons by placing an X on the line before their name.

Garry Carter (CA)**
 John Ferguson (OR)*
 Jack Hughes (CA)*
 Jan Stelma (NC)*

* candidate nominated by USRA Board

** candidate by petition

Members *legible signature required*

Securely affix mailing label – with tape – to this boxed area.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

USRA Board Elections 2001
United States Racquetball Association
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906



GARRY CARTER

Garry Carter
Napa, California
Racquetball, more than ever before, needs dedicated insightful directors willing to make the hard decisions to bring about change, facilitate progress, and revitalize our sport. We must find ways to maintain our courts, attract new players, and use our current resources to better service our members.

I am action and results oriented and think I can make a positive difference. When California racquetball needed a boost, I implemented a web site to promote racquetball and provide information via the Internet, I became Rules Commissioner to help standardize the interpretation and enforcement of the rules, and now I'm heading a review process to insure that every member is duly represented by the state association. I am also leading an effort to maintain and improve skill level competition by standardizing skill level ratings and certification at both the national and state level. You can use your vote to show support for these undertakings.

Please help to bring about positive change by casting your vote for me. Your support and vote are important to the future of racquetball. For more details on my qualifications, platform and efforts to improve skill level competition,



JOHN FERGUSON

please email me at Crater1@aol.com. Thank you and many winning returns.

John Ferguson
Portland, Oregon

My special interest is Junior Racquetball, thanks to my daughters. I served as President of the Oregon Junior Racquetball Association for two years when Oregon was host for the Junior Nationals and the High School Nationals. I have also been the OJRA Treasurer and fundraiser for the past four years. One of our innovations was the use of the TMS software to run tournaments. It has decreased time spent doing draws and increased tournament efficiency. I am particularly interested in developing it for broader use in racquetball.

I am a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland, which has over 19,000 members and offers many programs. I am especially proud of being the founder and coach (along with Racquetball Pro Hank Marcus) of the MAC Junior Racquetball Team. MAC also has about 200 adults who play weekly in individual and team competition. When I headed this program, I created the computerized scoring system used by our adult Intramurals League.

I have enjoyed the camaraderie and challenges of



JACK HUGHES

racquetball and would love to help bring it to more families to enjoy. Keep in touch with me through email at ferguson85@home.com

Jack Hughes
Burlingame, California

I am involved in racquetball as a player, member of the Board of Directors at the state and national association level and in the retail business as the owner of a pro shop. I plan, schedule and supervise the racquetball activities at Royal Athletic Club, including leagues, clinics, private lessons, sanctioned tournaments and other events. I am also involved in promoting the game as the regional coordinator for Ektelon for northern California.

I am one of the co-founders of the California Amateur Racquetball Association [CARA], have served on its Board of Directors since 1984 as Vice-president, President and currently as Treasurer.

I have served on the USRA Board of Directors for a term of three years and would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve on the board. I serve as chairman of the Hall of Fame committee and Scholarship committee and sit on the Membership committee. I have supported and will continue to support the upgrading



JAN STELMA

and extension of the women's programs. I also vigorously support the women's and men's masters associations. Email: racquetballplus@home.com

Jan Stelma
New Bern, North Carolina

I'm very excited about the opportunity to run for the USRA Board of Directors. For the past ten years I have been a member of the North Carolina Racquetball Association [NCRA], two and half of those years as its President. During my tenure, we went from a deficit budget to a cash flow position of over \$6,000.00. The NCRA Board is a working board, with creativity and a desire to help our state grow in membership, tournaments and players.

I hope to carry these same desires with me if elected to the USRA Board. Women's issues are a high priority for me, as well as the concerns of the intermediate player. Also, as a club owner, I can share in multi-perspectives on different issues. I will always remember that the Board works for the general membership, and be willing to listen and address issues presented.

We all know that racquetball is a wonderful sport, for a lot of reasons. It is important that we pass this passion on to others! Please vote for a "worker bee" and help me to help you! Email: courtsplus@intrasource.net

"THE PLAYERS EVENT"
The "Finals" is the only national championship for singles competition in open, skill, age group and combined divisions. In addition to a full week's worth of competition in this Level Six event, you'll enjoy special activities like these all week long ...

WEDNESDAY
VIP and National Champions Reception — Hyatt Regency. An invitation-only reception to honor individuals who have won a National Championship within the past year.

THURSDAY
"Survivors" Evening — Hyatt Regency. Who will survive the evening's line-up of physical and mental challenges? Enjoy a fun-filled night of games and dancing, along with munchies and drinks, sponsored by Ektelon, Penn and the USRA.

FRIDAY
Casino Night — Hyatt Regency. Each player will receive a small "bank" to use in testing their luck at Blackjack, Craps, Roulette and against the One-armed Bandits! At the close of the evening, you'll be able to bid your winnings on a selection of grand prizes.

SATURDAY
FIESTA — The Hyatt Grand Ballroom will host a "Tex-Mex" extravaganza. Join your fellow players in celebration with Mariachi Bands, Hat Dancers and other "south of the border" entertainers. Dress accordingly! Hall of Fame and Outstanding Performance awards will also be presented.

SUNDAY OPEN FINALS
Keep your afternoon and early evening free to watch the Men's and Women's Open Finals — a day early.

SUNDAY
Later on, try 'Singing in Houston' — with your best karaoke tunes at the Hyatt's Back Room Bar.

