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VOLUME 18
NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2007

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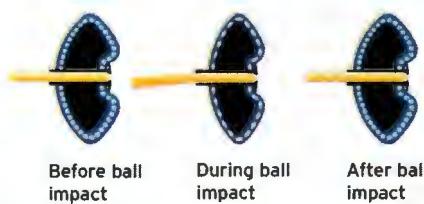
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

Objectives:

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

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X-MAS GIFT IDEAS



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USA Management Team

Jim Hiser - Executive Director (130)
Melody Weiss - Chief Financial Officer (122)
Heather Fender - Exec. Assistant/Events (129)
Heather Izett - Sanctioning Coordinator/
Membership Services (125)
Terri Morse - State/Membership Services (123)
Eddie Meredith - Events & Programs (132)
Mary Meredith - Accounting Assistant (124)
Doug Ganim - U.S. Open Director
Connie Martin - AmPro Programmer
Gary Mazaroff - AmPro Instruction
Otto Dietrich - Rules Commissioner

Email Us - FirstinitialLastname@usra.org

Contributors

Sudsy Monchik, Dave Negrete,
Connie Martin, Fran Davis, Otto Dietrich,
Steve Crandall, Hank Marcus, Woody Clouse,
Shannon Feaster, and Doug Ganim

Design

Allison Estep and Arnel Reynon

Copy Editor

Cheryl Kirk

Photography

Geoff Thomsen

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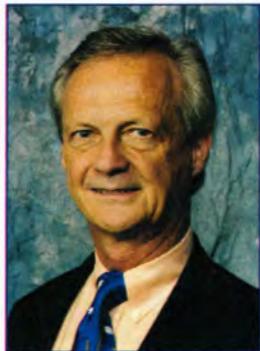
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By James Hiser, Ph.D.
USAR Executive Director

Got a great racquetball story or an idea for an article? Send it to us.

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A Winning Season BEGINS

The season has begun and the prospects look great for one of the most successful racquetball seasons in many years. Let's take a look at some of the signs that indicate such a successful year...

Sponsorships

Motorola and Verizon continue to support professional racquetball and initial observations indicate they intend to continue and increase their involvement. The involvement of outside sport companies such as Motorola and Choice Hotels improve the possibilities of attracting additional outside sponsors.

USA Racquetball has signed a contract with Sports City, a sports marketing company that will represent USA Racquetball to over 150 possible clients for various types of sponsorships and partnerships.

TV Exposure

Dave Negrete, supported and assisted by Dan Aderhold from Motorola, has received a positive response from ESPN to once again include racquetball as part of their sports portfolio. Initial conversations indicate the

related sports each day. Coverage will continue on the Tennis Channel as in previous years.

New Portable Court

The new four-wall glass portable court, once only a dream of Leo Klimaitis, Dave Negrete and Pat Taylor, is now a reality. The new court will debut in Chicago at the IRT Pro Nationals next April and will improve opportunities for television coverage and sponsor involvement. The new court also provides distinct possibilities for future event exposure outside traditional racquetball venues -- within shopping malls and financial districts, for example.

Redirected and Cooperative Leadership

For the first time in recent memory, associations are committed to working together and moving the sport to the next level. The IRT, WPRO, NMRA, WS/MRA, WOR and USA

USA RACQUETBALL HAS ALSO SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO PRODUCE AND TELEVISE DESIGNATED NATIONAL EVENTS ON ITS NEW OLYMPIC STATION.

possibility of additional player exposure on SportsCenter and Mike and Mike in the Morning.

USA Racquetball has also signed an agreement with the United States Olympic Committee to produce and televise designated national events on its new Olympic station. The new station will be similar to the tennis and golf channels and will televise 24 hours of Olympics-

Racquetball are continually working together to support each other and promote the sport.

Of course there are other indicators of positive movement, such as three grand slam events, acceptance of racquetball as a Pan Am Sport and signing of pro players by "outside the sport agencies."

All the above accomplishments indicate a very exciting season ahead for the sport.

No Better Time to Get Involved in Racquetball

With the upcoming season getting started, it's a great time to get involved in racquetball. If you've been thinking of getting involved in some type of volunteer work that is both fun and rewarding, I ask you to consider volunteering to work in some area of racquetball. Almost all areas are staffed and run by players just like you who love racquetball and want to give back to our sport.

These areas range from Juniors to Masters and everywhere in between.

There are so many possibilities that it's hard to list them all, but I'll give it a quick try. Ongoing events are a good starting point. Local tournaments require planning weeks in advance as well as volunteers to work the front desk and many other jobs during the tournament. These tournaments take a lot of hours and energy and there's always a need for more volunteers to help out. There are over 500 sanctioned tournaments countrywide, so take your pick and get involved!

Developing new areas of racquetball can be fun and rewarding. You, too, can start a high school or college team! This can begin with simply getting several beginner players together after school at a local club and working with them on a small scale. You'll be surprised at how quickly word gets around; more kids will get involved. How about selecting an annual local tournament and making it your mission to get a juniors bracket included by recruiting kids and organizing that part of the tournament? During the summer is a great time to get the kids involved in racquetball since they have more free time and courts are usually not as crowded.

We are hoping to get more women involved

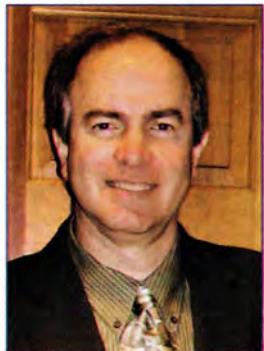
in racquetball. Try going around to the local clubs and talking to ladies who are currently playing and try to get them involved in a round-robin bracket in an upcoming tournament. I know some people who have recently started a women's night out that includes both racquetball and food one evening a week. If your area or local club doesn't offer tournaments, start with a ladder to get people involved and then follow up with a small tournament. Your state association

can provide more information. Additionally, go to our website -- USA Racquetball.com -- and let us know who you are and what you'd like to do. We will do whatever we can to assist you!

Volunteer work does take time and commitment. One special volunteer has recently passed away -- Mr. Bob Fennell of Houston, Texas. He will long be remembered for his generous contributions of time and monetary support to many organizations on virtually all levels of the racquetball world. (Bob's history of volunteering actually started during his career in the Navy. He was a submarine man, which means he volunteered for this duty during his tour in the service.) If we all make the effort to give back to our passion as Bob did, our own lives, the lives of others, and our fine sport will be all the more enjoyable. We will miss Bob Fennell for years to come.

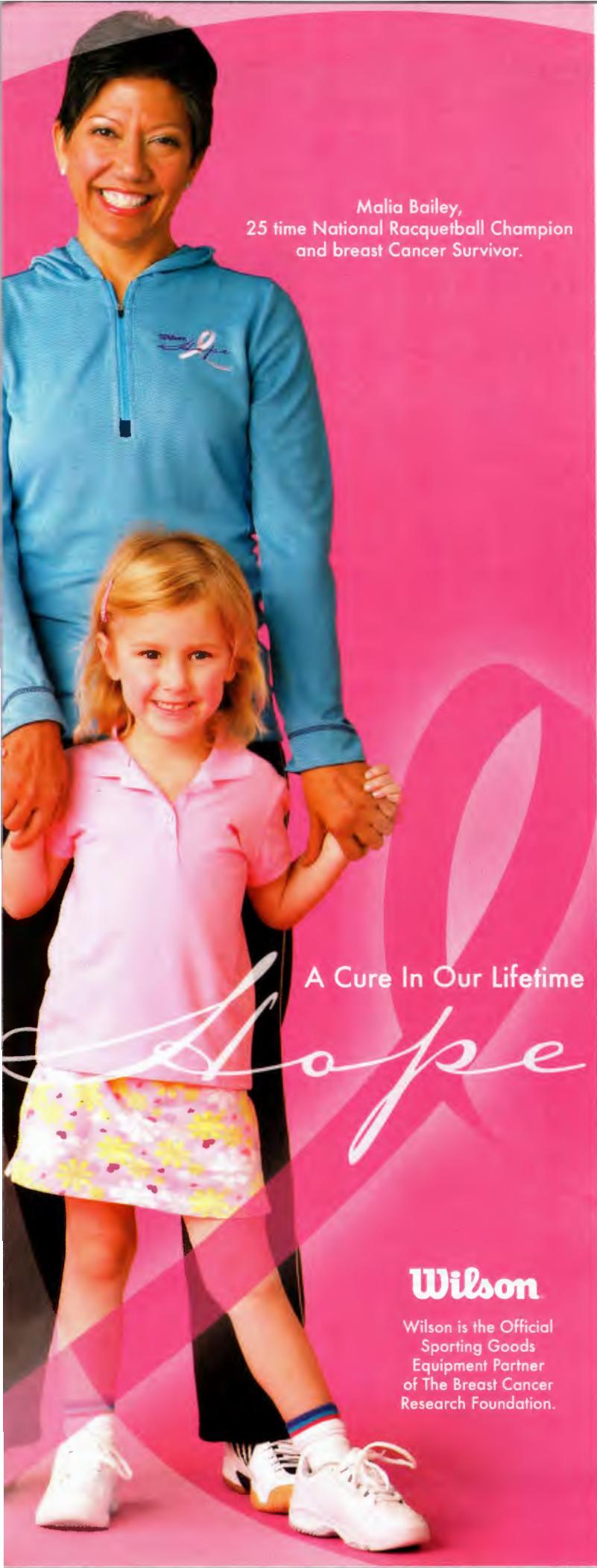
(Note: For more about Bob, please go to the NMRA page in this issue.)

A few words of thanks are not nearly enough to recognize all the wonderful people currently volunteering their time -- we are truly blessed. Without your efforts, our association, indeed our sport, could not exist. Thanks...we couldn't do it without you!



By Randy Stafford,
USAR Board President

IF WE ALL
MAKE THE
EFFORT TO
GIVE BACK TO
OUR PASSION
AS BOB DID,
OUR OWN
LIVES, THE
LIVES OF
OTHERS, AND
OUR FINE
SPORT WILL
BE ALL THE
MORE
ENJOYABLE.



Malia Bailey,
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President's Advisory Council

The following individuals have pledged the indicated amounts for the next four years and meet with the President to advise and discuss association issues:

Bruce Adams	\$1,000
Doug Ganim	\$3,000
Dr. Fred Heros	\$1,000
Christopher "Kit" Lawson	\$1,000
Mike Lippitt	\$1,000
Dennis Rosenberg	\$3,000
Sal Perconti	\$1,000

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Hall of FAME

1994

Jo Kenyon | Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
(Amateur Athlete, Inducted 1994)



Jo Kenyon was the 15th inductee to the USRA Hall of Fame, on the basis of her long-history of age group competition. A retired veterinary receptionist, Kenyon took up racquetball at the age of 50 and quickly laid claim to over 25 national title over the ten year period preceding her induction. Her love of the game, and the tournament environment, helped her become one of the top female age group competitors -- even after undergoing a hip replacement in May of 1998. Only three months after that procedure, Kenyon was back in top form, winning a silver medal in doubles, followed by a renewed string of gold medal finishes in subsequent seasons.

1996

Mary Low Acuff | Asheville, North Carolina
(deceased)
(Amateur Athlete, Inducted 1996)



Hall of Fame athlete Mary Low Acuff dominated the "upper echelons" of age group competition among women beginning in 1984, with career wins that include forty-five national titles, nine silver medals and a scant two bronze medal finishes. In 1994 alone, Mary Low took five national titles and a world championships victory, then followed up in 1995 with a record of nine national wins and another world title to her credit. The mother of eight was a long time supporter of the USRA and is a legend in

In May 2008, we will celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame and our illustrious inductees at the National Singles Championships in Houston. In honor of this milestone, there will be a continuing series of "Hall of Fame" articles focusing on racquetball Halls of Fame at the State level. We have a number of State Organizations that have recognized key contributors, leaders and top players in their states and regions. These individuals have also been critical to the success and growth of our great sport and we look forward to sharing their contributions with our readers. Watch for this continuing "Hall of Fame" section in upcoming *Racquetball* magazines.

racquetball, who continued to compete in every tournament available to her. In 1999, Mary Low was joined by her husband Earl in the Hall of Fame -- the two are the only husband-and-wife pair to share this honor.

Keith Calkins | Mission Viejo, California
(Contributor, Inducted 1996)



Keith Calkins boasts a career of service to racquetball, from developing one of the first junior camps in California, to a long-running term as a member, and often-elected officer, of the organization's board of directors. In addition to his terms as both treasurer

and president of the board, Keith served international racquetball interests with elected appointments to the Pan American Racquetball Federation and the International Racquetball Federation. But Keith is best known for his professional guidance of the AARA (now USRA) during its most turbulent time, and for the type of subsequent leadership which has enabled the association to take its place among the most well-regarded national governing bodies in the U.S. Olympic Committee structure.

Johnny Hennen | Chattanooga, Tennessee
(Amateur Athlete, Inducted 1996)



Johnny Hennen is probably one of the best liked and respected athletes to ever play the game. On court Johnny is legendary for a lack of defense, and a non-stop, aggressive style. Hennen is probably best known for his doubles prowess, where he earned six national doubles titles, five of them paired with fellow Hall of Famer

Ed Remen. Johnny matched this record with six national singles titles, becoming one of a rare group of athletes to earn dual titles in any given year -- doing so four times, in 1983, 1988, 1992 and 1993. After a difficult recovery from a life-threatening illness, Hennen and Remen paired up again in 1998 to win yet another national doubles crown -- exactly ten years after winning their first as a team.

Gary Mazaroff | Albuquerque, New Mexico
(Contributor, Inducted 1996)



Gary Mazaroff began an un-interrupted presidential term with the New Mexico Racquetball Association in 1974, bringing that organization to the forefront of the AARA's state affiliate structure. Through AmPro and AmPro instructional programs, Gary has certified hundreds of players and instructors, while himself serving as a teaching pro and instructor since the late 70s. Gary also served as an assistant coach for two world championship U.S. national teams, then took that expertise "on the road" by coaching national teams from other countries.

Grand Gala
2008 Hall of Fame
35th Anniversary
Houston, TX

THE GAR AND HIS HALL OF FAME RING

by Charlie Garfinkel

I was nervous as I opened the package that contained my Racquetball Hall of Fame ring. In fact, I was biting my nails, and my feet are a long way down! At first sight, I was overcome by the beauty, size and workmanship that went into making the ring. It is a beautiful piece of jewelry.

