# In This Issue...

From The President

A Masterful Event

B.R. Ryall Ed Lembitz Memorial Fall Classic

Halloween Classic IRT Pro Stop 7-8

ISRA 2003 Tournament Calendar

Croft Takes Southlake! 10

USRA Competitive License Application 10

2002 Players of the Year and 2003 Distinguished Service Awards 11

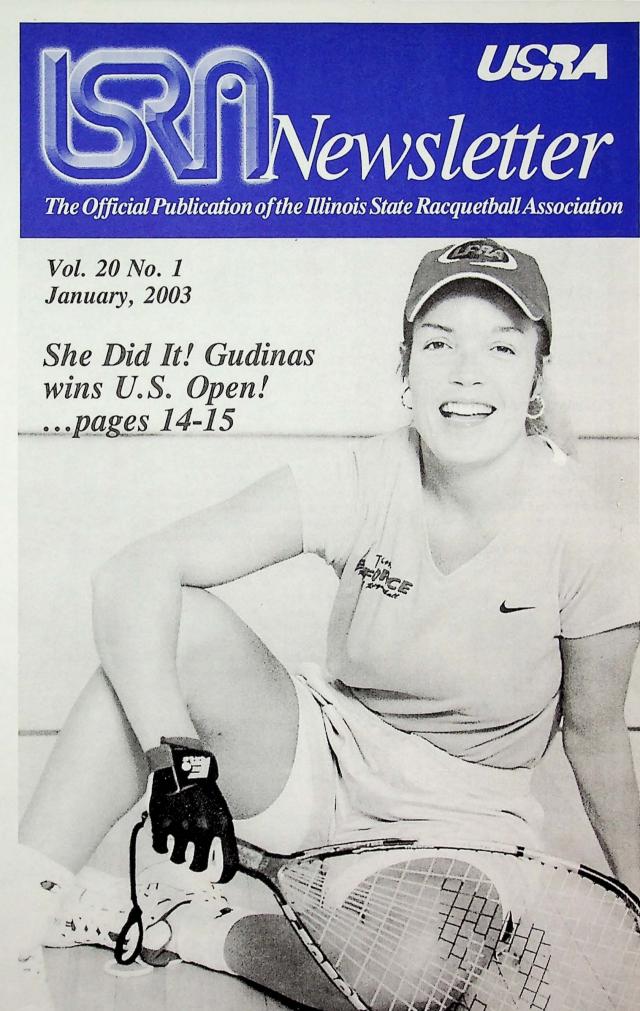
Glass Court Turkey Shoot 12-13

U.S. Open Championships 14-15

Cental Illinois Racquetball Calendar 16

Challenge Courts
18

JTI Calendar 18



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## From The President

This is the time of year when I like to take a little time to reflect on what I have accomplished in the last year and think about what I want to accomplish in the coming year. I'm sure it's the same for many of you. I just finished my last final exam, completing my third semester of graduate school. One more to go and I'm sure I'll get that big promotion! When I'm done writing this letter, I'm going to start tackling my shopping list. Hopefully I can get that done before I run out of time...or money...

From a racquetball perspective, it's been a pretty good year. Personally I haven't achieved my playing goals, but I have achieved my playing weight - so that's a start. The past year's tournament season was a good one, with participation in many events higher than in recent years. And we all came together to host a very successful Junior National tournament. Racquetball is alive and well in Illinois.

Sadly, I can't say the same for one of our favorite clubs, the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale. Unless a Christmas miracle occurs, the club will be closed by the time you read this article. Dave and Dennis Negrete recently announced that they will close their doors on December 23, 2002. Almost all of us have experienced the Negrete hospitality - whether through travel league, tournaments, prostops, or the legendary parties. I always think of Dave as the "pied piper" of racquetball. As such, many of us followed Dave and Dennis when they moved from Woodfield to Bloomingdale. I have some really fond memories and stories of events at both clubs- although some of them can't be printed in a family newsletter!

Although this is a sad ending for many of us, it's a chance for bright new beginnings for Dave and Dennis - and perhaps a



chance to rest for Mrs. Negrete! Luckily, Dave's new beginnings will be racquetball-related. He will be assuming the position of Racquetball Director for a group of the Lifetime Fitness clubs (Bloomingdale, Schaumburg and Warrenville). If racquetball lessons appeared on your Christmas or New Year's resolution lists, Dave will be available to provide them. He still plans to run some of his regular tournaments just at different venues. Dave will also have more time to focus on his role as IRT Commissioner. Maybe he can bring greater attention to the sport of racquetball through the pro tour - and get it on TV more than once a year. That would be quite a beginning. Dennis hasn't divulged his plans yet, but we know he'll be successful.

As we wrap up one year and move to the next, the ISRA wishes Dave and Dennis the best of luck in the future. With their perpetual enthusiasm for our sport, I am confident they will positively influence Illinois racquetball for many years to come. And I just bet, when you hear that phone ring, it very well might be Dave calling to coerce you into playing that next tournament!

Happy New Year!

Laurel







What if the Hoop and Handle never touched? Introducing TRIAD Technology —

#### The Power of Three ...

Since the beginning of racquet sports, players have searched for three things in a racquet – power, comfort and control. But they've only found compromise, because every racquet ever played has been designed as a one-plece unit. The traditional one-piece design always minimizes one critical playing characteristic when attempting to maximize another.

But what if the hoop and handle never touched? Not only could you maximize power in the hoop and control in the handle, you could isolate shock and prevent it from reaching the arm. For the first time ever, you could design a racquet that didn't compromise.

Introducing TRIAD, a revolutionary tri-component design that maximizes power, control and comfort without compromising one for the other.

The hoop and the handle of a TRIAD racquet are designed as customized components. They never touch. We buffer them with Iso-Zorb™, an exclusive Wilson polymer similar to the material used in skyscraper foundations to absorb the shock of an earthquake.

This design breakthrough delivers a level of performance impossible in an ordinary one-piece racquet.

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Iso-Zorb™ is an exclusive Wilson polymer, similar to the material used in skyscraper foundations to absorb the shock of an earthquake. We utilize Iso-Zorb as a buffer between the TRIAD hoop and handle for dramatically increased levels of comfort, which can be customized to fit your game.

#### ONE: POWER

Maximum power is generated in the hoop of a TRIAD™ racquet. Wilson engineers combine Hyper Carbon® - the stiffest, lightest, strongest material ever used in racquetball racquets - with our patented Hammer® design, which reduces overall weight, but maintains mass in the racquet head.



Cliff Swain #1 Player in the World



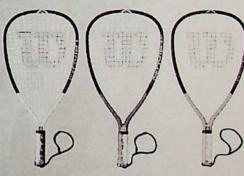
Derek Robinson World Champion

#### THREE: CONTROL

Because shock is trapped in the hoop, the handle of a TRIAD racquet remains completely stable in your hand at ball impact. The feeling of control is extraordinary.



