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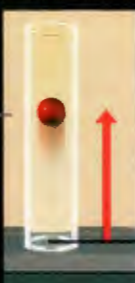


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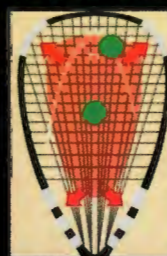


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Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

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

Objectives:

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

FEATURES



National Singles Championships

Jack Huczek (pictured above) and Rhonda Rajsich were able to end the 2003-2004 season on a high note by claiming titles.



Junior Olympics

Ben Croft and Adrienne Fisher repeated as 18-Junior Champs as players earned appointments to the team that plans on regaining the World Cup.



U.S. OPEN Insert

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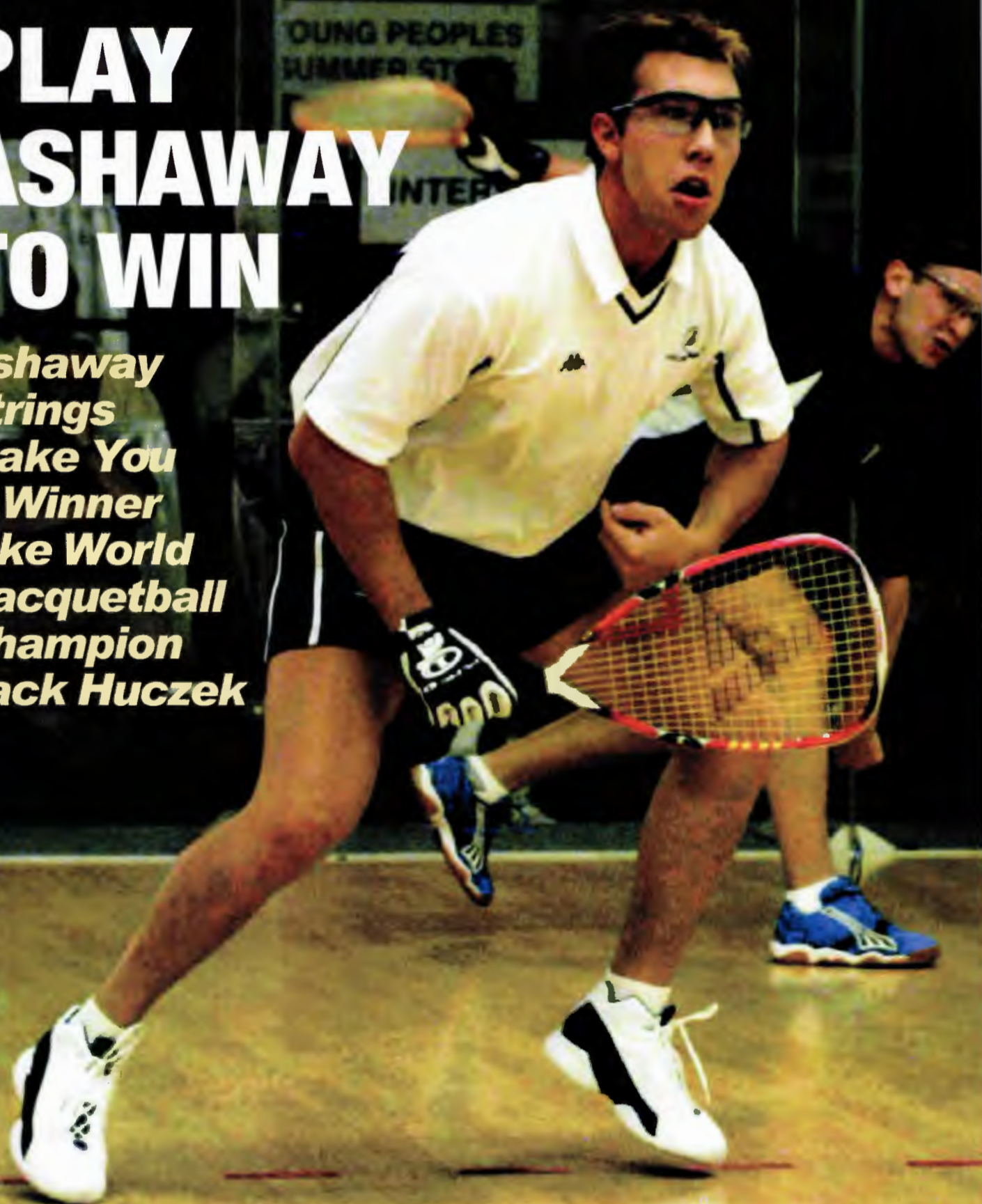
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EDITOR'S NOTE

RYAN JOHN

Sometimes, during the excitement of change and the new challenges and responsibilities that we incur during change, we can lose sight of the people, places and things that have brought us to this point. Those of you that have read the past two issues of the magazine may have read (on more than one occasion) that USAR has had to make some difficult staff changes at the national office. One of those staff changes was the release of Linda Mojer.



Linda first began working for the then AARA in 1984. She worked out of her home in Florida as a press officer for all major AARA events. She also edited the four pages that the AARA was allotted in National Racquetball Magazine. When National Racquetball folded in 1989, Luke St. Onge, then the Executive Director of the AARA, decided to revive the old association magazine and hired Linda to take on the task. She made the move from her home in Florida out to Colorado Springs.

The first edition of RACQUETBALL Magazine, then Racquetball USA, came out as a February-March issue. It was 32 pages printed on newspaper. There were two other issues that came out that year. The next year Linda upped the quality of the magazine to a full-color glossy edition that we are more accustomed to. She also began the bi-monthly format that we are still using as our model today.

In addition to her duties as Managing Editor of the magazine, Linda was the Associate Executive Director, Director of Communications, Designer and Developer of the website (which she implemented), and was responsible for all design and graphics in the magazine. She was also in charge of on-site coverage and promotion of tournaments, both national and international, including two Pan American Games, six IRF World Championships, and eight U.S. OPENS.

Linda completed everything with extra special attention to detail. She never hesitated to put in long hours if the task at hand called for it and it was nothing to drive past the office at 10:00pm on a Sunday night and see Linda's car in the parking lot. I remember speaking with Doug Ganim at a tournament in Ohio after I had applied for a position with USAR and he informed me that the job wouldn't be easy, that Linda would push me everyday, and that 'she does more work in one day than most people do in a week.' Anyone that knows Doug knows what a compliment that is.

I have been often asked if it was hard to work for Linda. Often times it was, but not for the reasons that people think. Linda put amounts of pressure on me that I wasn't accustomed to, but she knew that I could handle it even if I didn't. She would push me to my breaking point, but never past it, and would always show respect and compliment a job well done at the end of the day. Because of this she was able to bring out the best in me and others around her. She made me a better worker, a better writer, and a better person.

Linda will be greatly missed by the racquetball community and surely appreciated wherever she ends up. Without her there might never have been a RACQUETBALL Magazine. I know that I never would have made the journey from Ohio to Colorado and I also know that I wouldn't have been able to succeed without her patience, guidance, and support in the time that I worked as her assistant. She was my boss, my mentor, and will always be my good friend

COUNTDOWN

10

years between USAR National Doubles titles for John Ellis. He won in 1993 with Eric Muller and then again last year with Adam Karp

9

years old. The age of Lauren Stanley when she competed at the USAR National Singles Championships this year making her the youngest competitor in the event

8

USAR National Open Doubles titles Jackie Rice has won; the most of any player

7

straight age-division National Singles titles for Ruben Gonzalez who also won the men's open title in 1996

6

former boys' 18- Junior Olympic singles champions finished ranked in the top 20 of the IRT last season

5

former girls' 18- Junior Olympic singles champions finished ranked in the top 20 of the LPRA tour last season

4

players have earned three 18- Junior Olympic singles titles (Adrienne Fisher, Jack Huczek, Elkova Icenogle, Michelle (Gilman) Gould.)

3

players have captured the U.S. OPEN and USAR National Singles titles in the same season (Michelle Gould '95-'96, Cheryl Gudinas '02-'03, Rhonda Rajsich '03-'04.)

2

USAR National Open Singles titles for Jack Huczek this year's champion.

1

1.054 million people play racquetball more than 25 times per year (source: SGMA report)

SOUND OFF!

ABOUT THE MAG...

I feel like a lone voice in the wilderness after reading the enthusiastic comments regarding your new format in the most recent magazine. However, I find it very difficult to read the magazine with the over-the-top graphics, colors, type faces, etc. everywhere I look. I thought it with the first edition, and have confirmed it with the second. A little of all of that is probably a good thing, but making what is good reading difficult to read is not. This might be a personal peeve of mine, but I also find it totally unprofessional to have typos showing up in print in this day of the spell checker - and there are some! I would also like to see you identify the people in the pictures you publish, including the cover.

I believe the substance of the new magazine is great; just make it so it is easier to read!

Thanks for your consideration.
Tawn Wolfe
Washougal, Wash.

I am thrilled that USA Racquetball has upgraded the magazine and improved the look and the format. I enjoy reading articles about international racquetball as well as the juniors and the college section. I also value the instruction given by all the top professionals and coaches.

The article about World Outdoor Racquetball was also a nice addition and good timing since our sport is on the rise. I look forward to playing in my first outdoor event in 2005.

Being a big sports fan here in Texas, I read alot of sports articles and magazines, and I appreciate the effort and the professionalism of the new look.

I can't wait to get my next issue!
Leo R Vasquez
AmPRO Instructor
Houston, TX

INTERCOLLEGIATE ERROR

I just received my first issue of Racquetball in the mail today. As the sixth player for Pennsylvania State University's women's racquetball team, I had the pleasure of attending the 2004 USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships. This was my first year of competitive play, and hence, I was pretty pleased to win second in my women's singles division and third in my division of women's doubles.

However, on page 15 of your magazine, under the women's final team results, I don't understand why you list "6. Tami Barrows (Brigham Young) def. Meredith McGee (North Carolina) 15-2, 15-10."

Why isn't the final match for first and second place that Tami and I played there instead? I actually beat Meredith McGee by forfeit and she thereby placed third overall. I feel like your magazine implies that she won second by losing to Tami Barrows in that match.

I'm just curious and trying to save face with my family.

Thank you for your time!
Sincerely,
Lindsay K. Griffel
University Park, Pa.

*Editors Note: There was an error in reporting the correct final result for women's No.6 singles. The correct final should read - Tami Barrows (Brigham Young) def, Lindsay Griffel (Penn State) 15-1, 15-3. We apologize for the mistake.

To send a letter to the editor for publication in RACQUETBALL Magazine, please send your name, address, telephone number, and the letter to:

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PLAY WITH FIRE®

From the Top

The President's Report



Frank Taddonio
*Outgoing President,
USAR Board of Directors*

As I depart for my new adventure overseas, Jim Hiser asked me to write something about my experience as President over the last year. I don't know if I can really say anything that you all don't already know and understand, but I'll give it a shot.

I can say that my learning curve was very steep all year and one of the most important lessons I learned is that we have an extremely hard working and dedicated staff at the national office led by absolutely the best Executive Director of any National Governing Body (NGB).

I also learned that our organization continues to be in serious financial trouble and it's something that did not just happen over night. There just isn't positive cash flow to an organization such as ours which makes daily operations, as well as all of the events and activities we desire, extremely difficult to perform. This is the reason we have had to make some very difficult decisions over the last year concerning personnel and other issues. This is also one of the reasons we hired a marketing director who started some very productive programs but unfortunately decided to leave us. The important lesson from that episode is that we, USA Racquetball, definitely need a competent marketing individual who can attract sponsors who are able to support us financially. The financial situation is so serious that we need everyone's assistance to get the

organization back on its feet. This brings me to my most important point I want to make.

My observation is that there are way too many individuals in our sport who are very capable of contributing in a variety of ways yet sit idly by while others are scrambling each and every day to move our sport forward. Of course, it would be very helpful if members would contribute financially or find someone who is willing and able to do so. If not financially capable, then members need to find other ways to contribute to the organization. This really doesn't matter how large or small the contribution, just that the effort is made - introduce someone to the sport, buy a friend a membership, start a junior program. What we need at this point in our sport's

“This next year will be filled with many challenges and we will have opportunities to move forward with our sport.”

history is what I would call 'pride of ownership'. We must all invest in Racquetball! WE must stop sitting back and allowing a small group of enthusiastic members carry the weight for the entire membership. Also, we need to grow our sport by contributing however we can. Let's not continue to have the national office staff work so diligently while we all sit by idly doing little to nothing for the sport we all love.

I hope to return in a year to jump back into racquetball and contribute in my own way as well. Thanks, in advance, for all you are about to do!



Randy Stafford
President, USAR Board of Directors

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as the new President of USA Racquetball for the upcoming year. I would like to echo what Frank wrote in his farewell letter, as we have lots of challenges ahead and encourage everyone to do their part to help us help racquetball. I would also like to say "Thank you, Frank" for a job well done at a most critical time in our sport. There were lots of loose ends in many areas that had not been addressed but are now put in writing, giving us many answers and new guidelines that we can follow for years to come.

“The financial situation is so serious that we need everyone's assistance.”

One area that has been completely overhauled and improved is our Hall of Fame. We have also started a new online program that will enhance service to members in all areas. This will be up and running by the time you have received this issue and we will all benefit greatly with these new programs. We have also found that a marketing director can definitely be a success for racquetball. During this past year we were able to sell our sport to companies outside of our industry with success. We will continue this effort by hiring a new marketing director within the next year. These are just a few of the paths and improvements

that were taken during Frank's tenure as president and we thank him for his efforts.

This next year will be filled with many challenges and we will have opportunities to move forward with our sport. It is these opportunities that I will be looking to take advantage of in the near future. We will hire a new marketing director, as we know this area is vital to our sport and we will work diligently to solve our cash flow crunch and financial situation. As Frank stressed, this financial problem did not happen overnight and will take time to solve.

Let me say this; during the two years of my service on the board we have made great strides towards rectifying our financial situation. We have made many changes within our organization to insure a balanced budget. By changing our spending habits, as well as making some very difficult staff changes, we are going to win this battle. Yes, we still have a cash flow problem and yes, we still have a very large debt, but over the past year we have reduced it a significant amount and will continue down this path.

In the next year we will focus on many areas, some of which include online services, fund raising, memberships, marketing and establishing stronger ties with our industry partners. With just a little help from everyone I believe that we can do wonders with our organization. We will turn this organization into an engine that can promote racquetball and provide services that our states and members need. These are just a few of our goals. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or wish to offer any assistance to aid us the upcoming year.



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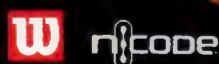
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HELPING PLAYERS

By Ryan John

WOW! It is evident by the nearly \$14,000 increase from last issue that players have stepped up to the plate and showed that they care about their sport. Donations have ranged from as small as \$3 to as generous as the \$25,000 Anonymous donation listed below, but they all add up and every dollar counts towards helping USA Racquetball continue to operate.

It is an exciting time in our sport as new programs are being implemented and developed on a daily basis to increase the benefits offered to our members. Although we are less than \$18,000 from our original goal of \$75,000, the race isn't over yet and more donations are needed in order to get over the hump, especially in the "lean" summer months when income from tournaments is nearly non-existent. So be sure to do your part and let USAR continue to develop more programs that will benefit the sport and you - the member.

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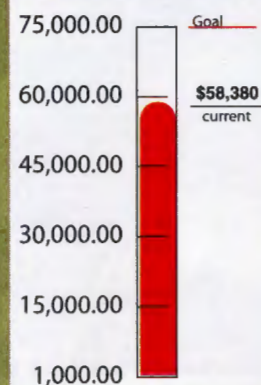
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The 2004 37th USA Racquetball National Singles Championships presented by Penn Racquet Sports took place May 26-31 at the Downtown Houston YMCA for the 22nd straight year. Before the tournament began there was controversy in the men's draw with people once again questioning whether or not pros should play in the event. Defending Champion Rocky Carson, No.4 on the IRT, and Jack Huczek, No.2 on the IRT, were heavily favored to reach the finals. Five-time defending champion Cheryl Gudinas also seemed a sure bet to record her sixth straight National Championship, but Rhonda Rajsich, the sports new big match player had other ideas.

READY, SET...HERE WE GO!!!

Play kicked off on Wednesday with a bang. Although most of the top seeds advanced with little or no trouble, there was an upset and a few close calls to boot.

Carson, started the tournament strong and needed little time to dispatch Dan Whitley, 15-7, 15-2. Huczek also breezed through his first-round match against hometown competitor Leo Vasquez 15-1, 15-0. Huczek, the current IRF World Singles champion and Pan American Games gold medalist, was feeling good about his chances from the start.

"It was good to have a couple of weeks off since my last tournament," Huczek said. "I feel good and I am feeling confident about my game."

There was an upset in the first round as Zach Miller knocked off No.6 Mitch Williams in a tiebreaker. Miller surprised the crowd when he took the first game 15-10. It looked as though Williams was back on track after winning the second game easily, 15-4. But Miller wasn't done yet and completed the upset in the third, 11-5.



THE 16'S

Carson got past Brian Fredenberg in straight games, 15-8, 15-8, with the same type of play that vaulted him to a career-high No.4 ranking on the IRT.

"I'm playing with a lot of confidence and a lot of patience for the most part," Carson said. "I also feel comfortable on the court, which is important."

Huczek stayed on track, but had trouble in the first game against the hard-hitting Dennison and was down 11-10 at one point in the first game. But he was able to find his stroke in time to win in straight games, 15-11, 15-10.

Hometown favorite Jim Minkel earned a career best quarterfinal appearance after defeating Miller, who had earlier eliminated the No.6 seed, 15-9, 15-13. Minkel, a real estate agent when not on the court, especially enjoyed the win in his hometown.

"Obviously, to win at home with all of the players I interact with all the time is great," Minkel said. "It's a nice boost to have everyone in your hometown rooting for you."

THE QUARTER'S

The upsets stopped on Friday as the top four seeds all advanced to the semifinals, thus each earning one-year appointments to the U.S. National Team. The same four players made the semifinals last year so in reality, they just extended their current tenure.

After easily winning the first game, Carson was able to hold off a strong run by Thoerner in the second to complete a two game sweep, 15-4, 15-14.

"He (Thoerner) played much better in the second game," Carson said after the match. "He didn't put a lot of pressure on me in the first game and was missing shots."

Thoerner agreed with Carson's assessment of the match. "I had no mental focus in the first game. I had a game plan, but I didn't follow it," he explained. "I had three really poorly executed serves at the end of the second game that could have made the difference."

Carson's opponent in the semifinals would be Vanderson whose match with No.5 Chris Crowther went much the same as Carson's match. Vanderson dominated the first game, 15-5, and then struggled to a win in the second, 15-14.

"Yeah, I missed a few shots in the second game and Chris started to make his," Vanderson said. "But you only need to win by one."

Huczek continued to roll in the bottom half of the draw, defeating Tucker in straight games, 15-4, 15-12. Huczek felt that his game was coming along as the tournament progressed, but also that he still had room for improvement.

"I wasn't very sharp today so I was fortunate that Josh wasn't on his game," Huczek said. "But I feel fresh and feel like I am moving pretty good. I just need to concentrate on my shots more than I did today."

Huczek's next opponent would be Guidry who defeated hometown favorite Jim Minkel in an All-Texas showdown.



(c) 2004 Geoff Thompson

Guidry felt that his experience may have played a role against Minkel, who was making his first quarterfinal appearance at the National Championships.

"I think it may have made a difference because it's a big tournament and there is a lot of pressure," Guidry said. "Jim skipped a lot of balls for me, but I felt like I was moving well and serving well."

THE SEMI'S

Although it was the same four players in the semifinals as it was a year ago, the match-ups were different. Last year Carson faced Guidry and Huczek faced Vanderson, this year things were flip-flopped with Carson against Vanderson and Huczek versus Guidry.

Carson looked to be in trouble early against Vanderson in their match as Vanderson started out like a man on a mission rolling to a 15-7 win. Carson changed things around in the second, however, and defeated won just as easily, 15-6.

"It was a mixture of a few things," Carson said of his turnaround. "I was able to find a serve that was effective - a half-lob z-serve to the forehand. He also missed some easy shots in the second and I started to make the shots I was missing in the first."

Carson ran away with the tiebreaker after building a quick 9-0 lead. To Vanderson's credit, he never gave up and earned four points before succumbing, 11-4.

Even with the large lead in the breaker, Carson didn't feel safe. "I just wanted to get out of there because I know how he can get," he said. "He has the capability to catch fire like he did in the first."

The first game between the two former champions Huczek and Guidry was a back and forth battle with Huczek squeaking out the win, 15-14. Huczek stepped his game up a notch in the second game and won 15-7 to secure the final that everyone predicted from the onset.

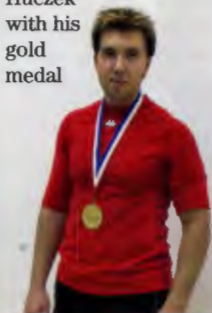
"I think we both played pretty solid in the first game, even though we both missed some shots at the end," Guidry said.

"I was in total control of the match," Huczek said when asked if the close first game made him uneasy. "He was getting points but it was because of things that I was doing, not because of what he was doing."

THE FINALS

The finals took over two and a half hours to complete as the players rarely strayed more than a few points from each other. Not all of the action was fast, however, as play was slowed by numerous appeals by both players.

Huczek with his gold medal



(c) 2004 Geoff Thomsen

Huczek struck first by narrowly defeating Carson 15-14 in the first game. Carson came out strong and built an early 6-1 lead, but Huczek battled back to tie things up at 7-7 before building a 10-7 lead of his own.

Carson stayed on his heels, finally catching up at 14-14 before Huczek closed it out following a long series of sideouts. The second game was played just as closely as the first and featured 13 lead changes and ties. Carson held the biggest lead of the game at 9-5, but Huczek erased the deficit and proceeded to take his own lead at 13-11. Carson got back on track to score the last four points of the game to win, 15-13.

Huczek built an early lead in the tiebreaker, 7-2, but Carson was able to tie things up by grinding out points, 7-7. The players were then tied at 8-8 and 9-9 before Huczek ended the match by scoring two unanswered points, 11-9.

"Both of us had flashes of brilliance today and we also had times when we didn't look that good," Carson said after the match. "We are both position players and try to force our opponents into making bad shots. I just wasn't able to capitalize on his mistakes at the end of the match."

"I felt like I played ok even though I was streaky at times," Huczek said. "I felt like I played better and better as the tournament went along and I was able to accomplish my goal of winning the tournament by hitting drive serves." Hitting drive serves is something that Huczek is not known for but a part of his game he has vowed to improve.

Huczek felt vindicated after finishing second for the past two years. "The last two year's I think that I have outplayed my opponents, but they were able to squeak it out in the end," he said. "I know that if I play consistent then I will win a majority of the time."

