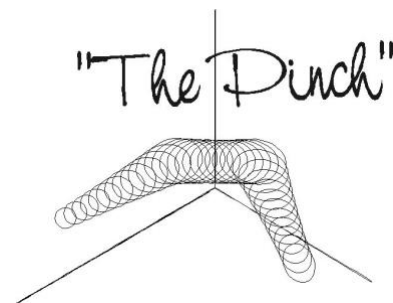




ORA NEWSLETTER

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ORA membership has shown a recent huge increase. With 274 current members, up from 225, we all should thank every racquetball player in Oklahoma as well as the ORA Board for promoting the sport. Everyone is doing a great job!

The 1997 US Open will be broadcast on ESPN2 on 2/12/98 @11:30pm.

Congratulations to Chuck Matthews and his wife of Duncan. New baby girl, Alexandra Leann Matthews, born 12-23-97 weighing 7 lbs, 4 ozs and 22 inches long.

Penn Racquet Sports and the USRA recently announced a renewal of their long-standing partnership to the year 2002. Penn will continue to partner in supplying balls for certain national/regional/state events.

Stringer For Sale: Tired of paying \$20 - \$30 for racquet stringing. Want to string your own racquets and maybe others on the side. Try this. "Eagnus 10". 1997 model. Like new. Used 25 times. No scratches. Desktop model. Portable design. Easy to use. >\$300 new. ONLY \$200.

Call Chris Carter (918)250-4151. First come first served.

JUNIORS

Hello there! Many thanks to Rachel Hogan for refereeing eight of nine matches in the "eight and under" division at the State Junior Singles in Oklahoma City. Rachel's siblings Micah, Gabriel and Caleb are great kids for racquetball. They all play racquetball and are very nice, respectful kids. I am sure their parents are really proud. The Hogan family resides in Ardmore.

I am still looking for articles from Juniors in the state on how racquetball has helped you athletically or in another sport. Parents are welcome to submit articles on the behalf of or with their kids.

Went to Ponca City USA and had a good time. Lots of juniors playing! Check out the results elsewhere in THE PINCH.

Section six of the USRA rules covers multi-bounce play in racquetball. Multi-bounce is only available in two divisions in boys and girls: eight and under, plus six and under. (Six and under became available as an USRA sanctioned division during the summer of 1997! [procedure C.4.(c)]) The age is based on the child's birthday as of the January 1st. This age condition is the same for all juniors divisions. The main items in multi-bounce that makes it different from "single bounce" is the following:

- a. The ball is in play as long as it is bouncing and only one swing is allowed. (rule 6.1)
- b. Balls rebounding off the back wall is dead after it crosses the short line. (rule 6.1)
- c. Hitting to ball so hard that it goes from the front wall to the back wall, allows the defender to move forward of the short line and return from anywhere on the court, as long as it is bouncing. (rule 6.2)
- d. The number of bounces are determined by the height on the wall. There are two horizontal lines taped at one and three feet high from sidewall to sidewall. A ball hit below three feet and above the one foot line on the front wall is only allowed two bounces; a ball hit below the one foot mark is a single bounce return, and any ball higher than three feet is multiple bounce per the above. (rule 6.3)
- e. The games are to eleven points. (rule 6.4)

Refereeing is not very easy. Neither is coaching multi-bounce very easy. We have even seen matches where a younger player is playing a teen: the teen had to use single bounce while the younger player had multi-bounce rules to his discretion. It is not easy on the ref or the teen player. But it is fun! And that is the name of the game for teens and youngsters! As an aside, there are also single bounce regulation divisions in both eight and under, plus six and under.

Speaking of FUN - At the State Juniors event in Oklahoma City, I was asked to do something I had not seen before. That was to be on the court with the first time tournament players aged nine and under. It worked great! One junior told me at the banquet that she had so much fun. That made the tournament for me. Remember, do what it takes to make the tournament experience an enjoyable one. Remember the butterflies, sweaty palms, foggy glasses when you donned the court for your first tournament. Remember to encourage the juniors, even if you do not have a child playing. We should look up to them for attempting to embrace our sport at such an early age. They look up to us for support, advice and practice.

