

RACQUETBALL

January - February 1998 ... \$4.00

Tournaments
U.S. OPEN & National
Doubles Coverage

Instruction
The Power Forehand

Departments
Pro:file
People & Places
National Entries
Rankings & Calendar



Promus U.S. Open
**Gould &
Swain win!**

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See it on
espn2

February 12

See page 5 for times ...

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SUDSY MONCHIK

The Power in the Game. Sudsy Monchik #1 & Cliff Swain #2.

Suds, they call him the Tiger Woods of racquetball. In his lifetime he has achieved every major goal in the game. After dominating junior racquetball, and winning every age group, he skipped amateurs altogether. His first season in the pros he finished 13th. In his second, he became World Champion and never looked back. But as powerful as he is, he also knows that if you can get more from your racquet it's a little less time in the weight room. And that's why he switched to The Catapult. More power when and where you need it. Yeah, like he needs it.

Cliff. They call it the Swain Era. Six years in which he completely dominated the game. It was rare that anyone took games from him much less matches. And remember those 180 Mph serves? Still ripin' em. His play? Well, he's the only guy who's still schooling Suds from time to time. But this four time World Champion isn't just a "take my trophy and go home" kind of player. His input and consultation have always been a great asset to Head and the game. Currently playing with a racquet he helped develop, The Pyramid 190 "G". Fast, powerful and a true winner. Sounds a lot like Cliff.

Catapult Technology: Most racquets, when they hit a ball, flex and lose energy. With Head racquets several factors work together to help harness this power. Catapult's throat area is designed with kick point action. Like a golf club, to snap back to its original state faster than other racquets. This creates a "launch line" action which accelerates the ball as it leaves your strings. Hit with it just once and you will feel the increase in power.



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THE CATAPULT



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POWER. Let's not beat around the bush.

In racquetball, power is everything. Ours isn't some gentlemanly sport where the combatants sit around and complain about how powerful the racquets have become. On the contrary, if we could give you just a touch more juice so that you could knock off the guy just ahead of you on the ladder we've probably made a friend for life. We're about to make many more lifelong friends.

Introducing the new Catapult Series featuring kick-point technology. At Head, our engineers have developed not just one, but three separate innovations that are incorporated into this new series of racquets. Often one design improvement will lead to others and that's precisely what happened with our new Catapult Series. Kick point technology, Pyramid "V" Construction and "XL" Design. Three new innovations that may soon have you wanting to make friends with one of these powerful new racquets.

THE CATAPULT SERIES:

THE CATAPULT 170 - THE CATAPULT 180 & 180 XL - THE CATAPULT 200 XL - THE PRO XL - THE FURY XL

"XL" Design: In rushing to design extra long racquets our competitors have simply added length without considering the implications. Length = weight. With our obsession to create the lightest frames possible, we have learned how to maximize frame strength without adding weight. This means our XL racquets weigh the same as our conventional length frames. In a strategic move we have also added our length to the bottom of the frame, giving more natural leverage to your shots.

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GLOVES

The hottest gloves in racquetball! And Head makes them. Well thought out designs benefitting from the finest leather and synthetic materials available. Like Pittards® Tackified leather and breathable Lycra®. We've also added unique new elements like rubberized knuckle pads to protect fingers and silicon grip patterns that improve the hold on your handle. And their looks - they're dynamic. But don't just take our word for it. See for yourself.



THE SENSATION - THE CONQUEST - THE EXTREME - THE RADICAL - THE REBEL - THE WEB - THE RENEGADE

SHOES

If you like the look of our gloves, check out our shoes. The Head Anatom Sonic 500 Mid is hot. It's Anatom Fit System® allows your shoe to perform like the human foot. Flexing to allow your shoe to remain in contact with the floor at all times. It's integrated Anatom Midsole made with lightweight Phylor® adds crucial support. It's mesh upper, synthetic toe cap and abrasion resistant gum rubber sole add up to one very attractive shoe.



THE ANATOM CT 500 - THE ANATOM SONIC 500 MID - THE ANATOM SONIC 500

BAGS

Where would we be without them. Most of us virtually live out of one. Kind of like small mobile homes without the wheels. And what makes a great bag? Space and lots of it. Here you go. Large central chambers with plenty of pockets so that dry can be kept separate from wet and vice versa. Holders for water bottles, reinforced floorboards and comfy padded shoulder straps for easy carrying. It's in the bag.



THE LUNAR BAG - THE ECLIPSE BAG

The Power in the Game.



from the editor

Happy Holidays! Seasons Greetings! No, wait – that was *last* month; you're not reading this until *well* into January – but we've gone over that already. So, how **are** those resolutions going? I've decided that I'm going to cave on the free time thing – I just don't have any, so I'm not going to pretend anymore. Here's why ...

The Internet. It's a form of torture. I'll be practically out the door, but just as I get to the almost-blank, all-but-turned-off, final screen I'll see that little icon for the modem and think to myself "I'll just check my mail before I leave ..." Ha! That's another hour right there, at least. Then to the newsgroup [alt.sport.racquetball] to see if I *really* need to address misconceptions in the cyber-field. Don't get me wrong – I love the instantaneous communication thing, but there's nothing like a little anonymity to bring out the best in people ... Finally, between print issues, it's a race to get the websites updated, or I'll really get an eye-ful!

U.S. OPEN. It's become its own lifeform. Not that I'm frightened by 14-hour days – I can take it – but the mere thought that it's going to *grow* ...! The television potential alone, (with your help in getting ESPN to notice racquetball) is staggering. If you'll turn to page five for the details, you can become part of what we hope will become a massive letter-writing campaign to urge ESPN to produce and air more racquetball events. If it's truly what you want, you have the chance to make your feelings known. Don't worry about me – I've worked "in the truck" before (making sure names are spelled right, records are correct, hometowns are accurate and that the production crew knows what a "skip" is). A worthwhile project!

National Singles. It now *includes* the national skill level championships. That's right – A,B,C & D level competition will be offered in Houston this year! The U.S. OPEN will no longer host a *separate* national skill level event, but it will offer invitational [Level 5] competition. For the staff, our annual Memorial Day assignment has just become a bit more interesting!

All year, it's the association's 30th anniversary. In April, the Pan American Games Qualifier will be held in Winnipeg. All year, the magazine will continue to develop and evolve. In July, the World Championships will be played in Bolivia. All year, the USRA will try to find new ways to make your racquetball better ... online, on-screen, on Donner and Blitzen! Have a wonderful season, and wonderful year – I'll be the one trying to keep up with all of it, and all of **you**! And enjoying every sleepless minute of it!

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ON THE COVER

U.S. OPEN champions Michelle Gould and Cliff Swain pose with the championship trophy – her second, his first. Photo: Mike Boatman.

Newly ranked #4 John Ellis
at the Promus U.S. OPEN.
Photo: Vicky Hughes.

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January – February 1998

reader forum

ZEN RACQUETBALL

I had a friend a few years back named Bruce. I met him way back in my college days while I was practicing my backhand at the Indiana University racquetball courts. He didn't have a partner either, so we agreed to play a couple of games. The first game, he killed me, twenty-one to two. Second game, same thing, maybe twenty-one to one. I do not remember much else about the first time that I met Bruce, other than the fact that we played six games, and I lost all of them, scoring maybe ten points total, to his 126 tally. Not having been deterred, I agreed to meet the next day, with results similar to the first, although now my muscles were absolutely killing me. So we played the next day. And the next. In fact, we played five or six games every day for two months, and I still had not beaten him. I did, however, lose twelve pounds and I must say my calf muscles were feeling downright frisky.

My ego, however, was starting to take a beating from the constant losing. You must understand – I had been playing racquetball for eight years before meeting him. I considered myself a decent player. Yet I was not even scoring ten points against him in any of the games we were playing. So during a break after one game, I asked him how he played so well. He looked at me, flexed his eyeballs and said, "Zen Racquetball."

Now, up to this point, I would have characterized my approach to racquetball as, well, reckless abandon. Hit the ball as hard as you can as low as you can, and grunt real loud like you're pulling a muscle. The fact that he had a name for his strategy, even if it really had nothing to do with Zen was impressive. I was all ears.

The secret to Zen Racquetball, he said, was to expend as little energy as possible while at the same time forcing your opponent to expend every ounce of energy he has ever produced in his life until his lungs explode. This is done by remaining in the center of the court as much as possible, and casually hitting the ball to the opposite side of the court that

your opponent is in. Alternate shots continuously, making sure your opponent has to reach high and bend low constantly. Control your shot and conserve your energy. Above all, conserve energy.

This made sense, and I determined immediately to try a similar approach. He had let slip earlier about an accident he had been involved in, something involving a large rope, an anchor, a trawler off the Gulf Coast and his knee being shattered. I decided to hit every ball high, forcing him to jump up during every volley until his knee popped. Hey, I was tired of losing. Now, this strategy paid off to the degree that I started scoring in double figures, but his knee never did give out and I never did win. As far as I can remember, we played for over five years and I still never beat that son-of-a-gun. I did, however, manage to blow out my knee. It still hurts, and I haven't played racquetball since ninety-one.

Bruce and I drifted apart eventually. I got caught up in dating, marriage, and two children and just never had the time to play. But I learned three valuable things from him, and I remember them to this day.

One, of course, was humility. Lose consistently for five years straight to the same guy, and you are bound to learn that. Two, approach life like he plays racquetball. Keep your balance, keep your opponents off balance, and never let them control the game. And three, don't mess with Zen anything. If a robber says, "This is Zen Robbery," hand over your wallet. You haven't got a chance. If the cafeteria serves a Zen Taco, buy two. And if your racquetball partner plays Zen Racquetball, tell Bruce – after you lose – that Tom Rice, the Zen Parent says hello.

Tom Rice
Gosport, Indiana

BUT WE WON ...

I'm not sure if I'm asking in the right place, but this year at national doubles my partner, Gail Schafer, and I won the gold in Women's 55+. We defeated Jo Kenyon

and Lola Marcus, but in the magazine it said we were unchallenged. If we would have lost that match we would have only gotten a silver, so I'm sure it's a mistake. Can this be corrected? It was quite an achievement and I hate to have it taken away. Thank you.

Joy Desantis
North Hollywood, California

A tricky question, with an equally complicated answer. Even though the USRA recently upped its "limit" for the number of divisions allowed at National Doubles to three – Jo Kenyon, technically, ended up in four (4) divisions for the purposes of your one match. She was placed in: 1) Mixed 55+ w/Ken Moore (3rd); 2) Mixed 60+ w/Jay Krevsky (1st); 3) Women's 60+ w/Lola Markus (unchallenged); 4) Women's 55+ w/Lola Markus (2nd).

By entering the W60+ – and being the ONLY entrants – Jo and Lola were automatically entitled to that division win, unchallenged. For the purposes of providing the four of you with some competition, the "drop-down" into 55+ was allowed. BUT – Jo Kenyon could NOT medal in four (4) divisions, and she chose to accept the W60+ unchallenged gold medal instead of the W55+ silver.

So, since you and Gail were, originally, the sole entrants into the W55+ division, the only way to stay "within the rules" of division limits was to cite your win as unchallenged in the official top-eight results, thereby listing Jo Kenyon in only three divisions of play. In the higher age divisions, it's possible to make accommodations to enable play, but when all is said and done, those actions still have to fit the structured limits that apply to everyone.

THANKS DOC

It was with great sadness that I read the last issue. As I thumbed through it I recognized a familiar face, and as I read further I was deeply saddened to find out that Pat Deighan had passed away. You see I am proudly one of "Doc's" disciples.

I can remember many a day that he hauled the neighborhood gang down to

the "Y" for a day of racquetball. And when we couldn't get on the courts we would simply head down to the Barrington Ridge Court Club (otherwise known as the basement at Dr. Deighan's house) and hit it around down there. We would play with ping pong paddles, cut off tennis racquets and anything else we could get our hands on. Us kids battled it out all through our school years and into early adulthood.

Unfortunately I left Northern Ohio for South Florida in 1979 and although The Deighans and I have kept in touch I really never had an opportunity to truly express my gratitude to "Doc" for giving me the opportunity to learn and to play a game that ultimately has become my livelihood as a court club owner. In this day and age of failed sports role models the world is truly going to be a little less enriched with the passing of this man. For he was not only a great player and promoter of the sport that I dearly love, but more importantly he was a kind, gentle, patient man and the type of father that I only hope I can be.

I want his family to know that I share in their loss and will always cherish the fond memories of the days spent with and around their father, grandfather & husband. Whether it was playing racquetball, swimming in their pool or just admiring his beautiful "bonsai" landscapes, the memories will last a lifetime. Thanks for those memories and thanks for sharing such a great man with the rest of us.

Please accept the enclosed check in the amount of \$100.00 as a donation to the portable court in the name of : Friends of Patrick "Doc" Deighan

*Geoff Hunter
Naples, Florida*

TOURNEY TURNOFF

I don't play in many racquetball tournaments. Right now I'm trying to convince my old doubles partner to play -- but at the same time I'm trying to also talk myself into it. So I'm wondering what is it that turns people off from tournaments. I've seen rule changes through

the years but none that have made tournaments any easier to tolerate.

One thing that drives me crazy is all the time outs. They slow the tournament down and are open doors for the whiners. I've always felt if someone is having a hot streak, my shot-making and competition should stop their momentum, not a time out.

Secondly is officiating. Referees should only be necessary for the semis and finals -- all other matches should be self-officiated. If there is doubt on a ball or a play, play it over. Most of the time cheaters get their way with refs anyway. I hate to ref and I feel sorry for the tournament director who has to constantly beg for refs.

Next, it's the idea of paying \$40 for one event and losing first round. If you've traveled 100 miles, paid for a hotel and are out by Friday, gee that just makes you want to hurry up and play next week -- not ! For example, there are many "in-between" players who are too good for the A level but not good enough for the Open. So you're made to play in the Open, get your first round loss, and lose the desire to play in a tournament again.

I suggest double elimination play. Your first loss drops you down into the loser bracket and you have the chance to work your way through that. Then the winner of the loser's bracket plays the winner of the original bracket. With two losses, you're out. You could put your Open/A players in one division this way and put your B/C players the same way, and so on.

Lastly make tournaments less expensive. Do away with the food and possibly the drinks. Have the sponsors give money or have them give dinners for prizes instead of trophies. I think we all have enough of those. My husband never minds me playing in a tournament if I bring home a couple of free dinners somewhere. What can you do with a trophy?

Want more Racquetball on TV? Here's your chance!

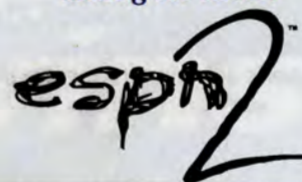
Tune in to ESPN2 for the 1997
Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN on
Thursday, February 12, at:
9:30 pm (Pacific)
10:30 pm (Mountain)
11:30 pm (Central)
12:30 am (Eastern, the 13th)

This broadcast will be Nielsen rated, so we need as many households tuned in as possible! Then, if you like what you see -- and want more -- write, fax or email your letter to:

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Bristol, CT 06010
Fax: 860-585-2418

Form: <http://ESPN.SportsZone.com/editors/studios/espn-let.html>
Email: ESPNET1@espn.com

This is a great opportunity for you to have a direct impact on the future of televised racquetball, so make a difference! Tune in for the production, then write ESPN asking for more!



Not only am I thinking of myself here but I'm thinking of the younger player. They need to learn sportsmanship which self-officiating can help. They may get discouraged if they lose the first round time and time again. Do the parents have \$40 for themselves to enter and, say, another \$30 for their kids? I know I don't. Racquetball is a great game and I love to compete but if tournaments stay as they are I'll probably continue to play in them once a year and four times a week at the club like most people.

*Sandy Reep
Jacksonville Beach, Florida*

readerforum

THE GAME OF RACQUETBALL

By Marshall Friedman

I play racquetball for exercise and fun
And it's not that important who lost or won
Good hard competition and honesty is the game
An exciting sport that helps keep you sane

Some players bend the rules & get uptight
And argue & hassle and that's not right
We all have problems we don't care to report
And aren't looking for more when we get on the court

So your serve was an ace & he called it short
And you think he's a cheater & lousy sport
You made a fabulous get extending every ounce
But he told you for sure it was a double bounce

He goes the wrong way and your pass shot is really keen
But he crashes into you on purpose & calls it a screen
Now you're angry and there's a churning in your gut
Oh how you would love to give him a doughnut

When you're just playing lousy & getting beat
Don't use short serves, hinders & double bounces & cheat
If your shots are high and you can't make a kill
It's not your opponents fault, it's your lack of skill

Learn the real rules & enjoy the game more
That's more important than any score
An opponent's good shot or get deserves your praise
Instead of pouting with animated craze

Practice your weakness & learn from each mistake
And give all of your opponents a fair shake
Shake hands after a loss as well as victory
Good sports are winners always; that's history!

• • • IN THE NEWS

• • • Mike Aubrey of Ahwatukee Foothills, Ariz., was featured in an article by Jim Powers in the **Foothills Newspaper** (Sept. 19, 1997). Aubrey was pictured in action and with his medal from the IRF World Seniors Championships • • • **The Arizona Republic** (Aug. 24, 1997) went racquetball crazy with articles about Warner twin brothers Andy and Mark of Mesa, Ariz., and local Mary Beke were tied together with a column by Craig Morgan. The twins were pictured in front of their family's RV; Beke in action • • • **The Birmingham Post-Herald** (Ala.) was equally kind to racquetball in its September 4, 1997 edition. Pictures of nine-year-old Allen Crockett and Michael Lawrence, 14, framed an extremely well-written article by Chet Fussman.

Interviewed for the piece was Jim Garner, president of the Alabama Racquetball Association • • • Mark Bloom, winner of the 1997 boy's 18- national title, received some well-deserved press from his hometown paper - **The Times Picayune** (New Orleans, La.). The article by Ana Ester Gershanik included an excellent diving photo of the University of Texas student at the Elmwood Fitness Center • • • Sam Rutkowski was featured in

The News of Endwell, N.Y., this past Fall, in an article by Jeff Matolka • • • Following his National Doubles victory in the men's 60+ with Tom Moore (Arcadia, Calif.), Phoenix resident Paul Banales was selected by sports producer Mark Highland as

KTVK TV-3 (Phoenix, Ariz.) "Sports Star of the Week" for October 29, 1997 • • • Former U.S. National Junior Team member Shane Vanderson of Dublin, Ohio was pictured in the **Dublin Villager** (Sept. 22, 1997) for his play in the OCC-Cardinal Division high school golf tournament. Vanderson's high school team, Dublin Scioto, won the event and the young golfer tied for fourth individually with a 75 • • • Eleanor Quackenbush, 78, was pictured on the front-page of the Salem (Ore.) **Statesman Journal's** September 21, 1997 edition, along

with an article by Gary Horowitz and another picture in the sports' section • • • Jo Kenyon (Fla.) appeared in the November 25, 1997 issue of the **Tallahassee Democrat** ... Eddie Alberty (N.C.) was featured in a large article, with photos, in the **Burlington Times-News** (Nov. 6, 1997) • • • **The Press and Standard** (S.C.) wrote a rather lengthy piece on the up-and-

coming Marcus Hughes of Valdosta, Ga.

Gotten some local press lately? Send a copy of your clipping to: RACQUETBALL Magazine "In the News", ATTN: Kevin Vicroy, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921 and we'll make a note of it!

corrections!

On page 10 of the Nov/Dec. issue, the wrong photo accompanied the story by Christina Lewendahl. The young lady pictured was Megan Bals (above), not Ms. Lewendahl (right). Sorry for the mix-up ladies!



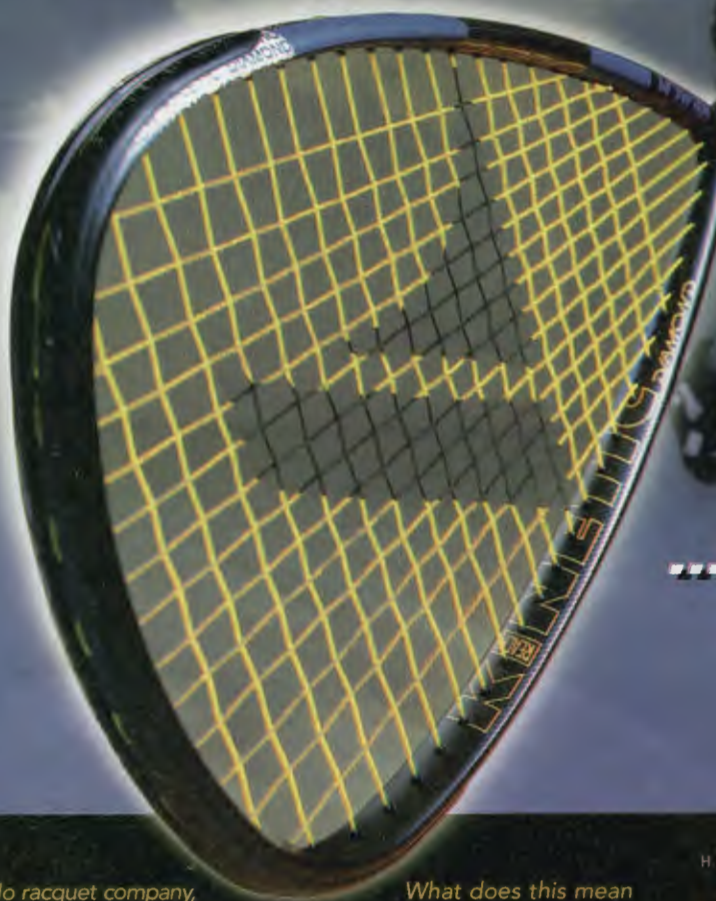
Also on the team, but not pictured, is Vanessa Tulao who had to return home from the camp early and missed the team photo session.

christina lewendahl



vanessa tulao

Killer shots
more often
with less effort
and **no**
pain...