The revolutionary Vue-Tack™ grip is naturally tacky to provide a lock-tight grip no matter how hot the action gets. It's the new choice of the pros and players of all levels.



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## "A Masterful Event": 18th Annual Illinois Seniors/Masters

Athletic Club of Bloomingdale October 19-20, 2002

This year's Seniors/Masters tournament brought, as usual, some of the best players from our state (and four others!), to compete in their respective age brackets. Players came from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin to battle for best 35+, 40+, 45+, etc., player in both advanced and intermediate brackets. Even the 75+ division was represented! Racquetball is not just a game for the young, but the young at heart, and Ken Yahiro at age 77 certainly represents that quality.

The bracket format is unique to this tournament: every division is played in round robin format. Players compete against everyone else in their division, two games to eleven points each. A bonus of three points is added for each game won and the winner is determined by total points. The pace is fast and furious, not to mention extremely competitive, with 252 matches played between Saturday 9 am to 8 pm and Sunday 9 am to 2:30 pm. (I'm tired just thinking about it!).

The tournament was hosted at the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale where Mrs. Pat Negrete and her helpers (Dave, Dennis & staff) set out a wonderful spread of "goodies" including a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Saturday night. A special "thank you" to them and also to T.J. Ferro who added to the feast by securing sponsorship from RC Cola & Entenmann's. Nobody left hungry, but

surely well-workedout! Family, friends and spectators who came to watch the event were treated to good racquetball and good food. Also, thanks to Penn for continuing its support of Illinois racquetball (no balls, no play!).

The tournament saw an increase in participation, especially by the ladies of Illinois racquetball. They battled, "dolled-up", and each left with a rose (tradition) and a smile on her face.



Rich Clay congratulates Men's 45+ Winner Dave Milazzo

One more thing about this tournament: the players refereed themselves and things couldn't have run more smoothly. I attribute this to the level of sportsmanship and the quality of the players' characters. It truly is a pleasure to be associated with such a great group. Come be a part of it next year (usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October – to be determined). Hope to see you courtside!

-Rich Clay, Tournament Director

#### **Results:**

Men's 35 + Advanced

1. Cary Slade; 2. Raul Artega; 3. Joe Gill; 4. William Lattner; 5. Kent Hadraba

Men's 35 + Intermediate A/B

1. Mark Burns; 2. Wayne Lorenz; 3. Juan Martinez;

4. Jim Abrahams; 5. Dean Marquez; 6. Matt Brown

Men's 40 + Advanced

1. Tom Connelly; 2. Tom Utterback; 3. Bob Wright;

4. Howard Thornton (MN); 5. Scott Ross; 6. Watmora Casey

Men's 40 + Intermediate A/B

1. Mark Burns; 2. Wayne Lorenz; 3. Jim Abrahams;

4. Dean Marquez; 5. Matt Brown

Men's 45 + Advanced

1. Dave Milazzo; 2. Dave Olson; 3. Brian Castillo;

4. Rick Reynolds; 5. Tom Corr; 6. Steve Saeks;

7. Geoff Peters

Men's 45 + Intermediate A/B

1. Walter Fornek; 2. Brad Jordan; 3. Steve Wright (IN);

Leo Formanski;Mike Berdell;Terry Kennedy;

7. Charley Nabor; 8. Phil Bettendorf; 9. Bill Pick

Men's 50 + Advanced

1. Dave Olson

Men's 50 + Intermediate A/B

1. Brad Jordan; 2. Phil Bettendorf; 3. Charley Nabor;

4. Mike Berdell; 5. Terry Kennedy; 6. Bill Pick

Men's 55 + Advanced

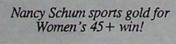
1. Dennis McKee; 2. Pat Taylor; 3. Leo Klimaitis;

4. Ron Yonkee; 5. Herb Laney; 6. Larry Schum;

7. John Ramsay

Men's 55 + Intermediate A/B

1. John Usmial; 2. William Gingold; 3. Elliott Papermaster (WI); continued on next page



- 4. Alberto Palacios; 5. John Massard;
- 6. Manuel Rosiles; 7. George Smuckel;
- 8. Don Schiff; 9. Alex Kurczaba

#### Men's 60 + Advanced

- 1. Pat Taylor; 2. Ron Yonkee;
- 3. John Ramsay

#### Men's 60 + Intermediate A/B

- 1. William Gingold; 2. Elliott Papermaster (WI); 3. Alberto Palacios;
- 4. Manuel Rosiles; 5. Don Schiff

- Men's 65 + Advanced
  1. Charles Douglass (IN); 2. John
- O'Donnell, Jr.; 3. Bill Williamson; 4. Ed Olah; 5. Chuck Kaiser (MI);
- 6. Bill Schram

#### Men's 65 + Internediate A/B

- Mike Oester;
   Ken Yahiro;
   Dan Dallas;
   Terry Wagner

#### Men's 70 + Advanced

1. John O'Donnell, Jr.; 2. Chuck Kaiser (MI) Men's 70+ Intermediate A/B

- 1. Ken Yahiro; 2. Dan Dallas;

## 3. Terry Wagner Men's 75 + Intermediate A/B

1. Ken Yahiro

#### Women's 35 + Advanced

- 1. Terri Thornton (MN):
- 2. Ellen Somberg: 3. Iill Wells:
- 4. Diane Bunker; 5. Kathy Welker;
- 6. Lori Good

- Women's 35 + Intermediate A/B
  1. Joan Vande Kieft; 2. Cheryl Kirk;
  3. Lynne Weisbart; 4. Karen Thurlow;
- 5. Dorothy McDavid

#### Women's 40 + Advanced

- 1. Terri Thornton (MN);
- 2. Ellen Somberg; 3. Diane Bunker

#### Women's 45 + Advanced

- 1. Nancy Schum; 2. Liz Molitor;
- 3. Laurel Davis; 4. Pam Grace;
- 5. Brenda White

#### Women's 45 + Intermediate A/B

- Joan Vande Kieft;
   Lynne Weisbart;
   Cheryl Kirk;
- 4. Dorothy McDavid

#### Women's 50 + Advanced

1. Pam Grace; 2. Brenda White

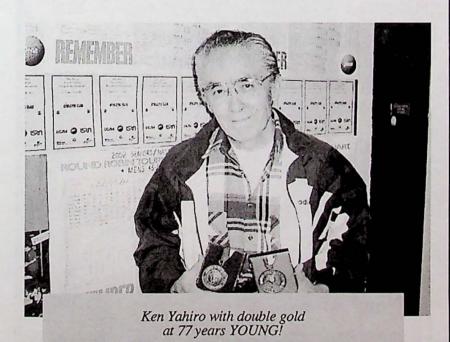
#### Women's 50+ Intermediate A/B

1. Joan Vande Kieft; 2. Dorothy McDavid



Mark Burns, Champaign radio personality: Wait 'til his listeners hear about this!