AND ALL WEEK LONG ...
Enjoy the newly-revitalized downtown nightlife, at over 100 new restaurants and nightclubs — all within walking distance of the Hyatt.

Need an expanded entry form? Call the office @ 719-635-5396 to request a fax, pick one up at your regional qualifying event, or follow links from www.usra.org > "Index" > "Forms" for an Adobe Acrobat .pdf download.

**FAX ENTRY TO: 719-635-0685
 STARTING TIMES: 713-659-8501**

MEMBERS ONLY: This National Event is hosted for USRA members only. A USRA membership is required of all participants, and entrants may join online at www.usra.org, or include fees with entry.

ENTRY DEADLINE:
 Wednesday, MAY 9, postmarked no later than Monday,

MAY 7. Only pre-paid entries are placed into the draw; all entries are final; and no refunds will be issued after the deadline date, regardless of cause (including unforeseen injury or illness).

TRAVEL & LODGING

THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TRAVEL DESK AND UNITED AIRLINES JOIN THE USRA TO OFFER THE LOWEST POSSIBLE UNITED AIRFARES TO NATIONAL EVENTS! For reservations, phone United's U.S. Olympic Travel Desk, toll-free, at **800/841-0460** between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm EST weekdays. Then reference the special USRA conference account number **598HM** to receive an additional 10% off United's lowest fare! Your support of this program brings racquetball closer to becoming an Olympic Sport!

Ground Transportation: Bus and limousine services are available from both Houston airports (you must make your own arrangements on arrival). Hertz is the event's official car rental sponsor — make your reservations by calling 800-654-2240 and referencing meeting #02RD 0001 for your special rate.

Hyatt Regency Houston, 1200 Louisiana (1 block from YMCA) Rate: \$79.00 per night for up to four persons per room. For reservations, call 713-654-1234 and mention National Singles.

QUALIFIERS & CERTIFICATIONS

Regionals: All players must have competed — in any division — at a recognized Regional Qualifier [see page 18] to be eligible to compete in the U.S. National Singles Championships. Any legitimate waivers of qualifying competition must have been directed to — and approved by — the USRA Headquarters **prior** to the scheduled regional weekend. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.

Skill Division Certification: Skill level entrants (to A, B, C, D divisions) must • be AmPRO certified at that level, OR • have played in the same division at the mandatory regional qualifier, OR • be approved by the state director or representative as being legitimately competitive in the entered skill division at the national level. Tournament directors will use these benchmarks to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify or disqualify players when/if they are improperly placed.

NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria for corresponding skill levels in "Age+A/B" & "Age+C/D" divisions.

Amateur Status: Only amateurs may participate. A professional is defined as anyone who has accepted prize money in the preceding 12 months, regardless of amount, in any IRT/LPRA pro sanctioned tournament or any other event so deemed as professional by the USRA Board of Directors.

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO: "THE FINALS"
 1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO • 80904-2906
Entries must be received by WEDNESDAY, MAY 9



Memorial Day Weekend, May 23 - 28, 2001

PLEASE PRINT ...

Name _____ Gender: M / F

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eves) _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Date/Time arriving in Houston _____
(Refer to "Opening Rounds" online & within full entry form)

Regional (required) _____ Division(s) _____

FOR SEEDING — Please indicate your finish in these events:

2000 National Singles Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

2001 Regional Qualifier Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

2000 U.S. OPEN Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

2000-01 NMRA / WSMRA Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

2001 State Championship Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

WAIVER I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the USRA, Ektelon, Downtown YMCA, Penn Racquet Sports, and all other event sponsors or their respective agents for any and all injuries. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can provide certification in writing that my protective eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USRA Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the USRA/USOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature & Date _____

REQUIRED SKILL LEVEL VERIFICATION Please indicate below your eligibility for competition in the skill level you have chosen. This information will be verified and re-classification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director.

 I competed in my regional at this level, as shown above. I have been AmPRO certified at this level by:

AmPRO Certified Instructor (name required)

 I have been approved for participation at this level by the state director or designated representative shown below:

(name required)

Use your USRA MBNA credit card to charge your entry, and receive an additional 10% off your fees. Only USRA MBNA cards receive this discount!

MC/Visa _____ Exp. _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Entry Form, Fees & Payment**FAX ENTRY TO: 719-635-0686**

ALL players must have pre-qualified by competing in any division at a regional event. See "Qualifiers & Certifications."

OPEN

Open*
 24-
 25+
 30+
 35+
 40+

SKILL (one only)**

A
 B
 C
 D

AGE + SKILL***

<input type="checkbox"/> 24-	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 25+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 30+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 35+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 40+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 45+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 50+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 55+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 60+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 70+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 75+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 80+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 85+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D

*An "Elite" drop-down division will be offered to every first-round loser in the Open Team Qualifier. Players will automatically be placed into this draw and re-seeded for continued competition. Champions will receive title recognition and award, but no consolation round will be offered.

** Player may enter only one of the divisions shown in RED, and must be approved to compete at that skill level (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

*** Players must be approved at the skill level chosen along with their age (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

FIRST EVENT (\$80.00) \$ _____**SECOND EVENT** (\$35.00) \$ _____

Current Membership #	.....	Exp. _____
USRA Membership	.....	(\$20.00) \$ _____
Late Fee	.....	(\$15.00) \$ _____
Telephone Entry fee	.....	(\$10.00) \$ _____
Guest Package	.....	(\$70.00) \$ _____
Guest Name:	.....

