



From The President

We are at the dawn of the new millennium... or are we? Normally you start counting with "1", not with "0". Unless, of course, you're beginning a new game of racquetball!

Regardless of whether the year 2000 or 2001 is the beginning of the new millenium, the opportunities are endless. Instead of sitting down and making New Year's resoluitions, you can make NEW MILLENIUM resolutions.

Just think of it! You can resolve to:

- 1) Lose 20 pounds and keep it off... for the next millennium (1,000 years).
- 2) Exercise more... during the next millenium (1,000 years).
- 3) Practice your serves... throughout the next millennium (1,000 years).
- 4) Be kinder to your spouse, significant other, children, etc. ... for the next millenium (1,000 years).
- 5) Never lose your temper on the racquetball court... for the next millenium (1,000 years).

Oh, this is all getting pretty silly. I think I'm going to just focus on the next century or so instead of worrying about the entire millenium.

One hope for the new millenium is that we all maintain our passion for racquetball and continue to grow the sport we love. After the holidays are over, there is a full schedule of racquetball events to get you through the dark days of winter. You can start practicing for State Doubles by entering the Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic. Not far behind will be the St. Valentine's Day Massacre followed by the first ever "cash prize" State Singles tournament. Following that will be the always popular Shamrock Shootout and the USRA Regional Championships.

With the State Doubles and State Singles tournaments scheduled a month apart, we will be offering "partner" souvenirs. Plan on playing both tournaments to get a complete souvenir set.

I've got to go back and rethink those resolutions... have a happy, healthy, safe holiday season!! See you next millennium!

Laurel

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Who's Who on the Illinois Board

Tom Utterback, Wilson-sponsored player, former ISRA Vice President and current ISRA board member, thought that he would take a year or two off from ISRA executive duties beginning in 1999. He thought that he would just kick back and show up for his first match like the rest of tournament draw. Little chance of that happening! Tom is as active today in the state racquetball scene as ever—ISRA Vice President title or no. Tom has been playing racquetball for 14 years and when you have that much racquetball in your blood, it is hard to stop doing what you do best. While many of you see Tom playing deep into the draw during local tournaments, tournament directors see him beginning the Tuesday before the tournament's start, a welcome sight as a helping hand in the hectic days leading up the first scheduled match. Tom has been tournament director or co-director for all of the state's leading tournaments: State Singles, State Doubles, Regionals, and the always demanding Revie Sorey tournament. He also runs a tournament or two at his home club, Palos Olympic Health & Fitness, where Tom has been the Racquetball Director since 1992. At Palos, Tom runs leagues, clinics, junior programs, challenge court nights and teaches racquetball to club members.

Beside all of his off-court racquetball activities, Tom actually finds some time to play racquetball. Currently, he is ranked as the State's top Men's 35+ player in the USRA ranking system and number #17 in the country for this very difficult age division. He won State Singles in Men's 35+ last year and lost in the finals at Regionals last year to Dave Eagle from Ohio in a very competitive match. He got to the quarters in the US Open last year in Memphis. He has been known to play mixed doubles with his wife, Barb, a very good women's A player, but, like most married couples, they find that they play better apart than together. Strange! Competitors note that Tom is known for his excellent on-court behavior and his quick drive service motion, which does a good job of hiding the ball as it comes across his body. Tom credits two players with his development into a top Illinois open player. The first was Tony Boschia the former #1 ranked open player from Colorado where Tom lived for several years. The second is a local player, Brian Castillo, who beat Tom frequently when Tom came back to Illinois. In the real world, Tom is a salesman for a wholesale lumber distributor in Chicago. The ISRA board would like to thank Tom for his continued support of Illinois racquetball and thanks for letting us continue to work him during his sabbatical from his ISRA vice-president duties. —Mike Davern



Tom and Barb standing outside Gene Bart's racquetball superstore, The Racquet Connection, while on vacation last year in South Daytona Beach Florida.

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Correction:

The correct date for the Amatulli Open is February 25, 26, 27 at the Omni 41 Health & Fitness Connection, Schererville, Indiana. This tournament is known for its excellent tournament-long hospitality, its quality competition, and door prizes. Cash prizes are offered to tournament winners. For tournament application and additional information call the club at 219-865-6969.

Racquetball Websites

ISRA Website: <http://www.illinoisracquetball.com>

Check out the ISRA website for updated tournament information, tournament results, ranking information, and to find out what's happening at Illinois Clubs. Stop in and check it out soon!