Those who know me are well attuned to my humility. This is the third Hall of Fame for which I have received a ring; I am presently in eight different Hall of Fames, including racquetball, tennis, basketball and squash.

In racquetball, I have defeated Charlie Brumfield, Davey Bledsoe, Dr. Bud Muehleisen, and Bill Schmidtke (when he was the number one player in the world and US Pro Champion) in national competitions. That would be equivalent to defeating Roger Federer, Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, and Rafael Nadal in tennis today. However, it's not like me to brag about my accomplishments...

In addition, I have won 24 national titles in age group categories. This includes a 4-2 record against Bobby Sanders and a 3-1 record against Ron Galbreath, two of the greatest senior players in racquetball history.

Perhaps, my greatest accomplishment was winning the Buffalo city singles titles in racquetball, tennis and squash in 1969, becoming the only player in my area to have ever done so.

I have also played in the National Championships of all three sports; having some highlights and



The "Gar"

lowlights. Among the lowlights was an exhibition match against Arthur Ashe in tennis in 1970 when he was the number one player in the world. Suffice to say, he played like Arthur and I played like his brother Jack!

In squash, I played Anil Nayar, the defending National Squash Champion in

1969. To be honest, I was A-nayar-lated!

I am very proud of all my athletic accomplishments; especially since I have been a full-time tennis pro for three summer months every year, for the past 45 years, including all of the years I was playing racquetball. Can you imagine what I would have done in racquetball if I didn't play tennis and squash?

Unfortunately, I haven't played many tournaments the past few years, due to nagging hip and knee injuries. However, I am still sponsored by E Force and still cover racquet sports for the Buffalo News. I wrote for national racquetball magazines for years, in addition to authoring two racquetball books.

As for tennis, I have been part of a Western 4/0 Super Senior (60 and Over) team that has won the Eastern Championships the past three years. I've competed in the nationals the past two years and will be traveling to Daytona Beach for the upcoming Nationals the end of April.

Oh yes, I am still teaching school (45th year) after being an administrator and supervisor in the Buffalo system. Leslie and I have been married for 41 years, and we have two children.

Being well known for my humility, I'm even impressed by this article.

The Hall of Fames are:

- International Masters Racquetball Hall of Fame
- National Racquetball Hall of Fame
- Western New York Racquetball Hall of Fame
- Greater Buffalo Hall of Fame (racquetball and tennis)
- Western New York Tennis Hall of Fame (inaugural class, based on four city open singles and 11 doubles titles, in addition to two National Public Parks doubles titles with Rev. Bob Hetherington, former first singles tennis player at Yale, and a number 4 ranking in Eastern Open doubles with Leon Smith in the mid 1960's)
- Buffalo State College Hall of Fame (tennis, basketball)
- Buffalo Jewish Center Hall of Fame (racquetball, squash, and tennis)
- Bennett High School Hall of Fame (tennis)

State Halls of Fame

By Jim Easterling

OKLAHOMA

This is the second issue highlighting our State Organizations that have implemented a State Hall of Fame to honor their local and regional players, leaders and contributors. There are two states I would like to highlight in this issue. The first state is Oklahoma (Oklahoma Racquetball Association) and their President David Watson. Oklahoma has had a Hall of Fame since 2001. As of 2007, nine people have been honored with induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. The Inductees are:

2001 Roy Rudichuk
2002 Myron Roderick

2003 David Watson and Therese Lewis
2004 Jim and Sandy McPherson
2005 Bruce Adams
2006 Ken Smith
2007 Lynn Johnson

To view the Oklahoma Racquetball Hall of Fame, on the ORA web site, go to www.oklahomaracquetball.com.

NORTH CAROLINA

The second state I would like to recognize is North Carolina (North Carolina Racquetball Association) and their President Lynn Stephens. North Carolina has maintained an active Hall of Fame since 2002. As of 2007, thirteen people have been inducted into the North Carolina Hall of Fame, including a large inaugural class of eight in 2002. The Inductees are:

2002 Mary Low Acuff, Earl Acuff, Kevin Armbrecht, Mike Dimoff, Mildred Gwinn, Janet Myers, Ed Remen, and Paul Saperstein
2003 Jim Daly and Garl Wiles

2004 Sonny Harmon
2005 Steve Dayvault
2006 Jan Stelma

The NCRA has other Annual Awards Winners listed on its web site as well. Mary Low Acuff, Earl Acuff and Ed Remen have also been inducted to the USAR Hall of Fame, and Ed Remen is a current elected member of USA Racquetball's Board of Directors. To view the North Carolina Hall of Fame, on the NCRA web site, go to www.ncracquetball.com.

If your state is interested in putting together a "Racquetball Hall of Fame" and would like information to get started, contact Jim Easterling at dj Easterling@earthlink.net or call (517) 449-8942 (cell). It's a great way to recognize and remember those players and contributors who have supported and grown our sport on a local and state level. They deserve to be honored for their effort and dedication – and a State Hall of Fame is a great way to do it!

Rocky Carson wins the 2007 Motorola IRT World Championship

presented by Verizon Wireless

NOTES

Once again, the IRT would like to thank Dan Aderhold of Motorola for having the vision and trust in the sport of racquetball that it will help create increased brand awareness for Motorola and Verizon Wireless. If you do not have a Motorola phone or Verizon Wireless service, please convert now and support the first major corporations that have taken notice of our sport. When you do convert, please let the IRT know at negretz@comcast.net so the information can be passed on to these great companies.



Rocky with the Motorola Group



The Lynmar Health and Racquet Club in Colorado Springs was the host site for the IRT's third Grand Slam event, the Motorola IRT World Racquetball Championship presented by Verizon Wireless. Lynmar is known as the official training center for Team USA and has a long tradition as the premier racquetball club in Colorado. The event showcased the top fifty professional players in the world who competed for a total purse of \$30,000. It mirrored the Choice Hotels US OPEN and Motorola Pro Nationals in the set-up and presentation of the pro game. A full slate of amateur players were treated to some great racquetball by the IRT all week.

The event featured the sport's biggest recent upsets as #1 Jack Huczek lost in the opening round to Mexico's Javier Moreno and #2 Jason Mannino was taken out by Mexico's Polo Gutierrez. This marked the first time in the sport's history that the two highest-ranked players bowed out in the first round. As Mexico's premier player, #4 Alvaro Beltran made his way through the draw, as did his counterparts Polo and Javier, all the way to the semifinals. The lone U.S. player in the semi's was #3 Rocky Carson. Shane Vanderson (#5) pushed Beltran to the limit in their quarterfinal match-up but could not close out the match. Mitch Williams (#6) also made an impressive showing but lost a tough one to Carson in the eight's. Polo continued his hot streak by beating #7 Chris Crowther in the quarters and Javier defeated #9 Ben Croft in their quarterfinal match. The semifinals were as far as the upset-minded stars from

Mexico went, as Rocky took out Polo and Alvaro bested his Pan American doubles partner Moreno. This set the stage for

Rocky and Alvaro to vie for the sport's newest Grand Slam title. The stands were full to capacity for this title bout and the crowd loved every minute of it. Carson prevailed in

the end and won his first title on the grand slam stadium court. It was a fitting win for Carson who had just recently signed a sponsorship deal with Motorola and Verizon Wireless. This marks the first time in modern-day IRT history that a major corporation outside the industry steps up as a major sponsor for an IRT professional.

Not enough can be said for the event staff that helped set up and organize this event. Eddie and Mary Meredith deserve all the credit in pulling off this grand slam tourney. The extra help behind the scenes included the Colorado Racquetball Association, Julie Vincent, Cindy Tilbury, Joe Williams and the USAR staff. Doug Ganim and Jim Hiser once again stepped up and helped out with this event to make it a premier event for the sport and the IRT. Motorola and Verizon Wireless, with the help of their marketing team from Genesco Sports, added a new flavor to the sport by bringing in a climbing wall and racing simulator for the racquetball fans to enjoy. A fully furnished VCAST lounge for the VIPs and sponsors was another highlight of the event -- a place to sit and relax between matches on a comfortable couch in front of a 60-inch screen HD television. This was the first event of its kind west of the Mississippi and will continue to grow for years to come!



Rocky with new fan
Hayden Woelk



Rocky & Jen

The 2007 Kentucky Pro Am

By Dave Negrete, Commissioner

Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, home of the Hilltoppers, was once again the site for the 2007 Kentucky Pro Am. Event Director Ron Marr worked hard at bringing the event back to WKU and with the help of his loyal sponsors, the event was bigger than last year. The Pro-Am doubles event on Thursday night was a battle as Jason Mannino and Tom Hills defeated the tough team of Alvaro Beltran and Jason Hicks. Proceeds from this event will be donated to "Athletes for a Cure" Prostate Cancer Research Foundation.

Qualifying matches began Thursday evening with no real upsets in this round. Ohio's hard-hitting Mike Dennison played his way into the main draw after a two-year absence (he took time off after the birth of his son, Tyler). Great to see Mike back out at an IRT event! Another newcomer to the tour this year is Jason Sylvester from New York City. Jason played some great ball to move on to the main draw. Also, young seventeen-year-old Tyler Otto from St. Louis played in his second IRT event in a row and has a promising future on tour.

The round of sixteen kicked off with all the top seeds advancing to the evening quarterfinal session. The Herrera name is becoming well known on the IRT circuit as brothers Juan and Andres played tough against Beltran and Huczak, respectively, and Alejandro Herrera (no relation to the brothers), lost a close one to Ben Croft. This "Colombian Connection" is an inspiration to all the players in Colombia. Chris Crowther had his hands full in his win over Hiroshi Shimizu from Japan and Rocky Carson outlasted the hard-pounding Mike Dennison in three straight. Always a battle, Mitch Williams won this time, defeating Jason Thoerner in three.

The first quarterfinal match had Jason Mannino and Shane Vanderson meeting up for the first time this year. Vanderson's deadly backhand kept him in this match but once again the steady play of Mannino prevailed in three, 6, 1, 4. Mannino's off-season training, which included yoga, is paying off. The second match saw Mitch Williams face off against Jack Huczak. The hard-hitting drive serves from the southpaw kept Huczak off balance and caused some unforced errors. Huczak, though, has gotten to #1 by playing steady confident ball and it showed as he was victorious in three games, 9, 6, 2. Next up was Elite Eight ranking newcomer Ben Croft vs. Rocky Carson. Croft came out smoking in the first, leaving Rocky in the backhand corner the whole game, but Rocky showed his veteran moxie and settled down and cooled off the young rookie, taking the next three games and the match (1), 5, 2, 2. Croft is beginning to show signs that he is ready to compete with the top tier of IRT



KY event Jack and Rocky with the towels kids



Jason Hicks, Alvaro, Jason and Tom

professionals. Alvaro Beltran and Chris Crowther stepped onto the court for the last match of the night. Crowther used his reach and power to make a match of this but Beltran took the first two games and overcame an 8-2 deficit in the third to take the match. Beltran's smooth shot making overshadowed the emotionally-charged Crowther.

It was Rocky Carson and Jason Mannino in the first semifinal. Mannino jumped out to a huge 8-2 lead in game one only to see Rocky creep back in. The tide changed in favor of Rocky as he took game one, 11-8. The momentum stayed in Carson's favor in the second and some unforced errors from Mannino gave the game to Rocky, 11-5. The third game was tight, but two uncharacteristic backhand skips on return of serve from Mannino allowed Carson to take game three, 12-10, and the match. Rocky moved on to his second final of the year and waited for the outcome of the Huczak / Beltran semifinal. Jack and Alvaro always bring the best out of each other when they play, and this match was no exception. The best from Mexico against the best from the US is what the IRT is all about, and the crowd loved it! Beltran took the first two games in convincing fashion. It was all Beltran leading most of the way in the third (up to 8-0) but Huczak caught fire, rolling out backhands from all over to tie it at 10-10. Two forehands got him game three, 12-10. At 4-3 in the fourth, Beltran hit a backhand in an awkward position, injuring his back. He took his injury time outs and tried to finish the match but could not, and Huczak moved on to his second final of the year to meet up with Rocky Carson.

This final match was all business and Rocky jumped out to an early lead. But Huczak came from behind once again and took game one, 11-8. Game two was a close game, but Jack still was able to control center court and his pinches were on he captured game two, 11-6. Rocky once again went out ahead in the third, but Jack slowly crept back this time with some great lobs and lob z-serves to Rocky's forehand. Rocky continued with the hard and three quarter z-serves to Huczak's backhand, but Huczak prevailed 13-11 and took his first IRT title of the season.



SIDENOTES

What a great event this past weekend! Western Kentucky University is a great venue for the IRT and for racquetball exposure. The event was well-attended all weekend and the guys put on a great show. Congrats to Jack for winning the event and making it three different winners in our first three events – exciting times for the IRT!

Hats off to the terrific event staff that Ron Marr has assembled in Bowling Green. They are always smiling and making the players feel welcome. Ron has done a wonderful job organizing and making this event happen. You are one of the true supporters of the sport, Ron, and we really appreciate it.

Thanks to all the sponsors for supporting the event. To Dr. Phil Singer and to Jason and Larry Hicks – the event could not happen without you. Also to Swope Motors, the Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. and the Scott Brothers – thank you!

To Larry Hicks and family, our heartfelt prayers go out to you and your family over the recent loss of your daughter. Please know we are here for you. Thanks again, everyone, and we look forward to coming back next year for the 2008 Kentucky Open!

SIDENOTES

I want to thank the Overland Park Athletic Club for opening their doors to the IRT and fans for the second year in a row and putting on a first class event. If you have not had the pleasure of playing at this fine racquetball facility make sure you do if you get a chance. Jeff it is so nice having a hands on GM that is involved in the event and thanks for all you do including the DJ job.

Mike, Deb and Gary you are awesome!!! It is such a pleasure to work with you and it is great to see how everyone at the event enjoys playing your tournaments.

The event also raised money for the Children's Mercy Hospital and what a great cause. Thanks to all that contributed to the fundraiser. I would also like to thank all the sponsors of the event especially Luci Delsarto of Mannatech and Rosco Halsey of Edward Jones, your support does not go unnoticed.

Also thanks for having a great dinner with me Ron Marr it was a blast and very filling.

Hats off to Jack and Jason for bouncing back after tough losses in Colorado and congrats to Jason for adding another title to his resume.

We look forward to coming back next year!

