

RACQUETBALL

FAST • FURIOUS • FITNESS

\$4.50

FOCUSED ON TARGET

CHOICE HOTELS
U.S. OPEN



U.S. Racquetball Association
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906

CHANGE Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
Permit No. 7867

*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 606

150093 013128

12/1/2099

Geoffrey Peters

3253 N Clifton Ave
Chicago IL 60657-3318



VOLUME 18
NUMBER 1
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2007

UNCHAIN THE POWER!



MX 170

www.head.com

metallix

INTRODUCING HEAD'S METALLIX SERIES FEATURING FLEXPPOINT PWR

Unchain the Power with Metallix, a specially developed matrix of carbon fibers and a new crystalline metal alloy with a grain-size 1,000 times smaller than conventional metal. What does all this mean to you? A stronger, stiffer and more powerful racquet.

HEAD®



MX 180

MX 190

ELITE SPONSOR

Penn[®]

Official ball for all national and regional events

Event Sponsors

Choice Hotels U.S. Open	
U.S. National Singles U.S. National Doubles U.S. National Intercollegiates	
U.S. Junior Olympics	
U.S. National H.S. Championships	

Licensed Products

Official Racquet	Ektelon
Official Glove	Wilson
Official Grip	Python
Official String	Ashaway
Approved Balls	Penn Ektelon Wilson
Preferred Printer	Sport Graphics



MISSION STATEMENT

USA Racquetball (USAR) is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide opportunities for members and enthusiasts to actively participate in the sport, through sanctioning of events, administration of programs and development of competitive teams.

VISION STATEMENT

To provide racquetball opportunities in the sport of racquetball for all levels of participation through:

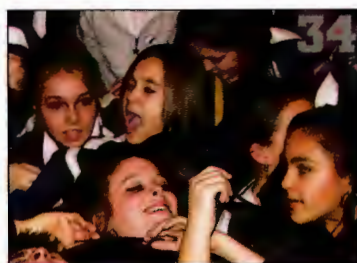
Objectives:

- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT** - USAR values its members and will strive to provide the best possible member services at all levels.
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT** - USAR believes that racquetball is a lifetime endeavor and the benefits of health, recreation, and competition should be available to everyone. USAR will strive to expand its membership in order to share these benefits with as many players and supporters as possible.
- **PROMOTION OF THE SPORT** - in order to sustain a strong player base USAR will promote the numerous benefits of participation through mass marketing efforts.
- **COMPETITIVE SUCCESS** - USAR strives to maintain America's position as the number one racquetball nation in the world. Success at the elite levels has a positive influence on every other facet of our sport.
- **SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS** - USAR values its relationship with sponsors and will continue to maximize benefits and exposure.

CONTENTS



CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN



IRF JUNIOR WORLDS



2007 GEEZER JOCK OF THE YEAR

DEPARTMENTS

From the Top	4
Racquetball 4 Ever	5
Players Helping Players	6
Mental Toughness	24
What's the Call	28
State Feature	31
Sanctioned Events	42
Ranking's	46
Inside Scoop	52

ON TOUR

IRT	10
WPRO	12

INSTRUCTIONAL

Fran's House	25
Sudsy's Magic Show	26
Training with Jack	29

SPECIALS

Club of the Month	8
Choice US Open	14
Interview with Jason Mannino	30
Ruben Gonzalez	32
Junior World Championships	34

visit us on the web @ www.usaracquetball.com



USA Racquetball National Staff

Jim Hiser - Executive Director (130)
 Kevin Joyce - Membership Director (123)
 Melody Weiss - Chief Financial Officer (122)
 Heather Fender - Exec. Assistant/Events (129)
 Cameron Eimer - Retail Sales Director (132)
 Heather Izzett - Sanctioning Coordinator/
 Membership Services (125)
 Terri Morse - Receptionist/
 Membership Services (120)
 Doug Ganim - U.S. Open Director
 Connie Martin - AmPro Programmer
 Gary Mazaroff - AmPro Instruction
 Otto Dietrich - Rules Commissioner

Email Us - FirstinitialLastname@usra.org

Contributors

Sudsy Monchik, Dave Negrete,
 Connie Martin, Fran Davis, Otto Dietrich,
 Kerri Wachtel, Jeff Oliver and Mike Ceresia

Design

Allison Estep

Copy Editor

Cheryl Kirk

Photography

Geoff Thomsen

Racquetball Magazine is a publication of USA Racquetball. Readers are encouraged to submit items of possible interest to Heather Fender at the address listed below or via email (hfender@usra.org).

All items submitted are subject to editing by Racquetball Magazine.

Publisher

USA Racquetball
 1685 West Uintah
 Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906
 (719) 635-5396
www.usaracquetball.com

Copyright (c) 2006 USA Racquetball
 The entire contents of Racquetball are copyright protected, all rights reserved, and may not be reproduced, either in whole or in part, without written permission of the publisher.

BEST PRICES, BEST SELECTION
RACQUETBALL WAREHOUSE

WWW.RACQUETBALLWAREHOUSE.COM | 800.824.1101



By James Hiser, Ph.D.
USAR Executive Director

Got a great racquetball story or a idea for an article? Send it to us.

**USA Racquetball
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO
80904-2906
(719) 635-5396**

Let us hear your stories!

Ruben Gonzalez is truly a remarkable athlete. His story of success has finally surfaced outside of the racquetball arena and athletes throughout the sporting world will soon become aware of his accomplishments. An additional honor accompanying Ruben's recognition is the additional publicity that will be given to racquetball.

The sporting world knows racquetball exists, that it's a physically demanding sport and a great workout. Unfortunately, since the early 90's racquetball has not been accepted as a "popular" or "in" sport. The tremendous competition for the athlete's "free time" has moved racquetball to the middle tier of fitness regimes.

Perhaps, just perhaps, stories like Ruben's can help racquetball regain some of the popularity it enjoyed in the 80's. We have so many stories of success and angst and emotion and triumph – it's a great place to be!

USA Racquetball wants to publish these stories. If you know of someone who has used racquetball to achieve success; has survived an illness and continued to play; or any other story you feel would be of interest to those both inside and outside the racquetball world, please send the details to USA Racquetball. Beginning in March/April, we'll include at least one motivational/ emotional/success story in each issue.

Thank you, Ruben, for again putting racquetball in the headlines!



See page 32 for more on Ruben Gonzalez.

The Future of Racquetball is Officially Under Development!

At November's US Open in Memphis the Board of Directors of USA Racquetball kicked off an ambitious program to ensure that racquetball thrives for future generations. At a Saturday morning breakfast, passionate members of the racquetball community were introduced to the concept of our new President's Advisory Council, provided an in-depth update of USA Racquetball's operations and finances, and heard some poignant stories about how racquetball has changed people's lives. The members of the Advisory Council will be solicited for their feedback by the USAR President and receive detailed status reports from the President and Executive Director on a regular basis.



By Randy Stafford

"ALLOWING PASSIONATE PLAYERS TO GIVE BACK TO THEIR SPORT HAS ALLOWED SMALLER SPORTS LIKE HANDBALL AND SQUASH TO DEVELOP SIGNIFICANT ENDOWMENT FUNDS ... AND TARGETED FUNDING SUCH AS THAT FOR A HALL OF FAME, OR NATIONAL TEAMS."

These individuals will be characterized by their passion for racquetball, a commitment to multi-year financial support, and the desire to ensure that racquetball will prosper for future generations. If you have an interest in participating on the Advisory Council, please get in touch with our Vice President, Geoff Peters at petersgeoff@hotmail.com. He'll be happy to provide additional information!

While the current Board has focused on ensuring a balanced budget and fiscal responsibility, we have also been planning for our future. Tom Curran and Jim Hiser are heading up our efforts to allow players to consider racquetball when developing long term Gift and Estate Planning strategies. Allowing passionate players to give back to their sport has allowed smaller sports like Handball and Squash to develop significant endowment funds (capital funds that utilize only their interest earnings for current expenses) and targeted funding such as that for a Hall of Fame, or National Teams. To learn more about how you can

make a future bequest to USA Racquetball, please contact Tom at tom1947@aol.com or Jim at jhiser@usra.org.

Last, but certainly not least is our very successful ongoing program called "Players helping Players". This program into it's 4th year has been the driving force behind receiving donations from players wanting to promote our sport. This area will continue to function and will enable all players to give to help other players. Along with this program will be certain benefits the donors will receive which has been very successful. This campaign will be directed by the President, Randy Stafford.

As you can see, we have been hard at work developing, planning and introducing our new long term plans that will ensure the future of racquetball. We wish to thank everyone that has been a part of our donor programs and we look forward to continuing these relationships and delivering on our promises.

— Randy Stafford/President

2006 Campaign Summary



Elite Level \$1000 plus

Anonymous
Dennis Rosenberg
Fred Bomeny
Fritz Bredenbeck
Gary Rasmussen
Houston Racquetball
Association
MI Rball
Mike Neeser
OR Rball
Randy Stafford
Salvatore Perconti
Cheryl Kirk

A Level \$500 Plus

Annie Muniz
CT Rball
Dave Ellis
Deborah Apperson
Denny Vincent
Doug Smith
Geoff Peters
George Pappas
James Kostal
Jason Mannino
Jim Hiser
John Ellis
KY Rball
Mary Fish
Michael Lippitt
NC Rball
Salvatore Perconti
SC Rball
TX Rball
VA Rball
Womens Senior

B Level - \$250 Plus

AL Rball
Christy Gallow Cramer
Chuck's Racquetball Equip.
CO Rball
In Rball
James Scott
Lance Gilliam
MN Rball
National Masters
NH Rball
OH Rball
OK Rball
Pedro Flores
Ray Cornell
WA Rball

C Level - \$100 Plus

Annette Deadlow
Bill George
Bob Anderson/Sandy
Schauer
CA Rball
Charles Rousenberg

Christian Halvorson
Chuck Kaiser
Col Ben Marshall
David Michalek
Dick Kincade
Don Chisholm
Donna Kelley
Ed Mazur
Girish Vallabhan
Jack Zollo
Jan Stelma
Jere Luttner
Joe Houck
Joel Gellman
John Acampora
Joseph Leech
Ken Fife
Linda Hunt
Lola Markus
Lynn Stephens
Mark Coleman
Mark Warren
Michael George
Michael Lippitt
New Mexico Racquetball
Association
Nidia Funes
Oasis Health Ctr
Robert Christiansen
Ross Montague
TN Rball
Vito Longo
WI Rball
WSRC

D Level - \$50 Plus

Adam Katz
Carolyn Moore
Charles Joyce III
Charles Terrazas
CO Jr. Rball
Danny Shelton
David Letsche
David Wolfson
DE Rball
Donna Kelly
Guy Faget
John O'Donnell, Jr.
John Vohland
Joseph Donovan
Joyce Bertholf
Maurizio Magnotta
Nidia Funes
Robert Issac Jr.
Robert Laudette Jr.
Scott Fauque
Stanley Sessler III
Steven Deason
Thomas Green
Thomas Heroux
William Rubenstein

In the Game -Under \$50

Alok Mehta
Anthony Conte
Anthony Williams
Arden Inabinette
Barbara Naparano
Barbara Schopieray
Beth Wolf
Bill Dunn
Bob Kunimura
Bruce Mallick
Carol Martin
Carolyn Foster
Charles Douglass
Charles Kaiser
Christine Wright
Clay Otto
Craig Lettotsky
Dan Schaeffer
Daniel Fano
Daniel Roland
David Ball
David Harris Jr.
David Kerr
David Lund
David Riffel
David Thorndike
Denise Berto
Dennis Mattish
Dennis Misal
Don Checots
Don Jones
Donald Guggia
Earl Patterson
Erano Vasquez
Frank Aciero, Jr.
Gail Schaefer
Gary Knapik
Gary Sudhoff
Gene Garat
Gil Cepeda
Gilberto Villanes
Graig Shaak
Grant Morrill
Grayling Norris
Greg Brannigan
Grover Booker
Heidi Kennedy
Isidro Aldaco
James Anderton
James Hopkins
James Roth
James Winterbottom, III
Jason Linnell
Jeff Popple
Jerry Northwood
Jesse Oswald
Joerg Leinemann
John Guoth
John Kwarcinski
Johnnie Boyd, Jr.
Jon Davis

Joseph Del Sordo
Josphine Fletcher
Kari Gardner
Karl Reuther
Keith Despain
Keith Smith
King Perry
Kristine Cowan
Larry Hicks
LaVerne Gencarella Ttee
Leon Merian
Leonard DeBlaker, Jr.
Leslie Pawka
Lewis Edwards
Lon Schlusel
Lori Roth
Lynn Holubec
Marcus Huang
Marilyn Ross
Marion Fisher
Mark Healy
Mark Lobo
Mark Warren
Matt Sturlaugson
Matthew Fitzgerald
Mia Quaglia-Oswald
Mike Pawka
Otto Dietrich
Parris Geiser
Patricia Baldrick
Pete White
Randy Trainor
Ray Gabel
Richard Bergstrom
Richard Martin
Rick Betts
Ricky Henniger
Riley Gilliam
Robert Bailey
Robert Parrigan
Robert Smith
Robert Sutherland
Roberta Ferrara
Roger Parker
Roger Rydman
Ron Cary
Ronald Apperson
Ryan Dixon
Scott Rodini
Shirley Gilson
Sina Rassam-Haghighi
Spencer Gilliam
Stephen Dalton
Steven Finette
Steven Markey
Susan Patchkofsky
Terry Dees
Tom Delle Donne
Tom Doughy
Tony Jammal
Tristan Manning
William Greer
Willie McCadden

Total
\$45,473.96

Goal
\$40,000.00

To Go
\$0.00

Norman Wilensky
Collegiate
Scholarship
\$1360.00

In Memory of
Barbara Beane
\$1,200.00

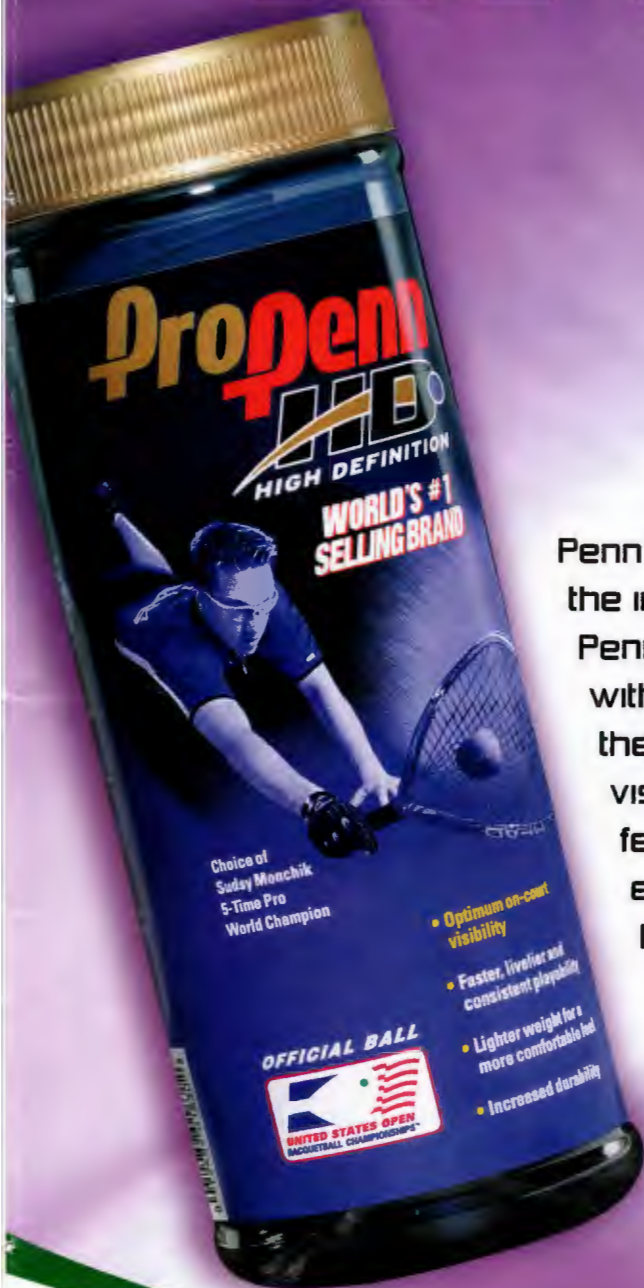
Jr. Team
Donations
\$14,045.00

2006 LIFETIME MEMBERS

Ignacio Jaimes
Steve Meng Yap
Derek Izzi
Helen Hicks
Wil Rounsaville
Lynn Yeazell
Gary Cowger
Paul Lowe
Mike Lippitt
John Amatulli
Pam Grace
David Stark
Davey Bledsoe
Frank Taddonio
Jim Luzar
Joe Koestner
Joe Star

See the ball...

Pro Penn HD HIGH DEFINITION



Penn revolutionizes racquetballs once again with the introduction of new Pro Penn High Definition (HD). Penn high-performance engineers joined forces with the top professional players in the world on the IRT to develop the ultimate racquetball. Better visibility, more speed, lighter weight and softer feel were the results of this collaborative effort. So go ahead, try the new Pro Penn HD and... **See the ball!**

Official ball of:



Look for the new Pro Penn HD at every IRT event.



The Official Ball of USA Racquetball makes Pro Penn the most widely used ball in tournament play.



The ball that set the standard for which all other racquetballs are measured. The World's #1 Selling Racquetball has just become the official ball of the Legends Tour.



Penn
The Ball Matters™

ONLY BALL

MADE IN
USA

VETTA SPORTS CLUBS Concord

St. Louis, Missouri



By Dan Whitley

St. Louis, Missouri is a city rich in racquetball history. Vetta Sports – Concord is the city’s largest racquetball club and the current leader in racquetball membership and program development in the Midwest. Vetta Sports has owned the facility for the last 10 years, however the racquetball club opened almost 30 years ago. The club has 10 racquetball courts with upstairs viewing. The main court, “Court 2”, has side and back wall glass for championship viewing. In addition to being a racquetball club, the facility also offers indoor soccer, volleyball, an indoor swimming pool, tennis courts, and a fitness center. Vetta Sports – Concord is a regular host for State, Regional, and National racquetball events and will host 16 weekend tournaments over the 2006/2007 season. There are several keys to the success of Vetta Sports – Concord:

Racquetball Director

Dan Whitley currently serves as the Racquetball Director for Vetta Sports – Concord and Vetta Sports – Hampshire (Concord’s sister club, located 10 minutes away). Dan wears several hats in the racquetball community. He is the National High School Racquetball Commissioner, Director of the Missouri High School

Racquetball Association, and the State President of the Missouri Racquetball Association. “I am extremely lucky to have such a great job and enjoy working with so many different people. Where else can a person go to work and share the exact same hobby with everyone he interacts with?” John Spanos, the owner of Vetta Sports – Concord (Vetta), says, “In the 5 years Dan has



St. Louis High School Team



Winners at St. Jude Jamboree:
Cindy Burman and Tyler Otto

been with Vetta, we have seen tremendous growth. Having a full time racquetball director is essential to our success. Without Dan’s creative programming it’s just 10 courts.”

High School Racquetball Program

Perhaps the program most unique to Vetta is the Missouri High School Racquetball League. Now in its 29th year, the program is the biggest secret in the nation. In Missouri, racquetball is a winter sport just like basketball, wrestling, and swimming. More than 20 St. Louis area high schools enter teams into the league. Over 500 students participate in the program (all must also join USA Racquetball as members). Vetta is the home to this league (4 other local clubs also host matches) and has kids playing after-school matches every day in the winter. The great thing about the program is that, unlike other team sports, teams don’t need to cut their players and anyone who is interested can play. The high schools treat racquetball like any other varsity sport and need court time to practice as a team. As a result, a large number of the teams join Vetta as members and practice at off-peak court times (evenings after 8pm or weekends). “Dan’s role as the director of the Missouri High School Racquetball Association provides a natural synergy between the high school program and the private club,” said John Spanos. Several high schools in St. Louis also use Vetta during weekday mornings and afternoons for their physical education classes.



Cor Jesu High School Team

Tournaments

As mentioned earlier, Vetta hosts 16 racquetball tournaments every year. The tournaments all have different themes and are open to players of all ages. The club hosts some events to give back to the community. For example, every December the Holiday Classic Toy Drive helps collect over 400 toys for the needy. Creating relationships with corporate sponsors has helped grow key annual events. The Greensfelder St. Louis Open is held the first week of November each year as a kick-off to the High School Racquetball season. This is easily the most popular annual racquetball event in St. Louis. The Open allows high school kids to play in their first racquetball competition alongside adult participants and provides a great introduction to tournament play. The Pinchshot.com Midwest Intercollegiate Championships are held every February and feature a regular tournament in conjunction with a collegiate event. The Championships host an average of 15 college teams and 150 entrants every year. In addition, the Missouri State Classic, Regionals, and the Missouri High School State League Championships are held every year at Vetta. The club also hosts the High School National Championships every other March.



Summer Racquetball Camp

Vetta takes advantage of the down time on the courts during summer months and hosts a 9-week high school summer racquetball camp. Meeting twice a week, the camp is open to kids between the ages of 12 and 18. Every the summer the camp draws over 100 eager racquetball players. The camp combines league play, with weekly instruction, and social time that allows the kids to interact with peers from other schools.

Memberships

Vetta boasts more members than any other racquetball club in the Midwest. The private club has over 400 racquetball members. In addition to these "adult" members, the club also has 350 high school racquetball members. "I am proud of the balance of Youth and Adult Memberships our club has attained," says Whitley. "Our long-range plans are based on maintaining a 3-step cycle: 1. Introduce the game to young players. 2. Keep them involved through high school and college. 3. Stay in touch with them and have them become members after they graduate. That's the beauty of a life sport, we can market to all ages." The



Spectators at High School Match

large membership base allows the club to ensure its commitment to the sport of racquetball for years to come. On an average weeknight evening, all 10 courts are booked from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. The lounge overlooking "Court 2" is also filled every night and concession sales do well, as the members like to relax and socialize after their matches.

Other Programs

Vetta offers singles and doubles leagues for their members, as well as private leagues for local corporations. The club runs a citywide challenge ladder on Saturday mornings for the top players in St. Louis and Wallyball leagues take place on Saturday evenings. Vetta also offers permanent court time for those members who don't want to bother with the hassle of calling every week to reserve a court. The club also has a Pro Staff available to give lessons anytime. On average, over 50 private lessons are given each week.

The Future

Vetta is 100% committed to racquetball and continues to grow the sport. Programming will continue to introduce the game to new players and retain current competitors. Membership is on the rise and tournament draws are growing larger every year. The club's loyal members continue to support the sport and help make Vetta Sports - Concord one of the best racquetball clubs in the nation.

"DAN'S ROLE AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSOURI HIGH SCHOOL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION PROVIDES A NATURAL SYNERGY BETWEEN THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM AND THE PRIVATE CLUB."

New Mexico welcomes back the Pros

Huczek Continues to Win!

The 2006 New Mexico Pro Am

Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 26-29, 2006

The IRT returned to Albuquerque for the first time in seven years as a full event. Event Director Gary Mazaroff had worked very hard on bringing the IRT back to New Mexico and the players were happy to be there. High winds and cool temperatures greeted the players at the Midtown Sports and Wellness Club. The facility boasts six courts, three squash courts and a beautiful fitness center. Midtown is one of five clubs in the New Mexico Sports and Wellness chain of clubs; all have great racquetball activity.