...means
more
wins

No racquet company, except **Pro Kennex**, can offer you power, control, shock reduction and vibration dampening combined into one racquet without sacrificing one benefit for another. So how do we do it? **KINETIC System Technology.**

We add a second energy source to the frame of the racquet that increases power, enlarges the sweet spot, balances the weight of the racquet, reduces shock and almost eliminates vibration.

What does this mean to you? Better racquetball, less pain, and a one-way ticket to the top of the ladder.

Other manufacturers claim to be the best with design features. Pro Kennex proves it through technology*. And who's gonna argue with science?

KINETIC System Technology. It's found only in Pro Kennex Kinetic Series racquets.

To discover the only racquets on earth with two energy sources, demo one or call 1-800-4-KINETIC.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 As you swing the racquet forward, microbearings load to the back of 100 precision-engineered chambers integrated into the frame.
- 2 As the racquet impacts the ball, the loaded bearings explode forward to the front of the chamber transferring the resulting kinetic energy into the ball.
- 3 After impact, a shock wave is released into the string bed from the ball and is immediately absorbed into the kinetic chambers around the racquet frame, almost eliminating vibration to the arm.

KINETIC DIAMOND SERIES



Pro Kennex now gives you two longer reasons to experience kinetics. The Kinetic Diamond 15g (22") and the Kinetic Diamond 5g (21.5").

PRO KENNETX

PUTTING ENERGY BACK IN THE GAME.

*As measured by MIT's Sports Dynamic Lab thru a 70% increase in Power Score, 30% increase in Shock Reduction and a 41% increase in Vibration Dampening in the Kinetic Series racquets.

Promus Hotel Corporation

'97 U.S. OPEN BI

Watch it on

es



8

In its second year, the Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN, presented by American Express, offered even more than its debut delivered in '96. More excitement, more rivalry, more action and more upsets. While Michelle Gould breezed through the WIRT draw to successfully reclaim her U.S. OPEN crown, Boston native Cliff Swain re-established himself as the IRT's top player simply by reaching the men's finals against defending champion Sudsy Monchik.

Swain entered the tour's fifth pro stop trailing two-time defending IRT Player of the Year Sudsy Monchik by a mere 25 points in the overall standings. A semifinalist last year, Swain stood to take over the lead by finishing *either* first or second. The IRT standings are based on a 364-day window of competition and, since Monchik had captured last year's U.S. OPEN crown, he could not significantly increase his point total. But, Swain had lots of room for improvement — Monchik earned 457 points for his 1996 victory, while the Bostonian had only tallied 277 with his semifinal loss. With the math on his side, Swain was guaranteed the coveted #1 ranking if he made it to the final in Memphis this year — win or lose.

January — February 1998

igger and Better!

2

February 12!
Times on pg. 5



For Starters

The round of 64 kicked-off on the portable glass court with a premier match-up: two-time pro champion Sudsy Monchik vs. seven-time pro champion Marty Hogan. A capacity crowd of over 1,100 fans were delighted with one amazing shot after another by two of the best-ever players. Monchik prevailed in three straight (11-6, 11-4, 11-6), leaving the crowd begging for more.

Ohio's David Hamilton provided one of the biggest upsets of the first round with his 2-11, 11-3, 11-3, 17-15 victory over 10th-seeded Tony Jelso. Also in the first round, qualifier and Canadian National Team member

Jacques Demers started his run to the round of 16 with a tough 12-10, 12-10, 11-2 win over 15th seed James Mulcock. But by far, qualifier Eric Muller's 14-12, 11-6, 11-2 victory over former pro tour titleist and seventh seed Mike Ray was the first real shocker of the event.

Muller's second-round opponent was another National Team member from the Great White North (Canada), Mike Ceresia. A veteran in many ways, Ceresia started strong but couldn't hold on for the victory and fell 8-11, 11-3, 11-5, 1-11, 12-10.

Facing Derek Robinson in the round of 16, the Harvard law student again pulled-off the upset, 9-11, 11-5, 11-3,



TOP LEFT: ELLIS (FRONT) VS. MANNINO
TOP RIGHT: SWAIN (FRONT) VS. MULLER
BOTTOM: ROBERTS (FRONT) VS. KARP
PHOTOS: VICKY HUGHES

6-11, 11-7, to earn his first-ever quarterfinal appearance. Meanwhile, top four seeds Monchik, Swain, Andy Roberts and John Ellis, respectively, each advanced into the quarterfinals along with 11th seed Adam Karp, fifth seed Jason Mannino and ninth seed Woody Clouse.

The Eight Count

Ellis and Mannino opened the quarterfinal round with a thriller. The two had just exchanged the fourth and fifth spots in the IRT standings due to Ellis' strong play in the first four events of the season, and the crowd was well aware of the intense showing they were about to witness.

The 5-foot-6 "Ellie" took games one and two by the scores of 11-9, 11-8, but was hampered by a pulled left gluteus muscle suffered early in the first game.

"I did it in the first five points of the match," Ellis said of his injury. "After that, anytime I lunged with my forehand, or any movement with my left leg going forward, I was feeling the pain every time — my drive serve was gone."

Mannino, trash-talking to the crowd and his opponent, took advantage of the situation and won the next two games, 11-2, 11-8 to knot the match at 2-2. In game five, Mannino took a 6-0 lead only to see the lightning-quick Ellie tie it up at 7-7. Then, down 9-8 to Ellis and the crowd firmly against him, the Staten Island, N.Y., native pushed out to a 10-9 advantage. But the injured yet calm Ellis closed out the match with three straight points to win 12-10.

When asked how much the injury effected the match, Ellis responded, "It wasn't as bad as it would be against some other players. I was lucky that I was playing against an opponent where the style that I play him was close to the style I was forced to play due to the injury. If you try to play Jason and rip everything, he'll kill you. He'll beat you three straight because he's the best re-killer in the game."

Ellis wasn't bothered by Mannino's mind games, either. "He likes to talk a lot and that's just his style and that gets him going," Ellis said of his rival. "He likes to have the odds against him."

Following the match, Mannino told the crowd, "Whether you're rooting for me or against me, I don't care. We're here for all of you guys either way. Thanks for coming out." The crowd roared.

Next up was Memphis' own Andy Roberts versus the U.S. National Team's Adam Karp. From the start, Roberts (aka. The King) controlled the match and eventually won, 11-1, 11-8, 11-9. "Andy played a great match," Karp said to the crowd following the match. "He was a little bit too much for me. I didn't quite have it today."

When Roberts took the microphone, he gave credit to someone else for his victory. "I'd like to thank my five-year old daughter, Lauren," he said of his pint-sized, sideline inspiration. "I heard her rooting for me in here."

Even in defeat, Karp's play was dazzling. "He's so quick and gets to so many balls that my game plan was just to make him dive in the deep part of the court," Roberts said of Karp. "I didn't want him diving in the front. I thought I was spinning him pretty good – hitting a lot of wide-angle cross court shots."

While a satisfied hometown crowd enjoyed its part in Roberts' victory, Swain and Muller entered center court.

Tabbed "Mr. Cinderella" by RACQUETBALL tour writer Todd O'Neil*, Muller was outmatched from the start and was pounded 11-5, 11-7, 11-2. Following the match, and despite an impressive string of wins at the Open to his credit, Mr. Cinderella jokingly admitted that Swain's gameplan had been, at least, straightforward. "He didn't come here to lose to me!"

Crowd favorite Sudsy Monchik headlined the evening's finale as he dismantled last year's dark horse semi-finalist Woody Clouse, 11-6, 11-7, 11-6.

The Top Four

Longtime rivals Swain and Roberts met in a rematch of last year's semi-finals, in which the Memphis native had been victorious. But this was a more determined Swain than a year ago.

The first game went Roberts way 11-8, before Swain got hot and cruised through the final three, 11-5, 11-9, 11-5.

"I really don't have a lot to say about the match," Roberts told the crowd. "I've got to go back to the drawing board. I was very discouraged. I thought Cliff served very well today, but I was very disappointed in my play. Next year is my last year ... and I promise you that I'll play better next year than I did today." (see pg. 19 sidebar)

Swain told the crowd, "Even though he (Roberts) has played better, I think you guys saw that there was no way he was going to quit on you today – I was kind of disappointed in that. I was hoping he'd fold for me, but no such luck. I'm hoping to play a little better tomorrow and I guarantee that I will. Tomorrow is going to be a great day."

By making it to the finals, Swain had taken over the tour's top ranking, regardless of Monchik's results.

"I really didn't think I played any better than last year," Swain explained, "the difference was that I wanted it this year. Last year, I was too distracted. This year, the only thing on my mind is winning."

The other semifinal featured a somewhat injured Ellis against a determined Monchik. Although closely contested, the match went to Monchik, despite the fact that Ellis jump-started each game with a significant advantage. Final score: Monchik, 11-7, 11-7, 11-9.

"I got off to early leads in every game, just didn't finish them for whatever reason," Ellis said following his fourth semifinal appearance in the last five

*For more from one of the most colorful characters on the tour, read Todd O'Neil's "sideline commentary" on the U.S. OPEN — online at www.racqmag.com

Promus Hotel Corporation



PRO AM DOUBLES FOR ST. JUDE

Some exciting Pro Am doubles kicked off the 1997 Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. Open by raising \$8,000.00 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Thirty-two amateur players each donated \$250.00 for an opportunity to be paired with a top professional tour player for a "mini-tournament" played out Tuesday evening. Each donor also received an autographed racquet from their pro partner.



At the close of the short, five-round event, #6 ranked IRT pro Mike Guidry of Carrollton, Texas and defending Pro-Am Doubles champion Dino Tashie of Germantown brought home the gold with a 15-11 win over IRT regular Doug Eagle (also of Carrollton) and former U.S. national team coach Larry Liles of Memphis. Tashie won last year's benefit event with Derek Robinson.

Over the course of their "streak" Guidry and Tashie outlasted current intercollegiate champion Brian Simpson and Tom Chambers, Darrin Schenck and portable court designer/builder Randy Stafford, Louis Vogel/Pete Petty, and semi-final opponents Woody Clouse/Fred Heros.

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

During the award ceremony, the U.S. OPEN handed over the biggest check to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Dick Hackett accepted the \$13,155 donation from the event and the Promus Hotel Corporation, which brings the two-year total to \$25,000 in support to the hospital and its programs.

BIG NAME SPONSORS

The Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN drew the attention of a series of national sponsors, which contributed to the event in both

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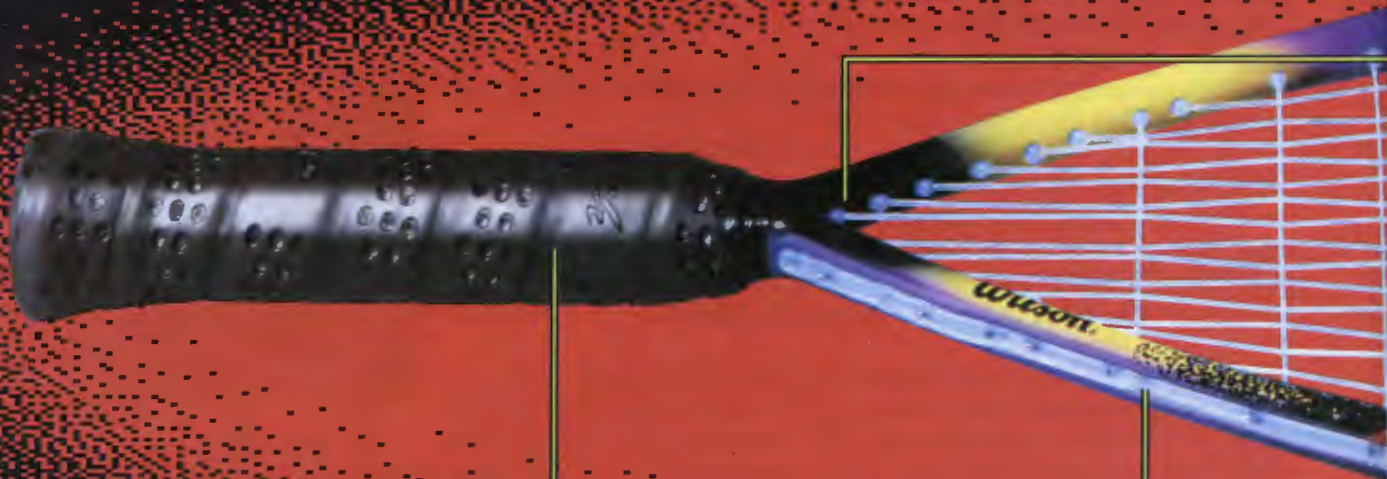
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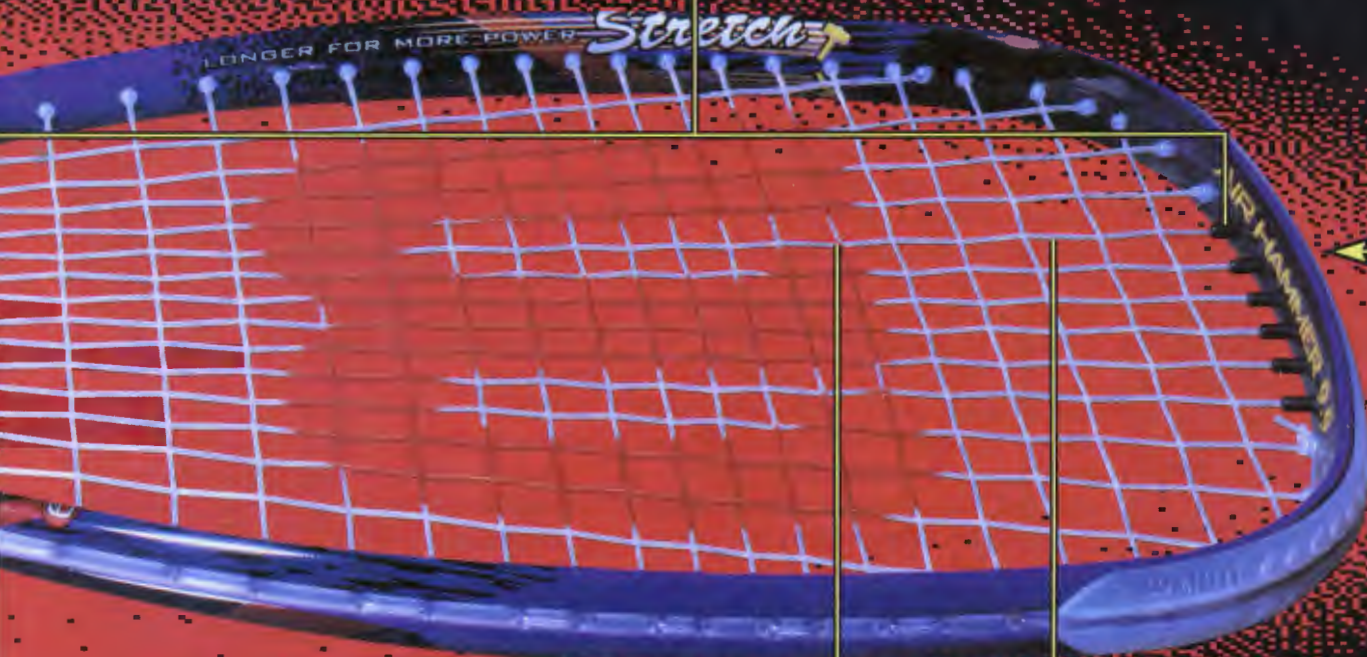
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events. "I'll take some time tonight and think about it. He proved that he can come from behind and win and he did that today."

Monchik remedied the early deficits. "I guess I just kicked myself ... and said, 'You've got to play some ball here.' In the third game, he had me 8-0. With a little luck and a couple of good serves, the game came around. In the first two (games), we were both kind of slowed down by the pace of everything – the cheerleaders, Elvis and all the hype. It made us play sloppy."

For Ellie, one of the tour's most respected players, his tournament was over, except for the socializing. He quipped, "I guess I'm partying tonight (at the Party with the Pros)."

Familiar Territory

So, as fate would have it, Swain and Monchik met in the finals for the fifth consecutive time this season. Swain held a 13-9 edge in their overall pro matchups, 10-7 in finals.

Sudsy went up 2-0 in the first game before a 7-2 run by the Boston lefty switched the lead to 7-4, Swain. Monchik cut the lead to 7-6 and then the wheels fell off. Swain destroyed Monchik, hobbled from a leg injury, from that point forward — literally outscoring Staten Island's pride and joy 26-5 to close out the match, 11-6, 11-2, 11-3.

A disgusted Monchik stated to the capacity crowd, "I think he (Swain) knows it and I know it – that was the easiest win he'll ever get against me in his entire life. That will never happen again."

A fan yelled back, "You're still the best Sudsy!" He might still be the best, but he was no longer No. 1.

When asked about his injury, Monchik answered, "It happens, it's sports. I was alright, got a little injured at the end of the first game and then kind of lost everything – lost movement, lost confidence."

"The injury really takes away a lot mentally and obviously physically. I didn't know how to handle it. I tried to take an injury timeout but by then it was too late. Cliff played great. He felt it, he tasted it. You can't bring a knife to a gunfight and that's kind of what I felt I was doing today."

Almost speechless, Swain told the fans, "I'm back. It's been a long time since I've played as well as I'm capable of, and boy does it feel good."

"I just tried to go out there and have a blast," Swain told the media. "Life's short. I became very used to dominating and I got very spoiled by it. I took it for granted and it sent me sliding. It took me slipping to No. 2 to make me realize how much I love being No. 1 more than anything other than my family and health."

TOP: PARENTS DEBBIE AND ALLEN MONCHIK LOOK ON AS SUDSY CONCENTRATES – AND DIVES – IN THE FINAL. FACING PAGE: MICHELLE GOULD. PHOTOS: VICKY HUGHES

An underlying factor all week had been Swain's contract negotiations with his current sponsor, Head Racquet Sports, and others. One of the "others" was rumored to be Ektelon.

"There's all kinds of contract stuff going on," the happy Bostonian said following his title-winning performance. "I have quite a few offers. My contract (with Head) is up December 31, 1997."

Swain finished with a "no comment" on who he was in negotiations with and a big fat smile.

About his \$10,000 winnings, "I'm going to go spend it all on Beale Street tonight, so come on down."



Ladies Lineup

Well, Michelle Gould won another pro stop. Surprised? Neither was anyone else.

Even though the final had been touted by observers as the one that *might* have upset potential, Gould downed a spirited Jackie Paraiso in three straight games of 12-10, 11-5, 11-4 to earn her second Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN crown. The Boise, Idaho resident never lost a game in the course of her five matches, doled out five doughnuts and won each game by an average score of 11-4.

Early on, the round of 32 had been absent of any true upsets. Qualifiers Chris Evon and Caryn McKinney advanced past sixth seed Molly O'Brien (13-15, 11-6, 11-6, 11-1) and seventh seed Kersten Hallander (9-11, 11-2, 11-2, 11-3), respectively. Evon and McKinney, a semifinalist at last year's OPEN, are far too talented and experienced

to be considered underdogs. Oh, and Gould defeated Canadian junior champion Karina Odegard, 11-0, 11-2, 11-0 (see pg. 46).

The Sweeps

Only one of the round of 16 match-ups deviated from a standard, three-game sweep – second-seeded Cheryl Gudinas vs. 15th seeded Christie Van Hees. The 1997 Canadian National Singles Champion stole game one from Gudinas 11-9 and appeared to be as agile and accurate as ever.

But Gudinas, the tour's second-ranked player, rebounded with some good returns and dished out some large helpings of pinches into both corners to take the final three games 11-5, 11-5, 11-3.

"She tried a lob serve to the forehand and it was coming off of the back wall and brought back bad memories of the (U.S. National) Doubles," Gudinas said of Van Hees' serves. "But I've been working on that, they were setups and I was able to take advantage of that."

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cash and services, including: Coca-Cola, Cellular One, Grayson Mountain Water Company, ICI Acrylics, Home Box Office and Alamo Rent a Car.

EYES & EARS

Professional photographers Mike Boatman of Memphis and Vicky Hughes of Naylor, Georgia logged impressive numbers of hours (and rolls of film) during the U.S. OPEN, from their exclusive behind-the-front-wall "picture window" to high in the bleachers — and plenty of points in between. Between them, the cover and all of the feature shots are just about the best action photos of racquetball you'll find.

The daily site newsletter also drew some additional support from cub reporters Jan Chayt, Kory Duarte, Eddie Meredith and tour regular Todd O'Neil. In fact, Duarte and Meredith ended up in a foot race back to the press room following Hogan's volunteer forfeit, to see who would be able to report the news first (sidebar story on page pg. 20). Meredith won. Tournament directors at the two outlying venues also did their best to keep "information central" up to date — thanks to Kay McCarthy & Martha Butler at Wimbledon, Jen Yokota & Carol Pellowski at the University of Memphis, and the tireless Mary Lyons ... everywhere.

PROMUS RENEWS SPONSORSHIP

At the event "Party with the Pros," Promus Hotel Corporation CEO Ray Schultz made a surprise presentation to event promoter Doug Ganim — announcing that Promus Hotels had renewed its sponsorship support of the U.S. Open through the year 2001!