Tax deductible donation to Olympic Dream \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Entries are NOT accepted without pre-payment and required signatures. Additional surcharges may include: \$23.00 for returned checks and \$10.00 for declined credit cards.

rb:people & places



RUMBLE ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48

from thirteen states attended this year's camp. The week concluded with Steve Nagy, the liaison with the University and an avid racquetball player himself, inviting everyone to his home for an evening of swimming, eating, and entertainment. Camp rookies, who put on a great skit, provided added entertainment, following a tradition for first-timers each year.

Later that month, twenty-two Rumbler attended the 27th Head Junior Olympics held in Minneapolis, returning with 26 medals of all colors, a real testimony to the camp's effectiveness. Plans have already been made to expand next year's 12th Annual Rumble into two separate weeks in order to allow more elite juniors to participate. Dates are June 3-8 and June 10-15. Both weeks will again include an all-star coaching staff to assist the campers in honing their skills. For more information regarding the RUMBLE contact Jim Garner at garner17@aol.com or Natalie Crockett at nac432@aol.com.

New Addition

Nicolas Adam Remen was born to USRA Hall of Famer Ed Remen and wife Holly, on February 8 at 1:45 am. He checked in one week later than his



expected "start time," but wasn't penalized for delay of game. Weighing in at 7 lbs, 4 oz., and 20 inches long, we're not sure if he had the racquet in hand on delivery, but he's already got Ed's hair! Photo: Courtesy Lynn Stephens.

The "Universal" Family

by Raul "Rudy" Reyna
During the U. S. Open in Memphis, John Ellis mentioned that he would be vacationing in San Antonio between

Christmas and New Years Day with his wife, Jennifer and his mom and dad, Pat and Dave. After that, we kept in touch to give his family some insights into our city and to let him know he had people in town he could call on for anything he needed.

We mentioned that, if his schedule permitted, we'd love to have an exhibition match with some of our racquetball family in San Antonio. If not, we also understood because, after all, his *job* is racquetball and he was on vacation.

When John and his family arrived, my wife Janice and my three children, John, Bryan and Jessica, made plans to go to dinner and a Spurs game the next day. At that time, John mentioned that he was doing okay and that he would be able to play a few games.

With two days notice, we put together some flyers, made some calls and we had over thirty fans and players come out to see John play at San Antonio Racquetball & Fitness' Northwest Club. This was a great treat for our racquetball community and everyone was duly impressed not only by John's level of play, but most importantly, by his attitude, friendliness and the opportunity to meet one of racquetball's best!

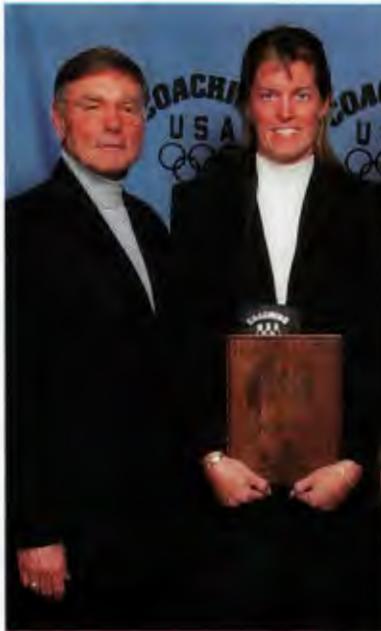
Later that evening we took some pictures including one for the "future-John-Ellis" (our four year old sensation Gabriel Evans), who is already ranked in the state of Texas in his age group.

John and Jennifer left on Friday, however, my wife Janice and I were able to have dinner with his dad and mom that evening. We had a great time and were even able to get in some of San Antonio's finest Merenge and other Latino sounds which they loved.

This is a great example of the family and comraderie that exists in our sport of racquetball and also an example of the family "hospitality" that you will find in San Antonio!

Beane & Miller Recognized

The U.S. Olympic Committee's 2000 Coaching Recognition Weekend was held in New York City in early January, where outstanding coaches in all sports were honored. For racquetball, Kelley Beane (New Hampshire) and Tim Miller (Ohio) were named as the year's outstanding coach and developmental coach (respectively). Presenting their awards were Charles J. Dillman, Ph.D., Chair of the USOC Coaching Committee and USRA President Otto Dietrich. Pictured above, left & right: Dillman/Beane, Miller/Dietrich. Photo: Courtesy USOC.



Karp Weds

Right after his return from the U.S. OPEN, Adam Karp married Angela Scannavino on November 25. At the ceremony, Karp swept his new bride off her feet, and then cut into the groomsmen's cake with fellow top-ranked pro tour regulars Sudsy Monchik, Jason Mannino and John Ellis. Currently ranked No.10 on the IRT, Karp took a short break to honeymoon in Waikiki for a week before returning to Stockton, California to set up housekeeping. Karp is a consultant for Eskel Porter, and Angela is in accounts receivable for Cherokee Freight Lines. Congratulations! Photos: Courtesy Signature Photography.