The Pro-Am doubles event was a huge success with Jack Huczek and his partner Ken Goldstein taking the title over Jason Mannino and Bill Sanderson. A full house watched the top players battle it out with the major sponsors of the event.

Qualifying rounds began with local Ray Maestas taking out Miguel Wiggins 2, 2, (1), 1; Ken Cheshire over Andrew Clarke 8, 3, (7), 2 and Mark Branson defeating Robert Lee 4, (6), 10, 5. The next matches witnessed Jordan Walters over Marco Hidalgo 5, 7, 6 and Jorge Trevino ousting Matt Melster 4, (8), 5, 1. In the second round there were no upsets as the top eight seeds all advanced to the main draw. Canada's national 18 & Under junior champion defeated local University of New Mexico player Evan Ussery in three games and the most competitive match of the evening featured former Top Four IRT professionals taking out one of Mexico's best, Javier Moreno, in a five-game battle (8), 11, 8, (8), 8 to move on to meet Rocky Carson.

Round of Sixteen

John Ellis took a while to get loose but never got loose enough as Rocky ended "Elli's" run 2, 4, 1. Jack Huczek took down Ryan Smith in three games 5, 1, 5. These 11:30 and 12:30 matches were completed before Andy Hawthorne upset Jason Thoerner in a five-game battle lasting two hours. Andy played some great ball and came back from an 8-3 deficit in the third to win the match 1, (2), 8, (7), 9. This was

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Paula Sperling for her support of the event, especially opening and closing the club every day.

To the New Mexico Sports and Wellness Club-Midtown for hosting the event and treating the players like members. What a great staff and facility and we look forward to coming back next year!

Hats off to Gary Mazaroff for running a great event. Gary is a true ambassador of our sport and we are lucky to have him. Thanks to Gary and all the volunteers who made the event run smoothly.

Thanks to all the sponsors and there were many. We appreciate your support and look forward to coming back next year.

Special thanks to the Clarke and Fuller families for the rides and attention all weekend.

Also, thank you to Ken Goldstein for stringing all weekend and for all your additional assistance.

Hawthorne's first quarterfinal of the season. Chris Crowther won the battle of "who could hit it harder," defeating Mitch Williams in a surprising three straight games. Shane Vanderson lost the first game to Ben Croft only to regroup and find his form and win the match (8), 5, 3, 2. The rematch from Kentucky had the same intensity as Sudsy Monchik looked to take out Alvaro Beltran again. Beltran came out on top this time, winning the five-game match 5, (4), (8), 8, 7. Alejandro Herrera surprised Cliff Swain in the first two games with some great shots, but in the end Swain's serve took over with the help of the altitude and he prevailed 9, (7), 3, 3. Jason Mannino rounded out the last match

of the afternoon, taking out Woody Clouse in three games 7, 5, 7.

Quarterfinals

The first match in front of a full house featured the new number two-ranked player in the world, Rocky Carson, and Andy Hawthorne. Rocky was the fan favorite here due to the fact that he has won this event the last few years when it was a satellite. Rocky wasted no time in this one, killing the ball from all over the court. Andy hung in with some great diving gets and his relentless attack on every ball. Rocky came out on top in this match 7, 5, 4 and moved on to the semifinal, awaiting the Beltran/Vanderson winner.

Match-up #2 was a rematch of a battle in Toronto, where Chris Crowther gave Jack Huczek all he could handle. This time Jack turned it up to another level and took out the hard hitting Crowther in three straight 1, 2, 4. Jack played extremely well and kept the pressure on Crowther the whole match. Jack also moved on to the semifinal and awaited the Swain/Mannino winner.

The next quarterfinal looked to be a great one between Alvaro Beltran and Shane Vanderson. Alvaro played very well, using the corners and hitting a great wallpaper lob serve to Shane's forehand. Shane had a tough time with this serve and Alvaro capitalized on it. Beltran advanced to the semi's, winning in four games 7, 5, (8), 7 to advance to meet Rocky Carson.

The last match of the evening would be what most would call "the classic match-up" between two veterans of the tour -- Cliff Swain playing his last year on tour against the entertaining Jason Mannino. This match got to it right away with both players letting each other know that they would not give an inch to the other. Although there would be some friendly chatter between these two, it would be all business in the end. Mannino came out the winner in this match 6, 10, 2 and went on to meet Jack Huczek in the Saturday semifinal.



Semifinals

It was sunny and 70 degrees here in beautiful Albuquerque as the first semifinal began. Rocky Carson was appearing in his fourth straight semifinal and as the #2 seed would be ready to go as he met a familiar foe in Alvaro Beltran. The crowd packed into the bleachers at Midtown for this exciting match. It was a seesaw battle in this one as Rocky hit the backhand corner on a consistent basis, winning game one with a score of 7. Alvaro got his lob to the right side going and frustrated Rocky by not missing a shot and taking the second game, 7. The third was a bit sloppy, but Rocky would find a way to take the third and eventually go on and win the match 7, 6, moving Rocky into his first final of the year.

Jack Huczek took on Jason Mannino in the second match of the evening and the third meeting in a row for these two warriors (the last two meetings were in the finals with Huczek coming out on top). In the words of both players, this match was high quality with very few unforced errors. Jack came out on top once again in this match, winning in four hard-fought games 7, 6, (8), 5. Both players spent a lot of time wiping up the floor, as it did become a dive fest. Jason made a statement after the match, mentioning that he had watched game film from the last two matches and tweaked his game plan a little from the last two meetings, but just plain got beat today. Jack went on to meet his third different opponent in his fourth final on Sunday against Rocky Carson.

The final featured doubles partners Jack Huczek and Rocky Carson. The club was packed once again for this match and the players showed their appreciation by playing a very intense match. Jack controlled the first game with some great serves and holding center court 11-7. Rocky came back full throttle and took a 7-0 lead only to see Jack come back and tie it up at seven. Rocky came back and took Game 2 on a great forehand splat, 12-10. The third game mirrored the first with Jack back in control of center court and Rocky experiencing a few unforced errors: 11-8, Jack. The fourth would be all Huczek and he would go on to win his fourth straight event, 11-5.



From top: The crowds at the NMPA; Suds and Eilli in MN; Gary with finalists

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE 2007-08 SEASON

AUG. 23-26	NEW ORLEANS, LA.	T1
SEPT. 6-9	CHESAPEAKE, VA.	T1
SEPT. 6-9	STOCKTON, CA.	T3
SEPT. 13-16	KANSAS CITY, MO.	T1
SEPT. 20-23	CHIHUAHUA, MX.	T1
OCT. 4-7	BOWLING GREEN, KY.	T1
OCT. 11-14	TORONTO, CN.	T1
OCT. 19-21	MADISON, WI.	T4
OCT. 19-21	GRAND RAPIDS, MI.	T4
OCT. 25-28	ALBUQUERQUE, NM.	T1
NOV. 2-4	LONG ISLAND OPEN, N.Y.	T4
NOV. 9-11	PORTLAND, OR.	T4
NOV. 14-18	MEMPHIS, TN.	T1
JAN. 10-13	ORANGE COUNTY, CA.	T1
JAN. 17-20	LONG ISLAND, N.Y.	T1
FEB. 7-10	SIOUX FALLS, SD.	T2
FEB. 14-17	SEATTLE, WA.	T1
FEB. 21-24	TIJUANA, MX	T1
FEB. 29 - MAR. 2	SCHERERVILLE, IN.	T4
MAR. 6-9	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO.	T1
MAR.13-16	GREENSBORO, NC.	T1
APRIL 3-6	BOSTON, MA.	T1
APRIL 10-13	ALLENTOWN, PA.	T1

MOTOROLA PRO NATIONALS

APRIL 23-27	CHICAGO, IL.	T1
-------------	--------------	----

Dates and cities subject to change.
EASTER IS MARCH 23RD 2008

T1 TIER ONE FULL EVENT \$15K
T2 TIER TWO \$10-\$15K
T3 TIER THREE \$5-\$10K
T4 TIER FOUR 0-\$5K
PRIZE MONEY DETERMINES TIER LEVEL

Wachtel Is Back!

Eighth Seed Secures Sweet Victory at Long Island Open

Wachtel Is Back! Secures Sweet Victory at Long Island Open

It didn't take Kerri Wachtel long to regain her elite form and claim her first WPRO title of the 2006-2007 season. The fishbowl court at the Sportime – Syosset Club must have felt like home to Wachtel, who plowed through the draw at the WPRO's third stop of the season, the Long Island Open in Syosset, NY (November 3-5). On her way to the championship, #8 seed Wachtel faced and disposed of #9 seed Doreen Fowler (Round of 16), #1 seed Rhonda Rajsich (Quarterfinals), and #5 seed Brenda Kyzer (Semifinals) without dropping a game before facing off against #3 seed Angela Grisar in Sunday's championship.

After making the finals at the first stop in Fayetteville, everyone knew that the 2001 US Open champion, who had twin daughters (Peyton and Quinn) last March, was back and would be a serious contender at every event this season. Wachtel's intense focus and patient yet deliberate game style pressures her opponents to play a near-perfect match to beat her.

Grisar's road to the finals was impressive as well. She dropped only two games the entire tournament heading into Sunday, defeating #14 seed Candi Hostovich (Round of 16), #6 seed Diane Moore (Quarterfinals), and #2 seed Cheryl Gudinas Holmes (Semifinals) to vie for the Long Island Open title versus Wachtel.

It had been quite some time since the Chilean star fought through the semifinals to contend for a WPRO title. Grisar's impressive run to get to the finals at the Great Balls of Fire Pro-Am in Miami last March was her only championship round appearance since 2004. Rajsich outlasted Grisar in that match but Grisar showed flashes of brilliance throughout the tournament that let her fans know that she means business.

This match-up was a racquetball clinician's dream with two of the most strategic, fundamentally sound athletes



Keogh and WPRO at the Long Island Open

WPRO 2007 STOPS

Jan 4-7 Seattle, WA
Emerald City Open

Jan 18-21 Stockton, CA
Super Bowl Open

Feb 8-11 Denver, CO
Racquet for the Cure

Feb 16-18 Rawlins, WY
Pepsi Premier

Feb 22-25 Toronto, Ontario
Great Canadian Challenge

Mar 8-11 Miami, FL
Great Balls of Fire Pro-Am

May 3-6 New Orleans, LA -
Chemtech/Ektelon Pro Nationals

For more information on the WPRO, its players and events visit www.wpro-tour.com.

engaging in a battle of the wills for the championship. Grisar jumped out quickly with drive serves to the backhand side and back court kill shots to claim game one (6-11). But it didn't take Wachtel long to regroup and game two was point-counterpoint until Grisar made a few unforced errors allowing Wachtel to tie the match at a game apiece (11-8). Game three was more of the same, with both players battling for center court and Wachtel again staying cool under pressure

while executing precise down the line passes and well-timed pinches (11-8). Game four was a runaway for Wachtel, who seemed to taste victory after game three and never looked back (11-5).

Following the match, Wachtel called her husband, Chris, who was watching Racquetball Online's live video streaming with the kids back home and beamed as she addressed the crowd which included her mother Gerri, her weekend coach.

The WPRO would like to thank the tournament staff: Tom and Sabieta Keogh, Christine Leddy, Brian Lesieur, and Rick Chong for their tireless efforts to connect the WPRO with the best amateur event on the East Coast – the Long Island Open, in its 30th year!

We would also like to express our deepest appreciation to following event sponsors for making this event possible: Queens Racquet Sports (Tom Keogh), Archway Press, Inc. (Tom Gaffney), Bonanno Homes (Russ Bonanno), Cactus Salon (Joe Secreti), Credit Suisse (David Stark), Gordon's Glass Ltd. (Mel Gordon), John Griffin Roofing (John Griffin), Long Island Home & Living, MVI Mortgages (Sam Tolisano), Racquetworld (Pat Bernardo), Lorraine Galloway and Jack Zollo.

We would also like to recognize the tournament venues for their hospitality throughout the weekend: Sportime – Syosset Club and Amritraj Fitness & Racquet.

Special thanks to our national tour sponsors: Wilson Racquetball (WPRO Official Ball – Titanium Tour), Python Racquetball (WPRO Official Grip), Racquetball Online (WPRO Official Webcaster – www.racquetballonline.tv), Advocate (WPRO Official Supplement Provider).

Complete WPRO results from the Long Island Open can be found at http://www.ladiesproracquetball.com/draws/Long_Island_2006.pdf.

"THIS MATCH-UP WAS A RACQUETBALL CLINICIAN'S DREAM WITH TWO OF THE MOST STRATEGIC, FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND ATHLETES ENGAGING IN A BATTLE OF THE WILLS FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP."

Last WPRO Title of 2006 in the Nation's Capital

Arlington, VA – If there was any doubt that Kerri Wachtel is back, that doubt washed away as the Cincinnati-based mother of two and #5 ranked player on the WPRO stormed through the draw at the 15th annual Christmas Classic Pro-Am Racquetball Championships in Arlington, Virginia. The WPRO's final event of the year was held at Crystal Gateway Sport & Health Club from December 8-10. In a convincing win over #3 seed Angela Grisar in Sunday's championship, Wachtel's trademark poise and consistency were too much for Grisar to withstand as she rolled through her Chilean opponent in three straight games.

The pro draw at the Christmas Classic was packed with upsets throughout the weekend. With #1 seed Cheryl Gudinas Holmes and #2 seed Rhonda Rajsich falling in Saturday's quarterfinal round, the championship title was up for grabs and there was a buzz among fans about who would be crowned the queen. A stunned crowd looked on as Gudinas Holmes was defeated by hometown favorite #9 seed Doreen Fowler in three, and Rajsich lost her battle with the relentless Mexican star #10 Samantha Salas in four entertaining games that left Salas with bloodied, swollen knees from countless dives throughout the match. On her way to the finals, Wachtel ended Fowler's magical run in a routine three-game semifinal. Grisar took out #6 Brenda Kyzer in a five-game quarterfinal and endured another grueling five-game battle against Salas in the other semifinal.

The Christmas Classic's WPRO final was a déjà vu from a matchup between the two champions one month earlier in Syosset, New York, when they vied for the Long Island Open crown. Wachtel won that match against Grisar in three to claim her first title of the season. But Grisar's performance in Arlington proved to fans

that she was ready to fight and was anxious to impose a different outcome in this final.

In game one, Wachtel came out firing with a clear plan to put pressure on Grisar from the outset. Precise serving and patient rally play were rewarded time and time again as Grisar seemed to force shots early. Wachtel



Photo by Ken Fife

Kerri Wachtel (red) hits the ball as Angela Grisar jumps out of the way.

Wachtel defeats Chile's Angela Grisar for Christmas Classic Pro-Am Championship

captured game one 11-6. In game two, Grisar began to relax and wait for her opportunities. Her powerful backhand is one of the best on tour but many of her usually clean passing shots caught the side wall down the stretch and left easy set-ups for Wachtel to pounce upon. Grisar called a timeout in the middle of the game to regain her composure and obtain guidance from her coach and companion, Pablo Fajre, but when she returned, it was more of the same as Wachtel stayed focused and closed out game two 11-6. The crowd in Arlington was hoping Grisar would show her usual flair after a slow start in this match, but it was not to be. Game three was a battle from the first rally, but Wachtel refused to crack the door for Grisar to push the

match to a fourth game. Wachtel closed out the match 11-8. After the championship, Grisar, gracious in defeat, complimented her opponent on her consistency and intensity. Wachtel amused the crowd when she thanked Grisar's earlier round opponents, Brenda Kyzer and Samantha Salas, for pushing Grisar to five games in both the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds on Saturday.

See complete pro draw at http://www.ladiesproracquetball.com/draws/Arlington_2006_32.pdf.

The WPRO would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Karen Denu for leading the efforts to bring the WPRO to Arlington. We would also like to recognize the incredible tournament planning committee and staff of this



Angela Grisar (left) and Kerri Wachtel after the match.

2006 YEAR-END STANDINGS

RANK	NAME	TOWN	POINTS
1	Gudinas-Holmes, Cheryl	Naperville, IL	945.03
2	Rajsich, Rhonda	Phoenix, AZ	933.50
3	Grisar, Angela	Chile	675.63
4	Wachtel, Kerri	Cincinnati, OH	597.50
5	Walsh, Kristen	Salt Lake City, UT	490.50
6	Kyzer, Brenda	Leesville, SC	440.50
7	Van Hees, Christie	Canada	300.00
8	Moore, Diane	Griffith, IN	298.25
9	Shattuck, Jo	Denver, CO	270.88
10	Fowler, Doreen	Silver Spring, MD	270.50
11	Salas, Samantha	Mexico	219.50
12	Gomez, Vivian	Miami, FL	156.50
13	Fisher, Adrienne	Centerville, OH	147.00
14	Acosta, Susy	Mexico	133.25
15	Hostovich, Candi	Falls Church, VA	107.50
16	Brown, Tammy	Boise, ID	100.50
17	Longoria, Paola	Mexico	81.50
18	Albrecht, Elaine	Delaware, OH	78.00
19	Davis, Da'monique	San Antonio, TX	70.75
20	Morton, Karen	Harrisburg, PA	69.50
21	Powell, Lori-Jane	Canada	54.38
22	Ferina, Kimi	Long Island, NY	52.00
23	Mazur, Kara	Avon, CT	49.75
24	GrandMaitre, Josee	Canada	47.51
25	Guillemette, Veronique	Canada	43.50
26	Csuk, Krystal	Chicago, IL	42.00
27	Saunders, Jennifer	Canada	40.75
28	Rollins, Haley	Augusta, GA	40.00
29	Brandt, Laura	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	34.00
30	Michelle Earl	Anchorage, AL	31.25
31	Baumbaugh, T.J.	Reston, VA	31.00
32	Hallander, Kersten	San Diego, CA	30.00
33	Hirobayashi, Kyoko	Japan	25.00
33T	Neubauer, Julie	Canada	25.00
34	Jordan, Yolanda	Millersville, MD	21.00
35	Haynes, Denise	Canada	20.75
35T	Sakamoto, Toshiko	Japan	20.75
36	Fenton, Laura	Overland Park, KS	20.00
36T	McFadden, Michelle	Greensboro, NC	20.00
36T	Greene, Mimi	Hawaii	20.00
36T	Holtslander, Khanh	Harrisburg, PA	20.00
36T	Fonseca, Lynn	Lawrenceville, GA	20.00
36T	Halahan, Jean	New York	20.00
36T	Cerovski, Tracy	Tallmadge, OH	20.00
36T	Burth, Angela	Washington DC	20.00
46	Jackson, Sharon	Shelbyville, IN	19.75
47	Fuller, Jesi	Albuquerque, NM	18.75
47T	Ellerington, Linda	Canada	18.75
47T	Tisinger, Janel	Simi Valley, CA	18.75
47T	Magrath, Andrea	Lilburn, GA	18.75
47T	Lundstrom, Vallana	Brooklyn Park, MN	18.75
52	Nakayama, Kazuko	Japan	13.75
53	Gopie, Jacqueline	Miami, FL	12.50
53T	Annie Catron	Sun River, MT	12.50
53T	Masuyama, Rie	Japan	12.50
56	Shigemi, Hanaki	Middletown, NY	12.00
57	Remen, Holly	Apex, NC	10.00
57T	Kubany, Sandy	Olney, MD	10.00
57T	Bailey, Mallia	Virginia Beach, VA	10.00
57T	Stoffregen, Gerri	Cincinnati, OH	10.00
61	Franks, Kelly	Euless, TX	2.88
61T	Wakimoto, Naomi	Japan	2.88
63	Jacobson-Prentice, Brandi	Canada	2.38
63T	O'Brien, Aubrey	Auburn, CA	2.38
65	Tomazelli, Adriana	Los Angeles, CA	1.88

championship: Wayne Toyne, Jerry Cox, Bill Milbach, Russ Bruns, Denise Berto, Diane Stokes, Kyle Chandler, Janell Wheeler, and TJ Baumbaugh.

The WPRO thanks all of the generous event sponsors for bringing the WPRO to Arlington.

The WPRO would also like to thank its national tour sponsors, including Wilson Titanium Tour (official ball); Python (official grip); Advocare (official supplement provider); and Racquetball Online TV (official webcaster). The Tour would like to acknowledge its official partners: Carl & Marcia Wallace; Racquetworld (www.racquetworld.com); Racquetball Academy (www.racquetballacademy.com); Tischer Autopark of Silver Spring; and Chemtech Chemical Services, LLC.

2006 CHOICE HOTELS



Rewriting Racquetball Record Books

Articles by Jeff Oliver, Leo R. Vasquez and Shannon Feaster
Photos by Geoff Thomsen & Mike Boatman

The 2006 Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships welcomed to Memphis many top men and women professionals from around the world as well as nearly 800 amateur players from over 15 countries. When it was all said and done, more than 70 new US OPEN Champions were crowned at the largest "Grand Slam" event in the history of the sport.



CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

TM

Presented by



Official Co_Sponsors:



NUVEEN
Investments





It is hard to believe that 2006 was the eleventh year of the Choice Hotels US OPEN! It seems like it was yesterday that the likes of Sudsy Monchik, Andy Roberts, Cliff Swain, Jason Mannino, Mike Ray and Ruben Gonzalez were thrilling racquetball fans with some great matches on the stadium court.

And the thrills continued in 2006 as the

Choice Hotels US OPEN showcased some of the best racquetball that has been seen in years. Christie Van Hees insists she's more about substance than style, and now she has a third Grand Slam title to prove it. Jason Mannino also showed why he is still a threat to win any major event as he added his name for a second time to the prestigious US OPEN Championship trophy.

**US Open Champions:
Christie Van Hees and
Jason Mannino**



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR

IRT Qualifying Rounds

Thirty-seven players set out to try and capture one of coveted spots in the men's professional IRT draw. Three of the players just happened to share the same family genes, as the Landa brothers, Roman, Armando, and Alejandro all made the cut. The other male



Alvaro Beltran

qualifiers had limited experience but included a strong showing from players Eddie Alberty, Michael Anderson, Jason Bledsoe, Oscar Gutierrez, Danny Lavelly, Ronald Mount, Kelly North, Micah Rich, Ryan Rodgers, Eddie Sada, Danny Smith, Juan Carlos Torres, and Peter Ulliman.

IRT Opening Round of 64

Wednesday is the day at the US OPEN where players get a chance to showcase their talents and the top professionals in the world are ready to get it started. Fans would enjoy top play from the world's best as No. 1 Jack Huczek defeated Danny Smith, 11-0, 11-7, 11-1. Then it was No. 2 Rocky Carson who made easy work of Pete Ulliman in three games, 11-2, 11-0, and 11-0. The best player in Mexico, No. 3 Alvaro Beltran would move past Armando Landa, 11-8, 11-7, 11-2. Rounding out the top four seeds, No. 4 Jason Mannino won against Micah Rich in an easy three game match, 11-1, 11-2, 11-6.

But, all the buzz was about two-time US OPEN champion Cliff Swain, who was saying good-bye after 23 years of professional racquetball and four-time US OPEN champion Sidsy Monchik, making his return to Memphis after a two year retirement from the International Racquetball Tour (IRT).

