



From The Editor

Normally this space is reserved for wise and judicious remarks of global importance from our fearless leader, **Laurel Davis**, president of the ISRA. However, this month demands from the real world have taken her time and she has missed her deadline. Who can blame her? Besides being a top racquetball competitor, Laurel is a high-powered banker for (shameless plug coming) **National City Bank** which keeps her running all over the state on important bank business. She has also recently become a student again (no shame at all for this plug-since we share this love in common) at the University of Illinois, I believe in an MBA-type program. More power to you Laurel.

Since I am left with this huge blank space on the front page, and a deadline on the clock, I, Mike Davern, ISRA Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, am taking over—pulling an Alexander Haig so to speak. I will not be able to cover the reach and scope of a presidential address so I apologize here in advance.

However, this does leave me with an opportunity to do some housecleaning for which I was hoping to grab some space in a future newsletter. Here is my chance! I would first like to thank the tireless effort of our editorial staff, namely **Cheryl Kirk**, whose organizational skills I sorely lack, and former editor and world traveler, **Geoff Peters**. Without them, there would be 3 or 4 times the number of errors and poorly worded sentences than you will undoubtedly find in this issue today. The remaining errors are all mine. Besides missing Laurel's presidential letter, Geoff is out the country as he often is (another plug coming) for an extremely high-powered job at **Price-Waterhouse-Coopers**. I tried to fax him the drafts of this newsletter, but I either do not have the correct country code for Wales, where it is rumored that Geoff is today, or my fax machine does not know how to speak Welsh properly and will not communicate. Luckily, Cheryl Kirk was reachable from her conference in Texas and she faxed back a bunch of corrections from her hotel there. (If I don't plug her firm she might leave me hanging on some future issue—so I should mention that Cheryl works for the upper echelon of **McDonald's Corporation**. By the way, we are not allowed to eat anything other than McDonald's at an ISRA meeting and-true story-she will jump up and go to the nearest drive-thru to enforce that rule. Anyway, what is it with ISRA board members and all this travel? Don't they know that racquetball is life? (Ok-I think that it would be wise here to plug my firm, **Nuveen Investments** since all of these other board members are getting a plug. I have a real life too.) I would also like to thank **Christopher "Kit" Lawson** (Kit, where do you work?) for the great pictures from the last few issues. While I am thanking those that help make my job easier, I wanted to also thank **Leo Klimaitis**, for his support of the ISRA webpage. We are getting an excellent number of hits (over 20,000 served) and hope to continue to improve in our efforts out on the web. If you haven't been to the website, I get to leave another plug: for updated news, information, schedules, rankings and tournament apps please make sure that you check <http://www.illinoisracquetball.com> frequently during the season.

The second issue that I want to mention, is the ISRA calendar. I am sure Laurel would have mentioned it as well. We tried hard this year to make some improvements in scheduling since last year tournaments seemed to run on top of each other, especially in February and March. The biggest change involves **State Singles**. This tournament, which has been getting great draws in the past few years is now going to be held April 5-7th, rather than at the end of February. Now we have a nice progression from

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Quick Hits

Illinois Juniors Participate in Junior Olympics

Five Illinois Juniors participated in the 2001 HEAD Junior Olympic Championships this past June. Ben Croft, Krystal Csuk, Brandon Ritschard, Mike DeGonia and Andy Hawthorne all made the trek out to Lakewood, Colorado to compete against over 250 of the finest junior athletes in the country for one of 18 spots on the US Junior National Team. With Ben and Andy receiving third seeds and Krystal holding a second, it looked like a good week would push one or more of our juniors over the top. Unfortunately, none of our Illinois juniors were able to make it to a finals berth. Andy Hawthorne and Ben Croft both recovered, however, to win first place spots in the Blue division for 18 and under and 16 and under, respectively. For Krystal, the news was even better. Her performance at the tournament and throughout the season earned her an appointment on the US Junior National Team. We look forward to seeing her represent Illinois and the country in this upcoming season. She will also join Andy Hawthorne as a student and member of the Baldwin-Wallace racquetball team. She promises to come back and continue to give our Illinois women some top competition.



2001 HEAD Junior Olympic Illinois Participants (left to right):
Ben Croft, Krystal Csuk, Brandon Ritschard, Mike DeGonia.
(Andy Hawthorne, not pictured.)

Thanks from the Crofts

With the completion of the Illinois Adult Regionals, most players will pack their racquets away until the fall. I felt that the 2000/2001 season was a good one for racquetball. It certainly was a good year for our son, Ben. It is perhaps a good year to thank all the friends and players who worked and/or played with Ben, who watched his matches and gave advice and, more importantly, who understood Ben. After all, he is a 16 year-old kid competing in an adult world. Anyway, there are a lot of wonderful people surrounding Ben and we are so happy that Ben can be part of your lives! We look forward to next season and, as Ben says, he is hoping to take out some of the frustration in not making the Junior National team on fellow Illinois Open competitors, Eugene Coyle, Dave Negrete, Bill Lyman and "company". Should be a fun year.

Mixed Doubles Anyone?