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	St. Patrick's Festival @ Clovis Community College - SAC	Clovis, NM	505-769-4153
	Alabama State Singles @ Downtown YMCA [3]	Birmingham, AL	205-988-3819
	New Jersey State Singles @ Classic Athletic Club [3]	Fairfield, NJ	973-742-8806
	Oklahoma State Seniors @ Southern Athletic Club [3]	Oklahoma City, OK	918-541-0722
March 17	Dallas Series One Day Tournament II @ Downtown YMCA	Dallas, TX	214-827-9994
March 22-25	Annual Fun Tournament @ Colorado Athletic Club	Aurora, CO	303-680-5569
March 23-24	Negrete Women's Pro Stop @ Athletic Club - Bloomingdale	Bloomingdale, IL	630-893-9577
March 23-25	Ball Buster @ Fitness Inc	Pocatello, ID	208-233-8035
	California State Singles @ Mid Valley Athletic Club [3]	Reseda, CA	650-697-9162
	Camp Confidence @ Premier Fitness	Baxter, MN	218-829-6453
	Indiana State Singles @ Greenbriar Athletic Club [3]	Indianapolis, IN	317-897-5481
	Killshot For Cancer @ Waverly Oaks Athletic Club	Waltham, MA	781-894-7010
	Louisiana State Singles @ LSU Recreational Complex [3]	Baton Rouge, LA	504-468-2813
	Nebraska State Singles @ Sports Courts [3]	Lincoln, NE	402-475-5686
	N.E. Arkansas Open @ Trim Gym	Jonesboro, AR	870-762-7196
	Slamrock Shootout @ Downtown YMCA	Nashville, TN	615-895-3679
	The Head Titanium Tour @ Advantage Athletic Club	Newark, OH	614-890-6073
	Titletown Pro-Am @ Western Green Bay	Green Bay, WI	920-497-1161
March 24-25	Northeast Junior Regional @ Club Fit [3]	Briarcliff, NY	203-248-1869
	Regional Warm-Up @ Gold's Gym	DeWitt, NY	315-446-0376
March 28-Apr. 1	E Force 29th Intercollegiate Championships [6]	Las Vegas, NV	719-635-5396
March 29-Apr. 1	New Mexico State Singles @ Tom Young's Athletic Club [3]	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
March 30-Apr. 1	April Fools @ Moore YMCA	Mobile, AL	
	BQE Spring Break Tournament @ BQE Fitness & Racquetball	Woodside, NY	718-429-8489
	Maine State Singles @ Racket & Fitness Center [3]	Portland, ME	207-775-6128
	Michigan State Singles @ Lansing MAC [3]	East Lansing, MI	810-468-2787
	Minnesota State Singles @ Northwest - Highway 100 [3]	Brooklyn Center, MN	952-920-6652
	North Carolina Open Championship @ Sportime	Greensboro, NC	336-275-1391
	Season's End @ Cedardale	Haverhill, MA	978-373-1596
	Wisconsin State Singles @ Wisconsin Athletic Club [3]	West Allis, WI	414-321-2500
	WNYRA Championship @ Univ. Of Buffalo	Buffalo, NY	716-743-1852
	Wyoming State Singles @ Wyoming Athletic Club [3]	Casper, WY	307-265-6928
	9th Annual Pro Am Shootout @ Hartsville Family YMCA	Hartsville, SC	843-383-4547
	Dallas Series One Day Tournament III @ Landmark Fitness Factory	Dallas, TX	214-827-9994
March 31	April Fools @ Healthworks	Wallingford, CT	203-248-1869

april ...

April 4-7	Utah State Singles @ Sportsmall-Murray [3]	Murray, UT	801-261-3426
April 4-8	Alaska State Singles @ The Alaska Club Midtown [3]	Anchorage, AK	907-258-3211
April 6-8	Fiberlink Technologies #3 @ Results	Tucson, AZ	480-730-8156
	I Love R-Ball @ Aspen Hill Club	Silver Spring, MD	301-598-5200
	J. Willis/Chippenham Open @ Robious Sports & Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-330-2222
	Pro Kennex Super Six #6 @ Southview Athletic Club	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	Southern Ohio Champs @ Waycross Sports Club	Cincinnati, OH	614-890-6073
	Spring Crusher @ Courts Plus	Jacksonville, NC	910-346-3446
	Spring Rollout @ Idaho Athletic Club	Caldwell, ID	208-888-0060
Tennessee State Doubles @ Clarksville Athletic Club [3]		Clarksville, TN	615-895-3679
	USRA Regional @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet [4]	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	2001 Raq-Attack @ Dan Camel's Health & Racquet	Fresno, CA	559-227-8405
	Outdoor State Doubles @ Golden West College	Huntington Beach, CA	714-546-8560
	Rocky Mountain Regional @ Tom Young's Athletic Club [4]	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
	Ektelon/USRA Regional @ Parma Courts [4]	Parma, OH	614-890-6073
	USRA Regional @ Northwest Fitness [4]	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
	USRA Regional @ Central Courts [4]	Columbia Heights, MN	612-572-0330
April 27-29	Berglund Automotive Classic @ Roanoke Athletic Club	Roanoke, VA	540-989-5758