What more perfect conclusion could there be to the illustrious career of Cliff Swain than one



Rocky Carson and Charlie Pratt



Diving Woody Clouse

final bow on the great stage of the US OPEN? He's the most identifiable person in our sport. The career of Cliff Swain is one of the most colorful in racquetball in recent memory. Today his game – while not what it was 10 years ago— is still good enough to compete at the highest level. Last year, in his 10th US OPEN and at the age of 39, Swain put together a breathtaking run that evoked memories of a younger Swain back when he was dominating. Swain beat Jack Huczek in a thrilling semifinal match that ended in a fifth game tiebreaker. The two-time US OPEN champion reached the finals last year, losing there to Kane

Waselenchuk. No. 5 Swain, who announced earlier this summer that he will retire after the 2006-2007 season, defeated Michael Anderson, 11-4, 11-6, 11-4.

There are a lot of elements that have contributed to the popularity and atmosphere of the Choice Hotels US OPEN since it began in 1996. But if you're looking for one explanation right up front, then consider what has transpired, since the beginning of the 2006-2007 IRT season, with the return of four-time US OPEN champion Sidsy Monchik. Entering this event, just four players have enjoyed the luxury of being called US OPEN Champion with Sidsy laying claim to four of those titles. Monchik not only raised the level of play during his reign, but also brought an edge-of-your seat, stimulating kind of style to the court. There wasn't an empty seat in the stands as fans watched Sidsy Monchik begin his quest for a record fifth US OPEN title,

taking out a young and fast Alejandro Landa in three games, 11-3, 11-8, and 11-2.

There were no major upsets in the round of 64, with the exception of Canadian Junior national champion, Ryan Smith being ousted by Shannon Kohl, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7. Thursday would be the true test as players would have to play two matches for a spot in the quarter-finals.

BY THE NUMBERS

19,340

Number of web-site visitors who viewed the draws live on-line.

IRT Round Of 32

Thursday morning began with a thrilling five game match between No. 13 Woody Clouse and No. 20 Augustin Tristan. Tristan came out with some energy and caught Clouse sleeping;

Tristan would win the first two games, 11-9, and 11-5. But it was all Clouse as he would pick up the pace and win the last three games, 11-6, 11-3, and 11-4.

No. 15 Hiroshi Shimizu played the second five-gamer of the tournament as he and No. 18 Juan Herrera were laying it all on the line. These players battled back and forth with Shimizu emerging as the winner, 5-11, 11-3, 2-11, 11-3, 11-8.

Event Director, Doug Ganim pushed No. 11 Ben Croft as Ganim won the first game, 11-2 and looked impressive, but Croft would win the next three games, 11-7, 12-10, 11-5 to advance to the round of 16.

There were no major upsets in the morning round of 32 matches, but the day would not be complete without the round of 16 and the next wave of matches.

IRT Round Of 16

Winners of the Thursday afternoon matches would be rewarded with a quarterfinal appearance and move one step closer to a page in the history books. The top seeds showed how they earned their positions in the round of 16 with just two matches exceeding the three game minimum.

No.1 Jack Huczek, seeking his first US OPEN championship, would defeat the legendary and ageless wonder No. 16 Ruben Gonzalez in three games, 11-7, 11-5, 11-4. There was also a solid performance from No. 2 Rocky Carson who took out Hiroshi Shimizu in another three game match, 11-3, 11-6, 11-3.

Fans began to fill the stands for the match of the afternoon between No. 3 Alvaro Beltran and four-time US OPEN Champion Sudsy Monchik. This would be a true test for both players before moving on to the next round. Monchik came to Memphis this year looking to make history by becoming the only player in the history of the sport with an unprecedented five titles. However, before this highly anticipated match began, Monchik was forced to withdraw from the tournament due to a back injury caused by a bulging disc. "I felt something in my lower back after my match with Javier Moreno," said Monchik. "I decided to go ahead and seek medical attention and I was told by doctors that I have a bulging disc in my lower back. This was causing some pain that led to some pinched nerves in the same area," Monchik said following the announcement. "I had a hard time just standing up and bending at the waist."

From the onset, No. 4 Jason Mannino was all business as he sent No. 13 Woody Clouse packing with another three game match winning

11-3, 11-8, 11-3. All of the top seeds advanced including No. 6 Shane Vanderson who defeated No. 11 Ben Croft in three games, 11-2, 11-6, 11-4. Two of the tour's most powerful hitters faced off as No. 8 Mitch Williams defeated No. 9 Chris Crowther 13-11, 11-8, 3-11, 11-6.

The only upset of the round was No. 10 Andy Hawthorne over No. 7 Jason Thoerner, 11-8, 8-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-9 in a high-flying dive-crazed match between two exciting retrievers.



IRT Quarterfinals

Friday would begin with a quarterfinal match that could easily be a finals match at any other tournament as No. 4 Jason Mannino would go up against No. 5 Cliff Swain. Mannino had faced Swain three times in Memphis and his only success came when he defeated Swain in the finals of the 1999 US OPEN. Mannino was looking to repeat that performance but he was battling a calf injury going into the match. Swain did not look sharp, and Mannino's precise passing shots were enough to keep Swain off balance and win 11-8, 13-11, 11-2.

The next quarterfinal match on the portable court was No. 3 Alvaro Beltran up against No. 6 Shane Vanderson. This would be a chance for



Vanderson to make a repeat performance of his semifinal showing at the 2003 US OPEN. Beltran came out shooting and winning the first game 11-8, this momentum carried over into the second game as Beltran went up 3-0 before Vanderson took a timeout. Then the drive serves from Vanderson's racquet were finding their place along with his backhand splat. Vanderson would go on to win the next three games, 11-7, 11-6, 11-1.

No. 2 Rocky Carson cruised past the high flying Andy Hawthorne in three games. Rocky was a heavy favorite against one of the newest players on the IRT. Hawthorne got his drive working in the second game and took a 6-3 lead, but Carson slowed the game pace down and won in three games, 11-2, 11-8, 11-6.

The last match of the night would feature No. 1 Jack Huczek against the hard hitting Mitch Williams. Game one was an absolute treat for the fans. Williams unleashed his power from both sides and blistering serves kept Jack off balance. William's serves caught fire and he stormed to take game one 11-7. Williams couldn't get it going in game two and Jack started dialing in his passes and forcing Williams to hit on the run. Huczek would win the next three games and the match, 11-4, 11-1, 11-4.

See **US OPEN** on page 20

BY THE NUMBERS

9,600

Dollars raised for St. Jude Children's Hospital in Tuesday's Pro-Am charity doubles event.



Shane Vanderson and Ben Croft

U S O P E N P H O T O G A L L E R Y





IRT Semifinals

The first semifinal winner would also be making his first finals appearance as No. 2 Rocky Carson and No. 6 Shane Vanderson took center stage on the portable court in front of a packed crowd.

The games were tied and close early on (3-3 in the first and third games and 7-7 in the second). With Carson able to mount leads early in the games, he was able to stay in the driver's seat and force more pressure on Vanderson to play catch-up most of the match. "I am playing some of the best racquetball of my career this season," said Carson. "I am peaking at just the right time and looking to make my mark here in Memphis." Carson would win the match 11-5, 11-8, 11-3. Most notable is that Carson had not lost a game so far in five matches going into the finals.

Most players and fans who watched the Saturday night semifinal match between No. 1 Jack Huczek and No. 4 Jason Mannino may have witnessed one of the most grueling and toughest matches in the history of the US OPEN. Mannino came straight at Huczek with his trademark diving kills and won the first two games 11-5, 11-6. The play was tight in the third game as the score grew from 2-2 to 6-6 before Huczek rattled off a series of re-kills to win the third game 11-6. The dive count for Mannino was at 48 and growing as game four found both players all over the court. Jack would win game four on a backhand skip that Mannino was trying to push to the left front corner. The fifth and final game began with Mannino taking an early 2-0 lead. "I felt like the last few times I played Jack, I should have won," Mannino said following the match. "So coming into Memphis I felt even stronger that this was my time."

The score was tied at 7-7 when Huczek put away the next two rallies to take a 9-7 lead. Mannino tried to feed off the crowd and was searching for what he referred to as "my people". (his fans)

Mannino brought the crowd to its feet with spectacular dives (total match count-79 dives) and tied the score at 10-10. Mannino hit a forehand winner and then Huczek skipped the last ball as Mannino won the fifth game 12-10.



Huczek vs Mannino "The Match"

BY THE NUMBERS

1,213

Number of total matches played during the US OPEN.

Rocky Carson

IRT Finals

Championship Sunday would be something for both players to remember. This was the first US OPEN finals appearance for Rocky Carson, playing in front of his father, who taught him the game as a child.

Standing in his way was 1999 US OPEN champion Jason Mannino, who was receiving treatment on a pulled muscle in his right calf. "After I won the match against Cliff, I started to feel the excitement and the pride," said Mannino from his trainers table. "I felt like Rocky hadn't been pushed. I had already been through a war against Jack and felt that if I could cut-off his serve and put some pressure on him, my chances were good."

Carson began the first game by relying on his backhand passing shots and took a 9-6 lead before Mannino answered with a five point run and taking the first game 11-9. "I feel really good going into this match," Carson would say earlier.

The second game would start the same way with Carson taking an 8-3 lead and force Mannino to take a timeout and begin the pressure he talked about. That kept Carson in a defensive position throughout the match. Mannino would win the second game 11-8 and was one game away from winning his second US OPEN championship.

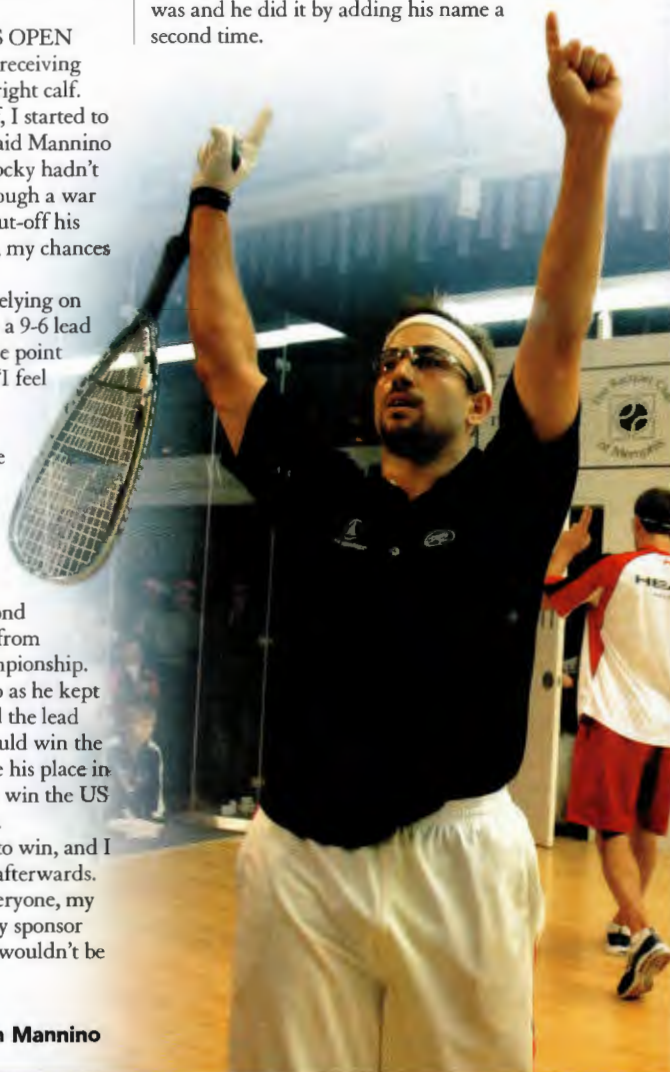
The third game was all Mannino as he kept the pressure on Carson and widened the lead throughout the match. Mannino would win the third and final game 11-5 and secure his place in history as one of only four players to win the US OPEN Racquetball Championships.

"This event is the most difficult to win, and I think I proved that," Mannino said afterwards. "It felt good to do this in front of everyone, my friends, my family, my girlfriend, my sponsor and the fans. Without all of them, I wouldn't be here."

The Champ: Jason Mannino



After 10 years of the US OPEN, only the names of four men are etched into the Championship Cup. There were plenty of challengers in 2006 to push that list to five, but Mannino wanted to keep the list where it was and he did it by adding his name a second time.





WPRO RECAP

BY THE NUMBERS

700

Dollars raised by Wilson for St. Jude's through daily popcorn sales.

Longoria in three games. She then ended the outstanding run of #26 Elaine Albrecht in a four game quarterfinal after dropping the first game to the Ohio based mother

Canada's Christie Van Hees is back and has made history as the first woman to capture three US Open titles – 2000, 2005, 2006! At the Choice Hotels US OPEN in Memphis, Tennessee November 15-19, Van Hees defended her US Open crown in convincing fashion, taking the field by storm and cruising to the championship round to face two-time US Open Champion and #2 Cheryl Gudinas Holmes (Naperville, IL). Following her Cinderella run at last year's US Open, Van Hees decided to pursue a career in marketing and left the WPRO tour for almost a year. However, she showed no signs of rust as she barreled through the women's pro draw, dropping only one game throughout the week.

Opening Rounds

After predictable early round results on Thursday, the WPRO was off to a furious start early Friday morning at the Choice Hotels US Open, with Round of 16 matches that pitted big names against each other: #5 Brenda Kyzer vs. #12 Susy Acosta, #3 Angela Grisar vs. #14 Adrienne Fisher, #11 Samantha Salas vs. #6 Kerri Wachtel, #10 Doreen Fowler vs. #26 Elaine Albrecht, #2 Cheryl Gudinas Holmes vs. #15 Paola Longoria, #8 Christie Van Hees vs. #9 Shattuck, #1 Rhonda Rajsich vs. #17 Candi Hostovich, and #4 Walsh vs. #13 Vivian Gomez. All but one of the higher seeds held in these matchups, with one exception: Albrecht defeated Fowler in four. The field of 45 whittled down to eight and the Quarterfinals would tell a different story with all but one of the higher seeds falling to a lower seed proving just how competitive the WPRO tour is this season.

Christie Van Hees' Road to the Finals

On her way to the championship, Van Hees faced #25 Janel Tisinger (Simi Valley, CA) and #9 Jo Shattuck (Denver, CO) in early round play and lost only 14 points in those two matches. Van Hees' absence on tour made her the #8 seed coming into this year's US Open, which pitted her against #1 Rhonda Rajsich (Fountain Hills, AZ) in the quarterfinal round.

By late Friday evening, The Racquet Club was abuzz in anticipation of the rematch of last year's US Open final between the two-time and defending champion and #1 player in the world, Rajsich who won the US Open in 2003. The first game was a flurry of point-counterpoint exchanges until both players hit a string of short serves. It was clear that these champions were anxious to get off to a good start with so much at stake, including pride and a legitimate claim to the best player on the WPRO. Van Hees finally aced Rajsich to secure game one, 12-10.

In game two, Van Hees refused to concede her ground, hitting passing shots and waiting for her opportunity to pounce. But Rajsich settled in and stepped it up a notch, serving Z's into the forehand glass, forcing a weak return, and setting up an offensive shot. When Rhonda took game two (11-7), the crowd exploded and knew they were in for a great match!

In game three, Van Hees came out firing and kept Rajsich off balance with drive serves and passing shots that pinned her opponent to the

back court. Great rallies often ended with Van Hees back in the service box continuing to put pressure on the tour's most resilient player. The crowd was pumped and ready to see more gut wrenching action but it was Van Hees' day as she cruised to victory in game three (11-3).

Game four was a clinic in drive serves to the backhand, many of which did not come off the back wall, as Van Hees made it impossible for Rajsich's to find her return of serve rhythm. Rajsich seemed off her game and could not regroup in time for Van Hees to feel the heat. Final score: 12-10, 7-11, 11-3, 11-6.

It was her grit and determination that earned #5 Brenda Kyzer (Leesville, SC) the right to play on the stadium court against the seemingly unstoppable Van Hees on Saturday afternoon. Her mobility no longer an issue after losing more than 60 pounds in a single year, Kyzer appeared to be better prepared than ever to showcase her talents on the grand stage in the semifinals of the biggest tournament in the sport. This would be her third consecutive semifinal appearance at a WPRO event.

But Kyzer was just too anxious to unseat Van Hees on this day. Her usual poise and consistency were lacking and she left too many balls up for Van Hees to prey upon. The first two games were a textbook display of accuracy and patience by Van Hees as she quickly cruised to a comfortable lead. The third game seemed more of the same until Kyzer took a time out at 3-8. During her 45 second break, Kyzer must have determined that she would did not go quietly. She steadily climbed back into the game with low drive serves to the backhand and cross court kills. Van Hees fought to get two more points then made several uncharacteristic unforced errors to give Kyzer a glimmer of hope. At 9-10 with Van Hees serving for the match, Kyzer flat rolled a monster backhand splat to get herself back in the box. The crowd erupted but their elation would be short-lived. Van Hees regained serve and quickly put the match in the books. Final score: 11-3, 11-3, 11-9.

Cheryl Gudinas Holmes' Road to the Finals

Two-time US Open Champion (2002, 2004) and #2 player in the world Cheryl Gudinas Holmes disposed of unseeded Vallana Lundstrom (Brooklyn Park, MN) and Pan-Am Champion/Mexican phenom #15 Paola

of three (7-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-5).

On Saturday, Gudinas Holmes faced 2001 US Open champion Kerri Wachtel in a thrilling semifinal that went the distance with the game match tied two games each. Gudinas Holmes exhibited the mental toughness that has enabled her to win every major championship in the sport. In game five, she hung with Wachtel rally for rally then executed four well-placed serves that forced weak returns and allowed her to put the match in the books. Final score: 12-10, 5-11, 12-10, 2-11, 11-9. Gudinas Holmes secured her place in the finals against Van Hees and both were looking to make history by claiming their third US Open title on Sunday.

Championship Round: Van Hees vs. Gudinas Holmes

The stage was set for a rematch between two of the WPRO's all-time greatest champions. The stands around the stadium court were full and Van Hees and Gudinas Holmes bounced around behind the court like boxers getting ready for a heavyweight championship bout.

From the start, Van Hees came out swinging and didn't seem to miss a serve or set up. With very few opportunities and a bout of nerves, Gudinas Holmes mustered only three points in game one. Van Hees played consistent, high percentage racquetball -- hitting kill shots when she needed to and clean passes when a rollout was not required. Van Hees continued on cruise control, taking the second game 11-2. At 8-0 in the third, Gudinas Holmes asked herself out loud "Have you ever played before?" after missing an easy backhand front court set-up. Gudinas Holmes took a time out and scored two points, but Van Hees was just unstoppable. There was never a real chance for Gudinas Holmes to get into the match once the determined Van Hees went on a roll. Her trademark style of poise under pressure and pinpoint accuracy is well known among WPRO competitors and fans who have seen time and again how relentless and focused this great champion can be!



Christie Van Hees

The Amateurs Came To Play Too...

The Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships has truly become a holiday tradition. For the 11th consecutive year, players from around the country have come to Memphis to not only watch racquetball's top athletes, but to also get on the court themselves.

More than 700 players took to the courts at The University of Memphis,

WellWorx Sportsplex, Ridgeway Baptist Recreation Center and The Racquet Club in a variety of age and skill divisions. By the time the top four finishers in each division were awarded their US OPEN medals – which weighed almost a full pound each – more than 1,200 matches had been played!

Congratulations to all who came and played and we'll see you next year.

AMATEUR RESULTS

Men's Age 24

1st: Armando Landa - El Paso, Texas DEF. Micah Rich - Paradise, Calif. 10,14

Men's Age 24 A

1st: Jorge Nassar - Unknown, Mass. DEF. Cesar Castillo - Valencia, Carabobo

Men's Age 24 C

1st: Chase Stanley - Baton Rouge, La. DEF. Fredrick Giles - Chattanooga, Tenn. (11),10,3

Men's Age 25+ - Round Robin

1st: Jason Bledsoe - 2nd: Derrick Victor -

Men's Age 25+ A

1st: Francisco Perez - Pembroke Pines, Fla. DEF. Elliott Mistich Jr. - Belle Chasse, La.

Men's Age 25+ C

1st: Tyler Scott - Bonita, Calif. DEF. Brad Anderson - Memphis, Tenn. 4,10

Men's Age 30+

1st: Andy Gross - Kennesaw, Ga. DEF. Brian Pointelin - Midvale, Utah 1,7

Men's Age 35+

1st: Jimmy Lowe - Wahiawa, Hawaii DEF. Brad McCunniff - Cedar Falls, Iowa -9,10,5

Men's Age 35+ A

1st: Rod Van Dyke - Ocala, Fla. DEF. Sunny Osagie - Blytheville, Ark. 13,4

Men's Age 35+ B

1st: James Campbell - Roanoke, Va. DEF. Twayne Howard - Grand Rapids, Mich. 5,11

Men's Age 35+ C

1st: Jacques Boisvert - Trois-rivieres DEF. Don Jordan - Dunwoody, Ga. 6,11

Men's Age 40+

1st: Jimmy Lowe - Wahiawa, Hawaii DEF. Brad McCunniff - Cedar Falls, Iowa 10,12

Men's Age 45+

1st: Scott Cullins - Woodstock, Ga. DEF. Thomas Travers - Delray Beach, Fla. 2,13

Men's Age 45+ A

1st: Edward Fink - Houston, Texas DEF. Rick Reynolds - Dunlap, Ill. 13,(8),1

Men's Age 45+ B

1st: Allen Lawrence - Madison, Miss. DEF. Richard Seaberg - North Aurora, Ill.

Men's Age 45+ C

1st: Ed Garrison - Cordova, Tenn. DEF. David Roth - Cordova, Tenn.

Men's Age 50+

1st: Thomas Travers - Delray Beach, Fla. DEF. Mike Grisz - Dallas, Texas 12,14

Men's Age 55+

1st: Joe Lee - Mi'l, Hawaii DEF. Russ Montague - Jenkintown, Pa. 14,-13,1

Men's Age 55+ A

1st: Robert Steele - Hampton, Va. DEF. Fred Heros - Memphis, Tenn. 3,(11),4

Men's Age 55+ B

1st: Darrell Crocker - Springfield, Mo. DEF. Sez Ozden - Grovetown, Ga. 14,7

Men's Age 55+ C

1st: Alfredo Radillo - Chihuahua, DEF. Larry Knetzger - Kennesaw, Ga. (6),9,6

Men's Age 60+

1st: Ed Remen - Apex, N.C. DEF. Mitch Milewski - Nashua, N.H. 5,0

Men's Age 65+

1st: Patrick Taylor - Barrington Hills, Ill. DEF. Ed Sword - Louisville, Ky. -5,9,0

Men's Age 70+

1st: Dave Lund - Lansing, Mich. DEF. Michael Jackson - Shelton, Conn. 8,1

Men's Age 75+

1st: Fred Wiegand - 2nd: John O'donnell Jr.