At left, Schultz is thanked for his support by Michelle Gould and Laura Fenton. Photo: Vicky Hughes.



On this day, it was Gudinas' serves that provided the difference. "The hard-Z to her forehand was working great," she said. "I've always had success playing her forehand more than her backhand. That was my plan. Even though it looked like I kept hitting that hard-Z to her forehand, I mixed in a variety of other serves just to keep her off."

Gudinas left the court with an even higher amount of respect for the champion from British Columbia. "I told her afterward, 'If it makes you feel any better, I lost a lot of sleep over you last night.' She short hops the ball, she's aggressive but just a little inconsistent."

McKinney, the 1989 women's pro tour champion, continued her trek through the lower half of the bracket by sweeping 10th-ranked Lydia Hammock 11-3, 11-8, 11-2. The win setup a rematch of last year's semifinals between the crafty veteran and Gudinas.

"Oh, I want to play her (McKinney)," Gudinas said. "I've been looking forward to playing her. She proved that she can come onto our tour at any time and beat the players that are (ranked) eighth, ninth and tenth. I want to show that she's not going to come in here and beat me."

Meanwhile, Gould drummed out Kim Machiran 11-0, 11-2, 11-0.

Four Move Ahead

In the quarterfinals, third-seeded Jackie Paraiso, who easily handled Mindy Hartstein 11-1, 11-1, 11-2 in the 16's, advanced by putting away Chris Evon 11-4, 11-8, 11-3. Earlier Evon had smashed through Lorraine Galloway in the 16's, 11-0, 11-3, 11-1.

Fifth seed Laura Fenton was upended by 13th seed Marci Drexler 5-11, 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7. Drexler, one of a few women to have defeated the great Gould, appeared exceptionally well conditioned and mentally tough. She had made her mark on this year's OPEN, but could she beat the most successful women's player ever?

Almost forgot ... Gould was victorious over last season's Rookie of the Year Randi Friedman 11-6, 11-0, 11-7 to move into the semifinals.

The last quarterfinal, between Gudinas and McKinney, almost played out as an exact replica of last year's match between the two.

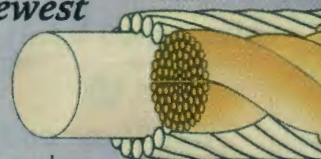
Gudinas took the first two games (11-6, 11-9) before McKinney came back to win the third 11-9. Would the Atlanta attorney push the match to a decisive fifth game, just as she had at the Inaugural U.S. OPEN?

As it turned out, no. Gudinas stayed mentally on her game and closed out the match with an 11-5 fourth-game win.



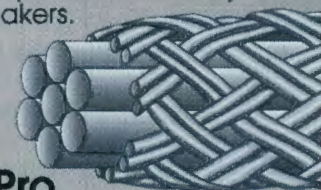
CHERYL GUDINAS WORKED HARD ALL WEEK, FIRST AGAINST CHRISTIE VAN HEES (TOP) AND LATER IN A REMATCH WITH CARYN MCKINNEY. PHOTOS: VICKY HUGHES

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Top Three and a Lefty

The first semifinal contest featured the tour's Nos. 2 and 3 players, respectively, Gudinas and Paraiso. "It's always tough playing Cheryl," Paraiso said. "I always have to be on guard and play my best."

After splitting the first two games, with Gudinas losing the first 11-7 and winning the second 11-6, Paraiso changed to a high lob serve to the backhand.

"That was a great change," Paraiso, current world and national doubles champion with her twin sister Joy MacKenzie, said "I just decided that I would change something and see if it worked. It's always nice to go to a lob and I know it worked before against her."

The move clearly worked as Gudinas displayed obvious frustration. "She didn't use them early," Gudinas said of the well-placed serves. "It's hard because you're thinking about whether they are going to go out (of the court) and you're focused so much on that you can't really step up and short hop them like you normally would."

Paraiso took game three by the score of 11-4, later, Gudinas' shot bounced out of the back-side corner in the fourth game for match point at 11-5.

The remaining semifinal opened like all of Gould's previous matches, with a quick lead. But Drexler pulled to 8-8 in the first game and brought the majority of the crowd support with her. Unfortunately for the Maryland native, Gould pulled away with a tough drive-Z serve to the lefty's forehand, for an 11-8 first-game win.

Second game, same result. Drexler even seemed to control Gould at times but couldn't move beyond another 8-8 tie and the "Boise Boomer" went up two games to zero with another 11-8 win.

Drexler, unafraid and energized, continued to come at Gould with everything in her arsenal. The lefty never stopped until Gould rolled the final points and won the last game 11-4. A dejected warrior, Drexler told the crowd, "Well, obviously, I'm pretty disappointed. I had my opportunities and I pretty much dumped them into the ground."



PARAISO VS. GOULD
PHOTOS: VICKY HUGHES



"Yea, I beat her a couple of times," Drexler said following her match. "But I just didn't come up with the shots when I needed them. I think I got too far behind then I'd come back and play really good and then just couldn't hold on."

"I've played her a lot of times in the past and one of the things she does a lot of is momentum change," Gould said of her athletic opponent. "She can go from extreme highs to extreme lows in a matter of points. As a player, I've learned that the best thing I can do is just hang in there and wait for those high's and low's. I have to stick with what I do best and not add to the emotional overload on the court and try to remain calm."

"She's been giving everybody fits and that's Marci. She's a great addition to the tour and I'm sure she's just going to keep getting better as her confidence grows."

About the drive-Z serves that seemed so effective, Gould responded, "If I left it off of the back wall, it gave her a huge setup. But I think it was jamming her pretty effectively."

No Upset in the Wind

Now it was time for Gould's usual three-game thrashing in the finals ... maybe?

Paraiso, who defeating Gould at last season's pro stop in Arlington, Va., didn't seem to care about the 6-footer's tour dominance over the past several years as she jumped out to a 5-0 lead.

Gould scored a couple and then a Paraiso pinch resulted in a side-out. Two skipped return-of-serves and the Californian was up 7-2. Then 8-2. The crowd loved every pass and pinch by the underdog. It was the best women's racquetball of the tournament! The mighty Gould was actually trailing someone! But not for long.

Down 8-4, Gould got hot and took over the lead at 9-8. Paraiso scored two more on a backhand pinch and a Gould skip for a 10-9 lead. On the next serve, Gould's follow through on a powerful backhand pinch-kill solidly cracked into Paraiso's nose! Following an injury timeout to try and stop the bleeding, a dazed Paraiso re-entered the glass court.

With Gould serving, it was all Paraiso could do to see the ball and not think about the pain. The result was three straight points to close out the first game, 12-10.

The next two games were vintage Gould – quick and painless. At least less painful than taking an elbow in the nose. She won by the scores of 11-5, 11-4, respectively.

"It definitely would have been a different match if I would have got that first one (game) under my belt," Paraiso said to the media after the match. "She started to get some serves in and that sort of took my momentum away a little bit."

Gould agreed that the match might have turned out a little different had Paraiso won the first game. "I started out kind of colder than cold. I kept telling myself to remain calm. You're going to get this out of your system and you're going to start fighting back. You're going to be fine. She plays better as her confidence level progresses. Letting her get out to an 8-2 lead on me was extremely dangerous. I got it together at the right time and I think I kind of took the air out of her by winning the first game."

According to Gould, winning the U.S. OPEN means "The whole entire world. It means everything to me and to be able to win it twice is something that you only dream about – it's the biggest event there is."

Promus Hotel Corporation



EASY DOES IT

Jeff Phillips of Arnold, Maryland stopped traffic at the Wembleton Sportsplex during his first Open division round against Matt Adesso of Columbus, Ohio. Charging into back court for a forehand, Phillips proceeded to crash through the glass back-wall, then continued out into the hallway as plexiglass rained down around him.



"It's designed to break like that" said portable court builder Randy Stafford, "in little pieces."

Phillips sustained minor cuts and bruises, and was able to return to finish his match — on another court. "I felt invincible after that," he remarked, but still couldn't advance past Adesso, who won their tiebreaker 11-1.

Photo: Bruce Adams, Tulsa, Okla.

ROBERTS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

RACQUETBALL caught up with Roberts in front of his locker at The Racquet Club of Memphis following his announcement at the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN.

"I knew that I was only going to play one more year," the 6-4, 225-pound shot veteran stated. "That's long enough, there's no reason to play any longer."

When asked what was pushing him towards retirement, Roberts replied, "It's the traveling, it's the training and there comes a time when things have to change. So, I'm going to play this season and next season and that's going to be it."

According to the former Memphis State star, "This was decided two years ago. If my knee didn't perform, this would have been my last. But, my knee's doing fine and I'm playing well so I wanted to play one more year."

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

This year's U.S. OPEN attracted athletes from across the globe, with large contingents from five countries in addition to representatives of 46 states.

Canada: Mike Ceresia; Jacques Demers (against Cliff Swain, below/foreground); Jeff Deslippe; Josee Grand'Maitre; Mike Green; Francis Guillemette; Brian Istace;

Amanda MacDonald; Adam MacKinnon; Cindy McTaggart; Tom O'Brien; Corey Osborne; Lori Jane Powell; Simon Roy; Jennifer Saunders; Chantal Turgeon; Christie Van Hees; Debbie Ward.

Mexico: Diana Almeida; Oviedo Baca; Pablo Baca; Javier Moreno.

Japan: Sayaka Amida; Naoko Kato; Matthew Lands; Irtsuko Matono; Hirotsada

Nagase; Kazushige Oikawa; Kenji Onoki.

Venezuela: Fabian Balmori; Roberto Bruschini; Carlos Falkenhagen; Pedro Hernandez; Juan Lopez; Juan Silva.



HOGAN BOWS OUT

Keeping his motives to himself throughout his Men's Open quarterfinal, Marty Hogan offered his opponent a surprise advance at 10-6 in their tiebreaker. Hogan defeated Luis Bustillos 15-13 in the first game, then lost the second 11-15 to go to a tiebreaker. Then, serving for the match, Hogan took a time out, smiled at the crowd and informed the referee that he intended to forfeit.

Scheduled to attend a fundraiser back in his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, Hogan opted to step aside gracefully and allow Bustillos to continue, rather than take the chance of winning the match and later logging a "no-show" forfeit.

... scoreboard ...

IRT #2 Cliff Swain (South Boston, Mass.) def. #1 Sudsy Monchik (Staten Island, N.Y.) 11-6, 11-2, 11-3
 WIRT #1 Michelle Gould (Boise, Idaho) def. #3 Jackie Paraiso (San Diego, Calif.) 12-10, 11-5, 11-4

National Skill Level Championships [Level 6]

MA David Guentert (Wichita, Kan.) def. Tim Hardison (Florence, S.C.) 15-12, 15-0
 MB Anthony Borden (Amarillo, Texas) def. Mike Zeigler (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-11, 15-6
 MC Marc Claybon (Cleveland Heights, Ohio) def. Ray Meisner (Glendale Heights, Ill.) 15-7, 15-5
 MD Joe Schmitz (Conway, Ark.) def. Vincent Session (Detroit, Mich.) 15-6, 15-5
 WA Deb Fiordilino (Merrick, N.Y.) def. Megan Bals (Lincoln, Neb.) 15-5, 11-15, 11-6
 WB Kristen Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.) def. Kassi Herr (Orlando, Fla.) 15-12, 15-9
 WC Terry Truvillion (Detroit, Mich.) def. Nathania Stewart (Athens, Ga.) 15-6, 15-3
 WD Rhonda Lindenman (Edmond, Okla.) def. Alicia Matza (Reseda, Calif.) 15-3, 15-4

U.S. OPEN Amateur Invitational [Level 5]

MO Aaron Embury (San Diego, Calif.) def. Ryan Staten (Dodge City, Kan.) 15-9, 15-8
 M25+ Kevin Graham (Fargo, N.D.) def. Mike Locker (St. Paul, Minn.) forfeit
 M30+ Dan Llacera (Newark, Del.) def. Brad McCuniff (Cedar Falls, Iowa) 15-9, 15-6
 M35+ Mitch Smith (Camp Hill, Pa.) def. Bobby Haab (Madison, Conn.) 15-12, 7-15, 11-8
 M40+ Terry Ruharty (Orlando, Fla.) def. Mitch Smith (Camp Hill, Pa.) 4-15, 15-6, 11-8
 M45+ Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Dave Kovanda (Worthington, Ohio) 15-5, 15-11
 M50+ Rick Fusari (Clearwater, Fla.) def. Greg Hasty (Peoria, Ill.) 6-15, 15-9, 11-9
 M55+ Glenn Allen (Virginia Beach, Va.) def. Ed Sword (Louisville, Ky.) 15-10, 15-12
 M60+ Jerry Stoltmann (Mequon, Wis.) def. Jerry Holly (Northridge, Calif.) 15-7, 15-2
 M65+ John O'Donnell (Champaign, Ill.) def. Don Maxey (Chesterfield, Mo.) 15-9, 15-14
 M70+ Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 15-6, 15-6
 M75+ Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. George Spear (Venice, Fla.) 15-3, 15-4
 WO Lori Jane Powell (Canada) def. Lisa Hjelm (Citrus Heights, Calif.) 15-11, 15-9
 W25+ Michelle Wiragh (Laurel, Md.) def. Rosy Torres (Mexico) 15-6, 9-15, 11-6
 W30+ Debbie Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. Holly Remen (Apex, N.C.) 15-5, 15-10
 W35+ Debbie Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. Denise Mock (Plano, Texas) 15-5, 15-9
 W40+ Linda Moore (Lincoln, Neb.) def. Susan Hendricks (Phoenix, Ariz.) 15-4, 14-15, 11-1
 W45+ Shelley Ogden (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Judy Sands (Cedar Grove, N.J.) 15-1, 15-11
 W50+ Margaret Hoff (Park Ridge, Ill.) def. Gwen Benham (Little Rock, Ark.) 15-6, 15-3
 W55+ Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.) def. Mildred Gwinn (Maxham, N.C.) 15-14, 15-12
 W60+ Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.), unchallenged winner
 W65+ Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.), unchallenged winner
 W70+ Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.), unchallenged winner

Amateur Age/Skill

M25< Jeff Bloom (Austin, Texas) def. Willie Tilton (Colorado Springs, Colo.) 15-11, 10-15, 11-7
 M25< A/B Andrew Babinchak (Grand Forks, N.D.) def. Marcus Hughes (Naylor, Ga.) 15-2, 11-15, 11-4
 M25< C/D Shannon Kohl (Jenison, Mich.) def. Kevin Randa (Benton, Kan.) 15-14, 15-11
 M25+ A/B John Ledig (Orlando, Fla.) def. Rob Hartman (Huber Heights, Ohio) 15-2, 15-11
 M25+ C/D Jesus Manuel Inigo (Hialeah, Fla.) def. Roland Labelle (Saco, Maine) 15-14, 5-15, 11-3
 M35+ A/B Gavin Higgins (Murphreesboro, Tenn.) def. Gabe Fuentes (Greer, S.C.) 14-15, 15-13, 11-5
 M35+ C/D Peter Kochis (Okla. City, Okla.) def. Rob Jamison (Cordova, Tenn.) 15-11, 15-12
 M45+ A/B Robert Hantske (Annapolis, Md.) def. Richard Aiken (Bartlett, Tenn.) 15-5, 15-7
 M45+ C/D Peter Kochis (Okla. City, Okla.) def. Ray Meisner (Glendale Heights, Ill.) 15-12, 15-9
 M55+ A/B George Tashie (Memphis, Tenn.) def. Don Davis (Peoria, Ill.) 15-2, 15-7
 M55+ C/D Norman Copeland (Selma, Ala.) def. Kenneth Davis (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-10, 15-7
 W25< Shannon Feaster (Washington, D.C.) def. Sara Borland (Bettendorf, Iowa) 7-15, 15-8, 11-6
 W25+ A/B Kristen Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.) def. Nathania Stewart (Athens, Ga.) 15-13, 15-6
 W25+ C/D Kristie Gisinier (Odenton, Mo.) def. Danielle Jamieson (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-2, 15-5
 W25+ A/B Ann Doucette (Berwick, Maine) def. Gina Fulner (Ft. Worth, Texas) 15-3, 15-2
 W25+ C/D Rhonda Lindemann (Edmond, Okla.) def. Nancy Personnette (Houston, Texas) 15-5, 15-3
 W35+ A/B Lori Edmonds (Lincoln, Neb.) def. Debbie Misanin (Great Falls, Va.) 15-5, 15-9
 W35+ C/D Terri Truvillion (Detroit, Mich.) def. Joetta Warren (New Auburn, Ind.) 15-3, 15-7
 W45+ A/B Kay McCarthy (Memphis, Tenn.) def. Margaret Hoff (Park Ridge, Ill.) 15-11, 15-9
 W45+ C/D Martine Dormer (Cashiers, N.C.) def. Margaret Hoff (Park Ridge, Ill.) 15-4, 15-5
 W55+ A/B Pauline Kelly (Park Ridge, Ill.) def. B.J. Calloway (Buford, Ga.) 9-15, 15-6, 11-1

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A photograph of Adam Karp, a male tennis player, celebrating a victory. He is wearing a light blue polo shirt, dark shorts, and sunglasses. He has his arms raised in the air, holding a tennis racket in his right hand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

back on top

The most-talked-about story of the Ektelon 30th U.S. National Doubles Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports, centered as much around those who didn't win as those who did.

Defending champions Todd O'Neil and Derek Robinson didn't win the men's open, and lost their spots on the U.S. national team in the process.

The nearly-unbeatable, two-time defending champions – Michelle Gould and Cheryl Gudinas – didn't even win a match in the women's open team qualifier.

The men's and women's open division runners-up all earned appointments to the U.S. Team, but didn't win their final matches.

Still, believe it or not, there were some winners. It had been three years since their last national doubles win, so identical twins Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso were ready to defeat unseeded Yesenia Delbusto and Kersten Hallander 15-4, 15-12. After a two-year hiatus for Adam Karp and Bill Sell, the pair was able to reclaim their title by narrowly holding off the shy-and-retiring Florida team of Tim Hansen and James Lorello, 15-4, 11-15, 11-9.

In the First Round?

Yes, it's true. Top seeds Gould and Gudinas suffered a huge upset in their first-round match. Although the WIRT's #1 and #2 singles players, respectively, won the first game 15-11 against challengers Yesenia Delbusto and Kersten Hallander, a surprise was in store.

The unseeded tandem turned it around to capture the second game 15-13, combining Hallander's precise shooting and quickness with Delbusto's strength and power.

But the champs would bounce back and take the tiebreaker, right? Not this time. Goliath fell 11-8.

"I've never been hugged so much in my life," Hallander said following the monumental upset. "(Yesenia) was in there the whole way and I really think that carried me."

Delbusto, the 1996 *B-level* skill national champion, admitted that she felt the pressure of playing the defending champs in the beginning. "But after that, I got into the game and I knew we could do it. We were playing smart and killing the ball."

Hallander, unsure of a partner until a few weeks before the event, stated that, "I picked up Yesenia at the last minute. I've been keeping tabs on her down in Florida through some friends. When people were asking me who I was playing with, I'd tell them that I've got a ringer."

ADAM KARP CELEBRATES AFTER RECLAIMING HIS DOUBLES CROWN WITH BILL SELL. TIM HANSEN RETREATS. PHOTO: KEVIN



FINALISTS – JOY MACKENZIE & JACKIE PARAISO, KERSTEN HALLANDER & YESENIA DELBUSTO • JAMES LORELLO & TIM HANSEN, BILL SELL & ADAM KARP

But even a ringer wasn't going to dethrone the "Queens of Racquetball" without a little help. Well aware that Gould would kill just about any less-than-perfect serves, Hallander decided to send a high lob to Gudinas along the right-side glass wall.

"It really just occurred to me about an hour before the match started," the San Diego resident said of serving to Gudinas.

After several key points went to the underdogs due to poor (or no) returns by Gudinas, Gould switched to the right side. "That was my idea," Gudinas said of the switch. "I felt very ineffective. I was having a hard time seeing the ball." But the serves continued to head the Gudinas' way and, eventually, the champs were ousted.

According to Gould, "One of the things that comes with the territory [being the national champions] is that everybody is always gunning for you. Sometimes people show up and rise to the occasion, other times they don't. Today, that team did."

But, as with all great champions, the sport's most dominant player guaranteed that "We'll be back next year and nobody's going to want to be our first-round opponents." No doubt ...

Meanwhile, almost overshadowed by the magnitude of Hallander and Delbusto's upset, #2 seeded Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso were marching steadily through the lower-half of the bracket.

After downing three-time national doubles champion Malia Bailey and hometown favorite Holly Gray 15-7, 15-6 in the quarterfinals, the twins easily handled Robin Levine and Kim Russell 15-7, 15-7 to advance into the finals and earn re-appointments to the national team.

The other semifinal featured tournament Cinderellas Delbusto and Hallander against #4 seeds Lisa Hjelm and Kari McDonough of Citrus Heights, Calif. In an extremely heated and emotional match, Hallander and Delbusto stayed on course 3-15, 15-5, 11-1 to earn their first-ever appointments to the U.S. National Team and move into the finals against the reigning world doubles champions.

In the finals, MacKenzie and Paraiso cruised through the first game 15-4, before their opponents put up a fight. After digging themselves into an 8-2 hole in game two, Delbusto and Hallander charged back to cut the lead to 8-6. Moments later it was only a 10-9 deficit, then tied at 10-10 and 11-11, before a streak by the twins ended the match, 15-12, on a hinder call.