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## BR Ryall YMCA Ed Lembitz Memorial Fall Classic

October 25-26, 2002

In this second annual event, we had a lot of youth come out and play at our tournament. Nineteen kids entered three adult and four junior divisions. As the one of the homes of Junior Team Illinois, we were excited to see this many juniors turn out for a sanctioned tournament of this size. They got all they bargained for in a two-day tournament – there isn't a lot of time between games!

As usual, we had a good showing in the skill divisions and nobody ever leaves our house hungry...

Thanks to the many volunteer referees

who helped the tournament stay on time. Come on out January 24 & 25 to our Super Bowl Two-Day tournament...see you there!

-Sean Nelson, Tournament Director

#### Results

First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (4)

Ben Croft; Chuck Snyders; Bob Morrison, Kevin Yeazell

Men's A (9)

Kevin Johnson; Jim Burns; Rob Ellis, Vito Rubiano

Men's B (13)



Thanks to

#### RC COLA

for its continued sponsorship of Illinois Racquetball.

RC COLA is the Official Soft-Drink Sponsor of Illinois State Singles and Doubles Tournaments.

Support Illinois Racquetball.

Drink RC COLA.

Mike Lydy; Brian Cody; Frank Aguilar, Jim Burns

Men's C (11)

Rick Falcone; Mike Moran; Jon Soike, Sami Abualsamid

Men's D (13)

Sami Abualsamid; Dan Doretti; Joe Garay, Jeff Novak

Men's Open Doubles (8)

Ben Croft/Bob Croft; Dave Bachar/Kevin Yeazell; Bob Morrison/Rich Wells, Grant Macuba/Vito Rubiano

Men's A Doubles (4)

Brett Crawley/Phil Schmitt; Sid Harshavat/ Joe Vallender; Frank Aguilar/Sean Nelson, Doug Dvorak/Rob Ellis

Men's B Doubles (4)

Greg Benjamin/Brian Cody; Rick Falcone/ Greg Tomek; Phil Mangiaracina/Ray Shimizu; Jeff Novak/Brandon Ritschard

Juniors 16 & Under (4)

Jason Young; Michael Steinhaus; Lauren Ritschard; Chris Long

Juniors 14 & Under (6)

Brandon Ritschard; Mike Antonoff; Jeff

Goldblatt, Zac Antonoff

Junior Boys 12 & Under (8) Trevor Snyders; Zac Antonoff; Joey

Limonciello, Nick Loy

Junior Boys 10 & Under (5)
Trevor Snyders; Nick Loy; Matt Loy; Alex
King, Eric Schubert

## 2003 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

#### GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include product pricing.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- If ads are run for the entire season, AND payment is received with the first issue, the sixth ad is FREE!
- These rates are in effect until December 30, 2003.
- · Ad deadlines are as follows:

 Issue Mail Date
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 5/05/03
 4/14/03
 4/21/03

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Cheryl Kirk, 1064 Sylvan Circle, Naperville, IL 60540 (630) 305-8291

# It's All in Your GOBEA SPONSOR!

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

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



www.illinoisracquetball.com

## Halloween Classic IRT Pro Stop

Athletic Club of Bloomingdale October 31-November 3, 2002

Each Halloween weekend the professional players of the International Racquetball Tour descend on the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale, bringing with them flat splats, screaming drive serves, and wicked rollouts. The pro action makes the Halloween Classic one of the season's most exciting tournaments, and usually attracts a large amateur draw as well as throngs of spectators. This year's edition followed the established pattern, as over 250 amateurs participated and hundreds of racquetball fanatics crowded into the Bloomingdale club's viewing areas to witness racquetball execution at the highest level. Despite the obvious challenges posed by such a large draw, club owner Dave Negrete and Tournament Coordinator Diane Bunker managed a smooth operation, insuring that matches started according to schedule while also providing players with ample hospitality.

Although all of the top pros competed at Bloomingdale, one player alone dominated—Jason Mannino. Mannino, attempting to finish the IRT season with the top ranking for the first time in his career, repeatedly showed why he is widely regarded as the smartest player currently on the pro tour. Playing in a sport whose elite level is largely controlled by power players, Mannino has defied racquetball

convention by successfully adopting a playing style revolving around precise lob serves and intelligent court positioning. At the Halloween Classic, Mannino provided a nearly flawless demonstration of his unorthodox approach to the sport, dropping only one game in successive victories over Dan Llacera

(16's), #8 Rocky Carson (quarterfinals), #5 Jack Huczek (semifinals) and #3 Kane Waselenchuk (finals). In match after match, Mannino's opponents failed in their attempts to hit splat and down-the-line kills against his famously deceptive nick and half lobs, either skipping their shots or leaving easy re-kill opportunities for the perfectly positioned Mannino. Even returning Halloween Classic cham-

pion Kane Waselenchuk, who had previously looked unstoppable in defeating three legendary players—Ruben Gonzalez (16's), #11 Sudsy Monchik (quarterfinals), and #2 Cliff Swain

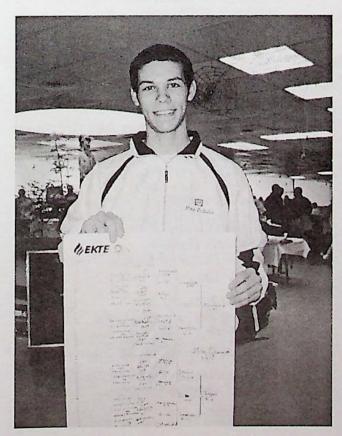


Dave Negrete and David Negrete, Jr. congratulate first place pro Jason Mannino

(semifinals)—could muster only a total of 17 points in a three-game finals loss to Mannino.

While the top seeds held sway over the pro bracket, local high school player Ben Croft, having recently earned a double appointment to the Junior National Team, fared well in early pro qualifying rounds and mounted a strong challenge to #12 IRT pro Chris Crowther in the Men's Open division. Croft exhibited his characteristic quickness and power, as well as improved shot selection and

continued on next page



Mike DeGonia bounces back to win Men's C!



Lori Good (Women's B champ) --Great Playing, Great Costume!

execution in all of his matches, especially his pro qualifying victories over Bob Nelson and Greg Thomas. In both cases, Croft's opponents seemed baffled by a player who consistently demonstrated the ability to retrieve almost any kill attempt that wasn't perfectly executed and, in turn, kill even mildly errant shots from any spot on the court. Although Ruben Gonzalez soundly defeated Croft in the third round of pro qualifying, his performance at Bloomingdale, a recent victory over top Open player Brian Fredenburg at an IRT satellite stop, and his Junior National Team appointment suggest that he may be poised to raise his play yet another level this season as he attempts to compete with the sport's top players.