Congratulations to the winners at Elk City, Fayetteville, Northside YMCA, and Ponca City.

Well, I am out of room for this edition. Play hard, study hard and enjoy the holiday season. Hopefully you got most of your wishes for Christmas. Work on your serves - it will produce shorter rallies and easier points!

Bruce Adams
ORA Junior Program Director and Coach, Tulsa Metro Junior Racquetball Team
badams@citgo.com (address change)

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Korey Morley, Chris Coy, Tandy Thomas and Ralph Morley were in Texas in January competing in the Ektelon Metroplex Championships at Maverick Athletic Club in Arlington. Finishers were as follows: Korey Morley - 3rd place - Mens Novice, Tandy Thomas - 3rd place - Mens D, Chris Coy - 1st place - Mens Novice. Congratulations to all!!

5th Annual American Telephone (December 5, 6 & 7, 1997; Ponca City, OK):

Division	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Consolation
Men's Open Singles	Ryan Staten	Todd O'Neil	Josh Tucker/Tom Fuhrman	
Women's Open Sgls	Gina Pete	Therese Lewis	Maria Vera	
Men's A Singles	Kip Bird	Wayland Cubit	Steve Tucker	
Men's B Singles	Rick Willis	Stefan Ohlenmacher	Tim Porch	Kirk Norris
Men's C Singles	Jeff Dye	Todd Novotny	Rick Parker	Mike Dobson
Men's D/Novice Sgls	Chris Coy	Mark Soderstrom	John Soderstrom	Ross Williamson
Men's 45+	Jerry Dye	Bruce Gruszczyka	Ray Tarwater	Bob Going
Juniors	Chris Coy	Kevin Tabor	Ross Williamson	Brittany Larson
Open/A Doubles	Ryan Staten/Josh Tucker	Tom Fuhrman/Mark Fuhrman	Lynn Johnson/Lee Larson	Roy Ballou/Wayland Cubit
B/C Doubles	Bob Coe/Eddie McGoveran	Rick Willis/Ray Tarwater	Will Compton/Kevin Randa	Ben Cavett/Bob Gower

Oklahoma State Doubles Championships (October 17-19, 1997):

1st. Place	2nd. Place	3rd. Place
Men's Open Division		
Rob DeJesus / Tom Fuhman	Chris Jones / David Watson	Kenny Smith / Kevin Chamblis

Men's Class "A" Division	Roy Ballou / Walen Cubit	Gerald Beattie / Jim McPhearson	Mike Gann / Brett Neher
Men's Class "B" Division	Austin Slatin / Roy Ballou	Alan Kenney / Mark Bianchi	Walen Cubit / Rick Parker
Men's Class "C" Division	Eric Wilson / Will Compton	Jeff Flournoy / Tim Porch	Rick Parker / Phil Hinton
Men's 25+ Division	Rob DeJesus / Rusty Boring	Tom Furhman / Mark Furhman	Jim McTiernan / Kenny Smith
Men's 35+ Division	Kenny Smith / Keven Chamblis	Lee Larson / Lynn Johnson	Mike Gann / Brett Neher
Men's 45+ Division	Alan Kenney / Jim McPhearson	Walt Charlton / John Cowan	John Shadid / Gerald Beattie
Women's Open Division	Theresa Lewis / Maria Vera	Gina Pete / Ginger Barsotti	Jeanine Black / Paula Hogan
Mixed Open Division	David Watson / Theresa Lewis	John William / Maria Vera	Grant Brannon / Gina Pete
Mixed "A/B" Division	Donnie Black / Jeanine Black	Chris Jones / Stephenie Jones	Pete Kochis/Rhonda Lindenman
14 and Under 1. Bobby Howard 2. Mark Hopkins 3. Samsun Smith and John Soderstrom - (tie)			
12 and Under 1. Chris Coy 2. Andrew Albert 3. Michael Darnaby 4. Zac Smith 5. Brittany Larson 6. Dustin Lindenman			
10 and Under 1. Chris Coy 2. Andrew Albert 3. Zac Smith 4. Brian Sanders			
8 and Under- Multi-bounce 1. Micah Hogan 2. Gabriel Hogan 3. Aaron Adams 4. Kristen Lindenman			

USRA POINT STANDINGS

Oklahoma Points Standings are provided by the USRA National Office as the past 12 months cumulative points. As of 10/97.