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Crawfish Classic @ Prime Fitness	Homewood, AL	205-988-3819
Hawaiian Open @ American River Athletic Club	Sacramento, CA	916-920-1933
Illini Classic @ The Fitness Center	Champaign, IL	217-356-1616
OJRA State Juniors @ Courtsports Athletic Club [3]	Eugene, OR	541-687-2255
Pojoaque Warm Up @ Pojoaque Wellness Center	Santa Fe, NM	505-455-9355
Rick Weaver Open @ Nautilus Fitness & Racquet	Erie, PA	814-459-3033
Spring Classic @ Quad West	Clearwater, FL	727-535-4901
Wisconsin State Juniors @ Eau Claire Athletic Club [3]	Eau Claire, WI	715-833-2201

may ...
 May 4-6

May 6-8
 May 11-13

May 12

May 13-20
 May 17-20
 May 18-20

May 23-28

june ...
 June 7-10

June 8-10

June 9
 June 14-17

Atlantic Coast Championships @ Pulse Athletic Club	Wilmington, NC	910-763-9655
Cancer Tournament @ Merritt Athletic - Annapolis	Annapolis, MD	410-261-2929
Cinco De Mayo @ Pueblo Athletic Club	Pueblo, CO	719-561-3488
Grand Prix @ Double Diamond Athletic Club	Reno, NV	775-425-1885
Pomona Valley Open @ The Claremont Club	Claremont, CA	909-625-6791
River City Classic @ Racquetball & Fitness Club	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
Spring Fling @ Club Sport	Pleasanton, CA	925-463-2822
Junior Regional @ Wisconsin Athletic Club [3]	Waukesha, WI	262-544-4111
Spring Fling Cash Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
Waycross Summer Doubles @ Waycross Sports Club	Cincinnati, OH	513-742-1700
NFC Shootout Series @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
Spring Fling @ Classic Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	973-742-8806
Trial Camp/Armed Forces Invitational	Ft. Sam Houston, TX	703-681-0638
National Warm Up @ Club International	Santa Fe, NM	505-473-9807
Crystal Coast Classic @ Sports Center	Morehead City, NC	252-726-7070
Fiberlink Technologies #4 @ Arizona Athletic Club	Tempe, AZ	480-730-8156
Junior Regional/Metro City @ Sportplex East [3]	Birmingham, AL	205-988-3819
Junior Regional @ Valley Athletic Club [3]	Tumwater, WA	360-398-8512
Player Appreciation @ Merritt Athletic - Security	Baltimore, MD	410-298-8700
Spring Splat Pro-Am @ Modesto Court Room	Modesto, CA	209-577-1060
Tournament Of Aces @ Tri-City Leisure Center	West Columbia, SC	803-772-0672
34th USRA National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, TX	719-635-5396

New Mexico State Games @ Tom Young's Athletic Club	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
Pepsi Cup Team Champs @ Colorado Athletic Club	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
Craig McCoy Memorial @ The Tournament House	Riverside, CA	909-682-7511
Gold Country Open @ Courthouse Athletic Club	Auburn, CA	530-885-1964
Grand Prix @ Double Diamond Athletic Club	Reno, NV	775-425-1885
Maverick One-Day Shoot Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
Sunshine Games @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550

• For all sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)

• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 04/00, you must renew your membership in the month of April in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

For expanded calendar listings, refer to the online January/February edition of RACQUETBALL
www.racqmag.com, or go to Active.com for a calendar listing under "Sports You Do"



for online entries to national events

2001...

Mar.28 - Apr.1	E-Force 29th USRA National Intercollegiate Championships [6]. Las Vegas, Nevada	719-635-5396
April 6-15	PARC Tournament of the Americas	719-635-5396
April 19-22	Ektelon USRA Regional Championships [4]	719-635-5396
May 23-28	Ektelon 34th U.S. National Singles Championships [6]	719-635-5396
June 23-27	HEAD/Penn 28th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6]	719-635-5396
Aug.28 - Sept.1	IRF 13th World Senior Championships [5]	505-266-8960
October 3-7	Ektelon 34th USRA National Doubles Championships [6]	719-635-5396
November 14-18	Hilton 6th U.S. OPEN [5]	719-635-5396
December 16-20	ProKennex IRF 13th World Junior Championships [5]	719-635-5396

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MEN

Men's Open

1. Jack Huczak, MI
2. Rocky Carson, CA
3. Dan Fowler, MD
4. Doug Eagle, TX
5. Mike Locker, MN
6. Jimmy Lowe, WA
7. Gared Edmunds, KY
8. Todd O'Neil, TX
9. Dan Llacer, DE
10. Brent Walters, NC

Men's A

1. Steve Tillotson, CA
2. Sunny Osagie, AR
3. Cary Slade, IL
4. James Davis, TX
5. Brian Stone, GA
6. Chris Brown, MD
7. Ben Croft, IL
- 8T. Kipp Atwell, LA
- 8T. Victor Zambrano, VA
10. Ryan John, OH

Men's B

1. Michael Wang, TX
2. James Russell, FL
3. John Dill, TX
4. Brandon Cortese, MI
5. Jason Hicks, KY
- 6T. Craig Sparks, AZ
- 6T. Larry Weene, MA
8. Filip Vesely, NV
9. Mike Wiseman, WI
10. Cesar Castro, TX

Men's C

1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Reinaldo Rodriguez, FL
- 3T. Mike Gaffney, PA
- 3T. Jim Zimmerer, OH
5. Cam Grundman, MN
6. Harish Chopra, MI
7. Mike Williamson, TN
8. Tony Roselli, TN
9. Grant Macuba, IL
10. Emmanuel Drege, TX

Men's D

1. Ken Newberry, TX
2. Bryan Shaw, MO
3. Jeff Bell, CT
4. Muhammad Jawad, TX
5. Christopher Nichols, AR
6. Joe DeRoche, IL
- 7T. Mike Dolitsky, FL
- 7T. Robert Villanueva, FL
9. Joe Snyders, MD
10. Mike Oakman, AL