LADIES UP

The women began on Thursday with five-time defending champion Cheryl Gudinas starting off well as she attempted on to set the mark for consecutive national women's open championships. She cruised past Heather Dunn, 15-0, 15-1. Besides Gudinas there were several other players thought to have a shot at the title. No.2 Laura Fenton had finished second for the past two years, No.3 Rhonda Rajsich, the defending U.S. OPEN champion, had recorded her best year on the LPRA Tour, in addition to No.4 Kerri Wachtel and No.5 Kristen Walsh, all hoping to dethrone the reigning champ.

THE PARTIES

Besides incredible racquetball, The Finals are known for its great parties. Things kicked off Wednesday evening with the VIP Reception to honor all past national champions. Thursday featured the Head/Penn Cash Whirlwind where participants could try their luck at a series of casino games including blackjack, slots, craps and a cash whirlwind machine. Friday evening began with the IRT/LPRA reception followed by the Ektelon Sports Festival, which offered boxing, mechanical bull riding, putting, and other challenging activities. Saturday was the annual awards banquet themed "A Starry Night of Racquetball" and showcased the best performers of the year along with Hall of Fame inductions. Evening activities came to a close on Sunday evening with the Farewell in the Bar, which gave players a chance to say "So long" to old and new friends alike.

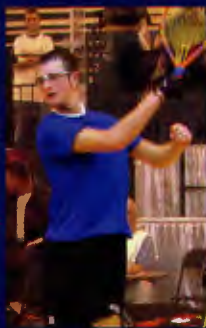


EVENT SPONSOR



THE "ELITE" CHRIS COY

We have been following Chris Coy for some time now, yet he continues to amaze us. This time he won the men's Elite division at the U.S. National Singles Championships. Many of us know Chris' story; he was born with cancer and, due to complications that came with the disease, was forced to have part of his left leg amputated at the age of five. Chris hasn't let that slow him down as he racks up title after title.



Coy continues to astonish each year - Photo by Mike Boatman

In fact, Chris prefers to play a fast-paced game. Many opponents come into the court with a game plan set to move Chris around the court. Little do they know, they are playing right into his hands. "People sometimes try to run me around the court, but that's what I want," he said. "I like to run around and make the game as fast as I can."

Chris knows that next year will be tougher as he moves into the open division. "I want to make it as far as I can in opens next year, but I know I am going to have to set my standards a little higher." Chris also wants to compete on the IRT tour and position himself in the top 20 someday.

Chris also recently competed in the 2004 U.S. Junior Olympics where he earned his second U.S. Junior National Team appointment by finishing second to Zach Apperson in boy's 16- singles.

U.S. MILITARY ON HAND

Members of the U.S. Military came dressed in their best for the annual awards banquet on Sunday night. They were honored for their service to our country in a special announcement during the banquet. Several earned medals on the court, rather than the battlefield, over Memorial Day. On behalf of USA Racquetball and its members, we salute you and your commitment to our freedom.



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THE QUARTERS

Gudinas led the way as the women's field was narrowed down to the final four. She easily defeated her former doubles partner Russell in straight games, 15-5, 15-2.

"It appeared that she had trouble with my z-serve and I knew that she wouldn't attack my lob, so that was my plan" Gudinas said. "I also tried to keep everything away from her forehand."

After defeating her former doubles partner, Gudinas was set to face her current doubles partner Walsh who scored the only upset of the day against Wachtel, 15-11, 15-13.

"I went in relaxed and with no expectations because sometimes I tend to put too much pressure on myself," Walsh said. "I was just having fun and when I have fun I usually play well."

"I left the ball up a lot and Kristen got to everything," Wachtel said after the loss. "She forces you to make errors because you know in the back of your mind that she's going to get to everything."

Fenton stayed on track to make her third straight final appearance by getting past the youngster Fisher. Fenton continued to struggle with an injury that occurred at the 2003 Pan American Games, but looked to be moving well in her match with Fisher.

"I had to fight through a match that I didn't play well, but I found a way to win," she said. "For me it doesn't matter who I play, but how I play. If I play well then I feel like I can beat anyone."

Fenton would face Rajsich, who had been quietly advancing through the draw. Rajsich defeated No.6 Kersten Hallander in two close games, 15-12, 15-11, and seemed very collected during her matches.

"I don't feel like I have started to play my best racquetball yet, but I am doing what I need to do to win my matches," she said. "I feel like I am improving each



Walsh moves just enough to avoid Wachtel's shot

round and I look forward to my match with Laura tomorrow."

THE SEMI'S

Gudinas set up her chance at history by making her sixth straight finals appearance after defeating Walsh in straight games. The match wasn't very close, despite the effort of Walsh, who was diving on nearly every rally.

"Cheryl didn't really miss any shots today, so you have to give her credit," Walsh said. "But I wasn't hitting my shots, moving well, or serving well, so it was lopsided."

"Unfortunately she made some mistakes that I was able to capitalize on," she continued. "She had a big win yesterday against Kerri and sometimes it's a little hard when you are young to continue at that level."

Whereas Gudinas was making her sixth finals appearance, Rajsich found herself making her first after defeating Fenton in the semifinals. It wasn't so much that Rajsich upset Fenton, but the way she went about it. She showcased all her athletic ability en route to a 15-9, 15-2 win.

"The win against Laura was largely do to the fact that I went in there with a game plan and executed it instead of waiting for it to happen," Rhonda said of her performance. "I wanted to keep her moving and use the whole court. I didn't want to give her too many set-ups because she will put them away."

Fenton was disappointed after the loss, but not displeased with her play this week. "Rhonda's a great player and that's the bottom line. She didn't miss too many shots today," she said. "I was lucky to get through yesterday and I'm happy at that fact."

THE FINALS

With Gudinas attempting to become the first woman to win six consecutive titles and Rajsich trying to build upon a dream season there was a lot riding on the women's open final. The crowd was poised for an epic battle and the players did not disappoint.

Rajsich took the first game 15-13, mainly due to the execution of her offensive shots. She controlled center court and kept Gudinas off balance. Gudinas also seemed to be struggling to find a serve that was effective.

"With most people I can do the same thing over and over again, but with her I



Rajsich gets ready for the final

(c) 2004 Geoff Thomsen

can't do that," Gudinas explained. "You need to bring mistakes out in Rhonda because she is going to hit some great shots. That's just her style."

Gudinas brought out a few mistakes by Rajsich in the second game, despite grimacing in pain several

times due to a foot injury that she was trying to fight through. Gudinas won't admit that the injury affects her play, only that it has affected her training. Rajsich, however, didn't vary from her style of play and almost made a late game run, but Gudinas was able to hold her off to win, 15-12.

In the tiebreaker Gudinas took an early 5-1 lead that Rajsich quickly erased before building a three-point lead of her own, 9-6. Gudinas then rattled off four straight points to take a 10-9 lead, just one point from victory. Rajsich regained serve on a controversial call in which her ball appeared to have skipped. The referee and line judges both called the shot good and Rajsich proceeded to close out the match, 11-10, to cap off the best season of her career.

"It was a fun match and Rhonda played great," a disappointed Gudinas said after the match. "I remember when she used to make mistakes, but she doesn't make many now."

"I kind of live and die by my own sword," Rajsich said of her aggressive game style. "It's funny to me when people say that I play a low-percentage type game because for me it isn't low percentage. That is how I play."



Rajsich prepares to uncoil against Gudinas

(c) 2004 Geoff Thomsen

So in perhaps one of the biggest upsets in years, Rajsich ended Gudinas' national title streak at five while joining her and Michelle Gould as the only females to hold both the U.S. OPEN and USAR National Singles titles at the same time.

"It feels great," Rajsich said of holding both titles. "It makes me wish that all of our tournaments had this much riding on them. I guess it takes a big tournament for me to flourish."

For a complete list of results and drawsheets please visit:
www.usaracquetball.com



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SHANE WOOD

Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award

● ● ● The Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award is for athletes, coaches, officials and administrators who have demonstrated, over the course of the preceding year, an outstanding commitment to the sport of racquetball. That commitment may include special development projects, fundraising, successful administrative ventures at the state level, or exceptional program achievements in coaching, instruction or refereeing.



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Dan Davis

Presidential Award

● ● ● The annual Presidential Award is open to state presidents of recognized USA Racquetball state affiliate organizations who have exhibited outstanding organizational performances in the preceding year, including the areas of membership growth, tournament administration and reporting, special development projects, fundraising, publication projects or other exceptional program achievements.



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USA RACQUETBALL ANNUAL AWARDS

Chris Evon

John Halverson Fair Play Award

● ● ● The John Halverson Fair Play Award is for athletes, coaches, officials and organizations exhibiting noteworthy performances in the categories detailed following. Act of Fair Play: For an exceptional gesture of fair play carried out during the year by an athlete, a team member, or the spectating public. Career: For a sports career which has consistently shown a spirit of fair play and has been extended into commendable activities at the service of the sport or society. Promotion of Fair Play: For the fruitful and lasting endeavors of an athlete, leader, instructor, or organization to promote fair play.



Terry Ann Rogers

Peggy Steding Award (Female Age Group Athlete of the Year):

● ● ● An outstanding female athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of a calendar year performance record.

Gene Pare

Bud Muehleisen Award (Male Age Group Athlete of the Year):

● ● ● An outstanding male athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of a calendar year performance record.



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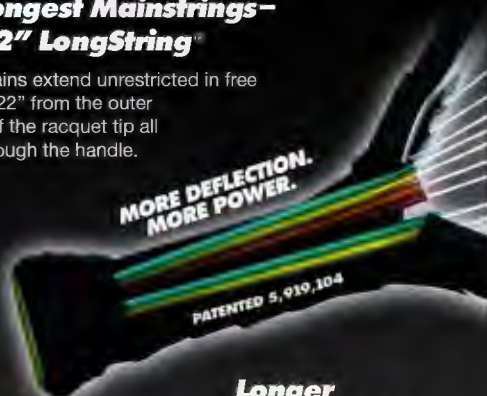


The deep inner channel plus strings through the handle allow every string to be the longest possible unrestricted in free space. *The longest strings, plus maximum frame stability, create greater stringbed deflection and incredible power.*

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The mains extend unrestricted in free space 22" from the outer edge of the racquet tip all the way through the handle.



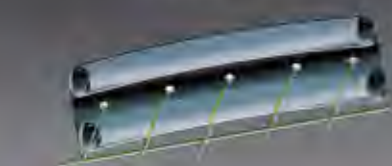
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**INCREDIBLY
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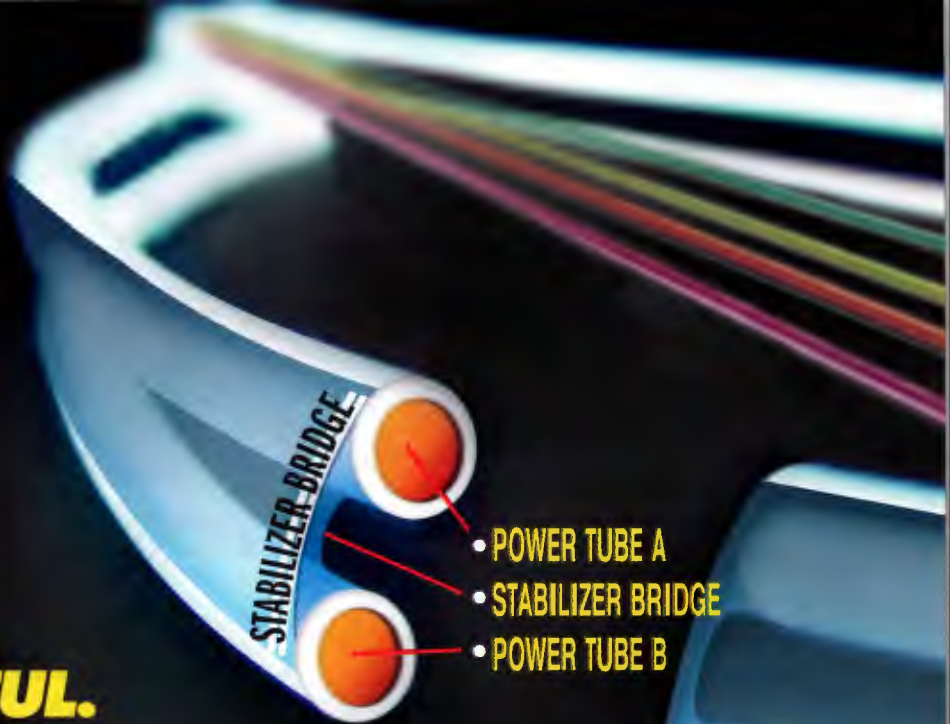
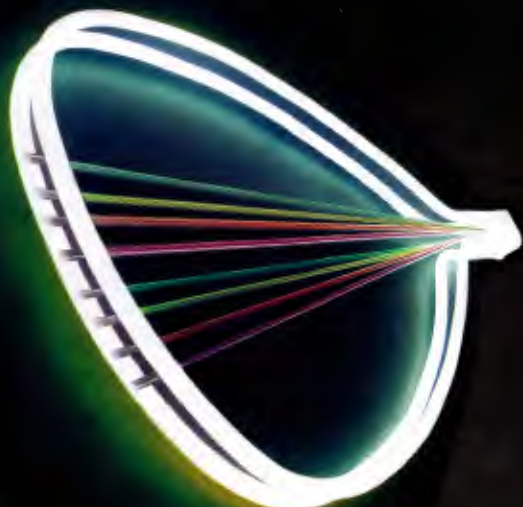


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What's up Cliff? Part 1



Interview with Cliff Swain



Cliff Swain is arguably the greatest player in the 35-year history of professional racquetball. He has finished the season ranked No.1 six times. The 2003-2004 season was both disappointing and frustrating for him. The 38-year-old Swain is looking to break a 2 1/2 year winless drought and reassert himself at the pinnacle of the game. Also, he is in the middle of the swirling hurricane between the IRT and the Legends Tour. Mike Ceresia sat down with him to discuss his plans in part 1 of a two part segment.

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE: What do you do in the off season to prepare for next year?

CLIFF SWAIN: I start the off-season by taking a couple of weeks off to do whatever I feel like doing. This allows any little nagging injuries to heal, but primarily it's a mental break. I then start training at a place called Mike Boyle's Strength and Conditioning here in Massachusetts. I work with about a dozen or so other pro athletes, mainly NHL players; Hal Gill from the Boston Bruins and Chris Clark from the Calgary Flames are a couple of the pros. It's extremely intense - four days a week, from 7-10am. It's closely monitored, expert training that covers all areas including strength, speed, endurance, and agility training. My favorite part of it is that by 10am my "workday" is over, and I'm free.

RM: What do you like to do in your time away from the game?

CS: I like to spend time with my family and play golf and hockey. You know, "Work hard, play hard."

RM: It has been more than two seasons since you have won an IRT stop. How does this sit with you? Can you win again on this tour?

CS: It doesn't sit well at all. I am in unfamiliar territory that I am not at all comfortable with. But I am prepared to do something about it. I've been distracted off the court and have also allowed myself to be distracted on the court as well. Both will change. Physically, I am exactly where I want to be. This summer, I will work just as hard on the mental part of the game. I've never been big on predictions, especially regarding myself,

but I will tell you this - next season I will lose less and I will DEFINITELY win again.

RM: Your serve has always been the cornerstone of your game, but last year it was rarely the weapon it once was. What will you change to make this your main weapon again?

CS: In my opinion, the cornerstone of my game has been my constant, relentless mental effort, more so than my serve or any of the other obvious weapons. Playing one point at a time, match after match, takes a great deal of mental fortitude. When you are not where you need to be mentally to compete against hungry, young athletes with a strong desire to impress, it can appear the deficit is a physical problem. Anyone trying to be the best they can be understands exactly what I mean. If you have something on your mind, you can feel slow or weak, you can fatigue easily, and you might even appear like you don't care. When there are things on your mind other than the task at hand, the task itself suffers regardless if it's a positive distraction or a negative one. On the other hand, when your mind is free and clear you feel lightning quick and strong and everything feels effortless. To me this is the hardest thing about playing as I've gotten older. When I was eighteen I had few things to think or really worry about. Racquetball was the first thing on my mind each day. Now there are other concerns - relationships, finances, losing a family member, buying homes. These events are all a part of life, but as you age, they occur more frequently and consistently, they become more in the forefront, and it becomes more difficult to stay focused on any one thing. But, that's what I love about what I do - it's a constant learning process. This off-season I will put a great deal of effort into ensuring that there are as few distractions as possible for the start and duration of the season, so that ALL of my weapons will be weapons once again.

RM: You put on about 20 pounds of muscle in the past 12 months. Most athletes are looking for a way to stay light as they age. What was your thought process and how do you feel it has affected your game?

CS: My average weight over the last few years has been 185 lbs. This year my high was 199 lbs., and my movement was as good as ever. The weight gain was somewhat easy to do. I worked out just as hard but differently. I did less cardio on the days I lifted, and I ate more carbs. The rallies are a bit different these days; more balls are hit higher and heavier and in the middle of the court. I feel my added strength has helped me adapt to these changes. Again, my problems lately (with the exception of a couple of minor injuries) are from the neck up, not the other way around.



RM: Tell us about the Legends Tour.

CS: It has been great for the game and great fun for me in which to participate. The guys that I play against are the greatest players and entertainers ever. When a tournament is over, the spectators leave satisfied and that's what is most important. My Providence College roommate, Scott Hirsch, has given to the game in a way that I have never seen. I hope the Legends continue to be embraced. It's great for the sport of racquetball.

RM: Your game has changed a lot since you joined the IRT 20 years ago. You have made major changes to your backhand mechanics and grip. The stroke resembles a Gustavo Kuerten type stroke. Your backhand was already one of the best, why did you make these changes?

CS: I am always trying to improve every aspect of my game including my backhand. And I do think it could use some tweaking, but I think it's my overall confidence that will improve all aspects of my game next year. It's basically the same answer to your question about my serve.

RM: Let's switch gears. The IRF World Championships are like the Davis Cup of Tennis. Each country has sent their best players except for the US men on occasion. Why haven't you played this event over the years? Would you like to represent your country in International Competition?

CS: I have never been invited and I'm not sure why, but I would love to represent the United States in any way possible.



Part 2 in next issue

2004-2005 International Racquetball Tour Schedule

Date	City	Event	Site	Tier
Aug. 26-29	New Orleans, LA	Summer Cooler-New Orleans Open	Elmwood Health & Fitness	1
Sept. 9-12	Stockton, CA	Stockton Pro-Am	In-Shape Health Club	1
Oct. 7-10	Casper, WY	Wyoming Open	Wyoming Athletic Club	1
Oct. 15-17	Albuquerque, NM	Albuquerque Open	Midtown Sports & Wellness	3
Oct. 15-17	Madison, WI	Sun Prairie Open	Sum Prairie Athletic Club	3
Oct. 20-24	Chicago, IL	Chicago Open*	Schaumburg Tennis Plus	1
Oct. 28-31	West Allis, WI	Milwaukee Open	Wisconsin Athletic Club	1
Nov. 4-7	Syosset, NY	Long Island Open	Sportime of Syosset	4
Nov. 11-14	Portland, OR	Portland Open	Sunset Athletic Club	4
Nov. 17-21	Memphis, TN	Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN*	The Racquet Club of Memphis	1
Jan. 14-16	Orlando, FL	Florida Open	Orlando Health & Tennis	1
Jan. 20-23	Syosset, NY	New York City Open	Sportime of Syosset	1
Jan. 27-30	Lince Open	Chihuahua, Mexico	Club Lince	3
Jan. 27-30	Greenfield, WI	Winter Open	Southridge Athletic Club	4
Feb. 10-13	Chicago, IL	Valentine's Day Massacre	Schaumburg Tennis Plus	2
Feb. 18-20	Sioux Falls, SD	Lewis Drug/Sioux Falls Open	Downtown YMCA	2
Feb. 24-27	San Diego, CA	San Diego Open	American Athletic Club	1
March 3-6	Colorado Springs, CO	Colorado Open	Lynmar Athletic Club	3
March 10-13	Louisville, KY	Louisville Open	University of Louisville	1
March 17-20	Greensboro, NC	Greensboro Open	TBA	1
April 4-10	Chesapeake, VA	Virginia Open	Chesapeake YMCA	1
April 21-24	Las Vegas, NV	Pro Nationals	TBA	1
April 28-May 1	Dallas, TX	The Players Championship*	Landmark Fitness Club	1

Men's International Racquetball Tour 2003-2004 Final Season Rankings

Points	Player	Hometown
1. 3684	Kane Waselenchuk	Edmonton, Alberta
2. 3633	Jack Huczek	Rochester Hills, MI
3. 3305	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA
4. 2931	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA
5. 2789	Alvaro Beltran	Tijuana, Mexico
6. 2406	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA
7. 2255	Derek Robinson	Denver, CO
8. 2124	Mike Green	Burlington, Ontario
9. 2089	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY
10. 1763	Shane Vanderson	Berea, OH
11. 1729	Dan Fowler	Rackville, MD
12. 1589	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX
13. 1267	Josh Tucker	Joplin, MO
14. 1149	Dan Llacera	Rehoboth Beach, DE
15. 1008	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA
16. 986	Mike Dennison	Twinsburg, OH
17. 840	John Ellis	Stockton, CA
18. 526	Javier Moreno	Chihuahua, Mexico
19. 497	Mitch Williams	Raleigh, NC
20. 448	Rodrigo Urzua	Boca Raton, FL

* - denotes "Grand Slam" event

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



Interview with Christie Van Hees

Christie Van Hees orchestrated a stunning return to the LPRA last year. A three-year self-imposed hiatus was tossed aside as the unranked Van Hees ascended to a season ending ranking of No.2. This rise included victories in the last two events of the season. She feels she has replaced Cheryl Gudinas as the player to beat and can't wait for next season to start. She is the best

Canadian women's player since the inimitable Heather McKay. We discussed the comeback and outlook with her recently.

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE:

It has been an eventful couple of years for you. What did you do in your time away from racquetball?

CHRISTIE VAN HEES:

There was a lot of speculation why I stepped away when I did. The truth is I was spent and wanted to see what life was like without racquetball. I graduated university at exactly the same time and moved home to my parent's farm. After about a year and a half of mellowing out, hanging with my dog, my boyfriend and riding my horse, it was time to move on. I was fortunate enough to be accepted to an internship program and spent eight months volunteering in Barbados at the Barbados Olympic Association promoting Olympic Ideals Education programs in schools. I remember these years very fondly.

RM: What brought you back to the game?

CV: A lot of what I experienced during that time made me realize how much I loved sports in general. Training my horse and seeing her win races really kept me, and still keeps me, competitive. I kind of feel like I have this great gift, and was fortunate enough to find it early on, so I better use it to the best of my ability.

RM: Your game seems to be better at this point than when you left. What do you attribute the improvement to?

CV: I am healthier physically and mentally. I take myself less seriously than I used to.

Ironically I am more serious about specific priorities in life. I have found out that being happy means that my family comes first, then me, and then my close friends. That's the perfect equation right now. As long as I stick close to these things I feel good. I used to beat myself up over the littlest things and now I am just so much more confident with who I am. The support from Wilson and Crew West has contributed to my success this season. I have always been fortunate to be involved with great companies.

