

# RACQUETBALL

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Volume 17, Number 3

May/June 2006

## National Collegiate Champs Oregon State University

# INSIDE

# Choice Hotels US Open Entry Form

## Rules Poster

## Doubles Entry

## National High School Champs Beaverton High School

A group of students are posing for a photo. In the center, a student in a black jacket and yellow lanyard holds a large, ornate trophy. To the left, a student in a red sweatshirt with 'HEAD' on it holds a smaller trophy. To the right, a student in a white and black striped shirt holds a large red letter 'U'. The background is a plain white wall.

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SPORT GRAPHICS



## 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



## US Open Entry Form

All the information you need to participate in the most prestigious event of the year.



## Strandemo's Rules Poster

Get ready for national doubles by learning the secrets of proper positioning.



## Doubles Entry

National doubles will return to beautiful Phoenix and Arizona State University.



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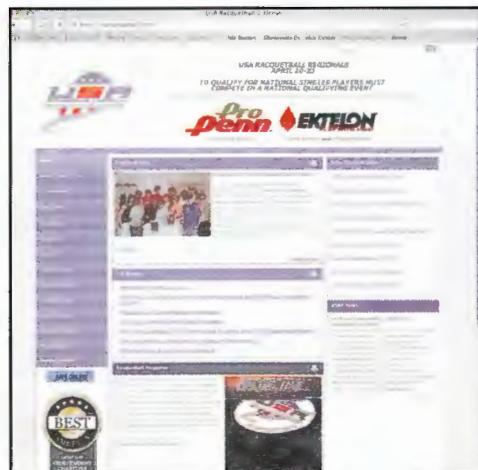
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# FROM THE TOP

## James Hiser, Ph.D.

USAR Executive Director



### Moving Racquetball in the Right Direction

My last article dealt with juniors and the numerous problems involved with getting these young people involved in racquetball. How do we make

racquetball "cool" so it can compete with more popular scholastic sports, i-pods, computers, and of course television?

Media support is necessary to bring racquetball to the forefront. We're all trying to get the media to pay more attention to racquetball. The results of our efforts have been less than optimal — why?

It certainly isn't because our top athletes aren't charismatic or athletic. Can you think of any professional athlete more charismatic than Sudsy Monchik?

His name alone begged attention! Can you think of any female athlete more appealing or athletic than Christie Van Hees? Then why has neither of these players (and many more) never been noticed by the national media or national advertisers?

The answer is simple but the analysis begs a series of "why's." The answer is that the media focuses on other sports. Why? Because racquetball is out-

promoted and out-sold by numerous other sports. Why? Because other sports have deeper pockets. Why? Because sponsors have accepted these sports as a viable method of selling their products to selected demographics. Why? Well, one of the major reasons is that these "successful" sports have developed their own television niche, thus providing a wide distribution of their message.

Toward that end, racquetball is moving in the right direction — we've developed an exhibition court designed for television and larger spectator viewing. But even with the new court, it's still difficult to follow the ball on television and it's tough for the inexperienced viewer to follow the action. Shawn Royster is continually experimenting with higher quality camera angles and we need to experiment with different colored walls and balls.

Will we ever be able to present racquetball on television in a manner in which everyone will be able to follow the action? Maybe...maybe not...but we must continue to strive for improved viewability because it's an avenue to greater acceptance and prominence for racquetball.

### Next Issue – Exploring Solutions



# PLAYERS HELPING PLAYERS

>>

BY RANDY STAFFORD, PRESIDENT, USAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## I Keep Winning With My Membership

Have you ever read the back of your newly-redesigned USA Racquetball card? If not, you should! Two weeks ago, I stopped at a Choice Hotels brand to stay the night. While checking in, they gave me a rate and I gave them my USAR card; I received an immediate \$15.00 discount. A week before that while in California at the Masters tournament, I rented a car from Hertz and showed them my card at the check-in desk. They gave me a 10% discount which amounted to a \$35.00 savings. In two weeks' time I saved a total of \$50.00 by simply waving my racquetball membership card at the check-in desk. Not bad since the membership only cost \$30.00 per year... Actually, I end up saving *several hundred dollars* a year just for being a member of USA Racquetball. Choice Hotels is our title sponsor of the US Open in Memphis and they offer all USAR members discounts at their hotels. Do take advantage of these discounts whenever you can — it's a great way to save money!

We've worked very hard the past year trying to make good on some promises made to our members. We have finally accomplished these and I would like to give you an update.

First of all, we have our new ranking system up and working. This new system is based on winning matches and whom you beat, which is by far the correct way to do a ranking system.

Next is our new computer-driven R2 Tournament Management System. This allows your local tournament director to schedule and run a complete tournament by computer. There are many program functions that not only allow the TD to

run the tournament more smoothly, but also enable the players to see continual updates on times and matches as well as to view the entire tournament online from start to finish, enhancing the overall experience.

You can now join online and update your membership file, which contains both personal and tournament information. This new system helps you as a member to stay up to-date with your membership. Also, it enables a tournament director to check memberships so we can be sure everyone playing in a sanctioned tournament is a member, which is an insurance requirement.

Hope you like our new magazine look! This past year we have continually made efforts to upgrade our bi-monthly magazine and the information we provide. The posters have been a big hit; we'll include these occasionally on a variety of topics. The posters help explain certain aspects of racquetball and, once posted on a club wall, can be used by all players. We have already received many favorable comments on the poster explaining avoidable hindrances, which many did not fully understand.

Our latest improvement will be the addition of an online bi-monthly newsletter. With this new web-based communication, we will be able to keep all racquetball players involved with interesting information on a continual basis. We will make this a free electronic membership so we can offer specials from our sponsors and stay in touch with everyone about events and changes in racquetball. It will be a wonderfully easy way to develop a large database of players so we can all be connected and exchange information about racquetball. Please consult our web page, [www.USAracquetball.com](http://www.USAracquetball.com) for the exact launch date of our new e-newsletter.

A new level of membership called a "recreation member" is being created. This new level, to be offered beginning August 1, will enable a player to enter a local club tournament in their area for only \$15.00. This will allow participation in one tournament for a lower fee and hopefully enjoy it so much that they will join as a full member and become involved. We have had many calls wanting this lower introductory fee to get players involved in tournaments and hopefully this will be just what is needed. This lower fee gives the player a way to enter one local club tournament more economically, giving them one magazine plus insurance for that particular tournament. Please tell your friends who have always wanted to try playing in a tournament that they can now get involved at a lower price!

With these new enhancements within our organization, there also comes a cost. It has been 4 years since our last dues increase. As of August 1 of this year, our dues will increase to \$35.00 for a one-year membership. This increase has not come without an incredible amount of debate and study. We wish we could operate our association at the same price, but it's simply no longer possible. Please join with me and understand that a dues increase, no matter how small, is never popular but certainly necessary to continue to operate our association at the level we all expect. If you wish, you can extend your membership at the current price of \$30.00 and avoid the increase for a time. Please see page 7 for details.

I hope you agree we are taking big steps in the right direction. Thanks for being a member and for supporting racquetball. We are all winning as USA Racquetball members!

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## IRT Red Swain Memorial

by Dave Negrete

Foxwoods Resort and Casino renewed its long-term sponsorship of this event. Tournament director Lorraine Feeney was excited about this year's full ranking \$15,000 event, bringing the top men's professionals in the world back to the Boston area again. Foxwoods' continued support goes hand-in-hand with their sponsorship of tour veteran and six-time IRT number one, Cliff Swain. It has been a contributor in memory of Cliff's father Red who lost his battle with ALS



Mike Holder and Cliff Swain

a few years ago. The event, held at the Boston Athletic Club in Boston from March 30 -April 2, raised money for the Angel Fund, a charity dedicated to ALS research.

The Red Swain Memorial got off to a good start as the first round of qualifying began with Aaron Granberg defeating Richie Sledzik, Jr., 12, 2, 0; Kyle Veenstra besting Joey Logan 2, 6, 1; Japan's Hiroshi Shimizu over Mike Keddie 9, 3, 4; and Bryan Crosser advancing to his first Round of Sixteen appearance.

The Pro Am sponsor doubles was a huge success as Cliff and event director Lorraine Feeney brought out a huge spread for the players and sponsors. A large crowd was there to watch the action. Jack Huczak and George Soloman took the title from Kane Waselenchuk and Dan O'Halloran in the final!

### Semifinals

*Kane Waselenchuk vs. Alvaro Beltran*

Once again a packed house was on hand for the first of the two feature matches of Saturday night. Game one saw Beltran using crosscourt passes very effectively and re-killing set-ups by Kane in the front court to take game one 11-9. Game two had Kane using a lob serve to the backhand to score most of his points; he came out on top in this game 11-8. Game three was a battle as both players fought back and forth, shot for shot. Kane emerged victorious in this game 11-8. Game four saw both players delivering great serves, but Kane's return of serve was too much as he took the fourth-and-match 11-9 to move on to his fourth straight final.

*Jack Huczak vs. Cliff Swain*

This was the match the Boston crowd was waiting for! The first game had Cliff hitting a few great drives but never putting together a streak of points while Jack hit the routine shots to take the first 11-7. Game two was all Swain 11-2 — his serve caught fire and set the crowd on fire, too. The third would be similar to game one with Jack staying cool and not

letting the hometown crowd influence the match. Jack claimed the third 11-7. Just when you thought the match was over with Huczak serving at 10-8, Swain dug down deep and found a way to come back and take the fourth 12-10 in dramatic fashion, sending the crowd into frenzy. The fourth, however, would end Swain's run as Huczak played flawlessly, winning 11-1. The win moved Huczak to his fifth final this season to meet up with his nemesis Kane Waselenchuk at high noon on Sunday.

### The Final

*Jack Huczak vs. Kane Waselenchuk*

The battle for #1 would be the underlying force for this match today as Kane Waselenchuk aspired to regain the number one spot he held coming into the season with Jack Huczak looking to maintain the honor. As both players entered the main court, you could feel the excitement. Jack got down early in the first as Kane dominated the center court. Jack kept his patience as he had done all weekend and mounted a comeback at 7-10 to take the first game 12-10. Kane shook it off and came back the second to a commanding 8-2 lead only to see it slip away as well, 11-9. Waselenchuk took an injury time out between games and came back into battle. Jack, however, silenced his critics and kept the pressure on Kane to claim the game and match 11-5. This win gives Huczak his fourth title this season (Toronto, New York, Riverside preceded). Huczak also put a final under his belt in Colorado Springs. Waselenchuk's loss gave him two finals (here and Toronto) and three tour wins (Colorado Springs, San Diego and the US Open). The race for #1 will be dramatic again as Virginia becomes a very important event and the Motorola Pro Nationals could very well decide the year end #1 ranking. Stay tuned for an exciting end to the IRT season!

### Side Notes:

Big thanks to Mike Holder and Foxwoods Casino and Resort for their continued support of the event and confirmation that the IRT will be back in Boston again next year!

Also, special thanks to Ernie and Dan for all your years of lending your support to this event.

Lorraine Feeney and her staff were on the ball all weekend keeping the matches on time and hosting one of the most well-organized events of the season. Thanks, Lorraine, for all you do for the racquetball scene in Boston.

Thanks to young World Champion Courtney Chisholm for helping out as a towel girl for the pro matches.

Much gratitude to Cliff Swain who will go down in racquetball history among the greatest to ever play the game. The Tour and its players appreciate your devotion to bringing the tour back to your hometown every year and to keeping the memory of your father in everyone's hearts and minds.



# Lynmar Classic Racquetball Championships

**Lynmar Racquet and Health Club**, home of the USA Racquetball National Training Center, was ready to go this March as twenty-seven players battled for a spot in the main draw. Eddie Meredith and his lovely wife Mary put together a stellar event and the Colorado Springs racquetball community enjoyed a great tournament.



Mary and Eddie Meredith with Kane Waselenchuk

There was a great contingent of young players from the University Of Colorado at Pueblo, the University of New Mexico, Northern Iowa University and Canada. The draw also featured Woody Clouse and former top eight IRT professional Gerry Price. Charlie Pratt was outlasted Gerry Price in five close games in round one and then saw a two- game lead go to waste, losing to Alejandro Herrera in five. Aaron Granberg lost a five- game battle to Gil De Los Rios and Andy Hawthorne survived a scare from a great young Canadian player, James Landeryou, in five games. U.S. team members Willie Tilton and Woody Clouse faced off with Clouse coming out on top in three. All other seeds advanced without much fanfare as Chris Crowther, Ben Croft, Mitch Williams and Josh Tucker all won the right to play on Friday.

Jason Mannino and Ray Carnell defeated Jack Huczek and Gene Contreras, winning the Pro-Am doubles. A great time was had by all, especially when Kwi Spinks drew Rocky Carson as her partner. Kwi had the hometown crowd rocking!

Rocky, by the way, welcomed his new son into the world a week earlier as his wife Jen gave birth to Christian Luke Carson the prior Friday. We wish all the best to the Carson family!

## **The Semifinals**

The first match on Saturday pitted #6 Cliff Swain against #2 Kane Waselenchuk. Kane took control of the match from the start, playing very relaxed and in control. Cliff played tough but couldn't find the serve to get on any run. Kane led 9-5 in the third when Cliff's serve all of a sudden caught fire; he came back and evened up the match at 10-10. But Kane dug down and took the match 7, 7, 11 to schedule his fourth final appearance of the season.

The second match had a bit more drama. Jack Huczek controlled the first two games against Alvaro Beltran and was in control in the third when Beltran's nose began bleeding. Alvaro took his full 15 minutes of injury time. He came back down 4-6 and found something extra to win the game 11-6. In the next game, the score was close at 9-8, Huczek serving. Beltran disagreed with a call from referee Jason Thoerner who took control and gave out two technicals to make the score 9-6 Huczek. Once again, Beltran found a way to regroup and came back from the deficit to win the fourth 11-9. This set the stage for game five. The fifth game turned out to be a bona fide racquetball battle as both players dove

and returned serve at the highest levels of performance, bringing the house down numerous times. Jack actually served at 8 *seventeen times* before scoring his ninth point. Coming out and hitting two great down the lines from both sides, Huczel claimed victory 7, 7, (6), (9), 9 and reached his fourth final of the season, preparing to meet his nemesis Waselenchuk on Sunday.

## **The Finals**

Kane Waselenchuk showed up for the final match intent on tightening the race for #1; Jack Huczek, on the other hand, come to stretch out the lead. Both players had a lot at stake as they battled for the year-end #1 ranking. Jack came out strong in the first game and squeezed out the game 11-9, to the surprise of the Waselenchuk camp. Kane came back in the next two games and appeared in control of the match but Huczek answered everything Kane hit at him in the fourth to force a game five. Kane jumped out to an early lead only to have Jack fight back and even it up at 6-6. Kane got the big serve going and a few unforced errors by Huczek in the end allowed Waselenchuk the opening he needed; he went on to win the Lynmar Classic (9), 5, 8, (3), 6. This was Kane's second win in a row as he turned up the heat in the race for #1!

## **Side notes**

Great job by Eddie Meredith on hosting his first full ranking event! Eddie has run this event as a satellite in years past and he's a great asset to the sport of racquetball.

Hats off to Mary Meredith and Diane Feldstein who held down the tournament all weekend and kept everything on time. Also, thanks to Chuck Meredith for all the support behind the scenes.

It was great to see former top five IRT professional Gerry Price playing again and hitting very well – he's a class act and a pleasure to have back at the Stops. The Lynmar Racquet and Health Club is a great venue for a pro event. The fans are knowledgeable and they embrace the IRT with open arms.

The twin glassed-backed courts with great seating create a great environment.

Thank you to Ed Arias of ProRacquetball.net for filming the event — look for the new and exciting pay-per-view site coming soon from Ed and the IRT.

Much gratitude to all the sponsors of the event and we look forward to coming back next season!

# The 2006 San Diego Open

by Dave Negrete

## Day One: Wednesday, February 23, 2006

The top fifty IRT professionals converged upon the American Athletic Club for the 2006 San Diego Open. Event Director Brent Avery was elated that 300 amateur players came out to support this prestigious event as well. Players from all over the globe traveled to San Diego to get their racquetball fix. The hospitality is non-stop here in National City -- all participants were treated to an endless supply of food and drink throughout the weekend. This year also featured some added excitement with the IRT professionals wired for sound so the fans could hear every bit of the action on the court. #1 player in the world Jack Huczak was there to continue his winning ways, but #2 Kane Waselenchuk also made it to this event to try and stop him. Local favorites #4 Alvaro Beltran and #5 Jason



### Best Tournament Chef

been showing signs all season that he has what it takes to compete on the IRT. The amateur draw kicked off with matches beginning at 10am.

## Day Two: Thursday, February 24, 2006

Wow !!! Eleven hours of top notch racquetball, witnessed by capacity crowds all day. First round qualifying matches started at 1:00 pm and the last match finished at 12:15 am. There were some great matches in each round with some players competing in three matches to get into the main draw. Local star and American Athletic Club member Mike Orr was able to fight through a tough draw and make it into the main draw for the first time in his racquetball career. Aaron Granberg of Minneapolis won a tough five-game battle against Ruben Gonzalez. Ruben overturned three calls in his favor in the tiebreaker demonstrating why he is the consummate professional. Mitch Williams fought off nemesis Javier Moreno in a five-game battle to advance to the main draw. Calgary native Brian Istace came back from two games down to defeat Agustin Tristan in five games. Polo Gutierrez defeated Ben Croft to continue his rise on the IRT following his quarterfinal finish at this year's Choice Hotels US OPEN.

## Day Three: Friday, February 25, 2006

There were some great match-ups in Friday's Round of Sixteen with only one real upset: #11 Josh Tucker defeating #7 Shane Vanderson. These two have fought numerous battles in the past and this one was no exception! Josh ultimately came out on top in five games to make his first quarterfinal appearance in over a year and would go on to meet Cliff Swain in the third match of the evening. Cliff easily disposed of Polo Gutierrez in three straight games. Rocky Carson had his hands full with Mitch Williams, winning in three tough games. Mitch continues to improve with each event. Local hero Alvaro Beltran took out Mike Orr in four games -- this was Orr's first time qualifying into the show. Jack Huczak wasted little time defeating Aaron Granberg in three, as did Jason Mannino with Andy Hawthorne. The Huczak vs. Mannino match lined up as the second quarter of the evening. Kane Waselenchuk made his first appearance in over two months on the IRT and played an entertaining match against his countryman Brian Istace. Kane looked fit and was too much for Istace, claiming the match in three games. In the last 16's match, Jason Thoerner prevailed over a tough Chris Crowther, winning in three straight to meet up with Waselenchuk in the first quarter of the evening.