USRA Websites: <http://www.racquetball.org> <http://www.usra.org>

Racquetball Magazine Website: <http://www.racqmag.com>

E-Force Racquetball: <http://www.e-force.com>

Ektelon Racquetball: <http://www.ektelon.com>

Head Racquetball: <http://www.head.com>

Wilson Racquetball: <http://www.wilsonracquetball.com>

Courtesy Sports: <http://www.courtesysports.com>

Gemini Racquetball: <http://www.craiga.home.mindspring.com>

PENN Racquetball: <http://www.pennracquet.com>

National Masters Racquetball Association: www.genesinetwork.net/users/nmra

IRT/WIRT Pro Tours: www.irt-tour.com

Jordan Kahn's Home Page: <http://members.aol.com/Jordanisra/index.html>

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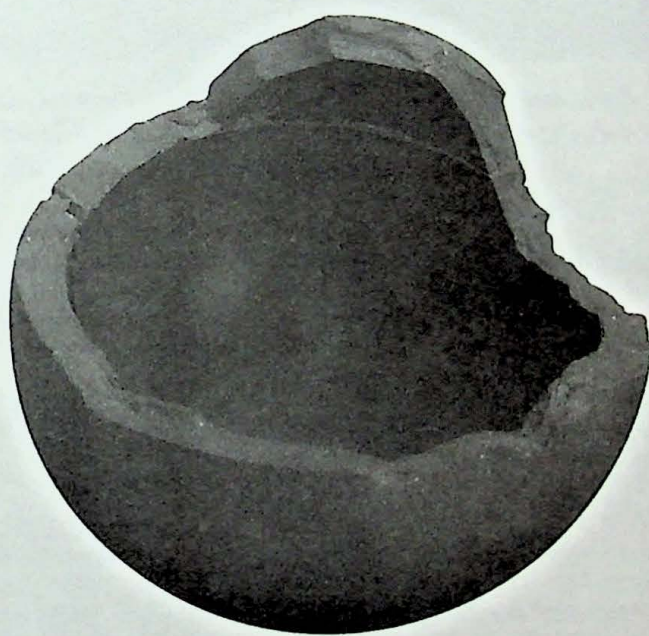
GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .pcx, or .ppt formats.
- If ads are run for the entire season, **AND** payment is received with the first issue, the sixth ad is FREE!
- These rates are in effect until December 30, 2000.
- Ad deadlines are as follows:

Issue Mail Date	Article/Releases Due	Stuffers/Inserts Due
1/1/00	12/9/99	12/13/99
3/1/00	2/12/00	2/20/00
5/1/00	4/12/00	4/20/00
7/1/00	6/12/00	6/20/00

- All stuffer/inserts are to be received by: Laura Kreiner, 2307 Arrow Street, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110.
- Ad rates:
 - Full page: \$300/issue.
 - Half page: \$175/issue.
 - Quarter page: \$100/issue.
 - Other sizes quoted on a case by case basis.
- For any questions or submission:
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Where are they now....

Gene Gene The Stringing Machine...Living out a Life's Dream

After 30 years as Chicago cop, life has become a dream for former Chicagoan Gene Bartkiewicz. Unfortunately for those of us having to deal with Chicago winters, we have to do it without the familiar face of Gene, Gene, The Stringing Machine, at local clubs and tournaments. As many of Gene's customers and friends are aware, Gene has moved to the sunny South Daytona Florida climate and opened his own "racquetball superstore" fulfilling a life's dream and completing a promise to "kick back and enjoy" that he made to himself while diffusing bombs as a key member for the Chicago bomb squad. Now, instead of hunting for the next "Big Bang" in Chicago (a former HEAD racquet) he is now looking for that proverbial "lost shaker of salt" as he walks out of his condo directly onto the beach in Florida. Not Margaritaville, but it comes close.

With his racquetball superstore, The Racquet Connection, only 10 minutes from home, Gene finds plenty of time for work, friends and the active racquetball scene in Florida. Surprisingly, racquetball is quite strong in a good year-round weather state like Florida. "We actually have more racquetball tournaments here in Florida than you have in Illinois," said Gene. "The biggest difference is that there is no racquetball season here, like you have up north. They play racquetball pretty much all throughout the year." The local racquetball community, plus his nationwide mail order activities, keep him busy and he has seen sales increase in his second year of business. Walk-in business is increasing, with a number of steady customers coming from the active racquetball program at near-by Embry-Riddle University. He is even getting a number of visits from his Illinois connections where Gene is very willing to play host to all of the wonderful activities in South Daytona.

While he doesn't miss the Chicago winters, the East Coast of Florida has its share of bad weather. Although Hurricane Floyd got all of the national news in 1999, Hurricane Irene really hit the coast hard. "I was able to get out of town using back roads for Floyd, but for Irene I sat on my balcony and watched as the ocean came right up to my building. The beach was totally gone for awhile." So to get a feel for real winter weather, Gene stays in touch with the Illinois racquetball scene and comes back to town each year for the Revie Sorey tournament. Look for Gene's smiling face at this year's Revie Sorey and see how it feels to live the dream. —Mike Davern.



Gene and recent Chicago visitor, Barb Utterback checking out Gene's sunglasses at the racquet connection, South Daytona, Florida. Picture taken by Tom Utterback.

Gauging String Gauges-Enough Knowledge To Make You Dangerous!

In last month's issue we discussed string tension, since that is the question I often get asked about first. However, in my opinion string gauge is just as important as the string's tension. For example, I know the racquet service business that strings Andre Agassi's tennis racquets. They put a micrometer on each set of strings for his racquets since Andre can tell the minutest difference in the string thickness. Now you probably aren't as particular as Agassi, but virtually everyone should be able to tell the difference between a 16 and a 17 gauge string.

String gauge is measured in millimeters. The Tennis Industry Association has established industry guidelines for gauges and all of the racquetball manufacturers follow those standards. Ask your racquet service technician if they know the actual size of the string that they use. Of course, all reputable string manufacturers put string gauge on the package. However, I know of at least one company who advertises "racquetball" string in a 17 gauge that actually measures as a middle of the road 16. You can't always trust the packaging.

