

RACQUETBALL

July - August 1998

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INSIDE!

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National Doubles Entry
"The Finals"
Pro Nationals
Pan Am Trials

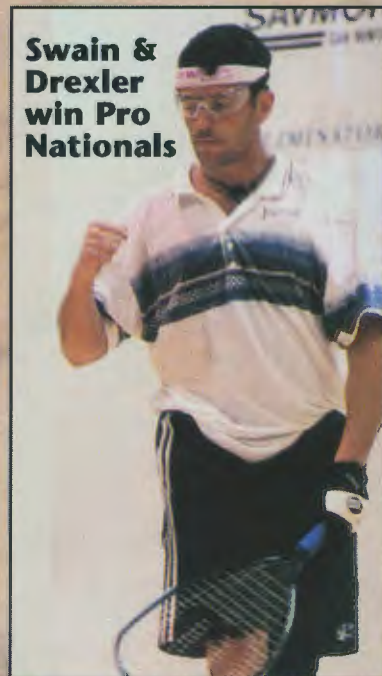
**Robin Levine
Back on
her Game**

**Swain &
Drexler
win Pro
Nationals**

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TITANIUM RACQUETBALL

THE POWER OF LIGHT.

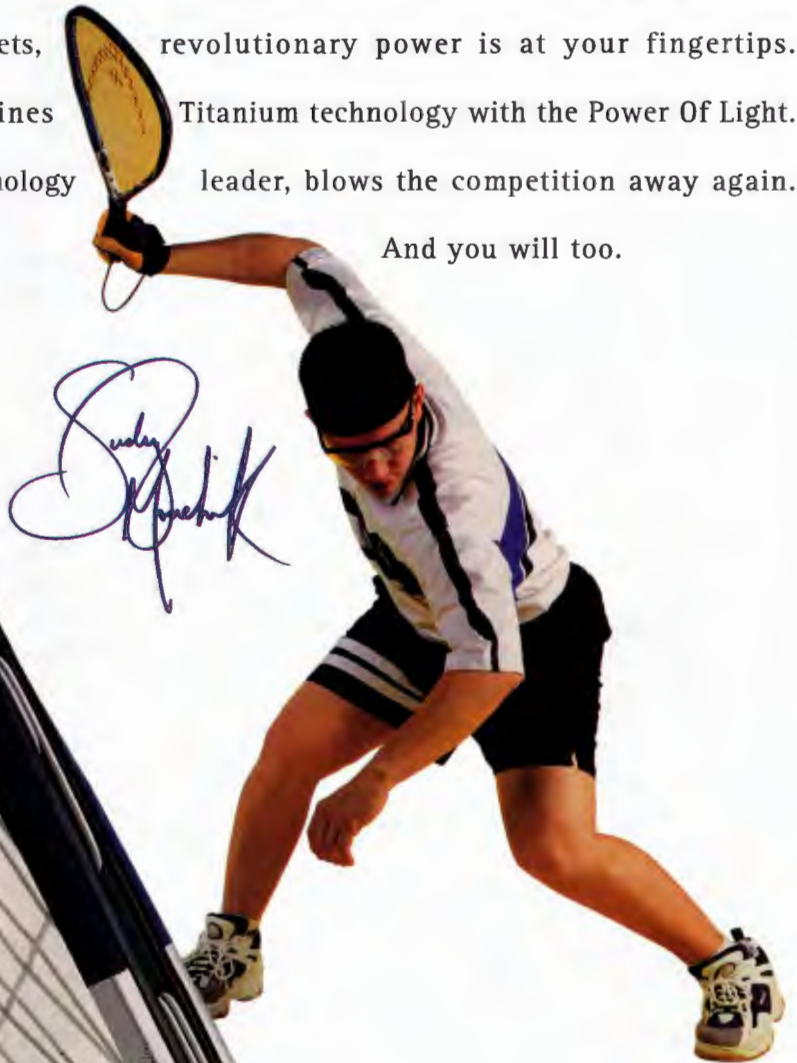
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from the editor

I'm having an out-of-body editorial experience! It's as if I'm floating above myself, looking — dispassionately — at the most recent series of covers. And what do I see?

I see the March/April (featuring John Ellis) as the first to mark a change in approach that focuses on a single personality. I see the May/June (featuring Michelle Gould) pose an important question: What will it take to Beat Her? Now the July/August edition gives the answer: Robin Levine has what it takes to topple Michelle Gould. And she did it in the semi-finals twice in eight weeks. I couldn't have asked for anything better to establish continuity and at the same time address the pro/amateur argument that always comes up at this time of year.



Although Robin didn't win the pro nationals, she did win the USRA national singles open title. How can she play in both? Since this is also the annual rulebook issue, you can go right to page R-11 for your answer. The USRA's policy on retaining amateur status is cited in rule C.1, and practically all of the women on the WIRT elect to do so.

The Amateur Sports Act of 1978 governs the USRA in making sure that it "provides an equal opportunity to amateur athletes ... to participate in amateur athletic competition." It's not just a rule, it's also law.

Several years ago, the IRT mandated that the top eight men's pros would be fined a portion of their tour winnings if they continued to compete on the amateur circuit. The strength of the men's tour — at that time, and since — meant that those fines could be considerable. This keeps the top-eight motivated to compete exclusively on the tour. Below that benchmark, many players are equally motivated to gain experience by competing on the pro tour, while still keeping a high profile (for themselves and their sponsors) at amateur national events. As long as they retain their amateur status, the USRA must provide "equal opportunity" by statute.

So where does that leave the women? The WIRT is just not in the same boat ... yet. Could it be in the near future? Maybe. Might it help to showcase the depth and diversity of the women's pro tour in the magazine? We like to think so. Will I be criticized for back-to-back covers featuring women? Well, obviously ...

Now, just give me a minute while I slip back into my body ...

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August 1998

Racquetball
Enterprises
Promotions

RACQUETBALL

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ON THE COVER

Lefties Marci Drexler and Robin Levine dominated the Women's International Racquetball Tour Pro National event in Vegas ... after Levine defeated long-time champion Michelle Gould in the semi-final. See page 20 for the outcome! Inset: Cliff Swain celebrates his win over Andy Roberts. Photos: John Foust.

Cliff Swain claimed his most recent Pro National title with a rematch victory over Andy Roberts in Las Vegas. Photo: John Foust.

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July - August 1998

reader forum

Bear Essentials

It is our deepest pleasure to announce the return of "Fuzzy the Bear" after a nine month journey around the world, care of the WIRT. My daughter, Maura, had a school project to send her stuffed bear out into the world, with responsible companions. Maura received many postcards from the U.S., Europe, Asia and Latin America. I want to thank all of the ladies on the WIRT for taking such great care of Maura's bear.

My special thanks to Kersten Hallander, who was Fuzzy's initial companion. She graciously took Fuzzy in September 1997 and passed him on. I appreciate your kindness very much. Maura would come home from school very excited every time she received another postcard. When the article appeared in *RACQUETBALL*, [Jan/Feb, p42] I sent a copy to her school, and the teacher made copies and distributed them to the principal and all the children in her class. Fuzzy was famous in West Chester, PA! I knew we had put Fuzzy in good hands.

*Mary Ann Steward
West Chester, Pennsylvania*

Internet-vision

Racquetball Around America is a grass-roots effort by players from around the country, connected through the racquetball newsgroup on the Internet (alt.sport.racquetball), to introduce and promote racquetball among the non-racquetball-playing public. The project calls for racquetball clubs across the nation to open their courts for a one-week period, during the last week of September 1998, and invite non-racquetball playing fitness enthusiasts into their facilities. During that week, AmPRO instructors, manufacturer's sponsored players, and volunteer racquetball enthusiasts, in cooperation with local club management and racquetball directors, will offer special racquetball programs that include rules, teaching, and equipment-demo clinics, mini-leagues, and other stimulating programs. Equipment "starter packages" may be available for clubs to offer as an incentive to new players who sign up for a

trial membership. Existing club members who do not play racquetball will be offered a similar package if they upgrade to racquetball-playing status.

During the summer, project organizers will develop advertising and promotional plans that will be implemented one month before the event. Participating clubs will be matched with instructors and volunteers, and suggested program activities and event schedules will be developed. If you're interested in having your club participate in the RAA project and would like more information, please send inquiries to:

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Open Debate

At the National Singles tournament in Houston, my niece played her first match against an amateur from New Hampshire. Her next match was against a professional, ranked #2 on the women's tour. How can this even be considered a fair, competitive match? Your own statement of purpose for the National Open Championships differentiates between the pros, the amateurs and the different skill levels.

The amateur women have competed all year with their counterparts through state and regional tournaments to become eligible to compete in this national tournament. At considerable personal expense, they get to Houston, to not play against other amateurs, but against top pros.

I feel it is totally unfair for the the pros to be competing in the women's open division at this tournament. The men's professionals are not allowed to compete against the amateurs in this tournament, so it certainly shouldn't be allowed in the women's open division. I certainly hope you correct this unfair competition.

*Ric Shute
Littleton, Colorado*

Instruction Impresses

Congratulations. The Ektelon Performance Series by Mike Guidry are the best instructional articles I have seen in a long time. The information is very comprehensive and helpful. The illustrations are excellent and the "70's and 90's" theme creates a very interesting perspective. Keep up the good work.

*Bob Sullins, President
Maverick Athletic Club*

Giving Back

At a recent tournament in the Northwest there was considerable interest in an upcoming exhibition where two pros were going to have a match. In a previous issue of *RACQUETBALL*, it stated that the agreement signed by one of the featured pros was to promote their sponsors products and to "help grow the game of racquetball." I guess exhibitions that don't help grow the wallets of the players weren't part of the contract. The club hosting the exhibition and the two pros could not agree on an amount of money for the exhibition, so it was cancelled. Seems like the amount that was acceptable for the pros to play a few years ago wasn't acceptable this year due to inflation and the cost of a new top ranking.

Sponsors should step up and demand that their athletes play in these regional exhibitions to help create interest in the sport. An exhibition by a top pro could sell enough racquets the same day of the match to cover appearance fees. It's time for the sponsors and players to give back to the recreational players who buy the products that help pay for the contracts these top players sign.

*Andy Espiritu
Seattle, Washington*

Corrections

On the list of portable court donors that appeared on page 41 of the March/April issue, a typo slipped by on the spelling of **Jorge Guevara, Jr's** name in the Patron's category ... On page 52 of the May/June issue, we neglected to credit the author of the Junior Olympic preview piece. It was **Deb Pratt** of Oregon.

adult regional results

SACRAMENTO, CA: Natomas Athletic Club • MEN — MO: Sameer Hadid; MA: David Ghio; MB: Jamie Ramirez; MC: Oswaldo Urias; MD: Michael Baker; MAA: Daniel Gong; M19+: Scott Foster; M25+: John Boswell; M30+: Rick Ferrin; M35+: Ron Ferrin; M45+: Mike Palmer; M50+: Jim Tibbens; M55+: Luis Guerro; M60+: Russ Bates. WOMEN — WO: Robin Levine; WA: Keri Palko; WB: Adlisha Payne; WC: Rosario Bauer; WD: Suzanne Hammons; W40+: Margaret Pederson.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL: Quadrangle East • MEN — MO: Matt Fontana; MA: Ken Harper; MC: Sheldon Johnson; MD: Geraldo Mora; MALL-Age: Eric Harper; M25+: Matt Fontana; M30+: Hector Capo; M35+: Scott Cullins; M40+: Ken Arrowsmith; M45+: Mitt Layton; M50+: Mike Winslow; M55/60+: Don Alt; M65+: Don Alt; M70+: Nate Finkel. WOMEN — WO: Janet Tyler; WALL-Age: Isabel Delgado; W35+: Melanie Button; W40+: Jean Trimble; W45+: Renee Fish.

ATLANTA, GA: Southern Athletic Club • MEN — MO: Aaron Metcalf; MA: Gavin Higgins; MB: Kent Wagner; MC: Tony Abon; MD: Ralph Temple; MALL-Age: Andy Tucknott; M25+: Matthew Anderson; M30+: Alan Sheppard; M35+: Lorenzo Albino; M40+: Gary Gloeggler; M45+: Cedric Smith; M50+: Riger Wherle; M55+: Dan Jones; M60+: Jim Weeks; M65+: Clement Mcintosh; M70+: Hank Richard; M75+: Hank Richard. WOMEN — WO: Kim Russell; WA: Jennifer Hunter; WB: Pat Sims; WC: Amelia Eaton; WD: Candice Griffin; W25+: Andera Gordon; W40+: Paula Carter; W50+: Kathleen Neal; W60+: Jane Graham.

BOISE, ID: 24 Hour Fitness • MEN — MO: Jimmy Lowe; MA: Nick Guinta; MB: Scott Johnson; MC: Chuck Stivisor; MD: Rex Sallabanks; MAA: Kevin Bott; M30+: Kris Callaway; M35+: Jimmy Lowe; M40+: Dan Harden; M45+: Steve Neighbors; M50+: Dennis O'Brien; M55+: Al McMillen; M60+: Jack Dunsmoor. WOMEN — WO: Tammy Brockbank; WA: Erin Kelly; WC: Dee Uyeki; WD: Kastle Arturo; W25+: Trish Casiano; W40+: Jackie Terrazas.

CANTON, OH: Hall of Fame Fitness Center • MEN — MO: Doug Ganim; MA: Rob Teren; MB: Marc Claybon; MC: Twayne

Howard; MD: Jim Denman; Novice: Sam Doria; M19+: Mike Dennison; M25+: Rob Teren; M30+: Justin Vantrease; M35+: Dave Eagle; M40+: Bill Yates; M45+: Dominic Palmieri; M50+: Joe Dennison; M55+: Pete Keiser; M65+: Charles Kaiser; M19+ B/C: Steve Molnar; M40+ B/C: Greg Curd; M50+ B/C: Wes Rosenthal. WOMEN — WO: Elaine Mardas; WA: Debbie Ulliman; WB: Michelle Ronowski; WC: Mary Jo Hodgkinson; WD/Novice: Cassandra Wolfner; W25+: Paula Saad; W40+: Shelley Ogden; W50+: Nancy Butts; W55+: Nancy Butts.

BALTIMORE, MD: Merritt Athletic Club • MEN — MO: Dan Uacera; MA: Brent Walters; MB: Eric Sanchez; MC: Armando Cabrera; MD: Donald Woods; MALL-Age: Andrew Bolyard; M25+: Tom Miller; M30+: John Barrett; M35+: Tom Miller; M40+: Phil Parker; M50+: David Steiger; M55+: Glenn Allen; M60+: Dario Mas; M65+: William Radcliff. WOMEN — WO: Aimee Roehler; WA: Gladys Leonard; WB: Esther McNary; WC: Casey Michaelis; WD: Chris Alatorre-Martin; WALL-Age: Aimee Roehler; M40+: Linda Bentzel; W50+: Mary Jane Weldin.

HAVERHILL, MA: Cedardale Athletic Club • MEN — MO: Eric Muller; MA: Joey Delfino; MAA: Don Barrington; MB: Bobby Cotter; MC: Larry Weene; MD: Greg Steeves; M24+: Chris Zalegowski; M25+: Steve Hayden; M30+: Steve Pace; M35+: Jim Lukeman; M40+: Stan Shaw III; M45+: Peter Messier; M50+: Bill Welaj; M55+: Robert Siemiakowski; M60+: Arthur Hotchkiss; M65+: Frank Trask; M70+: Carl Buschner; M75+: Andy Trozzi; M80+: Andy Trozzi. WOMEN — WO: Janell Marriott; WA: Judy Mccole; WB: Christina Pastore; WC: Sharon Stevens; WD: Sylvia Bryant; W25+: Heather Dunn; W30+: BJ Ehrgott; W35+: Leesa Smith; W45+: Kate KcGinty.

ST. CLOUD, MN: Suburban Racquet & Swim Club • MEN — MO: Kevin Graham; MA: Terry Kisling; MB: Jeff Gilquest; MC: Rob Bultinck; MD: Ryan Huderie; M24+: Ryan Homa; M25+: Kevin Graham; M30+: Jim Frautschi; M35+: Greg Hayenga; M40+: Mike Carlson; M45+: Dave Warner; M50+: Dave Warner; M55+: Dave Zabinski; M65+: Max Fallek. WOMEN — WO: Linda Moore; WA: Nancy

Aadalen; WB: Lousie Graham; W40+: Linda Moore; W50+: Louise Graham; W55+: Lavonne Kohlhepp.

JACKSON, MS: The Courthouse • MEN — MO: John Davis; MA: Monty Simpkins; MB: George Anthon; MC: Bob Jacobs; MD: Brandon Maghee; M25+: Raymond Flowers; M30+: John Davis; M35+: James Bayhi; M40+: Russ Pallazzo; M45+: Russ Pallazzo; M50+: Jeff Kindl; M55+: Perry Dew; M60+: Bob Baudry. WOMEN — WA: Leanna Mays; WB: Ann Barnes; WC: Candy Arquiet; W35+: Debbie Spica; W40+: Debbie Spica; W45+: Karren Kattengeu; W50+: Pattie Schof.

ST. LOUIS, MO: Missouri Athletic Club West • MEN — MO: Chris Wright; MA: Erik Leetch; MB: Brian Kleiber; MC: Tim Garvey; MD: Grant Macuba; MAA: Dan Whittey; M25+: Allan Harris; M30+: Brad Morse; M35+: Mike Pohlman; M40+: Rick Sorenson; M45+: Rick Sorenson; M50+: Ted Podgorny; M55+: Tom Rearden; M25A/B: Wayland Cubit; M25C/D: Ralph Morley; M45A/B: John Shadid; M45C/D: Rick Hollenberg. WOMEN — WO: Kim Machiran; WA: Mary Crawford; WB: Pat Weaver; WC: Leslie Aulph; W25+: Jennifer Dering; W30+: Allison Wohl; W35+: Kim Machiran; W40+: Karen Stephens; W50+: Donna Ebner.

BILLINGS, MT: Billings Athletic Club • MEN — MO: HR Coe; MA: Chad Such; MB: Shannin Rudman; MC: Paul Carrol; MAA: HR Coe; M30+: Steve Pinnow; M50+: Jim Higgins. WOMEN — WO: Marni Shute; WA/B: Carla Sargent; WAA: Kristin Underwood.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM: Tom Young's Athletic Club • MEN — MO: Rob Dejesus; MAA: Randy Webster; MA: Robert Thorn; MB: Bill Trott; MC: Sid Bakey; MD: Brian Covarrubia; MNOV: Brian Covarrubia; MAA: Oscar Macias; M25+: Rob Dejesus; M30+: Herman Hernandez; M35+: Jim Gillhouse; M40+: Joe Hassey; M45+: Gary Mazaroff; M50+: Willie Minor; M55+: Reed Barnitz; M60+: Jim Wilking; M70+: Windell Hildbrandt; M75+: Bill Matotan; M25A/B: Rak Lepine; M25C/D: Anthony Burrola; M35A/B: Scott Lewis; M35C/D: Bruce Centillon; M45A/B: Mario Vasquez; M45C/D: John Lotoia; M55A/B: Al Decoste; M55C/D: Jerry

Bentley. WOMEN — WO: Lisa Kerr; WAA: Jo Shattuck; WA: April Fuller; WB: Jeni Fuller; WC: Erica Beaudey; WD: Kerry Lyn Omearra; WNovice: Penny Madanice; WAA: Rachel Gellman; W25+: Jo Shattuck; W30+: Stacy Sour; W35+: Marianne Walsh; W40+: Mary Keenan; W45+: Lisa Goldman; W70+: Roberta Schoenfield.

LAS VEGAS, NV: Sporting House • MEN — MO: Jason Thoerner; MAA: Craig Morganti; MA: Jason Samora; MB: Gene Amoguis; MC: Bernard Dorman; MD: Bobby Quintana; M19+: Ray Maestas; M25+: Anthony Voorhies; M30+: John Ivers; M35+: Mark Martin; M40+: Michael Richter; M45+: Michael Richter; M50+: Dennis O'Brien; M55+: Luis Guerrero; M60+: Jerry Holly; M65+: Bob Fraser. WOMEN — WO: Kersten Hallander; WA: Kristen Walsh; WB: Kelly Stracham; WC: Rosario Bauer; WD: Ursela Pausch; W25+: Johanna Shattuck; W30+: Lydia Hammock; W40+: Debbie Tisinger.

LONG ISLAND, NY: Sportset-Syosset • MEN — MO: Anthony Defusto; MA: Jorge Diaz; MB: Tim Wigder; MC: Rudy Begay; MD: Peter Aragon; MNovice: John Nistico; M25+: Anthony Defusto; M30+: Eric Eisman; M35+: Bob Haab; M40+: John Peterson; M45+: Bob Caime; M50+: Bill Wolfe; M55+: Les Barbanell; M60+: Mike Jackson; M30+inter: Joe Schmidt; M40+inter: Oliver Hill. WOMEN — WO: Lorraine Galloway; WA: Sherri Feldman; WB: Barbara Allen; WC: Barbara Allen; W35+: Lorraine Galloway; W40+: Sherri Feldman.

ARLINGTON, TX: Maverick Athletic Club • MEN — MO: Todd O'Neil; MA: Dave Green; MB: Ryan Rodgers; MC: Hector Tenorio; MD: Doug Sanders; MAA: Oscar Gutierrez; M24+: Jonah Bishop; M25+: Brett Zimmerman; M35+: Noel Delarosa; M40+: Jesus Moctezuma; M45+: Mike Robinson; M50+: Dave Pearson; M55+: Bob Lindsay; M60+: Rex Lawler; M65+: Bill Dunn; M70+: Richard Davis; M75+: Robert McAdams. WOMEN — WO: Diane Green; WA: Debbie Chen; WB: Sheri Kinnaman; WC: Diana Castillo; WD: Christa Davis; WALL-Age: Jackie Taylor-Sims; W30+: Grace Hastings; W35+: Denise Mock; W40+: Therese Lewis; W45+: Jere Luttner.

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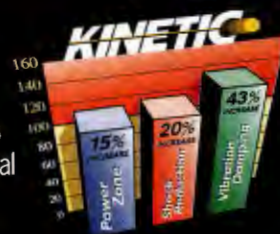
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John Ellis

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Robin Levine & Adam Karp claim National Singles Titles!



Above (L-R): Women's open finalist Jackie Paraiso and champion Robin Levine. Below (L-R): Men's open finalist Michael Bronfeld & Champion Adam Karp.



Be careful what you wish for ... you just might get it. In particular, eight-time national champion Michelle Gould might want to think twice before wishing to play southpaw nemesis Robin Levine anytime soon. At the Ektelon 31st U.S. National Singles Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports, the tables were turned for the long-time champion in the semi-final round.

Following her 15-3, 15-4 second round drubbing of Aimee Roehler in the round of 16, Gould was asked about her level of motivation — considering her upset loss to Levine at the WIRT Pro National's in Las Vegas only weeks before.

"Yea, I'm definitely fired-up," the Boise resident said. "There's definitely some motivation and one person in particular that I'd like to play."

That one person was Levine. Seeded fifth to Gould's first, the two were expected to meet in the semi-finals if all went according to plan.

Levine did her part by defeating former national high school champion Rhonda Rajsich 15-10, 15-8 in the round of 16 and struggling past fourth-seeded Laura Fenton 2-15, 15-5, 11-9 in the quarterfinals.

On the other half of the bracket, Jackie Paraiso and Cheryl Gudinas had played up to their respective #3 and #2 seedings. Paraiso downed Shannon Feaster, 15-9, 15-9 in the 16's, then fought off a tough Kersten Hallander, 10-15, 15-8, 11-6, in the quarters. Gudinas, last year's runner-up, cruised by recent University of Wyoming graduate Marni Shute, 15-2, 15-2 in the 16's, then came back to defeat Tammy Brockbank, 6-15, 15-5, 11-1.

By winning their quarterfinal matches, Gould, Levine, Paraiso and Gudinas each earned one-year appointments to the U.S. Team. With Paraiso's previous qualifying win at national doubles (with sister Joy MacKenzie), all four solidified spots on the World Team set to play this July in Bolivia at the IRF World Championships.

Showdown

Just as it had in Vegas only a month earlier, a large crowd gathered to watch rivals Levine and Gould square off. Unfortunately for Gould, the result would be the

by Kevin Vicroy

July - August 1998



same. Levine broke a 6-6 first-game tie and built a slim 12-8 lead. Gould cut the deficit to 12-10, but the '94 U.S. National Singles champ closed out the first game 15-10.

Gould quickly commanded a 4-0 lead in the second game, but Levine never wavered. The "Boise Boomer" found herself down 10-5 and struggling to stay afloat. Levine kept pushing . . . up 11-6, 12-6 . . . match point, 14-6. Then, as she did in Vegas, Levine called a timeout. This time, it didn't work.

Following a sideout, three-time defending champion Gould ran off three consecutive points, now down 14-9. After another sideout, Levine again called timeout on match point. Again, it didn't work.

After two Gould points (14-11), Levine was set to serve for the match and no, she didn't call another timeout. She served, the two rallied and Gould skipped her usually reliable backhand. Ready for the return, positioned at center court, Levine simply fell to her knees as the crowd rose from their seats.

"I collapsed . . . just because it was over," Levine said afterward. "I wanted to just end the match. Maybe I wanted to end it too soon the other times."

About the match point timeouts, Levine said, "It's not something I like to do all the time. It just helps me focus that much more. On that last point, I was as focused as I could be and I didn't feel like I needed it."

Gould, who's last loss at National's was in the '94 final to Levine, admitted that it is harder for her to play lefties than righties and always has been.

But, as far as this loss, "I've got a lot of mixed feelings, quite honestly. A part of me is thankful that I made the

(U.S.) Team. Another part of me is so mad I can hardly stand it."

Paraiso earns Final Spot

In the other final four match up, Gudinas seemed to be in control over Paraiso. Up 13-8 in the first game, Gudinas' game was on the money . . . or was it?

"When I was up 13-8, the majority of shots that I hit were not shots that I was trying to hit," a puzzled Gudinas said after the 15-13, 15-6 loss. "I would try to hit it down the line and it would go into the corner. To the crowd, it looked spectacular, but I couldn't hit the ball where I wanted it to go."

After scoring six unanswered points to take the first game, Paraiso sprang out to an 11-2 lead in the second and eventually coasted to the 15-6 win.

Another factor in determining this match was Paraiso's relaxed attitude.

"I changed my mental attitude, focused a little more and just tried to go for it," she said after earning her finals spot. "After her losing that first game and me coming back that strong, I think I had the edge."

Levine vs. Paraiso

The stage was set with Levine, one of the few women that can somewhat consistently beat Gould, and Paraiso, former pro tour champion, better known for her doubles prowess. Undeniably two of the most athletic women in racquetball, the fans were in for a treat no matter what.

Red-hot in the beginning, Levine went up 8-0. Paraiso came within five at 9-4, but Levine closed out the first game 15-8. The second game was a lengthy one with

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What, no hinder?? Jackie narrowly misses Robin with a backhand in their final, then appeals to referee (and newly appointed rules commissioner) Rich Clay for a hinder.

Paraiso holding leads of 8-3, 12-8 and 13-10. But the two divers continued to stretch out each rally with amazing gets and eventually the game was tied at 14-14. After several missed chances on both sides, Paraiso hit a well-placed forehand into the right side that cracked out for a game winner to force the tiebreaker.

Levine scored the first three points of the tiebreaker and never trailed, winning 11-8. "The thing with Jackie is that she's a retriever like I am," Levine said after the hard-fought contest. "We both get to a lot of balls and really, it's a matter of just playing smart."

According to Paraiso, "Probably my lack of good execution on my backhand made the difference. It's tough. There's a lot of pressure – you're either the national champion or you're not. She (Levine) played great. I think the rallies lasted longer than they would have if either of us would have played anybody else."

Winner of her second career national championship, Levine was pleased, to say the least.

"This one really means a lot to me," she said. "To come back (from injury) in about four months and win a national title is incredible. I'd really like to win the World's but you just never know. I'm just going to go out there, play my best and see what happens."

Men's Title Up for Grabs

In opposition to the women's draw, the men's title appeared wide open from the outset. Any one of the top eight seeds had a legitimate shot at winning this year's national crown.

Probably all the more reason why the top four seeds each made it to the semifinals and earned one-year appointments to the U.S. Team.