Alvaro Beltran intended to showcase their talents in an effort to take the title. Last year's champion, #3 Cliff Swain came back to defend his title as did last year's runner up Shane Vanderson. Rounding out the top eight, Jason Thoerner has

The first quarterfinal match featured #2 Kane Waselenchuk against #9 Jason Thoerner. Kane picked up where he left off at the US Open and played some great ball. Thoerner could not muster a run of any kind as Kane won the first two games convincingly. Thoerner finally got into a groove and was able to finish game three with a win, but it was all Waselenchuk in the fourth with the match concluding 6, 3, (7), 2. Kane would meet the winner of the Swain/Tucker match in Saturday's 4pm semi-final.

The second quarter of the evening pitted the #1 player in the world Jack Huczak against #5 Jason Mannino. Jack came out on top in their previous meeting this season, but there is something about San Diego that's just not in Huczak's favor. Jason played some great ball in this match, mixing up his pinches with down-the-lines and keeping Jack off balance. In the end, it would be Mannino on top in this one (6), 3, 8, 8 as he earned his way up to meet the winner of the Carson/Beltran match in Saturday's 6pm semi-final.

The third quarter of the evening showcased raw power as #3 Cliff Swain battled #11 Josh Tucker. Lob serves were an extreme rarity in this match as both players lit up the court with drive serves that left most of the fans shaking their heads in awe. Josh would take the first game with a few aces but mainly return of serve. Swain made an adjustment in his serve and kept Tucker off balance and guessing for the rest of the match, winning in four games (9), 7, 1, 7. Swain advanced to meet fellow southpaw Waselenchuk in the Saturday 4pm semifinal.

Local hero #4 Alvaro Beltran and southern California standout #6 Rocky Carson executed the last match of the evening.



Rocky, Brent Avery and Kane

Beltran's home club fans showed their appreciation for their favorite player with a loud ovation to kick off the match. Carson effectively quieted them, grabbing the first game. At 9-9 in the second, Beltran dove for a ball and landed on his left shoulder, popping it out of the socket. Local EMTs at the club set it back in place enabling Alvaro to continue and take the next game in overtime. Rocky spoiled the home club hero's quest for the title and claimed the next two and the match 7, (11), 3, 7. Rocky moved on to meet Mannino in the 6pm semifinal on Saturday evening.

## Day Four: Saturday, February 25, 2006

The day started off with the IRT players signing autographs and taking pictures with over fifty juniors at the AAC. Leslie Pawka does a tremendous job with the San Diego junior program. What a thrill it was for both the juniors and the pros as the guys made the kids' weekend!

The semifinals started off strong -- #2 Kane Waselenchuk vs. #3 Cliff Swain. "Who can hit it harder" seemed to be the theme as both players drove bullet serves to score points and keep each other out of position. Kane showed no signs of rust after missing the last two events. It was Waselenchuk in three straight games in this one - 10, 6, 6 - to advance to the finals on Sunday against the Mannino/Carson winner.



# International Racquetball Tour



continued on page 10



*continued from page 9*

The second match-up was all the fans could ask for as Jason Mannino and Rocky Carson put on a show. Mannino later described the first two games as, "That was the battle of who could play the worst ball!" and Rocky agreed; each player won a game. They brought the playing level up a notch the rest of the match as each competitor traded amazing gets and pinpoint shots. Rocky would get the big point in game five to Mannino's dismay and win the match 9, (2), (7), 3, 9. Rocky grabbed his first final of the year and geared up to meet Waselenchuk in the Sunday noon final.

### Day Five: Sunday, February 26, 2006

With the mariachis gone but the carne asada still cooking on the grill, a packed house came out to watch the battle between #2 Waselenchuk and #6 Carson. Which Rocky would show up today, the Rocky of old where Kane had his way with him or the Rocky who nearly pulled off the upset of the IRT season at the US Open when he last met Kane there in the semifinals? Would competing in the final sponsor-less, sporting Nike Jumpman clothing with One Shot shorts and an unfamiliar racquet in his hand make it tough for Kane to win his first IRT title after sitting out the last two events? Well, Rocky did show up in full force with the backing of his family on the glass, but the unfamiliar racquet in Kane's hands had no bearing on his ability to play racquetball. With past IRT great Charlie Brumfeld in the crowd to compare notes on how the game used to be played vs. how it is played now, both players put on a show. Kane would come out in game one in control mixing up some blistering shots with off-speed touch shots, giving him the first game. Rocky took full advantage of Waselenchuk's miscues in the next two games and take a commanding two-games-to-one lead. Even in unfamiliar territory and down 2-1, Kane regrouped and found a way to come from behind to win his first San Diego Open title 6, (5), (7), 6, 4.

#### Side notes

What a time on Saturday night! A 20-piece mariachi band, a DJ and all the Mexican food you could eat -- by far the best party at an IRT event. The AAC knows how to do it right!

The best hospitality feature at this event is the great food being served around the clock for the entire event.(P.S. Shame on the player who complained that they had to pay \$2 for drinks. Free food all week, a tournament shirt, the top players in the world playing, free use of the facility, hanging out with friends and getting to play at least one racquetball match, all for \$50. Talk about value!)

Huge thanks to Tony Ramirez of OHE Painting and Wallcovering, Inc., for sponsoring the event. Not only is he the title sponsor, he also helps out at the tournament desk and is one of Alvaro Beltran's sponsors. It is people like Tony that make the sport so special.

Thanks also to all the other sponsors of the event for helping to keep our great sport alive.

And what a great Junior turnout this weekend. Leslie Pawka did a tremendous job assembling the kids for the tournament. It was great watching the kids' eyes light up as they got autographs and their pictures taken with the IRT players. As Kane approached the autograph area on Saturday morning, he remarked with a big smile, "It feels like we're at Toys R Us with all these kids here!"

Rocky Carson's wife, Jen, looked radiant this weekend, cheering on her husband as they prepared to have their second child the very next Friday. Good luck to the Carson family and congrats!!!

Brent Avery continues to amaze everyone as his event gets better and bigger every year. The IRT extends its thanks to you, your family and all the volunteers who help make this event one of the best on the schedule -- you are definitely The Man!!!

# 2006 Virginia Open, Presented by Pro Rep, Inc.

by Dave Negrete

A 25-year tradition began when the U.S. Joint Armed Forces founded this tournament as a military-only event. Over the years, it has opened up to the public; this year is its second year as a full-ranking IRT stop. Tournament sponsors and directors Ellis Gillespie and Corinne Mastronardi had a vision three years ago to bring the best to the Chesapeake area and they have indeed achieved that vision. With limos waiting for the players at the airport to an all-star party at their home, this event was one to remember. Ellis's wife Corinne Mastronardi and her business, Pro Rep, Inc., created a level of professionalism that made everyone at the tournament feel part of a true sporting event. Television crews from the local stations came out on Thursday from NBC and Fox to interview the players -- this showcased the Greenbrier YMCA in Chesapeake and helped pack the house all weekend. Tournament coordinator Malia Bailey ran a tight and smooth ship -- she had the event under control and on time all weekend.

In the Pro-Am doubles finals, Rocky Carson and Phil Black of First Colony Century 21 defeated Josh Tucker and Lorenzo Brookins of Freedom Ford. Some tough matches were played in this round robin!



Rocky and Phil Black

#### Semifinals

*Kane Waselenchuk vs. Cliff Swain*

Once again these two warriors meet on the stadium court -- racquetball legend Cliff Swain and Kane Waselenchuk, who is creating his own place in racquetball history with every match he plays. Swain came out smoking the first game with his blistering serve working to both sides of the court. Taking a commanding 7-0 lead was too much for Kane to overcome as Swain grabbed the first 11-4. Waselenchuk regrouped and got his serve going, taking the second 11-6. The seesaw battle of who could out-serve the other began in the third with Swain the victor 11-6. The fourth game went back to Waselenchuk as he mixed up some lob nicks to the backhand and some stellar drives -- add to that Kane's quick hands and this one went to him 11-1. Kane's youth came through in the fifth and he decisively took the game and match 11-3. Kane advanced to his sixth final of the season. Cliff's sheer desire to win did not go unnoticed as he was greeted with rousing applause after the match.

*Jack Huczak vs. Alvaro Beltran*

This began as a very close match with both players working each other for the front court. Alvaro could not muster much in the way of a streak and Huczak claimed the first game 11-9. Huczak played

nip-and-tuck the second game but Beltran finally got a run to finish out the game 11-7. The third game was tight at 5-5 until Beltran went on a run of breaking strings on three racquets; he could never recover in the third or the fourth games as unforced errors and too many skips plagued him throughout. Jack finished the match 11-6, 11-0 to advance to his sixth final of the year and to put the pressure on for the year-end #1 spot!

## Finals

### Jack Huczak vs. Kane Waselechuk

The build-up for a five-game war came to an anticlimactic halt as Jack fought off Kane in three straight games 2, 4, 9 to help further his quest for the year-end #1 ranking. This added some momentum going into the Motorola IRT Pro Nationals. Jack demonstrated patience and poise as he controlled the center court and used a lob nick to Kane's backhand, winning the first two games convincingly 11-2, 11-4. Kane roared back in the third and it looked like he would push it to a fourth as he started talking and showing some emotion on the court (some directly at Jack), taking a 9-4 lead. Jack called a time-out, returned to the court and stuck with his game plan (effecting the same type of comeback as he did in Boston) to take the game and match 11-9. This is Jack's fifth IRT title of the season, with one event remaining!

## Side Notes

Huge thanks to Orlando Mayo for running the sound and entertaining the fans in the spirit of a true sporting event. Also, Orlando arranged for the singing of the National Anthem and the presentation of colors by the U.S. Joint Armed Forces Color Guard. After suffering a recent stroke, Orlando is back in the game. And what a great job Joann and Paul did in organizing the event! Your work did not go unnoticed by the pro players.

A special video tribute memorialized Rachel Scher who helped with the event last year but lost her life tragically in 2005. She is survived by her young daughter and is dearly missed. Rachel's mother was on hand for the tribute and accepted a donation to the family from the IRT and its players.

Many kudos to Malia Bailey for her professionalism in keeping the amateur portion of the event running smoothly. She has a great staff that kept things moving perfectly throughout.

The Greenbrier YMCA staff did a great job of getting their facility ready and it looked awesome.

Corinne Mastronardi of Pro Rep Inc., you are fabulous. The IRT thanks you and we look forward to working with you in the future. Ellis, thank you so much for everything you have done for the IRT. It is people like you who make this sport and the IRT what it is today. We look forward to coming back next season to Chesapeake and the 2007 Virginia Open!

## 2005-2006 Season Current Rankings "As of May 1, 2006"

Rank	Pro	Points	Previous Rank	Season-To-Date Rank	67"VALENTINE, DALE"	42	63	67	135"ANDERSON, MIKE"	13	130	135
1"WASELECHUK, KANE"	3248	2	1	1	67"PALAZZO, JOE"	42	63	67	135"ABIDI, FAHD"	13	130	135
2"HUCZEK, JACK"	3188	1	2	2	69"TELSTER, MATT"	42	65	69	135"GILL, JOE"	13	130	135
3"SWAIN, CLIFF"	2243	3	3	3	70"HERNANDEZ, ALLEN"	41	66	70	135"AVILA, EDUARDO"	13	130	135
4"BELTRAN, ALVARO"	2213	4	4	4	71"RODRIGUEZ, WILLIE"	38	68	71	140"RICH, MICAH"	13	135	140
5"MANNINO, JASON"	2130	5	5	5	72"KIM, EUNBYUNG"	36	70	72	141"WOJNOSKI, RON"	12	136	141
6"CARSON, ROCKY"	2100	6	6	6	72"CROCKETT, ALLAN"	36	70	72	141"PUZZIGLIO, TONY"	12	136	141
7"VANDERSON, SHANE"	1568	7	7	7	74"LLACERA, DAN"	35	72	74	143"KARMELIN, SHANE"	11	138	143
8"THOERNER, JASON"	1421	8	8	8	74"MULLER, ERIC"	35	72	74	143"LOSADA, JUAN"	11	138	143
9"WILLIAMS, MITCH"	1166	9	9	9	74"GHAFARSHAD, DAWOOD"	35	72	74	143"LANDA, ARMANDO"	11	138	143
10"CROWTHER, CHRIS"	1043	11	10	10	78"HERRERA, GERMAN"	34	76	78	143"GIILLIAM, LANCE"	11	138	143
11"AWHAWTHORNE, ANDY"	1013	12	11	11	79"NELSON, BOB"	33	77	79	143"ULLMAN, PETE"	11	138	143
12"TUCKER, JOSH"	975	10	12	12	80"SLEDZICK JR., RICHARD"	30	78	80	143"RHODES, JOHN LEE"	11	138	143
13"HERRERA, ALEJANDRO"	833	14	13	13	80"PRICE, GERRY"	30	78	80	143"ROJAS, CHRISTOPHER"	11	138	143
14"CRFOT, BEN"	775	16	14	14	80"GIORDANO, GREG"	30	78	80	143"BURRUEL, ARTURO"	11	138	143
15"GRANBERG, AARON"	710	15	15	15	80"RUTKOWSKI, SAM"	30	78	80	152"ALDANA, ISMAEL"	11	147	152
16"GUIDRY, MIKE"	702	13	16	16	80"FUNATANI, SADAO"	30	78	80	152"ROJAS, JOSE"	11	147	152
17"VEENSTRA, KYLE"	652	17	17	17	80"BUCKNER, CHRIS"	30	78	80	152"LINE, MICHAEL"	11	147	152
18"GUTIERREZ, POLO"	604	18	18	18	86"GOOLDBLAITT, GEOFF"	29	204	86	155"KEOGH, TOM"	9	150	155
19"GONZALEZ, RUBEN"	496	30	19	19	86"LANDA, ALEX"	29	87	86	155"SHIMIZU, AKIO"	9	150	155
20"CLOOSE, WOODY"	494	25	20	20	86"ESTRADA, RUBEN"	29	87	86	155"MASSARD, KEVIN"	9	150	155
21"SHIMIZU, HIROSHI"	455	19	21	21	86"MEJIA, GILBERTO"	29	87	86	155"GRAVES, SCOTT"	9	150	155
22"ISTACE, BRIAN"	420	20	22	22	86"ROBISON, CHRIS"	29	87	86	160"ROE, DOUG"	9	155	160
23"HERRERA, JUAN"	398	23	23	23	86"COYLE, EUGENE"	29	204	86	161"MAESTAS, RAYMOND"	8	156	161
24"TILTON, WILLIE"	334	22	24	24	86"CLARKE, ANDREW"	29	0	86	161"FORREST, BRIAN"	8	156	161
25"MORENO, JAVIER"	317	24	25	25	86"OSBORNE, COREY"	29	87	86	163"RATCHFORD, RYAN"	8	158	163
26"HERRERA, ANDRES"	309	21	26	26	99"DEVORE, TOBY"	26	96	99	163"BOOGS, SAMUEL"	8	158	163
27"CROSSER, BRYAN"	290	28	27	27	100"AMATULI, JOHN"	24	97	100	163"QUINN, TERRY"	8	158	163
28"DE LOS RIOS, GIL"	286	26	28	28	101"HALSTED, DAN"	23	98	101	163"CLOUD, MAX"	8	158	163
29"TRISTAN, AGUSTIN"	272	27	29	29	102"RODRIGUEZ, RYAN"	23	99	102	163"LEE, ROBERT"	8	158	163
30"GAGNON, VINCENT"	199	31	30	30	102"RIVAS, JUAN"	23	99	102	163"BROWN, ALEX"	8	158	163
31"DEROCHERES, ERIC"	192	32	31	31	102"PERDOMA, SIMON"	23	99	102	163"CARHART, BUZZ"	8	158	163
32"GREEN, MIKE"	185	33	32	32	102"SHOEMAKER, BRANDON"	23	99	102	163"MEHTA, SATYA"	8	158	163
33"GANIM, DOUG"	180	44	33	33	102"VILLAGAS, IVAN"	23	99	102	163"SHNURMAN, SAMSON"	8	158	163
34"ORR, MIKE"	174	34	34	34	102"VILLEGAS, IRVAN"	23	99	102	163"CASHIRE, KEN"	8	158	163
35"SMITH, RYAN"	147	35	35	35	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"CORTESE, BRANDON"	8	158	163
36"ELLIS, JOHN"	139	29	36	36	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"GRAHAM, DALE"	8	158	163
37"PRATT, CHARLIE"	130	36	37	37	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"GOUDIE, SCOTT"	8	158	163
38"SIMONS, BEN"	124	67	38	38	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"GORSKI, JASON"	8	158	163
39"USSERY, EVAN"	114	43	39	39	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"NIAVES, JUAN"	8	158	163
40"ODEGARD, KRIS"	106	37	40	40	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"COBB, ALEX"	8	158	163
41"SOLIS, GREG"	102	38	41	41	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"KRUEDER, PAUL"	8	158	163
42"WAGNER, JEFF"	98	39	42	42	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"BRATHWAITE, CLARENCE"	8	158	163
43"WALTERS, BRENT"	98	39	42	42	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"PATANIUDIA, PATRICK"	8	175	180
44"ENDEROTH, RICH"	98	39	42	42	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"SUZUKI, NAYOKI"	8	175	180
45"REDENBERG, BRIAN"	92	42	45	45	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"SMITH, WILLIAM"	8	175	180
46"WOODBURY, TRAVIS"	87	45	46	46	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"SCHMESER, ARTHUR"	8	175	180
47"MINOR, KEITH"	86	204	47	47	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"SANTILLI, VINCE"	8	175	180
48"PURINGTON, CHRIS"	85	49	48	48	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"VILLEGAS, DAVE"	8	175	180
49"STARK, JEFF"	83	46	49	49	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"ROBLES, LUIS"	8	175	180
50"KEDDIE, MIKE"	80	51	50	50	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"RESENDEZ, TOM"	8	175	180
51"RAMIREZ, ANDRES"	79	47	51	51	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"LANDERYOU, TIM"	8	175	180
52"LANDERYOU, JAMES"	75	48	52	52	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"PAYNE, SIMON"	8	175	180
53"CONNELL, LEE"	68	50	53	53	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"FORBES, FRED"	8	175	180
54"JACKSON, BOB"	65	52	54	54	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"PARTOVICH, ROBY"	8	175	180
55"ARRIS, JAMAL"	60	53	55	55	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"NELSON, TERRY"	8	175	180
56"KOHL, SHANNON"	58	54	56	56	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"GEIS, MIKE"	8	175	180
57"HIROSE, TAKAAKI"	57	94	57	57	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"LAVALY, DANNY"	8	175	180
58"KIRCH, TIMOTHY"	57	55	57	57	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"GO DONEZ, GABRIEL"	8	175	180
59"DE LOS RIOS, JUAN"	57	55	57	57	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"POSNER, MITCH"	8	175	180
60"KEMP, SCOTT"	57	55	57	57	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"RYDER, SAM"	7	194	198
61"KONO, MICHIUNE"	56	58	61	61	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"WEBB, BILL"	7	194	198
62"GUINTA, NICK"	53	59	62	62	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"SHNURMAN, SAMSON"	7	194	198
63"GOH, JOHN"	52	60	63	63	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"HISEY, RANDY"	7	194	198
64"O'BRIEN, TOM"	45	61	64	64	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"JERAMENKO, PAUL"	7	194	198
65"LOGAN, JOEY"	44	78	65	65	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"BURGESS, MICHAEL"	7	194	198
66"FIILIPPINI, RAFAEL"	43	62	66	66	102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"RUDMAN, SHANNON"	7	194	198
					102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"MC ELHANEY, KYLE"	7	194	198
					102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	163"JACOBS, RYAN"	7	194	198
					102"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	20	107	102	207"VILLAS, FRANCIS"	2	203	207





## BIG ROD FELTON HOSTS 2006 BRAWL ON THE BEACH FROM HAWAII . . .

Several of the first round matches were played on Saturday due to a chance rain



on Sunday. The last match of the day was Marty Hogan playing against son Ben Hogan with their respective partners. It was a close match with dad



getting the win! The BBQ was firing all day and also a band playing 'til 9 at night. At the end of the day Gonzalez/Hoff was leading the Diamond Head bracket.

