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RACQUETBALL

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... on the cover ... Kane Waselenchuk held nothing back in Memphis; he advanced with a better record than any player to bring home the cup before him. Photo: Mike Boatman.

... this page ... On her way to her first U.S. OPEN victory, Rhonda Rajsich bears down on a forehand against Christie Van Hees. Photo: Vicki Hughes.



from the >>>



When you've been doing this ... *thing* ... (publishing this sole, solitary, specialty magazine) ... for as long as I have (15 years now), it's sometimes difficult to get jazzed. I've seen most of the top players firsthand, so I'm well acquainted with their game styles. I'm as familiar with their strengths and weaknesses as anyone, and I've got a pretty good grasp on a wide range of intricacies that impact individual performances. I even have a high percentage of accuracy on predicting how most will respond to interview questions. It's just hard to surprise me, much of the time.

So when it does happen, I enjoy it thoroughly. Shake ups on the pro tour, fierce team competition in the international arena, and just plain old-fashioned turnover in the amateur ranks are all cause for celebration, in my book. Of course, it's great to see athletes enjoy extended and successful careers, and I applaud the staying power of those who can set, and hold onto, records for longevity. But after a long, dry spell of dominance by the same — albeit outstanding — athletes, it's just as great to see some "new" faces step up to share the limelight.

As you'll read in our U.S. OPEN coverage, out of eight events, only half as many male athletes have ever hoisted the Champions Cup. In each of the last four years, a different woman has claimed it each time. Overcoming both mental and physical adversity, this year's champions — as well as their challengers — jazzed me with their drive and skill. They weren't really "new" faces; they've all been touring for some time. But they toppled some pretty big names, to inspire a host of up-and-comers in their wake.

At the same time, more than a few of those hopefule are "training" in the junior ranks, where international competition is at its all-time best. At press time, the Mexican National Team had just clinched its second Junior World Cup to validate that their record-breaking win last year was no fluke. Long-dominant in both the adult and junior ranks, U.S. Team players and coaches always give their best effort, but Mexico has now inspired a host of up-and-coming countries in their wake. The end result can only be more and better competition, across the board, as the playing field is leveled and the sport heads toward another stage in its evolution.

For that, I'm proud of everyone who takes to the court with good intention ... to compete and win fairly, regardless of what's expected, or historic, or traditional. Since outcomes are never assured, it takes courage, dedication and a remarkable willingness to fail — as well as win — to get ahead in this, or any, sport. I'm also proud of my personal conviction that racquetball, on the whole, has plenty of what it takes to survive any shakeup.

Change is good for giving hope and generating excitement — and who doesn't want that? May your New Year be full of surprises!

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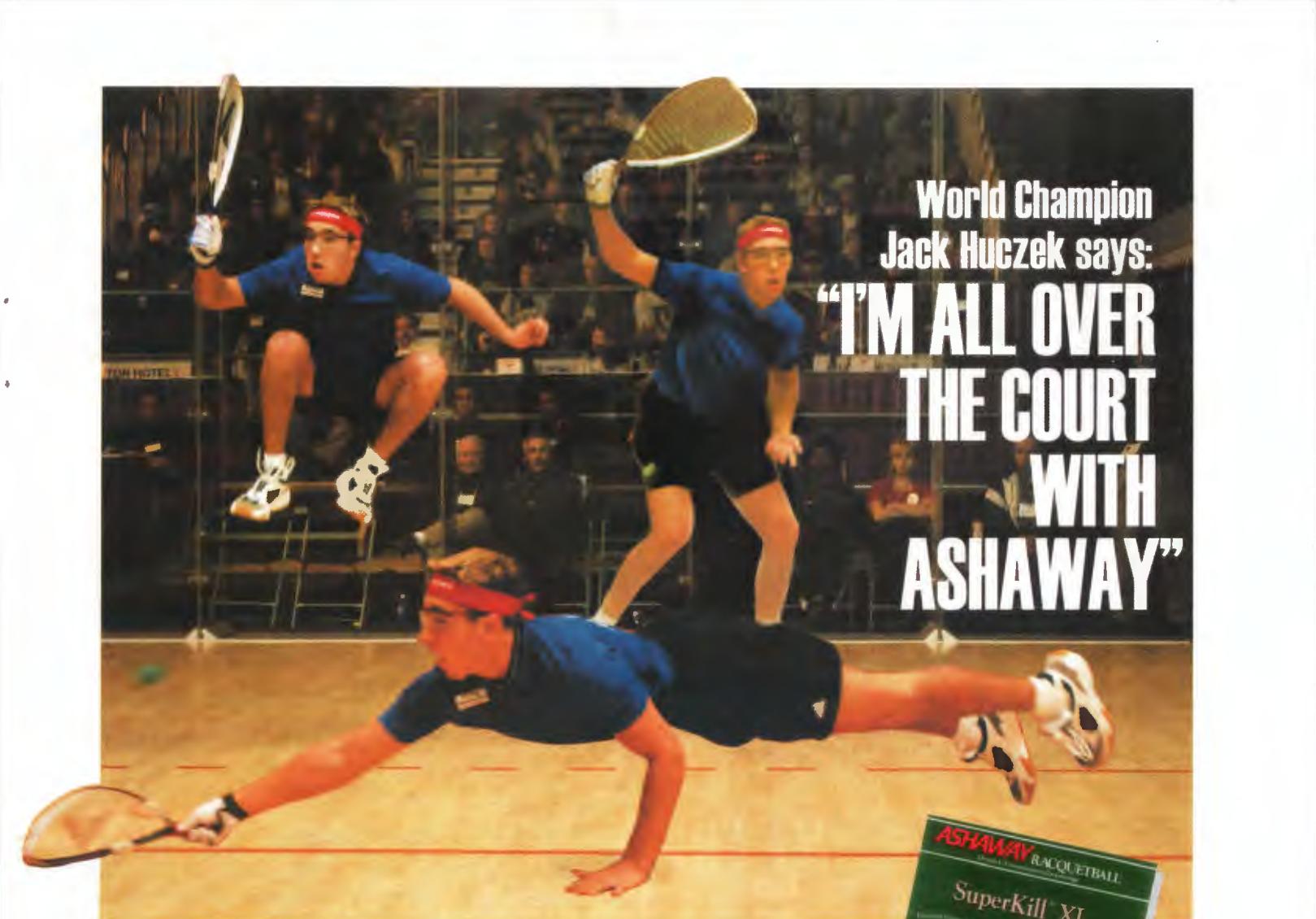
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On Point

I wanted to comment on how amazingly accurate Kim Russell was in sharing her insights into selecting a doubles partner [N/D, p.39]. When I started playing doubles competitively three years ago, I had no idea what a different game it was. I figured I needed to find the best player I could to team with, but I was way wrong.

It takes a special blend of playing level, will to win/compete, desire to improve one's physical condition and playing ability, personality, demeanor on the court and many other factors that may only be important to the person selecting that particular partner. At this point, I would rather give up a level or two in a partner's ability, as long as the chemistry is good and I know that they have the same level of commitment that I do.

Thanks again Kim, for a very good article. Obviously, you're not just a great player, but a very intelligent one too!

Lee Horwitz • Bolton, Connecticut

Retro-Surprised

I doubt I have the skills to express how touched I was to find myself mentioned in Luke's "RetroSpective" column [N/D, p.51]. First of all, it caught me completely off guard; I was just browsing through and there was my name. When I finished the article it made me reflect on how lucky I really am. There are a lot of people out there who are more deserving of recognition than myself, so for Luke to have chosen me, and to say the things he did, made it that much more special. I don't want this to sound like a mutual admiration society, but without him racquetball wouldn't be where it is. I know that, and I appreciate it.

Lots of people know how I feel about the sport. I was never the best player; I did well with the tools I was given. Like everyone else, I probably could have been better, and I've sacrificed through the years to do what I've done. In return I've had the opportunity to compete, stay relatively healthy, meet some of the

best people in the world, travel, and have friends like Luke. Racquetball has given to me as much, if not more, than I've contributed at any level. It's been a labor of love, and one of choice. Like photography, it will always have its place in my life.

Thank you for the kind words, for thinking of me, and presenting me in such a positive manner. If that doesn't make everything worthwhile I don't know what does. By the way, I'm not always a nice guy ... it just seems that way.

John Foust • Aurora, Colorado

Racquetball needs Women!

I'm often asked "what's the biggest difference in racquetball today from its heyday?" Easy answers would be bigger and better racquets, faster balls and the development of the players internationally. None of these could help explain any decline in our great sport. The real factor that I see, is a lack of women playing the game. The ladies used to make up nearly 50% of the racquetball population and today account for less than 30%. One of the secrets behind the 70s and 80s racquetball explosion was the social aspect of the sport. Clubs were full of married couples and singles looking to mingle with the opposite sex in a safe and healthy environment. Every club had women's leagues and a strong female presence was represented in all tournaments.

But today's situation isn't all bad. I was truly impressed at the high level of play and depth of the LPRA at the U.S. Open, where the women were extremely entertaining and had competitive matches from the first round. I encourage everyone to support the LPRA, as they are the traveling ambassadors of the women's game.

So what can we do to get the women back? The answer is simple, we have to invite them and encourage them. Fran Davis offered a free women's clinic at the recent Legends event and, to my delight, thirty ladies showed up for a great learn-

ing experience. The LPRA will host another free clinic at the upcoming America's Cup Championship in Coral Springs, February 6-8. The Missouri High School League has attracted a number of new talented female players here in St. Louis. As a parent and high school coach I see this as a sign that we can make a difference and the future can be very bright for women's racquetball. If clubs and state associations across the country join in promoting special events to bring women back into the game, it will pay off in spades. More women in racquetball will lead to more men in the sport as well.

Let's not take any strides for granted. It's going to take an effort from all involved in the sport to bring back the ladies game, but when we do that will be the start of racquetball's next big boom.

Marty Hogan • St. Louis, Missouri

Top Drawer

At the USRA National Doubles Tournament in Minneapolis this October, I had the pleasure of calling the men's 50+ quarterfinal between Ruben Gonzalez/Russ Mannino and Jim Bailey/Marc Baron. It was a great match and came to a 10-10 tiebreaker. There had not been one questioned call the entire match (even without linesmen!). Bailey hit a drive serve (very close to the line) and I called an ace for the match. Applause from the gallery and the players shook hands, but instead of walking off the court they remained at the service line, discussing something. Bailey looked up to the gallery, asking what they thought (about the service ace). Some spectators put thumbs up, others thumbs down. Bailey said "let's replay the point." They did; side out, and Ruben rolled one out for the match.

Outside the court I spoke with Jim and Marc and they said they said they wouldn't have wanted to win on a questionable call! Only in racquetball do these things happen. How proud I was to have reffed that match!

Jay Krevsky • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

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Another Success

Having recently completed the Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN, I am proud to report that the event was an overwhelming success in all areas. Highlights included participation by 814 players from 19 different countries, over 150 pro players, more than 6,000 tickets sold, and a new national television contract with The Tennis Channel.

I want to publicly thank the more than 100 U.S. OPEN staff members who made the event such a huge success, and especially the U.S. OPEN tournament committee and the USRA national staff. Everyone involved pulled together as a team to make the tournament a truly spectacular event!

Of course, it would be impossible to have a Grand Slam event of this quality without the support of major sponsors. I would like to thank them all, especially Choice Hotels International, for their ongoing commitment to the sport of racquetball. It is important that all who love racquetball return that support to these sponsors with regular patronage throughout the year. Be sure to use your special USRA discount code [00059171] for 10% off at Choice Hotels International properties worldwide!

Lastly, I want to thank all the players and fans who made the trip to Memphis in 2003. It was truly amazing to see everyone's excitement for the sport of racquetball. On behalf of the entire U.S. OPEN staff, I hope you had a great time and will join us again in 2004. Here's hoping you and your family have a blessed New Year!

Doug Ganim • Westerville, Ohio



OXL Membership Card Update

At the Summit, most of the pre-registered state presidents and USRA board members in attendance received the nifty plastic OXL membership card that was previewed here in the September issue. But unbeknownst to us at the time, the cards, envelope and carrier letter had not been produced to our specifications. The problems that were discovered and relayed to the OXL group in New York turned out to be enlightening for all of the NGBs using the card program, and since then, all of the problems have been addressed and corrected.

Unfortunately, we could not hold up the processing of membership cards in the interim, and we diverted several runs to the old style paper card, since this is our heaviest annual renewal period. In the past, we printed paper membership cards twice a month; it will be important to remember that we are now limited to only one printing per month. The first scheduled printing of the new plastic membership card will be on January 10, 2004.

Kevin Joyce • USRA Membership Director

New Ranking Preview

The new ranking system is all the buzz, so we thought we'd give you a brief summary of some of the basics. Developed by former Racquetball Canada Executive Director Usher Barnoff, AdvantageRank is a dynamic, ability-driven, time-dependent ranking system, which uses a unique copyright algorithm to move winners quickly while disregarding "fluke" results and eliminating the need to over penalize the match losers. Here's how it works ...

Player movement Synopsis

- Players enter the system the first time they play a registered match (in a sanctioned event) whether they win or lose.
- If they win they will have the match recorded as the best win to date.
- The program also registers the match date as well as some other data.
- The next time this player wins (in the next tournament, or even the next match they play in the same tournament) the program goes through a decision process to see if the defeat was over a player who was ranked higher.
- Based on their present ranking, their opponents ranking, their last posted best win, and the time since their last win (and/or any other restrictions adopted by the USRA), they will move up the rankings.

— If they are within the time limit allotted they may move 1, 15, 50 or even hundreds of positions at a time. This movement will only be dictated by their present ranking and the player rankings of their previous recorded wins.

— The maximum amount of ranking positions that the match loser can fall will be one (1) position (when the person who beat you moves in front) and sometimes 0 positions (depending on other posted results).

- Players will very quickly rise through the rankings to the correct ability level.
- Players who travel to other states (where potentially stronger players may reside) — and win — will now be able to move up the national rankings faster.
- In turn, the player's ability to win while traveling will benefit their everyday opponents when they return home. If the hometown regulars can defeat the traveling competitor, they'll move above the position earned by the touring player. See page 36 for more questions — and answers — about the new ranking system.

waselenchuk

The University of Memphis



Photo: Mike Boatman

Kane Waselenchuk is currently at the top of the racquetball world after earning the 2003 U.S. OPEN title, which vaulted him into the No.1 position in the IRT rankings. But if it hadn't been for an earlier trip to Memphis, back in June, he may never have made the return trek in November ... let alone roll through the draw like no one else had done before.

In September of 2002 Kane began feeling a discomfort in his ear that occasionally made him feel so dizzy that he would become physically ill. At first he dismissed the odd symptoms since they would come and go. But as the spells became more frequent, and more severe, he decided to seek medical help.

"I saw three different ENT (ear, nose, & throat) specialists and like, five or six different physicians," he explained. "They all had a different explanation as to what it was. One would say it was a brain tumor, another one would say it was sinusitis or cancer, or that my neck muscles were too tight. It was crazy."

And the fact that no one could come up with a concrete diagnosis was driving Kane crazy. He went in for tests that ruled out a brain tumor or cancer, but they still didn't know exactly what was wrong with him. The bouts became even more frequent and more severe. He was forced to forfeit matches and eventually began skipping tournaments altogether.

"There were times when I would cry, and there were

wins

times when I would laugh because I didn't know how to take it," he said. "All of these specialists couldn't figure it out, and I didn't know whether to take that as a positive or a negative."

One day, when it seemed hopeless that they would ever discover what was ailing him, Kane went online and typed www.ears.com out of frustration. What came up was the Shea Ear Clinic in Memphis.

"I read a story on there about a guy who was going through everything that I was," Kane said. "I made an appointment to go to Memphis and see Dr. Shea."

Dr. John Shea diagnosed Kane as having positional vertigo and informed him that it could be cured. Dr. Shea then performed surgery in June of 2003 and Kane has not had any problems since.

"The whole procedure took about five minutes a day for three days," Kane said of the surgery. "After ten days he cleared me to do any activity I wanted, including racquetball."

Kane returned to the sport he loved with a vengeance. "After my ear problems started I heard people saying, 'Kane's done. Kane can't play anymore.' That motivated me to come back and show that I am still here and fighting to be number one."

He won two of the first four IRT stops this season, including Chicago, the biggest money tournament of the year, just before he returned to Memphis for the U.S. OPEN, the most prestigious.

"Going into Chicago and Memphis I wanted to make a statement; I wanted to elevate my game a little more," he said. "Knowing that I could be No.1 if I won those two tournaments was even more motivation."

Kane predictably breezed through his early round matches setting up a quarterfinal showdown with defending U.S. OPEN champ Sudsy Monchik. Everyone



Photo: Vicki Hughes

thought this would be the first real test of the tournament for Kane, who aced it by advancing in straight games, 11-2, 11-6, 11-8.

"I am still honored to be on the court with him, but now I know that I belong on the court with him," Kane said of the four-time U.S. OPEN champion. "I felt like I was playing well in the matches leading into Suds and I wanted to show everyone what calibre of game I really have."

Next up for Kane was No.2 Jack Huczak who had been advancing through the draw in record time, with four straight-game wins under his belt. The winner of the match — aided by the early exit of then-current No.1 Jason Mannino — would likely be in the driver's seat for an early season takeover of the top ranking spot.

There's been talk about what the next great IRT rivalry will be, with most of it centered on Kane and Jack, but so far it just hasn't panned out. In fact, Jack has never defeated Kane

Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN Championships
Presented by the U.S. Racquetball Association • Coverage by Ryan John

in an IRT event. In their previous four meetings prior to Memphis, Jack has only been able to take a total of two games from Kane. There would be no change in this match.

Jack played tough in the first game before Kane turned it up a notch and closed it out 11-9. He continued his high level of play in the second to win 11-5. Kane appeared to get a little complacent in the third and Jack took advantage, notching an 11-7 win.

"I got a little lackadaisical in the third and he started hitting some really good shots," Kane said of his only blemish. "But I didn't change anything with my strategy or anything because I doubted it would go like that for the rest of the match."

The non-change worked and Kane returned to his previous form, closing out the match in the fourth, 11-6. It not only set up Kane's first appearance in a U.S. OPEN final, but also marked the first time a non-U.S. citizen had gotten there. With a win in the final, Kane would also break another international barrier by assuming the No.1 ranking on the IRT.

But first he would have to get past No.8 Derek Robinson, who was enjoying a career best. Derek had earlier upset No.1 Jason Mannino by playing a near-perfect match. He had then advanced past Shane Vanderson in a tough four-game semifinal.

"I watched some of that match (between Derek and Jason) and I thought that was one of the best displays of racquetball that I had seen in a long time," Kane said

of his opponent's quarterfinal performance. "But I wasn't thinking about that going against him in the finals. I was thinking about how he beat me in Arlington and what I had to do."

"If he was going to roll shots from 39 feet every time, then he would deserve to win," he continued. "But I also knew that if I put pressure on him it would limit his opportunities to hit those shots."

Derek opened the match by putting the pressure on with two of those 39 foot backhand splats. Kane quickly countered by changing his shot placement.

"He hit a few of those in the beginning, but I was like, 'Oh no, Big D. You aren't gonna do that to me,'" he laughed. "I started to move my shots a little more towards the center to take away his splat."

By neutralizing the splat that had worked so well for Derek all week, Kane was able to take over the match. He won the first game 11-8 and seemed to get better as the match went on, winning the second and third games, 11-6, 11-6, to become just the fourth athlete to raise the men's U.S. OPEN cup above his head.

"I was thinking that I was only the fourth guy to win the OPEN. Sudsy has four, Cliff has two, and Jason won one too," he reflected. "To be in a group of players like that is an honor right there."

So a journey to Memphis — that could have been said to have begun in June — culminated with a major win for the player who had doubted his future in the sport just months earlier. Kane cherishes the win and his new No.1 ranking, but he isn't ready to relax just yet.