RM: Where do you live and what do you do when you are not involved with racquetball?

CV: Specifically, Dawson (my dog) and I live in a one bedroom loft in the downtown metropolis of Kelowna, B.C., a town of about 100,000; half of which are over 70 and the other half of which are transient hippies. We are known for our wine, our orchards and a World Champion racquetball player. When I am not playing racquetball I am doing one of two things - riding my horse at mach speeds in the mountains or stirring things up with my larger than life friend Jimmy....both are risky.

RM: You are poised for a dominating season next year. Do you feel you have overtaken Cheryl Gudinas as the player to beat?

CV: I think the end of the season is an indicator of things to come. I was number one when I left in 2001 which means I was beating Cheryl back when I had my head on upside down. With Wilson behind me and being stronger physically and mentally I would like to think the cards are in my favor.

RM: How do you feel about the state of the LPRA?

CV: Looking at the team that Claude Crocker has put together I feel confident that great things are yet to come. Along with Claude and his efforts, we are seeing support from Wilson and the ball, which is great, as well as the players taking the sport more seriously. You have Tammy Brown, Kerri, Rhonda and Kristen to name a few and I feel we really push each other.

RM: You have had some issues with Racquetball Canada and in fact will not be competing at this year's World Championships. This is a catastrophic event for Canadian Racquetball. What brought this situation about?

CV: Without airing too much dirty laundry...their actions in February of 2004 really conjured up some negative feelings. Like I said, I am a much more confident person then I was in the earlier years. I have certain beliefs that I stand by and being fair is one of them. I played for Canada for six years, won two World Championships and it was great. I've moved on.

RM: You had a key victory at the 2000 World Championships Team Event over Cheryl Gudinas. How did it feel to be a member of the first team to win the World Cup other than the US?

CV: My teammates keep thanking me for my victory that clinched the title but as a team player I like to think that each of us played an integral part. (laughs) On a serious note there wasn't a greater team to be apart of at the time. Kane was just coming along, the Green/Ceresia team was still alive. There was a dynamic there that I'm



not sure can be recreated. But then again, I'm out of the picture now. I am just proud I was a part of it. Now that I think about it I never saw that cup during the reign. I'll have to phone Racquetball Canada on that one.

RM: What will you work on this summer to improve your game?

CV: I started training again about two weeks ago and feel great. My best friend is an accomplished fitness competitor so I'm taking a lot of advice from her on my diet. Besides a patio on a hot summer day, my diet tends to be my biggest weakness. I just plan on being in great shape coming into the season, and try to remain healthy throughout. If I feel great physically then I am more confident and the more confident I am the better I play...period.

RM: We heard you received some advice at the 2004 U.S. OPEN, the sight of your racquetball revival. What advice did you get?

CV: Well after my match with Kim Russell I sat down with a good friend of mine who hadn't seen me play in three years and asked him what he thought. With all the positivity (sic) and support you could imagine he told me I should "take two weeks off and then quit". It's amazing after that comment I could muster the mental fortitude to continue on to the finals. But this is the type of thing I am prepared for now, the ups and downs, the criticism. I told him there were bigger plans for me.

RM: What are your specific goals for the next two or three seasons in racquetball?

CV: I never thought in a million years I would be fortunate enough to play racquetball for a living and here I am 10 months after being laid off from my last job and I have my own place, a new vehicle and plenty of

time to spare for my horse and my dog. All three of us couldn't be happier. It's enough motivation for me to train hard and be as successful at this career as I possibly can.

RM: Your parents have been very instrumental in your success. What did they teach you that helped you become the person and the player that you are?

CV: My whole family plays such a big role in my life. I have two older brothers who are my best friends. They are hard-workers and the life any party. They each have enough charisma to kill a person. I believe I learned the importance of competition from them. What they should've taught me is how to stay away from guys like them!

RM: Do you work away from racquetball?

CV: Well let's see, the last job I had the hours sucked but the upside was the pay was really bad. To be honest there are the working types and the marrying types and I don't think I'm either.



photo courtesy of Wilson

LADIES PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION 2003-2004 FINAL SEASON RANKINGS

	Points	Player	Hometowns	Last Issue	Last Year
1.	906.500	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1	1
2.	479.250	Christie Van Hees	Kelowna, B.C.	9	NR
3.	462.250	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	3	4
4.	449.750	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	2	3
5.	340.750	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	5	8
6.	254.500	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	4	5
7.	209.750	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	6	6
8.	149.000	Tammy Brown	Boise, ID	19	22
9.	138.250	Angela Grisar	Santiago, Chile	13	NR
10.	137.000	Jackie Rice	El Cajon, CA	7	2
11.	135.000	Brenda Kyzer	Lexington, SC	10	11
12.	133.250	Kim Russell	Austin, TX	8	7
13.	119.500	Jo Shattuck	Denver, CO	12	16
14.	91.750	Karen Morton	Erie, PA	20	25
15.	89.000	Suzy Acosta	Chihuahua, Mexico	15	10
16.	82.000	Rachel Gellman	Phoenix, AZ	16	18
17.	65.500	Stephanie Munger	Anchorage, AK	18	21
18.	63.500	Krystal Csuk	Naperville, IL	22	26
19.	56.250	Ramona VonOndarza	Venezuela	21	20
20.	52.500	Lori-Jane Powell	Prince Albert, Sask.	11	9

*Tentative 2004-2005 LPRA Tour Schedule



LPRA SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 10-12	Rosarito Beach, Mexico
SEPT. 17-19	Charlotte, North Carolina
OCTOBER	Columbia
NOVEMBER 17-21	U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn.
DECEMBER	Denver, Colorado
JANUARY 13-15	Honolulu, Hawaii
JANUARY	Miami, Florida
MARCH 18-20	Nashville, Tennessee

Also look for dates announced in these cities:
Baltimore, Maryland - Atlanta, Georgia - Dallas, Texas

* Dates and Cities Subject to Change

LEGEND'S TOUR HIRES NEW COMMISSIONER



LEGENDS

A little of the old mixed in with something new, who thought that was only for wedding traditions?? The Legend's Tour has a new Commissioner and he's based out of Salt Lake City. After adding numerous events to the schedule last year, and the ever-growing responsibility of coordinating these events, the Legend's Tour has hired former IRT Stringer, Brian Pointelin.

Pointelin, who had been the stringer on the IRT since the spring of 1999, has decided to head in another direction with racquetball. "I came to a realization that I was never going to be a top 10 player on the IRT, but I wanted to remain in racquetball and do something positive with the sport. Working with such great names and players as Marty Hogan, Dave Peck, Ruben Gonzalez, Cliff Swain, and others, is such an exciting job for me", Pointelin said.

Pointelin, played his way onto the U.S. National Team in 2002 with doubles partner Dan Llacera. After taking out the second seeded Adam Karp and Bret Harnett, the "Stringers" finally lost in the finals in Vegas to the defending champions, Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Guidry. "That was one of the greatest thrills of my athletic career. To know, if asked, I would be representing my country in international competition. It was something that I was very emotional about and something I had dreamed of since I began playing again in 1996. My family and I were very proud of that time."

Pointelin, a standout baseball player who went up through the ranks of professional baseball, was a small college All-American pitcher at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

But this isn't Kansas anymore, and B.P. isn't Toto either. He is working with the big boys, the pioneers of the game of racquetball.

"I am ecstatic about this job; it will allow me to continue to be around my friends and gives me the opportunity to keep traveling. I am very happy to be able to work with such great players, giving the fans, especially the older generation, a

sense of how great these "old guys" can still play."

"Brian brings tremendous energy and an unequaled love for the game to the position", said Legend's Tour Founder, Marty Hogan. "I'm extremely confident Brian will be a huge success in his new position and we at the Legends Tour feel very excited and fortunate to be



Brian Pointelin
New Legends
Commissioner

working with someone of Brian's caliber."

With a schedule of approximately 15 events for the 2004-2005 season, it should be one full of drama and action. The Tour will have stops from Puerto Rico to Honolulu and a variety of places in between. "We have a pretty good schedule this year, ranging from coast to coast and we are looking forward to going to Honolulu again this year. I know we are teaming up with the LPRA and the IRT for some of the events, and we are pretty excited about that", Pointelin said.

And as for the supposed friction between the Legend's Tour and the IRT? "I am not sure what the friction was in the past for sure, I just know that both Tours should be working together to grow the sport for everyone", Pointelin commented. "I was too naïve and inexperienced to learn from Hank Marcus when he was running the tour, but I consider him a great friend

and thankful for what he offered me. I have learned a lot from Dave Negrete too though, he was one of my mentors and a great friend, he took care of me while I worked for the IRT. I am very appreciative of everything he did for me and taught me."

As for the transition from Court time to Court-side?? "I have some very dear friends on the IRT in Sudsy, Jason, Kane, Rocky, and Llacera, not that I don't like the other guys. It is hard to leave that tour and go a different route because I still enjoy playing on that level somewhat", Pointelin said. "I am hoping that I can do a good job from the start and take my college degrees and now put them to use in the Sports Marketing that we so desperately need in this sport."

Brian can be reached at bpointelin@aol.com.

TENTATIVE 2004-2005 LEGEND'S TOUR SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION
August 20-22	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Sept. 16-19	Puerto Rico
Oct. 14-17	Coral Springs, Florida
Nov. 4-7	Long Island, New York
Nov. 11-14	Sarasota, Florida
Nov. 18-21	US Open, Memphis, Tennessee
Dec. 9-12	Burlington, Vermont
Jan. 13-16	Honolulu, Hawaii
Jan. 20-23	Denver-Doubles Championships
Jan. 27-30	Dallas, Texas
Feb. 3-6	Coral Springs, Florida
Feb 17-20	Salt Lake City, Utah
March 3-6	Salem, Oregon
March 17-20	San Francisco, California
March 31-April 3	Boston, Massachusetts
May 5-8	Phoenix, Arizona
May 12-15	St. Louis, Missouri

* Dates and Cities Subject to Change

For information concerning any Legends Tour events, contact Legends Tour Commissioner Brian Pointelin at BPointelin@aol.com or go to www.LegendsRBTour.com

1st ANNUAL WAIKIKI OUTDOOR DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS FORT DeRUSSY, HAWAII ...A WOR SUPER SERIES EVENT

The first WOR Super Series doubles event took place in Hawaii. The tournament started on a beautiful Saturday in May with a Hawaiian blessing performed by my kahu (priest) friend Andy Sexton. Between matches players were treated to 3 man canoe rides up and down the beach to see the beautiful scenery & while getting some rest!

10 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THE WOR OUTDOOR NATIONALS

This is the 31st Annual Outdoor Nationals, 30 of which have been held in California. Florida has hosted the event once.

Brian Hawkes has won the Nationals 19 times.

Two players have been to every Outdoor Nationals. Greg and Martha McDonald from Gainesville, Florida.

In the late 70's & early 80's every pro player from Brumfield to Hogan played in the Nationals.

Pros of the 90's that have played in the Nationals include John Ellis, Rocky Carson, & Tony Jelso. Carson & Jelso are the only players to beat Hawkes in the tournament.

The Outdoor Nationals are played at Golden West College in Huntington Beach.

Court dimensions are 22ft wide by 46ft long.

Singles & doubles are all played at the event.

This year will be the first with a Pro Division.

Ektelon has agreed to sponsor the Outdoor Nationals for the next five years.

The competition began with mixed doubles where Liza Higa and Matt Robinson defeated Jennelle Mercadante and Mike Garrity in the final. In the A Doubles final David Tedeschi and Robby Johnson beat John Whitty and John Whitty, Jr. Sunday started right off with the first WOR Military division, which was turned into a family affair. In the final, Bobby Narmore and Robert Narmore Sr. defeated Ryan Narmore and Robert Narmore, Jr. The Junior division final was one of the most exciting matches of the weekend with John Whitty, Jr. & Richard Narmore defeating Lily Anne Felton & Robby Collins in a 11-9 tiebreaker.

Then the big boys took to the court as the Open division started play. Twelve teams battled for the top spot, WOR ranking points, and island supremacy. California's top ranked team of Rob Hoff and Gary Martin did not disappoint the crowd as they won a great match in the final against Hawaii's Big Rod Felton and Scott Bauman. The match lasted so long that the final points were played in the dark! The winners received more than a trophy as they were invited to be guest judges at the tournament party's bikini contest!

RESULTS:

OPEN Rob Hoff/Gary Martin def. Rod Felton/Scott Bauman
A Dave Tedeschi/Robby Johnson def. John Whitty/John Whitty Jr.
MILITARY Robert Narmore/Bobby Narmore def. Ryan Narmore/Robert Narmore Jr.
MIXED Liz Higa/Matt Robinson def. Jennelle Mercadante/Mike Garrity
JUNIOR John Whitty Jr./Richard Narmore def. Lily Anne Felton/Robby Collins

UPCOMING EVENTS

DETROIT EVENT KICKS OFF WOR OUTDOOR SEASON

The new WOR season starts after the Outdoor Nationals with the 20th Annual Belle Isle Outdoor Racquetball Championships that will be held at Belle Isle Park in Detroit, Michigan on August 20-22. The event, one of the longest running in outdoor, is expecting 100+ players and their families to join us in the annual racquetball bonanza.



MOD Winners: Big Rod Felton, Rob Hoff, Gary Martin, Scott Bauman, Robert Martinez

The event is one of the largest outdoor tournaments in the country and has players from across the U.S. and Canada.



Mixed Open Teams



Men's Open Teams

FEBRUARY FOOTBALL & RACQUETBALL IN HAWAII

Big Rod has put together one of the most exciting tournaments ever for February 10-13, 2005 in Hawaii. In addition to the 2nd Waikiki Outdoor Doubles Championships players & guests can attend the NFL Pro Bowl on Sunday of the tournament! Don't miss this weekend in Hawaii, check the WOR website for travel, tournament, and Pro Bowl ticket information.

Canadian

NATIONALS

Most of the 2003 champions successfully defended their titles at the 2004 Canadian Senior National Racquetball Championships at the Cedar Springs Health and Racquet Club in Burlington, Ontario.

In men's, Mike Green won his third consecutive National Championship in singles. He defeated Brian Istace, in the final. In the semi-finals, Green beat Vincent Gagnon, while Istace defeated Mike Ceresia.



Canadian National Singles Champions Lori-Jane Powell and Mike Green

Istace and Odegard beat defending champions François Viens and Corey Osborne.

Lori Jane Powell won her third National Championship in singles by beating Jennifer Saunders, in what was a repeat of the 2003 final. In the semi-finals, Powell beat Amanda Dunn, and Saunders defeated Josée Grand'Maitre.



Canadian National Women's Doubles Champions Grand Maitre & Saunders.

But Saunders and Grand'Maitre repeated as doubles champions, defeating Powell and Julie Neubauer in the final. In the semis, they beat Veronique Guillemette and Genevieve Brodeur, while Powell and Neubauer defeated Karina Odegard and Amanda Dunn.

Holland

PASCAL MATLA WINS DUTCH NATIONALS

Pascal Matla from Zoetermeer won the Dutch National Championships 2004 in his hometown. By defeating Michiel van der Holst in the finals, he claimed his sixth title in eight years. Pascal qualified for the top



INTERNATIONAL SCENE

singles spot on the National Team while Michiel will compete in Doubles at the 2004 World Championships.

Belgium

BELGIAN OPEN: DEBOUTTE WINS HIS FIRST ERT EVENT

Niklaas Deboutte won his first European Racquetball Tour (ERT) tournament last weekend, in his hometown of Antwerp. He beat Dutchman Edwin Schipper in the men's open final. Deboutte will be on the Belgian team for the IRF World Championships this summer in Anyang, Korea.

Mexico

COPA COUNTRY 2004 SUCCESSFULLY FINISHED

Lupita Torres and Alvaro Beltran both won their singles and doubles finals during the 2004 Copa Contry Tournament. Torres won the Womens Doubles with Paola Longoria (U14 World Champion), while Beltran succeeded with Gil Mejia.

Japan

OPEN 2004

Hirotake Usami and Toshiko Sakamoto are the winners of the Mens and Womens Open finals during the 2004 Japan Open in Tokyo on May 1-5. A total of 316 players have participated in this annual event.

Upcoming IRF Events

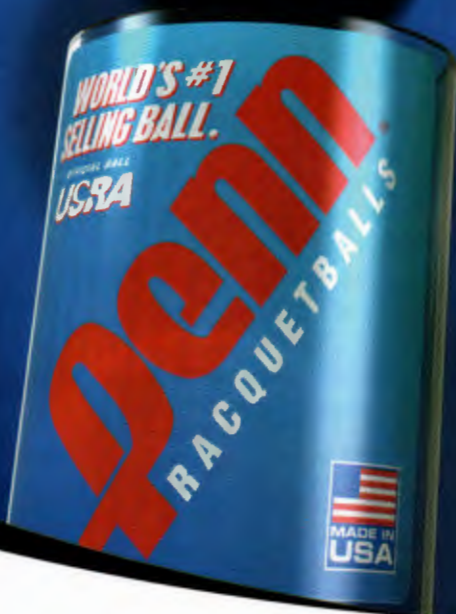
July 14-17	NMRA International Masters Invitational	West Allis, WI	USA
July 29	IPRO Instructor Certification Course	Seoul	Korea
July 30-Aug. 6	IRF 12th World Championships	Anyang	South Korea
August 7-15	4th Torneo Nacional Singles	San Jose	Costa Rica
August 16-21	4th Torneo Nacional Dobles	San Jose	Costa Rica
August 31- Sep 4	IRF 16th World Senior Championships	Albuquerque, NM	USA
August	South Japan Open	TBA	Japan
August	East Japan Team Competition	TBA	Japan
August	West Japan Team Competition	TBA	Japan
September	Dutch Nationals	Zoetermeer	Netherlands
September 5-3	Torneo New Generation	San Jose	Costa Rica
September 10-12	Torneo abierto de Zacatecas	Zacatecas	Mexico
September 11-18	5th Torneo Nacional Singles	San Jose	Costa Rica
September 17-19	21st Homburg Open	Hamburg	Germany
September 20-25	5th Torneo Nacional Dobles	San Jose	Costa Rica
September	Regional Singles Tournament	TBA	Japan
September	National Senior Singles	TBA	Japan
Sept. 29-Oct. 03	37th U.S. National Doubles	Tempe, AZ	USA

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junior

» LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Eau Claire Athletic Club - Owners, members and the people of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Someone explained the experience as "returning to the 80's" Everyone was helpful, extremely friendly and went out of his or her way to make sure every visitor experience was memorable. A great place to hold an event!



» THE VALUE OF COACHING

Consistent exposure to a coach can make a difference! Zach Apperson from Ohio decided to solicit the expertise of U.S. Team member Shane Vanderson to not only prepare for the event but also coach him during the event. The result - Apperson won his division, which qualified him for his first U.S. Junior Team appointment.



16- champ Zach Apperson with coach Shane Vanderson

» CALIFORNIA REBOUNDS

California was once the premier state for junior racquetball, but in recent years they have not finished near the top of the team standings. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Jody Nance, Karen McDonough, and Lisa Hjelm, and outstanding performances by Ismael Aldana and Jose and Marco Rojas, California placed third in the overall state team competition.



Members and coaches of Jr. Team California in front of Eau Claire A.C.



Members of Jr. Team California pose with their 3rd place trophy

18's NOT AS EASY AS EXPECTED «

Both 18-and-under champions, Ben Croft and Adrienne Fisher, were expected to easily defend their national titles. Surprisingly, both players were pushed to tiebreakers not once, but twice. Croft was tested by rapidly upcoming Jared Torres in the semifinals and also by upset minded Charlie Pratt in the finals. Adrienne Fisher was forced to comeback from a 7-0 deficit in the tiebreaker against Elise Wilson in the semi's and then needed to put on her best serving exhibition of the season to defeat Jesi Fuller in the in finals.



Ben Croft



Adrienne Fisher

BIGGEST UPSET «

A tie between Charlie Pratt's semifinal victory over fellow Oregonian Dan Sheppick and Holly Hettesheimer's and Samantha McGuffey's victory in Girls' 16-doubles. After a disappointing loss in the first round at the Junior World Championships and then in the final of the National High School Championships, many wondered if Pratt could recover. Unfortunately for Dan Sheppick, Charlie recovered with a vengeance and easily defeated Dan 15-5, 15-5. Scouting reports have indicated the two had trained together and that Dan was easily controlling Charlie, but in this match Charlie was in complete control.



Charlie Pratt



Samantha McGuffey and Holly Hettesheimer

In doubles Holly and Samantha upset National and World champions Ashley Leggett and Ashley Willhite on their way to claiming the girl's 16- national doubles title.

PIGS

Presented by **Penn**

» JOSE DIAZ AND HEATHER FENDER

After much teasing and dares, Heather Fender took to the dance floor with 10-and-under player Jose Diaz. The two set the stage for a fun filled evening that featured numerous juniors and parents.



Heather Fender and Jose Diaz "cut a rug"

» THE VARGAS FAMILY FROM AURORA COLORADO

The Vargas' from Colorado made it a family event - Anthony, Connie, Elizabeth, Isaac, and Samuel - helped lead Colorado to seventh place in the overall state team competition.



The Vargas'

» CAROL PELLOWSKI LEAVES LEGACY

After 18 years of supporting and developing racquetball in the Wisconsin area, Carol Pellowski and family will be moving to Grand Junction, Colorado. Carol was the major promoter in bringing the Junior National event to Wisconsin and has long been instrumental in the success of Wisconsin junior racquetball.

» DAILY MORNING JUNIOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Many parents and junior supporters started their daily routine with 7am Junior Council meeting to discuss future plans for junior development. Major discussions were set around the Junior USA Team and future site selection for the event.

» DAN SHEPPICK AND SPORTSMANSHIP

Heavily favored to reach the finals, Dan Sheppick from Portland Oregon was upset in the semi's by training partner Charlie Pratt. Although disappointed in not qualifying for singles on the US Junior Team during his final year of Junior Racquetball, Dan displayed the class and sportsmanship expected of the US Junior Team captain.

» BEN CROFT "SPEECHLESS"

National Champion Ben Croft seemed "speechless" after being selected as the National Junior Male Athlete of the Year. Ben received consistent ribbing from his buddies as he searched for the words to express his appreciation for the award.