"It didn't turn our way for the final match," said Hallander, who is ranked seventh on the WIRT, following the finale, "but we felt like we were there. We had our chances."

"I never thought we were going to make it this far – it's an incredible accomplishment," Delbusto said of their magnificent week.

The twins, who — according to Hallander — "have been playing together since they were in the womb," never swayed from their game plan.

"I felt pretty confident and I know Joy did too," Paraiso said. "We trained to play against Kersten but we didn't know anything about Yesenia." That's OK, neither did anyone else.

When asked about the pressure of the finals, Jackie said, "It was probably easier for Yesenia than anybody else on the court, she had nothing to lose." If there were ever a final match without losers, it was this one.

DOUBLES NOTEBOOK

Ch - Ch - Ch - Changes

In response to growing numbers of die-hard requests for a third division in national doubles, the USRA Board of Directors approved a change which will become effective next year. In 1998, players will be able to enter a third division as long as it is a mixed doubles event. But, in order to control court demands (and keep scheduling as unaffected as possible), players in three divisions will only be able to compete in *one* consolation round. In this way there are essentially no changes in the number of matches guaranteed to each entrant (with two divisions, you have four guaranteed matches: your original entries and their corresponding consolation rounds; with three divisions, you still have four guaranteed matches: your original 3 entries, plus 1 consolation).

Missing in Action ... for Good Reason!

In 1985, he was the Boy's 18 and under champion. In 1994, he won the Men's 25+ division doubles title with none other than Marty Hogan. In 1997, he had every intention of being in Phoenix for National Doubles ... but got a little side-tracked at the last minute. Jeff Conine, Marlins first-baseman, came to find out that the doubles weekend was solidly booked — by the World Series! A giant card of congratulations and good wishes was signed by participants at Doubles, and sent along to Jeff in time for the first game of the series and, as you know, the Marlins went on to win the championship!

The Twin Thing

It used to be that Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso were the only twins to pair up at national doubles, but no more. Three more sets were on hand in Phoenix: Cover models Michael Marie Hill and sister Johnnie Hill-Hudgins in Women's 50+; Wisconsin's Kelly and Kim Whalen (one from Madison, the other from Milwaukee) confused opponents in the Women's Open and 35+; and local Mesa pair Mark and Andy Warner played together in the Men's Skill division.

By the Numbers ...

The oldest player to enter the national doubles was Earl Acuff — at 79 — and the youngest was Zack Miller — at 14 — who played in the Men's Skill and Age divisions. Representatives from 36 states and the District of Columbia were on hand.

Drawing a Crowd

The men's draw didn't offer as many surprises, but there were really no clear-cut favorites either. In the top half of the draw, top seeds O'Neil and Robinson overcame a tough Doug Eagle/Eric Muller pairing, 7-15, 15-12, 11-7 to move into the semifinals, while Hansen and Lorello, tabbed "the madmen of racquetball" by *Arizona Republic* sportswriter Jeff Metcalf, blasted past Bret Harnett and Bobby Rodriguez 15-9, 15-0.

In the bottom bracket, third-seeded current World Champions Karp and Sell held off Michael Bronfeld and Kelly Gelhaus 15-3, 15-7 to advance — where most expected their next opponents to be doubles legends Doug Ganim and Dan Obremski. But no one informed 18-and-under World Champion Rocky Carson and his partner James Mulcock that they were not favored to win.

The youngsters outplayed the vets 15-12, 15-14 in the last quarterfinal match-up. "We didn't come here just to compete," Carson said of the upset. "We came here to win."

"To get a partner like James (Mulcock), I feel like I've been blessed so I'll try to take advantage of it. The biggest thing was that we hit our shots at the end when it counted." Even with the confidence that Mulcock and Carson had acquired through their run to the semis, Sell and Karp had another agenda.

Last year, the world champions had been defeated by Ganim and Obremski while trying to defend their '95 title. They weren't going to be stopped until they were crowned again.

Carson and Mulcock were swept 15-2, 15-13, earning Sell and Karp their trip to the finals and a shot at redemption.

The other semifinal match turned into one of the week's finest. Facing defending champs O'Neil and Robinson, the "madmen" were out to avenge the past two years' losses to the team that had become their nemesis.

"Two years in a row, we've lost to those guys," Hansen said of his opponents. "We've been wanting this for a whole year."

The chest-bumping, trash-talking, linebacker-sized Floridians took it right to their rivals and won a 15-12, 15-9 decision to take their spots on the national team and in the men's open finals.

"We didn't force things," Lorello said of his team's key to victory. "Usually when we play these guys, we try to force things. We were a little more patient and let them make the mistakes. The pressure was on them after they lost the first game."

The finals stage was set and the fans were split. On one side, there were those who enjoyed the shot-making, intense concentration and diving gets of Karp and Sell. On the other, there were those who were energized and amused by The Madmen's antics.

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**EKTELON USRA 30TH NATIONAL
DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS • FINAL RESULTS**

• **OPEN TEAM QUALIFIERS • Men's Open:** Adam Karp/Bill Sell (Huntington Beach, Calif.) def. Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.)/James Lorello (Coral Springs, Fla.) 15-4, 11-15, 11-9 • **Women's Open:** Joy MacKenzie/Jackie Paraiso (San Diego, Calif.) def. Kersten Hallander (San Diego, Calif.)/Yessenia DelBusto (Miami, Fla.) 15-4, 15-12

• **MEN'S DIVISIONS • Skill:** Eric Henderson (Chandler, Ariz.)/Tommy Medina (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Dana Cornelius (Santa Monica, Calif.)/Jonathan Dunn (Caramillo, Calif.) 10-15, 15-10, 11-6; **Age:** Jason Thoerner (North Augusta, S.C.)/Andrew Haywood (Nacodogches, Texas) def. Ross Greenberg (Coral Springs, Fla.)/Hector Capo (Miami, Fla.) 15-7, 15-1; **25+:** Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.)/James Lorello (Coral Springs, Fla.) def. Dave Sable (Atlanta, Ga.)/Mike Glowa (Columbia, S.C.) 15-13, 15-8; **30+:** Dave Peck (Austin, Texas)/Bret Harnett (Calif.) def. Marty Hogan (St. Louis, Mo.)/Mike Martinez (San Diego, Calif.) 15-10, 15-8; **35+:** Robin Dixon (Grand Terrace, Calif.)/Steve Lerner (Riverside, Calif.) def. Marty Hogan (St. Louis, Mo.)/Mike Martinez (San Diego, Calif.) 15-5, 15-8; **40+:** Dave Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.)/Stan Wright (Fremont, Calif.) def. Jerry Hilecher (Granada Falls, Calif.)/Dave Peck (Austin, Texas) 4-15, 15-14, 11-7; **45+:** Gene Pare (Campbell, Calif.)/Stan Wright (Fremont, Calif.) def. Mike Robinson (Highland Village, Texas)/Howard Walker (Grand Prairie, Texas) 15-7, 15-3; **50+:** Tom Hanson (Yorba Linda, Calif.)/Mike Pawka (San Diego, Calif.) def. Jerry Davis (Shaker Heights, Ohio)/Jack Ross (Miami, Fla.) 15-14, 15-6; **55+:** Jerry Davis (Shaker Heights, Ohio)/Jack Ross (Miami, Fla.) def. Ron Hutcherson (Warsaw, Ind.)/Rex Lavver (Terre Haute, Ind.) 15-5, 15-14; **60+:** Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Tom Moore (Arcadia, Calif.) def. Don Alt (Ft. Myers, Fla.)/Otis Chapman (Cleveland, Ohio) 15-10, 15-9; **65+:** Don Alt (Ft. Myers, Fla.)/Otis Chapman (Cleveland, Ohio) def. Joe Goldman (Framington, Mass.)/Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) 15-3, 15-9; **70+:** Joe Goldman (Framingham, Mass.)/Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Ivan Bruner (Madison, Wis.)/Victor Sacco (Norwood, N.Y.) 15-14, 15-13; **75+:** Nick Sans (Irvine, Calif.)/Lake Westphal (Sun City West, Calif.) def. Frank Lose (Big Sandy, Mont.)/Lloyd Schuknect (Mountain View, Calif.) 15-7, 15-8.

• **WOMEN'S DIVISIONS • Skill:** Michelle Draggoo/Debbie Kennis (Kalispell, Mont.) def. Susan Hendricks (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Bev Supanick (Washington, D.C.) 7-15, 15-14, 11-10; **Age:** Cari Kresa (Dania, Fla.)/Jean Trimble (Orlando, Fla.) def. Teresa Parker/Peggy Stephens (Louisville, Ky.) 15-9, 15-12; **25+:** Susan Dale (Ontario, Canada)/Karen Key (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Marcia Richards/Jo Shattuck (Denver) 15-14, 15-9; **30+:** Lisa Hjelm/Kari McDonough (Citrus Heights, Calif.) def. Debbie Tisinger/Mae Varon 14-15, 15-11, 11-5; **35+:** Mary Lyons/Susan Pfahler (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Chris Evon/Terri Graham (Wheeling, Ill.) 12-15, 15-9, 11-2; **40+:** Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Leslie Pawka (San Diego, Calif.) def. Cari Kresa (Dania, Fla.)/Jean Trimble (Orlando, Fla.) 15-9, 15-10; **45+:** Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.)/Eileen Tuckman (Boynton Beach, Fla.) def. Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Terry Ann Rogers (Foster City, Calif.) 12-15, 15-4, 11-6; **50+:** Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Merjean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.) def. Johnnie Hill-Hudgins/Michael Hill (Princeton, N.J.) 15-6, 15-2; **55+:** Joy DeSantis (North Hollywood, Calif.)/Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) def. Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) 15-12, 15-6; **60+:** Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) [unchallenged]

• **MIXED DIVISIONS • Open:** Jackie Paraiso (San Diego, Calif.)/Jimmy Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska) def. Laura Fenton (Lincoln, Neb.)/Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.) 15-9, 15-9; **Skill:** Linda Mojer (Colorado Springs, Colo.)/Larry DeSorbo (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Deborah Fioridino (Merrick, N.Y.)/Jeff Gaf (Brooklyn, N.Y.) 15-12, 15-7; **25+:** Jody Nance (Valley Spring, Calif.)/Marko Perez (Visalia, Calif.) def. Holly Gray (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Anthony Voorhies (Gilbert, Ariz.) 15-13, 15-14; **30+:** Jody Nance (Valley Spring, Calif.)/Marko Perez (Visalia, Calif.) def. Lynn Skadeland (Sherwood, Ore.)/Jon Martin (Gresham, Ore.) 15-6, 14-15, 11-10; **35+:** Malia Bailey (Norfolk, Va.)/Mark Baron (Herndon, Va.) def. Chris Evon (Wheeling, Ill.)/Bill Lyman (Berwyn, Ill.) 15-13, 15-6; **40+:** Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Dave Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.) def. Lynn Adams Clay (Libertyville, Ill.)/Jim Carson (Fullerton, Calif.) 15-3, 15-7; **45+:** Shelley Ogden (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Mike Stephens (Ada, Mich.) def. Eileen Tuckman (Boynton Beach, Fla.)/Gary Mazaroff (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15-12, 8-15, 11-5; **50+:** Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.)/Mike Aubrey (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Merjean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Tom McKie (Garland, Texas) 15-3, 15-11; **55+:** Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Les Dittrich (Eagle Lake, Minn.) def. Joy DeSantis (North Hollywood, Calif.)/Bob Webster (Northport, Ala.) 15-12, 15-10; **60+:** Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Jay Krevsky (Harrisburg, Pa.) def. Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.)/Ken Moore (Tracy, Calif.) 15-1, 15-3; **65+:** JoAnn Russell/Duane Russell (Lansing, Mich.) [unchallenged].

It was the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) versus the PGA, as a poised Sell and Karp surged ahead and captured game one 15-4.

In game two, it was Hansen and Lorello who jumped to the early lead, 8-2. But four Sell kills and several skips by The Madmen turned the tide to a 10-8 deficit with an 8-0 run.

However, Hansen and Lorello finished the game with a 7-1 stretch, winning 15-11.

The tiebreaker was tight with neither team going up by more than four points.

Tied 9-9 with Karp serving, Lorello hit a forehand pinch kill into the right corner for an apparent side-out. But referee Rich Clay said, "Skip."

The Madmen appealed and the call stood. Point to Karp and Sell, 10-9.

"I thought that was a bad call to be honest with you," Lorello said. "That's the match because that's side-out and it's 9-9 and our serve. That was a good shot all day. It wasn't a skip."

Karp saw things a little differently. "It was a definite skip but I was worried that the line judges didn't see it," Karp said. "I was scared because it looked like they might have been screened out."

After the mayhem settled, Lorello skipped a down the line backhand to give Karp and Sell the title.

"I was really nervous," Sell admitted. "I did not feel like I

matched up well with them. Fortunately, my partner felt that he matched up perfectly against them. It turns out that I did match up well with them and hit some beautiful shots."

Lorello gave kudos to the victors, saying, "We lost to a good team out there today, that's all. I've got to give them a lot of credit, they threw me off a little bit on my side. Usually, I do a lot of the shooting on our team and they forced me to take some shots that I didn't want to."

"Adam was all over the court," Hansen said after the wrenching loss. "We didn't play our shots because we were too worried about Adam up front. They're a tough team and I'm looking forward to getting them again next year."

If you were one of the fans rooting against The Madmen, don't look for their outrageous style to fade away. "We really have fun playing and that's all that counts," Lorello said. "People take it the wrong way sometimes when we get all fired-up in there. We're just having fun."

Karp realizes that Lorello and Hansen are extremely talented players that just happen to be showmen, to boot. "There's a lot of mixed opinions," Karp said of his opponents' style. "I love it and love watching them play, it's entertaining."

Sell explained that "people need to realize that they're really not serious, it's just a show."

And wow, what a show.



The Wright Way to Double-Gold!

By Gael Filgate

The year is 1977. It is the I.R.A. (International Racquetball Association). National Doubles Championship in Los Alamitos, California. Stan Wright and Steve Trent are playing in the finals of the Open Doubles. Bob Kraut and Gene Gibbs, the defending champions, are their opponents. Stan is 26 years old, Steve is 20. This is their first National Doubles finals and they can taste the gold. The crowd is antsy, the players are ready. In less than an hour, Stan Wright and Steve Trent have captured the title — without losing a game. Their first, but not their last.

The year now, is 1997, twenty years later. It is the U.S.R.A. National Doubles Championship in Phoenix, Arizona. Stan Wright, once again, is in the finals — of not one, but two divisions. This time, with Dave Azuma in the 40+ and Gene Pare in the 45+. The crowd again is antsy, the players, once again ready. The 45s are first. Stan Wright and Gene Pare have swept through a field of 27 teams to reach the finals. Their opponents are the unseeded Mike Robinson and Howard Walker of Texas. Wright and Pare win the title for the second consecutive year, without losing a game. Their final scores 15-7 and 15-3.

Same year, second division, the 40s, with the two top seeds set to battle.

The #1 seeds, Jerry Hilecher and

Dave Peck — like Azuma and Wright — have not lost a game. The intensity is thick. Hilecher and Peck play a flawless first game to beat Azuma and Wright 15-4. The second game finds Azuma and Wright constantly trailing 3-5 points. It looked like a Hilecher/Peck title, but Azuma and Wright had other ideas. Taking a badly-needed timeout at 12-8, they planned a new strategy of attack ... switching sides. Not a bad idea, but unusual, considering that Stan is a lefty and Dave a righty. But it seemed to work, denying Peck and Hilecher two match points and closing the gap to 14-12. Side-out. Facing two more match point opportunities, Azuma and Wright were determined to get the serve back. They played tough, dug in and held off the crucial last point. Back in the service box, they knew this was their last hope to even the match. With some great gets, crucial shots, and a little luck, they won the second game 15-14, and held on to their chance for the gold.



By then the crowd had grown in size, watching one of the best comebacks in the tournament. In anticipation of the tiebreaker, the adrenaline of the players and crowd was over whelming, the excitement intense. Azuma and Wright stayed with their "off-sides" game plan, which seemed to take its toll on Peck and Hilecher's game. Azuma and Wright took a 6-1 lead before Hilecher got hot and tied it at 7-7. Two more sideouts and Azuma and Wright recaptured the lead 9-7. With Peck and Hilecher in the server's box, they had a chance to score, but they failed to tally a point and paved the way for Azuma and Wright to win their first 40+ gold medal. With Wright killing a backhand down the right side for point 10, and luckily for Azuma and Wright, Hilecher skipped his previously hot forehand giving up match point to end it 11-7.

Stan Wright had obtained his ultimate goal — and dream for 20 years of doubles competition — two gold medals in one national event!

It took 20 years, Stan, but you never gave up. You've dedicated yourself to racquetball and promoting your beloved sport. You've earned these medals, not only for winning the matches, but for earning the respect and admiration anyone with your tenacity, loyalty and dedication could warrant.

Your Biggest Fans,
Your Wife and Children



ABOVE TOP • CIRCA 1983: NATIONAL DOUBLES MEDALISTS (L-R) MARK MALOWITZ & JEFF KWARTLER; CHAMPS STAN WRIGHT & STEVE TRENT; BUBBA GAUTIER & TIM HANSEN. MIDDLE • 1997: WRIGHT WITH GENE PARE. BOTTOM: WRIGHT WITH DAVE AZUMA, WHO WAS ALSO A DOUBLE GOLD MEDALIST IN MIXED 40+ WITH ELAINE DEXTER



cover girls ... singers ... models ... actresses ... karate?

In high school, "Johnnie introduced me to a book by Althea Gibson, *Always Wanted To Be Somebody*," Michael said during some spare time at the '97 National Doubles in Phoenix. "She was the only black woman, in 1956, to win at Wimbledon. She lived in poverty and throughout it all, was able to overcome the adversity and become a world champion at Wimbledon. That's when the sparks flew and we (Michael and Johnnie) really wanted to be around people that were positive. We try to be very positive ourselves."

They've even modeled for several top magazines, including *Glamour* and *Jet*.

The Princeton, N.J., residents have worked as actresses in several movies, along with teammate and travel companion Julie Wiedis.

The twins were stunt doubles for Whitney Houston in "The Preacher's Wife" and Grace Jones in "Boomerang." They also appeared as extras in "The Good-Bye Girl," "Betrayal" and Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing." Wiedis, also from Princeton, recently worked on "12 Monkeys," featuring Bruce Willis and "City Hall."

Sound familiar? "I just don't have enough time."

Whether it's racquetball, working out or finishing that project in the garage, there never seems to be enough hours in the day to get it all done.

Here's another one: "I'm too old for that kind of thing."

Think about both of those statements as we introduce you to two of the most energetic, powerfully-positive individuals ever to step onto a racquetball court – identical twin sisters Johnnie Hill-Hudgins and Michael Hill.

Their business card reads: "Singers – Models – Actresses – Karate."

In direct opposition to the canine ratio of aging seven years for every one human year, the Hill's seem to have inverted that formula by aging one year for every seven.

Amazing is easily an understatement when discussing their lifelong accomplishments.

At 13-years of age, the twins, along with Louise Stephenson-Shaw, Charen Cotton and Voncille White, were known around the world as the professional singing group, the DeVonnes. Recording for a Motown subsidiary called Colpix Records, the DeVonnes traveled around the U.S. singing some of their hits such as "Freddy" and "Wonderful." Their musical accomplishments with the DeVonnes have been recorded in the book *Rock and Roll Archives*, placed just four pages ahead of their older brother Billy's group - Essex, which knocked The Beatles out of the No. 1 spot during the mid-60's.

"My sister and I are international singers and have sung in 22 countries," Michael said of their treks through Europe, Asia, Canada and the Caribbean. The two, who just got back from a singing engagement in Japan, can sing in Japanese, Spanish, French and English.

Certified health aides for over 25 years, both have been named Ms. Princeton and competed in the Ms. New Jersey International pageant.

Michael and Johnnie have made their marks in the advertisement industry, as well – appearing in television commercials for Maxwell House Coffee, Lipton Iced Tea, Shake-n-Bake, Lavoris and McDonald's. You could even hear them in voice-over jingles for Schaefer Beer commercials.

Whew. That's tiring, but we're not done, yet.

"We've always played some type of sport," Michael said. Both her and sister Johnnie played semi-pro baseball and basketball during their younger years. Now, they concentrate on track & field and racquetball.

The two had just came back from training for the "American Gladiators" (in 1990), in which Johnnie was a contender, when they were introduced to the USA National Masters Track & Field association and several of its coaches.

According to Johnnie, "I was asking questions like, 'How do you become

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Sudsy Monchik
#1 ranked professional
racquetball player in the world.

**Z Leader
PRO STAFF**



Cliff Swain
#2 ranked professional
racquetball player in the world.

OFFICIAL EYEGUARD OF:



a masters champion?" They said that all you have to do is register, pay your membership fee, enter whatever events you want to participate in and that's it."

The coaches were asking, "Have you ever done this before?" Although they'd run track before, Michael and Johnnie hadn't competed in any of the field events that they were entered in.

This was on a Wednesday

"Two days later, we went to Philadelphia for the U.S. Indoor Track & Field Championships," Michael said. "I entered in four events – the 55-meter dash, long jump, high jump and 60-meter hurdles – and ended up with three gold's and a silver. People were asking, 'What age group are you really in?'"

Johnnie won three golds, one in shot put.

Their friend, Julie Wiedis, 38, also competed.