Men's Age M24B/25B

1st: Aaron Lovinger - Atlanta, Ga. DEF. David Perez - Miami, Fla. 7,11

Men's Doubles 19+ - Round Robin

1st: Andy Gross / Kevin Francis - GA, USA/GA, USA
2nd: Bruce Lillis / Ryan Lillis - OH, USA/OH, USA

Men's Doubles 35+

1st: Aaron Metcalf / Scott Cullins - FL, USA/GA USA DEF. George Bustos / Lance Gilliam - TX, USA/TX USA 6,-10,6

Men's Doubles 50+

1st: Randy Pfahler / Salvatore Perconti - FL, USA/FL USA DEF. Alan Baron / Mark Baron - 11,-6,7

Men's Doubles A

1st: Kipp Atwell / Martin McDermott - LA, USA/TX USA DEF. John Isaza / Jose Flores - NY, USA/CT USA 7,(3),5

Men's Doubles B

1st: Barry Cruthirds / Don Russell - MS, USA/MS, USA DEF. Nathan Walsh / Steve Reisser - GA, USA/TN, USA 14,14

Men's Doubles C

1st: Kenneth Foster / Michael Barnes - TX, USA/ IRL DEF. David McCullough / Phil Capps - AR, USA/AR USA 13,(9),1

Men's Doubles Open

1st: Ben Croft / Charles Pratt - IL, USA/OR USA DEF. Armando Landa / Alejandro Landa - 11,8

Men's Singles A

1st: Cesar Castillo - Valencia, Carabobo DEF. Derrick Victor - Jacksonville, Ark. (14),13,10

Men's Singles B

1st: Joseph Lee - Baton Rouge, La. DEF. Dayan Yamin - Miami, Fla. 9,10

Men's Singles C

1st: Chase Stanley - Baton Rouge, La. DEF. Jacques Boisvert - Trois-rivieres 11,14

Men's Singles D

1st: Angel Munoz Fernandez - Valencia DEF. Charlie Coffelt - Olive Branch, Miss. 5,5

Men's Singles Open

1st: Gil De Los Rios - Mo. DEF. Aaron Metcalf - Jacksonville, Fla. -12,5,8

Men's Singles Pro

1st: Jason Mannino - San Diego, Calif. DEF. Rocky Carson III - Ladera Ranch, Calif. 9,8,5

Mixed Doubles 30+ - Round Robin

1st: Melissa Mcelfresh / Ralph Cuesta - FL, USA/FL, USA
2nd: Karen Mickel / Tyrone White - GA, USA/AL, USA

Mixed Doubles 40+

1st: Shari Coplen / Woody Clouse - MO, USA/CO USA DEF. Beth Sacco / Kipp Atwell - LA, USA/LA USA 5,1

Mixed Doubles A / B

1st: Matt Stamborski / Trish Beatty - WI, USA/WI USA DEF. Ryan Lillis / Sarah Hettesheimer - OH, USA/OH USA 12,(13),3

Mixed Doubles C / D - Round Robin

1st: Bob Lampley / Marilyn Lemmon - MS, USA/MS USA
2nd: Jacques Boisvert / Marika Beaudet - QC, CAN/QC CAN

Women's Age 40+ - Round Robin

1st: Debra Tisinger - 2nd: Holly Remen

BY THE NUMBERS

79

Number of dives by Jason Mannino during his IRT semi-final match against Jack Huczek.

Women's Age W60/65 - Round Robin

1st: Cece Palaski - 2nd: Mildred Gwinn

Women's Age W70/75

1st: Lola Markus - Park Ridge, Ill. DEF. Mary Fish - Tuscaloosa, Ala. 1,3

Women's Doubles 35+ - Round Robin

1st: Debra Tisinger / Karen Key - CA, USA/AZ USA
2nd: Debra Bryant / Lorraine Galloway - NC, USA/NY USA

Women's Doubles 50+ - Round Robin

1st: Elaine Dexter / Linda Moore - CA, USA/NE, USA
2nd: Jean Trimble / Renee Fish - FL, USA/FL, USA

Women's Doubles A - Round Robin

1st: Chizuko Furuta / Hiroko Asari - Tokyo, JPN/Tokyo JPN
2nd: Melody Butler / Renee Fish - FL, USA/FL USA

Women's Doubles B - Round Robin

1st: Julie Decker / Melissa Mcelfresh - FL, USA/FL USA
2nd: Angela Dewing / Ashley Ward - MD, USA/DE USA

Women's Doubles Open

1st: Toshiko Sakamoto / Naomi Wakimoto - DEF. Denise Haynes / Jennifer Saunders - MB, CAN/NS, CAN WBF - No Show

Women's Singles A

1st: Jennifer Lynch - Bedford, Mass. DEF. Janice Kennedy - Morrow, Ga. 5,2

Women's Singles B

1st: Melissa Mcelfresh - Pembroke Pines, Fla. DEF. Angela Dewing - Columbia, Md. 7,10

Women's Singles C - Round Robin

1st: Tia Lecland - 2nd: Rachel Wolff

Women's Singles D - Round Robin

1st: Brenda Margarita Granados Ebrat - 2nd: Abbey Lavelly -

Women's Singles Open

1st: Diane Moore - Griffith, Ind. DEF. Elaine Albrecht - Delaware, Ohio 3,3

Women's Singles Pro

1st: Christie Van Hees - Calgary DEF. Cheryl Gudinas Holmes - Naperville, Ill. 3,2,2

St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles

The St. Jude Pro-Am Charity Doubles event was sold out for the 11th year in a row raising \$9,600 and bringing the total to nearly \$140,000. On Tuesday evening 32 lucky players were treated to a once in lifetime racquetball experience while supporting the children of St. Jude's. Each player was teamed with one of the superstars of the IRT and WPRO in a single elimination doubles tournament. The finals came down to Sal Perconti and Alvaro Beltran in the top half of the draw who would face Jimmy Floyd and Angela Grisar who came out of the bottom half. Perconti and Beltran took a commanding lead, and at 13-5 looked to close out the match before Grisar found her groove with a z-serve to Perconti that gave him some trouble. "What else can you ask for?" Perconti said after the match. "The pro's are always so kind and fun to play with, plus all the money goes to St. Jude Children's Hospital." Perconti and Beltran would go on to win, 15-12.



Pro-Am Doubles: Sal Perconti and Alvaro Beltran



Andy Roberts accepts St. Jude donation

top pro for three rallies. The amateur had their picture taken while in the heat of the battle by an Official US OPEN Photographer and if they won a rally they received a special US OPEN prize.

Through the Silent Auction, Pro-Am Doubles, Play With a Pro & Bags of Popcorn, more than \$10,000 was raised for St. Jude Children's Research this year.

A big and special thanks goes out to the auction donors and contributors and the many friends of racquetball that have made donations to this annual fundraiser. Through this effort, a bigger step has been taken for the children at St. Jude Children's Hospital and their families.

Silent Auction and Play with a Pro for St. Jude

The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital annual silent auction fundraiser helped push the US OPEN 11 year total over \$140,000, all of which has been donated to the Memphis-based hospital.

A new event this year also helped raise money for St. Jude. For a \$100 donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, amateur players were able to face off against a

Message from the Event Director

On behalf of the Choice Hotels US OPEN Staff, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who joined us in Memphis for the 11th Anniversary of our sport's original "grand slam" event.

The US OPEN represents everything that is great about racquetball and I am truly honored to play a small part in this event's success. The incredible turnout of players and fans was inspiring and I can't thank you enough for the energy and enthusiasm you all brought to Memphis. The pro players responded by putting on a show that left most of us with our mouths hanging open in awe.

I especially want to thank everyone who made a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital during the US OPEN. We had a record year in fundraising for them and have now surpassed over \$140,000 in donations.

Lastly, I want to thank all the sponsors and over 100 volunteer staffers that made the 2006 Choice Hotels US OPEN the greatest racquetball event ever held. It will be a tough event to top in 2007 but we will give it a shot.

I hope to see you all next year!

*Doug Ganim
Event Director
US OPEN Racquetball Championships*



US OPEN will be shown on the Tennis Channel!

Each show will start at 9:00 PM EST.

January 17, 2007 Men's Quarter SWAIN v. MANNINO

January 24, 2007 Men's Quarter BELTRAN v. VANDERSON

February 7, 2007 Men's Quarter CARSON v. HAWTHORNE

February 14, 2007 Men's Quarter HUCZEK v. WILLIAMS

February 21, 2007 Men's Semi - VANDERSON v. CARSON

March 7, 2007 Men's Semi - HUCZEK v. MANNINO

March 14, 2007 Men's Final - MANNINO v. CARSON

March 21, 2007 Women's Final - GUDINAS v. VAN HEES

BY THE NUMBERS

23

Number of years Cliff Swain has played professional racquetball.



mental Toughness tips



Most racquetball players are all too familiar with the difficulty of the mental aspect of racquetball competition. The power of the mind is apparent at every level, from Rocky Carson or Rhonda Rajsich at the US Open, to an eight-year-old in her first tournament who is apprehensive in using any of her full strokes. **By Kerri Wachtel**

Here are four simple techniques you can try right away:

1.

The best all-around mental tool is the simple phrase, "Only The Ball."

It cures, at least temporarily, most of the big mental mistakes players make. Whether you're upset, angry, nervous, or just distracted, repeat this phrase to block out negative thoughts and return your focus to where it belongs, the ball.

2.

Probably the hardest time to concentrate is when you're getting ready to return serve.

Your opponent has the ball, so your mind seems to sense that this is an opportunity for a little time off. While your opponent is preparing, try to focus on something non-distracting, like your strings. Strings get readjusted a lot more than needed because of this little trick.

3.

Learn versatility!

If you have only one playing style and it's not working, then you are out of options. A key factor is being able to choose different courses of action. If you have a Plan B, C, and D on the racquetball court, the failure of Plan A is unlikely to cause despair. Racquetball players often lose because at least a part of them secretly gives up. You won't give up while you have something else to try. Learn to play every part of the court and hit every kind of shot. You'll likely uncover a weakness in a seemingly unbeatable opponent.

4.

Look alert, energetic, confident, and happy.

Looking so will actually help you be so, and it will keep you from giving encouragement to your opponent. If your opponent is at all prone to choking, your look of ready confidence on the edge of defeat might keep just enough doubt in their mind to make them cave under the pressure of closing out the match.



Q: Fran, as Jason Mannino's coach can you tell us how he won the 2006 US Open Championship 7 years after winning the 1999 US Open Championship?

Answer: In my opinion Jason is the most mentally tough player on tour. Not only did he win the 2006 US Open, he won it with a pulled calf muscle that occurred in the 1st round, the round of 64's. If you saw him that night you would have thought for sure Jason would have to forfeit as he was hobbling all over the court.

I think you have heard the term, "the mind of a champion". Well in my opinion Jason has the ultimate "mind of a champion". First off all let's take a quick look at a few of his professional career titles as his record speaks for itself:

- US Open Champion 1999 & 2006
- #1 Pro Player in the World 2003
- Pro National Champion 2001
- Top 5 Pro Player in the World for the past 10 years

In order for Jason to have accomplished what he has in his pro career takes a very, very special mind...."the mind of a champion".

Let's investigate what this means:

1 - Believing in Yourself

Jason believes in himself 100+ percent and then some. He lost to Jack Huczek, #1 pro player, three times this season. The US Open was their 4th meeting. Jason and I watched video tapes of his previous matches with Jack and we knew when he met him again he'd have to execute his game plan better and tweak his serve....he did BOTH of these things.

He NEVER went into his matches with Jack doubting himself...he believed he could win each and every time.

2 - Not Allowing Bad Calls to Affect You

Once again Jason watched himself on video and saw he was allowing bad calls to adversely affect him in matches. He saw he would get so angry at times that he'd not only lose the point from the bad call, but he'd also lose several more points thereafter because he couldn't let that bad call go. He realized he was taking the "bad calls personally" and he shouldn't...they were NOT personal. Once he came to terms with this and began to work on it he has played calmer and more relaxed. The bad calls are not affecting him in a negative way much at all anymore.

3 - Don't Beat Yourself

Jason didn't want to beat himself especially since he was injured. The philosophy he lives by is he never wants to beat himself so he minimizes his own mistakes and maximizes on his opponents mistakes. He plays such high percentage racquetball and skips the ball minimally which puts so much pressure back on his opponents. He put so much pressure on Jack in that match that Jack tried to splat the ball from 38 feet back when the score was 11-10, Jason serving, and Jack skipped it for match point.

4 - Know Your Goals and Stay Focused

At this point in Jason's career his goal in racquetball is to "build his legacy" and it is two fold:

- a- Be known as one of the best players to ever play the game.
- b- Be known for his character....play hard and let who he is as a person shine through on the court....and he is having fun doing just that.

5 - Get Crowd Involved

Jason is a crowd favorite for a reason...he gets the crowd involved and he is entertaining. In Memphis at the US Open he did just that...from the onset of the match he referred to audience as, "My People", and they cheered wildly for him. I believe that in the first two games Jason brilliantly got the crowd involved and they were behind him 100%. This totally motivated and fired Jason up to play hard every point. In the next two games he really didn't get the crowd involved because he was in pain and it showed. In-between the 4th game and the tie-breaker Sudsy came over to me and said, "Tell Jason to get the crowd going again." When I talked to Jason I made a few suggestions on what adjustments needed to be made and I told him the words of Sudsy..."get the crowd involved". Jason did just that and the crowd was electrifying. At 7/7 in the 5th game the audience was bouncing off the walls, dancing on the tables, chanting and you name it they did it. Jason told me the crowd totally got him through the 5th game tie-breaker because he was in so much pain, but the adrenaline kicked in and the pain seemed to subside.

6 - Never Quit

There is a saying I use a lot in my teaching/coaching,

"Winners never quit, quitters never win".

Jason Mannino is a true blue winner in my book. I don't think quitting is in his vocabulary. Jason defied all odds when he broke his back in 1993 in a car accident. He wasn't supposed to live, let alone walk and now he has added the 2006 US Open title to his already impressive resume. And Jason did it with an injury...a pulled calf muscle. In his victory speech he profusely thanked the Campbell Clinic for patching him up, but Jason still had to step on the court day after day and perform at his ultimate best and he did. He told me he knew what was on the line at this event and he wasn't going to give up. As the pressure got greater with each passing match and there was more on the line he felt less and less pain. In my estimation Jason's will to win, the adrenaline, his never give up attitude and the light at the end of the tunnel carried Jason through to victory.

When he got up on Monday and finally let down Jason couldn't even walk or even drive his car as he was in too much pain.

7 - Playing with Heart

Jason plays with heart and desire each and every time he walks on that court. If you were lucky enough to watch Jason at the 2006 US Open you would have seen that every match he played he left his heart on the court. His determination was crystal clear.

Jason Mannino is an amazing player and person...a class act. He pours his heart and soul into everything he does on and off the court. He is the ultimate champion.

I hope this helps you see clearly Jason's mind.... "The Mind of a Champion".

Hope to see you at one of our camps for live personal instruction or the next best thing buy our video if you can't make a camp at this time. Go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details on both the video and camps.



By Fran Davis

POWER BACKHAND

Four steps towards a smashing success

By Sudsy Monchik
January/February 2007

Hi everybody....it's been GREAT to be back from retirement and I am psyched to share with you my magical "Power Backhand" that I used to capture the titles of the five time #1 Professional Player in the World and the four time US Open Champion. These are the same VERY SOUND fundamentals that I will be using this season to go for the #1 Professional Player in the World, (sixth time).

I CANNOT stress enough that there is no substitute for having very consistent, powerful and explosive strokes that you can rely on and have confidence in ...like mine. Last issue I shared with you my magical "Power Forehand" and today I am going to share with you my magical "Power Backhand" and help make you stronger from the backhand side of the court. Too often players run around their backhands to hit a forehand and it puts them out of position or they poke at their backhands setting their opponents up with an easy shot. I am going to use a visual aid, electric tape on the floor, that will make it easier for you to follow and understand so your backhand can be a force to be reckoned with....like MINE. Let's take a closer look:



1 Ready Position

- Proper Backhand Grip – hand moves 1/8" towards back wall
- Square to side wall
- Shoulders level
- Knees bent, not waist
- Hitting arm up...elbow in line with the shoulder
- Non-hitting arm used for balance
- Feet lined up on the 2 back pieces of electric tape
- Eyes on ball

2 Step & Swing

- Front foot steps toward corner...toward front electric tape line (45 degree angle)
- Hips begin to open
- Drive off back leg
- Shoulder rotates and begins to open
- Hitting arm starts to drop leading with the elbow
- Non-hitting arm begins to move
- Eyes on ball

3 Contact Point

- Back foot pivots
- Back knee bent at a 90 degree angle
- Hips completely open
- Hitting arm fully extended and contact is made at that 4th piece of electric tape
- Non-hitting arm moves around body for balance
- Eyes on ball

4 Follow Through

- Chest and belly button facing the front wall
- Hitting arm all the way around
- Racquet pointing to back wall
- Non-hitting arm completely through
- Upper body erect
- Back foot pivots completely
- Back knee bent at a 90 degree angle



Presented by

HEAD
Penn

Now you have my magical "Power Backhand" ... a picture is worth a thousand words...so study these pictures carefully. Remember, like the forehand, the backhand stroke is also a part of building that solid foundation. This now will make you a stronger player from both sides of the court, the forehand and backhand sides...like ME...a must in order to move up in level. By having both a consistent, powerful and explosive forehand and backhand you will be a player who will be tough to beat and your opponents will fear you. Your opponents will not be able to pick on you because you are

weaker from one side of the court versus the other...that will frustrate them immensely. Take the time necessary to work on your strokes as they are truly the foundation you need in order to get to that next level you've always dreamed of.

Hope to see you at one of our "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" Camps for live personal instruction or the next best thing buy our "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" Video if you can't make a camp at this time.

Go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details on both.



By Otto Dietrich
USA Racquetball
National Rules
Commissioner

Line Judges:

A Referee's Relief Team

Let's discuss line judges.

Any referee worth his/her salt will tell you that having line judges to help officiate a match can be a great relief. Having line judges means that the final decision and outcome of a particular situation will be shared by a three-person panel rather than resting on the referee alone. From the players' viewpoint, it gives a player who feels wronged by the referee's call some hope for overturning a perceived mistake.

The two (no more or less) line judges should be situated in viewing positions as different as possible from the referee and from each other. This helps to compensate for calls that one person alone might be blocked on. Yet, all three persons must generally be within viewing and hearing distance of one another to make handling appeals easier.

Line judge duties can be described as "silently refing" the match, reacting only if the referee asks them to weigh in. For all practical purposes, anything the referee calls or doesn't call is may be appealed. Should a line judge note a rules violation, s(he) should NOT react at all, but merely keep the occurrence in mind. When the rally is over, the referee may then ask the line judges if they thought the call on a particular play was correct. Then, and only then, should they reveal their opinion about the call made by the referee.

Line judges may give only one of three possible responses — indicating agreement with the referee's call by displaying a "thumb up"; indicating disagreement by

or they agree with the referee). For example, a skilled referee will simply say, "My call is that the last shot skipped. There has been an appeal." In contrast, an inexperienced referee might say, "I called Mr. Smith's last shot a skip, but he is appealing that the shot was good." Can you see how that second version might totally confuse a line judge about how to respond and, even worse, produce an invalid outcome?

Another point to be made is that if the play being appealed cannot be precisely identified (example: "when Joe raised his hand"), there can be no appeal since the three persons may not be reacting to the very same play. So, a player's appeal: "I appeal that one of John's shots skipped" or a referee who then announce "I called the entire rally good — no skips" should never, ever be allowed since it is NOT specific enough to guarantee a valid outcome on appeal.

What about determining the result of the appeal? Here is a relatively simple way of remembering. The referee's call stands in all possible combinations of line judge hand signals except two — "two thumbs down" means the referee's call is reversed and "one thumb down and one palm down" calls for the rally to be replayed.

How many appeals are allowed? Well, each player/team gets only three per game, plus a freebie on a game-ending rally. However, on any appeal that either line judge displays a "thumb down," it is not counted

"THE TWO (NO MORE OR LESS) LINE JUDGES SHOULD BE SITUATED IN VIEWING POSITIONS AS DIFFERENT AS POSSIBLE FROM THE REFEREE AND FROM EACH OTHER."

displaying a "thumb down"; or indicating that they have "no opinion" (they aren't sure or didn't see the play) by extending one hand in a "palm down" position.

Since line judges communicate in silence, it is essential that the referee clearly explain THE CALL. Some common errors I've noted in doing this are (1) announcing WHO made the appeal (this really makes no difference except to the referee) and (2) announcing what the person who appealed thought the call should have been (this confuses some line judges about whether giving a "thumb up" means they agree with the player

against the three-appeal limit even if the referee's call stands. If there is no "thumb down," then one of the three appeals has been used.

Always "Play by the Rules!" If you don't have a copy, you can find and review them on-line at: <http://www.usaracquetball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=839>. Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball Magazine.

The training **zone** focused in this article is **STRENGTH**

The American Heritage dictionary defines strength as, "The state, property, or quality of being strong. The power to resist strain or stress; durability." It continues the explanation, stating: "STRENGTH, POWER and FORCE suggest capacity to do something. STRENGTH is inherent capacity to manifest energy, to endure, and to resist. POWER is capacity to do work and to act. FORCE is the exercise of power. For example, one has the power to do something. He exerts force when he does it. He has sufficient strength to complete it."

I ran cross country when I was in high school and still enjoy it to this day. Some of my greatest results have come from the benefits of running. In high school, racing distance is 5 kilometers (or 3.1 miles). I was fortunate to have a great cross country coach in high school. He taught mathematics and defined our weekly training program to the exact mile that produced the best results. For any given week, we would run 20-70 miles, incorporate sprints and hill work, mental training, and STRENGTH training.

Each runner produces different results from day to day. There are many factors that cause runners to produce these varied results, e.g., training schedule, diet, mental stability, and social factors, just to name a few. The great runners can manage these different factors and produce consistent results over the long run. Coach's philosophy was very simple: if your body fatigues, then you will not achieve your desired result. Mental, lung, and muscular (mainly leg) fatigue are the primary contributors to success (or the lack thereof) as a runner. If one of those factors fails during a race, there will be failing results. For the purpose of this article, muscular strength training is discussed; mental and lung strength training will be covered in future articles.

Unlike strength training for runners, primarily targeting legs, racquetball players need to develop strength in all muscle groups. Most racquetball players practice minimal strength training. Building strong muscles will prevent fatigue and, even more importantly, circumvent injury. A common injury in racquetball is one that pertains to the arm (e.g., shoulder, elbow, bicep). Knee injuries are another one of the many common injuries in racquetball. In some cases these injuries can't be prevented, but in many others they can be avoided through proper strength training.

I take strength training very seriously and I wouldn't be where I am without it. A racquetball match can last up to two hours or more. If your muscles are not capable of enduring strain for that length of time, at the minimum you'll lose the match; worst case would be injury. I have not suffered a serious injury in racquetball and very rarely do I get sore after a tournament, which is due to my extensive time spent strength training. For every hour I spend drilling on the court, I spend four times that long on strength training, e.g., if I spend 2.5 hours per week practicing, I spend 10 hours strength training.