"It's everything that I have worked for and it's why I play the game," he said of the win and ranking. "But I know that [my lead is] only by like 30 points right now and there is still a lot of season left. It doesn't really mean anything until I finish the season ranked No.1, but I am looking forward to playing in Cleveland and being introduced as the No.1 player in the world."

Kane also appreciates the fact that he is able to even step on the court after his earlier trials. "My career was almost taken away from me before it even started," he said. "I think that I may have taken racquetball for granted at times. Now I have respect for the game and just life in general a little more." •





Make those a Size 12 ...

At 6'4", Derek Robinson was perhaps the biggest Cinderella to ever wear glass slippers. He'd been enjoying a solid season thus far and even earned a semifinal appearance at the IRT's Virginia Stop, but nothing was like the display that he put on at the U.S. OPEN.

"I felt like I was playing well, but just that I had not gotten the breaks that I needed this season," he said. "I knew that I had some tough matches early, but I feel that I play better when things start out tough."

They started out tough indeed. Derek barely got by up-and-comer Agustin Tristan in the round of 32. The young Mexican national team member gave "Big D" all he could handle before Derek took over the match in the fifth to win, 7-11, 11-6, 11-4, 6-11, 11-1.

Up next was a more familiar opponent, U.S. national team member Mike Guidry, who took the first game before Derek was able to get past him in four, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-8. That win set up what was one of the most, if not the most, memorable and surprising matches of the tournament.

Derek came into his quarter against No.1 Jason Mannino feeling good, but even he didn't expect the outcome. After losing the first game 11-6 everything fell into place for Derek. He began to hit backhand splat, after backhand splat, after backhand splat — all of them for winners.

"It all just clicked for me in the second game," he said. "Sometimes people will change their shots a little, but I didn't this time."

Derek even seemed to get better as the match wore on. He won the second game 11-8 then closed out the match by winning the third and fourth games, 11-3, 11-2. With each rollout the crowd grew louder and all Jason could do was throw his arms up in the air.

"It was probably a career highlight for me," Derek said of his match with Jason. "I don't think that I have ever played any better than that and being in that setting just made it that much better."

Derek faced Shane Vanderson in the semifinals, who had been having his own career-best run through the draw. Shane had defeated two-time U.S. OPEN champion Cliff Swain in the 16s, then gotten by Chris Crowther in the quarters to post his highest finish at an IRT event.

"Shane's a fantastic racquetball player and he's proved it," Derek said of his opponent. "I knew going into the match that he would be confident after having the tournament that he had had to that point."

Derek edged Shane in the first game 14-12 and lost the second 11-8. Shane played tough in the third and fourth games, but it was "Big D" who was able to pull away at the end of each to advance to his first U.S. OPEN final, 11-8, 11-8.

"The win against Shane was so gratifying," Derek said. "I played so well against Jason that I don't think I would have lost to anyone. Against Shane I had to pull out all of my tools to win."

Derek's wonderful ride did come to a stop in the final, when he was defeated by Kane Waselenchuk. Still it was a treat for all fans to watch, especially those who have come in contact with him through his "Big D" Road Show clinics. "Right after the loss to Kane it was tough. It took a couple hours to compose myself and to reflect," he said. "It's our biggest event in terms of publicity and the number of fans in attendance so I really wanted to win, but I also can be proud of what I accomplished."

rajsich

Just three short years ago Rhonda Rajsich exploded onto the racquetball scene by advancing to the final of the 2000 U.S. OPEN. Although it was then her first full year on the L P R A tour, her potential seemed unlimited. The 22-year-old brought unmatched athleticism and power to the game. Everyone predicted that it was only a matter of time before she became dominant. But things don't always go as planned.

Despite finishing No.3 in that rookie season, Rhonda failed to make another appearance in the finals. The following season she was able to win her first pro stop in Rosarito Beach, but still had more season losses in the sixteens (three) than finals appearances (two). People began to second-guess Rhonda's game, from her style of play, to her training, to her shot selection. Everyone had an answer. Everyone had a comment. All of the criticism began to wear on her.

"I was getting frustrated, big time," she explained. "I was thinking about racquetball so much. I would dream about matches at night. I would train hard and play hard, but didn't get the results that I wanted."

"I couldn't figure out why I had this great athletic gift, but was unable to live up to my expectations, let alone everyone else's."

Rhonda began experimenting with strategies and listening to different opinions, without much change in her game. It's not as though she would go on the court and play horribly — she has never finished a season ranked lower than No.4 — she just knew that she possessed much more talent than she was delivering.

This year's U.S. OPEN was different, however. Rhonda came into it focused, confident, and ready to play. She believed that she was going to win, rather than relying on her athleticism and hoping that the ball would bounce her way.

Rajsich vs. Van
Hees. Photo:
Vicki Hughes.

rocks

"About two or three days before I left for Memphis I had a conversation with my friend, Spring," Rhonda said. "She helped me to find the confidence that I needed. I had lost it somewhere along the way and I didn't even realize it."

Rhonda started out this year's U.S. OPEN with a win over qualifier Lorraine Galloway in straight games, 11-3, 11-1, 11-5. She was favored to win the match, but the way that she went about it showed that she was there on business.

"In 2000 I was riding on an emotional high," Rhonda said. "After every match I was like, 'Oh my God, I'm still winning.' I was as surprised as anyone. This year I went in with a specific goal, a mission, and I was able to focus and make it happen."

Her next match would prove to be tougher as she went up against perennial contender Laura Fenton in the round of 16. Laura was playing well and Rhonda found herself down two games to one, but her confidence never wavered.

"What helped in my match against Laura was that I never let myself get down," Rhonda said. "I had been doing that in the past without realizing it. I now know that I have what it takes to win and I can make it happen."

Rhonda came back to force a fifth game tiebreaker, but found herself behind 8-5. In the past she may have gotten nervous and tried to force shots to make a comeback. This time she played within herself and ended the match on a 6-0 run to win it 11-8.

"The match with Laura gave me even more confidence going into the next round. At that point I became even more sure of myself that I had what it took to win this tournament," she said. "Every match I won just added to that."

Rhonda then faced Chilean superstar Angela Grisar in the quarterfinals, who had been playing exceptionally



Rajsich vs. Van Hees. Photo: Mike Boatman

well all week. Rhonda had defeated Angela earlier in the season at Charlotte, but knew that she was not to be taken lightly.

They split the first two games, with Rhonda winning the first, 11-6, then Angela the second, 11-8. In between the second and third games Rhonda took some time to think about her strategy.

"After the first two games I evaluated what was working and what wasn't," she said. "I was able to go back in there for the third, relax, take the right shots, and I played my best game of that match."

Rhonda won the third 11-1 and carried her momentum into the fourth game for the match, 11-6. The win set up her semifinal showdown with No.7 Kristen Walsh, who had just knocked off No.2 Kerri Wachtel in five games.

The match between Rhonda and Kristen featured the two best shot retrievers on the tour. The knock on both has been their lack of consistency, but each player seemed focused and ready to make their move.

"I didn't change my strategy against Kristen, but I knew that she would get to a lot of balls that other people wouldn't—and I knew that she would shoot a lot of

Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN Championships
Presented by the U.S. Racquetball Association • Coverage by Ryan John

shots that other people wouldn't," Rhonda said. "Not only does she have those two things in her arsenal, but they work well for her. I just went in with the mindset that no matter how good of a shot I made, there was the possibility that she would return it."

The strategy helped Rhonda to be ready at all times and her anticipation was dead-on. She came out of the gate on fire and won the first game 11-2. Kristen stepped her game up a notch in the second to tie the match at a game apiece with an 11-5 win of her own, but Rhonda didn't let down and won the third 11-7.

The fourth game was even closer. Rhonda was up 9-8, but quickly relinquished the lead and found herself down game point, 10-9. She did have a cushion; if she lost the fourth there would still be a fifth game to win the match. The old Rhonda may have relied on that, but the new, more confident Rhonda had only one thing on her mind: close out the match now.

"Before I might have been like, 'Oh well, I still have the fifth if I lose this one.' But I didn't even think about that this time," she explained. "I needed to prove to myself that I could take over a match and close it out when I needed to, and when I wanted to."

Rhonda was able to shut the door 12-10 in the fourth, setting up a rematch of the 2000 U.S. OPEN



The 2003 Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships once again named St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as its designated charity. The tournament has raised \$111,657 in total donations for the hospital since its inception in 1996. Rajsich & Waselenchuk (far left & right) presented the big check to (inside, L-R) Director of Marketing for Choice, Jim Dominey, and David Hollahan, Regional Director for St. Jude. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Partners with THE TENNIS CHANNEL

Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Director Doug Ganim recently announced a major new television rights deal with THE TENNIS CHANNEL. A new national network, launched in May of 2003, The Tennis Channel is devoted to the exclusive promotion of racquet sports. Five 90-minute shows were produced during the 2003 U.S. Open in November and will be broadcast starting in the first week of February. One show will air each week for five consecutive weeks, premiering on Sunday at noon EST, and repeating throughout the week. Each show will feature a different pro match including both Men's Semi's, the Men's Finals, the Women's Finals, and The Legend's Finals.

"We are thrilled to form this new partnership between the Choice Hotels U.S. Open and The Tennis Channel. Every aspect of this deal brings increased value to our sponsors, fans, and the sport of racquetball" explained Doug Ganim. "This deal is just the start of our vision to broadcast racquetball and I am pleased to say that our friends at The Tennis Channel completely support these goals."

Already a leading broadcaster of pro tennis events worldwide, The Tennis Channel also owns the rights to major events in squash, badminton, and table tennis. "Our mission is to provide significant national promotion for all racquet sports. To that end, we are very pleased to provide extensive coverage of the Choice Hotels U.S. Open Racquetball Championships." stated Bruce Rider, executive vice president of programming and marketing.

The Tennis Channel (www.thetennischannel.com) is the 24-hour cable television network devoted to tennis and other exciting racquet sports that provides unparalleled coverage of the game, its elite championships and superstar athletes. The network features comprehensive coverage of major tournaments including Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour, Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour, Fed Cup, Davis Cup by BNP Paribas and Hyundai Hopman Cup competition and the European tournaments of the Tennis Masters Series. The network also showcases instruction from the finest teachers, legendary matches, in-depth profiles of the greatest players, analysis and news, the latest on equipment and tennis getaways. The Tennis Channel's investment group includes media and tennis industry leaders, blue chip Wall Street investors, and tennis greats Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi. To gain access to THE TENNIS CHANNEL, call your local cable operator, or call 800-DirecTV or 800-333-Dish to let them know your strong interest.

Men's Semi #1	Sunday, February 1	Noon-1:30 pm EST
Men's Semi #2	Sunday, February 8	Noon-1:30 pm EST
Men's Finals	Sunday, February 15	Noon-1:30 pm EST
Women's Finals	Sunday, February 22	Noon-1:30 pm EST
Legend's Finals	Sunday, February 29	Noon-1:30 pm EST

In addition, two re-broadcasts of each week's show will be scheduled during the following week. Check listings at THETENNISCHANNEL.COM for additional air dates.

WHAT'S YOUR RACQUET?

Tune into **THE TENNIS CHANNEL** for smashing worldwide coverage of



Racquetball
Badminton
Table Tennis
Paddle Tennis
Squash

Catch the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships.

This February, The Tennis Channel is airing racquetball's biggest "Grand Slam" event. Top racquetball pros compete for the most coveted title.

Tune into the sport's most exciting, premier event – only on The Tennis Channel.

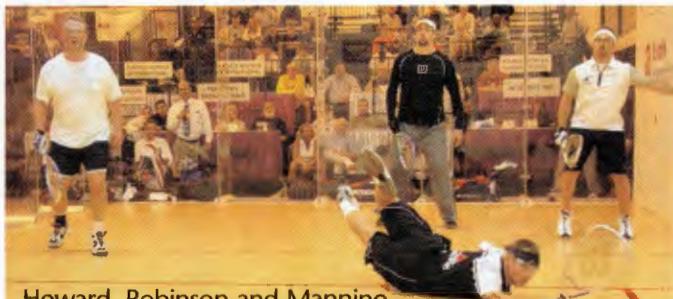
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TENNIS CHANNEL
www.thetennischannel.com



Howard, Robinson and Mannino all-watch as Landon Pilant recovers. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

Well in advance of the opening bell at the Choice U.S. OPEN, Jason Mannino logged a win ... thanks to doubles partner Twayne Howard of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who teamed with the IRT's top-ranked player to

Robinson and Landon Pilant.

Howard is an accountant and admits that playing in the Pro/Am is "pretty much the most exciting thing" he does all year. "I figure when you play

benefit kick-off

win the kick-off St. Jude Pro/Am doubles event. The eighth annual benefit added a hefty \$8,000 to donations later presented to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The final saw Mannino and Howard outlast Derek

in this four things can happen," Howard, a five-time Pro/Am participant, explained.

"First, and most important, you donate money to a good charity. Second, you get to hang with the pros. Third, you can win a match. Fourth, you can win the whole thing. Just to take that first step is the best, and everything else is just icing on the cake."

"I love to come out here and support St. Jude," Mannino agreed. "It's just a great cause and playing with the amateurs is a blast for me."



Rajsich vs. Walsh. Photo: Vicki Hughes

final with newly un-retired Christie Van Hees, whom Rhonda had never beaten.

"I was glad to get another shot at Christie. She got me in 2000 and a few times in juniors," Rhonda said. "But mostly I was just happy that she was back playing the tour again. I know that it sounds weird, but I am excited and I think that she will add a lot to an already strong tour."

She may have been a little too excited at Christie's return and lost the first game 11-7. But again, her newfound confidence came in handy as she contemplated her performance in the first game.

"Usually you walk off the court and have people helping you and coaching you. This time I just grabbed a water and went off to think about things myself," she said. "I thought, 'What just happened? Why did it happen? Now go out there and fix it.'"

What happened was that Rhonda had nearly slipped back into her previous mindset. She realized that she was worrying too much. Worrying about what Christie was doing and worrying about how to counter it.

"The next three games I went in there with the attitude of 'Here's what I'm going to do now. You counter it.'"

Christie was unable to offset Rhonda's efforts in the next three games. Even though Rhonda was down 6-1 in the second she had regained her focus and proceeded to run 10 straight points to win 11-6. She ended the third game, 11-4, by picking off a wallpaper ball with just enough oomph for it to reach the front wall.

"I totally framed it and scraped the wall with my racquet, but it floated up there for a winner," Rhonda said of the shot. "I turned around to the crowd and just said, 'Wow!', but that's the way things were going for me. It was a snowball effect. With every rally I felt more and more confident."

Rhonda closed things out in the fourth, 11-7, for her second professional victory and her first U.S. OPEN title.

"All of the success that I had had in the past felt like it just happened. I would go in the court and just see if the ball would bounce my way or not. This time I wanted to go in there and make things happen and I did."

"I almost feel like I am starting over, or that I am just getting started (with my career). I know that I control my own destiny and I can make things happen on my own."

Funny what a little confidence can do for someone's game. •

Guess Who's Back?

Shortly after winning the 2000 U.S. OPEN at the age of 23, Christie Van Hees abruptly retired from the sport. Nobody seemed quite sure why and she never really let on what her reasons might have been.

"It wasn't the same to outsiders as it was to me," She said of her choice. "So many things were going on in my life that I wanted to pursue. I feel like I'm in better shape mentally and physically now that there isn't chaos in my life."

Christie certainly caused chaos on the courts when she returned to this year's U.S. OPEN, for the first time since winning it all. In only her second pro stop of the season, she advanced through the draw as if she had never left. Only one thing was different — she had to play through several qualifying rounds before earning a spot in the main draw. It was something she had never been forced to do as a top-ranked player on the LPRA.

"Qualifying was a challenge because I knew that it meant more matches," she said. "But it also helped me to loosen up and get the jitters out of the way. I knew that I would have a tough first round match anyway."

Once into the main draw, that tough first round match was against an opponent she'd never faced before, No.5 Kim Russell. Christie did have knowledge of Kim's doubles game and tried to incorporate some of that strategy into their singles match. It paid off and Christie advanced to face No.12 Suzy Acosta in the round of 16.

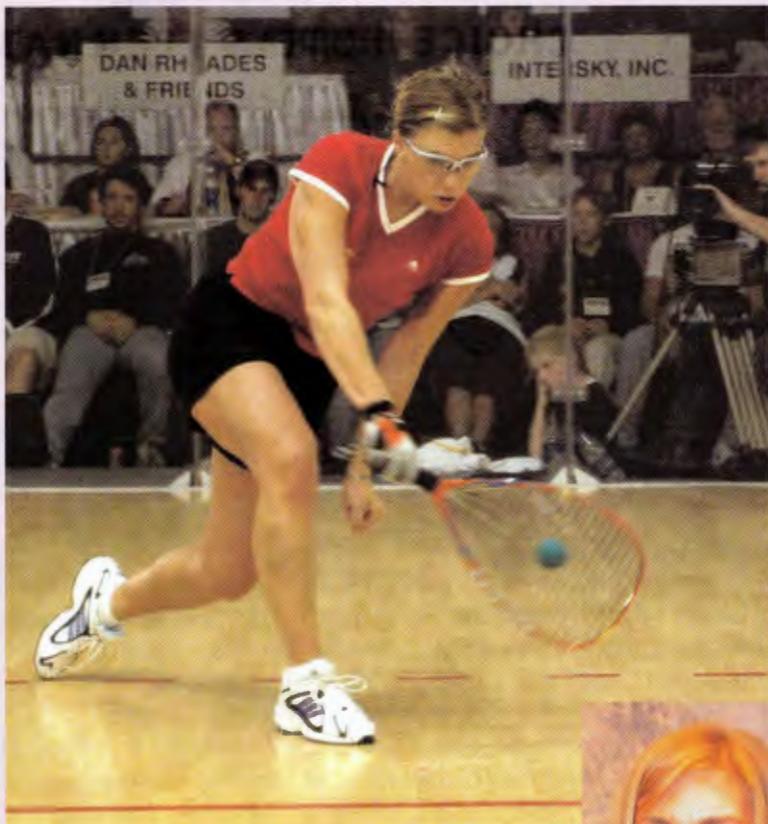
She disposed of Suzy in straight games and then took care of Tammy Brown in the quarters, also in straight games.

"I played way more relaxed and had more fun than I ever had playing before," Christie said of her play. "I felt really prepared going into this tournament."

Many players have felt prepared going up against Christie's semifinal opponent, but they've still come out on the short end. Over the past three years, top ranked Cheryl Gudinas has had her way more times than not with most of the players on the LPRA tour. But Christie wasn't feeling any pressure, and she was able to play relaxed even when she was down 2 games to 1.

"I am typically not a comeback player. I just had it in me to fight for every point," she explained. "I had played her (Cheryl) tons before so I knew how to beat her. It was just a matter of executing the plan."

The plan worked and Christie advanced to the finals against Rhonda Rajsich after getting by Cheryl in a gruel-



Photos: Mike Boatman & Vicki Hughes



ing five-game match, 14-12, 6-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-7. Although she fell to Rhonda in the finals, Christie was able to look back at her return to racquetball with pride.

"It was an all around great tournament for me. I had such a great time, even though I don't like to lose," she said. "It will just make me work harder for the next stop."

Which brings us to the future ... Christie has announced her return to the LPRA tour full-time and will play out the rest of the stops this season. It isn't known whether her performance at this year's U.S. OPEN had any bearing on her decision, but it couldn't have hurt. She also would like to regain her position on the Canadian National Team. The first step will be at the Canadian National Team Selection Doubles Tournament in January, followed by the Canadian National Team Selection Singles Tournament in February. She hopes to gain enough points between those two events to travel with the team to the Tournament of the Americas in March.

"I think the transition back into this lifestyle (racquetball) is going to be a positive one." She then added, "And one that I am looking forward to."

