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# USRA Newsletter

*The Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association*

**Vol. 19 No. 5**  
**September, 2002**



**Junior Nationals**  
**pages 5-9**



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## From The President

So, where were we? Oh, yes...it was 6 days before the start of the USRA Junior Nationals tournament and a lot of things were still up for grabs...

So how did it turn out? Let's see some of the comments:

"Just wanted to say thanks for the great tourney.... Keep up the good work with the JTI. That was neat to see all of the new kids playing."

Frank Doyle, Cincinnati, Ohio

"....best Junior Nationals in the six years we've been going!"

Patrick Starken, Muskego, Wisconsin

"Awesome, just awesome. Even the small details that are usually overlooked are very noticeable here."

Geoff Hunter, Florida

The event was a big success - for the players, their parents and everyone who worked to make it such. Players were greeted with a Coca Cola "goodie bag" which included a National City Bank frisbee, a McDonald's coupon and patriotic pin, Ashaway racquet strings, water bottles, assorted munchies, etc., etc.

We had food, served by Casino's, on site all week so that people didn't have to stray too far from the racquetball action to keep themselves sustained. Also, there was free pizza provided at both clubs at least once during the tournament - thanks to Sean Nelson and Rocco's Pizza.

National City Bank joined with the ISRA to sponsor the barbecue on Thursday night. The ISRA Board, along with some great grill cooks who also happened to be JTI parents, served up 300 hamburgers, 200 hot dogs and 50 bratwursts. It was a perfect night for sitting around outside, relaxing and catching up with racquetball friends from around the country. The kids made good use of the sand volleyball courts and the outdoor racquetball courts. Those of us working also had a great time because of the obvious appreciation of the attendees and the great camaraderie of our own group. Working hard has never been so fun! I always thought that bratwursts were common fare around the country, but you'd be surprised how many questions we got about those "sausages"!

When the competition was all over, the top 4 winners in each division were awarded their medals "Olympic style", on a medal stand hand-built by my brother, Barry Davis. You know how confident some kids seem when they're on the court?? Well, it was a different story when some of them reached the medal stand. They were pretty shy! There's another confident player, though, who wants to have the opportunity to receive an award on that stand: if anyone is driving a truck to the US Open in Memphis, let me know. Sidsy Monchik will be waiting for you...and the medal stand...at the other end.

For those who were there - and those who weren't - the whole week was memorialized by Chris Novak. Chris served as official tournament photographer and took to the job with enthusiasm. After the tournament, he sent a CD-ROM to anyone who wanted it for just \$3. I know Chris enjoyed his job, especially adding the captions!

To share in the Junior Nationals experience, please read the tournament article and the letters of appreciation in this newsletter. For pictures, check out [www.illinoisracquetball.com](http://www.illinoisracquetball.com). Then, get ready for another season of spirited ISRA racquetball. Summer's over!



Laurel



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# NMRA National Masters International Championships

University of Illinois, Champaign  
July 17-20, 2002

Tournament host, Champaign

native and long-time

racquetball regular

John O'Donnell, Jr.

welcomed a field of

national quality

racquetball talent

to the University

of Illinois campus

this past July. John

was totally in his

element, not only

playing in two

divisions (taking third

in Men's 70+ and first

with Lola Markus in

Mixed 70+ Doubles) but also

making sure each and every competi-

tor was feeling right at home in central

Illinois. The NMRA format has competi-

tors 45+ and better playing multiple

matches in a round robin format with one

game to 21 points. The matches are quick

and played with three or four games

scheduled back-to-back-to-back. This is a

great way to play and recover quickly.



Matches are well spread out over the course of three or four days.

Still, competitors have to be in excellent shape to

survive. The amazing thing

is that many competitors

play in two divisions,

which could easily give

them 15-20 matches over

the course of the week.

Believe me, that is a lot of

punishment for any

"body", no matter the age,

to take! Illinois competitors

did quite well over high

quality talent. Check out the

Illinois results below.

