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BEYOND THE SHORT LINE
October - December 2004

Double-Jump Ranking System

Peggie Tellez

There has been a lot of confusion about the new National Ranking System. A look at the National web site, USRA.org, should give you a clearer picture, however the following information is a summary of the system now in place. The new ranking system will benefit all players not a select few. This accurately places a player in the proper ability-based position both nationally and in the state.

The double-jump system is dynamic in its ability to move a player as it responds to results based on the level of the player beaten and the time and ability level of previously recorded wins for the player.

- The system is active, letting players move up the rankings quickly. All matches are computed in the order that they were actually played regardless of when they are actually submitted for ranking. **More info on this below.*
- Also player movement is calculated and occurs after each and every match. (The player's movement is not calculated by using a group of match entries with calculations based on the starting position of each player for that ranking run.) This ensures that each player's ranking reflects his or her actual track record and his or her increase or decrease in ability level over time.
- The system disregards wins that would be considered anomalies (flukes) by enforcing time constraints on the "the next win" against the same opponent.
- The system allows players to move up in ranking immediately following a win against a player of a lesser ranking than their own previously recorded "best win". This movement or non-movement is also dependent on the time since that previous win.
- The system does not unjustly penalize the losing player by reducing their ranking to a level below that of other players who have not yet proven their ability to defeat said losing player.
- This program is based on algorithms and is not a subjective system.

*Sanctioned Tournaments, which have full compliance with respect to membership, will be included in the ranking results. It is up to each of us as player/members to be

Coach Jack Hughes

Recently, Jack Hughes was appointed as the New Head Coach for the Stanford University Racquetball Team. Congratulations Jack!

Board of Director Elections and Officer Appointments

The election for 3 board positions found the re-election of Margaret Pederson, George Tellez and Steve Cook. In the board meeting held for the validation of the election, the board members nominated its slate of officers. Congratulations to George Tellez-Secretary, Jack Hughes-Treasurer, Margaret Pederson-North Vice President, Peter McMillin-South Vice President and Peggie Tellez-President.

certain that our membership in the USRA is current at all times. Help your tournament directors and state officials by asking if your membership is current or go to the USRA.org site to verify your eligibility.

Here are a few scenarios to step you through the system:

Note: HWL = High Win Last, i.e.: best win to date within time constraint

Assume starting point for the scenario

Player A = starting rank is 100 & A's HWL = 100 to start

Player B = starting rank is 60 / HWL = 54

Player A participates in two different tournaments. On October 22, 03, player A beats player B, that date becomes player A's Stale Date and becomes the HWL.

On January 24, 04, player A beats player B again. (Assuming that player B hasn't moved during the time span) Player A moves to the 60th position, player B moves to the 61st position (one position down). Player A's Stale Date is now January 24, 04 and HWL is 60.

This is a basic example however a more in-depth example using multiple players is available on the californiaracquetball.org site. Please feel free to ask myself or Jack Hughes or any State Board official to further clarify your questions. If we don't know the answer, then we will take it to the rankings committee at the USRA. This is a legitimate system that fairly rewards the player for the win he or she earns.

CSRA Board of Directors

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Margaret Pederson – Northern VP
Peter McMillin – Southern VP/
Junior Liaison
George Tellez – Secretary
Jack Hughes – Treasurer
Steve Cook – Newsletter Editor
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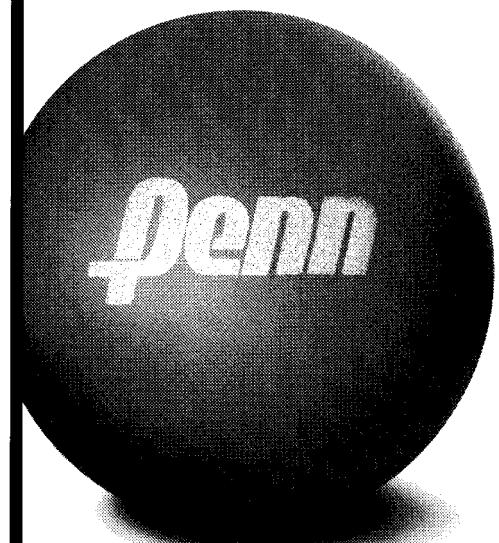
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Junior Racquetball Championships