Hogan/Felton took the first round in the Koko Head bracket by only one point over two teams. Sunday started out with lots of rain and only a few matches left to play. The HONOLULU FITNESS CLUB welcomed all of the players to the club for a great day of indoors due to the rain.

The sun came out in the afternoon and the finals were a go! In Semi-1 Gonzalez/Hoff def. Bauman/Martin (15-7). In Semi-2 the team of Robinson/Sands def. Hogan/Felton (15-13).

The final started at sunset and was a close match with Gonzalez/Hoff squeaking out the victory in the end. Special thanks to all the players who came in from NY, CA, MO, NV, Maui, and Kauai.

## 2006 BRAWL ON THE BEACH RESULTS

1. Ruben Gonzalez / Rob Hoff
2. Matt Robinson / Lee Sands
3. Felton / Marty Hogan
4. Scott Bauman / Gary Martin
5. Mike Garrity / Scott Lin
6. Tom Thomas / Emanuel Chen
7. Karl Wissmann / Danny Chavarria
8. John Whitty / Christian
9. Lee George / Liko Villaotra
10. Tom McClosky / Dave Knox
11. Peter Britos / Ben Hogan
12. Bobby Narmore / Ryan Narmore
13. Daryle Smallman / Brian Bartlin



## WOR ANNOUNCES A SUMMER FULL OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

WOR will host 2 National Championships this July at opposite ends of the country as plans were announced for the traditional Ektelon WOR Championships in California to be followed by the WOR 1 Wall Nationals in New York. Check out the information & entries on the WOR website:

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

## EKTELON WOR OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 7-9, 2006

Huntington Beach, California

Tournament Director: Allan Kazem:

[Allan@worldoutdoorracquetball.com](mailto:Allan@worldoutdoorracquetball.com)  
[mailto:Allan@worldoutdoorracquetball.com](mailto:mailto:Allan@worldoutdoorracquetball.com)

## WOR ONE WALL NATIONALS

July 27-30th, 2006

Orchard Beach

Bronx, New York City

Tournament Director: Fred Ramirez:

[aram@teamektelon.com](mailto:aram@teamektelon.com)  
[mailto:aram@teamektelon.com](mailto:mailto:aram@teamektelon.com)



## THE RESULTS ARE IN FOR THE 2006 JUNIOR-KING OF THE BEACH

It was another exciting WOR event, with seven of our top Junior Players competing for the prestigious crown of Junior King of the Beach, at 56th St. in Newport Beach. The day started off with a friendly competition of who could hit the fastest racquetball. With the radar gun in hand, it was a near tie between Sam Barrera and Jay Shukr, both clocked at a lightning speed of 85 mph.

At the beginning of play the temperature was a chilly 53 degrees, but that didn't dampen the competition, which was tight all day, with the top three semifinalists being separated by only 2 points. The finals came down to outdoor newcomers, Jay Shukr and his brother Maher of Laguna Hills, Sam Barrera of Huntington Beach, and Zach Eddy, a Newport local. In the end, it was Jay Shukr taking the Crown. In the consolation round, it was a well fought battle, eventually won by Dane Kazem, just edging out Brandon Hass and Chris Kazem.

Special thanks to Ektelon for sponsoring this event, and a big thanks to the tournament directors Georges Barrera and Allan Kazem for their assistance.



## NEW HAMPSHIRE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

### STATE PRESIDENT: KELLEY BEANE

Q. What would you say the key is to having a successful organization?

A. I wish I could put my finger on it, but we do not have the key.

Success to me would be retaining all of our members and our numbers climbing significantly year after year. Unfortunately, this is not happening and we are maintaining our membership at best. We continue to strive to make the retention and growth happen, and we listen to our members and try as many new ideas as we can.

Q. What is the number one complaint you hear as president?

A. Entry fees are too high. The prices have gone up all around us, and it's difficult to run an event at old entry fee prices. With increased costs for court fees, food, shirts, etc we are often faced with increase when everything is high. But, when we look around, for what other events offer, our entry fees are reasonable.

Q. What are your most successful programs?

A. It has to be our junior development program. We have over 100 active junior racquetball players in the state. This summer we will be taking a good group to Junior Nationals and hope to return with some bling.

Also, we have started a new travel team between our NH clubs that has taken off and we expect it to grow significantly with all of the interest we had since it was launched.

And, the Mitch Nathanson tournament has grown into our biggest and best event that we host here. It takes a lot of work, but it raises money to help juniors in the New England states and is very rewarding to be a part of it.

Q. If you could share some advice to a developing state what would it be?

A. Don't be afraid to send emails and letters to try to get new members and attract former members. You have to want them. Once you get them, take great care of them. In NH when we do a state tourney we budget to give all the money back to the members in some form. Sometimes its bags or jackets, but the members are most important. Another bit of advice is to get as many people on board as possible to help you. Here we have a great group of board members that are passionate about the sport.

Q. What would you consider your state's greatest accomplishment during your tenure?

A. Our greatest accomplishment is bringing New Hampshire racquetball back to where it was in the early 80's when I started playing. Tournaments were fun, lots of food, good prize money. The people are all like family. If people travel and play other events, I think they feel like NH events are special, and the people are nice, too.

Another accomplishment is growing our junior numbers in the state, having demo nights with all reps every month at all of our NH clubs, and universities with courts. We also have kept our court intact at almost all of our clubs in the state.

Q. What makes racquetball in your state special?

A. The people on the board that give back. That's what got me started years ago in Houston I listened to speech at the evening banquet and they asked "how many just take from the game, win events and leave?" Whoever that was challenged the audience to go home and get women and kids involved. I thought to myself, that's me. I take and don't give back, so I started when I got home to try to get kids involved, we had none. (Thank you to whomever made that speech) Our board has done the same thing and want to give back. They are a wonderful group of people that I consider the best of friends. They volunteer at all of our tournaments and make personal sacrifice.

"Each one of these people contributes something unique to the organization, and without all of their insight we would not be successful."

#### Members of the Board:

Chris Zalegowski  
John Varrill  
Mike Normand  
Sharon Shapiro  
Gary Walsh  
Teri and Greg Labrie  
Jean Lerch  
Ron Bouchard  
Dick Lowell  
Ron Bye  
John Acampora

Kelley is a full time teaching pro at the Executive Health & Sports Center where she resides in Manchester, NH. She is currently serving as Head Coach of the USA National Junior Team and began playing racquetball in 1981. In her spare time she rides her Harley Davidson Fat Boy, collects antiques and works outside. She has a Rottweiler named Ruby and cat Ms. America.

#### Membership Strength: 175

#### State Population: 1,235,786

#### Major Universities:

University of New Hampshire  
Keene State College  
Plymouth State University  
Dartmouth  
McIntosh  
Saint Anselm

#### Lifetime Members: Kip Jackson and Rich Saffo, Sr.

New Hampshire has been nicknamed the "Granite State" because of its granite bedrock. The Purple Lilac was adopted as the state flower in 1919. There are over 50 covered bridges in the state and serve as a reminder of New Hampshire's distinct history.

# US National High School Championships

## Presented by - Penn • Event Sponsor – Wilson

High School racquetball is flourishing in Oregon. Thanks to a great parents group, a very supportive club owners and managers, organization and a high school administration that recognizes racquetball as a legitimate school sport, the Oregon community hosted one of the most successful high schools nationals in the events 19th year history.

Over 50 schools and 322 athletes competed in this three day event held at the beautiful and re-designed Courthouse Athletic club, its sister club Courthouse South and also Chemeketa Community college. An army of volunteers were recruited to assist with every facet of the event, providing players, parents and coaches with a first class event in every aspect.



### Outstanding Team Performance – Beaverton High School

– Congratulations to coach Dave Azuma and the entire Beaverton Team for an outstanding performance. The margin of victory – over 1000 points says it all!



**Outstanding Individual performance – Kara Mazur and Chris Coy.** Both players dominated their #1 division. Still only a sophomore Chris continued his dominance of the prior ranks. Kara once again qualified for the US Junior team and both she and Chris will represent the US at the Junior Worlds in December.

**Outstanding Coach – Dave Azuma** – Selected as the USAR/USOC development coach of the year Dave Azuma from Beaverton High School has coached High School racquetball for the past 10 years. Dave's ability to motivate and recruit High School athletes to participate on his team creates a model for other coaches to emulate.



**Outstanding Upcoming Team – Watertown High School, Utah** – With a full boy's team Watertown high School placed third in the boy's team division. Lead by Boy's #1 player Kyle Mcalhany.



Girls Team Champions  
1st - Beaverton  
2nd - Southridge  
3rd - Mercy

## Feature - High Schools

### Racquetball



Blood was streaming everywhere, but he did not even notice it. Shards of broken glass sunk deeper, tearing away at his flesh, but he felt no pain. A crowd formed and people were yelling, but it all seemed distant. Only one thing mattered at the moment: preventing the glass barricade from crushing the bloodstained person from beneath him.

Senior Chris Meglan was on this way to the biggest racquetball game of his life. But now, he was helping save a life instead.

On the weekend of March 4 and 5, the varsity racquetball team traveled to Salem, Oregon to compete at Nationals. In a van with two teammates and Mr. Stephen Bell, senior Kevin

Bell's father, Meglan and the other players were headed to their first match of the day. While on their way, through, they got held up.

### Rescue

by Pat Morris

(The Mirror DeSmet Jesuit High School Paper)

A nearby car spun out of control. Then, after what seemed to last only a split-second, it flew off the road into a ditch. "I pretty much saw a cloud of dirt rising when the car hit the earth," Meglan said. Being the first to witness the accident, Mr. Bell decided they should pull over to help out. They found the car smoking, with the airbag deployed and all the doors smashed in.

On the passenger side, an arm was hanging out the windshield. After searching several minutes for the driver, though, they came to realize that there was only one person in the car. The arm belonged to the driver, who had flown across to the passenger's side and was sandwiched between the dashboard and windshield.

A trained nurse pulled over after witnessing the accident. As others gathered, she frantically told Meglan he would have to somehow either break the windshield or hold it up. While trying to climb out, the driver had become trapped halfway under the windshield. The next thing new knew, Meglan was holding and peeling glass sheet

barehanded, his blood mixing with the driver's. Somehow, though, he did not let go. "My hands were getting very scraped up and scratched. But at the time, I didn't feel it at all," Meglan Said. "I felt like I was pushing back cardboard... I guess I had so much adrenaline going that I didn't feel the pain." When the paramedics finally arrived, they took over. Meanwhile Meglan still had a match to play.

After explaining his tardiness to the match, Meglan received a bottle of rubbing alcohol and cloth to go pull out the glass and clean off his blood-caked hands. Once the realization of what had happened finally sank in, he began to feel the pain.

Despite it all, Meglan went out and somehow won his first match. He then rushed to the hospital, waiting several hours to be helped. After not receiving any, Meglan had to go back for his second match in the afternoon. And he won again.

In his second attempt to get medical aid, Meglan finally got it. The doctors said their blood mixture was nothing to be concerned about. As a precautionary,

though, he received three shots. Meglan, however, was not finished; he still had to play one more game.

Meglan had received confirmation from his opponent's coach was demanding a forfeit. A very heated discussion between the DeSmet and Sprague coaches went all the way to the National Racquetball Committee, who ruled in Meglan's favor. After the rescue from the accident, two matches and two hospital visits, Meglan finally played his originally scheduled 5:30 pm match at 11:30 that night. And he lost. At that point, however, it did not matter. "The loss didn't bother me. I just wanted to play the game and have fun," Meglan said.

Despite what others say, Meglan will be the first to tell you that he is not a hero. In fact, it almost irritates him that he's been the only one in the spotlight. "Mr. Bell deserves just as much (credit) as me. And at the scene of the accident, the nurse did pretty much all the work." Instead, Meglan prefers to describe himself as Lucky. "I think I was just at the right place at the right time. I know that many other people would have done the same if they were in the position. I just happened to be the one that was there." And by being there, a guy on his way to play racquetball made all the difference.

## 2006 National High School Racquetball Championships - Salem, Oregon FINAL TEAM RESULTS

BOYS	
School	Total
1 Beaverton	1,162.0
2 La Salle	965.0
3 Watertown	671.0
4 DeSmet Jesuit	591.0
5 St. Louis University	543.0
6 Sprague	535.0
7 Catlin Gabel	527.0
8 Copper Hills	482.0
9 Gresham	453.0
10 Elk City	450.0
11 Oak Mountain	360.0
12 Parkway West	350.0
13 Kirkwood	315.5
14 Norwood	315.0
15 Viewmont	270.0
15 Brockton	270.0
17 Cibola	180.0
18 Marlborough	135.0
19 West Salem	131.5
20 Xavier	112.5
21 South Salem	103.0
22 Sunset	95.0
23 Rex Putnam	90.5
24 Coeur d'Alene	90.0
24 Elliston Baptist	90.0
24 Park City	90.0
27 Bellingham	89.0
28 Southridge	83.0
29 Clackamas	62.0
30 Centennial	60.0
31 Bingham	45.0
31 Cascade	45.0
31 Lewis and Clark	45.0
31 Marquette	45.0
35 North Valley	36.0
36 Franklin	22.0
37 Oregon City	18.0
38 Santiam Christian	16.5
39 Gladstone	5.0
40 Brighton	0.0
40 Jordan	0.0
40 Mayfield	0.0
40 Riverton	0.0
40 Rockwall	0.0
40 Sam Barlow	0.0
40 Sutherlin	0.0

GIRLS	
School	Total
1 Beaverton	1,114.0
2 Southridge	989.0
3 Mother of Mercy	915.0
4 Parkway West	751.5
5 Kirkwood	474.5
6 Miss Porter's	450.0
7 Sprague	448.0
8 Waldron	360.0
8 Sunset	360.0
10 Cor Jesu	331.0
11 St. Joseph	291.0
12 Lindbergh	180.0
13 Coeur d'Alene	135.0
14 Rex Putnam	131.0
15 Catlin Gabel	109.0
16 Centennial	100.5
17 Nerinx Hall	97.0
18 Gresham	66.0
19 Jordan	45.0
20 Brighton	44.0
21 Franklin	42.0
22 La Salle	36.0
23 South Salem	29.0
24 Cascade	22.0
24 Gladstone	22.0
26 Copper Hills	5.5
27 Clackamas	3.5
28 Forest Grove	0.0

OVERALL	
School	Total
1 Beaverton High-Beaverton, Oregon	2,822.0
2 La Salle High-Milwaukie, Oregon	1,459.0
3 Sprague High-Salem, Oregon	1,340.0
4 Southridge High-Beaverton, Oregon	1,229.0
5 Parkway West High-St. Louis, Missouri	1,219.0
6 Kirkwood High-St. Louis, Missouri	834.0
7 Catlin Gabel High-Portland, Oregon	816.0
8 Gresham High-Gresham, Oregon	624.0
9 Copper Hills High-West Jordan, Utah	553.5
10 Sunset High-Beaverton, Oregon	499.0
11 Coeur d'Alene High-Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	315.0
12 Rex Putnam High-Milwaukie, Oregon	221.5
13 Centennial High-Gresham, Oregon	160.5
14 South Salem High-Salem, Oregon	132.0
15 Franklin High-Portland, Oregon	97.0
16 Cascade High-Turner, Oregon	67.0
17 Clackamas High-Clackamas, Oregon	65.5
18 Gladstone High-Gladstone, Oregon	49.0
19 Jordan High-Sandy, Utah	45.0
20 Brighton High-Cottonwood Heights, Utah	44.0

### Notes:

Schools must have both girls and boys playing to qualify for the Overall Team Championship

Boy's and Girl's team scores do not include points from mixed doubles

A total of 327 players from 55 high schools in 19 states participated in the event

# High School Results

## Boy's High School Doubles #1 - Single Elimination

**Finals:** Billy Wainwright/Taylor Knoth - DEF. Cruz Rivera/Kamran Masood - 3,10  
Grant Stalley/Michael Carrington - DEF. Ben Weis/Charlie Hostman - 7,10

## Boy's High School Doubles #2 - Single Elimination

**Finals:** Elliott Saunders/Travis Haines - DEF.

Ben Brooks/Mike Guilfoy - 12,7

Donavon Baldwin/Jeremy Mcglothlin - DEF.

