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MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

Objectives:

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

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Membership Services (125)
Terri Morse - State/Membership Services (123)
Eddie Meredith - Events & Programs (132)
Mary Meredith - Accounting Assistant (124)
Doug Ganim - U.S. Open Director
Connie Martin - AmPro Programmer
Gary Mazaroff - AmPro Instruction
Otto Dietrich - Rules Commissioner

Email Us - FirstinitialLastname@usra.org

Contributors

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

Design

Matt Lupton

Copy Editor

Cheryl Kirk

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USA Racquetball
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906
(719) 635-5396
www.usaracquetball.com

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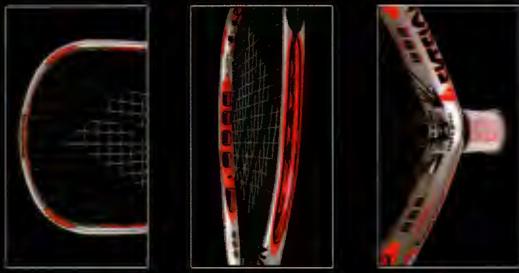
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PEERING INTO THE PAST...

Forecasting Our Future

I t has been six years on the USAR Board for me and my time has come to a close. As I reflect back, these years have been rewarding at some times and very trying during others. As most of you know, we suffered a severe financial crisis several years ago. We did prevail, and this is what has given me the impetus to write my final chapter. We are on the road to recovery for one main reason: the people who love racquetball and who are willing to give back to the sport more than I could ever have imagined. They cared so much and wanted so much to help others, there was never a question that we would turn this organization around. I discovered that this "players helping players" phenomenon is not new to racquetball. As you read on, you'll notice one common thread that started about 40 years ago within our great sport and continues today...

A few years ago, a long time friend of mine, Steve Keeley, one of our most colorful and best-known pro players and an author to boot, sent to me a large assortment of letters and memos dating back to 1968. (That was actually the year I started playing racquetball -- 40 years ago -- wow, that's a long time!) These papers chronicled quite a lot of work during the early years. They described the debate over our rules; major conflicts between racquetball and handball players over court usage; and the early development of the ball and racquets. Even the transition from the name Paddle Rackets to Racquetball was described. Looking back at these early times in the late 60's, what impacted me the most was the people who were involved in our sport. These are the people I have come to call our Founding Fathers of Racquetball: Dr. Bud Muehleisen...Dewitt Shy...Mort Leve...Chuck Leve...Ken Porco...Myron Roderick...Bill Tanner...Larry Lederman...Bob Kendler...Charlie Brumfield...Art Shay...Steve Keeley.

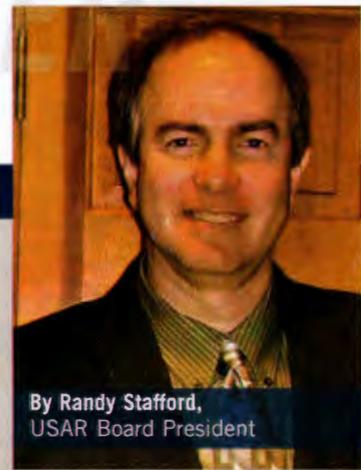
All of these men contributed so much in the early days that our current game is still fashioned by their work. "Dr. Bud" was not only a great player, but also played a pivotal role in the early development of our sport; he was our most well-known ambassador. Mort

Leve and his son Chuck were the first executive directors of the International Racquetball Association (IRA). Dewitt Shy, a true statesman from Memphis, led many charges for racquetball. Ken Porco of Louisville was our first national commissioner. The cities in which these early supporters lived have produced many champion players over the years -- this is a testament to their early work. Of course, we must not forget Joe Sobek, the inventor of racquetball, but it was these men and others who pioneered the sport as we know it today.

There were many debates in all areas of racquetball in the early years. Most of the courts in the late 60's were in the YMCAs and Jewish Community Centers (JCCs). Handball was principally played on these courts and the handball players were staunchly dedicated to keeping racquetball players off the courts. They argued that we were taking up too much of their court time and that the racquets, mostly wood at that time, were tearing up their courts. We just finally overwhelmed them by our sheer numbers and won our court time. And eventually, the racquets were changed to metal with rubber bumpers. Fiberglass racquets emerged at that time as well, with names like Little Swinger and Little Bandito.

The ball was a problem during this initial period of racquetball, too. For several years the ball manufacturers experienced difficulty supplying a ball that did not break or lose pressure after a couple of games. The early balls came in pressurized cans and the two halves of the balls were actually glued together. This glue line failing is what plagued the early balls. But I still fondly remember the Seamco 558 and 559 with which we played our early national championships.

Another area that was a work in progress was the rulebook. When I first started playing in 1968, we actually had to serve the ball each time to the opposite side of the court. Eye guards were not even considered, balls would not easily come off the back wall, and we had never competitively employed ceiling shots. We had never seen nor heard of a splat shot but were hitting Garfinkle serves with great results! Between 1968 and 1970, many rules were created via letters sent back and forth. I read several that Dewitt Shy had written during that time. The discussions were conducted via U.S. Mail; once a



By Randy Stafford,
USAR Board President

consensus was reached, the rule change was adopted. Then, letters would go out to all parts of the country directing everyone that a new rule had been adopted. Soon after, the first rules committee was created.

It was not unusual to travel to a tournament outside your area and find there were new shots being used that had not even been thought of where you came from. I remember one such instance in 1971 when I was invited to play in the Top 16 National Doubles Invitational in Louisville, Kentucky. It was quite an honor to participate. We worked on our shots and thought we were going to really show our stuff at our first national tournament. I remember peering over the railing and saw this colorful player, Steve Keeley, hitting a strange shot over and over. I didn't pay that much attention. In my first match against Ken Porco and champion pro player Mike Zeitman, they actually beat us with ceiling shots. Can you believe that? We had never seen this shot before and had no idea how to defend against such a strange shot. What lightning-fast change! Many of our great past players, including Muehleisen, Brumfield, Keeley and Strandemo, actually developed the strategies and shots we use today. The game and the sport were evolving literally right before our eyes.

After this initial period, racquetball was up and running and growing at an unprecedented rate. A new era had begun and it was the advent of our modern athletic facility. A building boom was on as racquetball clubs popped up at a rate never seen before. There were hundreds of clubs being built, many of them mega-facilities, during the '70's. I can remember playing in a facility in Detroit that boasted 40 courts. And if that weren't enough, right down the block was

another club with 20 courts! These purely-racquetball facilities basically offered courts, a few weight machines, a nursery, and a check-in area.

The early '80's were turbulent times. A new group of supporters and players came along who continued to shape our sport: Luke St. Onge, Paul Hendricks, Van Dubinsky, Jim Austin and Gary Mazaroff, to name a few. Luke was the executive director of the IRA and then the newly-formed American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) when it became associated with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Luke "dared to dream the Olympic Dream" and worked hard with the support of many to continue to develop racquetball. Other influential people were involved with our sport during this time, including Charlie Drake and Marty Hogan. Marty raised the bar to new heights with his tremendous power game. This brought huge notoriety for Marty both within the circles of our sport and outside as well. Other tremendous players became must-see attractions during the heyday of our men's and women's professional tours: Davy Bledsoe, Heather McKay, Steve Strandemo, Lynn Adams, Jerry Hitecher and Shannon Wright; Charlie Brumfield remained a force also. Each of these players became legends in their own time; they all possessed nuances that characterized their own style of play and set the direction for a new generation of players to come.

Then there were the leaders in the instructional area. People who come to mind that led the charge were Larry Liles, Steve Keeley, Connie Martin, Jim Winterlon, Fran Davis and Steve Strandemo. Larry and his Memphis State University team won 13 National Intercollegiate Championships, including 3 in a row! To this day, this was unprecedented in racquetball and will probably never be challenged. Martin, Davis, Strandemo and Keeley wrote the books and manuals. They developed new methods of teaching, including videotaping, and taught us how important it is to analyze and study the sport.

After the great decline of racquetball during the late '80's and '90's, rebounding began. I like to think of the individuals who stepped up during this trying period as our New Fathers and Mothers of racquetball. So many good things have happened in the last ten years. USA Racquetball has made the sport rebound from a state of near-

collapse to a debt-free moneymaking association. We are in a position to not only effectively govern racquetball, but to make real headway toward future development for all groups, especially juniors and women. There are countless people we can list and thank for this recovery. I have had the pleasure of knowing so many wonderful, giving people during my six years, it would be impossible to name them all. A few of the many who contributed greatly and continue to do so today are Jim Hiser, Doug Ganim, Dave Negrete, Geoff Peters, Annie Muniz, Otto Dietrich, Linda Meier, Hank Marcus, Leo Kilmartin, Pat Taylor, Ray Schultz and Andy Roberts.

From the recovery of USA Racquetball to the development of the largest and best-known tournament in the history of racquetball, the U.S. Open in Memphis, we have seen huge impact on our sport. Executive Director Dr. Jim Hiser has led the recovery and provided direction for this association over the past six years. Without his work and unselfish dedication, I would not want to imagine what would have happened. And during some of our toughest days, I can still remember Geoff Peters telling me, "Randy, we can do this, we just have to work harder and call more people."

The U.S. Open was established in 1986. There were several people who could foresee a future for a grand slam tournament, thus the birth of a new era. It took major vision, foresight and most of all, a love for racquetball, to bring such a venture to reality. And a venture it was. It lost money during the first few years. With the leadership Doug Ganim, Jim Hiser, Ray Schultz, Andy Roberts and Luke St. Onge brought to the table, the U.S. Open evolved. The portable court was created to showcase this tournament and players came from all over the world to compete and to watch performances by the world's greatest. From here, others stepped up to continue the march in support of racquetball. Hank Marcus was a leader in many areas including managing the pro tour and now developing outdoor racquetball. Dave Negrete serves as the accomplished and unselfish leader of the men's professional tour and continues to be a major galvanizing force. And let us also recognize the racquetball manufacturers and vendors who ensure we have the very best equipment with which to play our sport.

For the first time in the history of racquetball, one could say that the different areas and organizations that encompass our sport are united for the common good. If you list out all the different areas of racquetball - USA Racquetball and its dedicated staff, the IRT, WPRO, NMRA,

WSMRA, WDR, CPRT, AMPRO, our state associations and our professional and amateur players - we are finally all united as one large racquetball family. Even racquetball organizations in other countries look to us as the "mother ship" of racquetball, seeking guidance and assistance in many areas. Being united did not come easy and could well disappear if we are not vigilant. This is why I would like to identify certain people who are currently working hard on a national level and who I can comfortably identify as our Future Mothers and Fathers of Racquetball.

These people include Shannon Feaster of the WPRO; Shane Wood for his dedication to the sport; Frank Taddeo for his wisdom and the unique ways he rallies players to unite for the cause. Other leaders I see in our future include Sal Perconti, Cheryl Kirk, Tom Curran, Jim Easterling, Kelley Beans, Geoff Peters, Kelley Lively, Leo Vasquez, Ed Mazur, Marjean Kelley, Dave Ellis and John Ellis. I do believe we have earned the trust of our members and we will continue to do our very best work to promote and develop racquetball. It is my privilege and honor to have worked with all of these people in our common quest to promote racquetball to even greater heights.

If looking into our past is any indication of our future, I am confident that these individuals, supported by hundreds of dedicated volunteers, will take us further than we've ever been before. I wish I could have met and recognized every single one of you. Know that the USAR Board and I deeply appreciate all the volunteers who, through donation of their valuable time and efforts, have made our association what it is today.

In conclusion, as I leave the board after two terms, I want to say that it has been my privilege and my honor to serve our sport and all who are involved. I thank those who are currently working in some capacity for racquetball, and I hope they continue. For those players who are reading this article, I ask you to get involved in your local areas. One day you will agree with me that racquetball has been your most rewarding lifelong pursuit. I have gained so very much from my 40 years (so far). Adding it all up, this has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and I extend my sincere gratitude to all who have allowed me to be a part of the greatest individual sport on earth.



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

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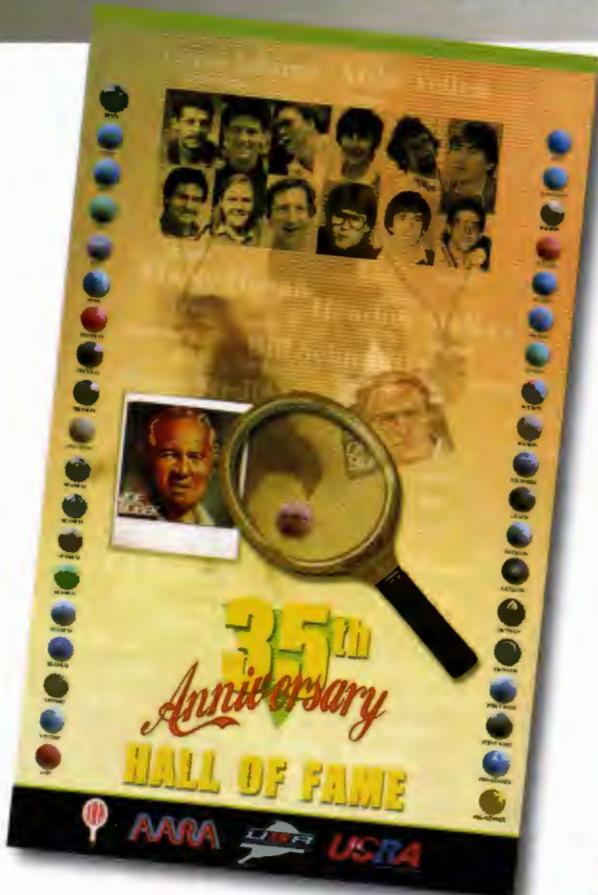
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WHAT DO WOMEN WANT?

"In racquetball, what do women want?" Determining a suitable answer can be enriching for women and profitable for clubs.

In my structured racquetball activities, I observed early on that women's participation is not representative of the overall racquetball community. It seemed to me that women were deserving of more opportunities to be involved in a sport they are passionate about. I set out to understand racquetball wants and needs that are specific to women. This represents an opportunity to tap into an underutilized market and requires a different way of thinking than typically exists in organizations. This involves reevaluating the racquetball environment to be more open to discovery and developing an attitude that is conducive to learning. Effective learning is not just a matter of the right attitudes or motivation. It is the product of the way you reason about your own behavior.

"The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance; it is the illusion of knowledge."

Japanese Proverb

In the business world, there is a tendency to believe that you can create a better "mousetrap" and that people will flock to buy it. This is a product-oriented view and some organizations proceed by building these better mousetraps and then trying to sell them. A more discovery-oriented approach is based on finding out what people want and then trying to provide it. This requires you to suspend your own beliefs, proceed like you don't know enough, and make efforts to better understand the situation. This is more than obtaining cursory survey input; it requires digging deeper for more complete comprehension.

I have been playing racquetball for about 20 years and have been involved with a structured environment (leagues, tournaments, shootouts) for six of those years. After my first year as a state association executive board member, I raised an issue of poor participation by women (on average, about 15% women) in our tournaments. The only time the participation was higher, roughly 30%, was when we hosted a Women's Pro Stop. I tried to motivate others to give attention to this situation. I felt action was needed.

One of the members at the Sport Fit Health & Racquet Club is WPRO pro Doreen Fowler. She mentioned that she had tried to arrange play with several other women pros in the MD/VA/PA/DE area but that it was difficult to arrange consistent play. She would mostly have to play the men at the club in order to get competitive workouts. I discussed with her the possibility of hosting a women's open league on Saturday afternoons, so we contacted the women open players in the area. There was no interest in a weekly league, but there was considerable interest in getting together monthly. We put together a list of 15 open players in the area and 15 high-A players whom we thought would be interested in participating. Everyone was enthusiastic about playing in these one-day events since there was little opportunity at their clubs to play competitive matches with women. I presented this structure to the club management and received their enthusiastic support. (I want to thank Morrie Goldman, Bob Seaman, and Lisa Anderton, Sport Fit Health and Racquet Club management team, for their continued support to get more women involved with racquetball.)

Little did I imagine the untapped demand for women-only events, the extraordinary effort that women would make to be a part of these events, and the delight that women would express for the opportunity to participate. Several successful (i.e. well-attended) shootouts later, I have learned that women want situations where they can play with other competitive women players. An important factor was that there was enough court availability to accommodate all the matches without long periods of downtime waiting on the next match, which is characteristic of typical tournaments. Most of the players have long commutes (one woman traveled 3 hours one-way for my August shootout) and they want to play when they arrive, not sit and wait. I also provided plenty of good food/beverages and adjusted to requests for Chick-Fil-A nuggets and for chocolate chip cookies instead of oatmeal raisin (the latter of which I provided at the first event because I thought they wanted something on the healthy side). However, I was "educated" that women want chocolate. Which brings up another reason that these events succeed – I actively encourage the players' suggestions/ recommendations and then incorporate them into the events.

Another major reason for the success of these events is the values and objectives of the players. These women are serious about their game and primarily want an environment where they can improve. Secondarily, they also want a situation where they can socialize. I established an open and honest

environment where these top players "owned" these events and they helped motivate other skilled players to participate. Tapping into this existing network helped establish the initial player list; it continued to expand via grapevine communication.