Wisconsin residents and frequent Illinois tournament participants, Joan Harris and Dylan Wick and Carl Evers and Deb Duquaine took advantage of the US Pro Nationals location in Las Vegas last May 3rd and 4th to tie the knot in back-to-back weddings. As Joan explains, "With Wisconsin residents, Brian Fredenberg and Ryan Homa playing, we thought that it would be a good time to watch some pro racquetball and to get married at the same time. Carl Evers and Deb Duquaine got the same idea. It was a lot of fun and, no we don't have any kids on the way at this time. (Dylan is a handful without adding to the situation.) Please keep us informed of the tournaments coming this year. We want to get down there and play".—Ya hey, der Cheeseheads. Check out the schedule in this issue and watch for updates and tournament applications on the Illinois website at <http://www.illinoisracquetball.com>.

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Summerfest Kicks off the 2001/2002 in fine style



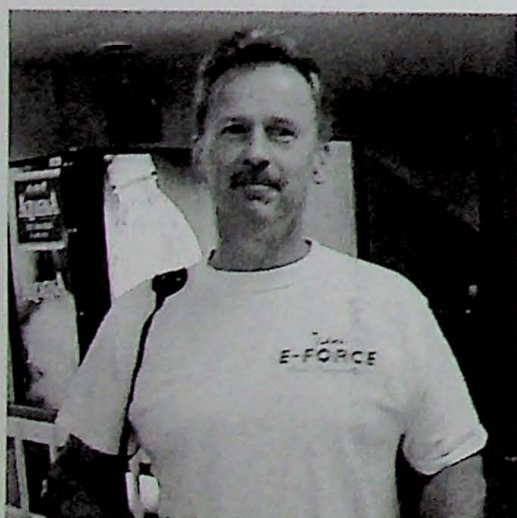
The Future of Racquetball!
Brandon Ritschard, Justin Fleck, Allison Fleck



George Bound -- Ready for action!



Lyman lunges in Men's Open final.



Trimmed-down Joe Silius gears up for Summerfest.

It is going to be some time before a tournament tops the 8th Annual Summerfest. Perfect weather and arguably the best tournament souvenir in years. Tournament director, Doug Halverson and club owners, Joe and Diane DeArmas provided an awesome insulated backpack including all accoutrements for a wine and cheese picnic. Nice deal. The food was great as well. Racquetball is a sport that is supposed to help you lose weight. How can you lose weight after chowing down on

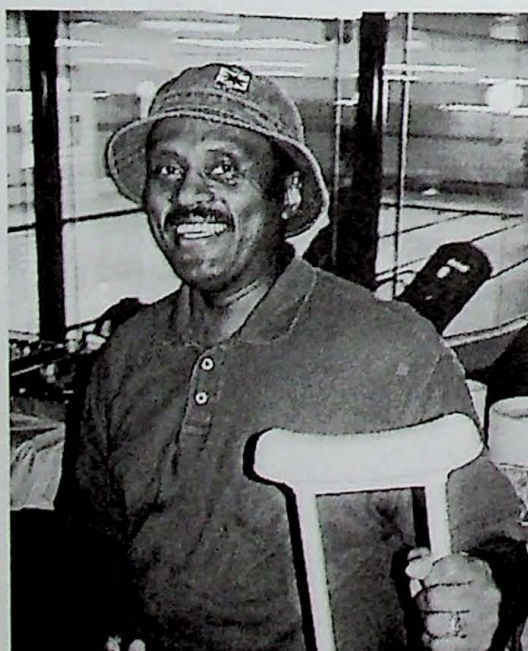
ribs, chicken, shredded beef, lunch meat, spaghetti, meat balls, fruits, salads and a wide variety of breakfast treats and desserts? Not possible.

The Summerfest is also supposed to be a laid-back, fun tournament. Ask relative newcomer, Ubaldo Melo, who had to play back to back to back to back games on Sunday by winning the semi and finals of both Men's C and Men's D (and two of those four matches went to tie-breaker). No more D's for Mr. Melo and only one more C to go. Dick Heithoff finally notched a win in a full draw B tournament. Only one B left for him as well. Other action on the courts saw a big upset in the Men's Open doubles with Ben and his father, Bob Croft taking out second seed, Eugene Coyle and George Pappas before besting Indianans, Brian Simpson and Craig Nichols in the finals. I did not know that the elder Croft still had some dives left in him! Ben must be giving lessons. Brian Simpson did not go home without his typical first place showing as he topped Bill

Lyman in Men's Open. Bill got his own first place showing in Men's 40's over Carl Kisill. Not to be outdone, Carl Kisill also got a first place as part of the winning Men's 40+ doubles with partner Mark Mattos over George Kleber and Joe Silius. Unfortunately, the chain stopped there. On the women's side, there was no stopping Janet Eminger taking both the Women's AA and A events. Sarah Borland also did not make the trip from Iowa in vain. She took out our own Josie Barnett from Kankakee. Win, take second, lose no matter. All seemed to have a great time. Check out what the other participants did below):