Alex Savory/Jeff Dukleth - 11,7

## Boy's High School Doubles #3 - Single Elimination

**Finals:** James Mahoney / Kevin Foley - DEF.

Ben Weis / Kevin Eichhorn

Cole Fitzpatrick / Tyler Birdsey - DEF.

Hunter Evansen / Taylor Finney - 10,8

## Boy's High School Singles #1 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Andrew Clarke - Albuquerque, N.M. DEF.

John-Craig Chisholm - 2,(4),8

Chad Laforest - DEF. Justin Langan - (12),9,8

## Boy's High School Singles #1 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Chris Coy - DEF. Allan Crockett - 4,10

Jerome Jackson - DEF. Richard Sledzik - 12,0

## Boy's High School Singles #1 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Kyle Mcelhany - DEF. Eric Hudson - 11,8

Michael Cusick - DEF. Alex Nelson - 7,(3),7

## Boy's High School Singles #1 White - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Nate Grossman - DEF. Scott Cherry - 5,3

Marcus Thomas - DEF. Nate Hopkins - 5,(9),1

## Boy's High School Singles #2 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Tony Chan - DEF. Sam Carrow - (13),12,4

Matt Schulwitz - DEF. Will Jennings - (4),12,3

## Boy's High School Singles #2 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Kyle Christianson - DEF. Billy Wainwright - 13,12

Elliott Saunders - DEF. Cody Sylvester - 4,(13),3

## Boy's High School Singles #2 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Tim Ho - DEF. Tim Dundon - 8,4

Erik Vargas - DEF. Patrick Wiggins - 11,7

## Boy's High School Singles #2 White - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Mark Lockman - DEF. Aaron Clement - 2,8

## Boy's High School Singles #3 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** John Ulmer - DEF. Andrew Figari - 12,(1),9

Jeff Cohen - DEF. Chris Milkes - 13,11

## Boy's High School Singles #3 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Drew Barnabei - DEF. Alex Savory - 3,3

Michael Carrington - DEF. Dan Arnold - 8,5

## Boy's High School Singles #3 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Mike Guilfoy - DEF. Jordan Cusick - 1,13

Jeremy Mcglothlin - DEF. Charles Prinslow - 9,7

## Boy's High School Singles #3 White - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Zach Vu - DEF. Ryan Dieringer - 5,2

Mike Krause - DEF. Ryan Clement - 5,1

## Boy's High School Singles #4 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Brent Scrivner - DEF. Ben Brooks - 11,14

Bobby Shearman - DEF. Bradley Terry - 10,2

## Boy's High School Singles #4 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Kevin Foley - DEF. Ben Weis - 9,8

Brandon Mitchener - DEF. Donavon Baldwin - 12,2

## Boy's High School Singles #4 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Jeff Dukleth - DEF. Ethan Leers - 5,(11),4

John Florey - DEF. John (jj) Engelfried - (14),5,9

## Boy's High School Singles #4 White - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Brad Shoaf - DEF. Sung Kang - 8,(14),6

Jordan Coleman - DEF. David Chitsazan - 12,7

## Boy's High School Singles #5 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Derek O'Guin - DEF. Dan Coleman - 9,8

Vasili Karagiannis - DEF. Stephen Jensen - 9,3

## Boy's High School Singles #5 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Mike Laurentius - DEF. Travis Haines - 14,(2),11  
Derek Brown - DEF. William Graven - 4,12

## Boy's High School Singles #5 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Steven Alger - DEF. Colby Neal - 5,9

Danny Ruby - DEF. Bret Kichter - (6),11,3

## Boy's High School Singles #5 White - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Kylen Trevor - DEF. Nathan Palin - 14,(13),4

Johnny Paige - DEF. Xun Li - WBF - No Show

## Boy's High School Singles #6 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Todd Swift - DEF. Josh Florey - 11,3

Chris Connell - DEF. Dan Keddy - (14),12,3

## Boy's High School Singles #6 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Taylor Finney - DEF. Andrew Lofgren - 12,(6),5

Peter Hanslids - DEF. John Yahl - 8,9

## Boy's High School Singles #6 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Jordan Landauer - DEF. Sean Hanson - 13,8

Cody Puterbaugh - DEF. Mikael Koiv - 13,8

## Boy's High School Singles #6 White - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Kurt Landauer - DEF. David Lee - 11,11

Eric Bloombau - DEF. Colin Bauer - 10,6

## Girl's High School Doubles #1 - Single Elimination

**Finals:** Holly Hettesheimer / Sarah Hettesheimer - DEF.

Laura Davis / Sarah Moyle - 10,8

Alyssa Asay / Megan Dickson - DEF.

Erin Dolan / Rachel Buelmann - 11,6

## Girl's High School Doubles #2 - Single Elimination

**Finals:** Elena Baca / Hannah Bloombau - DEF.

Jennifer Hoffman / Jessie Benson - (11),3,1

Casey Finney / Marisa Pomerantz - DEF.

Amy Becker / Emily Moynihan - 2,2

## Girl's High School Doubles #3 - Single Elimination

**Finals:** Janelle Stalley / Sarah Curry - DEF.

Ashley Phillips / Sian Price - 14,(9),3

Emma Scheer / Molly O'Brian - DEF.

Katie King / Rose Thomson - 11,2

## Girl's High School Singles #1 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Emily Melgaard - DEF. Carly Chambers - 12,7

Erin Dolan - DEF. Amy Desaulniers - 12,11

## Girl's High School Singles #1 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Kara Mazur - DEF. Sharon Jackson - 12,3

Sarah Hettesheimer - DEF. Sarah Moyle - 11,3

## Girl's High School Singles #1 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Kaylee Rademacher - DEF. Kelsey Hinds - 4,8

Megan Menzia - DEF. Kayla McCloyn - 0,1

## Girl's High School Singles #1 White - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Melanie Skyler - DEF. Chelsi Harris - 1,4

Carissa Coffin - DEF. Arianna Nogueron - WBF - No Show

## Girl's High School Singles #2 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Kerry Franklin - DEF. Taylor Dane - 4,14

Brittany Cantino - DEF. Sydney Reigers - 2,5

## Girl's High School Singles #2 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Holly Hettesheimer - DEF. Alyssa Asay - 10,7

Casey Finney - DEF. Rachel Buelmann - 7,10

## Girl's High School Singles #2 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Lisa Bushmeyer - DEF. Margie Laurentius - 2,8

Brittany Randolph - DEF. Rachel Babener - 8,9

## Girl's High School Singles #2 White - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Teal Price - DEF. Ari Smotherman - 2,9

Kim Guerin - DEF. Chelsi Harris - 1,1

## Girl's High School Singles #3 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Nicole Cornelius - DEF.

Chelsea Donnithorne - 4,10

Rebecca Pankow - DEF. Karlea Cole - 14,8

## Girl's High School Singles #3 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Laura Davis - DEF. Hannah Bloombau - 13,3

Emma Scheer - DEF. Laura Engelmeyer - 10,7

## Girl's High School Singles #3 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Kailyn Green - DEF. Teresa Wright - 3,(9),11  
Gwen Survant-kaplin - DEF. Bailey Sheldon - 6,(13),7

## Girl's High School Singles #4 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Elena Baca - DEF. Jessie Benson - (7),10,7

Molly O'Brian - DEF. Marisa Pomerantz - (7),11,8

## Girl's High School Singles #4 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Rose Thomson - DEF. Kara Donnithorne -

Autumn Csch-stevens - DEF. Ana Berry - 12,4

## Girl's High School Singles #5 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Sarah Curry - DEF. Sian Price - 2,2

Emma Moynihan - DEF. Stacie Woods - (9),13,9

## Girl's High School Singles #6 Blue - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Amy Becker - DEF. Rose Diamond - 13,4

Lucy Kwong - DEF. Jessica Nicholas - 11,9

## Girl's High School Singles #6 Gold - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Liz Falkenstein - DEF. Janelle Stalley - 14,(7),8

Dani Miles - DEF. Jennifer Hoffman - 2,8

## Girl's High School Singles #6 Red - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Emily Stock - DEF. Stephanie Moyle - (7),10,9

Laura Berrong - DEF. Lauren Martin - 2,6

## Girl's High School Singles #6 White - Olympic Format

**Finals:** Debbie Friedman - DEF. Alexa Franklin - 12,3

Melissa Hale - DEF. Raelene Cabrera - (7),7,1

## Mixed Doubles Open - Single Elimination

**Finals:** Allan Crockett / Sharon Jackson - DEF. Kara

Mazur / Richard Sledzik - WBF - No Show

Charlie Hostman / Kelly Huelsing - DEF. Chris Coy / Sarah

Hettesheimer - WBF - No Show

## Mixed High School Doubles #1 - Single Elimination

**Finals:** Grant Stalley / Megan Dickson -

DEF. Megan Kieres / Taylor Knoth - 10,11

Kim Hamlin / Scott McClellan - DEF.

Emma Northcott / Kamran Masood - 7,9

## Mixed High School Doubles #2 - Single Elimination

**Finals:** Bailey Sheldon / Billy Wainwright - DEF.

Alyssa Asay / Kevin Foley - 9,14 7

Arash Afshar / Stacie Woods - DEF.

Casey Finney / Will Jennings - 2,13

## Mixed High School Doubles #3 - Single Elimination

**Finals:** Sarah Curry / Travis Haines - DEF.

Brent Scrivner / Sydney Reigers - 14,5

Chelsea Donnithorne / Dan Arnold - DEF.

Janelle Stalley / Michael Carrington - (9),11,9



## Reflections:

### The 2006 Intercollegiate National Championships By Shane Wood

I've had involvement with every aspect racquetball has to offer: as a player, coach, and certainly a fan of every level of play. But in my twenty-seven years in our great sport, collegiate racquetball has always held a special place in my heart. After departing the 2006 Intercollegiate National Championships in Tempe, Arizona, my feelings have never been stronger.

I was privileged enough to attend the annual banquet with these great student athletes, coaches, parents and teammates. I had the honor of standing with other Collegiate Council Members as we presented our forty-eight All-Americans with their certificates, shook their hands and evidenced the pride in their eyes as they realized what a tremendous accomplishment they had achieved. Among these athletes were Adrienne Fisher (Alabama) and Ben Croft (Colorado State-Pueblo), who had emerged as National Champions at the tourney.



Shawn Pike received coaches award

Dennis Fisher (BYU), Tim Miller (Baldwin Wallace), Rich Krinsky (Colorado State-Pueblo) and Jeff Garner (Univ. of Alabama), along with first-year members Gary Rasmussen (University of New Mexico), John Bardos (Director of the Western Collegiate Racquetball Conference) and Shawn Pike (Utah Valley State), dedicate their time, efforts and focus, for the athletes. The recognition from the players and other coaches was well deserved and I'm so lucky to have them with me on the Collegiate Council.

So after the awards, the accolades, and the well-deserved respect that everybody in the room showed for Jim Hiser, Heather Fender and Otto Dietrich, who worked non-stop all week to make this event so great, we got to the part everybody was waiting for – the team title was up for grabs.

Everyone was well aware that this was, by far, the closest team competition that college racquetball had ever seen, but no one knew who was going to leave that room as our Division I National Champions. We announced Clarkson University and Baldwin Wallace as the Men's and Women's Division II National Champs, respectively. We then presented Western New England College (third place), Clarkson University (second place) and Baldwin Wallace (National Champs) with their trophies. These are all small schools that have perennially fantastic programs; coming from a small school myself, my respect for each of the team leaders and all the work they do is tremendous. Then came the Division I standings! Colorado State-Pueblo was once again announced as the Nation's Top Men's Program, with Alabama, Oregon State and Brigham Young not far behind. On the

Women's side, it was Oregon State taking home their first title, with Alabama and Penn State taking home trophies for second and third.

In the combined team standings, the teams were announced in order; we got down to the third place team and presented Colorado State-Pueblo with the trophy for an outstanding tournament. At that point, I announced

that only fifteen points, or one match, separated the second place team and the National Champions. The University of Alabama had been the national powerhouse the last couple of years and Oregon State had a shot at the first racquetball National Championship in school history.

If there was ever a time I wished there could be two first place trophies, it was right then and there. As I made my respect for both of these unbelievable programs known, the anticipation grew. Once I started receiving dirty looks, jeers and threats from the two programs, I figured it was time to announce the winners before a riot broke out. I identified Oregon State as the National Champs; the thunderous reaction was in

University of Alabama

itself enough to cause goose bumps, but what happened immediately after I will remember the rest of my life. Led by the University of Alabama, the entire tournament gave this Oregon State squad a standing ovation. You could see the admiration and respect every one of the coaches, parents and athletes had for these great teammates from Oregon State.



Oregon State Team

It was quite a week. I had the opportunity to get some thoughts from the Oregon State athletes about their experience. Not surprisingly, not a single person talked about his/her own personal achievements; they all just wanted to recognize their teammates and how great the friendships are both on and off the courts. That's what college racquetball is all about.

#### A few thoughts from the Oregon State players (and a coach!):

*"One of the most memorable or exciting things about our team and this year was how close everyone was, not only on the court, but off. I can't remember ever being on a team in volleyball, softball, basketball, or anything that was as close and had so much fun and respect of everyone. Everyone was so supportive on and off the court the entire week. Winning was truly a team effort!" – Kaylee Pfennig*



Ben Croft & Adrienne Fisher

*"It's great to finish my last year at collegiate nationals on top and with the best teammates anyone could ask for, both on and off the court." – Lee Cramer, Men's #5 singles, #1 doubles*

*"I can't put into words how amazing this feeling is. Having teammates to share this experience with makes it so much more enjoyable. We will relive the memories made both on and off the court for many years to come." – Ashley Legget, Women's #1 singles, #1 doubles*

*"I have known a lot of these players through High School and Junior racquetball and it was an amazing experience to play with them as a team. I think that our history together made it that much more special." – Jenny Cary, Women's #4 singles, #2 doubles*

*"It's sad to see that such a great team has to part (due to graduation), but we will always be remembered forever as the team who upset Alabama by only fifteen points!" – David Laforest, Men's #4 singles, #3 doubles*

*"It is a pleasure to be associated with not only the #1 team in the nation, but also one with such outstanding integrity." – Jamie Sumner, Coach*



Baldwin Wallace Team

# Collegiate Results

**Men's Collegiate Doubles #1** - Single Elimination  
**Finals:** Ben Croft / Mitch Williams - *DEF.*  
Augustin Tristan / Shane Karmelin - 14,9  
Jared Torres / Scott Perryman - *DEF.*  
Benjamin Toth / Joe Linnell - 9,6

**Men's Collegiate Doubles #2** - Single Elimination  
**Finals:** Brain Booth / Christopher Crockett - *DEF.*  
Chris Barton / Matt Melstar - (5),13,8  
Chris Campbell / Ryan Lindell - *DEF.*  
Justin Cone / Scott Ferrel - 9,6

**Men's Collegiate Doubles #3** - Single Elimination  
**Finals:** David Laforest / Greg Purdy - *DEF.*  
Jeff Skanchy / Robert Plowman - 10,8  
Josh Weldon / Steven Cross - *DEF.*  
Richard Cassalata / Suraj Mohandas - 12, 13, 4

**Men's Collegiate Singles #1 Blue** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Joe Linnell - *DEF.*  
Anthony Herrera - 6,(11),9  
Chris Brown - *DEF.*  
Christopher Purington - Londonderry, N.H. - 0, 7

**Men's Collegiate Singles #1 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Ben Croft - *DEF.* Augustin Tristan - 9,6  
Mike Harmon - *DEF.* Louis Vogel - WBF - No Show

**Men's Collegiate Singles #1 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Zach Archer - *DEF.* Drew Finke - 8,4  
Byron Raych - *DEF.* Mark Denlinger - 10,10

**Men's Collegiate Singles #1 White** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Brad Brumbaugh - *DEF.*  
Jacob Pitzenberger - 7, 3  
Steve Corndell - *DEF.* Brent McLaughlin - 2, 3

**Men's Collegiate Singles #2 Blue** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Justin Cone - *DEF.* Nick Knudsen - (13),14,9  
Steve Grana - *DEF.* Benjamin Toth - 9, 2

**Men's Collegiate Singles #2 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Mitch Williams - *DEF.* Dan Cramer - 3,6  
Shane Karmelin - *DEF.* Drew Toland - 12,4

**Men's Collegiate Singles #2 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Benny Goldenberg - *DEF.* Alex Barch - 6,12  
Brian Straub - *DEF.* Richard Lu - 9, 8

**Men's Collegiate Singles #2 White** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Matt Emmel - *DEF.* Nick Blanchard - 5, 9  
Richard Cassalata - *DEF.* John Bertram - (7),14,8

**Men's Collegiate Singles #3 Blue** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Scott Ferrel - *DEF.*  
Adam Rosenblum - (9),8,7  
Jason Fletcher - *DEF.* Eric Crowley - 12,13

**Men's Collegiate Singles #3 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Chris Barton - *DEF.*  
Christopher Crockett - 11,(11),1  
Marco Hidalgo - *DEF.* Oliver Miramontez - 7,6

**Men's Collegiate Singles #3 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Clayton Reeves - *DEF.* Justin Miller - 4,5  
Wesley Webb - *DEF.* Kevin Turner - 9,11

**Men's Collegiate Singles #3 White** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Brian Ziegler - *DEF.* Chris Debolt - 0,10  
Alex Petak - *DEF.* Greg Palmer - 5,11

**Men's Collegiate Singles #4 Blue** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Steve Strong - *DEF.* Suraj Mohandas - 9,14  
Sam Jones - *DEF.* Jon Rueter - (13),8,3

**Men's Collegiate Singles #4 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Matt Melstar - *DEF.* David Laforest - 6,13  
Brain Booth - *DEF.* Raaj Mohan - (12),4,3

**Men's Collegiate Singles #4 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Mike Vadala - *DEF.*  
Denton Warnock - 11,(14),8  
Kevin Krekeler - *DEF.* Charles Wolfson - 6,7

**Men's Collegiate Singles #4 White** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Jon Turnas - *DEF.* Christophe Moran - 8,3  
Andrew Husted - *DEF.* Keith Jones - 3,2