Men's Novice

- 1T. Garrett Jordan, TX
- 1T. Dan LaRochelle, NH
- 3T. Francis Aguilera, CA
- 3T. Matt LaRochelle, NH
- 3T. Joedy Pack, OH

6. Chris Herrera, NM
7. Jason Scutt, NM
8. Louis Lencus, TX
- 9T. Brandon Ritschard, IL
- 9T. Armstead Williams, AR

Men's 24+

1. Richard Ross, PA
2. Andy Hawthorne, IL
3. Mitch Williams, NC
4. Kyle Veenstra, WI
5. Jason Bledsoe, FL
6. Javier Moreno, TN
7. Brent Walters, NC
8. Paul Strike, OH
- 9T. Jeff Garner, AL
- 9T. Mike Patalano, RI

Men's 25+

1. Brian Pointelin, UT
- 2T. Mike Dennison, OH
- 2T. Tim Hardison, SC
4. Dale Valentine, CA
5. Mike Locker, MN
- 6T. Tom Fuhrmann, TX
- 6T. Ryan Homa, MN
- 6T. Raymond Maestas, NM
9. Jamal Harris, MD
10. Rob Dejesus, AZ

Men's 30+

1. Kevin Graham, WI
- 2T. Don Costleigh, NY
- 2T. John Davis, LA
- 2T. Jim Minkel, TX
5. Jody Morris, TX
6. Jim Frantschi, MN
7. Dana Levy, FL
8. Brad McCunniff, IA
9. Ira Holland, VA
10. Rich Baer, NY

Men's 35+

1. Armando Alonso, FL
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Dave Negrete, IL
4. Alan Sheppard, NC
- 5T. Dave Eagle, OH
- 5T. Rick Ferrin, CA
- 5T. Jimmy Lowe, WA
8. Scott Cullins, GA
9. Scot Consoli, FL
10. David Barnes, RI

Men's 40+

1. Bill Lyman, IL
- 2T. Dave Eagle, OH
- 2T. Tim Hansen, FL
4. Greg Hodges, MI
5. Joe Thomas, MA
- 6T. Carlos Ascunce, CA
- 6T. Steve Wattz, CA
8. Noel De La Rosa, TX
- 9T. Terry Fluharty, FL
- 9T. Glenn Leib, PA

Men's 45+

1. Jim Luzar, WI
2. Russ Palazzo, CT
3. Gary Mazaroff, NM
4. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
5. Joe Clinton, TX
6. Darryl Warren, CA
7. Mark Baron, VA
- 8T. Keith Eksuzian, MA
- 8T. Mitt Layton, FL
- 8T. Bruce Nelson, IL

- Men's 50+**
1. Thomas Rall, CA
2. Mitt Layton, FL
3. Don Scales, TX
4. Bill Welaj, NJ
5. Dave Warner, MN
6. Joe Silius, IL
- 7T. Horace Miller, IL
- 7T. Don Prater, FL
- 9T. Bert Castelanelli, CA

Men's 55+

1. Ray Huss, OH
2. Glenn Allen, VA
3. Tom McKie, TX
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. Ron Yonkee, IL
- 6T. Ron Galbreath, PA
- 6T. Dennis O'Brien, UT
8. Kevin Dorr, MD
- 9T. Terry Albright, MO
- 9T. Leland Rients, MN

Men's 60+

1. Jim Wilking, UT
2. Ron Hutcherson, IN
3. Jim McPherson, TX
4. Rex Lawler, IN
5. Grant Morrill, PA
6. Charlie Garfinkel, NY
7. Bobby Sanders, OH
8. Leland Rients, MN
9. Ron Adams, CA
10. Lee Graff, OR

Men's 65+

1. Jerry Holly, CA
2. Don Alt, OH
3. Otis Chapman, OH
4. Kenneth Moore, CA
5. Milas Turney, FL
6. Don Maxey, TX
7. Art Johnson, CO
8. Ed Olah, IL
9. Ken Karmel, AR
10. Christopher Doyle, MA

Men's 70+

1. John O'Donnell, IL
2. Joe Lambert, TX
3. Barney Friesth, SD
4. Duane Smith, TX
5. Robert Miller, SC
6. Len Kaiser, CA
7. Carl Buschner, MA

8. Stan Fugate, FL
9. Mal Roberts, FL
10. Philip Dziuk, IL

Men's 75+

1. Robert McAdam, TX
- 2T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 2T. Dick Kincade, CO
- 2T. Bill Matotan, NM
- 2T. Bernard Sand, IA
- 2T. Nick Sans, CA
- 2T. J.W. Studak, TX
8. Al Romero, NM
9. Bill Gencarella, CA
10. Robert L. Thompson, FL

Women's C

1. Rosie Gonzalez, TX
2. Bridget Kundrot, MI
- 3T. Joanna Reyes, TX
- 3T. Pamela Trent, MD
5. Tish Rodgers, TX
- 6T. Judy Ostich, PA
- 6T. Heather Westphal, VA
8. Gennie Salinas, TX
9. Ann Matto, FL
10. Nila Gresham, CO

Women's D

1. Cheiko Mineo, TX
2. Ramona Von Ondarza, FL
3. Katie Brewer, OK
4. Bonnie Koehne, LA
5. Samaria Bennett, TX
6. Melody Hoagland, MN
7. Jennifer Herr, CA
8. Donna Payne, GA
9. Liz Janda, IL
10. Wesley Toland, AR