The 2007 Kansas City Pro Am



Kansas City Mike Wedel and wife Debbie at the desk

Overland Park Kansas – The 2007 Kansas City Pro Am kicked off at the Overland Park Athletic Club on Thursday afternoon with a large qualifying draw. A few players made the trip directly from Colorado Springs the week before and came in a few days early. There would be a few barn burners in the second round of qualifying with Anthony Herrera of Grand Junction CO taking out #10 Andy Hawthorne to advance to his first round of sixteen match and John Goth ousting Charlie Pratt. All the other seeds advanced on to the main draw.

The round of sixteen started off with Motorola World Champion Rocky Carson defeating John Goth in three and Chris Crowther besting Anthony Herrera. Anthony is attending the University of Colorado and will be making most of the events this year. Next up Jack Huczak took out Canadian Kris Odegard and Ben Croft outlasted Jason Thoerner in four games. The matinee matches saw Jason Mannino get slightly pushed by Juan Herrera winning in four games and Mitch Williams ousting Alejandro Herrera. Shane Vanderson got by the always dangerous Hiroshi Shimizu from Japan in four and the last match was a rematch of the Colorado semi-finals and the outcome was the same as Alvaro Beltran defeated his countryman from Mexico Javier Moreno in four hard fought games. That set up the quarterfinals for Friday night and some good match ups.

The first quarterfinal of the night in front of a packed house was Rocky Carson against Chris Crowther. Crowther who is always a threat for an

upset played well but Carson was too much as he advances on in three games 7 5 2. The next match was Jack Huczak and Ben Croft. Jack was definitely ready to play after his first round loss the weekend before and Croft pushed Jack the best he could before losing 2 8 2. Next up on the main court would be hard hitting Mitch Williams and Jason Mannino. Mannino was also coming off a first round loss in Colorado and he looked ready this weekend as he took this match from Mitch in three straight 7 9 6. The last match of the evening would be the longest as the rematch from Colorado featuring Shane Vanderson and Alvaro Beltran got underway at 930pm. Shane was looking to avenge his loss in Colorado and he did so in a five game war that ended at midnight (4) 9 14 (5) 5.

The semi-finals would begin late Saturday afternoon and the Kansas City crowd was ready for some IRT hard hitting racquetball. Mannino and Carson would square off first and it would be full of great gets from Mannino and blistering backhands from Carson. Just when Mannino looked like he would close the match out in four games Carson found a second wind and forced a game five. A few unforced errors would cost Rocky the match and put Jason in the final on Sunday. The following match would showcase Jack Huczak and Shane Vanderson. Huczak would put a lot of pressure on Vanderson in this match and unforced errors would plague Shane. Huczak kept focus and would take the match in three to meet up with Mannino in the Sunday noon final.

Never in the history of the sport have the number one and two players in the world suffer first round defeats on the same weekend and then come back and meet in the finals in the next event as Jack Huczak and Jason Mannino would be the first to do so. Battling back like true champions these two did not let the full house crowd down on Sunday afternoon. Best friends, these two are not and each played the match like it was their last. Mannino would get the upper hand in this long three game match on just a few unforced errors by Jack. That was the difference as Jason Mannino took the Kansas City Open title from the reigning champion 11-9 11-9 11-8 and make it his first title of the season.

MEXICO'S LONGORIA CLAIMS FIRST WPRO TITLE OF THE SEASON

Outback Blast It! Pro-Am Raised \$1,500 for American Breast Cancer Foundation



Mike Bourgeois, Rhonda, Paola and Lynn Stephens

Mexican teenager Paola Longoria kicked off the 2007-2008 season with her first ever victory on the Women's Pro Racquetball Organization's tour at the 19th Annual Outback Steakhouse Blast It! Racquetball Championship presented by Carl & Marcia Wallace. A first-year college student and the #10 seed in the championship, Longoria is one of the youngest players ever to win a major WPRO event at only 18 years and two months old. Longoria beat #1 WPRO pro Rhonda Rajsich of Fountain Hills, AZ in a five-game thriller to secure the title.

The Outback Steakhouse Blast It!, which benefited the American Breast Cancer Foundation (ABC), took place September 14-16 at The Sports Center in Fayetteville, NC. The fundraising activities throughout the weekend raised \$1,500 for the WPRO-ABC Racquetball for Life Campaign. ABCF provides financial aid to uninsured breast cancer patients throughout the U.S. ABCF Vice President Tammy Wagner and WPRO/ABC Board Member Brenda Loube accepted the check for the foundation.

The pro draw saw a handful of upsets beginning with a Friday afternoon Round of 32 match-up that pitted Charlotte-based Phyllis Morris against #13 seed Candi Hostovich of Virginia. Morris went down two games to one before gutting out the last two to secure a berth in the Round of 16 where she faced #4 seed Angela Grisar. Grisar ended Morris's run in four games but the North Carolina resident garnered much respect from top WPRO pros and fans.

Cheryl Gudinas Holmes, #3 seed, and #2 seed Kerri Wachtel went out in the Quarterfinals on Saturday afternoon. Gudinas Holmes lost to #6 seed Kristen Bellows in four games and Wachtel was defeated by the eventual champion Longoria in three games. On her road to the finals, Rajsich faced Grisar and battled through five games before dispatching of the Chilean in the semifinals. Longoria defeated Bellows in four games to earn her spot in Sunday's championship match against Rajsich.

Longoria's steely nerves impressed even the rowdiest Rajsich fans who expected the young star to fold under the bright lights and immense pressure of battling the event's defending champion. After many long rallies and a few too many skipped shots by Rajsich, Longoria's fairy tale came true and she claimed the first WPRO championship of the season. Final match score: Longoria def. Rajsich, 12-14, 11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7. For the complete Outback draw, go to www.wpro-tour.com/Tour_Events.html.

The Outback Steakhouse Blast It! was made possible by Lynn Stephens and the North Carolina Racquetball Association in conjunction with generous event sponsors Carl & Marcia Wallace, Outback Steakhouse, Eric Nobles and Nobles Financial Planning, Inc., TMT Events, The Sports Center, Steve Loehr, School Tools, Fayetteville Convention and Visitors Bureau, Hunter Hair, Charles Foster (Attorney at Law), Mike Robinson, REL Insurance Services, Coty Cosmetics, Hendrick Chrysler Jeep, FisherHelms, Inc., and Jeff West (photographer).

Special thanks to tournament committee members Lynn Moffitt, Mike Bourgeois, Pete Beckwith, Jon Tumas, Darlene Heyer, and WPRO board member Bobby Thore. Local DJ Brad Chapman spun tunes and kept the crowd and The Sports Center atmosphere energized throughout the weekend.



WPRO TOUR SCHEDULE 2007-08 SEASON

November 2-4	Long Island, NY / Long Island Open (Satellite)
November 14-18	Memphis, TN / Choice Hotels US OPEN (GS)
December 6-9	Arlington, VA / Christmas Classic (T1)
January 10-13	Panama City, Panama / Canal Challenge (T1)
January 24-27	Sacramento, CA / Greater Sacramento Open (T1)
February 1-3	Cincinnati, OH / Racquet & Hand for the Cure (Satellite)
February 7-10	Phoenix, AZ / Ektelon Fireball Rollout (T1)
February 28-March 2	Miami, FL / Great Balls of Fire (T1)
March 14-16	Fountain Valley, CA / Ocean City Open (Satellite)
April 17-20	New Orleans, LA / WPRO World Championships (GS)
May 9-11	Sacramento, CA / WPRO Pro National Doubles (T1)

T1 = Tier 1 Full Ranking Event

GS = Grand Slam Event (higher prize money and ranking points)

Satellite = Lower Level Event (check web site for satellite levels)

*All Tier 1 WPRO events will use the Ektelon Fireball and will be broadcast live on RacquetballOnline.tv so stay tuned!

*Check the WPRO web site - www.wpro-tour.com - for changes and additions.

GEARBOX BECOMES OFFICIAL PARTNER OF THE WPRO

Gearbox Racquetball recently signed a three-season deal to become an Official Partner of the Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO). "The WPRO is proud to add this exciting new racquetball company to our partner roster," said Shannon Feaster, WPRO Commissioner. Gearbox counts #4 Angela Grisar, #10 Samantha Salas, and #16 Kimi Ferina among the top pros who will represent the company on the WPRO tour this season. GearBox was founded by former top 10 pro and racquetball product designer Rafael Filippini of San Diego, California. For more information about Gearbox, visit www.gearboxrb.com.



© Karen Morton

WPRO RANKINGS

As of October 1, 2007

Rank	Name	Hometown	Points
1	Rhonda Rajsich	Fountain Hills, AZ	1287.29
2	Cheryl Gudinas Holmes	Naperville, IL	960.00
3	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	954.50
4	Angela Grisar	Santiago, Chile	909.79
5	Christie Van Hees	Kelowna, B.C., Canada	812.00
6	Kristen Bellows	Pleasant Grove, UT	603.50
7	Brenda Kyzer	Leesville, SC	575.50
8	Paola Longoria	San Luis Potosi, Mexico	384.50
9	Jo Shattuck	Denver, CO	364.15
10	Samantha Salas	Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico	336.50
11	Diane Moore	Griffith, IN	326.75
12	Doreen Fowler	Silver Spring, MD	280.50
13	Vivian Gomez	Miami, FL	242.50
14	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	236.50
15	Candi Hostovich	Burke, VA	175.50
16	Kimi Ferina	Rockaway Park, NY	172.00

Las Vegas Doubles Kicks Off Classic Professional Racquetball Tour Season

The Las Vegas Doubles began the 2007-08 season with five teams competing in a round-robin format and featuring three of the CPRT pros along with some great open players and the current World Outdoor Racquetball Doubles Champions.



The draw was led by Bret Harnett teaming with Craig "Clubber" Lane and the CPRT pairing of Woody Clouse & Gerry Price. WOR Champions Rick Sandello & Jeff Johnson rounded out the draw with the teams of Joe Villareal & Rick Koll and Darrin Heinz & Ken Celmer.

The Las Vegas Doubles tourney opened with Charity Doubles benefiting the Boy Scouts of America to the tune of \$1,000 and won by the team of Gerry Price and Dave Aegeter.

Opening round matches offered no upsets and little drama as both CPRT teams cruised with straight game victories. Harnett & Lane and Clouse & Price both entered Saturday's matches with 2-0 records, leaving each of the other teams looking for a first win.

Woody Clouse & Gerry Price dominated the Las Vegas Doubles as they moved through the draw, losing only a single game. Their last match was a four-game victory over Harnett & Lane, 9-6, 6-9, 9-4, 9-5. This was the second straight CPRT event in Las Vegas where Clouse won over hometown hero Harnett. Rick Sandello & Jeff Johnson took third place honors with their five-game thriller over Joe Villarreal & Rick Koll.

2007-08 CPRT Rules Update

The CPRT will compete in 2007-08 with some unique rules continuing and a few new twists...

CPRT Events are open to players over the age of 40 who were not ranked in the Top 8 of the International Racquetball Tour as of September 1st of the current season.

All matches are best 3 out of 5 games to 9 points with one timeout per game.

Game 5, if necessary, will go to CPRT Extended Play and the match will continue until a player wins by 2 points. Each player receives one additional timeout in CPRT Extended Play.

CPRT Bonus Ball: Players are allowed one serve with the exception of using a second serve only one time per game at their discretion. Players will notify the referee when choosing to use the CPRT Bonus Ball immediately after their fault serve.

All matches are played with no line judges or court hinders.

All matches are played with the CPRT Official Ball, the Ektelon Classic.



2007-08 SEASON SCHEDULE UPDATED

The CPRT has updated the 2007-08 schedule:

Nov. 15-17	US Open – Memphis, TN
Nov. 30- Dec. 2	Columbus, OH
Jan. 25-27	Riverside, CA
Feb. 22-24	Rawlins, WY
March 7-9	Rochester, NY
April 10-12	Concord, CA
May 2-4	Las Vegas, NV

Watch for any further updates and entry forms on classicproracquetball.com.



OUTDOOR MAKES HISTORY ON VENICE BEACH

By Hank Marcus, WOR Executive Director

Outdoor hit the beach on Labor Day weekend, combining the top outdoor and indoor players in the world with the Ektelon portable court and Royster Productions filming our sport in High Definition for the first time. This unique footage is the best that racquetball has ever seen.

The 'Ballers: I tell everyone with pride to come and watch the BEST athletes in the world -- they're racquetball players! These guys just continue to prove this to be correct over and over...and they all did it again. Son Nguyen was an absolute star to play so intensely, looking monster ripped for the cameras. Then he took a cut opened wound to the face and came right back to battle and win the title with Josh Tucker. Tuck stepped up and dominated, winning the doubles title with Son and kept it tight in singles with Rocky Carson. Rocky stands on top as the best and he showed us all yet again just how good he is at this game. His partner Rob Hoff doesn't back down to anyone and again pulled his weight with the champ.

Craig "Clubber" Lane and Greg Solis put on such a great show on the blue court with Craig ripping balls with outrageous power and Greg flying all over, getting everything. A huge highlight was having a legend of the indoor game, IRT #2 ranked Jason Mannino, come outdoors and play his heart out with jaw-dropping gets and intense play on every point. The Fresh Mex from Tijuana, IRT #4 Alvaro Beltran showed his amazingly quick hands and matched up with Mannino very well, giving these guys a run for their money. Rhonda Rajsich and Michelle Key were awesome,



playing a top notch crowd-pleasing battle representing the Ladies of Racquetball. The juniors fired everybody up as Jose Diaz took out Brandon Davis. Thank you to all of these great players!



2007 Belle Isle Racquetball Championships

By Greg Lewerenz

The word tournament doesn't quite describe the Belle Isle experience. You need to include several other words with the word tournament to get the idea of "what we do." You need to include the words "party," "event," "fantastic," "incredible," "competition," "spectacular," and "fun." So, in honor of our 2007 Belle Isle Racquetball Championship Tournament, we are creating a new word — "tourtastic-partacular-funtion-incredient!" Because "what we do" is all that, and then some... Webster's, be advised.

The Finals: The stage was set for a great final. The two top seeds, Jack Huczek and Andy Hawthorne, were geared up for a war! The venue was changed to Total Sports in Harrison Township due to a total rain-out on Sunday, which changed the dynamics of the match a bit. Andy made it clear that he would have preferred to face Jack outdoor at Belle Isle, because he had never beaten Jack indoors. Having said this, the venue change didn't faze either competitor, and they brought everything they had to win the money and title of 2007 Belle Isle Racquetball Pro Champion. Andy kept each game competitive and extended many rallies with his incredible diving gets and superhuman athleticism, but Jack would not be denied. The World's #1 player took the match in 3 straight games. Jack Huczek is the 2007 Belle Isle Racquetball Men's Pro Singles Champion.