My primary role is to help enforce a minimum skill level and establish participation based on merit. As new players win or place in the A division of local tournaments, I approach them about participating in these Open Events. So far, everyone has enthusiastically agreed to be a part of this and the Open/High-A distribution list has grown to about 50 women (from MD, VA, PA, DE, NJ and NY).

These efforts to get more women involved with racquetball have been successful because:

There already existed a strong desire by women to interact with other women in a structured racquetball setting (I heard comments by some women that they had never before received instruction/advice from other women).

I helped create an atmosphere with the focus on women by wanting to learn the issues that would encourage more women to participate and then acting to address these issues.

Several women assumed leadership roles in helping promote these events and motivating the women to play: Doreen Fowler and Shannon Feaster from MD, Karen Denu and Candi Hostovich from VA, and Khanh Holtslander and Karen Morton from PA, thank you for your involvement.

I viewed my role as serving the interests of the women players and

helping to provide a delightful racquetball experience by being flexible and adapting to their wants and needs; providing delicious sustenance; and keeping the cost low.

The club benefited because of the way the one-day shootouts, tournaments, and league play all complement each other in such a way as to encourage more players to participate and allowed better utilization of courts during traditional down times.

This success in promoting women's racquetball is particularly special and represents something that is unique in today's environment. With more emphasis on promoting women's activities in your areas, this can become something that is special and become something that is considered normal.

Take a look at your own situation and assess the opportunities that exist to do something positive to improve women's racquetball by incorporating the following formula: Listen, in a way that indicates that you want to learn/find out; you can't fake it and expect to get results. Respond by fully utilizing this learned information to take effective action; be willing to experiment with new ideas. Then let go, instead of trying to maintain some sort of rigid structure, let creative solutions emerge.

Bill Cooper
Team Ektelon

Editor's Note: Stay tuned for more information about Bill's shootouts and other women's events around the country in future issues of Racquetball.

RFTC COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT CHECK TO KOMEN FOR THE CURE



L-R: RFTC Lori Inskeep & Marcia Richards, Komen Director of Development Gina Berg, Director of Grantmaking Jill Adams, Director of Finance Julie Záveral, RFTC Jo Shattuck & Linda Mojer

On February 21, Racquet for the Cure committee members flanked Komen for the Cure / Metro Denver staffers during the presentation of this year's "big check." The Denver RFTC enjoyed its second-largest fundraising year in 2008 and reached the \$40,000 dollar mark in overall contributions since the benefit event was founded in 2000. Find out more about the project and its sponsors at RacquetfortheCure.com.

THE 2008 SPRING BREAK OPEN



BEN "THE MUMMY" CROFT

Sunny Florida during spring break and a little racquetball to boot is what this event was all about! Event director Kim Roy hosted the IRT last season for a satellite event and accepted the challenge to running a full ranking event this year. She did not let down the Florida racquetball faithful and pulled together a fantastic event. The Sarasota Racquet and Health Club was the host club and was busy all weekend. Not only did the club host the IRT they also had an tennis event going on at the same time on their twenty nine outdoor tennis courts. Only in Florida during

spring break. Many of the tour players were able to catch a spring training game and IRT board of director Rich Donnelly who works for the Pittsburgh Pirates was on hand and tested his skill against the likes of Jason Mannino and Rocky Carson Thursday night and held his own. Tour commissioner Dave Negrete did have the pleasure of meeting Detroit Tigers manager, Jim Leyland while on a visit to a Pirates and Tigers game and when he asked if he had played any racquetball against Donnelly he replied "I don't play with B players". This comment brought a huge laugh from the Rich

and the commissioner. Rich is a huge supporter of the game and from experience playing with him, is much, much better than a "B" player. Just yell out the word racquetball at a Pirates game if you see Coach Donnelly and he will acknowledge you immediately. As far as the play went here there was one player who came into his own this weekend and that was Ben Croft. He was in a tough battle with Jason Mannino in their quarterfinal match and been dove for a ball in the third game and split his chin open in the process. After some medical attention the only way for Ben to continue playing was to transform into "the Mummy" Croft had to wrap his head and chin with gauze to keep the butterfly bandages from coming undone from the sweat. Ben would somehow win game three and after being down 10-6 in the fifth he would miraculously find a way to win the match 12-10 in the fifth much to Mannino's dismay. Croft would head to the hospital right after the match and require eight stitches to the chin. The title in this tournament would go to Rocky Carson as he would win in three straight games over Jack Huczek. These two have been battling all year in the finals and this would be the first three game victory by either. Rocky would avenge his defeat in San Diego the week prior when he had control of the final against Jack only to have Huczek steal it away. This was a very well run event for the first year and we look forward to coming back next season.

SIDE NOTES:

Kim Roy did a great job in running her first full ranking event. She has a tremendous support staff in southwest Florida and is very well respected. She teaches and programs at seven facilities and those clubs are very fortunate to have her.

There was great hospitality all weekend at the event and no player went home hungry.

The tournament also raised money for junior racquetball and Kim Roy has spearheaded that crusade also. She chaperone and helps fund Florida juniors to the nationals each year. The IRT was very happy to support the Florida junior program.

Thanks to the Sarasota Racquet and Health Club for hosting the event. This was a very impressive facility and definitely promotes racquetball to its fullest in the community. Many of the top Florida players play here.

It was great to get out to see some baseball as Alvaro Beltran was seen at the Reds-Yankees game and the IRT commissioner at a Reds - Braves game. The Reds spring training facility and park were fifteen minutes from the club.

Look for the IRT to be back next March during spring break once again!



THE 30TH ANNUAL LEWIS DRUG PRO AM

This was the thirtieth year of The Lewis Drug Pro-Am in Sioux Falls, SD, the longest-running men's professional event in racquetball history. Mark Griffin, the proprietor of Lewis Drug, has been the title sponsor for this prestigious tournament since its inception. Many of the top name professionals have played here at the Sioux Falls YMCA and have labeled it one of the best they have ever played. The tournament offers a large prize purse for singles, doubles and mixed doubles and subsequently is the one event on tour where the pros play

three events. This year's pro doubles was won by Jack Huczek and Rocky Carson, defeating the team of Jason Thoerner and Mitch Williams. Jack Huczek took the singles crown here for the first time in his career, besting Alvaro Beltran in the final. Jason Thoerner and Jen Saunders defeated Andy Hawthorne and Laura Fenton in the pro mixed doubles. Over 200 amateur players participated, including Hall of Famers Ruben Gonzalez and Andy Roberts; sixteen of the top twenty IRT players were present as well. The highlight of the event was the

Saturday banquet; there was not a seat available since everyone who played attended the sit-down buffet dinner. All were treated to free beer and a great slide show with images from the past thirty years of the event. Mark Griffin gave away over fifty great items for the raffle and everyone left full and with smiles on their faces.

Hats off to Troy Stalling and his great event staff for presenting a terrific event. If you like the "old school" tournament feeling, mark February 2009 on your calendar for a great racquetball experience!

THE 2008 SAN DIEGO OPEN

The IRT returned to San Diego and the American Athletic Club after a one-year absence and was greeted with an amateur draw of three hundred players from Mexico and the U.S. Brent Avery had moved the event to Tijuana last year and after much deliberation decided to move it back to the American Athletic Club in National City where he and his wife Sofia began the event seven years ago. This event, as always, offers a great experience to the players; food is served nearly around the clock. Plus, there is always a great party on Saturday night with live entertainment. This year was no exception and if you like carne asada, guacamole, chips and chicken on the

grill, beware: you will gain a few pounds here no matter how many matches you play!

The tournament featured some fire and ice in the IRT division as tempers flared on Friday night between Chris Crowther and Alvaro Beltran. These sometimes-roommates on tour were in a battle in the second game and at 10-10 Chris hit an overhead shot that struck Alvaro in the back of the head. Although the shot was not taken on purpose, it appeared that way to many of the Beltran fans; being at Alvaro's home club, they came to his defense. After some brief commotion and questionable conduct from both players and the crowd, cooler heads prevailed and the match continued

with Alvaro besting Chris in three games. Both players shook hands after the match and apologized to the crowd for the mishap. The final provided more fire and ice as Rocky Carson met Jack Huczek in the final. Rocky came out on fire in each game, only to have Jack fight back and cool him off. He came back from a huge deficit in games three and four to eventually take the title. This was Jack's first win at this event, one at which he has always struggled in the past. The rivalry this season between these two is heating up as the race for the year-end #1 ranking continues to be only one or two rounds apart for these doubles partners.

THE 2008 MILWAUKEE OPEN

The IRT returned to the great city of Milwaukee, January 25th-27th, for the 2008 Milwaukee Open at the Wisconsin Athletic Club – West Allis. In March of 2000, WAC was recognized officially by IHRSA as the #1 Racquetball Club in the nation. The WAC has hosted every major racquetball tournament at one time or another since 1976 and has received numerous national awards for their programs and league

system. The facility has eight racquetball courts and is led by racquetball and event director Trish Beatty. Trish and her staff did a great job obtaining sponsors and organizing this year's event. The pro draw boasted twenty-three players and attracted top-ten ranked pros Rocky Carson, Mitch Williams, Shane Vanderson and Ben Croft. CPRT veteran Woody Clouse also made the trip out, hosting a clinic at the WAC and winning the 35+

division. The event title went to Mitch Williams who defeated Ben Croft in four games in the final. Mitch advanced to the final by taking out Shane Vanderson in three very tough games while Ben Croft had defeated Rocky Carson in five.

This was a Tier 2 IRT satellite event and provided the Milwaukee fans some great IRT action all weekend. Hats off to Trish Beatty and her volunteer staff for hosting a great event!

THE 2008 SEATTLE OPEN

Beautiful weather greeted the racquetball world here in Seattle as the IRT returned to the Emerald City. Event director Neal Heggen and the Washington State Racquetball Association worked very hard to bring the IRT back to Seattle and with the help of his tournament staff, it was a great event. This is a wonderful city to play in, at one of the IRT's favorite facilities, the Washington Athletic Club in the heart of downtown Seattle.

The IRT draw was large and there were many great matches. The final showcased Jack Huczak and Jason Mannino. Jason spoiled Rocky Carson's attempt to defend his title by taking him out in the semifinals. Jack came out on top in his semifinal match-up against his nemesis, Alvaro Beltran. The final was a battle and Huczak took the title in five hard-fought games. There were no upsets in the early rounds at this event, but a flu virus was making

its way around the tour and Mitch Williams had to bow out of his quarterfinal match due to illness.

The weekend was great and the event was run very smoothly. Wanda Collins and the volunteer staff are to be commended for the terrific job they did keeping the matches on time and raising funds for junior racquetball in Washington. The funds they raise help pay for various juniors' tournament entry fees and travel to events across the state. Someday soon there will be a Washington junior battling the likes of Jack Huczak and Rocky Carson on the IRT!

SIDE NOTES:

A huge thank you to Kevin Ballard for bringing the IRT to Seattle and for being the title sponsor of the event. Kevin has been a huge supporter of the IRT and it's people like Kevin that make this sport so special.

Thanks to John Delaney and Central Bank Mortgage for helping out with the event. John has been a long-time supporter of racquetball and is the founding father of the IRT. Great to have you back in the sport again, John! The IRT looks forward to seeing you at future events.

What a great support staff for the event. The WRA did a great job administrating things from the amateur side and raising over \$2,000 for Washington junior racquetball.

Board member Wanda Collins is a great leader in Washington racquetball and a special friend to the game. She worked so hard all weekend making everyone feel at home. Her devotion to junior racquetball is unparalleled and she is a true inspiration to the sport. The IRT was honored to help you and your juniors at the event.

Hats off to the Washington Athletic Club. What an awesome facility with its own hotel, The Inn at the WAC, in the same building as the club. The players loved the fact that you could get off the elevator and be at the racquetball courts. This is a top-notch facility located in the heart of downtown Seattle and we thank them for opening their doors to the racquetball community and guests for the weekend.

Thank you to all the great fans who attended the event. This was the loudest and most enthusiastic crowd of the year. The pros really enjoyed their enthusiasm and it showed in their play. The louder the fans became, the more they gave back. Lastly, this event does not happen without the vision of Event Director Neal Heggen. Neal worked endless hours getting everything ready and running a first class event; he has also taken on the role of President of the WRA this year. Neal, on behalf of the IRT and its players, we cannot thank you enough!

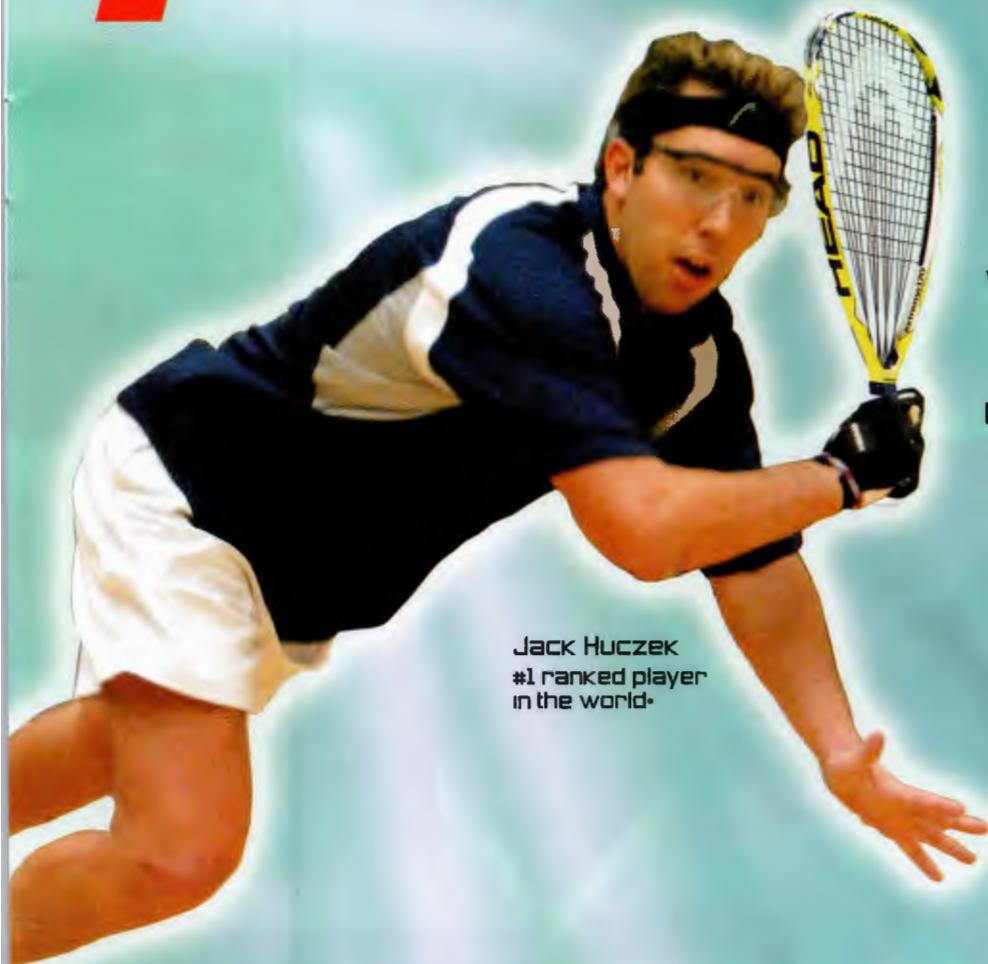
THE CINCINNATI OPEN

The husband wife team of Chris and Kerri Wachtel host this IRT satellite each Super Bowl weekend and raise money for "Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and Beech Acres". The event also features the WPRO. Matches are done early on Sunday at this tournament to allow all the players to get to their super bowl parties in plenty of time. Top ranked IRT professional Andy Hawthorne would add another title to his season to go with his win in Tokyo earlier this year by defeating Mike Dennison in the final. Although not the largest event on the IRT schedule winning a sanctioned IRT event is done by very few throughout the season and this one had special meaning for Andy as he won the title in his home state.

Thank you to the Wachtel's and all those who supported this event and the IRT looks forward to returning to Cincinnati next year on Super Bowl weekend!

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RAJSICH WINS

The Miller Lite Open in York



The stars of the WPRO converged on The Athletic Club of York, Pennsylvania, March 28-30, for the 2008 Miller Lite Open, benefiting the American Breast Cancer Foundation. Top seed Rhonda Rajsich (Phoenix, AZ) won her third consecutive Tier One WPRO event by defeating #2 Cheryl Gudinas Holmes (Naperville, IL) in three games: 11-6, 11-4, 11-7.

The WPRO would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Khanh Holtslander and Travis Aldinger for making this event possible (incorporating it with an IRT satellite stop) when our original host facility in Harrisburg fell through. Even though the WPRO event was adopted by The

Athletic Club in the eleventh hour, there was still a strong international presence in the women's pro division with players traveling from Canada, Chile, Bolivia and Japan to compete.

Thanks also to tournament staff members Tim Page (co-owner of The Athletic Club with Travis Aldinger); Jay Walker, Andy Tarburton (photographer), Doug Hershey and Tim Goda (who ran the tournament desk) for ensuring that the WPRO pros were well taken care of throughout the weekend. You guys are the best!