Making the Team Cut

Defending champ Dan Obremski defeated Eric Muller 15-8, 15-12 for his appointment. Fourth-seeded Adam Karp held off a tenacious Jason Thoerner 15-9, 15-14 in his quarterfinal win. Former champion Ruben Gonzalez and #2 seed Michael Bronfeld also won their quarters match-ups in tiebreakers. Third seed Gonzalez downed sixth seed Kelly Gelhaus 15-11, 5-15, 11-4, while Bronfeld slipped past James Mulcock 15-6, 2-15, 11-7.

Still, the possibility of major upsets had lurked in the smoggy Houston air earlier in the week. Obremski started slow against unseeded Tom Fuhrmann of Texas in the round of 64, before winning 15-5, 10-15, 11-3. In the next round, U.S. Teammate Tim Hansen also forced the defending champ to catch up in their 14-15, 15-4, 11-1 match. Also in the round of 16, Bronfeld's quest for a third national title was challenged by Dan Llacera, who fell 3-15, 15-11, 11-7.

In Sunday's first semifinal contest, Bronfeld took on Gonzalez – with three national titles between them. After scoring six of the first eight points, Bronfeld closed out a tight first game with a 15-14 win. Down 10-7 in the second, the Californian reeled off eight unanswered points to take the match with a 15-10 victory.

"I moved really well today and I was able to stay in every rally," Bronfeld said. "My back didn't bother me today. I had treatment earlier and it made a huge difference. I tried mixing it up and putting the pressure on him and it worked."

The other final four match was a repeat of last year's semis, except that Obremski had won over Karp 15-10, 15-7 in '97. This one started out much the same way. Obremski went up 6-0, forcing Karp to call a timeout.

"I started off just as I played him last year – terrible," Karp said. "He was controlling the match. I was just playing stupid racquetball and called a timeout. I gathered myself, went in there and it started to work."

Karp took a 7-6 lead and went on to a 15-11 win. In the second game, Karp jumped out to a 6-1 lead and sailed to a 15-6 victory.

"I felt that I dominated the first six points," Obremski said of the first game. "Then I took it too lightly – as if at 6-1 the match would be easy."

Experience vs. Determination

For Karp, it marked his debut in the national finals. "It's nice to be in the finals," he said. "Every year here, I've made it one round further. Tomorrow, I'm going to try and break that streak (by winning)."

In his fifth National Singles final, Bronfeld had hoped that his experience would carry him through the pressure-packed match. But, it was Karp's ability to shrug off a severely dislocated finger injury late in the second game that helped him earn his first national title.

"Fresh Fish" started the match off with a brief backhand clinic as he went up 6-2 on six backhand winners into the left corner. Karp continued to hold his lead, right up to the first game finish at 15-8.

"From the start of the match, I was slow," Bronfeld said. "In the first game, I had plenty of shots and opportunities. I just couldn't put it together."

Bronfeld was able to put his game together – somewhat – in the second game. Up 8-7, Bronfeld watched Karp take flight and crash into the left side wall.

When Karp jumped to his feet, he said, "I need a doctor, now!" Karp had jammed his left middle finger into the base of the wall on his dive.

"I didn't want to look at it because I heard it and felt it," Karp said. "As soon as I looked down, my first thought was that I was done – the match was over. It looked that bad."

The digit was dislocated, had discolored to an alarming shade and come to rest at an impossible angle. Karp was glassy-eyed with pain and shock as a doctor on hand calmly straightened the finger. A few minutes later Karp was taped like a prizefighter and back in the match, where he headed upstream and gave up only two more points to Bronfeld before winning 15-10.

"I should have won the second game," Bronfeld said. "I was up and had a couple of shots here and there ... I was just never crisp today. I'll tell you what, I'm upset because I hate to lose. But, when I look back on it, I

had two weeks to get ready for this tournament. I came in not expecting anything. From that point of view, it's been a good tournament for me."

It was a little better for Karp, whose titles thus far have been only in doubles.

"Without a doubt, the World Championships were great ... National Doubles was great, but winning this tournament was one of my top priorities. Now that I've done that, I can't tell you how happy I am."

"I was having a lot of negative thoughts last night. I've played Michael a few times and he's gotten me more than I've gotten him. On the ride over here, I thought, screw the negative thoughts, you've wanted this too badly to just give up and not play your heart out. Right after that, on the radio, I heard 'All by myself.' I just got the chills and I wanted to be all by myself on the court after the tournament. I wanted to be the one left."

Following an on-court television interview, Karp turned and walked to the front wall. It was too big to hug, so he just leaned against it. It was pure success and he was indeed the only one left standing.



Adam Karp (top) and Michael Bronfeld in post-match interviews and pre-game warm-ups.

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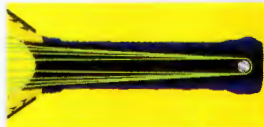
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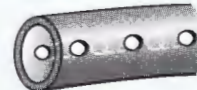


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FINAL RESULTS – ALL DIVISIONS

Men's Open: #4 Adam Karp (Stockton, Calif.) def. #2 Michael Bronfeld (Monterey, Calif.) 15-8, 15-10

Women's Open: #5 Robin Levine (Sacramento, Calif.) def. #3 Jackie Paraiso (El Cajon, Calif.) 15-8, 14-15, 11-8

MEN'S SKILL & AGE DIVISIONS:

Men's A: Jorge Hirsekorn (Venezuela) def. Jason Samora (Salem, Ore.) 15-8, 12-15, 11-6

Men's B: Ryan Rodgers (Austin, Texas) def. Darryl Thompson (Killeen, Texas) 15-5, 15-9

Men's C: Lorne Burry (Fayetteville, N.C.) def. Manu Laprea (Venezuela) 15-14, 9-15, 11-9

Men's D: Mukesh Wadhawan (Houston, Texas) def. Roberto Tanijero (El Paso, Texas) 15-10, 13-15, 11-10

Men's 24-: #3 Mike Dennison (Stow, Ohio) def. #2 Willie Tilton (Colorado Springs, Colo.) 15-11, 15-13

Men's 24- A/B: #2 Reed Bastien (Woodland, Calif.) def. Ryan Rodgers (Austin, Texas) 15-10, 15-14

Men's 24- C/D: #2 Jeremiah Jones (Humble, Texas) def. #4 Roberto Tanijero (El Paso, Texas) 15-10, 15-12

Men's 25+: #1 Mike Locker (St. Paul, Minn.) def. Sameer Hadid (Sacramento, Calif.) 15-7, 15-9

Men's 25+ A/B: Jack White (Warren, Mich.) def. #3 Al Schof (Kenner, La.) 10-15, 15-8, 11-3

Men's 25+ C/D: #2 Andrew Silva (Miami, Fla.) def. Doug Hale (New Bern, N.C.) 15-10, 15-12

Men's 30+: #4 David Watson (Miami, Okla.) def. #3 Dan Llacera (Newark, De.) 15-10, 15-4

Men's 35+: Jimmy Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska) def. Bobby Haab (Madison, Conn.) 15-11, 15-11

Men's 35+ A/B: #1 Jack White (Warren, Mich.) def. Ruben Desimone (Ft. Worth, Texas) 15-5, 11-15, 11-7

Men's 35+ C/D: #4 Melvin Todd (Missouri City, Texas) def. #3 Jerry Williams (Port Arthur, Texas) 15-6, 9-15, 11-7

Men's 40+: Gil Rodriguez (Moonbridge, Va.) def. Jesus Moctezuma (Copperas Cove, Texas) 15-3, 15-12

Men's 45+: #1 Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. #3 Jim Luzar (Brookfield, Wis.) 15-4, 15-3

Men's 45+ A/B: #2 Steve Newport (Duncanville, Texas) def. #1 John Shadid (Oklahoma City, Okla.) 15-4, 15-2

Men's 45+ C/D: Tom Sikorski (Houston, Texas) def. #2 Dennis Fischer (West Babylon, N.Y.) by forfeit

Men's 50+: #1 Ed Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. Bill Welaj (Summerville, N.J.) 15-10, 15-4

Men's 55+: #4 Ron Galbreath (New Wilmington, Pa.) def. #1 Roger Wehrle (Flowery Branch, Ga.) 15-7, 15-11

Men's 55+ A/B: #3 Luke St. Onge (Colorado Springs, Colo.) def. #4 Tom Fehsel (Chicago, Ill.) 13-15, 15-8, 11-10

Men's 55+ C/D: #4 Ralph Temple (Augusta, Ga.) def. John

Ramsey (San Antonio, Texas) 15-7, 12-15, 11-7

Men's 60+: Rex Lawler (Terre Haute, Ind.) def. Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.) 12-15, 15-4, 11-1

Men's 65+: #1 Otis Chapman (Cleveland, Ohio) def. #3 Don Alt (Ft. Myers, Fla.) 15-9, 15-6

Men's 70+: #4 Fintan Kilbride (Canada) def. Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 15-5, 15-4

Men's 75+: #1 Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. #2 Robert McAdam (Crowley, Texas) 15-12, 15-3

Men's 80+: #4 Luzell Wilde (Centerville, Utah) def. George Spear (Venice, Fla.) 15-9, 15-12

WOMEN'S SKILL & AGE DIVISIONS

Women's A: Lily Geyer (Venezuela) def. Lindsay Deutsch (Houston, Texas) 15-7, 15-12

Women's B: Janel Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. #2 Esther McNany (Pleasanton, Calif.) 10-15, 15-3, 11-8

Women's C: #3 Christine Fenton (Orange Park, Fla.) def. Christa Davis (Houston, Texas) 15-13, 15-7

Women's D: #1 Candy Arquiett (Baton Rouge, La.) def. #2 Cherie Hale (New Bern, N.C.) 15-7, 15-2

Women's 24-: #4 Aimee Roehler (Allentown, Pa.) def. #2 Shannon Feaster (Washington, D.C.) 13-15, 15-6, 11-4

Women's 24- A/B: #5 Janel Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. #3 Kristi Hale (Grimesland, N.C.) 15-14, 15-7

Women's 25+: #2 Holly Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. Heather Dunn (South Burlington, Va.) 15-8, 15-13

Women's 25+ A/B: #1 Leanne Mays (Denham Springs, La.) def. Esther McNany (Pleasanton, Calif.) 15-3, 15-10

Women's 25+ C/D: #1 Rhonda Lindeman (Edmonds, Okla.) def. #3 Candy Arquiett (Baton Rouge, La.) 15-3, 15-1

Women's 30+: #4 Kersten Hallander (San Diego, Calif.) def. #2 Lydia Hammock (San Diego, Calif.) 15-7, 15-6

Women's 35+: #1 Debbie Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. #3 Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) 15-12, 15-10

Women's 35+ A/B: #3 Erin Kelly (Issaquah, Wash.) def. Anne Fangmeier (Houston, Texas) 15-13, 15-3

Women's 35+ C/D: #1 Mary Jo Hodgkinson (Richmond Heights, Ohio) def. #2 Judy Jones-Woods (Humble, Texas) 15-2, 15-3

Women's 40+: Chris Evon (Wheeling, Ill.) def. #3 Susan Pfahler (Neptune Beach, Fla.) 15-7, 15-13

Women's 45+: #1 Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.) def. Janell Marriott (West Warwick, R.I.) 15-8, 5-15, 11-8

Women's 45+ A/B: #3 Karen Kattengell (Chalmette, La.) def. Sharon Barrett (Watauga, Texas) 15-6, 15-12

Women's 45+ C/D: Judy Jones Woods (Humble, Texas) unchallenged

Women's 50+: #5 Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. #3 Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) 15-7, 15-2

Women's 55+: #1 Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. #3 Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.) 15-3, 15-4

Women's 55+ A/B: #4 Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.) def. Louise Graham (Eau Claire, Wis.) 15-6, 15-1

Women's 60+: #1 Annabelle Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.) unchallenged

Women's 65+: #2 Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) unchallenged

Women's 70+: #3 Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) unchallenged

Women's 75+: #1 Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. #3 Christine Stephens (Lumberton, Texas) 15-1, 15-2

Find semi-final results, and earlier open round reporting, online at: <http://www.racqmag.com/98news/98sgls1.htm>

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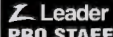


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swain recaptures pro title

Maybe the Sporting House's exhibition court *is* friendlier to lefties. But, don't even suggest the possibility to 1998 IRT Pro National champion Cliff Swain.

"We're both on the same court," Swain said after disposing of right-handed Andy Roberts 2-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-2 in the finals. "It (the right side glass) has its advantages for me and its advantages for him. We've both played forever. It doesn't make a difference."

Roberts, who has stated that next year will be his last on the tour, appeared exceptionally strong through the first several rounds.

"To be honest with you, I lost early in Santa Barbara (in late March). I was sick," Roberts said after downing Tim Doyle 12-10, 11-9, 11-2 in the semis. "But I think that really helped me in the long run because I went home and had 2-3 days to rest my body, which is important for me."

After crushing qualifier Rodney Naylor 1, 1, & 6 in the first round, the King took out Canadians Sherman Greenfeld, 3, 6, & 5, and Woody Clouse 3, 9, & 8, in the rounds of 32 and 16, respectively. Newlywed Tony Jelso upset sixth seed Mike Guidry 11-7, 3-11, 11-8, 11-9 in the 16's, but fell to an extremely accurate Roberts 11-3, 11-5, 11-7 in the quarterfinals.

by kevin vicroy • photography by john foust

Making a strong pitch for IRT Comeback Player of the Year is Doyle, who made his first trip to the semifinals of a singles pro tour stop since the 1995 VCI World Championships in Columbus, Ohio. A former number-one ranked player on the men's tour, Doyle upset 10th-seeded Adam Karp and seven seed Dan Fowler in four games apiece, before winning a marathon tiebreaker against 15th seed Derek Robinson to reach the semis.

"I just had my elbow scoped out from all the playing over the years," Doyle said after his match with Roberts. "I had a lower back problem – I stretched a ligament out – which is basically what kept me out the last couple of years. I feel pretty good physically, but I haven't played consecutive matches like this, day after day, for quite a while. That took a little out of me. I played consistently well and felt confident out there. Everything is slowing down out there on the court."

While Roberts and Doyle were pounding the competition in the bottom half of the bracket, Swain cruised through the first few rounds without letting his opponents score more than seven points in a game.

Swain would meet fourth-seeded John Ellis in the other semifinal. To get there, Ellis had worked straight games past Jeff Stark in the first round, Todd O'Neil in the 32's and Michael Bronfeld in the 16's.

Earlier, fifth-seeded Jason Mannino had suffered another one of his early-round upsets and failed to meet Ellis in the quarters. Mannino fell after five games to 37th seed Jeff Bell, who in turn succumbed to hard hitting Louis Vogel in the 16's. But Ellis had little trouble with Vogel, sending the Albuquerque native to the casinos with a three-game defeat.

Big Four

Saturday's first semifinal showcased a much improved Ellis and top-ranked Swain. The first game was no contest as Swain's serve continued to baffle opponents. Result: 11-0.

"I don't think that I came out slowly – I think he came out extremely fast," Ellis said of Swain's bullet deliveries. "Who's going to be able to return those serves? I don't think anybody in the world."

Ellis, one of the more mentally tough players on the circuit, turned the tables in the second game – winning 11-3 on an ace.

"He played much better (in the second game)," Swain said of Ellis. "I didn't feel that hot coming into the

match. I was really surprised with the 11-0 first game with the way I was feeling."

Swain grabbed a quick 5-1 third-game lead and hung on for an 11-9 win.

"He (Ellis) was up 9-7 in the third and I scored four straight and then seven more to open up the fourth," Swain said. "It looked like it took his heart away."

The former champ finished the match with an 11-3 fourth-game victory.

'97 Rematch

Before the finals, Roberts said, "I've been playing good the whole tournament. I think my game is pretty solid. I've been serving well, returning well and hitting the ball well in the rallies ... One more match."

It looked like Roberts' match for the taking. The former Memphis State star jumped all over Swain and won the first game 11-2. Roberts' serve was on and Swain had no answer.

The second game continued with the same trends – a Roberts ace, 1-0. Two Swain skips, 5-1. A tough forehand crushed into the right corner and Roberts was in control 6-1 ... up to the crash. Swain's reply seemed to be the Seinfeldesque, "No soup for you!!!"

The 1997 Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN champion pumped out six aces to capture the second game 11-6, then continued on to finish the match, 11-3 and 11-2 in the final two.



Semi-final Action: Top – Roberts (foreground) vs. Doyle. Bottom: Swain (foreground) vs. Ellis.



"I thought I played good the whole match, but his serve ... I could not see his serve at all," Roberts said after the match. "

He has a distinct advantage on this court. Being a lefty, he can use that (right side) glass. I thought that in the rallies I played good enough to win the match. The difference was that he served a lot of serves that I did not see at all. I couldn't tell if he was going for the Z or

the jam. I couldn't see it until the ball was almost on me."

In what has turned out to be a sort of revenge tour for Swain who has regained his number one status, the former champ said, "Every win is nice. This is the Nationals, it's Vegas, it's one of the two that we all want to win. This is great, especially with all of my family and friends here."

drexler defies odds

The odds on five-time pro tour champion Michelle Gould winning the WIRT Pro Nationals at the Las Vegas Sporting House this past April were – to say the least – extremely high. A sure winner.

But, it's Vegas! . . . and all that glitters was not Gould.

After delivering routine early-round thrashings to Coloradoans Carol Zimlinghaus, 1, 2 & 4, and Jo Shattuck, 3, 3 & 6, in rounds one and two, respectively, Gould hit a familiar road block in Robin Levine.

Sacramento native Levine had upset Gould in the past – on the pro tour and even for the 1994 U.S. National Singles title. A large crowd gathered for the quarterfinal meeting between the two rivals. But, surely Gould wouldn't falter in the quarters – she hadn't lost that early in a singles tournament since Jackie Paraiso ousted her in quarters of the 1992 Spalding Pro-Am in Toronto.

Gould built an 8-3 first-game lead only to see Levine serve for the game at 10-9. After regrouping, the Boise resident took game one 12-10. Levine bounced right back and pounded her powerful opponent 11-3 to knot the match.

Winner of the 1988 U.S. National Intercollegiates, Levine took game three by an 11-9 count. In the fourth, Gould battled back from a 7-0 deficit to tie the game at 9-9. After several sideouts and one Levine point, Gould was set to return a match-point serve. That's when Levine called a timeout and began walking around inside the court.

"I just wanted to take my time on my serve, gather my thoughts and make sure that I was totally focused," Levine said.

When play resumed, her thoughts were indeed gathered and the upset was complete as Levine hit a forehand pinch winner and came away with a 10-12, 11-3, 11-9, 11-9 victory.

"My game plan was just to play smart," Levine said of her major upset. "Michelle's a tough player and in order to beat her, you have to play smart. She never gives up and I never give up. That's one of the things that makes for a great match between us."

1998 PRO
NATIONAL
CHAMPION
MARCI DREXLER
SIZES UP A LOB
TO ROBIN LEVINE
IN THEIR FINAL.
PHOTO: JOHN
FOUST.

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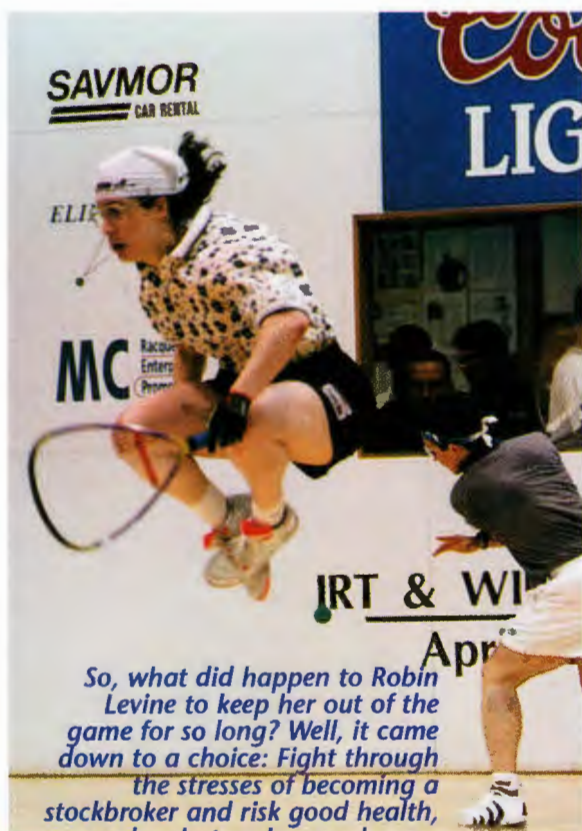
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5-Time Pro World Champion

**THE T22 TITANIUM WITH POWER HOLES.
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So, what did happen to Robin Levine to keep her out of the game for so long? Well, it came down to a choice: Fight through the stresses of becoming a stockbroker and risk good health, or do what makes you happy. Levine graduated from Sacramento State with a degree in finance. Seeing her back on the court with such a vengeance, it seems the choice was obvious.

"It was a lot of hours – 80-hour weeks," she said of her job as a stockbroker. "It became extremely stressful for me and affected my health. My doctor basically told me that I had to quit. She asked me what did I enjoy and I said that I really loved playing racquetball and I missed it. She told me to take some time off, play some racquetball and see how I feel."

"I've really enjoyed coming back to the game. I've been playing for half of my life. I came up through the junior ranks, played in the amateurs, been on the U.S. Team for many years, played on the pro tour. I'm having a great time. I really love playing again. I wish I hadn't taken off for 15 months and been a stranger to the game."

Surgeries on her left shoulder in August of 1995 and March of '96 were major physical setbacks for Levine. But she's definitely not a stranger anymore!

Even in defeat, Gould was a gracious champion.

"I thought Robin played really well," she said. "I'm glad she's back playing the tour full-time."

Levine was absent from the WIRT for about two years due to two shoulder surgeries and a full-time job as a stockbroker.

On the other side of the bracket, another WIRT comeback player was making her mark. Speedy Marci Drexler took out third-seeded Cheryl Gudinas 14-12, 11-3, 8-11, 11-4. The only quarterfinal favorite to avoid the upset was second seed Jackie Paraiso, who passed by tour veteran Molly O'Brien 11-2, 11-7, 11-4.

In Saturday's first semifinal, Levine battled a possible post-Gould letdown to put away fifth-seeded Laura Fenton 12-10, 12-10, 11-2. Fenton held respective leads of 9-5 and 10-8 in the first two games, only to watch Levine emerge as the victor.

"I didn't play as smart as I did yesterday," Levine said. "I don't know if it was the fact that I came back, but it seemed to me that she ran out of steam."

In the other semi, Paraiso jumped out to a 3-0 lead against Drexler and scored the final three points of game one for a 12-10 victory.

Then, Drexler turned her game and her serve up several notches. The result was wins in the final three games by scores of 11-5, 11-7 and 11-0. Paraiso, the victim of four aces in the final game, pointed to Drexler's service as the difference in the match.

"Her serves were really tough – being a lefty serving into that wall," Paraiso said of Drexler's tough Z serve into the right side glass. "I couldn't even see it until it bounced and with the speed it was generating it was really hard to get offensive on that ... I'm happy for Marci, she played mentally tough and that's what she needed to do."

According to Drexler, "I just got it together and focused."

In a final match up only a longshot artist could have imagined, Drexler took control early and never let up, winning 11-6, 11-9, 11-7.

"It feels really good," Drexler said following her first pro tour win since 1995 which, ironically, had been the WPRA Pro Nationals where she defeated Levine in three straight. "I was really proud of myself for focusing. I think that's what won the tournament for me. I was really down coming into this tournament. Mentally, I just didn't think that I could do it. I was just getting tired of losing. Everything just fell into place and I was able to keep my focus."

For Levine, whose first singles event this season was a local California tourney in January, just making it back to racquetball prominence was a giant step.

"It was a good run," she said. "I didn't know how I would do. Like I said, I'm just coming back into playing so I'm pretty pleased. (Marci) was just playing really well. When I gave her opportunities, she took advantage of them."

Winnipeg hosts Pan Am Preview

The 1998 Pan American Games Trials in Winnipeg, Canada seemed like an old-fashioned wedding as it played itself out from April 2-11 at the Duckworth Centre on the campus of the University of Winnipeg.

There was something old, something new and even something blue. To complete the rhyme, Venezuela's Fabian Balmori had to borrow a racquet to play out the tournament after breaking both of his frames early in the week.

Old & New

Not that nine-time Canadian national singles champion Sherman Greenfeld is "something old" at 35-years of age, but his international presence has been felt for well over a decade. The Pan Am Trials – in his hometown – set the perfect stage for his control-style racquetball.

After four days of preliminary round-robin play to determine seeding for the single-elimination draw, the top four seeds shook out to include two Americans and two Canadians. However, current Mexican national champion and #5 seed Alvaro Beltran burst into the semifinals with a 15-11, 15-13 upset over Canada's Mike Green. With the 19-year old's victory, Mexico was represented in a singles semifinal at an international event of this calibre for the first time ever – definitely something new.

"For Mexico, this is a very big and special occasion because we've never made it to the semifinals before," Beltran said.

The bottom bracket matched Greenfeld with the USA's No. 2 player Michael Bronfeld. The steady Californian disposed of Mexico's Javier Moreno 15-2, 15-7 in the

1998 Pan Am Trials

A TEST EVENT FOR THE 1998 PAN AMERICAN GAMES



Photo by Joe Bryksa
Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

quarters, while Greenfeld downed Venezuela's Antonio Yamin by the same scores.

Top-seeded, then-current U.S. national champion Dan Obremski advanced past Balmori in the quarters by scores of 15-2, 15-9.

Televised live on a local Winnipeg station, Greenfeld took Bronfeld apart in the semifinal, 15-2, 15-6. The crafty Canuck seemed incapable of skipping the ball, while Bronfeld seemed equally incapable of putting it away.

"It was horrible," Bronfeld said of the less than 35-minute match. "That's about the worst I've ever played internationally. He lives for playing these matches with

Teams to Qualify for the 1999 Pan American Games were: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the United States and Venezuela.

the TV going. What can I say? I congratulate him and I'll get him next time."

Greenfeld couldn't help but be pleased with his performance. "The key was that I stayed tough, took one rally at a time and eliminated unforced errors. If he's going to beat me, let him roll the ball. I think my game plan worked to perfection. It wasn't the true Mike Bronfeld today, but I played well."

The other semifinal match up offered the possibility of a monumental shocker. Up 13-5 in the first game, young Beltran began showing signs of fatigue and even the TV announcers noticed. Eyeing an opened door, Obremski stormed back to take the game 15-13 and continued into the second frame with a 15-9 win to close out the match.

"I was ahead and playing very well," Beltran said. "Then Dan started coming back. I missed a couple of very important shots and lost my confidence. Dan took advantage of that."

Experience proved to be the difference between these two shooters. "I think he got tired at 13-5 and I found a serve that worked," Obremski said of the young Mexican. "I was bringing it in chest-high and he was trying to be too offensive with it. If he would have taken that Z serve to the ceiling and got me deep in the court, he probably would have won the first game and it would have gone to a tiebreaker."

In the finals, the Winnipeg crowd never let Greenfeld lose his focus. The Canadian jumped out to a 4-0 lead only to see it turn into an 11-6 deficit. But Obremski couldn't hold on and the local hero took the title with a 15-13, 15-7 win.

"The biggest factor in that match was me coming back in that first game. For me to lose the first game, the crowd would be out of it," said Greenfeld. "For me to win that first game, in the fashion that I did, put him in a tough position going into the second game. Plus it got the crowd right back into it."

After winning the Trials in '94, Greenfeld finished third at the '95 Pan Am Games. "This time around, I'm going to change the script," he said. "I'm going to win the Trials and win the Games."

Something Blue

She was dressed in red. Her flu-like symptoms and dehydration gave her a white appearance and a blue

feeling. Even in her weakest moments, Michelle Gould was the ultimate American patriot. After cruising through the women's bracket, giving up an average of just over one point per game, Gould met a familiar foe, teammate Cheryl Gudinas, in the finals.

Gudinas had just come off a convincing 15-4, 15-5 win over Canadian national titleholder Christie Van Hees in the semifinals. Still, Gould weathered her ill feelings to hold off Gudinas 15-13, 15-9.

"Michelle was very fatigued," U.S. team trainer Kevin Brown said. "She played the match fatigued and slightly dehydrated because she was losing fluids from her body. She had flu-like symptoms and suffered from a very rapid heart beat."

Gould was sent to the hospital immediately following the finals and hadn't even realized that she'd won.

