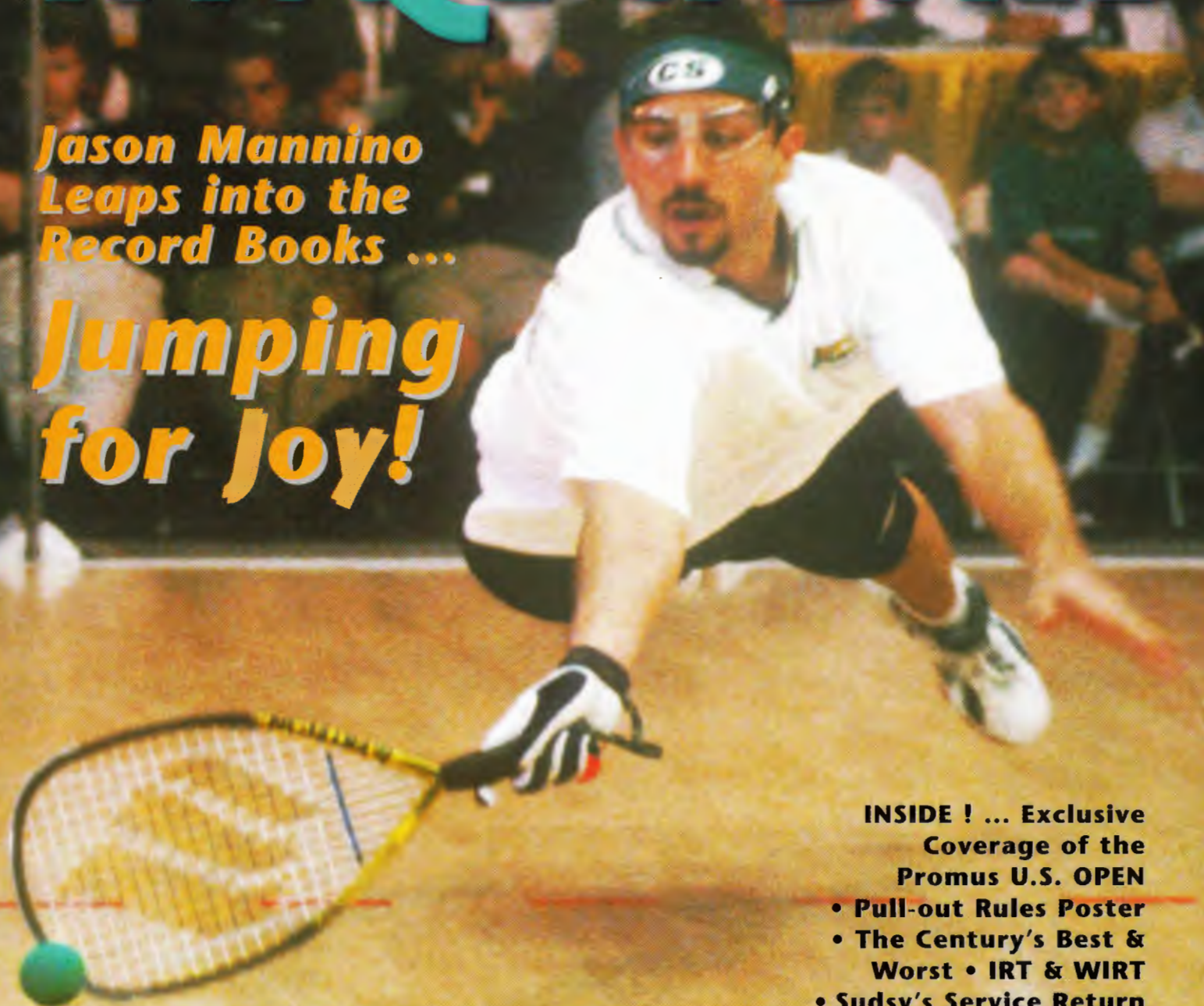


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## **... on the cover**

Jason Mannino makes his way to the top, with his first Promus U.S. OPEN title. Photo: Mike Boatman.

## **.... this page**

Two-time champ Jackie Paraiso shows off some of her championship form. Photo: Vicki Hughes

**Vol. 11, No. 1**  
**January – February 2000**

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# from the editor

Well, it's that time again ... the start of a new year. That, combined with all the excitement surrounding the start of another *hundred* years, forces me to admit that I've sorta got a little "Buzz Lightyear" thing going on here (but it could just be the coffee) ...

So in terms of "and beyond ...!" the USRA has been on the receiving end of a series of pitches by companies looking for sport content for their websites over the past twelve months.

WorldSport.com and Ticket2sports.com have already contracted



with us to develop content for a major international site — and an internet broadcast offering (respectively) in the coming year.

Additional projects to provide online instructional, sanctioned event registrations, and portal services are also in the works. Granted, I'm not sure exactly where all of this is headed, but it certainly is gratifying to see that internet media moguls seem to view racquetball as a viable source of material for narrow-casting use. It

seems that, by committing to a website presence when we did ('96), we've been able to effectively "level the playing field" among our peer sport organizations. We found that several of these projects came to us as a result of web-searching — and finding — [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org) and [www.racqmag.com](http://www.racqmag.com). So we've learned alot in just a few short years, not the least of which has been that what racquetball has to offer is just as good — if not better — than anything else on the cyber-market.

This year's Promus U.S. OPEN featured "nearly-live" internet coverage with Ed Arias' "racq-cam" from atop the sound-staging scaffold. People online ate it up. Last year (amid complaints about not being able to follow the ball in *any* televised coverage, no matter how big the screen ...), Ed uploaded some videoclips that ran on a 1" square RealPlayer on the monitors of countless surfers, and they couldn't get enough. Our website statistics from Excell.net show a routine jump in viewer numbers whenever a new companion e-version of the magazine is due [I try to get it out on the first day of the issue month, fyi], and the very *thought* of not having our national tournament draws online throughout any given event is enough to fill my inbox with emails expressing flabbergasted disbelief and disappointment.

So, yes, we got game. Not only on the courts that we all know and love, but also within the framework of the virtual reality that we face in Y2K. Buzz and I are ready!

---

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# reader forum

## No Surprises

Kudos to Jim Hiser for a fine effort in forming the draw sheet of the century. However, I was disappointed that he simply went with the higher seed in every match but one throughout the 32's and 16's. Every tournament has its share of surprises and this one would be no different. Furthermore, the one upset he does offer is a skip ball. Not only could Serot dive and go get the ball as well as Kachtik, but he was a better shooter. Steve would have taken Drew down in three quick ones. One other glaring head scratcher: Sudsy #2 over Swain. With all due respect to Suds' march through the tour this year, let's give Cliff his due. Many thanks as I await the conclusion.

*Tim Deighan  
Mentor, Ohio*

## More BYU Accolades

In regard to the "People and Places" segment in the magazine, I would like to recognize Sylvia Sawyer and Roger Flick, along with Dennis Fisher, for the accomplishments of the BYU racquetball team over the past several years. I was a member of the team when it was Sylvia and Roger who were responsible for the our early successes. Under their direction, we won our first national championship and that winning streak has continued through the past few years. I am no longer a member of the BYU team, but I believe that Sylvia and Roger need to be recognized for the hard work they did and for the many successes of the BYU team.

*Christine McAlpine  
Provo, Utah*

## Baby Boomers

It is becoming increasingly obvious to me that the sustaining force in racquetball today is found in the senior brackets. Your November-December issue points out strong competition in the upper ages. Tournaments for seniors are still well-attended and the level of competition is excellent.

I recently competed in the Senior Olympics in Orlando which featured competitors from 50 years of age through 80 — over 250 men and women. Ektelon-sponsored players were abundant, and players like Mary Low and Earl [Acuff] gave proof that the golden age of racquetball lives on!

*Bob Pavaleck  
Bristol, CT*

## Round-About

Your latest issue of the magazine was one of the best in recent times. I enjoyed the "draws" of the greatest players of all time, men and women. You nailed down the final eight to a man — I liked Hogan and Swain in the final. For the women, leaving Peggy Steding out of the final eight was the only "slight" I could discern. In that one, I liked Lynn and Michelle in the final. But the piece that gave me the most thought and the most discomfort was the "best of" and "worst of" lists.

I found the omission of Bob Kendler and Chuck Leve's initial USRA and pro tour formations in the "best of" to be perplexing. Also, the development of a reliable ball cannot be overlooked. I go back far enough to remember the on-going "mystery" we used to experience in the initial days of the faster balls. They were often "out of round," and the bounce was unreliable from can-to-can. Penn should be credited for elevating the ball standards to what we now enjoy.

I also have never been comfortable "affixing" blame for racquetball decline's to any one particular "entity," especially ranking the failure of the clubs as #1. Your very own Executive Director admitted recently that the AARA/USRA in its current form has ignored grassroots programs at these very clubs. In its simplest terms, the best explanation for the decline in racquetball for me came from Tom Kite ... yes, the professional golfer. When asked about the rise in golf's popularity, he simply noted that it is due to the fact that baby boomers can't play racquetball anymore because it is too hard on their bodies. Golf, he noted, is much easier in that way. This explanation has gone a long way for me in ridding myself of the "search for blame" that I have personally engaged in to try to explain the loss of popularity of our great game of racquetball. Please accept my congrats on the last issue.

*Jim Woolcock  
Davison, Michigan*

## Safety Line?

Watching closely at four sanctioned tournaments has prompted me to wonder why they don't just delete the dotted safety line. I saw numerous obvious and blatant violations, from novice to open, and it wasn't called once. My own theory, besides ignorance on the part of the referee, is that so many people knowingly violate the line they won't call it on others. If the rule isn't going to be enforced, save the paint. Erase the lines, drop the rule, and then sit back and watch the injuries that result.

If it is to be enforced, maybe it should be written so that everyone knows that you can't "camp" in the zone, can't break the zone, or can in *no way*, with body, shoes or racquet, encroach the zone before the ball has bounced. It's obviously a peeve of mine since I have been hit a couple of times and have had several near misses due to ignorance, or total disregard, of the rule.

*Gene Colberg  
Redwood City, CA*

## I Appeal!

Was I bummed that Cliff Swain lost the US Open? You bet. Was I disappointed that the match was decided on an obvious double bounce? Absolutely. Clearly Jason Mannino knew it was a double bounce along with 300 spectators sitting on the side of the court.

# usra regional events 2000

## 2000 ektelon adult regional qualifiers [level 4] ... nationwide

**Qualifying Competition is REQUIRED to participate in the 2000 Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles in Houston, Texas — no exceptions (regardless of age)! Whether or not you plan to go on to Houston, you'll want to take part in the largest, single nationwide event of the year! By doing so, you'll accumulate high-level ranking points plus earn seeding consideration at "The Finals"! **WAIVERS:** All legitimate waivers of qualifying competition at any of these events must be approved **prior** to the scheduled regional weekend. All waivers must be directed to — and approved by — the USRA Headquarters. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.**

April 7-9	Lakewood Athletic Club . . . . . Denver, Colorado . . . Marianne Alonzi . . . 303-422-5703
	Glass Court Swim & Fitness . . . . . Chicago, Illinois . . . Geoff Peters . . . . . 773-935-9685
April 14-16	Spectrum Club . . . . . Canoga Park, California . . . Deb Tisinger . . . . . 818-999-5944
	Southern Athletic Club . . . . . Atlanta, Georgia . . . Liz Lyon . . . . . 770-923-5400
	Merritt Athletic Club . . . . . Baltimore, Maryland . . . Terri Brauer . . . . . 410-315-7900
	Cedardale Health & Fitness Club . . . . . Haverhill, Massachusetts . . . Bill Gargan . . . . . 603-367-8533
	Central Courts . . . . . Minneapolis, Minnesota . . . Mike Locker . . . . . 612-609-3940
	Missouri Athletic Club West . . . . . St. Louis, Missouri . . . Jen Yokota . . . . . 314-731-2668
	Hall of Fame Fitness Center . . . . . Canton, Ohio . . . Doug Ganim . . . . . 614-890-6073
	Cascade Athletic Club . . . . . Portland, Oregon . . . Connie Martin . . . . . 503-665-4142
	Northwest Athletic Club . . . . . Houston, Texas . . . Annie Muniz . . . . . 713-432-0881
May 5-7	Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club . . . . . Orlando, Florida . . . Van Dubolsky . . . . . 352-373-1004

**ADDITIONAL RECOGNIZED QUALIFYING EVENTS** [for 45+ entrants ONLY! ... 35+ & 40+ players in the following events must still take part in one of the regional qualifiers shown above in order to compete at National Singles].

Jan. 21-23	Women's Senior Master Championships . . . . . Baltimore, Maryland . . . Gail Schaefer . . . . . 410-887-1244
Feb. 16-19	NMRA Masters Singles . . . . . Fountain Valley, California . . . Ron Pudduck . . . . . 734-426-8952

## 2000 e-force intercollegiate regional events [level 4] ... optional for seeding

Feb. 11-13	Northeast Collegiate Regionals . . . . . Albany, New York . . . Pat Bernardo . . . . . 518-438-3935
Feb. 25-27	Southeast Collegiate Regionals . . . . . University of North Carolina . . . Brad Cox . . . . . 919-933-9807

## 2000 junior regional qualifiers [level 3] ... at all state championships

Former junior regional qualifying requirements have been replaced with the stipulation that **HEAD Junior Olympic** entrants must first compete in a recognized Level 3 State Championship in order to qualify for the 2000 event. Although there are no longer separate regional qualifying tournaments for juniors, all other stipulations remain in force — you must compete in (not merely enter) the qualifying state event, age requirements, etc.

Do I blame the referee, Dan Llacera, for awarding Jason the point and the match on that double bounce? No way. Do I blame Jason Mannino for taking the double bounce? Absolutely not. I blame all the players that make up the International Racquetball Tour. They are the people who voted to have no line judges for their matches.

Is there any other sport that you only have one set of eyes judging the match? There is a lot of money and ranking points riding on every match. The players are just not going to overturn calls regardless of the situation.

Ruben Gonzalez is the only exception to the rule. He is still the only male pro player in the history of the sport to overturn calls, even on match point.

Ruben happens to be the mentor and teacher of Jason. He taught him almost everything he knew. However, he didn't teach him everything or Jason would have played the match

point over again. Don't blame Jason though, because none of the other pro players would have turned it over either.

Jason played awesome during the entire weekend. It is too bad that such a great match had to end so tastelessly. Jason had his chance to always be remembered as the 1999 US Open Champion that overturned his first match point on a bad call, and then won the match on another spectacular diving roll out. Do I blame Jason? Absolutely not.

**Terri Graham**  
Chicago, IL

**Correction:** National Doubles results should have listed Barbara Allen and Carol Zier as the second place finishers in the Women's 25+ A/B division. The final round-robin match of the event was published in the last issue, but the actual final playoff was: W25+ A/B: Esther McNany (Gales Ferry, Conn.)/Kim Skerry (Warwick, R.I.) def. Barbara Allen (Glenville, N.Y.)/Carol Zier (Schenectady, N.Y.) 15-12, 5-15, 11-5. Congratulations, to all these finalists.

# HOW TO **GET HYPER**

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TAUGHT BY RACQUETBALL PROFESSORS CLIFF SWAIN AND DEREK ROBINSON.

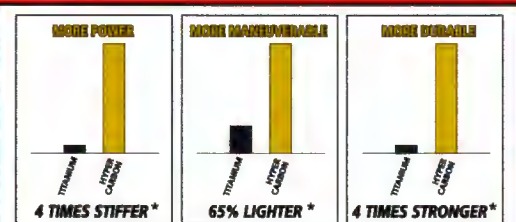


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The Hyper 150g is the lightest racquetball racquet ever made. The maneuverability is amazing. Yet the incredible stiffness of Hyper Carbon and the trampoline effect of Power Holes™ technology create awesome power. With no vibration. And don't worry about arm fatigue. The head-heavy Hammer Design® lets you generate maximum swing speed with no extra effort. I've never played anything like the Hyper 150g.



\*Comparison numbers: Hyper Carbon™ vs. titanium. All materials compared in their raw material states.



Hyper 150g



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Hyper Air Hammer

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## Lesson 2.

All gloves are not created equal.

The next time you buy a racquetball glove take this quiz:

- 1) Is the glove made of premium SensiTouch™ Cabretta sheepskin leather?
- 2) Does it have a seamless one-piece palm and thumb to reduce bunching and blisters?
- 3) Does it feature dive protection on the knuckles and along the two outside fingers?
- 4) Is it great looking with lots of color?

(Hint: If you didn't answer "Yes" to all 4 questions, buy the new Rage glove from Wilson.)



Rage



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Performance and style are not mutually exclusive in a racquetball shoe.

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Slash DST Mid



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Vents



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All Gear Bag



## Lesson 6.

# Just Get Hyper!

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# full of surprises

*It has come to be known as racquetball's premiere event, and once again the Promus U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships lived up all expectations of being the most exciting pro-am tourney of the season. With nearly 650 players representing 23 different countries, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Wimbledon Sportsplex and the University of Memphis were abuzz with racquetball action from early in the morning until late in the evening for the first five days of December. The men and women's pro brackets*

*drew much of the attention, as many wondered whether or not Sudsy Monchik and Jackie Paraiso would be able to defend their crowns.*

## **Coach Gets a Lesson in 64s**

On the first day of men's pro action, all the top seeds breezed through the round of 64 unscathed, with the exception of Jason Mannino and Adam Karp who each dropped a game to their early round opponents. Fourth-seeded Mannino had a slow start, losing the first game to Texas' Jim Minkel (who later won the Men's 30+ divi-



**IRT Finalists Cliff Swain (left) and Jason Mannino (airborne). Photo: Mike Boatman**

sion) 12-10, before quickly rebounding to take the next three. Karp started off hot against Jeff Hanno, winning the first two games easily, but slipping in the third with an 11-9 loss. Karp then quickly shut the door, 11-7.

But the most interesting play in the round of 64 did not involve any of the top seeds. Junior National Team Assistant Coach Todd O'Neil met his match in his first round against none other than one of his own players,

16-year-old Jack Huczek. The junior

sensation quickly went up two games against his coach, 11-5, 11-0, before O'Neil was able to sneak in a game win at 11-5 in the third. In the end, youth overcame experience, as Huczek grabbed the fourth and final game, 11-8.

"It felt almost like a dream to beat someone who coached me," said Huczek. Although O'Neil wasn't all that thrilled about losing in his first round, he did gain confidence in coaching the up-and-comer at the World Junior Championships in late December.

**by christie hyde**

### 32s Give Top-Seeds Trouble

Hometown-favorite Andy Roberts' title quest in front of friends and family fell short once again this year — this time in the round of 32, at the hands of Ruben Gonzalez. Roberts, who had injured his foot in the preceding round against Shane Vanderson, jumped ahead quickly, winning the first game 11-1, but Gonzalez' superb shot-making ability soon began to wear on the local hero.

Although Roberts kept the next three games close, he was unable to pull out another win, as 49-year-old Gonzalez rolled to the 1-11, 11-9, 11-9, 12-10 win. "My foot was not an excuse. I just got out-played," Roberts said. "They were close games, but when it got down to the end, I just didn't have it."