—Mike Davern

**Women's 45:** Liz Molitor, 2nd; Andrea

Scott, QF; Carol Lisson, QF

**Women's 50:** Nancy Kronenfeld, 1st;

Kathy Dunham, 2nd

**Women's 55:** Margaret Hoff, 2nd

**Women's 70:** Lola Markus, 1st

**Men's 45:** Mike Davern, QF; Barry Elliott, QF

**Men's 50:** David Olson, 1st; Frank Rusch, 3rd; Greg Hasty, 4th; Jim Elliott, QF

**Men's 60:** Patrick Taylor, QF

**Men's 65:** Ronald Rainey, QF

**Men's 70:** Don Alt, 1st; John O'Donnell, Jr., 3rd

**Men's 75:** Philip Dziuk, 2nd

**Mixed 45 Doubles:** Andrea Scott/Mike Hiles, QF

**Mixed 50 Doubles:** Kathy Dunham/David Olson, 3rd

**Mixed 55 Doubles:** Margaret Hoff/Steve Lavorgna, 4th

**Mixed 70 Doubles:** Lola Markus/John O'Donnell, Jr., 1st

**Men's 45 Doubles:** Barry Elliott/Tad

McCullaugh, 4th

**Men's 50 Doubles:** Randal Ashton/Robert

Jimenez, QF; Bob Gray/Gary Gray, QF

**Men's 65 Doubles:** Otis Chapman/Don Alt, 2nd; Ed Olah/Bob Baudry, QF

## 2002-2003 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

### 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, .jpg or .pdf 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, 2002.
- Ad deadlines are as follows:

| Issue Mail Date | Article/Releases Due | Stuffers/Inserts Due |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 11/01/02        | 10/11/02             | 10/18/02             |
| 1/06/03         | 12/13/02             | 12/20/02             |

- All stuffer/inserts are to be received by: Laura Kreiner, 2307 Arrow Street, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110.

### Ad rates:

Full page: \$300/issue.

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Quarter page: \$100/issue. Other sizes quoted on a case by case basis.

- For any questions or submission:

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# "Junior Team Illinois" Jumps to a 4th Place Finish in the 2002 Junior Nationals!

For the first time since 1986, the 'HEAD Junior Olympic National Racquetball Championships', were held in Chicago at The Athletic Club of Bloomingdale and the B.R. Ryall YMCA in Glen Ellyn! This five-day junior racquetball extravaganza began on June 26th and went well into the late afternoon of June 30th.

Over 260 of this country's finest junior racquetball players, representing 38 states, competed in this major national tournament. This was the largest Junior Nationals tournament in at least four years. Junior Team Illinois (The JTI) led all states in player entries (40), topping perennial entries leader Junior Team Oregon (33) and national powerhouse Junior Team Ohio (28). Last year, prior to the formation of Junior Team Illinois, our entry total at the Denver Junior Nationals was 5.

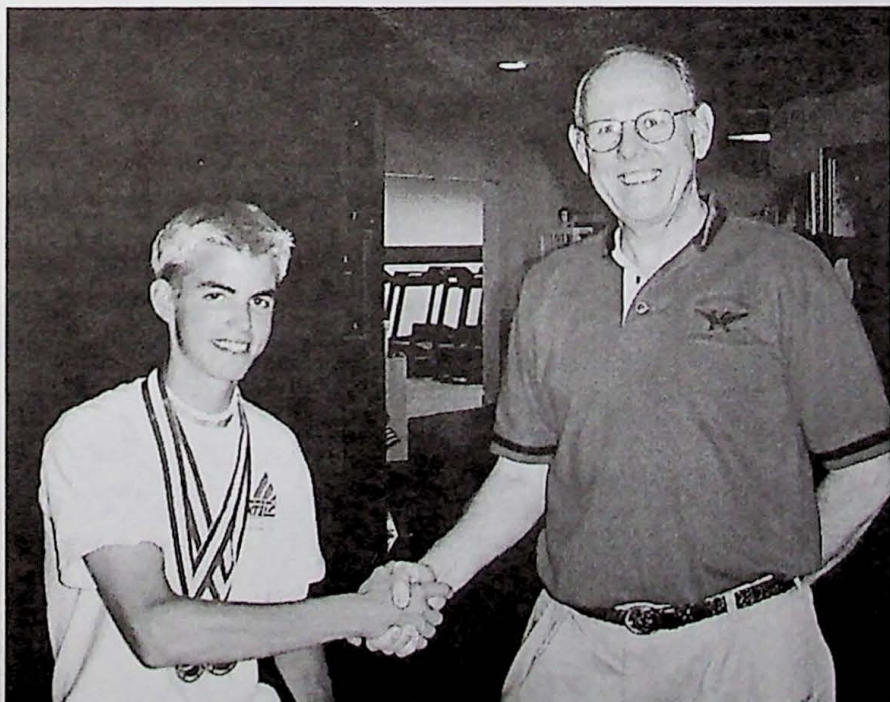
Proving the quality, as well as the quantity, of our efforts, Junior Team Illinois placed 4th in the 2002 Chicago Junior Nationals! Many Illinois juniors advanced to the quarterfinal and/or medal rounds. Finishing ahead of Junior Team Illinois were Oregon, Ohio and California. Junior Team



*Junior Team Illinois and Coaching Staff get ready to rumble!*

Florida finished fifth, 14 1/2 points behind our 4th place standing. Last year, Illinois placed in the middle of the pack in points, grouped with New Mexico and Texas.