Given the time most people can spend working out, I alternatively suggest a 1:1 ratio. For example, if 3 hours per week are spent playing racquetball, then 3 hours should be spent strength training. Every muscle group needs to be addressed, but not on the same day. A successful program should be structured so that each muscle group is worked at least once per week and 10 repetitions should be completed per exercise. The amount of time devoted to strength training determines how many muscle groups are targeted per day. For example, if 3 hours are devoted to strength training per week, I recommend spending one hour on each of three different days. For example: Monday begins with chest, back, and abdominals; Wednesday continues with biceps, triceps, and forearms; Friday concludes with calves, quadriceps, hamstring, and shoulders.

Incorporate as many different exercises as possible. Don't perform one exercise for an entire half hour. Adding variety to a routine will produce better results. Most gyms and clubs have personal trainers and there are dozens of good strength training books available at bookstores if questions arise when developing your winning strength training schedule. Remember to always use proper technique and to use a spotter as needed. Good luck!



By Jack Huczeck

**"BUILDING
STRONG
MUSCLES WILL
PREVENT
FATIGUE AND,
EVEN MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
CIRCUMVENT
INJURY."**



Jason Mannino

jason MANNINO

1 What does winning the US Open for the second time mean to you? It means a lot, although each event is important when I look back winning the most prestigious event in our sport for the second time is important to my legacy, and my career. I didn't realize this before the event, but I do now.

2 Who is the toughest all-around competitor you ever played? I had the most difficult time with Cliff Swain. Cliff had many attributes – he was tough both mentally and physically and very difficult to come back on when he had a lead. The person with the most talent would be Sudy but he never seemed to possess the same killer instinct that Cliff had.

3 If you could give one tip to an aspiring young player who wanted to play on the IRT tour, what would it be? Simply – study each player and pull out the positives from each. I mimicked at least 15-20 players trying to take their best attributes both mentally and physically. Many kids today are too arrogant and think they know everything, but usually you can learn something from every player on the tour.

4 How has your game changed as you've grown older? I am very different in my offensive mindset. I feel I am more offensive but also much smarter. I no longer go for one shot to the finish every rally, but use different, smarter shots. I feel stronger now than when I was in my twenties and feel I have a greater variety of offensive shots than a few years ago.

5 How do you think the game has changed since the Yellen/Brumfield eras? This is difficult to talk about since I may sound condescending but I really am not. The game overall is much faster and more powerful. I believe it simply is a result of the game evolving. The shot

making ability of today's players are much more advanced and the players are more physical and stronger.

6 How important was Junior Racquetball to your career? It provided the foundation without the structure of junior racquetball I would not have known if I had the ability to play professional racquetball. It also gave me many of my friends I have today. Most of if not all of my best friends have come through racquetball.

7 One of your greatest accomplishments had to be coming back from a near death accident to winning the junior worlds. What did this win mean for your career? At the time I did not realize how significant my recovery and victory would be. I was an arrogant young kid who just expected to recover and to win. Now, I understand how important that event was to my career. That event made me realize I could play pro. Just two months before the event my doctor told me not to play. I simply ignored his recommendation, dusted off my racquet and played. After I won, Sports Illustrated did a special article on my victory. Today the accomplishment seems much more astonishing then it did at the time.

"I FEEL I AM
BLESSED. I MAKE A
LIVING PLAYING A SPORT
I LOVE, I HAVE
TREMENDOUS SUPPORT
FROM MY PARENTS, HAVE
TWO GREAT CHILDREN,
JASON AND JARED AND
A GREAT GIRLFRIEND
CHRISTINA."

8 Anything else you would like to say? I feel I am blessed. I make a living playing a sport I love, I have tremendous support from my parents, have two great children, Jason and Jared and a great girlfriend Christina. I feel very lucky to have a tremendous sponsor and fan support and just thank everyone for being part of my racquetball career.

new MEXICO

New Mexico Racquetball Association

By Kevin Joyce



Gary Mazaroff
State President

What are your most successful programs?

- We have been functioning as an organization since 1977
- We incorporated in 1983
- World Senior Racquetball Championships inaugurated in 1985
- Ongoing junior, senior, and special groups programs
- Justifying some difficult decisions and overcoming some obstacles

What would you say is the key to having a successful organization?

- We operate like a business
- Monthly board meetings have been held since inception
- Developed and sustained continuity which has lasted for 30 years
- Annual goals and 3-5 year goals
- Provide value to our constituency

- Contribute to local, state, national, and international communities with funds and in-kind
- Offer statewide Intercollegiate Scholarship program for worthy student-athletes
- Full range of events and programs for broad spectrum of the population

What is the number one complaint you hear as president?

We have not received many complaints; instead, a few concerns over time. Perhaps the most widely aired concern is why participants must be members when participating in sanctioned events. Our response has been that, as a member, one receives a lot of value that would not be recognized without membership. In addition, it helps to keep the racquetball legacy alive!

CURRENT NMRA BOARD MEMBERS

Jane Bentley
Francis Borunda*
Brian Campbell
Devin Cannady
Jack Clarke
Peter Clarke
Ken Goldstein
Terry Lauritsen
Raymond Maestas
Gary Mazaroff*
Ken Payne*
Jake Skinner
Evan Ussery
Cindy Wittenbrink
Joe Wittenbrink*

* Officers of the Board

In 2006, Albuquerque celebrated its 300th birthday. The state bird is the roadrunner and if you catch a glimpse then you will be lucky. The highest point is Wheeler Peak at 13,161. The capital city of Santa Fe also is renowned for its rich history, galleries and arts. The 19 pueblos of New Mexico are the oldest tribal communities of the US and are less than an hour drive from Santa Fe or Albuquerque. There are 13 national parks and monuments throughout New Mexico that make it a top tourist destination. Carlsbad Caverns National Park is home to 300,000 Mexican free-tail bats and White Sands National Monument is part of the world's largest gypsum dune field and stretches 275 square miles.

New Mexico Attractions: With over 20 sanctioned events held annually there is always a top notch racquetball to be played all months of the year. In late August, the World Senior Racquetball Championships officially kick off the season with over 250 participants from around then world. When you are not on the racquetball court, take part in great hiking, hot air ballooning, fly fishing, exploration of Southwest Ruins, pueblos and more.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,928,384

State Population

409

Membership Strength

4

Lifetime Members

THE LARGER CITIES

Albuquerque, Santa Fe,
Farmington, Las Cruces,
Las Vegas and Roswell.

Ruben Go

THIS OLD PRO RECEIVES GEEZERJOCK AWARD



Story By Jim Hiser

onzaez

Jimmy Connors, Roger Clements, Martina Navratilova, Gordie Howe, and Freddie Couples — all are athletes who excelled in their sport in their older years. Unfortunately until recently, perhaps the most outstanding senior performance by any athlete has gone unnoticed by most of the sports community. But thanks to GeezerJock magazine, Ruben Gonzalez will now be recognized for his outstanding accomplishments.

Racquetball has not received such recognition since Chris Coy received the Sports Illustrated Young Sportsman of the Year Award in 2000. Ruben's accomplishments are legend in the racquetball community and soon will be recognized throughout the sports world. With over 7.2 million Americans aged 40 years and over competing in athletic events, this recognition of Ruben as the most outstanding athlete of this age group amplifies the importance of the award.

Ruben's award places a racquetball athlete as an equal with all other athletes and recognizes both the extreme demands of the sport as well the difficulty of competing at such a high level. Ruben is without question an exceptional athlete; but even more impressive is that he is an outstanding person who exemplifies the best our sport has to offer.



Ruben on his way to becoming #1 on the Pro Tour - 1988

Quotes from friends and colleagues:

"What a great honor for Ruben. He is a tremendous athlete and what he has accomplished in his career with the IRT is simply amazing. Ruben has and always will be inspirational for all who play the game, juniors and adults alike. Ruben definitely is a true legend of the sport and the IRT."

Dave Negrete, IRT Commissioner



"I truly believe that Ruben Gonzalez is one of the most gifted athletes the world has ever known. I consider him on the level of Muhammad Ali. We are so blessed to have him in the sport of racquetball and lay witness to his extraordinary career. No athlete in any

sport has played at such a high level for such a long period of time. He should be regarded as an American icon."

- Doug Ganim, Director, US Open Racquetball Championships

"It comes as no surprise to Ektelon that Ruben beat out athletes from every other sport to win this prestigious award. We consider Ruben the "true legend" of racquetball and "the ambassador" of the sport. His ability to keep playing for so long at such a high level is amazing. He is the Superman of racquetball!"

- Scott Winters



Q&A with Ruben

Birth Date: 7/22/1952

Birth Place: New York

Nationality: American

Year Turned Pro: 1975

Plays: Right Handed

Height: 5'8"

Weight: 180

Marital Status: Married, 4 children, 4 grandchildren

Personal: I have a cat named Bear. Love Life!

Playing Tip: Practice as much as you can.

Player Quote: My racquet gives me great performance.

Juniors Tips: Enjoy the game, have fun.

Why I love racquetball: Because it keeps me in shape.

How I was introduced to racquetball: By a handball player.

What else do I do: When I'm not playing, I love to be home with my family.

My Training Schedule: Working out 3 times a week

Favorite Book: To Kill A Mockingbird

Favorite Band: El Gran Combo

Favorite Song: Vamanos Pal Monte

Favorite Food: Seafood

Favorite TV Show: Will & Grace

Favorite Video Game: PacMan

Favorite Car: 1965 Mustang Convertible

Favorite Color: Red

Favorite Movie: Scarface

Lucky Number: 13

Favorite Sport: Basketball

Favorite Actor/Actress: Bruce Lee and Al Pacino

Source: www.ektelon.com

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION

By Evan Pritchard

MEXICO TOOK HOME MOST OF THE GOLD IN THE WORLD Cup competition at the 18th International Racquetball Federation (IRF) World Junior Championships in Tempe, Arizona. Of the twelve divisions comprising the World Cup competition involving National team players from the 16 countries attending, Mexico won seven divisions, the United States three, and Ecuador two. Thus, the World Cup team trophy went to Mexico.

In Boys 18 and under, David Ortega of Mexico defeated fellow Mexican Alejandro Landa in a final that featured many great shots and incredible diving gets. Landa looked to be in the driver's seat after he won game one and had a 7-3 lead in game two. But Ortega dug in and came back taking a 12-7 lead before winning 15-11.

In the tie-breaker, it was Ortega who had the lead at 4-1, and Landa who came back and gained the advantage at 7-6. However, that was as many points as he would get, as Ortega reversed the momentum and took the match, 9-15, 15-11, 11-7.

The win extends Ortega's streak of Junior World Championships to six. His first was the Boys 12 and under in 2001, after which have come two wins each in 14 and 16 and under. This was his first year playing 18 and under, so he can make it seven in a row next year.

Ortega also won gold in Boys 18 and under doubles as he and partner Ruben Estrada defeated the American team of Chris Coy and Zach Apperson, 15-13, 15-5.

In the girls' competition, Michelle Key of the United States became the first American girl to win 18 and under since Adrienne Fisher's victory in 2003. Key dropped the first game against Mexican Karen Torres, but then took game two and the tie-breaker to win 5-15, 15-9, 11-5.

An all American final ensured gold for the USA in Boys 16 and under as Ishmael Aldana and Jose Rojas faced off for the title. Rojas had the easier route to the final giving up an average of 4 points a game in the prior three rounds while Aldana won both his quarter final and semi matches in two close games. Perhaps those close games were to Aldana's benefit, as he defeated Rojas in a close final, 10-15, 15-9, 11-10.

Aldana and Rojas were also in the Boys 16 and under doubles final against Mexicans

Erick Sandoval and Jose Luis Martinez. Unfortunately for them, they lost to the Mexicans 15-14, 15-8 thereby denying Aldana a second gold medal.

Paola Longoria of Mexico won her fifth consecutive Junior Worlds title, by taking the Girls 16 and under final over American Sharon Jackson, 15-12, 15-2. It looked like Longoria would beat Jackson again in doubles to win a second gold medal, as Longoria and partner Luisa Alderete had an 8-1 lead in the tie-breaking third game of the Girls 16 and under doubles final.

However, Jackson wasn't going to lose two finals to Longoria, and she and partner Holly Hettesheimer came back to take the tie-breaker and the match, 15-14, 7-15, 11-8.

In Boys 14 and under, Mexican Alejandro Cardona was a double gold medalist, as he defeated American Taylor Knoth in the singles final, 15-2, 15-13, and teamed up with Pedro Gonzalez to defeat

Knoth and Jake Bredenbeck in the doubles final, 4-15, 15-14, 11-6.

There was also a double gold medalist in Girls 14 and under, but unlike the other divisions it wasn't an American or a Mexican. The remarkable 13-year-old Veronica Sotomayor of Ecuador won both singles and doubles with Maria Paz Munoz. It wasn't easy, however, as American Danielle Key pushed her to the limit in the singles final that had great shot making by both players, including very good pinch shots.

After dropping the first game, Key won the second game, and looked to be in control after she took a 5-0 lead in the tie-breaker. But Sotomayor came back and in the end it was Sotomayor coming through to win 15-5, 12-15, 11-9, and extend her consecutive Junior Worlds title streak to four.

In the other team competitions, Mexico also won the Esprit Cup for players in the 12 and under and younger divisions. The USA was second followed by Bolivia, Costa Rica and Ireland. Canada won the Friendship Cup for players in the 14, 16, and 18 under divisions who are not in the World Cup competition. Mexico was second, the USA

18TH INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL FEDERATION (IRF) TEMPE, ARIZONA DECEMBER 15-21, 2006



US Team - "Pile on"

JUNIOR SHIPS



Team Korea

third followed by Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

Of special note, matches from Tempe were broadcast over the internet via the racquetballonline.tv website. Pablo Fejre from Chile was on hand to set everything up. The matches generated over 3,000 hits a day from over 40 countries. Also, Royster Productions taped two matches for broadcast on the Tennis Channel.

Luke St. Onge, Secretary General of the IRF, was happy with those developments. Also, he was excited to see that "play is better than before." St. Onge credits coaching improvements in the smaller countries with their increased performances at Junior Worlds.

Of the Arizona State University courts, St. Onge said "it's a beautiful facility for hosting the over 600 people who attend the event." He was also pleased to see more Korean players this year, and that Nicaragua sent their first players to Junior Worlds. It's getting to be a large event, and St. Onge indicated that format changes will be considered, so the event could be held in countries with smaller facilities.

The Junior World Championships were held in the United States every year from their inception in 1989 until 2004, when they were held in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Last year, Junior Worlds was also in Mexico, in Juarez. The announcement of the 2007 Junior Worlds location will be made by March 1st, 2007.

RESULTS SUMMARY

WORLD CUP

BOYS SINGLES

18 & Under - PP

1st: David Ortega - MEX DEF.
Alejandro Landa - MEX (9),11,7

16 & Under - PP

1st: Ishmael Aldana - Colo. DEF.
Jose Rojas - Stockton, Calif. -
10,9,10

14 & Under - PP

1st: Alejandro Cardona - MEX DEF.
Taylor Knoth - Milwaukie, Ore.
2,13

GIRLS SINGLES

18 & Under - PP

1st: Michelle Key - Gilbert, Ariz.
DEF. Karen Torres - MEX (5),9,9

16 & Under - PP

1st: Paola Longoria - El Paso DEF.
Sharon Jackson - Shelbyville, Ind.
12,2

14 & Under - PP

1st: Veronica Sotomayor - ECU
DEF. Aubrey O'brien - Auburn,
Calif. 5,(12),9

BOYS DOUBLES

18 & Under - PP

1st: David Ortega / Ruben Estrada
- MEX DEF. Chris Coy / Zach
Apperson - USA 13,5

16 & Under - PP

1st: Erick Sandoval / Jose Luis
Martinez - MEX DEF. Ishmael
Aldana / Jose Rojas - USA 14,8

14 & Under - PP

1st: Alejandro Cardona / Pedro
Gonzalez - MEX DEF. Jake
Bredenbeck / Taylor Knoth - USA
(4),14,6

GIRLS DOUBLES

18 & Under - RR

1st: Eleny Guzman / Marcela
Moreno - MEX
2nd: Kara Mazur / Samantha
Mcguiffey - USA

16 & Under - PP

1st: Holly Hettesheimer / Sharon
Jackson - USA
2nd: Luisa Alderete / Paola
Longoria - MEX

MIXED DOUBLES

18 & Under - RR

1st: Karen Torres / Roman Landa -
MEX
2nd: Andreanne Chartier / Mathieu
Messier - CAN

16 & Under - RR

1st: Jenny Daza / Roland Keller -
BOL
2nd: Jose Serrano / Teresa Diaz -
USA

14 & Under - RR

1st: Carlos Tapia / Yazmine Sabja -
BOL
2nd: Carlos Keller / Maria José
Vargas - BOL

12 & Under - RR

1st: Elizabeth Anne Brenner /
Marco Rojas - USA
2nd: Alex Guzman / Devon
Pimentelli - USA

10 & Under - RR

1st: Adam Manilla / Hollee
Hungerford - USA
2nd: Bobby Sehrgosha / Sabrina
Viscuso - USA

ESPRIT CUP

GIRLS SINGLES

12 & Under Gold - OFF

1st: Maria José Vargas - BOL DEF.
Devon Pimentelli - San Bruno,
Calif. 6,8

12 & Under Blue - OFF

1st: Elizabeth Anne Brenner -
Portland, Ore. DEF. Rocío Cuenca -
BOL 4,8

12 & Under Red - OFF

1st: Guadalupe Cruz - MEX DEF.
Mercedes Anías - Ann Arbor, Mich.
14,10

10 & Under Gold - OFF

1st: Lucia Gonzalez - MEX DEF.
Ximena Gonzalez - MEX 8,8

10 & Under Red - OFF

1st: Sabrina Viscuso - Auburn,
Calif. DEF. Elizabeth Vargas -
Aurora, Colo. 5,8

10 & Under White - OFF

1st: Alicia Fladstol - Eagle Point,
Ore. DEF. Victoria Fladstol - Eagle
Point, Ore. 11,7

8 & Under - RR

1st: Diana Aguilar -
2nd: Vaneza Gutierrez -

BOYS SINGLES

12 & Under Gold - OFF

1st: Marco Rojas - Stockton, Calif.
DEF. Daniel De La Rosa - MEX
13,11

12 & Under Blue - OFF

1st: Jose Diaz - Colo. DEF. Daniel
Chaverri - CRI 12,2

12 & Under Red - OFF

1st: Luis Jurado - MEX DEF. Alex
Guzman - Stockton, Calif. 9,7

12 & Under White - OFF

1st: Raul Quintanilla - MEX DEF.
Conor Skehan - Touraneena 11,5

10 & Under Gold - OFF

1st: Javier Estrada - MEX DEF.
Andree Pamilla - MEX 3,10

10 & Under Blue - OFF

1st: Nicolas Arguello - CRI DEF.
Andres Aviles - CRI 6,11

10 & Under Red - OFF

1st: Javier Mar - MEX DEF. Bobby
Sehrgosha - Pleasanton, Calif. 9,2

10 & Under White - OFF

1st: Martín Freire - Cuenca DEF.
Jake Bimel - Bellingham, Wash.
0,14

8 & Under Gold - OFF

1st: Alex Almada - MEX DEF. Gil
Duarte - MEX 3,7

8 & Under Blue - OFF

1st: Ryan Francis - Litchfield, N.H.
DEF. Roberto Hernandez - CRI
WBF - No Show

8 & Under Red - OFF

1st: Noe Rivera - BOL DEF. Daniel
Rojas - Stockton, Calif. 4,5

8 & Under White - OFF

1st: Justus Benson - Sun Prairie,
Wis. DEF. Magdiel Martinez - MEX
WBF - Injury

GIRLS MULTIBOUNCE**8 and Under - RR**

1st: Dariana Montiel -
2nd: Erika Manilla -

6 and Under - RR

1st: Dariana Montiel -
2nd: Victoria Leon -

BOYS MULTIBOUNCE**8 and Under Gold - OFF**

1st: Roberto Hernandez - CRI DEF.
Josue Perdomo - DOM 11-7,11-1

8 and Under Blue - OFF

1st: Daniel Rojas - Stockton, Calif.
DEF. Justus Benson - Sun Prairie,
Wis. 11-9,11-0

8 and Under Red - OFF

1st: Eduardo Portillo - MEX DEF.
Daniel Alfaro - DOM 11-7,11-0

6 and Under - RR

1st: Eduardo Portillo -
2nd: Alejandro Sigala -

GIRLS DOUBLES**14 & Under - RR**

1st: Veronica Sotomayor / Maria
Paz Munoz - ECU
2nd: Jessica Parrilla / Maria
Magdalena Chavez - MEX

12 & Under - RR

1st: Elizabeth Anne Brenner /
Samantha Rosado - USA
2nd: María José Vargas / Rocío
Cuenca - BOL

10 & Under - RR

1st: Lucia Gonzalez / Ximena
Gonzalez - MEX
2nd: Abbey Lavelly / Elizabeth
Vargas - USA

BOYS DOUBLES**12 & Under Gold - OFF**

1st: Jose Diaz / Marco Rojas - USA
DEF. Rodrigo Garay / Ruben
Rodelo - MEX 14,-8,4

12 & Under Blue - OFF

1st: Alejandro De Los Rios / Luis
Jurado - DEF. Bryan Harrington /
Ricardo Sanchez - 1,6

12 & Under Red - OFF

1st: Alejandro Montiel / Daniel De
La Rosa - DEF. Aaron Marquez /
Eduardo Olivas - 4,3

12 & Under White - OFF

1st: Carlos Cuadra / Daniel
Chaverri - DEF. Leeray Downing /
Trevor Deason - 2,(9),2

10 & Under Gold - OFF

1st: Javier Estrada / Andree
Parrilla - MEX DEF. Eduardo Garay
/ Javier Mar - MEX 9,8

**Team Bolivia****10 & Under Blue - OFF**

1st: Alan Marquez / Erick Garcia -
DEF. Bobby Sehrgosha / Logan
Nance - 9,11,2

10 & Under Red - OFF

1st: Danilo Torrico / Diego Crespo
- DEF. Juan Bernardo Rios /
Martín Freire - 3,4

10 & Under White - OFF

1st: Alejandro Hidalgo / Mario
Hidalgo - DEF. Esteban Diaz / Jeff
Locke -

FRIENDSHIP CUP**BOYS SINGLES****18 Gold - OFF**

1st: Roman Landa - El Paso DEF.
Mauricio Zelada - Columbia, Md.
13,9

18 Blue - OFF

1st: Juan Pablo Aguilar - BOL
DEF. Stefano Luconi - CRI
(14),13,8

**Opening Ceremonies****18 Red - OFF**

1st: Carlos Oviedo - MEX DEF.
Pietro Luconi - CRI 2,5

18 White - OFF

1st: Carlos Landin - MEX DEF.
Derreck West - CAN 9,(4),6

16 Gold - OFF

1st: Mathieu Messier - CAN DEF.
Sebastien Boissonneault - CAN
6,8

14 White - OFF

1st: Mathieu Grandmaitre - CAN
DEF. Connor Hueffner - Franklin,
Wis. WBF - No Show

GIRLS SINGLES**18 - RR**

1st: Lysa Ann Landreville -
2nd: Analay Zuniga -

16 - RR

1st: Arantza Loredó -
2nd: Teresa Diaz -

14 - RR

1st: Maria Magdalena Chavez -
2nd: Jocelyn Loredó -

BOYS DOUBLES**18 - RR**

1st: Carlos Oviedo / Felipe Munoz
- MEX
2nd: Graham Richardson /
Sebastien Boissonneault - CAN

16 - RR

1st: Drew Brannigan / Jonathan
O'keeney - USA
2nd: Kevin Hernandez / Shayne
McVay - USA

14 - RR

1st: Mathieu Grandmaitre / Pedro
Castro - CAN
2nd: Christopher Good / Dylan
Reid - USA

GIRLS DOUBLES**18 - SEF**

1st: Lysa Ann Landreville / Marika
Landrevill - CAN DEF. Analay
Zuniga / Arantza Loredó - MEX
(4),7,4

16 - SEF

1st: Cruz Ortiz / Natalia Compres -
DOM DEF. Vanessa Galvez /
NEEDS - BOL WBF - No Show

14 - SEF

1st: Jocelyn Loredó / Yesenia
Malvaez - MEX DEF. Ciara
Mcmanamon / Katie Kenny - IRL
8,10

PP - Pool Play**RR - Round Robin**

SEF - Single Elimination Finals
OFF - Olympic Format Finals

16 Blue - OFF

1st: Mauricio Zelada - Columbia,
Md. DEF. Luis Alonso Tamez -
MEX 7,14

16 Red - OFF

1st: Kevin Hernandez - Colorado
Springs, Colo. DEF. Derreck West -
CAN 10,(14),3

16 White - OFF

1st: Flavio Casalvolone - CRI DEF.
Jose Luis Martinez - MEX WBF -
No Show

14 Gold - OFF

1st: James Slamko - CAN DEF.
Pedro Gonzalez - MEX 6,14

14 Blue - OFF

1st: Luis Gonzales - CRI DEF.
Christopher Good - Aurora, Colo.
9,13

14 Red - OFF

1st: Pedro Castro - CAN DEF. Julio
Heinsen - DOM 4,0

New Tour to Feature Former Stars

CLASSIC PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR is the creation of a tour featuring 40+ age past champions of the sport competing again in conjunction with existing amateur events. Classic Professional Racquetball Tour and its players will represent the past while insuring the future of the game via fundraisers at each event supporting local junior and high school programs.