Actually, there really is no such thing as "racquetball" string per se. Certain coatings and compounds lend themselves better to racquetball than tennis and that's the reason you see string advertised that way. Factory strings that come with new racquets are, in virtually every case, 16 gauge. Factory strings usually aren't the best quality. Any racquet, even a new one, can benefit from a restring. Do it

right away? That usually isn't necessary. For most players I would suggest using the factory string for awhile to get used to the racquet before restringing.

What is the difference in string gauges? Most players use 16 gauge since it provides a reasonable compromise between playability and durability. Thinner 17 gauge string provides greater playability at the expense of durability. This is the most popular gauge among the pros because of this reason. They're going to break strings regularly anyway so they figure they want the most playability. If it comes to a choice between durability and playability, they'll choose the latter every time. Another option to consider is 18 gauge string. This gives excellent control off of the string bed, but it would only be appropriate for those who rarely, if ever, break string. Some pros use a compromise—they string 16 gauge for durability on the mains and 17 gauge for playability on the crosses. Try it out. You might like it.

One of the most common questions I get is how often you should restring a racquet. The rule of thumb is that you restring a racquet as many times in a year as you play in a week. However, it depends on your playing style as well. Some people are just tough on strings, other's may never break them. All string is dead after about 40 hours of play, sometimes less. That means you should restring at least every six months if you play twice a week. Hope to see you at an upcoming tournament. I'll be glad to talk in depth. Call me at 618-667-8243 or email at rmkusche@aol.com. —Ralph Kusche.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

October 16-17, 1999

15th Annual Midwest Seniors/Masters

Athletic Club at Bloomingdale

Tournament Director, Rich Clay and the staff of The Athletic Club of Bloomingdale kicked off the 1999 fall season in fine fashion. The Senior/Masters round robin format gets plenty of playing time for the participants, and is an excellent way to warm up for the coming season. This tournament is also a level 5 event, giving extra points for the participants under the USRA ranking system. While most of the tournament players came from Illinois, players also came from Indiana, Wisconsin, and in the case of Men's 40+ Advanced player James Jones, as far away as California. Jones, while taking 4th in the event, was the talk of the tournament as players from all levels were amazed at his rocket serves, which when on, would seem to speed up as it hit any surface, never rising more than an inch or two above the ground. Even when the serve came off the back wall, an opponent had to move very fast to put the ball into play. Don Ott, from Indiana, was to eventually win over the fourth place Jones, fellow Indianian, Jim Scheak in third and second place Steve Sulli of Illinois, who was the only player to take a game from Ott. In the other Men's Advanced divisions, seeds mostly held to form as Dave Negrete avenged his loss stemming from last year's Men's 35+ to this year's second place finisher, Tom Utterback. In the Men's Advanced 45+, Winston Cole held sway over second seed, T.J. Ferro. However, in the Men's 50+ Horace Miller came up from second seed to best Greg Hasty from Peoria and in the Men's 55+, third seed, Ron Yonkee took out Erhard Gruenwald.

On the Women's side, Brenda White held the top spot winning the 45+ Advanced while Ellen Somberg continued her winning ways as she took the tough Women's 35+ Advanced division. For all tournament places down to fourth place see the table below.

-- Mike Davern

Event	First Place	Second Place	Third Place	Fourth Place
Women's 35+ ADV	Ellen Somberg	Brenda White	Carole Lisson	Leslie Miller
Women's 45+ ADV	Brenda White	Carole Lisson	Pam Grace	Barb Utterback
Women's 45+ INT	Gail Parzygnat			
Men's 35+ ADV	Dave Negrete	Tom Utterback	Carl Evers (WI)	Bob Wright
Men's 40+ ADV	Don Ott (IN)	Steve Sulli	Jim Scheak (IN)	James Jones (CA)
Men's 40+ INT	Charley Naber	Leo Formanski	Pete Shesek	Matt Malley
Men's 45+ INT	Charley Naber	Matt Malley		
Men's 45+ ADV	Winston Cole	T.J. Ferro	Bruce Carver	John Conrad
Men's 50+ ADV	Horace Miller	Greg Hasty	Joe Quirke	Ray Meisner
Men's 50+ INT	Len Schultz	Larry Schum	Lee Cherry	Jim Schevers
Men's 55+ INT	Robert Peters			
Men's 55+ ADV	Ron Yonkee	Erhard Gruenwald	Pat Taylor	Tom Fehsel
Men's 60+ INT	Manuel Rosiles	Ken Yahiro	Terry Wagner	Lee Booth
Men's 65+ INT	Ken Yahiro	Terry Wagner		
Men's 70+ INT	Ken Yahiro			

October 22-23, 1999

B.R. Ryall YMCA Fall Classic

B.R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn

Sean Nelson is still relatively new to the tournament director scene, having only run his first tournament last year. Well, Sean is a quick study, because his first tournament of this year at the B.R. Ryall went off without a single hitch. Some tournaments are high pressure, intense three or even four day affairs. Sean's tournaments are much more of the low key, fun-loving type. I have never seen a tournament director have an easier time finding referees and I did not hear

a single raised voice over any call. What a pleasure. It was nice getting in all of the action on Friday and Saturday leaving Sunday to the Bears, the Yankees and Braves or the kid's soccer game. By the way, Sean is a very driven man. His Sunday after the tournament was spent running 26.3 miles in the Chicago marathon, coming in at just over 4.5 hours for his first (and he says only) attempt. All in all, not a bad weekend. Hey, Sean, care to go for a run? -- Mike Davern