So is everyone else ... except, perhaps, her opponents.

men's & women's b champions amateur spotlight

Photos by Adam Katz



Brandon Stanley | Baton Rouge, Louisiana
U.S. OPEN Men's B Singles Champion

Brandon Stanley, 18, is a freshman at LSU studying pre-med. But during the U.S. OPEN all of his thoughts were turned to racquetball. He came into Memphis as the No.5 seed in men's B singles looking to make up for an early first round exit in Houston at the National Singles Championships.

"After Houston I just tried to practice hard for Junior Nationals," said Brandon, 18. "I continued to practice hard through the summer to get ready for this tournament."

All of the hard practicing paid off and, after a series of straight game wins, followed by a grueling three-gamer against Fernando Pozo in the semifinals (which he won 5-15, 15-11, 11-10), Brandon found himself in the final.

He once again went to a tiebreaker in the final against Carlos Ramirez. They split the first two games, 15-13, 14-15, with Brandon winning the first and Carlos the second. Brandon found himself down 5-2 in the tiebreaker, but battled back to knot things up at 6-6. They then exchanged leads several times before Carlos was serving for the match at 10-9.

"I took a timeout to think about what I needed to do," Brandon explained. "I wanted to keep shooting the ball and not lose by playing passively."

He survived that match point and three more before he was able to close out the match himself, 11-10. "I was extremely excited," he said of the win. "This is probably the most fun tournament that we go to all year."

Although most attention centers around the IRT and LPRA competition, there's a lot more that goes on at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN. With nearly 80 divisions and over 1,500 matches played, competition began as early as 7:00 am and continued well past midnight. After eight years the Open has truly become racquetball's grandest event, and this year records were set with the number of players, entrants, countries represented, states represented, and ticket sales. Here's a quick summary:

Players	.....	814
Entrants	.....	1579
Tickets Sold	.....	6000+
States	.....	45
Top 3 States	.... 1.	Tennessee (81)
	..... 2t.	Florida (67)
	..... 2t.	Texas (67)
Countries	.....	19
Top 3 Countries	1.	Mexico (37)
	(excluding U.S.) 2.	Japan (23)
	..... 3.	Bahamas (16)
Divisions	.....	79

*Largest Division = Men: B singles (75)
*Largest Division = Women: A singles (28)
*excluding open and pro divisions



Shannon Inglesby | Portland, Oregon
U.S. OPEN Women's B Singles Champion

Shannon Inglesby, 14, may have been playing in her first adult national event, but she's no stranger to playing big matches. She has three World Junior singles titles and four Junior National singles titles to her name already. Still, she was nervous heading to her first "big time" match.

"I was a little nervous heading into the OPEN because I didn't really know what to expect," she explained. "My first match was in doubles and I thought that would be better because I would be on the court with someone that I knew, but I was so nervous that I missed every ball."

Singles worked out a little better for her, especially since she was able to get the first match jitters worked out during her doubles match. Shannon breezed through her matches, despite breaking her middle finger diving for a ball in the second game of her semifinal match against Sherika Darnell.

In the final, Shannon put on a serving clinic and hardly had to step out of the box as she defeated Yuki Shimizu, 15-0, 15-2. "I was serving well and I think I aced her like nine times in the first game," Shannon said.

One of Shannon's favorite moments of the tournament happened outside of her competition when she was able to watch the LPRA final between Rhonda Rajsich and Christie Van Hees. "I enjoyed that a lot," she said of watching the pros. "I was watching it and thinking that could be me someday if I keep working at it."

choice hotels u.s. open

The Racquet Club of Memphis
Memphis, Tenn: November 19-23

PROFESSIONAL TOURS

Men's IRT: Kane Waselenchuk (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) def. Derek Robinson (Denver, Colo.) 11-8, 11-6, 11-6
Women's LPRÁ: Rhonda Rajsich (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Christie Van Hees (Kelowna, B.C., Canada) 6-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-7
Legends Tour: Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. Marty Hogan (St. Louis, Mo.) 11-15, 15-9, 11-7

MEN'S SINGLES

Open: Polo Gutierrez (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. Gilberto Mejia (Mexico) ff
MA: Joe Klibowitz (Sussex, Wisc.) def. Guillermo Leyva (San Ysidro, Calif.) 15-11, 15-8
MB: Brandon Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Carlos Ramirez (Miami, Fla.) 15-13, 14-15, 11-10
MC: Barry Cruthirds (Olive Branch, Mich.) def. Reggie Foster (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-13, 15-4
MD: Jeff Van Horn (Boalsburg, Penn.) def. Jorge Navarro (Chicago, Ill.) 15-13, 15-7
M24-: Travis Woodbury (Arlington, Va.) def. Joey Lakowski (Corvallis, Ore.) 15-12, 15-11
M25-: Dale Valentine (Riverside, Calif.) def. Devin Cannady (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15-2, 15-4
M30+: Eric Williams (Charlotte, N.C.) def. James Leone (Canfield, Ohio) 15-12, 15-4
M35+: Jimmy Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska) def. Kelly North (Walton, Ky.)
M40+: Jimmy Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska) def. Scott Collins (Woodstock, Ga.) 15-11, 15-11
M45+: Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Killeen, Texas) def. Glenn Leib (Hatboro, Penn.) 15-13, 15-5
M50+: Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Jim Lazar (Brookfield, Wisc.) 7-15, 15-8, 11-10
M55+: Greg Hasty (Peoria, Ill.) def. Dan Jones (Atlanta, Ga.) 15-4, 15-2
M60-: Dan Jones (Atlanta, Ga.) def. Roger Wehrle (Flowery Branch, Ga.) 14-15, 15-2, 11-5
M65+: Rex Lawler (Terre Haute, Ind.) def. David Lund (Lansing, Mich.) 15-9, 15-6
M70+: Don Alt (Dublin, Ohio) def. Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) 15-4, 15-7
M75+: Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) def. Hugh Groover (Searcy, Ariz.) 15-4, 15-7

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Open: Angela Grisar (Santiago, Chile) def. Diane Moore (Griffith, Ind.) 15-6, 15-11
WA: Harumi Kajino (Osaka, Japan) def. Madeline Edwards (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-5, 15-5
WB: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Yuki Shimizu (Saitama, Japan) 15-0, 15-2
WC: Janice Bell (Jonesboro, Ga.) def. Shonna Rice (Danville, Ky.) 15-8, 8-15, 11-4
WD: Ashley Loyd (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) def. Haley Rollins (Martinez, Ga.) 15-5, 15-9
W24-: Janel Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. D'amonique Davis (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) 15-10, 15-7
W25+: Shannon Feaster (Silver Spring, Md.) def. Rhonda Rajsich (Phoenix, Ariz.) forfeit
W30+: Etsuko Noda (Kanagawa, Japan) def. Claudia Ramirez (Casselberry, Fla.) 15-13, 15-9
W35+: Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) def. Denise Mock (Allen, Texas) 15-13, 15-7
W40+: Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) 15-4, 15-6
W45+: Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. Linda Moore (Madison, Neb.) 15-7, 11-15, 11-5
W50+: Marsha Berry (Louisville, Ky.) def. Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.) 15-11, 15-5

W55+: Sharon Huczek (Rochester, Mich.) def. Mildred Gwinn (Waxhaw, N.C.) 15-6, 15-3
W60+: Mildred Gwinn (Waxhaw, N.C.) def. Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) 15-3, 15-9
W75+ & 80+: Mary-Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) unchallenged

AGE & SKILL DIVISIONS

Men's 24-A: Alberto Donado (Barranquilla) def. Brandon Cortese (Kentwood, Mich.) 3-15, 15-5, 11-7
M24-B: Carlos Ovledo def. Danny Lavelle (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) 15-3, 15-1
M24-C: Joshua Jeter (Memphis, Tenn.) def. William Brian Booth (Bohl, Ala.) 5-15, 15-11, 11-4
M25+A: Jeff Marmer (Loveland, Ohio) def. Steven Barnhouse (Jacksonville, Fla.) 15-13, 15-13
M25+B: Carlos Ramirez (Miami, Fla.) def. Harold Beshaw (Lititz, Penn.) 15-8, 4-15, 11-6
M25+C: Robert Goldsmith (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Jason Carroll (Hudsonville, Mich.) 15-13, 9-15, 11-7
M35+A: Oscar Barraza def. Jeff Elder (Fort Washington, Md.) 15-4, 15-8
M35+B: Tom Resendez (San Diego, Calif.) def. Harlan Faircloth (Oviedo, Fla.) 15-9, 13-15, 11-8
M35+C: Bill Pobega (Westerville, Ohio) def. Juan Martinez (Aurora, Ill.) 15-13, 15-8
M45+A: Edward Fink (Houston, Texas) def. Stanley Shaw (Willbraham, Mass.) 15-7, 15-12
M45+B: Joerg Leinermann (Ocean City, Md.) def. J.B. Barnes (Salisbury, Md.) 15-14, 14-15, 11-10
M45+C: Terrance Holt (Plainfield, Ind.) def. Don Romero (Highlands Ranch, Colo.) 10-15, 15-9, 11-7
M55+A: Thomas Curran (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Doug Dickman (Sedalia, Mo.) 15-11, 15-7
M55+B: Garry Carter (Napa, Calif.) def. Pete Harvey (Waterford, Mich.) 15-9, 15-2
M55+C: Charles Van Hoos (Rochester, Mich.) def. William Gill (Morron, Ga.) 15-7, 15-2
Women's 24-A: Laurie Fisk (St. Louis, Mo.) unchallenged
W24-B: Sarah Hettesheimer (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Sherrika Darnell (El Dorado Hills, Calif.) 13-15, 15-8, 11-3
W24-C: Danielle Jolliff (Chesterfield, Mo.) def. Danielle Jameson (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-2, 15-0
W25+A: Felicia Mann (Detroit, Mich.) def. Stephanie Bird (Tulsa, Okla.) 15-14, 15-2
W25+B: Dorsanayer Thompson (Miami, Fla.) def. Marci Laramee (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) 13-15, 15-13, 11-2
W25+C: Carolyn Watkins (Chicago, Ill.) def. Renee Ijeoma (Nassau, Bahamas) 9-15, 15-0, 11-10
W35+A: Karen Mickel (Tucker, Ga.) def. Kazuko Nakayama (Tokyo, Japan) 15-8, 13-15, 11-5
W35+B: Jeannette Clark (Winnipeg, Manitoba) def. Sharon Wilks (Raleigh, N.C.) 15-7, 15-3
W35+C: Eunsook Kim (APO) def. Layla Lee (McDonough, Ga.) 15-6, 7-15, 11-1
W45+A: Beth Sacco (River Ridge, La.) def. Christy Gallow-Cramer (Southlake, Texas) 15-7, 15-7
W45+B: Alyse Cori (Novato, Calif.) def. Cheryl

Kirk (Naperville, Ill.) 13-15, 15-9, 11-6
W45+C: Deborah Reauso (Chesterfield Twp., Mich.) def. Marilyn Lemmon (Nesbit, Ms.) 15-1, 15-11
W55+A: Andee Glansberg (Saratoga, N.Y.) def. Marquita Molina (Wasco, Calif.) 15-3, 15-2
W55+C: Patty Caldwell (Memphis, Tenn.) unchallenged

DOUBLES DIVISIONS

Men's Open: Javier Moreno/Andy Yambrek (Memphis, Tenn.) def. Carlos Backmeister/Abraham Pena 15-11, 15-14
MA: Bob Jackson (Ridgeland, Miss.)/Drew Toland (Parkin, Ark.) def. William Andreau (Bladstone, Mo.)/Jacob Chambers (Overland Park, Kan.) 15-6, 15-11
MB: Diego Melendez/Fernando Pozo def. Barry Cruthirds (Olive Branch, Mich.)/Brian Hersel (Southhaven, Miss.) 15-13, 11-15, 11-7
MC: Mike Easthope (Harrison, Mich.)/Don Wilson (Chesterfield, Mich.) def. Mike Davis/Joe Klingbeil (Little Rock, Ark.) 12-15, 15-13, 11-6
M19+: Alberto Donado/Juan Gutierrez (Columbia) def. Derrick Ellerman (Anderson, S.C.)/James Stone (Greenville, S.C.) 15-6, 4-15, 11-7
M35: Scott Consoli (Orlando, Fla.)/Scott Collins (Woodstock, Ga.) def. Dave Eagle (Vandalia, Ohio)/David Watson (Miami, Okla.) 15-7, 11-15, 11-9
M50: Richard Bocengra (Topeka, Kan.)/Jim Brane (Kansas City, Mo.) def. David Dennis (Conway, Ark.)/Walter McDade (Hermitage, Tenn.) 15-9, 15-14

Women's Open: Christine Wright (Decatur, Ala.)/Jennifer Hunter (Knoxville, Tenn.) def. Yuni Cobb/Young-Mi Lee (Korea) round robin finish

WA: Sharon Dunn/Kristy Gallow-Cramer (Southlake, Texas) def. Kikao Naoi/Young Yang (Seoul, Korea) 15-4, 14-15, 11-3
WB: Holly Hettesheimer/Samantha McGuffey (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Tomoko Murumachi/Emi Ozaki (Japan) 15-13, 15-3
WC: Shonna Rice (Danville, Ky.)/Rita Stewart (Parksville, Ky.) unchallenged
W35: Kelley Beane (Manchester, N.H.)/Joanne Pomodoro (East Boston, Mass.) def. Marsha Berry (Louisville, Ky.)/Christine Wright (Decatur, Ala.) 15-13, 15-10
W50: Debbie Chaney (Indianapolis, Ind.)/Terry Rogers (San Mateo, Calif.) def. Kathleen Dunham (Naperville, IL/Susan Kieffer (Nisswa, Minn.) 15-13, 15-14

Mixed A/B: Sharon Dunn (Southlake, Texas)/John Dill (Keller, Texas) def. Tina Joslin (Arlington, Texas)/Pete Chapa (North Richland Hills, Texas) 15-2, 15-7

Mixed C/D: Becky Smith (Anadarko, Okla.)/James Carothers (Slidell, LA) def. Diane Martin/Fred Martin (Knoxville, TN) 15-6, 15-9
Mixed 30: Brenda Kyzer (Lexington, S.C.)/Sandy Tucker (Ft. Inn, S.C.) def. Cari Kresa (Dania Beach, Fla.)/Herve Bony (Miami Gardens, Fla.) 15-9, 15-7

Mixed 40: Debbie Ulliman (Westerville, Ohio)/Andy Kulback (Maineville, Ohio) def. Debbie Chaney (Indianapolis, Ind.)/David Watson (Miami, Okla.) 15-13, 12-15, 11-5

Find daily site reports, expanded results, sideline reports and drawsheets @ www.racquetballmagazine.com > "event coverage"

rb:people & places

Special Assignment

During her U.S. OPEN title run, Rhonda Rajsich earned a lot of new fans, but none more supportive than her father Dennis, who was always sitting behind the main court during her matches, helping her to stay focused. What most people don't know is that Dennis almost wasn't able to come to Memphis at all.



Photo: Vicki Hughes

Dennis — or more precisely, Lieutenant Colonel Rajsich — had actually volunteered, if needed, to be the Officer in Charge (OIC) of Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He had been activated and appeared to be headed to Sacramento the same weekend of the U.S. OPEN.

"I actually talked with other officers in my group and they agreed to take charge of the SRP before I needed to order them to," he said. "But I was able to stay in constant contact with them throughout the tournament to make sure that everything was going smoothly."

Dennis is the Chief of Professional Services in the U.S. Army Reserves in addition to his role as OIC of SRP. His job is to make sure that soldiers are ready for mobilization or deployment. He reviews their medical records, makes sure that they have the proper shots and immunizations, and that all of their paperwork is in order.

Although he takes his duty seriously and knows its importance, Rhonda always comes first. "Everything I do, I do for the kid," he said.

His support doesn't go unnoticed and he was the first person that Rhonda thanked after winning in Memphis. "I just wanted to thank my father for his support," she said after her match. "I know he had to juggle a lot and pull a lot of strings to be here and it means everything to me."

Dennis actually got Rhonda started in racquetball. When she was just three-years-old she would travel to

the racquet club with him. Rhonda wasn't much for staying in the nursery so she would sneak out and grab a basketball while her father was on the court. Every time he stepped off the court between games Rhonda would run over to the courts, grab his racquet, and proceeded to hit until he was ready to begin his next game.

As Dennis became better at the sport, he began to pass along his knowledge to Rhonda. Eventually they began playing together and competing together. "I could tell that she had potential when she was young just like you can tell that a little league baseball player has potential," Dennis explained. "As she got older, faster, and stronger, the less I had to do."

"Racquetball is something that I have with my dad that most people don't have with their parents," Rhonda said. "Whenever I stayed with him we would get up at 5:00 am and go hit. That was our thing."

Dennis still plays racquetball, but admits that he doesn't take his own game as serious anymore. "I play for fun now and am enjoying success through her," he explained. "It's far beyond pride or just being a dad. I am there for her as a coach and a best friend as well."

Rhonda appreciates her dad's support from getting her gum to making sure that she is hydrated and mentally prepared to go out on the court. She was especially grateful that he was able to see her win her first Open title.

"It was huge to have him there," she said. "I don't plan on it being my last U.S. OPEN win, but I am glad that he was there for the first one."

NF Benefit Raises \$22,500

By David Stob, Lake Forest Park, Washington

In only its second year, the annual Charity Tournament for NF soared past any goals for participation and proceeds, netting \$22,500 from participants and generous sponsors. The event touched the lives of those afflicted by neurofibromatosis [NF], as affected patients and families took part in an interactive exhibition evening preceding the tournament. Players from around the state joined their NF affected guests in educational focus talks, hands-on instruction, exhibition doubles play and social time accompanied by live music.

Scholarship Winners

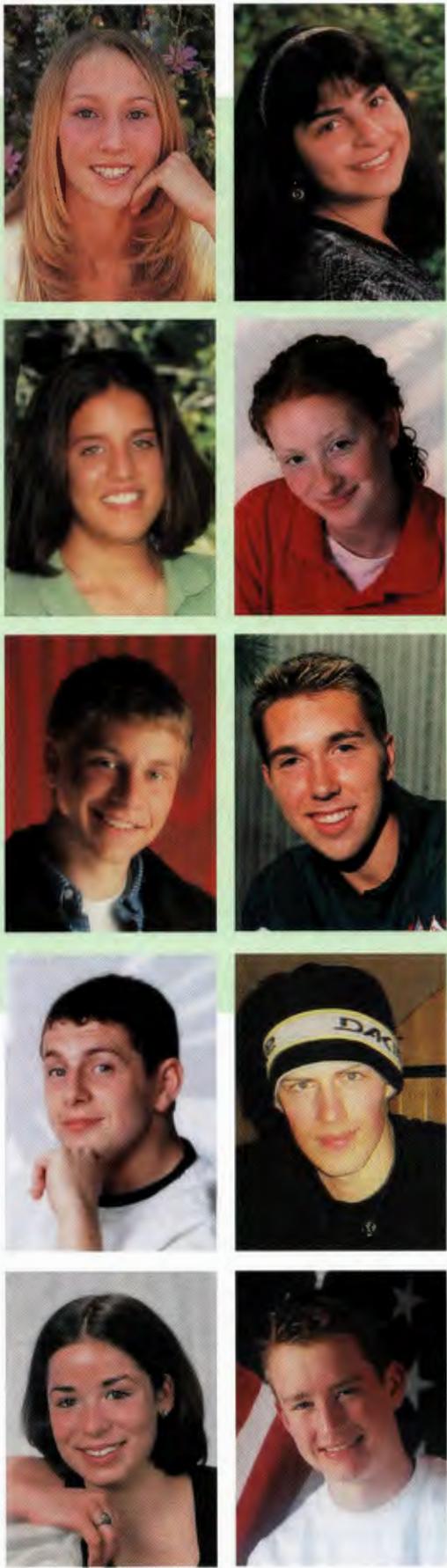
The United States Racquetball Association Board of Directors recently awarded scholarships to ten young USRA members, who had each applied for a racquetball grant. The USRA board met to review the findings of the scholarship committee at the U.S. OPEN in Memphis and determined that all of this year's applicants would receive a \$500 award.