Men's Open Singles was no less of a dogfight than the Pros. Rance Mack, the powerful indoor player from Cleveland, blew through his half of

the draw on his way to the finals, beating Belle Isle's own perennial Champion, Greg Hodges and Brian Berkelhamer, the #2 seed from the Pro drop down, on the way. The other half of the draw saw Jeff Makowski make it past Carols Jones, the Belle Isle Summer Classic Men's Open Champion, and Paul Stanwick, the #1 seed from the Pro drop down, on the way to the final. Rance's overwhelming power and precision shot making were the difference in the match, as Rance won in two.

Women's Open Singles was a war! The best female player in the State of Michigan, Anthnita Dickerson, put on a show! Anthnita beat Belle Isle veteran Felicia Mann on the way to the final against Paula Saad. Paula worked Anthnita all over the court and Anthnita almost succumbed to leg cramps in the second game. But, on the verge of defeat, she gathered her composure and pulled out the match.

Juniors was a fun event to watch. Sam Zeng, who is new to Belle Isle, won after beating Matt Hill and Brittany Hodges on his way to the title. Great job, Juniors!

Toledo Outdoor Racquetball Fall Doubles Tourney

by Greg Lewerenz

The second annual Toledo Fall Doubles Tourney was held on September 22 on the eight 3-wall courts at the Lucas County Rec Center in

beautiful northwest Ohio. Sunny skies and warm temperatures welcomed the hometown Toledo players plus competitors from Detroit and St. Clair Shores, Michigan, and 1 player from Tennessee. Toledo outdoor rules were in play (dry courts and temperatures of 40 degrees or above). Over 40 players participated in five divisions.

Open Division: Team Big Daddy (Ron Barton and Greg Lewerenz from Detroit) took out the upstart Toledo team of Steve Ball and Jim Bronson after each team won their flight. One game to 21... "Old School" is how we do it in Toledo! Team Big Daddy won the marathon 21-14 in the one-game playoff.

A Division: Jim Witherspoon and Andrew McHenry from Ann Arbor defeated Ron Griggs and Alphonso "Ze Plumber" Pugh from Detroit.

B/C Division: Robin Basil and Marc Labadie from Detroit bested the team of Rich Bronson (Toledo) and Felicia Mann (Detroit).

Mixed Division: "Big Daddy" Ron Barton and Felicia Mann were crowned the winners, taking out Mel "Mr. Natural Light" Zurack and Melody Gorno in the finals.

Century: Dan Tabor (Toledo) and Steve Jensen (Tennessee) bested the Detroit team of Greg "Mr. Twisty" Frazier and Norm "Mr. Salty" Borden, 21-9. This was after having defeated "Big Daddy" Greg Lewerenz and Alphonso Pugh, who were reported to have been undefeated in match play in outdoor racquetball for the last 3 years (boo hoo, guys!).



Fran, how do the Pros stay cool, calm and collected during a match?

Answer: That is the million dollar question! The more relaxed and at ease you are, the better you will play. The more uptight and out of control you are, the worse you will play.

Just take a look at these professional athletes – you'll see what I mean!

Jason Mannino, 2006 US Open Champion



It was 7-7 in the tiebreaker of the US Open semifinals against Jack Huczek; Jason was serving. Jason hit a shot he thought was a winner which would have put him up 8-7. Instead, the referee called it a skip which resulted in a side out and Jack now serving at 7-7. A huge point in the match!

Jason expressed himself to the ref but then went back to receive the serve and LET IT GO. If he had dwelled on it and lost his cool, it could have cost him the match. Instead, he stayed cool, calm and collected, which kept him in the match, and he WON.

Rocky Carson, 2007 IRT Motorola World Champion



In the 4th game of the finals of the 2007 IRT Motorola World Championships against Alvaro Beltran, it was 8-6, Alvaro serving. Rocky called a time out and then came back in to receive serve again. During the next rally, he hit a shot he thought was good and went up to serve, thinking it was 6-8. Instead, the ref called it a skip

which made it 9-6 Alvaro. A huge point in the match! Just like Jason, Rocky questioned the call and voiced his opinion, but then went back to receive serve and LET IT GO. If he had dwelled on it and lost his cool, it could have cost him the match. Instead, he stayed cool, calm and collected, which kept him in the match, and he WON.

Christie Van Hees, 2006 US Open Champion.



In the quarterfinal match of the US Open against Rhonda Rajsich, the #1 Player in the World, there was a questionable call in the 4th game that resulted in a side out against Christie, putting Rhonda in the service box. It was a huge point in the match because it was 2-1 in games for

Christie and she wanted to win in 4 games and NOT go to tiebreaker. Christie questioned the ref and said a few words, but then went back to receive the serve and LET IT GO. If she had dwelled on it and lost her cool, it could have cost her the match. Instead, she stayed cool, calm and collected, which kept her in the match, and she WON.

These are only a few examples of staying "cool, calm and collected" during a match. Anybody can be cool, calm and collected when they are winning and the match is easy, but it is learning how to stay that way when you are losing or it is a close match, hard and pressure-packed.

Below are a few tips to consider to help you learn how to stay cool, calm and collected and avoid resembling a time bomb ready to explode:

1. Don't take the calls personally...it is not a personal vendetta against you.
2. Take a call at face value...it is only one call.
3. Be totally prepared for the match...be ready to battle....the more ready you are, the more relaxed you will be.
4. Don't be concerned with the outcome, the end result, only with the journey of the match...point by point. Take it one point at a time.
5. Be in the present moment. "Now" is all that exists -- the past is gone and the future is not here yet.
6. Take a timeout, breathe, and just let it go.
7. Put a rubber band on your wrist. Every time you think a negative thought, pull it and your body will tell your mind to stop.
8. When you are receiving serve, put your racquet up, count to 10 and LET IT GO.
9. Put writing on your racquetball shoes...Cool, Calm and Collected...so every time you look down you can read it and remind yourself of this.
10. Fix the strings on your racquet...walk around...and LET IT GO.



By Fran Davis

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction on this topic and many others. The next best thing is to buy my video if you can't make it to a camp at this time. Go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details on both.



By Otto Dietrich
USA Racquetball
National Rules
Commissioner



Always "Play by the Rules!" If you don't have a copy, you can find and review them on-line at:
<http://www.usaracquetball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=839>.

Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball.



"... if the receiver puts his racquet up, it should NOT affect your calling of the score."

This issue I'll address some of the more common rule/refereeing errors I've noticed at recent events.

Calling the Score. The rulebook says that the score should be called after the rally "as the players prepare to return to their respective positions," not when they appear ready to start the next rally! Be reasonable and understanding, but as soon as a player does anything to delay the game (like walking in the wrong direction), call the score immediately and start the 10-second readiness count. Also, if the receiver puts his racquet up, it should NOT affect your calling of the score.

Adding "Possible Game (or Match) Point" to Your Calling of the Score. Please don't disrupt the flow at this critical point in the game by pointing out that the receiver is about to lose. If you have previously called the score like "ten serving five," then game point should be called basically the same way, such as "fourteen serving eight."

Discussions with Players. Far too often, a referee will engage in an extended discussion with a player as to "why" he called what he did. Permitting discussion about "why" you made a call could create a small "opening" for the player to argue his point further... and the debate is on. Instead, simply tell the player "what" you called and advise him that you are about to call the score. Of course, if there are line judges, he can always appeal your call. But please do NOT remind him that he can appeal since that could be construed as a form of "coaching the player." You may not realize that most of those discussions are really an attempt by the player to influence the line judges prior to his making an appeal. Note that since the rules expressly prohibit any excessive demonstration prior to an appeal, a discussion with the referee can accomplish the same purpose without being labeled as a demonstration.

Timeouts. While everyone seems to know just how many timeouts are allowed (three in games to 15 and two in a game to 11), very few seem to realize that timeouts only last 30 seconds! Consequently, timeouts quite often take much longer than that -- yet another reason why some matches last longer than they should. I watched a small portion of one match at National Doubles where one timeout lasted two minutes and 20 seconds and another lasted one minute and 30 seconds. One way to help control this is to remind the players as they leave the court for a timeout that they have only 30 seconds. It is also wise to remind them how many timeouts they have left in that game. You can also inform the players when only 10 seconds remain.

Wording of Appeals. When an appeal is made, the referee should announce only what he called. It really makes no difference to the outcome who made the appeal or what the player thought happened. Stating this unneeded information will only confuse the line judges and could corrupt the outcome of the appeal. Remember, the line judges can make three possible calls with regard to what the referee called (or didn't call) -- I agree with the ref (thumb up), I disagree with the ref (thumb down), or I'm unsure about the ref's call (palm facing down).

New Warm-up Policy. The new policy regarding the limits on warm-up time is now in effect, but unless the referees enforce the policy, it will not have its desired effect -- getting the matches underway soon after the court becomes available.

Racquetball 'Sells' & Racquetball 'Sales'

Racquetball 'Sells'

Yes, you should carry racquetball equipment; it's a source of profit and service!

Carry Popular Racquets ... Have Demos and Special Order The Rest

If you have racquetball courts, you can (and should) sell racquetball products. It is important for members to know they can get racquetball products at your club. You do not need to carry every brand or every kind. For racquets, carry what you know will sell and special order the rest. You can get demos of most every racquet from the manufacturer. Have these available for people to try. You can then special order racquets for people from most of the racquet companies in a relatively short period of time. While your members are waiting for their new racquets to come in, let them use the demos when they come in to play.

Carry Necessary Accessories

You should carry accessories such as balls, gloves, eye guards and grips (at the very least!). There is nothing worse than a member coming to the club to play, needing to purchase balls, but can't because you are either out or don't carry them. Just think what that suggests to the member (cheap, non-caring, and frustrating).

Check It Out...

As a Pro Shop Manager, I have learned that whether I am in my club (or other clubs), I am constantly looking at what the players are wearing before, during and after they play. And, what they play with as far as the racquet and accessories they use. Visual observation is very important in selling pro shop items. For the pro shop buyer, in order to know what to buy to sell, one needs to know what people are buying.

One of the reasons our pro shop is so successful is that there is an active buyer (me) who is also a player. I know what people are buying because I see what they are wearing and playing with, and I then sell what they want. I also price competitively. I visit other local clubs and pro shops, sporting good stores and discount stores to check out their prices. It's important to price competitively so your members don't think you are trying to 'rip them off.'

I also share product with other clubs for better pricing. Annette Knoth of East Side Athletic Club in Milwaukie and I have been sharing stock for a number of years. We can get better pricing from some companies and if we run out of something, we can help each other out with inventory transfer until our shipment comes in.

Racquetball 'Sales'

Every time you make a 'sale' you make a profit and provide a service!

In this day and age you need to be competitive with shops or sports stores in your area, and you can provide that added something they can't...service!

It's easy enough to build or purchase a few display cabinets for your club. Then if you are short on pro shop space, you can put the items on display in the display cases. Get a member to trade out the building of a display case in exchange for monthly dues or lessons.

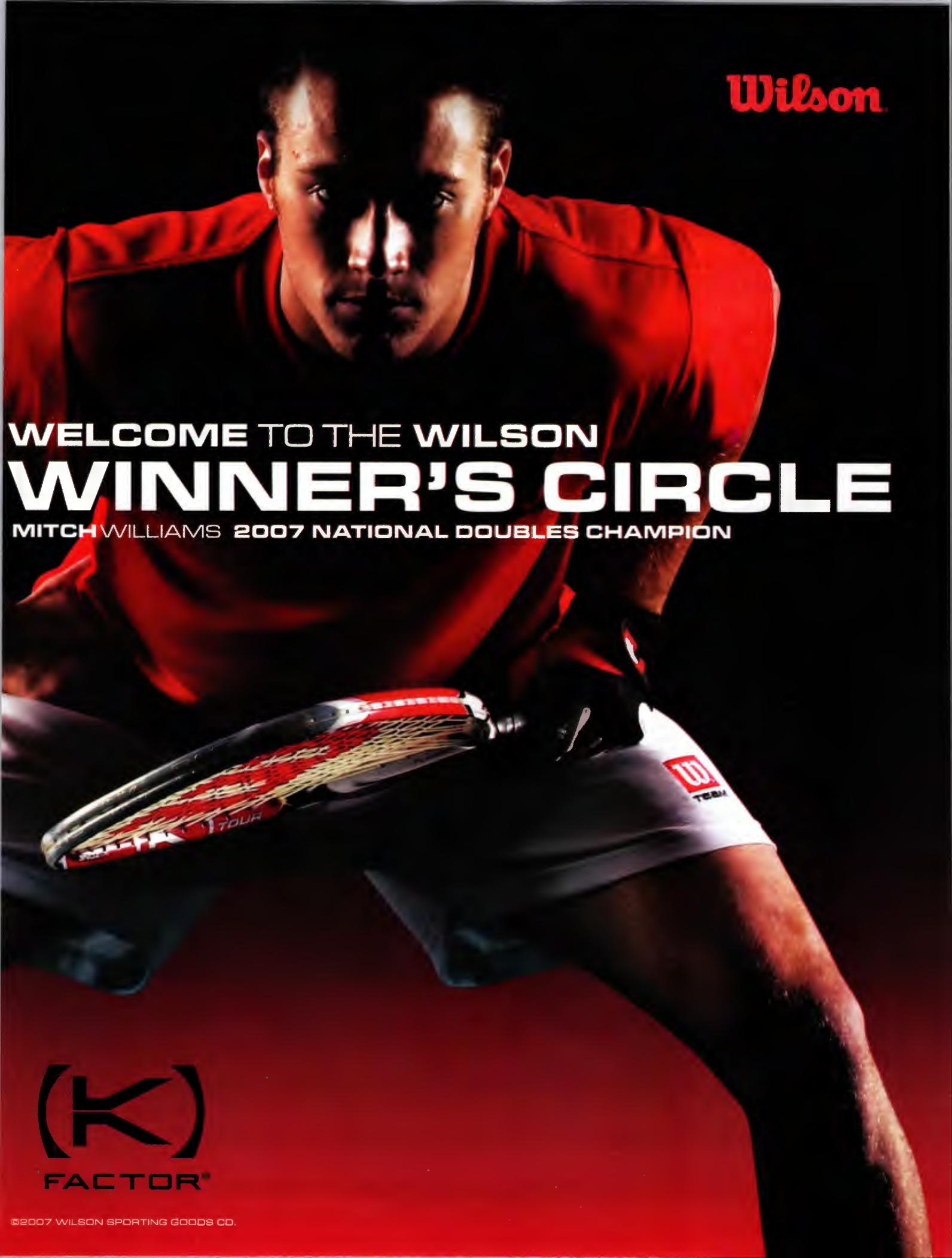
For the promotion of racquets, laminate the pages of the colored brochures the companies provide (or make up your own) and put the suggested retail prices by each racquet along with your price. Put these where people can see them. You can also place a copy by the demo racquets. This way, if the Club Pro or someone knowledgeable about racquets is not available, a person can still view racquet prices and review their selling points. You can even go a step further and highlight the racquets you carry and those you can special order. And...have a form for special orders available to the staff who can then leave completed forms in your message box. (Wow, are you going to sell racquets!)

