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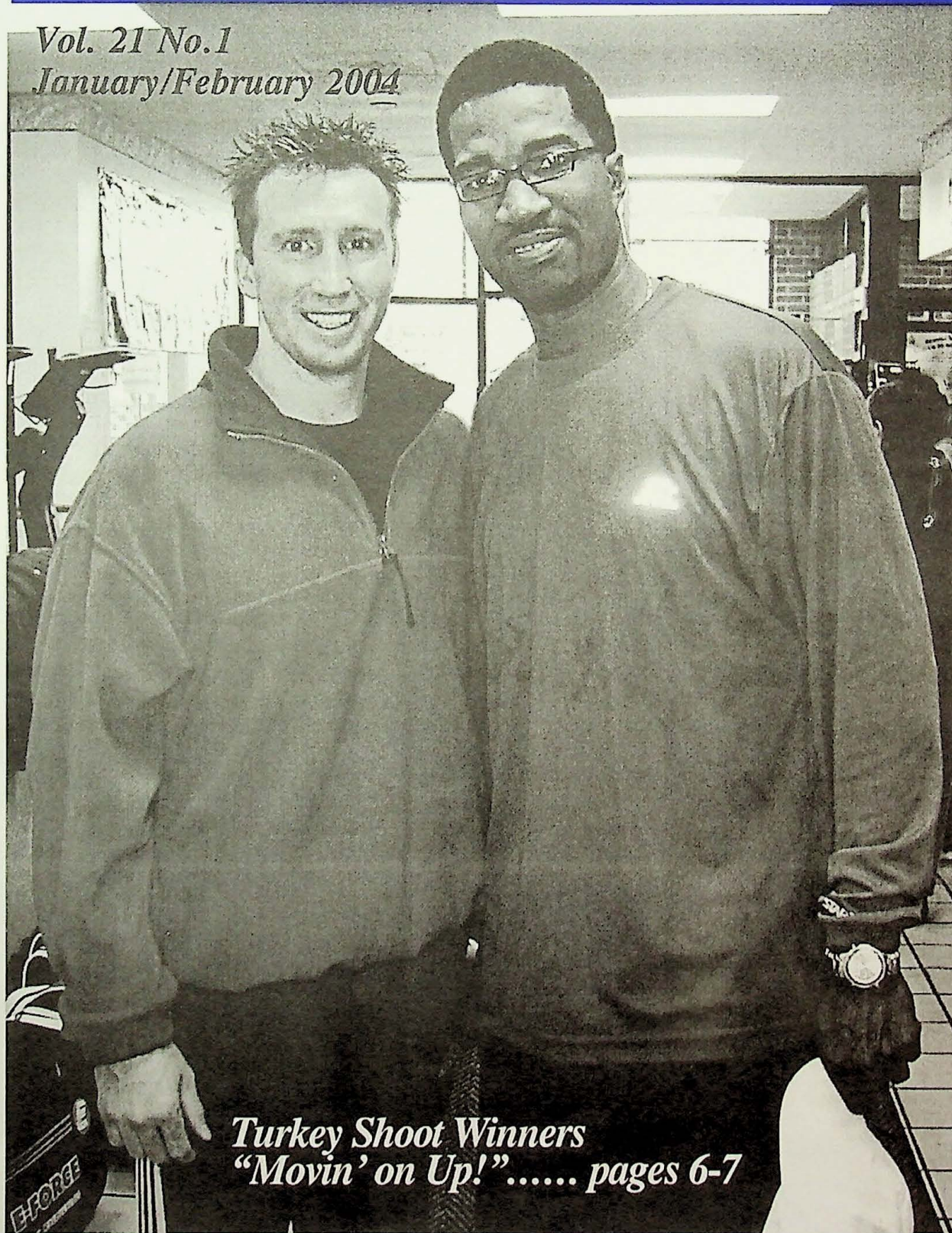
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USRA ISRA Newsletter

The Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association

*Vol. 21 No.1
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*Turkey Shoot Winners
"Movin' on Up!"..... pages 6-7*

ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

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From the President

There's only one thing in life that is certain — our lives are *not* static! Change will occur...

As we move into 2004, we can look forward to change in our racquetball world. In the case of the ISRA and its members, I think the news is all pretty positive. Here's what's happening:

1) Thanks to a significant contribution from ISRA member **Leo Klimaitis** and the talents of ISRA member **Diane Bunker**, we have a brand new web site. It has a new look and lots of new information. One of the neat features is a calendar that is always current because dates automatically fall off the schedule when they have passed. You will be able to easily locate tournament results, Travel League standings and links to other racquetball websites. Visit www.illinoisracquetball.com for a look.

2) We recently received a generous donation to the ISRA from **Diane and Joe DeArmas** of the Glass Court. Diane's letter thanked the volunteers of the ISRA *"for their tireless efforts and dedication (for no monetary reward) and for everything they have done to help me as a player, racquetball director and finally a club owner"*. Comments like these make the efforts worthwhile.

3) **Wilson Racquetball** will be sponsoring the second half of the 2003-2004 Travel League season and will be the *Official Ball of the ISRA Travel League*. Each club will receive Wilson Titanium balls to use for their Travel League matches. This is a great way for Wilson to support us and for all of us to try out the new ball.

4) **Head/Penn Racquet Sports** will provide monetary sponsorship in addition to being the *Official Ball Sponsor for 2004 ISRA State Tournaments*. The Penn Pro green ball will be used for State Doubles (February 6-8 at Glass Court), Junior State Singles & Doubles (March 27-28 at Landmark) and State Singles (April 1-4 at Chalet).

5) **Landmark Health and Racquetball** in Peoria will be the host site for the ISRA Junior State Singles & Doubles Tournament in March. **Chuck Snyders** and

Terry Sutton will serve as co-tournament directors. We look forward to taking a state tournament to Central Illinois once again. Thanks to Terry and Landmark for the support.

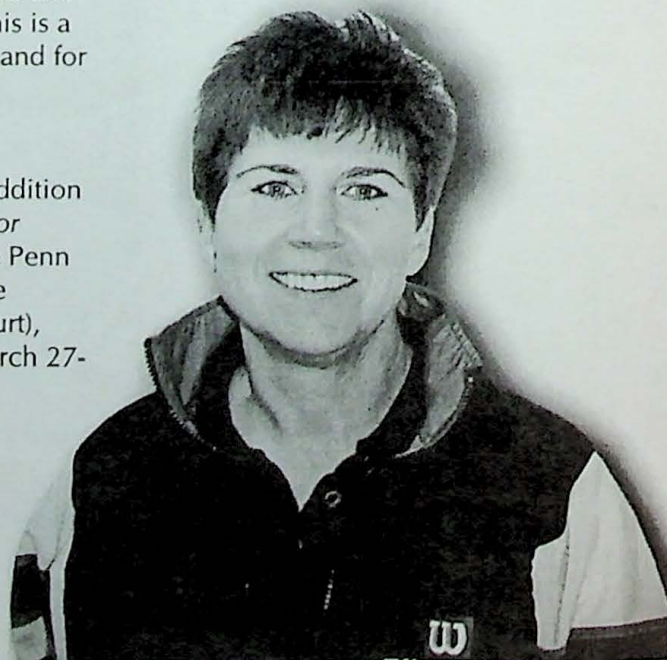
6) The USRA is going electronic! By the time you read this, the new On-Line Membership Management system should be live. This will allow members to renew memberships on-line and enable tournament directors to easily determine which players need to purchase/renew memberships. And, the best part is that the memberships can be entered immediately, eliminating the delay that currently occurs between your payment and when you actually receive your ID card, first newsletter and first magazine.