**Men's Collegiate Singles #5 Blue** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Casey Wright - *DEF.* Will Jones - 5,3  
Chris Rusc - *DEF.* Cj Sidebottom - (9),1,3

**Men's Collegiate Singles #5 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Lee Cramer - *DEF.* Cliff Aldredge - 3,6  
Josh Weldon - *DEF.* Jake Hilf - 2,8

**Men's Collegiate Singles #5 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Kevin Carvill - *DEF.* Ryan Lewis - 14,7  
Owen Terwilliger - *DEF.* Andrew Nielson - 10,4

**Men's Collegiate Singles #5 White** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Matt Pierson - *DEF.* Kenny Brownell - 3,2  
Mike Kowalczyk - *DEF.* Robert Stratton -  
WBF - No Show

**Men's Collegiate Singles #6 Blue** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Luke Harden - *DEF.* Kenny Stewart - (8),12,8  
David Cullen - *DEF.* Mike Rawlings - 7,14

**Men's Collegiate Singles #6 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Ross Keroes - *DEF.* Robert Plowman - 10,9  
Andrew Linhardt - *DEF.* John Warren - 4,0

**Men's Collegiate Singles #6 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Greg Purdy - *DEF.* David Montgomery - (6),1,2  
Jim Putnam - *DEF.* Jim Livesley - 5,3

**Men's Collegiate Singles #6 White** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Keiran Flanigan - *DEF.* Andrew Kalka - 6,5  
Robert Fitzpatrick - *DEF.* Jerry Hah - 10,6

**Men's Doubles MA/CD** - Round Robin  
**Round 1:** James Boone / Seth Soha - *DEF.*  
Dana Juthe / Matt Willis - 7,7

**Men's Singles MA/B** - Round Robin  
**Round 1:** James Boone - *DEF.* Evan Oxenhandler - 8, 12  
John Parry - *DEF.* Seth Soha - 13, 4

**Women's Collegiate Doubles #1** - Single Elimination  
**Finals:** Ashley Legget / Ashley Willhite - *DEF.*  
Damonique Davis / Kelley Fisher - 7, 6  
Jesi Fuller / Natalie Alexia Lopez - *DEF.*  
Gretchen Miller / Kristen Karl - 1,2

**Women's Collegiate Doubles #2** - Single Elimination  
**Finals:** Jenny Cary / Kaylee Pfennig - *DEF.*  
Abby Boone / Holly Heiner - 7, 6  
Adrienne Fisher / Ashley Brooks - *DEF.*  
Anna Petrick / Ashley Hrvnak - 2,4

**Women's Collegiate Doubles #3** - Single Elimination  
**Finals:** Dianne Meyer / Michelle Carrington - *DEF.*  
Allison Kerivan / Jenna Klinke - 0,1  
Angeline Jarvis / Kristy Kadish - *DEF.*  
Candice McLawhan / Courtney Cox - 2,2

**Women's Collegiate Singles #1 Blue** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Kristina Jennings - *DEF.*  
Samantha Matney - 7,13  
Kristen Karl - *DEF.* Jennifer Trent - 5, 5

**Women's Collegiate Singles #1 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Adrienne Fisher - *DEF.* Ashley Legget - 5,(7),7  
Jesi Fuller - *DEF.* Allison Dauer - 5,8

**Women's Collegiate Singles #1 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Margo Rainey - *DEF.* Tina Chung - (13),0,2  
Julie Richard - *DEF.* Courtney Keeney - 7,4

**Women's Collegiate Singles #1 White** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Melanie Narckiewicz - *DEF.* Tara Fitzgerald - 5,2  
Anna Trinidad - *DEF.* Christina Vandling -  
WBF - No Show

**Women's Collegiate Singles #2 Blue** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Natalie Alexia Lopez - *DEF.*  
Karina Kraje - 2,6  
Mallory Parry - *DEF.* Gretchen Miller - 7,3

**Women's Collegiate Singles #2 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Damonique Davis - *DEF.*  
Ashley Willhite - 8,(11),3  
Cassie Shattock - *DEF.* Jen Dolan - 1,1

**Women's Collegiate Singles #2 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Pam Konert - *DEF.* Elizabeth Eldridge - 2,14  
Lindsay Liles - *DEF.* Rachel Campbell - (5),14,8

**Women's Collegiate Singles #2 White** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Kelli Kimmel - *DEF.* Leila Parnian - 13,1  
Michelle Turk - *DEF.* Julie Brannan - 3,6

**Women's Collegiate Singles #3 Blue** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Annette Green - *DEF.*  
Shelah Roanhorse - WBF - No Show  
Kristen Matushevski - *DEF.* Beth Neuhardt - 2,11

**Women's Collegiate Singles #3 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Kelley Fisher - *DEF.* Kaylee Pfennig - 3,(6),1  
Abby Boone - *DEF.* Heather Thompson - 0, 0

**Women's Collegiate Singles #3 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Ashley Hrvnak - *DEF.* Jessica Carey - 0,4

**Women's Collegiate Singles #4 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Jenny Cary - *DEF.* Holly Heiner - 7,4  
Anna Petrick - *DEF.* Amanda Smith - 0,13

**Women's Collegiate Singles #4 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Melissa Moutry - *DEF.* Sonjah Septon - 6,4  
Courtney Cox - *DEF.* Amelia De La Garza - 5, 3

**Women's Collegiate Singles #4 White** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Chelsey Rink - *DEF.* Roshawna Roanhorse -  
WBF - No Show

**Women's Collegiate Singles #5 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Michelle Carrington - *DEF.*  
Allison Kerivan - 1,1  
Amanda Haren - *DEF.* Ashley Brooks - 5,3

**Women's Collegiate Singles #5 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Angeline Jarvis - *DEF.* Jill Carroll - 0,1  
Katherine McKinlay - *DEF.* Sara Miller - 10,13

**Women's Collegiate Singles #6 Gold** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Dianne Meyer - *DEF.* Veronica Foote - 1,0  
Nikki Damore - *DEF.* Jenna Klinke - 6,3

**Women's Collegiate Singles #6 Red** - Olympic Format  
**Finals:** Kristy Kadish - *DEF.* Candice McLawhan - 4,4  
Kelly Christ - *DEF.* Dana Pepa - 6,(14),2

## 2006 US Intercollegiate National Championships

### Team Standings – Division I

<u>Mens Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Womens Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Combined Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>
Colorado State Univ.-Pueblo	1746	Oregon State University	1490	Oregon State University	2850
University of Alabama	1645	University of Alabama	1190	University of Alabama	2835
Oregon State University	1360	Penn State University	621	Colorado State University-Pueblo	2024
Brigham Young University	1125	Brigham Young University	596	Brigham Young University	1720.5
University of New Mexico	815	University of New Mexico	510	University of New Mexico	1325
University of Colorado Boulder	610	Colorado State University-Pueblo	278	Penn State University	1028.5
Texas A&M University	583	University of Colorado Boulder	266	University of Colorado Boulder	876
University of Missouri Columbia	572	Missouri State University	255	Utah Valley State College	753.5
Utah Valley State College	549	University of Texas	242	University of Missouri Columbia	712
California University Sacramento	540	North Carolina Central University	210	Texas A&M University	707
Iowa State University	524	Utah Valley State College	205	California University Sacramento	591.5
Arizona State University	434	Arizona State University	145	Iowa State University	578.5
University of Florida	420	University of Missouri Columbia	124	Arizona State University	541
The Ohio State University	409	Texas A&M University	124	Missouri State University	522
Penn State University	408	Iowa State University	17	University of Texas	311.5
University of California-Berkeley	373	California University Sacramento	3		
Southern Illinois University	347	Ohio University	0		
Missouri State University	267				
Manatee Community College	245				
Southeast Missouri State Univ.	231				
Duke University	192				
University of California-Davis	147				
University of Texas-El Paso	140				
Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	132				
Univ. of Colorado - Springs	106				
University of New Hampshire	88				
University of Texas	70				
Northern Arizona University	52				
SUNY Binghamton	17				
University of Memphis	0				
Rutgers University	0				
Southern Methodist University	0				
University of Wisconsin-Madison	0				
Utah State University	0				



## 2006 US Intercollegiate National Championships

### Team Standings – Division II

<u>Mens Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Womens Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Combined Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>
Clarkson University	348	Baldwin Wallace College	410	Baldwin Wallace College	548
Western New England College	237	Bryant College	258	Clarkson University	490
Bryant College	163	Western New England College	206	Western New England College	443
Baldwin Wallace College	139	Clarkson University	143	Bryant College	420.5
Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	132	Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	12	Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	144
Craven Community College	96	Nichols College	6	Nichols College	42
Goldenwest College	70				
SUNY Oswego	44				
Nichols College	36				
Scottsdale Community College	0				



Breast cancer interrupted my life, but not my racquetball career.

I played racquetball nearly every day during my six months of Cancer treatments. The sport I have loved for the past 25 years kept me strong, both physically and mentally.

I am gratified that a portion of every Hope sale is donated, by Wilson, to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation to help fight this terrible disease. I am proud to be a partner with Wilson in this fight.

**MALIA BAILEY**  
BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR  
TWENTY TIME NATIONAL  
RACQUETBALL CHAMPION

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When you purchase these products,  
Wilson makes a donation to  
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2006 CHOICE HOTELS

# US OPEN

RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

NOVEMBER 15-19, 2006  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE



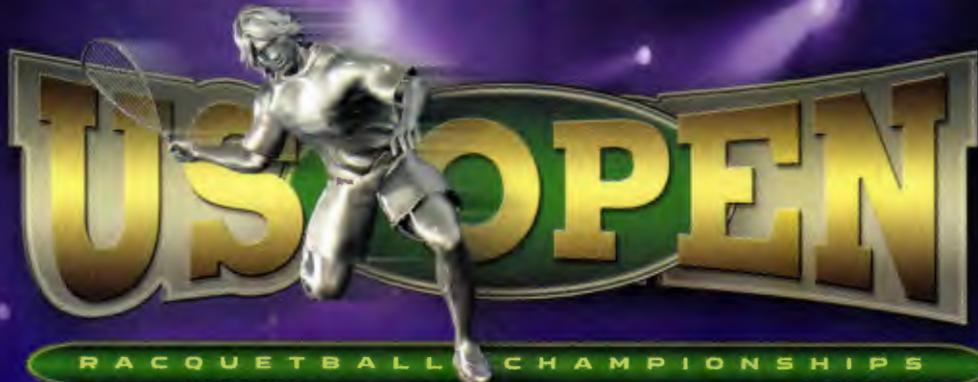
ENTRY FORM AND TICKET APPLICATION

[WWW.CHOICEHOTELSUSOPEN.COM](http://WWW.CHOICEHOTELSUSOPEN.COM)

2006 CHOICE HOTELS



CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL



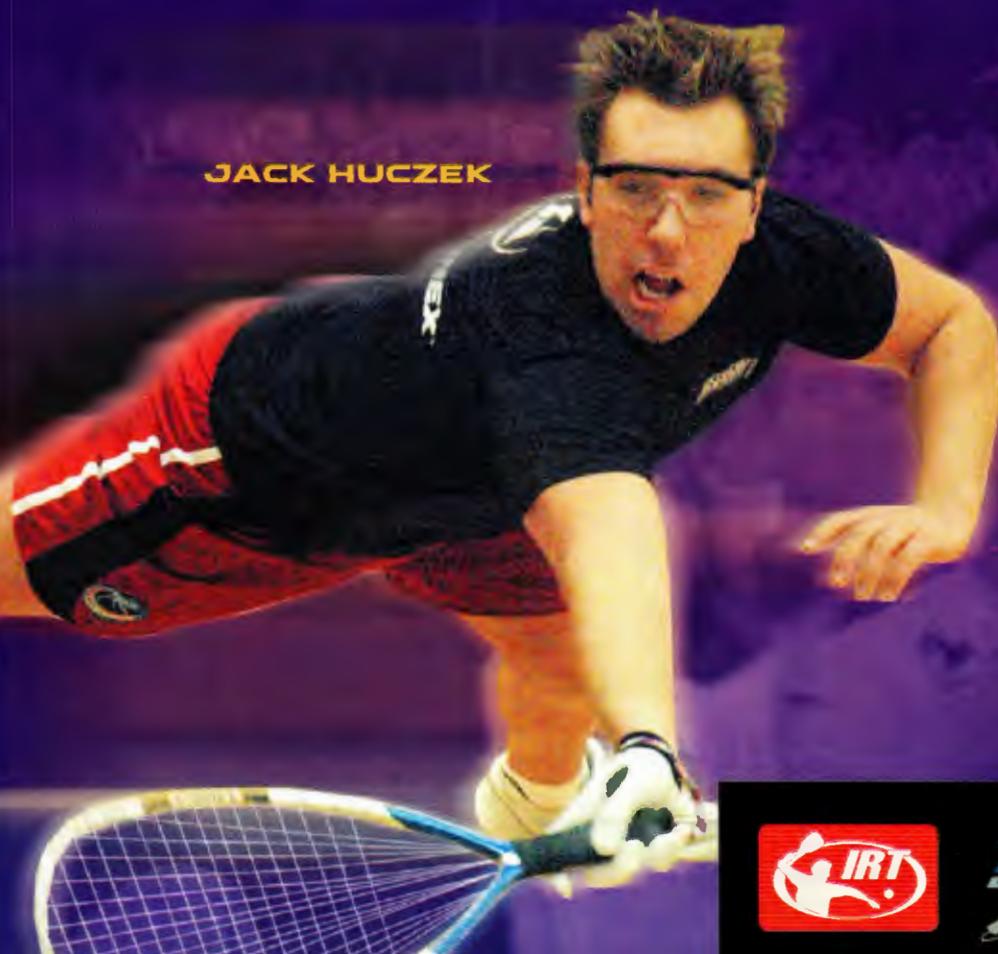
**IT'S A RACQUETBALL CELEBRATION  
....AND YOU'RE INVITED!**

Witness racquetball's premiere "Grand Slam"- the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. See all of the top players in the world from the IRT and WPRO compete for the largest prize-money purse in the sport — \$51,000+. 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 700 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", a 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, Friday Night Player's Dance Party, and continuous fan fair activities on the stadium court. 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 Morgan Keagan 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 Wellworx Sportsplex (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all four facilities will be provided.

**JACK HUCZEK**



[www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://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

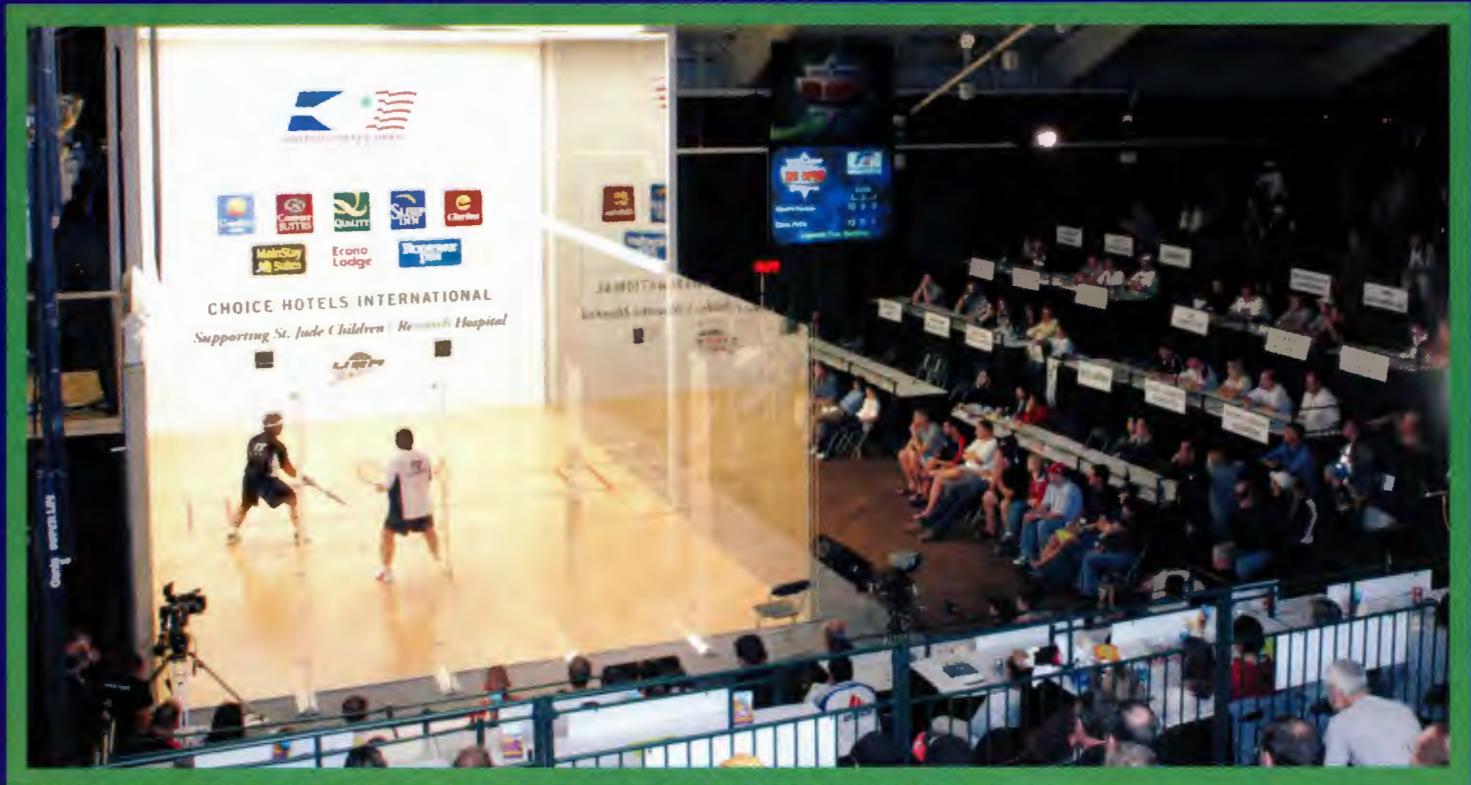
That's right! For those of us who like to enjoy our evenings, the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN promises a solid week of non-stop fun, kicking off with a Wednesday night International/VIP Reception and Thursday late-night "get together" at the Fox & Hound Sports Bar (next door to The Racquet Club). And that's 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.

Saturday evening will top off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year – the eleventh Annual Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Grand Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS". More than 900 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, 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!