Since the program's inception in 1990, the USRA has granted 54 awards totaling \$33,000 to aspiring student racquetball athletes. The National Masters Racquetball Association is the primary contributor to the scholarship program (along with a growing list of individual donors) and has been directly responsible for the growth of the scholarship fund over the years, by donating a large percentage of the capital balance through their fundraising efforts. Proceeds from the fund are used to issue awards to athletes who obtain, complete and submit applications by June 15 of each year.

For more information on the scholarship program, and to download application materials, go to: www.usra.org "Sitemap/Index" under "S"cholarships.

This year's awardees are: **Lindsey Baptiste** of Portland, Oregon, attending the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon; **Lauren Deutsch** of West Hills, California attending the University of Southern California in Los Angeles; **Adrienne Fisher** of Centerville, Ohio, attending the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; **Rebecca Gordon** of Kirkwood, Missouri, attending Truman State University in Kirkwood, Missouri; **Theodore Haley** of Portland, Oregon, attending the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon; **John "Jack" Huczek** of Rochester, Michigan attending Oakland University in Rochester Hills, Michigan; **Matthew Karmelin** of Dacula, Georgia, attending the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; **Chris Meyer** of Boulder, Colorado, attending the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado; **Mary "Betsy" Rombach** of St. Louis, Missouri, attending the University of Dayton, Ohio; **Dan Sheppick of Milwaukie, Oregon**, attending Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon.

Photos are arranged alphabetically, left to right, top to bottom.



Once again, the Pro Sports Club of Bellevue, Washington was the host site for the tournament and exhibition to benefit NF — a neurological genetic disorder that can cause tumors to form on nerves anywhere in the body at any time. While not as widely known as other similar disorders, NF is a progressive complex disorder that occurs in 1 out of 3,000 births; affects all races and both sexes equally; and may be linked to learning disabilities, epilepsy and cancer. No cure or effective treatments (other than surgeries on the tumors) have been identified to this point.

Generosity abounds ... A total of 149 players participated in the expanded four-day event and players were given a pledge sheet donation form with their entry form and encouraged to solicit contributions from others. Top contributors were rewarded with generous prizes donated by businesses including all-expense paid trips to the Napa Wine country in California, local resorts and Microsoft Xbox systems. Top fund-raiser and Grand Prize winner Aaron Vederoff raised over \$4,200 for NF with a letter writing campaign. First place

rb:people & places



winner Jeff Homme leveraged his employer's matching fund program (Microsoft) and raised over \$2,200 with just a few key contacts. Jonathan Stob (age 12) raised nearly as much, with a total of just over \$2,100. Jonathan has a special reason for his commitment since his 6-year-old sister Renae is affected by NF. Also worth mentioning is the generosity of all the Wilson-sponsored players who individually donated \$500 to NF and then saw their gift doubled in a matching gift program.

Sequel planned ... Immediately after the event, plans began for next year's tournament, which will hopefully be even better ... out of state players will receive special gifts and door prizes and with the dates sitting half way between Regionals and Nationals [April 29-May 2], it's a great opportunity to keep your game sharp.

If you are interested in learning more about NF, go to: www.nf.org/Washington or call Dave Stob at (206) 361-8853. Full results of this event are posted on the tournament website: www.maximillian.ws/nf/nf.htm, and an expanded version of this article can be found in the companion online edition. *Photo, above left: Dave Stob (far right) with volunteers at the tournament desk.*

Junior Day in Petaluma

by Brian Dixon

Petaluma Valley Athletic Club in Petaluma, California had its annual Junior only tournament in October, bringing in over 30 players from 8-18 to play all day. Tournament Directors Vinnie Caramagno and Brian Dixon invited juniors from throughout the Bay Area to play in the tournament.

The goal was to get them as much play as possible, and most played at least three matches. During the lunch/pizza break, a small raffle was done with some kids winning DVDs, signed posters of pros, or the extremely valuable Ektelon wristbands! The carbs did not seem to phase the kids, as they got right back on the court after a few slices of pizza. Most adult players would be looking for a good nap spot at that point.

There were no controversies or complaints for that matter. On top of that, the kids would actually come to us asking if we needed refs, even thought it was a self-refereed tournament!

Winners included: Jesse Rockowitz over Eli Smuckler in the advanced group; Ian Hong over Pat O'Neil in the intermediate group; Devon Pimentelli over Christian Kurtz in the gold division; Christian Claymore over Kevin Crowley in the Boys 14 Blue; Cameron Martin over Alex Richter in the Boys 14 Red; Hayden Richter over Tyler Lanman in the Boys 12 Blue; Justin Delisle over Dillon Franklin in Boys 12 Red.

Congratulations to all that played. It was a great day, and we hope to see more clubs recognize the importance of Juniors to the sport. Afterall, they will someday be dues paying club members looking for some court-time! *Photo, above right: collage of junior attendees.*

USRA Database Up-and-Running

Don't forget to go to www.usra.org to "activate" your new member record. You can now make certain that everything is correct, renew your memberships, and sign up to receive exclusive online publications.



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THE BALL, EVEN MORE SO.**

Play with one ball – the livelier, longer lasting Titanium Tour racquetball, new from Wilson. Now available at your local sporting goods store.



IRT Season Rankings

[Dated 11/24/03, following U.S. OPEN]



irt-tour.com

Points	Player	Hometown
1. 3679	Kane Waselenchuk	Alberta, Canada
2. 3664	Jack Huczak	Rochester Hills, MI
3. 3658	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA
4. 3093	Alvaro Beltran	Chihuahua, Mexico
5. 3023	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA
6. 2929	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA
7. 2709	John Ellis	Stockton, CA
8. 2526	Derek Robinson	Kennewick, WA
9. 2151	Mike Guidry	Carrolton, TX
10. 2139	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada
11. 1609	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY
12. 1541	Shane Vanderson	Dublin, OH
13. 1296	Jason Thoerner	Canton, GA
14. 1294	Josh Tucker	Joplin, MO
15. 1167	Dan Llaceria	Rehoboth Beach, DE
16. 1010	Mike Dennison	Twinsburg, OH

LPRA Season Rankings

[Dated 11/24/03, following U.S. OPEN]



Points	Player	Hometown
1. 1008.50	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL
2. 631.25	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH
3. 470.50	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ
4. 295.00	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA
5. 229.75	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT
6. 221.25	Kim Russell	Austin, TX
7. 213.25	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH
8. 194.00	Jackie Paraiso Rice	El Cajon, CA
9. 174.00	Brenda Kyzer	Lexington, SC
10. 127.00	Lori-Jane Powell	Alberta, Canada
11. 117.75	Christie Van Hees	B.C. Canada
12. 110.00	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO
13. 102.50	Amy Foster	Fairlawn, OH
14. 92.75	Susana Acosta	Chihuahua, MEX
15. 87.00	Rachel Gellman	Phoenix, AZ
16. 86.75	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD

• professional tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2003-2004 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

SPONSORS • ASHAWAY • CREW-WEST • E-FORCE • EKTELON • HEAD • PRO KENNEX • PROPENN	
New Orleans	Kane Waselenchuk def. Jason Mannino
Stockton	Jack Huczak def. Alvaro Beltran
Alexandria	Jack Huczak def. Cliff Swain
Chicago	Kane Waselenchuk def. Alvaro Beltran
Memphis	Kane Waselenchuk def. Derek Robinson
January 9-11	Cleveland, OH
January 15-18	Syosset, NY
February 27- 29	San Diego, CA
March 5-7	Louisville, KY
March 18-21	Greensboro, NC
April 23-25	Las Vegas, NV
April 30-May 1	Phoenix, AZ
	Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University in Tempe, 480-965-8900
	For information concerning any IRT events, contact Dave Negrete at 630-430-1IRT [1478] or send e-mail to negretz@mindspring.com, or go to www.irt-tour.com .

2003-2004 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

OFFICIAL SHOE OF THE LPRA: EKTELON

Rosarito Beach	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	11-6, 10-12, 11-8, 11-4
Charlotte	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	11-7, 11-4, 5-11, 11-7
Albuquerque	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	11-5, 11-8, 9-11, 11-1
Memphis	Rhonda Rajsich def. Christie Van Hees	11-6, 7-11, 11-4, 11-7
January 16-18	Honolulu, HI	Honolulu Club, 808-949-0177 | www.hawaiiracquetball.org
February 6-8	Coral Springs, FL	See www.ladiesproracquetball.com for calendar updates between issues
February 13-15	Chicago	Site TBA
TBA	Salt Lake City, UT	Site TBA
March 12-14	Nashville, TN	Site TBA
March 19-21	Baltimore, MD	Site TBA
April 29- May 1*	Phoenix, AZ	Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University in Tempe, 480-965-8900

*Combined IRT/LPRA stops feature a Saturday final. For LPRA information, contact Claude Crocker at cclpra@star-band.net or Janet Myers at FEETJFM@aol.com, or check online updates at www.ladiesproracquetball.com.



The Legends Tour
Classic Pro Racquetball

The Legends of Racquetball World Championship in St. Louis

The Legends Tour held its first official World Championship at the JCC in St. Louis on October 23-26. An historic place in racquetball, the St. Louis JCC not only has produced several top players, including Steve Serot, Jerry Hilecher, Benny Koltun, Marty Hogan and Doug Cohen — but it was also the site of racquetball's first ever World Championship in 1969. Dr. Bud Muehleisen, winner of that 1969 World championship, was on hand for the 2003 event, as were rivals Charlie Brumfield, Steve Serot and Steve Keeley.

The tournament was as good as it gets! The draw included Cliff Swain, Marty Hogan, Dave & Gregg Peck, Jerry Hilecher, Bret Harnett and Ruben Gonzalez. Never had so many true legends competed in one event, and interesting matchups occurred throughout.

Corey Brysman upset Gregg Peck in the 16's and followed up with a win over big brother Dave in the quarters. Doug Ganim took out Bret Harnett in straight games in the 16's. Southpaw Todd O'Neil got by Mike Ceresia in two games in the 16's before losing to Cliff Swain in the quarters. Marty Hogan took out fellow local legend, Jerry Hilecher, in the 16's and Rick Bezousek in the quarters. Rick had upset Benny Koltun in an 11-10 tiebreak in the third stunner of the 16's before going down in a quick two to Hogan. Ruben Gonzalez pulled an incredible escape act against Steve Lerner. Ruben dropped the first game 15-10 and was down 2-0 in the second when Lerner injured his hip and was forced to pull out of the event. Ruben then beat Doug Ganim in two to earn his place in the semis.

The semis were set. Cliff Swain defeated Ruben 15-3, 15-9 in a match that was closer than the score indicates. Marty Hogan squeaked by the red-hot Corey Brysman 15-9, 10-15, 11-10 to set up the much-anticipated final.

Hogan came out with the drive serve, and matched Cliff's serves and power to take the first game 15-12. Swain got his big serve on track and won the second game 15-5. The tiebreaker was extremely close with Swain obviously in pain from an injured knee, and Hogan more motivated than ever. Marty served a lob to Cliff's backhand at 7-8 in the breaker.

It appeared to all in the audience that Cliff had crossed the five-foot line in tying up the match, but no call was made. The break gave Swain the momentum he needed, and after a few untouchable serves, Swain took the title 11-7 in the third.

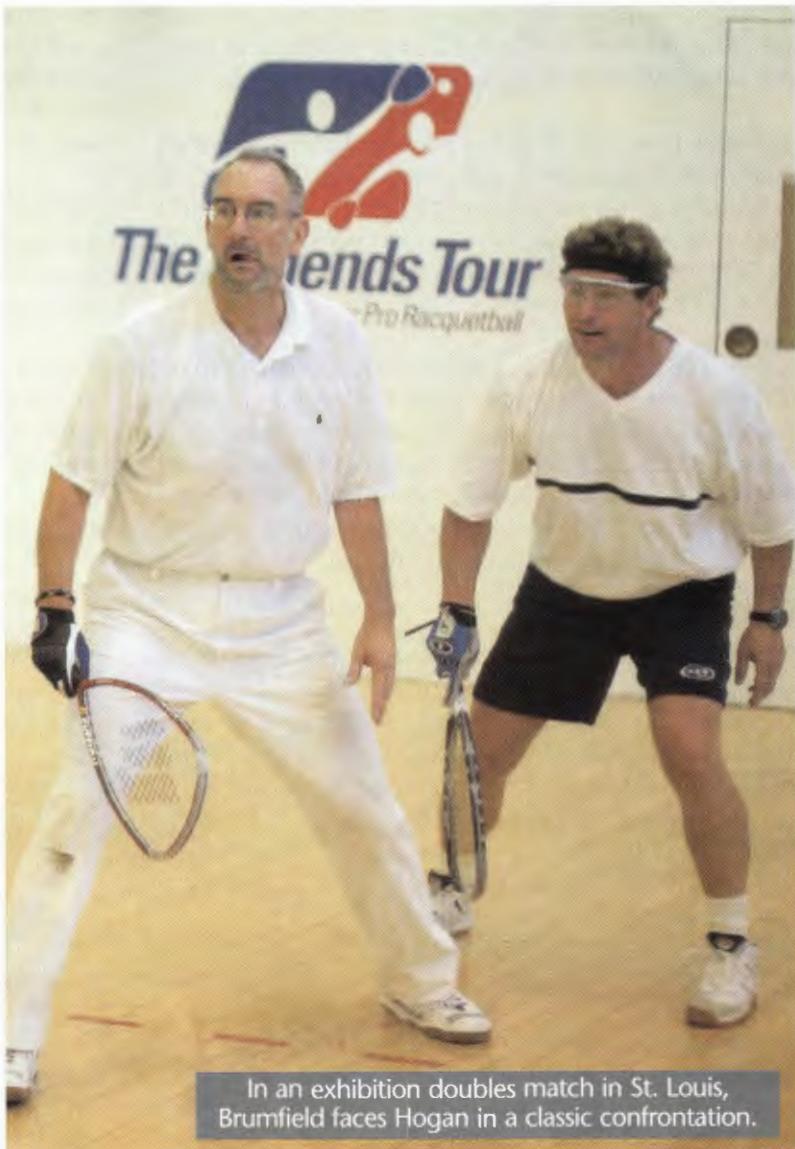


Photo by Carole Chelsea George



CALL IN THE DOCTOR ... ! **The Sport of Racquetball is Sick**

Excerpt of St. Louis banquet remarks by Marty Hogan

This sport has been incredible for me. Probably more than anybody, I've experienced the greatest attention, the greatest monetary gain and recognition in the sport. Some people think I did it all. But I didn't do it all. I had a lot of help along the way. And I had some great teachers along the way ... like the Charlie Brumfield's and Steve Keeley's who really loved the game.

You may have been hearing over the last decade or so that racquetball is dead, but it's not dead. It's just very sick and it needs some help. I've got some ideas, and I know you've got some ideas, and hopefully we can all brainstorm together about how to help this great game get even better.

Lately, I've been thinking about why racquetball isn't on TV, why courts are going out, how to get more sponsors back in the game, all that. But I can't save this sport by myself. That's one of the reasons why I helped form the Legends Tour. Not only is it great fun to reunite with everybody from the past, but together I think we can help bring back the excitement and glory of the good ol' days of pro racquetball.

I'd like to reach back to some of the greatest minds of the sport, get their reflections of the game, get their input. And not only take advantage of that expertise and knowledge, but also ask other people who knew how great racquetball was during the 70s and the 80s, people who remember that awesome feeling we all had in going to a racquetball event.

Because that's what it was. It was not just a tournament, it was an event. Going to see the players and the camaraderie of these great players. They weren't just racquetball players, they were characters. And you got behind these characters.

Another thing we've got to do is find a way to expose the sport to a wider audience. But we're not

going to be on TV unless we have a vehicle to get the sport to the people to see it. I've always felt that the obvious thing, and I think a lot of us have felt that the obvious thing is we need a portable court, a truly portable court. There are so many avenues of exposure that racquetball can coat-tail, such as being added on to an extreme sport type of event. How they've gone from skateboarding to motorcycle jumping to cyclo-cross. It's sort of an evolution.

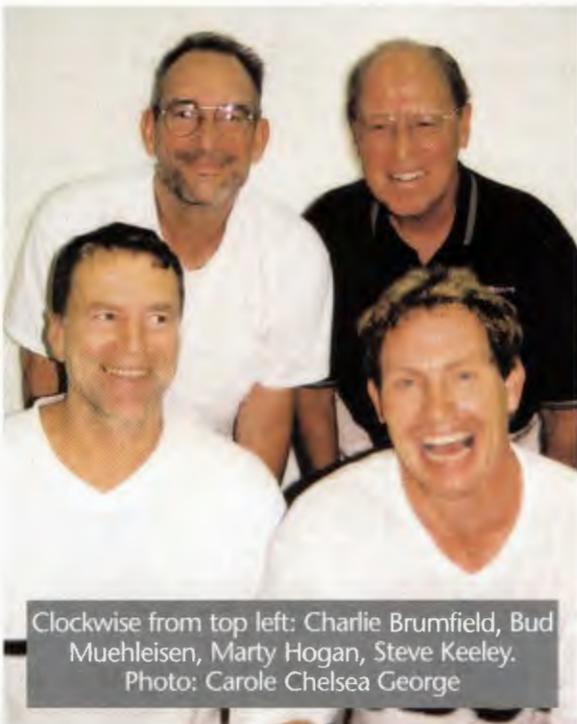
We have to take the sport of racquetball to the people. We can't stop racquetball courts from being taken out, but what we can do is make racquetball a happening thing again. And then the courts will come back.

I also feel we need to get business people involved in racquetball and have their ideas incorporated into our sport. The secret to the future of racquetball is combining the correct leadership with the expertise and knowledge of people who love this sport. Then we will come back. We will come back.

The Legends Tour is just part of our comeback. There are also a number of other projects in progress right now. We're talking to cable TV and it won't be long before we are back on ABC. It's just a matter of time.

That's the whole vision of doing a Legends tour — to bring everyone together. And bring together some particular vehicle that we can all get behind to do new creative things to help racquetball get better.

Another thing I've always wanted to do is to acknowledge the guys that have really put in the hard work, the great players that have sort of been forgotten. But I know I haven't forgotten them. There are a lot of guys who are coming back in the Legends, like the Peck brothers. There are



Clockwise from top left: Charlie Brumfield, Bud Muehleisen, Marty Hogan, Steve Keeley.
Photo: Carole Chelsea George



guys like Ruben Gonzalez and Cliff Swain who are still on the pro tour and playing the Legends. There are guys like Charlie Brumfield who are having fun promoting paddleball, the daddy of racquetball. And there are guys like Steve Keeley and Dr. Bud who aren't playing in the tournaments, but are supporting us by being here with us.

I hope we can pass on that enthusiasm and love of the sport to the next generation of players, so the upcoming players can feel the same way about the Cliff Swain's and Jason Mannino's and so on, to keep the ball rolling.

So that's the whole concept of the Legends Tour. We're here to do our part to help racquetball, out of our love for this sport. Together we can take this sick sport of racquetball and make it healthy again.

Memphis Bound

The Legends Tour took its act to Memphis to add a little nostalgia and a lot of great play to the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. Open. The four-man event was filmed by the Tennis Channel and will be shown in homes across the nation in the coming months.

In the opening semifinal, top-seeded Marty Hogan edged No.4 Dave Peck 10-15, 15-9, 11-9 in a true classic racquetball match. Both players showed up in excellent shape and the play was intense and impressive throughout the tight, three game marathon. From the No.2 spot, Ruben Gonzalez had a little easier time dispatching No.3 Benny Koltun 15-11 and 15-4 to advance to the final.