Special recognition goes to former WPRO pro and tournament committee leaders Khanh Holtslander and Karen Morton, as well as Jess Newcomer and Steve Baney for securing the financial support of our sponsors!

This event would not have been possible without the generous contributions of the event sponsors: Miller Lite; Harsco Corporation (Steve Baney); Carl & Marcia Wallace; Hales & Company (Rob Lieblein); Express Scripts, Inc. (Kelly Depcik); Ektelon; Colonial Dental Group (Dr. Tammy del Sol, DMD); Timothy A. Kline, CPA;

National Vision Administrators (Millie Monaco); C & M Painting (Michael Rice); Clark & Krevsky, LLC (Solomon Krevsky, Esq.); Transfection Designs (Karen Morton & Khanh Holtslander); Integrated Staffing Solutions (John Laporta); Z-Band (Dick & Nathan Snyder); Broadway Transmission & More; Diane Stokes; Roy Gutierrez; TJ Colaiezz; William "Bill" Reck; Angel & Frank De La Cerna; Ye Olde Ale House (Blain Hench); T.G.I. Friday's; White Rose Bar & Grill; Texas Roadhouse; Hooters; E-Force; and Penn.

Heading into this contest, Rajsich had secured four WPRO titles and was matched only by Gudinas Holmes who was on her heels in the race for the season-ending top spot. The Miller Lite Open is the last WPRO stop leading up to the tour's grand slam finale – Chemtech WPRO World Championships presented by Ektelon – which takes place at the Elmwood Fitness Center in New Orleans in April.

For complete results from the Miller Lite Open or any other WPRO event, visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.wpro-tour.com"](http://www.wpro-tour.com) www.wpro-tour.com.

#1 WPRO Pro Rhonda Rajsich Wins Ektelon Fireball Championship at Home

For the first time in her illustrious career, #1 Rhonda Rajsich competed in and captured a major pro singles title in her hometown during the Ektelon Fireball Championship, February 8-10, at the Arizona State University Student Recreation Center in Tempe. Coming off an exciting week of special events surrounding the NFL Super Bowl in Phoenix (including walking the red carpet at the Athlete's Ball with WPRO Commissioner Shannon Feaster), Rajsich was poised to make a statement in front of family and friends who came out in droves to support her. Leading the pep rally was her father, first coach, and biggest fan Dennis Rajsich.

After narrowly surviving the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds in fifth-game tiebreakers on Saturday, Rajsich faced #2 seed Cheryl Gudinas Holmes (Naperville, IL) who had won their previous meeting in Sacramento and claimed the last three major WPRO championships. In the Sunday afternoon final, Rajsich was on fire and never let Gudinas Holmes (who experienced an ankle strain early in the match) gain the momentum she needed to make it the epic battle we've grown accustomed to between these great champions. Rajsich defeated Gudinas Holmes in three straight games to claim the championship.



Ken Fife Photography/www.fifephoto.com

The WPRO recognizes Ektelon and Scott Winters for making the Ektelon Fireball Championship possible. Special thanks to Frank Taddonio, John Ellis, Darryl Warren, Hank Marcus, Darold and Karen Key, the Arizona Racquetball Association, and the sponsor doubles contributors for coming together in support of the WPRO.

WPRO BACK IN MIAMI FOR THE GREAT BALLS OF FIRE PRO-AM

The University of Miami welcomed back the tour's top pros as they competed at the 9th Annual Great Balls of Fire Pro-Am benefiting the WPRO's official charity, American Breast Cancer Foundation (ABC) and its "Racquetball for Life" campaign. Defending champion and #3 ranked Angela Grisar of Santiago, Chile fell to #1 Rhonda Rajsich in three straight games in Sunday's championship. Heading into the finals, Rajsich had a tough five-game battle with #4 Kerri Wachtel in the semifinals. Grisar had played near-flawless racquetball to upset the #2 seed, Cheryl Gudinas Holmes, in three.

Thanks to the hospitality of tournament directors Vivian Gomez (#14 ranked pro on the WPRO tour) and Lynne Olvey (UM racquetball team coach), this event is regarded by the pros as one of the most enjoyable of the season. The tournament kicked off with a great evening of Sponsor Doubles on Thursday followed by some post-game analysis at The Titanic, a local bar and grill. Once the pros and sponsors became reacquainted, it was clear that the weekend would be even better than it had been the previous three seasons.

Like last year's event, due to high demand, the tournament directors had to turn away amateurs who didn't sign up early enough. The Great Balls of Fire Pro-Am featured top competitors from the South

Florida area and across the country. The continued success of the event has contributed to the growth and development of the UM Racquetball Club, which was Olvey's original purpose when she launched it nine years ago.

A portion of the proceeds raised at the event each year goes directly to the UM Racquetball Club to help fuel the collegiate program at the university. This tournament marked the first time a collegiate division was introduced, and the UM players were able to show their progress as they competed against the University of Florida team.

Gomez, whose company PROEDGE GROUP is one of the main event sponsors, secured a variety of local sponsors that made this event possible for the WPRO including: Reflections Wellness Center, Inc. (Dr. Leo Mesa); Flagler Dog Track; La Cubanita (Conrad Lopez and Patty Roos); Laura Brandt; The Law Firm of Lidsky, Vaccaro & Montes; Arch & Morris; Horizon Business Solutions (David Mesa); UAIG, Catlin, Saxon, Fink & Kolski, LLP; Roman Brand Italian Sausage; Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, P.A.; BNY Mellon Wealth Management; Lee Family; Warhaftig Family; and Gopie Productions. Each of the event sponsors shares the vision of promoting women's racquetball and supporting grass roots



programs in the Miami area.

Last but not least, thanks to Norm Parsons, Al Rose, James Burgess and the UM Wellness Center staff and volunteers!

WPRO Rankings

WPRO RANKINGS as of April 15, 2008 (not season-ending rankings)

1	Rajsich, Rhonda	Phoenix, AZ	17	Baumbaugh, T.J.	Reston, VA
2	Gudinas Holmes, Cheryl	Naperville, IL	18	Hostovich, Candi	Falls Church, VA
3	Grisar, Angela	Santiago, Chile	19	Saunders, Jen	Winnipeg, MB, Canada
4	Wachtel, Kerri	Cincinnati, OH	20	Csuk, Krystal	Chicago, IL
5	Bellows, Kristen	Pleasant Grove, UT	21	Nunez, Paola	Falls Church, VA
6	Longoria, Paola	San Luis Posti, Mexico	21	Acosta, Susy	Chihuahua, Mexico
7	Kyzer, Brenda	Leesville, SC	23	Sotomayor, Veronica	Ecuador
8	Fisher, Adrienne	Centerville, OH	24	O'Brien, Aubrey	Auburn, CA
9	Van Hees, Christie	Calgary, AB, Canada	25	Wheeler, Janell	Virginia
10	Moore, Diane	Griffith, IN	26	Morris, Phyllis	Charlotte, NC
11	Fowler, Doreen	Silver Spring, MD	27	Mazur, Kara	Avon, CT
12	Shattuck, Jo	Denver, CO	28	Davis, Da'monique	San Antonio, TX
13	Ferina, Kimi	Long Island, NY	29	Morton, Karen	Harrisburg, PA
14	Gomez, Vivian	Miami, FL	30	Jacobson Prentice, Brandi	Saskatoon, SK, Canada
15	Salas, Samantha	Leon, Mexico	31	Earl, Michelle	Anchorage, AL
16	Franks, Keely	Euless, TX	32	Brandt, Laura	Ft. Lauderdale, FL

CLASSIC PRO RACQUETBALL TOUR - RAWLINS

The Classic Professional Racquetball Tour (CPRT) headed to Rawlins, Wyoming, February 22-24, for its first event in 2008, the 19th Annual Pepsi Premier Racquetball Reunion hosted by the Rawlins Family Recreation Center. The following were the nightly releases reported from the event:

Friday night's quarterfinal action started with #2 seed Gerry Price playing Matthew Christensen followed by #4 Steve Wattz matched up against #5 Mike Ray. The evening was highlighted by the CPRT debut of sixth-seeded Cliff Swain who was matched up with #3 Tom Travers. Top-seeded Woody Clouse enjoyed a bye going into Saturday morning's semifinals.

TOP SEEDS ALL ADVANCE IN RAWLINS - All of the CPRT pros had relatively easy quarterfinal wins on Friday night. The evening session opened with second seed Gerry Price advancing over Colorado's Matthew Christensen, 9-2, 9-5, 9-2. Mike Ray played his first event of the season and took out fourth seed Steve Wattz, 9-7, 9-0, 9-8. Cliff Swain opened his CPRT career with a 9-2, 9-0, 9-8 win over third seed Tom Travers.

Semifinal action opens Saturday morning with Ray facing top seed Woody Clouse followed by a Price/Swain square-off.

CLOUSE & SWAIN SURVIVE THE SEMIS - After two very competitive semifinal matches, Woody Clouse and Cliff Swain advanced to the finals after a few hours' rest. Clouse had opened the day's action with a tough four-game win over Mike Ray 9-4, 7-9, 9-3, 9-6. In one of the season's best matches, Swain had come from behind to defeat Gerry Price 4-9, 9-6, 5-9, 9-3, 9-2 as Price played his best racquetball of the season and brought out Swain's best.

SWAIN TAKES RAWLINS - Cliff Swain completed his run to the title with a three-game sweep over Woody



Clouse, 9-3, 9-7, 9-4. Swain played solid racquetball while Clouse was not at his strongest physically. Swain took over the #1 ranking with the win, moving Clouse to #2, followed by #3 Ruben Gonzalez.

Classic Professional Racquetball Tour's mission is "Stars of the Past Supporting the Future of Racquetball." Fundraising efforts during the Rawlins event will allow the Rawlins Family Recreation Center to re-launch their dormant Junior Racquetball Program. A total of \$420 was raised through donations, a silent auction and the matching funds program from the National Masters Racquetball Association.

THANKS to the Rawlins Family Recreation Center, major sponsor Pepsi, and tournament directors Lacey Plaisted and Monte Thayer as well as Rawlins Recreation Department Director DeShann Schinkel for a hosting a great event!

CLASSIC PRO RACQUETBALL TOUR - ROCHESTER

Penfield Pro-Am Features Largest Draw of the Season

The Classic Professional Racquetball Tour (CPRT) headed to Rochester, New York, March 7-9, for the only event of the 2007-08 season in the Eastern US, the Penfield Pro-Am hosted by the

Penfield Fitness & Racquet Club.

Leading the lineup were the Top Two ranked CPRT players including last event's champion; Cliff Swain of Boston, MA, and Woody Clouse of Highlands Ranch, CO. Seeded third was Canadian Mike Ceresia and rounding out the top four was Mike Ray of Hilton Head, SC. The draw was filled out by some of the region's top 40-and-over players taking their best shot at the CPRT professionals.

A full slate of amateur singles and doubles divisions filled out a great weekend that will benefit Junior Racquetball (also supported by the National Masters Racquetball Association) and the National Fibromyalgia Research Association.

FRIDAY NIGHT ACTION IN ROCHESTER - Two rounds of action in Rochester were highlighted by all four CPRT pros cruising into Saturday's semifinals. Some good matches and solid play set up the quarterfinals as Dave Spoleta took out Bruce Bell to get his chance to play top seed Cliff Swain; Ted Pittinaro was pushed to four games by Scott Pickett to earn a shot at Mike Ceresia; and William Turner traveled from Atlanta to take out Jeff Schuetz in four games and move into a match-up with #2 Woody Clouse.

Fifth seed Tom Mastrodonato matched up directly with #4

Mike Ray in the quarterfinals and Ray cruised in three straight as did each of the other CPRT pros in their quarterfinal matches. The semifinals match-ups will be Ray opening up against Swain, followed by Ceresia vs. Clouse.

SWAIN & CLOUSE MOVE INTO THE FINALS OF PENFIELD PRO-AM - Cliff Swain made quick work of Mike Ray in the opening semifinal, 9-2, 9-0, 9-4 to take the first spot in the finals. For the second event in a row, Swain would meet Woody Clouse, who survived over Mike Ceresia, 6-9, 9-5, 9-1, 9-3 in a long entertaining match that was closer than the scores would indicate as the two battled back and forth.

SWAIN TAKES ROCHESTER - Cliff Swain captured his second consecutive CPRT event as he fought past a tough Woody Clouse, 9-4, 9-5, 2-9, 9-7. Both players thrilled the packed Penfield Club with a combination of power and athleticism as evidenced by ace services followed by great gets and diving kills. At 7-7 in the fourth game, it looked as though Clouse

could move the match into a fifth, but Swain combined a couple of service return kills with aces to close out the match.

The level of play from both Swain and Clouse showed that they are both still at the top of their games and the appreciative crowd and large group of sponsors enjoyed the best match of the weekend.

THANKS to Penfield Fitness & Racquet Club GM Keith Lopresto and his staff for putting on a great CPRT event!

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Cliff Swain	1045
2	Woody Clouse	850
3	Ruben Gonzalez	793
4	Keith Minor	535
5	Bret Harnett	528
5	Mike Ceresia	528
7	Mike Ray	518
8	Gerry Price	393
9	Dave Sable	275
10	Brad McCunniff	265
10	Mike Anderson	265
12	Tom Travers	257
13	Dave Spoleta	250
13	Greg Campbell	250
13	Matthew Christensen	250

13	Paul Reed	250
13	Steve Wattz	250
13	Ted Pittinaro	250
13	Tom Mastrodonato	250
13	William Turner	250
21	Eugene Coyle	135
22	Doug Ganim	130
22	Jeff Schuetz	130
22	Richard Eisenman	130
22	Scott Pickett	130
26	Andrew Perry	125
26	Brent Sturgiss	125
26	Bruce Bell	125
26	Roland Grassl	125
26	Stacey Witenberger	125
26	Timothy Kirch	125

CPRT PRO NATIONALS SET FOR LAS VEGAS

The 2007-08 season finale took place May 1-4, 2008, in Las Vegas as the Las Vegas Athletic Club hosted the 2008 Desert Plumbing & Heating CPRT Pro Nationals presented by Beck's. At press time, all eight of the CPRT touring professionals were scheduled to attend, led by currently top-ranked Cliff Swain. A full slate of amateur divisions was anticipated including a 35+ CPRT Futures division.





HOLLYWOOD BEACH BASH

by Vic Leibofsky

PRINCE MIKE PETERS

KING JOSH TUCKER

The Historic Paddleball Courts at Garfield Street hosted WOR's return to Hollywood Beach, Florida. The weather was perfect, the beach was just yards away, and Angelo's Pizza was giving away free soda with any purchase. What else could you ask for?

How about some serious racquetball! After just a few weeks of practice, the local three-wall players and even some indoor folks looked like one-wall veterans.

The Pro Division was dominated by the teams of Alex Cuartas/Garry Smith and Jorge Arias/Danny Bettencourt. To heck with playing cautious and "keeping it in!" All four of these guys pounded the ball all day. Nothing was going to stop Alex Cuartas, though. Alex never held back despite the one wall, yet was able to keep it on the court. Alex and Garry played in their first event together, and it looks like this could be a formidable team on any size or shape court in the future.

PRO RESULTS

Final - Alex Cuartas/Garry Smith def. Danny Bettencourt/Jorge Arias
Semi - Alex Cuartas/Garry Smith def. Ken Grandy/Dave Smith
Semi - Danny Bettencourt/Jorge Arias def Dillon Silver/Joe Masachs
Pool Play - Vic Leibofsky/J Bingo, Angel Calderon/Mike Bernstein, Mitch Stater/Mark Maupin, Todd Pohlman/Joe Figueiro.

The A division was no less exciting! We had ten evenly matched teams and it was hard to tell which division was playing since the intensity and shot making seemed on par with the Pros. We welcomed eight new folks playing in their very first WOR event: Francisco Taveras, Cari Kresa, Mike Ridgeway and Mike Ehren are all local indoor players; Jean Guy Poulin and Eric Meisler - proud players on the Canadian National Team; Yoilen Verdacia from Hialeah; and Tony Crespo from Orlando drove down to partner with old friend Raul Nieves from Connecticut. There was quite a mixed bag of new faces to add to an already diverse division!

In the end, Ariel Acanda/Alex Corrales outlasted everyone and won the division. When it was all said and done, Ariel/Alex had won every single game they played - 13 total. Alex is the US Open A Doubles champ, and he played like a winner all day. Partnering for the first time with Ariel, the US Open B Doubles champ, these two had a blast all day. They played with a spirit that was enjoyed by all who watched. Alex was fired up, aggressive, and consistent, while Ariel had the killer serve and incredible gets. They outlasted veterans Larry Wasserman/Marc Landau in a match that could have gone either way.

A RESULTS

Finals - Ariel Acanda/Alex Corrales def Larry Wasserman/Marc Landau
Semi - Ariel Acanda/Alex Corrales def Jorge Diaz/Yoilen Verdacia
Semi - Larry Wasserman/Marc Landau def Raul Nieves/Tony Crespo
Pool Play - Kathy Geels/Francisco Taveras, Rick Bernstein/Rick Kneale, Jeff Wright/Jason Mackel, Mike Ridgeway/Ralph Rodriguez, Jean Guy Poulin/Eric Meisler, Cari Kresa/Mike Ehren

KING OF THE BEACH 2008

The Racquetball Gods were looking down with favor, providing another idyllic day at Newport Beach. King of the Beach 2008 commenced with a record turnout of 45 hungry participants. By the end of the day, there would be only four warriors left standing with the final top three spots being separated by a mere 7 points!