"I figured that I didn't really know track & field but I knew I could run and I could jump so I entered the 55-meter dash and the long jump," Wiedis said. "I came home with two golds. Needless to say, the coaches who were laughing before weren't laughing so much anymore."

When asked why they would take up such a strenuous sport in their later years, Johnnie replied, "We want to show people out there that we can start at this age, why can't they."

In 1995, the Hill twins won a \$1,500 grant from the Women's Sports Foundation for track & field.

"That's when we went off to Australia (for a track & field champi-

onship meet) and that gave us money to train," Johnnie said. "We were the first masters to ever receive that award."

This past March 21-23, the threesome traveled to the Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center to compete in the 1997 USA National Masters Indoor Track & Field Championships (see sidebar at right).

Sponsored by the Princeton YMCA and The Club at Woodbridge, Michael and Johnnie have been able to compete at the IRF World Seniors Championships in Albuquerque, N.M., and the 1997 Ektelon U.S. National Doubles Championships, where they took home the silver medal in the women's 50-and-over division.

Oh, that's right ... they're 50-years old.

"We love racquetball," Michael said. "It's a wonderful sport that's inexpensive and can keep us in shape."

"You can do it, no matter what your age is – and let me tell you, 50 is nifty."

In 1980, the Hill sisters decided to go to college and conquer yet another obstacle in life.



Michael Hill, Johnnie Hill-Hudgins and Julie Wiedis in Phoenix. Photo: K.Vicroy

**1997 USA National Masters Indoor Track & Field Championships
Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center
Boston, Mass. - March 21-23**

200-meter run - Women's 50+
Silver medal - Michael Hill
29.97 seconds

60-meter dash - Women's 50+
Silver medal - Michael Hill
10.47 seconds

High Jump - Women's 30+
Silver medal - Julie Wiedis
1.15 meters (3' - 9.25")

High Jump - Women's 50+
Silver medal - Johnnie Hill-Hudgins
1.30 meters (4' - 3.25")

Long Jump - Women's 30+
Silver medal - Julie Wiedis
3.13 meters (10' - 3.25")

Long Jump - Women's 50+
Bronze medal - Michael Hill
3.94 meters (12' - 11.25")

Triple Jump - Women's 35+
Silver medal - Julie Wiedis
7.33 meters (24' - 0.75")

Triple Jump - Women's 50+
Silver medal - Michael Hill
8.87 meters (29' - 1.25")

Shot Put - Women's 50+
Gold medal - Johnnie Hill-Hudgins
11.23 meters (36' - 10.25")

Weight Throw - Women's 50+
Gold medal - Johnnie Hill-Hudgins
10.79 meters (35' - 5")

"Our Grandmother said the we needed to get our degrees," Johnnie said with a smile. "We had entertained Kings and Queens, but she wanted us to have something to fall back on."

Again, they didn't *just* graduate. They graduated summa cum laude from Rider University in 1984. Johnnie earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education, while Michael's bachelor's was in the fine arts.

Wow.

"People always say to us, 'Don't you want to be known?'," Michael said of her behind-the-scene Hollywood status. "It's nice to be known, but we've done

everything but sing on a ship."

So, is that the only thing left ... to sing on a ship?

Not hardly.

"We have two movies in our heads and some inventions," Michael stated.

All they have to do is *make* the time ... It's incredible. It's inspirational. It's the Hill twins.

TEAM EXTREME

Jason Mannino

Mike Ray

Todd O'Neil

Marcy Lynch

Laura Fenton

Woody Clouse



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perform

The Evolution of the Forehand

By Mike Guidry

Like almost every other sport in the world, racquetball has gone through its share of changes in the past twenty years. Racquetball has evolved from the game styles of the Charlie Brumfields and Davey Bledsoes of the seventies to the Cliff Swains and Sudsy Monchiks of the nineties. With technological advances in equipment, as well as faster balls and better training techniques for the athletes, game strategies have also developed from "control" in the seventies to "controlled power" in the eighties to the power game now.

Most of today's players use pure power. To better adjust and make the most of those improvements, players have also made changes in their stroke mechanics. The first installment of Ektelon's 1998 Performance Series focuses on the forehand, which has evolved from the ultimate control weapon in the seventies to hitting 180 mile per hour missiles in the nineties. I will demonstrate the changes from the seventies to now.

A warning for club players ... Don't try to make radical changes in order to copy the pros, but instead incorporate some of the principles to give you a better, more powerful forehand.

the forehand

January — February 1998

34

performance series

<< control

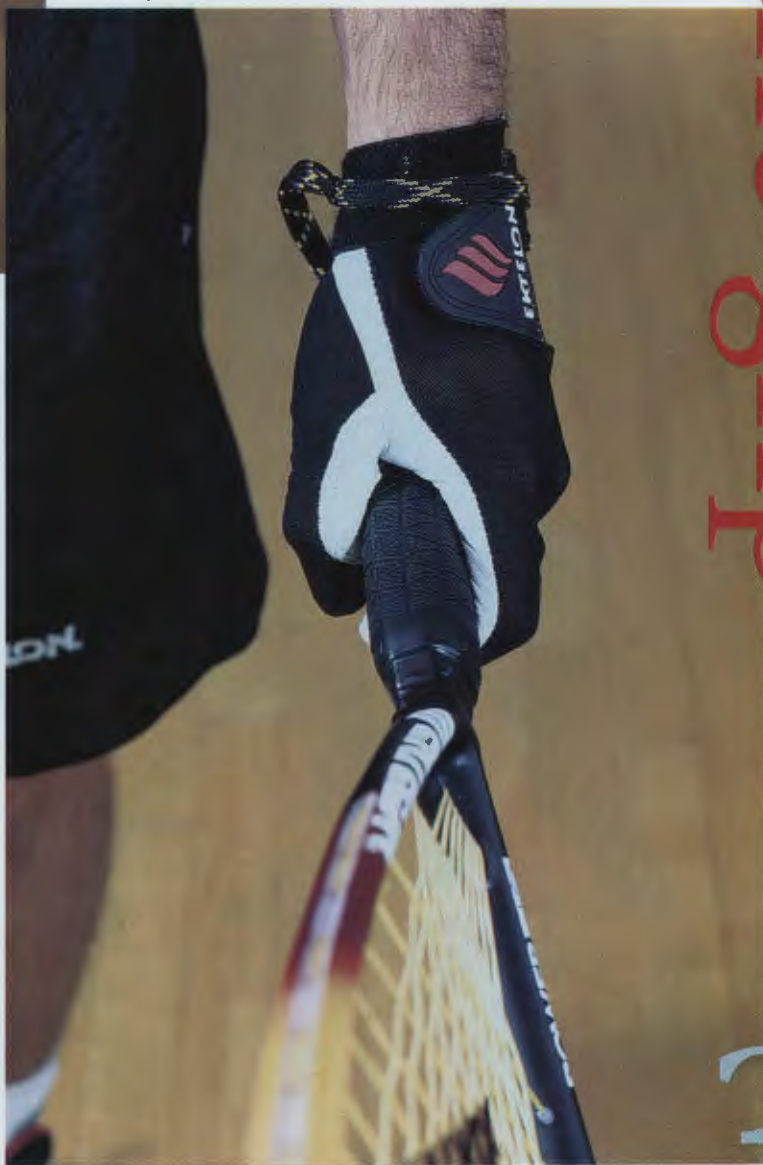
The grip in the early days of racquetball was more of a Continental grip and looked like this. The game style of the day did not require the added power afforded by the Western grip used by today's pros.



power >>

Today's pros use more of a Western grip, with the palm of the hand slightly more on the side of the handles rather than the top. The Western grip gives the player more power than the traditional grip.

Performance Tip: *If you have a traditional grip, try adjusting your grip slightly towards a Western grip. This will help you hit the ball flatter and lower while giving you a power boost.*



the grip

35

control >>

The racquet was high and behind the head. The elbow was dropped, therefore, limiting the amount of racquet head speed that could be generated. This preparation makes it very difficult to extend properly to hit the ball away from your body and keep your racquet head level.

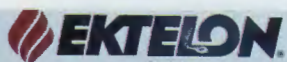


<< power

Today's players have their elbow up and the racquet head relatively flat. By having the elbow up, this allows the racquet head to generate more speed, which in turn generates more power. The feet are parallel to the side wall.



Performance Tip: Work on keeping your racquet head out in front of you a little bit and keeping the head parallel to the floor. Doing this will automatically bring your elbow up and reduce the chances of shoulder problems. Check to make sure that when you are set up for the shot, your feet are parallel to the side wall and not facing the front wall.

The logo for EKTELON, featuring a stylized 'E' with a red and black design, followed by the word 'EKTELON' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

<< control

The elbow would drop in close to the body and facilitate the racquet head dropping as well as limiting power. Also, this type of swing can cause shoulder and elbow problems.

power >>

The elbow comes much farther away from the body, which allows the swing to become flat and generate the racquet speed due to more leverage. The extension of the elbow due to the natural swing plane will reduce the risk of arm problems.

Performance Tip: From the “racquet prep” position, focus on keeping your elbow away from your body and swinging flat. You want to feel like you are reaching out to get full extension of your elbow.



elbow movement

37

control >>

In the days of slow balls and small racquets, the contact point was very close to the body with the racquet head dropped towards the floor. This swing is much more difficult to generate power with because the racquet head doesn't come through fast enough. Also, with the speed of today's balls, it is very difficult to time the shot consistently. Any mistiming with this stroke, and the ball goes either straight into the floor or sky high.



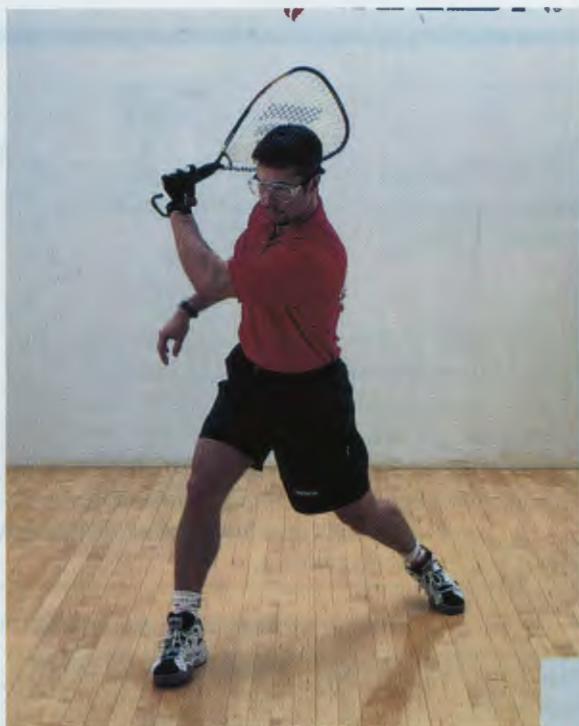
<< power

The contact point is now much further away from the body. Notice how the elbow is completely extended. This generates the greatest power because it gives the racquet maximum leverage. The fact that your racquet head is coming through level will minimize variations in the height of your shots. You will be much more consistent, and will hit a much more solid shot.

Performance Tip: When swinging, concentrate on getting the ball out away from you and keeping your racquet head level. Don't drop your racquet head. Try to visualize hitting the ball off of a table. Reach out for the ball, but remain balanced and avoid bending at the waist.



contact point



<< control

The follow through used to be a very high, short follow through. The control game required a shorter, slower swing, therefore, the follow through came up high near the head.

power >>

Since today's contact point is farther away from the body, the follow-through is much flatter and lower. With the power of today's game, this helps keep the ball lower while having the benefit of the increased power.

Performance Tip:

Concentrate on hitting the ball flat and keeping your racquet head parallel to the floor for as long as possible through the swing. Your feet should be square to the front wall and your shoulders should be somewhat facing the front wall. The racquet should end up about shoulder level away from your body.



follow through

39

Ralph's Grocery Pro-Am

MONCHIK & SWAIN GO THE DISTANCE IN RIVERSIDE

The IRT's annual stop in Riverside for the Ralph's Grocery Pro-Am always draws huge, knowledgeable crowds who've seen all the greats compete over the years. This year the Tournament House was the third to host the ongoing battle for #1 as Sudsy Monchik and Cliff Swain continued their cross-country rivalry. These two have met in every final this season, but as the tournament got under way it appeared that none of the top seeds would be left standing on Sunday.

Semi-Finals

Before Monchik & Swain could go at it again, there was a little semi-final business to attend to. Swain would have to defeat Ellis, who had finally broken through last season in Rochester for his first career win over Swain. With father & coach Dave Ellis travelling to every event, John is enjoying a solid season, playing his best, and seems to have turned the corner against Swain in terms of confidence. He knows what he needs to do to win and feels he can! The first three games were a show of great intensity and ability, with Ellis holding a 2-1 game advantage. But in the fourth, Swain showed the mental domination that made him unbeatable for years. It starts with his serve and spreads to the rest of his game, and when he's right, he doesn't just win; he destroys. Swain easily won the last two games and waited for his rival to join him in the finals.

In the other semi, Monchik had to contend with Vogel, one of the hardest hitters on the tour who, after training this summer, is in the best shape of his career. Vogel jumped out to a quick lead in the first game by killing the ball and controlling the rallies. But a

slow start means nothing to Monchik, who picked up the intensity to win a close first game then finish the match in straight games, 11-9, 11-6, 11-5

Finals

Here they were again ... a broken record in the battle for #1. Every stop this season has been a final between them, but all of them had been easy, lopsided wins for each. But Riverside proved to be the site where the fans got everything they wanted and more! Their rivalry carries into the crowd as the Monchik and Swain camps root for their favorites.

A strong Monchik came out looking to avenge his loss in Stockton just three weeks prior. Both played well as Sudsy took the first two close games and seemed positioned for another in a string of straight game wins this season. But Swain was not done. Hitting great forehands from deep in the court, combined with unbelievable court coverage, Swain hit the big shots to save game three 14-12.

Swain was rolling in the fourth, where the two played closer and closer in front court, giving no ground and putting the pressure on official David Sable on each call. Swain captured the game with a diving forehand kill and Monchik showed his frustration by smashing the ball into the floor and out of the court. Sable called a technical, resulting in a -1 deficit against Monchik going into game five.

Both players had given everything they had so far, but Monchik had a trick left. He went away from his drive and Z serves and lobbed to Swain's backhand. It worked! Swain made mistake after mistake in trying to kill the ball, all of which

Monchik pounced on. Swain made a valiant run in the end but it was Monchik who pulled out the three-hour war, 10-12, 8-11, 11-8, 11-6, 12-10.

Riverside: Early Round Highlights

Qualifiers: Ruben Gonzalez, Tim Doyle, Steve Lerner, Rocky Carson, Vince Kelley.

Round of 32 Upset: Qualifier Rocky Carson d. #4 Jason Mannino, 11-2, 1-11, 4-11, 11-2, 11-3.

Round of 16: • #11 Tony Jelso pushed #6 John Ellis to a tiebreaker before Ellis took the win, 11-7, 8-11, 7-11, 11-9, 13-11. • In a diving showcase #7 Mike Guidry came from two games down to defeat #10 Adam Karp in five. This was another tough loss for Karp who shows all the talent of the top players but just needs to get over the hump. • Against #14 Michael Bronfeld, #3 Andy Roberts won the first but between games was sidelined by terrible back spasms. With medical assistance Roberts was able to begin the second game but was later unable to continue. • It looked as though Carson had left it all on the court earlier in the day against Mannino, as the giant-killer lost to #13 James Mulcock in three.

Quarterfinals: • Mulcock won his first game by forcing mistakes from #12 Louis Vogel. But Vogel turned up his famous serve and controlled front court to win the next three and move into his first semi of the season. • The only tiebreaker of the round was Monchik d. Clouse, 4-11, 11-2, 11-9, 1-11, 12-10. • Ellis d. Bronfeld 11-3, 11-8, 11-2 • Swain d. Guidry 11-7, 11-3, 11-6.



MONCHIK IN RIVERSIDE. PHOTO: COURTESY KILLSHOT.

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on



February 12 ...
See pg. 5 for times!

Halloween Pro Am

SWAIN WINS IN CHICAGO

The irresistible force met the immovable object as Cliff Swain and Sudsy Monchik faced off in their fourth final of the season at the Halloween Pro-Am. Halloween week at Woodfield always means fun, parties, and great racquetball as the two top guns continued to distance themselves from the rest of the tour, while adding another classic final to what is becoming one of the greatest rivalries in the history of the sport.

Semifinals

Swain vs. Roberts brings to mind some of the best battles on the tour, with contrasts in style matched by both players' intensity and concentration. Robert's legendary sportsmanship (illustrated by an overturned skip call at the end of a three-hour match at the Pro Nationals) earned him crowd support, along with that of many family members in attendance, but he still never got going. Swain used a variety of serves to keep him off balance and looked crisp in a surprisingly easy three game win.

The other semi featured young guns Monchik and Ellis, in a completely different show of diving, power kills, and amazing

court coverage. But smiles and joking between these two friends often interrupts the intensity of the match. When Ellis took a 2-1 game lead, no one in Chicago was surprised, since it was here that Ellis had logged his only tour victory. But Monchik turned it up a notch to win the last two games and move toward what seems like destiny; another final against Swain.

Chicago: Early Round Highlights

Round of 32: • Canadian rookie Brian Istace used his power game to upset one of the tour's best player this season, #9 Tony Jelso. • A second Canadian, IRT veteran Mike Ceresia took an even larger win by defeating #8 Jason Mannino in four games. Ceresia's outstanding control game won him all the big rallies as Mannino lost in the 32's for the second event in a row.

Round of 16: Later, in a Canadian National Team battle, Ceresia battled Istace for a spot in the quarters. Istace prevailed in a two-and-a-half-hour crowd pleaser where every point was hotly contested. Istace moved on with his second great win of the day and his first quarterfinal appearance of his short IRT career.

Quarterfinals: The only challenger to take a game from one of the top seeds in the round was Maryland's Dan Fowler. Fowler has always had top-eight ability but has been putting it all together this season and is quickly becoming a consistent quarterfinalist. He won game two of his match against Swain, who advanced in four.

Final

Monchik and Swain took to the famous Mike Irwin Court at Woodfield for their fourth meeting this season. Chicago fans were treated to another epic struggle as Monchik took almost an hour to win the first two games! But Swain is never out of a match and he proved it by fighting back with strong serves to even the game count 2-2.

The tiebreaking fifth was everything that the fans had wanted and more, as Monchik & Swain fought point by point to 10-10. Unlike Riverside, this time it was Swain who hit all the big shots at the end and came away with a 12-10 win to even the match record for this season 2-2. With Swain and Monchik dominating the tour, all fans will get a chance to see their next match up — at the Promus Hotels U.S. Open, with broadcast coverage on ESPN2 — Thursday, February 12th!

TOUR NEWS

Riverside Notes: The IRT debuted its new sound system at Ralph's Pro-Am, which includes an on court microphone that is a big hit with the spectators. Not only could you get a real feel for how hard the ball was being hit, you could hear the players talking to themselves and each other. The event also took on an international flavor with a number of Japanese and Mexican players competing. The Ralph's Pro-Am is always great fun for everyone involved thanks to tournament directors Robin Dixon and Vance Lerner.

MBNA Announces IRT Visa Cards: Visa and MBNA have released a new IRT Visa credit card, available with or without an airline mileage program. The special Visa will feature the IRT logo and will qualify the cardholder for free travel, and discounts on all IRT Properties products. For additional information on the IRT Visa credit card, call toll free 888-772-5346.

Discount Program: Courtesy Sports offers anyone using the new IRT Visa 10% off the catalog price of any IRT official products, or a 5% discount on any other racquetball products. Get the new IRT Visa and start saving right away, with 10% off all IRT official products, including: Babolat IRT strings, Ektelon shoes, Head bags, Leader eyeguards, ProPenn balls & gloves, Spalding racquets and Tacki Mac IRT grips. See Courtesy Sports display ad on page 54 to order!

IRT & USRA Announce Las Vegas Pro Nationals as Regional Qualifier: The IRT & WIRT Pro Nationals in Las Vegas, Nevada April 22-26 will once again be a qualifying event for the Ektelon USRA 31st National Singles Championships. The top stars of the men's and women's tours will vie for the Pro National Championship title, while over 600 amateurs will battle for cash, prizes, and awards in over 35 divisions. The event will be a USRA Regional Qualifier in all amateur events at the beautiful Las Vegas Sporting House. Plan a week of great racquetball, fun, and good weather in Las Vegas. For information or entry forms call 702/733-8999, or the USRA at 719/635-5396.

WIRT ADMITS MALE MEMBER!

The Women's International Racquetball Tour (WIRT) may have adopted its first male member — his name is Fuzzy. OK, so he's a bear ... and maybe his forehand isn't the greatest. But Fuzzy has already made quite an impact on the WIRT.

Fuzzy, who belongs to an elementary student named Maura Steward, was on hand for the National Doubles action in Phoenix this past October. At that time, his companion was none other than newly named U.S. Team member Kersten Hallander. However, by tournament's end, Fuzzy found a new friend — Cheryl Gudinas (shown consoling the tour's No. 2 player after her quarterfinal upset).



No, Fuzzy's not a play-bear. He's on a journey.

"Maura's whole class sent these bears out across the country," Hallander said before the official Fuzzy-turnover to Gudinas. "She (Maura's mother Mary Ann) thought it would be a good idea if they went with women racquetball players because she knew she could trust us to really follow through."

Gudinas exclaimed, "As opposed to the men."