Adam Karp's run almost came to an abrupt end at the hands of none other than the man responsible for the tournament *and* Karp's sponsorship contract. Karp was forced to go the distance against Doug Ganim, director of both the Promus U.S. OPEN *and* HEAD's player program, in a heated five-game match.

Karp took the first game, 11-6, but a determined Ganim bounced back to take the next two 11-2, 11-9. Fish then tied it up in the fourth to force the tiebreaker. With Ganim up 9-7, Karp argued a screen on a pass with the referee. But instead of moving into match-point advantage, Ganim over-ruled the ref and opted to replay the rally, leaving the crowd questioning just how much he really wanted to eliminate Head's number-two pro.

Later Ganim claimed it was a legitimate replay — even though accepted IRT practice doesn't allow such input from the players. "It was an obvious call. The ball almost hit me, but he got it back to the wall anyway."

Although Ganim did kill the ball to move into match point on the replay, he was unable to close, and Karp rallied back to take the match with 12-10. "I knew Doug was a good player, and if I opened the door, it would be a good match," Karp commented after the match. "I wasn't playing the best that I can, and it really could have gone either way. I'm just lucky I get to play on."

### Doubles Kick-Off

The Promus U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships kicked off a day early with the St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles Charity Tournament at The Racquet Club of Memphis. Each year this charity event pairs up 32 top pro athletes with an amateur partner for a single elimination doubles game to 15 points.

For the third time since the tournament's inception, Memphis-native Dino Tashie captured the St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles title. In 1996 Tashie won with Derek Robinson, and in 1997 he took the opening crown with Mike Guidry. This year, his partner was pro Jeff Bell. The two bullied their way through the draw, defeating numerous top pros, including the likes of Jason Mannino, Derek Robinson and Doug Eagle.

Tashie and Bell met University of Memphis Head Racquetball Coach Larry Liles and his pro partner Sameer Hadid in the tournament finals. Although Liles has coached numerous national championship racquetball teams for the University of Memphis, he and Hadid could not overcome the powerful combination of Tashie and Bell.



"The best part about this is where the money goes," Tashie said. "It gets a little competitive at the end, but what makes this so fun is knowing you're helping the kids at St. Jude's."

Although Jason Mannino and Jackie Paraiso walked away as the champions of the 1999 Promus U.S. OPEN, it was the children of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital that were the real winners. More than \$24,000 was raised for St. Jude by fundraisers surrounding the U.S. OPEN, including the St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles Tournament, casino night, Party with the Pros and The Racquet Club of Memphis' "500 Club" donor program.

L-R: LILES, TASHIE, HADID AND BELL. PHOTO. VICKI HUGHES.

Although Karp survived the siege by an unseeded challenger, two other top-16 players were not as successful. No.14 Louis Vogel fell to Mexico's Alvaro Maldonado, 11-4, 11-2, 4-11, 11-8, while No.15 Jeff Bell lost a tight match to James Mulcock, 11-9, 12-10, 14-12.

### **Sweet Sixteen ... Not**

The round of 16 proved to be equally full of upsets as three more of the IRT's top-10 fell in five-game matches, starting with No. 7 Tim Doyle being overtaken by No.10 seed Rocky Carson. Although Doyle held a strong two game lead with 11-8, 12-10 wins, 20-year-old Carson had youth and stamina on his side. He crushed Doyle in the next two, 11-0, 11-2, to tie the match and force a tiebreaker. Although Doyle was able to muster a slight comeback in the fifth, he couldn't stop the younger pro, who took the match 11-5.

Fifth-seeded Derek Robinson was the next victim on the upset roster. After losing the first to No.12 Dan Fowler, Robinson managed to take the next two games, 11-9, 11-5. But Fowler refused to go down without a fight. With wife and companion WIRT touring pro Doreen cheering from the stands, Fowler closed the match with 11-8 and 11-2 wins.

By far the most exciting match of the round came late in the evening, when No.8 Mike Guidry took to the main exhibition court against doubles partner and good friend, Ruben Gonzalez. Although these two were set to battle for a quarterfinal spot, you would never have guessed it beforehand. The two sat munching Doo-Dads in a box seat while they waited for top-seed Sudsy Monchik to finish off Luis Bustillos so that they could take the court.

After their snack, Guidry took the first game, 11-5, before Gonzalez stepped up his game in the second to nudge Guidry to a narrow 12-10 win. Up against Guidry's short 2-0 game lead, Gonzalez was on fire. The two exchanged amazing gets on each rally, with dives, slides and gets that kept the crowd in awe. Despite a twenty-year age difference, Gonzalez was able to keep up with Guidry (known as one of the most athletic players on the tour) shot-for-shot on every rally as he took the third game 13-11.

The intensity of play did not let up in the fourth, which saw as much, if not more, acrobatics from both players. After one amazing rally, Gonzalez fell face first onto the court and just lay there. His opponent quickly joined him, stretching out on the boards at his side.



**Guidry and Gonzalez. Photo: Vicki Hughes**

"I laid down next to him and said 'Rube, I'm exhausted. How about you?'" said Guidry.

"You were laying beside me?" Gonzalez joked afterward. "I heard you, but I didn't have enough energy to lift my head to look at you."

Despite the exhaustion of both athletes, they continued to battle and Gonzalez managed to take the fourth 14-12, to force the tiebreak. With his protégé Sudsy Monchik leading the crowd's cheers for him, Gonzalez breezed to an 11-3 win. "I think I was unconscious during the fifth game. I was running backwards, the ball behind me, and somehow hitting a solid shot. I don't know how I did it. The shots were just all coming to me," Gonzalez said.

Following match point, the two players embraced at center court, showing the crowd their true mutual admiration for each other's skills. "The hug that we had



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at the end of the match was real. Some of these guys just 'high five' or say 'good match.' The hug is the kind of relationship we have. It says it all," Gonzalez added.

"As soon as the match was over I hugged him and told him he played phenomenal," Guidry said. "He outplayed me and he deserved to win. I have to say if I have to lose to anybody in the 16s, I couldn't have picked a better person."

### **Masters of Quarters**

After the earlier round excitement, the quarterfinals shaped up into some interesting match-ups. Top-seed Sudsy Monchik was to meet his long-time mentor Ruben Gonzalez, while Adam Karp would go head-to-head with his Stockton roommate John Ellis.

But first Jason Mannino showed that he was not to be taken lightly by making quick work of Dan Fowler, 11-9, 11-0, 11-4, to advance. Cliff Swain then showed 20-year-old Rocky Carson why he has been in the top two for so long, by knocking off the young pro in three.

The California battle of the roommates offered the best showing of the night. After struggling early in the tour-

ney, Karp came out in full force against Ellis and jumped out to an early game lead with narrow back-to-back 12-10 wins.

"I wasn't getting too confident after I got the two-game lead, because I knew neither one of us was playing too well at that point. I knew the match had a long way to go," Karp said.

However, he probably didn't realize just how long that might be. Although Karp served for match point in the third game, he stalled at 10 — which was just what Ellis needed to rally back and stay alive with a 12-10 win. Hot from that comeback, Ellis ran out to an 8-2 lead in the fourth, then held it to an 11-8 win. So with the match tied at two games apiece, house bragging rights were on the line. Karp jumped to a 9-3 lead, but once again hit a wall at 10 points, allowing Ellis to catch up and tie the game there, before going on to capture the match with a 12-10 win.

"If I'm going to lose to someone, at least it was the person I live with," Karp said. "Although I would have loved to have bragging rights to the house for a little while."



### **Not Your Typical 16 Year Old**

What are the goals of today's 16 year olds? Graduating from high school. Getting a date for the prom. And in the world of racquetball? Winning at the Junior Olympic Championships or Junior World Championships. Getting a place on the U.S. Junior National Team. However, Jack Huczek isn't exactly your typical 16 year old. He wants all those things and more — like topping pro players and winning a men's open title. And he's doing it!

Huczek shocked the racquetball community at the Promus U.S. Open by bringing home gold medals in both the men's open and men's 24-and-under divisions. Although he is known as an excellent junior player that is poised to break even Sudsy Monchik's junior records, few expected him to burst into the elite-level so quickly.

Huczek, who holds 17 junior national titles, threw his hat into the ring for the top spot in the men's pro, open and 24-and-under divisions at the U.S. OPEN. In the pro division, he defeated his own coach, U.S. National Team Assistant Coach Todd O'Neil, in the round of 64, and advanced to meet 12th-seed Dan Fowler. Although Huczek gave the top pro a run for his money, he fell to eventual-quarterfinalist Fowler, 11-3, 11-7, 11-8, in the round of 32.

But Huczek seemed unfazed by his IRT loss and moved on to focus on his amateur divisions. He quickly left an upset path of destruction through the men's open draw, with victims including IRT No. 11 Mike Locker, No. 15 Jeff Bell and Pan Am Games bronze medalist Rob DeJesus. His journey brought him to the open finals where he met Chris Crowther. Although Crowther put up a fight, Huczek would not be happy until the gold medal was around his neck, and he put away Crowther 15-11, 15-12.

Many have compared Huczek to former-junior standout Sudsy Monchik, but Huczek doesn't care for the distinction. "Sudsy is Sudsy. I'm going to be the first Jack Huczek. Not 'comparable to Sudsy'." He's definitely on the right track to making Jack Huczek the next name on everybody's lips. — **From material compiled by Harriet Bradley**

Hall of Fame nominee Ruben Gonzalez was looking toward a late evening quarterfinal against protégé and defending champ Sudsy Monchik. But rather than relax, Gonzalez hit the court bright and early Friday morning to knock off another legend in the sport, Marty Hogan, in the open division. And that wasn't all. Gonzalez then went on to play Jeff Bell that afternoon in the open quarterfinals. So in his third match of the day — his late evening pro quarterfinal — it was a tired Gonzalez who faced Monchik on the main exhibition court. Although he was able to put up a losing 11-8 battle in the first game, fatigue began to set in on the veteran, who fell 11-0, 11-3 in the final two games.

"If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't have played the two open matches," Gonzalez said in retrospect. "I was really tired from the late match last night [against Guidry] and then those two today."

Despite putting away his mentor in straight games, Monchik held Gonzalez in the highest regard. "Anything you see out here on the court [from me] is all from him. He's a great guy, and he's genuine. In our terms, 'Rubes is a stud'."

Asked about giving his coach a doughnut, Monchik replied, "I couldn't not do it. He doesn't want me to goof around with him. He wants me to play to win, because that is what he taught me."

### **Surprise Semis**

Even after the draw's share of upsets and excitement, few predicted what the semifinals would offer. John Ellis let frustration get the better of him in his semifinal match against Cliff Swain, so-much-so that referee Dan Llacera issued a technical which cost Ellis a point. Swain kept his calm to put away Ellis, 11-7, 11-3, 11-4, and advance to his third-straight U.S. OPEN final.

Ellis' temperament was, by far, not the biggest surprise of day. Best friends Sudsy Monchik and Jason Mannino met for the right to advance to the finals. As children, Monchik's motivation to improve had been the fact that Mannino always beat him. Eventually those roles reversed and it's been Monchik who has dominated, not only Mannino, but all takers in both the amateur and pro ranks.

But Monchik would not dominate Mannino this time. Hot off his quarterfinal win over Dan Fowler, Mannino came out blasting to win the first game, 11-8. Monchik managed to come back in the second with an 11-9 reply, but Mannino was on fire and Monchik



TOP (L-R): ROOMIES ELLIS & KARP GO THE DISTANCE. BOTTOM: GONZALEZ LOOKS A BIT SURPRISED TO BE IN THE SEMI-FINAL AGAINST FORMER STUDENT SUDSY MONCHIK. PHOTOS; VICKI HUGHES.



HERE, MANNINO DIVES AGAINST MONCHIK.  
BELOW, HE GOES THE OTHER WAY AGAINST  
SWAIN, PHOTOS: MIKE BOATMAN

was obviously off his game. Chattering non-stop to the ref, himself, Sudsy and to the delighted fans, Mannino found himself in the rare position of actually being the crowd favorite for a change. He joked, cajoled, dove, recovered and dove again. At the same time, Sudsy's normally brash-but-upbeat attitude took a nosedive as he sensed the change in atmosphere. For his part, Mannino simply seemed to enjoy launching himself through the third and fourth games, 11-5, 11-3, to take the match and advance to his first pro-stop finals in over a year.

"Mentally, I started not being around. Things started happening. I feel like I lost focus," a crushed Monchik said. "I played the worse match of my life at a big tournament, and Jason played the best I've ever seen him play."

Although Mannino was excited by his win over the number-one player, he admitted it was only one win in a long string of losses to Monchik. "One win does not capitalize a career. The win, although great, really only means that I did it one time. It's tough to stay at the level Sudsy plays at for so many tournaments in a row. My game style just got to him today. It was my day. Who says that tomorrow it wouldn't have been his?"

## High Flying Final

Jason Mannino and Cliff Swain were set to battle it out in the finals. Swain seeking a second U.S. OPEN title; Mannino primed for his first pro victory in over a year. Prior to the match, Mannino was very frank about what it would take to defeat him. "Cliff will not beat me in the front court. Nobody can beat me in the front court. If they want to beat me, they have to kill from the backcourt, and they have to pull me back there too. There is no mystery to my game."

Swain agreed that — on paper — defeating Mannino should be simple. But you can't always make your racquet get with the game plan. Although Swain led for much of the first game, Mannino rallied back to tie it at 8-8, before putting it away 11-8.

Swain bounced back in the second game to win 11-4, and his momentum carried over into the third, where he ran up a 7-0 lead. But Mannino answered with a hot streak and rattled off nine unanswered points to go up by one game, with an 11-8 win.

With the match on the line, Swain and Mannino had a heated battle in the fourth, with the lead exchanging hands five times. And though things had turned ugly early, referee Dan Llacera took his share of lumps as he tried his best to see what could only be seen by two-thirds of the gallery along the right side glass — or roughly 600-or-so fans. Mannino tied it up at 8-8 before



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taking the lead by spending as much time in the air and on the floor as he did upright. At one point, he even joked that a hinder call on one of his dives should have been an avoidable — since he would have rolled out the shot anyway. And he might have; he was just that lucky, that Sunday.

At 10-8 the pressure was on Swain and both players had kept the rally alive for far too long. Cliff made what seemed to be a great shot which Jason — as he had routinely done throughout the match — dove for. As he stretched into the front court along the left sidewall, it appeared that the ball might have taken its second bounce just before getting to his racquet. Or not. Either way, the ball barely rebounded off Jason's strings, dribbled off the front wall and the point was called good. The right side gallery went wild, Cliff was stunned, and Jason Mannino had won his first Promus U.S. Open title.

"Jason caught me off my game, and I have to give him credit for that. I wanted to play my game and stay on my toes, and I didn't do that," Swain later said.

An ecstatic Mannino could hardly control his excitement. "My goal is to be number one, and this was a big step for me in that direction. I still have a long way to go, with good players in front of me, but I'm on the right track."

## Talking About ...

*From the moment the women's pro draw was announced, it became the hot topic of conversation for almost everyone at the Promus U.S. OPEN. Missed pro stops by Laura Fenton and Christie Van Hees had dropped the two into a shared #15 ranking position on the WIRT, and given poor seedings to both. The result was some earlier-than-expected face-offs, and some unexpected advances.*

The round of 32 opened with fifth-ranked Michelle Lucas falling to Canadian national champion Josee Grand'Maitre, 11-8, 11-7, 10-12, 11-7, who later went on to win the Women's Open division. Canadian teammate Lori-Jane Powell went the distance to advance against Denver's Johanna Shattuck in a long five-game set, as did Phyllis Morris over Denise Mock, and Jennifer Dering past Angela Burth. Of the remaining top seeds, all took their wins in straight games, with the exception of No.8 Janet Myers, who dropped a game to Mexico's Johana Rivera.

On Friday, it was the bottom-heavy round of 16 that held the most interesting matches where, in a rematch of the U.S. National Singles Championships finals, Laura Fenton faced Cheryl Gudinas for a quarterfinal slot. A similar early round, high-stakes playoff was set

between third-seeded Robin Levine and reigning 1998 world champion Christie Van Hees.

Both Levine and Van Hees had traveled to Memphis determined to make the finals. Levine, who has since hinted at retirement, was looking for her first Open berth, while Van Hees was set on avenging last year's silver medal finish to Jackie Paraiso. Levine squeaked out the first game, 11-9, but fell victim to her own frustrations, which she vocalized frequently on the court, throughout the next three games. The unseeded Van Hees was able to keep her cool to put Levine out of her misery, 11-8, 11-7, 11-3.

National singles champion and Pan Am Games gold medalist Gudinas opened up her match against Fenton with an 11-4 first-game win, before Fenton battled back to take the second 13-11. Each picked up another game, with Gudinas taking the third 11-7 and Fenton the fourth 11-4, to force the tiebreaker.

During a rally in the fifth game, Fenton ran for a ball and felt a pop in her lower back. She attempted to continue play, but called an injury timeout with Gudinas up 5-0. After suffering from lower back problems all week, she had finally succeeded in dislocating something in her lower back. Determined to finish out the match, she returned to the court briefly, but succumbed to pain after a few more short points and retired from the match at 8-0.



# hot topic

WIRT Finalists Christie Van Hees (left) and Jackie Paraiso. Photo: Mike Boatman

"I'm an athlete, so I refuse to quit," Fenton said. "I wanted to finish that match. Quitting in the last game was one of the hardest things for me to do, but I can feel a nerve being pinched in my back. The pain was too great for me to run or dive for the balls. I had to admit that I'm hurt, and I didn't want to make it any worse."

## **International Quarters**

The quarterfinals ended up having an international flavor, as Canadians Christie Van Hees and Josee

Grand'Maitre went head-to-head for a semifinal spot. Although Grand'Maitre had captured the Canadian national singles title, Van Hees had not competed at that tourney. Youth quickly overcame experience, as Van Hees advanced to the semifinals with the 11-3, 12-10, 11-4 win.

Mexico's Susana Acosta served up yet another upset by knocking off No.4 Kersten Hallander, 11-7, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9. In the blonde-vs-brunette battle, both leggy contestants drew their share of spectators, but the crowd chatter later focused on a gutsy call by referee

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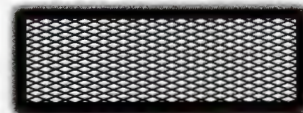
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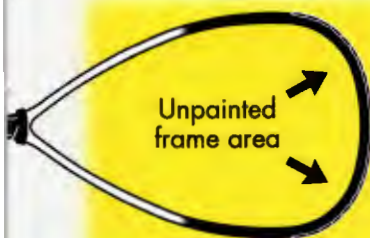
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Grand'Maitre for the match. The left-handed Acosta earned her spot among the top-four on an avoidable hinder when Hallander found herself caught dead-to-rights in the path of Acosta's forehand setup.

The top seeds had far less trouble, as Jackie Paraiso and Cheryl Gudinas both advanced easily with wins over Janet Myers and Kim Machiran, respectively.

### **Sweet Semifinal Revenge**

In the early round match up between Canada's Christie Van Hees and Cheryl Gudinas, the stage was set for a rematch of the 1999 Pan Am Games gold medal playoff last summer, which Gudinas won after a controversial "racquet up" call in the tiebreaker. Seeking revenge, Van

Hees bore down to get it in three straight games of 11-5, 11-9, 11-7.