Event; First Place; Second Place; Semis
Men's Open (14): Brian Simpson (IN); Bill Lyman; Ben Croft; Eugene Coyle
Men's AA (6): John Thorson; George Pappas; Eric Rieman, Doug Halverson
Men's A (13): Scott Graves; Keith Mecklenburg; T.G.Venkateshwaran, Chris Cotton
Men's B (13): Dick Heithoff; Dave Schoonover; Ray Shimizu, Joe DeMarco
Men's C (17): Ubaldo Melo; Humberto Sosa; Brian Shaw, George Bound
Men's D (23): Ubaldo Melo; Tom Reed; Dan Doretti, Al Murry
Men's 30+ (6): John Talty, Jr.; Tom Utterback; Horace Miller, Jim Schenk (IN)
Men's 40+ (6): Bill Lyman; Carl Kisill; Jim Schenk (IN), Dave Milazzo
Men's 45/50+ (6): T.J. Ferro; Gene Cromwell; Leo Klimaitis, Larry Schum
Men's 45+ INT (5): Tom Corr; Gary Muhr; Charley Naber, Jim Schevers
Men's 60/65+ (4): John Ramsey; Al Murry; Don Davis; Angelo Kanis

continued on next page



**"Only my KNEE feels 50 years old!"
Happy Birthday, Jeff Grace!**



A great weekend for Janet Eminger, double winner: Women's AA and Women's A

Women's Open/A (7):
Sara Borland; Josie Barnett;
Nancy Schum, Brenda
White

Women's AA (3): Janet
Eminger; Patrice Calvi;
Pam Grace

Women's A (3): Janet
Eminger; Pam Grace;
Cathy Bertucci

Women's B/C (7): Char
Borre; Cheryl Kirk;
Sharilyn Pope, Kelly
Carson

Women's D (3): Allison
Fleck; Marlin Ortiz; Verona
Mucci-Hurlburs



"Did you see that shot?!"



*Joe DeRoche: Sad Achilles, happy check.
(Joe, we'll see you later this season!)*

Men's Open Doubles (7):
Ben Croft/Bob Croft;
Craig Nichols/Brian

Simpson; Lem Rowans/Joey Logan, Tom
Utterback/John Talty, Jr.; Eric Rieman/Doug
Halverson, TJ Ferro/Randahl Negrin

Mens A Doubles (10): Double Forfeit; Ron
Calloway/Keith Mecklenburg; Steve
Condon/Joey Brownlee; Keith Malcheski/
Dave Schoonover; Jim Elliott/Jeff Hayes (IA)

Mens B/C Doubles (10): Dean Hollowell/
Richard Lux; Joe DeMarco/George Bound;
Ray Shimizu/Roger Siegal; Dave Porzel/Jose
Castro; Tom Pope/Eddie Ruffin; Tom Reed/
Bill Apostolos

Men's 40+ Doubles (4): Carl Kisill/Mark
Mattos; George Kleber/Joe Silius; Ken Fleck/
John Matarrese; Dave Milazzo/Horace Miller

Mixed Open Doubles (6): Sara Boland (IA)/
Jeff Hays (IA); Nancy Rocha/Barb Utterback;
Patrice Calvi/Joe Silius; John Thorson/Kathy
Dunham; Carole Lisson/Ted Huddleston;
Rich Wells/Nancy Schum

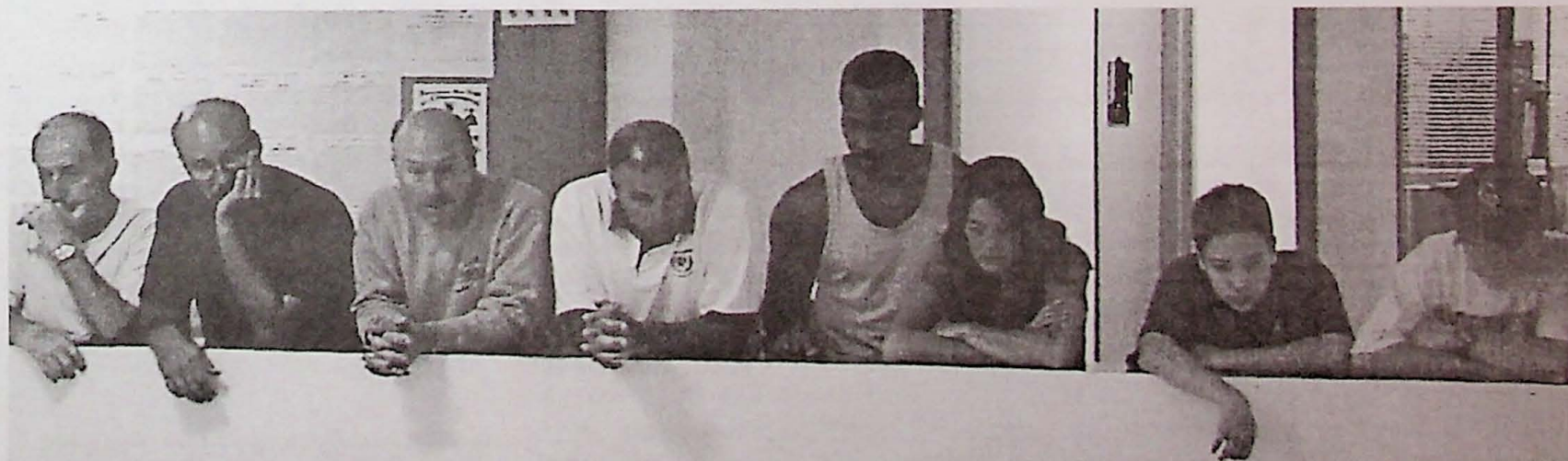
Mixed A Doubles (3): Kathy Dunham/
George Kleber; Cheryl Kirk/Mike Mahon;
Cathy Bertucci/Keith Mecklenburg



*Pam Grace: "Is this a GREAT
tournament gift, or what?!"*



Tournament Directors LOVE Sundays!