There, Ruben Gonzalez defeated Marty Hogan in one of the most entertaining matches anyone had seen in years. Marty came out playing better than anyone could believe. He seemed to almost toy with the always-tough Ruben in building up a 15-11, 6-1 lead in the match. But then Hogan caught an untimely case of the skips and Ruben fought back to take the second game 15-9. Ruben remained hot and made some unbelievable shots and gets, including the event's best dive-kill on game point to win 11-7 in the third.

From start to finish, Marty never stopped talking to Ruben, the crowd, the ref and anyone else who would listen. Ruben laughed and even covered his ears at one point. The packed crowd really got behind Speedy Gonzalez in the second and third games. A thousand strong could be heard chanting "Ruben, Ruben, Ruben"! None of this deterred Smokin' Hogan in the least, who hot-dogged and clowned while putting on a world-class athletic display.



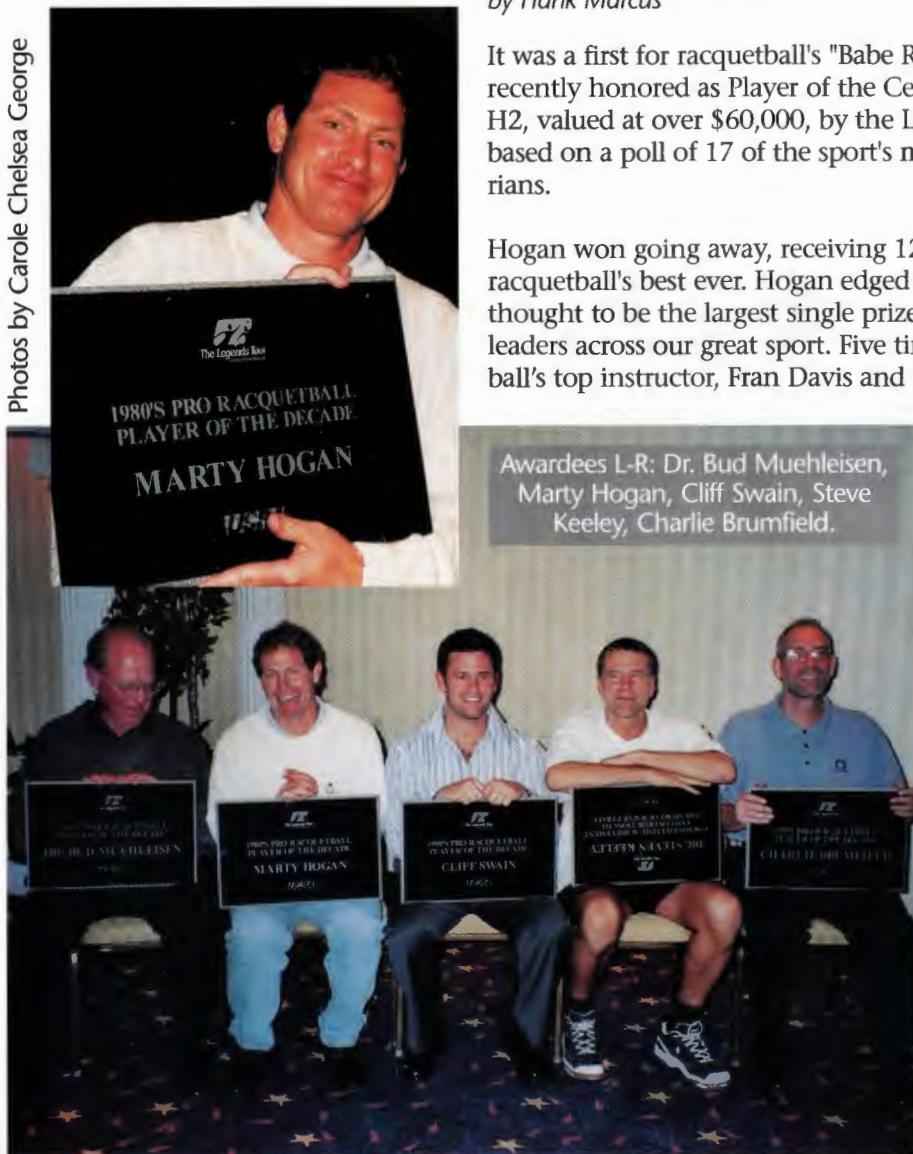
Photos by Mike Boatman



The Legends Tour

Classic Pro Racquetball

Photos by Carole Chelsea George



Legends Tour names Hogan Player of the Century

by Hank Marcus

It was a first for racquetball's "Babe Ruth" — Marty Hogan — when he was recently honored as Player of the Century and presented with a new Hummer H2, valued at over \$60,000, by the Legends Racquetball Tour. The award was based on a poll of 17 of the sport's most influential players, leaders, and historians.

Hogan won going away, receiving 12 first place votes to be recognized as racquetball's best ever. Hogan edged out runner-up Cliff Swain for what is thought to be the largest single prize in the sport, after receiving support from leaders across our great sport. Five time champion, Sudsy Monchik, racquetball's top instructor, Fran Davis and IRT Board member Eric Muller joined

veterans like Jerry Hilecher and Randy Stafford in selecting Hogan for the sport's biggest prize.

Hogan's vote went to another player "I truly believe Dr. Bud was the Player of the Century, because without him there would be no Brumfield or Keeley, no Hogan, Peck or Yellen, no Swain and probably no pro racquetball. He taught the best, who in turn taught the rest and everyone who's played the sport has learned something from the White Knight directly or indirectly."

In all, four of racquetball's great champions received special recognition from the Legends Tour and the USRA during the banquet at the recent Legends tour World Championship in St. Louis on October 24th. Special recognition was also given to Steve Keeley, for his contributions to the sport.

LEGENDS TOUR SCHEDULE

January 23-25	Austin, Texas
February TBA	San Diego, California
February 6-8	Coral Springs, Florida
March TBA	Boston, Massachusetts
April 16-18	New York, New York
May TBA	Las Vegas, Nevada

Go to: www.legendstour.com for updates

Dr. Bud Muehleisen was honored as the Player of the Decade for the 1960s. Dave Peck, one of Dr. Bud's most successful protégées, presented the award to racquetball's White Knight.

Dr. Bud then presented long time friend and doubles partner Charlie Brumfield with the award for being the 1970s Player of the Decade.

USRA Executive Director Jim Hiser presented Marty Hogan with the honor of being The Player of the Decade for the 1980s.

Scott Hirsch, Executive Director of The Legends Tour, presented his former college roommate and junior doubles partner Cliff Swain with the evening's final award as the Player of the Decade for the 1990s.

In the last issue I reviewed some basics and covered my magical "Grip Change" and how important it is in order to swing flat and level, not down.

Let's continue to expand upon another basic concept: the Flat vs. Curled Backhand. Before we examine my magical "Flat Backhand" let's define the two:

1. Flat Backhand: It's exactly like it sounds...flat from the ready position to the swing/contact point, to the follow through.
2. Curled Backhand: same again ... it's curled (wrist curl) from the ready position, then flattens out as you uncurl your wrist as you start to swing and begin to make contact, and then it continues through the follow through.

Now let's take a look at who uses what: **The pros of today**, led by me, use the flat backhand for several reasons:

- a. It's proven to be much more consistent, with many, many less skips since you never curl your wrist; it stays flat from the beginning to the end of your stroke, with the least room for error.
- b. The balls are faster so you have a lot less time to curl, then uncurl, your backhand.
- c. The racquets are bigger so they are a bit tougher to curl and uncurl your wrist.

The pros of the 80's, led by Marty Hogan, used the curled version primarily because:

- a. It generated more power from the whipping action of the curled wrist. Unfortunately this led to more inconsistencies and skips; if the timing of the uncurling of the wrist wasn't perfect, the racquet head would be facing down and not flat upon contact.

Without a doubt, I am known to have the best flat backhand on tour. In today's game, with the ball often traveling in excess of over 150 mph, you just don't have the time to curl your backhand. If you try and curl your wrist — and don't flatten it back out in time — you will have a tendency to be more inconsistent and skip more balls. Who wants their middle name to be "skippy" anyway? Your goal is to minimize your skips and maxi-



The Flat Backhand

imize your opponent's mistakes. With a flat backhand you can do just that. Trust me, I'm living proof.

So, the "flatter the better" is the rule when it comes to your backhand — and for that matter your forehand too. Just remember this saying, "flat is where it is at."

Check out the new instructional video, "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" featuring myself, Jason and Fran to learn more about the Flat Backhand. See page 38 or go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details. Turn the page to take a look at my magical "Flat Backhand" compared to the "Curled Backhand" ...

*Reference older "magic show" instructionals online, by going to www.racquetballmagazine.com > "Back Issues"

less effective: curled backhand



(Ready Position, inset top left)

- Regular backhand stance
- Racquet head is shoulder high
- Upper body rotated
- Right shoulder pointing into left wall (reverse for lefties)
- Chest pointing into left back corner
- Racquet curled — wrist is rolled, curled and pointing to corner



(Swing/Contact Point, large photo)

- Ball is contacted at full extension, dropping slightly to the floor and off lead foot

(Follow-through, inset at left)

- All the way through

best choice: flat backhand



TRICK 1 — Ready Position (inset left)

- Regular backhand stance
- Racquet head is shoulder high
- Upper body rotated
- Right shoulder pointing into left wall (reverse for lefties)
- Chest pointing into left back corner
- **Racquet flat — NO wrist curl**
- Racquet pointing into back left corner



TRICK 2 — Swing/Contact Point (above)

- Ball is contacted with racquet at full extension, parallel to the floor, flat to the front wall and off lead foot

TRICK 3 — Follow Through (inset left)

- All the way through

Wilson Game Plan: Teaching the Backhand KISS ... Keep it Simple



"Kiss" is key to helping your students develop confidence in their backhand stroke. They will experience success almost immediately and will be on their way to developing a fundamentally sound and advanced stroke.

Beginner Backhand KEY Points

- Holding the racquet with two hands will help the student keep the racquet face square.
- Rotate shoulders. Arms bent, relaxed, and away from body.
- Extend racquet at contact point. (Just off the heel of your front foot).
- Continue with a full, flat follow through.

Teaching the backhand stroke (photos, right & facing top right)

1. Start facing the sidewall, holding the racquet with both hands. The racquet face should be square to the wall throughout this practice drill. Keep your shoulders relaxed and your arms away from your body, and slightly bent.
2. Stay balanced as you rotate your shoulders toward the back wall. It is important to keep the racquet square and to keep your arms away from your body.

3. Continue to hold on to the top of the racquet with your left hand as you rotate your shoulders forward. At the point of contact, which will be off the heel of your front foot, extend your arm and your racquet. Wrist involvement is minimal. Your wrist should extend with your arm so the racquet is flat when contact is made.
4. Continue with a full, flat follow through. Stay on balance and allow your shoulders to rotate naturally.

Try it with a Frisbee! Using a Frisbee is a fun and effective way to teach students the backhand stroke. Use a nerf Frisbee indoors, and have them let loose! Stress a flat swing and a quick, whippy release.

Advanced Backhand KEY Points

- Raise racquet up so the head of the racquet points towards the ceiling. This move allows you to generate more speed and more power in to the stroke.
- Drop arm down so you can repeat the same flat stroke as the beginner backhand.



Wilson Game Plan instructor:
Top teaching professional Chris Evon.

advanced



beginner



Advanced Backhand (series below)

1. Once your student feels comfortable with the basic backhand, and can hit a dropped ball with a solid, flat stroke, you can start to introduce the advance techniques. *If they start to hit the ball off line, return to the basic stroke.
2. Power is generated by increasing the distance the racquet moves before it strikes the ball, and by increasing the speed in which it strikes the ball. Start by raising your racquet back and up. Notice the racquet head facing the ceiling. Shoulders are rotated exactly how they were in the beginner stroke.
3. As you drive the racquet down (to the same position it was in the beginner stroke), you want to increase the bend in your elbow slightly so you can snap it straight into a good clean, quick extension at contact. This "whippy" type of action adds a lot of power and punch to your backhand!
4. Continue with a full, flat follow through.



BONUS: Using the Frisbee technique helps your student to get the feel of the "whipping" type motion needed for an effective backhand. Be sure the student can execute a flat level stroke, and then work on increasing the speed of their swing.



Head Megablast Series

Building your Perfect Game

In my 25 years of experience as a player, teacher and coach, I have taken numerous seminars, read tons of books and had countless one-on-one sessions with sports psychologists about mental toughness and keeping a positive attitude. At each camp I conduct, I share that knowledge and my experiences regarding this area of mental toughness/positive attitudes with every student. I believe this is worth 80+% of your game.

At no time in my career have I really had to use *each and every* bit of that information, until now. In mid-November I suffered a severe bicycle accident. I was coming down one of the hills of San Francisco, hit a pothole, flipped over my handlebars and landed on the other side of the median. When all was said and done, I had broken both my arms and needed four hours of surgery to piece my shattered bones back together. I had to cancel out of the San Antonio Camp, the U.S. Open, the Aruba Camp, a trip to see my Mom and the Junior Worlds. It truly stopped me in my tracks.

There are several other professionals in our sport who have had to overcome tremendous obstacles like mine, or worse, like:

- Jason Manriño. Broke his back in 1994 and was told he would never walk again let alone play racquetball again. Ten years later he finished ranked #1 on the IRT for the 2002/2003 season.
- Sudsy Monchik. Broke his foot (the same one!) twice and then came back a year later and became the 2002 U.S. Open Champion.
- Cheryl Gudinas. Suffered a severe bout of plantar fasciitis, but still made it to the semi's of the 2003 U.S. Open.
- Rhonda Rajsich. Has had several physical setbacks and mental let downs, but is now the 2003 U.S. Open Champion.
- Kane Waselenchuk. Suffered major inner ear problems, which almost sidelined him permanently from the tour, but is now the 2003 U.S. Open Champion.

Obstacles come in different forms:

- Injuries-broken bones, torn ligaments, strained muscles
- Illness-asthma, shortness of breath, heart condition
- Emotional breakup, death in the family
- Loss of a job, or even loss of a match

All of those mentioned in this article have had to overcome some sort of obstacle that was in our way and in the process we all kept a very positive attitude.

Here it is in a nutshell...the obstacle "is what it is" and you cannot change the situation. You were dealt this hand of fate and now it is up to you to play it out. You can make a choice in the following areas: to be positive or negative!

Acceptance: you can either accept it and work with it or live in denial about it.

Embrace: you can either embrace it with open arms or fight it.

Grateful: be grateful it isn't worse and forge ahead or just feel sorry for yourself and wallow in self pity.

Open: be open to the possibilities and opportunities or just shut down and give up.

Mood: be happy or sad.

Acknowledge: be okay with it or sit around and complain about it.

Challenge: be up for the challenge of what lies ahead or say, "why me?"

You have total control of what attitude you possess — you can be positive or negative — it's your choice.

Think about it ... would you want to be with someone who always complains, feels sorry for themselves, gives up, is sad and believes in nothing? Or would you want to be with someone who accepts, is grateful, is a fighter, is happy to be alive, believes in everything and who is challenged by it all?

Myself, Jason, Sudsy, Cheryl, Rhonda and Kane all have this in common: we kept a positive attitude even at the worst of times when things looked bleak ... we never gave up. Believe me, we all had our moments, but all-in-all we believe there are no obstacles in our way that we can't move, walk around, climb over or bust through. To us an obstacle is a challenge we want to tackle and overcome. Because of this belief system we all overcame the adversity that was forced upon us and achieved much success.

Please check out my website for the camp schedule, where we cover this topic in great detail.

by Fran Davis
fran@frandavisracquetball.com



MAINS & CROSSES: *Consistency is Key*

Jack Huczek on the Game and Stringing
By Steve Crandall Vice President, Ashaway Sales & Marketing

I recently caught up with Jack Huczek, who is blazing a trail on the professional IRT circuit. At the same time, he is in his junior year at Oakland University in Michigan, well on his way to an MBA. His hectic schedule is no surprise, as it was just a couple of years back now that he managed to graduate from high school while playing his final year in the Juniors, and becoming one of the youngest players ever to win the U.S. National Singles Championship. When we met, we talked about his time on the pro tour and some of the factors that go into making his game what it is.

"I would have to say the biggest thrill of my time on the pro circuit has been the different places I have been able to travel, and the interesting people I've been able to meet," Jack said. "A very close second would have to be competing against the best racquetball players in the world on a weekly basis. And, of course, winning is nice, too."

And win he has, capturing the top spots in the 2002-2003 U.S. Pro Nationals, the Pan-American Games, and the Stockton Pro-Am in September. He finished the 2002-2003 season at #4 in the rankings. "I am very pleased with how I've done on my first couple of years on the Pro Tour," he added. "I know that every success is made up of a lot of little steps, and I feel as though I am well on my way."

"Each tour stop is another step closer to my ultimate goal of being number one. I also keep in mind that each tournament has its own set of demands, and I try to prepare accordingly, both mentally and physically," Jack said. "Stringing is a big part of that. For instance, I string differently if I play in Boston in the winter, versus if I play in the Dominican Republic — where it can be over 100 degrees with high humidity for two weeks in a row. I string tighter in the warmer weather, to make up for the damage the humidity does."

"Also, I like to travel with a dozen or so rackets for four-day tournaments, more for longer trips like the Pan-Am games. For those times, I string half of my rackets at 40 lbs, for immediate use, and the other half at 42 lbs, knowing that they could be sitting around in my hotel room in high humidity for a while."

"I also string differently according to the court. A cement court is super-fast, so I string a little tighter for added control. It all depends on where I am playing."

External factors are not the only considerations that affect how Jack strings his racket. Known as a counter punch player, Jack likes to take advantage of any mistake his opponents may make on the court. To do this effectively, he has to have maximum control over the ball."

"I play with a 16-gauge string, which gives me more control than a thinner string, and I tighten up the tension as well," Jack explained. "I also know I can rely on my string, which gives me the confidence to capitalize on those opportunities."

"A lot of strings out there become spongy after you play with them for a while. And, while they brag about how durable they are and how they don't break, I can't afford to use a string that stays together at the expense of playability. So I play with SuperKill II, which plays consistently well for the life of the string. And when I pick up my next racket strung the same way, I know it will play well for me, too."

"In order to remain at the top of my game, I know I have to play consistently," he explained. "I need that same consistency and reliability from my string. I have been playing with the same string — Ashaway's SuperKill II — for six years now, and I am as happy with the results I get today as when I first started playing with it. You don't get much more consistent than that."



PHOTO BY MIKE BOATMAN



Officiating What's the Call?

by Otto Dietrich, NRC

ODietrich@usra.org

Kai Wang asks: When there is no referee, if the server thinks the serve will be a "long serve" and calls it a "fault" before the ball hits the wall, can the receiver still try to return the serve, i.e. is it legal for the server to call a "long serve" and terminate the serve before the receiver tries to return the ball?

The server should *never* call the serve "long" — and especially not before it actually *becomes* long!

Remember that the serve is *not* long at all, unless and until it actually hits the backwall before it hits the floor. So, if the receiver chooses to hit the served ball before it touches the backwall, that ball is in play!

Therefore, the ball you described should have still been in play and subject to being returned at the receiver's discretion. Thus, it is *not* legal for the server to make that particular call and, in fact, the server was technically guilty of an avoidable hinder (an intentional distraction). So, the receiver should have been declared

Sports Medicine
**Want to Hit Harder?
Work your Abdominals**
by Aaron Haydu, D.C. • ahaydu18@hotmail.com

Anybody who plays tournaments or has the opportunity to see the pros compete is well aware of the speed and power at which these athletes can hit the ball. Often controlled power is crucial to being competitive and successful in today's game. More power can be obtained a number of ways and abdominal training is often a crucial and overlooked area to help your power game.