## 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.



## OFFICIAL CO-SPONSORS



 Wilsonart® Flooring

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## PRO MATCH SCHEDULE

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

## MEMBERSHIP

All players must be current members of USA Racquetball. If you're not, a membership can be purchased at the event (\$35 per year). In addition, all players entering the pro draws must be current members of the IRT/WPRO 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 13th by calling The Racquet Club at (901) 765-4428.** Starting times can also be obtained on-line at [www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com). Entries and ticket orders can be confirmed online after October 27th at [www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com). Please immediately call the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 if any errors or omissions are found. All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 1st and/or postmarked by Friday Oct. 27th.

**Wednesday Nov. 15th**

## OPENING ROUNDS SCHEDULE

**Singles** – All IRT/WPRO 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. 16th**

**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. 17th**

**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+

## 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 14th 3 p.m.- 10 p.m., Wednesday, November 15th 8 a.m.- 10p.m., Thursday, November 16th 8 a.m.- 9 p.m., and Friday, November 17th 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.0. 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 \$2,500. Call 614-890-6073 for availability.

## HOSPITALITY

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

## 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 14th, 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 – \$300 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 18,000 patients from 47 states and 53 countries, the hospital is a world leader in the treatment of catastrophic childhood illnesses. During the past nine years the Choice Hotels U.S. Open has raised over \$130,000 for St. Jude!

## TRAVEL AND LODGING

Northwest Airlines, United Airlines, and AVIS have joined the U.S. OPEN to offer special discounted airfares and rental cars to the 2006 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 WORLD FILE #NSDFY

**United Airlines**

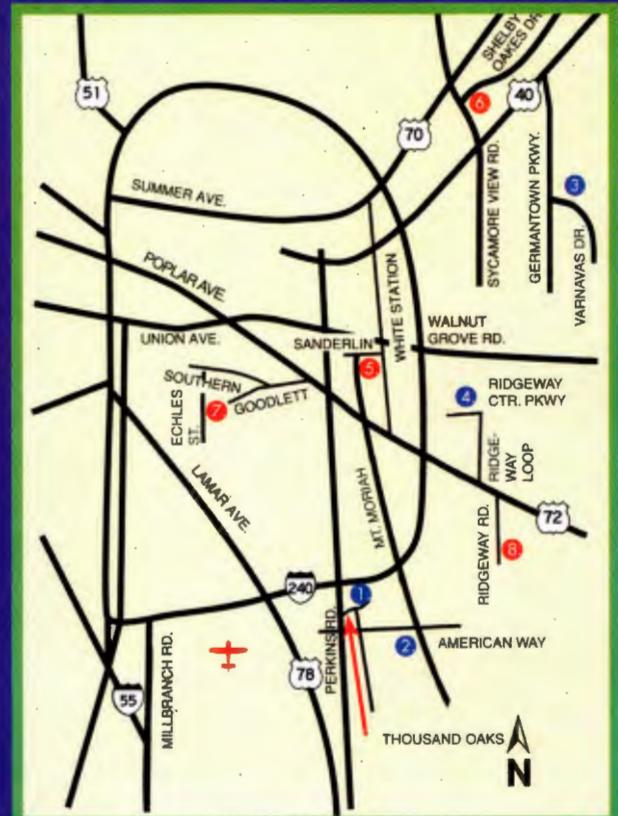
Discount: 5%-10% off published fares.  
Instructions: Must call Olympic Travel Desk at (800) 841-0460 and mention USA Racquetball account #565EE.

**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# 1996315.

## 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 24th 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.

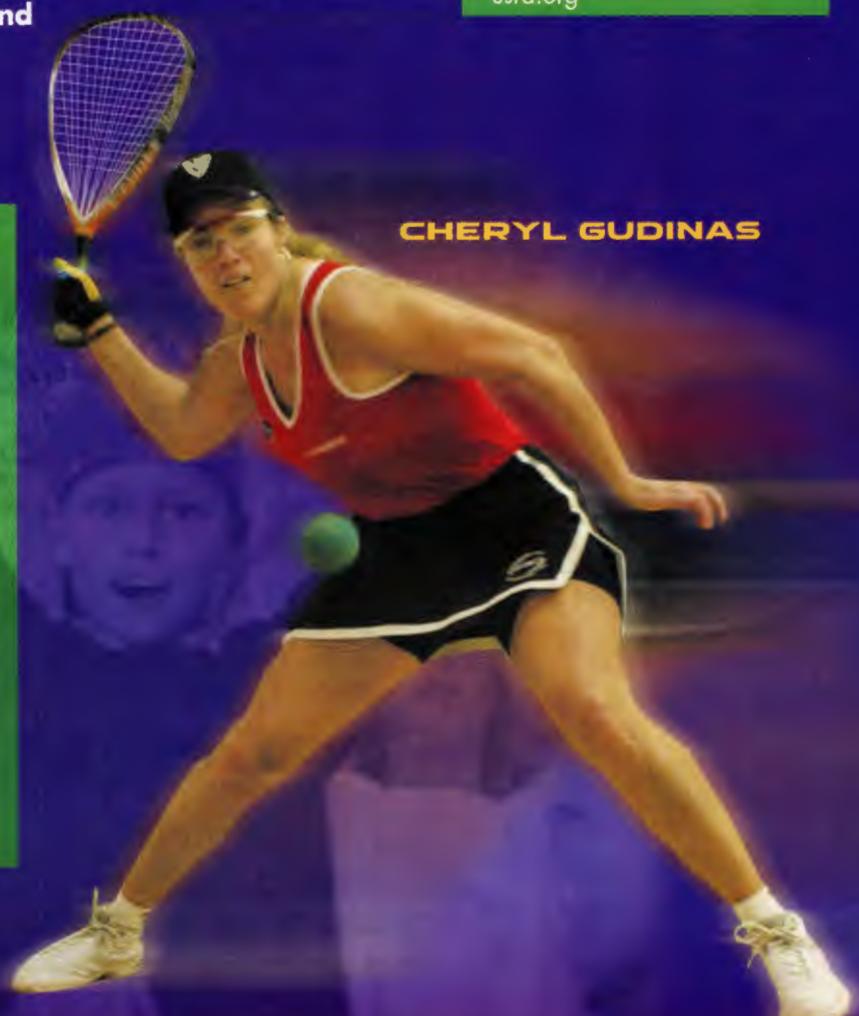


For additional nearby hotels  
please contact the US OPEN  
headquarters at 800-234-5396  
ext 0 or e-mail us at [hfender@usra.org](mailto:hfender@usra.org)

<b>1. COMFORT INN &amp; SUITES*</b> (main host hotel) 2575 Thousand Oaks Blvd. (901) 365-2575 Rate: \$84 -12 minutes to Racquet Club	<b>2. SLEEP INN*</b> (main host hotel) 5119 American Way (901) 363-4800 Rate: \$69 -12 minutes to Racquet Club
<b>3. QUALITY SUITES</b> 8166 Varnavas Dr. (901) 386-4600 Rate: \$74 -15 minutes to Racquet Club	<b>4. STAYBRIDGE SUITES</b> 1070 Ridge Lake Blvd. (901) 682-1722 Rate: \$94 -5 minutes from Racquet Club -private hotel shuttle available
<b>5. THE RACQUET CLUB</b> 5111 Sanderlin Rd. (901) 765-4400	<b>6. WELLWORX SPORTSPLEX</b> 6161 Shelby Oaks Dr. (901) 388-6580
<b>7. UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS</b> 630 Echles St. (901) 678-2816	<b>8. RIDGEWAY BAPTIST REC. Ctr.</b> 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 SUPINAS



# PRIZE MONEY

OVER \$51,000!

## 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/WPRO rules. For all age divisions, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of the tournament (November 15th). **All divisions (pro and amateur) will use the new ProPenn HD (purple) ball, the official ball of the IRT and US OPEN.** Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions.

## RANKINGS

Every match played in all divisions at the US OPEN will be entered in the USAR's new state of the art ranking system.

## 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, Cambria Suites, MainStay Suites, Suburban and Rodeway Inn brand names. For more information on Choice, visit the company's web site at [www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com).

## 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), Shannon Feaster (WPRO),



## Men's Pro-\$35,000

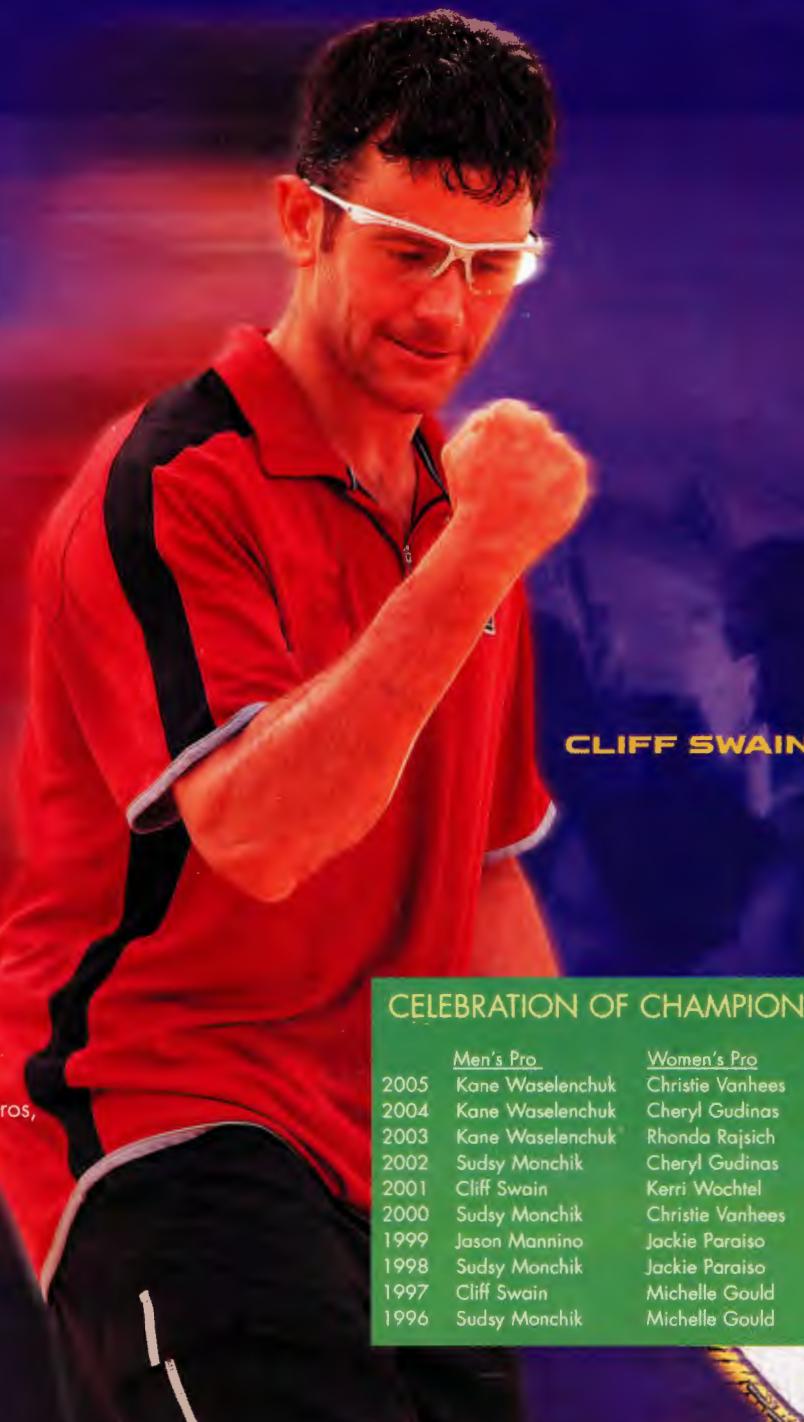
1st	\$8,000	16's	\$ 750
2nd	\$4,500	32's	\$ 350
Semis	\$2,500		
Qrtrs	\$1,500		

## Women's Pro-\$15,000

1st	\$4,200	Qrtrs	\$ 750
2nd	\$2,400	16's	\$ 350
Semis	\$1,300		

## Men's & Women's Open Singles

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



CLIFF SWAIN

## CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS

	Men's Pro	Women's Pro
2005	Kane Waselenchuk	Christie Vanhees
2004	Kane Waselenchuk	Cheryl Gudinas
2003	Kane Waselenchuk	Rhonda Rajsich
2002	Sudsy Monchik	Cheryl Gudinas
2001	Cliff Swain	Kerri Wochtel
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

# PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

	Price	Quantity	Total(\$)
SESSION #1: . . . . .	\$18		
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: . . . . .	\$18		
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.			
SESSION #3: . . . . .	\$20		
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 3 p.m.- 9 p.m.			
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 1 p.m.- 6 p.m.			
SESSION #4: . . . . .	\$22		
Women's round of 16 Friday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.			
Men's quarters #1,#2 Friday, 1 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. (IRT Champions Clinic 4p.m.)			
SESSION #5: . . . . .	\$22		
Men's quarters #3, #4 Friday, 5:00 p.m.- 9 p.m.			
Women's quarters Friday 5 p.m.- 8 p.m.			
SESSION #6: . . . . .	\$26		
Women's semi #1/Men's semi #1 Saturday, 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.			
(All-Star Skills Challenge 1pm)			
SESSION #7: . . . . .	\$26		
Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2 Saturday, 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.			
SESSION #8: . . . . .	\$35		
Women's finals/Men's finals Sunday, 11:00 a.m.- 2 p.m.			

## BEST VALUE!

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Processing fee (must be paid to process your order) . . . . . \$4

\$4

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- OR -

TOTAL

To order your tickets by phone call: (800) 234-5396 ext. 0  
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at The Racquet Club (I.D. is required).  
Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets in  
advance to be guaranteed a seat.

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# ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (night) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

USA Racquetball **Membership** Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Seeding Information (2005 U.S. OPEN, 2006 States, Regionals, Nationals) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Club \_\_\_\_\_

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*		Skill + Age Divisions*				Doubles & Mixed Doubles Divisions*						
Can only enter ONE from this group	A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/>	24 & under A	<input type="checkbox"/>	35+ C	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	50+ <input type="checkbox"/>	MX A/B <input type="checkbox"/>	MX 30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		24 & under B	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+ A	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	19+	<input type="checkbox"/>	MX C/D <input type="checkbox"/>	MX 40+ <input type="checkbox"/>	
		24 & under C	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+ B	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	35+	<input type="checkbox"/>			
		25+ A	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+ C	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner's Name _____				Division _____		
		25+ B	<input type="checkbox"/>	55+ A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner's Name _____				Division _____		
		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"/>
24 & under	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+	<input type="checkbox"/>
25+	<input type="checkbox"/>	50+	<input type="checkbox"/>
30+	<input type="checkbox"/>	55+	<input type="checkbox"/>
35+	<input type="checkbox"/>	60+	<input type="checkbox"/>
		65+	<input type="checkbox"/>
		70+	<input type="checkbox"/>
		75+	<input type="checkbox"/>
		80+	<input type="checkbox"/>

Men's (IRT)\*\*  Women's (WPRO)\*\*

\*\* 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 all rights and claims that I may have against the USA Racquetball, IRT, WPRO, Ganim Enterprises, Choice Hotels Corporation, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Wellworx Sportsplex, 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, 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. 0. Maximum amateur draw is 700 players. Once filled, all additional entries received will be returned with refund.

		Amount Paid	Division
First Event ( Amateur Divisions/Pro's)	(\$95/\$105)	_____	_____
Second Event	(\$48)	_____	_____
Third Event	(\$48)	_____	_____
USA Racquetball Membership	(\$35)	_____	_____
Late Fee/Phone Entry	(\$20/\$10)	_____	_____
Extra Party with the Pro's ticket -Players admitted free	(\$35 each)	_____	Quant. _____
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### ENTRY DEADLINE:

All entries must be received by **Wednesday, Nov. 1st and/or postmarked by Friday, Oct. 27th**. 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!

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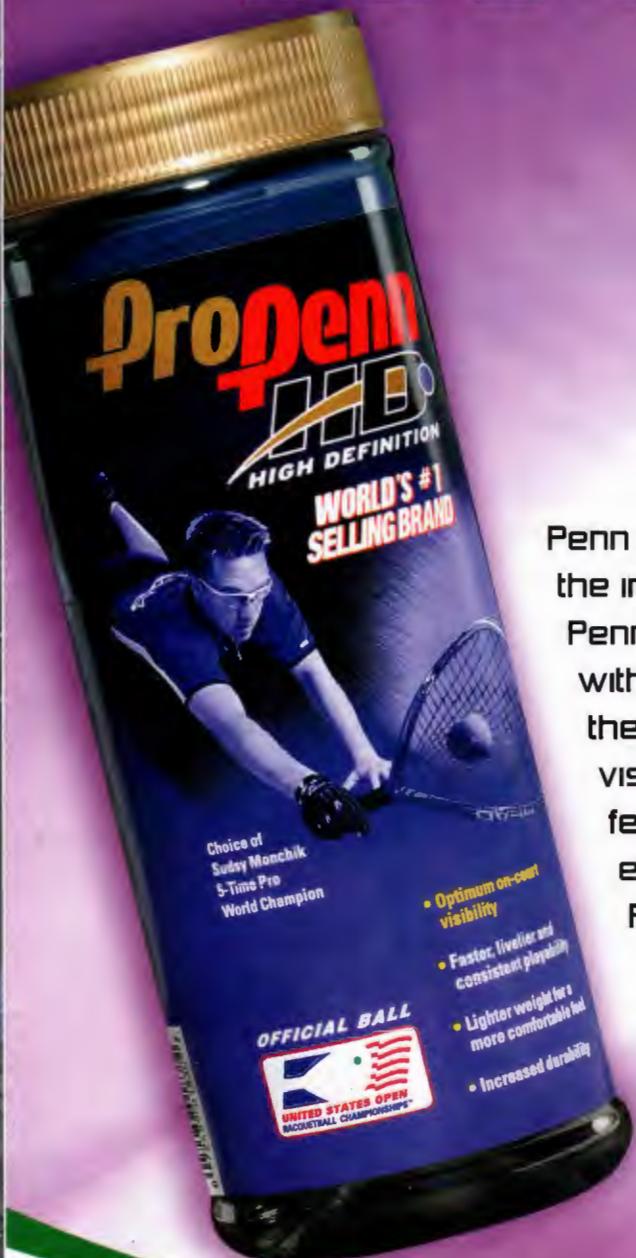
# See the ball...