TOP FIVE IN EACH DIVISION:

Men's Open: DAVID WATSON 380, JOE STILL 160, CHRIS CARTER 140, GLENN GARRISON 120, KORY DUARTE 95.

Men's A: LEE LARSON 245, GLEN KATHAN 200, BRIAN THURNER 140, LARRY CAMPBELL 100, JOHN SHADID 100.

Men's B: MARK BIANCHI 345, RANDAL BURTON 200, ROY BALLOU 130, DONNIE BLACK 110, BRUCE ADAMS 70.

Men's C: BRUCE GRUSZECKA 465, MIKE DOBSON 130, WILL COMPTON 75, TIM PORCH 75, CHRIS JACKSON 60.

Men's D: RICK PARKER 170, BRETT TICE 100, JOE HICKS 75, ROYCE HINTERGARDT 75, KEITH KING 50.

Men's Novice: MARK SODERSTROM 200, SCOTT HOWARD 150, SCOTT HUTSELL 125, CHRIS COY 100, KEN RIVAS 80.

Women's Open: GINA PETE 370, THERESE LEWIS 225, GEORGIA WOOD 75, PAULA LEMON 60, GINGER BARSOTTI 30.

Women's A: MARIA VERA 80, GINA PETE 50, CHELO GAVIN 30, JOSINE HAUSTERMANN 20, PAULA LEMON 15.

Women's B: JEANINE BLACK 200, STEPHANIE FIFE 100, RHONDA LINDEMAN 75, STEPHANIE BIRD 60, JOSINE HAUSTERMANN 50.

Women's C: JUNE SCHMELING 100, SHANNON WATSON 50.

Women's D: SHANNON WATSON 195, ANGELA MANNING 50, LAURA HINES 30, MARIA VERA 30, KIM STAFFORD 20.

Girl's 8 & Under (Multi-Bounce): ALICIA SCHMELING 250.

Girl's 8 & Under: KEELEY HODGINS 80.

Girl's 10 & Under: BRITTANY LARSON 80.

Girl's 14 & Under: BRITTANY LARSON 380.

Women's All Age: THERESE LEWIS 100, STEPHANIE BIRD 50.

Women's 25+: STEPHANIE BIRD 250, MARIA VERA 150, THERESE LEWIS 100, CHELO GAVIN 75, PAULA LEMON 50.

Women's 35+: THERESE LEWIS 150.

Boy's 8 & Under (Multi-Bounce): AARON ADAMS 150.

Boy's 8 & Under: CHRIS COY 100, AARON ADAMS 50.

Boy's 10 & Under: CHRIS COY 400, ZAC SMITH 60, ANDREW ALBERT 30, AUSTIN HUTSELL 30, JEFF HODGINS 20.

Boy's 12 & Under: CHRIS COY 125, ZACK ARNETT 65, ERIC CRAIN 30, JEFF HODGINS 15.

Boy's 14 & Under: JOHN SODERSTROM 90, KOREY MORLEY 60, JAMES COOKE 50, KEVIN JELFENBEIN 50, JASON SANDER 30.

Boy's 16 & Under: MARK SODERSTROM 50.

Boy's 18 & Under: ROLAND NUNN 150, JOSE VAZQUEZ 20.

Men's All Age: CHRIS CARTER 50, MARK FUHRMANN 50, LARRY CAMPBELL 10.

Men's 19+ (Division phased out 1996-1997 season): DAVID FARLEY 15.