According to the Idaho native, "I would come off the court and Kevin would put ice on my back, trying to get my temperature to drop so that my heart rate would slow down. I don't remember much about the match. About an hour after, Marc (Auerbach), our team leader, told me that I had won. I didn't know."

USA Doubles Its Pleasure

The U.S. National Team clinched the overall, men's and women's team titles as both doubles squads captured gold. Adam Karp and Bill Sell utilized late-game runs in both the first and second stanzas to defeat Canadians Mike Ceresia and Jacques Demers 15-9, 15-6.

"We went on a little run at the end of the first game and the second to close it out," Karp said. "Up until those points, it was a battle. I don't think anyone folded today, I just think Bill and I made the shots that we needed to make to pull away."

Ceresia agreed, saying, "They played a lot better than we did in both games. Adam played the match of his life. There's no way he could play like that again."

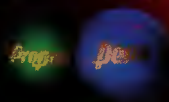
USA's identical twins Jackie Paraiso and Joy MacKenzie struggled to a 15-11 first-game win before thrashing the Canadian duo of Josee Grand'Maitre and Debbie Ward 15-1 in the second game.

"I think we were trying too hard in that first game," Paraiso said. "(The Canadians) must have been watching, because they knew what shots we were going to hit. We had to readjust for that second game."

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WILSON'S NEW TITANIUM LINE

Wilson Racquetball recently introduced its titanium racquet line, featuring five new performance racquets designed with exclusive Titanium engineering and patented Stretch Technology. A leader in Titanium technology in the golf industry, Wilson applied this expertise to racquetball. The flagship of the new Titanium series is the T22, with striking graphics and Power Holes, which allow the racquet strings to move more freely at impact. The effect is like hitting with a mini-trampoline and, even on off-center hits, the ball stays on the strings a split second longer so players can control that power with accuracy.

The T22 is the racquet of choice of Cliff Swain, the World's #1 racquetball player. "When you first pick it up, the T22 just feels like a winner," said Swain. "The weight and balance are perfect, and it's effortless to swing and maneuver. But when you hit it, you know it's a winner. The power is awesome!"

The T22 is 22" in length and weighs 215 grams, with a hitting surface of 107 square inches. It is available July 1 at a suggested price of \$199.99. The new Titanium Stretch racquets range in price from \$79.99 to \$199.99. Contact Wilson at 1-800-272-6060.



NEW PRODUCT CATALOGUES RELEASED

From ProKennex: The Kinetic TiDiamond Series is the flagship offering for the new season from Pro Kennex. Using "Heater" technology, the new frames feature a modified head shape that elongates the throat and mainstrings for maximum power. The company recently released its new catalogue, which can be requested by calling 1-800-4-KINETIC.

From Head: A full marketing blitz from Head USA includes a series of brochures and catalogues to showcase the new Titanium racquet line. The flagship frame, the Ti.175XL, is the racquet of choice for Sudy Monchik, who is the company's star sponsored player and designated "cover

guy." Also newly signed with Head is 1998 National Singles Champion Adam Karp. For a copy of the new brochure, call 1-800-HEAD-USA.

IHRSA NEWS TICKER

Compiled from news releases issued by the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association

IHRSA ENTERS NEW ERA OF RACQUETBALL PROMOTION

Through the efforts of IHRSA Executive Director, John McCarthy, and IHRSA's Director of Sales and Promotion, Chuck Leve, a new aggressive approach to racquetball is being taken by the club organization. Recognizing that racquetball members frequent clubs more, stay longer, and spend more money, IHRSA has renewed its effort to promote racquetball as a major activity within the fitness industry. The Sporting Goods Manufacturers, The

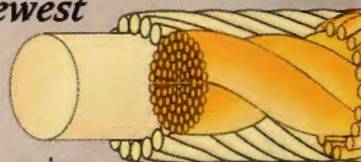


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16 gauge composite string with a central core of Zyex® fibers for optimum power and resiliency. Recommended for players who want to maximize power in their game.



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15 gauge composite string with center core of Kevlar fibers for great durability and tension-holding. Recommended for power players with chronic string-breakage problems.



SuperKill® II 16 ga / SuperKill® 17 17 ga

Both available in a variety of colors. Recommended for players of all skill levels.

**Derek Robinson wins
with KillFire in his racquet.**



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Pacific Sports Warehouse
800 836-1055

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The Racquetball Mart
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Samuel's Tennisport
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IHRSA

www.ihrsa.org



IN HOUSTON: They can't believe their eyes ... on the sidelines at National Singles, top professional players for Head and Pro Kennex – Sudsy Monchik (above left) and John Ellis, respectively – can't believe that Robin Levine wasn't listed as a front-runner for the open title in *RACQUETBALL* magazine's annual predictions. (Levine hadn't played much of the season, hadn't entered the tournament, and wasn't even ranked when the issue went to press – who knew?). Both players were in Houston to represent their "parent companies" and visit with friends on the amateur circuit. Photo: John Foust.

Racquetball Industry Association, USRA, and IRT/WIRT have joined IHRSA in placing ads, establishing racquetball programming recognitions, and promoting racquetball jointly at the annual IHRSA convention. This year's convention in Phoenix featured: the first Annual IHRSA Racquetball Programming Award, IHRSA "Best Practices" publication detailing the racquetball success stories of IHRSA clubs, four educational sessions on racquetball and a special IRT/WIRT pro exhibition. Everyone involved feels that these efforts mark the rebirth of racquetball as a profit center within the fitness club industry.

HEALTH CLUB MEMBERSHIP GROWS TO 22.5 MILLION

The number of health club members in the U.S. grew to 22.5 million in 1997- up by 8% over the 1996 figure of 20 million, according to John McCarthy, executive director of IHRSA. Mr. McCarthy announced the increase in his State of the Industry address at the association's annual Convention & Trade Show. A second growth indicator is that the last six months of 1997 saw a sizable leap in the number of health clubs in the U.S. In January 1998, American Business Information reported that there were 13,799 health clubs — up by 5% over the July 1997 figure of 13,097. The third indicator is new money coming into the business. According to the just-published 1998 IHRSA Report on the State of the Health Club Industry, several club companies enjoyed an infusion of new capital last year, resulting in expansion of their operations.

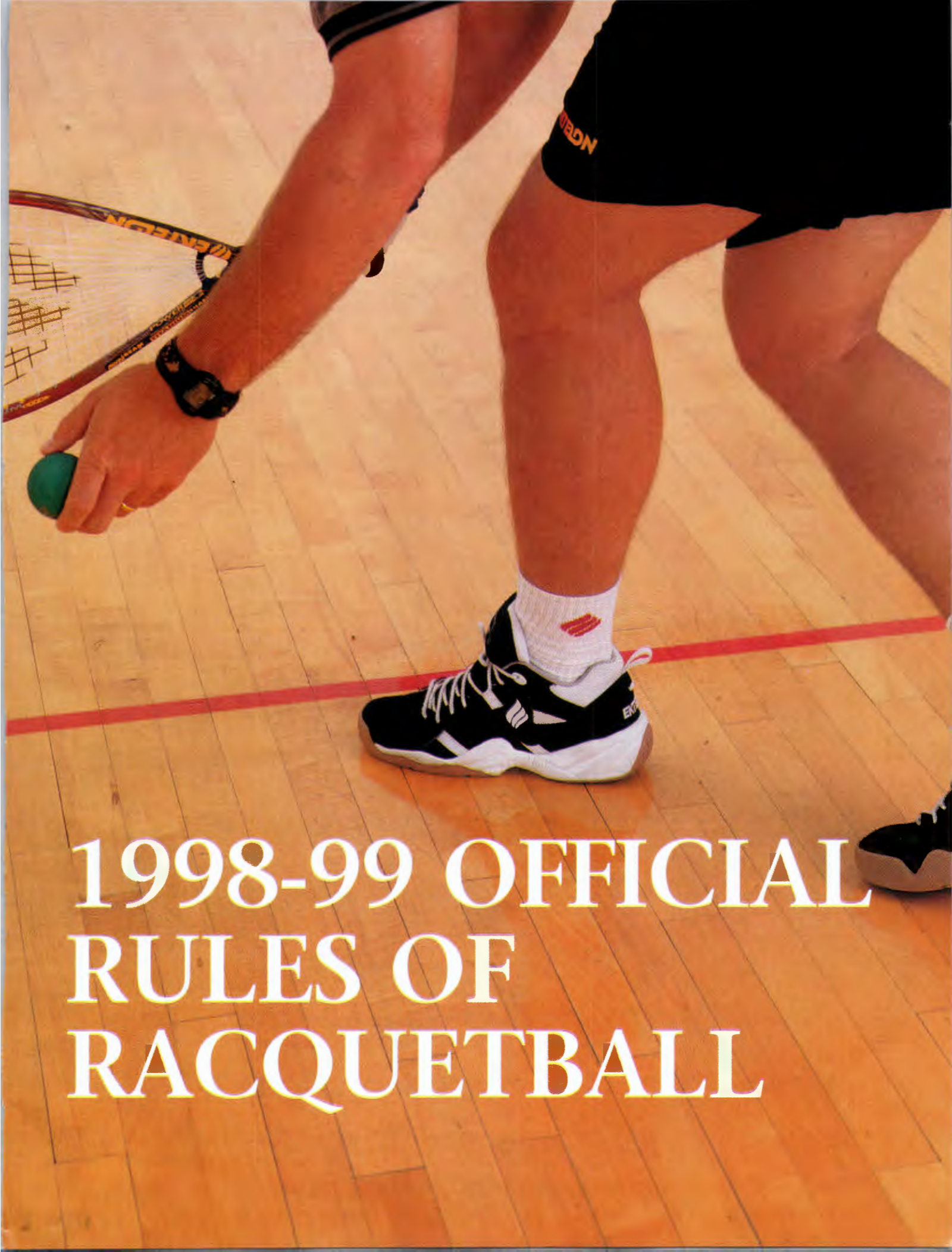
IHRSA PUBLISHES LEGAL PRIMER FOR HEALTH CLUBS

The culmination of extensive legal research done over the past several years on discrimination issues, employment law, and liability as they affect health clubs is now available in the form of a new book published by the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association (IHRSA). Intended for the general education of club owners and operators, IHRSA's Legal Briefing Book covers 12 specific topics, including: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); Couples Memberships; The Basics of Employment Law for Club Operators; Independent Contractors; Sexual Harassment; Injury Liability: How to Protect Your Club; Kids in Your Club and the Laws that Protect Them; Managing Difficult Members Fairly and Legally; Music Copyright Fees; and Women-Only Health Clubs.

MOJER NAMED ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Following a decade of service to the United States Racquetball Association, Linda Mojer was recently promoted to the position of Associate Executive Director of Communications. Head of the USRA Communications Department, Mojer relocated to Colorado Springs in 1990 to spearhead an effort to re-establish the association's official publication, *RACQUETBALL* magazine. Now in her ninth year as its Managing Editor, she also recently brought the association "online" by designing and implementing two comprehensive websites for the USRA and its publication.

The former Florida native is also actively involved in the Olympic movement. She was selected as a press officer for the 1995 Pan American Games and a series of Olympic Festivals, plus served as a member of the Olympic Public Relations Association Steering Committee. An active racquetball player, Mojer owns two national doubles titles and over a dozen state and regional crowns. She is also an AmPRO certified instructor.



1998-99 OFFICIAL RULES OF RACQUETBALL

1998-'99 official racquetball rules

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1 — THE GAME

Rule 1.1 TYPES OF GAMES

Racquetball is played by two or four players. When played by two, it is called singles and when played by four, doubles. A non-tournament variation of the game that is played by three players is called cut-throat.

Rule 1.2 DESCRIPTION

Racquetball is a competitive game in which a strung racquet is used to serve and return the ball.

Rule 1.3 OBJECTIVE

The objective is to win each rally by serving or returning the ball so the opponent is unable to keep the ball in play. A rally is over when a player (or team in doubles) is unable to hit the ball before it touches the floor twice, is unable to return the ball in such a manner that it touches the front wall before it touches the floor, or when a hinder is called.

Rule 1.4 POINTS AND OUTS

Points are scored only by the serving side when it serves an irretrievable serve (an ace) or wins a rally. Losing the serve is called a sideout in singles. In doubles, when the first server loses the serve it is called a handout and when the second server loses the serve it is a sideout.

Rule 1.5 MATCH, GAME, TIEBREAKER

A match is won by the first side winning two games. The first two games of a match are played to 15 points. If each side wins one game, a tiebreaker game is played to 11 points.

2 — COURTS AND EQUIPMENT

Rule 2.1 COURT SPECIFICATIONS

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

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

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

1. Short Line. The back edge of the short line is midway between, and is parallel with, the front and back walls.
2. Service Line. The front edge of the service line is parallel with, and five

feet in front of, the back edge of the short line.

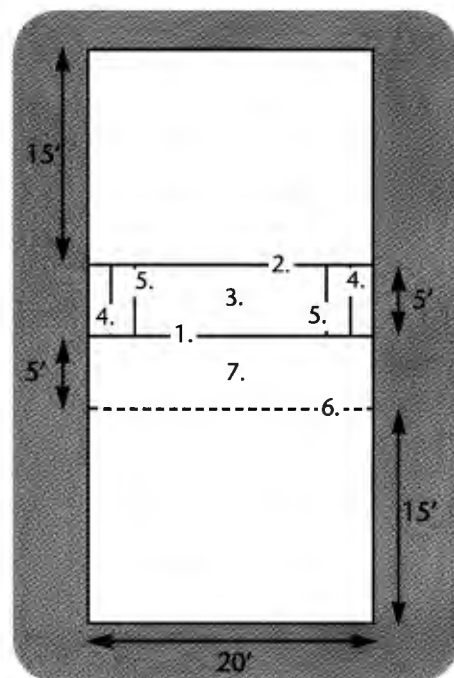
3. Service Zone. The service zone is the 5' x 20' area bounded by the bottom edges of the side walls and by the outer edges of the short line and the service line.

4. Service Boxes. The service boxes are located at each end of the service zone and are designated by lines parallel with the side walls. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be 18 inches from the nearest side wall.

5. Drive Serve Lines. The drive serve lines, which form the drive serve zone, are parallel with the side wall and are within the service zone. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be three feet from the nearest side wall.

6. Receiving Line. The receiving line is a broken line parallel to the short line. The back edge of the receiving line is five feet from the back edge of the short line. The receiving line begins with a line 21 inches long that extends from each side wall. These lines are connected by an alternate series of six-inch spaces and six-inch lines. This will result in a line composed of 17 six-inch spaces, 16 six-inch lines, and two 21-inch lines.

7. Safety Zone. The safety zone is the 5' x 20' area bounded by the bottom edges of the side walls and by the back edges of the short line and the receiving line. The zone is observed only during the serve. See Rules 3.10(i) and 3.11(a).



Rule 2.2 BALL SPECIFICATIONS

(a) The standard racquetball shall be 2 1/4 inches in diameter; weigh approximately 1.4 ounces; have a hardness of 55-60 inches durometer; and bounce 68-72 inches from a 100-inch drop at a temperature of 70-74 degrees Fahrenheit.

(b) Only a ball having the endorsement or approval of the USRA may be used in a USRA sanctioned tournament.

Rule 2.3 BALL SELECTION

(a) A ball shall be selected by the referee for use in each match. During the match the referee may, based on personal discretion or at the request of a player or team, replace the ball. Balls that are not round or which bounce erratically shall not be used.

(b) If possible, the referee and players should agree to an alternate ball, so that in the event of breakage, the second ball can be put into play immediately.

Rule 2.4 RACQUET SPECIFICATIONS

(a) The racquet, including bumper guard and all solid parts of the handle, may not exceed 22 inches in length.

(b) The racquet frame may be any material judged to be safe.

(c) The racquet frame must include a cord that must be securely attached to the player's wrist.

(d) The string of the racquet must be gut, monofilament, nylon, graphite, plastic, metal, or a combination thereof, and must not mark or deface the ball.

(e) Using an illegal racquet will result in forfeiture of the game in progress or, if discovered between games, forfeiture of the preceding game.

Rule 2.5 APPAREL

(a) All players must wear lensed eyewear that has been warranted by its manufacturer or distributor as 1.) designed for use in racquetball and 2.) meeting or exceeding either the full ASTM F803 standard or Canadian (CSA) impact standard. This rule applies to all persons, including those who wear corrective lenses. The eyewear must be unaltered and worn as designed at all times. A player who fails to wear proper eyewear will be assessed a technical foul and a timeout to obtain proper eyewear. A second infraction in the same match will result in immediate forfeiture of the match. [See Rule 3.17(a)9]

The USRA maintains a complete list of all eyewear so warranted by their manufacturers, and distributes the current list to the directors of every sanctioned event. In addition the list is published on the Internet at <http://www.usra.org/PUB&REF/eyeguard.htm>, and may appear periodically in *RACQUETBALL*. A printed list is also made available upon request from the USRA's National Office [719/635-5396].

Eyewear NOT on the then-current list CAN NOT be used in sanctioned events. An eyewear list with a date more than 60 days past the first day of the tournament will be deemed invalid for the purpose of determining compliance with this eyewear rule.

(b) Clothing and Shoes. The clothing may be of any color; however, a player may be required to change wet, extremely loose fitting, or otherwise distracting garments. Insignias and writing on the clothing must be considered to be in good taste by the tournament director. Shoes must have soles which do not mark or damage the floor.

(c) Equipment Requirements During Warm-up. Proper eyeguards [see 2.5(a)] must be worn and wrist cords must be used during any on-court warm-up period. The referee should give a technical warning to any person who fails to comply and assess a technical foul if that player continues to not comply after receiving such a warning.

3 — PLAY REGULATIONS

Rule 3.1 SERVE

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

Rule 3.2 START

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

Rule 3.3 MANNER

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

Rule 3.4 READINESS

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

Rule 3.5 DELAYS

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

(a) The 10 second rule applies to the server and receiver simultaneously. Collectively, they are allowed up to 10 seconds after the score is called to serve or be ready to receive. It is the server's responsibility to look and be certain the receiver is ready. If a receiver is not ready, they must signal by raising the racquet above the head or completely turning the back to the server. (These are the only two acceptable signals.)

(b) Serving while the receiving player/team is signaling "not ready" is a fault serve.

(c) After the score is called, if the server looks at the receiver and the receiver is not signaling "not ready", the server may then serve. If the receiver attempts to signal "not ready" after that point, the signal shall not be acknowledged and the serve becomes legal.

Rule 3.6 DRIVE SERVICE ZONES

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

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

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

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

Rule 3.7 DEFECTIVE SERVES

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

(a) Dead-Ball Serve. A dead-ball serve results in no penalty and the server is given another serve (without canceling a prior fault serve).

(b) Fault Serve. Two fault serves result in an out (either a sideout or a handout).

(c) Out Serve. An out serve results in an out (either a sideout or a handout).

Rule 3.8 DEAD-BALL SERVES

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

(a) Court Hinders. A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve. Also, any serve that hits any surface designated by local rules as an obstruction rather than being out-of-play.

(b) Broken Ball. If the ball is determined to have broken on the serve, a new ball shall be substituted and the serve shall be replayed, not canceling any prior fault serve.

Rule 3.9 FAULT SERVES

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

(a) Foot Faults. A foot fault results when:

1. The server does not begin the service motion with both feet in the service zone.
2. The server steps completely over the service line (no part of the foot on or inside the service zone) before the served ball crosses the short line.

(b) Short Service. A short serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, hits the floor on or in front of the short line either with or without touching a side wall.

(c) Three Wall Serve. A three-wall serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, strikes both side walls before touching the floor.

(d) Ceiling Serve. A ceiling serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and then touches the ceiling (with or without touching a side wall).

(e) Long Serve. A long serve is a served ball that first hits the front wall and rebounds to the back wall before touching the floor (with or without touching a side wall).

(f) Bouncing Ball Outside Service Zone. Bouncing the ball outside the service zone as a part of the service motion is a fault serve.

(g) Illegal Drive Serve. A drive serve in which the player fails to observe the 17-foot drive service zone outlined in Rule 3.6.

(h) Screen Serve. A served ball that first hits the front wall and on the rebound passes so closely to the server, or server's partner in doubles, that it prevents the receiver from having a clear view of the ball. (The receiver is obligated to take up good court position, near center court, to obtain that view.)

(i) Serving before the Receiver is Ready. A serve is made while the receiver is not ready as described in Rule 3.5(b).

Rule 3.10 OUT SERVES

Any of the following results in an out:

(a) Two Consecutive Fault Serves. See Rule 3.9.

(b) Missed Serve Attempt. Any attempt to strike the ball that results in a total miss or in the ball touching any part of the server's body. Also, allowing the ball to bounce more than once during the service motion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rule 3.11 RETURN OF SERVE

(a) Receiving Position

1. The receiver may not enter the safety zone until the ball bounces or crosses the receiving line.
2. On the fly return attempt, the receiver may not strike the ball until the ball breaks the plane of the receiving line. However, the receiver's follow-through may carry the receiver or the racquet past the receiving line.
3. Neither the receiver nor the racquet may break the plane of the short line, except if the ball is struck after

rebounding off the back wall.

4. Any violation by the receiver results in a point for the server.

(b) Defective Serve. A player on the receiving side may not intentionally catch or touch a served ball (such as an apparently long or short serve) until the referee has made a call or the ball has touched the floor for a second time. Violation results in a point.

(c) Legal Return. After a legal serve, a player receiving the serve must strike the ball on the fly or after the first bounce, and before the ball touches the floor the second time; and return the ball to the front wall, either directly or after touching one or both side walls, the back wall or the ceiling, or any combination of those surfaces. A returned ball must touch the front wall before touching the floor.

(d) Failure to Return. The failure to return a serve results in a point for the server.

(e) Other Provisions. Except as noted in this rule (3.11), the return of serve is subject to all provisions of Rules 3.13 through 3.15.

Rule 3.12 CHANGES OF SERVE

(a) Outs. A server is entitled to continue serving until one of the following occurs:

1. Out Serve. See Rule 3.10.
2. Two Consecutive Fault Serves. See Rule 3.9.
3. Failure to Return Ball. Player or team fails to keep the ball in play as required by Rule 3.11 (c).
4. Avoidable Hinder. Player or team commits an avoidable hinder which results in an out. See Rule 3.15.

(b) Sideout. Retiring the server in singles is called a sideout.

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

Rule 3.13 RALLIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(g) Play Stoppage

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

(h) Replays. Whenever a rally is replayed for any reason, the server is awarded two serves. A previous fault serve is not considered.

Rule 3.14 DEAD-BALL HINDERS

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

(a) Situations

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

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

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

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

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

avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.

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

7. Other Interference. Any other unintentional interference which prevents an opponent from having a fair chance to see or return the ball. Example: When a ball from another court enters the court during a rally or when a referee's call on an adjacent court obviously distracts a player.

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

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

Rule 3.15 AVOIDABLE HINDERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rule 3.16 TIMEOUTS

(a) **Rest Periods.** Each player or team is entitled to three 30-second timeouts in games to 15 and two 30-second timeouts in games to 11. Timeouts may not be called by either side after service motion has begun. Calling for a timeout when none remain or after service motion has begun, or taking more than 30 seconds in a timeout, will result in the assessment of a technical foul for delay of game.

(b) **Injury.** If a player is injured during the course of a match as a result of contact, such as with the ball, racquet, wall or floor, an injury timeout will be awarded. While a player may call more than one timeout for the same injury or for additional injuries which occur during the match, a player is not allowed more than a total of 15 minutes of rest for injury during the entire match. If the injured player is not able to resume play after total rest of 15 minutes, the match shall be awarded to the opponent.

1. Should any external bleeding occur, the referee must halt play as soon as the rally is over, charge an injury timeout to the person who is bleeding, and not allow the match to continue until the bleeding has stopped.
2. Muscle cramps and pulls, fatigue, and other ailments that are not caused by direct contact on the court will not be

considered an injury. Injury time is also not allowed for pre-existing conditions.

(c) **Equipment Timeouts.** Players are expected to keep all clothing and equipment in good, playable condition and are expected to use regular timeouts and time between games for adjustment and replacement of equipment. If a player or team is out of timeouts and the referee determines that an equipment change or adjustment is necessary for fair and safe continuation of the match, the referee may grant an equipment timeout not to exceed 2 minutes. The referee may allow additional time under unusual circumstances.

(d) **Between Games.** The rest period between the first two games of a match is 2 minutes. If a tiebreaker is necessary, the rest period between the second and third game is 5 minutes.

(e) **Postponed Games.** Any games postponed by referees shall be resumed with the same score as when postponed.

Rule 3.17 TECHNICAL FOULS AND WARNINGS

(a) **Technical Fouls.** The referee is empowered to deduct one point from a player's or team's score when, in the referee's sole judgment, the player is being overtly and deliberately abusive. If the player or team against whom the technical foul was assessed does not resume play immediately, the referee is empowered to forfeit the match in favor of the opponent. Some examples of actions which can result in technical fouls are:

1. Profanity.
2. Excessive arguing.
3. Threat of any nature to opponent or referee.
4. Excessive or hard striking of the ball between rallies.
5. Slamming of the racquet against walls or floor, slamming the door, or any action which might result in damage to the court or injury to other players.
6. Delay of game. Examples include (i) taking too much time to dry the court, (ii) excessive questioning of the referee about the rules, (iii) exceeding the time allotted for timeouts or between games, (iv) calling a timeout when none remain, or after the service motion begins, or (v) taking more than ten seconds to serve or be ready to receive serve.
7. Intentional front line foot fault to negate a bad lob serve.
8. Anything the referee considers to be unsportsmanlike behavior.
9. Failure to wear lensed eyewear designed for racquet sports [See Rule 2.5(a)] is an automatic technical foul on the first infraction, plus a mandatory timeout (to acquire the proper eyewear) will be charged against the offending player. A second infraction by that player during the match will result in automatic forfeiture of the match.

(b) **Technical Warnings.** If a player's behavior is not so severe as to warrant a technical foul, a technical warning may be issued without the deduction of a point.

(c) **Effect of Technical Foul or Warning.** If a referee issues a technical foul, one point shall be removed from the offender's score. No point will be deducted if a referee issues a technical warning. In either case, a technical foul or warning should be accompanied by a brief explanation. Issuing a technical foul or warning has no effect on who will be serving when play resumes. If a technical foul occurs when the offender has no points or between games, the result will be that the offender's score becomes minus one (-1).

RULE MODIFICATIONS

The following sections (4.0 through 11.0) detail the additional or modified rules that apply to variations of the singles game described in Sections 1 through 3.

4.0 — DOUBLES

The USRA's rules for singles also apply in doubles with the following additions and modifications:

Rule 4.1 DOUBLES TEAM

(a) A doubles team shall consist of two players who meet either the age requirements or player classification requirements to participate in a particular division of play. A team with different skill levels must play in the division of the player with the higher level of ability. When playing in an adult age division, the team must play in the division of the younger player. When playing in a junior age division, the team must play in the division of the older player.

(b) A change in playing partners may be made so long as the first match of the posted team has not begun. For this purpose only, the match will be considered started once the teams have been called to the court. The team must notify the tournament director of the change prior to the beginning of the match.

Rule 4.2 SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) **Order of Serve.** Each team shall inform the referee of the order of service which shall be followed throughout that game. The order of serve may be changed between games. At the beginning of each game, when the first server of the first team to serve is out, the team is out. Thereafter, both players on each team shall serve until the team receives a handout and a sideout.

(b) **Partner's Position.** On each serve, the server's partner shall stand erect with back to the side wall and with both feet on the floor within the service box from the moment the server begins the service motion until the served ball passes the short line. Violations are called foot faults.

However, if the server's partner enters the safety zone before the ball passes the short line, the server loses service.

(c) Changes of Serve. In doubles, the side is retired when both partners have lost service, except that the team which serves first at the beginning of each game loses the serve when the first server is retired.

Rule 4.3 FAULT SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) The server's partner is not in the service box with both feet on the floor and back to the side wall from the time the server begins the service motion until the ball passes the short line.

(b) A served ball that hits the doubles partner while in the doubles box results in a fault serve.

Rule 4.4 OUT SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) Out-of-Order Serve. In doubles, when either partner serves out of order, the points scored by that server will be subtracted and an out serve will be called: if the second server serves out of order, the out serve will be applied to the first server and the second server will resume serving. If the player designated as the first server serves out of order, a sideout will be called. The referee should call "no serve" as soon as an out-of-order serve occurs. If no points are scored while the team is out of order, only the out penalty will have to be assessed. However, if points are scored before the out of order condition is noticed and the referee cannot recall the number, the referee may enlist the aid of the line judges (but not the crowd) to recall the number of points to be deducted.