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# Fran's HOUSE



**Q: FRAN, WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND I DO WHEN I AM OFF BALANCE, BUT THE BALL IS STILL LOW AND IN MY HITTING ZONE?**

**A:** There is ONLY one thing to do when you are off balance or out of position, for that matter, regardless if the ball is low and in your hitting zone and that is *to hit a defensive shot*. Remember a defensive shot bids you time and pushes your opponent back into the deep court where you want them to be. A ceiling shot or a z shot are the 2 shots that accomplish that goal. Even though the ball is in your hitting zone your feet are not stopped and set for you to go offensive. The BIGGEST mistake players make is they try and go offensive by shooting the kill, pinch or pass and they wind up skipping the ball in time after time.

In articles I have written about shot selection and in my video, "Building your Racquetball Dream House"(Chapter #5) there is a formula I teach religiously for shot selection and that is:

$$A + B + C + D = \text{Shot Selection}$$

(You) (Ball) (Opponent) (Score)

If you look at all the components that make up shot selection and not just one component you would make a better choice and realize popping the ball up to the ceiling or hitting a z shot would draw your opponent back into the deep court and give you time to regain center court position.

Most players make the common mistake of ONLY looking at one component of this formula...."oh the ball is low so I should shoot it". That couldn't be furthest from the truth. The formula has 4 components...you, the ball, your opponent and the score...so you NEED to take all the components into consideration when you are trying to decide what to do in a particular situation.

It doesn't matter whether it is during a rally (off balance or out of position) or on the return of serve (low HARD drive serve WELL hit in the corner) you WANT TO GO UP. You clearly see these concepts depicted in my video, "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" in:

a - Chapter 5 when Jason and Sudsy are playing and I am voicing over their choices of shots when they are off balance or out of position they are going up.

b - Chapter 8 when we cover the return of serve and the serve is well hit, winds up low and in the corner and is out of the reach of Jason, so he goes up.

My philosophy is plain and simple....*when the ball is low and in your hitting zone and your feet are stopped and set and you have a good power base to drive the shot then GO OFFENSIVE.*

*...when the ball is low and in your hitting zone, but your feet are NOT stopped and set and you don't have a good power base, therefore you are off balance or out of position, then GO DEFENSIVE.*

By applying this philosophy to your game you will be getting your opponent out of center court and driving them to the deep court as well as giving yourself time to regain good center court where you want to be. Remember the player that controls center court more often usually has a better chance of winning the match.

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction or the next best thing buy video if you can't make a camp at this time.

Go to [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details on both the video and camps.



## Ektelon Professional Instructional Series

By: Touring Professional Rhonda Rajsich, currently ranked #2

### ARE YOU TOURNAMENT TOUGH?

The most common mistake made by the tournament player happens many times before you even step on the court – that's right, I said BEFORE. If you took a poll and asked players what made them "tournament tough" most would say the key is fitness or maybe practice, and yes all are important. However, the key to winning consistently is mental preparation. The problem now is what is mental preparation, and how is this accomplished? The answer is "GAME PLAN". This is a skill that is lacking even at the professional level, and most players' mental preparation is wrapped up in some physical warm-up.

Here is my short, simple and effective checklist to mentally prepare for a match.

**1. Analyze your opponent's strengths:** In order to beat a player better than you, the key is to nullify their top two strengths. You must have a plan to isolate these strengths. For example: your opponent has a very good touch game. Answer: good deep passing shots both cross-court and down the line, it's very difficult to have great touch shots from 35 to 40 feet from the front wall. Secondly, will the player's strength affect my serve strategy as well as the return of serve strategy? Remember, 80% of the game encompasses the serve and serve return.

**2. My Strengths:** (pick the two that apply to your opponent) how can I use my strengths to control momentum while attacking the opponent's weaknesses? The key is to go into every match with at least five different serves that will attack this opponent. Also, have a clear plan on the return of serve that provides the best percentage of result. When pressure increases your body will re-act more effectively if you have laid out the plan in preparation.

**3. Mental Flow:** This is the killer to most "Open" or amateur players. Preparation requires you to spend some time anticipating issues that may arise. Examples may include opponent antics, bad calls by the ref, crowd issues etc. Work out in your mind prior to your match how you plan to deal with issues. You will not be able to anticipate everything, however having a plan in place means you will never overload and self-destruct.



**4. Visualize Success:** No negative thoughts, mentally accept the challenge the match affords you, and most of all never fear losing. Pressure causes some odd reactions, haven't we all choked at some time? The willingness to take the final shot in a tiebreaker at 10-10 is not for the weak it's for the mentally prepared.

Keep it simple...the game plan is nothing more than a road map to success.

# 37 Secrets

## from the Pro Tour

**RACQUETBALL CAMPUS**  
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[www.racquetballacademy.com](http://www.racquetballacademy.com)



### Stroke Mechanics= Physics

Lots of players and coaches try to emulate what the best players in the world are doing. So if they are doing it, it must be right. Right? True, there are many things that world-class players do correctly. But there are things that they do that are not so 'correct'. They too have weaknesses that a trained eye can see.

In tennis for example, it was widely known that women's pro Gabriella Sabatini's backswing was way too big and long. It hindered her on the longer baseline rallies. Boris Becker's serve toss was too high. It made him inconsistent in less- than- perfect weather. But in spite of these mechanical flaws, they were great players.

In old school racquetball, many players left their feet as they hit the ball, to generate more power. But today's game is faster, with more powerful equipment. Players must remain solid and balanced as they contact the ball, to be ready for their opponent's shot because it will be coming back at them much quicker. The physics of leaving your feet to get a few more miles per hour made sense back then, but now it would be silly.

As you watch the best players in the world, you'll see a few common principles in their stroke mechanics...a balanced base, flat swing and lateral rotation. Look for more details about this topic in the next magazine.



### **Secret # 24**

#### **Shorten Your Stroke in Front Court:**

We've all been taught to get square to the side wall as we hit a shot, but what if you don't have time? You don't want to miss an offensive opportunity. When you are in the frontcourt, and a ball is coming at you, sometimes you don't have time to step, get square and follow through like you can on a set up shot. If you tried, you would be late coming through with the racquet, and your intended down-the-line pass or kill, will invariably hit the side wall, forcing you to vacate center court, while your opponent steps in and ends the rally. What to do? This is the time to use a short stroke or a 'snap' stroke.

Here's how. You will drop your hips. (Refer to the last 37 Secrets Installment). Your feet will stay facing the front wall, slightly staggered. The racquet tip must not drop AT ALL, and keep the butt of the racquet pointed down to the floor. You will use only your torso, hips and shoulders to 'snap' the racquet to the ball. It's a very compact stroke. It works great for a re-kill or angle pass from the frontcourt. You won't have much of a follow through, so you will be ready for the next shot, if your opponent is so lucky.

# GET WITH THE PROGRAM



By CONNIE MARTIN

Get with the Program

## Just Can't Get Enough of Those Kids!

Last issue's article focused on High School Racquetball and the importance of starting a High School League in your city or state. I mentioned Kaylee Pfennig who was a player in the Oregon High School League and then went onto play for Oregon State. The reason I bring this up is, since the last issue, Kaylee and her teammates from Oregon State University shocked the College Racquetball Scene by winning the 2006 USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships in Phoenix. Even more impressive, eleven of the twelve-member squad were past participants in the Oregon High School League Program and many of these kids came up through the ranks of the Oregon Junior Racquetball Association (OJRA) by playing in the junior and adult tournaments offered year-round in the state. So first of all, congratulations to Kaylee and her team members — way to go, Oregon!

At Cascade Athletic Clubs in Gresham (where I work), we've been involved in the high school league for about 6 years, but have never really developed the Junior side of our Program. An adult multi-fitness club with supervised kids' programs, we just didn't focus on that side of things and I imagine there are a lot of clubs just like us. But over the years, we've developed an excellent kids' swim program as well as sports camp and tennis programs. Finally we decided it was time to develop a junior program from the ground up instead of starting with the high school age kids. Getting kids going as young as possible will not only help build up the base for the high school league but also help guarantee our adult members will stay longer. Plus, these kids will eventually grow up and not only become members but start working at the clubs! We need to keep developing future racquetball players but we also certainly need to develop more instructors and racquetball program directors!

I asked Annette Knoth, a friend of mine who is an expert in the building of junior racquetball programs, what makes their program so successful. Annette, who is manager of East Side Athletic Club in Milwaukie, Oregon, answered, "It's all about volunteers and a passion for the sport!" She went on to say that if it weren't for the volunteers (parents and players), they wouldn't be where they are today. Get

this: her program for kids is run on *Sundays*. Yes, that's how I reacted, too: "Sundays?!" In order not to compete with other sports (in which 75% of her players participate), Sunday is the best day to run their program. So for the past 7 years, Annette and her volunteers have met most Sundays of the year to develop an excellent juniors program. There are three groups: Multi-Bounce from 1-2 pm, Intermediate (8-17 year olds) from 2-4 pm, and Advanced/National Team training from 3-5 pm. In all, about 50 kids participate during each 8-week session. The kids pay \$45 per session for the Multi-Bounce and \$75 for the Intermediate and Advanced Classes. Non-members of the club pay a slightly higher fee (but the goal, of course, is to get these kids and families to become members).

Annette didn't start out with a program this large — her first year had just six kids signed up for a one-hour program. So you don't have to start out big: six kids the first time will lead to ten the next, and then 20 and then ??? Remember, this is in addition to the kids who practice at their club during the high school season (October-February); 50 kids from six high schools participate. Some of the kids show up just to have fun, some play in their club's events, some compete in OJRA events, while still others have gone on to play at national events, earning state and national titles. Annette is extremely proud of her whole group of juniors, but has a favorite in her son Taylor who started playing when he was 8 years old. He recently won the Oregon High School State Championships in both singles and doubles - as a *freshman*! This is the first time this has ever happened in the history of the Oregon High School League. Taylor has also earned twelve national titles in the past 7 years and has even graced the cover of USA Racquetball. In addition to the volunteers, Annette attributes the continued success of her program to getting these kids involved in tournament play as well as having the older kids help with the beginners to make the program *fun*!

*Connie Martin has been playing, programming and teaching at racquetball clubs for nearly 30 years. She developed the Racquetball Teaching Association which is now known as AmPRO, has written two Racquetball Program Manuals, and has received the Joe Halverson Award and the first IHRSA International Racquetball Programming Award. Connie will be the 38th inductee into the National Racquetball Hall of Fame at National Singles in Houston. She is currently working on a project with the Racquetball Manufacturers Council, still directs programming at Cascade Athletic Clubs (21st year) and coaches her son's high school racquetball team. Connie can be reached at Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com.*

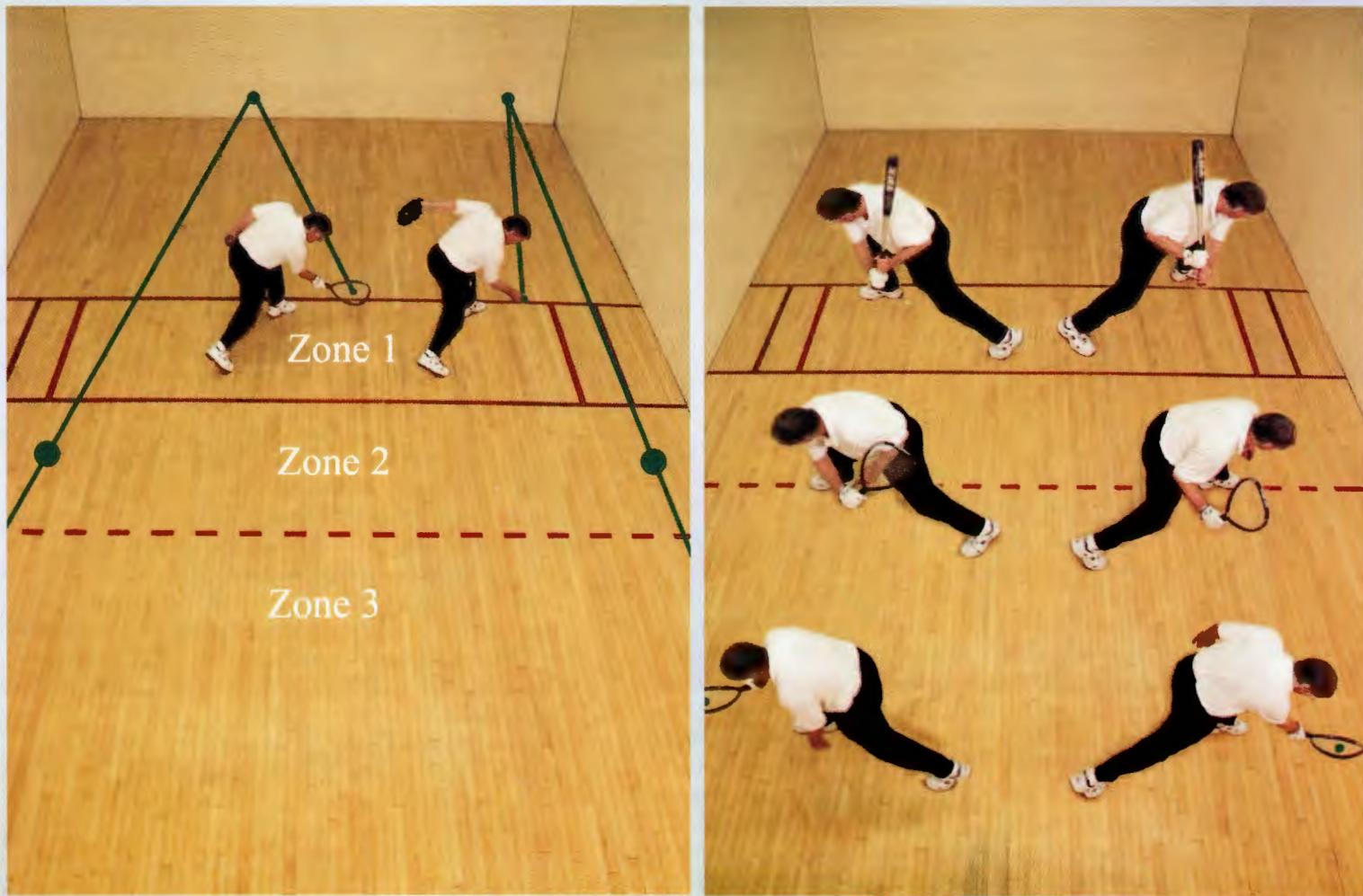
# STRANDEMO'S *strategies*



**Strandemo on Racquetball**

In the previous lessons I have given you some strategies and drills for the server. In this lesson I want to show you some important information that deals with the receiver. I think one of the easiest ways to make this analogy is to compare the receiver to a baseball hitter. To be a good hitter you want to enter the batters box with an aggressive attitude and be looking for the pitcher to make a mistake. The good racquetball receiver wants to be looking for serving errors and then be offensive with the return.

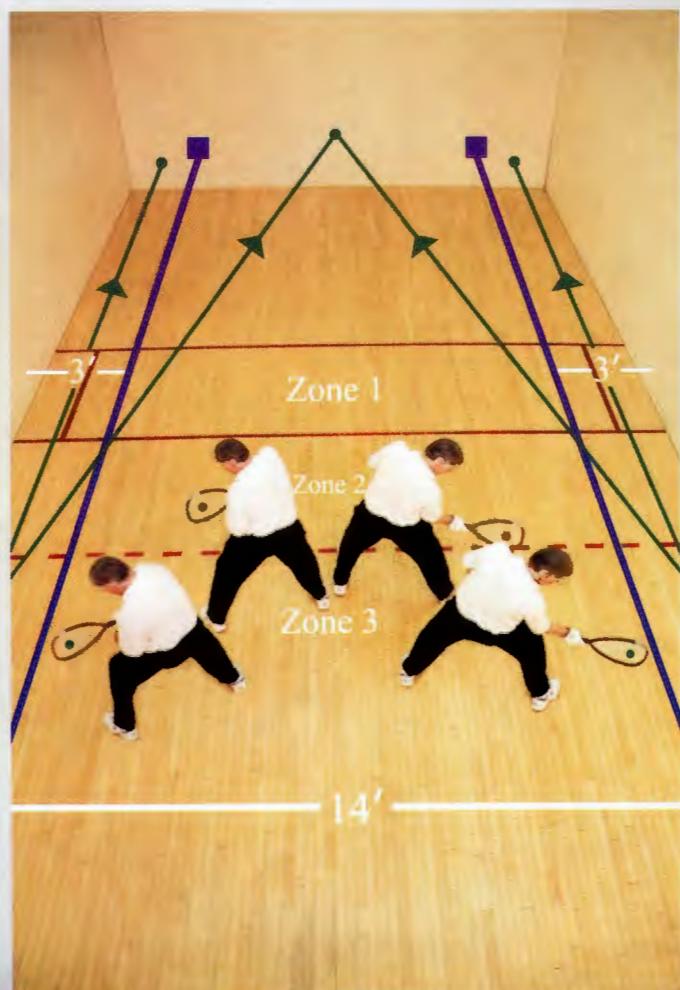
The two photos below will show you how closely the underarm baseball throw and the switch-hitting batter resemble the server and receiver in racquetball. The step-by-step pictures on the right will demonstrate the actual serve return movement to return a low drive serve. Good luck in all your matches!



I want to make some important comparisons regarding these 2 photos. In the left photo; the racquetball serving motion and the underarm baseball throw or pitch are exactly the same physical motion (elbow bending and extending with a forceful wrist snap at ball contact or pitch release). In the right photo, the **return of serve hitting motion** and the **baseball swing** are also the same exact motion. Notice how the baseball hitter has his wrist cocked as he's preparing to swing. The middle row of racquetball photos shows that same wrist cock position as the racquetball receiver is preparing his body for his swing.



These 2 sets of sequential pictures show how the receiver will move to return a good low drive serve that is not coming off the back wall. The top set of photos shows a backhand return and the bottom set shows a forehand return. The starting position is a relatively low athletic 'ready to move' position (be in a backhand grip position to start). The 2<sup>nd</sup> picture is a crucial (little shuffle) widening of your feet and is a preparatory move that readies yourself for the cross-over step. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> pictures are the long cross-over step with the racquet back up (wrist cocked) and the hitting arm extension with the wrist snap at ball contact.