There has been growing body of research in athletics regarding performance enhancement and what is known as core body strength. The core of your body (the area from the chest to the pelvis) is the main stability point for all body motions including your shoulder blades, arms, and legs. Elite athletes spend a considerable amount of their time training their core

the automatic winner of that rally without the need to hit the ball at all.

Jarred asks: I have been in disagreement with my regular racquetball partner. He says that you can play the ball after it hits the front wall for the second time. I say you can not. If a ball is hit high and hard enough, it can go from front wall to back wall and still have enough oomph to get to the front wall again with only one bounce on the ground. Can you play it after it has hit the front wall for the second time? Or do you have to hit it before the ball hits the front wall for the second time?

Sorry Jarred, but this time he's right and you are wrong! The ball remains in play until it touches the floor a second time, regardless of how many other surfaces it touches, including the front wall! Interestingly, this question has been by far the most common one that I have been asked. So much so that several years ago, I actually put the concept in the rulebook. It's covered by Rule 3.13(e).

Always "Play by the Rules" and, if you don't have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them online (indexed under "R"ulebook at www.usra.org). Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org and you might find it featured in a future issue.



systems, ensuring they are strong enough to support rigorous athletic activity. The most essential muscle group in the core system is the abdominals and training them consistently is a key link to increasing swing speed and power.

The abdominal group consists basically of 4 muscle groups; the rectus abdominis, internal and external obliques, and transverses abdominis. The transverse abdominus (TA) is the deepest layer of the abdomen and has been shown to be the most significant in trunk and core stability. It has direct attachments to soft tissue and ligament systems in the low back and allows the larger muscles of the trunk to work more effectively. Because the fibers of the TA run horizontally, the muscle needs to be trained differently than other



USRA Update The Board Report

by Frank Taddonio, President BOD • franktaddonio@att.net

Happy New Year to all of you! By the time you read this, you'll have recovered from the holidays and Junior Worlds results will already have been recorded. By now, you should realize that the new membership database and rankings systems are operational.

I know it didn't begin on October first, as I indicated in my last article, but we are moving forward. The military has a saying that, "No plan ever survives contact with the enemy." Well, our plan followed suit and a whole host of outside influences prevented Jim Hiser and Kevin Joyce from going live with both systems as they had originally planned. They handled all the unexpected challenges and now the systems are up.

I want to look forward instead of looking back at what happened. I'm hoping by now many of you are testing these systems by renewing your memberships, updating your profiles and even purchasing some USA Racquetball items, all from the comfort of your computer. Also, you should be able to see where you are ranked nationally in your division. We are also preparing to assist States and tournament directors with the USA Racquetball's own tournament management system, which will interface with the other two systems (membership and rankings) mentioned above. We should be running final tests of the system as you read this.

I want to caution you that, just as we don't live in a perfect world, these new systems will have bugs. I ask you all to help us work through these glitches here and there by providing feedback to the national office and let us know where we need to improve. Please don't get frustrated, but work through these challenges and the end result will only be a very effective system.

Finally, all the necessary legal and financial paperwork has been filed to allow us to begin to use the moniker "USA Racquetball" in conducting the business of the association. This title was effective January first and you'll see more about it and our new logo in the coming months.

abdominal muscles. Often, teaching how to activate the muscle is all that is required to add stability to the trunk.

The best way to activate the muscle is to lie on your back with your feet flat on the floor. Drawing your belly button to the floor and hold for a count of 2-3 seconds and repeat 15-20 times. Remember to breathe comfortably throughout the exercise and do not squeeze too hard. This exercise can be performed after a standard abdominal routine and should be performed daily. The rectus and oblique groups can be trained and strengthened with traditional exercises and most effectively with a large gym ball. You should consult your trainer or health professional for an effective abdominal program.

Having a strong core, particularly in the abdominals, will allow your upper body to work more efficiently as the shoulder blades, arms, and middle back will have a stronger base to work from. This certainly can increase your swing speed and power while also providing injury prevention to the hips and low back. Consistent abdominal training is important and should be done at least 3-4 times per week for maximum benefit.



rankings FAQ ...

frequently ... asked ... questions

In moving from a "participation" based ranking system to a "skill" based system, the most obvious benefit is that players will receive a national ranking based solely on their performance against other players. Of course it will take time to accumulate enough data to make the rankings valid, but it's anticipated that within 12-18 months, the rankings will be accurate enough to be used for seeding at all national events. To help members get a grasp on the USRA's new member service, here are answers to some "frequently asked questions" about the system:

1. *If I don't play a national tournament, can I still receive a national ranking?* Yes; even if you don't go to a national event you can still play someone who has a national ranking and thus generate your own rating.
2. *Are league players able to accumulate a national ranking?* Yes; as long as the league is sanctioned (all players must be members and a nominal sanctioning fee is required) then each league player will accumulate a national ranking, even if they never play outside their club. What is exciting about leagues is that if any league player does well in a national event, all league matches from that point forward will be based on that player's new ranking!
3. *Will the USRA still use only matches from the quarters on?* No, every match of every event will be used in the new ranking system.
4. *What about forfeits?* Forfeits count as wins or losses once the game has begun.
5. *Do game scores matter?* No; the ranking is compiled simply on wins and losses.
6. *If I play in 35's, how will my results be entered?* It makes no difference what division you play in, but simply the skill of your opponent. Everyone will have a top-down numerical position from the #1 to the #20,000 player. You will be able to sort and obtain a report of all age group players (by birthdate) from the main ranking list to see where you fall among others in your age group.
7. *Will I be able to see how I rank against just the players in my state?* Yes; in the same way, reports can be sorted and generated by state. This report will include lists for male, female, junior male, junior female and age groups by gender.
8. *How were the initial rankings formulated?* Nationals and U.S. Open results from the last two years were used to position players in rank order. This was a very rough estimate of ability, but as people play and more results are recorded, these differences will work themselves out.
9. *How do I obtain an initial ranking?* Players enter the system the first time they play a registered match, whether they win or lose.
10. *How do I move up the ranking system?* Just win a match against a better ranked player in the system.
11. *How fast can I move up in ranking?* Based on your present ranking, your opponents ranking, your last posted best win, and the time since their last win, you may move 1, 15, 100 or even hundreds of positions at a time. This movement will only be dictated by your present ranking and the player rankings of your previous recorded wins. You are able to move up very quickly so that your ranking will accurately reflect your ability level.
12. *What happens if I lose to a more poorly ranked player?* Dependent on that players previous win history, one of two things can happen. You may stay right where you are in the rankings or you will move down by only one position. You will not fall below any other players on the rankings due to this loss.
13. *What happens if I play in both junior and adult divisions?* Juniors are ranked in both junior only rankings and the "all inclusive" rankings, so you'll know where you stand in both groups. This will help the tournament directors in properly seeding juniors in "open" events. When a junior plays another junior in an "Open" event the match is ranked in both the main and junior lists.
14. *Are there separate rankings for both men and women?* Yes; all matches are ranked in the appropriate gender-based lists. Mixed gender matches are not ranked.
15. *How will we be able to see our rankings?* The new database system will allow you to pull up your membership records, including your tournament history and ranking information. You will be able to review every match and event in which you participated for the last 13 months.
16. *How will tournament directors assure that all players get ranked?* Tournament directors (in many cases the state directors) will be responsible for entering all tournament results. Once the USRA has verified the event (to see that all sanctioning requirements are met) the ranking data will be submitted and the membership system will automatically be updated with your tournament history and results. Once submitted to the USRA with all memberships verified, results will be tabulated within 48 hours.
17. *What if the tournament directors do not want the new ranking system?* The old system (quarterfinal finishes only), will be maintained along with the new skill-based system, until June 1st, 2004 at which time the "skill" based system will become the only system used.

To view an interactive PowerPoint presentation detailing the new ranking services (by the system's creator, Usher Barnoff), go to www.racqmag.com, under "News" and follow links to the IAB Summit presentations. Or enter this long string into your browser to locate the presentation at:

http://www.racqmag.com/racqmag/newsline/events03/photos/summit/03summit_barnoff.ppt

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Racquetball Camp Schedule

2004

- January 23-25 Chicago, IL
- January 30-February 1 Michigan
- February 6-8 Anchorage, AK
- February 13-15 Seattle, WA
- February 20-22 Indianapolis, IN
- March 5-7 Minneapolis, MN
- March 12-14 Greensboro, NC
- March 26-28 Las Vegas, NV
- April 16-18 TBA
- May 7-9 St. Louis, MO
- May 14-16 Dallas, TX
- June 4-6 Cleveland, OH
- June 11-13 San Diego, CA
- July 16-18 Boston, MA
- July 23-25 Woodbridge, NJ
- August 6-8 San Francisco, CA (Singles)
- August 13-15 San Francisco, CA (Doubles)
- December 2-9 Aruba (Caribbean Island)

*This schedule is tentative due to IRT dates!

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Photo: Vicki Hughes



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Date	Site	City	Contact	Phone
January 17-18	Riverpoint Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	Joe Wittenbrink	505-890-0096
January 17-18	Michigan Athletic Club	East Lansing, MI	David Watson	918-541-0722
January 19-20	Honolulu Club	Honolulu, HI	Jo Shattuck	303-949-7785
January 20-21	Orem Fitness Center	Orem, UT	Gary Mazaroff	505-321-1110
January 24-25	Auburn Racquet Club	Auburn, CA	Dave George	650-589-6904
Jan.30-Feb 1	Athletic Club of Bloomingdale	Bloomingdale, IL	David Negrete	630-430-1478
March 8-9	Spectrum Club Canoga Park	Los Angeles, CA	Mazaroff/Darryl Warren	505-321-1110
May 24-25	Downtown YMCA	Houston, TX	Mazaroff/Ken Woodfin	505-321-1110

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national rankings

MEN

Men's Open

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2. Shane Wood, MA
3. Shane Vanderson, OH
4. Rocky Carson, CA
5. Brian Fredenberg, TX
6. Ben Croft, IL
7. Tony Boscia, CO
8. Chris Crowther, CA
9. Brent Walters, NC
10. Josh Tucker, MO

Men's Elite

1. Raymond Maestas, NM
2. Ralph Cuesta, FL
3. Alex Zamudio, IN
4. Rodrigo Urzua, FL
5. Ismael Aldana, CA
6. James Kostal, WY
7. Dana Mahar, NM
8. Damon Peterson, IL
9. Mike Adams, NC
10. Greg Badger, CA

Men's A

1. Jody Morris, TX
2. Marco Mijares, GA
3. Roberto Cantos, TX
4. Eric Vought, OH
5. Tripp Isley, NC
6. Mark Bianchi, OK
7. Scott Mitchell, CO
8. Marty Hammond, PA
9. Wade Reuther, WA
10. Kipp Atwell, LA

Men's B

1. Rick Rubin, FL
2. Brandon Stanley, LA
3. David Levy, FL
4. Tim Page, PA
5. Joel Ernst, OH
6. Dennis Whitehead, TX
7. Sid Harshavat, IL
8. Jason Hicks, KY
9. Bryan Himaya, NY
10. Chigozie Ijeoma, FL

Men's C

1. Garry Carter, CA
2. Tim Kirk, TX
3. Bob Reou, MI
4. Scott Stoodley, NH
5. Paul Tatz, AZ
6. Jonathan Collins, FL
7. Barry Cruthirds, MI
8. Brandon McNab, TX
9. Ray Meisner, IL
10. Stanley Trent, TN

Men's D

1. Mairo Moreira, CA
2. Jim Stein, PA
3. Ron Collins, WA
4. Jeff Van Horn, PA
5. Ron Maestas, NM
6. Jorge Bejar, GA
7. Jason Small, NJ

8. Armstead Williams, AR
9. Mike Barrows, CO
10. Daniel Russell, TN

Men's Novice

1. Greg West, NH
2. Alex Bahls, NM
3. Dusty Gallivan, TX
4. Freddy Guevara, FL
5. Bruce Hotchkiss, MI
6. Michael Rivers, OH
7. Pete McConnell, DC
8. David Piper, AZ
9. Matt Anderson, MA
10. Logan North, OH

Men's 24-

1. Marc Moccia, MA
2. Andy Hawthorne, OH
3. Jack Huczek, MI
4. Mitch Williams, NC
5. Matthew McElhiney, FL
6. Alejandro Herrera, FL
7. Chris Coy, OK
8. Mike Gaffney, PA
9. Shane Vanderson, OH
10. Travis Woodbury, VA

Men's 25+

1. Mike Orr, PA
2. Mike Dennison, OH
3. Jason Sylvester, NY
4. Aaron Metcalf, FL
5. Alain Pujolar, FL
6. Dan Whitley, MO
7. Jason Colangelo, MD
8. German Herrera, FL
9. Oscar Macias, TX
10. Ryan Rodgers, TX

Men's 30+

1. Aaron Metcalf, FL
2. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ
3. Dave Stark, NY
4. Brian Pointelin, UT
5. Jamal Harris, MD
6. Roberto Cantos, TX
7. Marco Mijares, GA
8. Brian Fredenberg, TX
9. Chris Jones, OK
10. Dave Bartscher, TX

Men's 35+

1. Kelly North, KY
2. Tony Feldstein, CO
3. Dan Llacer, DE
4. John Barrett, PA
5. James Kostal, WY
6. Sam Tolisano, NY
7. John Collison, DE
8. Steve Goedker, MI
9. Tim Kirch, NY
10. Jim Frautschi, MN

Men's 40+

1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Eric Foley, MD
4. Bobby Haab, CT
5. Scott Cullins, GA

6. Tony Feldstein, CO
7. Randy Forrest, FL
8. Gustavo Farell, TX
9. Joe Garbarino, NY
10. Noel De La Rosa, TX

Men's 45+

1. Joe Hassey, NV
2. Mitch Smith, PA
3. John Greer, PA
4. Dave Milazzo, IL
5. Glenn Bell, TX
6. James Jones, CA
7. Glenn Loehr, VA
8. Bud Mervin, FL
9. Mike Murphy, OH
10. Paul Reed, OR

Men's 50+

1. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
2. Darryl Warren, CA
3. Mark Baron, VA
4. Jim Lazar, WI
5. Mitt Layton, FL
6. Frank Taddonio, AZ
7. Gregg Mandell, IL
8. Sal Perconti, FL
9. Gary Peterson, MN
10. John Vohland, CO

Men's 55+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Greg Hasty, IL
3. Tom McKie, TX
4. Ed Remen, NC
5. Russ Mannino, CA
6. Dan Jones, GA
7. Bill Wolfe, NY
8. Mike Hylden, MN
9. David Warner, MN
10. Ed Storey, FL

Men's 60+

1. Dan Jones, GA
2. Glenn Allen, VA
3. Warren Reuther, LA
4. Pat Taylor, IL
5. Chris Segura, UT
6. Reed Barnitz, NM
7. Pete Keiser, OH
8. Mitch Milewski, NH
9. Roger Wehrle, GA
10. Ron Burdo, FL

Men's 65+

1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Rex Lawler, IN
3. Dave Snyder, TX
4. Michael Jackson, CT
5. Jerry Northwood, AZ
6. Ron Adams, CA
7. Grant Morrill, PA
8. Bob Drouin, NH
9. Alan Dwyer, FL
10. Dave Lund, MI

Men's 70+

1. Don Alt, OH
2. John O'donnell, IL
3. Chuck Kaiser, MI

4. Ken Karmel, NM
5. Robert Miller, SC
6. Joe Miller, FL
7. Sean Reid, NV
8. Wendell Hall, NM
9. Jim Stahl, TX
10. Paul Banales, AZ

4. Sandy Mercado, DE
5. Diana Courtney, MI
6. Shannon Inglesby, OR
7. Kara Mazur, CT
8. Karen Thurlow, IL
9. Melanie Hanson, UT
10. Ping Chu, VA

9. Vicki Taylor, MN
10. Kathi Madden, MN

Women's B

1. Chandra Shaw, TX
2. Lori Good, IL
3. Priscilla Krammer, FL
4. Sandy Mercado, DE
5. Diana Courtney, MI
6. Shannon Inglesby, OR
7. Kara Mazur, CT
8. Karen Thurlow, IL
9. Melanie Hanson, UT
10. Ping Chu, VA

Women's C

1. Marci Laramee, TN
2. Beth Gainer, PA
3. Jean Lerch, NH
4. Janice Bell, GA
5. Aline Jackson, AR
6. Teresa La Brie, NH
7. Kelly Carson, IL
8. Cherie Evans, WA
9. Nancy Hodges, OH
10. Sharon Shapiro, NH

Women's D

1. Ashley Loyd, TN
2. Carolyn Watkins, IL
3. Danielle Key, AZ
4. Haley Rollins, GA
5. Sarah Warhaftig, CO
6. Richelle Kulju, WA
7. Cathy Doucet, NH
8. Layla Lee, GA
9. Kim Roy, NH
10. Debbie Vering, NM

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Denise Mock, TX
2. Heather Dunn, MA
3. Malia Bailey, VA
4. Shannon Feaster, MD
5. Aimee Ruiz, NJ
6. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
7. Jo Shattuck, CO
8. Laura Fenton, KS
9. Rachel Gellman, AZ
10. Claudia Ramirez, FL

Women's Elite

1. Teresa Beresford, VA
2. Tina Hagen, CO
3. Solanna Taragan, CA
4. Debra Bryant, NC
5. Tina Joslin, TX
6. Jill Crouse, CA
7. Jesi Fuller, NM
8. Claudia Ramirez, FL
9. Lisa Warshawsky, CA
10. Sandy Colello, ME

Women's A

1. Suzette Solomon, IN
2. Susan Lichtman, NY
3. Diane Chappel, NY
4. Pat Sims, ME
5. Maria Vera, GA
6. Tara Arnett, VA
7. Esther McNany, CT
8. Christine Watson, TX

Women's Novice

1. Shacoeva Danes, FL
2. Jackie Morrison, NY
3. Jennifer Wells, TX
4. Courtney Chisholm, MA
5. Katherine Afeltranger, UT
6. Lucy Avraamidou, PA
7. Diane Bass, TX
8. Monica Gotelaere, GA
9. Courtney Hill, NM
10. Myriam Lakabi, VA

Women's 24-

1. Lauren Deutsch, CA
2. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
3. Kristen Walsh, UT
4. Kelley Fisher, OH
5. Krystal Csuk, IL
6. Melissa Borgwat, CA
7. Adrienne Fisher, OH
8. Janel Tisinger, CA
9. Sara Borland, IA
10. Da'monique Davis, AL