TJ Ferro and his Coaching Staff of Bill Lyman, Liz Molitor, Krystal Csuk, and Dennis Negrete for getting the kids ready to play and for keeping them focused during their matches.



*USRA Board member John Ferguson of Oregon congratulates silver medalist Ben Croft*

Since so many of these top Junior Team Illinois players were competing in their first-ever Junior National Championship tournament, it seems all the more remarkable that the kids were able to compete so well, so soon, at such a high level! Thanks to JTI Head Coach

Adding to the fun at this 29th annual tournament was the announcement that JTI's Ben Croft was named an All-American in U.S. junior racquetball! By virtue of his silver medals in both the Boys' 16 & Under and Boys' 18 & Under Gold Divisions, Ben was a double qualifier for the U.S. Junior National Team. He made a fine showing in the finals against Dan Sheppick (OR) in 16's and Jack Huczek (MI) in 18's. Nicely done, Ben!

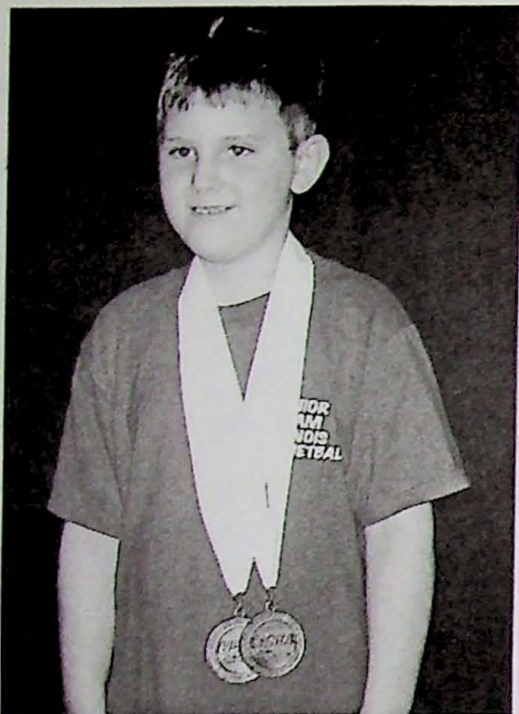
Of course, a tournament of this magnitude doesn't just happen by itself! Many, many dedicated supporters came together in a seamless coalition to host what has been enthusiastically described as "one of the best Junior Nationals, ever!" The ISRA, the USRA, the JTI, the 2002 Host Committee, Dave Negrete, Sean Nelson, the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale staff, the B.R. Ryall YMCA staff, the USRA Junior

*continued on next page*



# Junior Nationals

*continued from previous page*



*Double medals for Peter Young!*

Advisory Council, the many corporate and individual benefactors, all gave selflessly to create and host this wonderful event.

The Olympic tournament format is used at the Junior National Championships. This means that the first round non-winners in the original draw (the Gold Division), drop to play in the Red Division. Non-winners there drop to play in the White Division. Yet a fourth division, the Blue Division, exists to accommodate



*Chuck Snyder and his "bag ladies": Top, left to right: Sue Antonoff, Judy Young, Pam Snyder, Cheryl Kirk. Bottom: Pam Grace, Janet Eminger, Cati Heinrich*

the second round non-winners. Play continues in each division until a player has played a minimum of three matches, and then loses, or wins, the successor division. In short, the divisions are ranked by skill finish thusly: Gold, Blue, Red & White (top to bottom).

The dedicated team members of Junior Team Illinois who played so hard, and represented Illinois so well, will always be remembered for their impressive participation. These talented stars of Illinois junior racquetball are listed below with their finish(es).

**Mike Antonoff**  
Quarterfinals, Boys' 14 & Under (Red)

**Zac Antonoff**  
Quarterfinals, Boys' 12 & Under (Red)  
**Jonny Belvedere**  
Quarterfinals, Boys' 10 & Under (Red)  
Semifinals, Boys' 10 & Under Doubles (Consolation)  
**Ben Croft**  
Second Place, Boys' 16 & Under (Gold)  
Second Place, Boys' 18 & Under (Gold)  
**Jono Davern**  
Round of 16, Boys' 10 & Under (Red)  
**Michael Davern**  
Semifinals, Boys' 14 & Under (White)  
**Mike DeGonia**  
Round of 16, Boys' 16 & Under (Red)  
Quarterfinals, Boys 18 & Under (Red)