(b) Ball Hits Partner. A served ball that hits the doubles partner while outside the doubles box results in loss of serve.

Rule 4.5 RETURN IN DOUBLES

(a) The rally is lost if one player hits that same player's partner with an attempted return.

(b) If one player swings at the ball and misses it, both partners may make further attempts to return the ball until it touches the floor the second time. Both partners on a side are entitled to return the ball.

5.0 — ONE SERVE

The USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the following:

Rule 5.1 ONE SERVE

Only one serve is allowed. Therefore, any fault serve is an out serve, with a few exceptions.

Rule 5.2 SCREEN SERVE

If a serve is called a screen, the server will be allowed one more opportunity to hit a legal serve. Two consecutive screen serves results in an out.

Rule 5.3 SERVE HITS PARTNER

In doubles, if a serve hits the non-serving partner while standing in the box, the server will be allowed one more opportunity to hit a legal serve. Hitting the non-serving partner twice, results in an out.

Rule 5.4 CONSECUTIVE FAULTS

In doubles, either (i) a screen serve followed by hitting the non-serving partner or (ii) hitting the non-serving partner followed by a screen serve, results in an out.

6.0 — MULTI-BOUNCE

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 6.1 BASIC RETURN RULE

In general, the ball remains in play as long as it is bouncing. However, the player may swing only once at the ball and the ball is considered dead at the point it stops bouncing and begins to roll. Also, anytime the ball rebounds off the back wall, it must be struck before it crosses the short line on the way to the front wall, except as explained in Rule 6.2.

Rule 6.2 BLAST RULE

If the ball caroms from the front wall to the back wall on the fly, the player may hit the ball from any place on the court—including past the short line—so long as the ball is still bouncing.

Rule 6.3 FRONT WALL LINES

Two parallel lines (tape may be used) should be placed across the front wall such that the bottom edge of one line is 3 feet above the floor and the bottom edge of the other line is 1 foot above the floor. During the rally, any ball that hits the front wall (i) below the 3-foot line and (ii) either on or above the 1-foot line must be returned before it bounces a third time. However, if the ball hits below the 1-foot line, it must be returned before it bounces twice. If the ball hits on or above the 3-foot line, the ball must be returned as described in the basic return rule.

Rule 6.4 GAMES AND MATCHES

All games are played to 11 points and the first side to win two games, wins the match.

7.0 — ONE-WALL & THREE-WALL PLAY

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 7.1 ONE-WALL

There are two playing surfaces—the front wall and the floor. The wall is 20 feet wide and 16 feet high. The floor is 20 feet wide and 34 feet to the back edge of the long line. To permit movement by players, there should be a minimum of three feet (six feet is recommended) beyond the long line and six feet outside each side line.

(a) Short Line. The back edge of the short line is 16 feet from the wall.

(b) Service Markers. Lines at least six inches long which are parallel with, and midway between, the long and short lines. The extension of the service markers form the imaginary boundary of the service line.

(c) Service Zone. The entire floor area inside and including the short line, side lines and service line.

(d) Receiving Zone. The entire floor area in back of the short line, including the side lines and the long line.

Rule 7.2 THREE WALL

(a) Short Side Wall. The front wall is 20 feet wide and 20 feet high. The side walls are 20 feet long and 20 feet high, with the side walls tapering to 12 feet high. The floor length and court markings are the same as a four wall court.

(b) Long Side Wall. The court is 20 feet wide, 20 feet high and 40 feet long. The side walls may taper from 20 feet high at the front wall down to 12 feet high at the end of the court. All court markings are the same as a four wall court.

(c) Three wall service. A serve that goes beyond the side walls on the fly is an out. A serve that goes beyond the long line on a fly, but within the side walls, is a fault.

8.0 — WHEELCHAIR

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed, except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 8.1 MODIFICATIONS

(a) Where USRA rules refer to server, person, body, or other similar variations, for wheelchair play such reference shall include all parts of the wheelchair in addition to the person sitting on it.

(b) Where the rules refer to feet, standing or other similar descriptions, for wheelchair play it means only where the rear wheels actually touch the floor.

(c) Where the rules mention body contact, for wheelchair play it shall mean any part of the wheelchair in addition to the player.

(d) Where the rules refer to double bounce or after the first bounce, it shall mean three bounces. All variations of the same phrases shall be revised accordingly.

Rule 8.2 DIVISIONS

(a) Novice Division. The novice division is for the beginning player who is just learning to play.

(b) Intermediate Division. The Intermediate Division is for the player who has played

tournaments before and has a skill level to be competitive in the division.

(c) Open Division. The Open Division is the highest level of play and is for the advanced player.

(d) Multi-Bounce Division. The Multi-Bounce Division is for the individuals (men or women) whose mobility is such that wheelchair racquetball would be impossible if not for the Multi-Bounce Division.

(e) Junior Division. The junior divisions are for players who are under the age of 19. The tournament director will determine if the divisions will be played as two bounce or multi-bounce. Age divisions are: 8-11, 12-15, and 16-18.

Rule 8.3 RULES

(a) Two Bounce Rule. Two bounces are used in wheelchair racquetball in all divisions except the Multi-Bounce Division. The ball may hit the floor twice before being returned.

(b) Out-of-Chair Rule. The player can neither intentionally jump out of the chair to hit a ball nor stand up in the chair to serve the ball. If the referee determines that the chair was left intentionally it will result in loss of the rally for the offender. If a player unintentionally leaves the chair, no penalty will be assessed. Repeat offenders will be warned by the referee.

(c) Equipment Standards. To protect playing surfaces, the tournament officials will not allow a person to participate with black tires or anything which will mark or damage the court.

(d) Start. The serve may be started from any place within the service zone. Although the front casters may extend beyond the lines of the service zone, at no time shall the rear wheels cross either the service or short line before the served ball crosses the short line. Penalties for violation are the same as those for the standard game.

(e) Maintenance Delay. A maintenance delay is a delay in the progress of a match due to a malfunction of a wheelchair, prosthesis, or assistive device. Such delay must be requested by the player, granted by the referee during the match, and shall not exceed 5 minutes. Only two such delays may be granted for each player for each match. After using both maintenance delays, the player has the following options: (i) continue play with the defective equipment, (ii) immediately substitute replacement equipment, or (iii) postpone the game, with the approval of the referee and opponent.

Rule 8.4 MULTI-BOUNCE RULES

(a) The ball may bounce as many times as the receiver wants though the player may swing only once to return the ball to the front wall.

(b) The ball must be hit before it crosses the short line on its way back to the front wall.

(c) The receiver cannot cross the short line after the ball contacts the back wall.

9.0 — VISUALLY IMPAIRED

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 9.1 ELIGIBILITY

A player's visual acuity must not be better than 20/200 with the best practical eye correction or else the player's field of vision must not be better than 20 degrees. The three classifications of blindness are B1 (totally blind to light perception), B2 (able to see hand movement up to 20/600 corrected), and B3 (from 20/600 to 20/200 corrected).

Rule 9.2 RETURN OF SERVE AND RALLIES

On the return of serve and on every return thereafter, the player may make multiple attempts to strike the ball until (i) the ball has been touched, (ii) the ball has stopped bouncing, or (iii) the ball has passed the short line after touching the back wall. The only exception is described in Rule 9.3.

Rule 9.3 BLAST RULE

If the ball (other than on the serve) caroms from the front wall to the back wall on the fly, the player may retrieve the ball from any place on the court—including in front of the short line—so long as the ball has not been touched and is still bouncing.

Rule 9.4 HINDERS

A dead-ball hinder will result in the rally being replayed without penalty unless the hinder was intentional. If a hinder is clearly intentional, an avoidable hinder should be called and the rally awarded to the non-offending player or team.

10.0 — DEAF [NRAD] MODIFICATIONS

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the National Racquetball Association of the Deaf [NRAD] modifications which follow.

Rule 10.1 ELIGIBILITY

An athlete shall have a hearing loss of 55 db or more in the better ear to be eligible for any NRAD tournament.

11.0 — PROFESSIONAL

In general, competition on both the International Racquetball Tour [IRT] and Women's International Racquetball Tour [WIRT] will follow the standard rules governing racquetball established by the USRA, except for the modifications which follow. Modifications for both professional tours are consistent, with one exception as noted in Rule 11.4.

Rule 11.1 GAME, MATCH

All games are played to 11 points, and are won by the player who scores to that level, with a 2-point lead. If necessary, the game will continue beyond 11 points, until such time as one player has a 2-point lead. Matches are played the best three out of a possible five games to 11.

Rule 11.2 APPEALS

The referee's call is final. There are no line judges, and no appeals may be made.

Rule 11.3 SERVE

Players are allowed only one serve to put the ball into play.

Rule 11.4 SCREEN SERVE

In IRT matches, screen serves are replayed. In WIRT matches, two consecutive screen serves will result in a sideout.

Rule 11.5 COURT HINDERS

No court hinders are allowed or called.

Rule 11.6 OUT-OF-COURT BALL

Any ball leaving the court results in a loss of rally.

Rule 11.7 BALL

All matches are played with the Penn Pro ball. The first, third, and fifth (if necessary) games of the match are started with a new ball.

Rule 11.8 TIMEOUTS

(a) Per Game. Each player is entitled to one 1-minute timeout per game.

(b) Between Points. The player has 15 seconds from the end of the previous rally to put the ball in play.

(c) Between Games. The rest period between all games is 2 minutes, including a fifth game tiebreaker.

(d) Equipment Timeouts. A player does not have to use regular timeouts to correct or adjust equipment, provided that the need for the change or adjustment is acknowledged by the referee as being necessary for fair and safe continuation of the match.

(e) Injury Timeout. Consists of two 7½ minute timeouts within a match. Once an injury timeout is taken, the full 7½ minutes must be used, or it is forfeited.

Promus Hotel Corporation

1998 U.S. OPEN

racquetball championships

Promus Hotel Corporation



Supporting St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital

PRESENTED BY:



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NationsBank®

The Racquet Club
of Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee
November 11-15, 1998

Entry Form and Ticket Application

'97 champion Cliff Svain

'97 champion Michelle Gould

Promus Hotel Corporation



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Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

IN EVERY SPORT, ONE EVENT STANDS ABOVE ALL OTHERS

Witness racquetball's only "Grand Slam", the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships presented by American Express and NationsBank. See all of the top players in the world, like Cliff Swain, Sudsy Monchik, and Michelle Gould compete for the largest prize money purse in the history of the sport—\$53,000+. Experience the thrill of dramatic player introductions featuring booming music and laser light shows. Stroll through the U.S. OPEN Hospitality Village and see what's new from the world's top racquetball manufacturers. Party the nights away with your favorite pros and racquetball fans from throughout the country.



Be there to see the world's only "made-for-TV" portable stadium racquetball court. The event will be nationally televised on ESPN2. In addition, over 550 amateur players will compete in age and skill divisions for every level. Special events include the "PARTY WITH THE PROS", an Industry Trade Show, Hospitality Village complete with concessions, live entertainment, and fan fair activities. 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 Kroger St. Jude Tennis Championships, a stop on the ATP Tour, which has hosted such top name players as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and Michael Chang.

Amateur divisions will be played at The University of Memphis Recreation Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club) and Wimbledon Sportsplex (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all three facilities will be provided on a regular basis.



\$53,000+

PRIZE MONEY \$53,000+

Men's Pro-\$35,000

1st	\$10,000
2nd	\$4,800
Semi's	\$2,400
Quarter's	\$1,200
16's	\$625
32's	\$350

Women's Pro-\$17,500

1st	\$4,000
2nd	\$2,500
Semi's	\$1,500
Quarter's	\$1,000
16's	\$500

Men's & Women's Open

1st	\$350
2nd	\$175
Semi's	\$85

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 Tuesday evening Reception Party and Wednesday night Pro Autograph Party in the Hospitality Village at The Racquet Club. And that's only the beginning! On Thursday and Friday evenings, the action moves to the "Pub" nightspot at the The Racquet Club of Memphis, which will feature a DJ spinning the hottest tunes for your dancing pleasure. Free munchies will be served each night. Mingle with the pros and racquetball fans from throughout the country.

Saturday evening will top off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year—the third Annual U.S. OPEN "PARTY WITH THE PROS". Over 1,500 racquetball fans are expected to turn out at The Racquet Club Party Center for an evening of live entertainment featuring one of Tennessee's hottest dance bands. Elegant ice carvings, extravagant hors d'ouerves, huge dance floor, silent auction for St. Jude, 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 \$25 per person. Players participating in the U.S. OPEN will be admitted free.

HOSPITALITY VILLAGE

The nerve center of the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships will be the U.S. OPEN Hospitality Village. Many activities are scheduled to take place in the Hospitality Village including an extensive Industry Trade Show, hard-hit contests, pro autograph signing sessions, live stage with entertainment, concessions, cash bar, informational seminars, and restaurant style seating. Admission is free for all spectators and players.

MADE-FOR-TV PORTABLE RACQUETBALL COURT

One of the most exciting aspects of the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is that the only "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court will be used for all feature matches! The unique construction of the court allows stadium seating for 1000+ in addition to court-side luxury boxes for sponsors and VIPs. From the quarterfinals on, all men's and women's pro matches will take place on the stadium court. Dramatic player introductions, complete with laser light shows and booming music, will treat racquetball fans to a total entertainment experience.

CO-SPONSORS

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PRO MATCH SCHEDULE

Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude Tuesday, 5pm-10pm
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying . . . Wednesday, 8am-3pm
Men's round of 64 Wednesday, 4pm-11pm
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 11am-3pm
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 2pm-6pm
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 6pm-10pm

Women's round of 16 Friday, 11am-3pm
Men's quarters Friday 4pm-9pm
Women's quarters Saturday 10am-noon
Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1 . . Saturday 2pm-4:30pm
Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2 . . Saturday 5pm-7:30pm
Women's finals/Men's finals Sunday 12:30pm-3pm

PLAY BEGINS/STARTING TIMES

Players must be prepared to play as early as 8am on the following dates. 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 are available after 5pm on Monday, November 9th by calling The Racquet Club at **(901) 765-4428**.

Wednesday Nov. 11th	All Pros, Men's Open, A, B, C, D, 24 & under, 24 & under A/B, 24 & under C/D, 25+, 25+A/B, 25+C/D, 30+, 35+, 35+A/B, 35+C/D, 40+, 45+, 45+A/B, 45+C/D, 55+A/B, 55+C/D
------------------------	---

Thursday Nov. 12th	Men's 50+, 55+, Women's Open, A, B, C, D, 24 & under, 24 & under A/B, 24 & under C/D, 25+, 25+A/B, 25+C/D, 30+, 35+, 35+A/B, 35+C/D, 40+, 45+, 45+A/B, 45+C/D
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Friday Nov. 13th	Men's 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, Women's 50+, 55+, 55+A/B, 55+C/D, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+
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MEMBERSHIP

All players must be current members of the USRA. If you are not, a membership can be purchased at the event (\$20 per year). In addition, all players entering the pro draws must be current members of the IRT/WIRT Players Association or join at the event.

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 Nov. 10th 3pm-10pm, Wednesday Nov. 11th 8am-10pm, Thursday Nov. 12th 8am-9pm, Friday Nov. 13th 8am-9pm, and Saturday Nov. 14th 8am-3pm.

SKILL LEVEL VERIFICATION

All players entering Skill Divisions and/or Skill + Age Divisions (i.e. A, B, 35 C/D, etc.) must either have their skill level verified by an AMPRO clinician prior to the event (have certification card) or submit the enclosed verification form with entry. All information submitted will be subject to verification by the State Association President in your home state. Players must compete in the same skill divisions as they have played in during the three-month period prior to the U.S. OPEN.

TICKETS FOR PRO MATCHES

Everyone will be required to purchase tickets for pro matches—see ticket application or call **(800) 756-5396**. All non-players must purchase a ticket to be admitted to the Saturday evening "PARTY WITH THE PROS". Seats are limited, therefore it is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets in advance. **ABSOLUTELY NO VIEWING WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT A TICKET.** Last year's event sold out 6 weeks in advance, so don't delay!



TRAVEL AND LODGING

Omega Travel and **Delta Air Lines** join the USRA in offering you the lowest possible airfares/rental car rates (Avis) to the U.S. OPEN. For reservations, call Omega Travel at **888-663-4216**. Be sure to reference the special U.S. OPEN Delta discount code—**DMN116561A**. Or, call Delta direct at 800-241-6760 (same code applies).

When making hotel reservations, you must mention the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Rates are good for up to 4 people per room. You must make reservations by Oct. 20, 1998 for these special rates.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. EMBASSY SUITES
1022 S. Shady Grove Rd.
Memphis, TN 38120
(901) 684-1777
Rate: \$119 per night | 2. HOMEWOOD SUITES
5811 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 763-0500
Rate: \$139-\$149 | 3. HAMPTON INN-Poplar
5320 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 683-8500
Rate: \$79 (code: USR) | 4. THE RIDGEWAY INN
5679 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 766-4000
Rate: \$95 |
| 5. EAST MEMPHIS HILTON
5069 Sanderlin Ave.
Memphis, TN 38117
(901) 767-6666
Rate: \$98 | 6. AMERISUITES
1220 Primacy Pkwy.
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 680-9700
Rate: \$89 | 7. THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS
5111 Sanderlin Ave.
(901) 765-4400 | 8. UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
630 Echles St.
(901) 678-2816 |
| 9. WIMBLETON SPORTSPLEX
6161 Shelby Oaks Dr.
(901) 388-6580 | | | |

Regular shuttle service will be available between all three clubs throughout the event. In addition, transportation will be provided from each host hotel to The Racquet Club during select morning and evening hours. No parking is available at The University of Memphis, so players must use the shuttle.



HOSPITALITY

Limited hospitality for amateur players will be available at The University of Memphis and the Wimbledon Sportsplex only. However, The Racquet Club of Memphis features a four-star restaurant for your dining pleasure, as well as the Hospitality Village with limited concessions offered throughout the tournament.

SILENT AUCTION & PRO/AM DOUBLES CHALLENGE

For the benefit of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the U.S. National Racquetball Team, a silent auction will be held during the event featuring Olympic Memorabilia and racquetball equipment from the industry's best manufacturers. Checks, cash, American Express, VISA, and MasterCard are welcome. In addition, Tuesday evening November 10th, 32 lucky amateurs will have the opportunity to play in a single elimination (1 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 for more information as spots are limited. Pro/Am Doubles for St. Jude—\$250 donation.

ST. JUDE HOSPITAL

The Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is 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 13,000 patients from 47 states and 53 countries, the hospital is a world leader in the treatment of catastrophic childhood illnesses.



RULES/FORMAT

All amateur divisions will be played according to official USRA rules, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. Pro divisions will use IRT/WIRT rules. For all age divisions, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of the tournament (Nov. 11th). All divisions (pro and amateur) will use the ProPenn (green) ball. Consolation brackets will be offered in all amateur divisions.

RANKING POINTS

Amateurs: The top 8 finishers in all divisions will receive USRA ranking points. This is a Level 5 event.

Professionals: On the IRT/WIRT tours, prize money determines the level of ranking points associated with a given event. The U.S. OPEN is the largest prize money event of the season.

OFFICIATING

All players will receive \$5 for each amateur match they referee. Players losing a match in the pro divisions must referee.

PROMUS HOTEL CORPORATION

We are very pleased to have Promus Hotel Corporation as our Title Sponsor. Promus is the parent company for well known hotel brands such as Doubletree Hotel and Guest Suites, Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn, Hampton Inn & Suites, Homewood Suites, and Club Hotels by Doubletree. Recognized around the world as a premier owner and operator of hotel properties, Promus Hotel Corporation has experienced incredible growth. With nearly 1,200 hotels worldwide and new properties being added each month Promus is a jewel in the hotel industry. As a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange (Symbol: PRH), Promus Hotel Corporation's stock has consistently outperformed the hotel indexes. Lead by C.E.O. Ray Schultz, a long time racquetball fan and player, Promus is poised to continue its explosive growth well into the next century.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Director: Doug Ganim

Executive Committee: Margo Daniels, Jim Hiser, Kay McCarthy, Martha Butler

Pro Commissioners: Hank Marcus, Molly O'Brien



**For More Information Call the
Promus Hotels U S OPEN
Racquetball Championships
Headquarters at (800) 756-5396.**

PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

	Price	Quantity	Total(\$)
SESSION #1:	\$7	_____	_____
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying Wednesday, 10am-3pm			
Men's round of 64 Wednesday, 4pm-11pm			
SESSION #2:	\$7	_____	_____
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 11am-3pm			
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 2pm-6pm			
SESSION #3:	\$7	_____	_____
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 6pm-10pm			
SESSION #4:	\$10	_____	_____
Women's round of 16 Friday, 11am-3pm			
Men's quarters #1,#2 Friday, 4pm-6:30pm			
SESSION #5:	\$10	_____	_____
Men's quarters #3, #4 Friday, 6:30pm-9pm			
SESSION #6:	\$7	_____	_____
Women's quarters(all) Saturday, 10am-noon			
SESSION #7:	\$12	_____	_____
Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1 Saturday, 2pm-4:30pm			
SESSION #8:	\$12	_____	_____
Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2 Saturday, 5pm-7:30pm			
SESSION #9:	\$18	_____	_____
Women's finals/Men's finals Sunday, 12:30pm-3pm			

BEST VALUE (\$25 savings)

TICKET PACKAGE (includes all sessions listed above) \$65

Ticket for PARTY WITH THE PROS	\$25	_____	_____
(free for all player participants) Saturday, 8pm-1:00am			
Processing fee (must be paid to process your order)	\$3	_____	\$3

Make check payable or use credit card and mail to:

U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921
- OR -

To order your tickets by phone call: (800) 756-5396

*Use your American
Express Card and
receive a free souvenir
U.S. OPEN Poster.

TOTAL _____

AmEx*/Visa/MC # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Street Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

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 4 person court-side box seats (with table service) are available starting at \$1,750. Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____
 Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (day) _____ Phone (night) _____
 Seeding Information (i.e National Ranking, State Ranking, Recent Results, etc.) _____

AMATEUR	Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events: Check one: Men's _____ or Women's _____			
	Skill Divisions*		Skill + Age Divisions*	
	Can only enter ONE from this group	A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐	24 & under A/B ☐ 24 & under C/D ☐ 25+ A/B ☐ 25+ C/D ☐ 35+ A/B ☐	35+ C/D ☐ 45+ A/B ☐ 45+ C/D ☐ 55+ A/B ☐ 55+ C/D ☐
	Open & Age Divisions			
	OPEN ☐ 24 & under ☐ 25+ ☐ 30+ ☐ 35+ ☐	40+ ☐ 45+ ☐ 50+ ☐ 55+ ☐ 60+ ☐	65+ ☐ 70+ ☐ 75+ ☐ 80+ ☐ Wheelchair ☐	

Skill Level Verification Form
 (complete if you enter any Skill Divisions and do not have an AMPRO certification card)
Recent Tournament Record

Event	Division	Result
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

I hereby certify that the skill level division(s) I have entered in the U.S. OPEN is the level at which I have competed in my state during the 3 months prior to this event. Further, I understand that the division(s) I have entered and the tournament record submitted above will be verified by my State Association President and that reclassification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

PRO	Men's (IRT)** _____	Women's (WIRT)** _____
	** The Men's Pro draw will begin in the round of 64 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. The Women's Pro draw will begin in the round of 32 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. Players wishing to enter the OPEN division must enter it directly as a second event.	

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release and all rights and claims that I may have against the USRA, IRT, WIRT, Ganim Enterprises, Inc., Promus Hotel Corporation, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Wimbledon Sportsplex, The University of Memphis, 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 in this event, I release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature _____ (parent if under 18) Date _____

* All players entering Skill Divisions and/or Skill + Age Divisions (i.e. A, B, 35 C/D, etc.) must either have their skill level verified by an AMPRO clinician prior to the event (have certification card) or submit the enclosed verification form with entry. All information submitted will be subject to verification by the State Association President in your home state. Players must compete in the same skill divisions as they have played in during the three month period prior to the U.S. OPEN.

ENTRY FEES

Players may enter a maximum of two events. Only singles divisions are offered. Consolation will be offered in all amateur divisions. Players in two divisions may play back to back matches. Returned checks will be assessed a \$20 service charge (\$10 for declined credit cards). Phone entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with an \$8 service charge and a major credit card by calling the U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 756-5396. Maximum amateur draw is 550 players. Once filled, all additional entries received will be returned with refund.

	Amount Pd.	Division
First Event (Amateurs) (\$75)	_____	_____
First Event (Pros) (\$90)	_____	_____
Second Event (\$35)	_____	_____
Late Fee/Phone Entry (\$15/\$8)	_____	_____
TOTAL		_____
AmEx*/Visa/MC _____	Exp. Date _____	
Cardholder's Name (print) _____		
Signature _____		

ENTRY DEADLINE:

All entries must be received by Sat. Oct. 31st.

No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a \$15 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

Limited hospitality, free access to Hospitality Village and fan fair activities at The Racquet Club, souvenir PROMUS HOTELS U.S. OPEN shirt, U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Sat. evening "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 6 weeks in advance!



Make check payable and mail to:
U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921

*Use your American Express Card and receive a free souvenir U.S. OPEN Poster.

To enter by phone call:
(800) 756-5396

official policies & procedures

COMPETITION POLICIES & PROCEDURES • CONTENTS

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national office contact information

United States Racquetball Association
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921
Tel: 719/635-5396
Fax: 719/635-0685
Email: usragen@webaccess.net
http://www.racquetball.org
OR http://www.usra.org
http://www.racqmag.com

national staff directory

Name	Title & Office Extension
Luke St. Onge	Executive Director (31)
Jim Hiser	Assoc. ED/Programming (30)
Kevin Joyce	Membership Director (23)
Linda Mojer	Assoc. ED/Communications (27)
Jeremy Case	Data Entry (21)
Rich Clay	National Rules Commissioner
Margo Daniels	Natl. Tournament Director
Michelle Gould	AmPRO Executive Director
Tyler Ohlbrecht	Distribution (32)
Barbara Saint Onge	Archives/Protocol (28)
Twyla Varnado	Customer Service (20)
Kevin Vicroy	Media/PR Manager (26)
Melody Weiss	Finance Director (22)
Dalene Werner	Office Manager (29)

A — TOURNAMENTS

A.1 DRAWS

(a) If possible, all draws shall be made at least 2 days before the tournament commences. The seeding method of drawing shall be approved by the USRA.

(b) At USRA National events, the draw and seeding committee shall be chaired by the USRA's Executive Director, National Tournament Director, and the host tournament director. No other persons shall participate in the draw or seeding unless at the invitation of the draw and seeding committee.

(c) In local and regional tournaments the draw shall be the responsibility of the tournament director.

A.2 CONSOLATION MATCHES

(a) Each entrant shall be entitled to participate in a minimum of two matches. Therefore, losers of their first match shall have the opportunity to compete in a consolation bracket of their own division. In draws of less than seven players, a round robin may be offered. See A.6 about how to determine the winner of a round robin event.

(b) Consolation matches may be waived at the discretion of the tournament director, but this waiver must be in writing on the tournament application.

(c) Preliminary consolation matches will be two of three games to 11 points. Semifinal and final matches will follow the regular scoring format.

A.3 SCHEDULING

(a) Preliminary Matches. If one or more contestants are entered in both singles and doubles, they may be required to play both singles and doubles on the same day with little rest between matches. This is a risk assumed on entering two singles events or a singles and doubles event. If possible, the schedule should provide at least 1 hour of rest between matches.

(b) Final Matches. Where one or more players has reached the finals in both singles and doubles, it is recommended that the doubles match be played on the day preceding the singles. This would assure more rest between the final matches. If both final matches must be played on the same day or night, the following procedure is recommended:

1. The singles match be played first, and;
2. A rest period of not less than 1 hour be allowed between the finals in singles and doubles.

A.4 NOTICE OF MATCHES

After the first round of matches, it is the responsibility of each player to check the posted schedules to determine the time and place of each subsequent match. If any change is made in the schedule after posting, it shall be the duty of the tournament director to notify the players of the change.

A.5 THIRD PLACE

Players are not required to play off for 3rd place. However, for point standings, if one semifinalist wants to play off for third and the other semifinalist does not, the one willing to play shall be awarded third place. If neither semifinalist wishes to play off for 3rd then the points shall be totaled, divided by 2, and awarded evenly to both players.