A number of "play-in" matches were necessary due to the expansion of the normal 32-player field. Some notable upsets in the first round saw players such as Gary Martin, Jesus Usterroz, Gabe Medina and one of last year's finalists, Louie Orosco, fail to garner the number of points required to advance.

After fierce competition in the earlier rounds, the Elite 8 saw a bracket that included Mike Peters, Craig "Clubber" Lane, Josh Tucker and Zeus Ocana. The other bracket was Greg Solis, Rick Sandello, Thunder Frontino, and Son "the Gladiator" Nguyen. Peters went in as the surprising #1 seed, having won all the games he had played to that point.

The first game of that bracket proved critical – Peters and Tucker were able to take down Lane and Ocana, 15-3. They were never able to recover from that steep loss and

in the final game, Peters and Ocana came back to upset Lane and Tucker, 15-14.

Solis won all 3 games on his side, and Thunder was able to edge out the Gladiator to advance to the 2008 finals.

Peters was once again the #1 seed, and he was just as surprised as anyone else.

"I'm 46 years old, I should be a poster boy for those wanting to get into outdoor racquetball. This is substantially better than I could have hoped for."

The first game saw Solis and Peters take down Tucker and Frontino, 15-10.

As the sun was beginning to set and the visibility was becoming a factor, Peters and Tucker got a huge win over Solis and Thunder, 15-3.

Game 3 began, but due to almost no visibility, it was postponed until Sunday. The four remaining warriors made their way back onto the court in the middle of the Queen of the Beach Tournament that had started that morning.

An aging and extremely sore Mike Peters was entering the last game with a perfect record, having won all eleven games he had played. Solis and Tucker proved too much for Peters and Thunder, taking them down 15-5.

Josh Tucker was crowned King of the Beach with 40 points, Peters was second with 35 points, Solis a close third with 33 points and Big Rod finishing with 18 points.

Peters finished with the most overall wins and overall points (clearly befuddling Craig Lane's tournament logic), but it wasn't enough to claim the top spot of Beach Royalty. All hail King Josh!

Big thanks to Tournament Director Greg Solis and to Jimmy Banuelos and Thunder Mountain (Rod Frontino) for providing culinary perfection.

QUEEN OF THE BEACH 2008

The women were out in force on another hot sunny day at Newport Beach. There were over 25 contestants to begin the day and the ladies were blasting the Ektelon Fireballs almost as hard as the guys. They had players competing from places as far away as Florida and Alaska, and everybody was shooting to make it to the final four. When the dust settled, it was Rhonda Rajsich, Michelle Key, Janel Tisinger, and Sherri Knecht who prevailed. After an intense, hard-fought final round, Rhonda Rajsich emerged as the new Queen of the Beach for 2008.



SUDSY'S MAGICAL POWER DRIVE SERVE

Presented by

HEAD

penn

by Sudsy Monchik

In the next few issues, I want to spend time sharing with you my "Magical Serves" and show you why they were recognized as one of the best in the game. My serves helped me capture the #1 pro ranking in the world (five times) and the US Open Championship (four times).

In this article I will break down my Magical Power Drive Serve, one of the most powerful and fundamentally-sound drive serves in the game. Before I get started on the mechanics of this serve, I want to preface this article with a notion...

The serve is the #1 weapon and the most important part of the game. Why, you may ask? There are three reasons for this:

This is the ONLY time in the match where you hit the ball from a stationary position out of your hand. All other times the ball is coming at you with different kinds of angles, speeds and heights. Here you are in total control... take advantage of it.

The server's serve sets the tone for the match – you're like a pitcher in baseball or a quarterback in football. If the pitcher or quarterback happens to be off that day, the whole team usually follows suit: down and out, and not sharp. The reverse is also true. If the pitcher or quarterback is on that day, then the attitude of the team changes: they become upbeat, ready to rock and roll and take care of business. The same is true in racquetball. If your serve is on, you feel like you're playing well and can conquer the world, but if it's off just a little, you feel lousy and just try to hang in there. It's the nature of the beast...so take your time.

You can apply an enormous amount of pressure on the receiver with a dynamite serve. What do most people do under pressure? Choke and fold.

All right, I am ready to make you tougher than tough from the service box with my favorite and effective serve: The Power Drive Serve. The word "power" is the key here. The harder you hit the ball with the ingredients of placement, deception and variety, the tougher it will be for the opponent to not only return it, but return it with accuracy. My drive serve has been clocked at approximately 190 mph. Think about that. You are about 40 feet from the front wall and 20 feet from me and this small round object is coming at you with that kind of velocity. (To put it in perspective, a pitcher pitches the ball at approximately 95 mph from 60 feet away from the plate). The Power Drive Serve, if perfected, could be and should be your most powerful weapon. Remember, in the amateur ranks (except Open) you still get two serves. If you go for it on your first serve with a drive and miss, you still have another chance with that second serve opportunity. In the professional game, we only have one serve...so I'd better make it good the first time!

Let's take a closer look at the elements of my Magical Power Drive Serve.

Trick 1: The Ready Position

- Feet on the back line (short line), lined up one behind the other
- Left foot in front of right foot (for righties) and the opposite for lefties, to allow for a two-step approach into the ball for more power
- Start low – knees bent and slightly bent at the waist
- Weight evenly distributed (50/50)
- Racquet down
- Concentrate - eyes on the ball

Trick 2: The Step

- Back foot moves first by taking a short step
- Racquet comes up
- Hold the ball at full extension from your body to get ready to drop the ball off the front leg after second step.
- Stay low - knees and waist slightly bent
- Weight slightly on front foot (60/40), but pretty even

Trick 3: The Swing

- Front foot takes second step, straight ahead or at a slight angle
- Ball dropped off front leg at full extension
- Racquet begins its downward motion (leading with elbow and wrist cocked back – just like the forehand – no different)
- Hips begin to open (just like the forehand – no different)
- Stay low - knees and waist slightly bent
- Weight slightly on front foot, but beginning to pull back (55/45)
- Eyes on ball

Trick 4: Contact Point

- Legs are in line with each other, weight back to even (50/50)
- Ball at full extension off front leg
- Racquet comes through flat and level with tremendous wrist snap
- Hips continue to open
- Stay low – knees and waist still slightly bent
- Contact point is ankle high
- Shoot the ball flat, no spin
- Eyes on ball

Trick 5: Follow Through

- Legs are in line with each other, front toe pointed to right corner and back toe rotated around – completely balanced
- Racquet completely around, pointing to back wall
- Hips completely open and rotated through
- End low – knees still bent, but upper body more erect
- Eyes on the front wall, tracking the ball, then head will rotate around to follow the ball



ONE



TWO



THREE



FOUR



FIVE

With the mechanics of the Power Drive Serve behind us now, I'd like to take a look at the four aspects of the drive serve that are the key factors in making my drive serve #1 in the game.

POWER - the speed and velocity that I generate on the ball is created by the two-step motion, hip rotation, wrist snap, quick racquet head speed, hitting the ball flat and effecting a complete follow through. The pace on the ball directly affects your opponent's reaction time. The harder you hit the ball, the less time your opponent has to get to the ball.

by Otto Dietrich
USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

Since there were no truly new rules/refereeing questions to answer for this issue of "Racquetball," I thought I'd use this space to explain the concept of "when the service begins" and why it is important. Within the USA Racquetball rulebook, this subject is covered in Rule 3.3. It states that the service motion begins with any continuous movement that results in the ball being served. What does that mean?

Let's say, for example, that a right-handed player is standing very close to the left sidewall. Once the score is called, he starts walking



"THE START OF THE SERVICE MOTION IS A CRITICAL FACTOR RELATIVE TO SEVERAL IMPORTANT RULES."

toward the right sidewall and somewhere along the way, he drops the ball and serves it. Well, his motion started when he started walking over by the left sidewall.

Instead, what if he stops along the way, pauses for a second or two and then takes a few more steps and then serves the ball? That "pause" becomes the new point at which the service motion began.

So, why is this significant? The "start of the service motion" is a critical factor relative to several important rules. To illustrate, the server must be either on or inside (but not over) the lines of the service box from the "time the service motion begins." (See Rule 3.3) As long as he pauses to restart the service motion, once again inside the service box, then a player could walk into the zone and, after pausing a bit, serve the ball.

To avoid being called for a drive serve zone violation, the service motion must begin outside of the drive serve zone in question – even if the "motion" begins in one drive serve zone and the player walks nearly all the way across the service box before he serves it. (See Rule 3.6)

The receiving player/team can call a timeout after the score or "second serve" is called -- but not after the service motion has begun. Calling a "time out" after that point is the basis for a technical foul causing the offending player/team to lose a point. (See Rule 3.16(a))

As a referee, you must be careful to note "when the service motion begins" on every serve so you can properly assess whether any of those related rules have been violated.

By the time you read this, the June 1st deadline for the

submission of proposed rule changes will be nearly upon us, so be sure to email me with any proposals. The entire process is described on page 51 of the new rulebook. I assure you that all proposals will be given a fair hearing. When proposing a rule change, please cite the current rule number; describe in detail why you think it should be changed; and provide the proposed wording for your suggested revision to the current rule.

Always "Play by the Rules!" If you don't have a copy, you can find and review them on-line at: www.usaracquetball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=839. So, do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org and you may find it featured in an upcoming issue of *Racquetball*.

Q:

Fran, how do I get ready for "The Big One," the National Championships in Houston that are just around the corner, the US Open coming in October, etc.?

A:

There is no easy way to get ready for "The Big One." It is an ongoing process you build upon day by day, week by week, month by month and year by year. It is the same process the pros like Jason Mannino, Rocky Carson, Jack Huczek, Rhonda Rajsich and Cheryl Gudinas Holmes use to prepare.

Let's take a closer look at the step-by-step process the pros use for getting ready for "The Big One."

Step 1-Set Goals for Yourself

A goal is a commitment made on paper...

- a) Physical skills...practice your forehand, backhand, serves, return of serves, ceiling ball, off the back wall, pinch shot, pass shots, etc...get consistent. Play games with a purpose, working on specific skills.
- b) Mental skills...what mental toughness book am I going to read this month? Next month?
- c) Conditioning skills...core training, weight training, cardio, group exercise classes, plyometrics, footwork drills, etc.
- d) Nutritional skills...what am I going to eat, when?
- e) Stretching, yoga and/or Pilates.

You must commit to doing items a-e on a regular ongoing basis in order to achieve the goals you set forth of getting ready for "The Big One."

Step 2-Develop a Training Schedule

Take a calendar and map out a day by day, week by week and month by month schedule of what you are going to do to reach your goals.

You must commit to this schedule so you know how many days a week you will practice, condition, read a mental toughness book or see a sports psychologist, eat right and stretch.

Step 3-Create a Journal for your Training as well as a Log of Tournament Competitors

It is key that you write down your workouts so you have a clear picture of what you are doing. In this manner, you can continue the things that are working and adjust the things that are not.

Also, keep a log of your matches so you know who you played, what worked and what didn't. This can be used to develop a game plan against this opponent next time.

**Step 4-Develop a Game Plan
...a plan of action for your match.**

This is based on your strengths and weaknesses, coupled with your opponents' strengths and weaknesses. You ideally want to be a "racquetball detective" and gather information -- your #1 objective is to make your opponent feel uncomfortable. You can accomplish this by giving them things they don't like or that they are not good at.

"If you fail to plan, you plan to fail" ...so always be prepared and have a game plan.

**Step 5-Create a Routine
...we are creatures of habit and LOVE routine.**

Routines ground us and make us comfortable and at ease.

Routines are often overlooked and ignored, but greatly needed -- they are calming and soothing. Just think of your morning routine. If the alarm goes off late and you think it's 7am, but it is really 8am, how do you feel...rushed and crazed!

Step 6-Stay Positive and Be in the "Now"

Negativity breeds negativity and negativity makes you play poorly, so be and stay positive. The only thing in sport you have is the "now" ...the past is gone and the future doesn't exist.

Be Positively Present.

Step 7-Always Make Sure you are Physically and Mentally Warmed Up for your Match

Your first serve should be as hard as your last serve. Be prepared and ready to go on every level.

Okay, so there you have the Seven Steps to getting ready for "The Big One." There are no short cuts, no pills, no magic -- just a firm commitment to each of these critical areas that can produce you the best results.

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction on this and many other topics. If you can't make a camp at this time, the next best thing will be to buy my video.

Please visit www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details on both.



By Fran Davis

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CENTER COURT, POSITIONING, AND YOU

by Woody Clouse
www.ektelon.com

Center Court and Positioning are both the most frequently talked about fundamentals and the most forgotten about in racquetball. It's certainly understandable when you look at the stereotypical racquetball player: a Type A personality, aggressive in nature and subscribes to the "go for it" aspect in all things. We love the home run and the hole in one; we are, generally speaking, willing to go for broke no matter what the expense. So it makes sense that we would abandon the most basic concept of racquetball: dominate the center of the court as a primary focus. And therein lies the problem. In an effort to hit the roll out, a player not only dismisses his racquetball intellect (control center court), he also gives points away by needlessly hitting unforced errors.

The few who don't suffer from this overzealous brain freeze become the recipients of some wonderful underhanded compliments. The "I can't believe how badly I always play against you" is a nice one. Or the more common one, "How did I lose to this guy"? Or my favorite and the classic, "I'm soooo much better than that guy; I will never lose to him again!" (Yes, you will.) These are all perfect examples of laments coming from players who don't understand the importance of controlling center court.

To remedy this racquetball brain cramping, let's start at the beginning. We have all experienced the day when we played that 99-year-old guy who stood in the middle of the court while we ran around him, sweating profusely and wondering what in the world was

going on. Once again, it was all about controlling center court.

So let's define center court and understand exactly how to use it to our advantage. Center Court is two feet behind the hash marks. It's in the center of the court equal distance to each side wall and is about 3 feet in diameter. It is NOT anywhere else – it's a relatively small circle. If you perceive it as larger area, you will tend to give your opponent too much room to hit the ball around you. The entire game should be played with intent to control this space. If you are not able to hit a ball that allows you to stay in this space, you should hit a ceiling ball and regain control of this space. It's really that simple.

To convince you to stop making some of the biggest mistakes and to solidify why center court is two feet behind the hash marks, I am going to cover the six major reasons that dictate this fact:

When you stand in proper center court position, it becomes a lot more difficult to pass you. This forces your opponent to try and hit more kill shots lowering their percentages and increasing yours.

By standing two feet behind the hash marks, you are more capable of setting your feet quicker when the ball comes off the back wall. This helps your consistency as well as your shot selection. You don't have to rush back and dig as many balls out of the corners. This immediately makes you a better player.

By positioning yourself closer to the back wall, you have the opportunity to let balls bounce in front of you prior to

contact. This gives you the ability to hit more down the lines and cross courts opposed to reaching back and being forced to hit pinches (not such a good idea from the deep end of the court).

When you move from center court instead of moving sideways, you give yourself the chance to move forward on both passing shots and pinches that are left up. This allows you to maintain your balance during execution; such is not the case when you are too close to the front wall.

By standing further back, you also are standing closer to your opponent who in turn will feel a lot more pressure when he takes his shot. The byproduct of this is that they will not feel as relaxed nor as comfortable when they attempt to hit each shot.

Last but not least, in center court position, you put yourself in the most natural location for balls that hit the side wall to come directly back to you. When you stand too close, you are forced to move back a couple of feet or simply try and reach back. This is tougher and also eliminates the opportunity to hit the ball cross court.

So, set your sights on becoming like that 99-year-old...the one who simply stands in the middle of the court and moves opponents around, watching them scratch their heads in bewilderment as to why in the world they just got dominated by a person who never had to move. And for good measure, remember to incorporate other forms of exercise into your routines...since you won't be running around as much on the court anymore!

This represents perfect Center Court position.

When a player is caught standing too close to the front wall, he is forced to move backwards, making it nearly impossible to stay offensive on shots that are hit mid court. It is also makes it difficult to set up on balls coming off the back wall.



Starting off in proper Center Court position, a player is able to stay balanced while he moves forward to return pinches and passing shots.

When a player is too far forward, he is forced to move sideways, causing him to be off balance.

MAKING RACQUETBALL A *SUCCESS*

by Connie Martin

How is racquetball doing at your club?

This is a loaded question and your answer will be different depending upon whether you are an owner, a program or racquetball director, a racquetball instructor, an employee or a member. It would be wonderful if all involved answered, "Great!" but we know that is probably not the case. It is challenging for all parties involved to be happy or totally satisfied about any one thing in life. For many of us, racquetball has been an important part of our lives for the past few months... years... decades (yes, decades!).

But the love of racquetball alone will not make it successful at your club. It is the responsibility of the owners and directors to ensure racquetball has a fair chance in today's "fitness revolution." One way to do this is to market racquetball as fitness, as something that our members should be doing because of its rewards.

Racquetball provides most everything that anyone coming to your club needs. It is mental, it is active, it is aerobic, it is social, it is fun, it is family, it is couples, it is competitive, it is a *workout!*

But...if there is no one at your club who can promote those courts that sit with their lights out in full view of your fitness floor, it all means nothing.