"This feels so sweet," Van Hees remarked after her win. "There were a lot of issues involved in that match, and I definitely think I made it clear what reality is."

Gudinas took her loss gracefully. "I know what was going through Christie's mind. Everybody put a big emphasis on this rematch. Of course she was fired up after the Pan Ams. I didn't play badly though, she just served really well."

Defending-champion Jackie Paraiso continued to roll through the top half of the draw, by making quick work



### **Side Court Action**

by Christie Hyde

At this year's Promus U.S. Open, court six had its share of activity, including Doug Ganim giving Adam Karp a run for this money, Jack Huczek capturing the men's open title, Derek Robinson being upset by Dan Fowler and top-seeded Kersten Hallander losing to Mexico's Susana Acosta. But there was even more hustle taking place on the "side court" opposite the right glass wall, where 11 students from the University of Memphis Department of Journalism were feverishly working on making sure the media knew all about the great racquetball action going on in Memphis.

The students — all members of the Public Relation Student Society of America (PRSSA) — were participating in an internship program with the U.S. Open, under the direction of USRA Public and Media Relations

Coordinator Christie Hyde. Each student was assigned three athletes (two pros and one amateur) for whom they were responsible for the research and preparation of all hometown media efforts, which included sending results and press releases to the athletes' hometown newspapers, radio and television stations.

The response? The student work was able to generate phenomenal results from hometown media outlets — from daily results in newspapers across the U.S. to radio interviews in Canada. Long after the racquetball courts had grown quiet each evening, the media room was still abuzz with activity (often as late as 3:00am) as students transcribed interviews, faxed press releases, and made follow-up phone calls. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and their efforts did not go unnoticed, as numerous players commented on how excited they were to have their accomplishments shared with friends and family back home.

The 11 hardworking students who pioneered this partnership with the University of Memphis were: Adam Badrain (Memphis), Harriet Bradley (Memphis), Natalie Garthright (Memphis), Leslie Grandberry (Munford, Tenn.), Forsyth Kenworthy (Memphis), Wendy Lindsey (Memphis), Kirsten Marks (Clarksville, Tenn.), Therese Pramick (Clarks Summit, Pa.), Courtney Sikes (Memphis), Kathy Walker (Whiteville, Tenn.) and Molly Watkins (Germantown, Tenn.).

Special thanks from all the players and staff of the Promus U.S. Open goes out to these students and PRSSA faculty advisor Dr. Rick Fischer for all their hard work. Although many of the students had never played racquetball before, all fell in love with the sport and can't wait to come back next year — even after graduation!

Photo: Courtesy Dr. Rick Fischer

of Susana Acosta, 11-0, 11-1, 11-2 to set up a rematch of last year's finals between herself and Van Hees.

### **To the Bitter End**

Christie Van Hees came into the women's pro finals feeling calm and relaxed, but emotionally and physically taxed by the tough draw she had battled through. She had been set against both the No.2 and No.3 players enroute to the rematch playoff. On the other hand, Jackie Paraiso seemed to breeze into the finals, after abbreviated advances through a draw that many viewed as a walk in the park.

Nonetheless, Van Hees ran out to a 10-3 lead in the first game before Paraiso was able to muster a comeback, to pull within two points at 10-8. But after Van Hees called a timeout, she was able to return to the court and put away the game, 11-8. Hot from that first game win, the world champion ran up another early lead in the second, but was unable to hold off Paraiso's rally this time, as the defending champ took the second game 13-11.

Paraiso's momentum carried her to an 11-1 win in the third game, but Van Hees was not going down without a fight, and ran up another 10-3 lead in the fourth game, before putting it away with 11-5 and setting up the tiebreaker. There, Van Hees' fatigue was no match for Paraiso's excellent shot making and it was over in no time, as Paraiso grabbed her second Promus U.S. Open title with the 11-2 win.

"It feels great to win my second-straight title," Paraiso said. "Christie played a great match. I just had to focus on each game."

Although Van Hees fell short in her goal, she felt good about her performance. "If I can go out and take Jackie to a tiebreaker when I come through a draw of terror, I know I'm right there [on the verge of earning the number-one spot]."



TOP: JACKIE PARAISO KEEPS LEFTY SUSANA ACOSTA IN BACK COURT DURING THEIR SEMI. BOTTOM: PARAISO TEES OFF ON A FOREHAND AGAINST CHRISTIE VAN HEES IN THEIR FINAL. PHOTOS: MIKE BOATMAN.



## PROMUS 4TH U.S. OPEN RESULTS

### IRT & WIRT PRO TOUR SINGLES

Men's PRO . . . . . Jason Mannino, San Diego, CA def. Cliff Swain, Braintree, MA 11-8, 4-11, 11-8, 11-8  
 Women's PRO . . . . . Jacqueline Paraiso, El Cajon, CA def. Christie Van Hees, BC 8-11, 13-11, 11-1, 5-11, 11-2

### MEN'S SINGLES

Men's Open . . . . . Jack Huczek, Rochester Hills, MI def. Chris Crowther, Riverside, CA 15-11, 15-12  
 Men's A . . . . . Andy Babinchack, Grand Forks, ND def. Sam Ryder, Menomonee, WI 8-15, 15-6, 11-6  
 Men's B . . . . . Brian Shwer, Memphis, TN def. Kurt Ross, Fargo, ND 15-13, 15-6  
 Men's C . . . . . Gilbert Sais, Victorville, CA def. Garry Carter, Napa, CA 15-6, 14-15, 11-8  
 Men's D . . . . . Sid Harshavat, Palatine, IL def. Joe DeRoche', Chicago, IL 15-11, 15-7  
 Men's 24- . . . . . Jack Huczek, Rochester Hills, MI def. Brad Hansen, Ames, IA — forfeit  
 M24- A/B . . . . . Justin Jones, Cincinnati, OH def. Brad Jantz, Kenosha, WI 13-15, 15-11, 11-10  
 M24- C/D . . . . . Brandon Cortese, Kentwood, MI def. Sid Harshavat, Palatine, IL 15-5, 15-11  
 Men's 25+ . . . . . Sameer Hadid, Sacramento, CA def. Eugene Coyle, Palatine, IL 15-6, 15-8  
 M25 A/B . . . . . Bob Jackson, Ridgeland, MS def. David Leon, Chula Vista, CA 13-15, 15-13, 11-3  
 M25 C/D . . . . . Emmanuel Drege, Richardson, TX def. Joe Marfone, Memphis, TN 15-5, 15-14  
 Men's 30+ . . . . . Jim Minkel, Houston, TX def. Jim Frautschi, Prior Lake, MN 15-11, 15-6  
 Men's 35+ . . . . . Tim Hansen, Boynton Beach, FL def. Scot Consoli, Orlando, FL 15-8, 15-3  
 M35+ A/B . . . . . Ron Fowler, Decatur, GA def. Edward Fink, Houston, TX 9-15, 15-12, 11-5  
 M35+ C/D . . . . . Kery Hughes, Springhill, TN def. Bill Branner, Fairfax, VA 15-10, 3-15, 11-2  
 Men's 40+ . . . . . Jeff Hanno, Watertown, NY def. Terry Fluharty, Orlando, FL 15-11, 15-6  
 Men's 45+ . . . . . Mitt Layton, Jacksonville, FL def. Randy Stafford, Memphis, TN 15-3, 12-15, 11-3  
 M45+ A/B . . . . . Steve Conn, River Ridge, LA def. William Cannon, Monrevallo, AL 9-15, 15-6, 11-8  
 M45+ C/D . . . . . Donald Acklin, Phil., PA def. Eddie LaCost, Colleyville, TX 15-11, 15-8  
 Men's 50+ . . . . . Mitt Layton, Jacksonville, FL def. Ed Remen, Apex, NC 15-3, 15-7  
 Men's 55+ . . . . . Ray Huss, Springboro, OH def. Horace Miller, Chicago, IL 15-9, 15-6  
 M55+ A/B . . . . . Ken Foster, Lewisville, TX def. Tom Fehsel, Chicago, IL 15-4, 15-1  
 M55+ C/D . . . . . Leo Kouremetis, Kodiak, Ak def. Jim Railey, Murray, KY 7-15, 15-5, 11-8  
 Men's 60+ . . . . . Bob Webster, Northport, AL def. Rex Lawler, Terre Haute, IN 15-10, 12-15, 11-10  
 Men's 65+ . . . . . Jerry Holly, North Ridge, CA def. Joe Lambert, Dallas, TX Def (unex)  
 Men's 70+ . . . . . John O'Donnell, Champaign, IL def. Hugh Groover, Searcy, AR 5-15, 15-9, 11-4  
 Men's 75+ . . . . . Earl Acuff, Asheville, NC def. Hank Richard, Swannanoa, NC 15-10, 15-3  
 Men's 80+ . . . . . Earl Acuff, Asheville, NC def. George Spear Sr., Venice, FL 15-6, 15-7

GALLERY — Top: Jackie Paraiso & Jason Mannino. Above: (L) Andy Babinchack; (R) Ron Fowler. Facing Page (Top to Bottom): Tournament Staffer Ann Doucette & Brenna Bilbrough — Leo Kouremetis & Madeline Edwards — Sid Harshavat (L) — Emmanuel Drege (R) — University of Memphis Desk Manager Jen Yokota & Bob Jackson — Holly Remen & Debbie Tisinger. All Photos: Courtesy Jen Yokota.

## WOMEN'S SINGLES

- Women's Open . . . Josee Grand'Maitre, Longueuil, Quebec def. Lisa Hjelm, Citrus Heights, CA 14-15, 15-8, 11-3
- Women's A . . . . . Akiko Saito, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa def. Brenna Bilbrough, Eugene, OR 15-6, 15-6
- Women's B . . . . . Kelley Fisher, Centerville, OH def. Nathania Stewart, Doraville, GA 15-13, 4-15, 11-4
- Women's C . . . . . Lynn Hiorns, Aurora, IL def. Vicki Leetch, Siloam Springs, AR 15-5, 4-15, 11-3
- Women's D . . . . . Jamie Johnson, Berea, OH def. Ramona Vonondarza, Boca Raton, FL 14-15, 15-9, 11-8
- Women's 24- . . . . . Aimee Roehler, Sterling, NJ def. Shannon Feaster, Silver Spring, MD 15-4, 15-14
- W24- A/B . . . . . Brenna Bilbrough, Eugene, OR def. Kelley Fisher, Centerville, OH 15-6, 15-7
- W25+ C/D . . . . . Lynn Hiorns, Aurora, IL def. Michelle Hoagland, Rosemount, MN 15-6, 15-8
- Women's 30+ . . . . . Lori Lepow, Altamonte Springs, FL def. Jennifer Dering, Cross River, NY 15-3, 15-8
- Women's 35+ . . . . . Debra Tisinger, Canoga Park, CA def. Holly Remen, Apex, NC 15-4, 15-12
- W35+ A/B . . . . . Madeleine Edwards, Memphis, TN def. Laura Woodbury, Arlington, VA 15-7, 15-12
- W35+ C/D . . . . . Sharon Curran-Wilks, Raleigh, NC def. Julie Wiedis, Princeton, NJ 15-9, 15-6
- Women's 40+ . . . . . Debra Tisinger, Canoga Park, CA def. Linda Moore, Madison, NE 15-2, 15-5
- Women's 45+ . . . . . Meena Evans, Advance, NC def. Nancy Kronenfeld, Park Ridge, IL 15-4, 15-5
- W45+ A/B . . . . . Kay McCarthy, Germantown, TN def. Lynne Weisbart, Northbrook, IL 15-9, 15-11
- Women's 50+ . . . . . Shelley Ogden, Cincinnati, OH def. Sharon Huczek, Rochester Hills, MI 15-2, 15-2
- Women's 60+ . . . . . Jo Kenyon, Tallahassee, FL def. Lola Markus, Park Ridge, IL 15-8, 15-9
- Women's 65+ . . . . . Jo Kenyon, Tallahassee, FL def. Lola Markus, Park Ridge, IL 15-7, 15-12
- Women's 75+ . . . . . Mary Low Acuff, Asheville, NC unchallenged

## DOUBLES

- Men's Open . . . . . Alvaro Beltran/Javier Moreno def. Sameer Hadid/Shawn Royster 15-8, 14-15, 11-6
- Men's A . . . . . Steven Arizmendi/Jeffrey Huang def. Donnie Hendricks/Mike Sole 15-12, 6-15, 11-1
- Men's B . . . . . Bill Sewell/David Sturm def. James Coleman/Vic Riveras 15-8, 7-15, 11-3
- Men's C . . . . . Eddie Barber/Eddy Connor def. Allen Ayers/Ryan Kinnaman 15-7, 15-10
- Men's 30+ . . . . . Tim Hansen/Teddy Koukoulis def. Michael Porter/Sandy Stephens 11-15, 15-10, 11-3
- Men's 40+ . . . . . Joe Ault/Bill Lyman def. Larry Cashion/Bill Greaney 15-8, 15-13
- Men's 50+ . . . . . Jim Bailey/Ed Remen def. Richard Bocanegra/Jim Brane 15-10, 11-15, 11-4
- M50+ B/C . . . . . Michael Barnes/Ken Foster def. Donald Bates/Carl Tabar 15-8, 5-15, 11-8
- Women's A . . . . . Bonnie Sanderson/Robin Wiles def. Michael Hill/Johnnie Hill-Hudgins 10-15, 15-9, 11-4
- Women's B . . . . . Michael Hill/Johnnie Hill-Hudgins def. Rani Oldenburg/Donna Spano 15-6, 15-7
- Mixed A . . . . . David Barnes/Esther McNary def. Tadayoshi Kawai/Akiko Saito 11-15, 15-9, 11-1
- Mixed B . . . . . Ken Joy/Valerie Willis def. Naoko Kato/Koichi Kitamura 15-11, 15-6
- Mixed C . . . . . Ryan Kinnaman/Vicki Leetch def. Chuck Noll/Sharon Noll 5-15, 15-5, 11-6
- Mixed 30+ . . . . . Jim Leveque/Cintya Salazar def. Vince Griffin/Debra Stefandel 15-6, 4-15, 11-4

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** The 5th Promus U.S. OPEN is scheduled for November 15-19, 2000 (the week before Thanksgiving).



# countdown ... countdown ... countdown ...

## Best Ever Top-Ten

**Best Professional Event** • U.S. OPEN – Memphis — elevated game to new level • DP Nationals – Boston – parties, pro's, boat trip, everything • Ektelon – Perrier Championship – the good old days

**Best Amateur National Event** • The Finals – Houston – something for everyone • Boise Idaho Doubles – great club, great draw, great party • Fishkill Juniors – who's who of junior players!

**Best International Event** • World Championships – Mexico – glossy and prestigious • Pan Am qualifier – Argentina – the best party – ever! • World Championships – Germany – historic

**Best 'Party' Event** • Dave Negrete's Pro Am/Chicago – you hope you don't have to play on Sunday. • Stockton Pro Am – 80's – outdoor BBQ was the best • Davison Pro Am 80's – ask our male strippers ... Gonzalez and Hilecher

**Best Racquetball Sponsor** • Tom Cavallaro – New York – if given a chance, his TV commitment could have revolutionized racquetball • Promus and Mac Winker – Memphis – their title/host commitment to U.S. OPEN unmatched • John Delaney – Seattle – made Seattle event special

**Best Racquetball Writer** • Drew Stoddard – 'International Racquetball' – said it like it was • Tom Slear – thorough and professional • Todd O'Neil – his racquetball "lines" are insightful and humorous • Jean Sauser – entertaining and informative

**Best Sports Character** • Steve Keeley – the most eccentric player ever! • Bo Champagne – an encyclopedia of racquetball trivia • Charisma Red – who?? (Bobby Bible)

**Most Unusual Playing Habit** • Guess who – played pro tour with no shoes! • Greg Freeze – diving drive serve • Mike Lucci – beer and cigarette during time out!

## Best Ever Skills

**Forehand** • Ed Andrews – money in the bank • Cliff Swain – as flat as they come • Jerry Hilecher – ran around his backhand for this shot

**Backhand** • Sudsy Monchik – unbelievable power and accuracy • Gregg Peck – created the 'splat' • Jerry Price – biggest weapon

**Serve** • Egan Inoue – first 'real' photon serve • Cliff Swain – always on the mark • Jerry Hilecher – greatest variety and deception • Michelle Gould – aced her way into the record books

**Control** • Mike Yellen – gave opponents 'tour' of court • Jerry Hilecher – always found a way to be competitive • Mike Ray – the reason for his # ranking

**Retrieving/Diving** • Ruben Gonzalez – the father of all retrievers • Jason Mannino – true acrobat extraordinaire • Sudsy Monchik – follows in the 'fathers' footsteps • Robin Levine – has no fear of floors or walls

**Intimidating Presence** • Marty Hogan – still legendary • Egan Inoue – muscle, muscle, muscle • Charlie Brumfeld – never looked his victim in the eye • Lynn Adams – once she started "pacing" look out

**Doubles Teams** • Stan Wright/Steve Trent – best balance and teamwork • Joy MacKenzie/Jackie Paraiso & Doug Ganim/Dan Obremski – more career world and national titles than anyone • Sudsy Monchik/Tim Doyle – just a great pairing

**Athletic Ability** • Bret Harnett – broke all records at USOTC • Marty Hogan – 'Superstar' proud of his fitness • Dan Obremski – ranked in top 10 in nation in our sport • Laura Fenton – all around athlete

**Mental Game** • Mike Yellen – why he was picked as the century's best • Andy Roberts – adapts to any situation • Jerry Hilecher, Steve Strandemo – compensated for physical deficiencies with mental strength • Jackie Paraiso – great concentration in tough spots

## Ten Most Powerful People in 20th Century Racquetball ...

• **Charlie Drake** – controversial promoter and driving force behind an unrivalled pro tour • **Luke St. Onge** – re-structured amateur association and guided international development – must take some responsibility for sport's domestic decline in the 90s • **Marty Hogan** – popularized the game in 80s – but stubborn independence caused disruption and fractionalization • **Norm Peck** – directed Ektelon during growth years – oversized racquets changed the sport but divided the industry • **Chuck Berry** ... brains behind early pro tour and court club development – more persistent leadership may have helped in 80s. • **Robert Kendler** – developed first professional tour – less politics could have resulted in greater development • **Doug Ganim** – promotional ideas helped popularize sport – closeness to sport may have resulted in acceptance of ideas • **Bud Muehleisen** – brought popularity to sport as icon, mentor, instructor, player, and developer • **Hank Marcus** – resuscitated the pro tour and attempted to 'professionalize' the sport • **Every Club Owner/Manager** – all reaped benefits during boom years, but failed to promote or hire full time programmers/instructors to sustain sport popularity. Must share major responsibility for not being more aggressive in their court club promotions.