Another junior player rapidly ascending the competitive ranks is Mike DeGonia, winner of the Men's C division. While DeGonia's victory might not seem extraordinary given his obvious physical talent and desire to excel, the conditions he overcame simply to participate in the Halloween tournament make his story a compelling one. Earlier this fall, DeGonia suffered a ruptured spleen, a condition that caused extensive internal bleeding, necessitated emergency surgery, and required significant recovery time. Consequently, when DeGonia began his first round match, he had only been playing for two weeks after a substantial period of inactivity. Nearly losing in the first round partially due to rustiness, his play improved as he moved through his bracket, and he eventually earned a convincing victory in the finals. DeGonia's championship testifies to his competitive spirit, and should serve as a catalyst for even greater accomplishments as the season progresses.

Congratulations to all Halloween Classic winners!

-Will Kazmier

#### Results

First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (25)

Chris Crowther (CA); Dan Llacera (DE); Mike Dennison (OH), Jason Thoerner (GA)

Men's AA (8)

John Halpin (CT); George Pappas; Mark Powers (CA), Filup Vesely (IN)

Men's A (28)

Joe Gill; Thomas Braun; Tony Gonzalez, Juan Pablo Figueroa (IN)

Men's B (28)

Tony Rosselli; Ray Shimizu; Jack Tamplin, Sid Harshavat

Men's C (27)

Mike DeGonia; Sami Abualsamid; Bob Littledale, Pete Schmeichel

Men's D (24) Lee Scoville: leff Martin: Pete Schmeichel, Mike Steinhaus Men's 25/30 + (13) Devin Canady (NM); Joey Logan; Mark Powers (CA), Dave Bushen (MI) Men's 35 + (13) Ruben Gonzalez (NJ); Mike Ceresia (Canada); Greg Thomas (OR), Dan Llacera (DE) Men's 30/35 + Intermediate (10) Kevin Massard; Grant Macuba; Twayne Howard (MI), Ray Shimizu Men's 40 + (13)

Chuck Snyders; Tom Utterback; Scott Koburi, Rick Reynolds

Men's 40/45 + Intermediate (8) John Mason; Dan Whiston (MI); Keith Wiener, Leo Formanski

Men's 45 + (14)

Dave Milazzo; Len Restaino; Gregg Mandell, Rick Reynolds

Men's 50 + (8)

TJ Ferro; Dave Olson; Pat Taylor, Mike Berdell

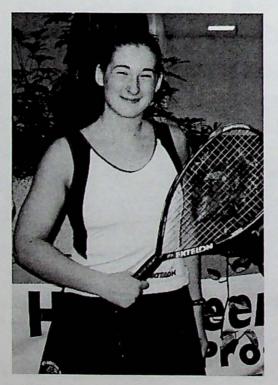
Men's 50/55 + Intermediate (12)

George Goudie (MI); John Massard; Ron Marr (KY), John Koziol Men's 55/60 + (9)

Joe Silius; Pat Taylor; Leo Klimaitis, Horace Miller

Women's Open (15)

Krystal Csuk; Liz Molitor; Diane Bunker, Ellen Somberg



U.S. National Team member Krystal Csuk took the Women's Open division



Women's AA victor Janet Eminger collects from Dave Negrete and Tournament Coordinator Diane Bunker

Women's AA (7)

Janet Eminger; Kathy Dunham; Martha Huske, Cathy Bertucci

Women's A (12)

Kelley Fisher (OH); Donna Heinzl; Pam

Grace, Joan Vande Kieft

Women's B (7) Lori Good; Karen Thurlow; Cheryl Kirk,

Lynn Yeazell Women's C (7)

Karen Thurlow; Erin Egan; Janet Christie,

Tracy Cerovski (OH) Women's D (4)

Janet Christie; Lauren Ritschard; Michelle

Timmons (OH), Sue Young Women's 35/40 + (6)

Terri Thornton (MN); Ellen Somberg; Laurel

Davis, Cindy Tilbury (CO) Women's 45/50 + (8)

Liz Molitor; Nancy Kronenfeld; Kathy Dunham, Nancy Amaro

Junior Boys 8- (5)

David Negrete; Erich Schubert; Scott Brown, Nick White

Junior Boys 10-(6)

Trevor Snyders; Matt Loy; Nick Loy, Joey

**Eminger** 

Junior Boys 12- (8)

Geoff Goldblatt; Trevor Snyders; Justin Fleck, Joey Limonciello

Junior Boys 14- (8)

Chris Muruato; Jeff Novak; Chris Schubert,

Brandon Ritschard

Junior Boys 16- (4) Mike Steinhaus; Jeff Novak; Scott Ness,

Jason Young

Junior Girls 10- (2) Julia Negrete; Joanna Vincent

Junior Girls 12-(2)

Jessica Young; Jamie Vincent

Junior Girls 16- (5)

Erin Egan; Lauren Ritschard; Vanessa Young; Stephanie Young; Sara Young



## **2003 TOURNAMENT**

For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar, please contact Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413 or at Petersgeoff@Hotmail.com

January 16 – 19
Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic
Chalet City Club, Willow Springs
Anita Efron (708) 474-2440
SANCTIONED \*\*

January 24 – 25<sup>th</sup>
Super Bowl Two Day
B. R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn
Sean Nelson (630) 858-0100
SANCTIONED \*\*

February 1st
One Day Doubles Tune-up
The Southlake Club, Mundelein
Kathy Logic (847) 949-8180
SANCTIONED \*\*

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> – Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>
WSMA 14<sup>th</sup> Seniors Masters
Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club
Kendra Tutsch (608) 592-2497
SANCTIONED

February 7 - 9th

ISRA State Doubles
Championships
The Glass Court Swim
and Fitness
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

February 14 – 16<sup>th</sup>
St. Valentine's Day Classic
B.R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn
Dave Negrete (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

February 21 – 23<sup>rd</sup>
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Palos Olympic Open
Palos Olympic Health and Fitness
Tom Utterback (708) 974-1900
SANCTIONED

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup>
Wilson 16<sup>th</sup> U.S. High School
Championships
St. Louis, MO
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

March 7 – 9<sup>th</sup>
Negrete Open
Location TBD
Dave Negrete (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

March 12 – 15<sup>th</sup>
NMRA Masters National
Championships
The Spectrum Club,
Canoga Park, CA
Debbie Tisinger (818) 884-5034
SANCTIONED

March 13 – 16<sup>th</sup>
Shamrock Shootout
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

March 21 – 23<sup>rd</sup>
March Madness
Edens Athletic Club, Chicago
Joe Gill (773) 286-6700
SANCTIONED \*\*

March 29 – 30<sup>th</sup>
ISRA Junior State Singles & Doubles
Location TBD
check the website:
www.illinoisracquetball.com
SANCTIONED \*\*