Each of the bears includes a personalized note. Fuzzy's reads: "Hello, my name is Fuzzy. I belong to Maura Steward at Sarah Starweather Elementary School in West Chester, Pa. Please treat me kindly and let my owner know that I am OK by sending a postcard back to West Chester to let her know where I am and what I've been doing. In order for me to continue my journey, please pass me on to another traveler who will take me to an interesting destination. If I am with you on May 5, 1998, please return me to Maura at this address. I hope to meet as many nice people and to see as many places as possible. I have many brother and sister bears traveling at the same time. I hope we all have safe and happy journeys."

When sending Maura updates, "You write the postcards in first person as if you are Fuzzy," Hallander explained.

Fuzzy's new buddy was almost at a loss for words. "I am thrilled," Gudinas said. "I can't tell you how much."

pro tour

results • schedules • rankings

IRT RESULTS

TICKER ...

Las Vegas: Aug. 1-3

Foxwoods IRT Pro-Am
Doubles — Todd O'Neil
& Derek Robinson def.
Steve Lerner & Tony Jelso
3-11, 11-6, 11-6, 5-11,
11-7.

New Orleans: Aug. 6-10

Elmwood Pro-Am
Summer Cooler — Sudsy
Monchik def. Cliff Swain
11-7, 11-4, 11-5.

Stockton: Aug. 28 - Sept. 1

Coors Light Pro-Am —
Cliff Swain def. Sudsy
Monchik 12-10, 11-5,
11-2.

Riverside: Sept. 24-28

Ralph's Pro-Am — Sudsy
Monchik def. Cliff Swain
11-8, 11-8, 12-14, 6-
11, 11-6.

Chicago: Oct. 29 - Nov. 2

Halloween Pro-Am —
Cliff Swain def. Sudsy
Monchik 10-12, 8-11,
11-8, 11-6, 12-10.

Memphis: Nov. 12-16

Promus Hotels U.S.
OPEN — Cliff Swain def.
Sudsy Monchik 11-6,
11-2, 11-3.

Boston: Nov. 19 - 23

Foxwoods Pro-Am —
Cliff Swain def. Mike Ray
5-11, 11-4, 11-4, 11-4.

Denver: Dec. 10-14

APH Service Pro-Am —
Cliff Swain def. Sudsy
Monchik 11-2, 11-6,
10-12, 10-12, 11-8.

IRT SCHEDULE

January 14 - 18

Ralph Schomp Automotive
Pro-Am @ Denver Athletic
Club — Denver, Colorado

January 21 - 25

Future Cellular*SBBS
Pro-Am @ Continental Ath.
Club — Columbus, Ohio

January 28 - February 1

St. Valentine's Day
Massacre/Laundry Land
Pro-Am @ Sports Courts
Lincoln, Nebraska

February 4 - 8

VCI Pro-Am @ Southern
Ath. Club — Atlanta, Ga.

February 18 - 22

Foxwoods Pro-Am
Sportset-Syosset
Long Island, N.Y.

February 25 - March 1

Piehl Pro-Am @ Penfield
Racquet & Fitness Club
Rochester, New York

March 13 - 15

VCI Doubles
Championships
Schoeber's Athletic Club
Pleasanton, California

March 25 - 29

March Madness Pro-Am
Goleta Valley Athletic Club
Santa Barbara, California

April 22 - 26

Foxwoods IRT Pro
Nationals @ Las Vegas
Sporting House
Las Vegas, Nevada

April 29 - May 3

Tony Filippini Real Estate
Pro-Am @ Club TBA
San Diego, California

May 6 - 9

Phoenix Pro-Am @ Arizona
Ath. Club — Phoenix, Ariz.

May 13 - 17

Bay101 IRT World
Championships @ Bayhill
Ath. Club — San Jose, Calif.

June 3 - 7

Spalding Tournament of
Champions @ Multnomah
Athletic Club
Portland, Oregon

WIRT RESULTS

TICKER ...

Annapolis, Md.: Sept. 5-7

RAD Pro-Am — Michelle
Gould def. Cheryl
Gudinas 11-4, 11-5, 11-
2.

Memphis: Nov. 12-16

Promus Hotels U.S.
OPEN — Michelle Gould
def. Jackie Paraiso 12-
10, 11-5, 11-4.

WIRT SCHEDULE

January 9 - 11

1998 Grand Slam Pro-Am
Highpoint Athletic Club
Chalfont, Pennsylvania

Feb. 27 - March 1

Future Cellular*SBBS
Pro-Am @ Continental Ath.
Club — Columbus, Ohio

March 6 - 8

Long Island Pro-Am
Amritraj Racquet & Health
Club — Bayshore, New York

April 22 - 26

Foxwoods WIRT Pro
Nationals @ Las Vegas
Sporting House
Las Vegas, Nevada

May 1 - 3

Crystal City Classic Pro-Am
The Skyline Club at Crystal
Gateway — Arlington, Va.

May 13 - 17

Bay101 WIRT World
Championships @ Bayhill
Ath. Club — San Jose, Ca.

June 4 - 7

RAD Tournament of
Champions @ Multnomah
Ath. Club — Portland, Ore.

International Racquetball

Tour 1997-98 SEASON

RANKINGS

As of December 15, 1997

1. Cliff Swain 3169
2. Sudsy Monchik 2826
3. Andy Roberts 2191
4. John Ellis 2019
5. Jason Mannino 1812
6. Mike Guidry 1440
7. Dan Fowler 1267
8. Mike Ray 1253
9. Adam Karp 1097
10. Tony Jelso 1067
11. Woody Clouse 1042
12. Louis Vogel 950
13. Kelly Gelhaus 938
14. Michael Bronfeld 876
15. James Mulcock 798
16. Drew Kachtik 683



Women's International Racquetball Tour 1997-98

SEASON RANKINGS

As of November 17, 1997

1. Michelle Gould 1218
2. Jackie Paraiso 923
3. Cheryl Gudinas 921
4. Randi Friedman 492
5. Laura Fenton 489
6. Lynne Coburn 487
7. Molly O'Brien 429
8. Marci Drexler 404
9. Kersten Hallander 397
10. Janet Myers 380
11. Lydia Hammock 379
12. Lorraine Galloway 345
13. Doreen Fowler 311
14. Christie VanHees 217
15. Marcy Lynch 194
16. Mindy Hartstein 153

Follow the IRT & WIRT on the Web: Check out the pros on the web at irt-tour.com anytime. Want the updated rankings, results from the last tour stop, entry forms for upcoming pro stops, which player accumulated the most fines at the last event? Everything you want to know about the IRT, WIRT, or your favorite pro players is available 24 hours a day 365 days a year at irt-tour.com. Check out the action!



changingtimes • by Luke St. Onge

Only three short years ago the entire industry met during the "Atlanta Super Show" to discuss the future development and expansion of racquetball. There, over 40 industry leaders outlined a

course for racquetball through the year 2000.

The first priority became an initiative with club owners, with special emphasis on changing the attitude of IHRSA toward racquetball. The result: a club profit video and comprehensive programming workbook was developed and distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The second project was to create a premier, televised event in which the entire industry could take part and support fully. The result: the U.S. Open debuted in 1996 with the portable court and ESPN coverage.

Until recently, the final unification effort — a working relationship between the National Governing Body (USRA) and the professional wing of the sport (IRT-WIRT) — had not been realized. At this time I am happy to report that negotiations between the USRA and the IRT/WIRT over the past year have resulted in a working agreement that will be mutually beneficial to both organizations, and to the sport overall.

The agreement addresses issues of sanctioning, insurance, joint competitions, communications, tournament activity, media efforts, Hall of Fame, and virtually every aspect of racquetball. Wherever joint efforts between the two organizations stand to benefit the sport as a whole, the USRA and IRT/WIRT have pledged to work together for that common good. Like USA Basketball and the NBA, or USA Hockey and the NHL, the USRA and IRT/WIRT have become partners in a shared vision for the sport. Full details of the agreement will be released later in the year.

Special recognition goes to all those who all had the vision and the dedication to make this important "third stage" happen, notably IRT/WIRT Commissioner Hank Marcus, the USRA Board of Directors and Eric Muller. Who knows what we can accomplish when we all work together?

IHRSA's New Era of Racquetball Promotion

Through the efforts of IHRSA Executive Director, John McCarthy, and IHRSA's Director of Sales and Promotion, Chuck Leve, a new, aggressive approach to racquetball is being taken by the club organization. Recognizing that racquetball members frequent clubs more, stay longer, and spend more money, IHRSA has renewed its effort to promote racquetball as a major activity within the fitness industry. The Sporting Goods Manufacturers, The Racquetball Industry Association, USRA, and IRT/WIRT have joined IHRSA in placing ads, establishing racquetball programming recognitions, and promoting racquetball jointly at the annual IHRSA convention.

This year the IHRSA convention will be held at the convention center in Phoenix, Arizona, and will feature:

- The first Annual IHRSA Racquetball Programming Award, honoring IHRSA clubs that have outstanding accomplishments in racquetball programming.
- IHRSA "Best Practices" publication detailing the racquetball success stories of IHRSA clubs.
- Four educational sessions on racquetball.
- The trade show will feature a "Racquetball Activity and Display area."
- IHRSA members will be invited to City Square Sports Club, where a special IRT pro exhibition will be conducted in conjunction with the Arizona State Championships.
- A full page ad on the financial opportunities of racquetball in the convention program and magazine.

In the latest issue of Club Business Industry, there are two full page ads on racquetball along with a feature on Bruce Hendin, owner of the Racquetball and Fitness Clubs of San Antonio.

Everyone involved feels that this is a new beginning of the rebirth of racquetball as a profit center within the fitness club industry.

Browse IHRSA online at: www.ihrsa.org

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USRA
United States Racquetball Association



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- Part 2 Forehand: principles, how to execute an arsenal of 12 different shots. Practice drills. (40 mins.)
- Part 3 Backhand: principles & confident execution of 11 different shots. Practice drills. (45 mins.)

TAPE 2: 1 HOUR 23 MINUTES

- Part 4 Serve & Service Return: mechanics & strategies of a variety of winning serves & service returns. Practice drills. (33 mins.)
- Part 5 Preparation & Strategy: warm-up, game plan, shot selection, offensive and defensive pressure, anticipation. (50 mins.)

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Jim Hiser, Ph.D.
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American Amateur Racquetball Association

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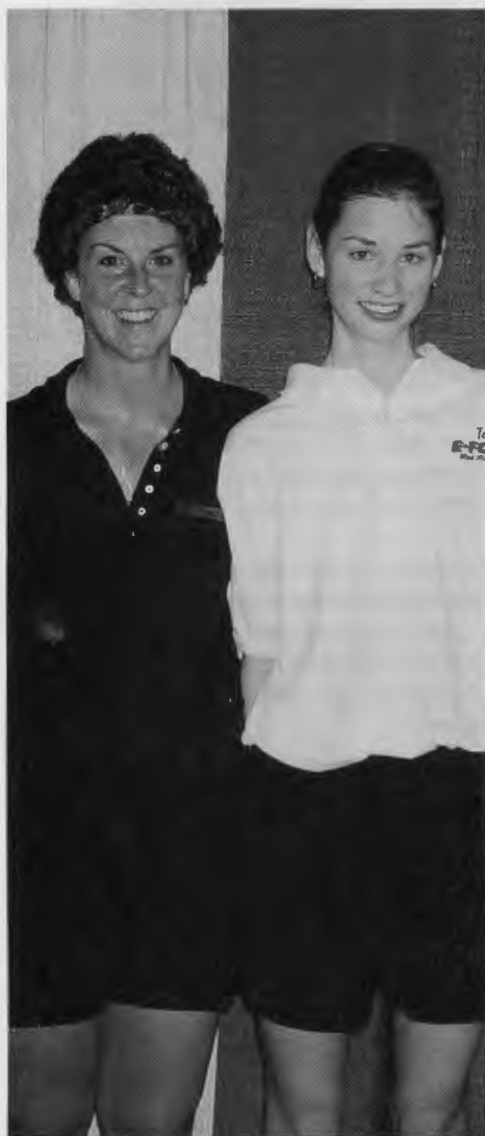
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rb:people & places



With almost twelve feet between them, Michelle Gould and Karina Odegard measure up in Memphis. Photo: Sharon Odegard.

"UP" & Coming

Karina Odegard took to the glass stadium court at the U.S. OPEN with all the nervous jitters of a long-awaited first date. But this date was with greatness, which – in the world of racquetball – comes in the form of Michelle Gould.

"It brought back a lot of memories for me," Gould said of her opponent – a five-time world junior champion – "because the first time I made the U.S. Team, I was 14 and here I am today playing this 15-year old world champion from Canada."

Sure the youngster had five world junior titles and numerous Canadian junior crowns, but now she was facing the best female player in the game ... world champion for the past six years, U.S. national singles champion eight of the last nine and pro tour champion six of the past seven.

How would she compete against such a fantastic player? With poise – even in an 11-0, 11-2, 11-0 defeat.

Her play throughout the tournament impressed one of the sport's finest teachers, Jim Hiser of the USRA. "She's going to be very good," the displaced Canadian said of young Odegard.

Gould agreed, saying, "Her game is coming along really well. I was speaking with her mother after the match and she's struggling a little bit with the fact that — when you grow by

leaps in bounds when you're young — your body has to catch up. She's starting to fill out and get a little more muscle mass, get a little bit stronger. I think she's definitely going to be somebody to look out for."

"It was great. I played the first person that was taller than me on the tour — ever. I was thrilled."

At 5'11", Odegard could develop into one of the premier players on the women's tour within the next decade.

"The first time she ever played," said mom Sharon, "she was six years old and it was in Miami (World Junior Orange Bowl). That was when Michelle (Gould) was in her last 18-and-under year. In fact, Karina saw her play Lori (-Jane Powell of Canada) and that was the first we'd ever heard of Michelle."

"It's a real opportunity to play her," Sharon said of her daughter's match versus Gould, "especially on the glass court. She said, 'I don't mind playing her, but on that glass court?' That's kind of scary."

After receiving the sacrificial donut in game one, Odegard got her first point mid-way through the second, much to the delight of the Candian contingent.

"It was kind of lucky, but that's alright," Karina said.

She already has the potential and talent, if she gets some more luck ... her opponents had better watch out.

'97 USRA Scholarship Winners

TRICIA BOOTS: A former Pennsylvania state doubles champion, Tricia Boots captured the 1996 mixed title with her father, John Boots. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pa., Boots is a 1997 graduate of the Duquesne University School of Health Sciences and is working towards a degree as a Physician Assistant. Former president of her school's Dean's Advisory Board (1995-96), Boots is a repeat winner of the USRA Scholarship (1995) and also garnered two DU

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: USRA SCHOLARS BOOTS, GRASHA, GROSS, HELFRICH & KESSLER.

scholarships - the 1995 Presidential Scholarship and the '96 Unrestricted Gift Scholarship.

"I am currently the racquetball director at the City Club, an athletic facility in downtown Pittsburgh," Boots said in her application. "I also give beginning lessons there."

SADIE GROSS: A two-time member of the U.S. Junior National Team, Sadie Gross is a senior (one semester ahead of schedule) at the University of Memphis. Gross finished second in women's No.1 singles, at the 1997 Intercollegiate Championships in Boise, Idaho. An established basketball player for Yankton (S.D.) High School, the two-time (1995 and '96) girl's 18-and-under national champion chose to play racquetball for UM coaching legend Larry Liles and the Tigers. At Memphis, Gross is a member of the Dean's List while majoring in accounting in the School of Business.

"I had scholarship offers to play basketball at several well-distinguished universities," Gross said, "but I decided to attend the University of Memphis because I wanted to continue to play racquetball."

KORI GRASHA: A native of Amherst, N.Y., Kori Grasha is a junior at Canisius College in Buffalo. An elementary education major, Grasha will receive her certification in Latin and a minor and dual certification in classics. Grasha helped the U.S. Junior National Team to the 1996 Junior World team title in her second consecutive appointment to the squad. The current New York women's open champ, Grasha tutors college and high school students in Latin while maintaining a stellar 3.55 GPA.

"Having the opportunity to be a member of the Junior USA Racquetball Team has been an incredible experience," Grasha stated. "I have always had a goal to represent my country in some way. It has been a dream



come true - being a part of a great team while promoting the sport I love."

TOMMY HELFRICH:

Helfrich founded the Indiana University racquetball club & team while working 40 hours a week and maintaining a 3.8 GPA. A junior, majoring in marketing at IU's renowned School of Business, Helfrich has helped lead the Hoosiers to consecutive third-place men's team finishes (1996 and '97) at the U.S. National Intercollegiates. A graduate of Parkway West High School in Chesterfield, Mo., Helfrich also works as a marketing and promotions



assistant for the Indiana Athletic Department.

"My focus has temporarily shifted from racquetball to career goals," Helfrich said. "I am a computer information systems and marketing major with an overall GPA of 3.8. I hope to begin my own web development company and play some professional racquetball after I graduate."

RYAN KESSLER: Teammate of Helfrich, Ryan Kessler is a sophomore in IU's School of Business, while majoring in sports marketing. Kessler also attended

Parkway West (Mo.) High School and is a member of the Hoosier racquetball team. Kessler was a 1996 recipient of the USRA Scholarship, the 1994 Missouri state high school racquetball champion and member of the 1996 Missouri State 4A H.S. baseball champion.

"Racquetball has always been the activity that kept me in good physical condition and fulfilled that drive to compete one-on-one," Kessler said.

Applications for annual USRA equal opportunity scholarships are available to any USRA member currently accepted or enrolled in a college degree program as a full-time student. Since 1990, the USRA Scholarship Program has granted 24 awards totalling over \$12,000 to aspiring student athletes. The application deadline for a 1998-99 scholarship is June 15, 1998. Inquiries and requests for applications may be made by contacting the:
USRA - Scholarship Program
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
ATTN: Kevin Joyce, Membership Services
Tel: 719/635-5396 ext. 23
Fax: 719/635-0685

rb:people & places



Top: Carol Stoll of Arizona was the winner of the Ivan Bruner Award for the most contributions to NMRA racquetball in 1997.

Below: Doctors Gene Grapes and Al Schattner won the Men's 65+ doubles division. Photos: Courtesy Ron Pudduck



National Masters International Tournament

**Las Vegas, Nevada
July 16-19, 1997**

Almost 200 masters players from around the world joined together for four days of racquetball competition in sunny Las Vegas. Over 2000 round-robin matches were contested in singles, doubles and mixed doubles before winners finally emerged. This major tournament was held at the Las Vegas Sporting House and the Las Vegas Athletic Club during the heat of a Las Vegas summer. While the temperatures outside the club soared to 112 degrees, the matches held inside the air-conditioned facilities frequently generated a high level of heat and intense competition. Some winners were those with familiar names, but a number of age brackets resulted in new names entering into the winner's circle.

In men's 45+, Jerry Dye (TX) finished first with 304 total points. This was followed closely by the second place score of Jim Luzar (WI) at 299, third place at 296 and fourth place at 293. An even closer finish was in the men's 50+ singles. John Aldape (ID) and Ray Huss (OH) both finished with 328 points but Aldape was declared the winner based on head-to-head competition. In Men's 55+, Ron Combs (CA) defeated Glenn Allen (VA) in a championship playoff between flight winners. Paul Banales (AZ) defeated Joe Jackman (PA), Jerry Stoltmann (WI), and Jerry Holly (CA) to win the world title in men's 60+ singles. In men's 70+, new Hall of Fame inductee, Vic Sacco (NY) finished in front of Joe Lambert (TX), 216 to 202 points, Earl Acuff (NC) won 75+ singles by a 30 point margin over Nick Sans (CA).

In women's competition, Debra Tisinger (CA) took first in 35+ singles. Linda Moore (WI) out scored four competitors to win the 40+ bracket. The closest finish in

women's events took place in 45+ singles, where Carol Palombino (CA) defeated Andee Glansberg (NY) by a total point score of 184 to 183. Nidia Funes (CA) 50+, Marquita Moline (CA) 55+, Jo Kenyon (FL) 60+, and Lola Markus (IL) 65+ were our winners.

In men's doubles, Rex Lawler (IN) and Ray Huss (OH) defeated the second place team of Walker/Rosenberg by a score of 164 to 156. Lee Graff (OR) and Tom Penick (CA) won 55+ doubles while Paul Banales (AZ) and Ron Pudduck (MI) won 60+ doubles. Other doubles winners were Gene Grapes (PA)/Al Schattner (PA) in 65+, Ivan Bruner (WI)/Vic Sacco (NY) in 70+, and Don Goddard (MT)/Nick Sans (CA) in 75+. It still gives one an exciting rush when you see teams of players 75+ competing at such a high level.

In mixed doubles, Linda Moore (WI) and Craig Olsen (NE) won the combined 35-50 age bracket. And perennial champion Jo Kenyon (FL) teamed with Ken Moore (CA) and the transcontinental twosome finished first in 55+.

If you are interested in competing in any of the three NMRA round robin national or international tournaments for masters players (men 45+, women 35+), join the National Masters Racquetball Association. Contact Paul Banales, 602-849-6298, for membership information and details.