On August 1st over 30 Junior Racquetball players gathered at Fitness West(formerly What a Racquet) in Daly City for the state Junior Racquetball championships. It was a great day, with lots of playing and fun. The morning began with a talk from Brian Dixon and Vinnie Caramagno (both from Petaluma Valley Athletic Club, where 9 players were participants in this tournament), as most players then headed to their court or to get another Krispy Kreme(some did both)!

The day was so on time that a lunch break needed to be taken just to get caught up. Lots of pizza was served and a drawing was done with donations from E-Force and Wilson. The junior players were always willing to ref or do whatever was needed to help out. What a concept! From the 8 year old multi bounce players to the 18 year olds hitting the ball 100+ MPH, everyone had a great time.

The tournament ended with two players, Jacob Pritchard and Eli Smukler, being in the finals of the 14's and the 16's..They were offered the opportunity to take care of this in one match, but decided to do two separate matches. In the 14's, it was a battle back and forth with Jacob pulling it out in the tie breaker. They took a little break and headed back in for match two. Mind you, this is after a day of playing two different round robins! Eli won in two games making it a perfect finish to a terrific day.

Other finishers included: Monique Horyza, Devon Pimentelli, Ashley Avery, Conor Pimentelli, Andrew Meyer, Nathaniel Amidei, Nick Hackworth, Tyler Lanman, Ryan Myer, and Mark Rodriguez. Congratulations to all finishers and participants. You should all be proud...



Jacob Pritchard prepares to hit the ball against Eli Smukler

Next years event figures to be another great time. Please look out and plan for this next year.

Brian Dixon
Junior Racquetball Director
Petaluma Valley Athletic Club

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State Double Champions

Congratulations to the 2004 State Doubles Champions. The teams worked their way through tough but well-played matches. The new tournament program kept the conflicts to a minimum and allowed the tournament to run on schedule, allowing everyone to finish early enough on Sunday to participate in Halloween festivities.

Mens

Open	Jon Dunn-Palmdale/Greg Solis-Orange
Finalist	Peter Gauci-Chino Hills/Daryl Uhrich-Placentia
Elite	Tim Herman-Corona/John Kazaroff-Long Beach
Finalist	Bob Gannuscio-Corona/Bill Harned-Norco
A	Hal Brown-San Diego/Renjen Rengasamy-San Diego
Finalist	Joe Mears-Garden Grove/Les Yocom
B	Warren Pettit-RSM/Mark Root-Mission Viejo
Finalist	Jim Gutierrez-Oxnard/Joji Knight-Oxnard
C	Matt Shrewsberry-Ontario/Jon Varona-Chino Hills
Finalist	Greg Imuta-Pasadena/Armond Voskanian-Tujunga
25+	Jon Dunn-Palmdale/Greg Solis-Orange
Finalist	Jim Banuelas-Laguna Hills/Mike Behar-West Covina
35+	Rick Sandello-Whittier/Ravi Sohoni-Huntington Beach
Finalist	Peter Gauci-Chino Hills/Daryl Uhrich-Placentia
45+	Bert Castelanelli-Lodi/Don DiPalma-Garden Grove
Finalist	Garrett Parks-Studio City/Carlos Ascunce-North Hollywood
55+	R.O.Carson/ Ron Combs-Laguna Hills
Finalist	Mickey Bellah-Laguna Hills/Darryl Keene
35+A	Carlos Ortiz-Irvine/Walter Armendariz-Sunset Beach
Finalist	Carlos Ascunce-North Hollywood/Garrett Parks-Studio City
30/35+B/C	Jose Islas-Encinitas/Francisco Camarena-Encinitas
Finalist	Mark Root-Mission Viejo/Warren Pettit-RSM
45+B	Dave Peckinpaugh-Moreno Valley/Hatch Saakian-Tujuna
Finalist	Mark Wells/Michael Finney-Tustin
Womens	Roxanne Davis-San Diego/Lori Soares-Santee
Finalist	Marie Martinez-Garden Grove/Diana Pelletier-Lake Forest
Mixed	
Elite	Diana Pellitier-Lake Forest/Jeff Combs-San Clemente
Finalist	Marie Martinez-Garden Grove/Gabe Medina-Irvine
A	Roxanne Davis-San Diego/Hal Brown-San Diego
Finalist	Lori Soares-Santee/ Renjen Rengasamy-San Diego
B	Cindy Flores-San Bernadino/Hank Estrada-Alta Loma
Finalist	Debi Pierce-Huntington Beach/Robby Johnson-Anaheim
C	Traci Pettit-RSM/J Huot-Dana Point
Finalist	Nina Hunt-Vista/Ron Hirata-Oceanside