*continued on next page*



*The Youngs: A Racquetball Family Extraordinaire!*



*Silver medalists Trevor Snyder and Justin Fleck  
Boys' 12 & Under Doubles*





*Congratulations to Erich Schubert!*

**Erin Egan**

Semifinals Girls' 14 & Under (Red)  
Quarterfinals, Mixed 14 & Under Doubles

**Mark Elliott**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 14 & Under (White)

**Joey Eminger**

Semifinals, Boys' 10 & Under (White)

**Nick Ericksen**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 14 & Under (White)

**Justin Fleck**

Finals, Boys' 12 & Under (Red)

Finals, Boys' 12 & Under

Doubles

**Geoff Goldblatt**

Semifinals, Boys' 12 & Under

(Red)

**Chris Heinrich**

Round of 16,

Boys' 12 &

Under (Red)

**Angel Khamis**

Round of 16,

Boys' 14 &

Under (Gold)

Finals, Boys' 14

& Under

Doubles (Consolation)

**Joey Limonciello**

Quarterfinals,

Boys' 12 &

Under (Red)

**Matt Loy**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 10 & Under (Red)

Finals, Boys' 10 & Under Doubles

(Consolation)

**Nick Loy**

Semifinals, Boys' 10 & Under (Red)

Semifinals, Boys' 10 & Under Doubles

(Consolation)

**Ryan Lynch**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 12 & Under (White)

**Wesley Lynch**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 14 & Under (White)

**Chris Muruato**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 14 & Under (White)



*Joey Eminger with mom Janet, his biggest fan!*

**David Negrete**

Semifinals, Boys' 8 & Under MB (Red)

Quarterfinals, Boys' 8 & Under (Red)

**Julia Negrete**

Semifinals, Girls' 10 & Under (Red)

**Scott Ness**

Semifinals, Boys' 16 & Under (White)

**Jeff Novak**

Round of 16, Boys' 14 & Under (Blue)

Quarterfinals, Mixed 14 & Under Doubles

**Brett Petricek**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 10 & Under (Blue)

Finals, Boys' 10 & Under Doubles

(Consolation)

**Brandon Ritschard**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 14 & Under (Blue)

Finals, Boys' 14 & Under Doubles

(Consolation)

**Lauren Ritschard**

Finals, Girls' 18 & Under (White)

**Chris Schubert**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 14 & Under (Red)

**Erich Schubert**

Finals, Boys' 8 & Under (White)

**Chris Snyders**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 18 & Under (White)

Round of 16, Boys' 18 & Under Doubles

**Trevor Snyders**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 10 & Under (Blue)

Finals, Boys' 12 & Under Doubles

**David Thomas**

Quarterfinals, Boys 16 & Under (White)

**Izzy Vogt**

Finals, Girls' 10 & Under (Red)

**Erik Young**

Quarterfinals, Boys' 12 & Under (White)

**Jason Young**

Round of 16, Boys' 16 & Under (Red)

**Jessica Young**

Semifinals, Girls' 12 & Under (Red)

Semifinals, Girls' 14 & Under Doubles



*Sudsy Monchik signs his autograph for a fellow player*

*continued on next page*



## Special Thanks...

### Individual Benefactors

#### (from Illinois):

Frank Bunker,  
Diane Bunker, Laurel Davis,  
Barry Davis, Jerry DeGonia,  
Nicki Egan, Jim Egan,  
Peggy Hartmann,  
Cati Heinrich, Cheryl Kirk,  
Fred Ritschard,  
Julie Ritschard,  
Chuck Snyders,  
Pam Snyders, Joan Snyders,  
Geoff Peters, Bob Croft,  
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### Special Mention to the USRA Staff:

Jim Hiser, Otto Dietrich,  
Heather Fender, Ryan John

### Special Mention to USRA Junior Advisory Council Members who assisted:

John Ferguson, Jim Garner,  
Geoff Hunter, Rex Fisher,  
Fred Ritschard

## Junior Nationals

*continued from previous page*

### Peter Young

Semifinals, Boys' 8 & Under MB (White)

Semifinals, Boys' 8 & Under (White)

### Stephanie Young

Semifinals, Girls' 14 & Under (Red  
Division)

Semifinals, Girls' 14 & Under Doubles

### Vanessa Young

Injured

For further information and pictures of this  
outstanding tournament, please go to the  
'Junior Team Illinois' webpage on the  
ISRA website and/or the USRA website.

— Fred Ritschard



*Lauren Ritschard takes her place  
on the medals stand!*

## We Appreciate the Appreciation!!

The following are thank-you letters received from National Juniors tournament attendees...

