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World Cup**



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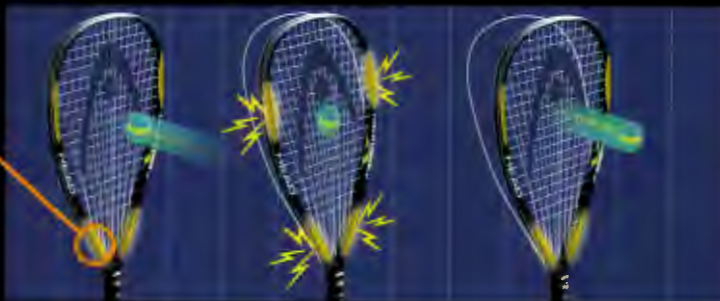
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Benefit

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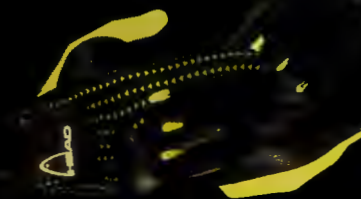
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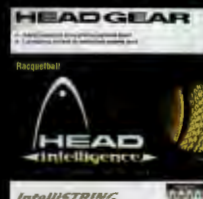
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It's state singles and your match is scheduled at exactly the same time as the Open finals. Darn! You can't watch, but you really wanted to ... so you finish your match (the winner, of course) and corner the first reliable source you can find to fill you in. Who won? How many games? Tiebreaker? What happened? Tell me ... tell me!

Your source is breathless ... it was so close, they say: 15-14, 15-14 and it could have gone either way, either game! Or blasé ... it was over before you knew it, they say: 15-zip, both games. Or ... it was 15-0, then 0-15, then an 11-0 tiebreaker (*who had brain death there?*). Or ... it was 15-14, 14-15, 11-10 and ended with an avoidable! So-and-so went *absolutely nuts* ...! But what if there isn't anyone around to fill you in? You walk over the drawsheets, where the name *might* be filled in, but that's it — no score.

So much of how we experience racquetball is anecdotal – in just this way – that we've come to accept that type of "inside information" (or lack thereof) as the standard for the sport. If you don't have a reliable source, you simply aren't going to find out what goes on. But it doesn't have to be that way, and I'm here to tell you that it's easy to fix (*hallelujah!*). It takes about 10 seconds per match, and anyone can do it. Tournament directors, start your pencils ...

This season, why not adopt the practice of writing down the scores from match cards, on your small drawsheets, when they come in? Then, instruct your "posters" to do the same on the big drawsheets. It's a little more effort, but it can make a huge difference in promoting your tournaments on the back end. And if you do it as you go along, it's much easier than hunting through scads of score cards to re-construct the information after the fact. Make your results public, accurate and complete (promptly), and it will go a long way toward legitimizing what is too often viewed as a strictly a recreational pasttime.

With your scores recorded consistently, someone can easily pick up the final results and email them to the newspaper; someone else might be able to write a story for your state newsletter. Those same results and reporting can be turned into content for your state's website and before you know it, local racquetball is on an equal playing field with its much bigger counterparts. Scores show how well a player did (straight low-scoring games, or tiebreakers all the way through?), how tough the field was, and allows people outside the sport (from reporters to potential newcomers) to *relate* to racquetball the way they do with baseball, basketball, tennis and golf. Admit it — you've seen T-ball results in your paper. Know how they got there? Millions of soccer moms and little league dads can't be wrong ...

So for the coming season, make sure you can say "Ladies and gentlemen ... the results have left the building" after each event. Who knows where they'll end up? It sure can't hurt ...

Want more information on how to set up simple event results reporting? Go to usra.org "Sitemap/Index" then follow the link to "Promoting your Events."

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... on the cover ... The U.S. National Team was successful in its bid to reclaim the World Cup. Photo: James Perez.
... this page ... Top-ranked in Girl's 6-, Elizabeth Vargas lets her cousins Anthony and Isaac help her out with her equipment at the Junior Olympics. Photo: Michael Lawrence.

Harmonic Convergence

[There I was, minding my own business and watching the very last match at Worlds, when someone with a gonzo-camera struck up a conversation about lighting right in front of me. By the time we finished chatting, I'd found someone to shoot our cover. How lucky can a staff-impaired girl get? — Editor.]

You probably thought that I was a professional photographer. Although I was president of the photography club in high school some twenty odd years ago, I am far from it. I had just gotten a Nikon (my dream camera for years) just two weeks prior to our chance meeting. I learned to use it during a trip to Washington DC just a week before the World Championships. I took it to the World Championships for the purpose of experimenting with low-light (through-the-glass, non-flash) action photography at a racquetball court. My goal was to produce photographs that did not contain the typical yellow tint that most court photos contain (as a quick review of any previous Racquetball Magazine would reveal). And, as you overheard me say to the coach from Canada, I wanted to capture the facial/body expressions that are typical of the racquetball player (physical stress, instinctive reaction, fatigue, exhilaration). It's too bad that I never had the chance to complete some of my experiments before shooting the World tournament. I think that the in-court photographs are sub-standard, however, I know how to produce better quality photos of such in the future. I would love the opportunity to shoot another major racquetball tournament for the magazine.

James Perez
San Juan, Puerto Rico



perez & gonzalez

Hall of Fame Nominations

The Racquetball Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those athletes and contributors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement as players or in the development, leadership, and advancement of the sport. The award is based upon years of consistent excellence in one or more of the following areas - **ATHLETICS:** The person must have influenced other competitors with his or her performance through any or all of the following: high performance standards; sportsmanship and fair play; competitive techniques; persistent and inspirational leadership. **CONTRIBUTOR:** The person must have made a significant and noteworthy contribution, that has left a lasting, positive effect on the advancement of the sport. The person's efforts should have been devoted to the sport and organization, not for personal or financial gain or for self-aggrandizement.

Additional criteria include a minimum age of 35, minimum terms of service and/or performance on an amateur or pro tournament circuit, plus nominees must submit complete resume documentation addressing the specifics of their performance and/or service to be considered. For online information on submitting Hall of Fame nominations, go to: www.usra.org | Index | "Hall of Fame." Deadline for submitting nominations is OCTOBER 1.

Where are they?

Is there any reason why in the latest article (July - August) there is not a listing of all the pros who played in the Pro Nationals? I can understand the magazine covers the top six people in the world, but it would be nice if there was a tournament bracket results sheet. There are some people who I know play on the tour that I like to see how they did against the people who made it to the quarters.

I was at the San Diego Pro stop in March and noticed some people in the tournament that I thought fell off the face of the earth because I don't hear about them in Racquetball Magazine. Thanks for letting me put in my two cents!

Bob Ferreira
Glendale, Arizona

[We've always stayed away from reproducing entire tournament drawsheets, simply in the interest of best space usage. The magazine has only a set number of pages and we plan them carefully — using frequent mention of the IRT, LPRA, USRA and IRF websites to refer readers to more "expanded" information on the net. Websites are "public domain" to a far larger audience than the magazine, and the internet has none of the same types of space constraints as a print publication, so we work with those other sources to provide a complete picture of an event (the magazine for article/photos, the website(s) for added details). The two mediums are very different, but can work quite well together ... so we try not to duplicate content between them. — Editor]

continued on page 47

Super Jack Huczek Racks up Another Milestone with Ashaway SuperKill® II

18-year-old Jack Huczek is the youngest National Racquetball Champion we've ever had. The young phenom is quick to acknowledge the big supporting role Ashaway SuperKill II racquetball string played in his success.

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After dominating the world stage for over a decade, the U.S. national team was put on notice when it lost the World Cup to Canada two years ago. Granted, it had been the first loss in ten attempts, and had come at the hands of perennial North American rivals, but the fact remains that more (and more frequent) difficulty in advancing past earlier round matches – against stronger countries each year – has come to play a major role in final results, seeding, and standings in IRF events. This year was no exception, as the U.S. brought home individual titles in the first half of the 2002 World Championships, but faltered a bit in the second, when it came down to head-to-head, country-by-country playoffs for men's, women's and overall "World Cup" team titles.

At opening ceremonies, some 33 national teams turned out in parade uniform, ranging from sole athlete representatives, to full squads of singles and doubles players from all corners of the globe. Four days of individual play, in the Olympic "compass" format, comprised the first half of competition, followed by a day off and three more days of full team playoffs. Beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rico was the backdrop for an international event that may not return to an American continent until 2006. It is scheduled for Seoul, Korea in 2004.

World's Eleven

Part One: Individual World Title Rounds

Even though he was playing in Canada's second roster position in singles, going into the tournament Kane Waselenchuk was the player to beat. He finished the IRT season ranked No.4 and just won the Tournament of Americas in Bolivia – the last major international event.

Right behind Waselenchuk, figuratively and literally, was Jack Huczek, who finished his rookie season on the IRT at No.5. But Huczek hadn't given the showing everyone had expected from him in Bolivia, losing to Javier Moreno in the semifinals, and he'd lost to Waselenchuk in each of their three previous meetings. Huczek began his week as a close second to Kane to win it all.

Elsewhere in the field, there were several other players with a shot at winning the title, including defending champion Alvaro Beltran of Mexico. He'd had a roller coaster pro season but was playing well, and reached the semifinals at pro-nationals before finishing the season No. 6. Countryman Javier Moreno was also on the top of his game; he had surprised Huczek with a semi-final loss at the Tournament of the Americas, and then barely lost to Waselenchuk in an 11-8 tiebreaker.

And darkhorse prospects Brian Istace of Canada and Jason Thoerner of the U.S., were sure to figure into the mix. Their experience level, however, was as different as night and day. Istace was making his third world championships appearance in a row, and had earned a semifinal berth in 2000. Thoerner had finally won a rookie appointment to the U.S. National Team in May and was making his international debut.

The favorites all advanced into the quarterfinals with relative ease, where the two matches that stood out both involved the U.S. and Mexico. In the top half, Beltran and Thoerner would get their first true tests. The same was true in the bottom between Huczek and Moreno.

Thoerner walked into the round as the underdog against the defending world champion. Everyone knew he had game from numerous past performances in the U.S. national singles; just how much was the question. With little experience on the pro tour and none internationally, Thoerner quickly answered that question with a straight game upset of Beltran, in two close games 15-12, 15-13 – insuring that a new men's world champion would be crowned.

Most are aware of the heights that Huczek's game can reach. Moreno had proven his ability, and shown the world that he was capable, by defeating Huczek in Bolivia. But that defeat may have motivated Huczek in the rematch, where he stormed out of the gates to take the first game 15-3. Moreno put up more of a fight in the second but Huczek refused to let down and took the match with a 15-10 second game win.

2002 IRF World Championships
San Juan, Puerto Rico: August 2-10

Also advancing into the semifinals were both of Canada's top players, Istace and Waselenchuk. Istace won in straight games over Japan's Hiroshi Shimizu 15-4, 15-7. Waselenchuk duplicated the straight game win by defeating Venezuela's Cesar Castro 15-6, 15-6. It set up two U.S. vs. Canada semifinal matches and what could be a sneak preview of the team competition finals.

First up was Istace against Thoerner. Darkhorses at the beginning of the week, now one of them would play for the world title the following day. Thoerner came out with his usual "hold-nothing-back" attitude and dominated the first game 15-6. Istace relied on his experience in international competition to escape a straight game defeat and edged Thoerner 15-14 in the second. Going into the final game it was anyone's match, and the game played out close down to the final points.

Canadian official Cal Smith was on duty for several defining matches of the day, and recalled the final minutes of the third game: "It was 8-8 in the tiebreaker and I called Brian's killshot good, which would have been a point for him, but it was appealed and overturned for a sideout. Brian never made a good shot after that; [he] skipped the next two points, and Jason made a good shot for the match. I felt bad for Brian but there was nothing to do as he skipped two points for 9 and 10. I think he was rattled a bit and never really got focused again."

Next up was the match that everyone had waited to see: Waselenchuk vs. Huczek. Two of the fastest rising stars in the sport, Waselenchuk seemed to have Huczek's number in previous meetings but this was a different stage and Huczek was ready to turn it around. He steamrolled through Waselenchuk in the first game, hardly missing a shot, on his way to a 15-3 win. The second game was much closer with Waselenchuk in charge for most of it. Amazingly, another overturned call by referee Cal Smith, at 14-13, gave Huczek enough of a chance to keep Waselenchuk from closing out game two and forcing a third. Huczek fought his way back to a 15-14 victory to set up the first all-U.S. men's final since 1996.

Despite reaching the finals, neither Thoerner nor Huczek had finished with what they had set out to do. Many had expected Huczek there, but



Team USA (L-R) Top: Drew Kachtik (obscured), Jack Huczek, Ruben Gonzalez, Jason Thoerner, Coach Jim Winterton. Front: Mike Guidry, Laura Fenton, Kim Russell, Jackie Rice, Trainer Jennifer Louie, Cheryl Gudinas, Team Manager Dave Ellis. Photo: Jim Hiser.



Opening ceremonies were held at the Olympic House in old San Juan, where Teams Canada & Jamaica posed together (top); Team Mexico shared a laugh (right) and members of Team Belgium and Team Ireland cut up (above L-R: Niklaas DeBoutte & Pat Hanley) Photos: Erik Meyer.

few (other than himself and dad Butch), had expected to see Thoerner play for the world title. Jason came out hot, building a 4-0 lead before Huczek slipped executing a backhand. Flailing his racquet arm in an attempt to regain his balance, Jack's racquet came around and connected squarely with Jason's lip. Blood everywhere, the result was an injury timeout and a chipped front tooth. Thoerner showed his toughness by continuing the match, but the close encounter clearly affected his ability to control center court. Even later, leaving the court for another time out, he failed to duck quite far enough and caught the edge of a scoreboard with his forehead. Returning to the court he bobbed, weaved – and flinched – more than usual, and even appealing to the ref to limit contact by calling hinders more quickly. Huczek kept his focus and went on to a straight game win, 15-7, 15-3 to set another record by becoming the youngest male to claim a world singles title.

Women's Singles

Not surprisingly, defending champion Cheryl Gudinas was the clear favorite in the women's individual competition. The most dominant women's racquetball player since Michelle Gould (with three world titles), Gudinas was going for number two in Puerto Rico, after coming off her second straight LPRA season at the top of the rankings, and ending with a five-stop winning streak.

Much improved since becoming the Canadian national singles champion last May, Jennifer Saunders was hoping to make a mark of a different sort at the world championships. Two years earlier, she'd been at the 2000 Worlds in San Luis Potosi – but as a team official, not a player. This go round, she was highly-motivated to perform and justify her top roster spot. Also stepping up her game was long-time U.S. team member Laura Fenton, who won the Tournament of the Americas singles title and finished second to Gudinas at national singles. After battling injuries for the past few years, she appeared healthy and back in top form.

The quarterfinals held few surprises – with the exception of powerful play by Japanese athletes Toshiko Sakamoto and Hiromi Miyamoto. Everyone had expected both singles players for the U.S. and Canada to advance to this point, but Japan also boasted two contenders in the quarters – the only other country to do so.

But it wouldn't get easier for the Japanese after making it to the quarters; they had to face Canada's No.1 and No. 2 players, respectively. Saunders defeated Sakamoto in straight games, although they were close, 15-10, 15-



BEHIND THE SCENES: COACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF ARE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THEIR ATHLETES, AND THESE SQUADSS HAD THEIR HANDS FULL. TOP (L-R): CANADIAN HEAD COACH RON BROWN, CAL SMITH, MICHEL GAGNON, USHER BARHOFF, BOB FONG [PHOTO: BARHOFF]. BOTTOM: U.S. TEAM MANAGER DAVE ELLIS, TRAINER JENNIFER LOUIE, HEAD COACH JIM WINTERTON, ASSISTANT COACHES FRAN DAVIS & DREW KACHTIK. [PHOTO: JAMES PEREZ].



14. Canada's Josee Grand'Maitre had a harder time getting past Miyamoto, who controlled the first game for a 15-4 victory. Grand'Maitre almost duplicated the score in the second with a 15-5 win, then held the momentum through the tiebreaker, where experience paid off for the team veteran, with an 11-6 closeout.

Both Gudinas and Fenton continued to roll through their competition and advanced easily into the U.S. vs. Canada semifinals to face Saunders and Grand'Maitre. Gudinas hadn't allowed an opponent to reach double-digits and continued that trend with a 15-7, 15-6 win over Grand'Maitre, and a chance to defend her title.

Hampered by a surprise cyst behind her knee, Fenton still brought her match with Saunders to a tiebreaker. But Saunders' exceptional play ended up being too much for Fenton in the decisive game and Saunders came away with an 11-3 win for the right to face Gudinas in the finals. "Obviously it was very frustrating, losing that match," said a dejected Fenton. "She (Saunders) played fantastic. Probably the best I have ever seen her play."

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IRF Treasurer Oswaldo Maggi of Argentina (center) congratulates Polo Gutierrez (left) and Gilberto Mejia for their doubles win. Photo: Erik Meyer.



In 2000, when Gudinas won her first world title, she had faced Canada's top player, Christie Van Hees., and found herself down 9-2 in the tiebreaker and come back to win it 11-10. Once again facing Canada's national champ in Saunders, Gudinas didn't want to repeat the drama of another miraculous come-from-behind victory. Instead she played solid and kept herself on an even keel, despite the excellent play of Saunders. In the end Gudinas won two close games 15-13, 15-13 for her second straight world title. "My first couple of matches I felt like I played good," said Gudinas. "I thought I struggled against Josee but I played well enough to win and continued to into the finals."

Doubles

Polo Gutierrez is 18 years old; his partner Gilberto Mejia is 20. They live so far apart that they never play doubles together in anything less than a national event. At the Mexican nationals last spring, Gil defeated Polo for the singles title, and they paired up again in doubles, losing to Alvaro Beltran and Javier Moreno. The roster was flipped by the coaching staff going into Worlds, based on the uncanny ability of the two young athletes to come together, on short notice, and play exceptionally well. "We have trust between us," said Polo "and we thought that, if we could beat the U.S., we could win it all." That is what they came to do, and based on seedings determined by team finishes at the last World Championship, that opportunity came earlier than their U.S. counterparts – with an average age of 42 – would have liked.

Earlier in the year, the U.S. men's doubles team of Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Guidry had narrowly escaped with an 11-10 win over Gutierrez and Mejia at the Tournament of the Americas. After several months of thinking about that loss, the younger-by-half Mexican team came out firing in the semi-final, then controlled the entire match to make what had been viewed as a close match – on paper – into a 15-12, 15-5 rout. Gonzalez might have been thinking about his mom [who had never seen him play before, see pg.14] being in the stands, and Guidry might have skipped fewer forehands, but all-in-all, the Mexican team was genuinely overwhelmed with their advance. On the other half of the draw, Canadians Green and Ceresia advanced easily past Jorge Hirsekorn and Ralf Reinhardt of Venezuela 15-1, 15-6, to earn their spot in the final, where another crucial appeal was destined.

On the following day, the men's doubles final ended in controversy after a late game appeal that re-directed the match. At 10-8 in the tiebreaker, the Canadian team had celebrated just a moment too early, thinking they'd won. Serving for the match, the Canadians jumped for joy when both thought that the final shot of the rally had skipped — and the ref agreed — but the call was overturned on appeal and the Mexicans regained service. Three points later (one unforced error by Green, and winners from both Gutierrez and Mejia) and the title celebration turned around, marking the second consecutive world title in doubles for Mexico.

Again, it was Canadian official Cal Smith who made the critical call. "It was quite a long rally and our guys had a chance to end [it] twice but the ball was left up. The ball came around to the right side and Mexico shot it straight in and I called a skip ball. This would have been match point. The Mexican team appealed and the call was overturned and reversed by the line judges. Our guys skipped the next point and Mexico scored the last two with good shots. Game and match, Mexico wins."

The women's doubles team looked like a sure bet for the title before the tournament even started. Jackie Rice, one of the best left-side doubles players ever, was teamed up with Kim Russell, one of the best right-side doubles players ever. Rice had won three previous doubles world titles and Russell earned one of her own in 2000, and had a title defense to launch. They rolled into the finals against Canada's Amanda MacDonald and Karina Odegard, having only conceded 10 total points in three rounds of play.

The Canadians turned out to be the toughest match in the tournament for the U.S. pair, but they handled the pressure with ease. After earning a 15-10 victory in the

first game they only got better and downed the Canadians 15-8 in the second for the world title. Even though it was the first time that Rice and Russell played doubles together, they felt that they meshed so well they are planning to continue as a team at the U.S. National Doubles Championships in October.