Online Membership System

You have to check this out!!!!

Go to the USRA web site: USRA.org, then go to the **Member Login**. Provide your membership number to get your password.

From here you will be able to change your address, correct personal information and view your competitive history.

If it is time to renew your membership, then go to the **Activate your Membership** tab, provide your membership number or search by your name. If you have been a member sometime after 1996, you are already in the database. Update your personal information and renew your membership.

This new system is really the cornerstone for the new rating system and the tournament draw program that will be used for all sanctioned events in the very near future.

No more wondering if your membership has expired and whether you'll need to bring the extra money to renew. With the new tournament program, most entries will be taken on-line with membership verification or application built in to the entry form. Rankings/Ratings will be stored in your membership file, which will save you from having to search for your name in the National ratings data file.

This new three-pronged system will finally bring this great sport into the 22nd century and allow it to take its place as one of the best and well-managed competitive sports.

The USRA deserves our support and applause for this huge undertaking.



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Collegiate Feature

After two top ten finishes at both the 2003 and 2004 collegiate nationals (4th in 2004), California State University Sacramento's Raquetball Team continues to be a national power house coached by Mark Salinas and Melissa Borgwat. The team has consistently shined at both regional and national competitions since the latter nineties. Further testimony to their hard work is that they support their existence through fund raising (and donations).

Thanks Sac State for being fine representatives of California racquetball and ambassadors of goodwill for sport and school!

What follows is the school's team and notable finishes at the 2004 nationals.

Men (Olympic format)

Mark Salinas	Gold #1 mixed
	Gold #1 Blue
	4th #1 doubles (Gold)
Jason Santos	4th #1 doubles (Gold)
Miguel Cruz	4th #2 doubles (Gold)
Matt Roberts	Silver mixed (Gold)
	4th #2 doubles (Gold)
Ted Mackey	Gold #6 Red
Denton Warnock	
Chris Simmons	
David Hettzel III	

Women (Olympic format)

Melissa Borgwat	Gold #1 mixed (Gold)
	Bronze #1 singles (Gold)
	4th #1 doubles (Gold)
Brianna Russell	Silver mixed (Gold)
	Silver #2 singles (Blue)
	4th #1 doubles (Gold)
Mariange Russell	Bronze #3 (Gold)

Community Voice

Anyone wishing to post info about a mixer, demo night or any other up coming event at their club that is not a sanctioned tournament this is the place to do it. Please e-mail your info to Steve Cook at cooksprtg@softcom.net.