Additionally, a new tournament sanctioning and management system is being put into place, as well as a national ranking system based on actual play (not just participation in key national events). These tools will make all of us more efficient. The ISRA board will contact tournament directors directly regarding tournament enhancements.

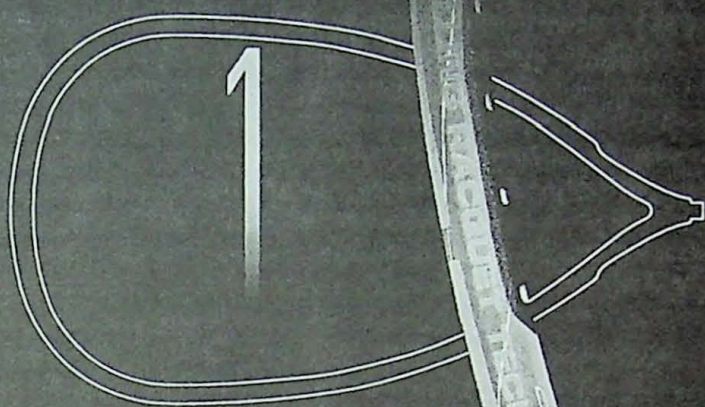
Whew! My head is spinning with all of this change, but it really is exciting. When you have a chance, please say *"thanks"* to the sponsors and supporters mentioned above.

Enjoy a happy and healthy New Year!

Laurel



THE POWER OF THREE



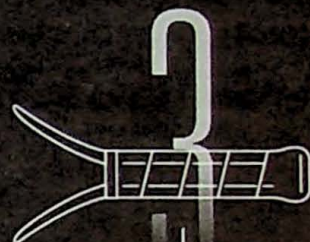
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Derek Robinson
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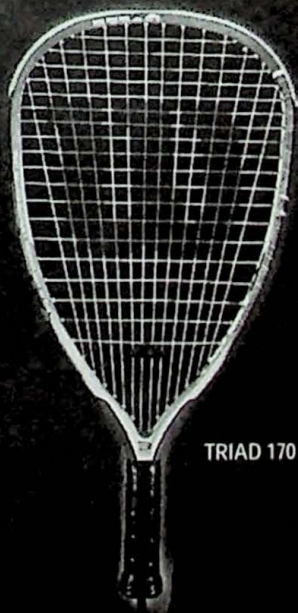
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Bits & Pieces

☛ The women pro's will arrive in Chicagoland just in time for Valentine's Day! The LPRA Pro Stop, February 12-15, will once again be hosted by Dave Negrete & Co., at the Bloomingdale Handball and Racquetball Club. Go to onlineacb.com for more information...

Announcements:

☛ George Brumis, developer of three of the first racquetball clubs in the Chicago area, passed away in November. George, an avid tennis player, fell in love with racquetball when he first was introduced to the game in the early 70's. His entrepreneurial spirit was sparked by the popularity of the game. This led George and his partner, Frank Widner, to build the Palos, Downers and Naper racquetball clubs in 1975, 1977, and 1979 respectively. George was instrumental in the start of the Chicagoland Handball and Racquetball Association, serving as its first president. The three clubs hosted many early racquetball tournaments in the '70's and '80's, halting in 1986 as the clubs were converted to total health club facilities. George and Frank sold

the clubs in 1994. The Palos Olympic and Naper Olympic Health Clubs, as they are known today, still promote racquetball. George enjoyed the game and will be remembered for the energy and zeal he brought to the early start-up of the sport. — Margo Brumis Gebraski

☛ Nancy Amaro celebrated her 50th birthday in December. What a great sport racquetball is — instead of getting upset about hitting a milestone, we can look forward to taking the next age group by storm! Happy Birthday, Nancy, and Women's 50's — watch out!

☛ December Wedding...with family members looking on, Kathleen Dunham and Len Ruzyski were married in Las Vegas last month. Another racquetball romance results in wedded bliss...the newlyweds met at Summerfest in 1999 when



Kathy stole the pool-side chair Len was about to sit in, then obviously proceeded to steal his heart as well!

☛ Janet and Joe Eminger are doing their part to grow the sport of racquetball — and grow their family at the same time! A new little Eminger will arrive on or around May 30, so Janet probably won't be making National Singles this year. No doubt siblings Joey (12) and Amanda (8) will be showing their new brother or sister the racquetball ropes sooner rather than later! P.S. Janet wishes everyone to know that she is not (normally) fat and this is not a beer belly.

☛ On August 21, Kathi Peters will become Mrs. Eugene Coyle. Congratulations to both on their engagement! Kathi is a Human Resources manager with Signode, a division of Illinois Tool Works.

Editor's Note: Members, if you have items you'd like to see included in the newsletter, please send them to cherylkkirk@aol.com.



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Ed Lembitz Memorial Four Wall Brawl

BR Ryall YMCA

October 24-26, 2003

Tournament Director: Sean Nelson

Sean wishes to thank all the players and volunteers who turned out to make this popular tournament a success!

Results

Division/# entered
First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (4)

Andy Romano; Tom Utterback; Tim Dern; Krystal Csuk

Men's A (8)

Carlos Delgado; Sean Nelson; Rich Torres (MI), Sid Harshavat

Men's B (16)

Adrian Beltramino; John Anaya; Brandon Ritschard, Grant Macuba

Men's C (16)

Mike Steinhaus; Humberto Sosa; Pete Schmeichel, Bryan Tubbs

Men's D (12)

Chris Kudrna; Bryan Tubbs; Bob Woycheese, Phil Mangiaracina

Men's Open Doubles (3)

Dave Bachar/Don Grigas; Andy Romano/Tim Dern; Rich Wells/Sean Nelson

Men's A Doubles (8)

Al Rubiano/Vito Rubiano; Phil Schmitt/Brett Crawley; Rich Wells/Grant Macuba, Rich Torres/Ted Lane

Men's B Doubles (6)

Greg Benjamin/Pete Schmeichel; Bob Brennan/Jim Camasto; Juan Martinez/Desmond Slusher, Bryan Tubbs/Hugh Morrison

Juniors 14 & Under Advanced (4)

Joey Limonciello; Kevin Schulz; Gino Wuttke; Mike Wuttke

Juniors 14 & Under Beginners (4)

Chase Bachar; Cal Healy; Joey Eminger; Kelly Woycheese

Ektelon IRT Halloween Classic

Bloomington Handball and Racquetball Club

October 30-November 2, 2003

The fourth stop on the IRT Men's Professional Tour, the Halloween Classic, was held at the Bloomington Handball and Racquetball club (formerly the Athletic Club of Bloomington) and attracted the largest pro draw of the year with 52 players competing from all over the world. Players from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Canada attended to compete for the largest pro purse of the season — \$35,000! Canadian Kane Waselenchuk (#2) defeated Mexican Alvaro Beltran (#6) in 3 games to gain his second Halloween Classic title in 3 years and take home the \$8,000 first place prize. Rookie Shane Vanderson (#16) of Ohio pulled off the upset of the year by defeating the #1 player in the world, Jason Mannino of California, in a tough five-game match.