Spectators check out the action on Court 4.

Ektelon/USRA Regional Championship

May 4-6, Athletic Club of Bloomington

Another great tournament at Bloomington and that brings out the big guns from all parts of the state and beyond. The change in dates for the Illinois Regional from its traditional early April to early May didn't seem to make a difference to the draw. You never know with May tournaments as Illinois players look to get off the courts and outside for some May sunshine. Dave Negrete and staff worked hard to bring in top competition. Players came in from all over the Midwest (Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Missouri, Minnesota and Michigan) as well as beyond (Maryland and California). One out-of-state participant Kevin Graham (MN) got all he could handle with Eugene Coyle. They met in two different finals and both matches went to a tiebreaker. In Men's Open, Graham wins 14, (8), 4 but loses in Men's 30+ as Eugene gets revenge 14, (9), 4. The Zamudio family from Indiana also had a good weekend. Brothers, Eric and Alex Zamudio win Men's A and Men's B while Dad, Victor, lost in quarterfinals of Men's C against first seed, Brad Stanfield. Still, not a bad trip. Women's Open winner, Chris Evon did not have as far to travel and walked through the draw. Only Semifinalist, Josie Barnett got more than 10 points against Chris. The only other double winner over the weekend was Cheryl Kirk, winner of Women's B and Women's 35+. That gave her a great start on her trip to Nationals, where she eventually took 2nd in Women's 45+ A/B.

This tournament wraps up a great season of

Illinois racquetball. July's Summerfest at the Glass Courts begins the cycle all over again. Lots of great stories at all the tournaments this year. If you come over the top on a story of your own, win, lose or draw, make sure you let us know about it. Contact the ISRA on the web at <http://www.illinoisracquetball.com>. As for the rest of this draw, check out the all of the winners below:

-- Mike Davern

Event: First Place; Second Place; Semis

Men's Open (13): Kevin Graham (MN); Eugene Coyle; Ben Croft, Brad McCuniff (Iowa)

Men's AA (2): Doug Halverson; Jordan Khan

Men's A (11): Eric Zamudio (IN); Bob Wright; Kevin Johnson, Mark Mobilia

Men's B (11): Alex Zamudio (IN); Tony Rosselli; John Mason, Gene Cromwell

Men's C (19): Jason Ganahl (MO); Bryan Shaw (MO); Brad Stanfield, Gustavo Acevedo

Men's D (17): Ubalda Melo; Mike DeGonia; Phil Mangiaracina, George Smuckel

Men's 24- (7): Ben Croft; Craig Nichols (IN); Cory Martin, Ben Croft

Men's 30+ (8): Eugene Coyle; Kevin Graham (MN); Bill Lyman, Dale Johnson

Men's 35+ (11): Brad McCuniff (IA); Dave Negrete; Clinton Allen (OH), Tom Utterback

Men's 40+ (11): Dave Negrete; Dave Milazzo; Jim Schenck, Tom Griffith

Men's 40+ INT (7): John Mason; Manny Diaz; George Parobek, John Cooker (MI)

Men's 45+ (3): T.J. Ferro; Greg Mandell; Geoff Peters

Men's 50+ (9): Jim Luzar (WI); Bruce Nelson; Horace Miller T.J. Ferro; Leo Klimitas, Tom Blakeslee (MI)

Men's 50+ INT (6): Garry Carter (CA); Ray Meisner; John Koziol, John Cooker

Men's 55+ (6): Horace Miller; Herb Laney; Joe Quirke, Erhard Gruenwald

Men's 55+ INT (7): John Eliasik; Elliot Papermaster (WI); George Smuckel, Larry Schum

Men's 60+ (7): Ron Hutchinson; Pat Taylor; Bruce Mason, Ed Olah

Men's 65+ (6): Charles Gunn; Ed Olah; Bob Beiner, Carl Smith

Women's Open (7): Chris Evon; Josie Barnett; Laurel Davis, Liz Molitor

Women's A (6): Andrea Scott; Nancy Schum; Barb Utterback, Janet Eminger

Women's B (6): Cheryl Kirk; Lola Markus; Patti Ummel, Sarah Ulmer

Women's C (4): Karen Marzano; Sharon Wilkse; Liz Janda, Lucy Askan

Women's D (3): Michelle Lenow; Janet Christie; Marci Laramie (TN);

Women's 30 (7): Mary Crawford; Janet Eminger; Janine Davic, Julie Vincent

Women's 35+ (6): Cheryl Kirk; Lynn Hiorns; Karen Marzano, Sharon Wilks

Women's 40+ (6): Peggy Stephens (TN); Liz Molitor; Nancy Kronenfeld, Brenda White

USRA
United States Racquetball Association

COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

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ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____
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Send to:

ISRA
2291 Shannondale Rd.
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Adult competitor \$20.00
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Tournament _____ Representative _____

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



Brandon Ritschard does "The Rumble"

The 12th Annual "RUMBLE", a USRA-sanctioned lite camp for juniors, was held at the University of Alabama in mid-June, 2001. At this invitation-only camp, 52 of the finest junior racquetball players from all over the country and Mexico hone their skills against one another for an entire week.