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Hogan

11-2, 11-5, 11-10

Bledsoe

11-10, 8-11, 5-11,  
11-9, 11-9

Wagner

11-7, 8-11, 11-10,  
11-3

Roberts

11-5, 11-3, 11-5

Brumfield

2-11, 11-8, 11-8,  
11-7

G. Peck

10-11, 8-11, 11-7,  
11-10, 11-10

Kachtik

5-11, 11-8, 9-11,  
11-10, 11-10

Yellen

11-3, 11-6, 11-3

Swain

11-5, 6-11, 11-3,  
11-8

Ray

5-11, 11-7, 5-11,  
11-7, 11-9

Ellis

11-9, 5-11, 11-3,  
11-5

D. Peck

11-10, 11-8, 11-7

Harnett

11-1, 11-3, 11-1

Hilecher

5-11, 11-8, 11-7,  
11-6

Gonzalez

11-10, 1-11, 5-11,  
11-9, 11-9

Monchik

11-2, 6-11, 11-8,  
11-7

Hogan

11-5, 5-11, 11-9,  
11-8

Roberts

11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 7-  
11, 11-10

Brumfield

11-10, 11-9, 2-11,  
11-2

Yellen

11-5, 11-3, 11-5

Swain

11-3, 11-3, 11-8

D. Peck

11-5, 11-5, 0-11,  
11-5

Harnett

5-11, 11-8, 8-11,  
11-5, 11-9

Monchik

11-1, 11-7, 11-7

Hogan

11-8, 9-11, 11-5,  
11-5

Yellen

11-9, 11-7, 10-11,  
11-2

Swain

11-9, 10-11, 11-7,  
5-11, 11-6

Monchik

11-9, 10-11, 11-7,  
5-11, 11-6

Yellen

11-8, 10-11, 9-11,  
11-7, 11-9

Monchik

11-9, 10-11, 11-5,  
11-4

# men's draw of the century! ... and the winner is ...

## mike yellen

7-11, 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 11-6

Sudsy has never "toured" the court as much as he did in this match. Forced to hit his backhand splat from shoulder high, it was only a matter of time until Yellen capitalized on Sudsy's "showmanship." Yellen always played his best in the crucial matches and was inevitably able to find some way to win. Sudsy plays tough when ahead, but fights himself for the pressure points in the pressure games. Over time, Sudsy will learn how to handle the pressure of "big events," but as of now, he is still learning.

Yellen's ability to keep Sudsy on his heels, moving backward, forcing Sudsy to hit what other players feel are impossible shots (but to Sudsy are usually routine) allows Yellen to work his game plan. Yellen's footwork (maybe the best ever) always seems to put him in the right place at the right time, and thus ready to execute the right shot. Unable to overpower Yellen, Sudsy is left with his speed and uncanny shot-making ability. Unfortunately for Suds, he always seemed to be hitting off-balance, leaving Mike the opportunity to end the rally with his pinpoint passes and patented backhand pinch. At least for now, it's brain over brawn as Yellen captures the Player of the Century crown in five games — but watch for Sudsy in the 21st Century title playoff!

Adams

11-3, 11-3, 11-4

Gudinas

8-11, 11-9, 11-4,  
11-9

Stupp

11-2, 11-2, 11-4

Panzeri

11-5, 5-11, 11-9,  
11-5

McKinney

11-5, 11-9, 11-10

Gilreath

11-7, 4-11, 11-9,  
11-8

Levine

9-11, 11-8, 11-7,  
11-2

Wright

11-4, 11-8, 11-8

Gould

11-2, 11-6, 11-2

Kuhfeld

6-11, 11-7, 9-11,  
11-9, 11-9

Drexler

11-4, 11-9, 6-11,  
11-5

Greer

11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 6-  
11, 11-8

Steding

11-7, 11-5, 11-5

Paraiso

7-11, 11-90, 11-2,  
11-5

Bailey

11-8, 5-11, 9-11,  
11-6, 11-9

McKay

11-4, 11-5, 11-5

Adams

11-0, 11-8, 11-7

Stupp

6-11, 11-5, 11-7,  
11-7

McKinney

11-7, 7-11, 11-9,  
11-5

Wright

11-5, 11-9, 6-11,  
11-5

Gould

11-9, 11-9, 11-4

Greer

9-11, 11-7, 11-8,  
12-10

Paraiso

7-11, 9-11, 11-8,  
11-6, 11-6

McKay

11-7, 11-8, 11-4

Adams

11-8, 10-12, 7-11,  
12-10, 11-8

Wright

11-5, 7-11, 12-10,  
11-5

Gould

11-8, 11-7, 9-11,  
13-11

McKay

11-6, 11-8, 5-11,  
11-7

# women's draw of the century! ... and the winner is ...

## lynn adams

7-11, 11-8, 10-11, 11-5, 12-11

Heather started the match fast, playing a percentage game and mixing up her reverse pinches and passes very well, then controlled center court to take the first. Lynn came back pumped up and started playing most of her shots to Heather's forehand. Heather fell behind and started shooting and passing from the deep right side, allowing Lynn to capitalize on setups. The third game was a war, with both players having figured out what was working for each of them, which led to incredible shot-making and rallies. Determined to keep Lynn off balance, Heather mixed in wide angle and deceptive cross court passes to take a narrow third game win. Game four went to Lynn, as she pressed the issue and became very aggressive, pinching and splatting at every opportunity, yet mixing in low, hard passes which found Heather out of position much of the game.

The tiebreaker was an amazing test of wills, with both players executing on offense, covering shots and re-killing at every opportunity. Heather stuck to her basic game plan, and was extremely effective in executing her drive serves and reverse pinches. Heather tried to control center court, which she needed to do to win, but Lynn began mixing up her serves and shots – which proved to make all the difference. Lynn won this amazing match, 12-10 in the fifth.

## New Frames from Ektelon

Ektelon recently launched two new racquets: the Power Ring Ultralite™, Ektelon's lightest racquet ever, and the Triple Threat Deliverance™ featuring a unique weighting system that provides the ultimate balance of power and control.



Key technology in the Deliverance is a weighting system featuring Triple Braid™, a combination of woven titanium, copper and carbon that's placed in three critical racquet locations: 10 o'clock, 2 o'clock and the bottom of the handle. This produces an expanded sweet spot in every direction, stability for increased power and control and reduced shock to a player's arm

for better, longer and stronger play. The Triple Threat Deliverance™ frame has a suggested retail of \$260.



The lightest racquet in Ektelon's history, the Power Ring Ultralite offers maneuverability without sacrificing power. The 22" Longbody design of the racquet provides increased reach and power, while the patented PowerWEB™ design creates a larger sweet spot through the unique stringing design. The Power Ring Ultralite has a suggested retail of \$240.

"Our new racquet introductions address the needs of today's players. We provide expanded sweet spots on maneuverable, powerful frames," said Sharlene Sones, product manager for Ektelon.

## sign up a friend!

Current USRA members! You'll receive a can of balls for each new member you "sponsor" plus increase your chances to win with every new sign up! Duplicate the coupons below as many times as you like!

Win! Top of the line Racquets • Gloves • Eyewear • Apparel • Bags • Gear • Travel • Services • and much more! from: Ashaway, E-Force, Ektelon, Head, Penn, Pro Kennex, USRA & Wilson.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Glove: R/L \_\_\_\_\_

MC/Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**RENEW ME!** Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Renew my existing membership for another year!

**NEW MEMBER** — I want to join the USRA, receive *RACQUETBALL* magazine, get a FREE can of ProPenn balls, and become eligible for weekly and GRAND PRIZE Drawings!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Glove: R/L \_\_\_\_\_

MC/Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGN ME UP!**

☐ \$20.00 Adult ☐ \$15.00 Junior (18 and under only)

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- National ranking service

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- Referee Certification
- Coaching Development
  - High School and Intercollegiate programs
  - Junior Athlete development
  - Scholarships
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## 3 — PLAY REGULATIONS

### Rule 3.1 SERVE

The server has two opportunities to put the ball into play. The player or team winning the coin toss has the option to either serve or receive at the start of the first game. The second game will begin in reverse order of the first game. The player or team scoring the highest total of points in games 1 and 2 will have the option to serve or receive first at the start of the tiebreaker. In the event that both players or teams score an equal number of points in the first two games, another coin toss will take place and the winner of the toss will have the option to serve or receive.

### Rule 3.2 START

The server may not start the service motion until the referee has called the score or "second serve." The serve is started from any place within the service zone. (Certain drive serves are an exception. See Rule 3.6.) Neither the ball nor any part of either foot may extend beyond either line of the service zone when initiating the service motion. Stepping on, but not beyond, the lines is permitted. However, when completing the service motion, the server may step beyond the service (front) line provided that some part of both feet remain on or inside the line until the served ball passes the short line. The server may not step beyond the short line until the ball passes the short line. See Rule 3.9(a) and 3.10(i) for penalties for violations.

### Rule 3.3 MANNER

After taking a set position inside the service zone, a player may begin the service motion—any continuous movement which results in the ball being served. Once the service motion begins, the ball must be bounced on the floor in the zone and be struck by the racquet before it bounces a second time. After being struck, the ball must hit the front wall first and on the rebound hit the floor beyond the back edge of the short line, either with or without touching one of the side walls.

### Rule 3.4 READINESS

The service motion shall not begin until the referee has called the score or the second serve and the server has visually checked the receiver. The referee shall call the score as both server and receiver prepare to return to their respective positions, shortly after the previous rally has ended.

### Rule 3.5 DELAYS

Except as noted in Rule 3.5 (b), the referee may call a technical foul for delays exceeding 10 seconds.

- The 10 second rule applies to the server and receiver simultaneously. Collectively, they are allowed up to 10 seconds after the score is called to serve or be ready to receive. It is the server's responsibility to look and be certain the receiver is ready. If a receiver is not ready, they must signal by raising the racquet above the head or completely turning the back to the server. (These are the only two acceptable signals.)
- Serving while the receiving player/team is signaling "not ready" is a fault serve.
- After the score is called, if the server looks at the receiver and the receiver is not signaling "not ready", the server may then serve. If the receiver attempts to signal "not ready" after that point, the signal shall not be acknowledged and the serve becomes legal.

### Rule 3.6 DRIVE SERVICE ZONES

The drive serve lines will be 3 feet from each side wall in the service zone. Viewed one at a time, the drive serve line divides the service area into a 3-foot and a 17-foot section that apply only to drive serves. 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. In the event that the service motion begins in one 3-foot drive service zone and continues into the other 3-foot drive serve zone, the player may not hit a drive serve at all. (a) The drive serve zones are not observed for cross-court drive serves, the hard-Z,

soft-Z, lob or half-lob serves.

(a) The drive serve zones are not observed for cross-court drive serves, the hard-Z, soft-Z, lob or half-lob serves.

(b) The racquet may not break the plane of the 17-foot zone while making contact with the ball.

(c) The drive serve line is not part of the 17-foot zone. Dropping the ball on the line or standing on the line while serving to the same side is an infraction.

### Rule 3.7 DEFECTIVE SERVES

Defective serves are of three types resulting in penalties as follows:

- Dead-Ball Serve. A dead-ball serve results in no penalty and the server is given another serve (without canceling a prior fault serve).
- Fault Serve. Two fault serves result in an out (either a sideout or a handout).
- Out Serve. An out serve results in an out (either a sideout or a handout).

### Rule 3.8 DEAD-BALL SERVES

Dead-ball serves do not cancel any previous fault serve. The following are dead-ball serves:

- Court Hinders. A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve. Also, any serve that hits any surface designated by local rules as an obstruction rather than being out-of-play.
- Broken Ball. If the ball is determined to have broken on the serve, a new ball shall be substituted and the serve shall be replayed, not canceling any prior fault serve.

### Rule 3.9 FAULT SERVES

The following serves are faults and any two in succession result in an out:

- Foot Faults. A foot fault results when:
  - The server does not begin the service motion with both feet in the service zone.
  - The server steps completely over the service line (no part of the foot on or inside the service zone) before the served ball crosses the short line.
- Short Serve. A short serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, hits the floor on or in front of the short line either with or without touching a side wall.
- Three Wall Serve. A three-wall serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, strikes both side walls before touching the floor.
- Ceiling Serve. A ceiling serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and then touches the ceiling (with or without touching a side wall).
- Long Serve. A long serve is a served ball that first hits the front wall and rebounds to the back wall before touching the floor (with or without touching a side wall).
- Bouncing Ball Outside Service Zone. Bouncing the ball outside the service zone as a part of the service motion is a fault serve.
- Illegal Drive Serve. A drive serve in which the player fails to observe the 17-foot drive service zone outlined in Rule 3.6.
- Screen Serve. A served ball that first hits the front wall and on the rebound passes so closely to the server, or server's partner in doubles, that it prevents the receiver from having a clear view of the ball. (The receiver is obligated to take up good court position, near center court, to obtain that view.)
- Serving before the Receiver is Ready. A serve is made while the receiver is not ready as described in Rule 3.5(b).

### Rule 3.10 OUT SERVES

Any of the following results in an out:

- Two Consecutive Fault Serves. See Rule 3.9.
- Missed Serve Attempt. Any attempt to strike the ball that results in a total miss or in the ball touching any part of the server's body. Also, allowing the ball to bounce more than once during the service

motion.

(c) Touched Serve. Any served ball that on the rebound from the front wall touches the server or server's racquet before touching the floor, or any ball intentionally stopped or caught by the server or server's partner.

(d) Fake or Balk Serve. Any movement of the racquet toward the ball during the serve which is non-continuous and done for the purpose of deceiving the receiver. If a balk serve occurs, but the referee believes that no deceit was involved, the option of declaring "no serve" and having the serve replayed without penalty can be exercised.

(e) Illegal Hit. An illegal hit includes contacting the ball twice, carrying the ball, or hitting the ball with the handle of the racquet or part of the body or uniform.

(f) Non-Front Wall Serve. Any served ball that does not strike the front wall first.

(g) Crotch Serve. Any served ball that hits the crotch of the front wall and floor, front wall and side wall, or front wall and ceiling is an out serve (because it did not hit the front wall first). A serve into the crotch of the back wall and floor is a good serve and in play. A served ball that hits the crotch of the side wall and floor beyond the short line is in play.

(h) Out-of-Court Serve. An out-of-court serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, before striking the floor, either goes out of the court or hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play for a valid reason [See Rule 2.1(a)].

(i) Safety Zone Violation. If the server, or doubles partner, enters into the safety zone before the served ball passes the short line, it shall result in the loss of serve.

### Rule 3.11 RETURN OF SERVE

- Receiving Position
  - The receiver may not enter the safety zone until the ball bounces or crosses the receiving line.
  - On the fly return attempt, the receiver may not strike the ball until the ball breaks the plane of the receiving line. However, the receiver's follow-through may carry the receiver or the racquet past the receiving line.
  - Neither the receiver nor the racquet may break the plane of the short line, except if the ball is struck after rebounding off the back wall.
  - Any violation by the receiver results in a point for the server.
- Defective Serve. A player on the receiving side may not intentionally catch or touch a served ball (such as an apparently long or short serve) until the referee has made a call or the ball has touched the floor for a second time. Violation results in a point.
- Legal Return. After a legal serve, a player receiving the serve must strike the ball on the fly or after the first bounce, and before the ball touches the floor the second time; and return the ball to the front wall, either directly or after touching one or both side walls, the back wall or the ceiling, or any combination of those surfaces. A returned ball must touch the front wall before touching the floor.
- Failure to Return. The failure to return a serve results in a point for the server.
- Other Provisions. Except as noted in this rule (3.11), the return of serve is subject to all provisions of Rules 3.13 through 3.15.

### Rule 3.12 CHANGES OF SERVE

- Outs. A server is entitled to continue serving until one of the following occurs:
  - Out Serve. See Rule 3.10.
  - Two Consecutive Fault Serves. See Rule 3.9.
  - Failure to Return Ball. Player or team fails to keep the ball in play as required by Rule 3.11 (c).
  - Avoidable Hinder. Player or team commits an avoidable hinder which results in an out. See Rule 3.15.
- Sideout. Retiring the server in singles is called

a sideout.

(c) Effect of Sideout. When the server (or serving team) receives a sideout, the server becomes the receiver and the receiver becomes the server.

### Rule 3.13 RALLIES

All of the play which occurs after the successful return of serve is called the rally. Play shall be conducted according to the following rules:

(a) Legal Hits. Only the head of the racquet may be used at any time to return the ball. The racquet may be held in one or both hands. Switching hands to hit a ball, touching the ball with any part of the body or uniform, or removing the wrist safety cord during a rally results in a loss of the rally.

(b) One Touch. The player or team trying to return the ball may touch or strike the ball only once or else the rally is lost. The ball may not be carried. (A carried ball is one which rests on the racquet long enough that the effect is more of a sling or throw than a hit.)

(c) Failure to Return. Any of the following constitutes a failure to make a legal return during a rally:

1. The ball bounces on the floor more than once before being hit.
2. The ball does not reach the front wall on the fly.
3. The ball is hit such that it goes into the gallery or wall opening or else hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play. See Rule 2.1(a).
4. A ball which obviously does not have the velocity or direction to hit the front wall strikes another player.
5. A ball struck by one player on a team hits that player or that player's partner.
6. Committing an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.
7. Switching hands during a rally.
8. Failure to use a racquet wrist safety cord.
9. Touching the ball with the body or uniform.
10. Carrying or slinging the ball with the racquet.

(d) Effect of Failure to Return. Violations of Rules 3.13 (a) through (c) result in a loss of rally. If the serving player or team loses the rally, it is an out. If the receiver loses the rally, it results in a point for the server.

(e) Return Attempts. The ball remains in play until it touches the floor a second time, regardless of how many walls it makes contact with — including the front wall. If a player swings at the ball and misses it, the player may continue to attempt to return the ball until it touches the floor for the second time.

(f) Broken Ball. If there is any suspicion that a ball has broken during a rally, play shall continue until the end of the rally. The referee or any player may request the ball be examined. If the referee decides the ball is broken the ball will be replaced and the rally replayed. The server resumes play at first serve. The only proper way to check for a broken ball is to squeeze it by hand. (Checking the ball by striking it with a racquet will not be considered a valid check and shall work to the disadvantage of the player or team which struck the ball after the rally.)

(g) Play Stoppage

1. If a foreign object enters the court, or any other outside interference occurs, the referee shall stop the play immediately and declare a dead-ball hinder.
2. If a player loses any apparel, equipment, or other article, the referee shall stop play immediately and declare an avoidable hinder or dead-ball hinder as described in Rule 3.15 (i).

(h) Replays. Whenever a rally is replayed for any reason, the server resumes play at first serve. A previous fault serve is not considered.

### Rule 3.14 DEAD-BALL HINDERS

A rally is replayed without penalty and the server resumes play at first serve whenever a dead-ball hinder occurs. Also, see Rule 3.15 which describes conditions under which a hinder might be declared avoidable and result in loss of the rally.

(a) Situations

1. Court Hinders. The referee should stop play immediately whenever the ball hits any part of the court that was designated in advance as a court hinder (such as a vent grate). The referee should also stop play (i) when the ball takes an irregular bounce as a result of contacting a rough surface (such as court light or vent) or after striking a wet spot on the floor or wall and (ii) when, in the referee's opinion, the irregular bounce affected the rally.

2. Ball Hits Opponent. When an opponent is hit by a return shot in flight, it is a dead-ball hinder. If the opponent is struck by a ball which obviously did not have the velocity or direction to reach the front wall, it is not a hinder, and the player who hit the ball will lose the rally. A player who has been hit by the ball can stop play and make the call though the call must be made immediately and acknowledged by the referee. Note this interference may, under certain conditions, be declared an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.