CSRA Budget

CATEGORY	PER MONTH	2005
Inflows:		
Sanction fees 45 @ \$100.00		\$4,500.00
Web site advertising		\$550.00
Newsletter advertising		\$700.00
Membership rebates 1300 @ \$10.00		\$13,000.00
		\$18,750.00
Outflows:		
Printing:		
Newsletters 4 @ \$1500		\$6,000.00
Calendar 2 @ \$500		\$1,000.00
Letterhead Stationery		\$800.00
Office Supplies:		
Printer Supplies		\$400.00
Postage		\$1,300.00
PO Box		\$106.00
Telephone/Teleconference	\$125.00	\$1,500.00
IRS Filings		\$500.00
Web site Maintenance		\$500.00
Directors & Officers Insurance		\$3,000.00
Education		\$500.00
Tournament Director Forums		\$700.00
Scholarship		\$1,000.00
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		\$18,306.00

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Petaluma Valley Athletic Club – Junior Racquetball Tournament

On Saturday October 9th, Junior Racquetball players from areas of Northern California such as Woodland, Sacramento, Daly City, San Ramon, Novato and of course Petaluma, came to play at the annual junior tournament in Petaluma (40 miles north of San Francisco). The tournament directors were Vinnie Caramagno (Racquetball Director at Petaluma), and Brian Dixon, (Junior Racquetball Director).

As is usually the case, the junior players were great to work with. No major controversies, and they were always willing to do referee duties, though most play was self refereed. It was a full day of playing, eating, and more playing. No one played less than 3 matches during the day and no major complaints were heard. Many parents stayed and helped with the players throughout the day, and also had a couple slices of Pizza!

Players were divided into three groups: Red, White, and Blue. The Red group consisted of Beginners and Multi-bounce players.. The White and Blue groups were the Intermediate and Advanced players. Awards were given to the 1st and 2nd place finishers of the Red, White and Blue divisions as well as for the Girls and Multi-Bounce (Ball can bounce multiple times instead of just once).

In the Red group, Max Limeberger (Carmichael) defeated Matthew Bluhm (Petaluma) in the finals. Ashley Avery(Mountain View) finished 3rd over Sawyer Lloyd (Petaluma). The White group had Nick Hackworth (Burlingame) defeating Tyler Lanman(Danville) in the final match. Victor Frausto (Woodland) defeated his friend Joey Galindo(Woodland) for 3rd and 4th. In the Blue division, Eli Smukler(Berkeley) beat Jesse Adams (Petaluma) in the finals, while Jens Gunheim(Petaluma) beat Kevin Cooper (Petaluma) in a close tie breaker for 3rd place.

In separate playoffs, Devon Pimentelli (Daly City) took



Players and parents listen to Vinnie Caramagno talk about the tournament day

Monique Horyza(Orangevale) to a tie breaker to win the Girls final. In the multi bounce final, Ashley Avery (Mountain View) overcame Conor Pimentelli(Daly City)..

Congratulations to all the players who made it a fun, enjoyable day! Hope to see you next October.

Brian Dixon
Junior Racquetball Director
Petaluma Valley Athletic Club

Message from the President

By Peggie Tellez

Hello from the helm. The State doubles Championships were held at the Los Caballeros Sports Complex with players feasting on an array of opponents and varied meals. Halloween weekend is a tough date for families and I am pleased to announce that the 2005 State Doubles will be held in the normal spot in September, ahead of the National Doubles.

Elections for 3 board positions were completed and verified, while the turn out was skimpy to say the least. It is interesting commentary that with 1500 to 1800 members, so few take the time to return a ballot to determine the leadership for our sport. Take a few minutes, see if you have the time and drive to elevate racquetball to its proper place in the sports world. Consider placing your name on the next ballot. Start gathering signatures for your petition

and get active. This is a volunteer board and your thoughts, ideas, legwork and enthusiasm are needed. This is your call to step-up.

In order to facilitate smoother communications, the board will be meeting via teleconference for most of its meetings with face-to-face meetings taking place at the State Singles and Doubles tournaments.

The Annual meeting, which is to be held during the State Doubles event, was announced as taking place on Saturday, October 30 at 1pm. No one attended. EEEEEEKKKKK. We will plan to host a Question & Answer session at the State Singles in our continued efforts to reach out to the membership.

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