Event	First Place	Second Place	Semis
Men's Open/A (13)	Cary Slade	Mike Davern	Bob Morrison Brian JohnsonE
Men's B (12)	Brian Johnson	Rob Ayres	Ed Libby Greg Benjamin
Men's C (17)	Dave Coyner	Mike Moran	Bob Brennan Don Mayberry
Mixed D Singles (8M/1W)	Sid Harshavat	Dan Offerman	Dan Doretti Vito Rubiano
Women's Open/A (5)	Carol Lisson	Jill Nelson	Gail Parzygnat Mary Codrengton
Mens Open/A Doubles (5)	Dave Bachar/Dan Grigas	Al Ramjnez/Phil Schmitz	Mike Davern/Bob Morrison Greg Benjamin/G. Kostides
Women's Open Doubles (5)	Mary Codrington/Mike Goodyear	Jill Nelson/Rich Wells	Patty Drendel/Tom Curtis Lynn Hiorns/Kevin Yeazell

October 30 - November 1, 1999

13th Annual Halloween Classic

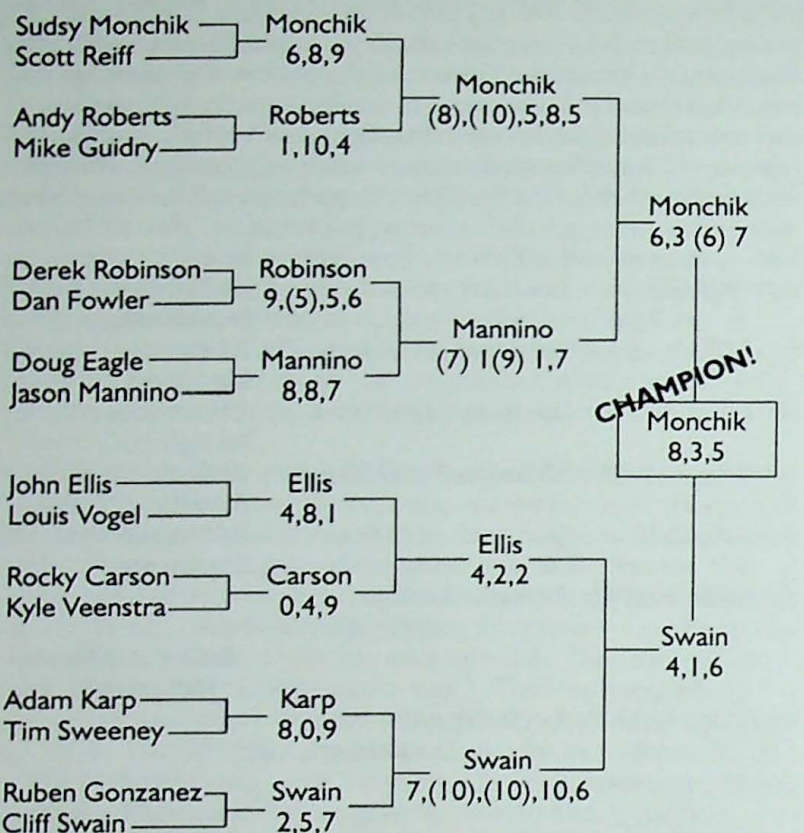
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale

IRT PRO DRAW

Saw some great matches this weekend starting right from the quarters on, with 33 in the Pro draw, including all of the top 15 Pros. Sudsy Monchik and Andy Roberts started the quarters with a 2-1/2 hour barn burner that pushed the whole evening schedule into early morning. Sudsy started slow, losing the first two games and playing the third to a 4-4 tie before waking up. Andy was having a lot of success with a soft two-wall junk serve that Sudsy would leave up for a kill. It wasn't until the third game that Sudsy's drive serve started working and that was the difference in the match. Cliff Swain and Adam Karp also went down to the wire with a 2 hour-plus match. Swain won the first but lost the next two to a hot Karp. There were so many controversial calls, that I don't know who got the advantage. Adam was serving for the win on one of the calls at about 10-9 but Cliff got the serve back and won the game 12-10. The final game was all Cliff and the "Flying Fish" went down in five. Two unbelievable matches. Great crowd of about 100 on hand. The crowd got even bigger for the semifinals and the matches even more competitive. The match between Jason Mannino and Sudsy was the match of the tournament. Mannino was retrieving ball after ball with incredible diving gets. Sudsy was too much for him however, and had his way at the end. Cliff had an easier time in the semis with John Ellis, who seemed off of his game somewhat. Cliff won that one in three. That set up the finals in which we got (for the first time in sometime for Chicago) the #1 seed against the #2. That match was again all Sudsy as his drive serve was too much for Cliff to handle. Hope that you get a chance to see the pros in action next year. It is tough to describe how good they are. They seem to be playing an entirely different sport from what we mere mortals play. Still every time I go, it seems to raise my game to a new level.