Part Two: Team Competition

After a day off to regroup, teams began a second, three-day tournament for team crowns and the World Cup. And after a few scares in early rounds, in the end it came down to the wire between the U.S. and Canada — once more time. Although the players had faced off before — just a few days earlier, in fact — some of the match-ups had changed. In the more traditional seeding used in the first phase of competition, the top singles players had been matched 1-to-2 (where #1 Huzcek def. #2 Waselenchuk & Thoerner def. Istace; Gudinas def. Grand'Maitre & Saunders def. Fenton). In team play, each was set to go head-to-head, 1-to-1, meaning big switches for the singles players, but no change in doubles.

So the No.1 female singles players, Gudinas and Saunders, opened the final day of team competition, with Gudinas continuing her dominance with a straight game win, 15-9, 15-9. Gudinas' play over the

past several years has solidly positioned her in the upper echelon of women to ever play the sport. It also gave the U.S. a 1-0 lead against Canada for the women's and overall world title.

Next up was the 40-something face-off between moms Fenton and Grand'Maitre. Aided by trainer Jennifer Louie, who worked on Fenton for hours to get her match-ready, Fenton easily won the first game 15-4. But Grand'Maitre recovered to even things up with a win in the second 15-10. The tiebreaker could have gone either way, along with an early lead in the cup race, but Fenton edged Grand'Maitre 11-9 to secure the women's team title for the U.S. and give the team a 2-0 lead for the overall title.

With the women's singles matches won, the men were next up and had their work cut out for them. First was Thoerner versus Waselenchuk. After an injury kept him from playing (and qualifying for a higher roster position) in the Canadian nationals, Waselenchuk had been placed in the No.2 singles spot. Despite a heroic effort by war-weary Thoerner, Waselenchuk ran away with the match in straight games, 15-6, 15-7. The win gave the Canadians the advantage in the men's competition and brought them closer in the overall 2-1.



Cal Smith: On the Hot Seat

After several big matches ended on appeal, Team Canada official Cal Smith agreed to tell us a little about himself, and how he deals with the pressure of having to make such big decisions for — or against — his team.

I don't feel any real pressure when I am refing anyone, even if it is my own team, I just call the play as I see it. There is obviously more pressure when it is a final or semi but I think [it's] more on the line judges when there are appeals. This is probably why I don't feel much pressure because there is usually someone there to appeal to if the players think I might have called it wrong.

I am a level three certified coach and in the past I have helped the coaches, especially if we are at different venues or when we only send one coach; but now that we can send two coaches, I try to keep out of it and let them do their job. If they need me to do anything, they just ask. As Team Official, I referee if any of our players lose, so that they never have to sit at the court after losing and start to tighten up. I also volunteer to any LOC, if they need refs and they're stuck. I am also the team Leader and in this capacity I look after the small details that need to be done for our team when something arises.

I started playing in '79 and started refing in my Province when I got on our Provincial Board of Directors as the Officiating Director in 82. I am presently the President and the Officiating Director of our Provincial association. I have been the Officiating Director since 82 and the President since 89. I am also on the Racquetball Canada BOD as the VP of High Performance which means I oversee our National Team and our Coaching program. I have also been on the Officiating Committee since '82.

I won the Senior division when we played it at the Worlds in Hamburg in 88 and I have won our National Senior doubles once. I'm 44, love racquetball, am competitive in bowling and currently hold our provincial record for a three game total with 856 and the Provincial and National record for a 4 game total with 1090. I am also a private pilot and own a plane with some partners and I love to fly as well. I also own a motorcycle and rode halfway across the country last summer and plan to make it all the way next year. — *Well, that's an off-year for Worlds, so we guess it's okay ...*

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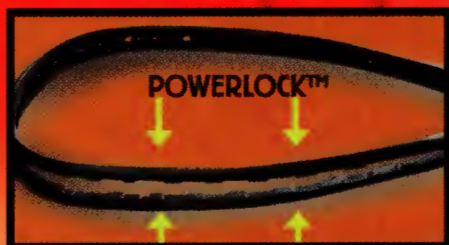


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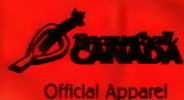


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Huczek faced Istace in the other men's singles match. The U.S. needed a win to stay in contention for the men's title and Huczek, not to be outdone by rival Waselenchuk, earned a straight game win over Istace 15-4, 15-7 to go undefeated in the event. For the men's title competition, the win evened it up, 1-1, with the doubles left to play, and gave the U.S. a commanding 3-1 lead in the combined tally.

Heading into team play, the U.S. women's goal was to sweep the competition. They had succeeded thus far with only one match to go. Although the women's team title was already locked up, Rice and Russell knew that one more win would secure the World Cup for the U.S. With that knowledge, and more than a little pressure, they faced Amanda MacDonald and Karina Odegard in a rematch of the individual finals.

MacDonald and Odegard made the playoff closer than they had earlier, but Rice and Russell were still able to close out the match in straight games of 15-11, 15-11. The win not only gave the U.S. women's team the sweep that they set out to accomplish but guaranteed that they U.S. would bring back home the world cup for the 10th time. "I had a lot of confidence in our women's team," said Russell after the tournament. "I knew Jackie and I would make a great team. Our goal was to sweep the women's competition."

With the women's and overall title already locked up for the U.S., the men's title came down to one match for the men's team title – a 2000 rematch between Gonzalez and Guidry against Ceresia and Green. Both veteran teams boast years of international competition,



and over a century of experience under their belts. The combined age of the players was 149 years ... and the match promised to be a shoot out.

Pressed into service as an official for the final match of the event, IRF Technical Director Jim Hiser added his own brand of excitement to the close of the first game. At 14-all, he called an avoidable on Ceresia, to award the game to the U.S. Overturned on appeal by linesmen Cal Smith and Alvaro Beltran, the rally was replayed, and the game edged out by Gonzalez/Guidry.

As expected, the match was forced into a tiebreaker after the Canadians bounced back to take game two 15-10. With the men's team title at stake, the pressure was on for both teams. In the third, Ceresia & Green built a 6-1 lead in only three side outs, before a series of irretrievable forehand pinch kills began to work for Guidry and reduce that margin to 5-6. Long rallies with plenty of diving marked the next points, as the teams tied it




HOMECOMING ... It had been 30 years of racquetball for Ruben Gonzalez – but his teeny-tiny mom Carmen, a lifetime resident of San Juan – had never seen him play. Carmen Gonzalez attended the opening ceremonies in old San Juan [left, center], along with a dozen other far-flung relatives, and later made her way into the stands to see her baby-boy (who just turned 50) do what he does best ...

In 1986, Ruben led the Puerto Rican roster at the III World Championships in Orlando, Florida, and helped the men's squad finish

in third place. In 1988, he followed up with another term of service with Puerto Rico in the 1988 Worlds, and then -- at the age of 36 -- began "phase two" of a long and successful career (begun in 1982) on the men's pro tour, marked with record-setting performances for a man his age. That year, he earned the season-ending top ranking on the RMA Pro Tour, and in 1993 he became the oldest athlete to win a pro stop. In 1996 he was awarded the IRT's "Comeback Player of the Year" award (following a serious Achilles tendon injury, rehab and recovery).

All but retired from the pro tour, Gonzalez then decided to seek a U.S. team spot, and won the national singles title in 1996, and has consistently qualified -- in both singles and doubles -- ever since. He and Guidry hold two national doubles titles ('99 and 2001), and were the silver medalists at Worlds in 2000. And he's still teaching lessons to pro tour hopefuls half his age, even reaching the quarterfinals of the U.S. OPEN championships as recently as last year.



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At both venues, if you weren't on a court, you were outside, and it was hot ... back-to-front: Drew Kachtik, Jim Winterton and Jack Huczek after a match. Photo: Usher Barnoff.

up at 8 apiece. After one particularly frantic rally, Guidry had followed a wrap around ball into back court and barely gotten his racquet on it – only to tag Gonzalez with the return and hand another narrow lead to Canada, 9-8. On the next point, it was another extended play which ended on appeal. Somewhere in the middle of it, Guidry dove for a ball and the appeal was for a double-bounce pick-up. Hiser hadn't seen or called it, but both linesmen agreed, overturning the call and awarding the point to Canada, 10-8.

On the final point, it was Ceresia who calmly reached up and flat-rolled an overhead pinch from back court for the match. After a full week of tough competition, the Canadians had just enough left in the tank and were able to defend their men's team title. In 2000, it had been an 11-6 tiebreaker – with the same players, and the same outcome – for the same prize.

Afterwards, U.S. Head Coach Jim Winterton talked about some of the events that stood out for him in San Juan. "An all U.S. men's final, the first since '96, back-to-back world titles for Cheryl, upset victories for Thoerner and Huczek, there were a lot of things that stick out from this tournament." He continued, "Our team did a good job of forgetting (about their individual accomplishments) before the team competition started. We went down to bring the cup back."•



IRF XI World Championships • Final Results Parque Central & YMCA de San Juan, Puerto Rico: August 2-10, 2002

Individual Rounds

Men's Singles: #2 Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich./USA) def. #4 Jason Thoerner (Canton, Ga./USA) 15-7, 15-3

Women's Singles: #1 Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill./USA) def. #2 Jennifer Saunders (Winnipeg, Manitoba/Canada) 15-13, 15-13

Men's Doubles: #3 Polo Gutierrez (Juarez, Chihuahua) & Gilberto Mejia (San Luis Potosi/Mexico) def. #1 Mike Ceresia & Mike Green (Ontario/Canada) 12-15, 15-7, 11-10

Women's Doubles: #1 Jackie Rice (El Cajon, Calif.) & Kim Russell (Austin, Texas/USA) def. Amanda McDonald & Karina Odegard (Saskatchewan/Canada) 15-10, 15-8

Gold Medal Team Rounds

Men's Team: Canada 2-1

Men's No.1 Singles: Jack Huczek (USA) def. Brian Istace (Canada) 15-4, 15-7

Men's No.2 Singles: Kane Waselenchuk (Canada) def. Jason Thoerner (USA) 15-6, 15-7

Men's Doubles: Mike Ceresia & Mike Green (Ontario/Canada) def. Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, NY) & Mike Guidry (Carrollton, Texas/USA) 14-15, 15-10, 11-8

Women's Team: USA 3-0

Women's No.1 Singles: Cheryl Gudinas (USA) def. Jennifer Saunders (Canada) 15-9, 15-9

Women's No.2 Singles: Laura Fenton (USA) def. Josee Grand'Maitre (Canada) 15-4, 10-15, 11-9

Women's Doubles: Jackie Rice (El Cajon, Calif.) & Kim Russell (Austin, Texas/USA) def. Amanda McDonald & Karina Odegard (Saskatchewan/Canada) 15-11, 15-11

Men's Team

1. Canada
2. United States
3. Mexico
4. Japan
5. Venezuela
6. India
7. Bolivia
8. Argentina
9. Guatemala
10. Honduras
11. Costa Rica
12. Chile
13. Korea
14. Ecuador
15. Netherlands
16. Australia
17. Puerto Rico
18. Dominican Republic
19. Guam
20. Jamaica
21. Ireland
22. Belgium
23. Greece
24. Great Britain
25. Germany
26. Belize
27. Nigeria
28. Uruguay
29. Philippines
30. Peru
31. France
32. Syria

Women's Team

1. United States
2. Canada
3. Bolivia
4. Mexico
5. Chile
6. Japan
7. Puerto Rico
8. Korea
9. Venezuela
10. Vietnam
11. Germany
12. Guatemala
13. Jamaica
14. Ireland
15. Costa Rica
16. India
17. Ecuador
18. Dominican Republic
19. Taiwan

Overall/Combined

1. United States
2. Canada
3. Mexico
4. Japan
4. Bolivia
6. Venezuela
7. Chile
8. Guatemala
8. Korea
10. India
11. Puerto Rico
12. Costa Rica
13. Ecuador
14. Jamaica
15. Ireland
16. Germany
17. Dominican Republic
18. Argentina
19. Netherlands
20. Australia
21. Guam
22. Belgium
23. Greece
24. Great Britain
25. Belize
26. Nigeria
27. Vietnam
28. Uruguay
29. Philippines
30. Peru
31. France
32. Taiwan
33. Syria

World Cup Team Results

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TWO: COMFORT

Iso-Zorb™ is an exclusive Wilson polymer, similar to the material used in skyscraper foundations to absorb the shock of an earthquake. We utilize Iso-Zorb as a buffer between the TRIAD hoop and handle for dramatically increased levels of comfort, which can be customized to fit your game.



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TRIAD 180



TRIAD 200





Photo: Chris Novak

Over 250 of the country's finest junior racquetball players traveled to Bloomingdale, Illinois, just outside of Chicago, to play in the 2002 Head 29th Junior Olympic Racquetball Championships presented by Penn Racquet Sports. The host club was the Bloomingdale Athletic Club, also home to IRT commissioner Dave Negrete, who got a firsthand, sneak preview of what his tour might look like in the not-so-distant-future. It was easy to spot the talent present at every level from the 6-and-under multi-bounce all the way up to the 18-and-under that included a few players already tested on both the IRT and LPRA tours.

For Jack Huczek, competing for his third straight boy's 18- national title seemed like a mere formality – which it turned out to be. The #5 ranked IRT tour pro again dominated the competition in his last junior national event, ending his U.S. junior career with an unprecedented gold medal haul of 23 (13 in singles and 10 in doubles). He has only one more international event left to win (IRF Junior Worlds in December) before he's outgrown his eligibility, and concluded his record-setting junior career.

Although Huczek was certainly the best player in the boy's 18-, he was — by no means — the only high-calibre competitor, which meant that there were plenty of exciting matches in Chicago. In fact, it was a weekend filled with upsets as the rest of the top four seeds failed

to make it into the semis. Against No.4 Jacob Karmelin, unseeded Darrin Prince dominated the first game 15-5 then went on to win the second 15-11, for the first in a series of early round upsets. Also exiting in the first round was No.6 Ryan Lindell, who was defeated by the oft-diving David Chirban in two close games 15-10, 15-14. We would hear about Chirban again.

The quarterfinals were the most exciting round in the boy's 18-, with three of the four matches going to a tiebreaker. The lone exception was, of course, Huczek's match, in which he conceded only two points to his opponent. Darrin Prince almost took another huge upset against No.5 Clay Burris, but after splitting the first two games, Burris took control of the tiebreaker and advanced into the semifinals, 11-5. The seeds in the bottom half of the bracket weren't so lucky.

Illinois native Ben Croft provided the hometown crowd with something to cheer about when he faced No.2 Mike Lawrence. Lawrence won the first game 15-10, only to see Croft even the match up by duplicating the score in the second – only this time in his favor. Croft caught fire in the tiebreaker and went on to win 11-5 for the biggest upset of the tournament.

Third-seeded Travis Woodbury narrowly escaped an earlier round upset, after pulling out a 15-11, 13-15, 11-

10 win over Patric Mascorro. He now faced unseeded Chirban, whose unorthodox style and spectacular retrievals had his previous opponents scratching their heads. Chirban had the same effect on Woodbury in the first game and won 15-13. Woodbury, a tough competitor, came back to win the second 15-8 with some timely serving. In the end, however, Chirban pulled out another upset, squeaking by Woodbury 11-8 in the tiebreaker.

In his semi against Huczek, Clay Burris was able to muster more points in the first game than Huczek's previous opponents could gather in two, but it still wasn't enough. In the other semi Ben Croft wasn't confused by Chirban's style and kept up his great play to earn a spot in the finals with the 15-11, 15-8 win.

For the final, Huczek came out wearing his familiar red shirt, and he came out shooting. Taking an early 11-0 lead in the first game, a donut seemed imminent. After a sideout, and timeout, Croft received some advice from Negrete. "I told him to hit the crack," the commish said. "He said if he tried it and missed that he knew he would get creamed." But he didn't miss, and cracked out the serve for a standing ovation from the crowd and his first point of the match. Huczek wasn't exactly up against the ropes at that point but Croft was able to relax enough to loosen up his game a bit and just play ball. Huczek went on to win 15-4, 15-3 for his third (and last) boy's 18- national title.

Boy's 16-: National High School runner-up Dan Sheppick earned the top seed in the boy's 16- and proved early-on that he deserved it. He dished out four donuts in his first three matches, and the division began to shape itself into a mirror of the 18's, with the top seed dominating the field as major upsets happened all around him.

The first, and highest, seed to go out was No.2 Joey Lakowske, who faced an unstoppable Brady Hernandez in the round of 16. Although Lakowske didn't play badly, every shot that Hernandez stroked was money. Hernandez, who barely got out of the round of 32 with an 11-8 tiebreaker win, won his sweet 16 match in straight games 15-4, 15-9.

The next seed to go was No.5 Brad Slocum who took a heartbreaking loss to Anthony Herrera. Slocum won the first game 15-10 but Herrera stormed back to take the second 15-7. The tiebreaker was as close as it could be with Herrera edging Slocum 11-10 to move into the quarterfinals.

The surprises weren't over in the quarterfinals, although the top half of the bracket evened out with No.1 Sheppick and No.4 Charlie Pratt advancing into the semifinals with straight game wins. In the bottom half, Drew Toland put an end to Brady Hernandez's run in two close games of identical scores 15-13, 15-13. Jumping into the mix, just as he had in the 18's, was Ben Croft.

Croft had been unseeded in the 18's, but was No.6 in the 16's and ran into top-seeded Karmelin – or more accurately, Karmelin ran into Croft, who was having a great week. At that point, he'd already reached the semis in 18-, and he continued to shine in the 16- as he handed Karmelin a straight game loss 15-8, 15-4.

The semifinals were set, and in the top half fellow Oregonians Sheppick and Pratt played out with Sheppick advancing in two games 15-5, 15-9. Croft, who seemed to get better as the tournament progressed, took out Toland by serving him a donut in the first game and only allowing five points in the second.



ABOVE: BEN CROFT GETS ADVICE FROM IRT PRO COMMISSIONER DAVE NEGRETE [PHOTO: MIKE LAWRENCE] AND CONGRATS FROM HIS DAD [PHOTO: CHRIS NOVAK]



2002 Head 29th Junior Olympics

Presented by Penn Racquet Sports

Coverage by Ryan John, Photos by Mike Lawrence, Chris Novak

Although Sheppick was the top seed, Croft had proven himself by earning a finals spot in both the 18- and 16- divisions. The final was highly anticipated and there seemed to be no clear-cut favorite. Sheppick controlled much of the first game and won 15-7. The second game was much tighter and this time Croft came out on top 15-11. As many had predicted the match was to be decided in a tiebreaker. Sheppick did not seem to lose any confidence after dropping the second game and stormed to victory in the third 11-3.

Boy's 14-: The buzz in the boy's 14- was the play of No.1 Chris Coy, who had his left foot and ankle amputated at the age of three but never let that slow him down [see sidebar, below]. No matter how many times you watch him play, it's impossible not to be impressed by what he has been able to overcome and the level that he has been able to bring his game. One of his many dreams has been to compete for the U.S. on the Junior National team. He just missed reaching it last year by finishing 4th in the 14-. This year, coming in as the top seed, he was favored to accomplish his goal.

The upsets began in the round of 16 when No.5 Tripp Isley was tripped up by Richard Sledzik Jr. in a tough match. Isley won the first game 15-12 before Sledzik caught fire to take an impressive second game win, 15-4. The tiebreaker was a see-saw battle which Sledzik barely pulled out, 11-10.

Also exiting early was No.3 David LaForest who lost to Mike Keddie in a heated two game contest. Keddie earned a 15-8 win in the first game then things got heated up in the second. LaForest almost trash-talked his way to victory, but fell just short as Keddie got the last word, and point, 15-14.

Keddie also went on to advance into the semis with an efficient 15-4, 15-1 win over No. 6 Brad Starken. His doubles partner, Coy, earned his semifinal spot without losing a game. Along with Keddie and Coy were two youngsters playing up a division. Jose Rojas and Ismael Aldana were the top two seeds in the boy's 12- and proved that they could play with the big boys in the 14-. Seeded #2 and #4, it was no surprise that Rojas and Aldana had advanced, and it's a good sign for the future of junior racquetball, and at testament to Stockton, California, where both reside.

Unfortunately Rojas was forced to withdraw from the tournament before the semifinals due to medical conditions. He seemed to be in no immediate danger but he and his father wisely decided to be cautious until they knew more. This young man definitely has much more racquetball to be played in his life.