This photo shows how difficult it is to hit a good offensive serve return (down-the-line or cross-court pass) that doesn't angle back into the Zone 2-3 area. To understand the full meaning of this photo, visualize the server has hit a well angled low drive to the back left corner and has relocated to the back part of Zone 2. Now, for example, visualize the receiver in the back left corner hitting a '*down the left wall pass*' or a '*cross-court pass*'. If you follow the green lines you'll see if the receiver keeps his return within 3 feet of either sidewall he will keep it out of the server's reach. **But, if his hard return angles back into the middle 14 feet of Zone 2-3, the server is ready to cut-it-off with an open stance and then attempt to angle his next shot away from his opponent.** By the way, if you hit a pinch on the return, it needs to bounce twice before the opposite side wall or twice before the front red line for it to be a winner.

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# THE BACKHAND STROKE compared to THROWING A FRISBEE

BY SUDSY MONCHIK



Presented By:



In previous articles I used analogies for my Magical Forehand such as swinging a baseball bat or throwing a ball sidearm as well as for my Magical Backhand such as a switch hitter in baseball and I have gotten VERY positive feedback from my readers. Therefore, today I want to use another analogy for my Magical Backhand which has been labeled as THE BEST backhand in the game of racquetball.

Too often I see players shy away from their backhand and actually run around their backhand to hit a forehand. This is not a smart tactic if you want to get your game to the next level. You truly need to spend time on gaining consistency and confidence with your backhand that you experience with your forehand. You WANT to be strong and a threat from both sides.

With that in mind let's take a look at my "Magical Backhand compared to Throwing a Frisbee" ...something everyone can relate to:

## TRICK 1

Ready Position

### Backhand

Grip - Hand moves 1/8" towards back wall

Stance - Good power base - feet a little wide than shoulder width apart

- knees relaxed and flexed
- upper body erect
- shoulders level and rotated
- weight even 50/50

Early Racquet Preparation (ERP)

- elbow up and in line with shoulder



## TRICK 2

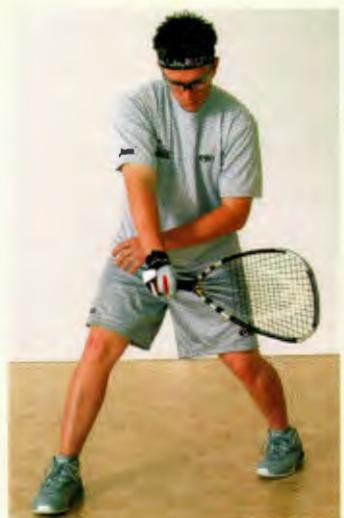
Step & Swing or Throw

### Backhand

Step - 45 degree angle - weight shifts slightly, but remains relatively even so you can drive off back leg (goes 60/40 then back to 50/50)

Hip Rotation - Backfoot pivots

- hips open
- Upper Body - Shoulders leads then followed by elbow, wrist, racquet
- wrist relaxed snaps through



### Throwing a Frisbee

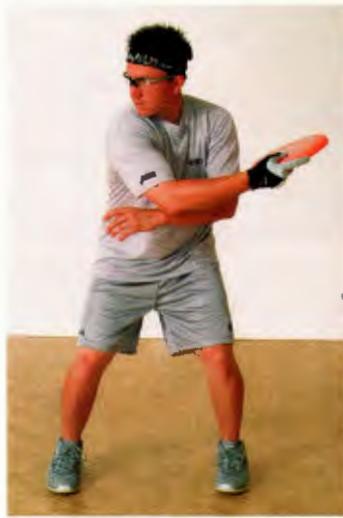
Grip - Hand holds the frisbee like a racquet

Stance - Good power base - feet a little wide than shoulder width apart

- knees relaxed and flexed
- upper body erect
- shoulders level and rotated
- weight even 50/50

Early Frisbee Preparation (EFP)

- elbow up

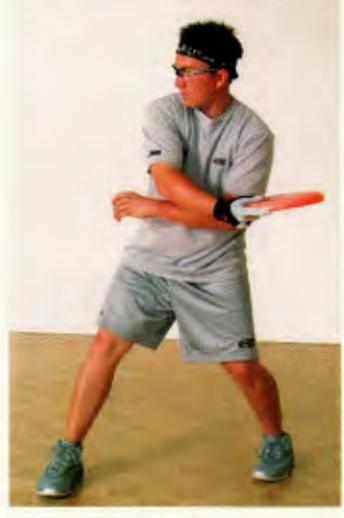


### Throwing a Frisbee

Step - 45 degree angle - weight shifts slightly, but remains relatively even so you can drive off back leg (goes 60/40 then back to 50/50)

Hip Rotation - Backfoot pivots

- hips open
- Upper Body - Shoulders leads then followed by elbow, wrist, frisbee
- wrist relaxed snaps through



# MAGIC SHOW

## TRICK 3

Contact Point or Release

### Backhand

Contact Point – Power zone – off lead foot (visualize 4 racquets on the floor like video)  
- racquet flat and level  
- arm at full extension  
- knee high or lower depending on shot



### Sidearm

Contact Point – Power zone – off lead foot (visualize 4 frisbees on the floor )  
- frisbee flat and level  
- arm at full extension  
- waist to chest high



## TRICK 4

Follow Through

### Backhand

Follow Through – Racquet pointing toward back wall  
- chest and belly button facing front wall  
- non-hitting arm comes through and around



### Sidearm

Follow Through – frisbee arm pointing toward the back wall after frisbee was released  
- chest and belly button facing the front wall  
- non-hitting arm comes through and around



Well, there you have it...my magical "Backhand Stroke Compared to Throwing a Frisbee". By visualizing this motion it will get you ready to develop your game from the backhand side as well as the forehand side. Don't be one of those players we label a "lop-sided" player (an "A" forehand, but a "C" backhand) as that will only work at the lower levels. As you would start to move up in level the better players would figure out that your backhand was considerably weaker and pick on it.

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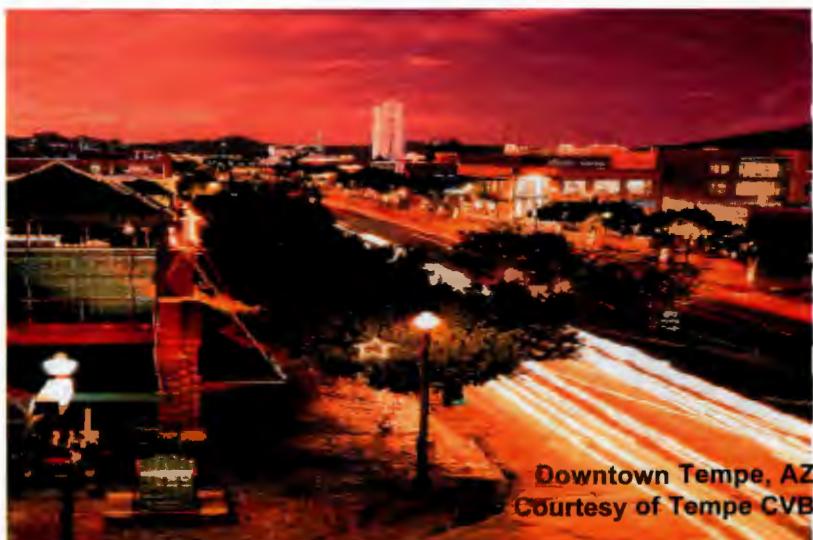
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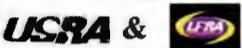
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<b>MAY</b>						
5/20/2006	5/20/2006	DALLAS SERIES V	LANDMARK FITNESS FACTORY		DALLAS, TX	
5/24/2006	5/29/2006	US NATIONAL SINGLES YMCA - CHAMPIONSHIPS	DOWNTOWN HOUSTON		HOUSTON, TX	
<b>JUNE</b>						
6/1/2006	6/4/2006	CHARITY TOURNAMENT FOR NF	P.R.O. SPORTS CLUB		BELLEVUE, WA	
6/2/2006	6/4/2006	Grand Canyon State Games	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY		TEMPE, AZ	
6/2/2006	6/4/2006	NM STATE GAMES	KIRTLAND EAST FITNESS CENTER		ALBUQUERQUE, NM	
6/2/2006	6/4/2006	2006 FL JUNIOR REGIONALS	YMCA - INTERBAY FAMILY		TAMPA, FL	
6/10/2006	6/10/2006	TRIPLE CROWN SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB		ARLINGTON, TX	
6/17/2006	6/17/2006	Summer Splat	Spectrum Health Club		SAN ANTONIO, TX	
6/21/2006	6/25/2006	US NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING		EAST LANSING, MI	
6/23/2006	6/25/2006	Summer Splat Shot	WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY		BOWLING GREEN, KY	
6/23/2006	6/25/2006	ALOHA OPEN	BODY CHECK HEALTH AND FITNESS		WINSTON SALEM, NC	
6/24/2006	6/25/2006	Hot Summer Nights Open	GREENBRIAR ATHLETIC CLUB		INDPLS, IN	
<b>JULY</b>						
7/1/2006	7/1/2006	COLORADO STATE GAMES	LYNMAR RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO		
7/8/2006	7/8/2006	TRIPLE CROWN SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB		ARLINGTON, TX	
7/15/2006	7/15/2006	Hot Tamale	Spectrum Health Club		SAN ANTONIO, TX	
7/21/2006	7/23/2006	BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS	COURTS PLUS OF NEW BERN		NEW BERN, NC	
7/26/2006	7/29/2006	NMRA MASTERS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	Northwest Athletic Club - Highway 100		Brooklyn Center, MN	
<b>AUGUST</b>						
8/4/2006	8/6/2006	2006 NC STATE DOUBLES	COURTS PLUS OF NEW BERN		NEW BERN, NC	
8/5/2006	8/6/2006	State Games of Indiana and Illinois	OMNI 41 SPORTS COMPLEX		SCHERERVILLE, IN	
8/5/2006	8/5/2006	Tennessee State Juniors Championship	CLARKSVILLE ATHLETIC CLUB		CLARKSVILLE, TN	
8/12/2006	8/12/2006	TRIPLE CROWN SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB		ARLINGTON, TX	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>						
9/8/2006	9/9/2006	TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPIONSHIPS	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB		ARLINGTON, TX	
9/14/2006	9/17/2006	IRT Tour Tier 1 & 7th Annual Ghost of Georgetown	ATHLETIC CLUB of OVERLAND PARK		OVERLAND PARK, KS	
9/15/2006	9/17/2006	OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE BLAST IT	THE SPORTS CENTER		FAYETTEVILLE, NC	
9/27/2006	10/1/2006	2006 US NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY		TEMPE, AZ	
9/29/2006	10/1/2006	FALL CLASSIC	YMCA - DOWD		CHARLOTTE, NC	
<b>OCTOBER</b>						
10/6/2006	10/8/2006	COURTS FOR THE CURE	COURTS PLUS OF JACKSONVILLE		JACKSONVILLE, NC	
10/13/2006	10/15/2006	2006 TX STATE DOUBLES	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB		ARLINGTON, TX	
10/20/2006	10/22/2006	EAST COAST RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	WILMINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB		Wilmington, NC	
10/28/2006	10/30/2006	MUSIC CITY OPEN	YMCA - Downtown Nashville		Nashville, TN	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>						
11/3/2006	11/4/2006	2006 TX STATE SENIORS	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB		ARLINGTON, TX	
11/4/2006	11/6/2006	WINTER SHOOTOUT	Kildaire Farms Fitness and Racquetball Cntr		CARY, NC	
11/15/2006	11/19/2006	2006 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN	THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS		MEMPHIS, TN	
<b>DECEMBER</b>						
12/9/2006	12/9/2006	HOLIDAY SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB		ARLINGTON, TX	

# SOUND OFF!

## Greetings from St. Louis.

I thought you may enjoy some racquetball news!

I am writing to let you know that my son Charlie and our racquetball team from DeSmet High School had a great season. The High Performance Camp and your training materials were a big help to us!

For the first time in our school's history, we won our State Tournament and were truly untouchable. We earned twice the number of points as the defending champs, our big rivals from St. Louis University High School and we dominated at State. Plus, Team DeSmet went 10-0 in after school league matches this year. Plus, we had 10 of our 45 players go 10-0. Also, 38 of our 45 players earned Scholar Athlete Awards by keeping a 3.0 minimum GPA. AWESOME!!!

Being all fired up after State, we took 13 of our top players to the 2006 High School Nationals in Salem, OR. to compete on March 2-5. It was an awesome experience for all of us. However, our #2 seeded Varsity player, Kevin Bell took ill the day of our trip and he could not travel with us. Kevin is an outstanding athlete and aggressive racquetball player. He was a great asset to our team all year long.

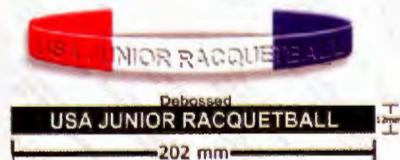
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# The Inside Scoop

By Mike Ceresia

- 5 Time IRF World Champion
- 11 Time Canadian National Champion

## The "Greatest Debate?"

One of the hottest topics in sports is the subject of "the greatest to ever play the game." Woods versus Nicklaus; Gretzky versus Orr; Sampras versus Borg; Ali versus Louis are all interesting watering hole conversations. Let's start by acknowledging that comparing eras is virtually impossible; racquetball is no different. Racquet specs have evolved, the ball has changed a number of times, financial challenges have affected depth...and the list goes on. But our sport, even in its relative infancy, has produced some truly great players!

There are six players who have accumulated incredible stats and deserve the opportunity to lay claim as the greatest to play the game. Cliff Swain, Sudsy Monchik, Mike Yellen, Marty Hogan, Charlie Brumfeld and, in a special category, Ruben Gonzalez: one could make a strong case for the Title for each of these fine players.

**Cliff Swain** was an incredible player to watch in his prime and could arguably be considered the best of all time. He had it all: the best serve in the game, a never-miss forehand and a game plan that has remained virtually unchanged in 20+ years on the tour. However, his most impressive attribute was his competitiveness. It still is. He did not handle losing well. In fact he hated it so very much that he decided to avoid it entirely. The one blemish on his career is that Sudsy Monchik beat him regularly for 5 straight years. These two are about 10 years apart in age; seeing them at the same age would have been something very special.

**Mike Yellen** was the player who truly developed today's brand of racquetball. He combined control with power and a disarming mental calm to dominate the sports elite in his prime. It took five long years on tour for Yellen to reach his peak. He was unstoppable after that. Yellen learned the game from court genius Leonard Karpelas. Fundamental racquetball and a mental dedication to be the best led him to five straight number #1 titles while Marty Hogan was in his prime. He never won easily but won the big matches when #1 was on the line — exactly like a true champion should! His later years were sometimes tough to watch because winning was all or nothing for Yellen.

**Sudsy Monchik**, aka The Kid, was a truly phenomenal talent. Many people refer to his incredible backhand or his rocket launcher serve, but his best attribute was his jaw-dropping speed. He covered the court better than anyone and hit simple winners with easy touch to contrast the pace. His racquet skills were excellent and solid. He was strong on his

feet and fun to watch. Sudsy's forehand could be picked on, but not by many. His brand of physical play was not easy on the body and injuries took their toll. He quit the game before the age of 30, denying us the thrill of seeing him compete against Waselenchuk and Huczek in their primes.

**Marty Hogan** created the power game. He took a pass on playing the game the way the top players of the early days played it. They jockeyed for court position and only went for a winner when it was on a silver platter. He invented his own game. Nobody used a backhand as a weapon until Hogan came along. His rise to the top was mercurial and the game was at its peak when he was #1. Even today, his name goes hand-in-hand with professional racquetball to the general public. He was an outstanding multi-sport athlete. Mike Yellen sideswiped Hogan's claim as the greatest. Unfortunately for Marty, he never possessed the total package, at least using today's definition of the word.

**Charlie Brumfeld** was likely the most intense champion to step foot on the courts. There was no tactic too diabolical, nothing he would not do to win. His game was the thinking man's game and he believed he could coerce a player into playing their worst with a combination of mental and physical tactics. He spent many hours analyzing his opponents and their mental state with the sole purpose of exploiting their weaknesses at key junctures in their matches. Also, he possessed an outstanding forehand, excellent reach, fantastic touch and tremendous discipline. His run at the top was ended by Hogan and the onslaught of the fast ball.

In a special category is the "old dog," **Ruben Gonzalez**. This guy is otherworldly. He picked up the game in his late 20's after dominating the one-wall handball world. He had a tremendous run to his lone Pro World Championship at the tender age of 36 and won his last tour stop at 42. He played outstanding racquetball for 25 years and was good enough to qualify to represent the USA in International Competition after his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Furthermore, this incredible individual never even considered throwing in the towel after he tore his Achilles tendon in his mid 40's. His game was built around an outstanding forehand, a solid backhand, and court coverage in a category all its own.

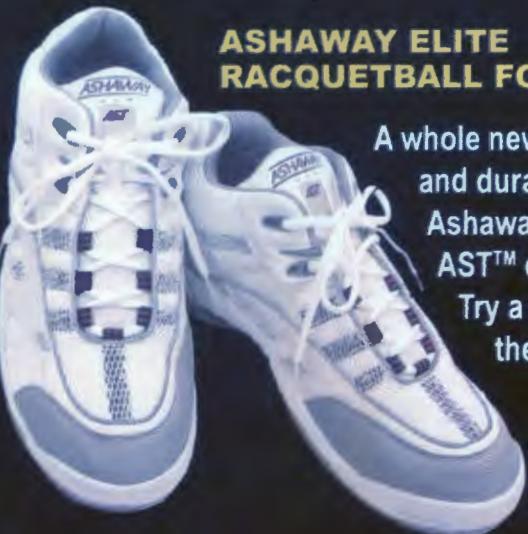
In addition to the above champions, there have been a number of tremendous players who have shone their brightest in International Racquetball competition. Also, there are a handful of impressive players from Canada and Mexico who never competed full time on the Men's Pro Tours but would have been serious forces if they had given the tour a serious run. One last word: naturally, Kane Waselenchuk and Jack Huczek exhibit a huge potential to show up on this list in the coming years!

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