The amateur draw was the smallest in recent years, but the competition was fierce. The Men's Open was the largest division with Javier Moreno of Mexico taking home the first place trophy. Local player Ben Croft made the final but had to forfeit due to an injury. Ruben Gonzalez took home the "seniors" 1st place money, defeating Canadian Mike Ceresia in a hard-fought match. It was great to watch these two former pro's battle it out. In the Women's Open draw, Krystal Csuk defeated Liz Molitor in two games. And, "hats off" to Liz for winning her age group division.

The party was arguably the best of any tournament in the area. If you missed it, don't let it happen again! A big thank you to Gary Danno, owner of Diamond Lil's in Roselle, for letting us take over his bar for the party. Everyone had a great time, including many of the pro's who came out to party. Thanks to our DJ, Bob, who got everyone on the dance floor and thanks to Greg for driving the pro's around in Gary's limo and helping out at the club.

This event could not happen without the support of our sponsors. I would like to personally thank everyone who believes in this event and the importance of bringing the pro's to Chicago. Leo Klimaitis, Pat Taylor, Bill Wilson and Howard Miller, you make this event happen! Also, big thanks to Ektelon, John Massard of Elmhurst Extended Care, Julie Vincent of Forest View Farm, Martha Huske of Real Time Data, Frank and Diane Bunker, Russ Tatar and Tony Sindt of Seasonal Concepts Landscaping, Tony Cosmano of Anthony's Pizza, and Eugene Coyle, all of whom were silver sponsors. Thanks also to the bronze sponsors — Watmora Casey, Joey Logan, Lola Markus, Eric Newman, Jack Newman, Mike Dellagrazie, Gregg Mandell, Burt Engelberg, Rick Jordan, Nancy Kronenfeld, Randy and Janet Christie, Liz Molitor and Lincoln Home Mortgage.

Most players don't realize what it takes to put on an event like this. Diane Bunker, I would like to thank you for all your help — I couldn't have done it without you. Also to my brother Dennis, my wife Kathy and kids David and Julia, my mom Pat, my dad John and all the desk and check-in volunteers, thanks as always for your help and support! I always get comments on how nice everyone is who works the tournament. How fortunate I am to have such a great group of friends and family in my life. That is what makes this a premiere racquetball event in Chicago.

Last but not least, thanks to everyone who played in the event and came to watch the pro's — we will see you around the courts. I look for bigger and better things for next year: keep your eyes on onlineacb.com for upcoming events.

— Dave Negrete,
Tournament Director/IRT Commissioner
negretz@mindspring.com

Division/# entered: 1st; 2nd; Semifinals

Men's Open (37): Javier Moreno (TN); Ben Croft; John Goff (WI); Juan Herrera (CA)
Men's Elite (6): Robert Lee (NM); Juan Rivas (MA); Andres Ramirez (FL); Cary Slade
Men's A (15): Vito Rubiano; Carlos Delgado; Sid Harshavat; Andre Roy (MI); Eric Rieman
Men's B (14): Oscar Renfroe (MI); Brandon Ritschard; Steve Shapiro (Canada); Brett Crawley
Men's C (11): Juan Martinez; Fred Conforti; Sami Abualsamid; Joey Limonciello
Men's D (11): Bryan Tubbs; Steven Williams; Tony Sindt; Joey Limonciello
Men's 25/30+ (4): Russ Tatar; Sid Harshavat; Andre Roy (MI); Eric Rieman
Men's 35+ (15): Ruben Gonzalez (NY); Mike Ceresia (Canada); Brad McCunniff (IA); Dan Llacera (DE)
Men's 35+ Intermediate (12): Grant Macuba; Steve Shapiro (Canada); John Anaya; Juan Martinez
Men's 40+ (9): Robert Lee (NM); Andy Romano; Tom Utterback; Ron Calloway
Men's 45+ (7): Dave Milazzo; Tim Dern; Kevin Yeazell; Watmora Casey
Men's 45/50/55+ Intermediate (9): Ray Meisner; Leo Formanski; John Massard; Alberto Palacios
Men's 50+ (8): TJ Ferro; Frank Taddonio (AZ); Gregg Mandell; Horace Miller
Men's 55/60+ (8): Dennis McKee; Joe Silius; Leo Klimaitis; Pat Taylor

Women's Open (10): Krystal Csuk; Liz Molitor; Kelly Fisher (OH); Ellen Somberg
Women's A (9): Joan Vande Kieft; Lori Good; Sharon Huczek (MI); Donna Heinzl; Barb Curran
Women's B (4): Carolyn Watkins; Cindy Flores; Janet Christie; Deb Bordignon
Women's 30/35/40/45+ (7): Liz Molitor; Janet Eminger; Martha Huske; Julie Vincent
Women's 50/55+ (6): Kathy Dunham; Joan Vande Kieft; Pam Grace; Donna Heinzl

It's All in Your
COURT!
Be A
SPONSOR!

Here's a challenge to all ISRA Members:

- ▶ Sponsor ONE NEW player to the sport of racquetball this year. Any age.
- ▶ Take him/her to your club... and teach the game. Stay with them until they can join a league on their own.
- ▶ Just think how good you'll feel when each of us sponsors the players of tomorrow!



www.illinoisracquetball.com

Turkey Shoot Open

The Glass Court Swim & Fitness

November 13-16, 2003

On the Cover: Adrian Beltramino and Desmond Slusher

Another great tournament at Glass – the consistency with which each tournament experience is delivered is a beautiful thing. The traditionally excellent hospitality, prizes, food, and sense of community never wavers. Missing a Glass Court tournament should be avoided at all cost!

Large draws provided ample opportunity for eligibility moves. As a result of their Turkey Shoot achievements, several players will move to higher divisions next season: Adrian Beltramino to Men's Open, Desmond Slusher to Men's A, Mike Steinhaus to Men's B (immediately due to his Four Wall Brawl win!), and Char Borre to Women's A (having a women's division full draw is a treat!)

The teams in Mixed A Doubles tested

A Doubles tested Tournament Director Doug Halverson's brain cells on Sunday when it became apparent there was a fairly complicated tie to decipher. Three teams had won the same number of matches and games, head-to-head determinations didn't work (everyone had beaten one of the other two in a circular fashion), none went to tiebreakers; finally it came down to "points scored against". The winners were Pam Grace and Jeff Grace with 68 points scored against them, followed by Barb Curran/Tom Curtis with 69, and

Cheryl Kirk/Jim Wehrli with 71. You just never know when every point will count!