A.6 ROUND ROBIN SCORING

The final positions of players or teams in round robin competition is determined by the following sequence:

- a. Winner of the most matches;
- b. In a two way tie, winner of the head-to-head match;
- c. In a tie of three or more, the player who lost the fewest games is awarded the highest position.

1. If a two way tie remains, the winner of the head-to-head match is awarded the higher position.

2. If a multiple tie remains, the total "points scored against" each player in all matches will be tabulated and the player who had the least "points scored against" them is awarded the highest position. Note: Forfeits

will count as a match won in two games. In cases where "points scored against" is the tiebreaker, the points scored by the forfeiting team will be discounted from consideration of "points scored against" all teams.

A.7 COURT ASSIGNMENTS

In all USRA sanctioned tournaments, the tournament director and/or USRA official in attendance may decide on a change of court after the completion of any tournament game, if such a change will accommodate better spectator conditions.

A.8 TOURNAMENT CONDUCT

In all USRA sanctioned tournaments, the referee is empowered to forfeit a match, if the conduct of a player or team is considered detrimental to the tournament and the game. See B.5(d) and (e).

B — OFFICIATING

B.1 TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

All USRA sanctioned tournaments shall be managed by a tournament director, who shall designate the officials.

B.2 TOURNAMENT RULES COMMITTEE

The tournament director should appoint a tournament rules committee to resolve any disputes that the referee, tournament desk, or tournament director cannot resolve. The committee, composed of an odd number of persons, may include state or national officials, or other qualified individuals in attendance who are prepared to meet on short notice. The tournament director should not be a member of this committee.

B.3 REFEREE APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL

The principal official for every match shall be the referee who has been designated by the tournament director, or a designated representative, and who has been agreed upon by all participants in the match. The referee's authority regarding a match begins once the players are called to the court. The referee may be removed from a match upon the agreement of all participants (teams in doubles) or at the discretion of the tournament director or the designated representative. In the event that a referee's removal is requested by one player or team and not agreed to by the other, the tournament director or the designated representative may accept or reject the request. It is suggested that the match be observed before determining what, if any, action is to be taken. In addition, two line judges and a scorekeeper may also be designated to assist the referee in officiating the match.

B.4 RULES BRIEFING

Before all tournaments, all officials and players shall be briefed on rules as well as local court hindes, regulations, and modifications the tournament director wishes to impose. The briefing should be reduced to writing. The current USRA rules will apply and be made available. Any modifications the tournament director wishes to impose must be stated on the entry form and be available to all players at registration.

B.5 REFEREES

(a) Pre-Match Duties. Before each match begins, it shall be the duty of the referee to:

1. Check on adequacy of preparation of court with respect to cleanliness, lighting and temperature.
2. Check on availability and suitability of materials to include balls, towels, scorecards, pencils and timepiece necessary for the match.
3. Check the readiness and qualifications of the line judges and scorekeeper. Review appeal procedures and instruct them of their duties, rules and local regulations.
4. Go onto the court to make introductions; brief the players on court hindes (both designated and undesignated); identify any out-of-play areas (see rule 2.1(a)); discuss local regulations and rule modifications for this tournament; and explain often misinterpreted rules.

5. Inspect players' equipment; identify the line judges; verify selection of a primary and alternate ball.

6. Toss coin and offer the winner the choice of serving or receiving.

(b) Decisions. During the match, the referee shall make all decisions with regard to the rules. Where line judges are used, the referee shall announce all final judgments. If both players in singles and three out of four in a doubles match disagree with a call made by the referee, the referee is overruled, with the exception of technical fouls and forfeitures.

(c) Protests. Any decision of the referee will, on protest, be accorded due process as set forth in the constitution of the USRA. For the purposes of rendering a prompt decision regarding protests filed during the course of an ongoing tournament, the stages of due process will be: first to the tournament desk, then to the tournament director, and finally to the tournament rules committee. In those instances when time permits, the protest may be elevated to the state association or, when appropriate, to the national level as called for in the USRA constitution.

(d) Forfeitures. A match may be forfeited by the referee when:

1. Any player refuses to abide by the referee's decision or engages in unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Any player or team who fails to report to play 10 minutes after the match has been scheduled to play. (The tournament director may permit a longer delay if circumstances warrant such a decision.)
3. A game will be forfeited by the referee for using an illegal racquet as specified in Rule 2.4(e).

(e) Defaults. A player or team may be forfeited by the tournament director or official for failure to comply with the tournament or host facility's rules while on the premises between matches, or for abuse of hospitality, locker room, or other rules and procedures.

(f) Spectators. The referee shall have jurisdiction over the spectators, as well as the players, while the match is in progress.

(g) Other Rulings. The referee may rule on all matters not covered in the USRA Official Rules. However, the referee's ruling is subject to protest as described in B.5 (c).

B.6 LINE JUDGES

(a) When Utilized. Two line judges should be used for semifinal and final matches, when requested by a player or team, or when the referee or tournament director so desires. However, the use of line judges is subject to availability and the discretion of the tournament director.

(b) Replacing Line Judges. If any player objects to a person serving as a line judge before the match begins, all reasonable effort shall be made to find a replacement acceptable to the officials and players. If a player objects after the match begins, any replacement shall be at the discretion of the referee and/or tournament director.

(c) Position of Line Judges. The players and referee shall designate the court location of the line judges. Any dispute shall be settled by the tournament director.

(d) Duties and Responsibilities. Line judges are designated to help decide appeals. In the event of an appeal, and after a very brief explanation of the appeal by the referee, the line judges must indicate their opinion of the referee's call.

(e) Signals. Line judges should extend their arm and signal as follows: (i) thumb up to show agreement with the referee's call, (ii) thumb down to show disagreement, and (iii) hand open with palm facing down to indicate "no opinion" or that the play in question wasn't seen.

(f) **Manner of Response.** Line judges should be careful not to signal until the referee announces the appeal and asks for a ruling. In responding to the referee's request, line judges should not look at each other, but indicate their opinions simultaneously in clear view of the players and referee. If at any time a line judge is unsure of which call is being appealed or what the referee's call was, the line judge should ask the referee to repeat the call and the appeal.

(g) **Result of Response.** The referee's call stands if at least one line judge agrees with the referee or if neither line judge has an opinion. If both line judges disagree with the referee, the referee must reverse the call. If one line judge disagrees with the referee and the other signals no opinion, the rally is replayed. Any replays, with the exception of appeals on the second serve itself, will result in two serves.

B.7 APPEALS

(a) **Appealable Calls and Non-Calls.** In any match using line judges, a player may appeal any call or non-call by the referee, except for a technical foul or forfeiture.

(b) **How to Appeal.** A verbal appeal by a player must be made directly to the referee immediately after the rally has ended. A player who believes there is an infraction to appeal, should bring it to the attention of the referee and line judges by raising the non-racquet hand at the time the perceived infraction occurs. The player is obligated to continue to play until the rally has ended or the referee stops play. The referee will recognize a player's appeal only if it is made before that player leaves the court for any reason including timeouts and game-ending rallies or, if that player doesn't leave the court, before the next serve begins.

(c) **Loss of Appeal.** A player or team forfeits its right of appeal for that rally if the appeal is made directly to the line judges or, if the appeal is made after an excessive demonstration or complaint.

(d) **Limit on Appeals.** A player or team can make three appeals per game. However, if either line judge disagrees (thumb down) with the referee's call, that appeal will not count against the three-appeal limit. In addition, a potential game-ending rally may be appealed without charge against the limit—even if the three-appeal limit has been reached.

B.8 OUTCOME OF APPEALS

Everything except technical fouls and forfeitures can be appealed. The following outcomes cover several of the most common types of appeal, but not all possible appeals could be addressed. Therefore, referee's discretion and common sense should govern the outcomes of those appeals that are not covered herein:

(a) **Skip Ball.** If the referee makes a call of "skip ball," and the call is reversed, the referee then must decide if the shot in question could have been returned had play continued. If, in the opinion of the referee, the shot could have been returned, the rally shall be replayed. However, if the shot was not retrievable, the side which hit the shot in question is declared the winner of the rally. If the referee makes no call on a shot (thereby indicating that the shot did not skip), an appeal may be made that the shot skipped. If the "no call" is reversed, the side which hit the shot in question loses the rally.

(b) **Fault Serve.** If the referee makes a call of fault serve and the call is reversed, the serve is replayed, unless if the referee considered the serve to be not retrievable, in which case a point is awarded to the server. If an appeal is made because the referee makes no call on a serve—thereby indicating that the serve was good—and the "no call" is reversed, it will result in second serve if the infraction occurred on the first serve or loss of serve if the infraction occurred on the second serve.

(c) **Out Serve.** If the referee calls an "out serve," and the call is reversed, the serve will be replayed, unless the serve was obviously a fault too, in which case the call becomes fault serve. However, if the call is reversed and the serve was considered an ace, a point

will be awarded. Also, if the referee makes no call on a serve—thereby indicating that the serve was good—but the "no call" is reversed, it results in an immediate loss of serve.

(d) **Double Bounce Pickup.** If the referee makes a call of two bounces, and the call is reversed, the rally is replayed, except if the player against whom the call was made hit a shot that could not have been retrieved, then that player wins the rally. (Before awarding a rally in this situation, the referee must be certain that the shot would not have been retrieved even if play had not been halted.) If an appeal is made because the referee makes no call thereby indicating that the get was not two bounces, and the "no call" is reversed, the player who made the two bounce pickup is declared the loser of the rally.

(e) **Receiving Line Violation/Encroachment.** If the referee makes a call of encroachment, but the call is overturned, the serve shall be replayed unless the return was deemed irretrievable in which case a sideout (or possibly a handout in doubles) should be called. When an appeal is made because the referee made no call, and the appeal is successful, the server is awarded a point.

(f) **Court Hinder.** If the referee makes a call of court hinder during a rally or return of serve, the rally is replayed. If the referee makes no call and a player feels that a court hinder occurred, that player may appeal. If the appeal is successful, the rally will be replayed. A court hinder on a second serve results in only that serve being replayed.

B.9 RULE INTERPRETATIONS

If a player feels the referee has interpreted the rules incorrectly, the player may require the referee or tournament director to cite the applicable rule in the rulebook. Having discovered a misapplication or misinterpretation, the official must correct the error by replaying the rally, awarding the point, calling sideout, or taking other corrective measures.

C — ELIGIBILITY & NATIONAL EVENTS

C.1 PROFESSIONAL

A professional is defined as any player who has accepted prize money regardless of the amount in any professional sanctioned (including IRT/WIRT) tournament or in any other tournament so deemed by the USRA Board of Directors. (Note: Any player concerned about the adverse effect of losing amateur status should contact the USRA National Office at the earliest opportunity to ensure a clear understanding of this rule and that no action is taken that could jeopardize that status.)

(a) An amateur player may participate in a professional sanctioned tournament but will not be considered a professional (i) if no prize money is accepted or (ii) if the prize money received remains intact and placed in trust under USRA guidelines.

(b) The acceptance of merchandise or travel expenses shall not be considered prize money, and thus does not jeopardize a player's amateur status.

C.2 RETURN TO AMATEUR STATUS

Any player who has been classified as a professional can re-establish amateur status by requesting, in writing, this desire to be reclassified as an amateur. This application shall be tendered to the Executive Director of the USRA or a designated representative, and shall become effective immediately as long as the player making application for reinstatement of amateur status has received no money in any tournament, as defined in C.1, for the past 12 months.

C.3 USRA ELIGIBILITY

(a) Any current USRA member who has not been classified as a professional (See C.1) may compete in any USRA sanctioned tournament.

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United States Racquetball Association

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the official supplier of USRA and
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Omaha, NE



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henley. Embroidered
with your choice of
USRA or USA logo.
Adult sizes M-XXL.

NAVY
RED
ASH

HE-USRA \$24.00
HE-USA \$24.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.



100% extra
heavyweight 7 oz.
cotton mock turtleneck.
Embroidered with your
choice of USRA or USA
logo. Adult sizes M-
XXL.

WHITE

MT-USRA \$26.00
MT-USA \$26.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.



100% cotton pique knit
Stars 'n Stripes golf shirt.
Embroidered with your
choice of USRA or USA
logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

WHITE
NAVY

SS-USRA \$49.00
SS-USA \$49.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.



100% heavy-weight cotton
pique golf shirt. Embroidered
with your choice of USRA or
USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

RED
WHITE
NAVY

GS-USRA \$30.00
GS-USA \$30.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.



90/10 Cotton/Poly 9 oz.
sweatshirt. Available
with USRA or USA
embroidered
logo. Adult
sizes M-XXL.

RED
HEATHER
NAVY

SW-USRA \$32.00
SW-USA \$32.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.

100% Cotton denim jacket with two front flap pockets and two side welt pockets. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

DJ-USRA \$69.00
DJ-USA \$69.00

*Add \$4.00 for XXL sizes.

80/20 heavyweight pique fleece half-zip pullover with two in-seam pockets. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

FP-USRA \$66.00
FP-USA \$66.00

*Add \$4.00 for XXL sizes.

Denier polyester sport bag with three outside pockets. Detachable shoulder strap. USRA or USA embroidered logo. 20"X10"X10"

RED

SB-USRA \$40.00
SB-USA \$40.00

Six panel adjustable cap available in colors and embroidered designs shown.

CP-USRA \$17.00
CP-USA \$17.00

100% Cotton heavyweight denim shirt with button-down collar and left chest pocket. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

DS-USRA \$39.00
DS-USA \$39.00

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100% cotton seed stitch crew neck sweater. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

CNS-USRA \$60.00
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100% nylon fully lined warm up suit with matching pants. Embroidered with USA or USRA front logo. Adult sizes S-XXL.

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(b) Any current USRA member who has been classified as a professional may compete in any event at a USRA sanctioned tournament that offers prize money or merchandise.

C.4 RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS

Title opportunities at national championships will be selected from the division lists which follow. Combined "Age + Skill" divisions may also be offered to provide additional competitive opportunities for non-open entrants. For ranking consistency, state organizations are encouraged to select from these recognized divisions when establishing competition in all sanctioned events.

(a) Open Division. Any player with amateur status.

(b) Adult Open Age Divisions. Eligibility is determined by the player's age on the first day of the tournament. Divisions are:

- 24 & under - Varsity
- 25+ - Junior Veterans
- 30+ - Veterans
- 35+ - Seniors
- 40+ - Veteran Seniors
- 45+ - Masters
- 50+ - Veteran Masters
- 55+ - Golden Masters
- 60+ - Veteran Golden Masters
- 65+ - Senior Golden Masters
- 70+ - Advanced Golden Masters
- 75+ - Super Golden Masters
- 80+ - Grand Masters
- 85+ - Super Grand Masters

(c) Junior Age Divisions. Player eligibility is determined by the player's age on January 1st of the current calendar year. Divisions are:

- 18 & Under
- 16 & Under
- 14 & Under
- 12 & Under
- 10 & Under
- 8 & Under (regular rules)
- 8 & Under (multi-bounce rules)
- 6 & Under (regular rules)
- 6 & Under (multi-bounce rules)

(d) Skill Divisions. Player eligibility is determined by AmPRO skill level certification, or verification by a state association official, at the entered level.

- A
- B
- C
- D
- Novice

(e) Age + Skill Divisions. Player eligibility is determined by the player's age on the first day of the tournament, plus AmPRO skill level certification, or verification by a state association official, at the entered skill level. Such combinations may be offered as additional competition to players who do not fall into the "open" or designated skill levels of play. For example: 24- A/B • 30+ B • 35+ C/D • 40+ A • 65 + A/B, etc.

C.5 DIVISION COMPETITION BY GENDER

Men and women may compete only in events and divisions for their respective gender during regional and national tournaments. If there is not sufficient number of players to warrant play in a specific division, the tournament director may place the entrants in a comparably competitive division. Note: For the purpose of encouraging the development of women's racquetball, the governing bodies of numerous states permit women to play in men's divisions when a comparable skill level is not available in the women's divisions.

C.6 USRA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) Adult Regional Tournaments

1. Regional tournaments will be conducted at various metropolitan

sites designated annually by the USRA and players may compete at any site they choose.

2. A person may compete in any number of adult regional tournaments, but may not enter a championship division (as listed in C.4) after having won that division at a previous adult regional tournament that same year.
3. A person cannot participate in more than two championship events at a regional tournament.
4. Any awards or remuneration to a USRA National Championship will be posted on the entry blank.
5. One-serve rules (see Rule 5.0) will be used in all open divisions at USRA National and Regional Championships. Their use is optional at other tournaments.

(b) Junior Regional Tournaments. All provisions of C.6(a) also apply to juniors, except:

1. Regional tournaments will be conducted within the following regions which are identified for the purposes of junior competition:
 - Region 1 — Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut
 - Region 2 — New York, New Jersey
 - Region 3 — Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, District of Columbia
 - Region 4 — Florida, Georgia
 - Region 5 — Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee
 - Region 6 — Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma
 - Region 7 — Texas, Louisiana
 - Region 8 — Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois
 - Region 9 — West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan
 - Region 10 — Indiana, Kentucky
 - Region 11 — North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska
 - Region 12 — Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado
 - Region 13 — Montana, Wyoming
 - Region 14 — California, Hawaii, Nevada
 - Region 15 — Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Alaska
 - Region 16 — North Carolina, South Carolina
2. A junior may compete in any number of junior regional tournaments, but may not enter a division (as listed in C.4 (c)) after having won that division at a previous junior regional tournament that same year.
3. The provisions of C.6(a)3 may not apply if tournaments (singles/doubles or adults/juniors) are combined.

C.7 U.S. NATIONAL SINGLES AND DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U.S. National Singles and Doubles Tournaments are separate tournaments and are played on different dates. Consolation events will be offered for all divisions. One serve rules (see Rule 5.0) will apply in all Open divisions.

(a) Competition in an Adult Regional singles tournament is required to qualify for the National Singles Championship.

1. Exception: Men of the age of 55 and over (55+), and women age 45 and over (45+), are not required to qualify for the National Singles Championship.
2. Exception: Any player who competes in either a junior or inter-collegiate regional preceding the National Singles, will not be required to compete in an Adult Regional event.

(b) The National Tournament Director may handle the rating of each region and determine how many players shall qualify from each regional tournament.

(c) If a region is oversubscribed, a playoff to qualify players in a division may be conducted the day prior to the start of a National Championship.

C.8 U.S. NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships and generally subject to the provisions of C.7.

C.9 U.S. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships.

C.10 U.S. NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships.

C.11 U.S. OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships, and include both pro and amateur competitive divisions.

D — PROCEDURES

D.1 RULE CHANGE PROCEDURES

To ensure the orderly growth of racquetball, the USRA has established specific procedures that are followed before a major change is made to the rules of the game. *NOTE: Changes to rules and regulations in Sections 1 through 10 must adhere to published rule change procedures. Remaining sections may be altered by vote of the USRA Board of Directors*.*

1. Rule change proposals must be submitted in writing to the USRA National Office by June 1st. *NOTE: The Board of Directors has imposed a moratorium on rule changes that establishes the next deadline for submission of rule change proposals as June 1, 2001, which would set the earliest possible effective date as September 1, 2002. [See following timeline for procedural details.]*
2. The USRA Board of Directors will review all proposals at its October board meeting and determine which will be considered.
3. Selected proposals will be published in *RACQUETBALL* magazine — the official USRA publication — as soon as possible after the October meeting for comment by the general membership.
4. After reviewing membership input and the recommendations of the National Rules Committee and National Rules Commissioner, the proposals are discussed and voted upon at the annual Board of Directors meeting in May.
5. Changes approved in May become effective on September 1st. Exception: changes in racquet specifications become effective 2 years later on September 1st.
6. Proposed rules that are considered for adoption in one year, but are not approved by the Board of Directors in May of that year, will not be considered for adoption the following year.

* The following "policies & procedures" segments are subject to stated rule change procedures outlined in D.1:

- A.6 Round Robin Scoring
- A.8 Tournament Conduct
- B.5 (d-g) Forfeitures, Defaults ...
- B.6 Line Judges
- B.7 Appeals
- B.8 Outcome of Appeals

D.2 USRA NATIONAL RULES COMMITTEE

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Issues Not Covered by the Rulebook	8.5(g)
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Injuries	3.16(b)
Equipment	3.16(c)
Tournaments	A



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1991 • World Intercollegiates: Elaine Hooghe vs. Cindy Doyle & Tim Sweeney vs. Jim Floyd • **National Singles [Women's Open]:** Michelle Gilman vs. Toni Bevelock • **National Singles [Men's Open]:** Tim Sweeney vs. Egan Inoue & Charlie Garrido vs. Brian Rankin (M19+) • **Junior Olympics:** Elkova Icenogle vs. Jenny Spangenberg & John Ellis vs. Sameer Hadid • **Pacific Rim Championships:** Michelle Gilman vs. Heather Stupp &

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

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

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

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Name _____
 Address _____
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 Phone (Day) _____ (Eves) _____
 Birthdate _____ Age _____
 Employer _____ Occupation _____
 Partner _____ Division _____
 Partner _____ Division _____
 Partner _____ Mixed _____ *

*A third division is offered for Mixed Division play only. Players in three divisions will be allowed to compete in only ONE consolation round.

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the USRA, Ektekon, Merritt Athletic Club/Security, Penn Racquet Sports, or their respective agents for any and all injuries. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can provide certification in writing that my protective eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USRA Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the USRA/USOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

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Entry form is not complete – nor is entry accepted – without check for correct amount enclosed, required signatures affixed and all information provided. If any fees are pre-authorized for payment at tournament check-in, they will be processed as a late entry – and surcharged a \$15.00 late fee. • Official Ball: ProPenn •

MEN	•Divisions•	WOMEN
_____	Open	_____
_____	24- *	_____
_____	25+	_____
_____	30+	_____
_____	35+	_____
_____	40+	_____
_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____

*both players must be 24 years of age, or under, to compete in this division.

• Skill Levels & Age/Skill •

Both players on a team must be certified to compete in skill levels, either by AmPRO rating, or via written verification from their state president (indicating competition at the entered level in the preceding four months). **Players may choose only ONE division shown in red.**

MEN	•Divisions•	WOMEN
_____	A	_____
_____	B	_____
_____	C	_____
_____	D	_____
_____	24- A/B	_____
_____	24- C/D	_____
_____	25+ A/B	_____
_____	25+ C/D	_____
_____	35+ A/B	_____
_____	35+ C/D	_____
_____	45+ A/B	_____
_____	45+ C/D	_____
_____	55+ A/B	_____
_____	55+ C/D	_____

• Mixed Doubles Divisions •

_____	MX Open	_____	MX 45+
_____	MX A	_____	MX 50+
_____	MX B	_____	MX 55+
_____	MX C	_____	MX 60+
_____	MX D	_____	MX 65+
_____	MX 24-	_____	MX 70+
_____	MX 25+	_____	MX 75+
_____	MX 30+	_____	MX 80+
_____	MX 35+	_____	MX 85+
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Effective Service Motion

By Andy Roberts

One of the most important aspects in racquetball is the serve! The problem is that few players take the time to improve their serve. Without question the best players – both past and present – have been great in this crucial area.

Creativity in serving is as fundamental as a proper grip. But, unfortunately most everyday players lack creativity because, believe it or not, they simply don't practice the serve! Creativity comes out of constructive practice sessions. Today – after 13 years of playing professional racquetball – I end every practice session with serves. I go over my old “standby” serves that have been around for years and I practice new serves or techniques that I'm trying to incorporate into my game.

This article will discuss the basic mechanics of drive (power) serving: taking a good starting position and generating power with a two-step motion. Keys to being a good “drive server” are:

- 1) *have a goal* (mental)
- 2) *believe* in your service motion
- 3) *be creative!*

the drive serve

nance series

PHOTOS: MIKE BOATMAN.

starting position >>

Let's talk about the service motion first. As you can see at right, most good servers start in a crouched position — no matter where they choose to position themselves in the service box. The reason: lowering your center of gravity will produce a more powerful serve and at the same time add consistency.

be creative ...

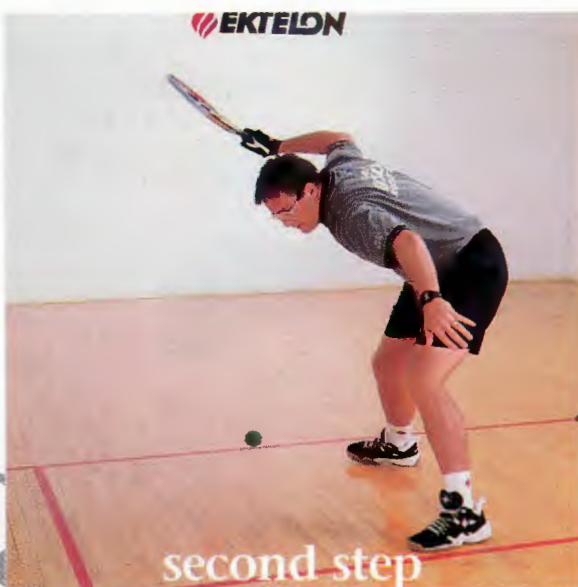
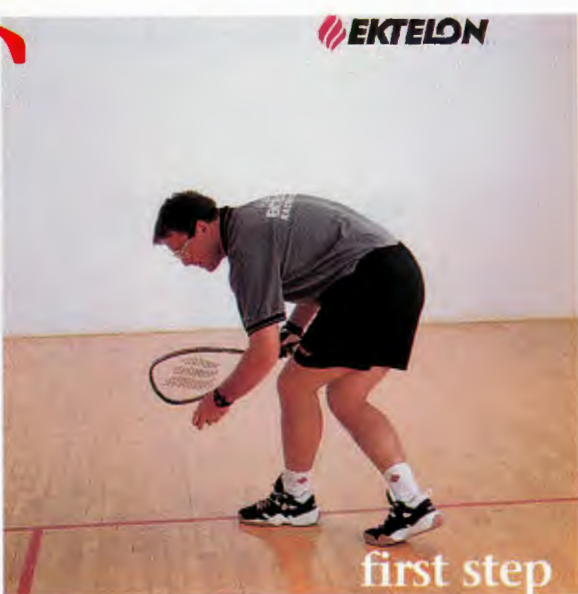
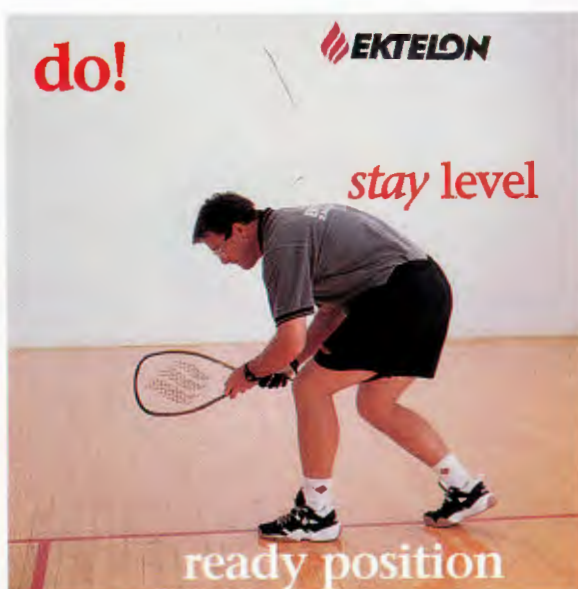
Learn to serve from many different areas in the service box. Regardless of where you are standing, you must be able to hit at least three different types of drive serves from that one point. If you can't, that spot is no good because it's too easy for the receiver to anticipate the serve. I usually like to have five different options from one spot. Take a common area for a right-hander to stand while serving from the position shown in the top photo:

1. Drive to the right side of the court.
2. Drive to the left side of the court.
3. Z-serve to the right side of court.
4. Jam- serves to the center court.
5. All of the above ... while changing ball *speed*. Changing speeds on the serve is the single ingredient that makes a good server great! If I hit a serve at 100 mph, and the next at 95 mph, I'm forcing my opponent to deal not only with location, but also with the angle of the serve and the speed at which it's traveling. That's very hard for *anyone* returning a serve to handle. So, someone who changes speeds effectively could argue that they have an infinite number of serves with which to attack — and it would be completely true!



pick your spot

stay low



<< upper body

Many players have too much upper body movement. For example: After taking the correct "crouched" position, you'll often see players begin to straighten up before contacting the ball. But the shoulders moving vertically up and down is counter-productive to your goal. Find a good comfortable starting position, then try to keep your shoulders and upper body on the same plane as you contact the ball.

be creative ...