3. Body Contact. If body contact occurs which the referee believes was sufficient to stop the rally, either for the purpose of preventing injury by further contact or because the contact prevented a player from being able to make a reasonable return, the referee shall call a hinder. Incidental body contact in which the offensive player clearly will have the advantage should not be called a hinder, unless the offensive player obviously stops play. Contact with the racquet on the follow-through normally is not considered a hinder.

4. Screen Ball. Any ball rebounding from the front wall so close to the body of the defensive player that it prevents the offensive player from having a clear view of the ball. (The referee should be careful not to make the screen call so quickly that it takes away a good offensive opportunity.) A ball that passes between the legs of a player who has just returned the ball is not automatically a screen. It depends on whether the other player is impaired as a result. Generally, the call should work to the advantage of the offensive player.

5. Backswing Hinder. Any body or racquet contact, on the backswing or on the way to or just prior to returning the ball, which impairs the hitter's ability to take a reasonable swing. This call can be made by the player attempting the return, though the call must be made immediately and is subject to the referee's approval. Note the interference may be considered an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.

6. Safety Holdup. Any player about to execute a return who believes that striking the opponent with the ball or racquet is likely, may immediately stop play and request a dead-ball hinder. This call must be made immediately and is subject to acceptance and approval of the referee. (The referee will grant a dead-ball hinder if it is believed the holdup was reasonable and the player would have been able to return the shot. The referee may also call an avoidable hinder if warranted.)

7. Other Interference. Any other unintentional interference which prevents an opponent from having a fair chance to see or return the ball. Example: When a ball from another court enters the court during a rally or when a

referee's call on an adjacent court obviously distracts a player.

(b) Effect of Hinders. The referee's call of hinder stops play and voids any situation which follows, such as the ball hitting the player. The only hinders that may be called by a player are described in rules (2), (5), and (6) above, and all of these are subject to the approval of the referee. A dead-ball hinder stops play and the rally is replayed. The server receives two serves.

(c) Responsibility. While making an attempt to return the ball, a player is entitled to a fair chance to see and return the ball. It is the responsibility of the side that has just hit the ball to move so the receiving side may go straight to the ball and have an unobstructed view of and swing at the ball. However, the receiver is responsible for making a reasonable effort to move towards the ball and must have a reasonable chance to return the ball for any type of hinder to be called.

### Rule 3.15 AVOIDABLE HINDERS

An avoidable hinder results in the loss of the rally. An avoidable hinder does not necessarily have to be an intentional act. Dead-ball hinders are described in Rule 3.14. Any of the following results in an avoidable hinder:

(a) Failure to Move. A player does not move sufficiently to allow an opponent a shot straight to the front wall as well as a cross-court shot which is a shot directly to the front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the rear corner farthest from the player hitting the ball. Also when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents an opponent from taking either of these shots.

(b) Stroke Interference. This occurs when a player moves, or fails to move, so that the opponent returning the ball does not have a free, unimpeded swing. This includes unintentionally moving in a direction which prevents the opponent from making an open, offensive shot.

(c) Blocking. Moves into a position which blocks the opponent from getting to, or returning, the ball; or in doubles, a player moves in front of an opponent as the player's partner is returning the ball.

(d) Moving into the Ball. Moves in the way and is struck by the ball just played by the opponent.

(e) Pushing. Deliberately pushes or shoves opponent during a rally.

(f) Intentional Distractions. Deliberate shouting, stamping of feet, waving of racquet, or any other manner of disrupting one's opponent.

(g) View Obstruction. A player moves across an opponent's line of vision just before the opponent strikes the ball.

(h) Wetting the Ball. The players, particularly the server, should insure that the ball is dry prior to the serve. Any wet ball that is not corrected prior to the serve shall result in an avoidable hinder against the server.

(i) Apparel or Equipment Loss. If a player loses any apparel, equipment, or other article, play shall be immediately stopped and that player shall be called for an avoidable hinder, unless the player has just hit a shot that could not be retrieved. If the loss of equipment is caused by a player's opponent, then a dead-ball hinder should be called. If the opponent's action is judged to have been avoidable, then the opponent should be called for an avoidable hinder.

**Enforced in sanctioned tournaments:**

**Rule 3.16 TIMEOUTS**

**Rule 3.17 TECHNICAL FOULS AND WARNINGS**

### COPYRIGHT NOTICE

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## Rule 2.1 COURT SPECIFICATIONS

The specifications for the standard four-wall racquetball court are:

(a) Dimensions. The dimensions shall be 20 feet wide, 40 feet long and 20 feet high, with a back wall at least 12 feet high. All surfaces shall be in play, with the exception of any gallery opening, surfaces designated as out-of-play for a valid reason (such as being of a very different material or not in alignment with the backwall), and designated court hinders.

## Pocket Playing Rules & Club Poster

When you remove this centerfold from RACQUETBALL magazine and fold it into quarters, it will fit right into your bag — or you can copy the black & white text portion on the opposite side onto an 11x17 sheet and post both sections on your club bulletin board for a quick and handy courtside reference.

The sections reprinted here routinely apply to everyday play, but other rulings would be used in tournament play! For a complete copy of the Official Rules, call the national office at 719-635-5396, or order online at [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org).

(b) Markings. Racquetball courts shall be marked with lines 1 1/2 inches wide as follows:

1. **Short Line.** The back edge of the short line is midway between, and is parallel with, the front and back walls.
2. **Service Line.** The front edge of the service line is parallel with, and five feet in front of, the back edge of the short line.
3. **Service Zone.** The service zone is the 5' x 20' area bounded by the bottom edges of the side walls and by the outer edges of the short line and the service line.
4. **Service Boxes.** The service boxes are located at each end of the service zone and are designated by lines parallel with the side walls [see 4.2(b)]. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be 18 inches from the nearest side wall.
5. **Drive Serve Lines.** The drive serve lines, which form the drive serve zone, are parallel with the side wall and are within the service zone. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be three feet from the nearest side wall.
6. **Receiving Line.** The receiving line is a broken line parallel to the short line. The back edge of the receiving line is five feet from the back edge of the short line. The receiving line begins with a line 21 inches long that extends from each side wall. These lines are connected by an alternate series of six-inch spaces and six-inch lines. This will result in a line composed of 17 six-inch spaces, 16 six-inch lines, and two 21-inch lines.
7. **Safety Zone.** The safety zone is the 5' x 20' area bounded by the bottom edges of the side walls and by the back edges of the short line and the receiving line. The zone is observed only during the serve. See Rules 3.10(i) and 3.11(a).

receiver

server

Photo: John Gillyooly



I finally got through my bag of tricks to show you my magical service game over the last three issues, breaking down my drive serve, lob serve and then my variety of serves. I hope you have taken some time in adding these tips into your game, so when you step up to the serving box you can create an additional weapon, as I do so well on the tour.

In this article I will focus in on my magical return of serve, considered one of the best in the game and feared by most players. Think about it ... if the server doesn't know what to serve to you because they are already worried about your flawless return game, look at the pressure you've created right out of the blocks. Don't take this area lightly because a great return of serve — coupled with a great serve — just allows the pressure on your opponent to keep mounting. Combined, the return of serve and serve is worth 50% of the points scored in any match, so please pay close attention.

The purpose of the return of serve is to move the server out of center court and put them in the most difficult position to score. By moving the server out of the middle and deep in the court (35' and back) you are able to keep them from shooting effectively and consistently.

The national average of shooting effectively and consistently from 25' and up is only 30%. What do you think the percentages are from 35' and back? Higher or lower? Obviously the deeper you drop back into the court, the lower the percentage of shooting effectively and consistently, maybe down to 15?20% from 35' and back. So, with this information the receiver's job boils down to one thing, and one thing only: to get the server out of the middle and keep them deep.

## ***Sudsy's Magic Show Featuring ... Return of Serve!***



### TRICK #1: Ready Position

- Stand an arms length from the back wall (approximately 3 feet)
- Be in the down-and-ready position
- Feet wider than shoulder width apart
- Knees flexed
- Weight on balls of feet ready to push off — not flat-footed
- Body low, cat like, ready to explode to the ball
- Racquet in a relaxed backhand grip, up and ready, wrist cocked
  - Eyes on ball

Let's examine all the possible options of the basic return of serves and then discuss the best choices:

**KILL ...** If you make it you score a point. If you miss it you either leave the server up front to score or you skip it. No time for you to move into center court.

**PINCH/SPLAT ...** Same as kill.

**PASS ...** If you make it, you pull the server out of the middle and score a point at the same time. If you miss it high you have still pulled the server out of the middle and have them running back to hit the ball. If you miss low you wind up killing the



### TRICK #2: Crossover Step

- Pivot left foot
- Right foot crosses over at a 45 degree angle
- ERP (early racquet preparation) is a must — racquet should be up before your opposite foot hits the floor.

ball for a point. The pass gives you time to move into center court.

**CEILING ...** If you make it, it pulls the server out of center court and brings them deep. If you miss it, it still pulls the server out of the middle and gives you plenty of time to move into center court.

With these options, and knowing the percentages, the most logical returns of serve are the passes and the ceiling shot.

With the technical part of my magical return of serve covered, let's address what is your best choice of shots of the return of serve. Your shot selection depends on:

1. How the server relocates out of the box
2. How well the serve was hit
3. Your position and your ability level
4. Ball height, speed and angle coming at you:



### **TRICK #3: The Swing**

- Notice my racquet head drops to below shoulder level and my back is facing the right side wall and my right shoulder is pointing toward the front wall.
- Non-hitting arm is coming through for balance.
- Upper body erect.
- As I step at a slight 45 degree angle the weight shifts to a more even distribution and my belly button is now facing the side wall.
- Knees still bent.
- Feet a little wider than shoulder width apart because of the step, back foot starts to pivot and back leg is at 90 degree angle.

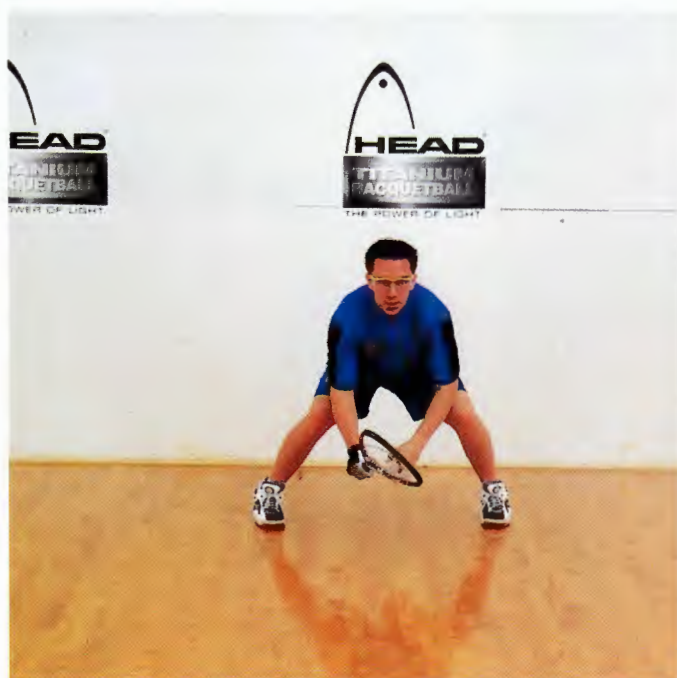
### **TRICKS #4 & #5**

#### **Contact Point & Follow-Through**

From this point on, everything remains the same as I illustrated in my magical backhand article, so review the March/April 1999 issue to brush up!



# backhand return of serve



### **TRICK #1: Ready Position**

- Stand an arms length from the back wall (approximately 3 feet)
- Be in the down-and-ready position
- Feet wider than shoulder width apart
- Knees flexed
- Weight on balls of feet ready to push off — not flat-footed
- Body low, cat like, ready to explode to the ball
- Racquet in a relaxed backhand grip, up and ready, wrist cocked
- Eyes on ball

- Ball waist high and lower — shoot to pass unless you are off-balance or jammed and then go up
- Ball chest high and higher — go to the ceiling unless you are an advanced player and can execute overheads or sidearm passes.

Percentages — remember that the percentages for shooting the ball effectively from deep in the court (where you are) are maybe 15-20%. Don't be foolish and go bottom board because you'll skip more than you make and give up easy points to the server.



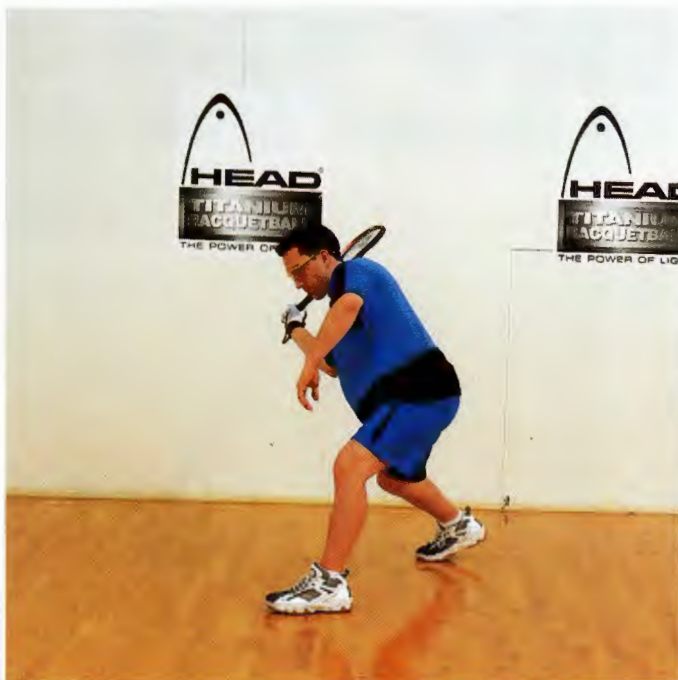
### **TRICK #2: Crossover Step**

- Pivot right foot
- Left foot crosses over straight ahead for forehand, ending at a 45-degree angle
- ERP (early racquet preparation) is a must — racquet should be up before your opposite foot hits the floor.

The return of serve is a critical part of the game both at my level as well as yours. It sets the tone and tempo of the match. Remember it's my job to get Cliff Swain out of the service box so I can gain control of center court and force him to hit from deep in the court where the error percentages are much higher. It's your job to get your opponent out of the service box as well! Remember that passes and ceilings accomplish this goal.

Well, now you have got it — my magical return of serve and magical serves. These areas are the pressure cookers at the professional level just like anywhere else. Trust me, if you spend extra time practicing these parts of the game you will undoubtedly bring your game up a level or two. I did — and who can question the #1 ranked pro player in the game today? I'm living proof this works: don't delay, start today.

See you next issue for my magical court position!



### **TRICK #3: The Swing**

- Notice as the swing begins, my racquet head drops to shoulder level (or slightly below), it's cocked back and my back is facing the left back corner as my hitting shoulder is pointing to the right back corner.
- Non-hitting arm is coming through for balance.
- Upper body erect.
- Leading with elbow.
- As I step toward the front wall the weight shifts to a more even distribution and the belly button is now facing the sidewall.
- Knees still bent.
- Feet a little wider than shoulder width apart because of the step, back foot starts to pivot and back leg is at approaching 90 degree angle.

### **TRICKS #4, #5**

#### **Contact Point & Follow-Through**

From this point on, everything remains the same as I illustrated in my magical forehand article, so review the May/June 1999 issue to brush up!



# forehand return of serve



# EKTELON®



## performance series

### Revive Your Passing Game! by Andy Roberts

In the last year of attending tournaments and conducting clinics, I've been amazed at the utter erosion of the passing game. My guess is that everyone is so enamored with the killshot and the power game that the pass shot, as an option, has become obsolete. But from beginner to pro, you must have a good passing game to round out your skills.

What is the definition of a passing shot? A passing shot normally has two forms: 1) down-the-line, and 2) cross court. The down-the-line pass travels the

length of the sidewall and bounces twice before reaching the backwall. The cross court ends up on the opposite side of the court from where it is struck (and farthest away from your opponent).

The pace at which you strike the ball dictates the height at which you aim on the front wall. For a power player hitting a pass, contact with the front wall will be lower than for a control player — because the goal is simply depth, and for the ball to bounce twice before the backwall.

What is the importance of the passing game? The passing game opens up the court and forces your

# forehand and pass options



1. With Ruben closer to the right wall (and covering down the line), Andy chooses a cross-court pass to move Ruben to the left and back.
2. With Ruben closer to the left wall (and covering the cross-court), Andy chooses a down-the-line pass to move Ruben to the right and back.
3. Look at foot position. Ruben is set up to take the down-the-line pass with his forehand.
4. Ruben opens his body toward the front wall, to take the cross-court shot.

opponent to cover the entire court as they run down your shot. I always try to establish my passing game early, similar to a football team establishing the run. Once the passing game is established it tends to 1) slow down quicker players due to indecision about which of your shots to cover; 2) take the pressure off you by not forcing you to execute low percentage rally ending shots.

A key component to any game plan is to create pressure for your opponent. An easy way to achieve this is by hitting passing shots and forcing your opponent to play balls from the deep court. By doing so, their percentage for taking a bad shot increases, while you are camped in excellent court position. Also, a passing game creates confidence since, when executing passing shots, there is no danger of skipping the ball! Remember, most amateur players skip 7-10 times per game. If you can lower that single statistic you will immediately improve your game.



# backhand pass options



Remember the general objective of racquetball is to hit the ball where your opponent is not and force them to run the farthest to reach and return the ball. When I talk to large groups I try to impress upon them the importance of learning all the different shots in the game, as well as the angles. Learn to manipulate the ball so that you can force your opponent into certain areas of the court, or to force them to execute a shot you can anticipate.

Racquetball is like chess, you must perform a series of moves and counter moves to achieve success. To achieve the success you must have a well developed game plan. And one important aspect of any game plan is a good passing game.



5. With Ruben closer to the left wall (and covering down the line), Andy chooses a cross-court pass to move Ruben to the right and back.
6. With Ruben closer to the right wall (and covering the cross-court), Andy chooses a down-the-line pass to move Ruben to the left and back.
7. Look at foot position. Ruben is set up to take the down-the-line pass with his backhand.
8. Ruben opens his body toward the front wall, to take the cross-court shot.



# Q:&A...Q&A

*I want to be able to hit a splat shot but I can't seem to make that really neat noise that the other guys make when they hit a splat. What am I doing wrong?*

Are you sure that noise isn't coming from your opponent's battle with something he ate at lunch? Sorry ... First, a splat is a type of a pinch shot, with the distinguishing factor of making a wonderful noise when it hits the front wall.

There are five key components to hitting a splat shot. If you skip any one of the steps, you won't hear that wonderful noise ... so let's look at the components of hitting a splat shot.

## **#1 The ball has to be close to the side wall**

In order to compress the ball enough to hit a splat shot, the ball should be no farther away from the side wall than about a foot. If the ball is farther away than that, you'll be able to hit a wide angle pinch, but not a splat. The ball must be very close to the side wall in order to create the necessary angle.

## **#2 Chest and feet face the side wall**

Your body can't be open, facing the front wall, if you want to hit a splat. You need to generate as much drive and power as possible, and that comes from hitting the ball sideways, like hitting a line drive in baseball.