continued on next page

TOURNAMENT RESULTS



--Mike Davern

HALLOWEEN AMATEUR DRAW

The amateur side of the Halloween Pro-Am was up by at least 1/3 over last year's event. The lower ranked divisions really drew in the numbers. Men's C went from 8 to 24, Men's D jumped from 9 to 19. Men's Open was quite a story. Out of the 32 in the draw, a full 22 of the Men were from out-of-state. Imagine what the draw would be like if we had more than 10 local players come out for the Men's Open!!! We had players from Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin and Seiichi Tateuchi who came all the way from Japan. He lost in the first round in the Open and the first round in AA. Ouch! Still he hung around all weekend and seemed to have a great time. Why not? With a tournament this much fun, I don't see why we can't get full draws for every division next year. Please pass the word around. Even the women decided to get into the act with the draw increasing from 8 last year to an amazing 38 this time around!!! Dave, Dennis and John Negrete and the tournament staff went all out to put on a great event. I have seen many pro events around the country, but when Sudsy, the pro draw winner, thanked Dave Negrete you could tell it was for real. The pros really like coming to Chicago to play. Sudsy, who brought in his parents, his sister and her family and his new wife, also went all out thanking the Chicago crowd. From Friday night on, the pros had standing room only in the viewing area. Even Cliff got a long, loud standing ovation that seemed to go on forever. I have never seen such a reception for the second place player. You could tell that a disappointed Cliff was touched. It was really something. The competition was top-notch all the way around. Whether you were there to play or there to watch it was some weekend.

--Mike Davern

Event	First Place	Second Place	Semis
Men's PRO (33)	Sudsy Monchik	Cliff Swain	Jason Mannino John Ellis
Men's PRO Consolation (6)	Ruben Gonzalez	Mike Locker	Louis Vogel Mike Dennison
Men's AA (16)	Greg Hasty, Jr.	Andy Hawthorne	Matt Stambowski (OH) Dan Whitley (MO)
Men's B (32)	Jason Brownewell	Rob Bultnick (MN)	Jack Tamplin Dan Flood
Men's D (19)	Brian Pforr Doug Wakerly	John Kavoris	Barb Stanfield
Men's 30 (8)	John Amatulli (IN)	Eugene Coyle	Tim Vandenakker Joey Logan
Men's 35+ (11)	Lem Rowans	Carl Evers	Tom Utterback Carl Kisill
Men's 40/45+ (20)	Mike Anderson (MI)	Bill Lyman	Dave Milazzo Steve Sulli
Men's 50+ (8)	Horace Miller	Herb Grigg	Ray Meisner Jack Nagel
Men's 55+ (7)	Ron Yonkee	Erhard Gruenwald	Tom Fehsel Pat Taylor
Women's Open (8)	Kerri Stoffregren	Krystal Csuk	Cindy Tilbury (CO) Cara Pellowski (WI)
Women's AA (4)	Adrienne Fisher (OH)	Terri Thorton (MN)	Brenda White Kathy Dunham
Women's A (11)	Julie Vincent	Patrice Calvi	Pam Grace Leslie Miller
Women's B (9)	Leslie Miller	Cathy Radloff	Lynn Hiorns Pam Hepp
Women's 30+ (11)	Teri Thornton (MN)	Cindy Tilbury (CO)	Brenda White Laurel Davis
Men's Open Doubles (11)	Jack Huzek (MI) Mike Dennison (OH)	Mike Johnston (CO) B. Pointelin (CO)	G. Hasty Jr./J. Hawkins Arnett/J. Pontein (CO)
Men's AA Doubles (11)	Bryce Hawthorne	Jason Imhoff (KS) A. Stamler (MO)	Angelo Moca/Steve Lloyd Zigler (MO)/Whitley (MO)
Men's A Doubles (11)	Bowman/Brownewell	Sherman/Bultnick	Negrete/Rieman Avery/Rounsville
Men's B/C Doubles (11)	Baxal/Johnson	Wilhelm/Heitoff	Kelyiniak/Sparks Mueller/Breskavich

November 12-14, 1999 Southlake Fall Open

This was the first USRA Sanctioned Tournament for the Southlake Club, a 7 court racquetball facility and one of Northwest Chicago's last true racquetball facilities. The club is located in the northern suburb of Mundelein, half way between Chicago and the Wisconsin border. Tournament Director, Kathy Logic did a great job hosting the tournament with players attending from Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. Despite the November date, the weekend weather was fantastic, with the temperature in the low 70's. Amazing! The food and hospitality was terrific (thanks Mary) with an assortment of hot meals to select from- including yummy cookies and treats. Competition was great, with four of Illinois' top Open players in both the open singles and doubles events. The competitors included several Illinois State Racquetball Association Board Members, including a

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

National USRA Board Member (Geoff Peters) and the USRA National Rules Commissioner (Rich Clay). There was a referee clinic hosted by AmPro Certified Clinician Howie Robbins (Ektelon) early Saturday morning with several players in attendance. The best part of the tournament was the two nice young ladies running the tournament desk Friday night and all day Saturday. Both have experience running some of the Midwest's largest sanctioned tournaments. Special BIG thanks to Laura and Kara for making the tournament more enjoyable for all of us! From what I saw, I think that all of the players had a great time. Thanks to the Southlake Staff (Kathy, Mary & Jim) for doing such a great job on their first USRA Sanctioned Tournament. —Jordan Kahn.