As the adult draws were finishing up on Sunday, Char Borre ran the junior divisions with a nice turnout. Congratulations to Chris Schubert, Matt Loy, and Michael Wuttke for placing first in their respective divisions.



Juniors await their court assignments: (L to R) Geoff Goldblatt, Scott Ness, Mike Antonoff, Chris Muruato, Chris Schubert, Matt Loy

It takes a whole team to run a tournament! Joe and Diane DeArmas, along with Doug, wish to thank their Glass Court staff and volunteers Pam Grace, Tom Utterback, Ron Calloway, Keith Mecklenburg, Laura Morgan, Joe Gill, Chuck Snyders, Char Borre, Kathy Dunham, Peggy Hartmann, Patrice Calvi, Rich Clay, Liz Molitor, Laurel Davis, Geoff Peters, Joey Brownlee, Cheryl Kirk, Jeff Grace, Joe Silius, Eric Rieman, Michelle Halverson, and Kara Peters.

We have Illinois State Doubles, the Shamrock Shootout and USRA Regionals to look forward to at this excellent club. See you there!

— Cheryl Kirk

Division/# entered
First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (12)
Keith Minor; Tim Austin (IN); Bill Lattner, Cary Slade
Men's AA (4)
Jorge Ortiz; Doug Halverson; Eric Rieman, Andy Romano
Men's A (12)
Adrian Beltramino; Dick Heithoff; Ubaldo Melo, Keith Mecklenburg



Glass Court owners Joe & Diane De Armas with daughters Carrie Spaeth and Jennifer Jaskier

Men's B (17)
Desmond Slusher; Chris Liljestrand; Dan Jaskier, Ray Shimizu
Men's C (26)
Mike Steinhaus; Mark Stevenson; Pete Schmeichel, Jose Castro
Men's D (27)
Richard DeArmas; Russ Maziarka; Marty Heneberry, Chris Kudrna

Men's Novice (4)
Eric Fleming; Rob Benes; Matt Loy; Steve Kraus

Men's 35+ (6)
Keith Minor; Cary Slade; Dennis Negrete, Lem Rowans

Men's 40+ (7)
Tom Utterback; Andy Romano; Ron Calloway, Jim Mecha

Men's 45+ (10)
Dave Milazzo; Chuck Snyders; Tim Dern, Horace Miller

Men's 45+ Intermediate (7)
Len Schultz; Leo Formanski, Frank Valentino (split 2nd place points); Heinz Knops, John Massard, Tom Curtis, Randy Schulz

Men's 50+ (10)
Gregg Mandell; Bruce Nelson; Pat Taylor, Frank Milazzo

Men's 55+ (5)
Greg Hasty, Sr., Horace Miller; John Usma; Pat Taylor; Leo Klimaitis

Women's Open/A (11)
Liz Molitor; Nancy Schum; Kathy Dunham, Patrice Calvi

Women's AA (3)
Lori Good; Barbara Curran; Karen Thurlow

Women's B (9)
Char Borre; Carolyn Watkins; Julianne Beran, Carolyn Watkins

Women's C/D (5)
Julianne Beran; Janet Christie; Marlin Ortiz; Cindy Flores; Dolores Bethune

Men's Open Doubles (8)
Bill Lyman/Joe Silius; Lem Rowans/Joey Logan; Winston Cole/Frank Ball, Dennis Negrete/Tim Austin (IN)

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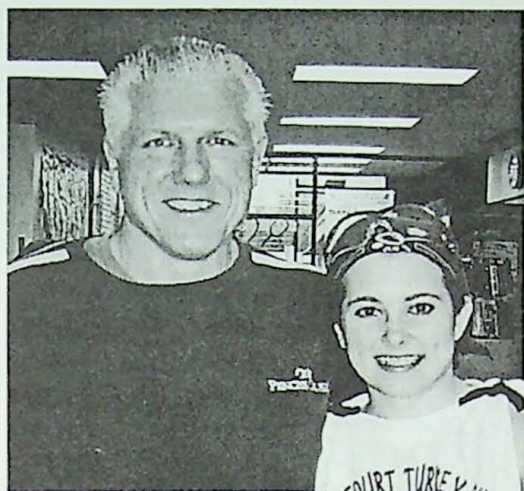
Open Champs
Keith Minor and Liz Molitor



7/8 of the Mixed A Division
(Pam Jacobsen, where were you?)

Turkey Shoot Open

continued from previous page



Kelly Woycheese joins dad Bob on the tournament circuit

Men's A Doubles (10)

Kelvin Branch/David Royster; Joey Brownlee, Bill Kuhlman; Delmer Reed/Jeff Grace, Keith Mecklenburg/Kevin Massard

Men's B Doubles (8)

Joey Brownlee/Joe Kukielski; Brett Crawley/Robert Littledale; Matt Malcheski/Carl LaForrest, John Anaya/Ray Shimizu

Men's C Doubles (10)

John Massard/Lee Scoville; Bob Woycheese/Carl Sick; Mike Mahon/Alberto Palacios, Darren Halligan/Phil Mangiaracina

Women's Open Doubles (2)

Nancy Schum/Jill Wells; Kathy Dunham/Patrice Calvi

Women's A Doubles (4)

Cheryl Kirk/Joan Vande Kieft; Lori Good/Pam Grace; Lynn Yeazel/Maria Johnson; Barb Utterback/Kathy Welker

Women's B/C Doubles (4)

Carolyn Watkins/Dorothy Che-Menju; Jane Klass/Laura Samela; Joyce Burzloff/Laura Jados; Carrie Howard/Sharilyn Pope

Mixed Open Doubles (8)

Diane Bunker/Tom Utterback; Joe Silius/Patrice Calvi; Chuck Snyders/Janet Eminger, Jim Hillman/Nancy Schum

Mixed A Doubles (4)

Pam Grace/Jeff Grace; Barb Curran/Tom Curtis; Cheryl Kirk/Jim Wehrli; Pam Jacobsen/John Matarrese

Mixed B/C Doubles (3)

Char Borre/Joey Brownlee; Janet Christie/Kevin Massard; Joyce Burzloff/Ray Almaraz

Juniors (Advanced)

Chris Schubert; Scott Ness; Joey Limonciello

Juniors (Intermediate)

Matt Loy; Gino Wuttke; Cal Healy; Kelly Woycheese

Juniors (Beginner)

Michael Wuttke; Erich Schubert; Joey Eminger; Tim Mikeworth



Michael Steinhaus had plenty of family support: (L to R) Chuck Snyders, Sandi Steinhaus, Charles Snyders, Kelly, Mike and Michelle Steinhaus

Southlake Fall Open

The Southlake Club, Mundelein; November 8, 2003

Dave Milazzo of Gurnee took top honors and first place prize money of \$200 at the Fall Open racquetball tournament held Saturday, November 8th at The Southlake Club. Milazzo, who is nationally ranked and normally competes in the Men's 45+ division, dropped down to play with the young guns in the Men's Open division and bested Bob Wurtz of Vernon Hills in the finals 15-5, 15-10. In the Men's A bracket, Sid Harshavat of Palatine won two straight against John Beaulieu of Glenview and took home a \$100 check for his efforts, while in the Men's B, Ray Shimizu traveled north from Evergreen Park and prevailed in a three game tie-breaker over Steve Saeks. Trevor Snyders, at the ripe old age of 12, got a ride to Mundelein from his Dad, and lasted through the entire day and a decisive tie-breaker against Sami Abulasamid of Algonquin to emerge as the champion in the Men's C division! All day long, spectators could be heard exclaiming about how hard and accurate Trevor's shots were!