Women's Novice

1. Sarah Parrish, FL
- 2T. Marcy Ruiz, TX
- 2T. Alyson Webb, OH
4. Burtle Zimmerer, OH
- 5T. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
- 5T. Wesley Toland, AR
7. Jill Rogers, NM
8. Monica Haynes, TX
- 9T. Kimberly Adamonis, PA
- 9T. Dina Alwan, DE

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
3. Aimee Roehler, NJ
4. Denise Mock, TX
5. Kristen Walsh, OH
6. Kersten Hallander, CA
7. Rhonda Rajisch, AZ
8. Lourdes Sanders, CO
9. Terri Thornton, MN
10. Doreen Fowler, MD

Women's A

1. Isabel Nagelin, VA
2. Vivian Gomez, FL
3. T.J. Baumbaugh, MD
4. Sandra Adams, TX
5. Pontee Dodds, IL
6. Sheri Bushay, AR
7. Melissa Young, TX
8. Robyn Perrin, TN
9. Jean Gordon, MN
10. Esther McNany, CT

Women's B

1. Valerie Willis, NC
2. Catherine Bertucci, IL
3. Cheryl Kirk, IL
4. Rosario Kelley, TX
5. Rhonda Kochis, OK
6. Fanny Scargle, FL
7. Janice Kennedy, GA
8. Angela Deltito-Cook, PA
- 9T. Antoinette Bell, CO
- 9T. Renee Rubio-Vivian, CA

Women's 25+

- 1T. Debra Bryant, NC
- 1T. Kim Herrold, SC
- 1T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
4. Cara Pellowski, WI
5. Tina Hagen, CO
- 6T. Jo Shattuck, CO
- 6T. Jen Yokota, MO
- 8T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 8T. Aimee Roehler, NJ
10. Heather Dunn, MA

Women's 30+

1. Michelle Lucas, VA
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. B.J. Ehrigg, CT
- 4T. Debra Bryant, NC
- 4T. Doreen Fowler, MD
6. Micky Richer, CO
7. Michelle Shewcuk, MN

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8T. Laura Brandt, FL
 8T. Angela Burt, NV
 8T. Grace Hastings, TX

Women's 35+

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 2. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
 3. Kersten Hallander, CA
 4. Denise Mock, TX
 5T. Anita Maldonado, NY
 5T. Debra Tisinger, CA
 7. Terri Thornton, MN
 8T. Pontee Dadds, IL
 8T. Lori Lepow, FL
 8T. Solanna Taragan, CA

Women's 40+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2. Val Shewfelt, UT
 3. Roz Petronelli, MA
 4. Malia Bailey, VA
 5. Linda Moore, NE
 6. Sheri Anderson, AZ
 7. Peggy Stephens, KY
 8T. Sallie Benedict, VA
 8T. Liz Molitor, IL
 8T. Jodi Paul, PA

Women's 45+

1. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
 2. Susan Pfahler, FL
 3. Karen Key, AZ
 4. Jere Luttnar, TX
 5. Marcia Richards, CO
 6. Nan Higgins, NH
 7. Debbie Chaney, IN
 8T. Linda Bentzel, PA
 8T. Jean Trimble, FL
 10. Laura Patterson, MI

Women's 50+

1T. Agatha Falso, FL
 1T. Merijean Kelley, CA
 3. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
 4. Sharon Huczak, MI
 5. Shelley Ogden, OH
 6T. Jane Bentley, NM
 6T. Mary Jane Weldin, DE
 8T. Kathy Dunham, IL
 8T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 8T. Linda Neel, OR

Women's 55+

1. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
 2. CeCe Palaski, CA
 3. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 4. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 5. Nidia Funes, CA
 6. Mildred Gwinn, NC
 7. Agatha Falso, FL
 8. Jo Kenyon, FL
 9. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
 10. Gail Schaefer, MD

Women's 60+

1. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
 2. Jo Kenyon, FL
 3. Mildred Gwinn, NC

4. Gloria Piscoran, OR
 5. Marquita Molina, CA
 6. Ann Westphal, AZ

Women's 65+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
 2T. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
 2T. Lola Markus, IL
 4T. Naomi Eads, MO
 4T. Louise Kiss, NM
 6T. Grace Brickner, CO
 6T. Ruth Zenk, FL

Women's 70+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 2. Tillie Davies, AZ
 3. Reta Harring, WI
 4. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+

1. Christine Stephens, TX
 2. Beth Keene, TX
 3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 4. Helen Deysher, PA

Women's 80+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 2. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

BOYS

Boy's 6 & Under

1. Brandon Waldon, LA
 2T. Grayson Gurney, ID
 2T. Keith McElhany, SD
 2T. Cody Novotny, WI
 2T. Marco Rojas, CA
 6. Tyler Forbus, LA
 7. Zachary Wertz, LA
 8T. Jose Dias, CA
 8T. Parker Dolbin, UT
 8T. Nick Gottsleben, SD

B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Sam Reid, OR
 2. Marco Rojas, CA
 3. Timothy Lerow, CT
 4. Kyle Walsh, UT
 5. Colin Kush, CT
 6. Jackson Rogers, NM
 7T. Alec Gonzales, CA
 7T. Steven Kochis, OK
 7T. Joseph Lee, LA
 10. Nathaniel Stevens, CO