April 3 – 6
ISRA State Singles
Chalet City Club, Willow Springs
Geoff Peters (773) 251-4413
SANCTIONED

April 3 – 6<sup>th</sup>
E-Force 31<sup>st</sup> Intercollegiate
Championships
Location TBD
Heather Fender
(719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

April 10 – 13<sup>th</sup>
Ektelon USRA Regional
Championships
Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Geoff Peters (773) 251-4413
SANCTIONED

April 19th
USRA Junior Regional
Championships
Shelby County Athletic Club,
Shelby IN
Cathy McGrath (317) 879-8100
SANCTIONED \*\*

May 21 – 26<sup>th</sup>
36<sup>th</sup> Ektelon USRA National
Championships
Downtown YMCA, Houston, TX
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

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## **Croft Takes Southlake!**

November 9, 2002

One-day tournaments seem to be more popular than ever! Perhaps it's that you won't have the uncertainty of whether or not you're playing one, two, or three (or even four) days in a row, or perhaps it's the lower entry fee. Whatever the reason, this one day event was bursting at the seams as the play continued from 9am through 9 pm. (Southlake cuts off the draw for any individual division at 16 players - meaning that the finalists will play 4 matches in a day. Any more, and a masseuse would be a requirement!)

Ben Croft blew through the Men's Open division and was carried by his father to the Men's Open Doubles title as well. His finals opponent in both cases was a player relatively new to the State tournament scene - Thomas Braun. Tom wasn't up to handling Ben's firepower in the singles final, and everyone was tired by the time that doubles match was played. Tom partnered with club member Jim McHale to get to the final; Jim was also a finalist in the Men's A where he lost in a tie-breaker to a determined Kevin Johnson, Keith Stevens and Robert Littledale took Men's B and C respectively in straight games and "Dynamite" Dan Doretti took his first title ever in the Men's D bracket.

The Women's A final was a long, drawnout war between friends and frequent opponents Tina Hernandez and Joan Vande Kieft. Tina finally took the match in a tense 11-10 tiebreaker, while Joan got a measure of revenge as she and partner Doug Dvorak bested Tina and partner Jim Phillips in an 11-7 tiebreaker. They were two tired ladies by the time it was all over!

Tournament sponsor El Barrios Mexican restaurant provided great food all afternoon - including trays of enchiladas, chicken wings and guacamole. Add that to the Italian beef sandwiches, 50-cent drafts and free soda - and it was amazing that anyone could waddle through the afternoon matches!! Tournament Director Kathy Logic and her staff of Lynn Koznicky, Tina Hernandez and Mary Burkemper kept all of the matches on time, all day: the final 8pm matches finished at exactly 9 pm and the thirsty players were at the bar by 9:15 to have a cold one before heading on home!

The next One Day Sanctioned event at Southlake will be the weekend before State Doubles as a tune-up for the big event at The Glass Court. Southlake is a great player-oriented club that's a little off the beaten path up north in Mundelein (Route 60 and Route 45), but well worth the drive (especially if you only have to do it once!). Congrats to all winners... another great tournament! —Geoff Peters

#### Results

First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (6)

Ben Croft; Thomas Braun; Kevin Yeazell, Jorge Ortiz Men's A (8)

Kevin Johnson; Jim McHale; Terry Vandermeersch, Keith Stevens

Men's B (16)

Keith Stevens; Brett Crawley; Steve Saeks, Steve Jungman

Men's C (14)

Robert Littledale; Brandon Ritschard; Ed Niemic, Bill Butterworth

Men's D (7)

Dan Doretti; Mike Winston; Joey Limonciello, Andy Gomez

Women's A (3)

Tina Hernandez; Joan Vande Kieft; Lynne Weisbart

Women's B (4)

Sandy Perkins; Sandy Ostman; Donna Alberts; Valerie Earl

Men's Open Doubles (4)

Ben Croft/Bob Croft; Thomas Braun/Jim McHale; George Steffans/Carl D'Ambrose; Rich Clay/Mike Ardito

Men's B Doubles (7)

Terry Vandermeersch/Steve Zeitlin; Brett Crawley/Robert Littledale; Rob Ellis/Doug Dvorak, Scott McPeek/Todd Allen

Mixed A Doubles (3)

Doug Dvorak/Joan Vande Kieft; Tina Hernandez/Mike Phillips; Lynne Weisbart/ Grant Macuba

Mixed B Doubles (4)

Sandy Perkins/Sino Avella; Donna Albert/ Scott Albert; Henry Broman/Sandy Ostman, Ron Bormann/Valerie Earl

Juniors (5)

Geoff Goldblatt; Jeff Albert; Joey Limonciello, Chris Muruato; Eric Gnigler

111	

Send to:

ISRA

## COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE/ZIP
	(Business)
BIRTHDATE	
Adult competitor	\$30.00
Junior competitor	\$20.00
	ALL Magazine)
RACQUETBALL Magazine subscription	only\$20.00
	\$
Total enclosed	\$
Tournament	Representative

2291 Shannondale Rd. Libertyville, IL 60048

> Member Sport, U.S. Olympic Committee

# 2002 ISRA Players of the Year and 2003 Distinguished Service Awards

2001 Male and Female Players of the Year and Most Improved Player Award

Vote for your favorite male and/or female Player of the Year and Most Improved Player using the form below. Please submit a brief comment regarding your selection(s) using the following criteria:

- 1. Accomplishments
- 2. Number of years played
- 3. Sportsmanship
- 4. Improvement
- 5. Contribution to the sport of racquetball

Nominees must be USRA/ISRA members and may play at any level. Winners will be chosen by the ISRA Governing Board and will be honored at the 2002 State Singles Championships on April 5, 2003.

Players of the Year — past recipients: Chris Evon, Marshall Waldo (1988); Cheryl Gudinas, Rich Clay (1989); Pat Tarzon, Bill Lyman (1990); Laurel Davis, Ron Johnson (1991); Lola Markus, Bill Lyman (1992); Cheryl Gudinas, Andy Pitock (1993); Cheryl Gudinas, Greg Hasty (1994); Cheryl Gudinas, Horace Miller (1995); Dawn Gates, John Negrete (1996); Krystal Csuk, John O'Donnell, Jr. (1997); Mary Crawford, Greg Hasty, Sr. (1998); Terri Graham, Cary Slade (1999); Cheryl Gudinas, Bill Lyman (2000); Nancy Kronenfeld, Bill Lyman (2001).

Most Improved Player Award – past recipients: Robert Gates, Jr. (1998); Ben Croft (1999); Diane Bunker (2000); Ubaldo Melo (2001).