Brandon Ritschard of Glen Ellyn became the first junior racquetball player ever from the state of Illinois to participate in the grueling "RUMBLE" camp. Ritschard is an *Elite Team* member of the ISRA-sponsored *Junior Team Illinois* and plays in the Boys 12 & under and Boys 14 & under age divisions. He is the current Illinois State Champion in the Boys 12 & under division.

The "RUMBLE" Camp Director, Jim Garner, states that he "would like to invite more players from Illinois to his camp," and has his eye on one player in particular! Garner, along with his associate directors, Natalie and Bud Crockett and Marcia Lee, spends a great deal of time, one-on-one, with the "RUMBLERS" and calls them "my kids." The camp is wall-to-wall racquetball, from early morning to late at night, for five days.

Started in 1990 by the late Jack Sorenson, the "RUMBLE" camp emphasizes skills improvement, aerobic conditioning, respect of self and others, and sportsmanship in the game of racquetball. Several guest coaches contribute to help the campers with everything from good nutritional habits to advanced skills. This year, **Sudsy Monchik** spoke with the players and even held short games with some of them. He managed to eke out a hard-fought 7-2 win over Brandon Ritschard in their game! Last year, **Cheryl Gundinas** made a camp appearance to share some of her vast skills with the campers, and was a big hit with the kids.

With the Closing Ceremony featuring skits put on by the "RUMBLERS," it was not all work and no play at the camp. Brandon, who made many friends, says "the 'RUMBLE' is just awesome," and hopes to be invited back in 2002. While most of the camp session is intensive racquetball instruction, the kids have the chance to form lifetime friendships with one another as they battle together in the "RUMBLE" of their lives!



Left: Sean McGrath, Indiana 12 and under State Champion.
Right: Brandon Ritschard, Illinois 12 and under State Champion
"Fellow Rumlars" and Doubles Partners at the
2001 HEAD Junior National Olympics.

ISRA Forms Junior Team Illinois

The Illinois State Racquetball Association is beginning a full court effort to bring more Illinois juniors to the game of racquetball. As part of this effort, the ISRA is forming Junior Team Illinois (JTI) in an effort to get more kids playing racquetball. In the past few years the ISRA has had a series of junior clinics at various locations around the city. We have had hundreds of kids run through these clinics but frankly, at most clubs, there was little follow-through for those interested in continuing to play the game.

In this effort we intend to begin by providing several Junior Camps for JTI team members and more tournament events geared to

Junior level play. (See the advertisement on page 11 regarding the first camp.) We are highlighting on the ISRA calendar and website those tournaments that will offer a wider variety of Junior events at half price entry fees. We are also creating a Junior D division for tournament play which will allow kids a second division to play, after their age group division. This new division will create an intermediate step between the large skill gap separating Junior divisions and Men's D. At present, you will not receive national points for Junior D play, however, if successful, the ISRA will introduce the concept to the USRA for future consideration. Lastly, we will be looking for opportunities to play

against other Junior Team programs in nearby Midwestern states.

Details for Junior Team Illinois are still being finalized at press time. If you know of any interested Juniors who would like to participate please contact Fred Ritschard, Junior Team Membership Chairman at the number listed on page 11.

-- Mike Davern



Tournament Wins Bring New Challenges

It's 10-10 in the tiebreaker...she serves, an ACE! She wins her division in the tournament and it feels great! A trophy and more...she realizes that next year, it's on to the next level. This was a full draw tournament win!

A full draw is a division of 12 entries in a men's event and 8 in a women's event. A mixed doubles full draw is 8 teams. In Illinois, if you win one full draw tournament, you move up next season. Win twice in the same division (or win a full draw State tournament) and your move to the next level is immediate.

The only exception to these rules are the Regionals. You are still be eligible to compete at your initial tournament level at the Regionals since this gives you a chance to play at the Nationals at your original tournament level.

The ISRA congratulates the winners of Illinois tournaments during the 2000-2001 season. Listed here are the winners of full draw tournaments and their new level of competition in the coming season.

For official tournament results check out www.illinoisracquetball.com.