Southlake Club members TG

Venkateshwaran (Gurnee) and Carl D'Ambrose (Lake Villa) paired up to take the Men's Open Doubles over Jorge Ortiz and Joe Gill from the Edens Athletic Club in Chicago. This was an exciting match that was too close to call until the final points as TG and Carl eked out an 11-7 win in the tiebreaker. In the Men's B Doubles, Sami Abulasamid made up for his loss in the Men's C division by

teaming with Luis Monsreal from Arlington Heights to defeat Grant Macuba (Naperville) and Ray Shimizu, 15-12, 15-4.

The tournament was sponsored by El Barrios on Diamond Lake Road in Diamond Lake - and all of the players and spectators ate well the entire day. Congratulations to Club Manager Bob Croft and his entire staff - Juan, Fred, Tina, Sam, and Kara for a job well done.

The Southlake Club recently underwent extensive remodeling and the players had nothing but compliments for the newly refinished courts. Stop by and play the Saturday Challenge Court for only \$10 with your USRA/ISRA competitive license. The next event at Southlake will be a One-Day Doubles tune-up on Saturday, January 31st. Come on up and check it out!

— Geoff Peters

Division; # entered

0First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (11)

Dave Milazzo; Bob Wurtz; Joe Gill, Jorge Ortiz

Men's A (10)

Sid Harshavat; John Beaulieu; Jim Schavocky, Bill Bertagnoli

Men's B (9)

Ray Shimizu; Steve Saeks; Gerry Kudanian, Ben Fraga

Men's C/D (13)

Trevor Snyders; Sami Abulasamid; Chris Schubert, Mike Antonoff; Jason Young (1st Consolation)

Men's Open Doubles (6)

Carl D'Ambrose/T.G. Venkateshwaran; Jorge Ortiz/Joe Gill; Carl Kissell/George Pappas, Al Rubiano/Vito Rubiano

Men's B Doubles (4)

Sami Abulasamid/Luis Monsreal; Grant Macuba/Ray Shimizu; Chris Schubert/Trevor Snyders; Joey Limonciello/Alberto Palacios

Juniors 16 & Under (2)

Jason Young; Kevin Schulz

Oak Park YMCA Fall Classic Tournament

November 8, 2003

The Oak Park Fall Classic tournament is played in the round robin format, with all matches 2 games to 11 points. It features one of the lowest entry fees around and the convenience of having a one-day format. The "Y" also provides lunch for all of the players - a lot of "bang for the buck"!

Results:

Men's A - John Usmaal; Men's B - Rodrigo Salerno; Men's C - Al Basile; Men's D - Chris Hatch; Novice - Luke Thornton

The Oak Park YMCA offers recently-renovated courts and many players commented how nice they were to play on. The floors have been refinished, the walls repainted and the lights have been replaced as well. Each of the three courts has new fans to improve ventilation. If you are in the area, check out the Oak Park YMCA on their challenge court days.

Scott Galaas, Tim Evans and the rest of the staff offer their thanks to all the players who helped to make this tournament a success.

— Keith Brown

Choice Hotels 8th US Open

The Racquet Club of Memphis, University of Memphis, and Six50 Total Club
Memphis, Tennessee
November 19-23, 2003

Not sure if it's a record, but over 850 players from the United States and numerous other countries gathered once again in Memphis for one of the Big Three national events – the U.S. Open.

This tournament has much to offer:

- St. Jude's Children's Hospital benefits from the annual silent auction, the pre-tournament Pro-Am charity doubles event, and generously donated referee fees.

- The famous portable court boasts music and light shows...and the introductions of players rival those of any basketball game or boxing match!

- Activities every evening keep the players out of trouble (?) – American Idol karaoke party, Player's dance party, and Party with the Pro's (gala Saturday night event).

- And...lots of racquetball! Participants can enter up to three events if two are doubles.

Watching the pros is always a thrill. This year, Canadian Kane Waselenchuk won his first-ever U.S. Open title, defeating Derek Robinson in three straight games 11-8, 11-6, 11-6. Christie Van Hees, taking the silver medal, did Canada proud on the women's side – returning from a two-year break from the sport, she defeated Cheryl Gudinas in the semifinals and faced Rhonda Rajsich in the finals, ultimately losing 11-2, 5-11, 11-7, 12-10.

What about Team Illinois, you ask? Well, 27 men and 5 women made the trek to

Memphis this year – of our 59 entries, 27 achieved top finisher status (quarterfinals or better). Seven medals came home: two gold (Greg Hasty and Carolyn Watkins), three silver (Juan Martinez, Jorge Navarro, and Kathy Dunham/Susan Kieffer [MN]), and two bronze (Cheryl Kirk and Carolyn Watkins).

Teammates lent support to fellow Illinoisans, and non-competing cheerleaders

were on hand as well:

Jugie Martinez, Len Ruzycki, Barb Utterback, Frank Bunker, Bob Croft, Kunjal Harshavat, Susan Klimaitis, Kristy Klimaitis, Cliff Swain (appropriately rooting for future father-in-law Leo Klimaitis), Arlene O'Donnell, Kit Lawson, Joey Logan, Delmer Reed, and Efren Perez. "Considering how we were spread out over 3 clubs, I think it was great how we all made an effort to watch and support our fellow team members," said Juan Martinez, a first-time U.S. Open participant.

Check out Illinois results below...and for more information, go to the USRA website at www.usra.org.