As a Racquetball Director, capitalize on your knowledge as a specialist! If your Club carries only accessories, try and work something out with the racquet companies relative to carrying demos and then special ordering, or work with a local sporting goods company in your area. It's a win-win situation. The members are happy (they get racquets), the clubs are happy (they make money), and the Club Pros and Directors are happy (they make money, too)!

Connie can be reached at:
clpsportscreations@verizon.net



By Connie Martin,
Director of Programs at
Cascade Athletic Clubs
in Gresham, OR and
National Racquetball
Hall of Fame member.



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Ektelon Director of
Instruction

The Secret Weapon

Every player who has ever walked onto a racquetball court has always wanted the chance to play as well as they're physically and mentally capable of playing. What you are about to read is the single most beneficial contributing factor to achieving full potential. This is the beginning -- without this, you will never play at the level at which you are capable. It's the nucleus of where quality play begins and it's simply the most important factor in the sport of racquetball. As soon as you put this into action you become a better player. The secret weapon is PREPARATION.

There are many forms of preparation, among these being mental, physical, game plan, and practice. The more prepared you are, the better chance you will have to succeed.

Addressed in this article is the physical on-court preparation that's essential right after the ball has been hit and the opponent's next shot is imminent. This is by far the most overlooked vital ingredient to the success of every player in every competitive match.

The first "simple but deadly" step in executing proper preparation is to keep both hands up and in front of you 100% of the time when the ball is in play. There are seven natural beneficial responses that occur when you do this.

#1 Your intuition improves. With your hands up, your body intuitively has a desire to respond. Your "fight or flight instinct" is released. You naturally become more proactive and your ability to respond improves 100%.

#2 You become a more aware player. Due to the body's intuition about its responsiveness, your awareness dramatically improves. When this takes place, you automatically give yourself more knowledge of where the ball is going, thus giving you a lot more time to respond to it.

#3 You instantly become a more difficult player to beat because of the amount of pressure you begin to apply to your opponent. Your opponent will make a lot more unforced errors when he feels like he has to hit a more precisely executed shot.

#4 You will also become a more consistent player because your feet become set at an earlier stage. This allows your feet more time to make any adjustment needed to become more stable and balanced during execution.

#5 You will become a much faster and quicker player, because arms are so heavily involved with foot speed. You now have the ability to pump your arms and legs harder and faster, adding to your mobility and to

your footwork. With your hands down, you simply cannot move in an efficient, fast or agile fashion.

#6 With your hands up, you receive the benefit of having your racquet turn into a readied position whenever you turn your shoulders. This gives you the monstrous advantage of being able to swing at balls that you could only poke at before. You don't have to worry about getting your racquet into a readied position after you set your feet. Whenever you have time to turn and hit a ball, you now have time to swing at it. This improves your ability to keep balls down the line as well as hit balls back with greater control and consistency. All those balls that are currently getting pushed back can now be ripped back!

#7 Your shot selection improves. With the increased amount of time you now have due to your hands already being up, you now have more time to hit the ball in an area that will force your opponent to move and that will allow you to get into or stay in center court.

So enjoy the fact that you can walk onto the court from this point forward and know that you are giving yourself the opportunity to bring out your best and get one step closer to playing to your true potential. And know in your heart that you are now more PREPARED!



Picture #1- This common (improper) ready position inhibits a player's ability in four major ways. 1. Preparation -- With your hands down, you're in a reaction mode, slowing every movement. 2. Awareness -- You can't respond to something you can't see! 3. Shot Selection -- Your decision-making process slows down, forcing bad choices with shot selection. 4. Pressure -- Your opponent does not feel the same pressure and will execute better.

Picture #2- In a proper readied position, you are ready to swing, you're aware of what shot is about to be hit while you're applying pressure, and you're clear as to what shot you should hit once it's time to execute.

Pictures #3 & #4- These two pictures illustrate how, by keeping your racquet up in a ready position, you are naturally in a hitting position when you turn to hit the ball. This stays true for both left- and right-handed players on the forehand and backhand side.

ADVANCED PASS SHOTS

By Sudsy Monchik

In the last issue I shared with you my magical "Off the Back Wall Shot," a critical shot used when you want to be a great offensive player. This issue, I want to teach you my magical "Advanced Pass Shots," another set of offensive shots that will add to your becoming an offensive player to be reckoned with, like me! The Pass Shot is the highest percentage offensive shot in racquetball because it hits 18" and lower on the front wall and bounces twice before the back wall. That's why it is the #1 choice of the pros.

Let's first define a Regular Pass Shot

A pass shot is hit knee high and lower on your body. As stated above, it hits the front wall approximately 18" and lower and bounces twice before the back wall. The ball winds up deep in one corner or the other and is not returnable off the back wall. It is a shot that puts your opponent far from the front wall, making it more difficult to score.

Now let's define the 2 Advanced Passes

Side Arm Pass - It's hit chest to shoulder high and, as with the Regular Pass Shot, hits the front wall approximately 18" and lower and bounces twice before the back wall. The ball winds up deep in one corner or the other and is not returnable off the back wall. It is a shot that puts your opponent far from the front wall, making it more difficult to score.

Over Head Pass - It's hit at full extension above your head and, as with the Regular Pass Shot, hits the front wall approximately 18" and lower and bounces twice before the back wall. The ball winds up deep in one corner or the other and is not returnable off the back wall. It is a shot that puts your opponent far from the front wall, making it more difficult to score.

The only two things that change amongst all 3 shots is the **CONTACT POINT** and the **FACE** of the racquet



Regular Pass

- Contact Point
- Knee High and lower
- Face of the Racquet
- Flat and level



Side Arm Pass

- Contact Point
- Chest to Shoulder High
- Face of the Racquet
- Slightly Down



Over Head Pass

- Contact Point
- Full Extension Above Your Head /Eye Level
- Face of the Racquet
- Slightly Down

Presented by

HEAD
Penn

Well there you have it...My Magical Advanced Pass Shots (only diagrammed with my forearm). The Regular Pass Shot can be hit forehand or backhand, but the Side Arm and Over Head Passes are ONLY hit forehand). Having this variety of pass shots makes you more offensive and allows you to put more pressure on your opponents. Too often, players who are not aggressive and put the ball back to the ceiling when the ball is at their chest, shoulder or over their heads do NOT put pressure on their opponents and do NOT create opportunities to force weak returns and possibly score. These pass shots continues to be some of my most offensive

weapons on the pro tour. These shots will add a whole new dimension to your arsenal of offensive shots and create the pressure you need to keep your opponent off balance and guessing. Don't take these shots lightly because the opportunity to hit Advanced Passes happens more often than you could imagine -- you want to be confident and prepared to deliver a good offensive shot.

To learn how to hit these Advanced Pass shots, pick up one of our instructional videos, "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" or attend one of our camps.

Please go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details.

New Jersey Amateur Racquetball



Jonathan Clay

About Jonathan Clay

Jonathan is a graduate of Providence College and Rutgers Business School, holding undergraduate and master's degrees in Marketing. He works at Jack Morton

Worldwide, managing accounts for mobile and event marketing campaigns as well as trade show designs for some of the world's top companies. A racquetball player and USAR member since 2001, Jonathan is also a former intern for Ektelon. Jonathan is now the ERA for the state of New Jersey for Ektelon and also owns his own small business, Jersey Shore Racquet Sports, an all-purpose racquetball services company. Jonathan's other sponsors include One Shot Sports, Racquetworld, and Weekend Warrior Sportswear.

A new association is born...

The former state association in New Jersey was in place for 10+ years and existed without a formal board but simply a president trying to run all programming by himself. With tournament numbers declining in the state, a group of concerned racquetball players got together and formed a board to try and help this former president. Though having been in charge for 10+ years and spending countless hours on racquetball in New Jersey, it was that person's decision to step down and let a new association take over.

What are the positives of the new association?

The major difference that the NJAR has over the previous governing body is the large group of people we have comprising our board. This has allowed for greater tournament outreach, bringing players from surrounding states into New Jersey for our NJAR tournaments. The 2007 NJAR State Singles, our inaugural tournament, had 120 entries, a 300% increase from the 2006 tournament. We expect to consistently draw 100+ players for our tournaments throughout the season.

What challenges does the new association face?

New Jersey has not been a very strong racquetball state in recent years. The challenge our new association faces is bringing players back into tournament racquetball and not just "playing at the club." Court space is also limited in NJ, with only two clubs willing and able to hold tournaments for us right now.

What is your #1 complaint?

One of the biggest issues we hear as an association is the lack of women racquetball players. Women's draws at our tournaments are not as strong as we would like them to be. In the future, it is our goal to reach out to more women players and get them to start playing competitively and coming to tournaments.

If you could share some advice, what would it be?

First of all, surround yourself with people who are willing to help and whose heart and passion for racquetball is strong. Without this, the burden of work on one or two people is just too much. When you have a team of people who work together and can pick up the slack for fellow team members as they become busy with life's other necessities, the job of promoting racquetball becomes much easier and fun! Second, don't be afraid to spend a little extra money at your tournaments to get a nicer award, or nicer food, or another giveaway to players. If you have money in your budget, use it to make the tournament just that much better. Players remember the little things and will come back (or won't) because of it.



President: Jonathan Clay

Vice President: Aimee Ruiz

Secretary: Gloria Fidecaro

Treasurer: Nancy Luyando

Board Members: Jon Panno, John Patric, Melanie Jones, Eduardo Mancheno, Ray Davis, Joe Camiolo, Joe Delgado, Felix Ruiz

NJAR MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH AND NJ STATE PROFILE

Membership: 135 (5 Lifetime Members)

State Population: 8,724,000

State Nickname: The Garden State

State Slogan: Come see for yourself...

Fun Facts:

- New Jersey is the diner capital of the world
- New Jersey was host to the first-ever baseball and football games
- New Jersey is the home of the first-ever shopping mall

THE FUTURE IS NOW

By Jim Hiser

This is a critical time for Racquetball. It's important that all involved in racquetball understand what is happening and what the future may be for the sport. It is the dream and the hope of the sport's leaders that new initiatives will produce positive results and a growth curve for the sport. The sport's history shows that although there have been many of the same initiatives in the past (portable court, outside sponsors, TV coverage, etc.), the sport failed to capitalize on these opportunities due to myopic planning, egotistical leadership and association infighting. The key to today's success is the cooperative leadership of all facets of the sport. Leaders must look beyond their own organizations at the Big Picture. Everyone must work together to determine what is the most productive path for the sport as a whole.

Racquetball has been fortunate to attract the support of some exceptional people. The new portable court would not be possible without the foresight and financial backing of Susan and Leo Klimaitis and Mary and Pat Taylor from Illinois. The reason for their involvement and investment is simple – they love racquetball and they wanted to create a vehicle to move the sport to the next level. Now it is up to USA Racquetball, the IRT and other associations to develop a plan to accomplish their dream.

In addition to Choice Hotels, the involvement of two

additional major corporations, Motorola and Verizon Wireless, is a huge stepping stone for the future of racquetball. They see potential through the IRT and the sport for tremendous brand awareness and exposure only if racquetball emerges from the club level and is supported by a major network such as ESPN. The number of brand impressions that a major public venue and network television can bring will not only satisfy the return on investment for these corporations but will also open the doors for many new potential sponsors.

What racquetball has done and is doing is not enough. Again, the sport needs to expand beyond the clubs, to increase its visibility in order to bring more people back into the clubs and to the tournaments. Shopping malls, financial districts, public beaches and parks...these are key venues for the new court.

The sport must use its current resources to fulfill the above objectives. The professionals need exposure. Their charisma, athleticism and skills need to be televised and visible. Health benefits of the sport need to be emphasized and the opportunity for women and juniors must be publicized. The sport must attack the opportunities by using all its resources. The current fan base must support the initiatives.

The Future is Now. If we are serious about taking racquetball to the next level, we must move forward and seize all available opportunities.



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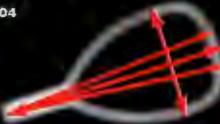
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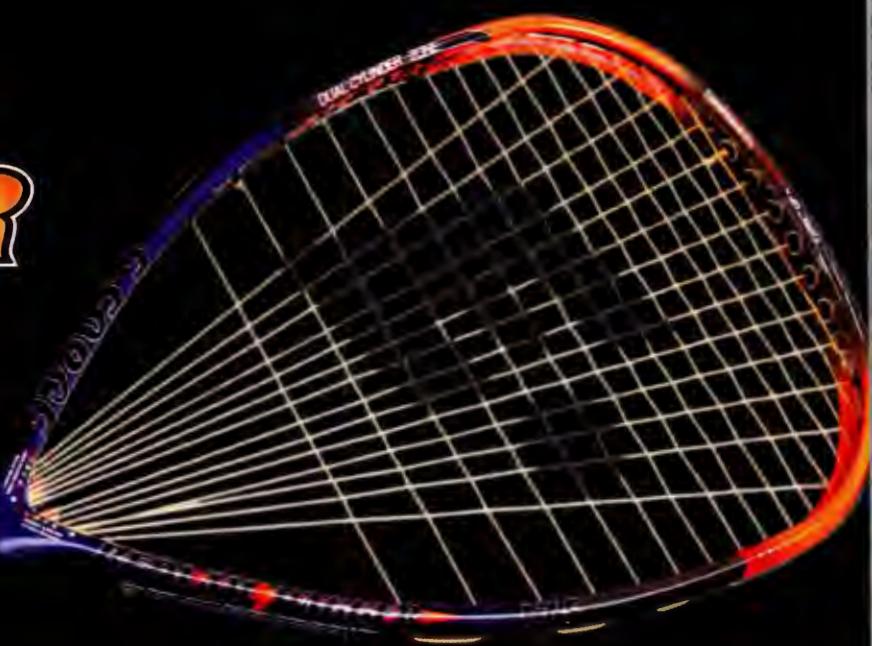
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TWELVE RACQUETBALL POWER PATENTS

12

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Patent #7,077,768B2
And Patents Pending

PATENTED LONGSTRING SUPER-MAINS



- Massive Power from Increased Stringbed Deflection
- All Mains Extend in Free Space from Head Through Handle for Vicious Power

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2007 US NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Arizona State University Recreation Center,
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US TEAM QUALIFYING DIVISIONS

Women

Aimee Ruiz and Jackie Paraiso-Rice won their first National Doubles title by defeating Kim Russell-Waselenchuk and Kristen Bellows. This made it three straight for Aimee and a total of 19 national titles for Jackie.