Rojas's forfeit automatically placed Keddie into the finals, but it was yet to be seen who would face him for the title. Aldana played a tough match and gave Coy his biggest challenge to that point, but Coy proved to



Just prior to coming to Chicago for Junior Olympics (and later winning the boy's 14- national title) Chris Coy was honored at the Shriner's 128th Imperial Council Session staged in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Chris and another teen, Kyle Green, were featured at a special event for 3,000 Shriner's to see what can be accomplished through the organization. Chris had to leave the ceremony immediately following its conclusion in order to make it to Chicago in time to play in the Junior Nationals.

At only 5 months of age Chris was diagnosed with cancer, which required surgery to remove a tumor, his spleen and a kidney. Just when it seemed as though he were out of the woods he was hit at the age of three by a devastating bacterial infection.

"Because of the infection, I had no circulation, and they had to amputate my left foot," said Chris, now 14.

Chris didn't let that stop him from leading a normal child's life and after his parents bought a health club when he was 6, Chris began to play racquetball. "I started watching other guys play at the club and I wanted to try it," Coy said. "I knew that when I got in there and started hitting racquetballs it was what I wanted to do."

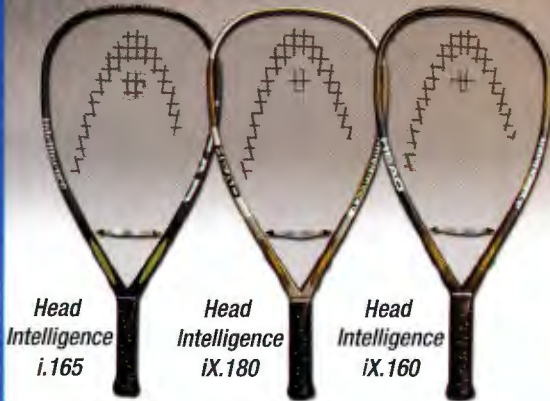
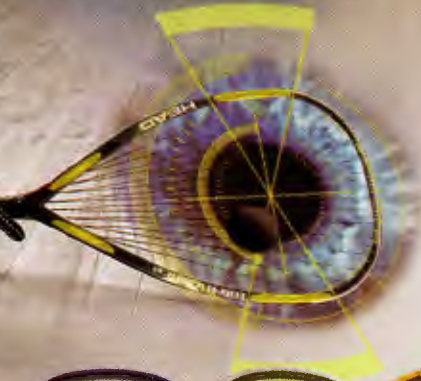
Chris entered his first tournament at age 8 and won. Later he went on to win a state championship and an adult national singles championship in men's B and this past year in men's A. In 2000

he was honored as the first recipient of the Sports Illustrated Young Sportsman of the Year Award.

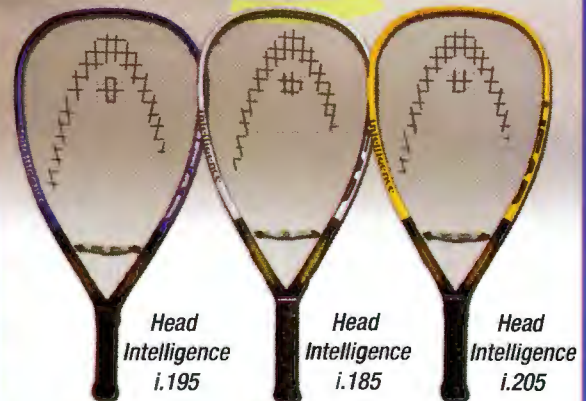
By winning the boy's 14- Chris automatically earns a spot on the U.S. Junior National Team that will compete in the IRF World Junior Championships this December in Orlando, Florida. [Photo: Chris Novak]



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be too much, winning in straight games to advance 15-12, 15-10.

The finals pitted gold medal doubles partners Coy and Keddie against each other. Coy came out firing and earned the first game 15-10 but Keddie wasn't ready to give up yet and forced the match into a decisive third game by winning the second 15-12. With the first two games so close, the third was expected to be hotly contested, but it was all Coy as he earned the boy's 14- national championship 11-2.

Girls Team Playoffs

The girl's 18- division opened with the round of 16 and featured both Fisher sisters, Adrienne and Kelly, advancing past their opponents without allowing a point in either game, of either match. The elder Adrienne was seeded first and Kelly received the No.6 seed. All other top seeds advanced into the quarterfinals including No.2 Janel Tisinger, No.3 Elise Wilson, and No.4 Jeni Fuller.

The quarterfinals saw Adrienne Fisher and Tisinger advance in straight games, while Fuller avenged her younger sister Jesi's 16- loss to Da'Monique Davis with a 15-10, 15-11 win of her own. The remaining seed, Elise Wilson, wasn't as lucky.

Wilson faced Kelly Fisher, who followed in big sisters footsteps to earn a semifinal berth herself. Surprisingly it was in straight games of 15-9, 15-5, as Kelly executed her shots from everywhere on the court. Father Rex couldn't be happier to have both of his daughters advance to the semifinals of the 18-, especially since they were both still competing in the 16- as well.

Adrienne got off to a good start against Fuller in the semi's and never slowed down, advancing in two games of 15-4, 15-2. Sister Kelly didn't get off to such a good start, losing 15-3 to Tisinger in the first, then nearly matching Tisingers play in the first with a 15-7 win to force a tiebreaker. Tisinger shut Kelly down in the tiebreaker, however, winning it 11-2 to keep it from being an all-Fisher final.

Tisinger played Adrienne tough in the finals but Adrienne showed why she has won the USRA Junior Female Athlete of the Year award, two years running. Adrienne won the first game 15-10 and then seemed to warm up even more to take the second 15-6.

Girl's 16-: In the girl's 16- everyone saw early round action except top-seeded Adrienne Fisher. Kimberly



Walsh and Veronica Baldwin played the best match of the round, taking it to a tiebreaker. All three games were close and Walsh bounced back after dropping the first game 15-13 to win the next two 15-11, 11-7. The remaining top eight advanced into the quarterfinals with straight game wins.

Jesi Fuller and Da'Monique Davis were seeded fourth and fifth, respectively, and faced off in the quarters, where Davis took the first game win, 15-11. A frustrated Fuller recovered in the second game to reply with a 15-7 win to force a tiebreaker. Just when Fuller seemed to get her game together, Davis stepped hers up a notch to counter and completed the upset with an 11-8 win in the tiebreaker.

Katie Ferguson gave No.2 Elise Wilson a run for her money in the bottom half of the bracket, surprising everyone when she came out in the first game to shock Wilson with a 15-9 defeat. Wilson was forced to raise her level of play in the second, winning it 15-10, before Ferguson made a last push to force Wilson to the limit. But Wilson held on to advance with an 11-8 win.

Kelly Fisher and Elise Wilson, who squared off earlier in the girl's 18- quarterfinals, were set for a rematch in the 16- semi. Wilson had to be savoring the fact that she had another shot against Kelly. Kelly started where she left off in the last match and won the first game 15-9 only to see a determined Wilson come back to take game two 15-13. The tiebreaker was all Fisher as she gave Wilson a donut to advance. Adrienne had no trouble joining her sister in the finals as she advanced past Davis 15-5, 15-8.

The finals were set and racquetball's own set of "William's sisters" was ready to go. Adrienne may have had some pent up anger against her sibling, and she let

it all out in refusing to let Kelly score a point. In the end it was a lopsided win for Adrienne, 15-0, 15-0.

Girl's 14-: The draw was small in the girl's 14- with most starting play in the quarters. There were some feeder matches, including Alyson Webb's victory over Erin Egan 15-6, 15-11 and Jenny Epstein's dramatic come-from-behind victory over Samantha McGuffey 5-15, 15-14, 11-4.

In the quarterfinals No.1 Ashley Willhite advanced easily in two games as did No.2 Dannielle Pimental and No.3 Sarah Hettesheimer. Fourth seeded Kara Mazur had to face Rebeka Kopf in her match and realized from the beginning that she had her hands full, losing the first game 15-11. Mazur regrouped and came out to dominate the second game 15-4 but Kopf was unfazed when the tiebreaker began. The players exchanged shot after shot until Kopf came out the upset winner, 11-9.

But Kopf's magic ran out in her semi against top-seeded Willhite, who advanced in straight games of 15-10, 15-1. In the first game of their match, Pimental and Hettesheimer were locked in a back and forth battle that Pimental squeaked out, 15-14. Often when a player loses such a close game they come out flat in the next, but that wasn't true with Hettesheimer. The Buckeye wasn't down at all and dominated the second 15-4. The tiebreaker was more like the first game, except that Hettesheimer came out on top 11-8 to advance into the finals.

Willhite, who placed third earlier in the year at the national high school championships as a freshman, showed why she was given the top seed in this year's tournament. She came out looking strong and won the first game 15-5. Hettesheimer played tougher in the second game but Willhite took that one too, 15-9, to complete her run without losing a game. •

HEAD 29th Junior Olympic Championships Bloomington, Illinois: June 26-30, 2002

SINGLES

Boys' 18-: Jack Huczek (Rochester, Mich.) def. Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.) 15-4; 15-3
Boys' 16-: Dan Sheppick (Milwaukie, Ore.) def. Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.) 15-7; 11-15; 11-3
Boys' 14-: Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) def. Mike Keddie (Manchester, N.H.) 15-10; 12-15; 11-2
Boys' 12-: Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.) def. John Sanderson (Park City, Utah) 15-3; 15-1
Boys' 10-: Joseph Lee (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Jake Bredenbeck (Scandia, Minn.) 5-15; 15-8; 11-3
Boys' 8-: Marco Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) def. Jose Diaz (Stockton, Calif.) 15-4; 15-10
Boys' 8- Multi-bounce-: Jose Diaz (Stockton, Calif.) def. Sam Reid (Portland, Ore.) 11-2, 7-11, 11-9
Boys' 6- Multi-bounce-: Zachary Pellowski (Eau Claire, Wisc.) def. Anthony DiMatteo (Bethany, Conn.) 11-6, 11-2
Girls' 18-: Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) def. Janel Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 15-10; 15-6
Girls' 16-: Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) def. Kelley Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) 15-0; 15-0
Girls' 14-: Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Sarah Hettesheimer (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-5; 15-9
Girls' 12-: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Brittany Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 15-12; 15-13
Girl's 10-: Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Nicole Grundman (St. Cloud, Minn.) 15-6; 9-15; 11-2
Girl's 8- Multi-bounce-: Abbey Lavelly (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) def. Lauren Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) 4-11; 11-1; 11-7

DOUBLES

Boys' 18-: Jack Huczek (Rochester, Mich.)/Travis Woodbury (Arlington, Va.) def. Clay Burris (Brandon, Fla.)/Ryan Lindell (Beaverton, Ore.) 15-3; 15-10
Boys' 16-: Dan Sheppick (Portland, Ore.)/Brad Slocum (Sarasota, Fla.) def. Joey Lakowske (Corvallis, Ore.)/Charles Pratt (Portland, Ore.)

15-4; 15-3

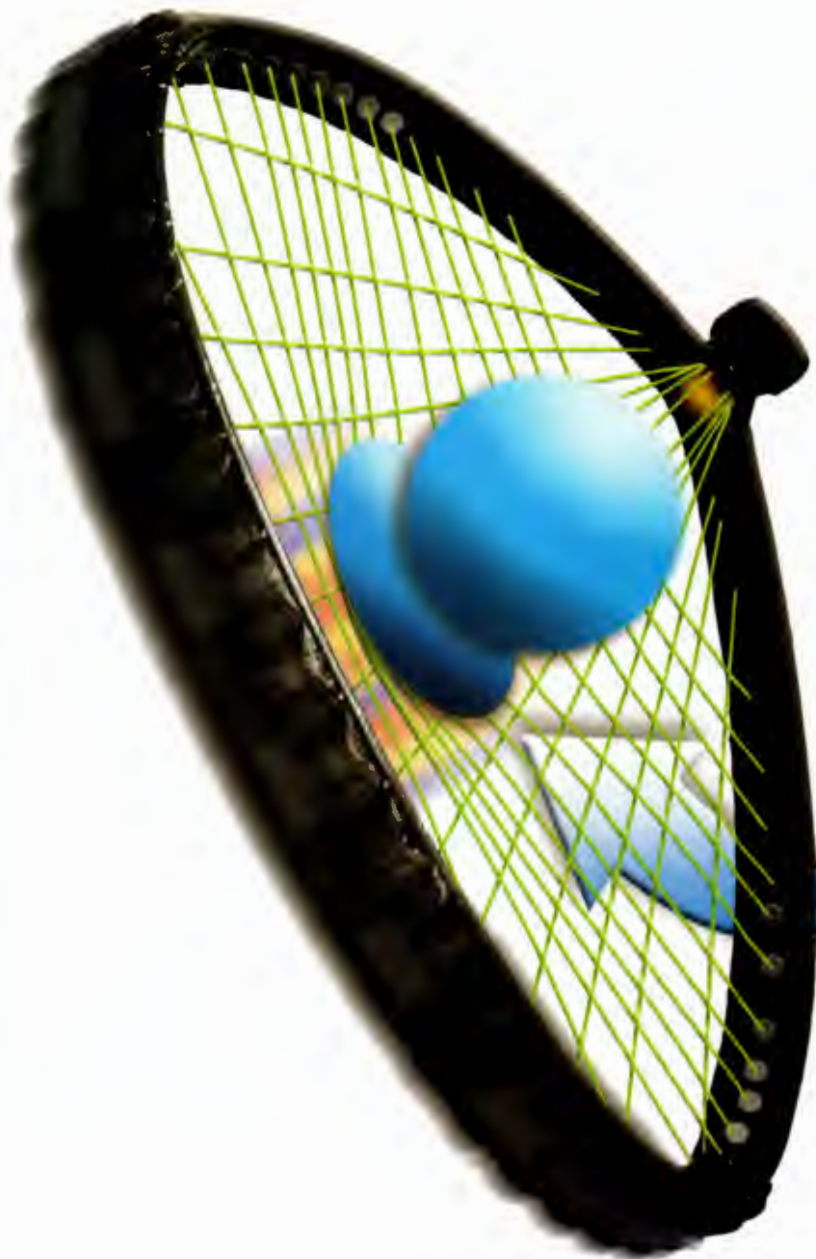
Boy's 14-: Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.)/Mike Keddie (Manchester, N.H.) def. Nathan Chirban (Rolla, Mo.)/Jacob Hutkins (Lincoln, Neb.) 15-1; 15-7
Boy's 12-: Jansen Allen (Rice, Texas)/Jonathan Doyle (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Justin Fleck (Lombard, Ill.)/Trevor Snyders (Woodridge, Ill.) 15-6; 15-2
Boy's 10-: Taylor Regier (Gladstone, Ore.)/Dylan Reid (Portland, Ore.) def. Brad Falvey (Madison, Wisc.)/Mathew Hunter (Naples, Fla.) 15-12; 15-1
Girl's 18-: Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.)/Janel Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. Laurie Fisk (Kirkwood, Mo.)/Sarah Ulmer (St. Louis, Mo.) 15-3; 15-5
Girl's 14-: Danielle Pimental (Corvallis, Ore.)/Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Jennifer Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.)/Kara Mazur (Avon, Conn.) 15-11; 15-11
Girl's 12-: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Britney Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Sharon Jackson (Shelbyville, Ind.)/Shanae Taylor (Shelbyville, Ind.) 15-1; 15-2
Girl's 10-: Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Nicole Grundman (St. Cloud, Minn.)/Melissa Quinones (Hollywood, Fla.) 15-7; 15-7
Mixed 18-: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Mike Lawrence (Memphis, Tenn.) def. Cari Mitlitsky (Fresh Meadows, N.Y.)/Josh Epstein (Great Neck, N.Y.) 15-7; 15-8
Mixed 16-: Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.)/Charles Pratt (Portland, Ore.) def. Da'Monique Davis (San Antonio, Texas)/Brady Hernandez (Harvey, La.) 15-13; 15-9
Mixed 14-: Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.)/Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) def. Kara Mazur (Avon, Conn.)/Richard Sledzick (Brockton, Mass.) 15-1; 15-1
Mixed 12-: Britney Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.)/Jonathan Doyle (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Jansen Allen (Rice, Texas) 15-14; 15-12
Mixed 10-: Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Taylor Knoth (Milwaukie, Ore.) def. Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Taylor Regier (Gladstone, Ore.) 15-3; 15-2

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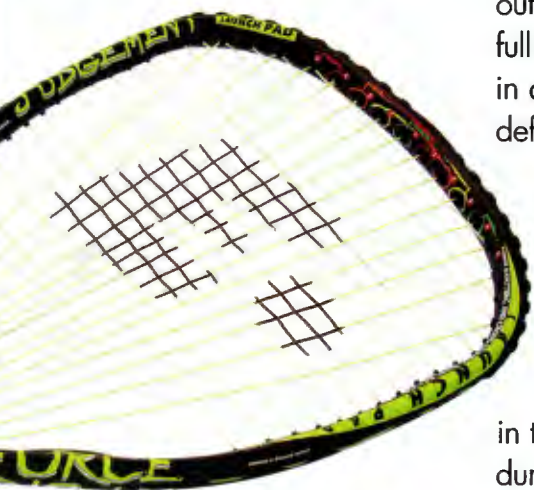
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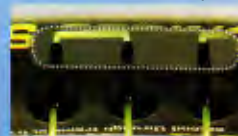
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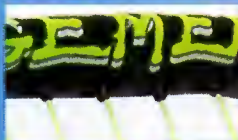
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Preview ...

by Doug Ganim

It's hard to believe, but it's already time for the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, scheduled for November 20-24 in Memphis, Tennessee. This year's event promises to be the best ever, with a record turnout of both players and spectators. This preview is meant to give you an idea of what to expect from this year's event, whether you plan to attend in person, or are forced to follow the action from home.

Amateur Draws The draw will be limited to 750 players and at press time there were only 200 spots left, so you'll want to enter promptly if you plan to attend. Amateur matches are played primarily at Wimbledon Sportsplex and The University of Memphis. Due to the huge draw and lack of available court time, no consolation rounds are offered, so it's strongly recommend that all players enter two divisions (three if one of them is doubles) to get in as much court time as possible. With over 70 divisions and entrants from across the globe, the competition should be excellent. The top four finishers in each division will receive oversized commemorative medals, that weigh about a pound each!

Pro Match Tickets There is no better place in the world to watch pro racquetball than at the U.S. OPEN –

and every top player on the IRT, LPRA, and LEGEND's tours will be on hand in Memphis. For the hardcore fan, this means incredible matches to watch right from the round of 64. All pro match courts are professionally wired for sound so spectators can hear every grunt, groan, and under-the-breath comment, and the ball sounds like a missile so be sure to bring your earplugs if you have sensitive "flappers". All feature matches take place on the breathtaking made-for-TV portable stadium court. This engineering marvel has two walls made of crystal clear Lucite acrylic that is optically correct (no tinting, blurring, or bending of light) and results in a seamless visual experience that makes you feel like you're right in the court with the players. The stadium seats about 1,000 fans and ticket sales have been hot. We have already sold 65% of ticket inventory

• men's tour schedule



2002-2003 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE

See the July/August issue for final 2001-2002 rankings and results from last season.

August 22-25	New Orleans, LA	Summer Cooler @ Elmwood Fitness Center, 504-553-0119
September 5-8	Stockton, CA	Pro Am @ In Shape Fitness Club, 209-472-2100
September 19-23	Denver, CO	RacquetballCatalog.com ProFest @ Family Fitness Racquet Club
September 26-30	Chihuahua, Mexico	Chihuahua Open @
October 10-13	Virginia	Virginia Open @
Oct.31 - Nov.3	Chicago, IL	Halloween Classic @ Athletic Club of Bloomingdale, 630-893-9577
November 20-24	Memphis, TN	Choice 7th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400
2003		
Jan.30 - Feb.2	Coral Springs, FL	Harold Mckahand Memorial Open @
February 6-9	Austin, TX	Longhorn Open @
February 13-16	Boston, MA	Foxwoods Casino Open @
February 20-23	Portland, OR	Portland Open @
Feb.27 - Mar.2	San Diego, CA	San Diego Open @
April 24-27	Virginia	Virginia Beach Open @
May	Pro Nationals	TBA

For information concerning any IRT events, contact Dave Negrete at 630-430-1IRT [1478] or send e-mail to negretz@mindspring.com, or go to www.irt-tour.com.