AWARD WINNERS

- OUTSTANDING JUNIOR
MALE ATHLETE -
Ben Croft



- OUTSTANDING JUNIOR
FEMALE ATHLETE -
Adrienne Fisher



- ESPRIT JUNIOR MALE -
Joseph Lee



- ESPRIT JUNIOR FEMALE -
Kaitlin Inglesby



**2004 USA RACQUETBALL
JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
JUNE 23-27: EAU CLAIRE ATHLETIC CLUB
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN**

FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

SINGLES

Boys' 18: Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.) def. Charlie Pratt (Portland, Ore.) 15-7, 8-15, 11-0
Boys' 16: Zachary Apperson (Zanesville, Ohio) def. Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) 15-10, 15-12
Boys' 14: Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.) def. Jose Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) 15-6, 15-11
Boys' 12: Taylor Knoth (Milwaukie, Ore.) def. Jake Bredenbeck (St. Croix, Minn.) 15-7, 11-15, 11-8
Boys' 10: Chase Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Marco Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) 15-5, 15-11
Boys' 8: Adam Monilla (Centennial, Colo.) def. Zachary Pellowski (Eau Claire, Wisc.) 15-3, 15-3
Boys' 8 MB: Sean Cooperrider (Palm Harbor, Fla.) def. Conlon Berry (Columbus, Ohio) 10-15, 15-7, 11-6
Boys' 6 MB: Luke Meyer (Hudson, Wisc.) def. Ralphie Grillone (Brockton, Mass.) 11-10, 11-9

Girls' 18: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) def. Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15-10, 12-15, 11-3
Girls' 16: Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Kara Mazur (Avon, Conn.) 15-7, 15-9
Girls' 14: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Brittany Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 10-15, 15-8, 11-6
Girls' 12: Danielle Key (Gilbert, Ariz.) def. Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) 15-13, 15-11
Girls' 10: Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.) def. Courtney Chisholm (Marlborough, Mass.) 15-3, 15-14
Girls' 8: Abbey Lavelly (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) def. Elizabeth Vargas (Aurora, Colo.) 15-2, 15-1
Girls' 8 MB: Elizabeth Vargas (Aurora, Colo.) def. Danielle Falvey (Madison, Wisc.) 11-8, 11-10
Girls' 6 MB: Jessica Varner (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Eriko Manillo (Centennial, Colo.) 11-6, 11-3

DOUBLES

Boys' 18: Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.)/Dan Sheppick (Portland, Ore.) def. Brady Hernandez (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)/Shane Karmelin (Dacula, Ga.) 15-9, 15-13
Boys' 16: Zachary Apperson (Zanesville, Ohio)/Allan Crockett (Birmingham, Ala.) def. David LaForest (Queens, N.Y.)/Richard Sledzik Jr. (Brockton, Mass.) 15-11, 3-15, 11-8
Boys' 14: Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.)/Jose Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) def. John-Craig Chisholm (Marlborough, Mass.)/Jerome Jackson (Norwood, Mass.) 15-6, 15-4
Boys' 12: Jake Bredenbeck (St. Croix, Minn.)/Taylor Knoth (Milwaukie, Ore.) def. Joseph Lee (Baton Rouge, La.)/Dylan Reid (Medford, Ore.) 15-9, 15-3
Boys' 10: Jose Diaz (Stockton, Calif.)/Marco Rojas (Stockton, Mass.) def. Sam Reid (Medford, Ore.)/Chase Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) 15-14, 15-9

Girls' 18: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.) def. Kelley Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Elise Wilson (Bristol, Conn.) 15-12, 15-11
Girls' 16: Holly Hettesheimer (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Samantha McGuffey (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Jennifer Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.)/Kara Mazur (Avon, Conn.) 15-6, 15-12
Girls' 14: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Brittany Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Sharon Jackson (Shelbyville, Ind.)/Shanae Taylor (Shelbyville, Ind.) 15-3, 15-6
Girls' 12: Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Tarryn Harboth (Carmichael, Calif.)/Monique Horyza (Orangevale, Calif.) 15-4, 15-10
Girls' 10: Courtney Chisholm (Marlborough, Mass.)/Samantha Rosado (Meriden, Conn.) def. Lauren Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.)/Anna Thorndike (Medford, Ore.) 15-4, 15-2

Mixed 18: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Dan Sheppick (Portland, Ore.) def. Da'Monique Davis (San Antonio, Texas)/Shane Karmelin (Dacula, Ga.) 15-14, 15-7
Mixed 16: Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.)/Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) def. Samantha McGuffey (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Zachary Apperson (Zanesville, Ohio) 15-11, 15-6
Mixed 14: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.) def. Sharon Jackson (Shelbyville, Ind.)/Jonathan Doyle (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-14, 15-4
Mixed 12: Danielle Key (Gilbert, Ariz.)/Jeremy McGlothlin (Milwaukie, Ore.) def. Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Taylor Knoth (Milwaukie, Ore.) 15-6, 15-5
Mixed 10: Lauren Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.)/Chase Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Marco Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) 15-10, 15-14



Oregon was able to capture an amazing 13th consecutive national team championship. Ohio and California seem to be catching up, but Oregon will have home court advantage next year when the tournament takes place in Portland.

FINAL TEAM RESULTS

1. Oregon	1196
2. Ohio	1078.5
3. California	989
4. Louisiana	712
5. Wisconsin	501
6. Illinois	393
7. Colorado	299

Event Sponsor



2004
CHOICE HOTELS
US OPEN
RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

November 17-21, 2004
Memphis, Tennessee



Presented by:



CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Kane Waselenchuk
2003 Champion

Rhonda Rajsich
2003 Champion

Entry Form and Ticket Application

www.choicehotelsusopen.com

2004

CHOICE HOTELS

US OPEN

RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

IT'S RACQUETBALL'S

PREMIER EVENT . . . AND YOU'RE INVITED!

Witness racquetball's only "Grand Slam"- the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. See all of the top players in the world from the IRT, LPRA, and LEGENDS Tours compete for the largest prize-money purse in the sport — \$64,000+. Experience the thrill of dramatic player introductions featuring booming music and laser light shows. Stroll through the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Player Village and see what's new from the world's top racquetball manufacturers. Party the nights away with your favorite pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world. Be there to see the world's only "made-for-TV" portable stadium racquetball court. The event will be nationally televised (tape delayed) on THE TENNIS CHANNEL. In addition, over 600 amateur division players will compete in age and skill divisions for every level. Special events include the Saturday evening Grand Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", Players Village complete with concessions and live entertainment, International/VIP Reception, Pro-Am Doubles Tourney for St. Jude, IRT Champions Clinic, All-Star Skills Challenge, Player's Dance Party, and fan fair activities. The event will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The professional matches will be held at The Racquet Club of Memphis, a world-class health club and dining facility featuring racquetball, tennis, locker rooms with all the amenities, state-of-the-art fitness center, swimming pool, four-star restaurant, elegant banquet and meeting rooms, pub with dance floor, and much, much more. The Racquet Club is no stranger to hosting world-class sporting events, as they are the annual site for the acclaimed Kroger St. Jude Tennis Championships, a stop on the ATP Tour, which has hosted such top name players as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and Andy Roddick. Amateur divisions will be played at The University of Memphis Recreation Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club), Ridgeway Baptist Rec. Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club) and SIX50 TotalClub (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all four facilities will be provided.

Jack Huczek

IRT #2

www.choicehotelsusopen.com



MADE-FOR-TV PORTABLE STADIUM RACQUETBALL COURT

One of the most exciting aspects of the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is that the world's only "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court will be used for all feature matches! The unique construction of the court allows stadium seating for more than 1,000, in addition to courtside luxury boxes for sponsors and VIPs.

Dramatic player introductions complete with laser light shows and booming music will treat racquetball fans to a total entertainment experience. The crystal clear LUCITE acrylic walls will make you feel like you are in the court with the players.

PARTIES, PARTIES AND MORE PARTIES

That's right! For those of us who like to enjoy our evenings, the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN promises a solid week of non-stop fun, kicking off with a Wednesday night International/VIP Reception and Thursday late-night "get together" at the Fox & Hound Sports Bar (next door to The Racquet Club). And that's only the beginning! On Friday evening, the action moves to the "Pub" nightspot at The Racquet Club of Memphis, which will feature a DJ spinning the hottest tunes for your dancing pleasure. Mingle with the pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world.



CHOICE HOTELS PLAYER VILLAGE

The nerve center of the event will be the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Player Village. Many activities are scheduled to take place in the Village, including an extensive Industry Trade Show, pro autograph signing sessions, live stage with entertainment, concessions, cash bar, informational seminars, and plenty of seating to kick back and relax. Admission is free for all spectators and players.

Saturday evening will top off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year – the ninth Annual Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Grand Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS". More than 1,000 racquetball fans are expected to turn out at The Racquet Club Party Center for an evening of live entertainment featuring one of Tennessee's hottest dance bands. Elegant ice carvings, extravagant hors d'ouerves and desserts, huge dance floor, cash bar, multi-media slide show, and all the top racquetball pros in the world will make the evening one to remember. The cost for guests and tournament spectators is \$35 per person. Players participating in the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN will be admitted free!

Official Co-Sponsors



PRO MATCH SCHEDULE

Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude	Tuesday	5 p.m.- 10 p.m.
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying	Wednesday	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Men's round of 64	Wednesday	4 p.m.- 11 p.m.
Men's round of 32	Thursday	9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Women's round of 32	Thursday	1 p.m.- 7 p.m.
Men's round of 16	Thursday	4 p.m.- 9 p.m.
Women's round of 16	Friday	9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Men's quarters	Friday	3 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Women's quarters	Friday	4 p.m.- 7 p.m.
Women's semi #1/ Legend's semi #1/Men's semi #1	Saturday	9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Women's semi #2/ Legend's semi #2/Men's semi #2	Saturday	2:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Legend's finals/Women's finals/ Men's finals	Sunday	11:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP

All players must be current members of USA Racquetball. If you're not, a membership can be purchased at the event (\$30 per year). In addition, all players entering the pro draws must be current members of the IRT/LPRA Players Association or join at the event (\$10).

PLAY BEGINS/STARTING TIMES/ CONFIRMATION/ENTRY DEADLINE

Players must be prepared to play as early as 8 a.m. on the dates indicated in the chart below. Requests for special starting times must be indicated on the entry form. Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests, however no guarantees can be made. **Starting times will be available after 5 p.m. on Monday, November 15th by calling The Racquet Club at (901) 765-4428. Starting times can also be obtained on line at www.choicehotelsusopen.com.** Entries and ticket orders can be confirmed online after October 29th at www.choicehotelsusopen.com. Please immediately call the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 120 if any errors or omissions are found. All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 3rd and/or postmarked by Friday Oct. 29th.

OPENING ROUNDS SCHEDULE

Wednesday Nov. 17th

Singles – All IRT/LPRA Pro's, Men's Open, A, B, C, D, 24 & under, 24 & under A-B-C, 25+, 25+ A-B-C, 30+, 35+, 35+A-B-C, 40+, 45+, 45+A-B-C, 55+A-B-C.

Doubles – Men's Open, A, B, C, 35+

Thursday Nov. 18th

Singles – Men's 50+, 55+, Women's Open, A, B, C, D, 24 & under, 24 & under A-B-C, 25+, 25+A-B-C, 30+, 35+, 35+A-B-C, 40+, 45+, 45+A-B-C.

Doubles – Men's 19+, All Women's and Mixed except 50+

Friday Nov. 19th

Singles – Men's 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, Women's 50+, 55+, 55+A-B-C, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+,

Doubles – Men's and Women's 50+

www.choicehotelsusopen.com

CHECK-IN

All player registration will take place at The Racquet Club of Memphis. Check-in is required prior to participating in the event. Hours for registration are: Tuesday, November 18th 3 p.m.- 10 p.m., Wednesday, November 17th 8 a.m.- 10 p.m., Thursday, November 18th 8 a.m.- 9 p.m., and Friday, November 19th 8 a.m.- 9 p.m.

SKILL LEVEL CERTIFICATION

Skill-level entrants (A, B, C, D divisions.) must be AMPRO certified at that level or be approved by the state director or representative as being legitimately competitive in the entered skill division at a level five event. Tournament directors will use these benchmarks to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify or disqualify players when/if they are improperly placed. *NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria.*

TICKETS FOR PRO MATCHES

Everyone will be required to purchase tickets for pro matches — see ticket application or call (800) 234-5396 ext.120. All non-players must purchase a ticket to be admitted to the Saturday evening Grand Gala **"PARTY WITH THE PROS"**. Seating is limited, therefore it is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets in advance. **ABSOLUTELY NO VIEWING FOR PRO MATCHES WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT A TICKET.** Last year's ticket packages sold out four weeks in advance, so don't delay!

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury box seats (with table service) may be available starting at \$2,400. Call 614-890-6073 for availability.

HOSPITALITY

Limited hospitality for all players will be available at The University of Memphis, Six50 TotalClub, and Ridgeway Baptist Rec.Center only. The Racquet Club of Memphis features a four-star restaurant for your dining pleasure, as well as the Player Village with a cash bar and limited concessions offered.

SILENT AUCTION & PRO/AM DOUBLES CHALLENGE

For the benefit of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital a silent auction will be held during the event featuring Olympic Memorabilia and sporting goods equipment from the industry's best manufacturers. Checks, cash, VISA and MasterCard are welcome. In addition, Tuesday evening, November 16th, 32 lucky amateurs will have the opportunity to play in a single elimination (one game to 15) doubles challenge with a top professional player as their partner. All proceeds will be donated to St. Jude, and each amateur player will receive an autographed racquet from their pro partner. **Call (614) 890-6073 if you are interested in participating as spots are limited.** Pro/Am Doubles for St. Jude – \$250 donation.

ST. JUDE HOSPITAL

The Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is once again proud to name St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as its designated charity. Founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude is dedicated to the successful treatment of diseases that afflict children. Having treated more than 13,000 patients from 47 states and 53 countries, the hospital is a world leader in the treatment of catastrophic childhood illnesses. During the past five years the Choice Hotels U.S. Open has raised over \$110,000 for St. Jude!

TRAVEL AND LODGING

Northwest Airlines, United Airlines, and AVIS have joined the U.S. OPEN to offer special discounted fares and rental cars to the 2004 U.S. OPEN. Please follow the information below to obtain these special rates:

Northwest Airlines

Discount: 10% off any published fare with 30+ days advanced purchase. 5% off published fares 0-30 days.
Instructions: Must call NWA Group Reservations Desk at (800) 328-1111 and mention WOLRD FILE #NSC7F

United Airlines

Discount: 5%-10% off published fares.
Instructions: Must call Olympic Travel Desk at (800) 841-0460 and mention USA Racquetball account #511SM.

Avis Rent-A-Car

Discount: Special low weekly rates on all car classes.
Instructions: Must call AVIS group reservations desk at (800) 331-1600 and mention AWD# J996315.

Hotels

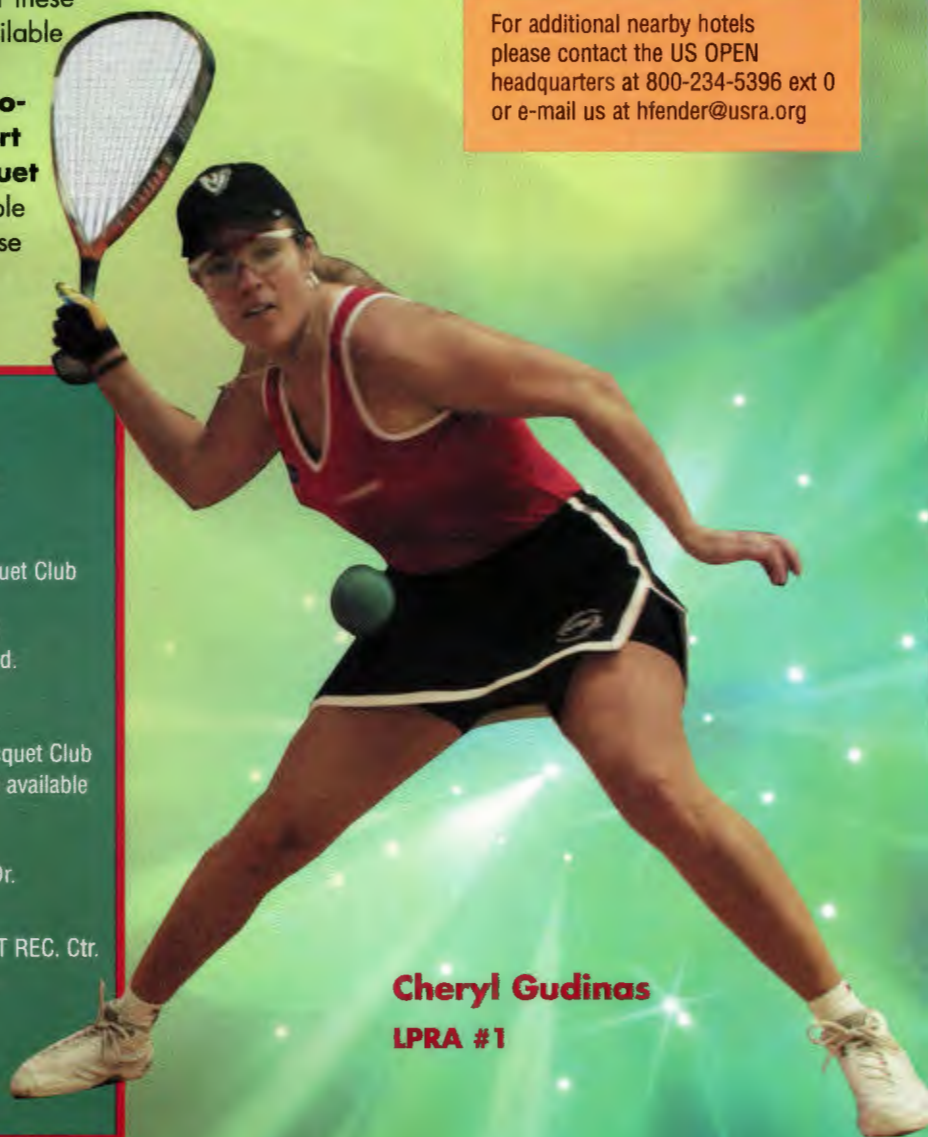
When making hotel reservations, you must mention the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Discounted rates are good for up to four people per room. You must make reservations by October 26th for these special rates. Regular shuttle service will be available between all four clubs throughout the event. **In addition, free shuttles service will be provided from the main host hotels (Comfort Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn) to The Racquet Club every half hour.** No parking is available at The University of Memphis, so players must use the shuttle.



For additional nearby hotels please contact the US OPEN headquarters at 800-234-5396 ext 0 or e-mail us at hfinder@usra.org

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. COMFORT INN & SUITES*
(main host hotel)
2575 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
(901) 365-2575
Rate: \$69
-12 minutes to Racquet Club | 2. SLEEP INN*
(main host hotel)
5119 American Way
(901) 363-4800
Rate: \$69
-12 minutes to Racquet Club |
| 3. QUALITY INN & SUITES
1541 Sycamore View Rd.
(901) 386-4600
Rate: \$69
-15 minutes to Racquet Club | 4. HAWTHORN SUITES
1070 Ridge Lake Blvd.
(901) 682-1722
Rate: \$94
-5 minutes from Racquet Club
-private hotel shuttle available |
| 5. THE RACQUET CLUB
5111 Sanderlin Rd.
(901) 765-4400 | 6. SIX50 TotalClub
6161 Shelby Oaks Dr.
(901) 388-6580 |
| 7. UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
630 Echles St.
(901) 678-2816 | 8. RIDGEWAY BAPTIST REC. Ctr.
2500 Ridgeway Rd.
(901) 761-1113 |

* Only the COMFORT INN & SUITES and The SLEEP INN will have regular free shuttle service to The Racquet Club (every half hour)



Cheryl Gudinas
LPRA #1

PRIZE MONEY

over \$64,000!

RULES/FORMAT

All amateur divisions will be played according to official USA Racquetball rules, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. Pro divisions will use IRT/LPRA rules. For all age divisions, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of the tournament (November 17th). All divisions (pro and amateur) will use the ProPenn (green) ball. Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions.

RANKING POINTS

Amateur: The top-eight finishers in all divisions will receive USA Racquetball ranking points. This is a Level 5 event. Professionals: On the IRT/LPRA tours, prize money determines the level of ranking points associated with a given event.

OFFICIATING

All players will receive \$5 for each amateur division match they referee. Players losing a match in the pro divisions are required to referee with no fee paid.

CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

We are very pleased to have Choice Hotels International as our title sponsor for the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Choice Hotels International(NYSE: CHH) is one of the world's largest lodging franchisors, franchising more than 5,000 hotels in 46 countries under the Comfort Inn, ComfortSuites, Quality, Clarion, Sleep Inn, Econo Lodge, MainStay Suites, and Rodeway Inn brand names. For more information on Choice, visit the company's web site at www.choicehotels.com.

CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS

	<u>Men's Pro</u>	<u>Women's Pro</u>	<u>Legends</u>
2003	Kane Waselenchuk	Rhonda Rajsich	Ruben Gonzalez
2002	Sudsy Monchik	Cheryl Gudinas	Bret Harnett
2001	Cliff Swain	Kerri Wachtel	
2000	Sudsy Monchik	Christie Vanhees	
1999	Jason Mannino	Jackie Paraiso	
1998	Sudsy Monchik	Jackie Paraiso	
1997	Cliff Swain	Michelle Gould	
1996	Sudsy Monchik	Michelle Gould	

Men's Pro-\$33,500

1st	\$8,000	16's	\$ 600
2nd	\$4,500	32's	\$ 325
Semis	\$2,500		
Qtrrs	\$1,500		

Women's Pro-\$15,000

1st	\$4,200	Qtrrs	\$ 700
2nd	\$2,400	16's	\$ 350
Semis	\$1,300		

Legends \$15,000 Invitational

Men's & Women's Open Singles

1st	\$ 350	Semis	\$ 85
2nd	\$ 175		

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Event Director:

Doug Ganim

Floor Manager:

Pete Ulliman

Executive Committee:

Dr. Jim Hiser, Kay McCarthy, Heather Fender, Dr. Fred Heros, Dino Tashie

Pro Commissioners:

Dave Negrete (IRT), Claude Crocker (LPRA), Brian Pointelin (LEGENDS)



Ruben Gonzalez
2003 Legends US
Open Champion

PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

	Price	Quantity	Total(\$)
SESSION #1:	\$16	_____	_____
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.			
Men's round of 64 Wednesday, 4 p.m.- 11 p.m.			
SESSION #2:	\$16	_____	_____
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.			
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.			
SESSION #3:	\$16	_____	_____
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 4 p.m.- 9 p.m. (All-Star Skills Challenge 7p.m.)			
SESSION #4:	\$18	_____	_____
Women's round of 16 Friday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.			
Men's quarters #1,#2 Friday, 3 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.			
SESSION #5:	\$18	_____	_____
Men's quarters #3, #4 Friday, 5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.			
Women's quarters Friday 4 p.m.- 7 p.m.			
SESSION #6:	\$20	_____	_____
Women's semi #1/Legends Semi #1/Men's semi #1 Saturday, 10:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.			
SESSION #7:	\$20	_____	_____
Women's semi #2/Legends semi #2/Men's semi #2 Saturday, 2:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.			
SESSION #8:	\$30	_____	_____
Women's finals/Legend's finals/Men's finals Sunday, 11:00 a.m.- 3 p.m.			