This was not the first time the two teamed up together -- their first title came at the 2006 Pan American Championships in Guatemala. That key victory helped Team USA clinch the overall team championship.

Men

Mitch Williams and Ben Croft teamed up to win their first National Doubles championship. Mitch and Ben defeated last year's second place team, Jeff Stark and Andy Hawthorne.

Tournament Note:

John Ellis and Jose Rojas have officially been awarded second place due to the forfeiture of Jeff Stark. Jeff refused to take an out-of-competition drug test and according to USOC/USADA rules, Jeff has been suspended and must forfeit his second place medal.

Aimee Ruiz, Jackie Paraiso-Rice, Mitch Williams and Ben Croft now qualify to represent the US at the Pan Am Championships in Costa Rica next April.

Outstanding Performances:

National Age Brackets

Keith Minor and John Amatulli teamed up to win two of the more competitive divisions, Men's 35's and 40's.

Merijean Kelley added to her treasure of gold medals by winning three divisions -- Women's 55's, Women's 60's and Mixed 60's.

Elaine Dexter captured a gold medal in the Women's 50's, then teamed up with Dave Azuma to defend their Mixed 50's title. Dave also teamed with Tom Travers to win the Men's 45's.

Presenting Sponsor



Event Sponsor



Photography by Geoff Thomsen

QUESTION:

What are your thoughts about the pool play and round-robin format for all the ladies divisions?



We don't like pool play or round robins. We believe you should play and if you lose you go home. If you play more than one division, round robins are too many games.
– Jeanine Ove - Arnold MD & Marilyn Ross - Pittsburgh PA



It's great! When you travel and have to spend so much money it is great to have an opportunity to play more matches. – Gail Schaefer, Randallstown MD



I like the pool format. It gives everyone more games and an opportunity to play many different players. – Jody Nance, Stockton CA

QUESTION:

What are your feelings about the National Doubles moving to February?



We don't like the new date. Too close to this event for next year. October is a better time for us than February. – Tina Joslin - Arlington TX, Ann Draught - Colleyville TX, Cheryl Bird - Grapevine TX



It doesn't make much difference to me. Personally I like coming to Phoenix in February! – Keith Minor, Channahon IL



I will play if my job permits me to get away. The time of year really doesn't matter. I love doubles so I will be there if I can make it. – Scott Consoli, Orlando FL



Doesn't matter to me. I will be there but it would seem for most of the players February would be great time to travel to Phoenix! – Tom McKie, Garland TX

Skill Divisions

Bruce Hubrich and Chuck Evans won both the Men's C and Men's 55C.

Adrienne Velasquez and Nico Richardson won the Women's B and Women's 35B.

Stephanie Winfrey won two gold medals, teaming with Mimi Greene in Women's A and with Melody Gorno in Women's 35A.

Upsets

Mike Lubbers and Russ Bonnano defeated #1 seeds Dave Azuma and Tom Travers in the Men's 50's.

Bret Castelanelli and David Ortega put an end to Eric Barkley and Jim Bailey's bid for four straight national titles in the Men's 55.

Unknowns Jason Conway and Preston Tribble upset the #1 seeds Brian Fredenberg and Oscar Macias in the Men's Open.

Joseph Hassey and Susan Hendricks defeated the perennial national championship team of Kim Cameron and Rick Ramirez (#2 seeds) in the Mixed 50's.

Still and Always a Threat

The team of Mary Lyons and Sue Pfahler destroyed the very strong team of Debra Tisinger-Moore and Malia Bailey in the Women's 40/45's.

Noticeably Absent

Last year's US National championship team of Jack Huzcek and Rocky Carson. Since the qualifying event for the World Championships is the newly-scheduled February tourney, both players decided to skip this one.

Cheryl Gudinas Holmes, who decided to skip this year's Doubles and rest up for the WPRO tour.

Ed Remen, who has won the Men's 60's the past two years and is a consistent medal winner at any national event. Ed suffered a knee injury only two weeks prior to the event.

Tim Hansen, whose business forced him to miss the event. Tim won the Men's 40's and Men's 45's in 2006.

Jimmy Lowe, who also is recovering from knee surgery. Jimmy won last year's Men's 40's with Tim Hansen and Mixed 40's with Malia Bailey.

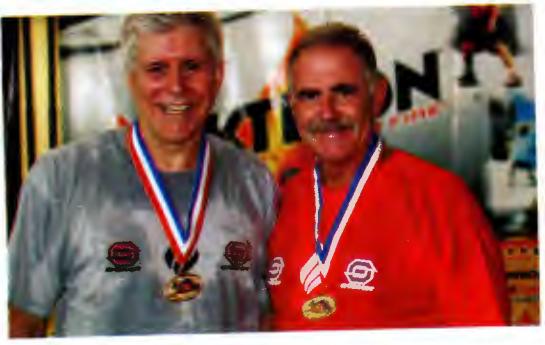
Impressive Newcomers

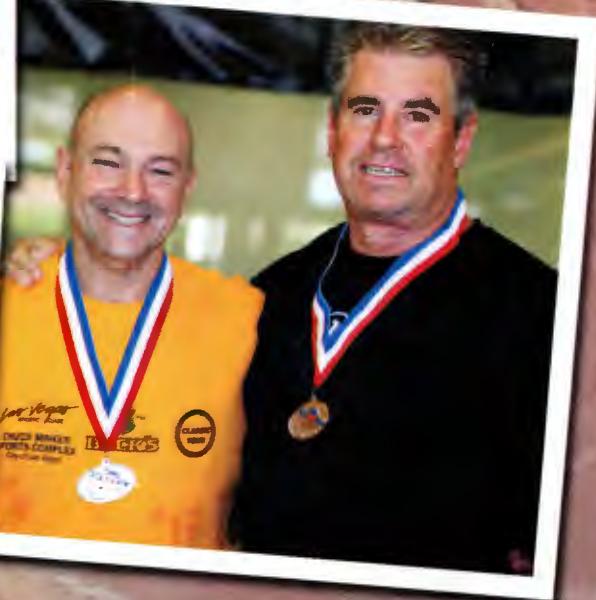
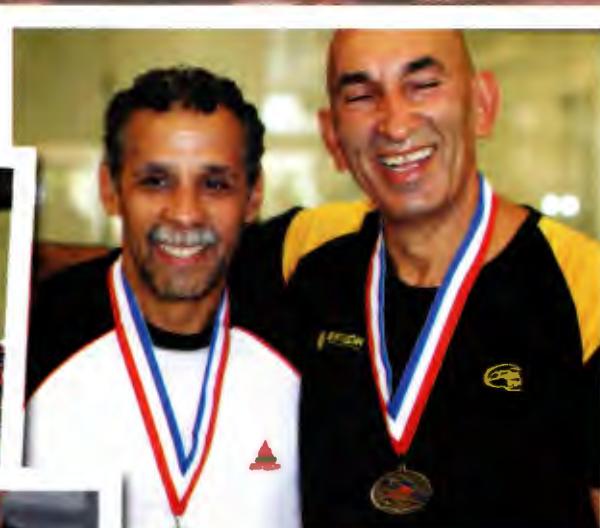
Jose Rojas, who teamed up with John Ellis to defeat the #4 seeded team of Chris Crowther and Tim Doyle. Although Jose Rojas has been a dominant figure in junior racquetball and is well known in California, this is the first time many people have had an opportunity to witness his impressive talent.

Welcome Back!

Tim Doyle, former US Team player and top five ranking professional player, who teamed up with Chris Crowther. After the match, Tim expressed that the match was great fun and he will definitely be back.

For a complete results of this tournament, visit www.usar.org, choose Tournaments, then Results, then click on 2007 US National Doubles Championships.





National Doubles Championships

MEN'S DOUBLES US TEAM QUALIFYING - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Ben Croft / Mitch Williams - Lake Bluff, IL/Pueblo, CO
2nd: John Ellis / Jose Rojas - Stockton, CA
3rd: Brian Klee / Jason Samora - Sacramento, CA / Sacramento, CA

MEN'S DOUBLES OPEN - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Anthony Carson / Charles Pratt - Portland, OR/Pueblo, CO
2nd: Brian Klee / Jason Samora - Sacramento, CA / Sacramento, CA
3rd: Dr. Jason Richard Conway / Preston Tribb

MEN'S DOUBLES ELITE - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Shane Pinkston / Tommy Medina - Scottsdale, AZ/Phoenix, AZ
2nd: Gilbert Cepeda / Danny Newman - San Jose, CA/Woodland, CA
3rd: Dr. Jason Richard Conway / Preston Tribb

MEN'S DOUBLES A - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Tom Keogh / Brian Lesieur - Jackson Heights, NY/Hudson, NH
2nd: Jonathan Clay / Michael Patalano - Middletown, NJ/Warwick, RI
3rd: Joseph Villarreal / Rick Koll

MEN'S DOUBLES B - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Jim Latter / Kevin Loop - San Jose, CA/Morgan Hill, CA
2nd: John Quinn / Victor Pierson - Peoria, AZ/Glendale, AZ
3rd: Charles Stalder / Steve Nearents

MEN'S DOUBLES C - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Bruce Hubrich / Chuck Evans - Louisville, KY/Louisville, KY
2nd: Chris Wright / Jackie Eaton - Tempe, AZ/Glendale, AZ
3rd: Lloyd Ferran / Ronald Maestas

MEN'S DOUBLES M24A/25A - ROUND ROBIN

1st: David Piper / Nathan Porter - Avondale, AZ/Phoenix, AZ
2nd: Ro Blackwood / Thomas Baker - Oceanside, CA/Oceanside, CA
3rd: Andrew Goldman / Salvatore Perconti

MEN'S DOUBLES M24/25B/35B - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Jim Latter / Kevin Loop - San Jose, CA/Morgan Hill, CA
2nd: John Quinn / Victor Pierson - Peoria, AZ/Glendale, AZ
3rd: Mike Tanaka / Steven Hoover

MEN'S DOUBLES 30+ - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Brian Fredenberg / Oscar Macias - Frisco, TX/El Paso, TX

2nd: Richard Eisemann / Ryan Rodgers - Frisco, TX/Wylie, TX
3rd: Ken Cheshire / Raymond Maestas

MEN'S DOUBLES 35+ - ROUND ROBIN

1st: John Amatulli / Keith Minor - St. John, IN/Channahon, IL
2nd: Darin Randles / Tommy Medina - Phoenix, AZ/Phoenix, AZ
3rd: Gordon Kirkland / Scot Consoli

MEN'S DOUBLES 35+ A - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Andrew Kulback / Eric Jubin - Maineville, OH/Missouri City, TX
2nd: Harlan Faircloth / James Russell - Winter Springs, FL/Chuluota, FL
3rd: Drake Deavours / Jim Bono

MEN'S DOUBLES 40+ - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: John Amatulli / Keith Minor - St. John, IN/Channahon, IL
2nd: Scot Consoli / Armando Alonso - Orlando, FL/Winter Springs, FL
3rd: Ken Stone / Mark Nomura

MEN'S DOUBLES 45+ - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: David Azuma / Thomas Travers - Lake Oswego, OR/Delray Beach, FL
2nd: Danny Newman / Gilbert Cepeda - Woodland, CA/San Jose, CA
3rd: Armando Alonso / Gordon Kirkland

MEN'S DOUBLES 45+ A - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Billy Cannon / Ronald Martucci - Montevallo, AL/Birmingham, AL
2nd: Dana Cornelius / Darold Key - Buckeye, AZ/Gilbert, AZ
3rd: Bill Bouie / Al Shipman

MEN'S DOUBLES 45+ B - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: John Dalisky / Vic Koliczw - San Ramon, CA/CA
2nd: Raymond Ross / Tom Carey - Portland, ME/Saco, ME
3rd: Kenneth Joy / Lynn Stephens

MEN'S DOUBLES 50+ - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Mike Lubbers / Russ Bonanno - Phoenix, AZ/North Massapequa, NY
2nd: Eugene Pare / Troy Stallings - Campbell, CA/Sioux Falls, SD
3rd: Hatch Saakian / Ruben Gonzalez

MEN'S DOUBLES 55+ - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Bert Castelanelli / David Ortega - Lodi, CA/Stockton, CA
2nd: Eric Barkey / Jim Bailey - Folsom, CA/Norfolk, VA
3rd: Hatch Saakian / Ruben Gonzalez

MEN'S DOUBLES 60+ - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Craig Olsen / Thomas McKie - Grand Island, NE/Garland, TX
2nd: Jon Walker / Mike Pawka -

Phoenix, AZ/San Diego, CA
3rd: Fred Letter / Jerry Davis

MEN'S DOUBLES 55C - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Bruce Hubrich / Chuck Evans - Louisville, KY/Louisville, KY
2nd: Lloyd Ferran / Ronald Maestas - Albuquerque, NM
3rd: John Torres / Ralph Torres

MEN'S DOUBLES 45C

1st: Dale Heath / Richard Hockenberry - Surprise, AZ/Glendale, AZ
2nd: Jakie Eaton / Roger Peterson

MEN'S DOUBLES M55A - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Jon Christ / Steve Cohen - San Diego, CA/Orange, CA
2nd: Barry Clyde / Mike Lippitt - Danville, CA/Danville, CA
3rd: Dr. Dennis Rajsich / Garry Carter

MEN'S DOUBLES M55B - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Jim Verhaeghe / Thomas Lundy
2nd: Rene Saucier / Tom Farley
3rd: Ottis Campbell / Stan Lemon

MEN'S DOUBLES M65 - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Fred Letter / Jerry Davis - South Plainfield, NJ/Shaker Hts., OH
2nd: Jerry Northwood / Luis Guerrero - Prescott, AZ/San Gabriel, CA
3rd: Ben Smith / Bob Kulscar