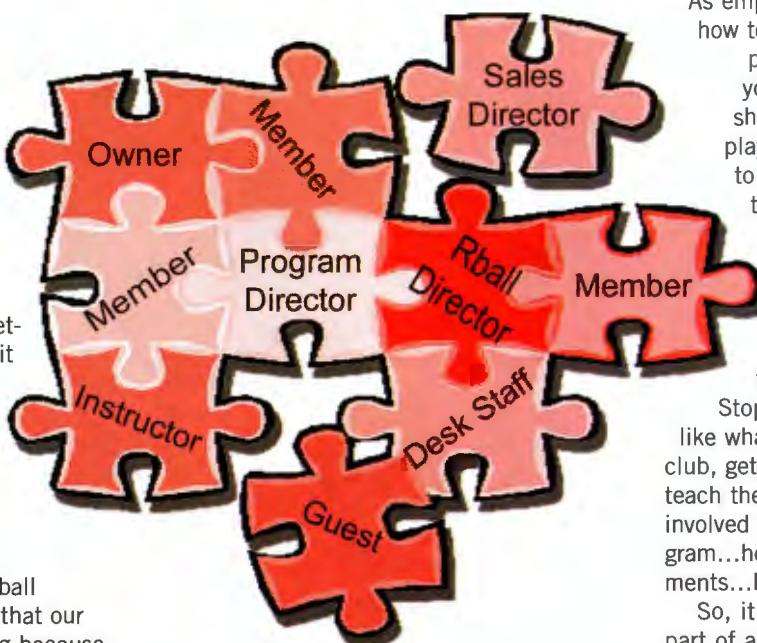
As owners, we need to invest in someone who is enthusiastic about the sport who will inspire members to want to play! It can be done. (In Oregon, we are building more courts, not taking them out.)

As instructors, we need to get people excited about the game so that it is a sport that people want to learn how to play, want to show their friends how to play and want to continue to play because it is fun and it provides excellent fitness benefits. In fact, add some weight training and you have a great fitness package at one location.

As employees, we should learn how to play so that we are better promoters of the sport. If your desk staff or membership does not know how to play, it's really hard for them to 'sell' the sport. Make sure to give your staff some free lessons. Offering them great racquet package specials can help, also.

As members, we need to do everything we can to keep the court lights on. Stop the whining. If you don't like what is happening at your club, get involved. Offer to help teach the game to new players. Get involved in a high school league program...help with the tournaments...help promote the sport.

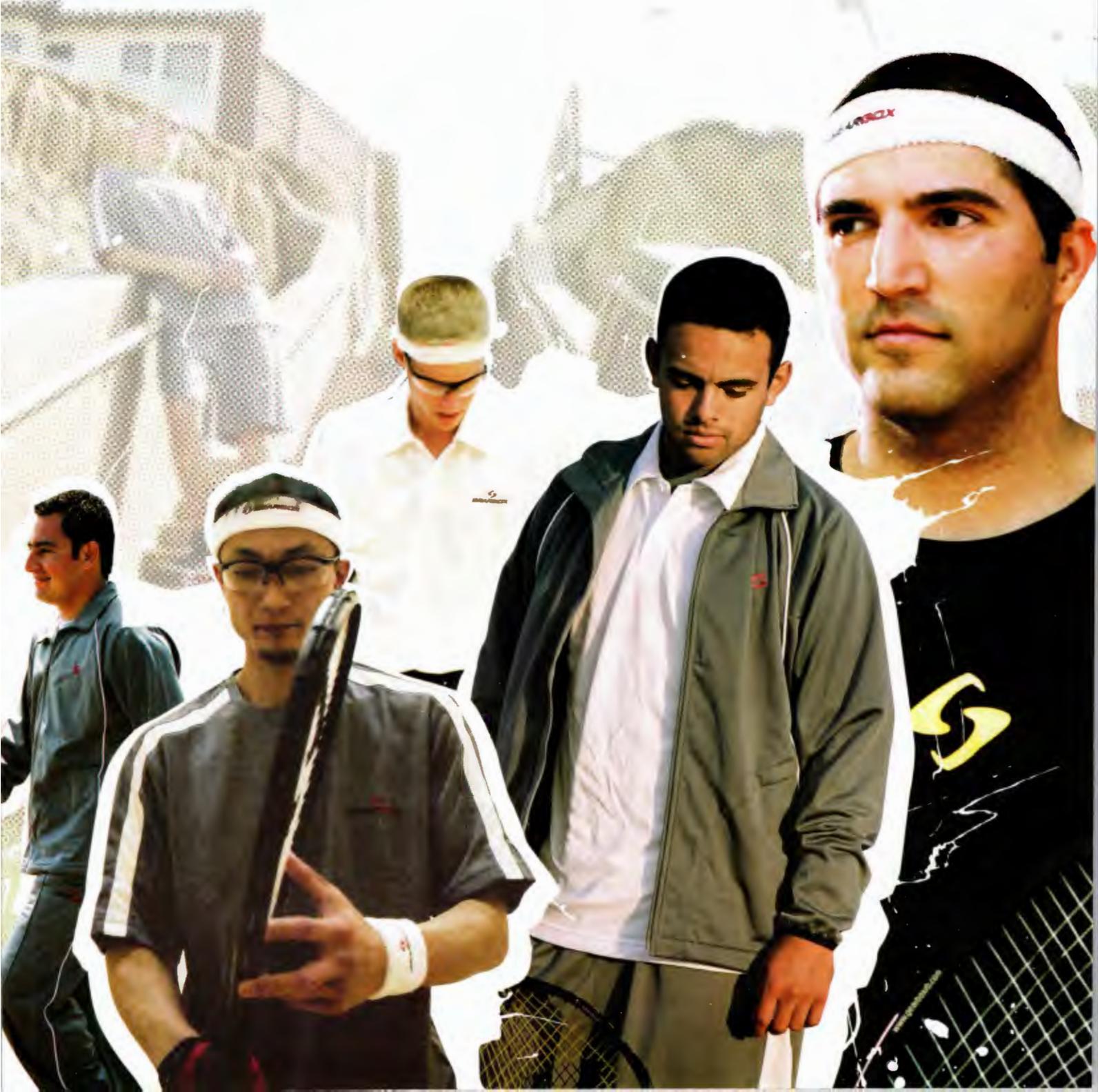
So, it takes everyone to be a part of anything we want to make a success! I know, because I have been in each of these roles (excepting owner) for over 30 years. I am at a club that has the involvement of everyone from owner to members, and our racquetball director, Brian Ancheta, takes great pride in making racquetball a success at our club and in our state. Call us for advice and ideas...we'll be happy to help!



As program or racquetball directors, we need to personify that "hire" that sets up lessons and leagues and round robins and socials and challenges and tournaments and high school programs. If your club is not large enough to host a tournament, gather a group of people to play in a local, state or national event.

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Party the nights away with your favorite pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world. Be there to see the stunning "made-for-TV" portable stadium racquetball court. The event will be nationally televised (tape delayed) on THE TENNIS CHANNEL. In addition, over 700 amateur division players will compete in age and skill divisions for every level. Special events include the Saturday evening Grand Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", a Players Village complete with

concessions and live entertainment, International/VIP Reception, Pro-Am Doubles Tourney for St. Jude, IRT Champions Clinic, Play the Pro Challenges, Friday Night Player's Dance Party, and continuous fan fair activities on the stadium court. The event will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The professional matches will be held at The Racquet Club of Memphis, a world-class health club and dining facility featuring racquetball, tennis, locker rooms with all the amenities, state-of-the-art fitness center, swimming pool, four-star restaurant, elegant banquet and meeting rooms, pub with dance floor, and much, much more. The Racquet Club is no stranger to hosting world-class sporting events, as they are the annual site for the acclaimed Morgan Keegan St. Jude Tennis Championships, a stop on the ATP Tour, which has hosted such top name players as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and Andy Roddick. Amateur divisions will be played at The University of Memphis Recreation Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club), Ridgeway Baptist Rec. Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club) and Wellworx Sportsplex (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all four facilities will be provided.



Jack Huczak

IRT #2

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PARTIES, PARTIES AND MORE PARTIES

That's right! For those of us who like to enjoy our evenings, the U.S. OPEN promises a solid week of non-stop fun, kicking off with a Wednesday night International/VIP Reception and Thursday late-night "get together" at the Fox & Hound Sports Bar (next door to The Racquet Club). And that's only the beginning! On Friday evening, the action moves to the "Pub" nightspot at The Racquet Club of Memphis,

which will feature a DJ spinning the hottest tunes for your dancing pleasure. Mingle with the pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world.

Saturday evening will top off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year – the 13th Annual U.S. OPEN Grand Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS". More than 800 racquetball fans are expected to turn out at The Racquet Club Party Center for an evening of exciting entertainment featuring DJ Mark Anderson and his amazing dancers. Elegant ice carvings, extravagant hors d'ouerves, desserts, huge dance floor, cash bar, multi-media slide show, and all the top racquetball pros in the world will make the evening one to remember. The cost for guests and tournament spectators is \$35 per person. Players participating in the U.S. OPEN will be admitted free!

U.S. OPEN PLAYERS VILLAGE

The nerve center of the event will be the U.S. OPEN Players Village. Many activities are scheduled to take place in the Village, including an extensive Industry Trade Show, pro autograph signing sessions, live stage with entertainment, concessions, cash bar, informational seminars, and plenty of seating to kick back and relax. Admission is free for all spectators and players.



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PRO MATCH SCHEDULE

Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude	Tuesday	5 p.m.- 10 p.m.
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying	Wednesday	10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Men's round of 64	Wednesday	4 p.m.- 11 p.m.
Men's round of 32	Thursday	9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Women's round of 32	Thursday	1 p.m.- 6 p.m.
Men's round of 16	Thursday	3 p.m.- 9 p.m.
Women's round of 16	Friday	9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Men's quarters	Friday	1 p.m.- 9 p.m.
Women's quarters	Friday	5 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Women's semi's/Men's semi's	Saturday	10 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
CPRT semi's		
Women's finals/CPRT finals/	Sunday	9:30a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Men's finals		

MEMBERSHIP

All players must be current members of USA Racquetball. If you're not, a membership can be purchased at the event (\$35 per year). In addition, all players entering the Men's pro draw must be current members of the IRT Players Association or join at the event (\$10).

PLAY BEGINS/STARTING TIMES/ CONFIRMATION/ENTRY DEADLINE

Players must be prepared to play as early as 8 a.m. on the dates indicated in the chart below. Requests for special starting times must be indicated on the entry form. Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests, however no guarantees can be made. **Starting times will be available after 5 p.m. on Monday, October 20th on-line at www.usopenracquetball.com.** After 5pm on 10/20, any event questions can be directed to the on-site tournament office desk by calling (901) 765-4428. Entries and ticket orders can be confirmed online after October 2nd at www.usopenracquetball.com. Please immediately call the U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 if any errors or omissions are found. All entries must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 8th and/or postmarked by Friday Oct. 3rd.

OPENING ROUNDS SCHEDULE

Wednesday Oct. 22nd

Singles – All IRT/WPRO Pro's, Men's Open, Elite, A, B, C, D, 24 & u., 24 & under A-B-C, 25+, 25+A-B-C, 30+, 35+, 35+A-B-C, 40+[CPRT], 45+, 45+A-B-C, 55+A-B-C.

Doubles – Men's Open, A, B, C, 35+, 45+

Thursday Oct. 23rd

Singles – Men's 50+, 55+, Women's Elite, A, B, C, D, 24 & under, 24 & under A-B-C, 25+, 25+A-B-C, 30+, 35+, 35+A-B-C, 40+, 45+, 45+A-B-C.

Doubles – Men's 19+, All Women's and Mixed except 50+

Friday Oct. 24th

Singles – Men's 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, Women's 50+, 55+, 55+A-B-C, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+,

Doubles – Men's and Women's 50+

CHECK-IN

All player registration will take place at The Racquet Club of Memphis. Check-in is required prior to participating in the event. Hours for registration are: Tuesday, October 21st 3 p.m.- 10 p.m., Wednesday, October 22nd 8 a.m.- 10p.m., Thursday, October 23rd 8 a.m.- 9 p.m., and Friday, October 24th 8 a.m.- 9 p.m.

SKILL LEVEL CERTIFICATION

Skill-level entrants (A, B, C, D divisions.) must be AMPRO certified at that level or be approved by the state director or representative as being legitimately competitive in the entered skill division at a level five event. Tournament directors will use these benchmarks to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify or disqualify players when/if they are improperly placed. *NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria.*

TICKETS FOR PRO MATCHES

Everyone will be required to purchase tickets for pro matches — see ticket application or call (800) 234-5396 ext.129. All non-players must purchase a ticket to be admitted to the Saturday evening Grand Gala **"PARTY WITH THE PROS"**. Seating is limited, therefore it is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets in advance. **ABSOLUTELY NO VIEWING FOR PRO MATCHES WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT A TICKET.** Last year's ticket packages sold out four weeks in advance, so don't delay!

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury boxes (with catered VIP Lounge access) may be available starting at \$2,800. Call 614-890-6073 for availability.

HOSPITALITY

Limited hospitality for all players will be available at Wellworx Sportsplex and Ridgeway Baptist Rec.Center only. The Racquet Club of Memphis features a four-star restaurant for your dining pleasure as well as the Players Village with a cash bar and limited concessions.

SILENT AUCTION & PRO/AM DOUBLES CHALLENGE

For the benefit of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital a silent auction will be held during the event featuring Olympic Memorabilia and sporting goods equipment from the industry's best manufacturers. Checks, cash, VISA and MasterCard are welcome. In addition, Tuesday evening, October 21st, 32 lucky amateurs will have the opportunity to play in a single elimination (one game to 15) doubles challenge with a top professional player as their partner. All proceeds will be donated to St. Jude, and each amateur player will receive an autographed racquet from their pro partner. **Call (614) 890-6073 if you are interested in participating as spots are limited.** Pro/Am Doubles for St. Jude – \$325 donation.

ST. JUDE HOSPITAL

The U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is once again proud to name St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as its designated charity. Founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude is dedicated to the successful treatment of diseases that afflict children. Having treated more than 22,000 patients from 47 states and 53 countries, the hospital is a world leader in the treatment of catastrophic childhood illnesses. The U.S. Open has raised over \$150,000 for St. Jude!

TRAVEL AND LODGING

Northwest Airlines, United Airlines, Enterprise, and Avis have joined the U.S. OPEN to offer special discounted airfares and rental cars to the 2008 U.S. OPEN. Please follow the information below to obtain these special rates:

Northwest Airlines

Discount: 5%-7% off published fares.

Instructions: Must call NWA Group Reservations Desk at (800) 328-1111 and mention WORLD FILE #NSDFY

United Airlines

Discount: 5%-10% off published fares.

Instructions: Must call Olympic Travel Desk at (800) 841-0460 and mention USA Racquetball account #565EF.

Enterprise (rental cars)

Discount: Special low weekly rates on all car classes.

Instructions: Must call Enterprise at (800) 593-0505 and mention CDP#50C0261

Hotels

When making hotel reservations, you must mention the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Discounted rates are good for up to four people per room. You must make reservations by September 30th for these special rates. Regular shuttle service will be available between all four clubs throughout the event. **In addition, free shuttles service will be provided from the main host hotels (Comfort Inn & Suites, Sleep Inn, and La Quinta) to The Racquet Club every half hour. The Doubletree is located right next door to The Racquet Club.** No parking is available at The University of Memphis, so players must use the shuttle.

1. COMFORT SUITES* (main host hotel) 2575 Thousand Oaks Blvd. (901) 365-2575 Rate: \$86 -12 minutes to Racquet Club	2. SLEEP INN* (main host hotel) 5119 American Way (901) 363-4800 Rate: \$74 -12 minutes to Racquet Club
3. DOUBLETREE HOTEL* (mail host hotel) 5069 Sanderlin Rd. (901) 767-6666 Rate: \$112 -next door to Racquet Club	4. LA QUINTA INN & SUITES* 1236 Primacy Parkway (901) 374-0330 Rate: \$92 -8 minutes from Racquet Club
5. THE RACQUET CLUB 5111 Sanderlin Rd. (901) 765-4400	6. WELLWORX SPORTSPLEX 6161 Shelby Oaks Dr. (901) 388-6580
7. UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS 630 Echles St. (901) 678-2816	8. RIDGEWAY BAPTIST REC. Ctr. 2500 Ridgeway Rd. (901) 761-1113

* Only the COMFORT SUITES, SLEEP INN, and LA QUINTA will have regular free shuttle service to The Racquet Club (every half hour). Doubletree Hotel is right next door to The Racquet Club



For additional nearby hotels
please log on to:
www.usopenracquetball.com
or e-mail hfender@usra.org

THE KING IS BACK



PRIZE MONEY

OVER \$46,000!

RULES/FORMAT/RANKINGS

All amateur divisions will be played according to official USA Racquetball rules, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. Pro divisions will use IRT/WPRO/CPRT rules. For all age divisions, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of the tournament (October 22nd). **All divisions (pro and amateur) will use the ProPenn HD (purple) ball**, the official ball of the IRT and US OPEN. Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions. Every match played in all divisions at the US OPEN will be entered in the USAR's new state of the art ranking system.