-- Cheryl Kirk

SINGLES DIVISIONS

Full Draw Tournament "A" Winners Moving to "Open"

John Bertholomey — Men's Open
Patrice Calvi — Women's Open
Kathy Dunham — Women's Open
Martin Gonzalez — Men's Open
Jim Hillman — Men's Open
Martha Huske — Women's Open
Karin McCauley — Women's Open
Bob Morrison — Men's Open
Jorge Ortiz — Men's Open
Scott Ross — Men's Open
Nancy Schum — Women's Open
Andrea Scott — Women's Open

Full Draw Tournament "B" Winners Moving to "A"

Juan Alcantar — Men's A
Ron Calloway — Men's A
Janet Eminger — Women's A
Steve Hensley — Men's A
Marty Maranda — Women's A
John Mason — Men's A
Mark Mobilia — Men's A
David Royster — Men's A
Russ Tatar — Men's A
Patti Ummel — Women's A
T.G. Venkateshwaran — Men's A
Rich Wells — Men's A

Full Draw Tournament "C" Winners Moving to "B"

Greg Benjamin — Men's B
Oscar Corona — Men's B
Dan Jaskier — Men's B
Vito Rubiano — Men's B
Ray Shimizu — Men's B
Brad Stanfield — Men's B
Bill Switalla — Men's B
Joe Vallender — Men's B

Tournament "D" Winners Moving to "C"

Jose Castro — Men's C
Brett Crawley — Men's C
Brian McNally — Men's C
Ubaldo Melo — Men's C
Dan Opferman — Men's C
Royce Simpson — Men's C
Humberto Sosa — Men's C
Carlos Vidrio — Men's C

DOUBLES DIVISIONS

Tournament "A" Winners Moving to "Open"

Tim Austin/Jason Retzhoff — Men's Open
Rich Cavaliere/Eli Williams — Men's Open
Donna Heinzl/Martha Huske — Women's Open
Lynn Hiorns/Kevin Yeazell — Mixed Open

Tournament "B" Winners Moving to "A"

Mitch Becker/George Steffens — Men's A
Grant Macuba/Mark Mobilia — Men's A
Russ Tatar/Tony Sambo — Men's A

AGE DIVISIONS

Tournament 55+ Intermediate Moving to 55+

Larry Schum — Men's 55+ Singles

2001-2002 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .pcx, or .ppt formats.
- If ads are run for the entire season, **AND** payment is received with the first issue, the sixth ad is **FREE!**
- These rates are in effect until December 30, 2002.
- Ad deadlines are as follows:

Issue Mail Date	Article/Releases Due	Stuffers/Inserts Due
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01/01/02	12/07/01	12/14/01
03/01/02	02/08/02	02/18/02
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07/01/02	06/14/02	06/21/02

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Full page: \$300/issue. Half page: \$175/issue.
Quarter page: \$100/issue. Other sizes quoted on a case by case basis.
- For any questions or submission:

Mike Davern, 704 Sherwood Court, Naperville, IL 60565
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Illinois

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

www.illinoisracquetball.com

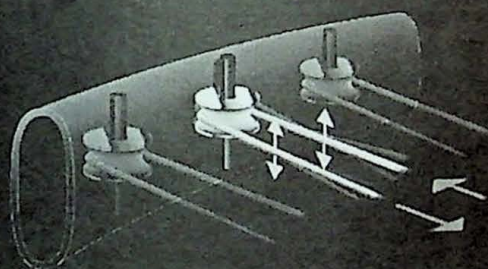
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Rollers allow the strings to move 31.5% more than conventional grommets.

The net result -- Maximum Energy Transfer.



Vertical String Movement

The force of the ball results in increased trampoline effect of the stringbed.