BEST VALUE (\$75 savings)

TICKET PACKAGE (includes all sessions listed above – only available in advance!) \$79

Ticket for Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS"	\$35	_____	_____
(free for all player participants) Saturday, 8 p.m.- 12:30 a.m.			
Processing fee (must be paid to process your order)	\$4	_____	\$4

Make check payable or use credit card and mail to:
Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906

- OR -

To order your tickets by phone call: (800) 234-5396 ext. 120
or fax this completed form to : (719) 635-0685

TOTAL _____

Visa/MC # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Name to hold tickets under _____

Street Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____

Tickets will not be mailed in advance.
They can be picked up at the Choice
Hotels U.S. OPEN Will Call Desk, located
at The Racquet Club (I.D. is required).
Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets in
advance to be guaranteed a seat.

A very limited number of four-person
courtside luxury box seats (with table serv-
ice) may be available starting at \$2,400.
Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____
 Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (day) _____ (night) _____ Fax _____
 USA Racquetball Membership Number _____ Expiration Date _____ E-Mail _____
 Seeding Information (2003 U.S. OPEN, 2004 States, Regionals, Nationals) _____
 Home Club _____

USRA DIVISIONS

Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events: (3 events permitted if at least 1 is a doubles divisions):

Check one: Men's ☐ or Women's ☐

Skill Divisions*

Can only enter ONE from this group
 A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐

Skill + Age Divisions*

24 & under A	<input type="checkbox"/>	35+ C	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 & under B	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+ A	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 & under C	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+ B	<input type="checkbox"/>
25+ A	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+ C	<input type="checkbox"/>
25+ B	<input type="checkbox"/>	55+ A	<input type="checkbox"/>
25+ C	<input type="checkbox"/>	55+ B	<input type="checkbox"/>
35+ A	<input type="checkbox"/>	55+ C	<input type="checkbox"/>
35+ B	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Open & Age Divisions

OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	40+	<input type="checkbox"/>	65+	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 & under	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+	<input type="checkbox"/>	70+	<input type="checkbox"/>
25+	<input type="checkbox"/>	50+	<input type="checkbox"/>	75+	<input type="checkbox"/>
30+	<input type="checkbox"/>	55+	<input type="checkbox"/>	80+	<input type="checkbox"/>
35+	<input type="checkbox"/>	60+	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Doubles & Mixed Doubles Divisions*

Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	50+	<input type="checkbox"/>	MX A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>	MX 30+	<input type="checkbox"/>
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	19+	<input type="checkbox"/>			MX C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>	MX 40+	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	35+	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Partner's Name _____ Division _____
 Partner's Name _____ Division _____

*REQUIRED Skill Verification Form

Please indicate below your eligibility for competition in the skill level you have selected. This information will be verified and re-classification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director.

____ I have been AMPRO certified at this level by:

AMPRO Certified Instructor (name required) _____

____ I have recently competed in this skill category in my state, and have been approved for participation in this category at a Level Five event by the state director or designated representative shown below:

(name required)

____ I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the:

____ 2003 U.S. OPEN, or the ____ 2004 USAR National Singles

PRO

Men's (IRT)** ☐ Women's (LPRA)** ☐ Legend's (by invitation only)

** The Men's Pro draw will begin in the round of 64 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. The Women's Pro draw will begin in the round of 32 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. Players wishing to enter the amateur OPEN division must enter it directly as a second event.

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release and all rights and claims that I may have against the USA Racquetball, IRT, LPRA, Ganim Enterprises, Choice Hotel Corporation, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Club Six50, Ridgeway Baptist Church, The University of Memphis, and all other U.S. OPEN sponsors, or their respective agents for any and all injuries I may suffer as a result of participation in this event. By registering to participate in this event, I release all rights to the use of event photographs/videos in which my image appears.

Participant Signature _____ (parent if under 18) Date _____

ENTRY FEES

Players may enter a maximum of two events (3 events permitted if at least 1 is a doubles divisions). Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions. Players in multiple divisions may play back-to-back matches. Returned checks will be assessed a \$23 service charge (\$10 for declined credit cards). Phone entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with a \$10 service charge and a major credit card by calling the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 120. Maximum amateur draw is 600 players. Once filled, all additional entries received will be returned with refund.

	Amount Pd.	Division
First Event (Amateur Divisions/Pro's)	(\$95/\$105)	_____
Second Event	(\$48)	_____
Third Event	(\$48)	_____
USA Racquetball Membership	(\$30)	_____
Late Fee/Phone Entry	(\$20/\$10)	_____
Extra Party with the Pro's ticket	(\$35 each)	_____ Quant. _____
-Players admitted free		
TOTAL		_____
Visa/MC	_____	Exp. Date _____
Cardholder's Name (print)	_____	
Signature	_____	

ENTRY DEADLINE:

All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 3rd and/or postmarked by Friday, Oct. 29th. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a \$20 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

Limited hospitality, free access to Player Village and fan fair activities at The Racquet Club, souvenir Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN shirt, Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Saturday evening Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", plus much, much more!



Have you enclosed your Pro Match Ticket Application and payment for tickets? Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets to be guaranteed a seat. One check can be written for entry fees and tickets. Last year's event sold out four weeks in advance!

Make check payable and mail to:
 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
 1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906
 or FAX this completed form to (719) 635-0685

To enter by phone call:
 (800) 234-5396 ext. 120

IAB MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Hospitals



Dental Care



Hearing Aids



Physicians



24-Hour
Nurse
Hotline



Legal Club



Prescriptions



IAB
Motor
Club

Vision Care



Travel & Leisure

Care Advocacy



Accident Medical

Since 1982 we have provided peace of mind to hundreds of thousands of our members. In addition to the protection offered you through our Healthcare and Legal Services, we offer savings on Hotels and Resorts, Theme Parks, Golf, Car Rental, Restaurants and more. IAB Membership provides peace of mind and protection from Healthcare and Legal emergencies that tend to happen in day-to-day life and that could be extremely costly to you without our benefits and services. The IAB member's passport provides for healthcare benefits through our referral network, which includes over 500,000 Hospitals, Physicians, Pharmacies, Dentists, Vision Care, Hearing and more. The members' passport also entitles you to Legal Services with over 22,000 participating attorneys. These emergency services are available to you 24 hours a day no matter where you are.

IAB membership also guarantees your leisure and entertainment dollar will go farther. With it you have the freedom to access savings on Car Rental, Restaurants, Golf Courses, Hotels and Resorts even Theme Parks.

So learn how IAB membership can give you the freedom from stress and worry about Healthcare and Legal emergencies and provide you with additional savings on recreational time with your loved ones!

For more information visit www.iabbenefits.com



ON CAMPUS

TIPS FOR STARTING A NEW COLLEGIATE CLUB PROGRAM

Richard Krinsky, Ph. D. Colorado State University - Pueblo

“One way to increase court utilization is to develop club programs on college campuses.”

Most racquetball courts in the United States are located in college athletic facilities. When these facilities get old, colleges either remodel the old facility or build a new one. When buildings get remodeled or constructed, existing space utilization gets heavily weighted. Therefore, it is important that racquetball courts show high utilization on college campuses, so that the space allocated for these courts will remain during remodeling, or is included in new construction.

One way to increase court utilization is to develop club programs on college campuses. Fortunately, starting a racquetball club program is oftentimes not very difficult. However, developing and achieving criteria for success is more difficult. In this article, I will discuss three factors that are important in getting a club program initiated.

ACCESS TO A FACILITY

Obviously, if you attending a small college not situated in an area that has racquetball courts, it would not make much sense to start a collegiate program. Ideally, a racquetball program would develop on a campus with a resident facility that students have access to throughout the day. It is sometimes difficult to get collegiate players to commit to specific practice times because of their varying academic and work schedules. Players may choose one time during the day to drill, and then choose another time to schedule match play. It is important that they have a partner to drill with, a partner to play against and a court that is available to them when they need it.

THE SPONSOR AND/OR COACH

Finding a sponsor and/or coach is very important. Oftentimes, the collegiate sponsor needs to be affiliated with the institution. In the case of my college, the club sponsor must be a faculty member. Paperwork, such as applications, constitutions and mission statements need to be filled out for the club to be officially recognized by the college. Once the club is recognized it is then eligible for funding.

Ideally, the club sponsor will take an active role in its development. My advice is to find a sponsor who is enthusiastic and enjoys the sport. It is also better to have an established member of the college community as a sponsor than a new member to that community.

FINDING PLAYERS

Fortunately, there is no shortage of students on college campuses. Getting students to play one of the most fun and fitness minded games ever invented should not be that big of a deal. The student leaders, usually officers in the club, should take much of the early responsibility in getting students to play and to become club members. At our college, members of the racquetball club commonly invite their friends to join them on the court. If racquetball classes are taught, then students attending those classes would be logical recruits for the racquetball club. In addition, athletes, interested in a good cross-training activity are also good recruits. The baseball coach at our college encourages his players to cross-train in racquetball during the fall semester.

As I previously stated, getting a club started is not too difficult. Be sure that the students have access to a facility, a good sponsor, and a core of students to recruit from and your club will be off the ground and ready to go in no time. Getting a new club to become successful, however, is more difficult. Establishing guidelines for making a club program successful will be described in the next issue of Racquetball Magazine.

As always, if you are interested in starting a racquetball club at your College or University and are having trouble finding how to get started, please contact Shane Wood, Chairman of the United States Collegiate Council at racquetballchamp@hotmail.com or (508) 479-6597. Shane is also the Director of the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC) and would love to assist anybody interested in forming a collegiate racquetball league in your area.

Here's How You Can Earn a High School National Championship

So you want to win the High School National Championship? Here is how one team did it.

Three years ago, Katie Ferguson was a freshman at the Catlin Gabel School in Portland, Oregon and wanted to play high school racquetball. She first talked a parent and a teacher into becoming coaches. Katie then convinced a few of her friends, who had never played before, to give racquetball a try.

Her next step was to approach her school to ask for support. She was lucky enough to get backing from the athletic department (usually the activities or club route is best). After the second year, the school believed in racquetball as a real sport and the players now receive PE credits and sports letters for their participation.

She then needed the cooperation of an athletic club. Her home club was too difficult so she went to another club that was close to school and arranged a special "High School Membership" of \$25 per month during the winter months. Katie was able to persuade the club to set aside two courts for two hours after school on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays when the courts were not being used much.

Katie then joined the Oregon High School Racquetball League. She was very lucky to live in a state with an existing high school program. This gave her team other high school teams to compete with.

good partners. The girls got good enough and brave enough to beat some of the boys. The players talked their friends into giving the sport a try. Katie even talked her sister, Elizabeth, who had retired from racquetball, into joining the team.

“...in its third year of existence, Catlin Gabel won the National High School Team Championship...”

The first year there were seven players who stuck with the team. The next year the team got stronger. And this year, although some players had graduated, more were recruited.

And in its third year of existence, Catlin Gabel won the National High School Team Championship, competing against 52 other schools from across the country. They earned six All-America awards. The team was made up of 13 players, only two of which had ever played racquetball before joining the team. The school is small (only 246 students) and the sport was new to most, but they worked really, really hard, and they achieved their goal of a National Team Championship.

JUNIOR MATTERS

By John Ferguson

Practices began and all of the new players were taught the sport. Some dropped out, some became fanatics and started playing in tournaments year around. The boys learned to play the sport - even mixed doubles and how to be

You can do it, too. How can we help? Email John Ferguson (in Oregon at feruson85@comcast.net) or Dan Whitley (in Missouri dwhitley@vettasports.com) with questions.

WHAT'S THE

by Otto Dietrich

USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

CALL?



Garry Carter from Napa Valley, California, reffed some of the Open matches at this year's National Singles Championship. While Garry seems to know the rules quite well, he did encounter an appeal situation that I had to clarify for him. I thought others might well

benefit if I'd share that clarification in this article.

For some years now, almost everything that the referee calls or doesn't call is appealable when line judges are used. The only exceptions are technical fouls and match forfeitures.

why players should raise their hand during a rally—to denote exactly what “get” or “shot” they might appeal when the rally is over.

Now, on to the issue that seemed to “trip up” Garry at Nationals. Certain appeals can involve more than one possible call and outcome. A perfect example of this is when the referee stops a play by calling “replay hinder”. In this instance, it could be that the appealing player (1) thought there was NO hinder at all or (2) that a penalty hinder (formerly avoidable) should have been called instead. So, which of those is being appealed? You can see that it IS NOT sufficient for the referee to simply say “I called a replay hinder and there's an appeal.”

“... it is critical that the issue being appealed is made very clear to all parties and especially the linejudges.”

The best way for a referee to word an appeal is to (1) identify the specific play (shot, get, etc.) that is being appealed and then (2) state what YOUR (the ref's) call was on that play. No other info need be stated. In fact, giving any additional data about the appeal, like “who made the appeal” or “what that person thinks the call should have been”, could easily result in a “failure to communicate” and possibly

LINESMAN SIGNALS

Agrees
with call

Disagrees
with call

Unsure
of call



adversely affect the outcome of the appeal.

In wording the appeal, it is critical that the issue being appealed is made very clear to all parties and especially the linejudges. The outcome might be skewed if both aren't thinking of the same play when they rule on your call. This is the very real reason

Instead, after first clarifying exactly what the player is appealing, the referee should say something like either “That replay hinder I called was NOT a penalty hinder” or else “I called a replay hinder rather than allow the play to continue.” Either way, the referee should follow with the words “There's an appeal.” Then, and only then, should the line judges give their signals—without looking at each other.

I suggested to Garry that he gain more real experience using line judges. Anyone who refs often using linejudges will soon learn the finer points to precisely wording some of the more tricky appeal situations so there is no doubt about what the appeal is or how it needs to be described to the linejudges!

Always “Play by the Rules” and, if you don't have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them on-line at: <http://www.usra.org/usra/pub&ref/Rulebook.htm>. Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball.

Get With the Program

by Connie Martin



GIVE ALL NEW RACQUETBALL MEMBERS A FREE LESSON!...

It is amazing how many clubs offer new members one, two or even a series of Free Personal Training Appointments or some type of 'Easy Start' Program to start them on their way to a successful Fitness Program upon joining. On the other hand, clubs which have racquetball want those people to just join and begin playing the sport without any guidance.

It is extremely important that all racquetball members (especially those new to the sport) be given the same opportunity. One of the simplest programs to offer is to offer each new member a free introductory lesson or series of lessons. Conducting the lessons in a group setting is even better because they will have the opportunity to meet others interested in racquetball. By offering this fringe benefit to the new member, you are helping to guarantee that they will stay actively involved in the club (and continue to be dues paying members).

But not just anyone can take these people to the courts. You need someone that knows the game, but more important, someone who is infectious with their love for the game and has a personality that will make them want to come back and play. For example, look at your top aerobic class instructors. It really doesn't matter at what time these people teach, their classes are always full because the members are dedicated to the instructor and their personality.

The cost of the lesson(s) can be expensed against the Membership Initiation Fee, or it can be budgeted in the racquetball P & L's each year for these lessons. This is especially important because after their initial contact with the Membership Director, a Racquetball Director or Instructor will help with the retention of the member. If the

Racquetball Instructor gets the new member initiated into the club through personal contact, phone calls, and getting to know their name, they can more easily promote the upcoming lessons, leagues, round-robin plays, and so on. It will then be well worth the investment of the Lessons Fee since they will become longtime dues paying members.

If your new member is coming from another club or city and is beyond the Beginner or Intermediate stage, another option would be to give them a 30-minute private lesson or a pass for a friend of theirs to take the lessons instead.

If you don't have anything in place now at your club, don't wait any longer. Get your new members actively involved in the sport. Every week the Racquetball Director should get the new list of members from the Membership Director(s) and call or send a letter inviting them to become involved in your next set of Free Intro Lessons. You can go one step further and during the first lesson offer a discount for a purchase of their racquetball equipment. Or better yet, most of the racquetball companies these days have a great value pack of a racquet, eye guards and a can of balls, which you can sell to your members at a very reasonable price and still make some money. Let the players know that the racquet will be great for the first 6 months to a year and then they will be ready to upgrade to a new racquet. They can save the old racquet for a guest or their kids. And...the best time for getting new members to get their friends to join too is when they first join. Give these people a guest pass or two to bring in their friends to play racquetball with them.

Connie can be reached at:
Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com

Marcy's Coaching Corner

Training tips for body and mind



When considering how to approach mental training, it's important to understand that physical and mental training are inseparable. For example, structuring your physical practice and training depends on assessing your needs and goals and then creating a plan. This is a mental exercise. Conversely, your attitudes and beliefs, which are mental qualities, influence your ability to execute your plan as well as your ability to perform in competition. Here are my 'Top Five Tips'.

Train Your Brain: Marcy's Top Five Mental Training Tips

1

1. Always consciously connect mental and physical training by being focused during practice sessions. If your mind wanders, stop and take a break and then continue. Short periods of very focused practice are better than hours of mindless repetition.

2

2. Create realistic situations in practice. Practice particular shots, setups, and serves in sets of 5 or 10 and keep score of how many you execute correctly. Have a goal for what you are trying to achieve. Imagine crucial situations, like a 14-14 first game, and execute a particular shot or serve to win the game.

3

3. Simulate match play in practice. Designate a particular partner or league match and play it exactly the way you would in competition; warm up properly, take time outs, play 2 out of 3 games, have all your proper gear, etc. If necessary, add some incentive by playing for bragging rights, money, breakfast, beer:)

4

4. Goals are important so create goals and write them down. In practice or play, however, focus on something other than your goal, like shot selection or execution. The surest way to feel pressure is to have your goal (winning?) front and center in your brain during play.

5

5. Keep a journal; record training sessions, note feelings and observations, write down new things you learn, and record your matches. This will become a wealth of information as you plan your strategy for competition.

Give these tips a try and watch your performance dramatically improve!

Marcy is a NASM Certified Personal Trainer, ICF Certified Personal Coach, and a Certified Nutrition Consultant. She can be reached at www.marcylynch.com.

By Fran Davis



➔ **QUESTION:** Fran what is ERP?

ANSWER: ERP stands for Early Racquet Preparation, one of the most critical parts of both the "forehand and backhand strokes". The idea is to get your racquet up as soon as the ball hits the front wall (or sooner) and you know if it's to the forehand or backhand side. Racquet up means your elbow should be in line with your shoulder and racquet pointing up to the ceiling.

Q&A

The reason for ERP is the same reason a batter has his bat up in baseball before the pitch is even thrown. All the batter has to do when his bat is up is swing at the ball. He does not have to lift his bat up and then swing which takes much more impeccable timing and leads to more mistakes.

The same principle applies in racquetball. If the hitter gets their racquet up early, as soon as the ball hits the front wall (or sooner), all they have to do is swing at the ball. They do not have to lift up their racquet and then swing which also takes much more impeccable timing and leads to more mistakes...inconsistency.

Think about it...in baseball the batter is 60 feet away from the pitchers mound and the average pitch is around 85-90 mph. In racquetball the receiver is usually between 25-40 feet from the front wall with the ball traveling in excess of 100 mph...much faster than a pitcher in baseball and a much shorter distance.

So ERP in racquetball is just as important as having your bat up in baseball, if not more so.

ERP is also a critical part of the "return of serve" because once again the ball could be traveling an excess of 100 mph off the serve. So as a receiver, as soon as you begin your crossover step to get square to the sidewall (forehand or backhand...doesn't matter) you want your racquet up. Your racquet should be up before your foot even hits the ground. Now you are ready to return serve with the best odds of returning the serve cleanly and consistently.

In summary, remember to prepare early so you will make less mistakes and be more consistent...that is the name of the game. Ask pros like Jason, Sudsy, Rhonda or Cheryl...ERP is a MUST.

Come learn about ERP first hand either at one of the Instructional Camps or on the Instructional Video...
www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

GETTING HORIZONTAL the dive

By Kersten Hallander

Seven-time U.S. National Team Member



No doubt about it, our sport is one of the most exciting, demanding sports out there. One thing that makes it very exciting is when players dive for un-gettable balls and either, keep the ball in play by hitting it to the ceiling, hitting

a great pass shot into the back wall or actually hitting an offensive shot for a winner. Some of the best divers of today's game are Adam "The Flying Fish" Karp, Rhonda Rajsich, Sudsy Monchik and Jason Mannino.

As one of the few women who dive for a ball, I often get asked, "do you practice diving?" Or, "whatever possessed you to dive?" Well, I don't practice diving but, when I first started playing racquetball back in college, not really knowing what I was doing, I did throw myself onto the floor a few times thinking people did practice diving. Thankfully, nobody was watching, because I really didn't do it right. I guess though, that diving those few times, and seeing other players doing it, did inspire me to dive later on when I became an open level player.

Now, don't get me wrong. Proper court positioning is still of utmost importance in our game. In fact, I remember Steve Strandemo saying, "a player should never have to dive if they have good footwork and proper court

positioning." Well, I agree with that but, as I said above, diving is to get those UN-gettable balls. It puts increased pressure on your opponent to hit better shots which a lot of times results in them skipping balls and giving you free points. Even if you aren't an open level player, here are a few suggestions that will help you to trigger that "Get Horizontal!" side of you.

Diving comes from explosiveness in the legs. Plyometrics* builds the body's explosive power. Starting the dive is very similar to a Track and Field Standing Long Jump. See photo #1. Bend you're your knees and, instead of thrusting the body upwards and keeping your feet underneath you, you actually jump and thrust your upper body forward.

After thrusting your upper body forward, you sort of get into a one handed push-up position with your non-racquet hand cushioning your impact with the floor and your racquet hitting the ball simultaneously. See photo #2. After hitting the ball, your racquet hand goes to the floor still holding your racquet, then you have both hands to push off the floor and help you get back up to play the next shot. Be careful not to crush your fingertips under your grip. You may want to try this at home first and dive onto a nice cushy bed. When you are ready, try it on the court.

Don't get me wrong. Diving isn't for everybody. Know your body's limitations. If you know you can do it then I hope these suggestions help you to put that "Get Horizontal" aspect into your game. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Kersten@teamektelon.com.

* For information on Plyometrics, go to www.google.com and type in "Plyometrics."



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For additional information go to
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Fran's Credentials

- 20+ Year Coaching Experience
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- US Racquetball Association
- States Olympic Committee National Coach of the Year 1997
- Coaches Jason Mannino and Sussy Monchik
- Coached Jrs. for over 20 years
- National and World

Camp Schedule

2004

August 6-8 San Francisco, CA (Singles)
August 13-15 San Francisco, CA (Doubles)
September 17-19 So. FL
September 24-26 TBA
October 8-10 Seattle, WA (women only)
October 15-17 TBA
November 22-24 Anchorage, AK
November 5-7 Seattle, WA (doubles)
November 12-14 Greensboro, NC
December 2-9 Aruba (Caribbean Island)
TBA dates will be Canada, IL, Los Angeles, MN, MI, or...

...above dates are subject to the IRT schedule.

Questions? Upcoming camp dates...
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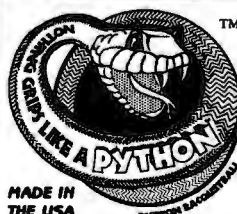


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By Derek Robinson

Big D's Roadshow

M

Many racquetball players have a difficult time creating a "flat" swing. They bend at the waist and not at the knees, reaching for a ball to hit rather than swinging at it. If you have ever seen the best players in the world, one of the first things you recognize is how low they get to the floor when contacting the racquetball. Even at 6'4" I realize the only way to hit it low is to get low. A good rule of thumb, whatever height you contact the ball with the strings will probably be how high or low it will be when it hits the front wall. To create the perfect flat, swing look at the pictures below. And by the way, you need to keep your eye on the ball too!!!