Name: Division(s), Results
Diane Bunker: Women's 40+ (QF), Mixed 40+ Doubles (w/Tom Utterback) (QF)
Peter Colovos: Men's D,

Men's C Doubles (w/Sym Colovos)
Sym Colovos: Men's D, Men's C Doubles (w/Peter Colovos)
Fred Conforti: Men's C, Men's C Doubles (w/Michael Conforti) (QF)
Michael Conforti: Men's C (QF), Men's C Doubles (w/Fred Conforti) (QF)



Brothers double as partners — Michael and Fred Conforti

Eugene Coyle: Men's Pro, Men's 35+
Ben Croft: Men's Pro, Men's Open (QF), Men's Open Doubles (w/Nick Giunta, CO) (QF)
Don Davis: Men's 65+ (QF)
Kathy Dunham: Women's 50+, Women's 50+ Doubles (w/Susan Kieffer, MN) (2nd)
Cheryl Gudinas: Women's Open (SF)
Sid Harshavat: Men's 25+B, Men's B
Greg Hasty: Men's 55+ (1st)
Andy Hawthorne: Men's Pro, Men's Open
Cheryl Kirk: Women's 34/45/55+B (3rd), Women's B
Leo Klimaitis: Men's 45+A, Men's 55+ (QF)
Gregg Mandell: Men's 50+ (QF), Men's 50+ Doubles (w/Horace Miller) (QF)

Juan Martinez: Men's 35+C (2nd), Men's B Doubles (w/Desmond Slusher)

Horace Miller: Men's 55+ (QF), Men's 50+ Doubles (w/Gregg Mandell) (QF)

Jorge Navarro: Men's 25+C, Men's D (2nd)

Dave Negrete: Men's 40+

John O'Donnell, Jr.: Men's 70+ (QF)

Tony Perez: Men's 25+C (QF), Men's D (QF)

Geoff Peters:

Men's 45+A, Men's A
Rick Reynolds: Men's 40+, Men's 45+
Wil Rounsaville: Men's 45+A, Men's 50+
Royce Simpson: Men's 45+C (QF), Men's C
Desmond Slusher: Men's B, Men's B Doubles (w/Juan Martinez)

Sandy Stephens: Men's Pro; Mixed 30+ Doubles (w/Thao Le, VA) (QF)

Pat Taylor: Men's 60+

Tom Utterback: Men's 40+, Mixed 40+ Doubles (w/Diane Bunker) (QF)

Carolyn Watkins: Women's 24/25+C (1st), Women's C (3rd)

Kevin Yeazell: Men's 45+A, Men's 45+



Carolyn Watkins and Sandy Stephens at Party with the Pros

—Cheryl Kirk



Jorge Navarro and Tony Perez with Tony's dad Efren



Royce Simpson, Desmond Slusher, Wil Rounsaville and Juan Martinez at the University of Memphis

Recipe for a Classic Women's Dish — Wilson Women's One-Day

Bloomington Handball and Racquetball Club
December 6, 2003

2 cups sugar
½ cup spice
1 pinch of girl power
Add some lively Wilson balls and stir vigorously

Now you have the makings of not only a sweet holiday dish but a great recipe for the annual **Wilson Women's Classic Tournament**. Saturday, December 6th was a power-packed day at the Bloomington Handball and Racquetball Club where 29 hard-hitting ladies got together for a little seasonal racquetball fun. IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete coordinated the tournament with help from Wilson's Terri Graham and Chris Evon. Wilson provided the balls and the great gift giveaways, and players showed up from as far away as Wisconsin and Naperville to join in the fun.

The Wilson Women's Classic has not only developed into a great day of racquetball but also an opportunity to develop new

not only because of the great one-day format but also for the opportunity to meet really nice people. Another satisfied participant, Kendra Tusch from Wisconsin, said she'd be back next year for more and she's bringing friends. "Oh, and by the way, those Wilson balls were lively". Julie Vincent



Dave Negrete with a few of his friends



Cathy Tojaga assists Dave with the stats

plaques went to Liz Molitor (Open), Lori Good (A), Donna Albert (B) and Erin Egan (C). Congratulations to everyone who took first place! Finally, we give the last word to the only man brave enough to keep us all in line, Dave Negrete, who stated "this by far is the most enjoyable tournament I run all year". Well, from all the ladies to Dave and Wilson, we say "Thanks!" We had a great time at the Wilson Women's Classic and look forward to more girl power fun next year!

—Carolyn Watkins



Lola Markus (L) and Janet Christie (R) welcome Kendra Tusch from Wisconsin

players. Kristin Nilsson, who came out as a first-time tournament player, said she'll be back for more. We hope to see you around the tournament circuit, Kristin! Junior player Erin Egan attended, feeling like she could relax and just play her game. "Bloomington has history for me...I played my first junior tournament here and I love it". Janet Christie also showed up, exclaiming, "What a great chick day". Janet said she has been coming to the event for the last 4 years

and Britt Schoonover really enjoyed the spirit of the whole event and the consensus on the one day format is "We love it"! Diane Bunker stated it best: "get in, get down and get out!" Pam Grace was also having an outstanding time as she was chillin' by the courts nibbling on some fruit. She said she got "more donuts than Krispy Kreme" but she loves the exercise and hanging with the ladies!

The results are in and the tournament first-place



Between matches — Kathy Welker, Barb Utterback and Britt Schoonover

2003 ISRA Players of the Year and 2004 Distinguished Service Awards

2003 Male and Female Players of the Year and Most Improved Player Award

Vote for your favorite male and/or female Player of the Year and Most Improved Player using the form below. Please submit a brief comment regarding your selection(s) using the following criteria:

1. Accomplishments
2. Number of years played
3. Sportsmanship
4. Improvement
5. Contribution to the sport of racquetball

Nominees must be USRA/ISRA members and may play at any level. Winners will be chosen by the ISRA Governing Board and will be honored at the ISRA State Singles Championships on April 3, 2004.

Players of the Year — past recipients: Chris Evon, Marshall Waldo (1988); Cheryl Gudinas, Rich Clay (1989); Pat Tarzon, Bill Lyman (1990); Laurel Davis, Ron Johnson (1991); Lola Markus, Bill Lyman (1992); Cheryl Gudinas, Andy Pitock (1993); Cheryl Gudinas, Greg Hasty (1994); Cheryl Gudinas, Horace Miller (1995); Dawn Gates, John Negrete (1996); Krystal Csuk, John O'Donnell, Jr. (1997); Mary Crawford, Greg Hasty, Sr. (1998); Terri Graham, Cary Slade (1999); Cheryl Gudinas, Bill Lyman (2000); Nancy Kronenfeld, Bill Lyman (2001); Liz Molitor, Ben Croft (2002).

Most Improved Player Award — past recipients: Robert Gates, Jr. (1998); Ben Croft (1999); Diane Bunker (2000); Ubaldo Melo (2001); Angel Khamis (2002).

2004 Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 2004 ISRA Distinguished Service Award. Criteria for consideration include commitment to the sport of racquetball; quality of service; and accomplishments benefiting the sport and its players. Any ISRA member may make nominations. The winner, chosen by the ISRA Governing Board, will be honored at the ISRA State Singles on April 3, 2004.

Distinguished Service Award — past recipients: Tom Street (1978); Bob Troyer (1979); Art Michaely (1980); Gay Kenna (1981); Jim Harper (1982); Jim Cartwright (1983); Alan Shetzer (1984); Clyde Senters (1985); Diane Gabrisko (1986); Geoff Peters (1986); Bill Feigen (1987); Alvin Barasch (1988); Judy Young (1989); Bill Roberts (1990); Al Danielwicz (1991); Bill Piggott (1992); Rich Clay (1993); Dave Negrete (1994); Lori Kaiser (1995); Brian Stuert (1996); Diane DeArmas (1997); T.J. Ferro (1998); Laurel Davis (1999); Rich Clay (2000); Mike Davern (2001); Pam Grace (2002); Cheryl Kirk (2003).