## **#3 Step into the ball**

This is a continuation of step #2. You want to be able to drive your legs, your hips, your shoulders, your chest, your torso, everything you've got, into the shot. If the ball gets too deep or behind your body, you won't be able to hit a splat. Keep your body behind the ball and step into the shot.

## **#4 Striking the side wall 3-5 feet in front of yourself**

For the ball to travel the path of a splat shot, you need to hit the side wall in the correct area. If you are facing the side wall (step #2) look at the spot 3-5 feet in front of yourself. That is the area to which you want to aim in order to hit a splat shot.

## **#5 Hit it HARD**

Here's the simple truth...if you can't hit the ball with power, you can't hit a splat. When you hit the ball flat and hard into the side wall, it compresses. When it hits the front wall it opens up and makes that wonderful splat noise. Consequently, no power, no splat.

Good luck making "the neat noise."



**Game Plan**  
**by Lynn Adams**

**Making that Noise !**



## Head Rules by Fran Davis

### Drill for Consistency

# Q:&A...Q&A

## *How do I add consistency to my shots?*

Perfect practice makes perfect. The correct repetition of the same stroke, shot, serve or mental rehearsal will improve your consistency. By repeating the same motion over and over again you are creating what is called muscle memory.

Your body is like a computer: feed it the right type and amount of information, it will spit out the right information on command. The major differences between a novice player and a professional player is their execution and consistency level. Of course, shot selection and court position also play a major role (as we have previously discussed), but you must be able to hit the shot correctly before thinking about where to place it and where to position yourself afterward.

Drilling is a major part of becoming the best you can be. There are no shortcuts or pills. In order to achieve your goals you must put in some quality practice time on the court besides playing. A good gauge for practice is for every hour you play, practice 15 minutes. Obviously, the more quality time you put in, the quicker you will achieve consistency into practice and then eventually it will filter into your game.

### **A Five – Step Approach to Drilling**

1. **Shadow Hitting** - stand in front of a mirror and practice your correct form and technique.
2. **Drop and Hit** - be square to the side wall and drop the ball at full extension from your body, step and hit
3. **Toss, Turn and Hit** - face the front wall with a good and ready position (legs spread, bent, down and racquet in middle of stance), then toss the ball, right or left, pivot and take a cross-over step. Make sure when the cross-over leg begins its motion your racquet comes up (early racquet preparation), ready to stroke the ball.
4. **Set-Up and Hit** - set up every shot imaginable that would happen in a game and practice it over and over again (hundreds of times).
5. **Run, Set-Up and Hit** - it's the same as set up and hit, but this time you place yourself on one side of the court or the other or far enough away from the ball so you can simulate the game more closely.

Keep in mind you must first learn to crawl before you walk or run. Take it one step at a time, be diligent and remember .... Drilling can lead to success if done correctly and often. You must pay your dues ... all champions do! Good luck.



## changingtimes by Luke St. Onge

I am most happy to inform you that through the efforts of the USRA "Bring a Friend to Racquetball" promotion, we now have 440 new members signed up. Over 900 cans of balls were sent out along with 500 prizes of gloves, eyeguards, racquets, and racquetball clothing. To cap off the membership drive, a drawing was held at the Promus U.S. Open in Memphis, where Adam Kane

of Michigan was selected as the grand prize winner of two United Airline tickets anywhere United flies in the continental U.S. The final drawing was made during the semi-finals in front of a crowd of 1,200 spectators.

We're already working on a follow-up promotion for 2000 [see page 30] which will run through May and end with another airline ticket drawing at "The Finals" in Houston. It is the goal of the USRA to grow its membership by 15% by May. Can we do it? We think so, but only with your help and participation. Racquetball is your sport — help it grow by spreading the word and signing up new members!

This issue is filled with glowing reports on the Promus U.S. Open . . . deservedly so! Doug Ganim and his staff are to be congratulated on taking this event to another new level. The Open has brought back a unity and enthusiasm for racquetball that has been missing for many years. The energy from the Open has been passed on to all of the USRA's marquee events.

In Memphis I had the chance to observe not only the pro matches, but many of the amateur events, as well. Once again I noticed — as did many of our current sitting Board members — that many players opt to use cross-over products from major manufacturers that contribute

nothing to the sport of racquetball. Look at the pages of this publication to see exactly which manufacturers are committed to putting something back into the sport. If the "Nikes," and "Reeboks" can maintain a fair market share — without promoting their product lines through sponsorship and advertising directly via racquetball's major events and media— why *should* they put anything into the sport? They can let all the other, racquetball-specific equipment makers carry the burden, while they benefit from those competitors' efforts.

If you were a business under siege by a competitor trying to undermine you or take your floor space (like spinning or kick-boxing) would you support that industry? Of course not! Yet every time a player selects a non-racquetball-specific product from a company that does not support racquetball directly, that's exactly what happens. Your dollars go toward spinning, kick-boxing, or the next fad that threatens your court floor space. It's like shooting yourself in the foot.

So let's start this year out right and support those who are dedicated to the racquetball industry. We can — and should — send the message that we are loyal consumers. If we can succeed in making that simple statement, those "other" equipment makers may even begin to take notice of racquetball as the viable market that it easily can be — and they'll follow suit by supporting events and perhaps even sponsoring a player or two. Maybe you?

*Jon Root and Glenn Norman of Omega Networks finalize an internet broadcasting contract with USRA Executive Director Luke St. Onge. The company will produce both competitive and instructional internet content for racquetball in 2000 @ [ticket2sports.com](http://ticket2sports.com)*



## Tim Radder: In Memoriam

*Submitted by Rene Hehemann*

On Saturday evening of October 16, Tim Radder passed away in London, England at the age of 36. The previous day Tim, accompanied by his girlfriend Wendy Hackett (general-secretary of the Great Britain Racquetball Federation) and his brother Erik, had taken the ferry from the Netherlands to England. Tim and Wendy had decided to spend the rest of their lives together in England, and they and Tim's brother were moving his things to his new destination in a small van.

In the late afternoon of the first day after unpacking, Tim decided to show his brother around London town. In the four years Wendy and Tim had known each other, Tim had visited England six times each year and knew his way around the capital. But Tim was not feeling well that day, which he explained in part by having had a busy two days. When the brothers returned home early that evening, Wendy saw right away that Tim was not looking good. She advised him to go to bed early, but after about half an hour Tim woke up having trouble breathing. A doctor and an ambulance were called, but his heart could not overcome his asthma attack and he passed away that night. Tragically, his future in England with Wendy had lasted less than 24 hours.

Tim began playing racquetball in 1980, when he was a sixteen-year-old who attended the opening of Racketcenter De Leyens in Zoetermeer and was immediately caught by our sport. He became one of the very first members of the club and remained active there until four days before going to England. On



Tim Radder, pictured with a young Sudsy Monchik during a Junior Team Trip. Photo: Rene Hehemann.

that last Tuesday evening, Tim solemnly swore to return regularly to Zoetermeer, see his friends and play racquetball.

Over the years Tim had been a regular traveller to tournaments around Europe, occasionally accompanying the national team to European Championships and once attended the 1992 World Championships in Montreal. He always helped out as much as he could — it was his way of making friends around the world. He assisted with the Floriade Tournament, the World Games, and when national teams from the USA and Canada came to visit the Netherlands, he was always around.

When Tim was present, there was never a dull moment. He was always cheerful and with the way he played with words, he frequently got people wrong-footed and in a laughing mood. With these wordgames and cheerful mood, he also had been hiding the asthma that later claimed his life. I vividly

remember the tournament in the early eighties, when Tim and I went to Switzerland and England and the great time we had. Four years ago he met Wendy during the European Championships in Ireland, and the two had grown closer and closer. To my knowledge, they were the first European racquetball-couple.

On the day of Tim's cremation, over 140 family, relations, friends and colleagues came to pay their last respects. He leaves a huge emptiness in the lives of racquetball friends from Belgium Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands and world-wide. For his family and Wendy, this is an incredibly tragic loss. But Tim will always be remembered — especially on the last weekend in May, when the Gemini Open will be played (his initiative!). There I hope to see that the main award in the Men's Open in this event, will be named in his honor. For myself, I will always remember that Tim taught me the ropes of racquetball. I thank him for being my friend.

## Japan Nationals

*Submitted by Yasushi Tanahara*

At the Men's 20th & Women's 18th Japan National Racquetball Championship, more than 400 players participated at the regional qualifiers, and 72 men and 32 women who survived those elimination matches gathered at Sports Club Together in Fukuoka city. This was the first National to be held in Kyushu, the southern end of Japanese Islands, and many local racquetball fans enjoyed watching the heated matches of top players. There were also two newspapers that covered the event.

In the men's division, No.2 seeded Hasegawa defeated the former



national champion Sakai to win his first national title in his 15 years of racquetball career. Also, Yasuda won her long awaited first title in the women's division. Both players got the ticket to the world championship which will be held in Mexico next year.

**Men's result:** Bunya Hasegawa def. Shoichi Sakai; 3. Tadayosi Kawai; 4. Yoshihiko Higasi

**Women's result:** Shigemi Yasuda def. Yoko Mukai; 3. Etuko Noda; 4. Toshiko Sakamoto

## University of Southern Colorado Takes Mexico!

*From material by Richard Krinsky & Harvey Brannigan*

Eight members of the USC men's collegiate national champion racquetball team were invited in late September to play in a dual meet against a team of Mexican all-stars composed of members of the Mexican National and Pan-Am teams in Chihuahua, Mexico.

The much-heralded tournament was scheduled as an inaugural event for the grand opening of a new

court facility in Chihuahua. The USC team visited the Governor of Chihuahua's office on Friday morning, followed by formal opening ceremonies later that afternoon and match play beginning at 5:00 PM. The finals were played on Saturday evening followed by a banquet and the awarding of the Friendship Cup.

Each team member played two singles and one doubles match. Players were seeded 1-8 and paired against opponents of the same ranking. The USC squad won the tournament with victories in ten of the singles matches and five of the doubles. The new facility had glass back walls with stadium seating for 250 people per court, and all of the matches were sold out.

The trip to Chihuahua was a homecoming of sorts for four of the USC players who are from Chihuahua; Luis "Nacho" Bustillos, Sam Menache, Erwin Bernal, and Jesus "Chucho" Gutierrez. Bustillos played for Mexico in the Pan-Am games this summer and the other three players are either past or present members of the Mexican Junior National Team.

The USC team was led by top player Erin Brannigan, a junior from Sandpoint, Idaho. According to USC coach, Richard Krinsky, "Brannigan had a great tournament."

He defeated the long time Mexican National Champion Alvaro Maldonado in straight games, 15-8, 15-8 on Friday, then defeated the No.2 ranked Mexican, Enrique Esarza, 15-10, 15-11 on Saturday. He wrapped up the event by teaming with Bustillos to defeat the Mexican doubles team of Maldonado and Esarza, 15-10, 14-15, 11-10. Next year the Mexican Team will travel to Pueblo, Colorado to attempt to recapture the Friendship Cup.

## European Racquetball Tour & Websites

The European Racquetball Federation has announced the first European Racquetball Tour, with a new schedule, new rankings and two web sites dedicated to its promotion. Two top European players — Pascal Matla from Holland (calendar and rules commissioner) and Philippe Lecomte from France (rankings and results commissioner) — will be working on this major project. They would be pleased to share ERT news with other websites, and promote European Racquetball with results, rankings, news, pictures from their events.

Contact them online via:  
Pascal Matla  
[k.matla@worldonline.nl](mailto:k.matla@worldonline.nl)  
<http://home.worldonline.nl/~kmatla/Index.htm>

Philippe Lecomte  
[Racquetball.Plus@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Racquetball.Plus@wanadoo.fr)  
<http://assoc.wanadoo.fr/racquetball.plus/summary.htm>



Luis "Nacho" Bustillos and Susana Acosta enjoyed the International Reception at the Promus U.S. OPEN.  
Photo: Vicki Hughes.

# rb:people & places



## << Sadie Weds

On August 14, former Junior Team member and national titlist Sadie Gross became Mrs. Scott Hall in her hometown of Yankton, South Dakota. The newlyweds will reside in Memphis, where Sadie is completing the MBA program at the University of Memphis. The groom is a Memphis native who works as a sales representative and financial planner in the west Tennessee region.

## College Athletes Start Season

by Pat Bernardo

The ECRC (Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference) got its season underway at the University of Maryland this year, where over 130 collegiate players from all over the east coast gathered for this weekend meet. The Men's #1 finals saw Daniel Escobar from the University of Georgia against Jason Sylvester from Penn State. Mr. Sylvester took the crown. In the women's division it was an all Penn State finals with Bridget Todd playing Kelly Lyon. Ms. Todd came away the winner. Penn State swept up the team competition to boot!



With twelve courts, over 300 matches and a heavyweight championship fight all to finish before high noon on Sunday, we have Paula Pero and the University of Maryland to thank! At least, for me, it was no sweat! Complete ECRC team standings, 1999-2000 schedule and other information can be found at [www.Racquetworld.com/ECRC/](http://www.Racquetworld.com/ECRC/)

## << Cohen's New Look Dared on Denver Radio Station

Prior to the Colorado State Doubles Championships, Joe Cohen made a special appearance on a Denver radio station. While on the show, 49-year-old Cohen explained that his partner at the championships would be 13-year-old Tim Bjorkman. In an earlier tournament, the duo made it to the semifinals, but the nationally-ranked junior was used to *winning* tournaments, and was ready to lose his older partner until Cohen sweetened the pot. As part of the pair's agreement to play together at State Doubles, Cohen agreed to shave his beard (which he'd worn for 21 years), plus dye his hair blonde and spike it.



## << Baby, Baby, Baby!

Baby fever has hit the racquetball circuit. Former-racquetball all-star Michelle Gould and her husband Rod are expecting their first child in mid-January. IRT player Derek Robinson and his wife Tina are expecting their first child not long into the new year as well. Top-ranked IRT player Sudsy Monchik was spreading the good news at the U.S. OPEN that he and wife Lisa just found out they will be expecting a bundle of joy this summer, as well.

<< Dave and Lisa Peck had a first-rate Thanksgiving, with the birth of their first child, son Grayson. Dave's announcement read: "Here is why we are giving "thanks." His name is Grayson Heuer Peck, born on 11/16/99, weighing in at 7.5 lbs - 19 inches long. Laura is doing great and Grayson is surviving Dad being a spaz." Congratulations and best of luck!



## Good Knight!

by Jay Aimis  
Sunrise Florida

For my 60th birthday, my cousin said he would do something completely "off the wall" for me. I have had 12 surgeries, five on one knee and four on the other, one shoulder, one elbow, and one heel spur. He went ahead and got my records from my

orthopedic surgeon and put together this "Knight In Shining Armor" to protect my body from any more injuries. Every part of my body that had surgery was labeled with what kind of surgery plus the dates.

## Look Who's In The News...

At U.S. National Doubles Championships, Jeff Conine showed the city of Baltimore that he can hit something other than baseballs. Jeff and his wife Cindy were the focus of much of the media's attention at the championships, with the two being highlighted on both local and national television. Jeff also made a guest appear-

ance on a Baltimore sports radio show during the tourney... The U.S. OPEN was the highlight of much of the Memphis media's attention, as well as media across the country. Thanks to a hard-working group of interns from the University of Memphis, newspapers from across the country were running U.S. OPEN results daily [see page 22]. Their efforts even crossed the border northward, where U.S. OPEN athletes were featured guests on radio sports shows. In Memphis, Jason Mannino and Sudsy Monchik assisted with one of WHBQ-AM 560's sports call in shows. During a live remote, Mannino and Monchik took calls throughout a two-hour broadcast. Monchik was also busy making the rounds of Memphis radio stations. He made an appearance on WMC-AM 790 sports call-in show, and WEGR-FM 102.7 morning show, where his lively spirit had him dishing out the dirt as fast as the hosts could take fun shots at him. All five of the local television stations were also giving daily reports on the U.S. OPEN. CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX and UPN all had camera crews in attendance daily during the event. Michael Eves, with ABC-affiliate WPTY, also did a special piece on Jason Mannino and his battle back from a life-threatening car accident. Once again this year, ESPN was on hand to tape the finals of the U.S. OPEN, which will be broadcast in early February on ESPN2... Jo Kenyon was the topic of a feature article in the Tallahassee Democrat after winning yet another title at the World Senior Championships in Albuquerque, N.M.

## AmPRO Instructor Certification Clinic Schedule

Date .....	Host Club .....	City/State .....	Clinician.....	Contact .....
January 18-19.....	Pikes Peak Downtown YMCA .....	Colorado Springs, CO .....	Gary Mazaroff .....	505-266-8960
February 24-26.....	LA Fitness.....	Tempe, AZ .....	Joe Wittenbrink.....	480-883-1010
March 10-12.....	Ft. Myers Army Post .....	Ft. Myers, VA .....	Gary Mazaroff .....	505-266-8960
March 14-15 .....	Tyson's Sport & Health.....	McLean, VA .....	Gary Mazaroff .....	505-266-8960

*For more information about conducting an AmPRO Instructor Certification clinic, or about becoming certified, please contact Gary Mazaroff [Director of AmPRO Instructor Certification] at 505/266-8960, email [GMazaroff@usra.org](mailto:GMazaroff@usra.org), or contact any of the clinicians listed in the directory below — each of whom are qualified to offer clinics in your area!*

Clinician Directory .....	State of Residence/Region Served .....	Contact .....
Lorraine Galloway.....	New York/New England .....	718-739-4629
Dave George.....	California/Northern California, Nevada .....	650-589-6904
Jim Gillhouse.....	Colorado/Rocky Mountain .....	719-471-0799
Gary Mazaroff.....	Mexico/At Large .....	505-266-8960
Carol Pellowski .....	Wisconsin.....	414-486-0914
Ed Remen .....	North Carolina/Southeast, Mid-Atlantic .....	919-363-4439
Fielding Snow.....	Washington/Pacific Northwest .....	206-363-0308
Darryl Warren.....	California/Southern California.....	310-530-9606
David Watson .....	Okalhoma/Central States .....	918-540-3503
Jim Winterton .....	New York/Northeast, New England .....	315-426-9204
Joe Wittenbrink .....	Arizona.....	480-883-1010
Ken Woodfin.....	Texas.....	281-280-8408

**AmPRO Instructors! Check your online directory listing for accuracy! Follow links from [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org) | "AmPRO" | "Instructors" to see if we have your most recent contact information, then email us corrections, if needed!**

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Item #LS-04 (United States)

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Item #TS-11 (Genuine) White, Ash  
Item #TS-12 (United States) Navy, White, Ash  
Item #TS-13 (USRA) Light Steel, White  
Item #TS-14 (Racquetball) Purple, Forest, Black

**SHORTS.** 100% preshrunk cotton. Heather, Black. \$20.00 M-XL. [No XXL] Item #SH-21

## EMBROIDERED — FACING PAGE ...

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**CREWNECK SHERPA FLEECE.** Heather, Charcoal. 65% Cotton, 35% poly. \$49.00 M-XL [\$53.00 XXL] Item #FL-33

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# **national event tipsheet!** *just the basics for planning ...*



## **WILSON 13<sup>TH</sup> USRA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**MARCH 3-5**

**The Concord Club**

**12320 Old Tesson Road**

**St. Louis, MO • 314-842-3111**

- ENTRY FEES: \$45.00/1st, \$20.00/2nd, \$15.00/3rd.
- DIVISIONS: Singles, doubles and mixed doubles. In doubles, both players must be from the same school, except in the non-championship mixed doubles event.
- ENTRY DEADLINE: Friday, FEBRUARY 18, (postmarked by 02/16).
- STARTING TIMES: 314-842-3111 after 5:00 pm (Central Time) on Wednesday, MARCH 1. Do not call the national office for starting times!
- PLAY BEGINS: Matches may be scheduled to begin as early as 9:00 am on Friday, MARCH 3. Local players may be scheduled to begin play on Thursday evening.
- CHECK IN: Registration will be held at the club from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Thursday, MARCH 2, plus all day on Friday.
- GROUND TRANSPORTATION: You must arrange your own ground transportation on arrival at the airport. The host hotel will provide shuttle service between the hotel and venue during tournament hours.
- LODGING: Holiday Inn-South County Center [314-892-3600] 6921 South Lindbergh Blvd. Rate: \$68.00 per night for up to four persons per room. Mention the High School Championship to receive the special tournament rate.
- OFFICIAL BALL: Pro Penn.