DO

Notice how my racquet is in perfect position to go through the swing. Remember to bend your knees!



DON'T

Stand straight up with no knee bend.



CREATE A SMOOTH, FLAT SWING USING ONLY A TABLE AND DIXIE CUPS!!!

DO

Hit through your shot following the flat table.



Drive through your shot while finishing strong and looking at your target. ROLLOUT!!!!!!

DO



Keep your knees straight and "reach" for the ball with a pendulum motion.



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Check out:
www.bigdracquetball.com
for upcoming dates and
locations.

DON'T

REPLAY HINDERS VS. PENALTY HINDERS



by Sudsy Monchik

In this issue I am going to tackle something I have never done before. In the past I have only written about the physical mechanics of the game like strokes, serves, return of serves, ceiling ball, etc. Today I want to address HINDERS because at the camps I do with Fran Davis we get question after question pertaining to the rules of the game.

First off there are two categories of HINDERS. We will discuss both today:

1 **Rule 3.14 REPLAY HINDERS** (formerly "dead-ball" hinders)

A rally is replayed without penalty and the server resumes play at first serve whenever a replay hinder occurs. Also, see Rule 3.15 which describes conditions under which a hinder might be declared a penalty hinder and result in loss of the rally.

2 **Rule 3.15 PENALTY HINDERS** (formerly "avoidable" hinders)

A penalty hinder results in the loss of the rally. A penalty hinder does not necessarily have to be an intentional act. Replay hinders are described in Rule 3.14.

I am not going to cover every situation in each of these categories, only the most common ones that come up over and over again.

Let's take a closer look:

EXAMPLE ONE

*Rule 3.15 (a) Failure to Move (PENALTY HINDERS)

... A player does not move sufficiently to allow an opponent a shot straight to the front wall as well as a cross-court shot which is a shot directly to the front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the rear corner farthest from the player hitting the ball. Also when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents an opponent from taking either of these shots.



Rocky does not move at all, just crouches down, taking away EVERY one of Sudsy's offensive shots.

Rocky doesn't really move he just leans out of the way giving Sudsy a cross court shot, but NOT a down-the-line shot.



VS.

*Rule 3.14 (a)(2) Ball Hits Opponent (REPLAY HINDERS)

... When an opponent is hit by a return shot in flight, it is a replay hinder (unless it is a penalty hinder or the ball would have obviously not reached the front wall).



Rocky clearly moves out of the way of Sudsy's down-the-line and cross court shots, which he has to do. If Sudsy elected to pinch into the corner and hit Rocky that would be a "replay hinder" - not a "penalty hinder".

2 EXAMPLE TWO

*Rule 3.15 (b) Stroke Interference (PENALTY HINDERS)

.... This occurs when a player moves, or fails to move, so that the opponent returning the ball does not have a free, unimpeded swing. This includes unintentionally moving in a direction which prevents the opponent from making an open, offensive shot.



Rocky fails to move or moves slightly, but it still does not give Sudsy a free, unimpeded swing at the ball.

VS.

*Rule 3.14 (5) Backswing Hinder (REPLAY HINDERS)

...Any body or racquet contact, on the backswing or on the way to or just prior to returning the ball, which impairs the hitter's ability to take a reasonable swing. This call can be made by the player attempting the return, though the call must be made immediately and is subject to the referee's approval. Note the interference may be considered an penalty hinder. See Rule 3.15.



Rocky has sufficiently moved out of the way which gives Sudsy the ability to take a reasonable swing.

It is very important to know these rules when you are playing so you can stand up to the referee and make sure he or she is calling the match correctly and strictly by the rules. Often players do not know the rules precisely and you can get into situations that can cost you dearly and you might even lose points or a match because of it.

Imagine if you drove a car and did

not know the rules of the road...it would cost you too.

I recommend you start with these rules and understand them because these situations occur quite frequently. For more detailed information on rules go to www.USARacquetball.com

See you at one of the Instructional Camps or in our Instructional Video... www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

National Team



Name ➡ Mike Guidry

Nickname ➡ Guids



Did You Know? ➡

Mike earned an academic scholarship to the University of Texas - Arlington to study Pre-med, but opted to continue his racquetball career instead.

National Team Appointments ➡ 12

Most Recent Qualifier ➡ 2004 National Singles Championships (Semifinalist)

Sponsors ➡ Pro Kennex, Suave

Occupation ➡ Sports Sales Agency, Nike

Date of Birth ➡ May 28, 1970 (age - 34)

Birthplace ➡ Odessa, Texas

Hometown ➡ Carrollton, Texas

Current Residence ➡ Carrollton, Texas

Biggest Influence ➡ Dave & Gregg Peck

Strengths ➡ Quickness, Forehand

Training Schedule ➡ Weights - 4x's per week,

Cardio - 6x's per week, Court time - 2-3x's per week

Goals ➡ Win World Championships in August, National Doubles in October, Stay Competitive on the Pro Tour and Continue to play for the US

Did You Know? ➡

Kristen played basketball, softball, and volleyball in high school and is an avid snowboarder - when racquetball permits.

National Team Appointments ➡ 4

Most Recent Qualifier ➡ 2004 National Singles Championships (Semifinalist)

Sponsors ➡ Head, Ashaway, Python, Crew West

Occupation ➡ Full-time student

Date of Birth ➡ May 5, 1982 (age - 22)

Birthplace ➡ Salt Lake City, Utah

Hometown ➡ Salt Lake City, Utah

Current Residence ➡ Salt Lake City, Utah

Biggest Influence ➡ Mother, Marianne

Strengths ➡ Quickness and Speed

Training Schedule ➡ Weights - 3-4x's per week, Cardio - 4-6x's per week, Court time playing 2-3x's per week, drilling, 2-4x's per week

Goals ➡ To be No.1 in the World, and to win the big events.

Name ➡ Kristen Walsh

Nickname ➡ Walshy





Spotlight

Junior National Team Appointments → 4

Most Recent Qualifier → 2004 Junior Olympics
(2nd - 18- Girl's Singles,
1st - 18- Girl's Doubles
with Adrienne Fisher)

Sponsors → E-Force

School → University of New Mexico

Date of Birth → August 14, 1985 (age - 18)

Birthplace → Albuquerque, New Mexico

Hometown → Albuquerque, New Mexico

Current Residence → Albuquerque, New Mexico

Biggest Influence → Mother, Karen Fuller

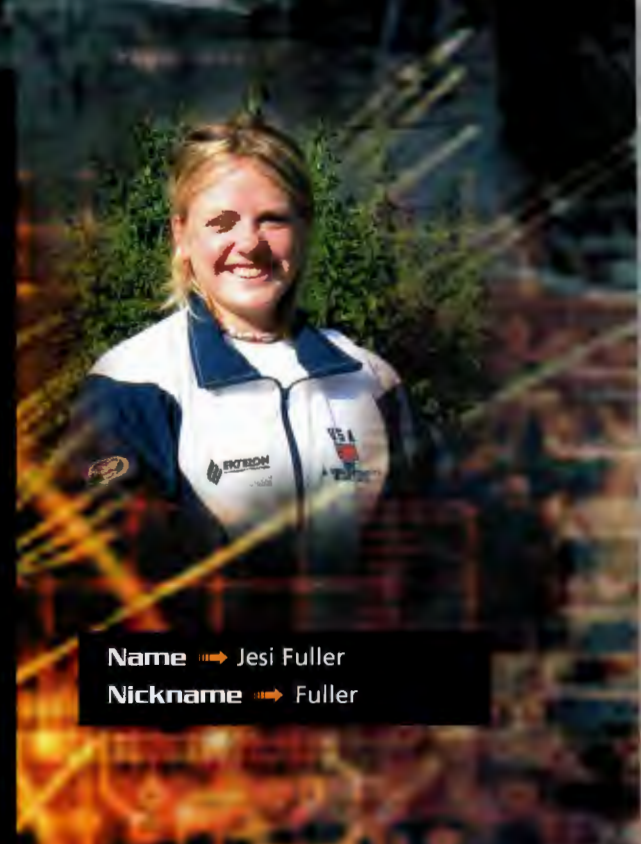
Strengths → Quickness, Mental Toughness

Goals → To do well on the LPRA tour.

Favorite Junior Memory → Winning an 11-9
tiebreaker over
Mexico at World
Juniors.

Favorite Song → Girls Just Want to Have Fun

Favorite Pastime → Shopping



Name → Jesi Fuller

Nickname → Fuller

Junior National Team Appointments → 3

Most Recent Qualifier → 2004 Junior Olympics
(1st - 14- Boy's Singles,
1st - 14- Boy's Doubles
with Jose Rojas)

Sponsors → Head

School → Edison High School

Date of Birth → January 26, 1989 (age - 15)

Birthplace → Stockton, California

Hometown → Stockton, California

Current Residence → Stockton, California

Biggest Influence → Parents, Ismael & Yolanda
Aldana

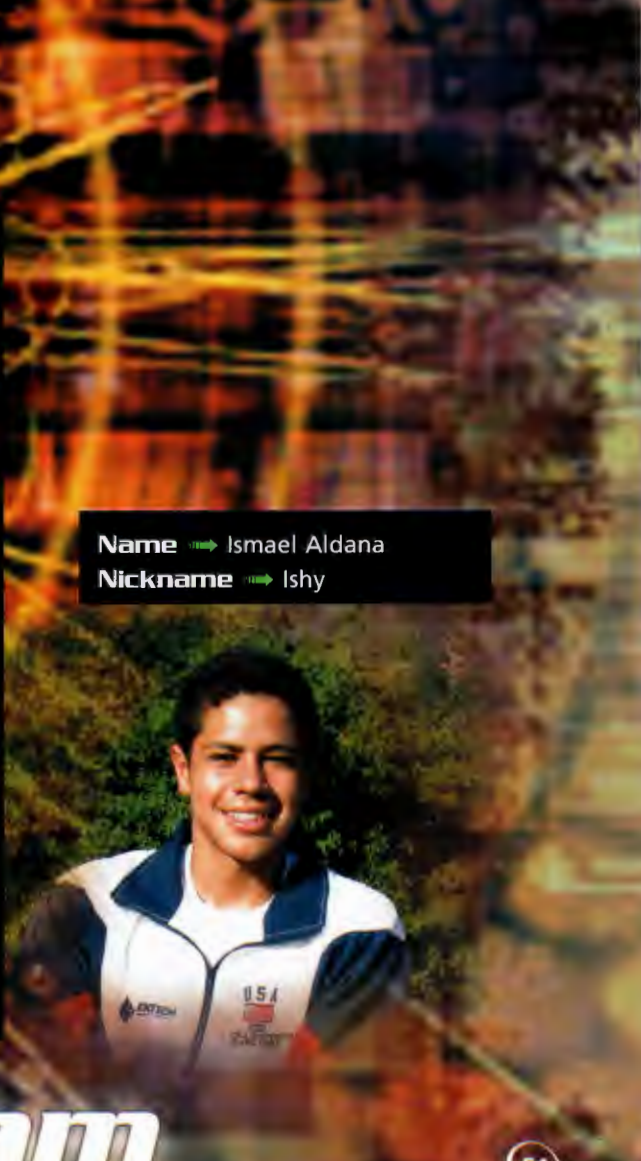
Strengths → Backhand, Forehand

Goals → To compete on the IRT and reach No.1

Favorite Junior Memory → Playing my first
Junior Nationals in
Oregon and earning
a gold medal

Favorite Song → Cradle of the Filth

Favorite Pastime → Just having fun, playing video
games



Name → Ismael Aldana

Nickname → Ishy

Junior Team

These coaches were honored at a banquet hosted by the United States Olympic Committee for their outstanding accomplishments during the 2003-2004 season.



JIM WINTERTON

National Coach of the Year

Jim Winterton started his coaching career in 1973. After graduating from Brockport State College, where he played football for three years, he began coaching in the Rochester area. After four years of coaching football, he began pursuing his own competitive career in racquetball. Winterton was ranked as high as third in his age group. He got there by learning a regimen of weight training and footwork. In 1984, Winterton was invited to teach at the Elite Training Camp in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Since 1984 he has taught at this camp and has had the resources of top Olympic coaches and staff. He also has helped teach speed camps with Scott Phelps, the USA Racquetball speed coach and consultant.

Winterton has worked with the Dallas Cowboys and the Milwaukee Bucks as well as other professional and college teams. He was named coach of the year in racquetball in 1995 and 1999. He was USA Racquetball head coach from 1990 to 1999, and recently returned for another three-tournament stint, from May of 2002 and ending after the Pan American Games in August of 2003. His record during his tenure as USA team coach is an impressive 27 team wins and no losses. Winterton brings a fun approach to conditioning that includes high motivation and energy to the workouts. He will make the athletes work, laugh, and most importantly improve.



MICHAEL VON GERICHTEN

Developmental Coach of the Year

Little did Michael Von Gerichten know that his interest in kids and racquetball would have such a positive and rewarding outcome. He feels so fortunate that two things he loves doing have played out for the benefit of so many people.

Von Gerichten started the program nine years ago at Kirkwood High School. At the time his son, Andrew, was looking for something to do between cross-country and track seasons. He gathered six friends together and they formed their first boys' team. They took their defeats admirably, reminding the players it was, after all, their first year and they were competing against teams of athletes with two or three years more of experience. Fortunately they listened and had such a positive attitude that they added a second team - and then a third. In the fourth year they added a girls' team.

In the brief time that Von Gerichten's teams have been competing, his athletes have enjoyed individual successes, but he has always stressed, "It is a team thing." Winning is fun, but it is not the only reason to play. You compete to learn good values. His student athletes represent the community, the school, and themselves. The coaches strive to get the best out of each player's ability, but it is their sportsmanship and respect for the game that he pushes the most.



SHANE WOOD

Volunteer Coach of the Year

Shane Wood started playing racquetball at the age of three, coached for many years by his father, Topper. Thirteen National Championships and twelve World Championships later, Wood still has the same passion and love for the sport as he did 25 years ago.

In March of 1997, while competing at the U.S. National Intercollegiate Championships, Wood sustained a traumatic head injury that would put him out of competition for a couple of years. It was at that point that he found his true passion for the sport in coaching and teaching.

On top of the current Junior Program that he already had in place in Massachusetts, Wood founded a racquetball program at a small private college in Massachusetts, Nichols College. He has been coaching there for 10 years now. In their first year of inception, this small college traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, for the U.S. National Intercollegiate Championships, competed against Division I schools and won the National Title.

He also took over the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC), which is a college racquetball league in the northeastern part of the country. Wood, now the executive director of the league, has built the league to a new level of participation, performing numerous clinics and activities to gain interest from new student athletes all over the northeast.

As a member of the U.S. Junior National Team for five years, Wood has used that experience to also become assistant coach of the team, representing the U.S. in World Championships against countries from all over the world.

Wood is also in the process of forming a high school racquetball program within the New England area to try and attract more future stars to the sport.

He truly shows his love for the sport, as he does all of this, including well over 100 clinics, lessons and exhibitions a year, as a volunteer, while sharing time with a full-time job.

Shakers & Movers

Interview with
Leo Klimaitis

Leo Klimaitis is an admitted racquetball addict. He became hooked on playing the game some 30 years ago and his passion has



continued to expand. He is one of the major sponsors of the Chicago Halloween Classic and is heavily involved with the IRT. Mike Ceresia recently caught up with Leo and discussed his love affair with the game.

RACQUETBALL Magazine: You started playing racquetball some 30 years ago. How did you get involved and what attracted you to the game?

Leo Klimaitis: In 1972, my newly minted brother-in-law told me I was getting fat and suggested we try racquetball. The greatest gift he ever gave me came via an insult! I will be forever grateful. We rented wooden racquets at the Benton Harbour, Michigan YMCA and I took my first steps on the road to addiction...it seemed so simple. Just shoot the ball where your opponent isn't. I'm still trying to prove that theory.

RM: What is it about the game that still gets you pumped up to play?

LK: Sometimes I win, then I get arrogant enough to think I can win again. But it is beyond my own game now. The social aspect is 90 % of the enjoyment. I know the horses in the contests. I like watching who does what to whom, enjoy hanging around with them. Then there is always that first look at the draw sheet at the beginning of a tournament. The anticipation, the hopes and how about for the health of it.

RM: When did you become involved with sponsoring tournaments? What benefits do you derive from these sponsorships?

LK: About a dozen years ago for three reasons. Dave Negrete, Dave Negrete and Pat Taylor. At that time Dave was hosting two pro stops a year. I met Dave a long time ago when he was a pro player and I was a struggling 'D' player. In other words I was a nobody. He amazed me with the warmth and respect he accorded me and my ilk. This was a stark contrast to other higher ranked players.

Obviously, Dave has quite a stable of sponsors. I am a Johnny-come-lately. I had

never seen the pros play because the seats were so hard to come by in a limited venue. Pat Taylor, one of his other major sponsors, noticed me standing on my toes trying to get a glance at the action and offered me one of his seats. I thought I had landed on Mars! I had never seen play like that before and I was hooked. I was determined to never be on the outside looking in and have the ability to offer seats to others who may not otherwise have an opportunity to watch such a spectacle up close.

Howard Miller is the other major sponsor in the Chicago area. Howard, Pat and some other sponsors I've met are my models. They have a quiet, unassuming and modest manner. They are involved for the love of the game played at the highest level on earth.

The other benefit was getting to know the pros. They are all so different with a variety of talents, tools and personalities on and off the court.

RM: What is your position with the IRT? The IRT has been successful in growing the brand. What do you feel the IRT needs to take the Pro Game to a more prominent role?

LK: The IRT is a non-profit entity created by the players for the players. It has a seven member board. I am one of the At-Large Directors and serve at the pleasure of the players. Democracies can be messy but the number of stops and prize money has increased and the trend is positive.

The IRT needs more money and more exposure. It is a chicken and egg situation that can grow either way.

The players are producing incredible racquetball and by and large exhibiting cohesion. The board is exploring possibilities of the players having a direct stake in the brand. They could be involved in more than just winnings. They could experience the hurdles, the legalities and ultimately the equitability.

RM: The Chicago Halloween Classic has been an IRT staple for some 20 years. Where do you see this event headed now that it is a Grand Slam?

LK: The Classic is being stepped up this year. The portable court, more local media exposure and more venues are part of the new event. Our goal is to earn the legitimate title of Racquetball's second 'Grand Slam'. Doug Ganim and USA Racquetball have done a spectacular job with the U.S.

OPEN and have given us a model to try and emulate. We have a strong foundation that features the richest purse and the wildest parties and are extremely excited about the new format.

RM: A few years back you were crowned with a new nickname-WC. Would you like to expand on this?

LK: Basically, it's a way to turn 'World Champion' into a euphemism for toilet. With friends like these...but it is understandable. I had a long-planned vacation with my wife Sue. We were headed to Paris.

Picture this one! A total stranger calls (Gary Mazaroff) two days before the vacation and tells my wife, "Tell Leo he's in the tournament". "Which one?" she asked inquisitively. "The World Seniors in Paris!" Wow, 'Nuclear winter' was no longer just a theory of mine.

I had simply called Gary in case our itinerary allowed me to drop in and catch a glimpse of the action.

To encapsulate, there was some very intense back and forth. Sue going forth and me back-peddaling. Some serious negotiating with me fending off projectiles with a chair...then she acquiesced! Frank Rios of Guam and I won the 50+. What a souvenir! There has not been another World Senior Doubles, so Frank and I are still the reigning champs.

The banquet night at a small French Village is one of Sue's best memories of France. Without Sue's support, and that of my daughters, Karla and Kristy, the level of our financial contributions to all spheres of racquetball would be nominal. She has been the greatest spouse to benefit racquetball and the love of my life for 32 years.

RM: You consider yourself lucky to have been involved with the game. There are many players that feel the same way. What do you think your generation of players can do to enhance the future of our game?

LK: Be positive, build the sport with words and deeds, be generous with your time and/or money. As gratifying and beneficial as the sport has been to you, it is nothing compared to the rewards of making a difference. Our sport is intimate and too exclusive. We can induce more interest and get more people to take a look at all this great game has to offer. The end result will be a benefit to them a benefit to you and ultimately a benefit to the game.

Keep preaching and spread the faith.

AN EAGLE SIGHTING

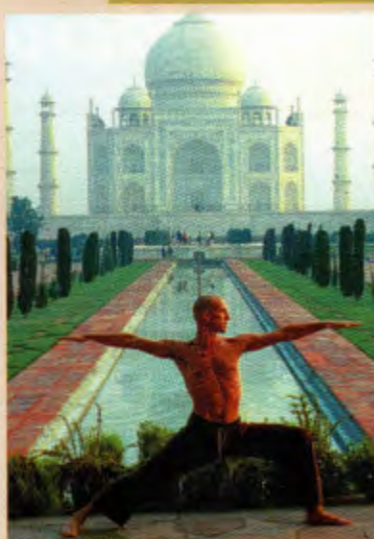
After a two-year hiatus, former U.S. Team member Eagle was seen at the USAR National Singles Championships in Houston - but not as a competitor. Eagle was at the event to meet with U.S. coaches, team members, and others involved with racquetball to share insights and discussions on the integration of yoga into racquetball. Eagle believes that bringing yoga into the sport will enhance the performance and benefits of those who participate in its practice.

"The benefits of the integration of yoga and racquetball are dynamic in that they allow the individual to move more freely, accelerate their recovery rate, and hone their ability to stay in the zone."

Although Eagle studied yoga prior to a 1991 auto accident, in which he incurred spinal injuries, he intensified his studies during his recovery. His training led him to the final of the 2000 USAR National Singles Championships and a berth on the U.S. National team. When his contract with Head was up in 2001, Eagle chose to retire from the sport and concentrate on yoga. He has split time between living in Hawaii and Southern India where he studies the Science of Ashtanga Yoga as taught by 89-year-old Sri K. Pattabhi Jois of Mysore, India.

"All of the yoga that has caught on recently in the U.S. is basically an offshoot of this 5,000 year old system," he explained.

Eagle wanted to let people know that although he has been away from the sport he intends to return and share with others what he has learned. His plan is to integrate Eastern yoga practices in Western sports performance, particularly



racquetball. He is currently spending another six months studying in India under the Ashtanga Master, with a return scheduled for January. Look for a column beginning early next year in RACQUETBALL by Eagle that will teach players how to combine yoga into their training. For more information visit www.EagleYoga.com.

FUND FOR LANOSGA

Jeremy Lanosga, 17, is the kind of kid we all love to have around our clubs. He is always willing to help out in anyway and eager to learn the game of racquetball. He progressed from a beginner to the 2004 B Regional Champion in just a few short years. Jeremy spent countless hours on the courts, honing his game, and was willing to play a pick-up game

with anyone at anytime. One of his dreams was to compete at the USAR National Singles Championships and, with the help of the Colorado Racquetball Association, had raised enough money to travel to Houston for the tournament this year. But then tragedy struck.