#### 2003 Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 2002 ISRA Distinguished Service Award. Criteria for consideration include commitment to the sport of racquetball; quality of service; and accomplishments benefiting the sport and its players. Any ISRA member may make nominations. The winner, chosen by the ISRA Governing Board, will be honored at the 2002 State Singles on April 5, 2003.

Distinguished Service Award – past recipients: Tom Street (1978); Bob Troyer (1979); Art Michaely (1980); Gay Kenna (1981); Jim Harper (1982); Jim Cartwright (1983); Alan Shetzer (1984); Clyde Senters (1985); Diane Gabrisko (1986); Geoff Peters (1986); Bill Feigen (1987); Alvin Barasch (1988); Judy Young (1989); Bill Roberts (1990); Al Danielwicz(1991); Bill Piggott (1992); Rich Clay (1993); Dave Negrete (1994); Lori Kaiser (1995); Brian Stuertz (1996); Diane DeArmas (1997); T.J. Ferro (1998); Laurel Davis (1999); Rich Clay (2000); Mike Davern (2001); Pam Grace (2002).

Act Now: Nominations must be received by February 21, 2003!! Send in a brief note to: Illinois State Racquetball Association, 1064 Sylvan Circle, Naperville, IL 60540; or email your nomination to Cheryl Kirk at *cherylkkirk@aol.com*. Your nomination should include your name, address, day and evening phonenumber, the name of the nominee, and the reasons why that person should receive the award.

-Cheryl Kirk

## ISRA Players of the Year & Most Improved Player NOMINATION FORM

Male Nominee's Name
Female Nominee's Name
Most Improved Player's Name
Include paragraph regarding your selection(s) (use separate sheet of paper).
Name of ISRA member initiating nomination (please print):
Phone (day)
Phone (night)
Signature
Date
DI

Please return by February 21, 2003 to:

ISRA c/o Cheryl Kirk 1064 Sylvan Circle Naperville, IL 60540

or E-mail nomination to: cherylkkirk@aol.com.

## Distinguished Service Award NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATION FORM		
ominee's Name		
ominee's Address		
ominee's contributions to the sport of racquetback eparate sheet of paper to describe).	all (use	
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lease return by February 21, 2003 to:		
SRA /o Cheryl Kirk 064 Sylvan Circle Japerville, IL 60540		

or E-mail nomination to: cherylkkirk@aol.com.

## The Glass Court Turkey Shoot

Glass Court Swim & Fitness November 14-17, 2002

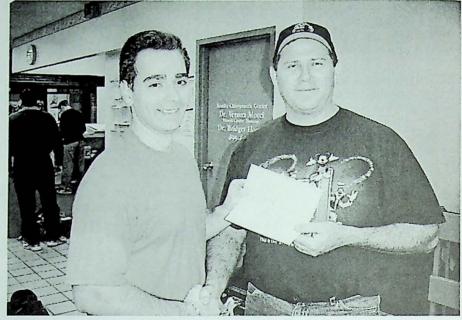
The 11th Annual Glass Court Turkey Shoot was a tremendous success. The racquetball competition was outstanding with a record-breaking draw of over 300 entries, which included 25 juniors.

This largest-draw-ever brought old friends together and created new friends both on and off the court. It also was a family affair! We saw two mother-son teams (Pam and Chris Snyders vs. Char and Jim Borre') battle it out on the Glass Court in a Mixed B/C match. Also, several fatherson pairs competed (Jerry and Mike DeGonia and the Men's C second place finishers Angel and C.J. Khamis). And we can't forget all the couples who help make up all our mixed doubles divisions like Frank and Diane Bunker, Pam and Jeff Grace, et al. How great is that!

The juniors who played on Sunday gave us a glimpse of the future of racquetball. Ten trophies were awarded but every one of those kids is a winner! They exhibited everything that is good about racquetball: motivation, skill, determination, endless energy, great attitudes and exemplary sportsmanship. I am proud to be associated with them.

No one went hungry at this event...hosts Diane and Joe DeArmas made sure of

that. In their usual lavish style, all participants had plenty to feast upon throughout the tournament, including the traditional Saturday evening turkey dinner.



Tournament Director Doug Halverson: "Tony Rosselli, welcome to Men's A!"

The excep-

tional group of people made up of Glass Court staff and the many volunteers made the monumental task of coordinating this event much easier. Thanks goes out to all those devoted members of the ISRA who give so much of themselves.

With the combination of good sportsmanship, fantastic hospitality, and excellent staff and volunteers, the 2002 Turkey Shoot had an atmosphere of true camaraderie and community. Not to mention, it was a lot of FUN!

- Charlotte Borre'

#### Results

1st; 2nd; Semifinals

Men's Open (15)

James Ford; Ben Croft; Eugene Coyle, Ryan Homa (WI)

Ryan Homa (V Men's AA (7)

Tim Dern; John Thorson; Kent Hadraba,

Martin Gonzalez

Men's A (22) Joe Gill; Vito Rubiano; David Royster,

Dave Collier

Men's B (26)

Tony Rosselli; John Anaya; Dan Jaskier,

Sid Harshavat

Men's C (32)

Angel Khamis; Desmon Slusher;

Wayne Grane, Juan Martinez

Men's D (29)

Sergio Sanchez; Tom Reed; Dan Doretti,

Marshan Johnson

Men's Novice (3)

Elliot Johnson; Nick Loy; Zac Antonoff

Men's 30/35 + (9)

Cary Slade; Eric Rieman; Joey Logan,

Mike Bogue

Men's 40 + (9)

Tom Utterback; Ron Calloway;

Frank Bunker, Mike Bogue

Men's 45 + Intermediate (10)

Kelvin Branch; Leo Formanski; Al Robledo,

John Massard

Men's 45 + (9)

Dave Milazzo; Dennis Healy;

Horace Miller, Brian Castillo

Men's 50 + (7)

Steve MacInnis; Horace Miller; Frank Milazzo, Dennis Healy



Barb Utterback, Kathy Welker, Nancy Amaro and Sharilyn Pope enjoyed the Saturday night party (but, does Joe know you were sitting on his pool table??!!)