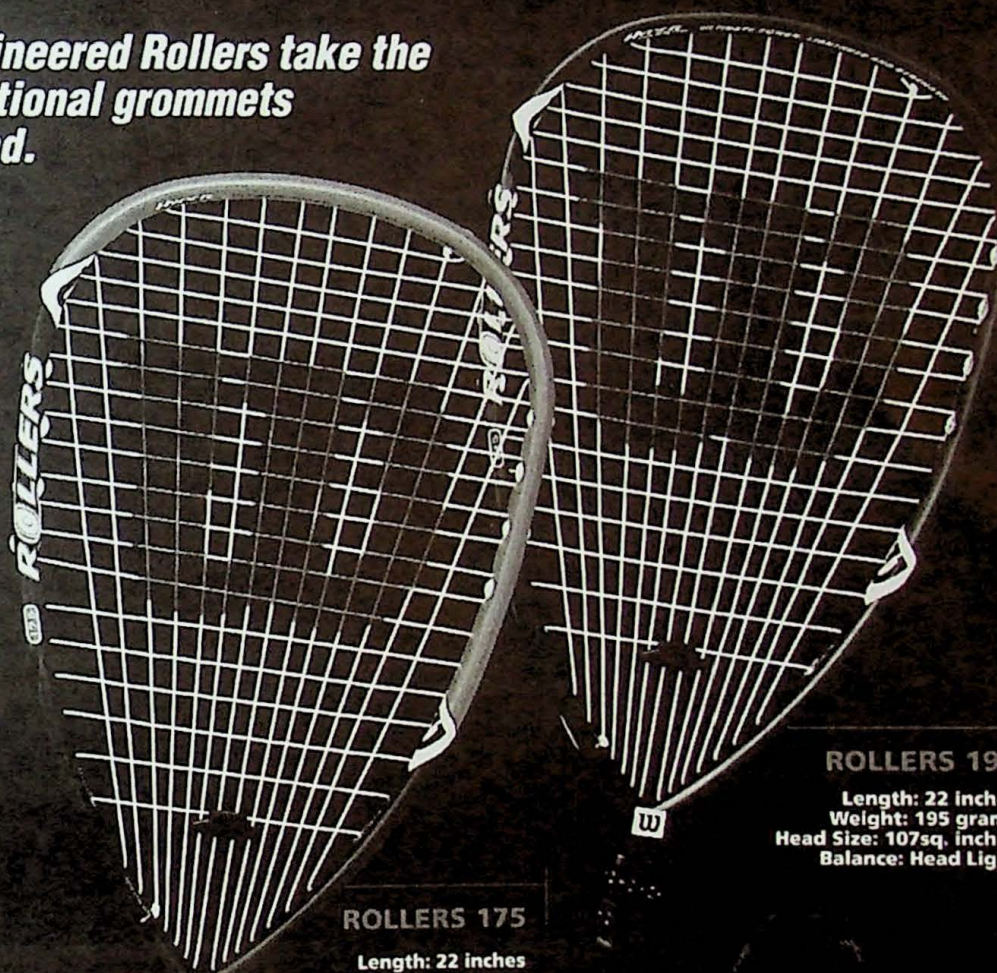
Horizontal String Movement

Upon ball impact, strings move freely in a pulley motion.

Cliff Swain, 5-Time Pro World Champion.

Derek Robinson, #6 Ranked on the IRT™ Pro Tour.

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ROLLERS 175

Length: 22 inches
Weight: 175 grams
Head Size: 107sq. inches
Balance: Head Heavy

ROLLERS 195

Length: 22 inches
Weight: 195 grams
Head Size: 107sq. inches
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ISRA Annual Golf Outing Is A Huge Success



*Rich Clay, Lynn Clay, Jim Hillman,
Alida Zambone*

Once again, the ISRA Annual Golf Outing began on a beautiful warm, sunny day at Village Greens Golf Course in Woodridge. Sixty-four golfers participated in what turned out to be a fun-filled, competitive scramble. The winning score of 13 under par went to the foursome of Tom Baxa, Pete Stopinski, Rene Ledesma and Jack Kelly.

The food was spectacular and the prizes (totaling several hundred dollars) were appreciated by everyone. Dennis Negrete seemed to make a

killing (see photo)! Thanks to Wilson, Ektelon, Dave Negrete, Mike Davern (Nuveen Investments) and Cheryl Kirk (McDonald's) for donating raffle prizes, and a bigger thanks to Tom Utterback for his hard work in organizing this annual event. One of the most sought-after raffle prizes was a free racquetball lesson with the best instructor in Illinois racquetball, Dave Negrete. As luck would have it, Illinois Top Open player, Tim Sweeney was the lucky winner! Hope that lesson will improve your game, Tim; maybe put a little more speed on those drive serves.....yeah, right!

Thanks to everyone for participating, and see you next year!

-- Tom Utterback



Lynn Clay, Rich Clay



Barb Utterback, Julie Carter



*Connie Arvia, Laurel Davis,
Barb Utterback, Kim Gregoire*



Tim Sweeney, Dennis Negrete, Steve Sulli

“Junior Team Illinois”

Come join the gastest growing junior racquetball team in the country...

The JTI

The *Illinois State Racquetball Association* invites you to attend a membership rally and instructional clinic for **Junior Team Illinois** and prospective youth players, ages 8-18, to be held on Saturday, September 29, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This clinic features Dave Negrete, current IRT Commissioner, as the Clinic Director. Included in the program events will be a discion on **JTI** activities, tournaments, rules and regulations. Each participant will receive individual training from Dave and his coaches, all of who have many years of experience and success in the sport of racquetball. Each participant joining the **Junior Team Illinois** will also receive his or her **JTI** team t-shirt for the 2001-2002 season.

To sign up for this fun-filled and instructive clinic at The Athletic Club of Bloomingdale, 321 Edgewater Dr., Bloomingdale, IL, please complete the entry form below and return it with a check for \$10, made payable to the **JTI**, by September 25, 2001 to:

JTI Membership Director
183 N. Newton Avenue
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Questions can be answered by calling Fred Ritschard at 630-235-8963

The Athletic Club of Bloomingdale phone number is (630) 893-9577

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Male/Female (circle one) E-mail _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Shirt Size (adult): XL L M S (circle one)

Mail to: JTI Membership Director, 183 N. Newton Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

From the Editor continued from page 1

State Doubles, at the end of January, to **State Singles** in early April, to **Regionals** in mid-April to **Nationals** in mid-May. (This year, the Illinois Regional will be on the same weekend as all of the other Regionals around the country. In the past, Illinois was an outlier Regional, held either a few weeks early or late from the normal schedule. This decision was made by the USRA, but it still works well for our schedule.) Other changes include the addition of the **LPRA Pro-Stop** with the **St. Valentine's Day Massacre** at Bloomingdale. We hope that this change brings out even more women to this event, along with the normally strong men's draw. I also want to plug the **IRT Pro Stop** held in connection with the **Halloween Classic** at Bloomingdale. Even with the big draw at this tournament, I never feel that we get as much publicity as that tournament deserves. Now we get two chances to see the pros in Illinois and with **Dave Negrete** running the men's pro tour, this year's event looks to be even better. Dave is shooting for one of the biggest events of the season. Who does not come out of a pro event without picking up on some things that they can work on? I brought out some non-racquetball friends last year and they were just amazed at quality of play. I can't believe that some Illinois players often do not come out to see this event.