All players must be 40 years of age and not ranked in the IRT top 16 as of September of each year. At present time, we are excited to have commitments from the following:

- Ruben Gonzalez, Staten Island, New York
- Bret Harnett, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Mike Ray, Hilton Head, South Carolina
- Steve Lerner, Riverside, California
- Dan Obremski, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Woody Clouse, Denver, Colorado

The current CPRT sponsors include:

- Desert Plumbing & Heating
- Beck's Beer
- First Pacific Corp
- Sunburst Shutters
- Ahern
- Certain individuals who are supporting the tour anonymously

CHARITY EVENTS: A major focus for CPRT which will include a Doubles Challenge at each event in which local players can play against a CPRT team, for a donation that will be directed to local junior & high school programs.

INDUSTRY SPONSORS: The Classic Tour is also pleased to announce their partnerships with Head/Penn Racquet Sports and also Pro Kennex Racquetball for the 2006-07 season. Each company was given the opportunity to "draft" a player for the season. Head won the lottery during the US Open in Memphis and chose Bret Harnett as their player for the season. Pro-Kennex was second in the lottery and chose Steve Lerner. Players who already have a pre-existing contract were ineligible for the Draft.

Top Seed Athletics was also named "The Official Clothing Sponsor" of the CPRT. Top Seed



www.classicproracquetball.com

"THE NEW BALL THE CPRT WILL USE IS THE OLD CLASSIC BLACK BALL WITH THE GOLD CPRT LOGO ON THE BALL."

CPRT RULES: CPRT will be using some new & unique rules this season to increase spectator interest & excitement;

- Best 2 out of 3 games to 11, all with Extended Play (win by 2)
- One time out per game, except when the game hits Extended Play, then each player gets an additional time out
- No Court Hinders
- No appeals or line judges
- One serve rule, the exception is the Bonus Ball one time per game a player may use a second serve by notifying the official immediately after a first serve fault.

has a line of moisture wicking material in their garments unparalleled by any other company on the market. The players all have their own individual colors to wear throughout the season with more exciting accessories on the way.

Ektelon Racquetball has been chosen as "The Official Ball" of the Classic Professional Racquetball Tour for the 2006-07 season. The new ball the CPRT will use is the old classic black ball with the gold CPRT logo on the ball. "We decided on the black and gold color scheme because black was one of the original ball colors back in the day", says Commissioner Brian Pointelin. "The gold simply defines class and elegance".

To inquire about CPRT events, or to host an event for the 2007-2008 season, please visit www.classicproracquetball.com or contact Brian Pointelin at bpointelin@yahoo.com.



O³
ENGINEERED FOR SPEED AND POWER.

POWER SURGE

NEW Super WideBody Frame for Fearless Power Without Limits!

Weight: 175 g

Headsize: 106 sq in

Power Level: 3000



The New **O³ Black**: The baddest **super widebody** frame ever developed delivering **extra stiffness and stability**, increasing the **Power Level to 3000**.

Featuring **O³**: The **ONLY** technology that transforms ordinary string holes into revolutionary **giant O-ports**. This creates a **super aerodynamic frame** and a **massive sweet spot** that is expanded up to **54%**.

O³ Red (Power Level 2700):
Mach swing speed for maximum power
& maneuverability.



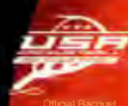
Weight: 170 g

Weight: 190 g

O³ Silver (Power Level 2700):
Ultimate power and comfort.

EKTELON
PLAY WITH FIRE

ektelon.com



NMRA National Championship Tournament

Portland, Oregon • March 7 -10, 2007

Two great clubs + One great hotel =

A fantastic tournament experience in beautiful Portland, Oregon!

The Multnomah Athletic Club is an exclusive multi-use facility: 10 racquetball courts (4 glass back wall), three pools, mezzanine level racquetball galleries for viewing, exercise equipment, snack bar floor, gift shop, lounge, sports bar, restaurant, three gyms, batting cage, rock climbing wall, sun deck, 4-level parking facility, indoor track, tennis courts. This club is a vacation in itself!

The Sunset Club is a traditional racquetball club: 7 glass-back wall courts, indoor track, climbing wall, heated lap pool, heated exercise pool and large

lounging area. Lunch and hospitality will be provided to players and guests here as well.

The Doubletree Hotel offers two restaurants, plus a fitness center, lounge and gift shop. For more serious shoppers, the three-level Lloyd Center Mall (out the front door and across the street) features over 200 stores including Nordstrom, 30 restaurants, 18 movie screens and an ice skating rink. And, there is no sales tax in Portland for purchases of gifts, meals, beverages, etc.! The MAX (mass transit system) runs to historic Old Town and

other downtown attractions such as Pioneer Square, Waterfront Park, Saturday Market, and Chinatown. There is also free trolley transportation throughout the downtown area.

For more information:

Tournament entry form is located at www.nmra.info.

Portland Oregon Visitors Association - www.pova.com/visitors.

QUALITY COTTON GLOVE LINERS

light weight, durable, washable, elastic wrist
Absorbs unwanted sweat on playing glove – keeping playing glove dryer and softer for a better grip

Sizes: xtra small, small, medium, and large
Use under racquetball, baseball, football, golf, and your work gloves too!!

If you are having problems with racquet slipping due to sweat on your glove, try the UNDERGLOVE.

Sponsor of: USRA & IRF

Starter Sports Pak:

\$4.95 + S&H

Same day shipping

To Order:

UNDERGLOVE LLC

P.O. Box 21921

Albuquerque, NM 87154

505.269.4279

www.underglove.com

underglove



cotton glove liner

[sweat absorbing glove liner]

Get a grip with the Underglove!

ROCK AND ROLL IT OUT

AT THE



MOTOROLA

IRT Pro Nationals

IRT Pro National Racquetball Championships

presented by



wireless

April 25-29, 2007 • Schaumburg, Illinois



JDRF

Proquest Call for Action

Hopeline

USA Racquetball



KWM

Leo & Susan Minnells



For event information go to www.irttour.com

The ECRC Comes to Albany, NY

The second ECRC event of the 2006-2007 season took place in Albany, NY at The Court Club, our favorite and most frequented venue. With 140 players representing 20 schools for another huge tournament, we were a little afraid of being overwhelmed without Shane Wood, who was stuck in Oklahoma due to an ice storm. Alumnus Rob "Smokey" Van Schalkwyk played tournament director, and got things started without a hitch, with the help of Shannon Noonan, and some of the ECRC team leaders. Shane Wood did manage to get to Albany by later in the afternoon on Friday, and though he missed most of the daytime action - we started before 9 in the morning - he was able to see more racquetball than he usually does, because Smokey was doing such a great job behind the desk and finished out the day there. This allowed Shane to relax (for once) and enjoy some quality ECRC matches.

Without losing any on-court intensity, ECRC players demonstrated their class. We ref our own matches, and things stay amazingly friendly for such tough competition. We think nothing of having a match between two rival schools be officiated by another player from one of the teams, and the only arguing between players and the ref is done with respect and a sense of humor. This may sound too good to be true, but we invite you to see it for yourself.

As for after hours with the ECRC, we were nervously invited back to the Super 8, our luxurious home away from home, and are proud to report that the front desk never called due to excessive noise.... for once. Most of the socializing happens at the motel, with people hopping from room to room all night and catching up with old friends. The ECRC draws people in with racquetball, but they stay for the good times. Collegiate Racquetballers are a goofy bunch, but they grow on you.

RESULTS

On the men's side, Chris Brown (RPI) took home the Men's Ones gold, with his fifth win in the last six tournaments. He defeated Marc Moccia (UMass) in another close tiebreaker match. John Clay (Rutgers) took third place over Brandon Sleight (SUNY-Oswego), in Brandon's first semifinal appearance.

On the Women's side, Women's Ones saw Lauren "Gucci" LeGreci (Clarkson) defeat Jen Dolan (Bryant) in a repeat of the first ECRC tournament's outcome in Allentown, PA. The semifinalists were Shannon

Noonan (Maryland), who has come on strong this season, and Michelle Turk (Clarkson), another first-time semifinalist.

The lower divisions were dominated by Penn State, with Brandon Layo (PSU) winning Men's Twos, Brian Sullivan (PSU) winning Men's Threes, and Chris Gladd (PSU) winning Men's Fours, and Jenn Collins (PSU) winning Women's Twos.

Congrats to everyone for another great tournament, Penn State will host the next event, February 2nd through the 4th.

2006-2007 Intercollegiate Nationals Set to go at ASU

The 2006-2007 United States Intercollegiate National Championships will once again be held at Arizona State University from March 28th-31st, 2007. This is sure to be one of the largest and most exciting events in College Racquetball History, as Oregon State heads down as the reigning National Championships, set to defend their title against perennial powerhouses like the University of Alabama, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Brigham Young University, Penn State University, the University of New Mexico, as well as many

others. Rumor has it that current Division II National Champion Baldwin Wallace has put together a strong team and is ready to make their run at the DI Title this year. Don't miss out on the most exciting and intense event that college racquetball has to offer. If you are interested in playing and are looking for more information, please contact Shane Wood, Chairman of the US Intercollegiate Racquetball Council at racquetballchamp@hotmail.com. The application for this event should be out soon on the USAR Website.

2007 35th USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships

Presented by Head/Penn Racquet Sports



U.S. National Team Qualifier
Division #1 Gold singles winners will be appointed to the U.S. National Racquetball Team!

National Singles Regional Qualifier
Event entrants who compete in the Intercollegiate Nationals will qualify for the 2007 National Singles.

MARCH 28 - 31
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Student Recreation Center
Tempe, AZ 85287
480-965-8900



USA RACQUETBALL
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906
Tel: 719/635-5396
Fax: 719/635-0685
www.usaracquetball.com

For an expanded entry form or to enter online go to www.usaracquetball.com or call 719/635-5396

A RACQUET WITH TWO HOLES? ABSOLUTELY!

Rocky Carson

Shane Vanderson

Kristen Walsh

www.head.com

FLEXPOINT™ PWR

These two holes break the rules of conventional racquet design and deliver unprecedented Power in Control on every shot. Here is how it works. Two precisely engineered holes, strategically positioned in the center of the racquets sweetspot, are coupled with innovative dimples that work together to create a powerful flexpoint that is activated every time you hit the ball. HOLE + DIMPLE = Flexpoint PWR

As the ball impacts the stringbed HEAD's patented Flexpoint PWR goes to work creating a "cupping" effect that delivers power and performance benefits never seen before in the sport of racquetball.



Traditional
Racquet

Racquet with patented
HEAD Flexpoint PWR
technology.

HEAD®

USA RACQUETBALL SANCTIONED EVENTS

START	END	EVENT TITLE	FACILITY NAME	CITY, STATE	EVENT PHONE
2/1/07	2/4/07	NM Superbowl	River Point Swim & Racquet Club	Albuquerque, NM	505-890-0096
2/2/07	2/4/07	Westchester Championships	Club Fit Jefferson Valley	Jefferson Valley, NY	914-245-4040 x.129
2/2/07	2/4/07	Wintergreen Classic	Sport Fit Laurel Racquet & Health	Claudel, MD	301-362-1300
2/2/07	2/4/07	2007 NJ State Doubles	Classic Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	973-389-7978
2/2/07	2/4/07	MN Superbowl Splat	Olympus Athletic Club	Northfield, MN	507-645-8007
2/3/07	2/3/07	B.W. Intercollegiate Tourney	Baldwin Wallace College	Berea, OH	440-826-2287
2/3/07	2/3/07	Women's One Day Shootout	Forest View Racquet Club	Arlington Heights, IL	630-483-6829
2/3/07	2/4/07	Motor City Rollout	Courtland Racquetball	Utica, MI	248-651-8365
2/8/07	2/11/07	Kachina Invitational	Fitness Center	Gallup, NM	505-879-2954
2/8/07	2/11/07	Racquet For The Cure	Denver Athletic Club	Denver, CO	720-244-7654
2/9/07	2/11/07	Roanoke Athletic Club's	2007 Racqueroanoke Athletic Club	Roanoke, VA	540-721-9035
2/9/07	2/11/07	The Classic 2007	The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-638-8008
2/9/07	2/11/07	K.S.R.A. State Singles Championship	YMCA - Of Greater Louisville	Louisville, KY	270-765-9941
2/9/07	2/11/07	NY Valentine Open	BQE R/B Club	Woodside, NY	718-429-8489
2/9/07	2/11/07	2007 FL State Singles	Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
2/9/07	2/11/07	Sweetheart Doubles	Sawmill Athletic Club	Columbus, OH	614-889-7690
2/10/07	2/10/07	Aloha Open	Genesys Athletic Club	Grand Blanc, MI	616-540-7925
2/10/07	2/10/07	South Sound Junior Tournament	Bally's Total Fitness - Kent	Kent, WA	253-848-9493
2/16/07	2/18/07	Reno Presidents Day Tournament	The Stadium	Reno, NV	775-348-9791
2/16/07	2/18/07	14th Annual American Family Winter Classic	American Family Fitness (S) Richmond	Richmond, VA	804-382-7663
2/16/07	2/18/07	25th Adirondack Open	YMCA - Glens Falls	Glens Falls, NY	518-793-3878
2/16/07	2/18/07	Pinchshot Midwest Intercollegiate Champ.	Vetta Sports Concord	St. Louis, MO	314-842-3111 x.3
2/16/07	2/18/07	Durango Championships	Durango Sports Club	Durango, CO	505-321-1110
2/17/07	2/17/07	Mixed Doubles One Day Shootout	Forest View Racquet Club	Arlington Heights, IL	630-483-6829
2/17/07	2/18/07	4th Ann. DE Ortho. Ctr. 2007 State Singles	Kirkwood Fitness & Racquet Cl.	Wilmington, DE	302-668-6871
2/22/07	2/25/07	NMSW Open	Highpoint Racquet & Swim Club	Albuquerque, NM	505-350-2809
2/23/07	2/25/07	2007 Tennessee State Singles/Double	YMCA - Downtown Nashville	Nashville, TN	615-895-3679
2/23/07	2/25/07	2007 Tornado Alley Tournament	YMCA - Wichita Falls	Wichita Falls, TX	940-761-1000
2/23/07	2/25/07	2007 WA State Singles	P.R.O. Sports Club	Bellevue, WA	425-357-9004
2/23/07	2/25/07	Capital Challenge	Michigan Athletic Club - Lansing	East Lansing, MI	517-881-9588
2/23/07	2/25/07	Countryside YMCA Charity Tournament	YMCA - Countryside	Lebanon, OH	513-932-1424
2/23/07	2/25/07	Indiana State Singles	Greenbrier Athletic Club	Indianapolis, IN	317-844-1115
2/24/07	2/24/07	Central NY Championships	Gold's Gym - Dewitt	Syracuse, NY	315-473-0377
2/24/07	2/24/07	Icee Open	Allentown Racquetball Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
3/2/07	3/4/07	MWRA Singles Championships	Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club	Millersville, MD	410-987-0980
3/2/07	3/4/07	2nd Annual Wood Valley Racquet Club	Wood Valley Racquet	Topeka, KS	785-267-5413
3/2/07	3/4/07	2007 SC State Singles	St. Andrews Family Fitness Center	Charleston, SC	843-383-5202
3/2/07	3/4/07	Baywinds Spring Open	Baywinds Racquet Club	Sandusky, OH	419-483-0056
3/2/07	3/4/07	CO March Madness	Highlands Ranch Recreation Center	Highlands Ranch, CO	720-219-8577

USA RACQUETBALL SANCTIONED EVENTS

START	END	EVENT TITLE	FACILITY NAME	CITY, STATE	EVENT PHONE
3/3/07	3/4/07	Amatulli Open	Omni 41 Sports Complex	Schererville, IN	219-365-1040
3/3/07	3/4/07	Michigan March Madness	Player's Racquet/Fitness	Warren, MI	586-774-6900
3/8/07	3/11/07	IL Shamrock Shootout	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	Lombard, IL	630-629-3390
3/8/07	3/11/07	Great Balls of Fire Pro-Am	University of Miami	Coral Gables, FL	305-606-1756
3/8/07	3/11/07	Lynmar Classic	Lynmar Racquet & Health Club	Colorado Springs, CO	719-591-8756
3/9/07	3/11/07	2007 NY State Singles	The Court Club	Colonie, NY	518-348-3935
3/9/07	3/10/07	Shelbyville Open	Shelbyville Athletic Club	Shelbyville, IN	317-392-3822
3/9/07	3/11/07	2006 OH State Singles	Hall of Fame Fitness Center	Canton, OH	614-890-6073
3/9/07	3/11/07	Mac Open	Michigan Athletic Club	Grand Rapids, MI	616-956-0944
3/16/07	3/18/07	2007 Texas St. Singles Racquetball Champ.	Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
3/16/07	3/18/07	Northwest Open	Bellingham Athletic Club	Bellingham, WA	360-676-1800
3/23/07	3/25/07	2nd Annual Pro-Am Racquetball Tour.	Penfield R/B Club	Rochester, NY	585-586-7777
3/23/07	3/25/07	Najjar Car Care MO St. Open RB Champ.	Vetta Sports Concord	St. Louis, MO	314-842-3111 x3
3/23/07	3/25/07	2007 CO State Singles	Highlands Ranch Recreation Center	Highlands Ranch, CO	720-560-1484
3/23/07	3/25/07	2007 MI State Singles	Davison Racquet & Fitness Club	Davison, MI	810-217-8668
3/23/07	3/25/07	2007 NJ State Singles	Clare Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	973-397-9978
3/23/07	3/25/07	Killshot Classic	Waycross Athletic Club	Cincinnati, OH	513-742-1700
3/24/07	3/25/07	4th CBM Co. 2007 DE State Doubles	Kidwood Fitness & Racquet Club	Wilmington, DE	302-668-6871
3/30/07	4/1/07	2007 Casey Deer Memorial	Clarksville Athletic Club	Clarksville, TN	615-645-4313
3/30/07	4/1/07	Southwest Michigan Shootout	Bronson Athletic Club	Kalamazoo, MI	269-370-2013
3/31/07	4/1/07	Claddagh Open	Greenbriar Athletic Club	Indianapolis, IN	317-847-6563
4/7/07	4/7/07	2007 WA State Juniors	Olympic Athletic Club	Seattle, WA	360-676-1800
4/20/07	4/22/07	2007 KS State Singles	The Athletic Club of Overland Park	Overland Park, KS	913-383-9060
4/28/07	4/29/07	Fishkill Spring Fling	Allsport Fitness Club-Fishkill	Fishkill, NY	845-896-5678
5/4/07	5/6/07	Cinco De Mayo Shootout	Pueblo Athletic Club	Pueblo, CO	719-561-3488
5/5/07	5/7/07	Kent Doubles Challenge	Bally's Total Fitness - Kent	Kent, WA	360-820-3224
6/1/07	6/3/07	NF Charity Tournament	P.R.O. Sports Club	Bellevue, WA	206-227-1336
6/8/07	6/10/07	Pepsi Cup Colorado Team Champs	Colorado Athletic Club-Denver	Denver, CO	720-987-6302
6/9/07	6/10/07	2007 Triple Crown June RB Shootout	Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
6/23/07	6/25/07	WA Summer Split	Bally's Total Fitness - Kent	Kent, WA	360-820-3224
7/1/07	7/3/07	Colorado State Games	Lynmar Racquet & Health Club	Colorado Springs, CO	719-591-8756

2007 USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL EVENTS

March 1-4	Wilson High School Nationals	St. Louis, MO
March 28-April 1	Ektelon Intercollegiate Nationals	Tempe, AZ
April 12-15	Regional Weekend	Nationwide
May 23-28	Ektelon National Singles	Houston, TX
June 20-24	Head Junior Olympics	Tempe, AZ
Sept. 26-30	Ektelon National Doubles	Tempe, AZ
Nov. 14-18	US OPEN Championships	Memphis, TN

BUILDING your RACQUETBALL

Video

Presented by Fran Davis Racquetball
Featuring Sucky Monchik & Jason Mannion

What's Included

- Be receptive - vary serves to keep your opponent guessing
- Learn to hit the perfect backhand
- Think like the pros - improve shot selection
- Find out why game plans and strategies are a must
- Learn to be aggressive on return of serve
- Perfect practice makes perfect - have fun drill

Camps

Featuring Fran Davis
World Premier Coach, 2004 Hall of Fame
and Jason Mannion
2002-03 #1 Pro Player in the World

Selected camps may include other
top ranked professionals

New Location and Phone

Fran Davis
A Healthy Racquet, Inc.
1037 NE 65th St. #343
Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: 206-522-FRAN (3726)...new
Fax: 206-260-7909...new



HEAD

Dream House

Special On-line Video Offer

www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

Mention National Racquetball Magazine under 'Comments'
section and receive a free can of Penn Balls.