### To: Fred Ritschard

#### From: Bami Brown

*Thank you again, Fred, for finding such a wonderful family for us to stay with. They really made us a part of their family and took awesome care of us. Let me know if I can ever do the same for any child or family traveling here.*

*(Note from Fred: The Browns came to the Junior Nationals from New Mexico. The Youngs put them up in their home for the week. How about that for team spirit! The Snyders lodged Jeremy Lonosga of Colorado Springs for the week in a similar arrangement. The Lynches offered free housing to the Philips family of South Dakota, although they later roomed with others from South Dakota to defray expenses.)*

### To: Fred Ritschard

#### From: Frank Doyle

*Fred, just wanted to say thanks for the great tourney. I know you put in a lot of extra time. Keep up the good work with the JTI. That was neat to see all the new kids playing. Hopefully, they'll keep it up. Take care and we'll see you soon.*

### To: Fred Ritschard

#### From: Patrick J. Starken

*Fred, I do not know if I thanked you properly. You and the JTI did a great job supporting the tournament staff. This has been one of the nicest experiences we have had in the past 6 Junior Nationals. Great Job!!!*

### Dear Junior Racquetball Parents of Illinois,

*What an AWESOME job you all did for the Junior National tournament. Your friendliness was contagious and refreshing. Your attention to detail was so much appreciated. From the blue backdrop for photos, the barbecue, the photos throughout the event, the "Goodie" bags, so much more. We hope that we are able to come close to providing the wonderful hospitality that you all did when we host the Junior World tournament here in Florida. Please extend our gratitude to all of those hard workers who made this 2002 Junior National Tournament so successful. We really appreciated everything!!!*

*Yours truly, Tracy & Geoff Hunter, Naples, Florida  
Parents of Paige, Matthew & Geoffrey*





*ISRA President Laurel Davis and brother Barry  
created the popular medals stand*



*All tuckered out after a fun & challenging weekend!*



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# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Summerfest

Glass Court Swim & Fitness  
July 26-28, 2002

Summerfest is a great way to play a little racquetball, enjoy great food with the beverage(s) of your choice, and say "hey" to buddies you haven't seen for a couple of months. Throw in a pool and volleyball party on Sunday afternoon, and you've spent just about the perfect midsummer weekend! Diane and Joe DeArmas, along with their excellent staff, tournament director Doug Halverson, and a gaggle of volunteers (see list on next page), more than upheld the excellence we've come to enjoy at Glass Court. Thanks to all!

Congratulations to Women's Open winner Liz Molitor, Men's Open winner Andy Hawthorne, and to all the winners and competitors in the 21 divisions; matches were played fairly and without incident sans referees.

This great tournament served to whet our appetites for the upcoming season nearly upon us. Check out the calendar in this issue, and the Summerfest results below!  
—Cheryl Kirk

## Division, # in draw

First; Second; Semifinals

### Men's Open (13)

Andy Hawthorne; Ben Croft; Bill Lyman, Brian Simpson

### Men's AA (5)

Tony Marquez; John Thorson; Kent Hadraba, Martin Gonzalez

### Men's A (10)

Bob Cence;  
Tony Gonzalez;  
Keith Kareiva,  
Dick Heithoff

### Men's B (14)

Mike Belvedere;  
Steve Schroll;  
Ray Shimizu,  
Grant Macuba

### Men's C (17)

Jon Soike, Nick Kelly; Larry Schum, Benoit Carrier

### Men's D (23)

Chris Liljestrang; Sami Abualsamid; Dan Doretti, Nick Kelly

### Men's Novice (2)

Marshan Johnson; Mark Parzgnat

### Men's 30/35+ (7)

Brian Simpson; Cary Slade; Rob Hartman, Kent Hadraba

### Men's 40+ (6)

Tom Utterback; Chuck Snyders; George Pappas, Mike Bryce

### Men's 45/50+ (6)

Joe Silius; TJ Ferro; Pat Taylor, Len Restaino

### Women's Open (7)

Liz Molitor; Nancy Schum; Kathy Dunham, Kathy Welker

### Women's AA (3)

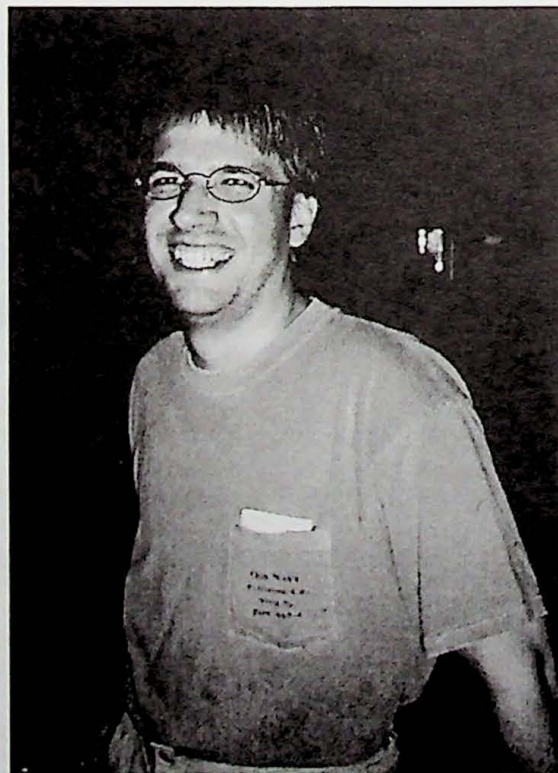
Janet Eminger; Cathy Bertucci; Marcia Tilley