Event	First Place	Second Place	Semis
Men's Open (4)	Eugene Coyle	Tom Utterback	Steve Uhlarik Doug Halverson
Men's A (8)	Raul Arteaga	Ben Croft	Al Rubiano Steve Saeks
Men's B (16)	Ben Croft	Luis Monsreal	Len Schultz John Beaulieu
Men's C (14)	Erik Newman	Grant Macuba	Joe Vallender Ed Niehiec
Women's A (4)	Ellen Somberg	Tina Hernandez	Lynn Weisbart Cathy Mysliwiec
Mens Open Doubles (4)	Tom Utterback/Rich Clay	Eugene Coyle/Steve Uhlarik	D. Halverson/M. Ardito R. Zimmerman/R. Miller
Men's A Doubles (7)	Rick Zimmerman/Ron Miller	Ray Miller/Carl D'Ambrose	K. Putkonen/H. Lampert
Men's B (7)	Martin Gonzalez/Len Schultz	Hal Hensey/Ellen Somberg	G. Benjamin/Ed Niemec H. Broman/Scott Locuss

November 18-21, 1999

Glass Court Turkey Shoot

Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard

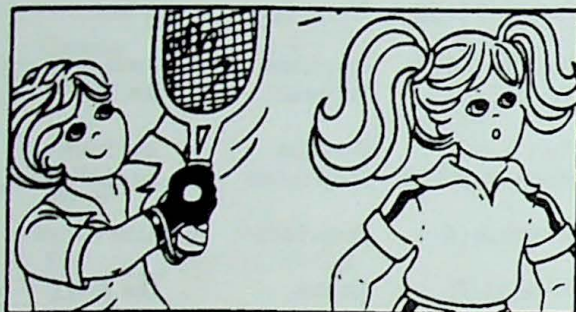
Once again, Doug Halverson, along with the club and tournament staff at the Glass Court went all out to make sure that we all had a good time. We had players from all over the midwest, including the three Hansen brothers, Brent, Blake and Blair Hansen in Men's Open all the way from Iowa. Imagine the marks on their parent's walls from those three while growing up! Doug Halverson had to have the quote of the tournament while playing Blair Hansen in the second game of their first round open match. A tired Halverson looked up and asked the ref how many times outs he had left. "Two", he was told. "How many does Blair have," he asked. "All three," he was told. While shaking his head, Doug says, "I am going to need both of mine Blair, how 'bout you taking one of yours." As the crowd erupts in laughter, Blair charitably agrees and takes one of his time outs. It must have been tough playing Blair and at the same time taking the good-natured ribbing that the crowd gave Doug in his 15-12, 15-12 loss. Still, it reminds me why we all play racquetball. Some losses are hard to take. Others you can still give your all and smile even as you go down. However, I'm not sure that either last year's winner, Kyle Veenstra (WI) or Tim Sweeney had much to smile about as the young Jack Huczek (MI) took both of them out in order in the semis and men's open finals, respectively. Jack just has a complete all-around game. What a great racquetball career he has ahead of him. On the women's side we got a repeat of last year's final, with Cheryl Gudinas retaining her top spot besting Kerri Stoffregen, 15-1, 15-9. Check out these and other winners below:

Event (# Players)	First Place	Second Place	Semis
Men's Open (29)	Jack Huczek (MI)	Tim Sweeney	Kyle Veenstra (WI) John Amatulli (IN) John Thorson Mike Bogue Jake Cordona (MI) Jeff Grace Joe Vallender Tim Clarke Tony Gonzalez John Walsh Ryan Brosseau Ken Carlton John Kundrot Joey Logan Tom Utterback Lem Rowans Dave Milazzo Steve Sulli Greg Hasty, Sr. Ken Fleck George Smuckel Willie McGee Walt Donath
Men's AA (13)	Jake Cordona (MI)	John Kundrot	
Men's A (27)	Kurt Mankle	Eric Rieman	
Men's C (25)	Jason Kennedy	Brian Pforr	
Men's D (27)	Sid Harshavat	Bob Brennan	
Men's Novice (4)	Sam Vargas	Ray Hurley	
Men's 30 (7)	Eugene Coyle	John Amatulli (IN)	
Men's 35 (10)	Dave Negrete	Mike Anderson (MI)	
Men's 40+ (7)	Chuck Snyders	Brian Castillo	
Men's 45/50+ (11)	Winston Cole	TJ Ferro	
Men's 45+ INT (3)	Larry Schum	Ray Almaraz	
Men's 55+ (6)	Ron Yonkee	Tom Fehsel	
Men's 65+ (2)	Dan Dallas	John Bolster	
Women's Open/A (10)	Cheryl Gudinas	Kerri Stoffregen	Liz Molitor Nancy Rocha Pam Grace Carrie Jaskier Lynn Hiorns Bridget Kundrot Joyce Burzloff Sara Wilrick Pamela Douthit Kari Miller
Women's AA (4)	Pontee Dodds	Kathy Dunham	
Women's B (7)	Jan Klass	Char Borre	
Women's C (7)	Janet Eminger	Chris Esposito	
Women's D (6)	Sue Wojnowski	Janet Christie	
Men's Open Doubles (11)	Dave Negrete/Eugene Coyle	Brad McCunniff/Blake Hansen (IA)	B. Hansen/B. Hansen G. Papas/R. Gates, Jr.
Men's A Doubles (13)	Dennis Negrete/Eric Reiman	Rick Cavaliere/Eli Williams	K. Mankle/T. Lester T. Wendt/C. Weinere
Men's B Doubles (11)	Dick Heithoff/Joe Wilhelm	Joe Quirke/John Talty	B. Pforr/R. Meisner D. Peterson/J. Gaw
Men's C Doubles (6)	John Annaya/Tom Pope	George Kostidis/Greg Benjamin	M. Diederich/ P. Mangiaracina B. Long/S. Harshavat
Women's Open/A Doubles (6)	Connie Arvia/Kathy Dunham	Liz Molitor/Laurel Davis	M. Huske/J. Vincent B. Utterback/P. Brown
Women's B/C Doubles (4)	Laura Hados/Kerri Gallagher	Jane Klass/Laura Somela	S. Pope/C. Borre P. Hartmann/J. Burzloff
Mixed Open Doubles (9)	Cheryl Gudinas/Jack Huczek	Kerri Stoffregen/Chris Wachtel	N. Rocha/T. Utterback K. Csuk/T.J. Ferro
Mixed A/B Doubles (9)	Pontee Dodds/Marten Gonzalez	Barb Utterback/Jim Amsen	C. Kirk/M. Mahon L. Janda/C. Weinere