Men's 55 + (4)

Leo Klimaitis; Pat Taylor; Joe Quirke; Greg Burchill

Men's 60/65 +

Pat Taylor; John Ramsay; Bill Schram

Women's Open (8)

Krystal Csuk; Liz Molitor; Nancy Schum, Ellen Somberg

Women's AA (4)

Kathy Dunham; Janet Eminger; Marcia Tilley, Karin McCauley Women's A (8)

Jill Wells; Lori Good; Donna Heinzl, Pandora Brown

Women's B (7)

Cheryl Kirk; Char Borre; Jennifer Jaskier, Jane Klass

Women's C (4)

Karen Thurlow; Carolyn Watkins; Janet Christie; Kelly Carson

Women's D (6)

Allison Fleck; Pam Snyders; Erin Egan, Erin Fleck

Women's 40 + (2)

Nancy Schum; Marcia Tilley

Men's Open Doubles (10)

Bill Lyman/Joe Silius; Eugene Coyle/ James Ford; Ryan Homa (WI)/ Dylan Wick (WI), Joey Logan/Ben Croft Men's A Doubles (15)

Al Robledo/Derrick Childress; Tony Gonzalez/Vito Rubiano; Jim Freaner/

Steve Kelly, Dan Flood/Keith Mecklenburg Men's B Doubles (11)

Dan Peterson/loe Wilhelm:

Terry Vandermeersch/Steve Zeitlin; Jon Joselane/Kevin Lio, Matt Malcheski/Kevin Massard

Men's C Doubles (8)

Steve Lindsey/Kevin Laird; Angel Khamis/ C.J. Khamis; Steve Kelly/Jim Bernal, Phil Mangiaracina/Darren Halligan

Men's 40 + Doubles (12)

Bill Lyman/Mike Burns; Dave Milazzo/ Rick Dern; Jeff Jovien/Ron Calloway, Rick Cavaliere/Eli Williams

Women's Open Doubles (4)

Kathy Welker/Janet Eminger; Nancy Amaro/Diane Bunker; Patrice Calvi/ Pam Grace: Liz Molitor/Laurel Davis

Women's A Doubles (3) Pandora Brown/Barb Utterback;

Donna Heinzl/

Lynne Weisbart: Lynn Yeazell/Maria Johnson

Mixed Open Doubles (7)

Patrice Calvi/Joe Silius; Tom Utterback/ Nancy Amaro; Jim Hillman/Ellen Somberg, Kathy Dunham/John Thorson

Mixed A Doubles (4)

Keith Mecklenburg/Kathy Welker; Rich Wells/Jill Wells; Jeff Grace/Pam Grace; Joe Quirke/Dorothy McDavid

Mixed B/C Doubles (4)

Cheryl Kirk/Mike Mahon; Elaine Isham/ Ray Almaraz; Char Borre/Jim Borre; Pam Snyders/Chris Snyders

Juniors - Advanced (18-)

Mike DeGonia; Richard DeArmas; Mike Steinhaus, Tyler Healy Juniors - Intermediate (14-) Justin Fleck; Trevor Snyders;

Chris Schubert, Joey Limonciello

Juniors - Beginner (11-)

Jonny Belvedere; Matt Loy; David Negrete; Joey Eminger



Club owner/host Joe DeArmas congratulates Men's Open champ James Ford



Scott Ness and his biggest fan (mom, Susan)



Show Me the Money ... Kelvin Branch takes 45 + Intermediate!

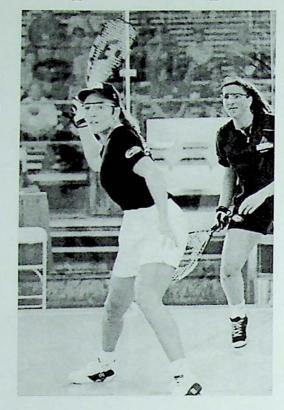
## Choice Hotels 7th U.S. Open Championships

November 20-24, 2002 Memphis, TN

"I wanted to win it, just so people would stop talking about it" (the fact that it was the only title that she hadn't claimed), she stated in a post-game interview. "I had no idea I was the talk of the tournament." So said Cheryl Gudinas, and what a thrill for her and for all of her fans here in Illinois! Having won every other major racquet-ball title, Cheryl traveled to Memphis expressly to put any doubting Thomases right back in their places! And she did just that, defeating Jackie Rice in 4 games, 5,5, (9), 6. (The format is best of 5 games to 11; win by 2 points.)

Cheryl was joined at the U.S. Open by 34 fellow Illinois players, who brought home a total of 15 medals (1st-4th) and 27 top finishing spots (quarterfinals and better). In addition to Cheryl's gold, first place congratulations go also to Leo Klimaitis (Men's 55+A/B), Ben Croft (Men's 24-) and the team of Brenda White and Deb Chaney (IN) who took Women's 50+Doubles! Silver medals were earned by Krystal Csuk (Women's Open), Andy Hawthorne (Men's Open), John O'Donnell, Jr. (Men's 70+) and Cheryl Kirk (Women's B).

Special recognition goes to Illinois family and friends who cheered on our players at the three club locations where the matches were held. Joe Gill, Karen Thurlow, Pam Hepp, Kit Lawson, Bob Croft, Chris Evon, Barb Utterback, and Frank Bunker supported Team Illinois and enjoyed the amenities of this world-class tournament. In fact, a total of 771 competitors from 18 countries traveled to Memphis, back up from a 2001 post-9/11 slump.



The US Open has much to offer. St. Jude's Children's Hospital benefits from the annual silent auction, the pre-tournament Pro-Am charity doubles event, and generously donated referee fees. The famous portable court boasts music and light shows...and the introductions of players rival those of any basketball game or boxing match! Between games, cheerleaders from local high schools and junior racquetball players entertained the crowd. One of the biggest rounds of applause came after an impressive rally between two kids from Ohio. It was great. Activities every evening kept the players out of trouble (?) - Casino Night, Player's

Party, Party with the Pro's – all were well done and well attended.

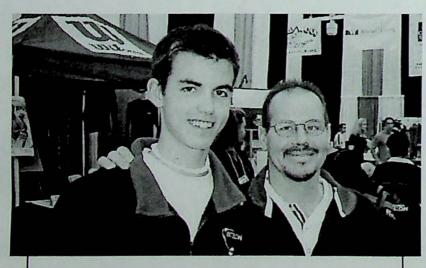
There were just two aspects that, in my mind, detracted from the overall experience. One was that the scores took guite a while to be posted on the draw sheets (if ever). One likes to know how one's fellow players are faring. Secondly, the sponsor decals plastered very prominently on the front walls of the courts at the Racquet Club and Wimbleton Sportsplex were distracting to the average player (me, for example, and others I spoke with). I really didn't feel that kindly toward the sponsors as they were impairing my game. It was really hard to see that ball coming off the wall! Could they maybe find another place to recognize the great folks who help make the tournament possible?

Okay, back to the action... In the Men's Pro's, Sudsy Monchik, returning from an injury that kept him out of the tournament last year, beat veteran Cliff Swain decisively, 10, 10, 7. Nice comeback... Closer to home, up-and-comer's Andy Hawthorne and Ben Croft each put a promatch win under their belts before meeting up with Sudsy Monchik and Jack Huczek, respectively. Talk about "luck" of the draw! But each came back to do us proud in their other divisions. Same with Krystal Csuk...congratulations on fine showings!

Check out Illinois results below...and for more information, go to the USRA website at www.usra.org.

—Cheryl Kirk

continued on next page



Ben Croft and Tom Utterback in the Players' Tent



Don Davis prepares to play a match at the University of Memphis



Andy Hawthorne - Silver, Men's Open!