The mental aspect of the serve is so important. It is the only time in a racquetball game when you have the opportunity to take your time and plan an attack. I decide on a serve, then I visualize myself executing the serve perfectly. I then assume my service position and execute my plan. Many of you hit the same serve over and over with little thought, much less executing a game plan. You can never beat someone better than you are without a game plan and the biggest part of any game plan is encompassed in the serve.

take two steps for power >>

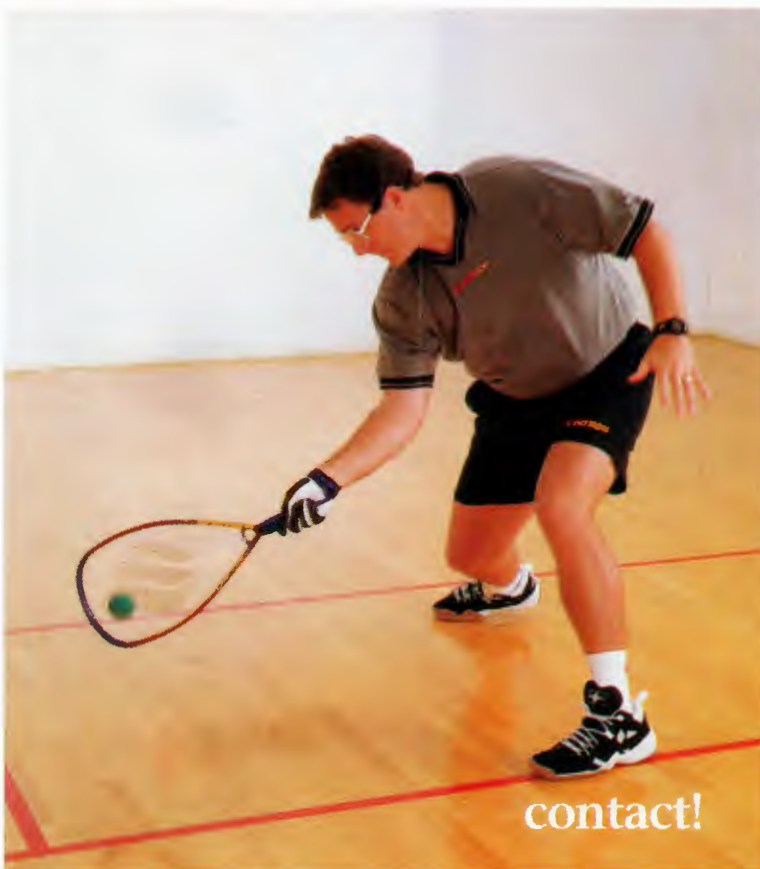
Your lower body produces all the power. Most players adopt the "two-step" motion which is simply taking two steps into the ball before hitting it. Remember those two steps should be toward the front wall. Also, don't forget the ball drop in your service motions is very important. Many people have an acceptable motion but they drop the ball so badly they can barely make contact at all, much less hit a good serve. The drop should be comfortably out in front of you, *toward the front wall*.

be creative ...

Mentally you cannot depend on – or try for – ace serves all the time. It's just not attainable and relying on such a plan can be very destructive. Instead, focus on your serve as your first shot, forcing a weak return wherever possible, then following up with the important third shot "closer" of the rally. If you don't get to the third ... well, that's trouble! If you do get to the third shot and you don't have an offensive opportunity, your serve was ineffective. And remember that an offensive shot doesn't necessarily mean a "roll-out." I'm talking about down-the-line and cross-court passes that don't come off the back wall, or a pinch that doesn't come off the opposite side wall.



close-up
first step



contact!

step & serve

Q&A...Q&A...

How do I get ready for the Fall season after taking the summer off – or even after long lay off from an injury?

Too often players come back too quickly after a long break... and just try to start where they left off ... a big mistake! Here's a step by step process of how the pros and elite athletes come back gradually so they do not risk injury and are able to re-build consistency along the way:

Step 1: 6-8 weeks out • Start with an aerobic conditioning program of running, biking, stairmaster, etc., for 20-30 minutes and build up to 30-45 minutes, 3-4x per week. • Begin weight training with gradual weights, building up to heavier weights/lower reps to build power and strength, 2-3x per week. • Begin practicing on the court by yourself, no playing yet, 2-3x per week.

Step 2: 4-6 weeks out • Continue the aerobic conditioning program 3x per week and 1x per week add anaerobic conditioning like court sprints, hill work, or 10-yard dashes for 15 minutes. • Continue weight training 2-3x per week as is. • Continue practicing by yourself, but add some movement and service drills, plus add in playing with someone once per week, one level *below* you so you work on your game and not feel pressured.

Step 3: 2-4 weeks out • Continue aerobic conditioning 2x per week up to 30 minutes and 1-2x per week anaerobic conditioning 15-20 minutes. • Continue weight training 2-3x per week with a little lower weight and a little more reps to begin your maintenance program. • Continue practicing by yourself 1-2x per week, and play someone a level *below* you and play someone *equal* to you so you can put your skills to the test.

Step 4: 0-2 weeks out • Continue the aerobic conditioning 1-2x per week for 20-30 minutes and 2x per week aerobic conditioning for 20 minutes. • Continue weight training 1-2x per week on a lower weights and lower reps to be in complete maintenance mode. • Continue practicing by yourself once per week and add playing 2-3x per week, one level *below* you, one level *equal* to you and one level *above* you to push you a little bit and get you good and ready for the season.

This four-step process will build a strong, solid foundation that will have you prepared for your first Fall tournament, and gradually build you up and make you tougher as the season progresses (check with your physician before you begin any of this process). Remember if you start off too quickly and don't pace yourself you will probably run into a road block and danger ahead ... so play it smart, slow down and take your time.

Hopefully, we'll see you at one of the Head Rules Racquetball Camps to learn this more in detail ... Slow and steady! (See page 69 for details and cities in your area).



HeadRules!

Featuring Fran Davis



50

RACQUETBALL

July - August 1998

Q&A...Q&A...

I am your typical player: Aging rapidly and slowing down. How can I get some of that quickness back? Help!!

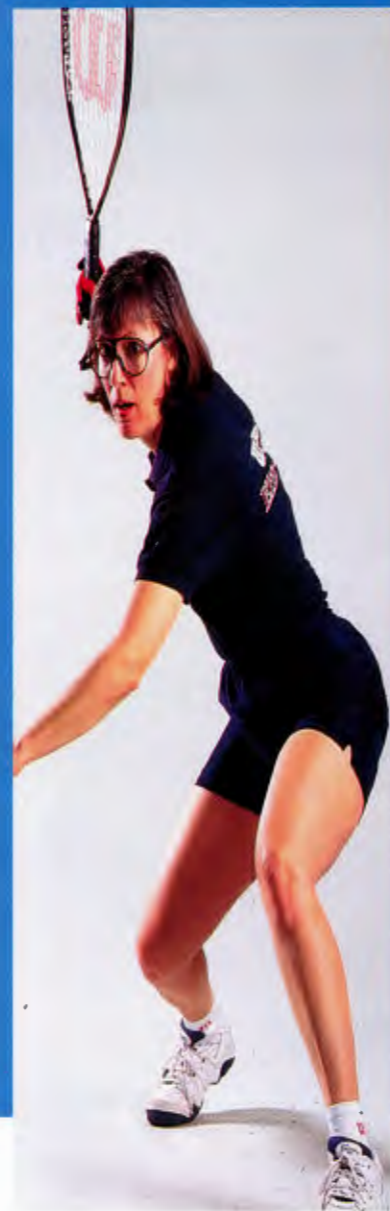
First of all, although I am not certified weight instructor or Phys Ed major, I do have an extensive track background and have learned a lot about what works through trial and error. Racquetball is a fast, burst sport that requires you to change directions quickly and often. Everything about the game shouts SPEED. So it makes sense to capitalize on your "burst" speed, or more specifically, your first 2-3 steps.

Sprint workouts should be a major part of a serious workout. Three times a week, you should be doing a combination of hill sprints, stationary bike sprints, flat land sprints, and court sprints. These different types of sprint workouts use different muscles and different mental capabilities.

During a sprint workout, you should ideally be on a heart monitor. This is helpful for charting success. For instance, you want to do as many 20 second bike sprints as possible in a 10 minute period. After each sprint, your heart rate will be up around 160 to 180. You don't want to do the next sprint until your heart rate comes down to between 120 - 135. Your first few workouts may only yield six or seven sprints. But after only a short period of doing sprint workouts regularly, you will see the number of sprints you're able to do in a 10 minute session rise dramatically. The key to a good sprint workout is to go all out, as hard and as fast as you can for 20 to 30 seconds, then rest for 20 to 30 seconds, or until your heart rate comes down to an acceptable level. Sprint, rest, sprint, rest.

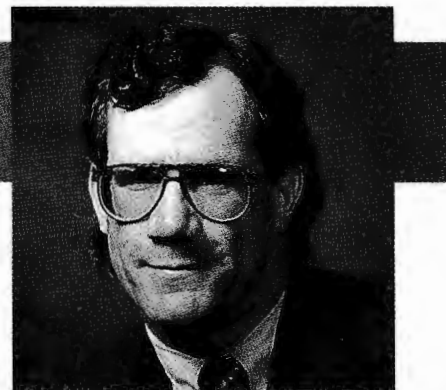
The four types of sprints all accomplish different goals. • **Hill sprints** are a type of resistance training, since you are pushing your body weight up a hill as fast as you can. Every muscle in your arms and legs are needed to get you up the hill. • **Stationary bike sprints** are wonderful for your butt and quad muscles, and great if you need to do an indoor workout. Make sure you have enough tension on the bike so you get the benefits of resistance training. • **Flat land sprints** are good for feeling speed. With no resistance, you can feel fast. You want to emphasize arm-pumping during flat land sprints. Keep the sprints short: 25, 50 and 75 yard sprints are plenty long. • **Court sprints** are my favorite because they mimic a racquetball game better than any other workout. With a partner, stand at the back wall, facing the service box. Your partner is at the short line, facing you, and must follow your finger directions, with correct footwork, at full speed. You want to make them go forward, backwards, and side to side. Whatever you do, change direction often so you don't run them into the wall! You and your partner then take turns sprinting and resting. This drill simulates changing direction quickly, and is a great footwork drill!

One last note: **Ease into this type of workout!** You don't want to pull a muscle that first time out, and sprinting is hard on your muscles, especially your hamstrings. The hamstring is a muscle most players haven't used properly for a long time. You may want to start a sprint workout going half speed for the first few weeks to prevent injury. As we age, our bodies don't heal as fast as they used to!!



Game Plan
Featuring Lynn Adams

Wilson
RACQUETBALL



Wearing Tails to a Keg Party

At a recent national tournament, a competitor asked me if I knew of a source of racquetball string in his home town. Because he teaches racquetball at his local YMCA, he feels it's important to set a good example for his students. But try as he might, he just couldn't find racquetball string, so he was having to make do with a popular brand of tennis string.

ment, but I hope he's getting good service now. (A reminder: the USRA receives a portion of the proceeds of every set of Ashaway racquetball string sold.)

Here's a summary of the points I made with the retailer:

- While power, control, and durability are important in both sports, racquetball places the main emphasis on power, while tennis emphasizes control. The strings for each sport are therefore designed to deliver a different balance of properties.

- Racquetball racquets are usually strung at 30-40 lb. for maximum power, while tennis racquets are strung at 50-70 lb. for control. The type of fibers that make up the strings, and the way the materials are processed, differs for each sport, to optimize the secondary properties at their respective tension ranges, while maximizing the primary properties.

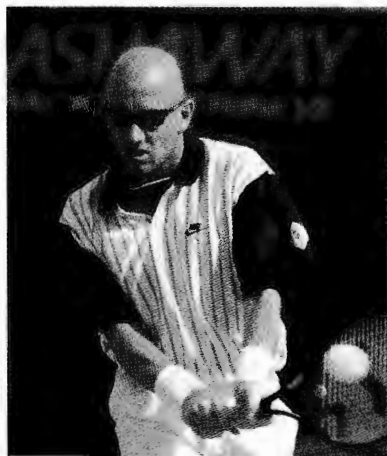
- In tennis, nearly every shot involves some spin. In racquetball, spin is usually confined to a few ceiling shots and an occasional serve. Putting spin on the ball causes the strings to "saw" back and forth against one another, so tennis strings are designed with tougher jackets, to resist being sawn in two. This makes the string stiffer, however, which robs them of some power. Racquetball strings don't require the same level of protection, so they can be made a little more flexible.

- Although string gauges overlap considerably, racquetball strings are often thinner than tennis strings. In general, thicker strings are stiffer, while thinner strings are more powerful. Racquetball strings range from 16 through 18 gauge, with 17 being most common. Tennis strings range from 15L through 17, with 16 being most common. 15L is too stiff for racquetball, while 18 too flexible for tennis, and not durable enough. Racquetball players still get the control they need, however, because thinner strings bite a bit deeper into the surface of a ball.

Racquetball is the keg party of racquet sports: it's rough, informal, and fun. Tennis is the fancy-dress ball: it's gentler (no physical contact), refined (lots of control shots), and formal. String is engineered differently for each game, so dress your racquet appropriately. Playing racquetball with tennis string in your racquet is the equivalent of wearing white tie and tails to a beer bash. Loosen up — we're a T-shirt-and-jeans crowd.



RACQUETBALL PRO DEREK ROBINSON AND TENNIS PRO MIKAEL PERNFORS BOTH USE ASHAWAY STRING IN THEIR RACQUETS, BUT THEY WOULDN'T THINK OF USING THE SAME MODEL. PHOTO: COURTESY ASHAWAY.



He had been having his racquet strung by a well-known sports retailer who makes a big deal about how sophisticated and knowledgeable he is about stringing and equipment in general. This retailer concentrates on tennis — he even has the word "Tennis" in his name — but he also services the racquetball market to an extent.

I know the retailer, because he buys a fair amount of Ashaway tennis, squash, and badminton string, so I called him after the tournament. He said it was purely a question of economics: because of the small size of the racquetball market, he couldn't justify carrying inventory just for that sport. I argued that customer service and marketing concerns should override pure economics in this case. I explained the differences between tennis and racquetball

string, and pressed him on the importance of selling the right equipment for each sport. If he wanted to support his claim of being sophisticated and knowledgeable, I told him, he owed it to his customers. Ultimately, he agreed to add racquetball string to his orders. I haven't been back in touch with the competitor at the tourna-

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October 2-4Albany, New York
October 2-4Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

changingtimes • by Luke St. Onge

The end of an era has arrived for the USRA. Along with past president Keith Calkins, Van Dubolsky guided the association from obscurity in the mid-80s to its major leadership role today. His most recent term of board service — the latest in a series of appointments to which he gave countless hours of hard work and tireless dedication — ended in Houston last month when he stepped down as president and retired from the board, with honors.

Van's administration brought the USRA to new heights of stature and influence. Thoughtful and carefully considered, his management style was a constant. Always receptive to negotiating every issue, entertaining new ideas and keeping an open forum, Van helped guide the USRA through the development of the U.S. Open, IHRSA initiatives, rules moratoriums, ESPN broadcast projects, the Pan Am Games, 96 World Championships, RACQUETBALL magazine, upgrading national events, and a major effort to establish an online presence for the association and its many programs.

Probably Van's greatest contribution was his ability to listen ... to any- and everyone, no matter what the issue or cause. Van never dominated a debate or ignored a problem. Van may no longer be president, or even a member of the Board, but his legacy will live on. If we can hope to emulate any of what his leadership has taught us, we will all be able to reap important benefits for years to come.

USRA Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Rules • Imposed a moratorium on rule changes that establishes the next deadline for submission of rule change proposals as June 1, 2001, which would set the earliest possible effective date as September 1, 2002. • Extended the Open Division "one-serve" restriction for one year. One serve will be played in Open divisions at the regional and national level through the 1999

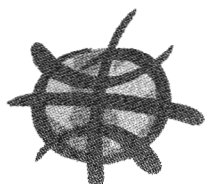
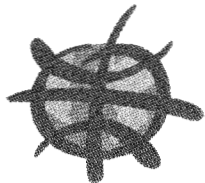
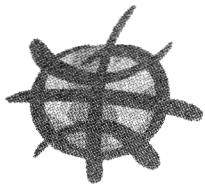
National Singles, and remain optional at the state level. • Established a flexible "menu" of recognized competitive divisions for regional and national events which may or may not be offered, depending upon the host facility to be used. Follow-up discussion assigned to the National Tournament Committee. Re-adopted "24 & under" nomenclature, retiring the "all-age" and "all-skill" designations.

Awards • Adopted the final procedures for the Hall of Fame. • Named winners of the 97-98 USRA recognition awards: Presidential Award to Charlie Munro (Massachusetts); John Halverson Fair Play Award to Andy Tucknott (Nebraska); Joe Sobek Contributor Award to the Oregon Junior Racquetball Association.

Programs & Projects • Voted to maintain three U.S. Team positions in singles for men and women for international competition. • Reiterated commitment for establishing a more interactive USRA database for cross-referencing player records and validation of member status. • Established a regional task force to review and make recommendations on upgrading the regionals. • Confirmed its higher priority of support for the Intercollegiate Program. • Agreed to pursue the proposal by Randy Stafford and Mac Winker to establish a racquetball Hall of Fame in Memphis, Tennessee.

Elections • Based on national election results, these new board members were appointed to three year terms: John Guinta (Oregon); Jack Hughes (California); Ron Maggard (Missouri). • Within the board structure, officers were elected to two year terms: President - Otto Dietrich (Georgia); Executive Vice President - Shelley Ogden (Ohio); Secretary - Janell Marriott (Rhode Island); Treasurer - Annie Muniz (Texas).





1999 European Championships slated for Bad Toelz, Germany

At an ERF meeting on May 23 in Zoetermeer, Netherlands, the ERF Executive Committee selected Bad Toelz as the host city for the 1999 European Championships. Later in the fall, the ERF will decide what divisions will be played in this major European event. Bad Toelz is located in Southern Germany (Federal State of Bavaria) and is located in the heart of Europe.

"Bad Toelz also helps to bring smaller European Racquetball countries to this event, it is right in the middle of the European movement", said Joerg Ludwig, President of the German Racquetball Federation (GRF). "We appreciate the ERF decision very much and we hope that we can once again help to promote the game of racquetball in Europe."

The expected countries for the 1999 European's are: Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Spain. For further information please contact the European Racquetball Federation (ERF) at: Mike Mesecke phone/fax: +49 40 669 7385 or via email.

20th Dutch Open were held in Zoetermeer

It was celebration time in the Netherlands where the 20th Dutch Open were held in the city of Zoetermeer on May 23-24. This 20th anniversary of Dutch Racquetball was also the last big European event scheduled to be held before the World Championships in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Players from the USA, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands and Belgium made their contribution to Dutch Racquetball and showed great games and there was also another success for 1997 European Champion Achim Loof from Germany in the Men's Open division.

Achim won against Martin Klippel, the 17-year old hope from Germany. It was Martin's first final in one of Europe's big tournaments ever. "I was pretty nervous before that game," Martin said. Together with US citizen Jason Linnel (Ohio, USA), Martin won the Doubles division against Netherlands' No.1 doubles team Matla/deJong.

FINAL RESULTS — Men's Open: Achim Loof (GER) def. Martin Klippel (GER) 15:13/15:3; Men's B: Niklass Deboutte (BEL) def. Eric Meijer (NED) 15:10/15:11; Men's C: Arne Schmitz (GER) def. Peter Lucas (USA) 15:3/15:4; Seniors 35+: Bjoern Jensen (GER) def. Karel Matla (NED) 15:7/15:5; Doubles Open: Martin Klippel/Jason Linnel (GER/USA) def. Peter deJong/Paskal Matla (NED) 15:13/15:14.

All Ireland Junior B Championships/Ireland

May 9-10 — Reported by Mike Mesecke

FINAL RESULTS — BOYS Under 12: 1. M. Haverty (Castlebar), 2. A. Hickey (Touraneena); Under 14: 1. W. Power (Touraneena), 2. T. Hickey (Touraneena); Under 16: 1. D. Coffey (Touraneena), 2. N. Feerick (Ballina); Under 18: 1. F. White (Fermoy), 2. P. Clarke (Kingscourt). GIRLS Under 12: 1. S. Gibney (Moylagh), 2. D. Grall (Moylagh); Under 14: 1. A. Hickey (Touraneena), 2. M. Haverty (Castlebar); Under 16: 1. A. Grimes (Ballinrobe), 2. I. Ryan (Fermoy); Under 18: 1. P. Magnier (Fermoy), 2. N. Howard (Fermoy).

U.S. Armed Forces European Championships

April 17-19 — Reported by Joseph Villarreal

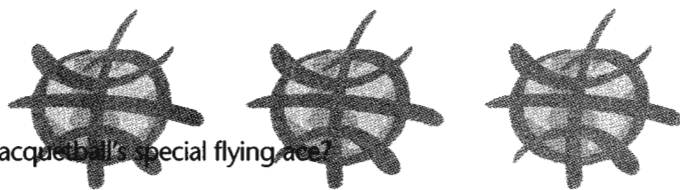
The US Armed Forces European Championship Tournament in Schweinfurt, Germany was the long awaited annual tournament sponsored by United States Army in Europe (USAREUR). Players came from all over Europe to play, including: Joseph Villarreal, #2 European Open Player, Joe Gonzalas, #3 European Open Player, Otto Crazier, #4 European Open Player, Mike Bowers, Returning European Masters Champion, Tom Chandler, #2 European Masters Player, Inez Slaymaker, Europe's #1 Women's Player, Chris Small, Baumholder's Seniors Champion, Dan Whitcher, Ramstein's #3 Open Player and many more.

FINAL RESULTS — Men's Open: 1. Joseph Villarreal (Ramstein), 2. Otto Carrizo (Heidelberg), 3. Eric Curtis (Kaiserslautern), 4. Joe Gonzalez (Wiesbaden). Men's Seniors: 1. Chris Small (Ramstein), 2. Rico Southee (Ramstein), 3. Arthur Nixon (Kitzingen), 4. Dean Smith (Heidelberg). Men's Masters: 1. Mike Bowers (Kaiserslautern), 2. Tom Chandler (Augsburg), 3. James Rowan (Bamberg), 4. Paul Habhab (Wiesbaden). Men's Senior Masters: 1. Donnie Crowe (Darmstadt), 2. James Johnson, (Schinnen), 3. Lewis Washington (Stuttgart). Women's Open: 1. Brenda McCune (Wiesbaden), 2. Debra Smith (Schweinfurt). Women's Seniors: 1. Ynez Slaymaker (Ramstein), 2. Elke Esquibel (Schweinfurt), 3. Judy LeFlore (Mannheim), 4. Beth Goodman (Schweinfurt).

Mary Diaz, Something Special in the Air!

Interview by Kevin Vicroy

Several of today's top women's players have earned the reputation as "flyers." National champion Robin Levine, Marci Drexler, Jackie Paraiso, Kersten Hallande, and the like, have all earned the title of diver. But the only true "flyer" in racquetball might be Puerto Rico's Mary Diaz.



So, what makes Diaz racquetball's special flying ace?

"I'm a flight attendant for American Airlines – something special in the air," she said this past April while playing for the Puerto Rican national team at the Pan Am Trials. "I'll probably do it for another couple of years. It's a part-time job with full-time pay. You can't beat it."

Born in New Orleans, Diaz has lived in Puerto Rico for the past six years in Bayamon, just outside San Juan. Since she started playing racquetball in 1982, Diaz, 34, has had her fair share of ups and downs.

"I was in California and saw a racquetball court and thought, 'I wonder what that is,'" Diaz said of her first sighting of the sport she now loves. "I started out playing left-handed."

Then, eight years ago, Diaz suffered a brain hemorrhage. "The brain hemorrhage was caused because of a generic malformation," she said. "I don't have any capillaries in my right side, so an artery and vein popped. I went into a coma for 22 hours. I came out of it successfully and started playing racquetball two months after that - with no hair."

Diaz now plays right handed due to the accident. "It was in my right side, so I had to switch arms. I can write and eat with my left hand, but that's it."

Sporting one of the brightest smiles in international racquetball, the resilient Diaz is most definitely "something special in the air."

1998 Canadian Senior National Championships

May 19 - 23: Burnaby, British Columbia

MEN'S SINGLES

Open — 1. Sherman Greenfeld, MB; 2. Brian Istace, AB; 3. Mike Ceresia, ON.
A — 1. Randy Van Achte, AB; 2. Darrell Chambers, ON; 3. John Halko, AB.
B — 1. Cam Bourque, AB; 2. Anthony Beruschi, BC; 3. Brian Dunbar, BC.
C — 1. Adrien Deveau, NS; 2. Mike Carlile, AB; 3. Rudy Chow, BC.
D — 1. Wade Lehner, SK; 2. Chris Streeter, AB; 3. Ken Barteski, SK.
SENIOR A (35+) — 1. Wendell Talaber, BC; 2. Victor Dhue, ON; 3. David Tremblay, SK.
SENIOR B (35+) — 1. Hugh Cameron, AB; 2. David Burke, ON; 3. Tony Dawson, ON.
SENIOR C (35+) — 1. David Bell, NS; 2. Dan Smith, NS; 3. Frank Houlihan, ON.
VETERAN SENIOR (40+) — 1. Cliff

Hendrickson, AB; 2. Michel Gagnon, PQ; 3. Cal Smith, BC.
MASTER A (45+) — 1. Rick Mattson, BC; 2. Charlie McGarrity, BC; 3. Gerald Frederick, AB.
MASTER B / C (45+) — 1. Andray Monnier, PQ; 2. Eric Brown, AB; 3. Baldwin Phillip, ON.
VETERAN MASTER (50+) — 1. Tim Teer, BC; 2. Eric Easton, NF; 3. Usher Barnoff, AB.
GOLDEN MASTER (55+) — 1. Bruce Stocks, ON; 2. David Bates, PQ; 3. Pierre Siberil, PQ.
SENIOR GOLDEN MASTER (60+) — 1. Ray Hunt, BC; 2. Sunny Zimmerman, BC; 3. Jack McBride, BC.
VETERAN GOLDEN MASTER (65+) — 1. Fred Brisco, BC; 2. Helmut Scheiner, AB; 3. John Parker, BC.
WOMEN'S SINGLES
Open — 1. Christie Van Hees, BC; 2. Josee Grand'Maitre, PQ; 3. Lori-Jane Powell, SK.
A / B — 1. Joanne Ditomasso, BC; 2. Lori Johnstone, PQ; 3. Cheryl McKeeman, BC.
C — 1. Holly Navaroli, BC; 2. Diana Gaertner, MB; 3. Sue MacLeod, PE.
D — 1. Mary West, BC; 2. Cheryl

Redford, BC; 3. Jacki Morris, BC.
VETERAN SENIOR (40+) — 1. Marg Lacroix, AB; 2. Karen Hala, SK; 3. Marion McBride, BC.

MEN'S DOUBLES

A — 1. Roger Harrippersad, AB / Kelly Kerr, BC; 2. Mike Green, ON / Kane Waselenchuk, AB; 3. Mike Ceresia, ON / Simon Roy, PQ.
B / C — 1. Adrian Deveau, NS / Dan Smith, NS; 2. Rudy Chow, BC / Warren Chow, BC; 3. Terry Mazeppa, AB / Dietz Gwinner, BC.
SENIOR A / B (35+) — 1. Cliff Hendrickson, AB / Michel Gagnon, PQ; 2. Randy Pentland, AB / Bill Shepley, AB; 3. Mike Bell-Irving, BC / Wendell Talaber, BC.
SENIOR C (35+) — 1. Paul Barron, ON / Carmen Rotondo, ON; 2. Don Blanchard, AB / Hugh Cameron, AB; 3. Ray Nelson, NS / Mario Demello, NS.
MASTER (45+) — 1. David Slater, BC / Rick Mattson, BC; 2. Gerald Frederick, AB / Eric Brown, AB; 3. Bruce Stocks, ON / Colin O'Shea, PQ.
GOLDEN MASTER (55+) — 1. Jack

McBride, BC / Ed Haslop, BC; 2. Pierre Siberil, PQ / Harold Stupp, PQ; 3. David Bernhardsen, AB / Barry Colum, AB.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

A — 1. Josee Grand'Maitre, PQ / Lucie Guillemette, PQ; 2. Vicki Shanks, BC / Debbie Ward, BC; 3. Lisa Kerr, BC / Karina Odegard, SK.
B / C — 1. Jacki Morris, BC / Sandra Yan, BC; 2. Valari Hendrickson, AB / Sue McLeod, PE.
SENIOR (35+) — 1. Cheryl McKeeman, BC / Joanne Ditomasso, BC; 2. Holly Navaroli, BC / Maria Fatkin, BC.