*Racquetball players display their versatility at Summerfest*



*Club owner Joe DeArmas and ISRA President Laurel Davis congratulate Women's Open Champ Liz Molitor*



*Bob Cence takes Men's A!*



### Women's A (7)

Julie Carter; Karen Lindeman; Joan Vande Kieft; Marcia Tilley

### Women's B (3)

Cheryl Kirk; Char Borre; Jennifer Jaskier

### Women's D (3)

Allison Fleck; Lauren Ritschard; Jan Parzgnat

### Men's Open Doubles (5)

Andy Hawthorne/Tony Marquez; Bill Lyman/Ben Croft; Dave Bachar/Don Grigas; TJ Ferro/Chuck Snyders; Mike Bryce/Rob Hartman

### Men's A Doubles (6)

Dick Heithoff/Joe Wilhelm; Chris Ragsdale/Roy Orr; Joe DeArmas/Jeff Grace; Matt Malcheski/Keith Mecklenburg

### Men's B Doubles (9)

Matt Malcheski/Scott McPeck; Mike Belvedere/Eddie Ruffin; Jim Wehrli/John Levy; Phil Mangiaracina/Ray Shimizu

### Men's C Doubles (7)

Kit Lawson/Mike Mahon; Bill Apostolos/Jeremy Andrews; John Lyons/Chris Liljestrand; Angelo Kanis/Keith Ostrowski

### Mixed Open/A Doubles (8)

Joe Silius/Patrice Calvi; Janet Eminger/Tom

## Thanks to Our Summerfest Volunteers!

Pam Grace, Patrice Calvi, Tom Utterback, Laurel Davis, Geoff Peters, Cheryl Kirk, Keith Mecklenburg, Liz Molitor, Peggy Hartmann, Ray Shimizu, Michelle Halverson, Joe Silius, Laura Morgan, Dan Flood, Mike Davern, and the staff of Glass Court Swim & Fitness.



Michelle Halverson: "Nice job, Honey!"

Utterback; Karen Lindeman/Don Grigas, Martin Gonzalez/Kathy Welker

### Mixed B/C Doubles (4)

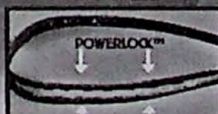
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# ISRA Golf Outing a Huge Success!

The 2002 ISRA Golf Outing took place on July 13th, a beautiful sunny day, at Village Greens Golf Course in Woodridge.

This year's outing had a record number of 20 foursomes and proved to be one of the best ever. The lead-off foursome of Dan Flood, Doug Halverson, Eric Rieman and Dick Heithoff ended up being the winning foursome with a score of 15 under par. What a nice birthday present for Dan Flood who celebrated (and I do mean celebrated) his birthday on the golf course with his racquetball and golf buddies. Patrice Calvi and Michelle Halverson were on the 17th betting hole and did an awesome job of entertaining all the golf participants and raising money for the ISRA.



A big "thank you" goes out to Wilson, Ektelon and E-Force for their generous prize donations. After golf there were, of course, the golf stories, lots of good food, raffle prizes, and maybe a beer or two. The weather was awesome and lots of golfers stayed past dark until finally we were asked to please leave: the course was closed! All in all, it was a spectacular day of golfing fun. If you missed this golf outing, DON'T miss it next year! Tom does a great job running the outing, and we can always use more participants, especially more women golfers!

—Barb Utterback



*Dick Heithoff, Eric Rieman, and Doug Halverson pose with their designated driver*

*It's All in Your*  
**COURT!**  
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**SPONSOR!**

**Here's a challenge to all ISRA Members:**

- ▶ Sponsor ONE NEW player to the sport of racquetball this year. Any age.
- ▶ Take him/her to your court... and teach the game. Stay with them until they can join a league on their own.
- ▶ Just think how good you'll feel when each of us sponsors the players of tomorrow!