2000 Junior Clinic Tour Rolls On

We have had a number of ISRA Junior Clinic Stops already this year including the Glass Court, Evergreen, Southlake and the BR Ryall YMCA and all were a rousing success. It is hard to tell who had more fun, the kids or the instructors! There are still a number of clinics left for this season. Remember all Junior Clinics are FREE to all participants!!! Your kids will receive instruction from some of the best racquetball players in the state (if not the country). All equipment and instruction is provided. There will be some free gifts for the kids from our sponsors, including racquets, balls, glasses, gloves, towels and a host of other items, all provided by Ektelon, Wilson, Penn, Head, Eforce and Pro-Kennex. If you are a sponsored player (or would like to be one) come on out to these events and help out with the kids. We are looking for a few hours once a year to give something back to the sport which provides fun and exercise to a great bunch of kids. Contact Tour Commissioner and Ektelon

sponsored player, T.J. Ferro at (630) 305-0989 for more details. The remaining tour schedule can be found on the back of the ISRA Tournament Calendar in this issue.



U.S. Open Winners

Congratulations to all of the Illinois players who participated in the U.S. Open in Memphis the week of November 30 through December 5th. Quite a contingent of players made the trek and, as usually, all reported having a great time. Illinois finalist and second place finishers are shown below. For more information and full draw sheets go to the USRA website at <http://www.usra.org>.

Men's D — Sid Harshavat, Palatine, IL def. Joe DeRoche, Chicago, IL 15-11; 15-7

Men's 25 Singles — Sameer Hadid, Sacramento, CA def. Eugene Coyle, Palatine, IL 15-6; 15-8

Men's 55 Singles — Ray Huss, Springboro, OH def. Horace Miller, Chicago, IL 15-9; 15-6

Men's 55 A/B — Ken Foster, Lewisville, TX def. Tom Fehsel, Chicago, IL 15-4; 15-1

Men's 55 A/B — John O'Donnell, Champaign, IL def. Robert Miller, North Augusta, SC def. (unex)

Women's C — Lynn Hiorns, Aurora, IL def. Vicki Leetch, Siloam Springs, AR 15-5; 4-15; 11-3

Women's 25 C/D — Lynn Hiorns, Aurora, IL def. Michelle Hoagland, Rosemount, MN 15-6; 15-8

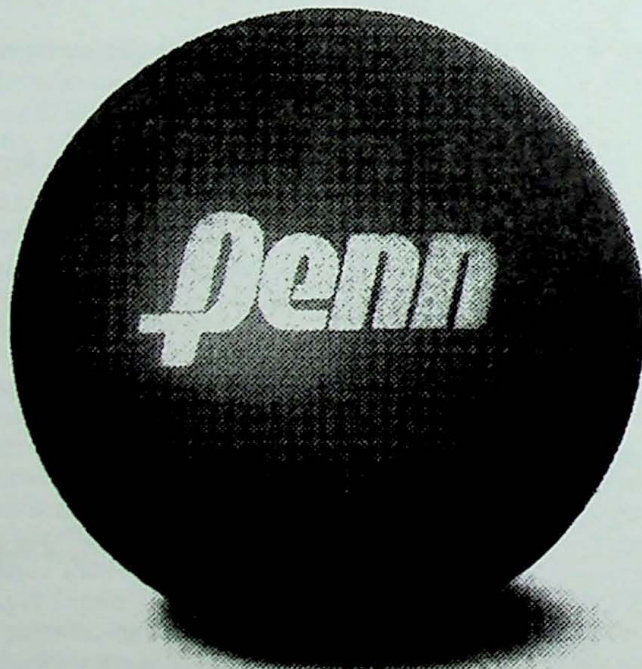
Women's 45 Singles — Meena Evans, Advance, NC def. Nancy Kronenfeld, Park Ridge, IL 15-4; 15-5

Women's 65 Singles — Round Robin 3 Jo Kenyon, Tallahassee, FL def. Lola Markus, Park Ridge, IL 15-7; 15-12

Women's 45 A/B — Kay McCarthy, Germantown, TN def. Lynne Weisbart, Northbrook, IL 15-9; 15-11

Men's B Doubles — Mike Campbell/Todd Dillard def. Jansen/Ross 15-7; 15-9

Men's 40+ Doubles — Bill Lyman (IL)/Joe Ault def. L. Cashion/B. Greaney 15-8; 15-13.