MEN'S SINGLES — 45+: Jerry Dye; 50+: John Aldape (ID); 55+: Ron Combs (CA); 60+: Paul Banales (AZ); 65+: Jim Railey (KY); 70+: Vic Sacco (NY); 75+: Earl Acuff (NC); 80+: George Spear Sr. (FL). **WOMEN'S SINGLES** — 35+: Debra Tisinger (CA); 40+: Linda Moore (WI); 45+: Carol Palombino (CA); 50+: Nidia Funes (CA); 55+: Marquita Moline (CA); 60+: Jo Kenyon (FL); 65+: Lola Markus (IL). **MENS DOUBLES** — 45+: Kirkpatrick/Gary Mazaroff (NM); 50+: Rex Lawler (IN)/Ray Huss (OH); 55+: Lee Graff (OR)/Tom Penick (CA); 60+: Ron Pudduck (MI)/Paul Banales (AZ); 65+: Gene Grapes (PA)/Al Schattner (PA); 70+: Ivan Bruner (WI)/Vic Sacco (NY); 75+: Don Goddard (MT)/Nick Sans (CA). **MIXED DOUBLES** — 35-50+: Linda Moore (WI)/Craig Olsen (NE); 55+: Jo Kenyon (FL)/Ken Moore (CA).



the lovely, the talented ...

Left: Now who could this little cutie belong to? Readers got a clue in the last issue, when tour writer Todd O'Neil detailed his trip to the Orient. Introducing Sara Hope O'Neil at four weeks of age ...

u.s. open gallery

•**Below Center:** It was a "full court press" for spectators at the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN, who filled the 1,200 capacity seating surrounding the stadium court – then shifted into "standing room only" for the finals. *Photo: Mike Boatman.*

•**Bottom left:** Jennifer Dering worked long and hard at the registration desk in Memphis, but was relieved long enough to attend the Ektelon party and get "tattooed." *Photo: Vicky Hughes.* •**Bottom right:** Following last year's event, Florida's Sal Perconti decided that his next vantage point would be front-and-center. Perconti Data Systems became a sponsor of the event, entitling Sal and friends to prime seating and VIP treatment all week long. *Photo: Vicky Hughes.*

•**Far right:** Lynn Adams shared her secret wish at the "Party for the Pros" by admitting her desire to belt one out in front of a forgiving crowd. She "opened" for headliner Jason D. Williams with a first class rendition of "Walking in Memphis." *Photo: Mike Boatman.*



usra national events!

USRA RULES: USRA

Official Rules will govern both competitions, including the mandatory use of lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards.

OFFICIATING: Losers will be required to referee, and \$5.00 of each entry fee will be paid back to you for every match you referee in a gold division.

IF any entries are accepted after the deadline, an additional \$15.00 late fee will be assessed (payment made at tournament check-in will be processed as a late entry and surcharged). **ALL ENTRIES ARE FINAL. Absolutely no refunds after entry deadline.**

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS:

Margo Daniels, National
Tournament Director @
408/372-7224

Jim Hiser, USRA Associate
Executive Director @
719/635-5396, ext. 30.

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high school

WILSON USRA 11TH NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A USRA Event, presented by Penn Racquet Sports
[Played with the Pro Penn green ball ...]

MARCH 6-8

Concord Sports Club • St. Louis, Missouri
314/842-3111

ENTRY FEE: \$45.00 First event (includes referee fee), \$20.00 second event, \$15.00 third event. **DIVISIONS:** Singles, doubles and mixed doubles are offered. In doubles, both players must be from the same school, except in the non-championship mixed doubles event.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Received no later than FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, (postmarked by 02/18). **STARTING TIMES:** Starting times will be available after 5:00 pm on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4. *Do not call the national office for starting times ... call the site club @ 314/842-3111.* **PLAY BEGINS:** Matches may be scheduled to begin as early as 3:00 pm on FRIDAY, MARCH 6. Local players may begin play on Thursday evening. **CHECK IN:** Registration will be held at the club beginning on FRIDAY, MARCH 6 and also during the tournament.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Black & White Cab offers one-way service to the hotel for \$26.00 (you must make your own arrangements on arrival). A separate shuttle service between the hotel and club will be available from 3:00 pm on Friday through the end of the event on Sunday.

LODGING: Holiday Inn, South County Center, 6921 South Lindbergh Blvd. Rate: \$62.00 per night for up to four persons per room. For reservations call: 800/264-6616 or 314/892-3600 and mention the High School Championship to receive your special rate.

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team entry to these
national events, call
719/635-5395, ext. 55.

Propenn.

& intercollegiate

E-FORCE USRA 26TH NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A USRA Event, presented by Penn Racquet Sports
[Played with the Pro Penn green ball ...]

MARCH 25-29

**City Square Sports Club • Phoenix, Arizona
602/285-2929**

ENTRY FEES: \$55.00 first event per person (includes referee fee), \$20.00 second event. **DIVISIONS:** Mens Team-Singles #1,#2,#3,#4,#5,#6 and Doubles #1,#2,#3. Womens Team-Singles #1,#2,#3,#4, #5,#6 and Doubles #1,#2,#3. Only one mens team and one womens team will be permitted per school.

DRUG TESTING: Random drug testing will be performed. Important Note: The entire team will be disqualified if any member fails the test. For more information about specific medications, call the USOC Drug Hotline at 1-800-233-0393.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Entry must be received by WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 (post-marked by 03/09). **STARTING TIMES:** Starting times will be available after 6:00 pm on MONDAY, MARCH 23. Do not call the national office for starting times ... call the site club @ 602/285-2929. **PLAY BEGINS:** 8:00 am WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25. No exceptions. **CHECK-IN:** Registration will be held at the club beginning at 6:00 pm on TUESDAY, MARCH 24.



GROUND TRANSPORTATION:

The airport is 20 miles from the club/hotel and transportation must be arranged prior to arrival. Call Super Shuttle @ 602/244-9000 and request the special

\$9.00 USRA rate. **LODGING:** The Lexington Hotel (in the same building as the club) @ \$80.00 per night for up to four persons to a room – 602/279-9811. The Quality Hotel (2 blocks from club) @ \$89.00 – 602/248-0222. When making reservations be sure to mention the National Intercollegiate Championships.

Intercollegiate Qualifying Changes in 1998 ...

States will offer qualifying collegiate divisions in selected tournaments. Some areas may still host regional events as they have in the past, but athletes will be able to qualify for Nationals by playing in either a state-hosted qualifier or a separate regional event.

Schools will be able to qualify their teams by sending one representative from each squad (male and female). Thus, to qualify a full men's team (6 singles, 3 doubles) only one male entrant would have to compete in the qualifying event. However, seeding consideration will only be extended to those who compete in a qualifying event.

Colleges/universities that wish to receive confirmation of this policy change and/or entry forms to qualifiers and the national championship, must make that request via the national office [719/635-5396]. Since racquetball coordinators change frequently, schools should update the USRA office with the names and addresses of new personnel each year.

tournament info

The following state events have been recognized as 1998 Collegiate Qualifiers

State	Date	Event	City	Contact
CALIFORNIA	Jan.30 - Feb. 1	Stuck in Lodi Open	Lodi, CA	Barbara Tibbens @ 209/334-4897
CONNECTICUT	March 6-8	Connecticut State Singles	New Haven, CT	Juliet Campbell @ 203/248-1869
FLORIDA	February 20-22	Florida State Singles	Sarasota, FL	Mary Lyons @ 904/270-2224
ILLINOIS	Feb. 27-March 1	Illinois State Singles	Evergreen Park, IL	Winston Cole @ 708/425-7200
MINNESOTA	February 20-22	Univ. of Minn. Pro Am	Minneapolis, MN	Matt Hiber @ 612/626-7836
MISSOURI	February 20-22	Missouri State Singles	St. Louis, MO	Jen Yokota @ 314/921-7933
TENNESSEE	March 6-8	Tennessee State Singles	Club - TBA	Sheila Collins @ 615/331-1923
UTAH	January 20-24	Logan Recreation Center	Logan, UT	Val Shewfelt @ 801/375-8348

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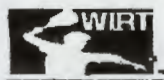
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7. Brian Fredenberg, TX
8. Tim Hansen, FL
9. Dan Llacera, DE
10. Adam Karp, CA

Men's A

1. David Guentert, KS
2. Ralph Cuesta, FL
3. Steve Tillotson, CA
4. Tim Hardison, SC
5. Silvio Rostran, FL
- 6T. Check Davis, AR
- 6T. Rob Teren, OH
8. Ken Fairchild, NJ
9. Billy Barker, OH
10. Mike Harmon, FL

Men's B

1. Anthony Borden, TX
2. Craig Citti, IL
3. George Anthon, LA
- 4T. Mike O'Donoghue, DE
- 5T. Not a Member
6. Mark Bianchi, OK
7. Marc Schnittker, CO
8. Ron Bonds, MI
9. Hector Martinez, AR
10. Todd Cook, NC

Men's C

1. Marc Claybon, OH
2. Bruce Gruszcza, OK
3. Kevin Brand, SC
4. Ray Meisner, IL
5. John Garcia, NM
6. Twayne Howard, MI
- 7T. Tim Anderson, MN
- 7T. Jason Skinner, AR
9. Marc Dehart, CO
10. Martino Moore, AR

Men's D

1. Joe Schmitz, AR
2. Jerry Gibson, TN
3. Jon Hardy, AR
4. Vince Session, MI
5. Bryan Jacoby, SC
- 6.. Ryan Kinnaman, AR
7. Melvin Todd, TX
8. Raymond Gong, CA
9. Mark Lawson, WV
10. Not a Member, CA

Men's Novice

- 1T. Josh Chronister, PA
- 1T. Chris Poole, AR

- 3T. Rob Day, WA
- 3T. Daniel Fowler, GA
- 3T. Eric Fritchley, OH
- 3T. Lou Lappen, PA
- 3T. Scott Lubbers, MI
- 3T. Mark Soderstrom, OK
- 3T. Jesse Wells, TX
10. WM Allen Ayers, AR

Men's All Age

1. Scott Grunin, MA
2. Ryan Homa, WI
- 3T. Rob DeJesus, NM
- 3T. Willie Tilton, CO
5. Mike Dennison, OH
6. Brian Simpson, IN
- 7.. Nick Xynidis, FL
8. Alain Pujolar, FL
- 9T. Matt Adesso, OH
- 9T. Aaron Metcalf, FL

Men's 25+

1. Mike Locker, MN
2. Kevin Graham, ND
- 3T. Matthew Anderson, GA
- 3T. Rich Baer, NY
- 3T. James Lorello, FL
6. Brian Pointelin, CO
7. Anthony Defusto, NY
8. David Smith, GA
- 9T. Travis Aldinger, PA
- 9T. John Cantrell, KS

Men's 30+

1. Brad McCuniff, IA
2. Dan Llacera, DE
3. Gregg Peck, TX
4. Jimmy Lowe, AK
- 5T. John Barrett, PA
- 5T. Lee Beckwith, CO
- 5T. Lance Gilliam, TX
- 5T. John Negrete, FL
9. Alan Sheppard, NC
10. Pat Bernardo, NY

Men's 35+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Tim Hansen, FL
4. Not a Member, CT
5. Martin McDermott, TX
6. Roger Miller, VA
7. Dave Eagle, OH
8. John Scargle, FI
- 9T. Joe Hassey, AZ
- 9T. Gil Rodriguez, VA

Men's 40+

1. Terry Fluhart, FL
2. Mitt Layton, FL
3. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
4. Mitch Smith, PA
- 5T. Gil Rodriguez, VA
- 5T. Dave Schwent, MO
- 7T. Dave Peck, TX
- 7T. Tom Rall, CO

9. Mark Baron, VA
10. Jim Luzar

Men's 45+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Jim Luzar, WI
3. Gary Mazaroff, NM
4. Jerry Dye, TX
5. Bruce Shafer, NY
6. Mike Robinson, TX
7. Rick Fusari, FL
- 8T. Greg Hasty, IL
- 8T. Darryl Warren, CA
10. Dan Davis, TX

Men's 50+

1. John Aldape, ID
2. Ray Huss, OH
3. Ed Remen, NC
4. Tom McKie, TX
5. Stan Lemon, TX
- 6T. Terry Albright, MO
- 6T. Barry Hendricks, AZ
- 6T. Dennis O'Brien, ID
9. Scott Rudoni, CA
10. Ken Vanzandt, TX

Men's 55+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Roger Wehrle, GA
3. Les Barbanell, NJ
- 4T. Warren Reuther, LA
- 4T. Bobby Sanders, OH
6. Ron Hutcherson, IN
7. Tom Rearden, IL
8. Luis Guerrero, CA
- 9.. Lee Rients, MN
10. Rex Lawler, IN

Men's 60+

1. Jerry Stoltmann, WI
2. Jerry Holly, CA
3. Paul Banales, AZ
4. Michael Jackson, CT
5. Ron Maggard, MO
6. Grant Morrill, PA
7. David Jordan, NJ
8. Ken Moore, CA
9. Joe Jackman, PA
10. Joe Lambert, TX

Men's 65+

1. Don Alt, FL
2. John Reid, CA
3. Joe Lambert, TX
- 4T. Ken Karmel, AR
- 4T. John O'Donnell, IL
6. Skip Kiphart, TX
- 7T. Otis Chapman, OH
- 7T. Vance Lerner, CA
9. Charles Kaiser, MI
- 10.. Jack Bogasky, VA

Men's 70+

1. Mal Roberts, FL
2. Dick Kincade, CO

3. Joe Lambert, TX
4. Victor Sacco, NY
5. Hank Richard, GA
6. Earl Acuff, NC
7. Windell Hildebrandt, AZ
- 8T. Marvin Rosenberg, NJ
- 8T. Duane Russell, MI
10. Not a Member, PA

Men's 75+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Robert McAdam, TX
3. Nick Sans, CA
4. Hank Richard, GA
5. George Spear, FL
6. Luzell Wilde, UT
7. Al Romero, NM
8. Bill Matotan, NM
- 9T. Don Goddard, MT
- 9T. Carlos Sena, FL

Men's 80+

1. George Spear, FL
2. Harry Steinman, MD
3. Andy Trozzi, MA
4. C. Allen Shepherd, MD
5. Walt Mosenthal, MA
6. Hank Richard, GA

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Kersten Hallander, CA
2. Denise Mock, TX
3. Michelle Gould, ID
4. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
5. Lisa Hjelm, CA
6. Carol Krieger, MN
- 7T. Lorraine Feeney, MA
- 7T. Lydia Hammock, CA
9. Jen Yokota, MO
10. Rosemary Anderson, NC

Women's A

1. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
2. Debbie Fiordilino, NY
3. Megan Bals, NE
4. Karen Schmidt, CA
5. Dianne Weissbach, MA
6. Victoria Carpenter, NC
7. Jeanette Coury, TX
8. Deborah Mustone, VA
- 9T. Thelma Ruhlen, VA
- 9T. Sheri Viscount, DE

Women's B

1. Kristen Kovar, NE
2. Bonnie Mobley, TX
3. Kassi Herr, FL
- 4T. Belinda Dettman, FL
- 4T. Kelly Goddard, VA
- 4T. Grace Jaworsky, KS
7. Deryl Lee, GA
8. Bonnie Morrell, PA

9. Alina Polak, FL
10. Leslie Miller, IL

Women's C

1. Nathania Stewart, GA
2. Terry Truvillion, MI
3. Shelly Stetler, CO
4. Judith Justice, SC
5. Laurie Gordon, CT
6. Sheri Kinnaman, AR
7. Cheryl Bird, TX
8. Jesi Fuller, NM
9. B.J. Calloway, GA
10. Karen Davis, CT

Women's D

1. Alicia Matza, CA
2. Rhonda Lindenman, OK
3. Kathleen Neal, GA
- 4T. Erica Beaudry, CO
- 4T. Gail Gabrysh, TX
6. Tammy Pacinelli, NM
- 7T. Dianne Elmore, AR
- 7T. Terri Hench, FL
9. Cheryl Stamps, AR
10. Jennifer Quon, CA

Women's Novice

1. Lourdes Rivera, FL
- 2T. Kastle Arturo, AK
- 2T. Nikki Winfrey, OH
- 4T. Lisa Barrett, PA
- 4T. Karen Berry, IL
6. Linda Gubitose, PA
7. Kelly Bruns, VA
8. Lisa Veneruso, CT
9. Chris Parks, IN
10. Erica Balkonis, CT

Women's All Age

1. Shannon Feaster, DC
1. Sadie Gross, SD
- 3T. Tammy Brockbank, ID
- 3T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
5. Vanessa Tulao, NC
- 6T. Erika Juhl, DE
- 6T. Aimee Roehler, PA
- 8T. Kim Machiran, MO
- 8T. Lori Perino, MT
- 8T. Nicole Schultz, OR

Women's 25+

1. Michelle Wiragh, MD
- 2T. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
- 2T. Elaine Mardas, OH
4. Tina Bragdon, CO
- 5T. Thelma Ruhlen, VA
- 5T. Jen Yokota, MO
7. Kim Herrold, SC
8. Peggine Callahan, CA
9. Holly Remen, NC
10. Jo Shattuck, CO

Women's 30+

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. Debbie Tisinger, CA
3. B.J. Ehr Gott, CT

Rankings...rankings

These rankings are based on results processed by the national office as of:
NOVEMBER 19, 1997

4. Lydia Hammock, CA
5. Holly Remen, NC
6. Bridget Barron, TX
7. Teri Lawrence, FL
- 8T. Mindy Hartstein, NY
- 8T. Lisa Papp, GA
10. Stacy Sour, CO

Women's 35+

1. Debbie Tisinger, CA
2. Denise Mock, TX
3. Lorraine Galloway, NY
4. Mary Beke, AZ
5. Mary Bickley, PA
6. Carol Bastien, IL
7. Roz Petronelli, MA
- 8T. Kim Machiran, MO
- 8T. Jodi Paul, PA
- 8T. Janet Tyler, FL

Women's 40+

1. Linda Moore, NE
2. Janice Chayt, VA
3. Karen Bouchard, FL
4. Susan Pfahler, FL
5. Marcia Richards, CO
6. Mary Bickley, PA
7. Susan Hendricks, AZ
8. Val Shewfelt, UT
9. Jere Luttner, TX
10. Jean Trimble, FL

Women's 45+

1. July Sands, NJ
2. Shelley Ogden, OH
3. Janet Myers, NC
4. Eileen Tuckman, FL
5. Renee Fish, FL
- 6T. Debbie Chaney, IN
- 6T. Andee Glansberg, NY
- 6T. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
9. Carol Palombino, CA
10. Terry Ann Rogers, CA

Women's 50+

1. Agatha Falso, FL
2. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
3. Meri Jean Kelley, CA
4. Margaret Hoff, IL
5. Nidia Funes, CA
6. Pattie Schof, LA
7. Donna Johnson, ID
8. Gwen Barber, AR
- 9T. May Barber, VA
- 9T. Sharon Chandler, WA

Women's 55+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Gail Schaefer, MD
3. Rose Stoltmann, WI
4. Jo Kenyon, FL
5. Marquita Molina, CA
6. Mildred Gwinn, NC
7. Pauline Kelly, IL
8. Annabelle Kovar, NE
9. Nidia Funes, CA
10. Nancy Butts, WI

Women's 60+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Susan Embry, CA
- 3T. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- 3T. Helen Dunsmoor, ID
5. Jane Graham, GA
- 6T. Norma Carlisle, UT
- 6T. Lola Markus, IL
- 6T. Kathy Mueller, MN
- 9T. Naomi Eads, MO
- 9T. Ellis Sanchez, NM

Women's 65+

1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
3. Reta Harring, WI
4. Not a Member, KY
- 5T. Louise Kiss, NM
- 5T. Paula McNeish, FL

Women's 70+

- 1T. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- 1T. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
3. Not a Member, TN
4. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
5. Roberta Schoenfeld, NM
6. Beth Keene, TX

Women's 75+

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

Women's 80+

1. Zelda Friedland, NM

BOYS

Boy's 6 & under

1. Alex Sutherland, WI
2. Michael Kaupla, WI

B6 Multi-Bounce

1. Erick Podwill, OR
- 2T. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
- 2T. Ryan Noble, NC
4. John Sanderson, UT
- 5T. Mike Clark, OR
- 5T. Sean Wichers, NM
- 7T. Andrew Nunez, NM
- 7T. Devin Rojas, OR
9. Diego Castaneda, NM

Boy's 8 & Under

1. Nick Arturo, AK
2. Jamin Godwin, FL
3. Mark Beaudry, CO
4. Alan Crockett, AL
5. Conner Reynolds, GA
- 6T. Jansen Allen, TX
- 6T. Matt Keddie, NH
- 6T. Brad Starken, WI
- 9T. Kenneth Green, Jr., GA
- 9T. Colin Stock, OR

B8- Multi-Bounce

1. Brandon Callihan, AK
2. Kenneth Green, Jr., GA
3. Avery Zuck, OR
4. Matthew Machiran, MO
- 5T. Matt Keddie, NH
- 5T. Eric Noble, NC
7. Justin Asuncion, MA
8. Cam Grundman, MN
9. Korey Walsh, UT
10. Colin Stock, OR

Boy's 10-

1. Charlie Pratt, OR
2. Joey Lakowske, OR
3. Eddie Mazur, CT
- 4T. Chris Coy, OK
- 4T. Matthew Hammond, TX
- 6T. Andrew Grissom, CA
- 6T. Matt Johnson, NM
8. Drew Toland, AR
9. Mike Keddie, NH
10. Matthew Emmel, NY

Boy's 12-

1. Clay Burris, FL
2. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
3. Steven Klaiman, TX
4. Patrick Debord, NE
5. Seth Parker, PA
6. Adrian Anulewicz, CT
7. Brad Slocum, FL
8. Chris Meyer, OR
- 9T. E.J. Basta, MO
- 9T. Omri Buzi, TX