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## **E-FORCE 28<sup>TH</sup> WORLD INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**APRIL 5-9**

**Arizona Athletic Club**

**1425 West 14th Street**

**Tempe, AZ 95281 • 480-894-2281**

- ENTRY FEES: \$60.00/1st, \$20.00/2nd [per person]
- DIVISIONS: Men's Team-Singles #1,#2,#3,#4,#5,#6 and Doubles #1,#2,#3. Women's Team-Singles #1,#2,#3,#4, #5,#6 and Doubles #1,#2,#3. Only one men's team and one women's team will be permitted per school.
- ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, MARCH 20 (postmarked by 03/18). Entry fees and registrar eligibility form must accompany entry.
- STARTING TIMES: Available by calling 480-894-2281 after 5:00 pm (Mountain Time) on Monday, APRIL 3. Do not call the national office for starting times.
- PLAY BEGINS: 8:00 am Wednesday, APRIL 7. No exceptions.
- CHECK-IN: Registration will be held at the club beginning at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, APRIL 4.
- GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Both host hotels offer shuttle service to and from airport.
- LODGING: Rodeway Inn-Tempe [480-967-3000] 1550 South 52nd Street. Rate: \$75.00/night (includes continental breakfast). Comfort Suites [480-446-9500] w/fridge, microwave, 27" TVs. 1625 South 52nd Street. Rate: \$80.00/night (includes continental breakfast). You must mention World Intercollegiate to receive these special tournament rates.
- OFFICIAL BALL: Pro Penn.

**... for complete entry forms, call 719-635-5396 or go online to:  
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Tech Spin	380'	15L	46.50	42.50	37.50
Syn Gut Ultra-Fibre	380'	15, 16, 17, 18	32.50	30.50	28.50
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## january ...

January 21-23	Alliance YMCA Rollout @ Alliance YMCA . . . . . Alliance, NE	308-762-2201
	Big Chill @ Northwest Fitness Center . . . . . Houston, TX	713-432-0881
	Hall of Fame @ Central Courts . . . . . Columbia Heights, MN	612-572-0330
	Long Island Classic @ Sportset-R.V.C. . . . . Rockville Centre, NY	516-754-4564
	Mitch Nathanson Classic @ Manchester Executive . . . . . Manchester, NH	603-641-6116
	Smash & Splash @ Green River Rec Center . . . . . Green River, WY	307-872-0511
	Super 6 @ Arizona Athletic Club . . . . . Tempe, AZ	480-730-8156
	Women's Senior/Master Association Championships [3] . . . . . Baltimore, MD	410-655-7958
January 22-23	Junior Stop #3 @ Pro Club . . . . . Bellevue, WA	425-861-6285
January 26-29	Alaska State High School Champ @ The Alaska Club East [3] . . . . . Anchorage, AK	907-337-9550
	Total Fitness 2000 @ Total Fitness Center . . . . . Ogden, UT	801-399-5861
January 27-30	Greeley Spa Shootout @ Conditioning Spa . . . . . Greeley, CO	970-352-0974
January 28-30	Delaware State Doubles @ Kirkwood Fitness & Racquet Club [3] . . . . . Wilmington, DE	302-478-7919
	Ektelon Metro Plex @ Maverick Athletic Club . . . . . Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
	Hog Classic @ Omega 40 . . . . . Ormond Beach, FL	904-672-4044
	Meals On Wheels Benefit @ Gold's Gym . . . . . DeWitt, NY	315-446-0376
	Snowball Classic @ Fitness Forum . . . . . Sanford, ME	207-324-1154
	Sycamore Open @ Indiana State University . . . . . Terre Haute, IN	812-235-3701
	The Froggy Open @ Nautilus Fitness Center . . . . . Erie, PA	814-868-0072
	West Texas Gold Rush @ Gold's Gym . . . . . Amarillo, TX	806-359-5438
	7th Annual Rochester Pro-Am @ Rochester Athletic Club . . . . . Rochester, MN	507-282-6000

## february ...

February 2-6	Fitness Center Invitational @ The Fitness Center . . . . . Gallup, NM	505-722-5871
February 4-6	February Fever @ Concord Sports Club . . . . . St. Louis, MO	314-842-6363
	February Madness @ North Jeffco Racquet & Fitness . . . . . Arvada, CO	303-403-2581
	Idaho State Doubles @ Fitness Inc [3] . . . . . Pocatello, ID	208-233-8035
	Longhorn Open @ University Of Texas . . . . . Austin, TX	512-407-9449
	North Carolina Open Championship @ Sport Time . . . . . Greensboro, NC	919-275-1391
	Players Tournament @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet . . . . . Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Pro-Am Tournament @ Harbor Square Athletic Club . . . . . Edmonds, WA	425-778-3546
	Pro Kennex Super Six Stop #5 @ Southview Athletic ClubWest . . . . . St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	Shapes Open @ Shapes Family Fitness Center . . . . . Watertown, NY	315-782-9348
	The Icicle Open @ Allentown Racquet Club . . . . . Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
	Valentine Open @ Bristol Hosp. Wellness Center . . . . . Bristol, CT	203-248-1869
	Wintergreen Classic @ Laurel Sport Fit-Racquet . . . . . Laurel, MD	410-987-0980
	WNY Open @ Bally Total Fitness . . . . . Amherst, NY	716-743-1852
	Y2K Racquetball Rollout @ LA Fitness . . . . . Pembroke Pines, FL	305-279-2188
February 5	2nd Annual New York City ProAm @ BQE . . . . . Woodside, NY	718-429-8489
February 5-6	Quad West 1-Day Singles Warmup @ Quad West . . . . . Clearwater, FL	727-535-4901
February 8-12	Total Sports Annual @ Total Sports . . . . . Harrison TWP, MI	810-463-2000
February 9-13	St. Valentine's Day Massacre @ Redwood Multi-Purpose Center . . . . . West Valley City, UT	801-887-2949
February 11-13	Valentine Doubles @ The Alaska Club Midtown . . . . . Anchorage, AK	907-337-9550
	Decathlon Pro-Am @ Decathlon Athletic Club . . . . . Bloomington, MN	612-854-7171
	Sportscenter Shootout 2000 @ Sportscenter Athletic Club . . . . . Lake Wylie, SC	803-831-8331
	Valentine Ball @ Sheridan County YMCA . . . . . Sheridan, WY	307-674-7488
	Valentine Double Trouble @ Alpha Athletic Club . . . . . Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
	Valentines Tourney @ Racquetball International . . . . . Windham, ME	207-892-3231
	22nd Indy Open @ Noblesville Athletic Club . . . . . Noblesville, IN	317-255-3321
February 16-18	Alsport Open @ Rawlins Rec Center . . . . . Rawlins, WY	307-328-4573
February 16-19	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational [5] . . . . . Fountain Valley, CA	602-849-6298
February 17-20	Aurora City Open @ Colorado Athletic Club . . . . . Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
	IRT Michael Lanning Benefit @ Highway 100 Northwest A/C . . . . . Brooklyn Center, MN	612-920-6652
	Mid-Winter Classic Doubles @ Fairbanks Athletic Club . . . . . Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
	Missouri State Singles @ Missouri Athletic Club West [3] . . . . . St. Louis, MO	314-539-4428
February 18-20	Cortland College Shootout @ Cortland College . . . . . Cortland, NY	315-782-1500
	Junior Regional @ Northwest Fitness Center [4] . . . . . Houston, TX	713-432-0881
	Meadow City Racquetball Tournament @ Wilson Complex - NMHU . . . . . Las Vegas, NM	505-454-0146
	Metro New York Open @ Sportset-R.V.C. . . . . Rockville Centre, NY	516-754-4564
	Washington State Singles @ Valley Athletic Club [3] . . . . . Tumwater, WA	360-352-3400

# sanctioned • event • calendar • sanctioned • event • calendar sanctioned • event • calendar • sanctioned • event • calendar sanctioned • event • calendar • sanctioned • event • calendar

February 19-21	7th Annual Winter Classic @ American Family Fitness . . . . .	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400
February 24-27	Lucent Quest Tournament @ McDermotts Athletic Club . . . . .	West Chester, PA	610-436-6200
	Lynmar's Pre State Tournament @ Lynmar Athletic . . . . .	Colorado Springs, CO	719-598-4069
February 25-27	Midtown Racquetball Open @ Midtown Sports & Wellness . . . . .	Albuquerque, NM	505-897-2076
	Adirondack Open @ Glens Falls Family YMCA . . . . .	Glens Falls, NY	518-793-3878
	End of Winter Inspirational @ White Bear Athletic Club . . . . .	White Bear Lake, MN	651-426-1308
	Fayetteville Classic @ The Sport Center . . . . .	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3200
	Grand Island YMCA Open @ Grand Island YMCA . . . . .	Grand Island, NE	308-381-2516
	Vermont State Singles @ Racquet's Edge [3] . . . . .	Essex Jct, VT	802-878-7033
February 26-27	Winter Classic @ La Camarilla Racquet & Fitness . . . . .	Scottsdale, AZ	480-730-8156
Feb. 29-March 1	Players Club Challenge @ Players Club . . . . .	Warren, MI	810-774-6900
	Spring Smash @ Marv Jensen Recreation Center . . . . .	South Jordan, UT	801-253-4404

## march ...

March 3-5	Ball Buster @ Fitness Inc. . . . .	Pocatello, ID	208-233-8035
	Connecticut State Singles @ Downtown Health & Racquet Club [3] . . . . .	New Haven, CT	203-248-1869
	Ewers Senior/Masters @ YMCA [3] . . . . .	Jefferson City, MO	573-635-4181
	Maine State Doubles @ Racquetball International [3] . . . . .	Windham, ME	207-892-3231
	Maryland/DC State Singles @ Merritt Athletic - Security [3] . . . . .	Baltimore, MD	410-987-0980
	Omni 41 Amatulli Open @ Omni 41 . . . . .	Schererville, IN	219-865-6969
	Pennsylvania State Singles @ Penn State University [3] . . . . .	State College, PA	610-892-6997
	Quad West Spring Classic @ Quad West . . . . .	Clearwater, FL	727-535-4901
	Rhode Island State Singles @ River Bend Athletic Club [3] . . . . .	Peace Dale, RI	401-789-9585
	Scottsbluff YMCA Open @ Scottsbluff YMCA . . . . .	Scottsbluff, NE	308-635-2318
	Wilson Doubles @ Central Courts . . . . .	Columbia Heights, MN	612-572-0330
	Wilson 13th USRA National High School Championships [6] . . . . .	St. Louis, MO	719-635-5396
March 4-6	Kidsport Mixed Doubles @ Sport 'N' Scoops . . . . .	NY	315-782-1500
March 10-11	March Madness Open @ Shelby County Athletic Club . . . . .	Shelbyville, IN	317-897-5481
March 10-12	New York State Singles @ Court Club [3] . . . . .	Albany, NY	518-438-3935
	Northwest Open @ Bellingham Athletic Club . . . . .	Bellingham, WA	360-676-1800
	Pulse Athletic Club Open . . . . .	Greenville, NC	252-756-9175
	Texas State Singles @ Maverick Athletic Club [3] . . . . .	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
	Wyoming State Juniors @ Green River Rec Center [3] . . . . .	Green River, WY	307-872-0511
	17th Annual UCP @ Suburban Racquetball Club . . . . .	St. Cloud, MN	320-251-3965
March 11-12	Madison Athletic Club Annual @ Madison Athletic Club . . . . .	Madison Heights, MI	248-589-0900
March 14-18	Luck Of The Heights @ Cottonwood Heights Rec Center . . . . .	Salt Lake City, UT	801-943-9673
March 15-19	Alaska State Doubles @ Fairbanks Athletic Club [3] . . . . .	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
March 17-18	Idaho State Singles @ 24 Hour Fitness [3] . . . . .	Boise, ID	208-377-0040
March 17-19	Delaware State Singles @ Kirkwood Fitness & Racquet Club [3] . . . . .	Wilmington, DE	302-478-7919
	Green Mountain Open @ Racquet's Edge . . . . .	Essex Jct, VT	802-878-7033
	Nebraska State Singles @ Sports Courts [3] . . . . .	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
	Pro Kennex Super Six Stop #6 @ Southview Athletic Club . . . . .	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	St. Patrick's Day Classic @ Racket & Fitness Center . . . . .	Portland, ME	207-775-6128
	St. Patrick's Festival @ Clovis Community College . . . . .	Clovis, NM	505-769-4153
	Wyoming State Singles @ Wyoming Athletic Club [3] . . . . .	Casper, WY	307-265-6928
March 18-20	Shapes Racquetball Open @ Shapes Family Fitness Center . . . . .	Watertown, NY	315-782-9348

## upcoming 2000 national & international events ...

January 20-23	USRA Leadership Conference . . . . .	U.S. Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396
January 21-23	Women's Senior/Master Racquetball Association Championship [5] . . . . .	Baltimore, MD	410-655-7958
February 16-19	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Championship [5] . . . . .	Fountain Valley, CA	816-229-1300
March 3-5	Wilson 13th USRA National High School Championships [6] . . . . .	St. Louis, MO	719-635-5396
April 5-9	E-Force 28th IRF World Intercollegiate Championships [5] . . . . .	TBA	719-635-5396
April 13-16	Ektelon USRA Regional Championships [4] . . . . .	Nationwide	719-635-5396
April 14-23	PARC Tournament of the Americas . . . . .	Cochabamba, Bolivia	719-635-5396
May 24-29	Ektelon 33rd USRA National Singles Championships [6] . . . . .	Houston, Texas	719-635-5396
June 24-28	Head 27th USRA Junior Olympic Championships [6] . . . . .	Minneapolis, MN	719-635-5396

• For all sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)

• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 02/00, you must renew your membership in the month of February in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

## men

### Men's Open

1. Mike Locker, MN
2. Adam Karp, CA
3. Dan Llacera, DE
4. Michael Bronfeld, CA
- 5T. John Davis, LA
- 5T. Brian Fredenberg, TX
- 7T. Doug Ganim, OH
- 7T. Todd O'Neil, TX
9. Matt Gehling, MD
10. Jeffrey Garner, AL

### Men's A

1. Barney Revuelta, TX
2. David Ghio, CA
3. Mike Cole, NH
4. Sanjay Laforest, NY
5. Travis Woodbury, VA
6. Doug Brehm, TN
7. Peter Smith, CO
8. Jeff Hamilton, OH
9. Brian Mathieu, LA
10. Eric Rieman, IL

### Men's B

1. Ryan Lindell, OR
2. Eddie Pavloski, TX
3. Angelo Perilli, PA
4. Tony Garcia, TX
5. Felix Marrero, LA
6. Bill Boada, LA
7. Dan Shupsky, FL
- 8T. Rob Bultinck, MN
- 8T. Joe Dornier, FL
10. Joe Bonavita, DE

### Men's C

1. Peter Michael, TX
2. Donnie Crowe, LA
3. Craig Sparks, AZ
4. Matt Clark, IA
5. Wes McDonald, LA
- 6T. Bruce Schaff, CO
- 6T. Andy Silva, FL
- 8T. Arturo Burruel, TX
- 8T. Todd Christopherson, MN
- 8T. Eric Fritchley, OH

### Men's D

1. Jerry Buchanan, LA
2. Ryan Kinnaman, AR
3. Garry Carter, CA
4. David Eaton, OH
5. Bradley Vaughan, NC
6. Matt Stroup, NJ
7. Kris Robinson, KY
8. Dan Robison, UT
- 9T. Emmanuel Drege, TX
- 9T. Mike Keddie, NH

### Men's Novice

1. Bobby Lavelle, OH
2. Carlos Guzman, TX
- 3T. Chad Chaloux, NH
- 3T. Christopher Nichols, AR

5. Tavares Patton, NY
6. Robert Lee, NM
- 7T. Felix Ruiz, NJ
- 7T. Not a Member, AZ
- 9T. Craig Mirsky, PA
- 9T. Ari Post, VA

### Men's 24-

- 1T. Jeffrey Garner, AL
- 1T. Jack Huczek, MI
- 3T. Ryan Homa, WI
- 3T. Jack Long, TX
5. Kyle Veenstra, WI
- 6T. Brad Hansen, IA
- 6T. Josh Tucker, MO
- 6T. Dan Whitley, MO
9. Mike Harmon, FL
10. Bart Crawford, OR

### Men's 25+

1. Sameer Hadid, CA
2. Rob DeJesus, AZ
3. Russ Bruns, VA
4. Barney Revuelta, TX
5. Scott Grunin, NY
- 6T. Jeff Arnett, MO
- 6T. Fabian Balmori, FL
- 6T. Mike Locker, MN
- 6T. Chris Zalegowski, NH
10. Al Schof, LA

### Men's 30+

1. John Davis, LA
2. John Collison, DE
3. Jeff Bell, AZ
4. Brad McCuniff, IA
5. Not a Member, NC
6. Hector Capo, FL
7. David Smith, GA
- 8T. Jim Frautschi, MN
- 8T. David Watson, OK
10. Ira Holland, VA

### Men's 35+

1. Bobby Haab, CT
2. David Lockridge, GA
3. Jimmy Lowe, WA
4. Mitch Smith, PA
5. Dave Negrete, IL
6. Bill Serafin, NJ
7. Gary Tanko, WI
8. Dave Eagle, OH
- 9T. Not a Member, TX
- 9T. Greg Hayenga, MN

### Men's 40+

1. Don Ott, IN
2. Walter Schramm, NY
3. Tom Travers, OH
4. Roger Miller, VA
5. Patrick Gibson, TX
- 6T. Michael Anderson, MI
- 6T. Gary Tanko, WI
8. Steve Simpson, MD
- 9T. Greg Diaz, FL
- 9T. Dan Hardan, WA

### Men's 45+

1. Gary Mazaroff, NM
2. Denny Vincent, OH
3. Steve Silverman, SC
4. Tom Weniger, CA
5. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
6. Russ Palazzo, CT
- 7T. Ed Garabedian, PA
- 7T. Jesus Moctezuma, TX
- 7T. Dominic Palmieri, OH
- 7T. Tom Travers, OH