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What's My Ranking?

In Illinois, tournament players receive rankings points in two different systems when they play in a sanctioned tournament. We thought that we would explain how the different systems work and where you can find ranking information for tournament players. No system, especially one run by volunteers is infallible, so use this information to see where you rank and to make sure no information is being left off of your tournament records. In this issue, we'll discuss the USRA ranking system. Next month the ISRA system will be covered.

One of the benefits of competing in USRA/ISRA sanctioned events is the potential for earning state and national ranking points. While winning top tournaments in Illinois is always a goal, many players participate in tournaments not necessarily with a goal to win but to improve their ranking points in the USRA ranking system. The top ten nationally ranked players in each division are published in each issue of Racquetball Magazine and the top 25 are listed on the USRA website at <http://www.usra.org>. These lists always include a number of Illinois players. For those of us below the top 25, it was difficult to find current ranking information. Now, with access to the Illinois racquetball website at <http://www.illinoisracquetball.com>, USRA ranking information can be easily obtained by all Illinois players.

The USRA System

The USRA system is a quantity as well as a quality system. It rewards, both the quantity of play and how high a player finishes in a tournament. Reaching the quarterfinal round, or higher, in a sanctioned event earns ranking points toward a season record that is maintained over a trailing twelve month period. Points accumulated for one year are automatically deleted in the thirteenth month. For example, points earned at last year's Turkey Shoot would drop off the system in January 2000.

If you complete in sanctioned events regularly, you can quickly accumulate points that will steadily move you up in the USRA rankings. On the other hand, you can complete less often but still earn big points by finishing well in higher level regional and national events. Point levels for various tournament levels are shown in the table which follows:

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

*A closed tournament is one open to Illinois players only. For example, in Ohio, Tournament Director Doug Ganum runs a series of tournaments for the different cities around the state as a city championship series. These tournaments would be for Ohio residents only. In Illinois, tournaments are level two and above.

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

It is the responsibility of the tournament director to ensure that tournament records are sent to the USRA national office after each sanctioned tournament. In Illinois, the board has a Sanctioning and Eligibility Chairperson, a position currently held by Mike Davern, to follow up with tournament directors to make sure that all tournament records are correctly reported. If you notice that a misspelling has occurred in your name on a drawsheet or tournament card, please point this out to the tournament director so that the national office does not create a record of those results under a separate spelling of your name. If you think your tournament record is short some points, contact Mike Davern through the Illinois website to discuss your situation.

Next month we'll look at how the ISRA system works and take a look at who's on top in the national divisions. --Mike Davern



COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

Send to:

ISRA

2291 Shannondale Rd.
Libertyville, IL 60048

Member Sport,
U.S. Olympic
Committee

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business) _____
BIRTHDATE _____

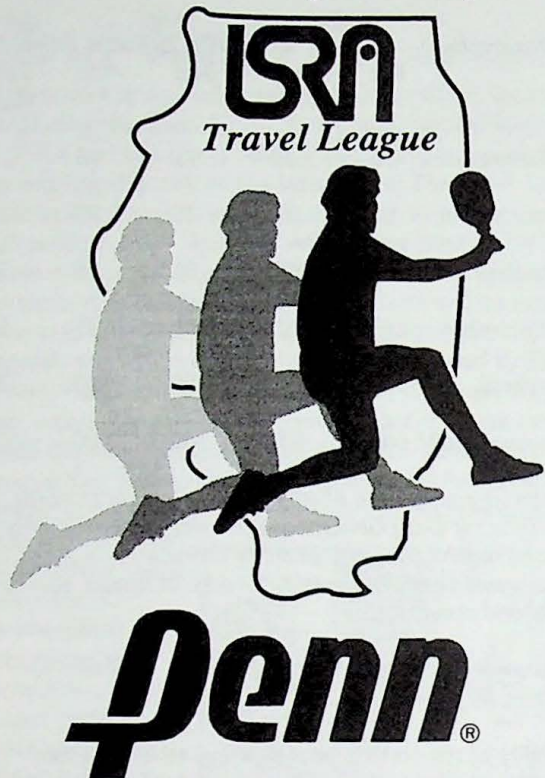
Adult competitor \$20.00
Junior competitor \$15.00
Junior competitor (without RACQUETBALL Magazine) \$10.00
RACQUETBALL Magazine subscription only \$15.00
Tax-deductible donation \$
Total enclosed \$

Tournament _____ Representative _____

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine (six times/year) and the Illinois Newsletter (six times/year).



Travel League Update



To all Travel Team Captains and Players:

Hope you are enjoying the travel season so far! Make sure your ISRA membership is paid through March of 2000 and that all changes to rosters are made prior to January, 2000 if you do NOT have 12 players on your roster. No changes to a full roster will be accepted after that date.

Play hard and have a good Holiday!

Any questions? Call Pam Grace 630-462-0244.

Challenge Court Nights

Palos Olympic Health and Racquet Club

Fridays 7-11 \$5.00

Oak Park Athletic Club

Wednesdays 4-7 and Saturdays 12-3 \$8.00



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