VHS = \$39.95 ~~\$19.95 special blowout price~~

DVD = \$49.95

Locations? video@FranDavisRacquetball.com

www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

Camp Schedule

Weekend Camps 2007

January 26-28 St. Petersburg, FL
February 2-4 Las Vegas, NV
February 9-11 Seattle, WA
March 2-4 Minneapolis, MN
March 16-18 Overland Park, KS (Kansas City)
April 13-15 Denver, CO
June 1-3 San Diego, CA
June 15-17 Louisville, KY
July 20-22 San Francisco, CA
August 3-5 Tampa, FL

Week Long Fantasy Camps 2007

January 15-20 in the Bahamas
May 5-10 Kauai, HI
November 24-December 1 in Australia
(Tasmania Island... Assorted things)

For more info... www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

Fran's Credentials

- 20+ Year Camp Experience
- 2004 Racquetball Hall of Fame
- US Men's Team Coach
- 2003 US States Olympic
- 2003 National Coach of the Year 1997
- Coaches Jason Mannion and Sucky Monchik
- Coached Jr. to 1997 National and World

Penn

www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

Lawler Sports RACQUETBALL

1-800-875-3701 MART

www.lawlersports.com

Complete Pro Shop Line!

RACQUETS PRO KENNEX

Infinity 165SE (S) ... \$109
Infinity 175 (S) ... \$89
Shadow 170 (S) ... \$89
Shadow 180 (S) ... \$89
Shadow 165 (B) ... \$69
Shadow 185 ... \$59
Kinetic 20G 3 5/8 ... \$49

HEAD

LM IGS 165 ... \$139
LM IGS 175 ... \$129
LM IGS 185 ... \$119
LM 190 ... \$99
MegaBlast 185 ... \$89
i. 165 3 5/8 ... \$69
Ti. 175 XL 3 5/8 ... \$59

VISA, MasterCard,
DISCOVER accepted

CLOSEOUT SPECIALS!

EFORCE

Jud Stun 160 15/16 ... \$89
LP Bedlam 150 15/16 ... \$99
LP Jud 165 ... \$109
LP Jud 175 ... \$99
Bedlam X150 5/8 ... \$89
Bedlam X170 3 5/8 ... \$89
Bedlam X190 3 5/8 ... \$79
Bedlam Lt 170 3 5/8 ... \$84
Mayhem ... \$49

Wilson

n170 ... \$129
n180 ... \$109
n190 ... \$99
nLite ... \$99
nPower ... \$99
Triad 150 XS ... \$69
Triad 200 XS ... \$59
XT 165 XS ... \$50

EKTELON

More Dominant ... \$99
More Attack ... \$99
More Attitude SS ... \$69
TT Rebel SS ... \$69
TT Warrior SS ... \$59
TT Vendetta SS ... \$59

WEYEWEAR Unique Sport Spec clear, bl, gry, wh ... \$6

Add Power & Playability to Your Racquetball Game!!!

Have your racquet restrung by REX LAWLER

- A Certified Professional Racquet Stringer
- Over 25 years experience as a player
- Over 20 years experience stringing racquets
- A large string collection to choose from

297 W. Honey Creek Drive, Terre Haute, IN 47802

Info.: 812-235-3701 Fax: 812-235-4482

Email: rex@lawlersports.com or manny@lawlersports.com



www.racquetconnection.com

24 HOUR SECURED ON-LINE SHOPPING

E-MAIL - RACQUETCON@AOL.COM

1-888-822-2501

**YOUR RACQUETBALL SUPERSTORE
WITH ALL MAJOR BRANDS
AT DISCOUNT PRICES
SAME DAY SHIPPING - DEMOS AVAILABLE
RACQUET CUSTOMIZATION BY:
GENE GENE THE STRINGIN' MACHINE**

1-386-788-7780 INFO

1-386-788-7149 24 HR FAX

2090 S. NOVA RD. #AA10

S. DAYTONA, FL 32119

#1 CHOICE OF PROS & AMATEURS



"It's a Fact... nothing does grip like a Python."

#1 Jack Huczek & #2 Rocky Carson

Python Grips (18 colors including new white) / Rads / Zone Strings
Wristlacers / Undergloves
Dry Grip / Dynaflex / Gyros
Python Wraps / Anti-Slip & Anti-Fog Sprays / Patches
T-Shirts / Cell-mates



PYTHON RACQUETBALL.com

"Check out our website"



"Simply the Best Eyeguards..."

#1 Jack Huczek
& WPRO's Laura Fenton

New Improved Turbos (10 Colors)

Turbo Ambers / Oxygen/Super LX

Jr./Ladies II / Interchangeables

Sunglasses / Protective Hardcases

PRESCRIPTION ADAPTABLE!

DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

800-456-4305

FAX: 770-751-9469

python3@mindspring.com

America's Best Selling Stringer 22 Years Running!

KLIPPERMATE® \$145.00

The only racquet stringer you'll ever need...

- Unlimited Lifetime Guarantee
- Most accurate stringer made
- String, grip & tool package
- 30 Day Money-Back Guarantee
- Complete instructions, stringing patterns & unlimited technical support

MADE
IN THE
USA!



(Optional)
Carrying Case
\$67.50

www.klipperusa.com

800-522-5547

780 CHURCH RD., ELGIN, IL 60123 / T 847.742.1300 / F 847.742.0738

(Optional)
Machine Stand
\$94.50

HOLABIRD SPORTS

FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER

CALL 410-687-6400

CELEBRATING OUR 26th YEAR

★ **ONLY AT HOLABIRD** ★

ALL ORDERS — ONE LOW \$4.95 SHIPPING CHARGE FOR UNLIMITED QUANTITY — SHIPPED WITHIN 48 HOURS

www.holabirdsports.com

RACQUETBALL RACQUETS—STRUNG

EKTELON	E-FORCE
03 BLACK	BEDLAM 185G ORIGINAL 79.95
03 RED	BEDLAM KNIFE 150 169.95
03 SILVER	BEDLAM KNIFE 170 159.95
03 HYBRID DIABLO	BEDLAM KNIFE 175 149.95
03 HYBRID SHARK	BEDLAM LITE 170 79.95
AIR DRIVE	BEDLAM SUPER MAINS 150 154.95
AIR LAUNCH	BEDLAM SUPER MAINS 170 142.95
DPR 2500 LITE	BEDLAM SUPER MAINS 175 129.95
MORE ATTACK	LP BEDLAM 170 99.95
MORE DOMINANT	LP JUDGEMENT 165 119.95
POWERFAN OUTLAW	LETHAL 160 229.95
POWER RING TOUR LITE	LETHAL 170 OR 175 199.95
TRIPLE THREAT VENETTA	LETHAL 190 179.95
TRIPLE THREAT WARRIOR	SHOCK
PRO KENNEX	SUPER 30 DC 160 194.95
BLACK ACE	SUPER 30 DC 170 187.95
CORE PLATINUM 165	SUPER 30 DC 175 177.95
CORE PLATINUM 175	WILSON
CORE SHADOW 170 129.95	n BLADE
CORE SHADOW 180 119.95	n PRO
HC2 185	n RAGE
HC2 175	n TOUR
06 PURE 1 INFINITY 165	
06 PURE 1 LIGHT PRO 175	
SILVER ACE	

PRO KENNEX

BLACK ACE	45.95
CORE PLATINUM 165	149.95
CORE PLATINUM 175	139.95
CORE SHADOW 170	129.95
CORE SHADOW 180	119.95
HC2 185	179.95
HC2 175	169.95
06 PURE 1 INFINITY 165	94.95
06 PURE 1 LIGHT PRO 175	64.95
SILVER ACE	49.95

HEAD

I. 165	69.95
LIQUIDMETAL 170	109.95
LIQUIDMETAL 180	99.95
LIQUIDMETAL IGS 185	119.95
MX 170	199.95
MX 180	179.95
MX 190	159.95
MASTER-SALE	14.95
MEGABLAST 175	79.95
NANO TI BLAST	32.95
NANO TI CYBER	41.95
TI LASER	26.95

EYEGUARDS

BLACK KNIGHT TURBO	15.95
E-FORCE CRYSTAL WRAP	16.95
E-FORCE DUAL FOCUS	19.95
EKTELON:	
03 BONES	24.95
MIRAGE II	7.95
MORE GAME	16.95
MORE GAME ALL-COURT	31.95
QUANTUM	23.95
SPECTOR	18.95
STROBE	13.95
VENETTA	10.95
HEAD IMPULSE	6.95
HEAD PRO ELITE	19.95
HEAD PRO TECH	15.95
HEAD RAVE	11.95
PRINCE PRO LITE	16.95
PRINCE PRO LITE II	21.95
PRO KENNEX INFINITY	15.95
PRO KENNEX SHADOW	13.50
RAD TURBO	14.95
WILSON AVIATOR	17.50
WILSON JET	10.50
WILSON n VUE	44.95

SPORT BAGS

E-FORCE BACK PACK	29.95
E-FORCE LARGE SPORT	49.95
E-FORCE MED. SPORT	39.95
EKTELON 03 BACK PACK	35.95
EKTELON 03 CLUB	45.95
EKTELON 03 DUAL PACK	28.95
EKTELON 03 TOUR	49.95
EKTELON SLING PACK	14.95
HEAD FLEXPOINT:	
BACK PACK	29.95
CLUB	42.95
TOUR	49.95
ULTRA COMBI	39.95
PRO KENNEX:	
HC2 BACK PACK	44.95
HC2 RACQUET BAG	39.95
HC2 WEEKENDER	49.95
WILSON BACK PACK	34.95
WILSON PLAYERS	39.95
WILSON TOUR	31.95

GLOVES

E-FORCE • EKTELON • NEUMAN
HEAD • PRO KENNEX • WILSON

INDOOR SHOES

ASHAWAY 500 I—MID—M	69.95
ASHAWAY 1000 I—MEN	65.95
ASHAWAY 3500 I—MEN	74.95
ASHAWAY 5500 I—MEN	79.95
EKTELON:	
NFS CLASSIC 1.5-MID-M	49.95
QUICKTRAC GT-MID-M	79.00
T9 ROADSTER—MEN	74.00
NEW BALANCE:	
CT 653 GUM-WIDTHS—ML	56.95
HI-TEC:	
SWITCHBACK—MEN	59.95
VENOM 3—LADIES	56.95
WRAPTOR—MEN	64.95
PRINCE NFS 03 SQUASH—M	61.95
PRINCE NFS INDOOR II—MEN	55.95
WILSON EM 6—LOW—M	54.95
WILSON EM 6—MID—M	59.95
WILSON EM 7—MID—MEN	69.95
WILSON EB 7—LADIES	52.95

UNDER ARMOUR®—GREAT SELECTION!
CHECK OUR WEB FOR HOTTEST STYLES

SHOP SHOWROOM OUTLET—PHONE—MAIL—FAX
ALL MAJOR TENNIS & SQUASH RACQUETS, BAGS, SHOES
& ACCESSORIES — LOWEST DISCOUNT PRICES EVER!

9220 PULASKI HWY. • BALTIMORE, MD 21220
CALL 410-687-6400 • FAX 410-687-7311
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5 • SATURDAY 9-3:30

— SMALL ADDITIONAL SHIPPING OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. —
— MD. RESIDENTS ADD 5% — FREE CATALOG —

www.holabirdsports.com

VISIT US ONLINE AT
www.usaracquetball.com





Men's Rankings

Eliminating Players that have not competed since Dec 3, 2005

UNDER 10

1	Manilla Adam	Centennial
2	Mcadam Matt	Englewood
3	Diaz Esteban	Stockton
4	Thorndike Thomas	Medford
5	Vargas Anthony	Aurora
6	Berry Conlon	Columbus
7	Clarke Graydon	Albuquerque
8	Ulliman Kyle	Westerville
9	Bailey Warren	Norfolk
10	Wagner Zach	Grand Rapids
11	Rose Elec	Albuquerque
12	Badillo Javier	Stockton
13	Francis Christophe	Litchfield
14	Nance Logan	Lodi
15	Glaros Andrew	Davis

UNDER 12

1	Manilla Adam	Centennial
2	Mcadam Matt	Englewood
3	Diaz Esteban	Stockton
4	Thorndike Thomas	Medford
5	Vargas Anthony	Aurora
6	Stanley Chase	Baton Rouge
7	Hoffman Joseph	Bowling Green
8	McGuffey Andy	Cincinnati
9	Berry Conlon	Columbus
10	Ganim Jr Doug	Westerville
11	Lotts Eric	Bedford
12	Schopieray Brad	Swartz Creek
13	Clarke Jack	Albuquerque
14	Clarke Graydon	Albuquerque
15	Ulliman Kyle	Westerville

UNDER 14

1	Minkel James	Katy
2	Gettel Tucker	Merrimack
3	Lee Joseph	Baton Rouge
4	Snyders Trevor	Woodridge
5	Manilla Adam	Centennial
6	Mcadam Matt	Englewood
7	Diaz Esteban	Stockton
8	Thorndike Thomas	Medford
9	Vargas Anthony	Aurora
10	Newman Patrick	Woodland
11	Stanley Chase	Baton Rouge
12	Atnip Brandon	Alvaton
13	Hoffman D. Adam	Bowling Green
14	Hoffman Joseph	Bowling Green
15	Lerow Daniel	Bradenton

UNDER 16

1	Aldana Jr Ismael	Stockton
2	Minkel James	Katy
3	Estrada Ruben	Chihuahua
4	Aldana Ismael	Stockton
5	Jackson Jerome	Norwood

6	Goldblatt Geoff	Chicago
7	Allen Jansen	Rice
8	Zelada Mauricio	Beltsville
9	Bennett Gavin	Manchester
10	Carpenter Kevin	Newmarket
11	Gettel Tucker	Memmick
12	Lavelly Danny	Cuyahoga Falls
13	Flaesck Jeffrey	Elkridge
14	Sanderson John	Park City
15	Rojas Jose	Stockton

UNDER 18

1	Alex Landa	El Paso
2	Armando Landa	El Paso
3	Roman Landa	El Paso
4	Aldana Jr Ismael	Stockton
5	James Minkel	Katy
6	Zach Apperson	Zanesville
7	Allen Crockett	Birmingham
8	Darrell Miller	Union Grove
9	Chris Coy	Elk City
10	Mike Keddie	Manchester
11	Richard Sledzik	Brockton
12	Jerome Jackson	Norwood
13	Jacob Hutkins	Lincoln
14	Geoff Goldblatt	Chicago
15	Carl Hassum	Concord

OPEN

1	Huczek Jack	Rochester
2	Carson Iii Rocky	Ladera Ranch
3	Vanderson Shane	Dublin
4	Tucker Josh	Ladera Ranch
5	Guidry Mike	Carrollton
6	Hawthorne Andy	Tallmadge
7	Thoerner Jason	Pekin
8	Ellis John	Stockton
9	Crowther Chris	Riverside
10	Ganim Doug	Westerville
11	Dennison Mike	Twinsburg
12	Croft Ben	Lake Bluff
13	Williams Mitch	Pueblo
14	Veenstra Kyle	Wausau
15	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island

OVER 25

1	Veenstra Kyle	Wausau
2	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
3	Llacara Dan	Dewey Beach
4	Rivas Juan	Towaco
5	Fredenberg Brian	Dallas
6	Bronfeld Michael	Seaside
7	Tilton Willie	Huntington Beach
8	Metcalf Aaron	Jacksonville
9	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch

10	Pointelin Brian	Midvale
11	Lowe Jimmy	Wahiawa
12	Peck Gregg	Coppell
13	Sable (sab David)	Alpharetta
14	Benderoth Rich	Virginia Beach
15	Gilliam Lance	San Antonio

OVER 30

1	Ellis John	Stockton
2	Ganim Doug	Westerville
3	Dennison Mike	Twinsburg
4	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
5	Llacara Dan	Dewey Beach
6	Fredenberg Brian	Dallas
7	Bronfeld Michael	Seaside
8	Metcalf Aaron	Jacksonville
9	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch
10	Pointelin Brian	Midvale
11	Lowe Jimmy	Wahiawa
12	Peck Gregg	Coppell
13	Sable (sab David)	Alpharetta
14	Benderoth Rich	Virginia Beach
15	Gilliam Lance	San Antonio

OVER 35

1	Ganim Doug	Westerville
2	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
3	Llacara Dan	Dewey Beach
4	Bronfeld Michael	Seaside
5	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch
6	Lowe Jimmy	Wahiawa
7	Peck Gregg	Coppell
8	Sable (sab David)	Alpharetta
9	Gilliam Lance	San Antonio
10	Valentine Dale	Riverside
11	Norblade Jeff	Flower Mound
12	Sims Donald	Dallas
13	Stark Jeff	Olympia
14	Minor Keith	Channahon
15	Appel Peter	Arlington

OVER 40

1	Ganim Doug	Westerville
2	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
3	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch
4	Lowe Jimmy	Wahiawa
5	Peck Gregg	Coppell
6	Sable (sab David)	Alpharetta
7	Gilliam Lance	San Antonio
8	Norblade Jeff	Flower Mound
9	Sims Donald	Dallas
10	Minor Keith	Channahon
11	Eisemann Richard	Frisco
12	Barrett John	Shavertown

TOP MEN IN THEIR CATEGORY

Adam Manilla

Centennial (Under 10 & 12)

James Minkel

Katy (Under 14)

Ismael Aldana Jr

Stockton (Under 16)

Landa Alex

El Paso (Under 18)

Jack Huczek

Rochester (Open)

Kyle Veenstra

Wausau (Over 25)

John Ellis

Stockton (Over 30)

Doug Ganim

Westerville (Over 35 & 40)

Ruben Gonzalez

Staten Island (Over 45 & 50)

Michael Jennings

Arlington (Over 55)

Ed Remen

Apex (Over 60)

Michael Jackson

Shelton (Over 65)

Dave Snyder

Austin (Over 70)

John O'donnell

Champaign (Over 75)

Mcadam Robert

Crowley (Over 80)

13 Hansen Tim Greenacres
14 Haab Bobby Clinton
15 Cullins Scott Woodstock

OVER 45

1 Gonzalez Ruben Staten Island
2 Hansen Tim Greenacres
3 Haab Bobby Clinton
4 Mervin Leonard Orlando
5 Travers Thomas Delray Beach
6 Sanchez Ivan San Antonio
7 Hassey Joseph Las Vegas
8 Bell Glenn Nederland
9 Baron Mark Herndon
10 Rowlands Ryan Fort Worth
11 Desimone Ruben Doral
12 Ledbetter Rex Cookeville
13 Hodges Gregory Troy
14 Anderson Michael Newaygo
15 Jennings Michael Arlington

OVER 50

1 Gonzalez Ruben Staten Island
2 Travers Thomas Delray Beach
3 Baron Mark Herndon
4 Ledbetter Rex Cookeville
5 Jennings Michael Arlington
6 Sanchez Gus Killeen
7 Clinton Joe Killeen
8 Walker Howard Bedford
9 Warren Darryl Harbor City
10 Pfahler Randy Neptune Beach
11 Stafford Randy Germantown
12 Lee Joe Honolulu
13 Garabedian Edward West Chester
14 Mcdade Walter Smyrna
15 Lew Charles Charlotte

OVER 55

1 Jennings Michael Arlington
2 Clinton Joe Killeen
3 Lee Joe Honolulu
4 Lew Charles Charlotte
5 Montague Russ Jenkintown
6 Vincent Denny Blacklick
7 Remen Ed Apex
8 Taddonio Frank Gilbert
9 Mazaroff Gary Albuquerque
10 Miller Horace Chicago
11 Mannino Russell Poway
12 Perconti Salvatore Saint Petersburg
13 Dennis David Conway
14 Hiser Jim Colorado Springs
15 Mckie Thomas Garland

OVER 60

1 Remen Ed Apex
2 Miller Horace Chicago
3 Mckie Thomas Garland
4 Wolfe Bill Staten Island
5 Bellah Mickey Laguna Hills
6 Gellman Joe Albuquerque
7 Jones Dan Atlanta
8 Allen Glenn Virginia Beach
9 Jackson Michael Shelton
10 Taylor Patrick Barrington Hills
11 Albright Terry Kansas City
12 Lawler Rex Terre Haute
13 Stanley Leon Hampton Cove
14 Blakeslee Peter Hot Springs
15 Milewski Mitch Nashua

OVER 65

1 Jackson Michael Shelton
2 Lawler Rex Terre Haute
3 Stanley Leon Hampton Cove
4 Lowell Richard Dover
5 Snyder Dave Austin
6 Riens Leland Willmar
7 Miller Al Wooster
8 Wheeler Phil Wirtz
9 Sharum Thomas Rockford
10 Lazarow Michael League City
11 Sword Ed Louisville
12 Harrington Donald Westerly
13 Mcpherson Jim Hot Springs
14 Hughes Jim Village
15 Baudry Bob Prosper
Baton Rouge

OVER 70

1 Snyder Dave Austin
2 Hughes Jim Prosper
3 Baudry Bob Baton Rouge
4 Holly Jerry Fair Oaks
5 Schoeppe Jack Ranch
6 Sullins Robert Mena
7 Banales Paul Arlington
8 Alt Donald Tonopah
9 O'donnell John Dublin
10 Kaiser Charles Champaign
11 Miller Joseph Pickerington
12 Maitland David Miami
13 Smith G. Duane Winsted
14 Stahl Jim Arlington
15 Mcelwee Ronald Commerce
Huntsville

OVER 75

1 O'donnell John Champaign
2 Kaiser Charles Pickerington
3 Miller Joseph Miami

4 Smith G. Duane Arlington
5 Lambert Joseph Plano
6 Mcadam Robert Crowley
7 Miller Robert North Augusta
8 Harry Sam Harrisburg
9 Studak J.w. Austin
10 Snowberger Campbell Myrtle Beach
11 Segal William Atlanta
12 Matotan William Albuquerque
13 Hall Wendell Albuquerque
14 Doyle Christophe Weymouth
15 Oren Conway Jackson

OVER 80

1 Mcadam Robert Crowley
2 Harry Sam Harrisburg
3 Studak J.w. Austin
4 Snowberger Campbell Myrtle Beach
5 Segal William Atlanta
6 Matotan William Albuquerque
7 Marshall Ben San Antonio

Women's Rankings

Eliminating Players that have not competed since Dec 3, 2005

UNDER 10

1	Lavelly Christina	Cuyahoga Falls
2	Lavelly Abbey	Cuyahoga Falls
3	Vargas Elizabeth	Aurora
4	Hungerford Hollee	Milwaukee
5	Aldana Jasmine	Stockton
6	Doty Emily	Lyndonville
7	Fladstol Alicia	Eagle Point
8	Fladstol Victoria	Eagle Point
9	Varner Jessica	Baton Rouge
10	Boyle Krystle	Beaverton
11	Manilla Erica	Centennial
12	Boyle Ashley	Beaverton
13	Manning Molly	Mankato
14	Schumacher Cora	Mankato
15	Adams Lindsay	Medford

UNDER 12

1	Chisholm Courtney	Marlborough
2	Lavelly Christina	Cuyahoga Falls
3	Lavelly Abbey	Cuyahoga Falls
4	Mannix Stephanie	Lincoln
5	Brenner Elizabeth	Portland
6	Thorndike Anna	Medford
7	Kendrick Parkes	Portland
8	Vargas Elizabeth	Aurora
9	Hungerford Hollee	Milwaukee
10	Aldana Jasmine	Stockton
11	Doty Emily	Lyndonville