MIXED DOUBLES

A — 1. Trent Foley, AB / Jennifer Saunders, MB; 2. Tanya Hodgins, ON / Adrian Webb, ON; 3. Brian Dunbar, BC / Julie Neubauer, AB.
B / C — 1. Lori Johnstone, PQ / Rick St. Denis, BC; 2. Wolf Neubauer, AB / Patty Schier, AB; 3. Eric Brown, AB / Marg Lacroix, AB.

rb:people & places



Johnson Family Tribute

Hart Johnson's parents never missed a tournament match. His mother, Carol, and his father, Marvin Johnson, introduced racquetball to their son when he was only eight years old. By 12, Hart was playing in his first Junior Nationals. In January 1995, Hart became the youngest inductee of the Minnesota Racquetball Hall of Fame. A former U.S. Junior National Team and Olympic Festival coach, Hart had achieved tremendous success in racquetball – all with his parents at his side.

In March of 1997, Hart's father Marvin passed away. An excerpt from the eulogy for the elder Johnson read: "He took great interest in Hart's racquetball and never missed a tournament. He also never forgot a score, never tired of catching backyard serves and never failed to shake the hand of Hart's opponents – win or lose. People said Marv, though not a player on the court, was more fun to watch than Hart, taking every shot from his seat. He loved the social connections he made as a fan. The entire family loved the 'lost weekends' spent at tournaments with good people who became good friends."

In tribute to Marvin and his family's support of Hart and the sport of racquetball, the Minnesota Hall of Fame inductees asked Hart to form and head a committee to annually

select a "Racquetball Family of the Year" to will be honored at the annual Hall of Fame banquet. The honor will be known as the traveling Marvin Johnson Family Support Sculpture.

The bronze sculpture of a tree consisting of five limbs supporting a racquetball symbolizes the support given by a family to one of its members involved in the sport. It was formed by the love of the Johnson family for each other and their constant support of Hart Johnson as he participated in racquetball. This sculpture will be presented each year to a family that represents the spirit of this award.

Needless to say, the Marvin Johnson family were the initial recipients of the award at this past Minnesota Hall of Fame banquet on January 24, 1998.

Nebraskan Andy Tucknott Honored for Fair Play

by Linda Moore

Have you ever re-played match point in an important competition? Maybe? How about when everyone watching – including the referee, and your opponent's *father* – all insist that your shot was good? Andy Tucknott did – in an act of fair play that came as no surprise to anyone in Nebraska! In this particular regional match, Andy refused to accept anyone's opinion but his own, replayed the point, lost the second game of his match, and then the tiebreaker without looking back. When word of his action made it's way to the national office, Andy became a front runner to receive the annual John Halverson Fair Play Award, which was announced at the USRA Awards Banquet in Houston during National Singles. Although Andy was not in attendance, his plaque was claimed, and later delivered by Nebraska State President, Linda Moore.

Andy, age 18, was introduced to racquetball and tennis by his father, Tim Tucknott, when he was nine years old. He played both sports competitively for awhile, but eventually chose



TOP: HART JOHNSON (FAR RIGHT) WITH HIS FAMILY. L-R: SISTER RANDI, MOM CAROL, DAD MARVIN AND SISTER SHELLEY. BOTTOM: THE MARVIN JOHNSON FAMILY AWARD.



L-R: ANDY TUCKNOTT • JACKIE PARAISO & BUD MUEHLEISEN • A.C. PUCKETT • MARY LOW ACUFF'S SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF TOO MANY T-SHIRTS!

racquetball as his main sport. When asked why he chose racquetball he simply stated, "It's more fun!" Andy has been involved in local, regional and national tournaments for ten years, and has learned many lessons about sportsmanship by seeing the good, and the bad at these events. He has obviously taken the high road, and credits his on-court demeanor to his father, and favorite practice opponent Mark Domangue, a veteran Nebraska Open player. They have shown him, by example, the *right stuff*.

Hall of Champions

This past February, racquetball legend Bud Muehleisen and current racquetball champion Jackie Paraiso were honored at the San Diego Hall of Champions' Salute to the Champions Dinner. Paraiso was honored for winning the June 1997 Athlete of the Month award when she won the WIRT Tournament of Champions. Muehleisen, a permanent inductee into the S.D. Hall of Champions, parades with the honored athletes each year.

"It was an awesome feeling to be amongst such great athletes and to share in each other's victories," Paraiso said. "It was an even more special feeling to stand next to Bud Muehleisen, one of the greatest ambassadors of racquetball, and

capture time in a photo." Other athletes honored were: baseball Hall of Famer Ted Williams, San Diego Padres slugger Tony Gwynn, Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis and 1998 Heisman Trophy candidate Ricky Williams of Texas.

Sport for a Lifetime

At 73 years old, A.C. Puckett of Laverne, Tenn., continues to promote racquetball to the area residents in his home state. A member of the racquetball committee of the Town Centre of Smyrna, Puckett gives free lessons to new members and those who just want to learn more about the sport. His efforts haven't gone un-noticed. In 1988, Smyrna sported only 10-15 players. Currently, there are around 60-70 players enjoying racquetball at the Smyrna facility. With approximately 50-percent of those players, Puckett was the one to introduce them to the sport or persuaded them to return after a short layoff.

Quite a Project

Mary-Low and Earl Acuff of Asheville, N.C. have played in so many tournaments, they can't possibly use all the T-shirts that they have accumulated. So, what do you do with them? Mary-Low had a great solution she made a super-sized quilt out of the extra shirts. Mary-Low's

beautiful creation – hanging in all its glory on the wall of her garage – is pictured above.

NMRA Singles goes to California!

by Ron Pudduck

Fran Davis, racquetball director and former top-rated pro, welcomed 120 masters players from around the U.S. and Canada to What A Racquet Club in Daly City, California for the 1998 NMRA National Singles Championships in mid-February. The four day round-robin event offered all competitors as much as they could handle, highlighted by a Friday evening banquet, attended by 145 players, wives and friends.

While rains came down outside the club (and so did the mud-slides), the indoor temperature was real hot, where matches were concerned. The largest draw was in men's 60+, where 27 athletes competed for the gold medal. In men's 60+, the three flight winners — Ron Pudduck, Rex Lawler, and Jay Krevsky — played a final round-robin to determine the winner, runner-up and the third place finisher. After the crowds had cheered and the dust had settled, Ron Pudduck emerged as the victor, followed by Jay in second and Rex in third.

rb:people & places

The Men's 65+ was divided into two flights, and the final match playoff between them saw Harvey Clar pitted against Paul Banales. It was an exciting final match, with Paul picking-up another NMRA title and gold medal. Gary Mazaroff went undefeated in the "young man's" event, finishing the 45+ single flight round-robin with a total score of 156 to 142 for second place finisher, Steve Mitchell. Gary is at the top of the list in many of the recent major tournaments and if you watch him stroke the ball, you can easily understand why.

Tom McKie and Dave Warner were the flight winners in men's 50+. In their play-off, Tom defeated Dave for the gold. Jack Crowther placed third with Stan Lemon coming in for the final fourth place medal. In the Men's 55+ flight winners Glenn Allen and Leland Riens vied for the title and Glenn went home with another piece of gold. The two flight, 16 player, men's 70+ concluded with Joe Lambert scoring more points than second place finisher Phil Dzuik. Nick Sans won the 75+ division and George Spear flew all the way from the East Coast to the West Coast to capture the 80+ title.

A small women's draw (largely because they had recently held their own national event a few weeks earlier) resulted in Terry Ann Rogers winning 45+, MeriJean Kelley captured 50+, Sharon Hastings Welty (OR) got the gold in 55+ and Reta Harring (WI) won 65+.

If you are a 35+ woman, or a 45+ man and would like to participate in a future NMRA event, and play some exciting round-robin, self-refereed matches against some of the finest age group players in the world, you need to contact the NMRA. Remember round-robin tournaments allow you to play for the entire three or four days regardless of how many matches you lose. You go home when the rest of the players go home. No early departures necessary. Whether you are a great player, or an average player, you still play all of your scheduled matches, and most likely will go home much wiser and much more tired (but smiling). Interested? Contact Ron Pudduck, NMRA President, 7560 Forest, Dexter, MI 48130.

FINAL RESULTS: NMRA NATIONAL SINGLES

MEN 45+: 1. Mazaroff, Gary NM, 2. Mitchell, Steve CA; M50+: 1. McKie, Tom TX, 2. Warner, Dave MN; M55+: 1. Allen, Glenn VA, 2. Riens, Leland MN; M60+: 1. Pudduck, Ron MI, 2. Krevsky, Jay PA; M65+: 1. Banales, Paul AZ, 2. Clar, Harvey CA; M70+: 1. Lambert, Joe TX, 2. Dzuik, Phil IL; M75+: 1. Sans, Nick CA, 2. Bugel, Michael CA; M80+: 1. Spear, George FL. WOMEN 45+: 1. Rogers, Terry Ann CA. W50+: 1. Kelley, MeriJean CA. W55+: 1. Hastings Welty, Sharon OR, 2. Desantis, Joy CA. W65+: 1. Harring, Reta WI.



SINGLES SCRAPBOOK: Above – USAF Team (L-R) Top row: Tina Bragdon, Rob DeJesus, Jimmy Lowe, Tom Fuhrmann, Gil Rodriguez. Kneeling: Pat Bouaphet, Jesus Moctezuma, Gladys Leonard, Ynes Slaymaker. Below – Talent show winner Lynn Adams gets a pre-show pep talk from daughter Kristin. Bottom right: Talented runners-up Kersten Hallander and Rhonda Rajsich. Bottom left: Valerie Wills on her way to ref her first match! Photos: Staff photographers.



... continued from page 5
junior regional results

BIRMINGHAM, AL: #5/Court South • **BOYS** — B18: Jeffrey Gainer; B16: Dustin Kidder; B14: Rusty Powell; B12: David Key; B10: Allan Crockett; B8MB: William Lee; B6MB: Joseph Lee. **GIRLS** — G8: Heather Collins.

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA: #14/Los Caballeros Sports Village • **BOYS** — B18: Rocky Carson; B16: Scott Foster; B14: Bernard Dorman; B10: Andre Grissom. **GIRLS** — G18: Dionna Brown; G16: Anna Blazdale; G14: Taryn McDonagh; G10: Katie Marshall.

SHELBYVILLE, IN: #10/Shelby County Athletic Club • **BOYS** — B16: Justin Arms; B14: Steven Terrell; B12: Matthew Hammond; B8: Sean McGrath; B8MB: Sean McGrath. **GIRLS** — G8: Shane Taylor; G8MB: Sharon Jackson.

BALTIMORE, MD: #3/Merritt Athletic Club • **BOYS** — B18: Matt Gehling; B16: Mitch Williams; B14: Travis Woodbury; B12: Anthony Rinaldis; B10: Alex Wetherell; B8: Martin King. **GIRLS** — G18: Jennifer Swallow; G16: Kris Alatorre-Martin; G12: Selma Cuadros.

HAVERHILL, MA: #1/Cedardale Athletic Club • **BOYS** — B18: Kyle Harris; B16: Joey Delfino; B14: Garrett Olson; B10: Mike Keddle; B8MB: Matt Keddle. **GIRLS** — G18: Cari Mitlitsky; G16: Nickii Whitney; G14: Cari Mitlitsky; G12: Cari Mitlitsky.

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN: #11/Central Courts • **BOYS** — B18: David Liakos; B16: Kirk Pauley; B14: Matt Everding; B12: Blake VanKaenel; B10: Brady Prince; B8MB: Jake Bredenbeck; B6MB: Jake Bredenbeck. **GIRLS** — G16: Kristen Kovar; G14: Megan Stone; G12: Sarah Geislinger; G10: Brooke Schulenberg.

BILLINGS, MT: #13/Merritt Athletic Club • **BOYS** — B18: Brandon French; B16: Kyle Gerber; B14: Paul Carrol; B12: Christopher Weber.

ST. LOUIS, MO: #6/Missouri Athletic Club West • **BOYS** — B18: Josh Tucker; B16: Erik Leetch; B14: Cory Martin; B12: Ben Croft; B10: Chris Coy; B8: Matt Machiran. **GIRLS** — G18: Megan Bals; G14: Leslie Aulph; G12: Melissa Martin.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM: #12/Tom Young's Athletic Club • **BOYS** — B18: Ryan Staten; B16: Dan Beaudry; B14: Ever Gonzales; B12: Matt Johnson; B10: David Lewis; B8: Mathew Pacinelli; B6MB: Benjamin Long; B8MB: John Sanderson. **GIRLS** — G16: Kristen Walsh; G14: Mary Lan; G12: Jesi Fuller; G6MB: Kathryn Pacinelli; G8MB: Carol Payne.

BRIARCLIFF, NY: #2/Club Fit • **BOYS** — B18: Scott Mykalcio; B16: Scott Fisher; B14: Josh Epstein; B12: Eddie Mazur; B10: Mike Keddle; B8: Matt Keddle; B8- MB: Matt Keddle. **GIRLS** — G14: Juliana Mayor; G12: Cari Mitlitsky; G10: Rebeka Koft.

CANTON, OH: #9/Hall of Fame Fitness Center • **BOYS** — B18+: David Boyd; B16: Jack Huczek; B14: Jack Huczek; B12: Anthony Arms. **GIRLS** — G14: Kim Irons; G12: Nikki Winfrey.

PORTLAND, OR: #15/Sunset Athletic Club • **BOYS** — B18: James Ford; B16: Stephen Lewis; B14: Bart Crawford; B12: Charlie Pratt; B10: Nick Arturo; B8: Trevor Smith; B8MB: Erick Podwill; B6MB: Austin Zuck. **GIRLS** — G18: Brooke Crawford; G16: Ellie Swanson; G14: Jenny Cary; G12: Deraí Darling; G10: Ashley Willhite; G8: Shannon Inglesby; G8MB: Nikki Robinson; G6MB: Kaitlin Inglesby.

HOUSTON, TX: #7/Northwest Fitness Center • **BOYS** — B18: Elan Levy; B16: Jeremiah Moser; B14: Patric Moscorro; B12: Omri Buzi; B10: Jansen Allen; B8: Jansen Allen; B8- MB: William Lee; B6- MB: Joseph Lee. **GIRLS** — G16: Lauren Deutsch; G14: Lindsay Deutsch. G12: Jeanette Coury;

GREENFIELD, WI: #8/Southridge Athletic Club • **BOYS** — B18: Cory Martin; B16: Cory Martin; B14: Buck Harper; B12: Ben Croft; B10: Brad Starken; B8: Ross Steger. **GIRLS** — G18: Sara Borland; G16: Krystal Csuk; G12: Natalie Starken; G8: Danielle Spolowicz.

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U S WEST Pro-Am of Phoenix

Monchik gets by Doyle

by Darrin Schenck

The final ranking event of the season was held May 6-9 at the City Square Sports Club in Phoenix, where the finals were televised on COX sports, and I was privileged to do the color commentary for the broadcast. Here's what we talked about!

This event had a few new faces reach the quarterfinal round, as well as some old familiar match-ups. Jason Mannino and Sudsy Monchik put on an exhibition, with Sudsy advancing in the usual four. Louis Vogel came out strong against John Ellis, winning the first game, but John took control and won in four games. Dan Fowler defeated James Mulcock in a close four games. And following early round wins over Woody Clouse and a straight game upset over top-seeded Cliff Swain, Tim Doyle took another three straight against Mike Guidry. This set up an interesting semifinal round with Doyle vs. Fowler and Ellis vs. Monchik.

Each semifinal guaranteed two full hours of great racquetball starting with Ellis and Monchik. John won the first game 11-6 and squeaked a close third 13-11, Sudsy won game two and then took over the flow of

To free up Mother's Day, the final was held Saturday night at 7:00 pm — a schedule change that turned out to be a big factor in the outcome. Tim Doyle only had about two hours rest to recover from his marathon against Fowler before going into the finals. He started strong, overcoming a 7-3 deficit to win the first game 11-9 on a jam serve ace. But the next few games showed just how hard this game can be on you, as Doyle's serve began to falter and his feet grew slower. Sudsy came out firing in game two, setting the tone for the rest of the match with an 11-0 reply. The world's number two player knows an opportunity when he sees it, and he took the next two games 11-2 and 11-4 to seize the USWEST Pro-Am of Phoenix title and the last prize money check of the season.

March Madness Pro-Am

Swain Takes out Monchik

from IRT Staff Reports

Cliff Swain continued to strengthen his grip on the #1 ranking as the IRT Tour hit the home stretch of the season with a stop at the Goleta Valley Athletic Club. IRT pro Tony Jelso brought the pros to Santa Barbara for the first time and Swain, although struggling in the semis and final, stayed the hottest player on the tour.

The top four seeds saw byes for the only time this year as a number of tour regulars missed the event with injuries and travel conflicts. Most notable for their absence were #4 ranked John Ellis who has had a break through season but has had shoulder problems leading up to the event and veteran Mike Ray who missed his first pro event in an illustrious 16 year career, a record for professional racquetball.

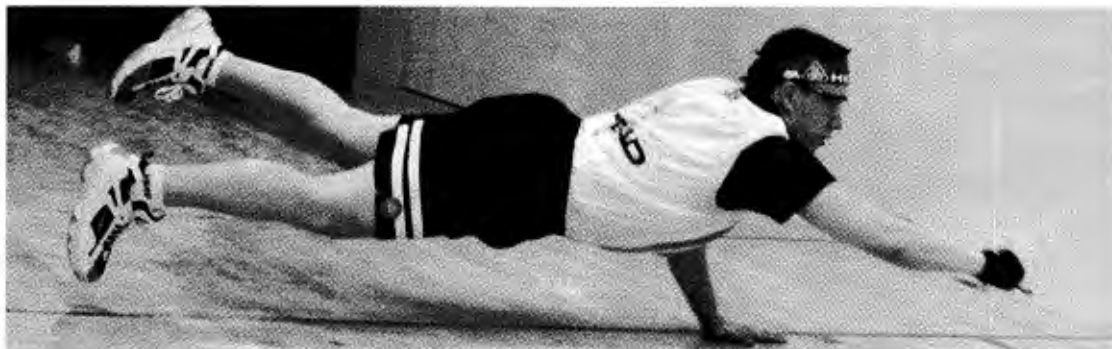
Intensity and the possibility of upsets marked the Round of 16, as #5 Mike Guidry played a resurgent Woody Clouse and found himself down 2-1 before winning in five. An old East Coast rivalry resurfaced between #4 Jason Mannino and Dan Llacera, who carried on a running verbal battle with the crowd as Mannino took a five game win. Enjoying his best season, #14 Derek Robinson defeated #4 Andy Roberts in four solid games, while #7 Kelly Gelhaus took an easier than expected four game win over #10 Louis Vogel in a power-hitter slugfest. Gelhaus went on to play his best match of this season in a losing tiebreaker against #2 Sudsy Monchik in the quarterfinals. But the crowd-pleaser of the night was between hometown star, #8 Tony Jelso battling #9 Adam Karp, who grew up in

L-R: DOYLE, U S WEST V.P. FRANK BOWMAN, SCHENCK AND MONCHIK POSE WITH THE "BIG CHECK."



the match after dropping the tight third game and went on to the finals with an 11-2 victory in the fifth. The Doyle/Fowler match followed suit, with eventual winner Doyle coming back from two games to one down. Tim stepped up in the forth and fifth game, coming from behind to take the fifth 11-7 and advance to his first final this season.

AS MUCH AS SUDSY DIVES, IT'S AMAZING THAT HE DOESN'T INJURE HIMSELF MORE OFTEN. PHOTO: VICKI HUGHES [U.S. OPEN]



Swain who won the big points in the tiebreaker.

Swain vs. Monchik was the final that everyone had paid to see, and the sold out crowd arrived early to pack into the stands 45 minutes

Santa Barbara. Jelso won the first two games, delighting the locals, but Karp refused to give up. Three hours later Karp pulled away with a 12-10 fifth game victory that left the stunned crowd silent.

As they had been all season (until Ellis turned the tour upside down in January with his victory over both in Denver), Swain and Monchik were on a collision course for the finals. Monchik faced an old nemesis in Robinson, who had beaten him in Columbus in the 16's to force Monchik's earliest exit this season. Making a clear statement, he jumped on Robinson early with his whole game — from blistering drive serves to diving gets — to put forth a three game demolition of Robinson that left the crowd shocked, amazed, and impressed. "Derek has played well all season and I knew he was confident against me so I wanted to come out and show him it wasn't going to happen for him today" said Monchik after the victory. Robinson, whose ranking and game has improved every event this year, felt it from the start "Suds was too tough today. He kept me off balance right from the first point and I never got anything going."

This round's fireworks had come from Monchik's racquet, but that was all to change when Swain and Mannino took the court. These guys offer two opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of style; Swain, the cool and businesslike veteran against the brash and confident Mannino. This match meant far more than the buzzing crowd knew, since Mannino was coming off his first career victory over Swain in Rochester. Mannino feels that once he beats someone he should never lose to them again, while Swain isn't used to losing to anyone! Swain wanted this match to re-establish his dominance over Mannino and you could feel the intensity throughout the 45-minute first game, which went to Mannino 12-10. The rest of the match seesawed back and forth with both players bringing the crowd to their feet with diving gets. Neither player gave in, but it was

before match-time to make sure they didn't miss anything. Both players wanted, and needed, this win. Swain looking to hold on to his reclaimed #1 spot; Monchik counting on every chance to be able to catch Swain and regain his #1 ranking by season's end. It started out like a 100 yard dash. The very first rally saw four diving gets and the crowd was on it's feet. Monchik, after spending a lot of time copying the lob nick serve that virtually the entire tour hits to Swain's backhand, came out blasting. No one hits with the velocity of an on-game Monchik. That, combined with his unbelievable quickness kept Swain off balance in the first. Apparently on his way to his first solid win in months, Monchik took a 7-5 lead in the second game and looked awesome in the process. "I felt like I was playing as well as I had since last season. The ball was moving so fast that even when I didn't kill it he was off balance" said Monchik after the match.

At 7-5, the two pulled off the rally of the season as both players hit the floor over and over, each refusing to lose the point. Monchik made a diving get to the left and Swain hit a backhand in the right corner. Monchik changed direction and dove back across the court, ran into Swain and went down. Monchik's right arm hung limp as he took an injury time out and tried to loosen up his shoulder. In great pain from what was later diagnosed as a separated shoulder, Monchik attempted one more rally, was unable to lift his arm and forfeited.

"This is not the way I want to win but for less than two games you saw some of the best rallies this season" Swain told the crowd in a subdued awards presentation. So as the IRT headed on to the Pro Nationals in Las Vegas, Swain was still #1 and the younger competition was fading fast. Monchik is out for an indefinite rehab and, as of this writing, Ellis is also suffering from shoulder problems. Strong and intact, Swain left Santa Barbara, not just as #1 but once again the dominant player in the sport.

pro file: irt & wirt

Sportset Rockville Center Open Gould Takes New York!

by Cheryl Gudinas & Kim Machiran

The WIRT headed to Long Island in late March for the first time this season. With only scattered tournaments this year, every match was key for determining player rankings and for keeping everyone on track going into the nationals.

In early round action, Long Island native Mindy Hartsein played tough and even got better as she went along, but still only scored a total of 13 points against Gould in three straight games. Marci Drexler, back on tour with a vengeance, beat Doreen Fowler in three, and Lynne Coburn went to four games with Lydia Hammock. Pebbles played well early, but Lynne's experience and drive serve got her through in the end. Laura Fenton had an easy go of it with Carolyn Payne, as had Jackie Paraiso with Phyllis Morris, holding Morris to four points total for the match.

After being snowed into Chicago for the last event, Cheryl Gudinas had some catching up to do. And she had to do it against Californian Robin Levine - never an easy task - but was able to advance 11-9, 11-5, 11-13, 11-8. Kersten Hallender got past Molly O'Brien in four fairly close games, while Lorraine Galloway defeated Janet Myers in the round of sixteen.

In the quarters, Paraiso advanced quickly and quietly past Galloway, and Gould got by Drexler - but not as easily as she would have liked. A chink in Gould's armor lately has been that she typically has a bit of a time with the lefties. Drexler's was willing to take some changes, and did a good job keeping Gould on her toes, moving her into the front court frequently to make her retrieve her patented overhead pinches. But it was percentage ball that won the day though, as Gould took the match 11-9, 4-11, 11-6, 11-3.

Laura Fenton battled Lynne Coburn in a match up we've seen many times. Most think Lynne has the game to win this pairing, but hasn't been able to close the door on the big points. Fenton won the first two, nine and five, and later dropped the next two in the same fashion. The tiebreaker went down to the wire, with Laura eeking it out 11-9. On the other side of the draw, Hallender got another shot at Gudinas, who looked shaky early on, perhaps from a lack of tournament play. Hallender took the first game 11-7, with her

GOULD (LEFT) VS. FENTON IN LONG ISLAND. PHOTO: MOLLY O'BRIEN



overheads rarely doing anything other than rolling out. But the second was all Gudinas, followed by a flip flop of control returning to Kersten. But Gudinas pulled out game four, and then the breaker with relative ease, 11-5.

In this semis, Gould faced another much-improved challenger in Fenton. Pinching the ball well, Fenton played tough in streaks, but didn't really push her opponent until the third and decisive game. This game kept the crowd wondering if we would see a game four. But it was not to be. Gould walked away the winner, taking the match 11-5, 11-5, 12-10.

On the other half, Gudinas appeared to be in the flow early, going up 9-5 on Jackie Paraiso. But a few uncharacteristic missed shots on Cheryl's part kept Paraiso in the game, and she was able to take the first away from her. Gudinas never seemed to regroup and "Twice as Spice" went on to win the match.

Everyone knows you have to be totally on your game to beat Michelle. Even then it's difficult, and players were taking bets on this one. Could Paraiso win a game? The match? Paraiso had been crafty enough to do well with Gould in the past, beating her once last season in Arlington's semifinal. Could she do it again? Gould seemed determined not to let this one get away. She never allowed Paraiso to get on a roll, and was pretty much in control the whole way, never giving up more than seven points a game. Serving and splatting well, Gould claimed another victory in Long Island.

From the sidelines • If the winningest player in history didn't say it, who claims the tour isn't competitive enough? If those consistently in the top six didn't say it, who on earth said it? How about a quarterfinalist? • Which player on the women's tour owes all of her success to Jack Nagel? Stay tuned ... • Collecting beanie babies ... rare beanie babies are welcomed by Robin Levine. To chat about her hobby for about an hour, just stop Robin between matches ...



pro tour

results • schedules • rankings

IRT UPDATE

IRT NAMES RUTKOWSKI AS TOUR STRINGER: In conjunction with Babolat, the official string and stringing machine of the IRT, the tour recently named Sam Rutkowski as the new tour stringer for the 1998/99 season.

Rutkowski replaces Rafael Filippini who will concentrate exclusively on his game for next season. Rutkowski brings

years of stringing and tour experience to his new position. "I wanted to play the tour full time next season and work with IRT. This position is perfect for my goals." Rutkowski travels to every IRT stop stringing for the pros and amateurs at the events.



In Phoenix: Special thanks to U S WEST and COX Cable who made this event possible, and to Ben Simons and his staff, who somehow ran 190 matches in three days and were an hour ahead by Saturday night! Amazing job guys!

In Santa Barbara: The hospitality and excitement generated by Goleta Valley Athletic Club and owner Ian Silverberg were first class and enjoyed by every player. Special thanks to Tony Jelso who took on the unenviable task of trying to play and run an IRT event.

Congratulations to Pro-Am Doubles winners Jelso and partner John Cochrane. Good to see Foxwoods Resort & Casino's Mike Coulter out on the west coast playing and catching the matches with his family.