CPRT (MEN'S 40+)

Back for 2008! The Classic Pro Racquetball Tour is sponsoring the Men's 40+ division at the US OPEN with a prize money purse of \$3,000. ALL Men age 40 and over are eligible to enter with official CPRT ranking points awarded for each match won. Featured stars include Cliff Swain, Ruben Gonzalez, Brett Harnet, and Woody Clouse.

OFFICIATING

All players will receive \$5 for each amateur division match they referee. Players losing a match in pro divisions are required to referee with no fee paid.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Event Director:

Doug Ganim

Floor Manager:

Pete Ulliman

Executive Committee:

Dr. Jim Hiser, Kay McCarthy, Heather Fender,
Dr. Fred Heros, Dino Tashie

Pro Commissioners:

Dave Negrete (IRT), Steve Lerner (CPRT)

Men's Pro-\$40,000

Women's Pro/Open \$3,000

1st	\$ 1,200	Qrtrs	\$ 150
2nd	\$ 600		
Semis	\$ 300		

CPRT-\$3,000 (Men's 40+)

1st	\$ 1,500	Semis	\$ 500
2nd	\$ 750		

Men's Open Singles

1st	\$ 350	Semis	\$ 85
2nd	\$ 175		

CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS

Men's Pro

2007	Rocky Carson
2006	Jason Mannino
2005	Kane Waselenchuk
2004	Kane Waselenchuk
2003	Kane Waselenchuk
2002	Sudsy Monchik
2001	Cliff Swain
2000	Sudsy Monchik
1999	Jason Mannino
1998	Sudsy Monchik
1997	Cliff Swain
1996	Sudsy Monchik

Women's Pro

Rhonda Rajsich
Christie Vanhees
Christie Vanhees
Cheryl Gudinas
Rhonda Rajsich
Cheryl Gudinas
Kerri Wachtel
Christie Vanhees
Jackie Paraiso
Jackie Paraiso
Michelle Gould
Michelle Gould



Rhonda Rajsich

2003 & 2007 US OPEN Champion!

PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

	Price	Quantity	Total(\$)
SESSION #1:	\$20		
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.			
Men's round of 64 Wednesday, 4 p.m.- 11 p.m.			
SESSION #2:	\$20		
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.			
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 1 p.m.- 6 p.m.			
SESSION #3:	\$24		
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 3 p.m.- 9 p.m.			
SESSION #4:	\$26		
Women's round of 16 Friday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.			
Men's quarters #1,#2 Friday, 1 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. (IRT Champions Clinic 4p.m.)			
SESSION #5:	\$28		
Men's quarters #3, #4 Friday, 5:00 p.m.- 9 p.m.			
Women's quarters Friday 5 p.m.- 8 p.m.			
SESSION #6:	\$30		
CPRT semi #1/Men's semi #1/Women's Semi #1 Saturday, 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.			
(Play the Pro Challenge - 1pm)			
SESSION #7:	\$30		
CPRT semi #2/Men's semi #2/Women's Semi #2 Saturday, 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.			
SESSION #8:	\$40		
Women's finals/CPRT finals/Men's finals Sunday, 9:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.			

BEST VALUE!

TICKET PACKAGE (includes all sessions listed above - **only available in advance!**) . . . \$99

Guest Ticket for Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS"	\$35		
(free for all player participants) Saturday, 8 p.m.- 12:30 a.m.			
Processing fee (must be paid to process your order)	\$4		\$4

Make check payable or use credit card and mail to:
 U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
 1685 West Uintah
 Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2969

To order your tickets by phone call: (800) 234-5396 ext. 129
 outside US: (719) 653-5396 ext. 129 or fax this completed form to : (719) 635-0685

To order on-line: WWW.USOPENRACQUETBALL.COM

Visa/MC # _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Name to hold tickets under _____

Credit Card Billing Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Night Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____

TOTAL _____

Tickets will not be mailed in advance.
 They can be picked up at the U.S. OPEN
 Will Call Desk, located at The Racquet
 Club (I.D. is required). Seating is limited.
 Must purchase tickets in advance to be
 guaranteed a seat.

A very limited number of four-person
 courtside luxury box seats (with table ser-
 vice) may be available starting at \$2,800.
 Includes access to Pro/Gold Lounge with
 food and drink for the week.
 Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____ Fax _____

USA Racquetball Membership Number _____ Exp. Date _____ E-Mail _____

Seeding Information (2007 U.S. OPEN, 2008 States, Regionals, Nationals) _____

Home Club _____

Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events: (3 events permitted if at least 1 is a doubles divisions):

Check one: Men's or Women's

Skill Divisions* **Skill + Age Divisions***

Elite <input type="checkbox"/>	24 & under A <input type="checkbox"/>	35+ C <input type="checkbox"/>
Can only enter A <input type="checkbox"/>	24 & under B <input type="checkbox"/>	45+ A <input type="checkbox"/>
ONE from B <input type="checkbox"/>	24 & under C <input type="checkbox"/>	45+ B <input type="checkbox"/>
this group C <input type="checkbox"/>	25+ A <input type="checkbox"/>	45+ C <input type="checkbox"/>
D <input type="checkbox"/>	25+ B <input type="checkbox"/>	55+ A <input type="checkbox"/>
	25+ C <input type="checkbox"/>	55+ B <input type="checkbox"/>
	35+ A <input type="checkbox"/>	55+ C <input type="checkbox"/>
	35+ B <input type="checkbox"/>	

Doubles & Mixed Doubles Divisions*

Open <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	45+ <input type="checkbox"/>	MX Open <input type="checkbox"/>	MX C <input type="checkbox"/>
A <input type="checkbox"/>	19+ <input type="checkbox"/>	55+ <input type="checkbox"/>	MX A <input type="checkbox"/>	MX 30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
B <input type="checkbox"/>	35+ <input type="checkbox"/>		MX B <input type="checkbox"/>	MX 40+ <input type="checkbox"/>

Partner's Name _____ Division _____

Partner's Name _____ Division _____

*REQUIRED Skill Verification Form

Please indicate below your eligibility for competition in the skill level you have selected. This information will be verified and re-classification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director.

I have been AMPRO certified at this level by: _____
AMPRO Certified Instructor (name required) _____

_____ have recently competed in this skill category in my state, and have been approved for participation in this category at a Level Five event by the state director or designated representative shown below: _____
(name required)

_____ I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the: _____
_____ 2007 U.S. OPEN, or the _____ 2008 USAR National Singles

Open & Age Divisions

Men's OPEN <input type="checkbox"/>	W40+ <input type="checkbox"/>	60+ <input type="checkbox"/>
24 & under <input type="checkbox"/>	M40+—see CPRT below	65+ <input type="checkbox"/>
25+ <input type="checkbox"/>	45+ <input type="checkbox"/>	70+ <input type="checkbox"/>
30+ <input type="checkbox"/>	50+ <input type="checkbox"/>	75+ <input type="checkbox"/>
35+ <input type="checkbox"/>	55+ <input type="checkbox"/>	80+ <input type="checkbox"/>

Men's (IRT)**

Women's Pro/Open**

Men's 40+ (CPRT)**

** The Men's Pro draw will begin in the round of 64 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. The Women's Pro/Open draw will begin in the round of 32 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. Players wishing to enter the amateur Men's OPEN division must enter it directly as a second event. **CPRT (Men's 40+)** is open to all Men over 40 years of age. Women's Pro/Open is not sanctioned by the WPRO.

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release and all rights and claims that I may have against the USA Racquetball, IRT, Ganim Enterprises, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Wellworx Sportsplex, Ridgeway Baptist Church, The University of Memphis, and all other U.S. OPEN sponsors, or their respective agents for any and all injuries I may suffer as a result of participation in this event. By registering to participate, I release all rights to the use of event photographs/videos in which my image appears.

Participant Signature _____ [parent if under 18] Date _____

ENTRY FEES

Players may enter a maximum of two events (3 events permitted if at least 1 is a doubles divisions). Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions. Players in multiple divisions may play back-to-back matches. Returned checks will be assessed a \$23 service charge (\$10 for declined credit cards). Phone entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with a \$10 service charge and a major credit card by calling the U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 0. Maximum amateur draw is 700 players. Once filled, all additional entries received will be returned with refund.

	Amount	Fee	Amount	Fee
First Event	(\$98)			
Second Event	(\$48)			
Third Event	(\$48)			
USAR Membership	(\$35)			
Late Fee/Phone Entry	(\$20/\$10)			
Extra Party with the Pro's ticket -Players admitted free	(\$35 each)		Quant. _____	
TOTAL				

Visa/MC _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

ENTRY DEADLINE:

All entries must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 8th and/or postmarked by Friday, Oct. 3rd. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a \$20 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

Limited hospitality, free access to Player Village and fan fair activities at The Racquet Club, souvenir U.S. OPEN shirt, U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Saturday evening Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", plus much, much more!

Have you enclosed your Pro Match Ticket Application and payment for tickets? Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets to be guaranteed a seat. One check can be written for entry fees and tickets. Last year's event sold out four weeks in advance!

Make check payable and mail to:
U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2969
or FAX this completed form to (719) 635-0685

To enter by phone call: (800) 234-5396 ext. 129
outside US: (719) 635-5396 ext. 129

To enter online: www.usopenracquetball.com

HEAD®

Jack Huczek
#1 Ranked Player in
the World*

Shane Vanderson
#5 Ranked Player in
the World*

Kristen Bellows
#6 Ranked Player in
the World*

Jason Thoerner
#9 Ranked Player in
the World*

**GET
AMPEDE!**

AMP

Top players know that often the difference between winning and losing is having the best equipment. That is why top pro's like Jack Huczek, Shane Vanderson, Jason Thoerner, Kristen Bellows, and others choose HEAD. This year the advantage will be AMPified when these pro's hit the courts with HEAD's new state-of-the-art AMP Series racquets. Don't get left in the dust. AMPify your game today!



For more information visit head.com

*Rankings as of April 1, 2008



DOUBLES 2008





OREGON STATE & BRYANT

BRING HOME THE HARDWARE

by Jim Hiser



DIVISION #1 CHAMPS OREGON STATE



2007 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANTHONY HERRERA CONGRATULATES 2008 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ERIC BECKER



CHAMPIONS KARA MAZUR & TONY CARSON



COACH OF THE YEAR DARREN SCHENK AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR "SMOKEY" SCHALKWYK

DIVISION #1

Team	Mens:	Womens:	Combined:
1 Oregon State University	1360	925.5	2285.5
2 University of Alabama	1425	709	2134
3 Brigham Young University	396.5	1450	1846.5
4 University of Missouri - Columbia	1030	767.5	1797.5
5 Baldwin Wallace College	1130	505	1635
6 Arizona State University	616.5	1005	1621.5
7 Penn State University	778	527	1305
8 University of New Mexico	824	135	959
9 University of Oregon	813	136	949
10 Texas A & M	236.5	390	626.5
11 Iowa State University	550	27	577
12 Utah State University	152	320.5	472.5
13 United States Military Academy	259.5	124	383.5
14 Delta College	140	210	350
15 Missouri State University	200	70	270
16 University of Colorado - Boulder	17	251	268
17 University of Texas	206	46	252
18 University of Utah	155	70	225
19 SUNY - Binghamton	70	140	210
20 Ohio State University	109	88	197
21 Belview University	88	27	115

DIVISION #2

Team	Mens:	Womens:	Combined:
1 Bryant University	386.5	169	555.5
2 University of Colorado - Colorado Springs	350	140	490
3 Clarkson University	251.5	107.5	359
4 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	172	9	181
5 Springfield College	22	63	85



Sunday Tells the Story

It was obvious that the overall championships came down to who played best on Sunday. Defending champions University of Alabama went 3 for 9 in gold matches on Sunday (1 for 6 in the Men's and 2 for 3 in the Women's) while Oregon State went 8 for 10 (5 for 5 in Men's and 3 for 5 in the Women's).

The Men behind the Club

It is difficult to find a club more willing to host a large event than The Overland Park Athletic Club. The two major supporters, Mike Widel and Jeff Freeman do everything they can to make the event successful. Their enthusiasm and dedication guarantees all players and guests a great experience.

Where was our Leader?

For the first time thirteen years, Collegiate Commissioner Shane Wood was unable to make the event. In his absence, "Smoky" filled in at the desk and Shawn Pike took over the MC duties at the banquet.

Colorado State Continues to Recruit the Best!

Although Colorado State College won their 5th straight Collegiate Division I Men's title, the real story behind their success lies in the recruiting efforts of Dick Krinsky. Pueblo, Colorado is certainly neither a Mecca for racquetball nor a sun worshipper's dream, but Dick has managed year after year to raise sufficient funds to help players who want to attend Colorado College and also play racquetball. Few know the real difficulties endured in maintaining such a program but the opportunities he has provided to numerous young racquetball players should be appreciated by all.

Mazur and Carson Survive Tiebreakers

Kara Mazur outlasted Sarah Hettesheimer to win her first collegiate championship. Kara (who lost to Sarah's sister Holly at last year's Junior Nationals) came back strong after losing the first game (12).

Tony Carson survived two match point set-ups missed by Anthony Herrera to gain his position on the U.S. National Team. After winning the first game and serving at 14, Anthony overhit both a forehand and a backhand set-up from the service line, allowing Tony to return the ball and eventually win game two

2008 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Jim Hiser

PORTLAND, OREGON

Outstanding Contribution

Congratulations to Ariana White, who took over a challenging responsibility in coordinating the High School League. Always smiling, always willing to help and always providing tireless effort, Ariana is a tremendous asset to Oregon Junior Racquetball and to the entire sport.

Athletes

This high school program has grown into one of the most successful racquetball initiatives in the sport. Over 800 high school athletes

compete in leagues in Oregon and Missouri. The players exhibit outstanding sportsmanship, a true reflection of the top notch leadership in both states.

People behind the Scenes

Tears filled the eyes of the coaches when their teams were announced as national champions; it was evident how much these kids mean to them. Each coach contributes hours and hours of time to make high school racquetball successful.

The Champions

Taylor Knoth and Sharon Jackson won the individual championships and qualified for positions on the U.S. Junior Team. Both players are not only quality players, but even more important, they are role models for their peers and for junior players at all levels.

Boys

- 1 Sprague Salem, OR 6066
- 2 La Salle Milwaukie, OR 5792.5
- 3 Beaverton Beaverton, OR 4636
- 4 Kirkwood Kirkwood, MO 3623.5
- 5 Parkway West Ballwin, MO 3226
- 6 Southridge Beaverton, OR 3213
- 7 Sunset Portland, OR 3044
- 8 Oregon City Oregon City, OR 2571
- 9 Rex Putnam Milwaukie, OR 2433.25
- 10 Gresham Gresham, OR 2314 1
- 11 Clackamas Clackamas, OR 2115.75
- 12 Marlborough Marlborough, MA 1520
- 13 Lincoln Portland, OR 1466
- 14 Franklin Portland, OR 1449.75
- 15 North Valley Grants Pass, OR 1104.75
- 16 Centennial Gresham, OR 972.5
- 17 Catlin Gabel Portland, OR 925.25
- 18 South Salem Salem, OR 914.5
- 19 Cibola Alburquerque, NM 905.75
- 20 Salem Academy Salem, OR 896
- 21 Sandy Sandy, OR 762
- 22 Cascade Turner, OR 403
- 25 Gladstone Gladstone, OR 283
- 26 Rio Rancho Rio Rancho, NM 72

Notes

Schools must have a boy and a girl player to compete in Overall Championship. Overall results/points include results of mixed doubles matches.