Name: Division(s) Results

Diane Bunker: Women's 40+, Mixed 40+ Doubles (w/Tom Utterback) (QF)

Watmora Casey: Men's 35 + A/B, Men's

40+
Fred Conforti: Men's C. Men'

Fred Conforti: Men's C, Men's C Doubles (w/Michael Conforti, WI) (QF)

Eugene Coyle: Men's Pro, Men's 30+ (QF),

Men's 35 + (4th)

Ben Croft: Men's 24- (1st), Men's Pro, Men's Open

Krystal Csuk: Women's Pro, Women's Open (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Don Davis: Men's 55 + A/B, Men's

Cheryl Gudinas: Women's Pro (1st) Sid Harshavat: Men's 25+A/B, Men's B

Greg Hasty: Men's 55 + (QF) Andy Hawthorne: Men's Pro,

Men's Open (2<sup>nd</sup>) **Kevin Johnson**: Men's 35 + A/B,

Men's 45 + A/B

Cheryl Kirk: Women's 45 + A/B

(QF), Women's B (2<sup>nd</sup>) **Leo Klimaitis**: Men's 55 + A/B (1<sup>st</sup>),

Men's 55 + (QF) Tony Lang: Men's 75 + (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Tony Lang: Men's 75 + (3<sup>rd</sup>) Robert Livell: Men's 45 + C/D,

Men's C

Joey Logan: Men's Pro, Men's 30+ (injury forfeit)

Michael Lydy: Men's 35 + A/B, Men's B

Dennis McKee: Men's 55 + (3<sup>rd</sup>), Men's 50 + Doubles (w/Joe Silius) (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Horace Miller: Men's 50+, Men's 55+

Dave Negrete: Men's 40+

John O'Donnell, Jr.: Men's 70 + (2<sup>nd</sup>) George Pappas: Men's 35 + , Men's 40 + Geoff Peters: Men's 45 + A/B, Men's A Damon Peterson: Men's 24- (QF), Men's Open Doubles (w/Dan Whitley, MO) (3<sup>rd</sup>) Rick Reynolds: Men's 40 + , Men's 45 + Wil Rounsaville: Men's 45 + A/B, Men's

Joe Silius: Men's 55 + (QF), Men's 50 + Doubles (w/Dennis McKee) (3<sup>rd</sup>)
Royce Simpson: Men's 35 + C/D (4<sup>th</sup>),

Men's C

Jon Soike: Men's C, Men's 35 + C/D Patrick Taylor: Men's 55 + , Men's 60 + Tom Utterback: Men's 40 + , Mixed 40 + Doubles (w/Diane Bunker) (QF)

Brenda White: Women's 50 + (3<sup>rd</sup>), Women's 50 + Doubles (w/Deb Chaney,

IN) (1<sup>st</sup>)

Kevin Yeazell: Men's 35 + A/B, Men's

45 + A/B (QF)

Lynn Yeazell: Women's 24-/25 + A/B (QF),

Women's B (QF)



Doubles champs Brenda White and Deb Chaney (IN)



George Pappas, Leo Klimaitis, and Eugene Coyle admire Dave's tie...



Party-ing with the Pro's: Horace Miller, Watmora Casey, Wil Rounsaville, Royce Simpson, and Greg Hodges (MI)



Joe Silius and Dennis McKee: "What do you think of our trophy?"

## Central Illinois Racquetball Tournament Calendar 2003 Season

January 4, 2003 One-Day Doubles Forum Fitness, Rantoul David Litman

January 10-12, 2003 Springfield Invitational Springfield Racquet & Fitness Karin Flowers (217) 787-2460

January 17-18, 2003 Quad Cities Singles North Scott Fitness Dave Herzog (309) 787-7462 January 24-26, 2003 4 Seasons 4 Seasons, Bloomington Kelly Carter (309) 663-2022

February 1, 2003 Tournament at the Club Fitness Club, Springfield Tony Marquez (217) 787-1111

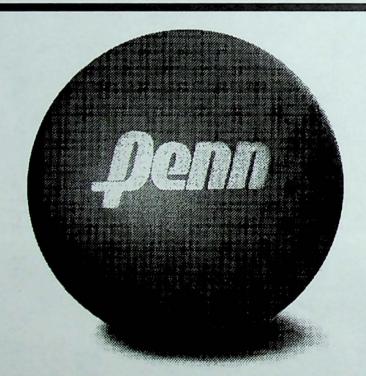
February 14-16, 2003
President's Day
Image Health & Fitness, Decatur
Larry Boyer (217) 424-9925

February 28-March 2, 2003 Landmark Invitational Landmark, Peoria Terry Sutton (309) 685-8200

March 16-18, 2003 St. Patty's Open Springfield Racquet & Fitness Karin Flowers (217) 787-2460

March 28-29, 2003 Quad Cities Doubles North Scott Fitness Dave Herzog (309) 787-7462

Central Illinois Tournament Calendar Contact: LARRY BOYER (217) 864-4862



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## **Racquetball Challenge Courts**

Buehler YMCA 847-359-5098

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

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

Edens Athletic Club 773-286-6700 Saturday 12-3 p.m.

Saturday 12-3 p.m. \$8 for ISRA members (with membership card)

Glass Court Challenge Court 630-629-3390 Saturday 7 a.m. - Noon \$6.00

> Landmark Health & Racquetball 309-685-8200

Peoria, IL First & Third Fridays of Month 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. \$5.00 Oak Park Athletic Club 708-848-5200

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

Palos Olympic Health & Racquet Club 708-974-1900 Thursday 6 - 8:30 p.m. \$5.00

Southlake Challenge Court 847-949-8180

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

> Sunset Racquetball & Fitness Center 630-232-7867

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

To add your club to this list, contact:

Lynne Weisbart

847-732-7245

## **JuniorTeamIllinois**

Calendar of Events

Weekly Team Practices and Challenge Courts

"Ryall Tuesdays"
4pm-7pm
(see website — address below)

- Interstate Competitions -

January 11, 2003
"The Midlands" 2nd Annual Junior
Regional Challenge
Greenbriar Athletic Club
Indianapolis, IN

March 7 - 9, 2003
The Oakmoor Spring Invitational
Oakmoor Racquet & Fitness Center
Des Moines, IA

May 3, 2003
"The Michilli Cup"
2nd Annual State Challenge
Orchard Hills Swim & Sport Club
Grand Rapids, MI

information, please contact us:
(630) 235-8963
thejti@aol.com

JTI website — hometown.aol.com/
magaff/myhomepage/home.html

For more information on the above-

listed JTI events, or for membership



Illinois State Racquetball Association

c/o Cheryl Kirk 1064 Sylvan Circle Naperville, IL 60540

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