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for the week, with the semi and finals sessions closer to 85% sold out. Even if you can't take off for the entire week I suggest you come in to town just for the week-end of parties and pro matches.

Parties, Parties, and More Parties! Well-known for the evening social functions, the U.S. OPEN will offer more of the same this year starting with the "free admission" Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude on Tuesday, the Hollywood Casino Night on Thursday, the Players Dance Party in the Pub on Friday and the largest bash of the year—the Saturday evening Grand Gala Party with the Pros. Other activities include a special Wednesday International Reception for all our "out of the country" guests and a weeklong Industry Trade Show in the Player's Village featuring all the top racquetball manufacturers displaying the latest and greatest gear available in the sport.

Can't make it to Memphis? If you can't play in this year's tournament or even come in for the weekend to watch the featured matches and do some partying then the last resort is to follow the action from home.

To help make this easier for you we will transform our website — www.choicehotelsusopen.com — into a computer "window" for a sneak peek at the action. Plans include offering frequent results updates for both pros and amateurs, digital photography, streaming video of select pro matches, and web-radio voice interviews with top pro's as well as play-by-play voice streaming of the quarters, semis, and finals. Special thanks to our computer guru and webmaster, Willie Tilton, for spearheading this ambitious project.

THE PRO's! As always, this marquee pro event provides incredible entertainment as each player seeks the coveted US OPEN title. Anyone on tour will tell you that the intensity is so high in every match, that it demands every athlete's 100% best effort. Never before have so many different players had a real shot at winning the U.S. OPEN. The IRT and LPRA tour's have begun to show more parity at the upper ranking positions, thanks to some hot young talent that has emerged. Read more about some of the top names, and "Legends" that you'll see in Memphis this year at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN ... **beginning on page 48.**



• women's tour schedule

2002-2003 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE

See the July/August issue for final 2001-2002 rankings and results from last season.

September 6-8	Rosarito Beach, Mexico	@ Rosarito Beach Resort, 800-343-8582
September 20-22	Charlotte, NC	Downtown Branch, Charlotte YMCA, 704-716-6100
October 18-20	Albuquerque, NM	Midtown Sports & Wellness, 505-266-8960
November 1-3	Colorado Springs, CO	Lynmar Classic @ Lynmar Racquet & Health Club, 719-598-4069
November 20-24	Memphis, TN	Choice 7th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400
December 13-15	Denver, CO	Lakewood Athletic Club, 303-989-5545
2003		
January 17-19	Cincinnati, OH	Five Seasons Country Club, 513-469-1400
February 1-3	San Diego, CA	Sorrento Valley Racquetball & Fitness Center, 858-455-1551
February 14-16	Nashville, TN	TBA
Feb.28 - Mar.2	Minneapolis, MN	Central Courts, 763-572-0330
March 13-15	Baltimore, MD	TBA
March 28-30	Saskatoon, Canada	River Racquet Athletic Club, 306-242-0010
May 9-11	Portland, OR	TBA
May	Pro Nationals	TBA

Combined IRT/LPRA stops feature a Saturday final. For LPRA information, contact Jim Hiser at 719-635-5396, ext. 130, or email JHiser@usra.org, or Ed Willis at Ewillis1@aol.com, or go to www.ladiesproracquetball.com.



racquetball in america

by tom rall

Racquetball is a uniquely American sport. Football, arguably our country's biggest sport, is a derivative of European rugby. We just added padding and slowed the game down. Our beloved baseball came to us from England and is a derivative of cricket. Golf has its origins in Scotland over 275 years ago in a place we today call St. Andrews. Squash dates back nearly 300 years, and started in Pakistan. Tennis also began in England over 180 years ago!

If you've never played a tennis tournament, it's similar to a racquetball tournament, except for one thing – longevity. Tennis tournaments have been going on for nearly two centuries, and almost 150 years here in the USA. Case in point: I recently played the Colorado State Tennis Tournament and was both surprised and a bit intimidated to learn that it is the oldest tennis tournament in the country – the 125th annual! Don Budge and Bobby Riggs both won it and then went on to tennis greatness, and they were relatively recent.

Tennis has been around a long time, without question, but so have most sports other than ours. By comparison, racquetball is still in its infancy. On the other hand, as I mentioned, there really aren't many truly American sports. Basketball definitely stands out as 100% American. And what a great game! But it wouldn't surprise me to learn that it too arrived in the U.S. from somewhere else. Bottom line? Racquetball is *our* sport. And there's nothing else quite like it.

So shouldn't we be going out of our way to nurture it, to improve it, and to introduce it to the world? Instead, sadly, I keep hearing the same old thing. It's either, "You know, I don't see any new young people playing," or "Gee! The courts are empty. Guess no one's interested in racquetball anymore," or "Racquetball's dying. Nobody plays anymore. They should really do something about that." Who the heck is 'they'? I'd like to meet 'them' some day.

My point? Well, I'd like to suggest that 'we' are 'they' and — as such — 'we' owe it to ourselves to encourage more people to play, by making it more appealing to the masses. If nothing else this would be a start at getting more Americans off their couches and on to the courts. It's not like we don't know what the problems are either; i.e. fewer players playing, fewer younger people entering the sport, fewer courts in clubs throughout the country ...

So 'we' (all of us who already play) *are* 'they' — there is no one else. And we should be able to make a difference. To start, how about we all stop complaining about the current state and condition of the sport and instead start being more proactive and do something about it? It's your sport. If there's something you don't like about it, try doing something to make things better.

I've talked with a hundred or so players here in the U.S. and in Europe, and here are some of the things they suggested to raise racquetball to the echelon it deserves:

Players ...

Stop complaining about the sport and start figuring out how to make it better. Finding fault is easy. It's harder to see the good, but it's there. You just have to look for it.

Work with your state association, not against it. So many players (most of whom I dearly appreciate and respect) complain, complain, complain about how their state association is this-or-that. Hey! If there's something you wanna' say ... say it to your board so *they* know what's bugging you. Go to a board meeting and state your opinion(s). Then here's a novel idea: work *with* them to fix it, whatever it might be.

Set an example. Don't be a jerk on the court or off. People are watching. Potential newcomers to the game are watching. Don't let them see players shouting, arguing, threatening opponents, throwing racquets, or debating the rules of the game.

Talk about playing racquetball to your friends, relatives, even co-workers. Let them know how much you enjoy the game, how much fun it is, as well as the health benefits of the sport. Encourage them to play.

Share your ideas. Don't be afraid of recommending something to your state board that might motivate others to play, or that might expand the juniors program. If you're going to be vocal, be vocal to the right people.

Volunteer to do something to help in your state. A handful of board members can't possibly do it all. They're volunteers too, and need all the help they can get.

Offer your help at a tournament, rather than just sit around waiting for your match to come up. Yours is not the only match and the more who help the better the tournament will run. You can offer to ref (or find one), post results, round up players, help at check in – just ask!

Teach others how to play the game. Pass along what you know. Get AmPro certified!

Be more than just a player. For our sport to grow and expand, it needs more participation at other levels – by the people who know it best. You'll enjoy your court time even more if you become part of the larger "scheme of things" by making the sport better for everyone.

Here are some things that many feel State Boards should be doing in order to make racquetball better:

State Boards ...

Have a plan – several plans – to organize, educate, promote and expand racquetball in your state. Don't just have monthly meetings, say a lot and do nothing. Put plans in writing, and into action. Then track your progress. Publicize those plans and projects in your state newsletter. Build a network to develop long and short-term objectives.

Use your newsletter to do more than just list player rankings and tournament results. Report on what the board is doing to make racquetball better in your state. Use the newsletter as a 'marketing tool' for special programs and to generate interest, not just to meet your publication requirement.

Research your state's "profile." Find out how many clubs are in the state, how many people play in each club, what are the peak play times. Who has shuttles, who doesn't; which clubs have weekly shoot-outs, which clubs have active juniors programs; which ones don't and why, how many players from each club compete in tournaments, how many are USRA members, how many play tournaments and are not members, player demographics, ages and more. Build a database and analyze this information, then develop an action plan to address each item. Set "goals and objectives" and assign tasks and responsibilities to board members; implement your plans; track your results and report them through your newsletter and website. Generate a club directory to post on your website, as a reference for both members and non-members. The more you know about the resources in your state, the better you'll be able to use those resources to grow the sport.

Be organizers, but also be 'marketers' of the sport. You know your players best. Work with the USRA to exchange ideas about what works, and what doesn't, in promoting the game in your particular area.

We live in strange and difficult times. Next to larger concerns about terrorism, a faltering economy, politics and religion, figuring out ways to make our sport better pales by comparison. Nonetheless, it's important to us, in our everyday lives, so we must maintain our focus. We must be positive. Remember, 'we' are 'they.' Making our sport better is up to *us* – no one else!

Thomas Rall is a racquetball activist and former champion at World Seniors, National Masters, French Open, Irish Open and Dutch Open; earned a #1 national ranking, and is an AmPro instructor, state board member, CRA newsletter editor, Ektelon newsletter editor, and contributing writer for Racquetball magazine.

We want you back

The USRA membership has hovered around the 18,000 mark for the last several years (excluding clubs and separate magazine subscribers). While the database of competitive players contains over 45,000 records, less than half are active and we encourage players who have allowed their membership to lapse to renew. Here is a monthly breakdown of USRA membership over the past 30 months:

	2000	2001	2002
JAN	18,642	18,487	18,718
FEB	18,727	18,394	18,641
MAR	19,350	18,966	18,577
APR	19,065	18,542	19,021
MAY	18,363	18,096	18,263
JUN	17,998	17,815	17,609
JUL	17,953	17,795	17,162
AUG	18,121	17,892	
SEP	18,209	18,018	
OCT	18,468	18,351	
NOV	18,524	18,558	
DEC	18,910	18,717	

How to renew ... ?

Renewing your USRA membership has never been easier. All members are mailed at least two post card renewals (at 90 and 30 days prior to expiration) which can be returned with payment directly to the USRA.

You can also renew online at www.usrastore.com to insure uninterrupted benefits and services (like delivery of RACQUETBALL). It's an easy and immediate way to activate your membership and obtain a receipt that can be used as proof of membership until your card comes in the mail.

If you still prefer to sign up at an event, remember that it may take awhile for tournament directors to forward your application and fees to the state association, and then even awhile longer than that before they are turned into the national office. Renew direct to keep your magazines coming. And, yes, your state still receives its portion of fees using this method ...

we all need to do our part ...

State directors and board members at the 2002 leadership conference



Photo: John Foust

tional efforts. Through the various state affiliates and the promotion of racquetball on a national level, we hope to "build business" for court clubs nationwide, which will help keep courts intact and continue to offer a healthy lifestyle choice for players of all ages and abilities.

While a great deal of effort goes toward scheduling, hosting, managing and running sanctioned events, state associations also have responsibilities for communicating with local constituencies through websites and publications. Many have also taken on new and expanded challenges which include calendars, funding junior teams, travel leagues and promotional campaigns, just to name a few. To assist with these communications and special programs, a full third of all membership fees (\$10) go directly to your state association. In 2001, that portion of collected fees totalled over \$120,000 distributed to states to support these programs. While such monetary support may assist with the day-to-day operations of a state association, hundreds of volunteers also spend thousands of hours each year donating their time, effort and professional skills serving on your state boards.

your membership ...

The USRA recognizes 50 state affiliates and representatives nationwide — each organized independently, but all committed to the mission of the USRA. While some states have a large board of directors; neighboring states may have smaller versions, comprised of 3-4 enthusiasts. Whatever the size, this network of state associations is intended to build an organized core of leaders who coordinate racquetball at the state level. These volunteers provide a foundation for the sport and ensure its development through proper teaching and organized promo-

STATE WEBSITE

Alabama	
Alaska	alaskaracquetball.com
Arizona	azracquetball.com
Arkansas	arpp.freesevers.com
California	CSRA.active.com
Colorado	coloradoracquetball.com
Connecticut	connecticutrballassoc.com
Delaware	dara.org
Florida	racquetball-online.com
Georgia	georgiaracquetball.com
Hawaii	
Idaho	idahoracquetball.com
Illinois	llinoisracquetball.com
Indiana	INSRA.org
Iowa	geocities.com/iowarball/
Kansas	
Kentucky	www.eteamz.com/ksra/
Louisiana	laracquetball.org
Maine	Maineracquetball.com
Maryland	mwraweb.com
Massachusetts	neracquetball.com
Michigan	michiganracquetball.org
Minnesota	mnrball.com
Mississippi	
Missouri	

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... at work

Thirty Bucks?!

So, you've just written a check or plopped down the cash — on top of your entry fee — at the check-in desk of one of the 600 sanctioned events held around the country.

Here's a breakdown of how those fees are allocated:

State Operations = 33%
Magazine = 30%
Support Services = 28%
Public Services = 9%



Costs of Membership

Last January, the base USRA membership fee was raised from \$20 to \$30. This was the first increase in fees since January 1994, and while some may argue that the fee is too high, or the increase wasn't justified — the fact remains that the USRA membership package is one of the most valuable, and cost-effective, among the National Governing Bodies.

NGB MEMBERSHIP FEE COMPARISON

[January 2002]	Membership Fee, Annual Dues	Magazine Frequency	Membership Strength
National Archery Assoc	\$40 adult/ \$36 jr/ \$20 jr w/o mag	8 yearly	6,000
USA Badminton	\$25 adult/ \$15 jr/ \$45 family	Bi-monthly	3,000
USA Boxing	\$27	Quarterly	21,500
USA Cycling	\$45	Bi-monthly	44,000
US Fencing Assoc	\$40 adult/ \$40 jr	Quarterly	16,000
US Field Hockey	\$30 adult/ \$21 jr/ \$10 (age 14-)	Bi-monthly	14,000
US Racquetball	\$30 / \$20 / \$15 jr w/o mag	Bi-monthly	18,000
USA Shooting	\$35 adult/ \$15 jr	Monthly	6,000
USA Swimming	\$25/ \$45 family	Bi-monthly	221,000
USA Table Tennis	\$35 adult/ \$20 jr	Bi-monthly	7,800
US Water Polo	\$35 / \$40 masters	Bi-monthly	20,000
USA Weightlifting	\$40 master/ \$35 adult/ \$10 jr	Quarterly	4,000
USA Wrestling	\$35	Bi-monthly	127,000

• **State Operations:** \$10.00 of each USRA membership stays in your state, when it meets minimum publication and performance benchmarks in servicing local constituencies. • **Support Services:** Includes membership and renewal services, insurance benefits, sanctioned event materials, database management. • **Public Services:** Includes public information websites, publications, instruction, surveys, merchandising and promotion of the sport. • **Not included in these categories** are costs for overhead (salaries & office expense), national events, IRF, U.S. National Teams, or Training Camps.

QUESTIONS? Contact USRA Membership Director, Kevin Joyce, at 719-635-5396, ext.123; email: KJoyce@usra.org

Montana montanaracquetball.com
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire nhracquetball.com
New Jersey newjerseyracquetball.com
New Mexico home.flash.net/~kcpayne/
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Rhode Island neracquetball.com
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South Dakota
Tennessee yellowkite.com/tara/
Texas txra.net
Utah cnrgroup.com/ura/
Vermont tggweb.com/gmra/
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Washington washrball.org
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In the last issue I introduced my magical "Drive Z Serve" which comes from the family of "power" serves [see July/August, 1999*]. Remember the "power" principle: the harder you hit the ball the less time your opponent has to react. Having two power serves with the same starting motion, and from the same position, adds deception.

Now let's turn our attention to the family of "soft" serves ... and I'll teach you my magical "Backhand Lob Serve." This serve is being used more and more by the pros (including me who has one of the best power drive serves in the game today). I developed my "Backhand Lob Serve" for several reasons:

1. It's different. A different angle, a different side, just different. Anything different usually affects your opponent adversely.
2. As a righty, I can put a wallpaper ball along the left sidewall, which makes it more difficult to return.
3. I have a better view of the ball during its full trajectory. Then as I'm relocating out of the service box into good center court position, my eyes don't have to leave the ball until the last minute.

Remember the principles of the "Lob Serve" [Sept/Oct '99]:

- The ball is hit softly, quite a change of pace from the 100+ mph ball hit during the "power drive serves."
- The ball is hit higher and out of your opponents hitting zone (more like chest high or higher).
- Higher percentages of getting the ball over the short line, which makes it an excellent second serve.

The change of pace, height, angle and type of serve keeps your opponent guessing and can cause a weak return. This philosophy is the same as a pitcher in baseball, who throws different pitches to keep the batter off balance, confused and cause a weak hit.



Photos: Rodney Boyd

Remember, if you play that "power player" or "big bruiser" who likes to hit low and hard, you can turn to the lob serve to defuse their power...and now you'll be able to serve a "backhand" lob as well as a "forehand" lob. Believe me, I live by this philosophy; if it works for me at the pro level I know it can work for you.

Now, let's break down my magical "Backhand Lob Serve," so you too can effectively use this serve with the same confidence that I do:



TRICK #1 The Ready Position

- Body square to side wall
- One foot on the back line (short line), lined up about shoulder width apart side by side
- Knees soft and relaxed
- Weight even (50/50)
- Racquet cocked up and waist high
- Body erect, Eyes on ball

TRICK #2 The Step

- It's a one-step, slight 45 degree angle, motion unlike the two-step drive serve motion because we do not want to generate power
- A short step with the right foot for righties or the left foot for lefties
- Ball dropped as the step begins off front foot about chest high
- Front toe slightly opens to the front corner
- Racquet goes up and back
- Knees continue to be soft and relaxed
- Weight shifts slightly to front foot (60/40)
- Body erect, Eyes on ball

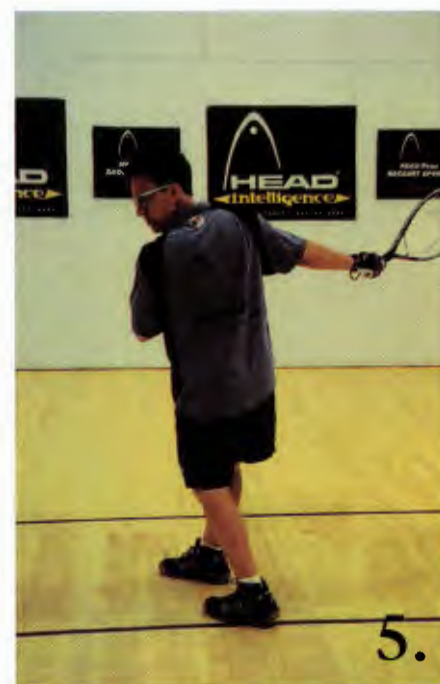
TRICK #3 The Swing

- Racquet begins to move across the body
- The step is completed
- Hips and shoulders begin to open
- Knees soft and relaxed
- Weight slightly moves to front foot (55/45)
- Body erect, Eyes on ball



TRICK #4 The Contact Point

- Legs remain at a 45 degree angle and weight back to even (50/50)
- Ball at full extension
- Racquet comes through, chest high, slightly angled up so the ball lofts over the short line
- Wrist relatively stiff
- Hips and shoulders open even more, towards corner
- Back foot begins to pivot and bend slightly
- Body erect, Eyes on ball



TRICK #5 The Follow Through

- Legs are still at a 45 degree angle and weight even (50/50)
- Racquet is coming around and should end up facing the back wall
- Hips and shoulders completely open facing the front wall
- Knees relaxed
- Body erect, Eyes on ball

**Early installments of "The Magic Show" are now available online, by going to racq-mag.com and clicking on "back issues."*



Wilson Game Plan: Pack Power in your Punch!

by Chris Evon, with Derek Robinson & Cliff Swain

The number one question we receive when doing clinics has to be, "How can I get more power?" Let's look at the components that can add power to your game, then we'll outline some steps to maximize your power. Cliff and Derek are two of the hardest hitters on the tour. Hitting with controlled power is one of their keys to success. It can be yours too!

Power. Where does it come from?

EQUIPMENT: There are three components to look for in a racquet to get maximum power.

- **Mass.** Yes, more mass equals more power. However in a quick sport like racquetball light is sometimes better. Weight distribution is key. The lighter the racquet the more head weight is needed. The heavier the racquet, the more evenly balanced it should be.

- **Stiffness.** If a racquet is made of stiff materials (some type of graphite), the ball will respond quickly off a well-strung racquet (there are many articles on stringing for maximum power that you can reference). If a racquet is too flexible, (aluminum and low end racquets), energy is lost as the frame flexes and power is compromised.