Women's 25+

1. T.J. Baumbaugh, VA
2. Shannon Feaster, MD
3. Rachel Gellman, AZ
4. Kerri Wachtel, OH
5. Jennifer Lynch, CO
6. Aimee Ruiz, NJ

national rankings

7. Ramona VonOndarza, FL	6. Sharon Huczek, MI	5. Zach Pellowski, WI	4. Dain Taylor, IN	8. Kaylea Henderson, OR
8. Stephanie Bird, OK	7. Paula Sperling, NM	6. Doug Brenner, OR	5. Marci Moccia, MA	9. Lilly Castillon, VA
9. Young-Mi Lee, CA	8. Mary Petty, TX	7. Sean Cooperrider, FL	6. Jose Flores Jr., CT	10. Brianna Elder, MD
10. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ	9. Mildred Gwinn, NC	8. Adam Manilla, CO	7. Shane Karmelin, GA	
Women's 30+	Women's 60+	Boys' 8- Multi-Bounce	Boys' 6- Multi-Bounce	Girl's 14-
1. Heather Dunn, MA	1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR	1. Keegan North, OH	1. Elizabeth Vargas, CO	1. Kara Mazur, CT
2. Amy Foster, OH	2. Mildred Gwinn, NC	2. Anthony Dimatteo, CT	2. Railey Zantop-Zimlinghaus, CO	2. Brittany Legget, OR
3. Claudia Ramirez, FL	3. Marquita Molina, CA	3. Doug Brenner, OR	3. Sidney Bercovich, AZ	3. Shannon Inglesby, OR
4. Jo Shattuck, CO	4. Nidia Funes, CA	4. Zach Pellowski, WI	4. Amy Alonzi, CO	4. Lilly Castillon, VA
5. Lisa Warshawsky, CA	5. Joy Desantis, CA	5. Paul Frondorf, VA	5. Zosia Howard, CO	5. Sharon Jackson, IN
6. Paula Truman, ME	6. Gail Schaefer, MD	6. Chris Vosburg, MA		6. Jennifer Fenton, KS
7. Tina Hagen, CO	7. Donna Backus, MI	7. Jeffrey Locke, OR		7. Dannielle Pimental, OR
8. Candi Hostovich, VA	8. Gloria Piscoran, OR	8. Kyle Ulliman, OH		8. Samantha McGuffey, OH
9. Jennifer Hunter, TN	9. Pauline Kelly, IL	9. Jasper Jackson, AK		9. Sherrika Darnell, CA
10. Fanny Scangle, FL	10. Sylvia Sawyer, UT	10. Conlon Berry, OH		10. Michelle Key, AZ
Women's 35+	Women's 65+	Boys' 10-	Boys' 6- Multi-Bounce	Girl's 16-
1. Solanna Taragan, CA	1. Annabelle Kovar, NE	1. Dylan Reid, OR	1. Elizabeth Vargas, CO	1. Elise Wilson, CT
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY	2. Iona Baldwin, MO	2. Brad Falvey, WI	2. Danielle Falvey, WI	2. Kimberly Walsh, UT
3. Denise Mock, TX	3. Jo Kenyon, FL	3. Logan North, OH	3. Danielle Elder, MD	3. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
4. Felicia Mann, MI	4. Ananbelle Kovar, NE	4. Joey Lee, OR	4. Alexis Breese, WI	4. Kelley Fisher, OH
5. Anita Maldonado, NY	5. Jo Penny, SC	5. Sam Allen, CT	5. Krystal Boyle, OR	5. Ashley Willhite, OR
6. Lisa Mayo, ME	6. Marilyn Hoagland, MN	6. Taylor Regier, OR	6. Railey Zantop-Zimlinghaus, CO	6. Ashley Legget, OR
7. Patty Willyard, TX	7. Naomi Eads, MO	7. Matt Loy, IL		7. Katherine Affeltranger, UT
8. Leah Upshaw, GA	8. Shirley Barron, KY	8. Rion Ocampo, VA		8. Jackie Morrison, NY
9. Lynn Fonseca, GA		9. Timothy Lerow, FL		9. Sarah Moyle, OR
10. Sherron Boyea, CA		10. Andy McGuffey, OH		10. Katie Ferguson, OR
Women's 40+	Women's 70+	Boys' 12-	Boys' 8- Multi-Bounce	Girl's 18-
1. Lorraine Galloway, NY	1. Lola Markus, IL	1. Danny Lavelay, OH	1. Abbey Lavelay, OH	1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Malia Bailey, VA	2. Reta Harring, WI	2. Taylor Knoth, OR	2. Hollee Hungerford, OR	2. Jesi Fuller, NM
3. Denise Mock, TX	3. Louise Kiss, NM	3. Trevor Snyders, IL	3. Lauren Stanley, LA	3. Da'monique Davis, TX
4. Laura Brandt, FL	4. Betty Railey, KY	4. John-Craig Chisholm, MA	4. Elizabeth Vargas, CO	4. Elise Wilson, CT
5. Cheryl Miosi, NY	1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC	5. Billy Wainwright, OR	5. Danielle Elder, MD	5. Katie Ferguson, OR
6. Shari Coplen, MO	2. Reta Harring, WI	6. Tyler Lienhart, VA	6. Tessa Feemster, WA	6. Melissa Gransbury, OR
7. Terri Thornton, MN	3. Mary Lou Kackert, NM	7. James Fahey, CT	7. Nicole Ortega, AZ	7. Lauren Ritter, MO
8. Cyd Evans, NM		8. Taylor McDermott, TX	8. Hannah Ocampo, VA	8. Erin Egan, IL
9. B.J. Ehr Gott, CT	1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC	9. Andrew Price, MI	9. Krystal Boyle, OR	9. Ashley Legget, OR
10. Jackie Gopie, FL		10. Sam Vargas Jr., CO	10. Parkes Kendrick, OR	10. Betsy Rombach, MO
JUNIORS				AGE + SKILL
Women's 45+	Boys' 6-	Boys' 14-	Boys' 8- Multi-Bounce	Men's 24-A
1. Linda Moore, NE	1. Thomas Santilli, CT	1. Rick Sledzik Jr., MA	1. Abbey Lavelay, OH	1. Brandon Cortese, MI
2. Marcia Richards, CO	2. David Njoroge, CT	2. Sean McGrath, IN	2. Hollee Hungerford, OR	2. Evan Ussery, NM
3. Susan Pfahler, FL	3. Kyle Ulliman, OH	3. Ismael Aldana Jr., CA	3. Lauren Stanley, LA	3. Tripp Isley, NC
4. Jere Luttnar, TX	4. David Zingale, AZ	4. Nick Czatt, VA	4. Elizabeth Vargas, CO	4. Ryan Leath, TN
5. Chris Evon, IL	5. Skywalker Garcia, AZ	5. Jonathan Doyle, OH	5. Danielle Elder, MD	5. Joe Shararamitaro, MO
6. Debra Tisinger, CA	6. Ralph Grillone lii, MA	6. Cody Sylvester, UT	6. Tessa Feemster, WA	
7. Jean Trimble, FL	7. Will Kszlywanos, CT	7. Brandon Ritschard, IL	7. Nicole Ortega, AZ	Men's 24- B
8. Julie Hill, OK	8. Matt McAdam, CO	8. Tripp Isley, NC	8. Hannah Ocampo, VA	1. Danny Lavelay, OH
9. Liz Molitor, IL	9. Spencer Shoemaker, OH	9. Tim Tilton, CO	9. Krystal Boyle, OR	2. Jonathan Doyle, OH
10. Pat Decker, MN	10. Kevin Bierner, AZ	10. Allan Crockett, AL	10. Parkes Kendrick, OR	3. David Deno, MO
Women's 50+	Boys' 6- Multi-Bounce	Boys' 16-	Boys' 10-	Men's 24- C
1. Debbie Chaney, IN	1. Kyle Ulliman, OH	1. Charlie Pratt, OR	1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR	1. Joshua Jeter, TN
2. Marsha Berry, KY	2. Spencer Shoemaker, OH	2. Zach Apperson, OH	2. Courtney Chisholm, MA	2. William Booth, AL
3. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL	3. Luke Meyer, WI	3. Mike Keddie, NH	3. Elizabeth Brenner, OR	3. Matt Kelly, TN
4. Joanne Pormodoro, MA	4. Matt McAdam, CO	4. Jordan Walters, NC	4. Jacqueline Rosado, CT	4. Ray White, NC
5. Karen Key, AZ	5. Deryk Wray, OH	5. Darrel Miller, WI	5. Samantha Rosado, CT	5. Joseph Lee, LA
6. Jere Luttnar, TX	6. Sam Bredenbeck, MN	6. Daniel Stewart, KY	6. Tarryn Harborth, CA	
7. Terry Ann Rogers, CA	7. Conor Grammes, VA	7. Joey Lakowske, OR	7. Lily Berry, OH	Men's 24- A/B
8. Elaine Dexter, CA	8. Cory Richer, CO	8. Rick Sledzik Jr., MA	8. Abbey Lavelay, OH	1. Dallis Rogers, KS
9. Susan Kieffer, MN	9. Ralph Grillone lii, MA	9. Andrew Gale, UT	9. Jamie Lanosga, CO	2. Joshua Jones, FL
10. Linda Neel, OR	10. Anthony Vargas, CO	10. Anthony Martin, UT	10. Monique Horyza, CA	3. Brandon Stanley, LA
Women's 55+	Boys' 8-	Boys' 18-	Boys' 12-	Men's 24- D/C
1. Merjean Kelley, CA	1. Sam Reid, OR	1. Ben Croft, IL	1. Danielle Key, AZ	1. Jason Martucci, TX
2. Paula Lemon, OK	2. Keegan North, OH	2. Dan Sheppick, OR	2. Nicole Grundman, MN	2. Juan Martinez lii, IL
3. Margaret Hoff, IL	3. Chris Vosburg, MA	3. Brandon Shoemaker, OH	3. Samantha Rosado, CT	3. Suneel Battula, OH
4. Dee Stribling, NC	4. Ryan Coates, OH		4. Sheryl Lotts, OH	
5. Cece Palaski, NM			5. Jacqueline Rosado, CT	
			6. Wesley Toland, AR	
			7. Courtney Chisholm, MA	

age + skill rankings

4. Carlos Lopez Jr., FL	4. Kipp Atwell, LA	4. Peter Harvey, MI	4. Maria Fe Guerrero, FL	5. Cathy Doucet, NH
5. David Martin, MD	5. Mark Bianchi, OK	5. Charles Bagwell, ME	5. Sarah Warhaftig, CO	
Men's 25+A				
1. Jeff Marmer, OH	1. Curt Firestone, PA	1. Garry Carter, CA	1. Felicia Mann, MI	Women's 40+ A/B
2. Steven Barnhouse, FL	2. Juan Martinez, IL	2. Peter Harvey, MI	2. Stephanie Bird, OK	1. Sheri Zappala, NY
3. Sung Won Lee, CA	3. Brad Nelson, TX	3. Joe Reno, TN	3. Karen Denu, VA	2. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
4. Jeff Eckhouse, FL	4. Michael Kaufman, GA	4. Larry Knetzger, GA	4. Vivian Rodriguez, WA	3. Pat Hake, PA
5. Charles Cole, FL	5. Lyle Branton, GA	5. Keith Eller, VA	5. Mary Bennett, WA	
Men's 25+B				
1. Carlos Ramirez, FL	Men's 40+ A/B			
2. Harold Beshaw, PA	1. Charles Lee, LA	1. Charles Van Hoose, MI	1. Carolyn Watkins, IL	1. Sharon Shapiro, NH
3. Elliott Mistich, LA	2. Steve Mejia, TX	2. William Gill, GA	2. Renee Ijewoma, FL	2. Janice Bell, GA
4. David Levy, FL	3. Larry Moon, VA	3. Wayne Thornton, AR	3. Suzanne Gale, NH	3. Jean Lerch, NH
5. Brian Gellman, TN	4. Lloyd Richless, PA	4. Larry Knetzger, GA	4. Cicely Samuel, NC	4. Teresa Ives, WA
Men's 25+C				
1. Robert Goldsmith, FL	5. Monty Simpkins, MS	5. Peter Kochis, OK	5. Marilyn Gilmore, NC	5. Joan Jimenez, VA
2. Jason Carroll, MI	Men's 40+ C/D			
3. Terry Holt, IN	1. Rudy Olivares, TX	1. A.B. Dennis, TX	1. Ramona VonOndarza, FL	Women's 45+ A
4. Jim Gignilliat, FL	2. Michael Kaufman, GA	2. John Patalano, RI	2. Stephanie Bird, OK	1. Beth Sacco, LA
5. Tony Perez, IL	3. Dale Clark, MD	3. Carl Moody, VA	3. Kelly Bruns, VA	2. Christy Gallow-Cramer, TX
Men's 25+D				
1. Dennis Whitehead, TX	4. Royce Simpson, IL	4. John Bryant, TX	4. Kristen Liebmann, TX	3. Diana Courtney, MI
2. Jason Hicks, KY	5. Don Ramirez, MO	5. Ron Marr, KY	5. Karen Paiz, FL	4. Melanie Newsome, NC
3. Sean Wilson, MA	Men's 45+A			
4. Dan McNiell, VA	1. Edward Fink, TX	1. Howard Watters, TX	1. Marci Laramee, TN	5. Mildred Gwinn, NC
5. Ryan John, CO	2. Stanley Shaw Iii, MA	2. Garry Carter, CA	2. Kristen Liebmann, TX	
Men's 25+ C/D				
1. Twayne Howard, MI	3. Robert Franks, TX	3. Marc Scher, TX	3. Iva Espinoza, NM	Women's 45+ B
2. Jossue Montoya, TX	4. Charles Knight, GA	4. Ron Maestas, NM	4. Ginger Buttke, TX	1. Alyse Cori, CA
3. Mike Easthope, MI	5. Lip Davis, TN	5. George East, VA	5. Erin Haug, CA	2. Cheryl Kirk, IL
4. Sean Troyer, GA	Men's 45+B			
5. Jose Ortiz, TX	1. Joerg Leinemann, MD	1. Joe Harman, GA	1. Umpapan	3. Sharon Brockbank, ID
Men's 30+ A/B				
1. Sean Baker, TX	2. J.B. Barnes, MD	2. Al Miller, OH	2. Trakoontipop, NJ	4. Becky Smith, OK
2. Dale Durborow, OR	3. Walt Charlton, OK	3. Don Davis, IL	2. Chandra Shaw, TX	
3. Marty Hammond, PA	4. Ronald Harris, TX	4. Charles Erban, MA	3. Tish Rodgers, TX	Women's 45+ A/B
4. Kevin O'keefe, MI	5. Donnie Black, TX	5. Pete Blakeslee, AR	4. Priscilla Krammer, FL	1. Elizabeth Shaia, TX
5. Eric Jubin, TX	Men's 45+C			
Men's 30+ C/D				
1. Roger Hertzberg, TX	1. Terry Holt, IN	1. Wayne Thornton, AR	1. Tina Hernandez, IL	2. Dorothy Che-Menju, IL
2. Twayne Howard, MI	2. Don Romero, CO	2. Larry Bizzari, IN	2. Dorothy Reauso, MI	3. Phyllis Clair, TX
3. Juan Martinez, IL	3. Larry Hicks, KY	3. Alberto Palacios, IL	3. Nancy Gager, NJ	4. Susan Kieffer, MN
4. Brian Butzer, PA	4. Ronald Harris, TX	4. Ron McElwee, AL	4. Marilyn Lemmon, MS	5. Cheryl Kirk, IL
5. Pedro Pena, FL	5. Peter Kochis, OK	5. Howard Call, WA	5. Anne Billingham, VA	
Men's 35+A				
1. Jeff Elder, MD	Men's 45+A/B			
2. Terrence Pierce, LA	1. Gwynne Edmunds, KY	1. Ron Bouchard, NH	1. Carolyn Watkins, IL	Women's 50+ A/B
3. Moises Martinez, NC	2. Terry Greene, FL	2. Bill Dunn, TX	2. Sarah Sockolof, NJ	1. Sharon Huczak, MI
4. Sunny Osagie, AR	3. Joel Matautia, WA	3. Dave Guerra, CA	3. Eva Alle, GA	2. Susan Kieffer, MN
5. Joseph Villarreal, VA	4. Jack White, MI	4. Norbert Lecompte, NH	4. Heidi Kneisl, FL	3. Lynne Weisbart, IL
Men's 35+B				
1. Tom Resendez, CA	5. Ed Barlow, RI	5. Ken Hardman, NH	5. Laurell Burrows, FL	4. Judy Arnold, FL
2. Harlan Faircloth, FL	Men's 45+C/D			
3. Brian Ancheta, OR	1. Lou Kleinman, TX	1. Karen Mickel, GA	1. Karen Mickel, GA	5. Linda White, PA
4. Twayne Howard, MI	2. John Shurbet, TX	2. Paula Saad, MI	2. Paula Saad, MI	
5. Roger Carter, SC	3. Ronald Harris, TX	3. Diane Chappel, NY	3. Diane Chappel, NY	Women's 50+ C/D
Men's 35+C				
1. Bill Pobega, OH	4. Dean Cline, IN	4. Lawrence Pettoruto, MA	4. Jeanine Black, TX	1. Becky Smith, OK
2. Juan Martinez, IL	5. Mike Easthope, MI	4. Bill Sidenstick, VA	5. Denny Erardi, CA	2. Dorothy Menju-Che, IL
3. Rick Anderson, AZ	Men's 50+ A/B			
4. John Wilson, MI	1. Bill Cooper, MD	1. Elmer Wright, TX	1. Elmer Wright, TX	3. Maria Navares, WI
5. Ed Garrison, TN	2. Ron Martucci, AL	2. Laurie Fisk, MO	2. Sharon Wilks, NC	4. Wendy Tyus, WA
Men's 35+D				
1. Ray Meisner, IL	3. Robert Franks, TX	2. Keely Franks, TX	2. Susan Simmons, FL	5. Thelma Howard, MI
2. Chuck Van Hoose, MI	4. Paul Wilson, PA	2. Tracy Cervoski, OH	3. Leight Gintert, NC	
3. Marc Scher, TX	5. Dan Babuka, VA	3. Sarah Wells, WA	4. Jackie Gurley, SC	Women's 55+ A/B
4. Paul Chertoff, VA	Men's 50+ C/D			
5. Gary Doane, FL	1. Laurie Fisk, MO	5. Danielle Mathieu, MO	5. Sarah Warhaftig, CO	1. Paula Lemon, OK
Men's 35+A				
1. Alok Mehta, MA	2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	2. Marquita Molina, CA
2. Dennis Negrete, IL	3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	2. Lori Good, IL	2. Lori Good, IL	3. Andee Glansberg, NY
3. Patrick Knox, DC	3. Sez Ozden, GA	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	3. Thao Le, VA	4. Sharon Huczak, MI
Men's 35+B				
1. Thomas Curran, OH	Men's 55+A			
2. Doug Dickman, MO	1. Tracy Cervoski, OH	1. Heidi Zitzka, MO	1. Venita Mitchell, TX	5. Sandra Gross, TN
3. Sez Ozden, GA	2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	2. Danielle Jollif, MO	2. Pamela Trent, TN	
Men's 35+C				
1. Heidi Zitzka, MO	3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	3. Danielle Jollif, MO	3. Danielle Jollif, MO	Women's 55+ C/D
2. Danielle Jollif, MO	Men's 24-A/B			
3. Sherrika Darnell, CA	1. Laurie Fisk, MO	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	1. Patty Caldwell, TN
4. Venita Mitchell, TX	2. Tracy Cervoski, OH	2. Lori Good, IL	2. Lori Good, IL	2. Pat Fleming, VA
5. Pamela Trent, TN	3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	3. Dorothy Byers, OH
Men's 35+D				
1. Tracy Cervoski, OH	4. Sarah Warhaftig, CO	4. Katy Wood, AK	4. Katy Wood, AK	
2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	Women's 24-B			
3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	1. Laurie Fisk, MO	1. Tina Joslin, TX	1. Tina Joslin, TX	Women's 35+ A/B
4. Danielle Jollif, MO	2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	2. Lori Good, IL	2. Lori Good, IL	1. Paula Lemon, OK
5. Danielle Jollif, MO	3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	2. Marquita Molina, CA
Men's 35+A				
1. Tracy Cervoski, OH	Women's 24-C/D			
2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	1. Laurie Fisk, MO	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	3. Andee Glansberg, NY
3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	2. Lori Good, IL	2. Lori Good, IL	4. Sharon Huczak, MI
4. Danielle Jollif, MO	3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	5. Sandra Gross, TN
Men's 35+B				
1. Sheri Zappala, NY	Women's 35+A			
2. Lori Good, IL	1. Laurie Fisk, MO	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	
3. Thao Le, VA	2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	2. Lori Good, IL	2. Lori Good, IL	Women's 55+ C/D
4. Katy Wood, AK	3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	1. Patty Caldwell, TN
5. Tina Joslin, TX	4. Danielle Jollif, MO	4. Katy Wood, AK	4. Katy Wood, AK	2. Pat Fleming, VA
Men's 35+C				
1. Danielle Jollif, MO	Women's 35-B			
2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	1. Laurie Fisk, MO	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	3. Dorothy Byers, OH
3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	2. Lori Good, IL	2. Lori Good, IL	
4. Danielle Jollif, MO	3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	Age+Skill rankings are
5. Danielle Jollif, MO	4. Danielle Jollif, MO	4. Katy Wood, AK	4. Katy Wood, AK	published twice annually,
Men's 35+D				
1. Danielle Jollif, MO	Women's 35-C/D			
2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	1. Laurie Fisk, MO	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	1. Sheri Zappala, NY	in the January/February
3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	2. Sherrika Darnell, CA	2. Lori Good, IL	2. Lori Good, IL	and July/August issues.
4. Danielle Jollif, MO	3. Heidi Zitzka, MO	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	3. Holly Hettesheimer, OH	
5. Danielle Jollif, MO	4. Danielle Jollif, MO	4. Katy Wood, AK	4. Katy Wood, AK	