Act Now: Nominations must be received by February 20, 2004!! Send in a brief note to: Illinois State Racquetball Association, 1064 Sylvan Circle, Naperville, IL 60540; or email your nomination to Cheryl Kirk at cherylkkirk@aol.com. Your nomination should include your name, address, day and evening phone number, the name of the nominee, and the reasons why that person should receive the award.

—Cheryl Kirk

ISRA Players of the Year & Most Improved Player NOMINATION FORM

Male Nominee's Name _____

Female Nominee's Name _____

Most Improved Player's Name _____

Include paragraph regarding your selection(s)
(use separate sheet of paper).

Name of ISRA member initiating nomination (please
print): _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (night) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return by February 20, 2004 to:

ISRA
c/o Cheryl Kirk
1064 Sylvan Circle
Naperville, IL 60540

or email nomination to: cherylkkirk@aol.com.

Distinguished Service Award NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's Name _____

Nominee's Address _____

Nominee's contributions to the sport of racquetball (use
separate sheet of paper to describe).

Name of ISRA member initiating nomination (please
print): _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (night) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

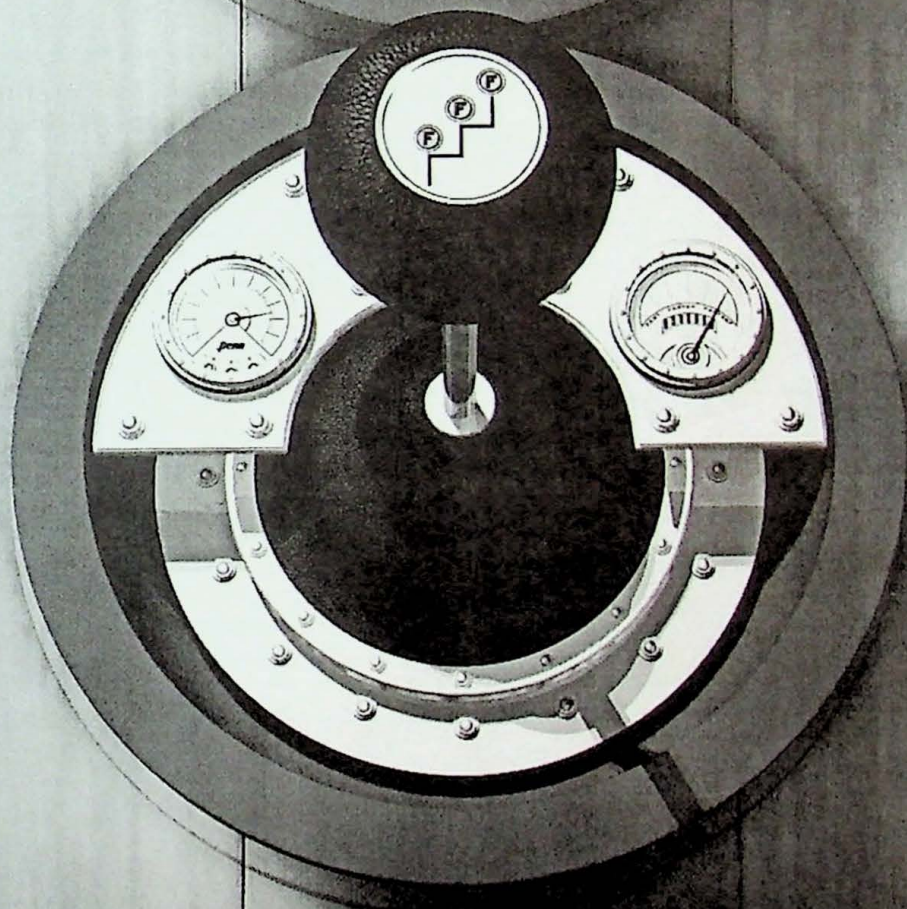
Please return by February 20, 2004 to:

ISRA
c/o Cheryl Kirk
1064 Sylvan Circle
Naperville, IL 60540

or email nomination to: cherylkkirk@aol.com.

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Junior Team Illinois

For those of you not familiar with Junior Team Illinois (JTI), we are an organization that promotes youth racquetball to children of ages 6 to 18. Through membership and open clinics, our goal is to introduce the sport to as many kids as possible — where they decide to take it is up to them! At a minimum, we hope it turns out to be a sport they will enjoy for fun, fitness, and camaraderie, like many of us reading this newsletter. For others, it is an opportunity to enhance their skills so that they can compete (and win!) in local and national tournaments. The organization is starting a new chapter in what has so far been an exciting story. We hope that the ISRA readership feels as we do: we want more kids to learn about this great sport. So bring out your kids, your grandkids, and their friends to one of our open clinics. You'll be providing them with a lifetime of fitness and fun!

Message from Our President — Chuck Snyders

On behalf of the new JTI Board of Directors, I would like to thank and recognize

past Managing Director Fred Ritschard for what he has created and accomplished in the development of Junior Team Illinois. Through Fred's hard work and enthusiasm, Illinois has one of the country's largest and competitive youth racquetball associations. As newly-elected President of JTI, I would also like to acknowledge our new board members and trustees: Vice President: Ruben Muruato; Secretary: Pam Snyders; Treasurer: Gulia Wuttke

TRUSTEES

Mike Antonoff (Equipment); Sue Antonoff; Maria Limonciello; Kevin Loy (Webmaster); Jack Schubert; Randy Schulz; Bryan Tubbs (Membership, B.R. Ryall)

My vision in moving JTI forward will be to offer an abundance of racquetball activities (clinics, tournaments, round robins, etc.) for new and intermediate players as well as continue to challenge our more experienced advanced players.

It has been truly amazing watching the rapid development of our veteran JTI players in the 2-4 years they have been playing. In fact, many of these JTI players are currently competing effectively in the adult divisions.

Junior racquetball has been responsible for re-instilling my enthusiasm in racquetball (thank you, Juniors). We have a fantastic group currently involved and I look forward to working with them as JTI rolls along.

C'ya courtside!

Chuck

Membership Update from Bryan Tubbs

Along with the standard JTI Membership (20+ kids to date), this year we have introduced a new form of membership for kids who are interested in testing the waters before fully committing. This is an easy and inexpensive way for them to learn more about racquetball. Visit the JTI Website for additional details, or speak to any of the Board Members or Trustees at the events. Mark your calendars to attend any or all of our Tuesday sessions at the B.R. Ryall YMCA in Glen Ellyn from 4:30-7:00 pm. You bring the kids, we provide the instruction, court time, and gear. What a deal! We typically have round robins on Sundays at Glass Court Swim & Fitness in Lombard from 2:30-5:00 pm, but please make sure to get on our email list for final updates.

Also, the website and the following calendar update lists dates for tournaments and other racquetball-related fun.

Recent and Upcoming Junior Events

Recent events: Glass Court Turkey Shoot Tournament and Round Robin

Congratulations goes out to Chris Schubert who won the Advanced Division, Matt Loy who won the Intermediate Division, and Michael Wuttke who won the Beginner Division.