12	Fladstol Alicia
13	Fladstol Victoria
14	Varner Jessica
15	Boyle Krystle

UNDER 14

1	Chisholm Courtney	Marlborough
2	Key Danielle	Gilbert
3	O'Brien Aubrey	Auburn
4	Horyza Monique	Orangevale
5	Borunda Mariana	Albuquerque
6	Lavelly Christina	Cuyahoga Falls
7	Berry Lily	Columbus
8	Lavelly Abbey	Cuyahoga Falls
9	Gallo Jacki	Waynesboro
10	Mannix Stephanie	Lincoln
11	Pacetti Lauren	Lockport
12	Glaros Martina	Davis
13	Brenner Elizabeth	Portland
14	Rosado Jacquelyn	Meriden
15	Lindsay Amanda	Oregon City

UNDER 16

1	Melgaard Emily	Coeur D'alene
2	Davis Laura	Beaverton
3	Darnell Sherrika	El Dorado Hills
4	Legget Brittany	Spokane Valley
5	Inglesby Shannon	Portland
6	Jackson Sharon	Shelbyville

Eagle Point
Eagle Point
Baton Rouge
Beaverton

7	Loyd Ashley
8	Hettesheim Holly
9	Oliver Hannah
10	Longoria Paola

11	Chisholm Courtney
12	Diaz Teresa
13	Lotts Sheryl
14	Key Danielle
15	Rollins Haley

UNDER 18

1	Melgaard Emily	Coeur D'alene
2	Meyer Dianne	Mcminnville
3	Davis Laura	Beaverton
4	Moyle Sarah	Beaverton
5	Mazur Kara	Avon
6	Key Michelle	Gilbert
7	Darnell Sherrika	El Dorado Hills
8	Legget Brittany	Spokane Valley
9	Inglesby Shannon	Portland
10	Jackson Sharon	Shelbyville
11	Loyd Ashley	Miami
12	Hettesheim Sarah	Murfreesboro
13	Mcguffey Samantha	Cincinnati
14	Hettesheim Holly	Cincinnati
15	Oliver Hannah	Cincinnati

Miami
Murfreesboro
Cincinnati
Colorado Springs
El Paso
Marlborough
Stockton
Bedford
Gilbert



Christie Van Hees

TOP WOMEN IN THEIR CATEGORY

Christina Lavelly
Cuyahoga Falls (Under 10)

Courtney Chisholm
Marlborough (Under 12 & 14)

Emily Melgaard
Coeur D'alene (Under 16 & 18)

Christie Van Hees
Calgary (Open)

Rachel Gellman
El Mirage (Over 30)

Diane Moore
Griffith (Over 35)

Brenda Kyzer
Leesville (Over 40)

Malia Bailey
Norfolk (Over 45)

Karen Key
Gilbert (Over 50)

Gerri Stoffregen
Cincinnati (Over 55 & 60)

Marquita Molina
Wasco (Over 65)

Lola Markus
Park Ridge (Over 70)

OPEN

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Van Hees Christie | Calgary |
| 2 | Rajsich Rhonda | Fountain Hills |
| 3 | Gudinas Ho Cheryl | Naperville |
| 4 | Fenton Laura | Lincoln |
| 5 | Walsh Kristen | Salt Lake City |
| 6 | Wachtel Kerri | Cincinnati |
| 7 | Brown Tammy | Boise |
| 8 | Grisar Angela | Santiago, Rm |
| 9 | Fisher Adrienne | Tuscaloosa |
| 10 | Kyzer Brenda | Leesville |
| 11 | Moore Diane | Griffith |
| 12 | Garcia Claudine | Gun Barrel City |
| 13 | Gellman Rachel | El Mirage |
| 14 | Hallander Kersten | San Diego |
| 15 | Grand'mait Josee | Longueuil |

OVER 30

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Gellman Rachel | El Mirage |
| 2 | Hallander Kersten | San Diego |
| 3 | Grand'mait Josee | Longueuil |
| 4 | Powell Lori-jane | San Diego |
| 5 | Bailey Malia | Norfolk |
| 6 | Fowler Doreen | Silver Spring |
| 7 | Tisinger Debra | Simi Valley |
| 8 | Moore Linda | Madison |
| 9 | Shattuck Jo | Denver |
| 10 | Dunn Heather | Prides Crossing |
| 11 | Bessent Stephanie | Lawrence |
| 12 | Nunez Paola | Rockville |
| 13 | Morton Karen | Harrisburg |
| 14 | Willyard Patty | Amarillo |
| 15 | Baumbaugh T.j. | Reston |

OVER 35

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Moore Diane | Griffith |
| 2 | Hallander Kersten | San Diego |
| 3 | Grand'mait Josee | Longueuil |
| 4 | Bailey Malia | Norfolk |
| 5 | Fowler Doreen | Silver Spring |
| 6 | Tisinger Debra | Simi Valley |
| 7 | Moore Linda | Madison |
| 8 | Shattuck Jo | Denver |
| 9 | Morton Karen | Harrisburg |
| 10 | Willyard Patty | Amarillo |
| 11 | Kenyon Sylinda | Houston |
| 12 | Key Karen | Gilbert |
| 13 | Taragan Solanna | Redondo Beach |
| 14 | Maldonado Anita | Bronx |
| 15 | Remen Holly | Apex |

OVER 40

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Kyzer Brenda | Leesville |
| 2 | Hallander Kersten | San Diego |
| 3 | Grand'mait Josee | Longueuil |
| 4 | Bailey Malia | Norfolk |
| 5 | Tisinger Debra | Simi Valley |
| 6 | Moore Linda | Madison |
| 7 | Willyard Patty | Amarillo |
| 8 | Kenyon Sylinda | Houston |

OVER 45

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------|
| 9 | Key Karen | Gilbert |
| 10 | Taragan Solanna | Redondo Beach |
| 11 | Maldonado Anita | Bronx |
| 12 | Remen Holly | Apex |
| 13 | Galloway Lorraine | Hempstead |
| 14 | Bryant Debra | Sneads Ferry |
| 15 | Washington Genevieve | Cincinnati |

OVER 50

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Bailey Malia | Norfolk |
| 2 | Tisinger Debra | Simi Valley |
| 3 | Moore Linda | Madison |
| 4 | Kenyon Sylinda | Houston |
| 5 | Key Karen | Gilbert |
| 6 | Maldonado Anita | Bronx |
| 7 | Gopie Jacqueline | Coral Gables |
| 8 | Evon Chris | Wheeling |
| 9 | Molitor Liz | Glen Ellyn |
| 10 | Stoffregen Gerri | Cincinnati |
| 11 | Mickel Karen | Tucker |
| 12 | Berry Marsha | Louisville |
| 13 | Green Karen | Waterford |
| 14 | Stephens Peggy | Louisville |
| 15 | Goodwin Sue | Tujunga |

OVER 55

- | | | |
|----|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Key Karen | Gilbert |
| 2 | Stoffregen Gerri | Cincinnati |
| 3 | Berry Marsha | Louisville |
| 4 | Green Karen | Waterford |
| 5 | Goodwin Sue | Tujunga |
| 6 | Richards Marcia | Littleton |
| 7 | Petronelli Roz | N. Easton |
| 8 | Pomodoro Joanne | East Boston |
| 9 | Pfahler Susan | Neptune Beach |
| 10 | Luttner Jere | Arlington |
| 11 | Rogers Terry Ann | San Mateo |
| 12 | Chaney Debbie | Indianapolis |
| 13 | Ruzycki Kathleen | Lombard |
| 14 | Vande Kief Joan | Chicago |
| 15 | Kieffer Susan | Nisswa |

OVER 60

- | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Stoffregen Gerri | Cincinnati |
| 2 | Rogers Terry Ann | San Mateo |
| 3 | Ruzycki Kathleen | Lombard |
| 4 | Vande Kief Joan | Chicago |
| 5 | Kieffer Susan | Nisswa |
| 6 | Huczek Sharon | Rochester |
| 7 | Funes Nidia | Novato |
| 8 | Palaski Cece | Ranchos De Taos |

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------|
| 9 | Schaefer Gail | Randallstown |
| 10 | Molina Marquita | Wasco |
| 11 | Lemon Paula | Broken Arrow |
| 12 | Brockbank Sharon | Boise |
| 13 | Nieves Maria | Waunakee |
| 14 | Schof Patricia | Kenner |
| 15 | Markus Lola | Park Ridge |

OVER 65

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Stoffregen Gerri | Cincinnati |
| 2 | Funes Nidia | Novato |
| 3 | Palaski Cece | Ranchos De Taos |
| 4 | Schaefer Gail | Randallstown |
| 5 | Molina Marquita | Wasco |
| 6 | Markus Lola | Park Ridge |
| 7 | Gwinn Mildred | Waxhaw |
| 8 | Henry Ann | Woods Cross |
| 9 | Puleo Rita | Ranchos De Taos |
| 10 | Piscoran Gloria | Newberg |
| 11 | Barber May | Colonial Heights |
| 12 | Desantis Joy | Sunland |
| 13 | Kelley Merjean | Palo Alto |
| 14 | Cristofar Sharron | Reston |

OVER 70

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | Molina Marquita | Wasco |
| 2 | Markus Lola | Park Ridge |
| 3 | Gwinn Mildred | Waxhaw |
| 4 | Piscoran Gloria | Newberg |

- | | | |
|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Markus Lola | Park Ridge |
|---|-------------|------------|

Racquetball Champion Rocky Carson Returns to Ektelon

"California Kid" to Play with Ektelon O3 Racquet



Rocky Carson

Bordentown, NJ, Dec. 14, 2006 – Racquetball champion Rocky Carson has re-signed a long-term endorsement deal after a six-year hiatus from Ektelon. The new deal with Ektelon will allow Carson to pick up an O3 racquet this year and play with the company's entire line of racquetball products.

Carson, nicknamed the "California Kid" by his peers, entered the sport as one of the top juniors ever to play the game. Carson began his professional career with Ektelon at age 15. He is recognized as the top outdoor player in the world, dominating the outdoor circuit during the past three years and winning nearly every major tournament in the sport including the Ektelon/WOR Championships two of the past three years. Carson is the only male player in the sport to win the national indoor singles and doubles championship and the national outdoor singles championship in the same year.

"Right now, I am living my life-long dream," said Carson. "My goal from the first time I stepped onto the court has been to become

the best player in the sport, and I believe Ektelon's great product line will take my game to the next level. I am very impressed by Ektelon's innovative vision to grow the sport, and I plan to be involved with the company long after my pro career has ended."

Only 27 years old, Carson began the 2006 season ranked No. 6 on the IRT Tour, but rose quickly to No. 3, attributing his success to playing outdoors. He went on to become the 2006 National Singles and Doubles Champion, which qualified him for the top spot on the U.S. National Team.

"Rocky's success on indoor and outdoor courts ties perfectly to one of our key brand initiatives – to grow the sport through outdoor events," said Ektelon General Manager Scott Winters. "Ektelon plans to develop more youth program initiatives around Rocky's experience. We feel that Rocky is the most marketable player on the tour, and we have big plans for him, which will be announced later this year."

"Rocky is the hottest player in the sport right now, and we can't wait until he gets an Ektelon O3 racquet in his hands," said Andy Roberts, Pro Player Director at Ektelon. "Rocky is the perfect fit for our pro team, which includes many of the top players who are all doing great things on and off the court. Our goal is to help Rocky achieve his goals and help to make him the most visible and influential racquetball player in the sport."

Carson lives in Ladera Ranch, Calif. with his wife and two children.

USRSA Hires New Advertising and Membership Sales Person

Vista, CA—The United States Racquet Stringers Association recently hired Christina Kaus as their newest Advertising and Membership Salesperson.

Christina started her new position on October 15, 2006. Kaus joins the sales team that includes John Hanna, Advertising Sales Director, and Cynthia Sherman, Apparel Advertising Sales.

Kaus' sales responsibilities will include advertising in the Stringers Digest and the Industry Resource Guide in Racquet Sports Industry (RSI) magazine. Kaus will also be responsible for selling USRSA memberships, Master Racquet Technician (MRT) & Certified Stringer (CS) certification, instructional tools, and all of the other publications and supplies that the USRSA produces.

Hanna will continue to focus on advertising sales in Racquet Sports Industry magazine and Sherman will continue to focus

on apparel advertising sales in Racquet Sports Industry magazine.

"We're excited to add Christina to our team. Her extensive experience in sales and customer service as well as her passion for the game of tennis make her a perfect fit for this new position," said David Bone, Executive Director of the USRSA and Co-Publisher of Racquet Sports Industry magazine.

The United States Racquet Stringers Association is a worldwide organization of more than 7,000 racquet technicians, teaching professionals, racquet sports retailers, manufacturers and sales organizations, and tennis, racquetball, squash, and badminton enthusiasts.

U.S. Racquet Stringers Association
330 Main Street Vista, CA 92084
phone (760) 536-1177
fax (760) 536-1171
<http://www.racquettech.com>

RACQUETBALL ATTRACTS ALL AGES



League players Charlie Austin 77 years old and Ian Bellisario 9 years old. Ian won the match 11-10 in a tie-breaker.

Success in Minneapolis

By Mike Hiles

The Masters came to Minnesota this past July. The weather was great and the competition was even hotter. 240 competitors arrived and started playing on Wednesday. We used two clubs for this tournament and it went off very well thanks to Greg, Mike and the tournament staff. Play was done on time and the banquet was very good. The food at the banquet had a Minnesota flavor with wild rice and walleye on the menu. The NMRA gave out various free things from free nights at the host hotel to racquets. For the first time, we had at least three father and

daughter or son combos at this tournament. One father-daughter team even played together in Mixed 50s. Maybe this should be a new event at the tournaments? Fun was had by all with lots to do and see. The only down note was the Northwest chain was sold on Thursday and the hwy 100 club was to close in the next week. It will be a great loss for the Racquetball community here in Minnesota. The next time we meet for the summer tournament will be in Kansas City area at The Athletic Club, Overland Park, KS, July 25-28, 2007.

Hints to make sure your results are correctly recorded

1. Your name on the draw sheet should match exactly as the way it appears on your membership card.
2. Put your membership number on your entry
3. Check your membership profile on line and make sure all information is correct
4. Make sure your membership is current and is valid through the duration of the event
5. Check to make sure your tournament director has sent in the results to USA Racquetball.

"A Racquetball Fantasy Camp" ...the only one of it's kind

Featuring World-Renowned Coach Fran Davis & US Open Champion Jason Mannino

In a festive, tropical paradise aptly named, Aruba, "The Happy Island" Fran Davis and Jason Mannino, the camp coaches, teamed up with assistants Russ Mannino, the fitness trainer, and Woody Clouse, the mental toughness trainer, to share their racquetball knowledge and experience to the benefit of 20 strong group of players; who gathered from around the continental U.S. to learn more about the game and to enjoy the tropical ecosystem. The camp, an intensive 6-day event was held at the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino in Aruba, November 30-December 7, 2006, the only racquetball facility on the Island.

The camp is intended to be a full body and mind experience; 40 hours of intensive training over 6 days enabled campers to move their individual games up a notch or two. Utilizing

2007 CAMP SCHEDULE

Jan 26-28	St. Petersburg, FL
Feb 2-4	Las Vegas, NV
Feb 9-11	Seattle, WA
March 2-4	Minneapolis, MN
March 16-18	Overland Park
May 3-10	Kauai, (Hawaiian Island, Advanced)
May 18-20	Davison, MI
June 1-3	San Diego, CA
June 8-10	Louisville, KY
July 20-22	TBA
July 27-29	NY/NJ
Aug 3-5	San Francisco, CA
Nov 29-6	Aruba, (Caribbean Island, Advanced)

the K.I.S.S (Keep It Simple Smart!) method of instruction, Fran and Jason, Russ and Woody keep things exciting, covering the basics and advanced instructions on an individual basis. Using "visualization" as an enhanced technique for training, Davis/Mannino record a personal

DVD video for each attendee. As an added bonus after a week of instruction, each camper is given the opportunity to compete against each other in the final all-day tourney. Needless to say, all participants come out of the camp as "winners," with all competitors receiving a camp certificate ... "In recognition of outstanding accomplishment; skilled in all aspects of the game of racquetball."

The healthy island environment and resort island attractions enhance the overall benefit of the camp. The 8 am to 1 pm daily schedule include varying degrees of instruction and practice each day in the areas of on-court racquetball time, fitness and mental toughness with the afternoons and evenings free. Extracurricular daily events are planned along with opening/closing night parties and a mid-week cruise aboard a local sailing ship that included a water swing and ample libations.

During the final day of camp, Fran announced next year's Aruba Fantasy Camp will be November 29-December 6, 2007 and a Kauai, Hawaii Fantasy Camp, May 3-10, 2007. Are you ready to participate in the racquetball experience of a lifetime?...Act now!...reservations are now being taken at Fran's website, www.FranDavisRacquetball.com.





By Mike Ceresia

My Take

Racquetball is an outstanding athletic test. The game combines speed, agility, vision, hand-eye coordination, will, intestinal fortitude and a beautiful mano-a-mano confrontation. We are heading into a new year and here is my viewpoint on some issues and players.

Cliff Swain can still compete at the top level of professional racquetball at 40 years old. However, he is having a difficult time digging in and fighting through tough matches. He seems more civilized. During his prime, he was not. He was surly and would rather chew his left arm off than lose a game, let alone a match. Civilized didn't work for Rocky Balboa and it is not for Swain in his sayonara year.

The IRT should consider going back to two serves. Two serves were eliminated in the first place because Swain, Tim Doyle, Egan Inoue and Andy Roberts were making return of serve impossible and matches boring. These four polished their serves and their games did not change a lot with one serve. Now, we have gone the other way. Two lob servers facing off turns into a yawnfest. Contrary to popular belief, I enjoy a good lob serve game, but only for contrast.

Is there any doubt that Christie Van Hees is the best women's player by a strong margin? A part time commitment and still the titles come. There was no doubt before the US Open and there is no doubt now.

The racquetball forums are sometimes interesting. Many people offering varied opinions for the supposed good of the game. However, ripping people that do not respond back is gutless, ridiculous and immature. Oh, and please consider yourself a tool if you have ripped me because I have never posted.

It would be nice to see the professional players not have to use a tether on their racquets. It makes them look like they need the tether so they don't lose their racquets-like young children have the strings out of their winter coats so they don't lose their gloves!

Jack Huczek is the clear #1 professional. His game continues to improve and he has officially entered his prime. He trains brutally hard and works at all aspects of his game. Playing squash has helped him improve his patience, court coverage, balance and touch. However, playing the other game exclusively will create some bad habits. It will be interesting to see how he bounces back from the US Open. Expect him to be the clear number 1 by season's end.

International racquetball tournaments have seen Huczek, Monchik, Waselenchuk, Greenfeld, Beltran, Gonzalez, Roberts, Doyle, Gudinas, Kachtik, Istace, Carson, Gould, Van Hees, Rajsich, Paraiso, Stupp all compete. Does anybody really think any of the above fall into the amateur category? The World Championships and The Pan Am Games should be bigger events in our games infrastructure. These professionals deserve it. Please feel free to laugh out loud at the next person who calls these events amateur competitions.

I am saying a little prayer that LA Fitness comes to Canada. Our game still has a following but we

desperately need some new venues north of the border. Running closed tournaments does not help expose their clubs to potential new members or improve the quality of the competition.

There is a ton of funding available to Racquetball Canada yet the game is struggling. It is time for new direction and a new plan -- or any plan! Network and sponsorship exposure are much easier to come by in Canada and this is an area requiring some serious examination by the powers that be.

Rocky Carson is the player who seems to be able to challenge Huczek physically. He has to improve his racquet skills and his serve to be able to crack Mr. Control.

It is great to see Sudsy Monchik back on tour. However, at this point, he is a mere shadow of his former self. His court coverage, shot selection and determination are all holding him back right now. He can compete at the top but making it to the pinnacle is out of reach.

The Waselenchuk saga is a sad one. Ultimately the game is the one that is suffering. Take Tiger out of golf and see what the effect would be. We are experiencing the same thing right now. On the plus side, his exit has given other players a new lease on tour. For Kane, an exhibition tour centered around awareness seems like a public relations savior and dream. It is all a matter of spin. Of course, the principal must be willing. Look for him to return in a short season and a half and immediately renew the Waselenchuk/Huczek story.

Did I mention that racquetball is a great game?

Jason Mannino pulled off a miracle at the Open. This was his first win in an eternity. Just shows what hanging in there can bring.

Ruben Gonzalez has always been a marvel. Incredible career, now do some exhibitions and try to stay out of the way of the dropping paint -- that's an inside one for Tuesday and I!

We desperately need a new scoring system. More big points is an absolute must. Something as simple as using the tennis scoring system but counting by one's and win by two would be a massive improvement.

It is high time we shore up the Hall of Fame. There are many former professionals deserving entry and you don't have to look any further than Mike Ray, Drew Kachtik, Brett Harnett, Heather Stupp, etc.

We need a 3rd Grand Slam. Ganim, Hiser, Negrete, you are the holy triumvirate and we all wish you luck in delivering the new portable court to the masses.

We are lucky to be a part of this excellent game.

"ROCKY CARSON IS THE PLAYER WHO SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE HUCZEK PHYSICALLY."

ADVANTAGE ASHAWAY

Because Racquetball is a Contact Sport


Whether it's contact between ball and Ashaway SuperKill II string or between court and Ashaway 500i shoe, Jack relies on Ashaway products day after day and match after match.

Join Jack...
Play Ashaway to Win!

Jack Huczek
World Champion &
#2 Ranked IRT Professional

ASHAWAY
RACKET STRINGS & FOOTWEAR
P.O. Box 549, Ashaway, RI 02804 USA
800-556-7260
ashawayusa.com

Order direct from:

 **Lawler SPORTS**
800-875-3701
lawlersports.com


racquetballwarehouse
800-824-1101
racquetballwarehouse.com


PACIFIC SPORTS WAREHOUSE
800-835-1055
pacificsports.com


Holabird Sports
410-687-6400
holabirdsports.com

RUBEN GONZALEZ

THE "TRUE LEGEND" OF RACQUETBALL.

RUBEN STILL PERFORMS SUPER-HUMAN
FEATS ON THE COURT.

NEW!

SIGNATURE O³ RG RACQUET.

Ruben Gonzalez



POWER LEVEL 2750-2950
170 grams

Souvenir Headcover Included

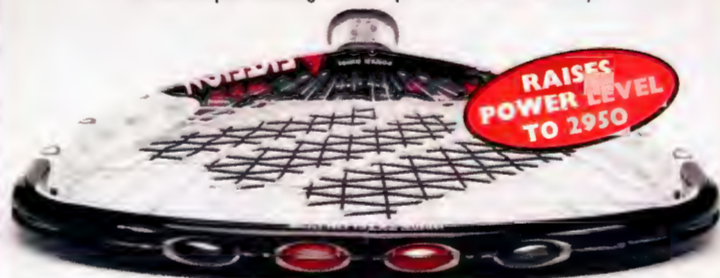
Available Now At



Racquetworld.com
1-888-SPLAT-IT (77528-48)

Customize your racquet with New Ektelon Power Plugs

Adding Power Plugs at the top of the frame allows you to change the weight and balance of the racquet resulting in more power and frame stability!



Power Plugs snap easily into the giant O-ports

EKTELON
PLAY WITH FIRE

Check out the 2007 Super Ruben Tour at
www.ektelon.com



Official Racquet



Official Ball



Official Sponsor



Official Partner



Official Ball