MEN'S DOUBLES M70 - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Charlie Hamon / Lee Graff
2nd: Ken Moore / Paul Banales

WOMEN'S DOUBLES US TEAM QUALIFYING - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Aimee Ruiz / Jacqueline Paraiso - Sterling, NJ/El Cajon, CA
2nd: Kim Russell-Waselenchuk / Kristen Bellow - Brownsville, TX/Pleasant Grove, UT
3rd: Janel Tisinger / Rhonda Rajsich

WOMEN'S DOUBLES WE - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Tammarrian Rogers / Wanda Collins - Renton, WA/Bellingham, WA
2nd: Debra Tisinger-Moore / Karen Key - Simi Valley, CA/Gilbert, AZ
3rd: Marsha Berry / Peggy Stephens

WOMEN'S DOUBLES A - POOL PLAY

1st: Mimi Greene / Stephanie Winfrey - Mililani, HI/Clemmons, NC
2nd: Darlene Olich / Susan Hendricks - Gilbert, AZ/Phoenix, AZ
3rd: Janine Libke / Kelly Werner

WOMEN'S DOUBLES B - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Adrienne Velasquez / Nico Richardson - Upland, CA/Upland, CA
2nd: Lawshe' Ballard / Michelle Wahl - Carefree, AZ/Phoenix, AZ
3rd: Glenda Lopez / Lindy Kirkland

WOMEN'S DOUBLES C - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Amber Dirks / Heather Brady - Glendale, AZ/Camp Lejeune, NC
2nd: Julia Mouser / Pearl Torres - Tustin, CA/El Dorado Hills, CA
3rd: Leila Parnian / Margo Rainey

WOMEN'S DOUBLES W25A/35A - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Melody Gorno / Stephanie Winfrey - Trenton, MI/Clemmons, NC
2nd: Lethi Delisle / Thao Le - Tampa, FL/Herndon, VA
3rd: Laura Natividad / Mimi Greene

WOMEN'S DOUBLES W35B - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Adrienne Velasquez / Nico Richardson - Upland, CA/Upland, CA
2nd: Lawshe' Ballard / Michelle Wahl - Carefree, AZ/Phoenix, AZ
3rd: Cherilyn Toland / Diana Johnson

WOMEN'S DOUBLES W45B - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Adrienne Velasquez / Nico Richardson - Upland, CA/Upland, CA
2nd: Lan Huynh/Lethi Delisle

WOMEN'S DOUBLES W40 - POOL PLAY

1st: Mary Lyons / Susan Pfahler - Neptune Beach, FL/Neptune Beach, FL
2nd: Debra Tisinger-Moore / Malia Bailey - Simi Valley, CA/Norfolk, VA
3rd: Lori Soares / Roxanne Davis

WOMEN'S DOUBLES W45 - POOL PLAY

1st: Mary Lyons / Susan Pfahler - Neptune Beach, FL/Neptune Beach, FL
2nd: Debra Tisinger-Moore / Malia Bailey - Simi Valley, CA/Norfolk, VA

WOMEN'S DOUBLES W45A - POOL PLAY

1st: Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Kim Cameron
2nd: Barbara Ahern/ Cheryl Kirk
3rd: Amy Eaton/ Dianne Doerschell

WOMEN'S DOUBLES 50+ - POOL PLAY

1st: Elaine Dexter / Linda Moore - Pleasanton, CA/Lincoln, NE
2nd: Leslie Pawka / Susan Hendricks - San Diego, CA/Phoenix, AZ
3rd: Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Kim Cameron

WOMEN'S DOUBLES 55+ - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Merijkean Kelley / Nancy Kronenfeld - Palo Alto, CA/Park Ridge, IL
2nd: Joann Johnson / Terry Ann Rogers - Bellingham, WA/San Mateo, CA
3rd: Jeanine Ove / Marilyn Ross

WOMEN'S DOUBLES 55A - ROUND ROBIN

1st: CeCe Palaski/Marquita Molina

WOMEN'S DOUBLES W60 - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Merijkean Kelley / Nidia Funes - Palo Alto, CA/Novato, CA
2nd: Marquita Molina / Mary Lou Furaus - Wasco, CA/Goodyear, AZ
3rd: Gail Schaefer / Mildred Gwinn

WOMEN'S DOUBLES W65 - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Gail Schaefer / Mildred Gwinn

MIXED DOUBLES OPEN - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Andy Hawthorne / Diane Moore - Tallmadge, OH/Griffith, IN
2nd: Janel Tisinger / Jason Samora - Simi Valley, CA/Sacramento, CA
3rd: Aimee Ruiz / Sanjay Laforest

MIXED DOUBLES ELITE - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Roxanne Davis / Marc Pollack - Murrieta, CA/San Diego, CA
2nd: Kimberly Ferina / Tom Keogh - Rockaway Park, NY/Jackson Heights, NY
3rd: Keri Guarino / Russ Bonanno

MIXED DOUBLES A - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Martin McDermott / Tina Joslin - Dallas, TX/Arlington, TX
2nd: Dennis French / Dorcy Norton - Encinitas, CA/Escandido, CA
3rd: Roman Levitskiy / Dianne Doerschel

MIXED DOUBLES B - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Frank Vail / Linda White - Ambler, PA/Chalfont, PA
2nd: Juan Diaz / Nico Richardson - Riverside, CA/Upland, CA
3rd: Lynn Stephens / Mimi Greene

MIXED DOUBLES C - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Pearl Torres / Ralph Torres - El Dorado Hills, CA/El Dorado Hills, CA
2nd: Chris Wright / Jessica Montemayor - Tempe, AZ/Mesa, AZ
3rd: Barbara Ahearn / Randy Jacquart

MIXED DOUBLES MX25 - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Keely Franks / Oscar Macias - Euless, TX/El Paso, TX

MIXED DOUBLES MX30 - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Ben Simons / Rachel Gellman - Mesa, AZ/El Mirage, AZ
2nd: Dr. Jason Richard Conway / Karen Key
3rd: Bronc Hughes/Debra Nathan

MIXED DOUBLES 35+ - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Beth Neff / Rafael Filippini - Puyallup, WA/Bonita, CA
2nd: Liz Alvarado / Mark Malowitz
3rd: Linda Moore/John Amatulli

MIXED DOUBLES 40+ - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Jody Nance / Mark Nomura - Lodi, CA/Fremont, CA
2nd: Martin McDermott / Tina Joslin - Dallas, TX/Arlington, TX
3rd: Dorcy Norton / Michael Guyer

MIXED DOUBLES 45+ - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: Glenn Bell / Malia Bailey - Nederland, TX/Norfolk, VA
2nd: Debra Tisinger-Moore / Troy Stallings - Simi Valley, CA/Sioux Falls, SD
3rd: Ken Stone / Linda Moore

MIXED DOUBLES 50+ - SINGLE ELIMINATION

1st: David Azuma / Elaine Dexter - Lake Oswego, OR/Pleasanton, CA
2nd: Joseph Hassey / Susan Hendricks - Las Vegas, NV/Phoenix, AZ
3rd: Chris Eron / Gordon Kirkland

MIXED DOUBLES 55+ - ROUND ROBIN

1st: Debbie Chaney / Denny Vincent - Indianapolis, IN/Blacklick, OH
2nd: Steve Cohen / Terry Ann Rogers - Orange, CA/San Mateo, CA
3rd: George Heidelmeier / Nancy Kronenfeld

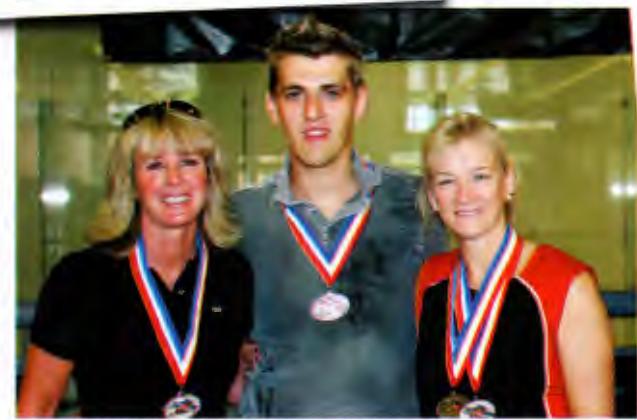
MIXED DOUBLES MX60/65 - POOL PLAY

1st: Merijkean Kelley / Mike Pawka - Palo Alto, CA/San Diego, CA
2nd: Cece Palaski / Stan Lemon - Ranchos de Taos, NM/San Diego, CA
3rd: Jerry Northwood / Mary Lou Furaus - Prescott, AZ/Goodyear, AZ.

MIXED DOUBLES MX65

1st: Luis Guerrero / Nidia Funes - San Gabriel, CA/Novato, CA
2nd: Lee Graff / Mildred Gwinn - Bend, OR/Waxhaw, NC
3rd: Charlie Hamon / Gail Schaffer - Poulsbo, WA/Randallstown, MD







NMRA ACTIVITIES

By Bruce Adams, NMRA Secretary



The National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) is getting stronger and better. With over 900 members aged 45 years and over, we look forward to going to Utah in March 2008 for the National Championships. We will be playing on 20+ courts at Orem Fitness Center and Utah Valley State College. Orem is located about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City. The host hotel, which will be used for registration, hospitality and the banquet, will be the Provo (Utah) Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Shuttle service will be provided from the hotel and between both clubs. Be sure and register for your rooms early. Check out the website www.nmra.info for the application and more particulars on the event. You are encouraged to register online at www.R2Sports.com.

And for those who are planning vacation next summer, the International Championships will return to West Allis, Wisconsin. If you would like to be a sponsor, or if you know of someone who would like to be a sponsor, contact Tom Curran at 513-490-7472.

Congratulations to the many, many NMRA players participating in the 40th USAR National Doubles Championships in Tempe, Arizona at the Arizona State University Recreational Center. There were a lot of great matches and the championship court matches were telecast live at www.racquetballonline.tv. Be sure and go to the www.R2Sports.com website for all of the details on results.

We had an absolutely outstanding time at Overland Park, Kansas this past July, receiving many positive comments, and we thank everyone for the participation. The Board members are striving to make upcoming events classy, on-time, and lots of fun.

The NMRA is dedicated to the mature racquetball player 45 years old and older. All matches (singles, doubles, and mixed doubles) are self-officiated and round-robin format, at our two annual events --No More One Round and Out. Your first event does not require membership to the association, but we wish you would join. We look forward to having you join us at an upcoming event.



In Memory of Bob Fennell

On a sad note, we lost a real racquetball pioneer and enthusiast with the death of Robert (Bob) Fennell on September 06, 2007, in Houston. In his passing, Bob leaves us with warm memories of his complete dedication and love for the sport and for all those who had the honor and pleasure to be called his friend. Bob never married nor had any children, but he left quite a family from his submarine career in the Navy and his engineering career at NASA.

There are many of us who love racquetball, but few who manage to affect it at every level of the sport. Bob's active support of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA); USA Racquetball (USAR); International Racquetball Tour (IRT); International Racquetball Federation (IRF); the US Open; his beloved Houston Racquetball Association (HRA; Treasurer); and Team Ektelon touched every level of player in our sport. National Singles players will remember him as a welcome

desk volunteer in Houston every year.

Bob was instrumental in fostering a \$3,000 matching contribution partnership between the HRA and NMRA in support of Junior racquetball. His unselfish nature allowed many junior players the joy of competing in PROAm Doubles charity events. Many Masters players treasured Bob as a lifelong friend. Over the past few years he would pay his entry fees, not play in the event, but would volunteer to help make the tourney successful. At the US Open, he purchased the "Friends of Bob" table and allowed many players to sit front row at the portable glass court at The Racquet Club of Memphis. Bob Fennell was most hospitable, he had quite the unique and wonderful laugh, and he will be most sorely missed.

Per Bob's wishes, donations in his memory may be sent to: Tom Curran, Executive Director, NMRA, Future Foundation, 1015 Cardinal Drive NW, Wilson, NC 27896.

*- From Randy Stafford,
USAR Board President*

Women's Day Racquetball Clinic 2007

by Jean Trimble

The Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club in Orlando Florida hosted the 2007 Women's Day Clinic held on June 9th. The Florida Racquetball Association along with the Club helped finance the event in an effort to promote women's racquetball.

This year's event proved once again to be highly successful...and fun! Thirty women from around the state met for a day of instruction, camaraderie, on-court play, a few laughs and the opportunity to meet new players and make new friends. The ladies were given instruction by seven AmPro certified instructors: Susan Pfahler, Karen Bouchard, Sue Hann, Vivian Gomez, Jean Trimble, Kassi Herr, and Laura Brandt. After the morning instruction, these ladies were on hand both to play and to give individual pointers to the attendees.

The day began at 8:30 a.m. with registration and introductions. Afterwards, all participants could take their choice of which court/instructor they wanted to go to for 30-minute lessons on forehand, backhand, serve and serve return, or pointers

on actual play during the game. At the end of each half-hour session, they could then rotate to a different court for another lesson. There was an hour break for lunch, during which Laura Brandt hosted a Q&A session and everyone had the chance to win prizes provided by our sponsors. Thank you Ektelon, Wilson, and the Florida Racquetball Association! After lunch all of the participants mixed it up and played each other in 11 point games until we finally called it quits around 5:00 p.m.

Magella Kirby was awarded a free entry to the next FRA sponsored tournament of her choice for encouraging and/or bringing approximately 15 ladies to attend the Women's Day Clinic. You go, girl!

A huge and very sincere thank you to



Mike Mojer (we love you, Mikel) and The Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club who hosted the event and made it possible to run the clinic. We truly cannot express our appreciation enough for your support and partnership.

The FRA plans to sponsor the event again next year. Dates and locations will be posted on the FRA website.

PEORIA'S 3rd ANNUAL RACQUET FOR THE CURE

By Jim Maroon, Peoria RFTC Co-Director

Peoria, Illinois held its 3rd Annual Racquet for the Cure (RFTC) tournament on August 24 & 25 at Landmark Racquet & Health Club. This racquetball event was held in support of The Peoria Memorial Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The foundation was established in 1982 to help fight breast cancer by funding research grants and supporting education, screening and treatment projects in communities around the world.

Players came from Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. The format was a two-day racquetball event beginning Friday evening with Women's Singles, Women's Doubles, and to include the men, Mixed Doubles.