Lastly, I want to use this opportunity to thank **Fred Ritschard** for putting together the beginnings of an excellent junior racquetball program. Look for the article and invitation in this issue and on the website for upcoming junior events. We have added junior divisions to a number of tournaments this year and are in the beginning stages of forming Junior Team Illinois to compete against other teams around the country. We want to bring even more Illinois juniors up to the level that Andy Hawthorne, Ben Croft and Krystal Csuk have reached. Check out that article and contact Fred if you have any questions.

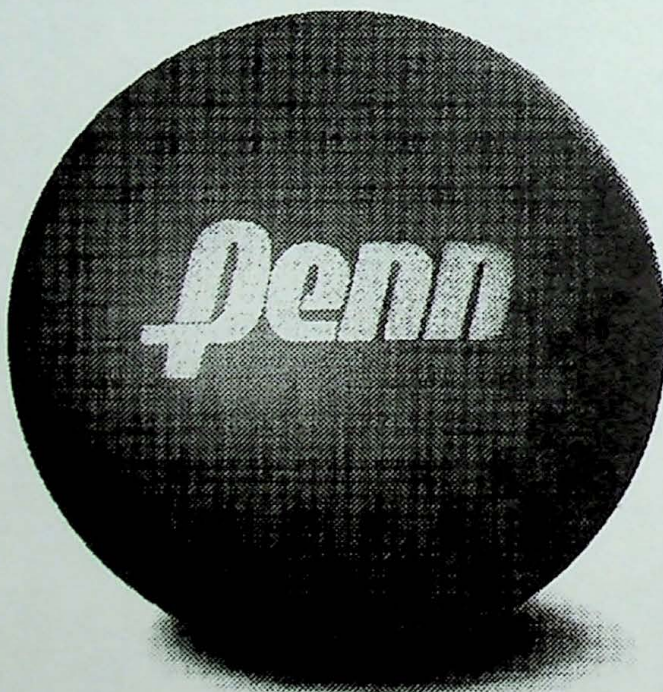
I am now returning control of the ISRA back to Laurel and I thank her for her tardiness. Hope to see you all at an upcoming tournament. —Mike Davern

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Illinois Players show well in World Police and Fire Games

Frequent tournament players Tom Connelly, Tom Fehsel, Fred Barbara and Don Davis represented Illinois tournament players at the 9th World Police and Fire games this past June in Indianapolis. This is a huge event with over 9 thousand athletes from over 57 countries participating in 60 different events. The World Police and Fire Games are second only to the Olympics in size and scope of participation.

Fellow Chicago firemen and doubles partners, Tom Connelly and Fred Barbara took a Gold in the Men's Masters Doubles division. Tom also took a Silver in the Master's Singles Division I and Fred took a

Silver in Master's Singles Division 2. Tom Fehsel, also representing the Chicago Fire Department, took a Silver in the Individual Grand Masters Division. This is an unusual double elimination tournament with players having to play 12-15 matches to reach the finals in some divisions.

The event also featured former Chicago Policeman, Gene Barkowitz (from Gene, Gene the Stringing Machine fame) now a resident of Florida, who won a Silver in Men's Grand Master Doubles and a bronze in singles.

The World Police and Fire Games is an

Olympic-style event held every two years. The Games were designed to promote and recognize physical fitness and global police and fire communities. The commitment of police officers and fire fighters to achieve peak physical conditioning helps better prepare them to serve the public. The Games also serve the community by strengthening the relationship between police officers and fire fighters. We hope to see continued success of our Illinois representatives in future games. Unfortunately, racquetball players will have to wait for the 2005 games since racquetball will not be a sponsored sport in the Barcelona games in 2003.

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Bloomington Challenge Court
630-893-9577

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Glass Court Challenge Court
630-629-3390

Wednesday 6 - 9 p.m. and Saturday 9-11 a.m.
\$6.00

Oak Park Athletic Club
708-848-5200

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

Palos Olympic Health & Racquet Club
708-974-1900

Friday 6 - 8:30 p.m. \$5.00

Southlake Challenge Court
847-949-8180

Saturday 10 a.m. - Noon
\$10.00 for ISRA Members
(with membership card)

World Gym, Palatine
(formerly Charlie Club)
847-991-9300

Tuesday 7-10 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.- Noon
\$5.00

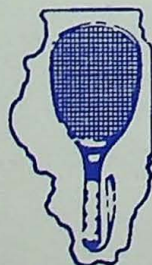
Sunset Racquetball & Fitness Center, Geneva
630-232-7867

Saturday 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Members: \$2, Non-Members: \$5



Illinois State Racquetball Association

c/o Mike Davern
704 Sherwood Ct.
Naperville, IL 60565



Cheryl Kirk
1064 Sylvan Circle
Naperville IL 60540

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