Jeremy at the 2003 Junior Olympics

On May 10, 2004 Jeremy decided to take photographs of the sunset at the Garden of the Gods, just minutes from his house in Colorado Springs. While climbing the rocks of the park in search of the perfect shot, Jeremy plummeted over 50 feet, breaking his neck in the fall. He lay there by himself until well after dark with no feeling from the neck down. After he had not returned home that evening a family friend searched for, and discovered, Jeremy where he had fallen, but because of the terrain, rescuers were unable to bring Jeremy to safety until 1:00am when he was transported by Life Flight to Penrose Hospital.

Jeremy has recovered limited movement in his arms, but still has no feeling in his legs and doctors have said it is still too early to tell if it will ever be regained. He is scheduled to return home towards the end of August to continue his recovery. He is the son of a single mother, Melody, and brother to five other siblings; four of which live at home. Jeremy and his family need your help in order to take care of medical costs and the special accommodations that will be needed to the house upon his return. There are two ways to contribute. Checks made out to "Jeremy Lanosga" will go towards his medical costs and those made out to "The Lanosga Family" will help with the changes in their home. All checks may be sent to: USA Racquetball - C/O Eddie Meredith - 1685 West Uintah - Colorado Springs, CO 80904. Eddie is serving as the liaison between the Lanosga family and the racquetball community and is also helping to get local construction companies to donate or lower their time and costs in getting their house ready.

ROCKY CARSON A NEW DAD

Top IRT Pro Rocky Carson and his wife Jennifer are the proud parents of Jasmine Marie Carson. Little Jasmine was born May 17, just days before her dad was set to compete at the USAR National Singles Championships. She was born at Mission Viejo Hospital in Mission Viejo, California weighing 8lbs 15 oz and 20" in length. "We feel proud and blessed," Rocky said of the birth. "We look forward to parenthood and raising our daughter in the best way that we know how." Congratulations to the new parents!



INDUSTRY NEWS

Wilson's New Titanium Tour Ball Endorsed by LPRA

Wilson Racquet Sports introduces two new Racquetballs to the industry. The green Titanium Tour and blue Championship balls, feel lighter, and keep their true bounce after hours of play. The Titanium Tour ball plays slightly faster than the blue Championship, and is endorsed by several states and by the LPRA.



"We have no doubt consumers will love the playing characteristics of these new balls. The quality, paired with the innovative new square packaging, makes them different from any other ball in the industry," said Terri Graham, Wilson, Business Director Indoor Racquet Sports.

Here is what consumers are saying about the Titanium Tour ball:

"Everyone I have given the Titanium Tour to loves it. It comes off the racquet very well, and none have broken after several matches of hard play." Carter Green, VA

"This is the first tournament I have run where we had no ball breakage the entire weekend." Mike Mojer, FL

The balls are now available in pro shops and sporting goods stores everywhere.

World Outdoor Racquetball Selects Crew West as Official Apparel

World Outdoor Racquetball (WOR) selected Crew West Athletics, Inc. as its Official Apparel for its upcoming season. WOR's aim is to bring outdoor players throughout the world into the mainstream of racquetball through affiliation with USA Racquetball. WOR and the outdoor game will be an important vehicle in the promotion and overall growth of the sport of racquetball.



Crew West will develop a distinct line of apparel for WOR players that will set them apart from others and will be performance oriented considering their playing conditions. Rich Barker, Owner of Crew West, views this relationship as an exciting step forward in the sport and in the opportunity for another class of athletes to experience Crew West.

"WOR is excited to have the opportunity to work with a company like Crew West in designing a line for outdoor players" commented Hank Marcus, WOR Executive Director.

"Crew West is known throughout the indoor game as the ultimate in racquetball apparel, it will only help the growth of outdoor play having Crew West involved."

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PLAY WITH IT

2004 37TH USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRESENTED BY PENN RACQUET SPORTS • SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 3
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY • TEMPE, ARIZONA



Come join us at racquetball's premiere doubles competition, the USAR National Doubles Championships. The tournament is set to take place at the Arizona State University Student Recreation Center in beautiful Tempe, Arizona. The best doubles players from around the country will compete in divisions separated by age, skill, and age/skill, all vying for a national title.

Time between matches? Tempe has a lot to offer. You can peddle a boat or splash around on a kayak, buy that special something from a local merchant, sip coffee or dine on tasty cuisine at a sidewalk café, see a Broadway show at a theater designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, watch a funky local band, hike up "A" Mountain, or enjoy a round of golf at one of the many courses in the area. USA Racquetball has also planned several functions and activities throughout the week for players and fans alike.

The tournament also serves as a U.S. National Team Qualifier. The top two teams in both men's and women's open earn one-year appointments to the squad and have a chance to represent the U.S. in international competition.

Be sure to check out the entry form on the following page, pick your partner(s), and come join us for fun, excitement, and competition!



The Holiday Inn Phoenix-Tempe/ASU is the official host hotel and just minutes from the campus. Rooms are available for \$79 (up to four persons) when you mention "National Doubles" while making your reservations. Holiday Inn (480) 968-3451 or 1-800-553-1826

Downtown Tempe's pedestrian-friendly Mill Avenue personifies the spirit and energy of this progressive and diverse community. Downtown Tempe is home to an eclectic array of more than 50 shops and 65 restaurants, taverns and nightclubs and is also within easy walking distance of hotels and Arizona State University.

2004 37TH USA

RACQUETBALL NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

voice: 719-635-5396, x120
fax: 719-635-0685
deadline: wednesday, sept. 15

Propenn

• entry form — please print

Name _____ Gender: M | F

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Email _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Partner _____ Division _____

Partner _____ Division _____

Partner _____ Division _____ *

***A third division must be MIXED ... Please list any pertinent seeding information separately. NOTE: BOTH players must complete, submit and pay for their entry before a team will be placed in the draw.**

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the USA Racquetball, Head/Penn Racquet Sports, Arizona State University, or their respective agents for any and all injuries. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can certify in writing that my protective eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the USAR/USOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature & Date (Parent/Guardian if entrant is under 18)

REQUIRED SKILL LEVEL VERIFICATION • Please indicate below your eligibility for competition in the skill level you have selected. This information will be verified and re-classification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director.

☐ I have been AmPRO certified at this level by:

AmPRO Instructor (name required) _____

☐ I have recently competed in this skill category in my state, and have been approved for participation at a Level Six event by the state director or designated representative shown: _____ (name required).

☐ I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the ____ 2003 National Doubles, or the ____ 2003 U.S. OPEN.

CREDIT CARDS: Identify your USA Racquetball MBNA credit card when you charge your entry, and get 10% off your fees. Only MBNA charges receive this discount!

MC/Visa _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____ USA Racquetball Visa?



• divisions

Both players on any team must meet all age division requirements and be certified to compete in skill divisions. Players may choose only **one** skill level (A,B,C,D) in any category.

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFIER

☐ OPEN Division Qualifier (unrestricted)

Age Divisions Skill Divisions (select one only)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24- | <input type="checkbox"/> Elite (state open level) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25+ | <input type="checkbox"/> A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30+ | <input type="checkbox"/> B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35+ | <input type="checkbox"/> C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40+ | <input type="checkbox"/> D |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45+ | 24- A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ | 25+ A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 55+ | 35+ A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 60+ | 45+ A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 65+ | 55+ A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 70+ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 75+ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 80+ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 85+ | |

Mixed Divisions

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX Open | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 40+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX Elite | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 45+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX A | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 50+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX B | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 55+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX C | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 60+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX D | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 65+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX 24- | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 70+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX 25+ | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 75+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX 30+ | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 80+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MX 35+ | <input type="checkbox"/> MX 85+ |

FEES & PAYMENT

USAR Membership # _____
USAR Membership Fee (\$30.00) _____
First event (\$85.00) _____
Second event (\$40.00) _____
Third event (\$40.00) _____
Late fee (if accepted) (\$20.00) _____
Telephone entry fee (\$10.00) _____
Tax deductible donation \$ _____
TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO:
USA Racquetball NATIONAL DOUBLES
•1685 West Uintah Colorado Springs, CO 80904
ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY
WEDNESDAY, SEPT.15 (Postmarked by 09/10)

• how to enter

- **ACCEPTANCE & FEES:** On-time entries are not accepted without pre-payment and required signatures. Additional surcharges may include: \$25.00 for returned checks, \$10.00 for declined credit cards. If accepted, entries received after the deadline will be assessed an additional \$20.00 late fee. No payments will be processed on site.
- **DEADLINE:** Entry must be received by *Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 15*, (postmarked no later than Sept. 12). Only pre-paid entries are placed into the draw; withdrawals will be subject to a \$10.00 service fee; no refunds after the deadline date. Entries can be confirmed online, by following event links from www.usra.org and www.racqmag.com.
- **EVENT ADMINISTRATION:** USA Racquetball @ 719/635-5396, x129.

• travel & lodging

• **THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TRAVEL DESK AND UNITED AIRLINES JOIN THE USA RACQUETBALL TO OFFER THE LOWEST POSSIBLE UNITED AIRFARES TO NATIONAL EVENTS** For reservations, phone United's U.S. Olympic Travel Desk, 480/968-3451 or toll-free, at 800/553-1826 between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm MDT weekdays. Then reference the special USA Racquetball conference account number **509 vv** to receive your low fare! Your support of this program brings racquetball closer to becoming an Olympic Sport!

• **LODGING:** Holiday Inn Phoenix - Tempe/ASU {480-337-2801} \$79.00 quad occupancy. To secure the event rate, you must mention National Doubles when making your reservations before September 15.

• **GROUND TRANSPORTATION:** Ground transportation services are available from the airport. HERTZ is the official rental car sponsor – make your reservations by calling 800-654-2240 and referencing the meeting #02RD21779 for your special rate.

• starting times • 480-968-3451

Call for your starting TIME after 5:00 pm central on Monday, September 27.
Please do NOT call the national office for starting times, or online at www.usaracquetball.com

• official rules

• **MEMBERS ONLY:** This National Event is hosted for USA Racquetball members only. A USA Racquetball membership is required of all participants, and entrants may join with their entry or must be able to provide a current membership card number, a receipt, or a cancelled check as proof of recent enrollment.

• **EYEWEAR:** USA Racquetball Official Rules will govern competition, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. *It is the player's responsibility to make certain that their eyewear conforms with the standard specified in Rule 2.5(a).* To be sure, find a complete online listing of ASTM eyeguards at www.usaracquetball.com [indexed under "eyeguards"] OR you may request a list from the national office by calling 719/635-5396.

• **ELIGIBILITY:** Only U.S. citizens may compete in the U.S. Team Qualifying Open divisions; all other age & skill divisions are open to U.S. citizens and residents. For age division competition, players must meet the age requirement as of the first day of competition.

• **SKILL DIVISION CERTIFICATION:** A, B, C, and D division entrants must meet the stipulations noted in the required skill verification form. NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria for corresponding skill levels in "Age+A,B, or C" divisions. Tournament directors will use the verification form to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify – or disqualify – players when/if they are improperly placed.

• **DRUG TESTING:** USOC Drug Testing will be used, and a positive result for an IOC banned substance will be cause for disqualification, and for loss of eligibility for a minimum of six (6) months by the USA Racquetball. *Only OPEN players will be tested.* Testing is mandatory; non-compliance will result in the same penalty as a positive drug test. For more information about specific medications call the Drug Hotline at 1-800-233-0393, or go to www.usantidoping.org.

• opening rounds •

Be prepared to play at 8:00 AM on the DAY shown next to your divisions. Due to the anticipated number of entrants, we can NOT accomodate special starting date/time requests.

OPEN U.S. TEAM QUALIFIER

Men (unrestricted entry) Women
Wednesday OPEN Thursday

Men • AGE Divisions • Women

Thursday	24-	Thursday
Thursday	25+	Thursday
Wednesday	30+	Thursday
Wednesday	35+	Thursday
Wednesday	40+	Thursday
Wednesday	45+	Thursday
Wednesday	50+	Friday
Thursday	55+	Friday
Thursday	60+	Friday
Friday	65+	Saturday
Friday	70+	Saturday
Saturday	75+	Saturday
Saturday	80+	Saturday
Saturday	85+	Saturday

Men • SKILL Divisions • Women

Thursday	Elite	Thursday
*Wednesday	A	Wednesday
*Wednesday	B	Thursday
*Wednesday	C	Thursday
*Thursday	D	Thursday
Wednesday .	25+A,B,C .	Thursday
Wednesday .	35+A,B,C .	Thursday
Wednesday .	45+A,B,C .	Thursday
Thursday .	55+A,B,C .	Friday

• MIXED Doubles Divisions •

Mixed OPEN	Thursday
Mixed Elite	Thursday
*Mixed A	Wednesday
*Mixed B	Wednesday
*Mixed C	Thursday
*Mixed D	Thursday
Mixed 24-	Thursday
Mixed 25+	Thursday
Mixed 30+	Wednesday
Mixed 35+	Wednesday
Mixed 40+	Wednesday
Mixed 45+	Wednesday
Mixed 50+	Thursday
Mixed 55+	Friday
Mixed 60+	Friday
Mixed 65+	Saturday
Mixed 70+	Saturday
Mixed 75+	Saturday
Mixed 80+	Saturday
Mixed 85+	Saturday

* - May only play one division
(if you play A - you may not play B)





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• Bedlam 170 3-5/8	\$89
• Bedlam 195 3-5/8	\$79

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• i.X180	\$89
• i.165 3-5/8	\$79
• i.185 3-5/8	\$79
• i.195 3-5/8	\$69
• i.205 3-5/8	\$55
• Ti 175 XL 3-5/8	\$69
• Ti 220 3-5/8	\$39
• Ti Flash XL 3-5/8	\$15

EKTELON

• More Game SS	\$89
• TT Warrior SS	\$99
• TT Rebel SS	\$69
• TT Vendetta SS	\$69
• TT Hornet SS	\$59
• TT Deliverance SS	\$59
• P.R. UltraLite SS	\$59

WILSON

• Triad 160 XS	\$95
• Triad 180 XS	\$85
• Triad 200	\$75

PRO-KENEX

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USA RACQUETBALL TOP 10 NATIONAL RANKINGS

MEN'S OPEN

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Jim Minkel, TX
3. Jack Huczek, MI
- 4t. Scott Reiff, NH
- 4t. Chris Zalegowski, NH
6. Shane Vanderson, OH
7. Dan Llacera, DE
8. Ben Croft, IL
9. Brian Pointelin, UT
10. Shane Wood, MA

MEN'S ELITE

1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Jerome Jackson, MA
3. Rick Sledzik Jr., MA
- 4t. Dave Bartscher, TX
- 4t. Matt Davenport, MO
- 4t. Andrew Gross, GA
- 7t. Filip Vesely, IN
- 7t. Damian Zamorano, AZ
9. Rodrigo Urzua, FL
10. Cesar Castro, TX

MEN'S A

1. Pete Chapa, TX
2. Marty Hammond, PA
3. Mike Hester, AZ
4. Jerome Jackson, MA
5. Angel Khamis, IL
6. Jeff Weston, CO
7. Max Cloud, NM
8. Doug McGowen, MA
9. Joe Cook, GA
10. Vincent Creazzo, NY

MEN'S B

1. Tim Kirk, MO
2. Nicholas Rowley, AZ
3. Desmond Slusher, IL
4. Harold Beshaw, PA
5. Chris Edwards, CT
6. Taylor McDermott, TX
- 7t. Stephen Buschbom, GA
- 7t. Tim Couch, MI
9. Wayne Thornton, AR
10. Jerry Garcia, CO

MEN'S C

1. Joseph Lee, LA
2. Gonzalo Castillo, TX
3. Robert Brown, WA
4. Richard Seaberg, IL
5. Byron Kohut, PA
- 6t. Stephen Bounds, SC
- 6t. Craig Dickensheets, NM
8. Joel Riley, MD
9. Garrett Berman, FL
10. Greg West, NH

MEN'S D

1. Chase Stanley, LA
2. Steven Markey, PA
3. Jim Picchi, RI
4. Frank Duranza, FL
5. Paul Judice, RI
6. David Lowe, TX
7. Johel Bielke, AR
- 8t. Dale Clark, MD
- 8t. Jeff Van Horn, PA
10. Michael Watson, OK

MEN'S NOVICE

- 1t. Jack Clarke, NM
- 1t. David Lynch, NH
3. Logan North, OH
- 4t. Thomas Bohall, TX
- 4t. Logan Nance, CA
6. Chris Van Buren, NY
7. Victor Ibarra, TX
- 8t. David Barber, NM
- 8t. Steve Bellum, ME
- 8t. Brandon Davis, OH

MEN'S 24-

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Chris Coy, OK
3. Marc Moccia, MA
- 4t. Mike Harmon, FL
- 4t. Travis Woodbury, VA
6. Henry Hughes, VA
7. Hal Rutherford, MO
- 8t. Brady Hernandez, LA
- 8t. Matthew Moccia, MA
- 8t. Hisao Shimizu, NY

MEN'S 25+

1. Jason Sylvester, NY
2. Alain Pujolar, FL
- 3t. Jason Colangelo, MD
- 3t. Ricardo Soto, NY
- 3t. Damian Zamorano, AZ
- 6t. Andrew Gross, GA
- 6t. Ryan Rodgers, TX
- 8t. Devin Cannady, NM
- 8t. John Collison, DE
- 8t. Dale Valentine, CA

MEN'S 30+

1. Aaron Metcalf, FL
2. Tim Kirch, NY
- 3t. Mike Dennison, OH
- 3t. Raymond Maestas, NM
5. Chris Zalegowski, NH
- 6t. Pedro Aranda, TX
- 6t. Toby Devore, CA
- 6t. Jim Scott, GA
- 9t. Ivan Perry, PA
- 9t. Brian Pointelin, UT

MEN'S 35+

1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Tim Kirch, NY
3. Dan Llacera, DE
4. Sam Tolisano, NY
- 5t. John Collison, DE
- 5t. Kelly North, KY
7. Keith Minor, IL
8. Alan Weiner, GA
9. Scott Hamon, WA
10. David Barnes, RI

MEN'S 40+

1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Scott Cullins, GA
4. Rick Ferrin, CA
5. Sam Tolisano, NY
6. Tim Hansen, FL
- 7t. John Barrett, CA
- 7t. Hart Johnson, MN
- 7t. Tom Mastrodonato, NY
10. Donnie Wood, KY

MEN'S 45+

1. Glenn Leib, PA
2. Mitch Smith, PA
3. Dave Milazzo, IL
4. Joe Hassey, NV
5. Glenn Bell, TX
6. Ruben De Simone, TX
7. John Greer, PA
8. Patrick Gibson, TX
9. Reinhart Zimmermann, NY
10. Greg Hodges, MI

MEN'S 50+

1. Russ Palazzo, CT
2. Frank Taddonio, AZ
3. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
4. Gregg Mandell, IL
5. Mark Baron, VA
6. Mitt Layton, FL
7. Howard Walker, TX
8. Jim Luzar, WI
9. Russ Montague, PA
10. Don Prater, FL

MEN'S 55+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Greg Hasty, IL
3. Jim Hiser, CO
4. Ed Remen, NC
5. Tom McKie, TX
6. Charles Lew, NC
7. Richard Bocanegra, KS
8. Horace Miller, IL
- 9t. Terry Albright, MO
- 9t. Gary Peterson, MN

MEN'S 60+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Dan Jones, GA
3. Mitch Milewski, NH
4. Chris Segura, UT
5. Mickey Bellah, CA
6. Dennis O'Brien, UT
7. Ron Hutcherson, IN
8. Pat Taylor, IL
9. Parris Geiser, NJ
10. Ed Sword, KY

MEN'S 65+

1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Harold Williamson, IL
3. Ron Adams, CA
- 4t. Michael Jackson, CT
- 4t. Rex Lawler, IN
- 6t. Dave Snyder, TX
- 7t. Earl Black, FL
- 7t. Jerry Northwood, AZ
9. Leon Stanley, AL
10. Dave Lund, MI

MEN'S 70+

1. Don Alt, OH
2. Paul Banales, AZ
3. Ken Karmel, NM
- 4t. Robert Miller, SC
- 4t. Jim Stahl, TX
- 6t. Chuck Kaiser, MI
- 6t. Sean Reid, CA
- 8t. Ken Moore, CA
- 8t. Ed Olah, IL
- 8t. Frank Trask, ME

MEN'S 75+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Duane Russell, MI
3. Victor Sacco, NY
4. Hank Richard, NC
5. Dick Kincade, CO
- 6t. Carl Buschner, MA
- 6t. Tony Lang, IL
8. Ken Yahiro, IL
- 9t. Ray Gordon, ND
- 9t. Hugh Groover, AR

MEN'S 80+

1. Robert McAdam, TX
2. Sam Harry, PA
3. Hank Richard, NC
4. Earl Acuff, NC
- 5t. Bill Matotan, NM
- 5t. George Steinmetz, TX
- 5t. J.W. Studak, TX
- 8t. Irving Shuman, AZ
- 8t. Cam Snowberger, SC
10. Don Goddard, MT

MEN'S 85+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Ben Marshall, TX
3. Walter Gardner, UT

WOMEN'S OPEN

1. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
2. Heather Dunn, MA
3. Shannon Feaster, MD
4. Diane Moore, IN
5. Claudia Ramirez, FL
6. Rachel Gellman, AZ

7. Jill Trachsel, MN
8. Kristen Junkin, VA
- 9t. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
- 9t. Therese Lewis, OK

WOMEN'S ELITE

1. Linda Moore, NE
2. Solanna Taragan, CA
3. Keely Franks, TX
4. Diane Rossiter, CA
- 5t. Debra Bryant, NC
- 5t. Cheryl Miosi, NY
7. Roz Petronelli, MA
8. Shari Coplen, MO
- 9t. Mary Baca, NM
- 9t. Sherri Berry, MO

WOMEN'S A

1. Genevieve Washington, OH
2. Holly Reitzel, PA
3. Pat Sims, ME
4. Lisa Rousseau, CO
5. Sherrika Darnell, CA
6. Dianne Pratt, WA
7. Hope Cain, PA
8. Sheri Zappala, NY
9. Deb Irvine, NH
10. Danielle Emerson, MD

WOMEN'S B

1. Peyton Myers, NC
- 2t. Gina Hamilton, FL
- 2t. Teri La Brie, NH
4. Sarah Campbell, UT
5. Robin Maestas, CO
6. Traci Weaver, TX
- 7t. Danielle Emerson, MD
- 7t. Danielle Faddoul, VA
- 7t. Cheryl Kirk, IL
10. Melanie Hanson, UT

WOMEN'S C

1. Ashley Loyd, TN
2. Jean Lerch, NH
- 3t. Victoria Pickard, FL
- 3t. Karissa Sparks, DC
- 5t. Erin Egan, IL
- 5t. Maylen Gaspar, CO
7. Donita Watkins, DC
8. Janice Bell, GA
9. Renee Ijeoma, FL
10. Dianne Meyer, OR