1998 IRT SCHEDULE

July 31 - August 2.....Las Vegas, NV (Doubles)Las Vegas Sporting House
August 5-9New Orleans, LA.....Elmwood Fitness Center
September 3-7Stockton, CA.....In Shape Sports Club at Westlane
September 9-13.....San Diego, CA.....University of Calif./San Diego
October 1-4Birmingham, AL.....Court South
October 7-11Riverside, CATournament House
Oct. 28- Nov. 1Chicago, ILAthletic Club of Bloomingdale
November 4-7New York, NYSportset at Syosset
November 11-15.....Memphis, TN.....Racquet Club of Memphis
December 9-13.....Denver, CO.....Lakewood Athletic Club

1998 WIRT SCHEDULE

September 25-28.....Annapolis, MDMerritt Athletic Club
September 9-13.....San Diego, CA.....University of Calif/San Diego
OctoberCharlotte, NCTBA
November 6- 8Baltimore, MDMerritt Athletic Club
December 10-13Denver, COLakewood Athletic Club

FINAL IRT RANKINGS

- 2743.....SWAIN, CLIFF
- 2262.....MONCHIK, SUDSY
- 2102.....ELLIS, JOHN
- 1702.....ROBERTS, ANDY
- 1329.....MANNINO, JASON
- 1241.....FOWLER, DAN
- 1212.....GUIDRY, MIKE
- 1024.....RAY, MIKE
- 982.....GELHAUS, KELLY
- 965.....KARP, ADAM
- 945.....ROBINSON, DEREK
- 944.....VOGEL, LOUIS
- 820.....JELSO, TONY
- 736.....BRONFELD, MICHAEL
- 684.....DOYLE, TIM
- 675.....MULCOCK, JAMES
- 620.....EAGLE, DOUG
- 582.....CLOUSE, WOODY
- 424.....SCHENCK, DARRIN
- 418.....SIMPSON, BRIAN

FINAL WIRT RANKINGS

- 986.....GOULD, MICHELLE
- 741.....PARAISO, JACKIE
- 656.....DREXLER, MARCI
- 628.....GUDINAS, CHERYL
- 617.....FENTON, LAURA
- 460.....COBURN, LYNNE
- 382.....O'BRIEN, MOLLY
- 363.....GALLOWAY, LORRAINE
- 299.....HAMMOCK, LYDIA
- 295.....FOWLER, DOREEN
- 265.....MYERS, JANET
- 260.....LEVINE, ROBIN
- 223.....HARTSTEIN, MINDY
- 215.....FRIEDMAN, RANDI
- 209.....HALLANDER, KERSTEN
- 204.....PAYNE, CAROLYN
- 183.....MORRIS, PHYLLIS
- 135.....MCKINNEY, CARYN
- 134.....VAN HEES, KRISTI
- 134.....EVON, CHRIS
- 134.....MACHIRAN, KIM

IRT BONUS POOLS

U S WEST: From U S WEST Challenge Cups in Denver, Lincoln, Phoenix & Portland.
1. Cliff Swain
2. John Ellis
3. Sudsy Monchik
4T. Andy Roberts
4T. Jason Mannino

FOXWOODS RESORT & CASINO: From Foxwoods Super Series events in Las Vegas, Boston & New York.
1. Cliff Swain
2. Sudsy Monchik
3. John Ellis
4. Derek Robinson

PRO PENN: Includes all events for those players wearing the official glove of the IRT - Pro Penn.
1. Jason Mannino
2. Mike Ray
3. James Mulcock
4. Woody Clouse

TACKI MAC: Includes all events for those players using the official grip of the IRT - Tacki mac.
1st: Cliff Swain
2nd: Jason Mannino
3rd: Mike Ray
4th: Adam Karp

EKTELON: Includes all events for those players wearing

official shoe of the IRT - Ektelon NFS.

- Andy Roberts
- Dan Fowler
- Kelly Gelhaus
- Tony Jelso

BABOLAT: Includes all events for those using the official string of the IRT - Babolat.
1. Jason Mannino
2. Adam Karp
3. Mike Ray
4. Louis Vogel

WIRT BONUS POOLS

PRO PENN
1. Jackie Paraiso
2. Marci Drexler

- Laura Fenton
- Lydia Hammock

EKTELON NFS SHOE

- Michelle Gould
- Cheryl Gudinas
- Molly O'Brien
- Lorraine Galloway

TACKI MAC

- Jackie Paraiso
- Marci Drexler
- Laura Fenton
- Robin Levine

BABOLAT

- Jackie Paraiso
- Marci Drexler
- Laura Fenton
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PAN AM TEAM QUALIFYING

In the upcoming season, players who qualify for the U.S. National Team and reach specified levels in designated competitions will also earn appointments to the U.S. racquetball team slated to compete at the 1999 Pan American Games. Two qualifying competitions have been set: the 1998 U.S. National Doubles Championships in October, and the 1999 U.S. National Singles Championships. Men's and Women's Open Doubles Champions will be the first to earn a Pan Am spot, and the top two finishers in Men's and Women's Open at the 1999 National Singles will also be added to the squad. In the event of "double-qualifying" (one person qualifies in two events), additional spots will be filled by the U.S. Team coaching staff, from among the remaining, qualified U.S. Team members.

In order to give participating countries sufficient lead time to select their Pan American teams, the Pan Am Team Trials were held last March, where 11 countries were confirmed to participate. Teams will be fielded from: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the United States and Venezuela. The 1999 Pan American Games will be held in Winnipeg, Canada, July 24 - August 8.

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

The USRA/IRT/WIRT Racquetball Hall of Fame is maintained to recognize and honor those athletes and contributors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement as players or in the development, leadership, and advancement of the sport. The award is based upon years of consistent excellence in one or more of the following areas — **ATHLETICS:** The person must have influenced other competitors with his or her performance through any or all of the following: high performance standards; sportsmanship and fair play; competitive techniques; persistent and inspirational leadership. **CONTRIBUTOR:** The person must have made a significant and noteworthy contribution, that has left a lasting, positive effect on the advancement of the sport. The person's efforts should have been devoted to the sport and organization, not for personal or financial gain or for self aggrandizement.

Additional criteria include a minimum age of 35, minimum terms of service and/or performance on an amateur or pro tournament circuit, and nominees must submit complete resume documentation addressing the specifics of their performance and/or service to be considered. For complete guidelines for submitting Hall of Fame nominations, contact the national office at 719/635-5396. Deadline for submitting nominations is OCTOBER 1.

BOARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

Four persons will be elected to the USRA Board of Directors in May of 1999. Interested candidates can get on the ballot in two ways: by committee nomination (contact a board member) or by petition (with the signatures of 100 licensed USRA members). To obtain petition forms, write the USRA at 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921. Signatures must be obtained between October 1 and December 15, 1998 — with completed forms submitted to the national office no later than December 30 for verification. The term of office is three years and includes the commitment to attend two annual meetings (in September or October, and May), serve responsibly and take a leadership role on committees.

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MEN

Men's Open

1. Jason Thoenner, SC
2. Mike Locker, MN
3. Dan Llacera, DE
4. Todd O'Neil, TX
5. Adam Karp, CA
6. Chris Cole, MI
7. John Davis, LA
8. David Hamilton, OH
9. Chris Wright, MO
10. Jimmy Lowe, AK

Men's A

1. Dave Bartscher, TX
2. Jason Samora, OR
3. Al Schof, LA
- 4T. Not a Member, KS
- 4T. Terry Kisling, MN
- 4T. Rob Teren, OH
7. Erik Leetch, AR
8. Brent Walters, NC
9. Joey Delfino, MA
10. Ron Cook, OH

Men's B

1. George Anthon Jr., LA
2. Darryl Thompson, TX
3. Ryan Rodgers, TX
4. Jeff Gillquist, MN
5. Anthony Borden, TX
6. Kent Wagner, SC
7. Charles Lee, LA
8. Eric Zamudio, IN
9. Horacio Perez, FL
10. Mike Zeigler, TN

Men's C

1. Lorne Burry, NC
2. Marc Claybon, OH
3. Hector Tenorio, TX
4. Ray Meisner, IL
- 5T. Armando Cabrera, NJ
- 5T. Paul Carroll, ID
- 5T. Twayne Howard, MI
- 5T. Larry Weene, MA
9. Rob Bultinck, MN
10. Jason Skinner, AR

Men's D

1. Joe Schmitz, AR
2. Mukesh Wadhawan, TX
3. Roberto Tinajero, TX
4. Brandon McGhee, LA
5. Doug Sanders, TX
- 6T. Vince Session, MI
- 6T. Melvin Todd, TX
8. Dan Prieto, WA
- 9T. Grant Macuba, IL
- 9T. Bobby Quintana, CA

Men's Novice

- 1T. John Nistico, NY
- 1T. J.R. Rule, NM
- 3T. Brian Covarrubia, NM
- 3T. Sam Doria, OH

- 3T. Audi Gutasukas, IL
- 3T. James McDonald, FL
7. Andrew Kopf, NY
- 8T. Not a Member, AR
- 8T. Elias Dungca, PA
- 8T. Marcio White, NM

Men's 24-

1. Willie Tilton, CO
2. Mike Dennison, OH
3. Rocky Carson, CA
- 4T. Cristan Guerra, CO
- 4T. Andrew Kane, CO
- 4T. Sammy Menache, CO
- 4T. Don Petrella, FL
8. Jack Long, TX
9. Erin Brannigan, ID
10. Jonah Bishop, KS

Men's 25+

1. Mike Locker, MN
- 2T. Anthony Defusto, NY
- 2T. Kevin Graham, ND
4. Matt Fontana, FL
5. Brian Pointelin, CO
6. Al Schof, LA
7. Chris Baker, MS
8. Steve Frazer, GA
- 9T. Pedro Aranda, TX
- 9T. Jim Ellenberger, IL

Men's 30+

- 1T. Brad McCuniff, IA
- 1T. Alan Sheppard, NC
- 3T. Dan Llacera, DE
- 3T. Dave Watson, OK
5. John Davis, LA
6. John Barrett, PA
- 7T. George Bustos, TX
- 7T. Donald Sims, TX
9. Hector Capo, FL
10. Rick Ferrin, CA

Men's 35+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Bobby Haab, CT
3. Jimmy Lowe, AK
4. Don Ott, IN
5. Dave Eagle, OH
6. Steve Lerner, OH
7. Jim Gillhouse, CO
- 8T. Jim Lukeman, NH
- 8T. Danny Shelton, ID
- 8T. Dave Watson, OK

Men's 40+

1. Terry Fluarty, FL
2. Gil Rodriguez, VA
3. Jesus Moctezuma, TX
4. Jamie Velasco, MD
- 5T. Jim Luzar, WI
- 5T. Russ Palazzo, CT
- 5T. Dave Peck, TX
- 8T. Gary Gloeggler, GA
- 8T. Mitt Layton, FL
10. Joe Hassey, AZ

Men's 45+

1. Gary Mazaroff, NM
- 2T. Jerry Dye, TX
- 2T. Jim Luzar, WI
4. Mitt Layton, FL
5. Greg Hasty, IL
- 6T. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
- 6T. Russ Palazzo, CT
- 6T. Mike Robinson, TX
- 6T. Rick Sorenson, MO
10. Rick Fusari, FL

Men's 50+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Rick Fusari, FL
3. Ray Huss, OH
4. Dennis O'Brien, ID
5. Tom McKie, TX
6. Greg Hasty, IL
7. John Aldape, ID
8. Ed Remen, NC
9. Barry Hendricks, AZ
10. Dave Warner, MN

Men's 55+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Tom Rearden, IL
3. Ron Galbreath, PA
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. Luis Guerrero, CA
- 6T. Don Harrington, RI
- 6T. Bob Webster, AL
8. Pete Keiser, OH
9. Jim Trammell, MO
10. Les Barbanell, NJ

Men's 60+

1. Rex Lawler, IN
2. Jerry Stoltmann, WI
3. Paul Banales, AZ
4. Jerry Holly, CA
5. Lee Graff, OR
6. David Stiles, TX
7. Ron Pudduck, MI
8. Jerry Northwood, AZ
- 9T. Art Hotchkiss, RI
- 9T. Michael Jackson, CT

Men's 65+

1. Charles Kaiser, MI
2. Don Alt, FL
3. John O'Donnell, IL
4. Otis Chapman, OH
5. John Reid, CA
6. Skip Kiphart, TX
7. Don Maxey, MO
8. Paul Banales, AZ
9. Jim Railey, KY
10. Ken Karmel, AR

Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Windell Hildebrandt, AZ
3. Richard Davis, TX
- 4T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 4T. Philip Dziuk, IL
6. Dick Kincade, CO

7. Ken Yahiro, IL
- 8T. Hank Richard, GA
- 8T. Duane Russell, MI
10. Don Grieve, IL

Men's 75+

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

Men's 80+

1. George Spear, FL
2. Luzell Wilde, UT
3. Andy Trozzi, MA
4. Charles Russell, CA
5. Harry Steinman, MD
6. Ben Marshall, TX

Men's 85+

1. Ralph Hoyle, NY

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Robin Levine, CA
2. Aimee Roehler, PA
3. Kersten Hallander, CA
4. Janell Marriott, RI
- 5T. Kim Machiran, MO
- 5T. Ines Queiros, CT
7. Jackie Paraiso, CA
- 8T. Lisa Hjelm, CA
- 8T. Kelly Kirk, MN
10. Jere Luttner, TX

Women's A

1. Mary Crawford, IL
2. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
- 3T. Megan Bals, NE
- 3T. Debbie Fiordilino, NY
5. Sherri Feldman, NY
- 6T. April Settell, CO
- 6T. Susan Williams, UT
8. Deb Ulliman, OH
9. Judy McCole, NH
10. Mary Baca-Markham, NM

Women's B

1. Janel Tisinger, CA
2. Esther McNany, CA
- 3T. Vivian Gomez, FL
- 3T. Kristen Kovar, NE
5. Debbi Misanin, VA
6. Kelly Strachan, CO
7. Christina Pastore, MA
8. Sheri Kinnaman, AR
9. Kassi Herr, FL
10. Rosario Betancourt, TX

Women's C

1. Christine Fenton, FL
2. Terry Truvillion, MI
3. Rosario Bauer, CA
4. B.J. Calloway, GA
5. Christa Davis, TX
- 6T. Not a Member, MD
- 6T. Melissa Young, TX
8. Sharon Stevens, MA
9. Diana Castillo, TX
10. Nathania Stewart, GA

Women's D

1. Rhonda Lindenman, OK
2. Candy Arquitt, LA
- 3T. Cherie Hale, NC
- 3T. Alicia Matza, CA
5. Kerry Lyn O'Meara, NM
6. Suzanne Hammons, CA
- 7T. Christa Davis, TX
- 7T. Candace Griffin, SC
9. Maikie Marsh, TX
10. Crysti Aguirre, FL

Women's Novice

1. Penny Madanick, NM
2. Carrie Peppler, SC
3. Helen Armijo, NM
4. Lisa Barrett, PA
5. Gena Reilly, NM
- 6T. Pam Duran, AK
- 6T. Rita Espinoza, NM
- 6T. Janice Heinemann, MO
- 6T. Debbie Pinto, KY
- 6T. Margarita Sixto, FL

Women's 24-

1. Aimee Roehler, PA
2. Shannon Feaster, DC
- 3T. Jennifer Birchenough, UT
- 3T. Kim Blake, UT
- 3T. Liana Kerwood, OR
- 3T. Janette Olsen, UT
- 3T. Nicole Passage, UT
- 3T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
9. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
10. Sam Gibbs, FL

Women's 25+

1. Holly Remen, NC
- 2T. Jennifer Dering, NY
- 2T. Jo Shattuck, CO
4. Heather Dunn, VT
5. Jen Yokota, MO
- 6T. Tina Bragdon, CO
- 6T. Stacy Sour, CO
- 8T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 8T. Cara Pellowski, WI
10. Kim Herrold, SC

Women's 30+

1. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
2. Lydia Hammock, CA
3. Kersten Hallander, CA
4. Lori Lepow, FL
5. Stacy Sour, CO
6. Grace Hastings, TX

rankings...rankings

Rankings are based on
results processed by the
national office as of:
MAY 28, 1998

7. Mindy Hartstein, NY
- 8T. Holly Remen, NC
- 8T. Debbie Tisinger, CA
10. Annette Williams, CO

Women's 35+

1. Debbie Tisinger, CA
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Denise Mock, TX
4. Kim Machiran, MO
5. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
6. Mary Beke, AZ
7. Mary Crawford, IL
- 8T. Jodi Paul, PA
- 8T. Paula Saad, MI
10. Melanie Britton, FL

Women's 40+

1. Linda Moore, NE
2. Jean Trimble, FL
3. Susan Hendricks, AZ
4. Chris Evon, IL
5. Susan Pfahler, FL
- 6T. Jere Luttner, TX
- 6T. Val Shewfelt, UT
- 8T. Karen Bouchard, FL
- 8T. Paula Carter, GA
- 8T. Liz Molitor, IL

Women's 45+

1. Shelley Ogden, OH
2. Judy Sands, NJ
3. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
4. Janet Myers, NC
5. Brenda White, IL
- 6T. Renee Fish, FL
- 6T. Karen Weins, FL
- 8T. Karen Kattengell, LA
- 8T. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
- 8T. Carol Palombino, CA

Women's 50+

1. Merjean Kelley, CA
2. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
3. Pattie Schof, LA
4. Donna Ebner, MO
5. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
7. Mary Jane Weldin, DE
- 8T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
- 8T. Kendra Tutsch, WI
10. Nidia Funes, CA

Women's 55+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Rose Stoltmann, WI
- 3T. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
- 3T. Marquita Molina, CA
5. Mildred Gwinn, NC
- 6T. Nidia Funes, CA
- 6T. Gail Schaefer, MD
8. Joy DeSantis, CA
9. Pauline Kelly, IL
10. Catherine Stewart-Roache, NM

Women's 60+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Susan Embry, WA
3. Annabelle Kovar, NE
- 4T. Jane Graham, GA
- 4T. Eleanor Higgins, NM
- 6T. Lola Markus, IL
- 6T. Kathy Mueller, MN
- 8T. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- 8T. Naomi Eads, MO
10. Norma Carlisle, UT

Women's 65+

1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Reta Harring, WI
3. B.G. Railey, KY
- 4T. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
- 4T. Louise Kiss, NM
- 4T. Audrey Thixton, OK

Women's 70+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
3. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
4. Roberta Schoenfeld, NM
5. Beth Keene, TX
6. Tillie Davies, AZ

Women's 75+

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

Women's 80+

1. Zelda Friedland, NM

BOYS

Boy's 6 & Under

1. Michael Kaupla, WI
2. Brad Falvey, WI
3. Not a Member, WI
4. Ben Mabson, WI

B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Erick Podwill, OR
2. Ryan Noble, NC
3. Joseph Lee, LA
4. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
5. Austin Zuck, OR
6. John Sanderson, UT
7. Blake Thompson, OR
8. Jordan Faith, CO
9. Benjamin Long, NM
10. Andres Garcia, CA

Boy's 8 & Under

1. Matt Keddie, NH
2. Nick Arturo, AK
3. Trevor Smith, OR
4. Matthew Pacinelli, NM
5. Jansen Allen, TX
6. Tim Tilton, CO
- 7T. Jamin Godwin, FL
- 7T. Sean McGrath, IN

9. Colin Stock, OR
10. Kenneth Green Jr., GA

B8- Multi-Bounce

1. Matt Keddie, NH
2. Erick Podwill, OR
3. Brandon Callihan, AK
4. Eric Noble, NC
5. Tim Tilton, CO
- 6T. William Lee, LA
- 6T. Matthew Machiran, MO
- 6T. Sean McGrath, IN
9. John Sanderson, UT
10. Cameron Pfahler, FL

Boy's 10-

1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Mike Keddie, NH
3. David Lewis, CO
4. Charlie Pratt, OR
5. Nick Arturo, AK
6. Andrew Grissom, CA
7. Brad Starken, WI
8. Allan Crockett, AL
9. Nathaniel Dyer, MA
10. Brady Prince, MN

Boy's 12-

- 1T. Steven Klaiman, TX
- 1T. Nicholas Rowley, AZ
3. Eddie Mazur, CT
- 4T. Chris Coy, OK
- 4T. Ben Croft, IL
- 4T. David Key, LA
7. Shane Karmelin, GA
8. Mike Keddie, NH
9. Matt Johnson, NM
10. Dan Sheppick, OR

Boy's 14-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Adrian Anulewicz, CT
3. Josh Epstein, NY
4. Rusty Powell, LA
- 5T. Michael Lawrence, AL
- 5T. Matthew McElhiney, FL
7. Bart Crawford, OR
8. Cory Martin, WI
9. Patric Mascorro, TX
10. Justin Meadows, FL

Boy's 16-

1. Ryan Staten, KS
2. Joey Delfino, MA
3. Matthew McElhiney, FL
- 4T. Jeffrey Garner, AL
- 4T. Mike Harmon, FL
6. Shane Vanderson, OH
7. Danny Beaudry, CO
- 8T. Jeremiah Moser, TX
- 8T. Joe Roth, PA
- 8T. Josh Tucker, MO

Boy's 18-

- 1T. Mark Bloom, TX
- 1T. Josh Tucker, MO
3. Rocky Carson, CA

- 4T. Jeffrey Garner, AL
- 4T. Ryan Staten, KS
6. Stephen Mykalcio, NY
7. Willie Tilton, CO
8. Chris Crowther, CA
- 9T. James Ford, WY
- 9T. Kyle Harris, MA

GIRLS

G6- Multi-Bounce

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
2. Becca Machiran, MO
3. Amy Willhite, OR
4. Kaitlyn Pacinelli, NM
5. Tia Smith, OR
6. Stephanie Rojas, OR
7. Brittany Legget, OR
- 8T. Amber Hanson, OR
- 8T. Sondra Payne, NM
10. Kara Mazur, CT

Girl's 8 & Under

1. Brittany Legget, OR
2. Shannon Inglesby, OR
3. Rebeka Kopf, NY
4. Shanae Taylor, IN
- 5T. Sharon Jackson, IN
- 5T. Nikki Robinson, OR
7. Kara Mazur, CT
8. Danielle Spolowicz, WI
- 9T. Sarah Parrish, FL
- 9T. Laura Van Der Veer, OR

G8- Multi-Bounce

1. Brittany Legget, OR
2. Nikki Robinson, OR
3. Carol Payne, NM
4. Sharon Jackson, IN
5. Laura Van Der Veer, OR
6. Shanae Taylor, IN
7. Shannon Inglesby, OR
8. Kara Mazur, CT
9. Samantha Pimental, OR
10. Heather Collins, TN

Girl's 10-

1. Ashley Willhite, OR
2. Kara Mazur, CT
3. Ashley Legget, OR
4. Rebeka Kopf, NY
5. Brandie Hansen, OR
6. Jenny Epstein, NY
7. Kelley Fisher, OH

8. Dannielle Pimental, OR
9. Kimberly Walsh, UT
10. Kastle Arturo, AK

Girl's 12-

1. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
- 2T. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 2T. Jesi Fuller, NM
4. Kimberly Irons, OH
5. Kara Mazur, CT
6. Derai Darling, OR
7. Ashley Legget, OR
8. Elise Wilson, CT
9. Natalie Starken, WI
10. Brandie Hanson, OR

Girl's 14-

1. Molly Law, CO
2. Juliana Mayor, NY
3. Kristen Walsh, UT
4. Melanie Mueller, CO
5. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
6. Crystal Winfrey, OH
7. Jenny Cary, OR
8. Krystal Csuk, IL
9. Jeni Fuller, NM
10. Amy Jo Hollingsworth, OR

Girl's 16-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR
- 2T. Sara Borland, IA
- 2T. Kristen Kovar, NE
4. Kristen Walsh, UT
5. Michelle Gonzalez, OR
6. Nicki Whitney, VT
7. Melanie Mueller, CO
8. Maggie Debord, NE
9. Anna Tsavidis, MA
10. Megan Bals, NE

Girl's 18-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR
2. Sara Borland, IA
- 3T. Megan Bals, NE
- 3T. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
5. Liana Kerwood, OR
6. Christina Lewendal, OR
7. Elizabeth Posey, AK
- 8T. Chris Herrmann, MO
- 8T. Vanessa Tulao, AL
- 8T. Kristen Walsh, UT

Event Level & Description

Finish & Point Awards

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

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

july

8-11	IMRA International Masters Invitational @ The Sporting House [5]	Las Vegas, NV	408-372-7224
10-12	Courthouse of Blues Open @ The Courthouse	Jackson, MS	601-956-1300
	Redwood Empire Open @ Rancho Arroyo Racquet Club	Petaluma, CA	707-795-5461
	Southern California Championships @ Los Caballeros Sports Village	Fountain Valley, CA	714-546-8560
	Tom Pappas Memorial @ Wilmington Sportsplex	Memphis, TN	901-388-6580
	Shoot Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
10-19	IRF 9th World Championships	Cochabamba, Bolivia	719-635-5396
17-19	Georgia Games @ Georgia Tech Student Athletic Complex	Atlanta, GA	404-636-7575
	Summer '98 Shootout @ All American	Oklahoma City, OK	405-844-6004
	The Way It Wuz...Again!	TBA, CA	510-794-9594
18-19	Summer Pick of the Pairs @ Allentown Racquetball Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
	Summer Shoot Out @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
	Virginia Commonwealth Games @ Lancelot Sports Complex	Vinton, VA	540-981-0205
24-26	Bluegrass State Games @ University of Kentucky	Lexington, KY	606-288-6011
	5th Annual Summerfest @ Glass Court Swim & Fitness	Lombard, IL	630-629-3390
	Craig McCoy Memorial Tournament	Riverside, CA	909-682-7511
31-02	Robious Summer Open @ Robious Sports & Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-330-2222

august

1-2	Quad West Doubles Warm-Up @ Quad West Athletic Club	Clearwater, FL	813-535-4901
	Shoot-Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
7-9	Friendly's Restaurant Doubles @ Nautilus Fitness Center	Erie, PA	814-868-0072
	I Love Racquetball @ Aspen Hill Club	Silver Spring, MD	301-762-4993
	Summer Doubles Shoot Out @ The Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Summer Survivors @ Cedardale Athletic Club	Haverhill, MA	978-373-1596
14-16	Sanctioned League @ LA Fitness Westminster	Westminster, CA	714-515-7478
	Florida State Doubles @ Orlando Racquet & Fitness	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
15-21	Junior Team Training Camp @ U.S. Olympic Training Center	Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396
20-23	Utah State Junior Championships @ Redwood Multipurpose Center [3]	West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
22-23	Doubles Shoot Out @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
28-30	Best of Bexar @ Racquetball & Fitness	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
	Summer Hot Cash Classic @ Omega 40	Ormond Beach, FL	904-672-4044
26-31	High Performance Junior Training Camp @ USOTC	Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396

september

1-5	IRF 10th World Seniors @ Tom Young's Athletic Club [5]	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
5-6	Warren Finn Racquetball Tournament @ JCC	Houston, TX	713-729-3200
11-13	Fall Classic @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
	Regional Doubles @ Racquetpower [4]	Jacksonville, FL	904-270-2224
18-20	American Family Open @ American Family Fitness Center	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400
	Blast It @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3303
	F.A.C. Fall Premier Classic @ Fayetteville Athletic Club	Fayetteville, AR	501-587-0500
25-27	NE Regional Doubles Championship @ Cedardale Athletic Club	Haverhill, MA	978-663-8640
	Texas State Doubles @ Northwest Fitness Center [3]	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
26-10/1	High Performance Adult Training Camp @ USOTC	Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396
30-10/4	Magic City Classic Pro-Am IRT @ YMCA	Birmingham, AL	205-324-4563

upcoming national events

Oct. 14-18	Edgell USRA 31st National Doubles @ Merritt Athletic Club/Security [6]	Baltimore, MD	719-635-5396
Nov. 11-15	Promus Hotels 3rd U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis [5]	Memphis, TN	719-635-5396
Dec. 18-22	IRF Pro Kennex 10th World Juniors @ Los Caballeros Sports Village [5]	Fountain Valley, CA	719-635-5396
1999			
January	USRA Annual Leadership Conference @ USOTC	Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396
Jan. 29-31	Women's Senior/Master Championships @ Lutoff YMCA [5]	Des Plaines, IL	847-696-0796
Feb. 17-20	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational [5]	Phoenix, AZ	719-635-5396
Mar. 05-07	Wilson USRA 12th U.S. National High School Championships [6]	Portland, OR	719-635-5396

Bolded listings are USRA or IRF Events • [Brackets] indicate Level of Tournament (unmarked = Level 2)

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