### Men's 50+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Greg Hasty, IL
3. Ed Remen, NC
4. Jim Bailey, VA
5. Tom McKie, TX
6. Ron Galbreath, PA
7. Dan Davis, TX
- 8T. Dave Arnold, NM
- 8T. Kevin Dorr, MD
10. Mark Daigle, NY

### Men's 55+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Ray Huss, OH
3. Warren Reuther, LA
4. Dennis O'Brien, ID
5. Len Wilson, PA
6. Ron Galbreath, PA
7. Jim Trammell, MO
8. G. Kyle Smith, TX
9. Mickey Bellah, CA
10. Bob Coe, TX

### Men's 60+

1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Jim Wilking, UT
3. Rex Lawler, IN
4. Charlie Garfinkel, NY
5. Ron Adams, CA
6. Grant Morrill, PA
7. Jerry Holly, CA
8. George Wade, MO
9. Dario Mas, DE
10. Jerry Northwood, AZ

### Men's 65+

1. Don Alt, FL
2. Not a Member, OH
3. Not a Member, CA
4. Paul Banales, AZ
5. John O'Donnell, IL
6. Don Maxey, TX
7. Robert Miller, SC
- 8T. Jim Dunn, CA
- 8T. Skip Kiphart, TX
- 8T. Bob Kleinschmidt, MN

### Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Barney Friesth, SD
3. Philip Dziuk, IL
4. Bill Reese, TX
5. Victor Sacco, NY
6. Chuck Matarano, IL
- 7T. Carl Buschner, MA

- 7T. Mal Roberts, FL
9. Chuck Lake, VA
10. Stan Fugate, FL

### Men's 75+

1. Nick Sans, CA
2. Earl Acuff, NC
- 3T. Robert McAdam, TX
- 3T. Cam Snowberger, SC
5. J.W. Studak, TX
6. Al Romero, NM
7. Bill Matotan, NM
8. Lake Westphal, AZ
9. Myron Friedman, ME
10. Carlton Appleby, CA

### Men's 80+

1. George Spear, FL
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Charlie Russell, CA
4. Ben Marshall, TX
5. C. Allen Shepherd, MD
6. Harry Steinman, MD
7. Bill Sherman, TX

### Men's 85+

1. Harry Steinman, MD

## women

### Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
- 2T. Laura Fenton, KS
- 2T. Denise Mock, TX
4. Kerri Stoffregen, IL
- 5T. Sadie Gross, TN
- 5T. Robin Levine, CA
7. Debbie Spica, LA
8. Carol Kriegler, MN
- 9T. Ann Hemphill, AL
- 9T. Kristen Walsh, UT

### Women's A

1. Esther McNany, CT
2. Janel Tisinger, CA
3. Sharon Steele, SC
4. Not a Member, VA
- 5T. Shirley Parsons, CO
- 5T. Sheri Zappala, NY
7. Lori Edmonds, NE
8. Patrice Calvi, IL
- 9T. Kathy Cornell, MD
- 9T. Kathy Ropers, LA

### Women's B

- 1T. Michelle Poage, AK
- 1T. Diane Taylor-Whitman, MA
3. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
4. Kathy Welker, TX
5. Rhonda Kochis, OK
6. Renee Kemp, MD
7. Charlotte Kochersperger, PA
8. Catherine Radloff, IL
9. Bette Miller, CO
10. LaVonne Kohlhepp, WI

### Women's C

1. Cheryl Kirk, IL
2. Beth Rist, LA
3. Janice Kennedy, GA
4. Alice Avchen, FL
5. Sharon Curran-Wilks, NC
- 6T. Angela Cook, PA
- 6T. Gail Gabrysh, TX
- 6T. Stephanie Guthrie, GA
- 9T. Anne DeBose, TX
- 9T. Lynn Hiorns, IL

### Women's D

1. Pamela Trent, MD
2. Ramona Vonondarza, FL
3. Samaria Bennett, TX
4. Gretchen Gobar, NH
5. Sunshine Dryer, OK
6. Gennie Salinas, TX
7. K. McCloskey-Romero, NM
- 8T. Lisa Crispin, CA
- 8T. Rita Derr, CO
- 8T. Sandy Jenkins, WI

### Women's Novice

1. Gretchen Gobar, NH
2. Nancy Bennett, PA
- 3T. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
- 3T. Kelly Parker, ID
- 3T. Gena Reilly, NM
- 3T. Elise Wilson, CT
7. Anna Post, VA
- 8T. Theresa Alimena, OH
- 8T. Kim Boehmle, DE
- 8T. Lai Man Cheung, PA

### Women's 24-

1. Kerri Stoffregen, IL
- 2T. Shannon Feaster, MD
- 2T. Aimee Roehler, NJ
4. Sara Borland, IA
5. Brooke Crawford, OR
- 6T. Megan Bals, NE
- 6T. Kristen Fritz, PA
- 6T. Christina Lewendal, OR
- 6T. Kristen Sutek, TX
10. Sadie Gross, TN

### Women's 25+

1. Heather Dunn, CA
2. Jo Shattuck, CO
3. Jen Yokota, MO
4. Lisa Marie Papp, GA
- 5T. Jennifer Dering, NY
- 5T. Not a Member, PA
- 5T. Lori Lepow, FL
- 8T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 8T. Holly Remen, NC
10. Esther McNany, CT

### Women's 30+

1. Kim Russell, TN
- 2T. Lorraine Galloway, NY
- 2T. Michelle Lucas, VA
- 4T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 4T. Lori Lepow, FL
- 4T. Micky Richer, CO
- 7T. Cheryl Conrad, IA

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- 7T. Felicia Mann, MI  
7T. Terri Straka, MN  
10. B.J. Ehr Gott, CT

## Women's 35+

1. Denise Mock, TX  
2. Holly Remen, NC  
3T. B.J. Ehr Gott, CT  
3T. Lorraine Galloway, NY  
5T. Kim Machiran, MO  
5T. Phyllis Morris, NC  
7. Karin Sobotta, WA  
8. Laura Fenton, KS  
9. Jean Trimble, FL  
10. Helen Marseco, FL

## Women's 40+

1. Debbie Tisinger, CA  
2. Susan Pfahler, FL  
3. Val Shewfelt, UT  
4T. Mary Beke, AZ  
4T. Janell Marriott, RI  
6. Chris Evon, IL  
7. Jill Mitchell, AK  
8. Linda Moore, NE  
9. Jean Trimble, FL  
10. Sherri Feldman, NY

## Women's 45+

1. Karen Key, AZ  
2. Brenda White, IL  
3. Not a Member, CA  
4. Lesley Kishigian, MI  
5. Janell Marriott, RI  
6. Debbie Chaney, IN  
7. Jere Luttner, TX  
8. Nan Higgins, NH  
9. Linda Bentzel, PA  
10. Marsha Berry, KY

## Women's 50+

1. Meri Jean Kelley, CA  
2. Gerri Stoffregen, OH  
3. Shelley Ogden, OH  
4. Mary Lou Furaus, NM  
5. Donna Ebner, MO  
6T. Agatha Falso, FL  
6T. Pattie Schof, LA  
8T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR  
8T. Sharon Huczek, MI  
10. Mary Jane Weldin, DE

## Women's 55+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR  
2. Gail Schaefer, MD  
3. Marquita Molina, CA  
4T. Mildred Gwinn, NC  
4T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH  
6. Nidia Funes, CA  
7. Nancy Kay Butts, WI  
8. Sylvia Sawyer, UT  
9. Joy DeSantis, CA  
10. Louise Graham, WI

## Women's 60+

1. Not a Member, NE  
2T. Jo Kenyon, FL  
2T. LaVonne Kohlhepp, WI

4. Susan Embry, WA  
5. Audrey Lenroot, WI  
6T. Naomi Eads, MO  
6T. Jean Tull, VA  
8. Jeanne Leben, AZ  
9. Danielle Smith, AK

## Women's 65+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL  
2. Lola Markus, IL  
3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
4. Marilyn Hoagland, MN  
5. Ruth Zenk, FL  
6. Paula McNeish, FL  
7. Louise Kiss, NM

## Women's 70+

1. Reta Harring, WI  
2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA  
3T. Tillie Davies, AZ  
3T. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

## Women's 75+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
2. Christine Stephens, TX  
3. Beth Keene, TX  
4. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

## Women's 80+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

# boys

## Boy's 6 & Under

1. Kyle Rynard, IN  
2. Joseph Lee, LA  
3. Matthew Markert, LA  
4T. Jake Bredenbeck, MN  
4T. Dan Ring, MN

## B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Joseph Lee, LA  
2. Calvin Godwin, FL  
3T. Andres Garcia, CA  
3T. Matthew Hunter, FL  
5. Ryan Kutner, TX  
6. Jake Bredenbeck, MN  
7. Marco Rojas, CA  
8. Taylor Regier, OR  
9. Not a Member, OR  
10. Brad Falvey, WI

## Boy's 8 & Under

1. Jose Rojas, CA  
2. Jake Bredenbeck, MN  
3. Erick Podwill, OR  
4. John Sanderson, UT  
5. Not a Member, CO  
6. Jordan Faith, CO  
7. Joseph Lee, LA  
8. Billy Wainwright, OR  
9. Chris Rynard, IN  
10. Andrew Peterson, OR

## B8- Multi-Bounce

1. Joseph Lee, LA  
2. Billy Wainwright, OR

3. Miguel Martinez, AK  
4. Andrew Peterson, OR  
5T. Calvin Godwin, FL  
5T. Not a Member, CO  
7. Jordan Faith, CO  
8T. Chris Rynard, IN  
8T. Casey Sauter, WI  
10. Isaac Mitchell, AK

## Boy's 10-

1. Nick Arturo, AK  
2. Connor Reynolds, GA  
3. Mark Beaudry, CO  
4. Allan Crockett, AL  
5. Jose Rojas, CA  
6. Matt Keddie, NH  
7. William Lee, LA  
8T. Jonathan Doyle, OH  
8T. Johnny Melgaard, ID  
8T. Brad Starken, WI

## Boy's 12-

1. Joey Lakowske, OR  
2T. Chris Coy, OK  
2T. Matt Johnson, NM  
4. Eddie Mazur, CT  
5. Charles Pratt, OR  
6. Drew Toland, AR  
7T. Mike Keddie, NH  
7T. David Lewis, CO  
9. David Laforest, NY  
10. Marc Kovalick, FL

## Boy's 14-

1. Steve Klaiman, TX  
2. Ben Croft, IL  
3. Jacob Karmelin, GA  
4. Brandon Shoemaker, OH  
5. Ryan Lindell, OR  
6T. Clay Burris, FL  
6T. Dan Sheppick, OR  
8. Nicholas Rowley, AZ  
9. Adrian Anulewicz, CT  
10. Mike Keddie, NH

## Boy's 16-

1. Jack Huczek, MI  
2. Joey Delfino, MA  
3. Rusty Powell, LA  
4. Dan Beaudry, CO  
5. Sanjay Laforest, NY  
6. Bart Crawford, OR  
7. Matthew McElhiney, FL  
8. Michael Lawrence, AL  
9. Brandon Burgess, CO  
10. Erik Leetch, AR

## Boy's 18-

1. Josh Tucker, MO  
2. Jeffrey Garner, AL  
3. Shane Vanderson, OH  
4. Not a Member, WA  
5. Not a Member, MA  
6. Joe Marchetti, AK  
7. James Marchetti, AK  
8T. Jack Huczek, MI  
8T. Mitch Williams, NC  
10. Darrin Prince, MN

# girls

## G6- Multi-Bounce

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR  
2. Stephanie Rojas, OR  
3. Tristyn Trelease, OR  
4. Sierra Adam, CO  
5T. Katie Faith, CO  
5T. Tia Smith, OR  
7T. Ashley Bechard, WI  
7T. Kaitlynn Pacinelli, NM  
7T. Amy Willhite, OR  
10. Elizabeth Brenner, OR

## Girl's 8 & Under

1. Wesley Toland, AR  
2. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR  
3. Stephanie Moyle, OR  
4. Samantha Pimental, OR  
5. Shannon Inglesby, OR  
6T. Brianna Elder, MD  
6T. Danielle Key, AZ  
8T. Jennifer Fenton, KS  
8T. Nicole Grundman, MN  
8T. Ashley Wetherell, NJ

## G8- Multi-Bounce

1. Stephanie Moyle, OR  
2. Wesley Toland, AR  
3. Nicole Grundman, MN  
4. Cory Laurita, CO  
5. Stephanie Rojas, OR  
6. Shannon Inglesby, OR  
7. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR  
8. Amy Willhite, OR  
9T. Sierra Adam, CO  
9T. Julia Negrete, IL

## Girl's 10-

1. Kara Mazur, CT  
2. Liz Taylor, OR  
3. Shannon Inglesby, OR  
4. Dannielle Pimental, OR  
5T. Michelle Key, AZ

- 5T. Rebeka Kopf, NY  
7. Erin Pratte, NY  
8. Katie Wafer, CO  
9. Sharon Jackson, IN  
10. Jennifer Fenton, KS

## Girl's 12-

1. Ashley Legget, OR  
2. Kynzie Dalton, OR  
3T. Kastle Arturo, AK  
3T. Kelley Fisher, OH  
5. Elise Wilson, CT  
6. Kimberly Walsh, UT  
7. Brandie Hanson, OR  
8. Natalie Starken, WI  
9. Ashley Willhite, OR  
10. Adrienne Fisher, OH

## Girl's 14-

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH  
2. Jenny Cary, OR  
3. Cari Mitlitsky, NY  
4. Lindsay Deutsch, CA  
5. Erica Beaudry, CO  
6. Jesi Fuller, NM  
7. Mary Sweeney, NY  
8. Crystal Winfrey, OH  
9. Elise Wilson, CT  
10. Not a Member, SC

## Girl's 16-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT  
2. Krystal Csuk, IL  
3. Cari Mitlitsky, NY  
4. Nickii Whitney, VT  
5. Kristen Kovar, NE  
6. Lauren Deutsch, CA  
7T. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA  
7T. Molly Law, CO  
9T. Not a Member, UT  
9T. Crystal Winfrey, OH

## Girl's 18-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR  
2. Kristen Walsh, UT  
3. Michelle Gonzalez, OR  
4. Sara Borland, IA  
5. Megan Bals, NE  
6. Chris Young, AK  
7. Tiffany Sheppick, OR  
8. Lauren Deutsch, CA  
9. Crystal Winfrey, OH  
10. Meghan Guardiani, MA

## EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8
1 = Closed State Tournament	30	20	15	10	5
2 = Open Tournament	50	30	20	15	10
3 = State Championship	150	100	75	50	25
4 = Regional Championship	250	150	100	75	50
5 = National Invitational	300	200	150	100	75
6 = National Championship	600	400	300	200	100*

\*In draws of 48 or more at a national championship, the 9-16th place finishers receive 50 points.



## IRT Rankings

[Through 12/11/99]

Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1. Sudsy Monchik	1	2	4,364
2. Cliff Swain	2	1	3,678
3. John Ellis	3	3	2,638
4. Jason Mannino	4t	4	2,569
5. Adam Karp	8	9	1,956
6. Derek Robinson	6	8	1,933
7. Mike Guidry	4t	6	1,868
8. Tim Doyle	7	7	1,818
9. Rocky Carson	11	18	1,486
10. Andy Roberts	9	5	1,440
11. Dan Fowler	10	11	1,389
12. Mike Locker	12	20	1,130
13. Doug Eagle	13	13	1,001
14. Louis Vogel	14	12	660
15. Eric Muller	15	23	573
16. Jeff Bell	23	45	537
17. Luis Bustillos	20	24	523
18. Ruben Gonzalez	21	23	506
19. Alvaro Maldonado	26	43	480
20. James Mulcock	24	17	466

## WIRT Rankings

[Through 12/11/99]

Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1. Jackie Paraiso	1	1	697
2. Cheryl Gudinas	2	3	482
3. Christie Van Hees	3	2	459
4. Kersten Hallander	4	6	368
5. Susana Acosta	13	11	349
6. Lisa Hjelm	26	21t	283
7. Phyllis Morris	14	12	250
8. Kim Machiran	25	28t	231
9. Janet Myers	9	8	223
10. Doreen Fowler	12	19t	220
11. Michelle Lucas	8	9	203
12. Lori-Jane Powell	10	16	153
13. Jennifer Dering	32	31	152
14. Jo Shattuck	35	27	138
15. Angela Burth	23	26	135
16. Lourdes Sanders	na	na	133
17. Josee Grand'Maitre	26	21t	129
18. Angela Grisar	na	na	86
19. Laura Fenton	11	13	81
Sadie Hall	33	36t	81
Robin Levine	6	4	81

## 1999-2000 IRT SCORECARD & CALENDAR

New Orleans.....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain .....6, 1, 6  
 Stockton.....Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis .....(7), 5, 8, 5  
 Albuquerque.....Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik .....7, 11, 8-2 (inj.)  
 Chicago .....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain .....8, 3, 5  
 Memphis.....Jason Mannino def. Cliff Swain .....8, (4), 8, 8  
 Lakewood .....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain .....(9), 7, 6, 2

January 13-16 .....Denver, CO .....Denver Athletic Club  
 January 20-23 .....Boston, MA .....Ridge Athletic Club  
 February 10-13 .....Fairfield, NJ .....46th Fitness  
 February 17-20 .....Brooklyn Ctr, MN .....NW Hwy 100 Racquet/Swim  
 February 24-27 .....Rochester, NY .....Penfield Racquet & Fitness  
 March 9-12 .....Birmingham, AL .....TBA  
 March 23-26 .....Santa Barbara, CA .....Goleta Valley Athletic Club  
 April 26-30 .....Las Vegas, NV .....Las Vegas Sporting House  
 May 11-14 .....Seattle, WA .....TBA  
 May 18-21 .....San Diego, CA .....Sorrento Valley Fitness Club  
 June 1-4 .....Portland, OR .....Multnomah Athletic Club

## 1999-2000 WIRT SCORECARD & CALENDAR

Albuquerque .....Jackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas .....9, 9, 8  
 Memphis.....Jackie Paraiso def. Christie Van Hees (8),11,1,(5),2  
 Lakewood .....Jackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas.....(7),3,5,(10),1

March 17-19 .....Roanoke, VA .....Roanoke Athletic Club  
 March 24-26 .....Arlington, VA .....Crystal Gateway Sport & Health  
 April 26-30 .....Las Vegas, NV .....Las Vegas Sporting House  
 June 1-4 .....Portland, OR .....Multnomah Athletic Club



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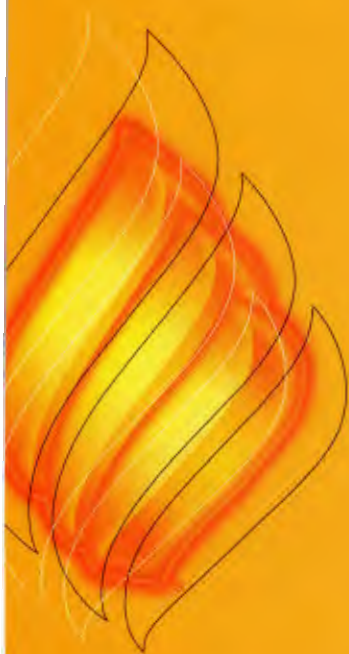
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