- **Speed.** We call this maneuverability. The quicker you can move a mass through an object, the more power you can generate. If a racquet is too heavy, it will be difficult to swing the racquet quickly, and you will sacrifice power.

SWING: Perfecting your swing to maximize power can take the help of a qualified instructor. If you are serious, spend the time and the money. You won't regret it! Here are some techniques that *must* be present in your swing to create power:

- **Distance.** *Short swing = less power. Long swing = more power.* Start with a good back swing. [see Derek, picture #1]

For most people, if your elbow is at the height of your shoulder, that is sufficient. The racquet should be above your head. If your elbow is too close to your body, or the head of your racquet is too low, the distance your racquet travels to the ball will be shortened, and power will be lost!

- **Swing Speed.** *Slow swing = less power. Fast swing = more power.* In racquetball, good swing speed is generated by all the components of your arm bending and extending at the proper time and in the proper sequence. As you notice in Derek's back swing his arm is bent and his wrist is cocked. This is going to allow him to move his arm faster towards his contact point. If his arm and wrist were straight and stiff, his movement would be too slow. He leads the stroke with his elbow, keeping his wrist cocked and his racquet back. (Derek picture #2).





At impact, his elbow and wrist will extend (straighten) quickly. You must snap your wrist through the ball. A good strong wrist snap is an important key to power!

- **Hips and Legs.** The movement of your lower body is key to generating maximum power. As you are turned sideways for your swing, step on a diagonal towards the ball. Your contact point for a straight in shot is off the heel of your front foot and not too close to your body. You want a comfortable and complete extension of the arm. The farther back you contact the ball in your stance, the less power you will be able to generate. As you step, both legs should bend to about 90 degrees.

- **Rotation.** Most people feel that they have to transfer their weight from the back foot to the front foot to create power. In reality, you want to rotate your body. As you set up for your stroke, your belly button should be facing the side wall or even slightly towards the back wall. When you finish, it should be facing the front wall. This rotation, led from your hips, helps you to generate more speed in your swing, which always translates into more power. [see Cliff, in photo #3, for good rotation and follow through]

- **Follow through.** A good swing will produce a good follow through. You can tell your mistakes by looking at your follow through. If it is short your backswing was probably too short. If it is too low, you probably did not extend your arm and wrist into the ball at contact.



TIMING: Timing is the one thing that can improve both your power and your accuracy. How many times have you heard an athlete complain that their “timing” is just off? In order to maximize power, you must synchronize the movements of your legs, hips and arm.

- **Start with your legs.** Get a good strong balanced step into the ball.
- **Lead with your hips.** Your hips will start the rotation forward.
- **Come through with your arm.** Soon after your hips start their rotation, lead with your elbow and lay your racquet back [see Derek, picture #2]. Snap your wrist and extend your arm. Good extension is key! Be sure your shoulder, elbow, wrist and racquet are in line with the ball at contact.
- **Balanced follow through.** Your legs are stable, hips naturally rotating around, and your arm coming through on a flat natural plane.

As with everything practice makes perfect! The power is within you — waiting to be discovered!

Attend a Wilson Racquetball Road Show with Big D! Learn how to maximize your power, and how to choose the right equipment for your game style. Coming to a city near you!



Q: I have been injured, on and off, for years with sprained ankles, pulled groin muscles, elbow, back ... you name it, I had it. But I love racquetball so much that I really don't take the time off necessary to heal. What do you recommend?

A: You are DEFINITELY not alone. I hear and see this all the time and can share some valuable information on how to handle your injuries that I've learned from Diana McNab, former Sports Psychologist of the U.S. Team, and other sports specialists.

First of all, any injury can be traumatic. Aside from the physical pain, it can create fear and a severe loss of confidence. As a matter of fact we don't realize that the emotional healing sometimes can be as important, if not more important, than the physical healing.

In my career I have witnessed so many injured racquetball players take the necessary steps to come back from their injury as strong, if not stronger, than before. This list includes Jason Mannino, who broke his back and is now #2 on the IRT; Ruben Gonzalez, who ruptured his Achilles tendon, now on the U.S. Team and current National Doubles champ; Jackie Parasio, who has worked through a series of back, ankle, shoulder injuries, to become a long-time U.S. Team member and #3 on the LPRA tour; Sudsy Monchik, who broke his foot last year, and is already preparing for the coming season. Even I've had to come back from a slight tear in my rotator cuff!

So you too can follow the easy steps needed in order to bounce back from an injury; the players mentioned above did (reliably) and their results speak for themselves.

Step #1 • Accept You Are Injured.

- Don't deny it, ignore it, but rather embrace it. Do not continue to play with an injury; it usually gets worse and becomes more serious.
- Seek a professional opinion. Stick to your rehab as prescribed by your medical professional.
- Don't let your injury get you down. Focus on turning it into a positive (it may be a blessing in disguise, you never know).

Step #2 • Take this time to refocus, regroup and take a good hard look at yourself.

- Use your injury as a time to rest; we often play year round with no time off.
 - Re-evaluate your training program. Sometimes an injury is just bad luck or it can be due to over training.
- Use this time to improve in other areas: lift weights, visualize, stretch, etc.

- Re-assess your game, without losing perspective. Re-visit your goals, attitude, coach, fitness and conditioning levels, nutrition and physical game.
- Enjoy the time off. It's an opportunity to regain balance in your life.

Step #3 • What to Do

- Drink plenty of water.
- Eat plenty of protein for tissue repair.
- Employ visualization on a daily basis. Watch tapes of yourself, mentors, professionals.
- Practice stress management....relaxation, breathing exercising, meditation and/or stretching.
- Use massage therapy.
- Use affirmation statements.
- Follow your prescription, if applicable, from your professional advisor. Don't deviate when you start feeling better, as too many people do and are vulnerable to re-injury.

Step #4 • The Comeback

- Take it slow. It's better to crawl ... then walk ... then run. Don't come out of the blocks running because if you overdo it too quickly the re-injury can be worse the second time around.
- Get into playing shape, slowly. Walk, then walk/run, then light jogging or biking or rowing.
- Get your timing back by easing into it. Drill first (stationary at first, then moving). Too often players set up matches right off the bat and that's where the trouble begins. As you get stronger, start to arrange matches with players one level below you and then one level equal to you. Take it one step at a time.
- Stretch on a regular basis.
- Continue to weight train according to the doctor's prescription.
- Limit your expectations and be realistic. If you put too much pressure on yourself to perform as if you weren't injured, you could undermine your confidence and set yourself up for failure, rather than success.
- Have faith in the future. After your injury you'll face many emotional challenges such as fear of re-injury, fear that you will never regain your strength, speed or flexibility, and fear of pain. But in most cases the injury heals and it's full steam ahead.

Remember ... if you are patient, persistent and positive you can return from your injury as good — if not better — than before. Jason, Ruben, Jackie and I did and now Sudsy is right behind us. Dig deep and be ready for the challenge that lies ahead. I know you can do it, so enjoy the process!

Smarter Head, Better Game — by Fran Davis • "Recover Properly"

email your questions to: fran@frandavisracquetball.com

RACQUETBALL

September – October 2002

MAINS & CROSSES **By Steve Crandall** *Vice President, Ashaway Sales & Marketing*

CONFESSIONS OF A HYBRID ENTHUSIAST

Hybrid stringing is the practice of using two different types of strings (one for the crosses, the other for the mains) to take advantage of the best properties of both. In our last column we reviewed the experience of two racquetball stringers who take the conventional approach to hybrid stringing — using them primarily to minimize the frustration of chronic string breakage while enhancing racquet playability. This time we will talk with a self-confessed hybrid enthusiast who experiments with string combinations whenever he gets a chance to see what unique advantages he can gain for his customers as well as himself.

Bob Bagley began his stringing career at the age of fourteen, back in the 1970s. While working on wooden tennis racquets, he found it took a lot of finesse to tighten them without breaking them. Today, he works out of a sporting goods store on Ramstein Air Force Base near Frankfurt, Germany, and strings for many prominent players on the European Racquetball Tour.

He said, "I'm a big hybrid nut right now. I am experimenting with everything I can. Hybrids — different strings and different tensions — give us a tremendous amount of flexibility to offer our customers more of what they want most. As a result, my business in recent years has gone from about 25% to nearly 50% hybrid stringing jobs."

Bagley is an avid racquetball player and instructor. He uses his and his students' experiences on the court as feedback to further refine hybrid combinations. Bagley also compares notes frequently with other stringers to see what combinations are working well for their customers. Here are some combinations that have proven to be effective.

Most Popular Combo. As with other stringers, the most popular hybrid for Bagley is one that reduces string breakage while giving power players somewhat better playability, such as Ashaway's Killfire™ Pro. It consists of 16 gauge braided and bonded aramid mains with lively all-purpose nylon strings on the crosses. Without aramid fibers, Bagley said, a lot of hard hitters can't find racquet strings that last more than a couple weeks. He is also experimenting with

Killfire XL, a 17-gauge aramid string, that offers more spin.

An Even Better Bite. Some stringers are also trying this combination the other way around. To get better bite and more spin on the ball, they will try a 17- or 18-gauge aramid string on the crosses with the nylon on the mains.

ZYEX®/ Nylon. The latest generation ZYEX strings provide an exceptional combination of power and response. PowerKill™ Pro from Ashaway is an example. To eliminate what some perceive to be "mushiness" in an all ZYEX string job, Bagley uses 16-gauge nylon on the crosses. He warns, "you have to be careful to tweak the tensions of both materials so that they match well to eliminate the potential for vibration."

Unique Breakage Cure. Bagley had a customer who couldn't last a month without breaking his strings. Recently he has gone better than two months with a hybrid combination of 16-gauge ZYEX mains and 16-gauge multifilament crosses.

Polyester Monofilaments/Aramids. Bagley is currently experimenting with combinations that can take advantage of the good points of polyester monofilament strings. "Polyester monofilament strings, like MonoKill™ from Ashaway, are economical and durable," said Bagley. "While their relative deadness is good for control, they also seem to compress the ball well for some power." The ideal hybrid would compensate for the slickness of polyester monofilament that prevents it from getting a good bite on the ball. To this end, Bagley is currently experimenting on his own racquet with aramid mains and polyester monofilament crosses, at lower tensions, a combination he said "works very well for splats — one of my 'trademark' shots."

Easing Joint Pains. Hybrid combinations can also help people with arm and elbow pain. "For players in pain, softer is better," Bagley cautions. "I advise these clients to entirely avoid certain model racquets and



aramid strings." Racquets strung with all Zyex, or Zyex mains and nylon crosses, both at moderate tension, seem to be good combinations.

Experimenting with even thinner gauge squash racquet string crosses is still another option, such as Ashaway's PowerNick(TM) 18, a 1.15 mm 18-gauge Zyex string.

Bagley concluded, "I think hybrid strings are the future, because you are better able to customize the racquet for your customers, which they always appreciate. It is personally exciting because it gives me more flexibility to improve my own game. The right hybrid combination can light up my game. The possibilities are endless."

Zyex is a registered trademark of ZYEX Limited.



Winning Racquetball: Tournament Prep! by Marcy Lynch

Summer's over and the tournament season has begun. Your attention, perhaps, is now turning to deciding which events to play and setting goals for what you want to accomplish.

Hopefully my previous articles have assisted you in this process. So what do you do

once you have prepared for a particular event? How do you approach the weekend itself?

Here are some things to consider when thinking ahead. This is my personal 'Top Ten' for creating tournament readiness.

1. Make sure the night before the tournament you get eight hours of sleep, drink at least a quart of water, and eat a balanced meal consisting of fresh vegetables and lean protein.
2. If you know your potential competitors, make a game plan for each of them. Write them out on index cards and carry them in your bag, ready to refer to when the match arises.
3. Have a game plan for how you want to conduct yourself at the tournament, both on and off the court. On the court, know how you want to handle controversy with your opponent and bad referee calls. Know how you want to act when you win and if you should lose. Off the court, decide whether it helps to hang around and socialize or to be off by yourself or with friends.
4. Review your equipment. Make sure you have at least 2 of your favorite racquets re-gripped and restrung. Have extra dry gloves and an extra pair of eyeguards. Make sure your shoes are not about to 'blow out'. If you use sweatbands, bring extras.
5. Love how you feel and look in your clothes. There's

nothing worse than feeling uncomfortable in clothes that restrict movement. Think about having clothes that you wear only in tournaments so that they feel 'special'.

6. Don't depend on tournament food. It may not be what is best to eat before you play and it may not be served at the times you need it. Bring your own or know where to get it nearby. Have sport bars, fruit, and a large water bottle with you. Look ahead to see when you will play again after you win and plan your meals and snacks accordingly.
7. Assume you will win all your matches and bring enough clothing, food, and equipment for every match you could play.
8. Tell your friends how to support you. Let them know if you want them to talk to you at time outs and between games or leave you alone. Tell them if you prefer them to cheer or be silent. If you have several friends who want to watch you, pick who you want to give you advice, if you need it, rather than having five people telling you what to do.
9. Warm-up and stretch before your match is called. You often have only 5 minutes to warm-up once you get to the court. Get on a stationary bike or treadmill for 5-10 minutes, stretch for 5-10 minutes, and then go look for a court you can hit on, even if it's for just a few minutes between someone else's games.
10. Get out of the club if you have time between matches. A change of scenery can be refreshing and the monotony of the club can be an energy drain.

Good luck and have a successful tournament season!

Marcy is the Nutrition and Mental Training Coach for the US National Racquetball Team. To subscribe to Marcy's free e-newsletter, or to schedule a "Winning Racquetball" workshop at your club, send an e-mail to marcy@marcylynch.com, or visit www.marcylynch.com. ©Marcy Lynch, the Fitness Coach 2002.



Training: Too much of a good thing ...

by Tim Scheett, Ph.D

Too much of a good thing is never a good thing.

I know it is probably an oxymoron (and possibly a criminal offense) to suggest that playing too much racquetball may be a bad thing. But, if you have ever experienced a period where

no matter how much time you spent in the court playing or training, it just did not matter what you did or how much more time you spent working out, you just felt tired and sluggish and basically played badly ... well – you are overdoing it. Technical terms for this condition are over-training or over-reaching. Over-reaching is a state where the body has been subjected to too much stress and has not been allowed enough time to rest in order to recover and thus performance begins to suffer. Over-training is a state where the body has been subjected to so much stress and recovery time has been consistently reduced so much that the body is so “beaten-up” that an injury is almost guaranteed to occur. Some warning signs of over-training and over-reaching include:

- Unexplained and persistently poor performance
- General feeling of fatigue
- Mood swings or irritability
- Depression
- Disturbance in sleep patterns
- Loss of appetite and/or unexplained weight loss
- Injuries

Now, if you have ever experienced either of these syndromes – it is not the end of the world! Numerous other athletes have experienced over-training/over-reaching syndromes, recovered and gone on to achieve optimal performance and success once again. However, they needed to correct the problem first, just as you had to, or may have to do.

The question now is: How do I overcome the over-training/over-reaching syndrome? Believe it or not, it's actually not too difficult ... the answer is simply – **rest!** Yup, that's right, you heard me – it is that easy. You need to rest and allow your body the time it needs to recover. Now, did I say that you need 100% bed rest? No, not at all. However, your body does need sufficient time to rest and recover between workouts of any sort. We teach that when strength training you need to

allow your body a minimum of 24 hours and preferably 48 hours of rest between workouts for the same body part (i.e. chest, legs, shoulders, arms, etc) to achieve as close to full recovery as you can within the time constraints of your training schedule. Now remember, the 24-48 hour rest period pertains to strength training of individual body parts.

Specific to racquetball, I would recommend one day of rest for every two days that you play. If you are playing only twice a week then this is not a problem. However, if you are playing 4-5 days a week – then I would suggest that you not play four consecutive days and give your body time to recover in between. (Also keep in mind, the older you are – the longer your body needs to recover.)

Another situation that I have not addressed is that – if you are planning to play in tournaments where you will need to play on consecutive days (ideally three – since we still want be playing on Sunday, right?) then you should schedule to play a number of matches on consecutive days as well to allow your body to become accustomed to playing on consecutive days. However, to avoid the over-training/over-reaching syndrome you will still need to allow your body time to rest and recover in between the training days. I would suggest taking at least two days of rest between consecutive playing days. If you are playing in several tournaments a month – you may want to only play once or twice a week and spend the other days strength training or training for cardiovascular fitness.

And lastly and perhaps most importantly, prevention of the over-training/over-reaching syndrome is ideally the best possible situation. As important as planning your workout is — planning your rest days is just as important. This does not mean that you can not exercise at all on a rest day — but rather do something completely different (i.e. lift weights, cardio, play another sport, etc). Ideally, we need to learn how to listen to our body and take cues from it to know when we need to “back off a bit” and allow ourselves time to rest, recover and heal. Lastly, remember to eat a well-balanced diet as the foods we eat provide the necessary proteins, fats and carbohydrates our bodies need for optimal performance.

As always – if you have questions you would like to have addressed here – just send me an email, at timscheett@hotmail.com.

Training: Wrist Woes

by Aaron Haydu, D.C.



Wrist pain is a common complaint in racquetball and can seriously interrupt training, practice, and sport enjoyment. The repetitive motions required often stress the ligaments and muscles beyond their limits. Early treatment of symptoms can usually prevent a chronic problem.

The wrist is a surprisingly complex mechanical structure comprised of the two bones of the forearm and a row of small wrist bones. Supported

by strong ligaments, the wrist is more often injured from the repeated trauma of excessive motion, rather than a single trauma, such as a fall. There are few muscles specific to the wrist, and its motions come primarily from the tendons of the forearm musculature. These muscles can become overworked with racquetball and the result is tendon inflammation (tendonitis) at the wrist.

Hitting the ball with a “snapping” action is more likely to stress the wrist than striking with a stiff wrist, which will transfer the energy to the stronger elbow and shoulder. To maintain power without wrist snap, focus more on timing, swing follow-through, and generating more power with the legs. A technique coach or professional can often help your mechanics to decrease stress to the wrist.

Maintaining strength is an integral aspect of managing wrist pain. Free weight exercises with light weight can strengthen the forearm muscles, making them strong enough to protect the ligament structures of the wrist. A chronic condition, one that is repetitive and unchanged for a number of months, needs evaluation by a professional, particularly if the pain is unresolved with technique changes or increased strength. This may indicate a more serious condition of wrist instability.

As is the rule with most injuries, avoidance of the cause will most quickly resolve the symptoms. Focus on lob serves or weight training for a week to help pain subside. If the wrist is swollen after playing, a regimen of ice therapy should quickly reduce the pain. Some athletes have success with a supportive wrist brace or tape, but be sure it provides compression and support without restricting motion. Many new muscle therapy techniques can be very effective in removing pain from chronically injured muscles or tendons. Be sure the health practitioner you choose for care is skilled in manual therapy, as wrist complaints are more readily resolved with an active, hands-on approach.

interview by fran davis he's ...

Sudsy was on top of the world, coming off a great season. At the end of the 2000-01 circuit, he'd won his third U.S. OPEN title and finished in the No.1 IRT ranking spot for the fifth time in his career. Starting the new season on cloud nine, he was actually on his way to making history, facing the prospect of becoming the first male pro to be ranked #1 in the world a record-setting six times. It was an accomplishment he had his heart and mind set on. His goals and priorities were set for the year; his training schedule was intense; he visualized for hours at a time and was just 110% focused on the task at hand.

Unfortunately though, with just one odd step out of his car, those plans – and the entire season – came crashing down on him and abruptly shattered right before his very eyes. He was in tremendous physical pain after stepping from his car onto a rock. He knew right then and there that something was terribly wrong with his foot. In the doctor's office later, he did *not* want to hear the doctor say, “you fractured your foot and you'll be in a cast a minimum of 10 weeks.” Wow. His heart dropped as he listened carefully to the prognosis. To say the least, he was devastated.

It really sunk in — when Sudsy hobbled into the 2001 U.S. Open on crutches and then spun around in a wheelchair all week long — that he was out for the season. All his hopes, dreams and aspirations for achieving his three main goals for the year — winning the U.S. Open, finishing #1, and becoming the first player to do so six times — were completely out of the question. He had to come to terms with it and accept that it would just have to wait until next season. Well, here it is next season and he is more than ready to rock and roll with the best of them.