[www.illinoisracquetball.com](http://www.illinoisracquetball.com)



*Michelle Halverson, Connie Arvia, Patrice Calvi and Nancy Amaro enjoyed the weather and the competition*



# Never Give Up, Even on a Roll Out

by Don Grigas

Competition brings out the best in people. It can also bring out the worst, and on some occasions, the humorous. Take, for example, an incident that occurred in 1981 during a travel team match.

The opposing team had a player who had gained a reputation for stretching the accepted limits of believability when it came to playing racquetball without a referee. He also masked — and aided — this liberality by speaking in a manner that was unintelligible, which earned him the nickname "Mumbles".

Speech patterns aside, to know him was to understand him.

He was so competitive that if he retrieved a shot on a second bounce it was still in play. If it happened to take a third bounce before he got to the ball, it was still a wise decision to keep playing just in case he didn't see the first two bounces either. If he hit a crotch shot into the front wall, it was good. Your similar shots were bad. In short, the guy was relentless, and had gained a deserved reputation as someone who had to be watched and controlled constantly on the court, or else you could conceivably start a match losing 4-0. It almost became a joke when playing him.

We would begin teasing each other on the ride over to their club about who had to play Mumbles, who — to be honest —

was a fairly talented player who didn't need the "extra help", but who had developed a favorite tactic of not calling the score out very loudly, which came in very handy when he was losing. If you called the score as "12 serving 8", the next time he stepped into the service box you just might hear his jumbled words of "10 serving 12", just unintelligible enough so that you couldn't really question him if you chose to remain a sportsman. Every game was a battle, every call went his way, every score called had to be monitored to make sure he didn't stretch a 6-4 lead to 9-4 during a time out.

This particular evening a close friend, Steve Truax, drew the assignment of playing Mumbles. Play was progressing in normal fashion until one point when Steve unleashed a shot that was perfect: it hit the front wall low and rolled out to midcourt. Steve nonchalantly strolled forward to pick up the ball to go serve the next rally, his reward for the perfect shot. Before Steve got to the ball Mumbles swiped at the rolling ball with his racquet — Steve thought in frustration — and the ball went back to the front wall.

Steve walked toward it to pick it up and go to the service box to serve the next point, but instead Mumbles got to the ball first, picked it up and strode matter-of-factly into the service box, prepared to serve to Steve despite Steve's unreturnable winning shot.

Steve, mouth agape, looked at Mumbles and spoke:

Steve: "Ummm...excuse me, but that was my point."

Mumbles: "Umphf...uh nuh, I got it."

Steve: "It's my serve. I am winning 10-7."

Mumbles: "Uh hunh...my serve...."

Steve: "But no one's ever returned a roll out."

Mumbles: "Thank you."

Discussion over.

It pays to be polite. A few seconds later Truax, knowing any effort to argue was fruitless, wandered back into the return area and Mumbles served out the match, easily defeating a bemused Steve. So just remember, don't give up on a shot just because it is rolling. Although you may think it is unreturnable, it isn't.

And I have seen it happen.

*Have a humorous racquetball story to tell? We welcome your stories and anecdotes, and will publish them in this humor section of the newsletter, space permitting. Please submit them with a name and phone number for consideration. Send to [cherylkkirk@aol.com](mailto:cherylkkirk@aol.com).*

# USRA

United States Racquetball Association

## COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

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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).





# 2002-2003 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

## October 2 - 6

Ektelon 35<sup>th</sup> U.S. National Doubles  
Minneapolis, MN  
Heather Fender (719) 635 - 5396  
**Sanctioned**

## October 11 - 13

Fall Classic  
Edens Athletic Club, Skokie  
Joe Gill (773) 286 - 6700  
**Sanctioned**

## October 19 - 20

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Masters  
Athletic Club of Bloomingdale  
Rich Clay (847) 918 - 7407  
**Sanctioned**

## October 25 - 27

Ed Lembitz Memorial Fall Open  
B.R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn  
Sean Nelson (630) 858 - 0100  
**Sanctioned**

## Oct 31 - Nov. 3

Halloween Classic IRT Pro Stop  
Athletic Club of Bloomingdale  
Dave Negrete (630) 893 - 9577  
**Sanctioned**

## November 9 - 10

The Southlake Fall Open  
The Southlake Club, Mundelein  
Kathy Logic (847) 949 - 8180  
**Sanctioned**

## November 14 - 17

The Glass Court Turkey Shoot  
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard  
Doug Halverson (630) 629 - 3390  
**Sanctioned**

## November 20 - 24

The Choice Hotels 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Open  
The Racquet Club, Memphis, TN  
Doug Ganim ((719) 635 - 5396  
**Sanctioned**

## December 18 - 22

IRF 14<sup>th</sup> World Juniors  
Orlando, FL  
Heather Fender (719) 635 - 5396  
**Sanctioned**

## January 16 - 19

Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic  
World Gym, Palatine  
Anita Efron (708) 474 - 2440  
**Sanctioned**

The balance of the 2002-2003 Tournament Calendar will be published in the November issue of the ISRA Newsletter. For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar, please contact Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413 or at [Petersgeoff@Hotmail.com](mailto:Petersgeoff@Hotmail.com).