Girls

- 1 La Salle Milwaukie, OR 3242
- 2 St. Louis University St. Louis, MO 3238
- 3 Sprague Salem, OR 2256
- 4 Beaverton Beaverton, OR 2135
- 5 Kirkwood Kirkwood, MO 1904
- 6 Sunset Portland, OR 1564
- 7 Gresham Gresham, OR 1520
- 8 Oregon City Oregon City, OR 1289
- 9 Southridge Beaverton, OR 1220.5
- 10 Parkway West Ballwin, MO 1197
- 11 Rex Putnam Milwaukie, OR 1147.5
- 12 Lincoln Portland, OR 1114.5
- 13 North Valley Grants Pass, OR 919.75
- 14 Christian Brothers St. Louis, MO 874
- 15 South Salem Salem, OR 765.5
- 16 Centennial Gresham, OR 753.5
- 17 Cibola Alburquerque, NM 720.75
- 18 Concord Concord, NC 660
- 19 Downers Grove North Downers Grove, IL 610
- 20 Crescent Valley Corvallis, OR 582.5
- 21 Salem Academy Salem, OR 576
- 22 Marquette Chesterfield, MO 560
- 23 Lane Tech Chicago, IL 460
- 24 Rice Rice, TX 460
- 25 Westview Portland, OR 460
- 26 Central Catholic Portland, OR 451.5
- 27 Riverton Riverton, UT 439
- 28 Franklin Portland, OR 401.5
- 29 Bingham South Jordan, UT 360
- 30 Elliston Baptist Academy Memphis, MS 360
- 31 La Cueva Alburquerque, NM 360
- 32 Marlborough Marlborough, MA 360
- 33 Northwest McDermott, OH 360
- 34 Park City Park City, UT 360
- 35 Sandy Sandy, OR 314
- 36 Clackamas Clackamas, OR 287
- 37 Anchorage Family
- Partnership Charter Anchorage, AK 285
- 38 Catlin Gabel Portland, OR 230
- 39 Cascade Turner, OR 210
- 40 Benson Portland, OR 160

Overall

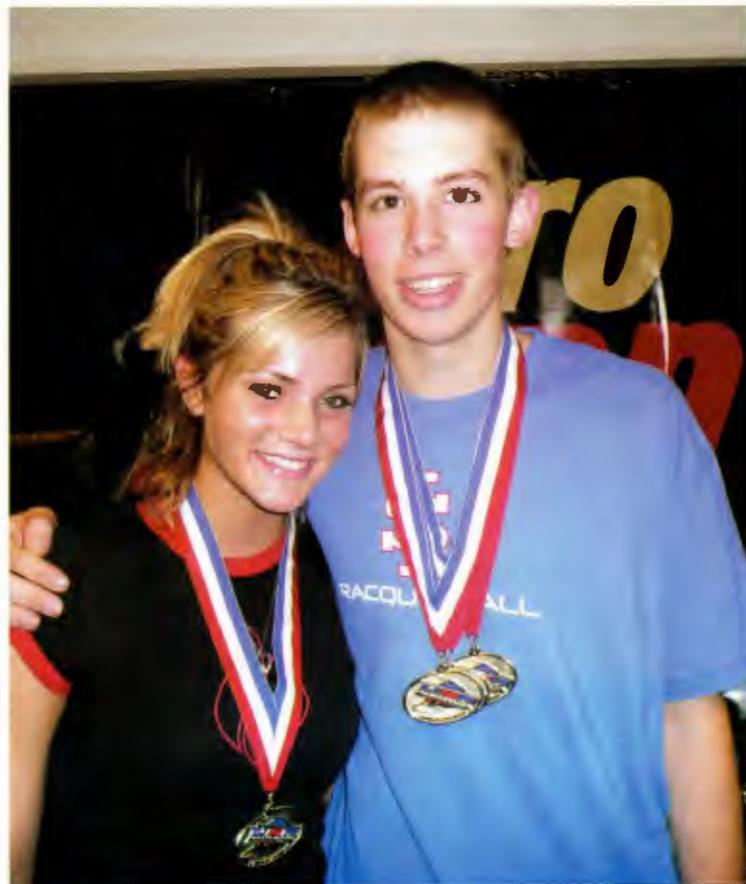
- 1 Sprague Salem, OR 3259
- 2 Cor Jesu St. Louis, MO 3160
- 3 Beaverton Beaverton, OR 2033
- 4 La Salle Milwaukie, OR 1695.5
- 5 Clackamas Clackamas, OR 1685
- 6 Parkway West Ballwin, MO 1661
- 7 Southridge Beaverton, OR 1612.5
- 8 Sunset Portland, OR 1220
- 9 Kirkwood Kirkwood, MO 1110.5
- 10 Rex Putnam Milwaukie, OR 989.75
- 11 Franklin Portland, OR 795.75
- 12 Oregon City Oregon City, OR 792
- 13 Waldron Shelbyville, IN 760
- 14 Gresham Gresham, OR 731.5
- 15 Marlborough Marlborough, MA 660
- 16 Upper Arlington Columbus, OH 610
- 17 Catlin Gabel Portland, OR 599
- 18 Solon Athletic Club Solon, OH 560
- 19 Copper Hills West Jordan, UT 350
- 20 Sandy Sandy, OR 348
- 21 Salem Academy Salem, OR 320
- 22 Nerinx Hall Webster Groves, MO 310
- 23 Lincoln Portland, OR 285
- 24 Centennial Gresham, OR 219
- 25 South Salem Salem, OR 149
- 26 Cascade Turner, OR 123
- 27 Cibola Alburquerque, NM 85
- 28 North Valley Grants Pass, OR 85
- 29 Gladstone Gladstone, OR 51
- 30 Rio Rancho Rio Rancho, NM -



BOYS CHAMPIONS: LA SALLE • SALEM, OREGON



GIRLS CHAMPIONS: SPRAGUE • MILFORD, OREGON



CHAMPIONS SHARON JACKSON & TAYLOR KNOTH



OVERALL CHAMPIONS: SPRAGUE • MILFORD, OREGON



ARIANA WHITE AND COACH OF THE YEAR DAVE MOYLE

2008 PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



TEAM USA PROUDLY DISPLAYS THEIR SPLASHOTZ UNIFORMS

The Pan American Championships recently concluded at the Indoor Club of San Jose, Costa Rica. The results in the Overall competition were Mexico in first place, the United States in second and Canada in third. Mexico won the Men's Team trophy while the USA captured the Women's Team honors.

The Indoor Club has four courts, one of them a very nice stadium court that accommodates approximately 150 spectators. It is noteworthy to mention that several countries, Bolivia, Ecuador, Columbia, Costa Rica and Venezuela, have greatly improved. Overall, the matches are much more competitive throughout the tournament. Our thanks go out to the Costa Rica Organizing Committee who put together a splendid tournament. All delegations were made to feel very welcome and part of the luxurious Indoor Club.

The USA delegation consisted of eight players, team physician Greg Melvin and Coach Dave Ellis. U.S. Team members Jack Huczek, Rocky

Carson, Mitch Williams and Ben Croft had to send regrets for the Championships since the dates of the tournament conflicted with a scheduled IRT stop in Orange County. Cheryl Gudinas, nursing a twisted ankle and wanting to concentrate on the WPRO season, also was not available. The only male team members available were Jose Rojas and John Ellis who qualified by finishing second at National Doubles in September. Rhonda Rajsich, Liz Alvarado, Aimee Ruiz, and Jackie Paraiso formed a strong Women's Team. The Men's Team was filled out utilizing the IRT rankings: John Goth of Minnesota and Woody Clouse of Colorado agreed to participate as our doubles team.

Team USA went through the preliminary round robins with relative ease, although our men's doubles team was tested by Colombia and Argentina, both of whom forced tie-breakers. Clouse and Goth, becoming stronger day by day, had little trouble winning these third games. In the Round of 16, our players also dominated with one exception. Rhonda put a dozen

years on the coach's life within a 60-minute span. Receiving a bye in the Round of 32, Rhonda met up with Christina Amaya of Colombia. Young Christina has only been playing racquetball for a couple of years. She has a squash background so she is very shrewd in her choice of angles. Rhonda came from behind to win the first game, 15-10. Christina won the second by the same score, and actually had a match point in the tiebreaker. With the crowd chanting hysterically for the upset, greatly to her credit, Rhonda stayed calm, fought off the match point, and closed out the tiebreaker.

11-10. John Ellis defeated the tough Jorge Zambrano of Bolivia 15-10, 15-0; Jose Rojas defeated hometown favorite Ivan Villegas of Costa Rica, 15-12, 15-3; and Liz Alvarado defeated Jessica Munoz of Colombia, 15-0, 15-0. Our doubles teams both had byes in their advances to the quarterfinals. Clouse and Goth beat the Chileans 15-6, 15-10; and Jackie and Aimee easily defeated the Colombians.

The quarterfinals set the course for the remainder of the tournament. John Ellis drew Alvaro Beltran. The first game was back and forth throughout the match, with Alvaro winning 15-12. In the second, Alvaro was up 12-6 and then 14-8. To his credit, John never gave up and held off numerous match points to win the second 15-14. Having spent it all in the second game, John went down 11-0 in the tiebreaker. Jose Rojas took a beating in the first game against Polo Gutierrez losing 15-7. In the second, Jose was leading throughout only to see Polo close the gap and go up 14-13. Jose got point number 14 but was not able to force the tiebreaker; Polo won 15-14. In the women's draw, Rhonda faced Veronique Guillemette of Canada. Rhonda got off to a slow start with Veronique winning the first 15-10. Changing her service strategy in the second, Rhonda dominated the rest of the match winning 15-3, 11-5. Liz Alvarado had rolled through all her matches with her powerful serve to the left corner. Unfortunately, Canadian Jen Saunders handled

that serve very well and kept Liz on the move throughout the match, winning 15-5, 15-7. Clouse and Goth defeated the Chileans 15-6, 15-10. Jackie and Aimee had little trouble with the Colombian team.

By losing the three quarterfinal matches, Team USA had put itself in

off against Paola Longoria. This was to be Paola's day against the WPRO's #1 player. Paola just served incredibly. She hit drive serve after drive serve to the back left corner that kept Rhonda on the defensive. Taking advantage of the weak returns, Paola left little doubt that she will be

résumé, winning 15-6, 15-7.

After playing well in the semis, Team USA had high hopes for the Men's Doubles final with Mexico's Javier Moreno and Gil Mejia. The first game was critical with the lead changing numerous times. At 11-11, Mexico called a time out, came back and scored four straight points to win the game. During the second game, Mexico was unconscious, keeping the pressure on throughout with tough jam serves and great lateral movement during the rallies. Woody and John needed that first game to make the Mexican team feel the pressure. To their credit, Woody and John, playing together for the first time, represented the United States extremely well. Their disappointment with the silver medal is testimony to their dedication and personal expectations.

During the "fiesta de la despedida," the delegations unanimously thanked the Costa Rica Organizing Committee for a superb job in organizing all facets of the event. Team USA would like to thank the many individuals and organizations who once again came to its aid and make possible our participation. The Team is very grateful to Mike Lippitt, Geoff Peters, Chuck Bartosch, Sal Perconti, Dennis Rosenberg, Harold Jagoda, Mark Malowitz, The New Jersey Open, New Jersey Racquetball Association, New York Racquetball Association, Texas Racquetball Association, New Mexico Racquetball Association, Illinois State Racquetball Association, Aetna (Diane Durham), Maria Celia Vigil, Jack Zollo, referees from the National Doubles, Julia Mouser, Joe Lee, the National Masters Racquetball Association, Greg Meyer, Eduardo Jaramillo, Barry Clyde, Laguna Racquet Club, Andrea Kringle, Racquetball World, Jeff Scherschligt, Linda Winn, Paul Lammerding, John Dalisky, and to [HYPERLINK "http://www.R2sports.com"](http://www.R2sports.com) www.R2sports.com through which donations were made by individuals signing up for local tournaments. Finally Splatshotz (www.splatshotz.com), owned by Brian Phillips, donated our beautiful uniforms. Team members were especially proud of their Team USA gear throughout the tournament.



a position where it needed help in order to win the Overall Championship. Mexico played Canada in four of the eight semifinals and Team USA needed them to split these matches. This was not to be the case as Alvaro, Polo, Paola Longoria, and the doubles team of Javier Moreno and Gil Mejia all won their matches. The match between Paola and Jen Saunders was a real crowd pleaser as Jen had at least five chances at match point. In other semis, Rhonda was ready to play, defeating Samantha Salas the first game and building a significant lead in the second before Samantha had to withdraw because of a pulled muscle in her calf. Jackie and Aimee got off to a slow start against Carola Loma and Jenny Daza of Bolivia. They won the first 15-11 and then dominated the second 15-4. Woody Clouse and John Goth drew the Men's Bolivian team of Ricardo Monroy and Jorge Zambrano. It was all USA with scores of 15-9, 15-9.

Going into the final day, Mexico had clinched the Overall title, even though Team USA found itself in three of the four finals. Rhonda led

a force on the WPRO tour during the next season. She gave credit to her coach, "Arturito" of Tijuana, for having her do strenuous workouts on the sand at Rosarita Beach in Baja California. In the men's final, the IRT's #4 ranked professional Alvaro Beltran defeated Polo Gutierrez in two games, 15-7, 15-11.

Next up was our women's doubles team of Aimee Ruiz and Jackie Paraiso who faced Angela Grisar and Faviola Marquez of Chile. Aimee and Jackie are simply considered as marvels by other countries. Both are excellent doubles players and both have a keen sense of what the other can do from any particular position on the court. Overheard was one comment, "Aimee and Jackie put on a clinic every time they play." They take a lot of pride in holding opponent teams to under ten points in their games. During the final, they went right after WPRO #3 professional, Angela Grisar, forcing her to stay "honest," not allowing her to cover for Faviola Marquez, her left-handed partner. The strategy worked great, and Jackie and Aimee quickly added another title to their rapidly increasing



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IRT PRO JASON THOERNER EXTENDS CONTRACT

HEAD Signs Pro for Additional 3 Years

HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports has re-signed Jason Thoerner, a top men's professional racquetball player to a three year deal to exclusively use racquetball equipment from HEAD. Thoerner (Pekin, IL.) is currently ranked ninth on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) and is a former member of the USA Racquetball National Adult Team.

"HEAD/Penn has supported me as a professional racquetball player for many years now," said Thoerner. "I'm privileged to sign on for another three years and to continue to promote HEAD Racquetball and its popular high performance line of racquets and accessories."

Thoerner is coming off his best year yet on the IRT Tour. He finished 2006-2007 season ranked 9th in the world. 2007 also saw a semifinal appearance at the Orange County Open in January and a career best quarterfinals finish at the 2007 US OPEN Racquetball Championships. An accomplished doubles player,

Thoerner has won the Mixed Doubles division at the USA Racquetball National Doubles Championships in four out of the last six years (2002, 2004, 2005 & 2006). Thoerner is also a member of USA Racquetball's Board of Directors.

"Jason Thoerner is one of the most entertaining players on the IRT Tour," said Doug Ganim, HEAD/Penn Indoor Promotions Manager. "We look forward to another great three years with Jason as he climbs the IRT Rankings."

HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports is a division of HEAD NV which owns such premier sporting goods brands as HEAD (tennis, racquetball, and squash racquets; alpine skis and boots; snowboards, bindings and boots; athletic and outdoor footwear; accessories and apparel), Penn (tennis balls and racquetball balls), Tyrolia (ski bindings), Mares and Dacor (both scuba diving equipment).

ABOUT HEAD: Head NV is a leading global manufacturer and marketer of premium sports equipment. Head NV's ordinary shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("HED") and the Vienna Stock Exchange ("HEAD"). The company's business is organized into four divisions: Winter Sports, Racquet Sports, Diving and Licensing. Products are sold under the Head (tennis, tennis balls, squash, racquetball and badminton equipment, alpine skis and ski boots, snowboards, bindings and boots), Penn (tennis and racquetball balls), Tyrolia (ski bindings), and Mares/Dacor (diving equipment) brands. The company holds leading positions in all product markets and the equipment is endorsed by some of the world's top athletes including Andre Agassi, Marat Safin, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Bode Miller, Johann Grugger and Maria Riesch.

HEAD SIGNS SHANE VANDERSON

HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports is proud to announce the re-signing of Shane Vanderson, a top men's professional racquetball player. Vanderson (Fort Myers, FL.) is currently ranked fifth on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) and has signed a three year renewal contract to exclusively use equipment from HEAD.

"I have been a proud member of the Team HEAD since my days as a junior player," said Vanderson. "I'm honored to continue my relationship

with HEAD/Penn as I aim to reach the next level of my professional career."

Vanderson began playing racquetball at the age of three and it wasn't soon after that he was winning National Championships. At the age of eight he captured his first of six

USA Racquetball (USAR) National Junior Age Division championships. In 2001 while a student at Baldwin Wallace College, Vanderson won the USAR Intercollegiate Men's

Singles Championship. After college Shane made his immediate presence known on the IRT Tour by winning the

2003-2004 Rookie of the Year award. At the US OPEN - racquetball's top annual professional event - Vanderson has reached the semi-finals three times (2003, 2006 & 2007).

"Shane Vanderson has been one of professional racquetball's most popular players since he joined the IRT Tour," said Doug Ganim, HEAD/Penn Indoor Promotions Manager. "We are thrilled to have Shane remain in the HEAD/Penn family and look forward to seeing his devastating backhand on the court and his great passion for the sport off the court for many years to come."

EKTELON INTRODUCES NEW ULTIMATE RACQUET FOR SUMMER 2008

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This summer, racquetball players will be introduced to new racquets from Ektelon that will raise the bar on the company's already proven and popular O³ technology. With the introduction of Speedport technology, these new O³ frames will not only be more powerful and quicker through the air, but will also provide further personal customization options, allowing players the ability to fine-tune and configure the racquet to meet specific personal preferences based on playing style.

In fact, with the O³ Speedport frames, Ektelon is delivering everything a player would want in one frame. Building on the success of its Power Plugs first made available in O³ introductions last year, players can now add plugs to the Speedports located on the side of the frame for increased stability as well as to the top of the racquet for additional power. By simply adding or removing plugs from the top or sides of the racquet, players can dictate weight, balance and power to achieve a racquet that feels perfect in their hands.

The new O³ Speedport frames will be introduced at an ultra-light weight of 170 grams but can be "plugged up" to achieve 185 grams, which will appeal to players looking for a more traditional weighted frame. Of course, depending on location and amount of plugs utilized, there are many weight and balance combinations available to players in between the minimum and maximum weights as well. Adding Power Plugs to different Speedport locations along the frame creates a variance of power level from 3400 to 3700. Plus, the racquet's DPR (Double Power Ring), provides an exceptionally lively stringbed by elongating the main strings to their maximum length.