Let's get into Sudsy's head and see how he came full circle from:

- **Pre-Injury Phase:** The five-time, #1 in the world, with a *very* positive state of mind
- **Early Injury Phase:** Somewhat in the dungeons and skeptical
- **Mid/Late Injury Phase:** Starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, re-motivated
- **Rehabilitation Phase:** Totally focused and feeling positive, my desire and hunger is back!

... back !

Fran: *When did this injury occur?*

Sudsy: It happened the day before I was leaving for the U.S. Open, Sunday November 11. I can remember it as if it was yesterday ... a sad day.

What did you do when you heard the cast was going to be on a minimum of 10 weeks, which actually turned out to be 14 weeks?

At first I was in shock and somewhat in denial. I actually couldn't believe this was happening to me, of all years ... a year I could have made history in the sport. I was very disappointed, to say the least, but after a few weeks of moping around I began thinking of 9/11 and the tragedy that just occurred there only two months prior. It truly changed my attitude ... something snapped inside of me and, boom, I began my journey of rehabilitation.

Once you got over the initial shock and denial period what did you do when the cast was still on?

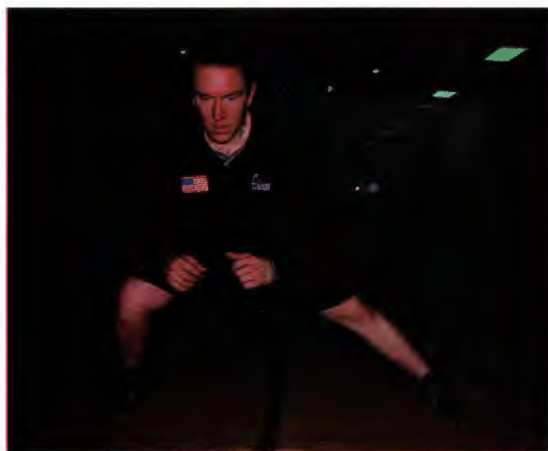
I did tons of visualization, stayed positive, lifted weights for my upper body and lots of stretching.

What did you do when the cast came off, over three months later?

First of all, I took a long shower *without* my leg hanging out over the shower stall. That was monumental. I know some of you can relate to that if you've been through what I have.

You've come full circle. To what would you attribute that?

My positive attitude, hard work ethic, commitment, discipline, desire, heart and belief. I never lost sight of New Orleans. As I told you before, Fran, I can't wait to play again. I can feel it, taste it and even touch it. I'm back Cliff, Jason and John ... New Orleans, here I come.



Sudsy's Rehab Diary

February 11 – March 11

It was slow going immediately after the removal of the cast, especially for the first two weeks, but I plugged along. Within a four-week period I began walking and then started with light cardio, like biking and jogging. The visualization I was doing continued and grew stronger with each passing day. I stretched religiously, but now I had some foot stretches I added to my routine. I introduced light lower body lifting and continued with my upper body as well. After two weeks of the cast coming off I began my drop and hit drills only, no movement drills were allowed.

March 12 – April 15

As time passed and I got progressively stronger I added movement drills to my practices and light to moderate playing. I also stepped up my other workouts as well.

April 16-April 30

More playing occurred, as the Pro Nationals were right around the corner. My mental preparation and visualization techniques were at their peak.

May 1- May 31

I was at about 80% at the Pro Nationals and used that as a springboard to gauge where I was and what I needed to do to climb the rankings and become T.T., Tournament Tough.

June 1 – 30

I was now fine-tuning my shots, footwork and mental attitude from what I learned at the Pro Nationals.

July 1- August 21

Full training occurred and I needed tough match play so I could start to get my timing back. I was now focusing in on the areas of my game such as my serves, return of serves, consistency level, footwork, court position and shot selection — crucial at the pro level. In order to make this happen I flew to certain places and had some players fly into NY so I could assimilate the game as close to tournament conditions as possible.

rb:people & places



Willie Davenport 1943-2002

The racquetball world lost a friend June 17, 2002. Willie Davenport, a five-time Olympian and avid racquetball player died of a massive heart attack while changing planes at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. He had no known health problems and the news came as a shock to family and friends.

Davenport made his name as a high hurdler for the U.S. Olympic team. He competed in the 1964, '68, '72, and '76 summer games winning gold in the high hurdles in 1968 and bronze in 1976 at the age of 33. In 1979 Davenport decided to try out for the U.S. bobsled team. In 1980 he was a member of the winter Olympic team that competed in Lake Placid making him one of the first black men to compete for the U.S. in the winter Olympics.

A colonel in the National Guard, Davenport was on his way back to his office in Virginia when he died. The 59-year-old had already put in for retirement and had only 90 days left. He planned to move to Indianapolis after retirement and spend his time traveling around the country.

Davenport first picked up racquetball in 1990 while posted to the National Guard Bureau in Falls Church, Virginia. Far from home and his wife, he began hitting the ball on his own to occupy his free time. Eventually his competitive nature took over and he began to play against other people. Since then he has played in numerous tournaments including the most recent U.S. National Singles, in which he made it to the quarterfinals of the men's 55+ A/B. He was featured in the March/April 1993 issue of RACQUETBALL.

Mr. Racquetball in Paradise

Samuel Kamuela Koanui was featured in an article titled "Mr. Racquetball in Paradise" in the April 1984 edition of National Racquetball. In 1975, he took first place in the Master's Division at the National Racquetball

Championship in Las Vegas, and was well known as an instructor on the Hawaiian islands during the mid-80s. He passed away, at 73, in Honolulu on June 27, 2002.

Born in Honolulu, Koanui was a retired city refuge division truck driver. Survived by wife, Florence "Iwalani"; son, Guy "Tiga"; daughters, Denise Hanson, Raylene Puahi and Troy "Sweetie" Camacho; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sisters, Violet Alfapada, Marvis Kanahele and Blossom Choy.

Tanya Iwalani Jose submitted the news and recalled her grandfather, "He will truly be missed by his family, friends and all of those whose lives he has truly touched. We love you and miss you."

Photos, top: From the April 1984 issue of National Racquetball, Koanui is flanked by students Huanani Manginsay and Sharon Loo. Bottom: Golfing more recently.

Feature

Mr. Racquetball In Paradise

By Bruce Kelly



More Air Time for Royster

Late-night game-show regular Shawn Royster has been named the official emcee of the IRT tour by commissioner Dave Negrete. For several years, Royster has entertained U.S. OPEN crowds between games and matches, even donning costumes to enhance his acts. For the IRT, his duties will be much the same as they are in Memphis.

Royster wants to use the IRT gig to help further his acting career. He has been on just about every late night dating show starting with Change of Heart in 1999. He then went on MTV's The Blame Game, USA Network's Lover or Loser, Blind Date, and, just last year, the WB's Eliminate. Royster usually did well on the shows except for Blind Date.

"That was my notorious "worst date" ever. I got ruined by these little "thinking bubbles" that they put above

your head and then not to mention this girl wouldn't say anything the entire date and then when she was asked about how she liked me she just said "Dork, Dork, Dork." So I came home after the show aired and had 50 messages on my machine saying "Dork, Dork, Dork." Including from people like Sudsy, John and my other racquetball buddies. Real good friends."



"I knew it happened (during the show) so it was no big deal," he said later via a telephone interview. "They took out all the funny stuff I said and made me look like an ass."

Royster is done with the sappy late night dating shows for now and is looking to break into some legitimate acting. "I met a guy named Craig Sheffer (star of the movie 'The Program') in Jamaica," Royster said. "He got me into Howard Fine's acting class." Fine is known as one of the best, if not the best, acting coaches in L.A. It must be working because Royster signed with an agent six months ago and is scheduled to start shooting for Fear Factor in October.

"Each one of the shows have titled me as a professional racquetball player, and two of them have actually shown me on the court. They all have been broadcast nationally or worldwide, premiered at prime time, and then been re-run many times over on late night TV. Pretty decent exposure for our sport, I think."

And his day job? "I give lessons at the Sports Club/LA in Beverly Hills and my clients range from Oscar winners to billionaires who have me teach them on their own court at their estates. It's pretty amazing."

Neurofibromatosis Foundation Wins

*First Racquets for NF Research Benefit Tournament
By David Stob, Lake Forest Park, Washington*

In May, the PRO Sports Club of Bellevue, Washington hosted the first Racquets for NF Research 30+ Benefit, where generous contributions from WRA

members and a broad range of sponsors helped raise over \$3,200 for neurofibromatosis. NF is a neurological genetic disorder that can cause tumors to form on nerves anywhere in the body at any time. While not as widely known as other similar disorders, NF is a progressively complex disorder that: 1) occurs in 1 out of 3,000 births; 2) affects all races and both sexes equally; 3) may be linked to learning disabilities, epilepsy and cancer. No cure or effective treatments (other than surgeries on the tumors) have been identified to this point.

A total of 67 players participated in the three-day event, where volunteers from Children's Hospital of Seattle and the Washington NF Chapter were on hand to explain the disorder to spectators and participants throughout the weekend. Many thanks go out to the local businesses, philanthropic players and Wilson Racquetball for generous contributions of silent auction items, discounted goods and services as well as direct gifts to the NF research efforts. Likewise, thanks to all the volunteers who gave of their time the entire weekend, including many who then boarded planes early the next week to play in The Finals in Houston. Their contributions of time enabled NF volunteers and me (father of Renae Stob, an NF patient) to share information about the disorder with many interested individuals and corporate representatives.

The tournament featured great competition in 14 divisions of age and age/skill play, including a touch-and-go Men's 55+. Tournament director Charlie Hamon of Poulsbo, 65, took first place as a warm-up to his trip to Houston with a victory over perennial 55+ champion, Joe Bard. But the conclusion of the match triggered a wave of concern as Bard collapsed and was rushed to Overlake Hospital for emergency cardiac surgery. At the time of this writing, Bard was expected to make a full recovery. Thanks to the efforts of Hamon (a retired physician), Richard Railsback (a fireman and tournament competitor), the PRO Sports Club staff, plus the local fire department, Bard expects to return to competition in due time.

Dinosaur Doubles found the father/son team of Hamon/Hamon victorious over Chun and Lan Huynh. The team of Joe Bard and Greg Sakgen had been poised to give the Hamon's a real battle in this division, but were forced to withdraw due to Joe's medical event. In one of the most gracious post-tournament acts I have ever witnessed, Lan and Chun later visited the hospital to present their second place trophies to Joe and Greg.

rb:people & places

It was the truly compassionate and selfless nature of this act that sticks in my mind as one of the defining moments of this event ... in which true greatness of human spirit prevailed over temporal clutching to tournament hardware.

Immediately after the event, plans began for next year's tournament, which will be bigger and hopefully even better for all involved. Keep your calendars open for the early May 2003 sequel. If you are interested in learning more about NF, check out the following websites <http://www.nf.org>, <http://www.nf@nnffwa.org> or call (425) 672-9610. If you would like to become involved as a sponsor, please call Dave Stob at (206) 361-8853.

2002 Dallas Open

by Christy Cramer and Ben Brewster

The first Dallas Open was held at the Landmark Fitness Factory on May 17, 18 & 19. Avid local player Virgie Brooks, owner of Financial Services Specialists, came up with the idea and presented it to her local pro, Martin McDermott. Virgie offered to help sponsor the tournament and Martin McDermott became the tournament director. Organizers had three goals for the tournament; help grow the sport, involve local resources in helping to build an on-going annual major event and, attract professionals to the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Local Dallas businessman Paul Lowe helped pull sponsorship together and noted his belief that "the interest and assets exist in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to make this one of the top tournaments of the year and that the total prize money can be raised significantly next year." This year's purse was \$3,000. Mike Guidry won

the Men's Open and \$1,000 by defeating Brian Fredenberg and Phyllis Morris won the Women's Open and \$500 by defeating Denise Mock in a narrow 11-10 tiebreaker.

Other results: Women's Elite: Keely Franks, Women's B/C: Camilla Norder, Women's 30+: Phyllis Morris, Men's Elite: Arturo Burrell, Men's A: Fabian Mendieta, Men's B: Don Romero, Men's C: Mark Chase, Men's D: Dennis Kniery, Men's 30+: Hal Perry, Men's 40+: Martin McDermott, Men's 50+: Mike Franks, Men's 60+: Jerry Baber.

Tournament organizers believe that the prize total can be raised to \$10,000 next year and they plan to do some early promotion so that amateurs and pros alike can put the 2003 Dallas Open on their calendars.

Aloha Open

by Lynn Stephens

Hawaiian breezes blew through Winston Salem, NC June 21 – 23, 2002 when 120 players converged on Body Check Health and Fitness Club to compete in the Aloha Open. This event used to be a very popular fixture on the NC circuit from the late 80's to the mid 90's, but died a quick death when the then Omni Health club was closed and then later sold. It was revived, bigger and better than ever, when some diehard racquetball fans decided to put on a theme tournament that would have the best of everything and raise some money for charity. Choosing the souvenir shirt was easy: Hawaiian border shirts, embroidered with the tournament logo above the pocket, available to players in three colors and two designs.

All matches for Saturday were completed by 8:00 pm so everyone could attend the evening Luau. The Outback Steakhouse rolled in with their HumVee and trailer, set up their grills in the parking lot and started serving by the pool, where everyone was greeted by our Hula Girls and given a Hawaiian lei. After dinner we held a raffle with over \$1000 in merchandise to raise money for our charity and the NCRA Juniors program. After the raffle, everyone got in the groove with the sounds of DJ Panama cranking it up until midnight.

And yes, we did play racquetball ... great racquetball ... all weekend. In the Men's Open Jason Thoerner beat Dan Llacera in one tough semifinal tiebreaker, and Mitch Williams took care of business in beating Brent



L-R: Martin McDermott, Paul Lowe and Virgie Brooks



Walters in the other. The last time Thoerner and Williams played was at the IRT Satellite Stop finals in Fayetteville in May, when Mitch was on fire and took Jason out in three. This final started to look like a repeat performance, with Mitch taking the first game 15-8. But Jason never goes away. As he says, "still

hanging around, I'm hanging around." Jason stepped it up a couple of notches and took game two. The tiebreaker stayed even up to 8, when Jason started drive serving to Mitch's forehand. And then after two ace serves and a killshot the match was over with Jason taking home the first place prize of \$500. *[Photo: Mitch & Jason flanked by hula girls.]*

This tournament was held to raise money for The Victory Junction Gang Camp. This is a free camp for children with a life threatening disease. Kyle Petty and his wife Pattie, in memory of their son Adam, started it and we were able to give \$1050 to this deserving charity. We also raised \$200 for the NCRA Juniors programs through the partial proceeds of the Raffle and donations of referee fees. For photos and expanded results of this tourney, check out the North Carolina website, at www.geocities.com/ncracquetball/.

What Women Want

U.S. Team Leader Dave Ellis took his responsibilities seriously from early on in the trip to the World Championships in Puerto Rico -- seeking "sponsorship" and support for the men's and women's squads. Remarkably, he found the women easier to predict and ended up following the lead of actor Mel Gibson, in the film "What Women Want." Preparing for the first team meeting, Ellis stocked a vanity in team headquarters (Winterton's hotel room) with a full selection of toiletries, perfumes, flowers, sundries and chocolates for the ladies -- topped with a glamour shot of Gibson, and instructions to help themselves, as needed. For the men? Stars-and-stripes sun visors, take-out menus, and the remote control ...

Next Stop ... Seoul, Korea >>

Local organizer Mr. Young-Sang Hong visited San Juan during the World Championships to address the bi-annual IRF World Congress and update the group on the 2004 event, scheduled for Seoul.

Before returning home, Mr. Hong took advantage of the "big poster" photo-op at the award podium. *Photo: Luke St. Onge.*



readerforum...con'tfrompg4

Unchallenged

I just finished reading the July-August issue and it just keeps getting better. And I *can* remember when! In reading the "stats" I saw that I was listed in the 80+ group, but not in 85+ as the unchallenged winner.

I qualified at the regionals in the 85+, although I played a fellow in the next closest age group (70+), and in May I competed in Houston at the National Singles (in 80+). Upon checking in I was told I would be playing in the 80+ group since there was no one in the 85+. Before leaving, I was awarded the gold medal for my age group (85+). I would appreciate it if I could be so listed in future issues.

Next year I will be competing, at the age of 86, and will play any challenger ... or play in the 80+ group as I did this year.

Col. Ben F. Marshall, USA (Ret)
San Antonio, Texas

[Sometimes sole entrants in divisions that are combined become overlooked in "re-expanding" the final results. If you're in this position at a national event, it never hurts to remind us after the fact. We're sorry for this oversight, and will correct the recordbook for next year! -- Editor]

Worth Living

I'm writing first to say that I'm very thankful for the articles, IRT coverage and photos of the pros and of the many people, like myself, who love racquetball. I'm 27, and have been playing for 13 years -- and reading RACQUETBALL for 10. In the past I've played in local and club tournaments, however, I'm presently incarcerated and throughout the 7 years that I've been away from home, playing racquetball has made my life worth living. During those difficult moments in my life, playing racquetball daily has given me the courage, faith and strength to learn from my mistakes and to never give up!

Danny Leyva
Coleman, Florida



the men's line ...

by Doug Ganim

Most people don't know that I am truly a pro racquetball fan, with a special appreciation for those epic battles

that live on through word of mouth for years after the victor is crowned. Last year's U.S. OPEN produced just such a match with Cliff Swain's triumphant victory over Kane Waselenchuk in the quarters. To a packed house, these two warriors played at such a high level that each rally seemed better than the last. Just when you thought you'd seen it all, the next point would yield another incredible flurry of raw athleticism and talent that would leave your jaw hanging open. Of course, like the true champion that he is, Cliff survived his match with Kane and then went on to win two more very hard-fought battles in the semis and finals to win his second U.S. OPEN title.

The only thing that would have made last year's event any better would have been if Sudsy were in the draw (he broke his foot two days before the event and was out for the season). Well, this year he's back and says he's 100%. This — coupled with the incredible new talent that has emerged on tour in Jack Huczek and Kane Waselenchuk, the ever-present vitality of tour veterans Cliff Swain and Jason Mannino, and John Ellis' personal quest to win his first U.S. OPEN title — this year's draw has the potential to offer the deepest talent pool of top players the sport has ever seen.

Historically, there has almost always been a single, dominating player on the tour — like Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen, Cliff Swain, and Sudsy Monchik (who have captured the year end #1 ranking a combined 21 times!). For the first time in the U.S. OPEN's seven-

year history, I believe that there are six players with a legitimate shot at the title, rather than the two or three that have truly had a good chance in years past. So here are my picks, along with a few "long shots" that I feel could break into the semis.

Cliff Swain "Cliffy" [Odds: 2-1] Last year Swain did what no other player has ever done — won a sixth year end #1 ranking — and been dubbed the "greatest player of all time." And while some insist on questioning the feat (since Monchik was not touring last season), among real students of the pro game, this conjecture is quite ignorant. The truth is that, at the height of his career (back in the early 90's), Swain quit racquetball to pursue a short-lived career as a professional tennis player. That move cost Cliff two years of finishing #1 on the pro scene at a time when nobody could even score five points on him, if he really wanted to play hard. So in actuality, Swain has been the best player in the world for eight (8) different years — and all he did last year, at the age of 35, was outlast the deepest talent pool in the history of the sport, winning a U.S. OPEN title along the way. So when do we consider raising Swain's odds? Not this year! At this point in his career I believe winning titles like this are all that really matter to him. Look for this ferocious defending champ to come prepared to seek a third crown. It won't be easy for him, but he has as good a chance to win this event as anyone else in the field.

Jason Mannino "Jay" [2-1] Other than Cliff and Sudsy, Jason Mannino is the only other player in the draw to have tasted victory at the U.S. OPEN. He won it in 1999 and can use that experience to his advantage. Further, he is the only player on tour that "has Sudsy's number" and is currently playing the best racquetball of his career. At age 27 he's in his prime, has gained extensive insights from world-renowned coach Fran Davis, and is 100% focused on winning and finishing #1 at the end of this season. If someone does manage to beat Mannino in Memphis it will be a battle to the death. A bet against Jason Mannino is a bad one.

Jack Huczek [3-1] No young player since Sudsy Monchik has stormed onto the pro tour with as much impact as this phenom. He was actually in excellent position to win last year, but was thwarted by Jason Mannino in a thrilling five-game quarterfinal. Huczek should have won their tiebreaker (Jason was cramping badly and losing)





but after a questionable "injury" time-out, a refreshed Mannino managed to come back and win the match. At 18, Huczek brings a level of physical fitness and discipline to the tour that has never been seen before; he can play an entire tournament without sweating! In an event like this, with tough match after tough match, Jack's physical conditioning is even more of an advantage. Also in his favor is the relatively slow front wall on the portable court, which makes it impossible to simply serve someone off the court. Rallies will have to be won to win matches, and this game style plays right into Jack's hands. He is ready to win his first U.S. OPEN.