Boy's 14-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Bart Crawford, OR
3. Matthew McElhiney, FL
4. Trevor Crowe, OR
5. Bobby Tantalio, NY
- 6T. Michael Lawrence, AL
- 6T. Joe Roth, PA
- 6T. Chad Walters, NC
- 6T. Joel Worthington, KS
10. Patric Mascorro, TX

Boy's 16-

1. Jeffrey Garner, AL
2. Ryan Staten, KS
3. Josh Tucker, MO
- 4T. Mike Harmon, FL
- 4T. Brent Walters, NC

6. Marcus Hughes, GA
7. Fred Tantalio III, NY
8. Matt Gehling, MD
9. Adam Tueller, UT
10. Brad Jantz, WI

Boy's 18-

1. Erin Brannigan, ID
- 2T. Mark Bloom, LA
- 2T. Rocky Carson, CA
- 4T. Jeffrey Garner, AL
- 4T. Brandon Henline, GA
6. Willie Tilton, CO
7. Tyler Siggins, CA
8. Larry Peek, FL
9. Not a Member, TX
10. Dustin Baker, PA

GIRLS

G6- Multi-Bounce

1. Nicole Robinson, OR

Girls 8 & Under

1. Brittany Legget, OR
2. Rebeka Kopf, NY
3. Shannon Inglesby, OR
4. Jenny Epstein, NY
5. Ashley Willhite, OR
6. Brandi Alexander, LA
7. Kara Mazur, CT
- 8T. Sarah Moyle, OR
- 8T. Nicole Robinson, OR
10. Brianna Elder, MD

G8- Multi-Bounce

1. Brittany Legget, OR
2. Kara Mazur, CT
3. Shannon Inglesby, OR
4. Brooke Schulenberg, MN
- 5T. Melissa Garcia, NM
- 5T. Nicole Robinson, OR
7. Jenny Epstein, NY
- 8T. Rebeka Kopf, NY
- 8T. Sarah Moyle, OR
10. Sharon Jackson, IN

Girl's 10-

1. Ashley Legget, OR
2. Brandie Hanson, OR
3. Jenny Hough, MD
4. Ashley Willhite, OR

5. Natalie Starken, WI
6. Nikki Winfrey, OH
7. Kelley Fisher, OH
- 8T. Jessie Ballard, UT
- 8T. Katie Lyons, FL
10. Kastle Arturo, AK

Girl's 12-

1. Kimberly Irons, OH
2. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
3. Adrienne Fisher, OH
4. Mary Sweeney, NY
5. Derai Darling, OR
6. Jesi Fuller, NM
- 7T. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
- 7T. Katherine Stock, OR
9. Brittany Larson, OK
10. Erica Beaudry, CO

Girl's 14-

- 1T. Melanie Mueller, CO
- 1T. Kristen Walsh, UT
3. Krystal Csuk, IL
4. Juliana Mayor, NY
5. Kristen Kovar, NE
6. Crystal Winfrey, OH
- 7T. Adva Buzi, TX
- 7T. Jen Ersek, NY
9. Amy Jo Hollingsworth, OR
10. Jeni Fuller, NM

Girl's 16-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR
2. Megan Bals, NE
- 3T. Sara Borland, IA
- 3T. Maggie Debord, NE
5. Meghan Guardiani, MA
6. Jennifer Swallow, PA
7. Jessica Wood, NY
8. Krystal Csuk, IL
9. Natasha Elmore, AR
10. Michelle Gonzalez, OR

Girl's 18-

1. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
2. Liana Kerwood, OR
3. Katie Gould, MO
4. Brooke Crawford, OR
5. Christina Lewendal, OR
6. Melissa Harmon, FL
- 7T. Sara Borland, IA
- 7T. Erin Frost, OR
- 7T. Vanessa Tulao, AL
10. Not a Member, MN

Event Level & Description

Finish & Point Awards

	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.

JANUARY

January 20
Northern Utah Winter
Classic @ Logan
Recreation-Logan, UT
801-750-9877

January 21
The Alaska Open
The Alaska Club East
Anchorage, AK
907-337-9550

January 23
Classy 100/Georges
Restaurant @ Nautilus
Fitness Ctr - Erie, PA
814-868-0072

Ektelon Metroplex
Maverick Athletic Club
Arlington, TX
817-275-3348

Future Cellular SBBS
Pro-Am @ Continental
AC - Worthington, OH
614-847-0884

Minnesota Hall of Fame
Central Courts
Columbia Heights, MN
612-572-0330

Winter Warmup
Club at Woodbridge
Woodbridge, NJ
201-742-8806

16th Summit City Court
Club Open
Ft. Wayne, IN
219-485-1671

28th Peter Cornell
Richmond YMCA
Richmond, VA
804-644-9622

9th Bell Socialization
Yorktown Racquet Club
York, PA
717-848-5767

January 24
For Women Only
Valley Athletic Club
Tumwater, WA
253-848-9493

Racquetball One -
Southfield @ Jewish
Community Center
West Bloomfield, MI
616-975-9080

January 27
TTOD Orem Open
Orem Fitness Center
Orem, UT
801-229-7154

January 28
St. Valentine's Day
Massacre @ Sports
Courts - Lincoln, NE
402-484-5466

January 30
Ballard Open @ Olympic
Ath. Club - Seattle, WA
206-789-5010

DB Winter Classic
DB Racquet Club
Gainesville, FL
352-377-9580

Fitness Inc. Classic
Pocatello, ID
208-233-8035

ORA Intercollegiate Dbls
Baldwin-Wallace
Berea, OH
216-826-2286

Penn State Winter
Classic @ Penn State U.
State College, PA
814-861-3827

Pro Kennex Super 6
Tour Stop 4
Southview Athletic Club
West St. Paul, MN
612-450-1660

Smash & Splash
Green River Rec. Center
Green River, WY
307-872-0511

The Head Tour All
Doubles @ Midtown
Health & Fitness
Westerville, OH
614-890-6073

Tri State Ath Club Open
Evansville, IN
812-479-3111

Wintergreen @ Laurel
Sport & Fitness
Laurel, MD
410-792-2222

Women Only
Courthouse Health &
Wellness
Chelmsford, MA
508-453-4173

WSMA U.S. Women's
Senior/Master
Canoga Park, CA
818/884-5034

January 31
Break the Blues
Racquet's Edge
Essex, VT
802-878-7734

FEBRUARY

February 5
Aurora City Open
Colorado Athletic Club
Aurora, CO
303-750-3210

February 6
Berglund/Roanoke A.C.
Pro-Am @ Roanoke Ath
Club - Roanoke, VA
703-989-5758

Chapman, Harmon &
Reynolds Memorial
Orlando Fitness &
Racquet - Orlando, FL
407-645-3550

5th Rochester Pro Am
Rochester Athletic Club
Rochester, MN
507-282-6000

HCI Open @ Campbell
County Dept. Parks Rec.
Gillette, WY
307-682-7406

Longhorn Open
University of Texas
Austin, TX
512-471-3116

Miami Racquet and
Fitness Open
Miami, FL
305-225-2582

The Icicle Open
Allentown R'ball Club
Allentown, PA
610-821-1300

Radical R-ball Series
Aquarius Athletic Club
Worthington, OH
614-436-6886

Valentine Open
Downtown Health &
Racquet Club
New Haven, CT
203-248-1869

Winter Coors
Lite/Dominos Open
Royal Court
Kearney, NE
308-236-5110

**Delaware State
Doubles @ Kirkwood
Ftns & Racq Club
Wilmington, DE
302-478-7919**

February 7
4th Annual Total Sports
Challenge
Total Sports
Harrison Twp, MI

February 10
Valentine's Day
Massacre @ Redwood
Multipurpose Center
West Valley City, UT
801-974-6923

February 11
Valentine's Doubles
Alaska Club - Midtown
Anchorage, AK
907-337-9550

February 12
IRT Pro Stop & Harbor
Square AC Pro-Am
Edmonds, WA
425-778-3546

Sports Barn/Kidney F.
Chattanooga, TN
423-266-1125

**Colorado State
Doubles @ Flatiron AC
Boulder, CO
303-238-5377**

February 13
Alpha Valentine Double
Trouble @ Alpha
Racquetball Club
Mechanicsburg, PA

Decathlon Pro-Am
Decathlon Athletic Club
Bloomington, MN
612-854-7171

Marcotte Open
Cedardale AC
Haverhill, MA
508-373-1596

St. Val's Day Massacre
YMCA - Idaho Falls, ID
208-523-0600

Sweetheart Doubles
Sawmill Athletic Club
Columbus, OH
614-889-7698

**Upstate Regional
Doubles @ Gold's Gym
Dewitt, NY
315-446-0378**

Valentine International
Windham, ME
207-892-3231

17th St. Valentines
Open @ North Valley
AC - Chico, CA
916-891-4700

February 18
NMRA U.S. Masters
Singles Invitational
San Francisco, CA

February 19
Alaska State High
School Champ.
The Alaska Club East
Anchorage, AK
907-337-9550

February 20
All Sport Open
Rawlins Recreation
Center - Rawlins, WY
307-328-4573

Ektelon Players &
Appreciation
Life Center Plus
Hudson, OH
216-655-2377

Fitness Barn Open
The Fitness Barn
Valparaiso, IN
219-762-3191

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- Penn (official) • ProKennex
- Spalding • Wilson

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**BOLDED listings are
State Championships
(Level 3) or higher.**

Grand Island
YMCA Open
Grand Island, NE
402-384-8181

New England Masters
R/B Doubles
Sturbridge, MA
603-893-7261

NE Pennsylvania Open
Athletic Club
Plains Twp, PA
717-823-2124

The Head Racquetball
Tour @ Heights Health
& Racquet Club
Westerville, OH
614-890-6073

Univ. of Minnesota Pro
Am @ UM Rec Sports
Ctr - Minneapolis, MN
612-626-7836

**Vermont State Singles
Racquet's Edge
Essex, VT
802-651-7045**

5th Winter Open
American Family Fitness
Richmond, VA
804-330-3400

February 21
Racquetball One
Grand Rapids MAC
Grand Rapids, MI
616-975-9080

Spring Shoot-Out
JCC - Houston, TX
713-729-3200

February 24
Marv Jensen Open
Marv Jensen
South Jordan, UT
801-253-4404

February 27
Ball Buster @ Fitness
Inc. - Pocatello, ID
208-233-8035

Bangor Open @ Gold's
Gym - Bangor, ME
207-947-0763

Citgo/MDA Benefit
Thornton Family YMCA
Tulsa, OK
918-250-4151

1998 USRA NATIONAL EVENTS

- Jan. 30 - Feb. 1** Women's Senior/Master National Championships: Canoga Park, CA
February 18-21 NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational: San Francisco, CA
March 06-08 Wilson USRA 11th National High Schools: St. Louis, MO
March 25-29 E-Force USRA 29th National Intercollegiates: Phoenix, AZ
April 3-11 12th Tournament of the Americas/Pan Am Qualifier: Winnipeg, CAN
April 16-19 Ektelon USRA Regional Qualifier Championships: Nationwide
April 02-04 NMRA U.S. Golden Masters Singles/Doubles: Pittsburgh, PA
May 20-25 Ektelon USRA 31st U.S. National Singles: Houston, TX
June 27 - July 01 Ektelon USRA 25th U.S. Junior Olympics: Portland, OR
July 10-18 IRF 9th World Championships: Cochabamba, Bolivia
July 22-25 NMRA International Masters Invitational: Las Vega, NV
September 01-05 IRF 10th World Senior Championships: Albuquerque, NM
October 14-18 Ektelon USRA 31st National Doubles Championships: Baltimore, MD
November 11-15 Promus Hotels 3rd U.S. OPEN: Memphis, TN

End of Winter
Inspirational @ White
Bear Racquet & Swim
White Bear Lake, MN
612-426-1308

Future Cellular SBBS
Pro-Am @ Continental
AC - Worthington, OH
614-847-0884

Walla Walla Open
Ace of Clubs
Walla Walla, WA
509-522-0330

16th Adirondack Open
Glens Falls YMCA
Glens Falls, NY
518-793-3878

**Massachusetts State
Singles @ Cedardale
Athletic Club
Haverhill, MA
508-385-9367**

20th Indy Open
Noblesville Ath. Club
Noblesville, IN
317-862-1279

..... **MARCH**

March 6
Eastern Nebraska
Championship
Cottonwood Club
Lincoln, NE
402-454-2765

Omni 41/Make a Wish
Tournament @ Omni
41 Sports & Fitness Ctr
Schererville, IN
219-865-6969

Pro Kennex Super 6
Tour Stop 5
Southview Ath. Club
West St. Paul, MN
612-450-1660

Wilson Doubles
Central Courts
Columbia Heights, MN
612-572-0330

**Connecticut State &
Collegiate Singles
Downtown Health &
Racquet Club
New Haven, CT
203-248-1869**

**Maine State Doubles
The Maine Event
Topsham, ME
207-729-0129**

**Ohio State Singles
Hall of Fame Fit Ctr
Westerville, OH
614-890-6073**

**Pennsylvania State
Singles @ Penn State
State College, PA
610-892-6997**

**Tennessee State Singles
Downtown YMCA
Nashville, TN
615-254-0631**

**Wilson USRA 11th
National High School
Championships
St. Louis, MO
719/635-5396**

**Wyoming State Juniors
Green River Recreation
Green River, WY
307-872-0511**

March 7
Madison Athletic Club
Challenge
Madison Heights, MI
248-589-0900

March 10
Luck of the Heights
Cottonwood Heights
Salt Lake City, UT
801-943-3190

March 13
Central Penn F/C Ann.
Charity
Harrisburg, PA
717-564-4171

Fiesta '98
Clarksville, TN
615-645-4313

**Green Mt Open
Racquet's Edge
Essex, VT
802-651-7045**

**Killshot For Cancer
Waverly Oaks A/C
Waltham, MA
617-894-7010**

March Madness
Shelby County AC
Shelbyville, IN
317-897-5481

Northwest Open
Bellingham Ath Club
Bellingham, WA
360-676-1800

Winter Blast Classic
Pennbriar Ath Club
Erie, PA
814-825-8111

15th Annual UCP
Suburban RB & Swim
St. Cloud, MN
320-251-3965

**New Jersey State
Singles @ 46 Fitness &
Racquetball
Fairfield, NJ
201-742-8806**

**West Virginia
Racquetball Champs
Marshall University
Huntington, WV
304-696-2942**

March 14
St. Paddy's Day Open
Riverview Racquet Club
Eastlake, OH
216-942-5613

**Maine State Juniors
Champs @ Racquetball
International
Windham, ME
207-892-3231**

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SOON TO BE RELEASED ...

1997 • Promus Hotels 2nd U.S. OPEN: Selected quarterfinal & semifinal IRT rounds plus final – Cliff Swain vs. Sudsy Monchik. Video will be available after the original broadcast has been aired on ESPN2. See Page 5 for airtimes!

FROM LAST SEASON ...

1996 • Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN: Selected quarterfinal & semifinal IRT rounds plus final – Sudsy Monchik vs. Andy Roberts • **Ektelon IRF World Championships:** World Cup Team Championship playoffs – Ruben Gonzalez vs. Sherman Greenfeld & Michelle Gould vs. Josee Grand'Maitre

FROM THE ARCHIVES ...

1992 • National Doubles • High School Championships • National Singles: Chris Cole vs. John Ellis • **Junior Olympics:** Jason Mannino vs. Javad Aghaloo & Elkova Icenogle vs. Letisha Bussell • **World's Best Racquetball:** Highlights from five of the past season broadcasts (including portions of 1991).

1991 • World Intercollegiates: Elaine Hooghe vs. Cindy Doyle & Tim Sweeney vs. Jim Floyd • **National Singles [Women's Open]:** Michelle Gilman vs. Toni Bevelock • **National Singles [Men's Open]:** Tim Sweeney vs. Egan Inoue & Charlie Garrido vs. Brian

Rankin (M19+) • **Junior Olympics:** Elkova Icenogle vs. Jenny Spangenberg & John Ellis vs. Sameer Hadid • **Pacific Rim Championships:** Michelle Gilman vs. Heather Stupp & Tim Hansen/Jim Floyd vs. Mike Ceresia/Ross Harvey • **National Outdoors:** Lauren Sheprow/Robin McBride vs. Mary Lyons/Susan Morgan Pfahler & Brian Hawkes/Greg Freeze vs. Tim Hansen/Jason Waggoner • **World Challenge:** Robin Levine vs. Sue Mactaggart & Sherman Greenfeld vs. Brian Hawkes • **World Challenge:** Roger Harripersad (Canada) vs. Raul Torres (Mexico) • **National Doubles:** John Ellis/Eric Muller vs. Jeff Evans/Doug Ganim & Malia Bailey/Toni Bevelock vs. Michelle Gilman/Jackie Gibson

1990 • Tournament of the Americas: Michelle Gilman vs. Kay Kuhfeld & Sherman Greenfeld vs. Andy Roberts • **National Singles:** Toni Bevelock vs. Michelle Gilman & Tim Doyle vs. Egan Inoue • **Junior Olympics:** Joel Bonnett vs. John Ellis & Elkova Icenogle vs. Renee Lockey • **National Doubles:** Michelle Gilman/Jackie Paraiso vs. Malia Bailey/Toni Bevelock

1989 • National Singles: Cindy Doyle vs. Michelle Gilman & Tim Doyle vs. Andy Roberts • **Junior Olympics:** Cindy Doyle vs. Michelle Gilman & Mike Guidry vs. Joe Paraiso • **National Doubles:** Malia Bailey/Toni Bevelock vs. Cindy Doyle/Michelle Gilman

1988 • National Singles • National Doubles

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EKTELON[®]

regional qualifying series • nationwide

Date	State	City	Site	Contact	Phone
BEFORE ... Early Qualifiers at Two Sites					
March 20-22	FLORIDA	Jacksonville	Racquetpower	Mary Lyons	904/270-2224
March 27-29	ILLINOIS	Chicago	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	Geoff Peters	773/935-9685
NATIONWIDE ... On ONE Weekend!					
April 16-19	CALIFORNIA	Sacramento	Natomas Athletic Club	Barb Tibbens	209/772-1460
April 16-19	FLORIDA	Ft. Lauderdale	Quadrangle East	Mary Lyons	904/270-2224
April 16-19	GEORGIA	Atlanta	Southern Athletic Club	Liz Lyon	770/923-5400
April 16-19	OHIO	Canton	Hall of Fame Fitness Center	Doug Ganim	614/890-6073
April 16-19	PACIFIC NW	TBA	TBA		
April 16-19	MARYLAND	Baltimore	Merritt Athletic Club - Security	Molly O'Brien	410/315-7900
April 16-19	MASSACHUSETTS	Haverhill	Cedardale Athletic Club	Bill Gargan	603/367-8533
April 16-19	MINNESOTA	St. Cloud	Suburban Club	Greg Hayenga	320/251-3965
April 16-19	MISSISSIPPI	Jackson	The Court House	Chris Baker	601/992-3900
April 16-19	MISSOURI	St. Louis	Missouri Athletic Club West	Jen Yokota	314/731-2668
April 16-19	MONTANA	Billings	Billings Athletic Club	Steve Pinnow	406/252-3950
April 16-19	NEW MEXICO	Albuquerque	Tom Young's Athletic Club	Gary Mazaroff	505/266-8960
April 16-19	NEW YORK	Long Island	Sportset-Syosset	Al Seitelman	516/360-0979
April 16-19	TEXAS	Arlington	Maverick Athletic Club	Bob Sullins	817/275-3340
AFTER ... Last Chance to Qualify at the PRO NATIONALS!					
April 23-26	NEVADA	Las Vegas	Las Vegas Sporting House	Mike Coulter	702/733-8999
JUNIOR QUALIFIERS ... [Region]					
April 4-5	CALIFORNIA [14]	Fountain Valley	Los Caballeros Sports Village	Earl Miller	909/987-3904
March 20-22	FLORIDA [4]	Jacksonville	Racquetpower	Mary Lyons	904/270-2224
May 1-3	MINNESOTA [11]	Columbia Heights	Central Courts	Dave Schulenberg	612/777-6673
April 16-19	MISSOURI [6]	St. Louis	Missouri Athletic Club West	Jen Yokota	314/731-2668
April 16-19	MONTANA [13]	Billings	Billings Athletic Club	Steve Pinnow	406/252-3950
April 16-19	NEW MEXICO [12]	Albuquerque	Tom Young's Athletic Club	Gary Mazaroff	505/266-8960
April 16-19	OHIO [9]	Canton	Hall of Fame Fitness Center	Doug Ganim	614/890-6073
May 8-10	OREGON [15]	Portland	Sunset Athletic Club	John Giunta	503/735-2373

QUALIFYING COMPETITION IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN:
 1998 Ektelon USRA 31st National Singles [Houston, Texas, May 20-25]
 1998 Ektelon USRA 25th Junior Olympic [Portland, Ore., June 27-July 1]

HOWEVER ... women age 45 and over, and men age 55 and over (as of May 20, 1998) are NOT required to pre-qualify for competition at a regional championship in order to compete at national singles. You probably still want to, however, since it's the only way to accumulate ranking points and receive seeding consideration! **AND ...** Juniors/Intercollegiate athletes who have already played in a junior or intercollegiate regional to qualify for their associated championship events, don't have to re-qualify for national singles at an adult regional championship.

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