This year the fundraising event added a new item to Friday night: "Casino Nite." Jim and Monica Freaner took charge of putting this activity together. We played Texas Hold'em, Black Jack and Crown & Anchor. Players made a donation to Susan G. Komen for the Cure in exchange for poker chips. At the end of the evening, the chips were traded in for some very nice prizes.

Saturday was a full day of racquetball. The final matches finished at 6 p.m. just in time for cocktail hour followed by an awards banquet, slide show, silent auction and dance. Guest speakers included Dave & Becky Auer (Race for the Cure Chairs), Pam Schubach, CEO of Peoria YWCA and Jim Maroon, Peoria RFTC. Cheryl Kirk presented a check for \$2,8000 to Dave & Becky from a raffle held in Houston, TX by the USA Racquetball Women's Committee at National Singles, from a painting entitled "Spirit of the Journey" created by racquetball legend Ruben Gonzalez.

Many companies and individuals were sponsors donating money, gift certificates and items to assist with expenses, awards and the silent auction. We exceeded our fundraising goal again this year. A donation in the amount of \$9,200 will be presented to Linda Maricle, Program Director of the Peoria Memorial Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure by Pam and Jim. This brings our three year donation total to \$25,000!



RFTC Committee members L to R are Monica Freaner, JoAnn Wickwire, Jim Freaner, Karen Carter, Jim Maroon, Joann Kempthorne, Gail Goeppinger, Pam Schubach, Traci Steen and Gary Steiger. Not pictured are Bob Schwab and John Snarr.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, the tournament players, the Planning & Fundraising Committee, the Advisory Committee and the many volunteers for making this event a success! Plans are underway for the 4th Annual Racquet for the Cure tournament in Peoria to help fight breast cancer in 2008.

2008

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Tempe, AZ



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USA RACQUETBALL SANCTIONED EVENTS

EVENT TITLE	EVENT START	EVENT END	FACILITY NAME	CITY, STATE
07 CO STATE DOUBLES	11/29/07 5:00pm	12/2/07 4:00pm	Highlands Ranch Recreation Center	Highlands Ranch, CO
07 OH HOLIDAY MAGIC ALL DBLS TNMT	11/30/07	12/2/07	PREMIER ATHLETIC CLUB	COLUMBUS, OH
07 MN STATE DOUBLES	11/30/07	12/2/07	Central Courts	Columbia Heights, MN
07 FL COOL CANDY CANE TOURNAMENT	11/30/07	12/2/07	YMCA - LAKELAND	LAKELAND, FL
07 MI STATE DOUBLES	11/30/07	12/2/07	TOTAL SPORTS	HARRISON TOWNSHIP, MI
07 MD St Nick Splat	11/30/07 8:00am	12/2/07 11:00pm	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE, MD
07 WA Auburn VW Open	11/30/07 12:00pm	12/2/07 6:00pm	BALLY'S TOTAL FITNESS - KENT	KENT, WA
07 Dallas Doubles Series V Invitational	11/30/07 6:00pm	12/2/07 3:00pm	LANDMARK FITNESS FACTORY	DALLAS, TX
07 IN STATE DOUBLES	12/1/07	12/2/07 10:00pm	OMNI 41 SPORTS COMPLEX	SCHERRVILLE, IN
07 PA TRI STATE OPEN	12/1/07	12/2/07	CHALFONT ATHLETIC CLUB	CHALFONT, PA
07 NY Long Island Holiday Classic	12/1/07 8:00am	12/2/07 4:00pm	AMRITRAJ RACQUET & HEALTH SPA	BAY SHORE, NY
07 IL One Day Ladies Tournament	12/2/07 8:00am	12/2/07 5:00pm	Schaumburg Tennis Plus	Schaumburg, IL
07 Courts For A Cure	12/7/07	12/9/07	COURTS PLUS OF JACKSONVILLE	JACKSONVILLE, NC
07 NJ Open	12/7/07	12/9/07	THE CLUB AT WOODBRIDGE	WOODBRIDGE, NJ
07 ND HAPPY JOE'S OPEN	12/7/07 12:00pm	12/9/07 6:00pm	CENTER COURT FITNESS CLUB	Grand Forks, ND
07 DE HOLIDAY SHOOTOUT	12/8/07	12/8/07	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUETBALL CLUB	WILMINGTON, DE
07 Holiday Racquetball Shootout	12/8/07 8:00am	12/8/07 10:00pm	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX
07 MN LIFETIME FITNESS WINTER OPEN	12/14/07	12/16/07	Northwest Athletic Club - 98th Street	Bloomington, MN
07 3RD ANNUAL GRAND SLAM ST NICK'S SHOOTOUT	12/15/07	12/16/07	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON, TX
07 Cowboy Santa	12/15/07 9:00am	12/15/07 6:00pm	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX
08 OH WINTER FREEZE	1/4/08	1/6/08	SPRINGFIELD ATHLETIC CLUB	SPRINGFIELD, OH
08 NY Fishkill Winter Festival	1/4/08 5:00pm	1/6/08 4:00pm	ALLSPORT FITNESS CLUB-FISHKILL	FISHKILL, NY
08 OH WINTER OPEN	1/11/08	1/13/08	BAYWINDS RACQUET CLUB	SANDUSKY, OH
08 MN JANUARY LIFETIME MOORE LAKE TNMT	1/11/08	1/13/08	Northwest Athletic Club - Moore Lake	Fridley, MN
08 MWRA Doubles Championships	1/11/08 8:00am	1/13/08 11:00pm	SPORT FIT LAUREL RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB	LAUREL, MD
08 WA Winterblast	1/11/08 12:00pm	1/13/08 6:00pm	Lynnwood Bally's Total Fitness	Lynnwood, WA
08 NC Build The Arc	1/11/08 5:00pm	1/13/08 4:00pm	COURTS PLUS OF NEW BERN	NEW BERN, NC
08 LOUISVILLE YMCA 7TH SPIRIT TOURNEY	1/11/08 6:00pm	1/13/08 6:00pm	YMCA - OF GREATER LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE, KY
08 NY City Pro Am - IRT Event	1/17/08 2:00pm	1/20/08 5:00pm	SPORTSET - SYOSSET CLUB	SYOSSET, NY
08 MN HALL OF FAME TOURNAMENT	1/18/08	1/20/08	Central Courts	Columbia Heights, MN
08 OH HEAD RACQUETBALL TOUR	1/18/08	1/20/08	THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY	COLUMBUS, OH
08 Salina Family YMCA Mid-America Racquetball Classic	1/18/08 5:00pm	1/20/08 7:00pm	YMCA - SALINA	SALINA, KS
08 5TH ANNL CARDILE BROS DE STATE DOUBLES	1/19/08	1/20/08	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUETBALL CLUB	WILMINGTON, DE
08 MD Lake Forest Shootout	1/19/08 8:00am	1/19/08 11:00pm	Lakeforest Sport & Health Club	GAITHERSBURG, MD
08 MN RAC N ROLLOUT	1/25/08	1/27/08	Rochester Athletic Club	Rochester, MN
08 19TH ANNL WSMRA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	1/25/08	1/27/08	The Athletic Club Of Overland Park	OVERLAND PARK, KS
08 AZ STATE DOUBLES	1/25/08 5:00pm	1/27/08 5:00pm	LA FITNESS CHANDLER II	CHANDLER, AZ



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Nominations for the USA Racquetball Annual Awards

Nominations for the USA Racquetball Annual Awards are due by February 28, 2008. These awards are based on the preceding year.

Joe Sobek Outstanding Contribution Award: This award is based on an outstanding commitment to the sport of racquetball.

Presidential Award: This award is given to the State President who has exhibited outstanding organizational performances in his/her state.

John Halverson Fair Play Award: This award is for anyone who had an exceptional gesture of fair play carried out during the year or for anyone who has a sports career which has consistently signified a spirit of fair play over the years.

Peggy Steding Female Age Group Award: An outstanding female athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of her performance record for the preceding year.

Bud Muehleisen Male Age Group Award: An outstanding male athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of his performance record for the preceding year.

If you know someone who falls into one of the categories mentioned above, please nominate them for one of the awards.

For more information or to nominate a person contact Jim Easterling via e-mail at djeasterling@earthlink.net or mail to:

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Please send your name, phone number, nominee's name, phone number, what category he or she belongs in, and some facts about the nominee.



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November 9-11	Greensboro, NC
January 25-27	Lincoln, NE
February 1-3	Las Vegas, NV
February 8-10	Seattle, WA
February 29-March 2	Rochester, MN
March 28-30	Davison, MI
April 11-13	Seattle, WA
(Women's Only with Christie Van Hees)	
April 18-20	Overland Park, KS
May 30-June 1	San Diego, CA
June 6-8	Sun Prairie, WI
July 18-20 (with 6th day)	Laurel, MD
July 25-27	Long Island, NY
August 1-3	San Francisco, CA

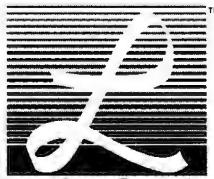
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Junior Sensation Jose Rojas Signs With Ektelon



Jose Rojas

Bordentown, NJ, September 26, 2007— Ektelon is proud to announce the signing of Jose Rojas, the new King of Junior Racquetball, to its growing and impressive athlete roster. The 17 year-old from Stockton, California recently “wowed” the racquetball world by winning both the Boy’s 16’s and Boy’s 18’s Singles titles at the US Junior Championships held at Arizona State University in June. In doing so, Rojas became only the second male player in the tournament’s thirty-four year history to accomplish the feat.

Saving his best racquetball for the final days of the tournament, the soft-spoken Rojas first captured the 16’s title by defeating Taylor Knoth 15-5, 15-4 before going on to defeat opponent and good friend Ismael Aldana, 15-8, 15-6 in a highly-anticipated 18’s finals. Aside from both players hailing from the same hometown, it was a rematch of last year’s Boy’s 16’s finals, which ended in a win for Rojas, 11-10.

“It has been a very exciting summer for me. Of course, capturing the two titles in Tempe was amazing, but perhaps even more so is signing with Ektelon,” said Rojas. “I

have always admired this Brand, its passion for the sport and the way it takes care of its players. I am honored to be part of the team and I look forward to wearing the Ektelon flame for many years to come.”

Rojas has been playing racquetball since he was five. His father, who is a handball player, introduced Jose and his brothers to the sport. With his recent rise and success, Rojas is offered some incredible playing opportunities. He is not only expected to represent the US Junior National Team in Cochabamba, Bolivia this December, but also to make his first appearances at the WOR Nationals, USAR National Doubles and US Open. In addition, Jose plans to participate in an exhibition tour of Northern California this summer with fellow Ektelon team member John Ellis.

“Jose is one of the most exciting, promising young players in the world and we are proud to welcome him to the Ektelon team,” said Scott Winters, General Manager at Ektelon. “He is a true ambassador for the Brand and the sport, and we look forward to celebrating many milestones with him in years to come.”



END OF AN ERA

Under the Radar, the Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club to Close its Doors

In 1974, the Orlando Racquet Club opened as a premier clay court tennis facility, with 14 outdoor and four indoor courts for use during inclement weather. Just six years later, in 1980, investors bought and diversified the facility by converting the indoor courts into more workout and fitness areas, a basketball court, and – last but not least – a full half of its footprint for racquetball courts. Ten total.

Those ten courts operated under the mainstream sports radar for over 27 years, but that all ended on September 1, when a real estate transaction closed the only facility in central Florida able to conduct a full-scale racquetball tournament. Through the years (and a string of mini-name changes), the Club had hosted the highest-level world and national championships, outstanding state and regional events, plus popular and well-

attended local tournaments. Just as important were the Club’s regular “weekend warrior” playoffs, clinics, instruction, coaching and training of nationally-ranked players boasting dozens of titles. The Club and its programs were second to none in the southeast.

Racquetball’s primary advocate through the years was Club Pro Mike Mojer, a veteran and well respected expert, who had

been on hand to supervise the construction of the original tilt-up concrete walled courts, manage the multi-use of courts through lean times, and retain an active and dedicated core group of players on the membership rolls, year in and year out. The combination of Mike's vibrant personality and the club's mid-Florida location couldn't be beat.

When "The Club" again changed hands in 1989, new owners sought out and re-hired Mojer to keep the racquetball programs running. In 1992, current "Brick Bodies" corporate owners bought the property and also asked Mike to stay on. Now fifteen years later, he was still running the largest and most dynamic leagues in the state, conducting major tournaments, grooming new contenders and (now) shepherding a group of dedicated enthusiasts on to other – but definitely not greener – pastures.

This fall, the club was dismantled and the only facility of its size in Florida was lost to the thousands of players who frequented it each year. It had hosted at least six major events annually, featuring the best athletes in the region. For out-of-towners, it was "the" place to play in Orlando, and a quick call to Mike would guarantee a guest pass and an hours-long, competitive, on-court workout



Mike Mojer - (2nd from left)

against a high-level challenger.

Each of the sport's major manufacturers counted on the club to showcase their respective pros – from Wilson and Head, to Ektelon, E-Force and Pro-Kennex. Top clinicians like Fran Davis, Chris Evon, Jason Mannino and Derek Robinson routinely offered camps and instruction there. Over the years, "The Club" had something for everyone – and everything for racquetball players. It was that special "everything" –

and Mike Mojer – that kept racquetball in the hearts and minds of Florida fans and fanatics for well over a quarter century.

It's a shame to see the end of that era and the Club will be sorely missed. But Mike will still be around – somewhere – talking, playing, promoting and teaching racquetball, while recounting everything upbeat and fun about the sport he's enjoyed for a lifetime.

Seeing is Definitely Believing with New Ektelon Speed Eyeguards

Bordentown, NJ – October 1, 2007 – For players of all levels, vision and the ability to react to the ball as quickly as possible can many times mean the difference between winning and losing. Eyewear that helps players pick up the ball quickly and does not interfere with their play is something all serious players value. Now, with the introduction of the Speed Eyeguard from Ektelon, the leader in performance racquetball equipment has brought another extremely lightweight high-performance frame to the market.

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The Speed comes with clear lenses and two additional lenses including:

Smoke – Optimal for outdoor play in bright daytime light, this lens blocks glare during play.

Amber – Provides brightening capabilities crucial for dimmed indoor lighting and dark outdoor settings.



"Players can very easily swap out one lens for another, even in between points," said Scott Winters, General Manager at Ektelon. "These eyeguards provide maximum optical quality in some of the lightest frames we have ever created. They are perfect for any player looking for high performance characteristics and style."

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