Kane Waselenchuk [7-2] This southpaw is probably the most talented player on tour right now. He has all the tools: incredibly explosive foot-speed, unbelievable hands, power to burn, plus he's in excellent shape and can run forever. Anyone on tour will concede that he's dangerous since he is capable of playing on a level that could trounce even the best. Kane's biggest problem is the lack of consistency on tour. The difference between him playing well and playing poorly is quite substantial. However, the U.S. OPEN always brings out the best in the tours' elite and if this proves to be the case again this year, Kane's best will be very difficult to beat.

John Ellis "Ellie" [4-1] Although Ellis has been one of the best players on tour for many years he has yet to win a U.S. OPEN title. As I see it, his biggest problem is maintaining his power and focus throughout every match, and then throughout the entire tournament. After watching last year's final on ESPN it became very



obvious that he was not hitting the ball nearly as hard and crisp at the end of the match as he had been at the beginning. I have seen this happen to him before, so even though I would love to see Ellie win his first U.S. OPEN title, I don't feel that the odds are in his favor, particularly with this talent pool. With that said, I am sure he realizes that with every passing year the potential for victory will decrease. Look for Ellis to bring 110% to Memphis in November.

Sudsy Monchik "The Kid" [4-1] First of all, "The Kid" is not a kid anymore. He is 27 years old, married with two children, has finished #1 in five different years, and has suffered numerous injuries in his eight year pro career. This player is a book-makers nightmare! On the one hand, he is perhaps the most devastating player to ever play the game. Heading into last season, he had just finished the previous season ranked #1 and was ready to lay claim to #6 when the unfortunate accident happened that broke his foot and took

him out of the running. On the other hand, (at the time of this writing) he hasn't won a tournament for over 18 months. He attended one stop at the end of last season and looked dismal; he's suffered an injury that pro athletes in other sports have never been able to truly recover from. Another burning question is "does he have the fire to get back to the top?" At his peak, things came so easy for him that poor shot selection and a somewhat reckless game style did not seem to hurt him. Now those same flaws can be used against him, and most believe it will no longer be easy for him to win on tour, given its new depth. If he puts in the effort to prepare and is ready to dig deep, he can become the first player to win the U.S. OPEN for a fourth time. Get to his matches early or you may not get a seat. All eyes will be on Sudsy in Memphis!

Long Shots ... Realistically, these four prospects don't have much of a chance of winning, but do have a reasonable shot at breaking into the semis (or even the finals if they have a really great week). You'll want to keep an eye on Mexico's **Alvaro Beltran [12-1]**, who is capable of playing at a very high level but has lacked the ability to string together multiple upsets. Fitness is also an issue that has plagued Alvaro, and is amplified at the U.S. OPEN due to event length and the intensity of the matches. Canada's **Mike Green [15-1]** boasts the power game to compete at the highest level and has logged some big upsets recently. Like Beltran, stringing together those upsets in a single tournament has been rare but he is capable of beating anyone on tour on any given day. Another Canadian, **Brian Istace (17-1)**, has a



fairly one dimensional game but can be quite a threat with his big serve and power during the rallies. This guy looks like he wants to physically destroy his

opponent every second of the match, and that type of intensity is just what the doctor ordered for a strong performance. **Rocky Carson (15-1)** is a tour veteran who is the only one of the group to have won events in the past. He is in his physical prime but has lacked the tools to beat the top players on a regular basis. But past wins on tour are always good experience to have under your belt when you are fighting through a U.S. OPEN draw. Carson in the semis is not out of the question.

Winning the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN is one thing, but for most in the draw (usually around 100 players) a round of 32, 16, or even quarterfinal finish would be a huge accomplishment. With prize money checks offered through the round of 32, it's very common to see incredible matches in very early rounds. For a true racquetball fan, the first day of the U.S. OPEN is racquetball heaven — with great matches going on simultaneously, all day, on five different courts. It's enough to overload the senses! Get there early and bring a seat cushion (12 hours a day on the bleacher seats can make you sore) — the men's pro draw at the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN will not disappoint!

LPRA LINE

By Todd Boss

Facing the next season, a familiar adage comes to mind in describing the LPRA tour: "the more things change, the more things stay the same." Last season Cheryl Gudinas won 9 of 12 LPRA stops, plus won a fourth straight U.S. National Singles title and a second USRA Athlete of the Year award. But even with a commanding lead in the points race entering the new season, the biggest prize — the U.S. Open crown — has never been within her grasp.

Could this be Cheryl's year? The Choice U.S. OPEN is expecting to draw record numbers for the women's pro event, with plenty of

challengers gunning for the top prize. Here's a peek at the top women pros and their prospects:

#1 Cheryl Gudinas [Odds: 3-2] Arguably the most dominant female player since Michelle Gould, yet vulnerable when the U.S. Open comes around? To succeed, Cheryl needs to keep her focus and *not* think about the fact she can't seem to win this tournament. She has the game to dominate; she just needs one small mental boost.

#2 Jackie Rice [3-1] Jackie also had a great season, reaching the finals of 7 of the 12 stops, and finishing strong with a win over Wachtel at Pro Nationals and another finals appearance against Gudinas in McLean. Rice has a couple of U.S. OPEN crowns to her credit, and could be preparing for another.

#3 Kerri Wachtel [3-1] 2001 was Kerri's coming out year, as she defeated the world's #1 and #2 players enroute to her first U.S. OPEN crown. She continued her success through the season and finished off with her highest ranking yet. Can she repeat? Many experienced observers of the women's tour correctly predicted her victory last year; the first few events in 2002 will be a good indicator.

#4 Rhonda Rajsich [4-1] Rhonda wasn't able to repeat her amazing run at the 2000 US OPEN last year, falling in the round of 16. However, she was consistent throughout the season and fell only one position in the season-end rankings. Rhonda's greatest asset is her athleticism, and she'll need to keep her edge all week long in order to succeed.



#5 Kersten Hallander [6-1] After another consistent season, Kersten earned a top five ranking for the fourth straight year. But she hasn't made a final since the 1999-2000 season and always finds a way to lose to the top seeds. She'll need a breakthrough win in the quarters, perhaps over nemesis Rajsich, who took her out in two tournaments at the end of last season.

#6 Kristen Walsh [4-1] This former High School and Intercollegiate champ has made a fast start on the pro tour. She improved mightily as the year went along, presumably as she got used to the rigors of the tour. She'll have to overcome Wachtel and Rice though, who each took her out several times earlier in the year.

#7 Claudine Garcia 10-1 Claudine will be seeking revenge for a lopsided loss at 2002 Worlds. Could an injury suffered at Pro Nationals still be bothering her? She's got some ground to make up on the ladies in front of her to prove her mettle.

#8 Kim Russell [10-1] Kim had a strong showing at the final pro stop, making the semis and getting a good win

over Rhonda. She's always been a tough competitor but doesn't have the firepower to overtake some of the top seeds.

Dark Horse Picks — #10 Laura Fenton [15-1] Slipped from the #4 spot she held last year, but nonetheless had some career accomplishments. She made the finals of national singles, earned a spot on the U.S. National team, then made the semis of Worlds before falling to Canadian #1 Jennifer Saunders. She's a great bet to make the semis in Memphis but a tough bet to win it all. **#13 Jennifer Saunders [12-1]** Canada's #1 roster pick for Worlds made an impressive run, losing in the finals 13 and 13 to defending world champ Gudinas. If she's got the game to hang with Gudinas, she can hang with anyone on the tour. **#28 Krystal Csuk [19-1]** Got a great win at Intercollegiates over #6 Walsh. Is she for real?

Boss (man's) prediction: Rice takes out a heartbroken Gudinas in four. See you in Memphis!

the lineup & lowdown ... lineup ... lowdown ... lineup ...

Men	Line	'01	'00	'99	'98	'97	'96	Performance Factors
Cliff Swain	2-1	#1	#2	#2	#2	#1	semi	At 36 does he have one more in him?
Jason Mannino	2-1	semi	32s	#1	16s	qtrs	16s	Can he survive the young guns?
John Ellis	4-1	#2	qtrs	semi	semi	semi	qtrs	Must maintain his power all week
Kane Waselenchuk	7-2	qtrs	qtrs	—	—	—	—	Can he win, at less than best?
Jack Huczek	3-1	16s	16s	32s	—	—	—	Not if, but when, he wins his first ...
Alvaro Beltran	12-1	qtrs	semi	64s	—	—	—	Fit enough for back-to-back upsets?
Rocky Carson	15-1	qtrs	qtrs	qtrs	16s	—	32s	Needs to use raw talent, no slop
Derek Robinson	20-1	16s	qtrs	16s	qtrs	16s	—	Past his prime, but capable
Tim Doyle	18-1	16s	16s	16s	qtrs	32s	64s	Does he have a passion to win?
Mike Guidry	1-1	semi	16s	16s	qtrs	16s	qtrs	Court suits his game
Sudsy Monchik	4-1	dnp	#1	semi	#1	#2	#1	Bookmaker's nightmare; watch out!
Mike Green	15-1	32s	32s	—	—	—	—	Needs to turn it up a notch
Brian Istace	17-1	32s	32s	—	—	—	—	Will he be skipping, or rolling?

Women	Line	'01	'00	'99	'98	'97	'96	Performance Factors
Cheryl Gudinas	3-2	semi	semi	semi	qtrs	semi	#2	Can she win her first Open?
Jackie Paraiso Rice	3-1	#2	semi	#1	#1	#2	semi	Always plays well in Memphis
Kerri Wachtel	3-1	#1	32s	—	—	—	32s	Tough to repeat a Cinderella story
Rhonda Rajsich	4-1	16s	#2	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	Needs all her firepower
Kersten Hallander	6-1	semi	qtrs	qtrs	qtrs	32s	—	Would be a career peak; who knows?
Kristen Walsh	4-1	16s	16s	—	32s	—	—	Her time will come ... this year?
Claudine Garcia	10-1	qtrs	—	—	—	—	—	Scrappy, but recovering from injury
Kim Russell	10-1	qtrs	—	—	—	—	—	Needs more power
Laura Fenton	15-1	qtrs	qtrs	16s	qtrs	qtrs	32s	Past her prime, but experienced
Jennifer Saunders	12-1	16s	32s	—	—	—	—	Top Canadian unknown, dangerous?
Krystal Csuk	28-1	32s	32s	—	—	—	—	Bet spare cash, for a big payback



legend's tour ...

by Hank Marcus

In the first full season for the "Legend's Tour" we are thrilled to have the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN on our schedule. The new tour offers a competitive circuit for some of the greatest players to have ever stepped out onto the hardwood, like Marty Hogan, Ruben Gonzalez, Dave Peck, Gregg Peck, and Bret Harnett. Most events are by invitation only, and fans can look forward to watching these five former world champions — along with one added player to be announced at a later date — battle for a prize money purse of \$5,000 in Memphis.

Marty Hogan [Odds: 4-1] Still considered by many to be the greatest to ever play the game, Hogan captured the season end #1 ranking five times and during his prime "reign of terror" won 70% of the stops in each season. He was the first to introduce true power to the sport, and the superstar athlete helped raise the popularity of racquetball. He remains in excellent shape and for the past several years has been playing competitive

racquetball and squash in amateur events across the U.S. Fans will see that he hasn't lost his touch, or his devastating backhand, which still shows itself nearly every time a ball finds its way to the left side of the court. Hogan will have his hands full with a younger Bret Harnett and the older, but tournament tough, Ruben Gonzalez. One thing is certain, Hogan still hates to lose, so you'll want to catch him in action.

Ruben Gonzalez [2-1] Ruben is the only player in the lineup who never stopped playing competitive racquetball after his heyday on tour. He still plays in over 20 events a year, including select IRT tourneys, USRA national singles and doubles events, and many east coast tournaments. He is the reigning U.S. National Doubles Champion (with Mike Guidry) and a member of the World Champion U.S. National Racquetball Team. What's really amazing is that he just turned 50! He is one of the greatest natural athletes to have ever played *any* sport, and his game is still awesome to watch with incredible gets and rally-ending rollouts that will make your jaw drop. Look for Ruben to reach the finals for a potential "war" against the younger, and taller, Bret Harnett.

Bret Harnett [2-1] Bret has not played much competitive racquetball since retiring from the pro tour, but those that know him well will tell you that he is still in "fighting" shape. His game is strictly raw

power and he still has all the shots, and perhaps a more modern game style. During his prime he was considered to be the most dangerous lefty on tour. This tag remains with him on the Legend's Tour; he'll be the guy the others will fear the most.

Dave Peck [6-1] Dave Peck has also played a fair amount of amateur age division ball since retiring from the pro tour and with quite a bit of success. His mobility remains a problem yet he still has the "money" forehand and ferocious competitive drive that made him a champion. Dave is the "John McEnroe" of the Legend's Tour so you may want to avoid reffing his matches, if asked. However, being a spectator is always a safe bet, as he is always entertaining.

Gregg Peck [8-1] In his prime, Gregg Peck was a player that nobody wanted to face in battle. After Hogan, he became the first pro to take the backhand stroke to the next level. Guys who played on tour with him back then will all tell you that they avoided hitting the ball to the left side of the court at all costs! Well, Gregg still has quite an excellent backhand but his lack of competitive play has left him a bit out of shape. He will have his work cut out for him to win this years Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN crown.

On behalf of the Legend's Tour, I look forward to seeing everyone in Memphis at the U.S. OPEN. It's going to be a blast!



LEGENDS LINE

Marty Hogan	4-1	Still has that backhand!
Ruben Gonzalez	2-1	The "freak of nature" will be diving everywhere
Bret Harnett	2-1	Modern game will be tough for others to handle
Dave Peck	6-1	Can't move but don't hit the ball to him
Gregg Peck	8-1	These odds may be a bit generous ...

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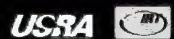
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- Head Coach candidates should be AmPRO certified at the professional level, plus hold Level Three coaching certifications, and have substantial experience in the field.
- Applicants for assistant coach positions must be AmPRO certified for instruction, plus hold Level One coaching and USSRA stringing credentials.
- Team Leader applicants must have good organizational skills, and should also be referee certified at Level Two, plus be familiar with U.S. Team policies & procedures.

Resumes must be submitted to the USRA office (see page 3 for address) Attn: Jim Hiser, no later than October 30, 2002.

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MEN

Men's Open

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Chris Wright, MO
3. Jimmy Lowe, AK
4. Jason Thoerner, GA
5. Mike Guidry, TX
6. Mitch Williams, NC
7. Ben Croft, IL
8. Mike Orr, PA
9. Shane Vanderson, OH
10. John Barrett, PA

Men's A

1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Marcelo Laprea, TX
3. Myron Brough, OH
4. Drew Toland, AR
- 5T. Jake Brandyberry, OH
- 5T. Mike Gaffney, PA
7. Jay Mathis, GA
8. Andres Ramirez, FL
9. Kipp Atwell, LA
10. Alex Zamudio, IN

Men's B

1. Carlos Ramirez, FL
2. Vito Rubiano, IL
3. Lamon Marchbanks, MN
4. Tony Gonzales, IL
5. Cam Grundman, MN
6. Bryan Shaw, MO
- 7T. Pat DuBoise, AR
- 7T. Elliott Mistich, LA
9. Mike Kaiser, MN
10. John Reed, CO

Men's C

1. Harold Beshaw, PA
2. Mike Belvedered, IL
- 3T. Garry Carter, CA
- 3T. Jerry Garcia, CO
- 3T. Richard Morris, TX
6. Kevin Chan, OH
- 7T. Bob Guidaboni, NH
- 7T. James Houston, FL
9. Jon Soike, IL
10. Todd Allen, TX

Men's D

1. David Aguirre, CA
2. David Sadler, TN
3. Jansen Allen, TX
- 4T. Suneel Battula, OH
- 4T. Mario Giancola, MN
- 4T. Anthony Sandretto, FL
7. Gene Desruisseaux, MA
8. Alex Brown, MI
- 9T. George Bazinet, AR
- 9T. Bob Littledale, IL

Men's Novice

1. Todd Anderson, NH
2. Bruno Guerrero, FL
3. Josh Redding, KY
4. Rick Wunsch, PA
- 5T. Terry Bahr, CA
- 5T. Andrew Carter, OH
- 5T. Orlando Gonzalez, TX

8. Justin Watson, OK
- 9T. Alfredo Alvizo, FL
- 9T. Larry Hicks, KY

Men's 24

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Jack Huczek, MI
3. Brent Walters, NC
- 4T. Ben Croft, IL
- 4T. Mike Harmon, FL
- 4T. Darrin Prince, MN
- 4T. Shane Vanderson, OH
- 8T. Sanjay LaForest, NY
- 8T. Marcelo Laprea, TX
- 8T. Filip Vesely, NV

Men's 25+

1. Mike Orr, PA
2. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ
3. Kyle Veenstra, WI
- 4T. Gared Edmunds, KY
- 4T. Shawn Royster, CA
6. German Herrera, FL
- 7T. Mike Dennison, OH
- 7T. Nate Gagne, ME
- 7T. Andy Gross, MN
10. Ryan Griffin, IN

Men's 30+

1. Brian Fredenberg, TX
- 2T. Toby Devore, LA
- 2T. Brian Pointelin, UT
4. Dale Valentine, CA
5. Kelly North, KY
6. John Ledig, FL
7. Pete Ulliman, OH
- 8T. Chris Jones, OK
- 8T. Julio Junki, FL
- 8T. Tom Keogh, NY

Men's 35+

1. Jim Minkel, TX
2. Jimmy Lowe, AK
3. Jim Frautschi, MN
4. Eugene Coyle, IL
5. Donald Sims, AE
6. John Barrett, PA
- 7T. John Collison, DE
- 7T. Bobby Haab, CT
9. John Davis, LA
10. Jim Leone, OH

Men's 40+

1. Bill Lyman, IL
2. Dave Eagle, OH
3. Tim Hansen, FL
4. Tom Travers, OH
5. Scott Cullins, GA
6. Bobby Haab, CT
7. Glenn Leib, PA
8. Greg Hodges, MI
9. Bob Wright, IN
10. Dana Levy, FL

Men's 45+

1. Randy Stafford, TN
2. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
3. Mitch Smith, PA
4. John Vohland, CO
5. Rick Howick, WA

6. Greg Benson, CA
- 7T. Mark Baron, VA
- 7T. Jim Luzar, WI
- 9T. Carlos Asuncue, CA
- 9T. Greg Campbell, CT

Men's 50+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Frank Taddonio, AZ
3. Jim Luzar, WI
4. David Dennis, AR
5. Denny Vincent, OH
6. Darryl Warren, CA
- 7T. David Olson, IL
- 7T. Howard Walker, TX
9. Tom Rall, CO
10. Edward Garabedian, PA

Men's 55+

1. Bill Wolfe, NY
2. Horace Miller, IL
3. Terry Albright, MO
4. Sammy Robles, TX
- 5T. Glenn Allen, VA
- 5T. Tom McKie, TX
- 5T. David Steiger, ME
8. Joe Quirke, IL
9. Ron Combs, CA
10. Ron Galbreath, PA

Men's 60+

1. Warren Reuther, LA
2. Ed Sword, KY
3. Glenn Allen, VA
4. Leland Rients, MN
5. Ron Hutcherson, IN
6. Chris Segura, UT
7. Roger Wehrle, GA
8. Mitch Milewski, NH
9. Terry Dees, CO
10. Pat Taylor, IL

Men's 65+

1. Michael Jackson, CT
2. Jerry Holly, CA
3. Charlie Hamon, WA
4. Dave Snyder, TX
- 5T. David Jordan, NJ
- 5T. Jerry Northwood, AZ
7. Rex Benham, AR
- 8T. Dave Lund, MI
- 8T. Ken Moore, CA
10. Cy Dietrich, GA

Men's 70+

- 1T. Joe Lambert, TX
- 1T. Sean Reid, NV
- 3T. Robert Miller, SC
- 3T. John O'Donnell, IL
5. Don Alt, OH
6. Frank Trask, ME
7. Marty Donohue, FL
- 8T. Pearce Grove, VA
- 8T. Charles Kaiser, MI
10. Jim Dunn, CA