WOMEN'S D

1. Janet Christie, IL
2. Leila Gray, IL
3. Yvette Reyes, MD
4. Jane Scobi, NH
- 5t. Kim Roy, NH
- 5t. Jolene Sullivan, NH
7. Martha Robinson, NH
8. Carolyn Becker, CT
- 9t. Melanie Jones, NJ
- 9t. Ashley Loyd, TN

WOMEN'S NOVICE

1. Jodi Grillone, MA
2. Eliza Gettel, NH
3. Jaime Labelle, ME
4. Lauren Patalano, RI
- 5t. Jacki Gallo, PA
- 5t. Jacquelyn Rosado, CT
7. Mandy Wittenbrink, NM
8. Krista Gaffney, PA
- 9t. Hope Armstrong, PA
- 9t. Brenda Cadman, ME

WOMEN'S 24-

1. Janel Tisinger, CA
2. Kelley Fisher, OH
3. Jesi Fuller, NM
4. Peyton Myers, NC
5. Da'Monique Davis, AL
6. Melissa Tinker, FL

- Kelly Victorine, ID

WOMEN'S 25+

- Shannon Feaster, MD
- T.J. Baumbaugh, VA
- Kristen Junkin, VA
- Stephanie Bird, OK
- Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
- Candi Hostovich, VA
- Sarah Campbell, UT
- Keely Franks, TX
- Kristi Hale, NC
- Marci Laramie, TN

WOMEN'S 30+

- Heather Dunn, MA
- Rachel Gellman, AZ
- Jennifer Lynch, CO
- Jo Shattuck, CO
- Vivian Gomez, FL
- Jennifer Hunter, TN
- Claudine Andola, GA
- Paula Truman, ME
- Karen Denu, VA
- Diane Moore, IN

WOMEN'S 35+

- Karen Morton, PA
- Denise Mock, TX
- Lorraine Galloway, NY
- Lynn Fonseca, GA
- Tina Joslin, TX
- Debra Bryant, NC
- Anthnita Dickerson, MI
- Leah Upshaw, GA
- Felicia Mann, MI
- Jean Halahan, NY

WOMEN'S 40+

- Debra Tisinger, CA
- Solanna Taragan, CA
- Lorraine Galloway, NY
- Denise Mock, TX
- Liz Molitor, IL
- Laura Brandt, FL
- Shari Coplen, MO
- Kim Machiran, FL
- Anita Maldonado, NY
- Roz Petronelli, MA

WOMEN'S 45+

- Debra Tisinger, CA
- Linda Moore, NE
- Liz Molitor, IL
- Chris Evon, IL
- Marcia Richards, CO
- Therese Lewis, OK
- Vicki Panzeri, WA
- Val Shewfelt, UT
- Jean Trimble, FL
- Cindy Tilbury, CO

WOMEN'S 50+

- Janet Myers, NC
- Marsha Berry, KY
- Jere Luttner, TX
- Karen Key, AZ
- Kathy Ruzycki, IL
- Joanne Pomodoro, MA
- Susan Kieffer, MN
- Wanda Collins, WA
- Terry Ann Rogers, CA
- Susan Adams, FL

WOMEN'S 55+

- Gerri Stoffregen, OH
- Paula Lemon, OK
- Sharon Huczek, MI
- Merijean Kelley, CA
- Terry Ann Rogers, CA
- Margaret Hoff, IL
- Sharon Chandler, WA
- Andee Glansberg, NY
- Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR

- Merijean Kelly, CA

WOMEN'S 60+

- Marquita Molina, CA
- Mildred Gwinn, NC
- Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
- Nidia Funes, CA
- Gerri Stoffregen, OH
- Donna Backus, MI
- Gail Schaefer, MD
- Gloria Piscoran, OR
- Pauline Kelly, IL
- Joy Desantis, CA

WOMEN'S 65+

- Iona Baldwin, MO
- Annabelle Kovar, NE
- Minnie Toledo, CA
- Marilyn Hoagland, MN
- Shirley Barron, KY
- Ellen Kropp, WA
- Ellen McAffee, UT

WOMEN'S 70+

- Lola Markus, IL
- Louise Kiss, NM
- Sarah Foster, CA
- Betty Railey, KY

WOMEN'S 75+

- Reta Harring, WI
- Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- Mary Lou Kackert, NM

WOMEN'S 80+

- Mary-Low Acuff, NC

BOY'S 6- MULTI-BOUNCE

- Luke Meyer, WI
- Deryk Wray, OH
- Miguel Nunez Jr., VA
- Ralph Grillone III, MA
- Isaac Vargas, CO
- Conor Grammes, VA
- Eric Marin, FL
- Anthony Vargas, CO
- Ian Bellisario, AR
- Matt McAdam, CO

BOY'S 8-

- Adam Manilla, CO
- Zach Pellowski, WI
- Sean Cooperrider, FL
- Chris Vosburg, MA
- Kyle Ulliman, OH
- Conlon Berry, OH
- Jeffrey Locke, OR
- Anthony DiMatteo, CT
- Sam Reid, OR
- Alex Winter, NY

BOY'S 8- MULTI-BOUNCE

- Sean Cooperrider, FL
- Chris Vosburg, MA
- Conlon Berry, OH
- Anthony DiMatteo, CT
- Paul Frondorf, VA
- Kyle Ulliman, OH
- Robert Hemphill, AL
- Adam Manilla, CO
- Ralph Grillone III, MA
- Miguel Nunez Jr., VA

BOY'S 10-

- Joel Boyea, CT
- Tim Lerow, FL
- Chase Stanley, LA
- Marco Rojas, CA
- Erich Schubert, IL
- C.J. Tracey, VA
- Chris Vosburg, MA
- Joey Barrows, CO
- Jose Diaz, CA
- Joseph Lee, LA

BOY'S 12-

- Taylor Knott, OR
- Jake Bredenbeck, MN
- Brad Kirch, NY
- Josh Smith, VT
- Matthew Hunter, FL
- James Fahey, CT
- Rion Ocampo, VA
- Sam Vargas Jr., CO
- Andrew Price, MI
- Trevor Snyders, IL

BOY'S 14-

- Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
- Matt Keddie, NH
- Danny Lavelly, OH
- Hector Ramirez, FL
- Tim Albert, CT
- Jose Rojas, CA
- Joey Limonciello, IL
- Kevin Iglesias, NY
- Eric Lampley, MS
- Tim Tilton, CO

BOY'S 16-

- Zach Apperson, OH
- Carlos Lopez Jr., FL
- Chris Coy, OK
- Angel Khamis, IL
- Rick Sledzik Jr., MA
- Dustin Klein, VA
- Andrew Gale, UT
- Bruno Guerrero, FL
- Anthony Martin, UT
- Allan Crockett, AL

BOY'S 18-

- Ben Croft, IL
- Dan Sheppick, OR
- Bobby Barrett, VA
- Charlie Pratt, OR
- Angel Khamis, IL
- Nicholas Rowley, AZ
- Daniel Stewart, KY
- Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
- Carlos Loepz Jr., FL
- John Sanderson, UT

GIRL'S 6- MULTI-BOUNCE

- Danielle Elder, MD
- Jessica Varner, LA
- Erica Manilla, CO
- Christina Lavelly, OH
- Jordan Cooperrider, FL
- Sierra Reid, OR
- Lauren Monchik, FL
- Sarina Ocampo, VA
- Elizabeth Vargas, CO
- Sarah Henry, IN

GIRL'S 8-

- Abbey Lavelly, OH
- Elizabeth Vargas, CO
- Lauren Feder, SC
- Lauren Stanley, LA
- Brooke Lynn Rushefsky, AZ
- Katina Wuttke, IL
- Lindsey Feder, SC
- Jessica Noll, AZ
- Madison Gulluly, AZ
- Madison Lazarus, AZ

GIRL'S 8- MULTI-BOUNCE

- Elizabeth Vargas, CO
- Abbey Lavelly, OH
- Danielle Falvey, WI
- Sarina Ocampo, VA
- Jessica Varner, LA
- Danielle Elder, MD
- Lauren Feder, SC
- Heather Bellisario, AR
- Hannah Bruns, VA
- Amy Shoudi, AZ

GIRL'S 10-

- Samantha Rosado, CT
- Elizabeth Brenner, OR
- Courtney Chisholm, MA
- Sarah Keddie, NH
- Veronica Sotomayor, IL
- Sara Leon, CA
- Lauren Stanley, LA
- Rachel Vena, IL
- Lauren Lydon, NH
- Kaitlin Inglesby, OR

GIRL'S 12-

- Danielle Key, AZ
- Melissa Quinones, FL
- Jacquelyn Rosado, CT
- Jacki Gallo, PA
- Samantha Rosado, CT
- Courtney Chisholm, MA
- Monique Horyza, CA
- Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
- Veronica Sotomayor, IL
- Lily Berry, OH

GIRL'S 14-

- Shannon Inglesby, OR
- Sharon Jackson, IN
- Holly Hettesheimer, OH
- Brittany Legget, OR
- Melissa Quinones, FL
- Jacquelyn Rosado, CT
- Kelly Woycheese, IL
- Jacki Gallo, PA
- Jennifer Fenton, KS
- Eliza Gettel, NH

GIRL'S 16-

- Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
- Ashley Willhite, OR
- Kara Mazur, CT
- Michelle Key, AZ
- Sherricka Darnell, CA
- Gabby Shnurman, IA
- Kimberly Walsh, UT
- Elise Wilson, CT
- Erin Egan, IL
- Brittany Gonzalez, CO

GIRL'S 18-

- Adrienne Fisher, AL
- Jesi Fuller, NM
- Kelley Fisher, OH
- Lauren Ritter, MO
- Elise Wilson, CT
- Taryn McDonough, CA
- Mary Garringer, NM
- Kimberly Walsh, UT
- Da'Monique Davis, AL
- Elizabeth Ferguson, OR

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

This will be the last issue of RACQUETBALL using the "old style" ranking system. USA Racquetball has decided to move from a "participation" based ranking system to a "skill" based system. The advantages to the new system are numerous but the most obvious benefit is that players will receive a national ranking based solely on their performance against other players. Of course the system will take time to accumulate enough data to make the rankings valid but the hope is to eventually use these rankings for seeding at all national events.



JULY

July 21-24	NMRA Masters International Championships @ Wisconsin Athletic Club	West Allis, WI	734-426-8952
July 23-25	Deuces Wild @ University Of Miami Wellness Center	Miami, FL	305-446-5714
July 23-25	5 Seasons Super7 Shootout Series @ Five Seasons Country Club	Westlake, OH	440-871-2811
July 24	Dallas Doubles Series @ Landmark Fitness Factory	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
July 24	Hot Tamale @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
July 25-27	Courthouse of Blues X @ Courthouse Racquet & Fitness	Flowood, MS	601-932-4800
July 30 - Aug. 01	Hot August @ Double Diamond	Reno, NV	775-787-3165

AUGUST

Aug. 6-8	Florida State Doubles @ Orlando Racquet & Fitness	Orlando, FL	407-889-3861
Aug. 6-8	North Carolina State Doubles @ Sportscenter	Concord, NC	910-947-3029
Aug. 6-8	3rd Annual Capital Classic @ Kentucky State University	Frankfort, KY	502-868-0107
Aug. 7	Triple Crown One Day Shootout @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
Aug. 13-15	Warm-up Doubles @ LA Fitness	Phoenix, AZ	480-545-1363
Aug. 14	Aggieland Summer Shootout @ Texas A&M	College Station, TX	979-571-3882
Aug. 14-15	Lobsterbake @ Cedardale Athletic Club	Haverhill, MA	978-927-3923
Aug. 20-22	Georgia State Doubles @ Concourse Athletic Club	Atlanta, GA	404-992-9969
Aug. 21	Dallas Doubles Series @ Landmark Fitness Factory	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
Aug. 21	E-Force Extreme Series @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
Aug. 27-29	Harbour Island Summer Shootout @ Harbour Island Athletic Club	Tampa, FL	813-765-5120
Aug. 31 - Sept. 4	IRF World Senior Championships @ Midtown Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	505-321-1110

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3-5	Best Of Texas @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
Sept. 8-10	Arizona State Doubles @ Tba	Phoenix, AZ	480-545-1363
Sept. 10-12	Outback Blast It! @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-947-3029
Sept. 10-12	Triple Crown Championships @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
Sept. 10-12	Florida Regional Doubles @ The Body Mill	Clearwater, FL	727-538-0078
Sept. 17-19	American Family Fall Open @ American Family Fitness Center	Richmond, VA	
Sept. 17-19	Fall Classic @ Dowd YMCA	Charlotte, NC	704-716-6100
Sept. 17-19	Georgia Regional Doubles @ Tbd	Atlanta, GA	770-972-2303
Sept. 17-19	Kentucky State Doubles @ Louisville Downtown YMCA	Louisville, KY	270-497-4348
Sept. 17-19	New York State Doubles @ Tba	Fishkill, NY	508-438-3935
Sept. 17-19	Texas State Doubles @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	718-895-8688
Sept. 18-19	Tad McCullaugh Memorial Open @ Indiana State University	Terre Haute, IN	812-235-3701
Sept. 24-26	Balloon Fest Blow-Out @ Redbud YMCA of Abilene	Abilene, TX	325-695-3839
Sept. 25	Dallas Doubles Series @ Landmark Fitness Factory	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
Sept. 25-26	Fall Kick Off @ Cocoa Court Club	Harrisburg, PA	717-540-5111

OCTOBER

Oct. 1-3	Special Olympics Doubles @ Club Fit	Jefferson Valley, NY	914-245-4040
Oct. 1-3	Tba @ The Athletic Club	Plains, PA	570-693-2882
Oct. 8-10	Aggieland Open @ Texas A&M	College Station, TX	979-571-3882
Oct. 8-10	Fall Junior Benefit Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club	Orlando, FL	407-679-3993
Oct. 8-10	Long Island Championship @ Tba	Flushing, NY	718-429-8489
Oct. 8-10	Meals On Wheels @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt (Syracuse), NY	315-453-2495
Oct. 8-10	Paul Gorman Memorial @ Interbay Family YMCA	Tampa, FL	813-765-5120
Oct. 15-17	Gathering of the Greatest @ Nautilus Fitness & Racquet	Erie, PA	814-459-3033
Oct. 15-17	Lou Bradley Pro-Am @ Prairie Athletic Club	Sun Prairie, WI	608-837-4646
Oct. 15-17	Racquetball October Fest @ Goldsboro YMCA	Goldsboro, NC	919-778-8557
Oct. 15-17	3rd Annual Fort Stewart Open @ Newman Fitness Center	Fort Stewart, GA	800-335-5066
Oct. 16-17	Texas State Seniors @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

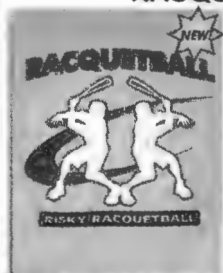
July 21-24	NMRA International Masters Tournament	West Allis, Wisc.	
July 31-Aug. 7	IRF XII World Championships	Seoul, Korea	
August 8-15	U.S. Junior National Team Training Camp	Colorado Springs, Colo.	
Aug. 31-Sept. 4	IRF 15th World Senior Championships	Albuquerque, N.M.	
Sept. 29-Oct. 3	USAR 37th National Doubles Championships	Tempe, Ariz.	
Nov. 16-21	Choice Hotels 9th U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships	Memphis, Tenn.	
Dec. 19-23	IRF World Junior Championships	San Luis Potosi, Mexico	

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in search of

LADY BYNG

I wasn't able to make it to Houston this year, but my spies tell me that "cheating" reached epidemic proportions in the men's open division. The question of whether it's cheating when a player "takes a call" has been debated for years. On its most basic level, "cheating" really only impacts one's opponent, however it is part of a larger problem facing our sport, namely that poor sportsmanship, referee abuse and general loutish behavior is a real turn off for tournament directors and sponsors.

Something should be done, but before we attempt to develop a solution, let's first establish what the problem *is not*. The problem *is not* "cheating" by the players. Cheating is playing with illegal equipment, deliberately wetting the ball before the serve, bribing an official or maybe using steroids - it is *not* failure to overturn an incorrect call by the ref. I recognize that many people disagree with me on this topic, and in fact, in the interest of full disclosure, I am biased given the small number of calls I overturned during my playing days. Nonetheless, I always found it inconsistent to argue that our professionals are real athletes and then in the same breath cry foul when players go along with incorrect calls. One of the most bizarre incidents I remember was during a round of 16 match between Sudsy Monchik and Rocky Carson at the 1999 IRT Foxwoods Casino Pro/Am in Boston. The crowd booed after Sudsy didn't overturn an obvious skip that the ref called "good". Sudsy then literally asked for a timeout to address the crowd and explain that good and bad calls even out over time, other players don't give up calls, etc. He called a timeout! What kind of a sport puts its athletes in such an awkward position? Can you imagine if Marat Safin or Andy Roddick

...never mind...it's too absurd even to pose it. Clearly racquetball is unique in putting the onus of both competing and judging on the athlete.

by Eric Muller



While we shouldn't hold the players accountable for taking calls, we absolutely must eliminate the referee abuse that occurs on the IRT. Given the 30+ year history of coarse behavior on the pro tour, this is no easy task. Nonetheless, if we ever want to attract meaningful outside sponsorship and not alienate fans, the abuse must end. In order to fix the problem, I suggest a carrot and stick approach. Let's create a year end bonus pool for the top 8 players who keep their emotions in check all season - sort of a Lady Byng Trophy with cash prizes. Let's also enact and enforce a strict rules regime with harsh monetary penalties for referee cruelty - regardless of the player's stature. While we're at it, the manufacturers should be pressured to take a tougher stance with their sponsored players who get out of line.

In addition to ending the abuse, we also would bolster our events by improving the quality of officiating. The first step should be reinstating linesmen on the IRT. The early 90's rationale of eliminating linesmen in order to speed up play was good in theory but didn't quite work in execution. Providing an appeal may help to cut down on referee abuse as the player would have a mechanism to take action as opposed to futilely complaining about a missed call. Finally, if at all possible, current IRT players should not be officiating. Yes, current players are light years better than the cadre of highly certified, highly unqualified referees serving at USAR national events. However, there is an inherent conflict of interest in looking to your peers, competitors and friends to serve as unbiased arbiters. In an ideal world, the IRT would hire full time referees. However, we live in the real world with limited resources, and hiring a band of traveling officials is not happening anytime soon. Still, the current the situation could be improved by identifying former pros living near events to serve as referees. Given the resurgence of former pros playing tournaments, I believe it is realistic to find qualified individuals.

MULLER'S MARKET PICKS

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Randy Stafford, the perfect choice for President of the USAR. A former player, keeper of the Hall of Fame, savvy executive who built a successful business in the sport and an all-around nice guy, Randy is one of the best resources we have.

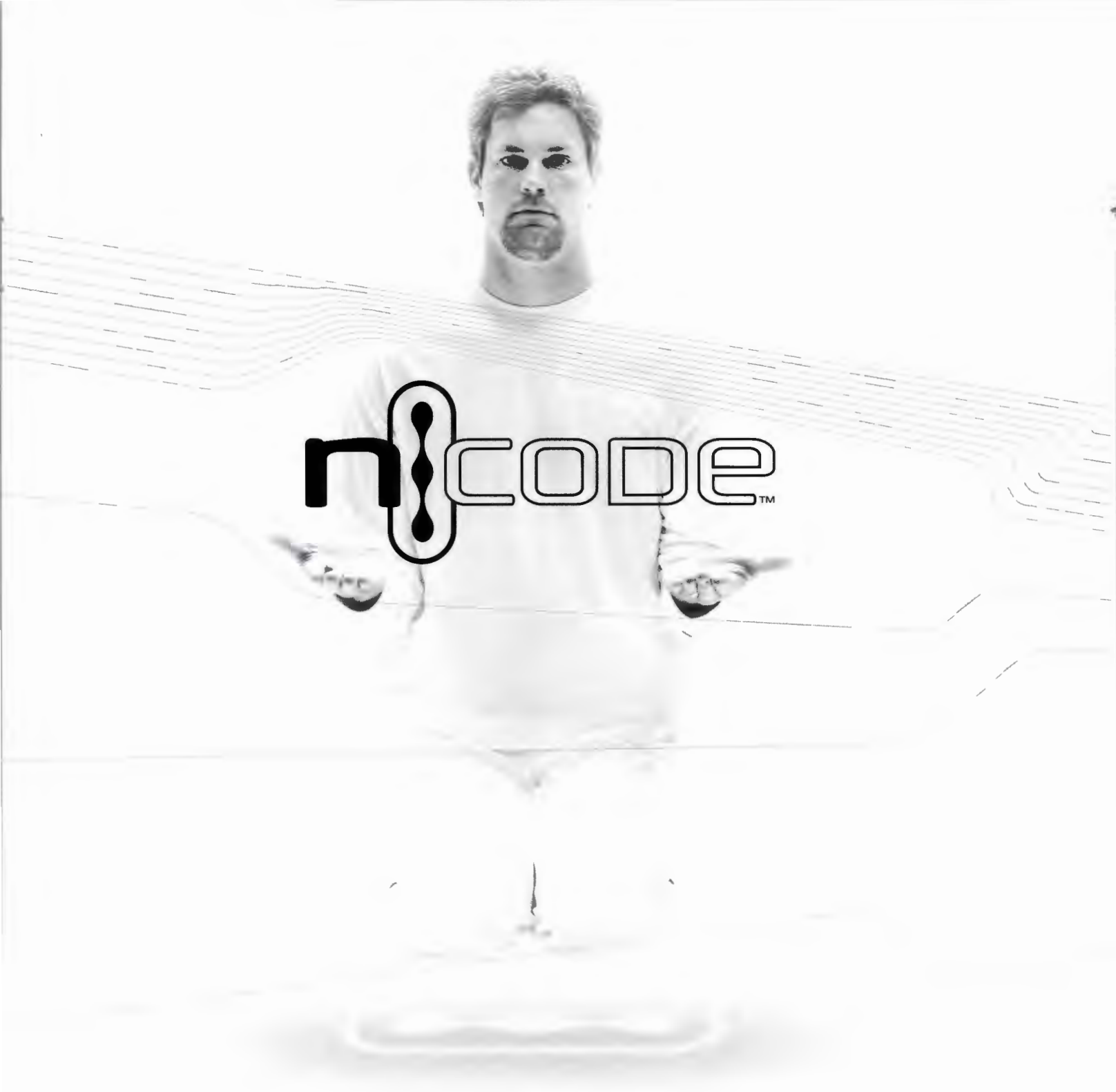
Sell

The practice of not using a new ball for every game in the Open division at Houston. I hear in the second game of the finals that Rocky Carson was hitting 180 mile per hour ceiling balls that didn't reach the back wall!

Hold

The 0.004% statistically insignificant increase in racquetball participation reported by the SGMA from 2002 - 2003. One year does not make a trend, but perhaps we've bottomed out and now have a base from which to build.

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