Men's 25+: KORY DUARTE 150, JOHNNY RAGSDALE 100, BRIAN THURNER 100, TOM NORTH 75, MARK FUHRMANN 50.

Men's 30+: RAY SMITH 150, KIP BIRD 100, LANNY PEREZ 75, ROY BALLOU 50, JOE STILL 50.

Men's 35+: DAVID WATSON 1000, LEE LARSON 160, JOE STILL 130, BRUCE ADAMS 100, JERRY DIMITRATOS 95.

Men's 40+: WALT CHARLTON 70, PETE KOCHIS 50, BEN BREWSTER 30, JOHN GLEATON 30, BOB GOING 20.
 Men's 45+: JOHN SHADID 150, WALT CHARLTON 110, J.B. SMITH 100, GLEN KATHAN 85, JIM MCPHERSON 60.
 Men's 50+: GERALD BEATTIE 150, HY CHAMBERS 100, PETE KOCHIS 75, BOB HOWARD 50, WALTER GRADY 30.
 Men's 55+: JOHN GLEATON 250. Men's 60+: ROY RUDICHUK 250.

RULES TIDBITS

Rule 3.6: "...The player may **drive** serve between the body and the side wall nearest to where the service motion began only if the player starts and remains outside of the 3-foot drive service zone...." [This rule is not observed for cross court and Z drive serves].

OFFICIAL OKLAHOMA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE (USRA SANCTIONED EVENTS)

OKLAHOMA, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS:

February 18-21, 1998; "NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational"; San Francisco, CA.

February 6-8, 1998; "Northwest Athletic Club Spring Open"; Northwest Athletic Club; Springdale, AR; Lance Dearien (501)756-6920; (LDJDKR@aol.com).

February 13-15, 1998; "Valentine Massacre Racquetball Tournament"; Simmons Center; Duncan, OK; Eddie Mullins (580)255-0743.

POSTPONED February/March, 1998; 3rd Annual "CITGO/MDA Racquetball Benefit Classic"; Thornton Family YMCA; Tulsa, OK; Chris and Rhonda Carter (918)250-4151 (racqbo@aol.com), Bruce Adams (918)493-2276 (BAdams@tul.citgo.com), and Glenn Garrison.

March 6-9, 1998; "Silver Bullet Shootout"; Ozark Sports Club; Fort Smith, AR; Dann Schwinger (501)646-4338.

March 6-8, 1998; "Pro Kennex USRA 11th National High Schools"; St. Louis, MO.

March 25-29, 1998; "E-Force USRA 29th National Intercollegiates"; Phoenix, AZ.

TBA; "Duncan Firefighters MDA Benefit Tournament"; Simmons Center, Duncan, OK; Chuck Matthews (405)252-2910.

(tentative date) April 3-5, 1998; "Oklahoma State Singles Championships" AND "Oklahoma State Juniors Championships"; Southern Athletic Club; 737 S. E. 89th, Oklahoma City, OK; Roy Ballou (405)681-5020; e-mail to: RBallouORA@aol.com.

April 3-11, 1998; "PARC 12th Tournament of the Americas PAN AM Qualifier"; Winnipeg, CANADA.

April 16-19, 1998; Region 6 "Ektelon/USRA Regional Qualifier Championships"; TBA; TBA; Contact USRA @ (719)635-5396.

May (TBA) 1998; "Olympic Fitness Center 2nd Annual Spring Open"; Olympic Fitness Center; Miami, OK; David Watson (918)540-1691.

May 20-25, 1998; "Ektelon/USRA 31st U.S. National Singles Championships"; Downtown Houston YMCA; Houston, TX.

June 27- July 1, 1998; "Ektelon USRA 25th U.S. Junior Olympics"; Portland, OR.

August (TBA) 1998; "IRF 10th World Senior Racquetball Championships"; Tom Young's Athletic Club; Albuquerque, NM; (505)266-8960.

September (TBA) 1998; State-Wide City Championship Weekend; the following cities are participating so far:
 All American Fitness and Racquetball; Oklahoma City, OK; Roy Ballou (405)681-5020; e-mail to: RBallouORA@aol.com.