Upcoming events:

January 3: Junior Lock-in @ B.R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn, IL
January 10: The Midlands Junior Regional Challenge, Greenbriar, IN
January 15-18: Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic, Willow Springs, IL
January 24-25: Super Bowl Two-Day, Glen Ellyn, IL
March 7-9: Oakmoor Spring Junior Invitational, Des Moines, IA
March 19-21: Edens March Madness, Chicago, IL
March 27-28: ISRA Junior State Singles & Doubles, Peoria, IL

JTI WEBSITE

The JTI website can be accessed from the ISRA website or by using the following HTML <http://hometown.aol.com/magaff/myhomepage/home.html>

2004 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- If ads are run for the entire season, **AND** payment is received with the first issue, the sixth ad is FREE!
- These rates are in effect until December 30, 2004.
- Ad deadlines are as follows:

Issue Mail Date	Articles/Releases Due	Stuffers/Inserts Due
3/1/04	2/6/04	2/13/04
5/7/04	4/2/04	4/9/04

- All stuffers/inserts are to be received by: Laura Kreiner, 2307 Arrow Street, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110.
- Ad rates:
Full page: \$250/issue. Half page: \$150/issue.
Quarter page: \$75/issue. Other sizes quoted on a case by case basis.
- For any questions or submission:

Cheryl Kirk, 1064 Sylvan Circle, Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 305-8291

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2004 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar,
please contact Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413
or at Petersgeoff@Hotmail.com

January 15-18
Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic
The Chalet, Willow Springs
Anita Efron (708) 474-2440
SANCTIONED *

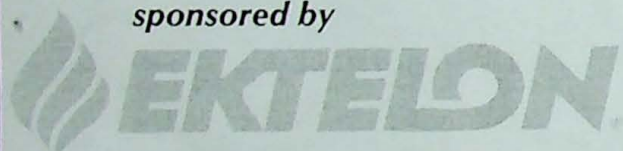
January 16-18
WSMA 16th Senior/Masters
Royal Athletic Club, Burlingame, CA
Terry Rogers (650) 349-9533
SANCTIONED

January 23-24
Ed Lembitz Memorial Open
B.R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn
Sean Nelson (630) 858-0100
SANCTIONED *

January 31
One Day Doubles Tune-up
The Southlake Club, Mundelein
Bob Croft (847) 949-8180
SANCTIONED

February 6-8
ISRA State Doubles Championships
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Laurel Davis (630) 325-6410
SANCTIONED

sponsored by



February 12-15
St. Valentine's Day Massacre
LPRA Women's Pro Stop
Bloomingdale Handball & Racquetball Club
Dave Negrete (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

February 20-22
9th Annual Palos Olympic Open
Palos Olympic Health and Fitness
Keith Kareiva (708) 444-0051
SANCTIONED

March 4-7
Wilson 17th US High School Championships
Portland, OR
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED *

March TBD
Negrete Open
Location TBD
Dave Negrete (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

March 11-14
Shamrock Shootout
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

March 19-21
Edens March Madness
Edens Athletic Club, Chicago
Joe Gill (773) 286-6700
SANCTIONED *

March 24-28
E-Force Intercollegiate Championships
Los Caballeros
Fountain Valley, CA
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED *

March 27-28
ISRA Junior State Singles & Doubles
Landmark Racquet Club, Peoria
Chuck Snyders (630) 969-4545
Terry Sutton (309) 685-8360
SANCTIONED *

April 1-4
ISRA State Singles
The Chalet, Willow Springs
Geoff Peters (773) 251-4413
SANCTIONED

April 15-18
Ektelon USRA Regional Championships
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Geoff Peters (773) 251-4413
SANCTIONED

May 26-31
37th Ektelon USRA National Championships
Downtown YMCA, Houston Tx
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

*** = Junior Divisions Offered**



COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business) _____
BIRTHDATE _____

Send to:

ISRA
2291 Shannondale Rd.
Libertyville, IL 60048

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Junior competitor (without RACQUETBALL Magazine)	\$15.00
RACQUETBALL Magazine subscription only	\$20.00
Tax-deductible donation	\$
Total enclosed	\$



Tournament _____ Representative _____
All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine (six times/year) and the Illinois Newsletter (six times/year).

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NFS Men's Tour Mid



NFS Women's Pro Tour Mid



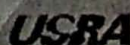
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Buehler YMCA
847-359-5098
Palatine, IL
Thursdays
8-10 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon
\$15 One-Day Guest Pass

Edens Athletic Club
773-286-6700
Saturdays 12-3 p.m.
\$8 for ISRA members
(with membership card)

**The Glass Court
Swim & Fitness**
630-629-3390
Saturdays 7 a.m. - Noon
\$6.00

**Landmark Health
& Racquetball**
309-685-8200
Peoria, IL
First & Third
Fridays of Month
6-8 p.m.
\$5.00

Oak Park YMCA
708-383-5200
Wed. 7-8 p.m.,
Thurs. 2-4 p.m.,
Sat 8-10 a.m.
Free to Y members,
\$9 for non-members

**Palos Olympic Health
& Racquet Club**
708-974-1900
Thursdays 6 - 8:30 p.m.
\$5.00

The Southlake Club
847-949-8180
Saturdays
10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
\$10.00 for ISRA members
(with membership card)

**Sunset Racquetball
& Fitness Center**
630-232-7867
Geneva, IL
Saturdays 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Members: \$2
Non-Members: \$5

**Lakeshore Athletic Club -
Downtown**
312-644-4880
Chicago, IL
Mondays & Wednesdays
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Members free,
Non-Members \$12

To add your club to this list, contact:
Lynne Weisbart 847-732-7245

Central Illinois Tournament Calendar 2004 Season

**January 17
Quad Cities
Open Singles**
North Scott Fitness
(Eldridge, IA)
Brad Flack,
Dave Herzog
(563) 285-9561

**January 23-25
4 Seasons**
(Bloomington)
Kelly, Kelley
(309) 663-2022

**January 31
Tournament
at the Club**
Fitness Club
(Springfield)
Tony Marquez
(217) 787-1111

**February 13-15
President's Day**
Image Health And
Fitness (Decatur)
Larry Boyer
(217) 424-9925

**March 5-7
Landmark Invitational**
Landmark Racquet Club
(Peoria)
Terry, Kurt, Mike
(309) 685-8200

**March 19-21
St. Patty's Open**
Springfield Racquet
& Fitness
Karin, Bob, Steve
(217) 787-2460

**March 27
Quad Cities
Open Doubles**
North Scott Fitness
(Eldridge, IA)
Brad Flack,
Dave Herzog
(563) 285-9561

**August 21
"Splat N Spash"**
Springfield Racquet
& Fitness
Karin, Bob, Steve
(217) 787-2460

Questions,
corrections
or additions?
Please call
Larry Boyer
(217) 864-4862;
boyins@fgi.net
Geoff Peters
(773) 251-4413;
Petersgeoff@hotmail.com



Illinois State Racquetball Association

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