Boy's 8 & Under

1. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
 2. Joseph Lee, LA
 3. Charlie Locke, OR
 4. Brad Falvey, WI
 5. Jordan Faith, CO
 6. Taylor Knoth, OR
 7. Taylor Regier, OR
 8. Jonathan Munoz, TX
 9. Rutger Jackson, CO
 10. Calvin Godwin, AR

B8- Multi-Bounce
 1. Taylor Regier, OR
 2. Miguel Martinez, AK
 3. Brad Falvey, WI
 4. Sam Reid, OR
 5. Daniel Ring, MN
 6. Taylor Knoth, OR
 7. Matthew Hunter, FL
 8. Dylan Reid, OR
 9. Charlie Locke, OR
 10. Daniel Lerow, CT

Boy's 10-

1. Jose Rojas, CA
 2. Jonathan Doyle, OH
 3. Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
 4. John Sanderson, UT
 5. Sean McGrath, IN
 6. William Lee, LA
 7. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
 8. Trevor Smith, OR
 9T. Matt Keddie, NH
 9T. Korey Walsh, UT

Boy's 12-

1T. Nick Arturo, AK
 1T. Chris Coy, OK
 3. Andrew Grissom, CA
 4. Allan Crockett, AL
 5. David Lewis, CO
 6. Tripp Isley, NC
 7. David LaForest, NY
 8. John Edwards, WA
 9T. Justin Evans, NM
 9T. Cam Grundman, MN

Boy's 14-

1. Dan Sheppick, OR
 2. Joey Lakowske, OR
 3. Drew Toland, AR
 4T. Ben Croft, IL
 4T. Shane Karmelin, GA
 6. Brad Slocum, FL
 7T. Chris Crockett, AL
 7T. David Key, LA
 9. Charles Pratt, OR
 10. Bradley Butler, TN

Boy's 16-

1. Jack Huczak, MI
 2. Michael Lawrence, AL
 3. Bart Crawford, OR
 4. Clay Burris, FL
 5. Steven Kaiman, TX
 6. Cory Martin, WI
 7T. Paul Carroll, ID
 7T. Josh Epstein, NY

9. Craig Klein, FL
10. Chris Brown, CT

Boy's 18-

1. Jack Huczak, MI
 2. Shane Vanderson, OH
 3. Zack Miller, CA
 4. Mitch Williams, NC
 5. Stephen Lewis, AZ
 6. Mike Harmon, FL
 7. Jason Kerwood, OR
 8. Dan Beaudry, CO
 9T. Bart Crawford, OR
 9T. Adam Taylor, IN

6. Emily Melgaard, ID
7. Danielle Key, AZ
8. Shanae Taylor, IN
9. Taylor Miley, NM
10. Laura Van Der Veer, OR

Girl's 12-

1. Ashley Willhite, OR
 2. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
 3. Dannielle Pimental, OR
 4. Sarah Moyle, OR
 5. Kara Mazur, CT
 6. Rebeka Kopf, NY
 7. Stacey Northrop, OR
 8. Michelle Key, AZ
 9. Jenny Epstein, NY
 10. Kelli Anderson, AZ

GIRLS

G6- Multi-Bounce
 1T. Sierra Adam, CO
 1T. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 3. Brittany Larson, OK
 4. Katie Faith, CO
 5T. Michaela Christiansen, ID
 5T. Kaitlyn Pacinelli, NM
 7. Blake Plaster, ID

Girl's 8 & Under

1. Nicole Grundman, MN
 2. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
 3. Tia Smith, OR
 4T. Brooke Bolender, OH
 4T. Brianna Musselman, PA
 4T. Sascha Post, VA
 4T. Wesley Toland, AR
 8. Ceara Odell, NM
 9. Stephanie Moyle, OR
 10. Stephanie Rojas, OR

Girl's 14-

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 2. Jesi Fuller, NM
 3. Ashley Legget, OR
 4. Cari Miltitsky, NY
 5. Kimberly Walsh, UT
 6. Kelley Fisher, OH
 7. Alyson Webb, OH
 8. Elise Wilson, CT
 9T. Kastle Arturo, AK
 9T. Natalie Starken, WI

Girl's 16-

1. Crystal Winfrey, OH
 2. Janel Tisinger, CA
 3. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 4. Cari Miltitsky, NY
 5. Jenny Cary, OR
 6T. Erica Beaudry, CO
 6T. Kelley Fisher, OH
 6T. Linda Knudsen, UT
 9T. Da'Monique Davis, TX
 9T. Mary Sweeney, NY

Girl's 18-

1. Kristen Walsh, OH
 2. Krystal Csuk, IL
 3. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 4. Jenny Cary, OR
 5. Nickii Whitney, VT
 6. Lauren Deutsch, CA
 7T. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
 7T. Jane Rombach, MO
 7T. Crystal Winfrey, OH
 10. Adlisha Payne, CA

EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION

FINISH/POINTS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8
1 = Closed State Tournament	30	20	15	10	5
2 = Open Tournament	50	30	20	15	10
3 = State Championship	150	100	75	50	25
4 = Regional Championship	250	150	100	75	50
5 = National Invitational	300	200	150	100	75
6 = National Championship	600	400	300	200	100*

*In draws of 48 or more at a national championship,
 the 9-16th place finishers receive 50 points.

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