Thornton Family YMCA, Tulsa, OK, Chris Carter (918)250-4151 (racqbo@aol.com) and Bruce Adams (918)493-2276 (BAdams@tul.citgo.com).

September(TBA) 1998; "Fall Open"; Fayetteville Athletic Club; Fayetteville, AR; Mary McKinney (501)750-9871, e-mail to: mckinney@jcf.jonesnet.org.

October(TBA) 1998; "Miller Lite Massacre"; Ozark Sports Club; Fort Smith, AR; Dann Schwinger (501)646-4338.

October (TBA) 1998; "Ektelon/USRA 30th U.S. National Doubles Championships"; City Square Sports Complex; Phoenix, AZ; Contact USRA @ (719)635-5396.

October (TBA) 1998; "Oklahoma State Juniors Singles Championships"; Southern Athletic Club; 737 S. E. 89th, Oklahoma City, OK; Roy Ballou (405)681-5020; e-mail to: RBallouORA@aol.com.

October (TBA) 1998; "Oklahoma State Doubles Championships"; Southern Athletic Club; 737 S. E. 89th, Oklahoma City, OK; Roy Ballou (405)681-5020; e-mail to: RBallouORA@aol.com.

October (TBA) 1998; "John Brown University Fall Tournament"; John Brown University; Siloam Springs, AR; Ed Ericson eericon@acc.jbu.edu.

October (TBA) 1998; "2nd Annual Elk City Racquetbrawl Tournament"; Elk City Fitness Club; Elk City, OK; Joe Still (405)225-9638.

November (TBA) 1998; "Promus Hotel Corporation 2nd U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships"; The Racquet Club of Memphis; Memphis, TN; call (800)284-5396 or contact USRA @ (719)635-5396.

November (TBA) 1998; "Northside YMCA 1st Annual Turkey Shoot"; Northside YMCA; Oklahoma City, OK; Richard Wallace (405) 751-6363; e-mail to: AIRQUALITY@classic.msn.com.

November (TBA) 1998; "Summerhill Splatmasters"; Summerhill Racquet Club; Fayetteville, AR; Sherri Kinnaman (501)267-5110; e-mail to: Sherrnator@aol.com.

December (TBA) 1998; "5th Annual American Telephone Tournament"; Ponca City YMCA; Ponca City, OK; Dan Brandenberger (405)762-9011 (work); e-mail to: dberger@brigadoon.com.

December (TBA) 1998 - IRF 9th World Junior Championships: Fountain Valley, CA.

TBA; "Winter Heat"; Southern Athletic Club; 737 S. E. 89th, Oklahoma City, OK.

January (TBA) 1999; "John Brown University Spring Tournament"; John Brown University; Siloam Springs, AR; Ed Ericson eericon@acc.jbu.edu.

January (TBA) 1999; "Women's Senior/Master National Championships"; Canoga Park, CA.

ORA/USRA CONTACTS

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<u>ORA CO-RULES/REFEREE DIRECTOR</u> Alan Kenney, ORA Co-Rules/Referee Director (405)722-3928 or e-mail to: akenney1@compuserve.com	<u>ORA SAFETY DIRECTOR</u> Chuck Matthews, ORA Co-Membership Director (405)252-2910	<u>ORA WOMEN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR</u> Georgia Wood, ORA Women's Program Director (918)451-4406 or e-mail to: winby2@aol.com
<u>ORA CO-STATE EVENT DIRECTOR</u> Kory Duarte, ORA Co-State Event Director (405)799-4648 or e-mail to: kory.duarte@mailgate.eiw38.af.mil		<u>USRA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR</u> Kevin Joyce, USRA Membership Director 1685 W. Uintah Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921 (719)635-5396 or e-mail to: usrambr@webaccess.net

Note: Please indicate whether we have permission to publish your ideas or comments in the newsletter.

See You Next Time!!

“The Pinch” - Oklahoma Racquetball

Newsletter

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(USRA)**

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