"This is really an unprecedented offering – providing an elite performance frame that gives players the ability to personally customize their racquet to meet specific preferences," said Scott Winters, VP of Indoor Court and Paddle Sports at Ektelon. "Every player knows what he or she likes and when a racquet 'just feels right'. With the O³ Speedport racquets, now players can dial in the weight, balance and power until they arrive at the perfect combination – giving them the best chance to win on the court. We are very excited to bring these racquets to market and have already received incredibly positive responses during our initial playtests."

Already, two of the world's top racquetball players, Rocky Carson and Rhonda Rajsich, have playtested the racquet and plan to make the switch in coming weeks.

"It amazes me what Ektelon has done with these racquets," said Rajsich. "The introduction of O³ technology completely revolutionized racquets by providing incredible head speed for added power. Now, to take it a step further by utilizing Speedport technology and offering added power and stability benefits via side plugs is extraordinary. Really, it is like giving players the choice of hundreds of racquets in one awesome frame and that is

completely groundbreaking."

After playtesting the new Speedport racquets, Carson added, "Each player has his or her own preferences when it comes to the weight, balance and power level of a racquet. The beauty of these new Speedport frames is that you have the opportunity to customize a stellar frame to the exact specifications that best suit your game. Literally it puts all of the choices and power into the player's hands. Also, I know that players are going to love the Premier Power string included in these Speedport frames. I have been using Premier for about a year now and I can say it has definitely helped my game big time."

The new Ektelon O³ Speedports will be available with the exact same frame specifications in two cosmetic options beginning July 1, 2008, wherever Ektelon products are sold, at the suggested retail price of \$300. The O³ Speedport Red features a bright silver base color with hot Ferrari-red accents for a combination that ties perfectly into Ektelon's total cosmetic scheme. For players that like to live on the edge, Ektelon is also introducing the Speedport Camo racquet featuring never-seen-before desert camouflage cosmetics. But this is one racquet that certainly will not blend into its surroundings!

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2008 RACQUETBALL

EVENT TITLE

EVENT START

EVENT END

CONTACT

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PEPSI CUP TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS/COLORADO	6/5/2008	6/7/2008	MARIA	RICHARDS
2008 VA COVENTRY COMMONWEALTH GAMES	6/6/2008	6/8/2008	PHIL	WHEELER
2008 TX TEXAS STATE JUNIOR RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	6/6/2008	6/8/2008	LANCE	GILLIAM
2008 KY KSRA JUNE SHOOTOUT	6/7/2008	6/7/2008	TOM	HILLS
2008 AR VILLAGE ON THE CREEKS JUNE SHOOT-OUT	6/7/2008	6/7/2008	MICAH	NICHOLS
2008 FL SUNSHINE STATE GAMES	6/13/2008	6/15/2008	JEAN	TRIMBLE
2008 TX KANE WASELENCHUK IRT INVITATIONAL PRO-AM & GOLF TOURNAMENT	6/13/2008	6/15/2008	LEO	VASQUEZ
2008 LA JUNE CLASSIC FIREBALL SHOOTOUT	6/14/2008	6/14/2008	ALBERT	SCHOF
2008 STEADMAN HAWKINS IRT GREENVILLE OPEN	6/19/2008	6/22/2008	RICHARD	DRAPER
2008 NC ALOHA OPEN	6/20/2008	6/22/2008	LYNN	STEPHENS
2008 GRAND CANYON STATE GAMES	6/20/2008	6/22/2008	DAROLD	KEY
2008 TX YMCA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES	6/21/2008	6/22/2008	CURTIS	HAINES
35TH USAR JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS	6/25/2008	6/29/2008	HEATHER	FENDER
2008 TX SOUTH TEXAS REGIONAL ROUND UP	6/28/2008	6/28/2008	JO ANNA	REYES
2008 IN HOT SUMMER NIGHTS	6/28/2008	6/28/2008	RYAN	GRiffin
HIGH PERFORMANCE TRAINING CAMP	7/1/2008	7/2/2008	HEATHER	FENDER
2008 AR VILLAGE ON THE CREEKS JULY SHOOT-OUT	7/12/2008	7/12/2008	MICAH	NICHOLS
2008 TX TRIPLE CROWN JULY RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	7/12/2008	7/13/2008	LEO	VASQUEZ
2008 NATIONAL MASTERS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	7/16/2008	7/19/2008	TRISH	BEATTY
2008 NC BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS	7/18/2008	7/20/2008	JAN	STELMA
2008 KEY SPORTS FLAGSTAFF CLASSIC	7/18/2008	7/20/2008	DAROLD	KEY
2008 TX YMCA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES JULY	7/19/2008	7/20/2008	CURTIS	HAINES
2008 FL LAKELAND YMCA SUMMER CLASSIC	7/25/2008	7/27/2008	JUDD	MARTIN
2008 IN/IL STATE GAMES	8/2/2008	8/2/2008	RYAN	GRiffin
2008 AR VILLAGE ON THE CREEKS AUGUST SHOOT-OUT	8/9/2008	8/9/2008	MICAH	NICHOLS
2008 TX TRIPLE CROWN AUGUST RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	8/9/2008	8/10/2008	LEO	VASQUEZ
2008 TX YMCA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES AUGUST	8/16/2008	8/17/2008	CURTIS	HAINES
2008 IRF WORLD SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS	8/26/2008	8/30/2008	GARY	MAZAROFF
2008 TX TRIPLE CROWN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	9/13/2008	9/14/2008	LEO	VASQUEZ
2ND IRT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	9/17/2008	9/21/2008	JIM	HISER
2008 TX YMCA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES SEPTEMBER	9/20/2008	9/21/2008	CURTIS	HAINES
2008 TX STATE DOUBLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10/10/2008	10/12/2008	LEO	VASQUEZ
2008 TX YMCA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES OCTOBER	10/18/2008	10/19/2008	CURTIS	HAINES
13TH US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10/22/2008	10/26/2008	DOUG	GANIM
2008 VA TURKEY STROKER	11/6/2008	11/9/2008	RAFAEL	LOPEZ
2008 TX STATE SENIORS RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	11/8/2008	11/8/2008	LEO	VASQUEZ
2008 TX HOLIDAY CLASSIC	12/13/2008	12/14/2008	CURTIS	HAINES
2008 TX MAVERICK HOLIDAY RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	12/13/2008	12/13/2008	LEO	VASQUEZ

CALENDAR

CONTACT PHONE	FACILITY NAME	FACILITY CITY	STATE	EVENT PHONE
303-986-1501	HIGHLANDS RANCH RECREATION CENTER	HIGHLANDS RANCH	CO	303-699-8644
303-986-1501	HIGHLANDS RANCH RECREATION CENTER	HIGHLANDS RANCH	CO	
	ROANOKE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROANOKE	VA	
210-979-7055	TRITON SPORTS CENTER	SAN ANTONIO	TX	210-573-2324
502-452-4037	YMCA - OF GREATER LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE	KY	502-445-0595
479-381-3300	VILLAGE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROGERS	AR	
407-352-6589	YMCA - LAKELAND	LAKELAND	FL	407-352-6589
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
225-936-4508	ELMWOOD FITNESS CENTER, HARAHAN	HARAHAN	LA	225-936-4508
864-576-6880	GREENVILLE RACQUET & FITNESS	GREENVILLE	SC	864-630-8995
910-638-8008	WINSTON SALEM HEALTH AND FITNESS	WINSTON SALEM	NC	910-638-8008
480-545-1363	THE SPORTS CLUB AT CITY SQUARE	PHOENIX	AZ	480- 545-1363
281-827-7420	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX	281-827-7420
719/635-5396	BIG C ATHLETIC CLUB	CONCORD	CA	
361-855-8258	WORLD GYM - BROWNSVILLE	BROWNSVILLE	TX	361-510-1040
317-842-6563	GREENBRIAR ATHLETIC CLUB	INDPLS	IN	
719/635-5396	USA RACQUETBALL *FAST*FURIOUS*FITNESS	COLORADO SPRINGS	CO	
479-381-3300	VILLAGE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROGERS	AR	
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
	WISCONSIN ATHLETIC CLUB - WEST ALLIS	WEST ALLIS	WI	414-321-2500
252-633-2221	COURTS PLUS OF NEW BERN	NEW BERN	NC	252-633-2221
480-545-1363	FLAGSTAFF ATHLETIC CLUB WEST	FLAGSTAFF	AZ	
281-827-7420	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX	281-827-7420
863-688-7700	YMCA - LAKELAND	LAKELAND	FL	863-875-1220
317-842-6563	OMNI 41 SPORTS COMPLEX	SCHERERVILLE	IN	
479-381-3300	VILLAGE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROGERS	AR	
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
281-827-7420	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX	281-827-7420
505-321-1110	MIDTOWN SPORTS & WELLNESS	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	505-321-1110
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
719-635-5396	USA RACQUETBALL *FAST*FURIOUS*FITNESS	COLORADO SPRINGS	CO	
281-827-7420	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX	281-827-7420
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
281-827-7420	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX	281-827-7420
614-890-6073	THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS	TN	
509-966-4050	YAKIMA ATHLETIC CLUB	YAKIMA	WA	509-966-4050
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340
281-827-7420	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX	281-827-7420
817-275-3348	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX	817-275-3340



Interview with Aimee Ruiz

FAMILY: Husband Felix and brother and sister, Nich and Sara

PETS: 1 dog, Boe

1. What time is it? 9:12 pm
2. What is your sign and your birthday? Aquarius, February 12th
3. Name four jobs you've had in your life? Papergirl, baker, cashier and billing administrator
4. If you could have any job, what would it be? Something racquetball related (go pro, director at a club, etc.) but I would need to earn the same as what I'm making now. No pay cut!

5. What is the last movie you saw in a theater?

American Gangster

6. Place of birth?

Allentown, PA

7. What are four places you have been on vacation? Disney, Aruba, Bahamas and Dominican Republic

8. What are four places you would rather be right now?

Paris, Mexico, Aruba and anywhere but work!

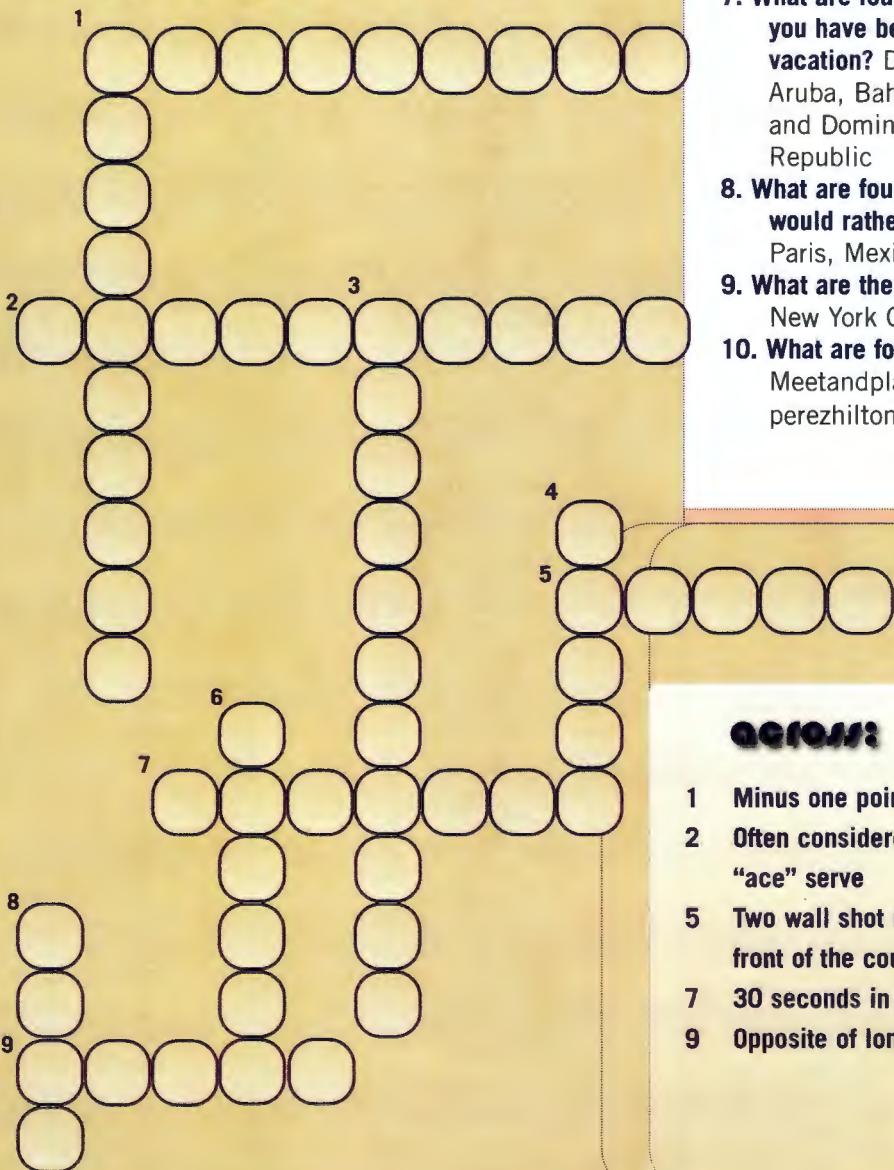
9. What are the best places you have ever been?

New York City! There is nowhere else like it.

10. What are four websites you visit daily?

Meetandplay.com, people.com, tmz.com and perezhilton.com – I like gossip. ☺

YOUNGRACQUET crossword



across:

- 1 Minus one point
- 2 Often considered as an "ace" serve
- 3 Two wall shot near the front of the court
- 7 30 seconds in length
- 9 Opposite of long serve

down:

- 1 Third game of a match
- 3 Receiver blocked from seeing the serve
- 4 What happens when a bug hits your windshield
- 6 Replay rally
- 8 Wide angle shot that goes around player



11. What are four of your favorite foods?

Tortellini alfredo, mac and cheese, cheeseburger wrap and Coldstone Creamery

12. What's your favorite new food?

Chocolate Chip Rice Pudding

13. Which do you prefer, ketchup or mustard?

Ketchup

14. Which do you prefer, hamburgers or hot dogs?

Hamburgers (with cheese)

15. Do you eat the stems of broccoli? Yes

16. Ever been toilet paper rolling? Maybe :-O

17. Favorite CD? I like all types of music, but right now I'm listening to Chris Brown, Rihanna, Maroon 5, Pink, and Fergie

18. Favorite day of the week? Friday!!

19. Favorite Restaurant?

Carmine's in New York

20. Favorite Flower? Rose

21. Favorite sport to watch? Tennis

22. Disney or Warner Brothers? Disney

23. Favorite fast food restaurant? Taco Bell

24. What do you do most often when you are bored? Read or surf the Internet; watch my Tivo

25. Bedtime? 10:00 pm, only because my husband can't sleep with the TV or light on!

26. Favorite TV show of all time? Seinfeld

27. What are you currently reading? I am embarrassed to admit this, but the Tori Spelling memoir

28. What would you like to accomplish before you die? Play in the Pan Am Games and I definitely want to have a family someday.

29. What is your favorite board game? Operation

30. Which came first, the chicken or the egg? The chicken??

YOUNGRACQUET art corner

Dear Racquet Ballers, Joel, and Alvar,

Thank you for coming to our classroom

I was talking about racquetball. It sounds

like you guys are really good at playing

the sport. Thank you for the posters

they were nice! I also thought it was

cool that you are ranked 1st in the intervarsity

I hope you win the tournament!!

I hope maybe I could play that

so... About the posters, Thank you

for signing them. I hung my poster

next door next to my bed. Thanks again for coming.

last issue's answers:



5

GEAR Box

GEARBOX
RACQUETBALL

RACQUETBALL: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Take a look at this perspective on racquetball as it has been in the past and is evolving into the future. Your comments and insights are welcome! What is your future vision for racquetball? Please send your thoughts to heather@usra.org.

RACQUETBALL PAST

Different organizations (IRA, USRA, NRC, IPRO, etc.) fighting to maintain control of sport

Slow ball, smaller racquets allow rallies and more intense workout

Many outside sponsors but personal egos and selfish interests reduce financial benefits to players and limited advantages to sport

Sponsored players are few and sponsor positions are awarded only to privileged players. Strict criteria and responsibilities for those who are sponsored

Racquetball mostly a North American sport with U.S. dominating international competition

RACQUETBALL PRESENT

Numerous organizations, many working independently to promote their own interests

Faster ball, advanced equipment dictate a power game; fewer rallies at the top level

Few outside sponsors but cooperative efforts result in potential combined with new companies to benefit all of sport

Sponsorships available to almost any player willing to "buy in" to a manufacturer

South and Central America along with Mexico begin to win some major events. Europe barely survives and Asia teeters.

RACQUETBALL FUTURE

One main overseeing organization, with all other groups underneath one umbrella structure

Modifications to slow down ball, create longer rallies, better workout and bring strategy back to game

New portable court dictates future sponsor involvement. If court combined with internet & TV does not impact sponsors, racquetball will remain a participation sport forever

Reduced sponsorships and increased responsibility for those who are sponsored. Sponsored players become the "backbone of clubs"

South and Central America dominate sport. U.S. and Canada attempt to reorganize while Europe & Asia continue to struggle



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