# Movin' On Up in Illinois!

What a great 2001-2002 season we had in Illinois — numerous local tournaments (with unprecedented junior participation), not to mention State Singles, State Doubles, Regionals, National Singles and Doubles, National and State level Seniors/Masters, and don't forget the US Open!



Janet Eminger and the "infamous letter" (Donuts in her future? No way!)

Illinois players showed up in fine style. Some had levels of success to the extent that they will, per ISRA rules, move up to the next competition level this coming season. Specifically, those players who won full draw tournaments in singles and doubles (a full draw is 8 for women's divisions and mixed doubles; 12 for men's divisions) will move up effective with the first tournament of the new season (aka Summerfest, reported in this issue). It's especially great to see junior players Mike DeGonia, Angel Khamis, and Brandon Ritschard advancing in the adult ranks, from Men's D to Men's C. And congratulations once again to Ubaldo Melo, ISRA Most Improved Player for 2001, who advanced from Men's D to Men's A in less than a year!

Full draw tournament winners were recently "served" with letters stating their new competition levels. Please join the ISRA in congratulating these players on their success!

—Cheryl Kirk

## Men's A to Men's Open

Ron Calloway, Scott Graves, John Halpin (IN), Jeff Hotler, Jorge Ortiz, Russ Tatar, TG Venkateshwaran, Bob Wright (IN), Alex Zamudio (IN)

## Men's B to Men's A

Juan Alcantar, George Gonski, Tony Gonzalez, Dick Heithoff, Ubaldo Melo, Vito Rubiano, Bryan Shaw (MO), Dave Schoonover

## Men's C to Men's B

Mike Belvedere, Oscar Corona, Brett Crawley, Jason DeSanto, Sid Harshavat, Jason Kennedy, Joe Kukielski, Tom Lamberson, Mark Mazza, Dave Porzel, John Usimial

## Men's D to Men's C

Antonio Correa, Mike DeGonia, Brett Denuyl, Rick Falcone, Randy Helm, Angel Khamis, Bob Littledale, Brandon Ritschard, George Vowell, Dan Whiston

## Men's 45 Intermediate to Men's 45

Ron Marr

## Women's A to Women's Open

Cathy Bertucci, Stephanie Cobb (MI), Janet Eminger, Tina Hernandez

## Women's B to Women's A

Maureen McKay

## Women's C to Women's B

Jennifer Jaskier, Joan Vande Kieft

## Men's A to Men's Open Doubles

Joey Brownlee/Russ Tatar, Derrick Childress/Delmer Reed

## Men's B to Men's A Doubles

Kelvin Branch/Joe DeMarco, Matt Malcheski/Dave Schoonover

## Men's C to Men's B Doubles

Mike Belvedere/Eddie Ruffin, Mark Bricker/John Puccio

## Mixed A to Mixed Open Doubles

Ken Cook/Pat Jennings, Scott Reiser/Kathy Welker



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# Racquetball Challenge Courts

## Buehler YMCA

Palatine, IL  
Thursday 7-10 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon  
\$15 One-Day Guest Pass

## Bloomington Challenge Court

630-893-9577  
Saturday and Sunday  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$6.00

## Edens Athletic Club

773-286-6700  
Saturdays 1-3 p.m.  
\$8 for ISRA members  
(with membership card)

## Glass Court Challenge Court

630-629-3390  
Saturday 9-11 a.m. \$6.00

## Landmark Health & Racquetball

Peoria, IL  
First & Third Fridays of Month  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. \$5.00

## Oak Park Athletic Club

708-848-5200  
Wednesdays 4-7 and  
Saturday 12-3 p.m. \$8.00

## Palos Olympic Health & Racquet Club

708-974-1900  
Thursday 6 - 8:30 p.m. \$5.00

## Southlake Challenge Court

847-949-8180  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
\$10.00 for ISRA Members  
(with membership card)

## Sunset Racquetball & Fitness

Center, Geneva  
630-232-7867  
Saturday 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
Members: \$2, Non-Members: \$5

## World Gym, Palatine

(formerly Charlie Club)  
847-991-9300  
Tuesday 7 - 10 p.m. and  
Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon  
\$5.00

To add your club  
to this list, contact:

**Mike Davern**  
630-579-8611



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