Men's 75+

1. Duane Russell, MI
- 2T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 2T. Dick Kincade, CO

- 4T. Mal Roberts, FL
- 4T. Victor Sacco, NY
6. Cam Snowberger, SC
7. Hank Richard, NC
8. J W Studak, TX
- 9T. Lee Goldstein, CA
- 9T. Samuel Harry, PA

Men's 80+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Robert McAdam, TX
3. Cam Snowberger, SC
4. Bob McAdam, TX
5. Samuel Harry, PA
6. Hank Richard, NC
- 7T. Don Goddard, MT
- 7T. Bill Matotan, NM
- 7T. Bill Weinacht, OH
10. Sam Harry, PA

Men's 85+

1. Ben Marshall, TX

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Aimee Roehler, NJ
3. Elaine Albrecht, OH
- 4T. Laura Fenton, KS
- 4T. Vallana Perrault, MN
- 4T. Jackie Rice, CA
7. Janet Myers, NC
8. Julie Hill, OK
- 9T. Kim Machiran, MO
- 9T. Susan Pfahler, FL

Women's Elite

1. Aimee Roehler, NJ
2. Solanna Taragan, CA
3. Janel Tisinger, CA
4. Jeni Fuller, NM
5. Heather Dunn, MA
- 6T. Jessie Carbajal, CO
- 6T. Jill Crouse, CA
- 6T. Cyd Evans, NM
- 9T. Krystal Csuk, IL
- 9T. Lauren Deutsch, CA

Women's A

1. Candi Hostovich, VA
2. Leah Upshaw, GA
- 3T. Grace Jaworsky, MO
- 3T. Susan Lichtman, NY
5. Vicki Taylor, MN
- 6T. Stephanie Cobb, MI
- 6T. Melissa Johnson, ME
8. Pat Sims, ME
9. Kathy Welker, IL
10. Shirley Parsons, CO

Women's B

1. Sara Noyes, FL
2. Elizabeth Shaia, TX
- 3T. Cheryl Kirk, IL
- 3T. Rhonda Kochs, OK
5. Hiromi Iida, NY
6. Susan Bertelsen, CO
7. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
8. Stephanie Gordon, MO

9. Lynn Yeazell, IL
10. Marci Laramie, TN

Women's C

1. Marci Laramie, TN
2. Ann Barnes, MS
3. Cheyenne Hayes, WA
4. Patty Barrows, MA
5. Robin Maestas, CO
6. Peyton Myers, NC
7. Alyson Webb, OH
8. Beth Gainer, PA
- 9T. Petra Allen, CO
- 9T. Charlotte Brown, FL

Women's D

1. Jean Lerch, NH
2. Janice Bell, GA
3. Victoria Pickard, FL
4. Laura Davis, GA
5. Janet Christie, IL
6. Vicki Pickard, FL
7. Melanie Stowell, FL
- 8T. Claire Brooke, MO
- 8T. Jennifer Fenton, KS
- 8T. Nancy Gager, NJ

Women's Novice

- 1T. Theresa Brodzik, OH
- 1T. Debra Mathis, FL
- 1T. Christy Zonfrelli, MA
- 4T. Malorie Johnson, ME
- 4T. Martha Robinson, NH
- 6T. Jen Bezrutzkyk, PA
- 6T. Judy Bress, NH
- 6T. Elena Heath, PA
- 6T. Jacquie Henry, FL
- 6T. Susan Hutchinson, NH

Women's 24

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
2. Janel Tisinger, CA
3. Adrienne Fisher, OH
4. Ksytal Csuk, IL
5. Lauren Deutsch, CA
6. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
7. Jeni Fuller, NM
8. Melissa Borgwat, CA
9. Kris Alatorre-Martin, AZ
10. Jessica Donvon, RI

Women's 25+

1. Aimee Roehler, NJ
- 2T. Heather Dunn, MA
- 2T. Kerri Wachtel, OH
- 4T. T.J. Baumbaugh, VA
- 4T. Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 6T. Stephanie Bird, OK
- 6T. Jennifer Lynch, CO
8. Shannon Feaster-Stewart, MD
- 9T. Kim Herrold, SC
- 9T. Ramona Vonondarza, FL

Women's 30+

1. Elaine Albrecht, OH
- 2T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 2T. Debra Bryant, NC
4. Vivian Gomez, FL
- 5T. Amy Foster, OH

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5T. Hideko Uchiyama, PA
 7. Jo Shattuck, CO
 8T. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 8T. Johanna Shattuck, CO
 10. B.J. Ehrigott, CT

Women's 35+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2. Solanna Taragan, CA
 3. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 4. Anita Maldonado, NY
 5. Felicia Mann, MI
 6T. Debra Bryant, NC
 6T. Lori Lepow, FL
 8. Alice Douglass, IN
 9. Lisa Papp, GA
 10. Kelley Beane, NH

Women's 40+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2T. Malia Bailey, VA
 2T. Marianne Walsh, UT
 4. Liz Molitor, IL
 5T. Kim Machiran, MO
 5T. Denise Mock, TX
 7. Shari Coplen, MO
 8. Anita Maldonado, NY
 9. Terri Thornton, MN
 10. Diane Bunker, IL

Women's 45+

1. Meena Evans, NC
 2. Linda Moore, NE
 3T. Marsha Berry, KY
 3T. Susan Pfahler, FL
 5T. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
 5T. Marcia Richards, CO
 7. Laura Patterson, MI
 8. Mary Keenan, CO
 9T. Karen Key, AZ
 9T. Jean Trimble, FL

Women's 50+

1. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
 2. Janet Myers, NC
 3. Susan Kieffer, MN
 4. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 5. Kathy Dunham, IL
 6T. Elaine Dexter, CA
 6T. Renee Fish, FL
 8. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
 9. Karen Weins, FL
 10. Andee Glansberg, FL

Women's 55+

1. Cece Palaski, CA
 2. MeriJean Kelley, CA
 3. Agatha Falso, FL
 4T. Nidia Funes, CA
 4T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 6. Margaret Hoff, IL
 7. Paula Sperling, NM
 8. Joy DeSantis, CA
 9T. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
 9T. Sharon Welty, OR

Women's 60+

1. Marquita Molina, CA
 2. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 3. Mildred Gwinn, NC

4T. Gloria Piscoran, OR
 4T. Sharon Welty, OR
 6. Gail Schaefer, MD
 7. Gail Schaefer, CA
 8. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
 9. Annabelle Kovar, NE
 10. Nancy Butts, WI

Women's 65+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
 2. Lola Markus, IL
 3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 4. Barbara Anderson, VA
 5. Naomi Eads, MO
 6. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
 7. Carol Brown, AZ
 8. Jeanne Leben, AZ

Women's 70+

1. Lola Markus, IL
 2. Reta Harring, WI
 3. Betty Railey, KY
 4T. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
 4T. Louise Kiss, NM
 6. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

Women's 80+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 2. Helen Deysher, PA

BOYS

Boy's 6-

1. Jesse Van Valkenburg, UT
 2. Gregory Shipman, UT
 3. Brandon Golob, VA

Boy's 6MB

1. Zachary Pellowski, WI
 2. Anthony DiMatteo, CT
 3. Logan Nance, CA
 4T. Kyle Ulliman, OH
 4T. Chris Vosberg, MA
 6. Sam Reid, OR
 7T. Sam Bredenbeck, MN
 7T. CJ Coffee, VA
 7T. John Fanning, FL
 7T. Matt McAdam, CO

Boy's 8

1. Ken Yahiro, IL
 1. Marco Rojas, CA
 2. Jose Diaz, CA
 3. Chase Stanley, LA
 4. Timothy Lerow, FL
 5T. Ryan Coates, OH
 5T. Sam Reid, OR
 7. Keegan North, KY
 8. Joseph Lee, LA
 9. Josh Hirsch, FL
 10. David Negrete, IL

Boy's 8MB

1. Jose Diaz, CA
 2. Keegan North, KY
 3. Ryan Coates, OH
 4. Sam Reid, OR

5T. Andrew Lee, KY
 5T. Marcos Rojas, CA
 7T. Kamal Lachmansingh, VA
 7T. Thomas Paradis, CT
 7T. Luis Quinones, FL
 10. Doug Brenner, OR

Boy's 10

1. Joseph Lee, LA
 2. Brad Kirch, NY
 3. Trevor Snyders, IL
 4T. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
 4T. Tyler Hooghe, OH
 6. James Fahey, CT
 7. Tyler Kirkland, FL
 8T. Logan North, KY
 8T. Marco Rojas, CA
 10. Nick Loy, IL

Boy's 12

1. Danny Lavelly, OH
 2. Sean McGrath, IN
 3. Ishmael Aldana, CA
 4T. John Sanderson, UT
 4T. Matt Wyland, MO
 6. Brad Kirch, NY
 7T. Carlos Lopez Jr., FL
 7T. Harrison Slocum, FL
 9. Justin Fleck, IL
 10. Jake Bredenbeck, MN

Boy's 14

1. Chris Coy, OK
 2. Zachary Apperson, OH
 3T. Nathan Chirban, MO
 3T. Mike Keddie, NH
 5. Michael Wood, LA
 6. Angel Khamis, IL
 7T. Ishmael Aldana, CA
 7T. Cam Grundman, MN
 7T. Joey Lakowske, OR
 10. Amir Shahin, CA

Boy's 16

1. Ben Croft, IL
 2. Dan Sheppick, OR
 3. Matt Emmel, NY
 4. Zachary Apperson, OH
 5T. Brady Prince, MN
 5T. Daniel Stewart, KY
 5T. Drew Toland, AR
 8. Ronnie Hubbard, OH
 9. Nick Knudsen, FL
 10. Steven Klaiman, TX

Boy's 18

1. Jack Huczek, MI
 2. Ben Croft, IL
 3. David Chirban, MO
 4. Marc Moccia, MA
 5T. Clay Burris, FL
 5T. Travis Woodbury, VA
 7. Alex Zamudio, IN
 8T. Andrew Coon, KY
 8T. Josh Epstein, NY
 8T. Darrin Prince, MN

GIRLS

Girl's 6

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
 2. Elizabeth Vargas, CO

Girl's 6MB

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
 2. Emily Hathaway, MN
 3T. Emily Hathaway, MN
 3T. Danielle Soltren, FL
 3T. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
 6. Tessa Feamster, WA

Girl's 8

1. Annelise Albrecht, OH
 2. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
 3. Natalia Canovas, FL
 4. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 5. Monique Horyza, CA
 6. Joe White, IL
 7. Matt Loy, IL

Girl's 8 MB

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
 2. Lauren Stanley, LA
 3. Annelise Albrecht, OH
 4. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 5. Nicole Bruns, VA
 6T. Emily Hathaway, MN
 6T. Samantha Rosado, CT
 8T. Hannah Edwards, WA
 8T. Katie Ragan, MN
 10. Rebecca Berryman, KY

Girl's 10

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
 2. Nicole Grundman, MN
 3. Sally Blakemore, VA
 4T. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 4T. Wesley Toland, AR
 6T. Cortney Chisholm, MA
 6T. Marisa Miosi, NY

6T. Julia Negrete, IL
 6T. Emma Scheer, MO
 10. Monique Horyza, CA

Girl's 12

1. Shannon Inglesby, OR
 2. Sharon Jackson, IN
 3. Brittany Legget, OR
 4. Wesley Toland, AR
 5. Shanae Taylor, IN
 6. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
 7T. Jennifer Fenton, KS
 7T. Paige Hunter, FL
 7T. Ashley Wetherall, NJ
 10. Lilly Castillion, VA

Girl's 14

1. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
 2. Ashley Willhite, OR
 3. Kara Mazur, CT
 4. Alyson Webb, OH
 5. Jenny Epstein, NY
 6T. Sharon Jackson, IN
 6T. Dannielle Pimental, OR
 8T. Kelli Anderson, AZ
 8T. Ashley Murphy, MO
 10. Kate Anderson, AZ

Girl's 16

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 2. Elise Wilson, CT
 3. Da'Monique Davis, TX
 4. Kelly Fisher, OH
 5T. Jesi Fuller, NM
 5T. Kimberly Walsh, UT
 7. Ashley Legget, OR
 8T. Sarah Geislinger, MN
 8T. Malorie Johnson, ME
 8T. Michelle Key, AZ

Girl's 18

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 2. Janel Tisinger, CA
 3T. Kelly Fisher, OH
 3T. Kristen Walsh, UT
 5. Jeni Fuller, NM
 6. Cari Mitlitski, NY
 7. Krystal Csuk, IL
 8T. Lauren Deutsch, CA
 8T. Lauren Ritschard, IL
 8T. Staci Schwinger, AR

EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION

FINISH/POINTS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8	9-16
1 = Closed Club/League Event	30	20	15	10	5	0
2 = Open Tournament	50	30	20	15	10	0
3 = State Championship	150	100	75	50	25	0
4 = Regional Championship	250	150	100	75	50	0
5 = National Invitational	300	200	150	100	75	25*
6 = National Championship	600	400	300	200	100	50*

At selected national events:

Round of 16 finishers receive added points (in draws of 48 or more)*

Blue division winners receive 20 points (in draws of 16 or more)

Red division winners receive 15 points; White division winners receive 10 points.

september...

September 19-21	LCC 3 Day Tournament @ Lincoln City Club	Dallas, TX	214-827-9994
September 20-22	Aspen Hill Open @ Aspen Hill Club	Silver Spring, MD	301-598-5200
September 21-22	Alpha Fall Kick Off @ Alpha Racquet Club	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
September 21	No Frills Doubles @ Players Athletic Club	Warren, MI	586-774-6900
September 24-28	Jordan Valley Wipeout @ Jordan Valley Athletic Club	Taylorsville, UT	801-969-9911
September 26-29	E-Force Health Strategies Inv. @ Health Strategies	Wichita, KS	316-651-8013
September 27-29	Fall Rally @ Olympus Racquet & Fitness	Sterling, VA	703-430-0666
	Great Balls Of Fire @ Univ. Of Miami Wellness Center	Miami, FL	305-284-1853
	Valley Championships @ Millennium Sports Club	Merced, CA	209-722-3988
	Texas State Doubles @ NWFC [3]	Houston, TX	713-895-8688

october...

October 4-6	Lancaster County RB Tournament @ Lancaster RB & Health Club	Lancaster, PA	717-367-5337
	Paul Gorman Memorial @ Inter-Bay Glover YMCA	Tampa, FL	813-643-8077
	Solano Open @ Solano Athletic Club	Fairfield, CA	707-429-4363
	Wyoming State Doubles @ Charleston YMCA [3]	Charleston, WY	304-757-0888
October 5	Shoot Out On The Brazos @ Lakewood Tennis & Fitness	Waco, TX	254-753-0228
October 8-12	Fall Blast @ Sport Forum	Woods Cross, UT	801-298-3231
October 11-13	Fall Cash Bash @ Omega 40	Ormond Beach, FL	386-672-4044
	Fall Kickoff Classic @ Tysons Sport & Health	McLean, VA	703-442-9150
October 17-20	E-Force Strong Kids Campaign @ Central Branch YMCA	Wichita, KS	316-640-4991
October 18-20	Cocoa Halloween Open @ Cocoa Court Club	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
	Great Pumpkin Open @ Midtown Athletic Club	Sacramento, CA	916-441-2977
	Halloween Havoc @ SW Racquetball & Fitness	Odessa, TX	915-363-3058
	Racquetball October Fest @ Goldsboro YMCA	Goldsboro, NC	919-778-8557
	Texas State Seniors @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
	Tournament Of Terror @ Spectrum Club	Canoga Park, CA	818-884-5034
	West Michigan Open @ Michigan Athletic Club	Grand Rapids, MI	616-956-0944
October 19	San Lando Junior Benefit @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-880-7790
October 22-26	Swing Into Fall @ Redwood Center	West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
October 25-27	Ghostly Gateway Open @ Crystal Gateway Sport & Health	Arlington, VA	703-416-0169
	Rick Harmon Memorial @ Sarasota YMCA	Sarasota, FL	941-955-8194
	Thunderbolt Open @ Dan Gamel's H&A Club	Fresno, CA	559-227-8405
October 26	Spook Fest @ Racquetball & Fitness	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
	3rd Annual Halloween Spectacular @ Players Athletic	Warren, MI	586-774-6900

november...

November 1-3	Bay Area Sales Open @ Royal Athletic Club	Burlingame, CA	650-697-9162
	Gallatin Fall Shootout @ Gallatin Civic Center	Gallatin, TN	615-451-5911
	Philadelphia Tri-State Open @ Landsdowne Racquetball Club	Landsdowne, PA	610-328-8864
	Tampa Bay Open @ Bob Sierra Family YMCA	Tampa, FL	813-765-5120
	Travel Centers Of America Open @ Nautilus Fitness & Rac Club	Erie, PA	814-459-3033
	Maryland/DC State Doubles @ Laurel Sport Fitness [3]	Laurel, MD	410-987-0980
November 8-10	LCC Thanksgiving Tour @ Lincoln City Club	Dallas, TX	214-827-9994
	Turkey Shoot @ Riverside Wellness & Fitness	Newport News, VA	757-875-7525
November 9	Atlanta Grand Prix #4 @ Athletic Club Northeast	Atlanta, GA	404-784-5327
	Lehigh Valley Open @ Allentown Racquet Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
November 12-16	Bountiful Bash @ Bountiful Recreation Center	Bountiful, UT	801-295-5000
November 15-17	All Valley Open Championships @ Mid Valley Athletic Club	Reseda, CA	818-705-6500
	Cross Court Open @ Cross Court Athletic Club	Woodland, CA	530-666-1319
	DAC Turkey Ball @ DAC - Merritt	Baltimore, MD	410-332-0906
	Holiday Cash Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Silver State Games Series III @ Double Diamond Athletic Club	Reno, NV	775-425-1885

• For all sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2) • Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 10/02, you must renew in the month of October in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

For expanded calendar listings, refer to the online edition of RACQUETBALL at www.racqmag.com.
For online entries, go to www.usrastore.com.

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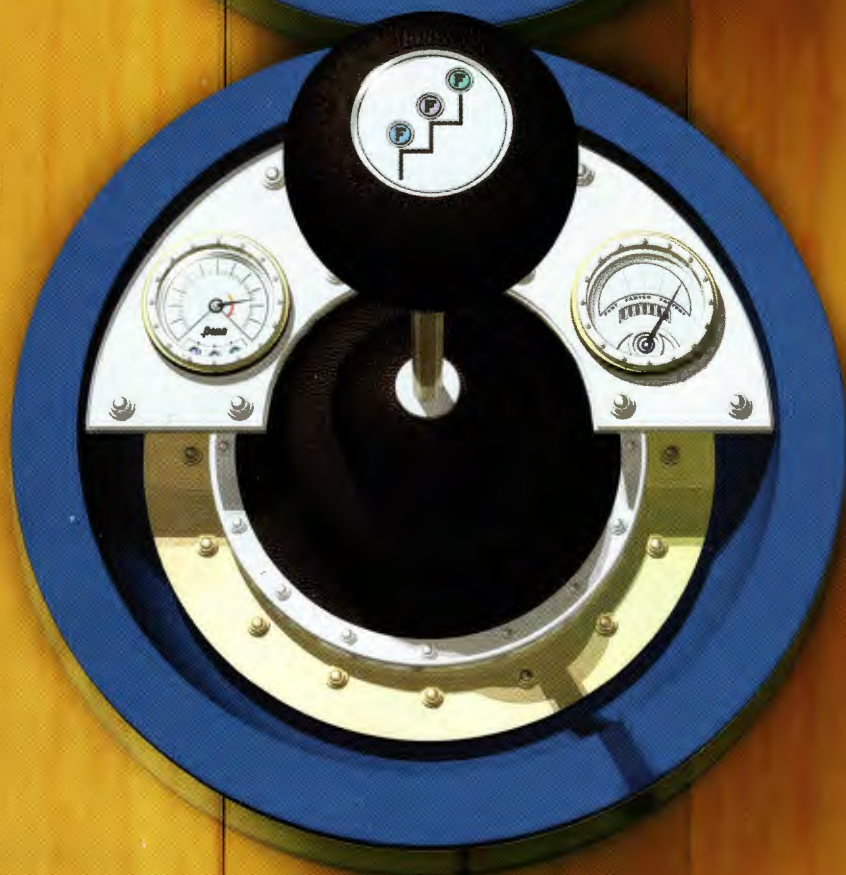
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