2004 national calendar

January 16-18	WSMA 15th U.S. Women's Senior/Master Championships [5]	Burlingame, California	810-774-6900
March 4-7	17th U.S. National High School Championships [6]	St. Louis, Missouri	719-635-5396
March 10-13	NMRA U.S. Masters Championships [5]	Canoga Park, California	734-426-8952
March 24-28	32nd U.S. Intercollegiate Championships [6]	San Diego, California	719-635-5396
April 2-11	PARC 17th Tournament of the Americas [5]	Caracas, Venezuela	719-635-5396
April 15-18	USRA Regional Championships [5]	Nationwide	www.usra.org
May 26-31	37th U.S. National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, Texas	www.usra.org
June 23-27	Head 30th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6]	Eau Claire, Wisconsin	719-635-5396
July 21-24	NMRA Masters International Championships [5]	West Allis, Wisconsin	www.nmra.info

2004 adult regional qualifiers [level 4] ... nationwide

Date & Site	Location	Contact	Phone
April 1-4	Quadrangle East Athletic Club	Ross Greenberg	954-753-8900 x206
April 15 - April 18	Burlingame, California	Jack Hughes	650-349-9533
Royal Athletic Club	Burlingame, California	Ric Crosby	770-923-5400
TBA	Colorado	Geoff Peters	773-935-9685
Southern Athletic Club	Atlanta, GA	Bill Bredenbeck	763-572-0330
Glass Court Swim & Fitness	Chicago, IL	Kelley Beane	603-759-2729
Central Courts	Minneapolis, MN	Doug Ganim	614-890-6073
Executive Health & Sports Center	Manchester, NH	David Watson	918-541-0722
Strongsville Recreation Center	Cleveland, OH	Brian Anchetta	503-665-4142
Southern Athletic Club	Oklahoma City, OK	Lance Gilliam	210-344-8596
Cascade Athletic Club	Gresham, OR	Ed Willis	703-684-4146
Racquetball & Fitness Clubs of	San Antonio, TX	Dan Whitley	314-842-6363 x3
Crystal City Sport & Health	Arlington, VA	Tom Keogh	718-429-8489
April 22 - April 25			
Vetta Sports Club of Concord	St. Louis, MO		
Sporttime of Syosset	Long Island, NY		

Qualifying competition is REQUIRED to participate in the 2004 37th U.S. National Singles in Houston, Texas — no exceptions (regardless of age)! Take part in the largest nationwide event of the year! You'll enhance your national ranking plus earn seeding consideration at "The Finals."

WAIVERS: All legitimate waivers of qualifying competition at any of these events must be approved prior to the scheduled regional weekend. All waivers must be directed to — and approved by — the USRA

other recognized qualifiers ... for seniors 45 & up

January 15-18	Women's Senior/Master Championship, Burlingame, CA	Kendra Tutsch	608-592-2497
March 10-13	NMRA Masters National	Ron Pudduck	734-426-8952
	[These qualify 45+ entrants ONLY! ... 35+ & 40+ players in the preceding events must still take part in a regional qualifier — from the first group shown above — in order to compete at National Singles].		

••• qualifying tipsheet •••

<u>This Sanctioned Event</u>	<u>Qualifies players for:</u>
State Singles Championships	Junior Olympics
Recognized Junior Regional	Junior Olympics
National High Schools	Junior Olympics
National Intercollegiates	National Singles
Regional Qualifiers	National Singles
WSMRA Championship	National Singles [45 & up]
NMRA Championship	National Singles [45 & up]
U.S. Military Championships	National Singles

Alaska/Hawaii residents exempt from qualifying
 Active duty overseas military exempt from qualifying

Headquarters. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.

junior qualifiers

To become eligible for play in the 29th U.S. Junior Olympics [June 23-27, 2004], entrants must first compete in any Level 3 State Championship, OR in a recognized junior regional event (not offered in all areas), OR in the National High School Championships. All players must compete in (not merely enter) the qualifying state, regional or national event, plus meet all age requirements and other entry stipulations.

For more information about the upcoming regional championships, please contact Kevin Joyce at 719-635-5396, ext. 123 or kjoyce@usra.org. Or go online at www.usra.org

event calendar

january ...

January 15-18	Blizzard Bash @ Goodson Recreation Center	Littleton, CO	303-798-247
January 15-18	HARA Women's Pro Am @ Honolulu Club	Honolulu, HI	808-949-0177
January 16-18	Hall Of Fame @ Central Courts	Columbia Heights, MN	763-572-0330
January 16-18	Hog Classic @ Omega 40	Ormond Beach, FL	386-672-4044
January 16-17	Indy Open @ Noblesville Athletic Club	Noblesville, IN	317-879-8100
January 16-18	Jim Backes Open @ Health Works	Wallingford, CT	203-265-2861
January 16-18	Key Sports Tournament Series @ La Fitness	Phoenix, AZ	480-545-1363
January 16-18	OJRA Tour Stop - Park Place @ Park Place Athletic Club	Beaverton, OR	503-330-0624
January 16-18	OSU Intercollegiate Tourney @ Westerville Athletic Club	Westerville, OH	614-882-7331
January 16-18	Winter Classic @ Capital Racquet & Fitness Ctr.	Bismarck, ND	701-221-6855
January 16-18	Winter Classic @ 24 Hour Courthouse	Boise, ID	208-323-4387
January 16-18	WSMRA Senior/Master Singles @ Royal Athletic Club	Burlingame, CA	650-697-9162
January 16-18	Massachusetts State Doubles @ YMCA - Pittsfield	Pittsfield, MA	978-927-3923
January 16-18	New Hampshire State Doubles @ Golds Gym	Portsmouth, NH	603-436-6664
January 16-18	Southlake Pro-Am @ Southlake Athletic Club	Morrow, GA	404-256-2222
January 16-18	33rd Annual Peter Cornell @ Richmond YMCA	Richmond, VA	804-644-9622
January 16-18	Five Seasons Super7 Shootout @ Five Seasons Country Club	Westlake, OH	440-871-2811
January 17-18	Cocoa Classic @ Cocoa Court Club	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
January 21-25	Griffith Memorial Tournament @ Courtsports Athletic Club	Eugene, OR	541-687-2255
January 21-24	Orem Open @ Orem Fitness Center	Orem, UT	801-229-7154
January 22-24	Battle Of Bangor @ Golds Gym	Bangor, ME	207-947-0763
January 23-25	Another Leftover @ Arlington Sport & Health	Arlington, VA	703-522-1702
January 23-25	Duboise Electric Racquetball Classic @ World Class Fitness	Ft. Smith, AR	479-646-4022
January 23-25	Great Balls Of Fire V! @ UM Wellness Center	Miami, FL	305-284-1853
January 23-25	The Head Megablast Tour @ Waycross Sports Club	Cincinnati, OH	614-890-6073
January 24-25	Motor City Rollout @ Courtland	Utica, MI	248-651-8365
January 30-31	Muskegan Snowfest Rb Tourney @ Omni Athletic Club	Muskegan, MI	231-739-3391
Jan 30 - Feb 02	Greenbriar Classic @ Greenbriar Athletic Club	Indianapolis, IN	317-897-5481
Jan 30 - Feb 02	Mitch Nathanson Classic @ Executive Health & Nashua AC	Manchester, NH	603-624-9300
Jan 30 - Feb 01	Roanoke Classic @ Roakoke Athletic Club	Roanoke, VA	540-989-5758
Jan 30 - Feb 01	Stuck In The Snow @ Moorhead Rb & Fitness Center	Moorhead, MN	218-233-0230
Jan 30 - Feb 01	Super Bowl Splat @ Olympus Athletic Club	Northfield, MN	507-645-8007

february ...

February 03-07	Massacre @ Redwood Multipurpose Center	West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
February 05-08	Americas Cup @ Quadrangle Athletic Club	Coral Springs, FL	954-753-8900
February 06-08	Fabulous Five Series #4 @ Southview Athletic Club	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
February 06-08	Minot Invitational @ Minot YMCA Family Center	Minot, ND	701-852-0141
February 06-08	NAC Winter Classic @ Northwest Athletic Club	Springdale, AR	479-750-3538
February 06-07	Racquet For The Cure @ Lakewood Athletic Club	Denver, CO	303-738-9797
February 06-08	The Strongsville Open @ Strongsville Recreation Center	Strongsville, OH	440-238-2244
February 06-08	Wintergreen Classic @ Laurel Sport Fitness	Laurel, MD	410-987-0980
February 06-08	10th Annual Total Sports @ Total Sports	Harrison Township, MI	586-463-2000
February 06-08	Rochester Pro-Am @ Rochester Athletic Club	Rochester, MN	507-282-6000
February 07-08	Valentine Double Trouble @ Cocoa Court Club	Harrisburg, PA	717-540-5111
February 13-15	Ball Buster @ Fitness Inc.	Pocatello, ID	208-233-8035
February 13-15	Ground Hog Open @ Metro South Athletic Club	Brockton, MA	508-588-3444
February 13-15	Sweetheart Doubles @ Sawmill Athletic Club	Columbus, OH	614-889-7698
February 13-15	Valentine Day Open @ Portland Racket & Fitness	Portland, ME	207-775-6128
February 13-15	12th Annual Winter Classic @ American Family Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-382-7663
February 13-15	Nevada State Singles by 7Up @ Double Diamond Athletic Club	Reno, NV	775-348-9791
February 18-22	Beaverton Classic @ Parkplace Athletic Club	Beaverton, OR	503-644-3900
February 19-22	Aurora City Open @ Colorado Athletic Club	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
February 20-22	Burnsville Hotshots @ Northwest Athletic Club	Burnsville, MN	952-435-7125
February 20-22	Capital Challenge @ Michigan Athletic Club	East Lansing, MI	517-267-0186
February 20-22	Mexican Village Classic @ Center Court Fitness Club	Grand Forks, ND	701-746-2790

event calendar

February 20-22	Railyard Classic @ Railyard Athletic Club	Woodsville, NH	603-747-8006
February 20-21	Shelybyville Open @ Shelybyville Athletic Club	Shelbyville, IN	317-879-8100
February 20-22	Sooner State Games @ Southern Athletic Club	Oklahoma City, OK	918-919-0375
February 20-22	The Shultz Classic @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-947-3029
February 20-22	The Southern Ohio Champ @ Heights Health & Racquet	Huber Heights, OH	614-890-6073
February 20-22	Massachusetts State Juniors @ Plymouth Fitness	Plymouth, MA	978-927-3923
February 20-22	Five Seasons Super7 Shootout @ Five Seasons Country Club	Westlake, OH	440-871-2811
February 21	Icele Open @ Allentown Racquetball Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
February 27-29	Countryside YMCA Charity Tour. @ Countryside YMCA	Loveland, OH	513-932-1424
February 27-29	Grand Island YMCA Open @ Grand Island YMCA	Grand Island, NE	308-384-8181
February 27-29	Northern Ohio Championship @ Solon Athletic Club	Solon, OH	440-349-3349
February 27-29	OJRA Tour Stop - Sunset @ Sunset Athletic Club	Portland, OR	503-330-0624
February 27-29	Spring Roll Out @ Idaho Athletic Club	Boise, ID	208-345-7599
February 27-29	Virginia State Singles @ Tyson's Sport & Health	McLean, VA	703-442-9150
February 28	Junior Fun Day @ Colorado Athletic Club	Aurora, CO	720-870-3261
February 28-29	Points Rally @ The Alaska Club	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
February 28	33rd Annual Sugarloaf Ford/YMCA @ YMCA	Winona, MN	507-454-5170

march ...

March 03-06	Spring Smash @ Marv Jenson Fitness & Recreatn	South Jordan, UT	801-253-4404
March 05-07	Hot Springs Open @ Hot Springs Health & Fitness	Hot Springs, AR	501-525-4900
March 05-07	March Madness @ Suburban Health Club	St. Cloud, MN	320-251-3965
March 05-07	March Madness @ Courts Plus Fitness Center	Fargo, ND	701-237-4805
March 05-07	Omni 41 Amatulli Open @ Omni 41	Schereville, IN	219-865-6969
March 05-07	Arizona State Singles	Phoenix, AZ	480-545-1363
March 05-09	Connecticut State Singles @ Downtown Health & Racquet	New Haven, CT	860-678-7806
March 05-07	Massachusetts State Singles @ Metro South Athletic Club	Brockton, MA	978-927-3923
March 05-07	Maryland State Singles @ Sevema Prk R & F Club	Millersville, MD	410-987-0980
March 05-07	New Hampshire State Singles @ Executive Health & Sports	Manchester, NH	603-624-9300
March 05-07	Pennsylvania State Singles @ Im Buildings	State College, PA	717-599-7806
March 06-07	March Madness @ Players Athltic Club	Warren, MI	586-774-6900
March 10-13	NMRA Masters National Championships	Canoga Park, CA	818-884-5034
March 12-14	MAC Open @ Michigan Athletic Club	Grand Rapids, MI	616-956-0944
March 12-14	Minot Open @ Minot YMCA Family Center	Minot, ND	701-852-0141
March 12-14	Northeast Junior Regionals @ Healthtrax @ Bristol	Bristol, CT	860-678-7806
March 12-14	ORA State Singles @ Hall Of Fame Fitness Center	Canton, OH	614-890-6073
March 12-14	Pirate Country Blast @ Pulse Athletic Club	Greenville, NC	252-756-9175
March 12-14	St Patty's Cash Classic @ Omega 40	Ormond Beach, FL	386-672-4044
March 12-14	Idaho State Singles @ 24 Hour Courthouse	Boise, ID	208-323-4387
March 13-14	Florida State Juniors @ Naples Fitness Center	Naples, FL	239-262-1112
March 16-20	Gold's Gym Open @ Gold's Gym	West Jordan, UT	801-347-9607
March 17-21	Lynmar Classic Pro Am @ Lynmar Racquet & Health	Colorado Springs, CO	719-598-4069
March 18-21	North Carolina Open/Pro Stop @ Sportscenter Triad	Jamestown, NC	336-886-1266
March 18-21	Spring Doubles Tournament @ East Side Athletic Club	Milwaukie, OR	503-659-3845
March 18-21	Spring Pinch Lpra Pro-Arm @ Laurel Sport Fitness	Laurel, MD	410-987-0980
March 19-21	Fabulous Five Series #5 @ Southview Athletic Club	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
March 19-21	Killshot Classic @ John Brown University	Siloam Springs, AR	479-204-1000
March 19-21	Luck O'the Irish Open @ Springfield Athletic Club	Springfield, OH	937-399-2360
March 19-21	March Madness @ Vetta Sports - Concord	St Louis, MO	314-842-3111
March 19-21	March Mayhem @ Moorhead Rb & Fitness Center	Moorhead, MN	218-233-0230
March 19-21	Spring Kick Off Vi @ Central Penn Fitness	Harrisburg, PA	717-564-4171
March 19-21	St. Paddy's Day Open @ Club Ultimare	Bedford, OH	440-942-2700

Find 2004 national event entries @ www.usrastore.com

• The majority of listed, sanctioned events are level two events; where titles indicate a "state" "regional" or "national" tournament, a higher level of point earnings may be applied. • Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 02/04, you must renew in the month of February in order to play in any

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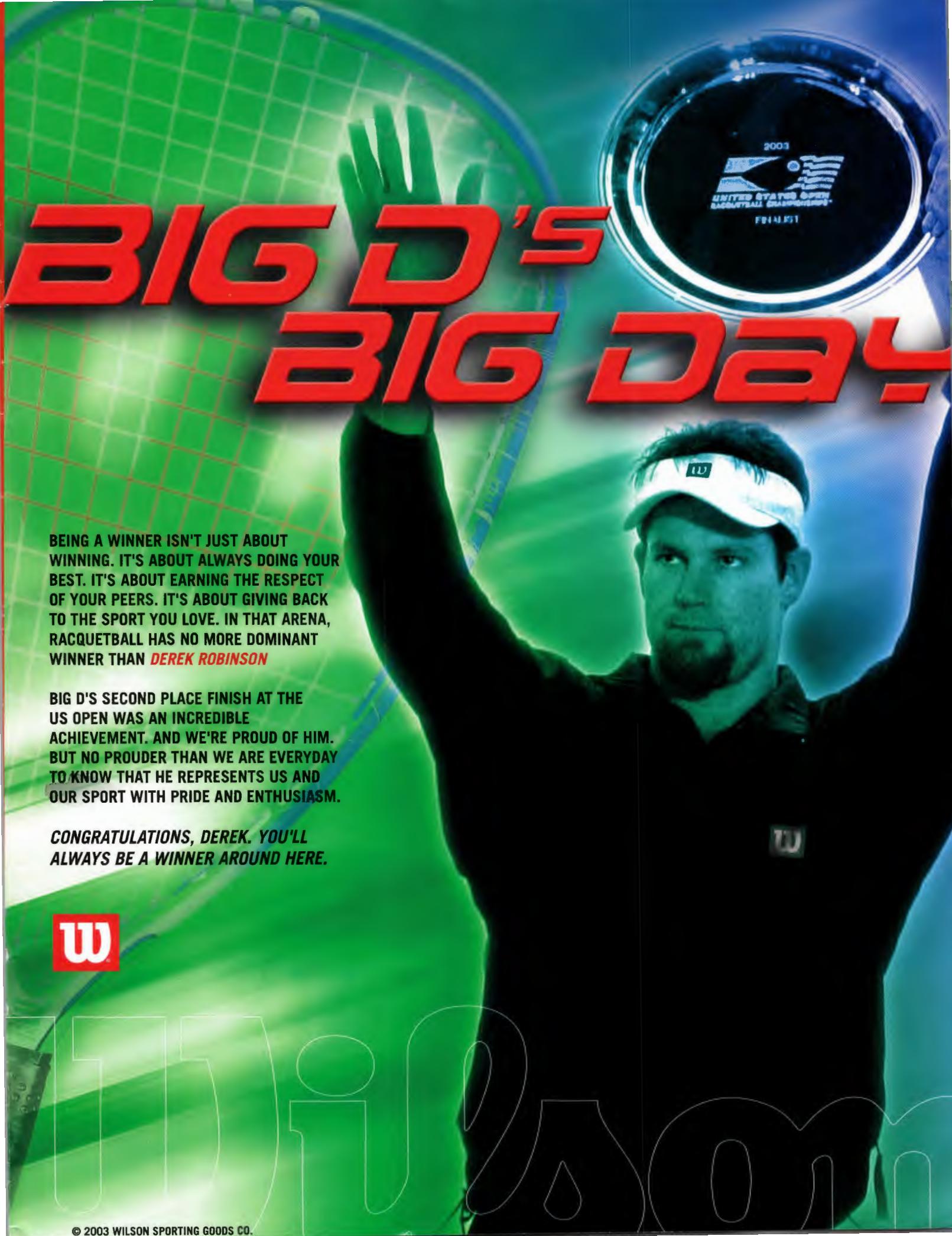
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