

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 5 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2004

*Fast Furious Fitness*

**'04-'05**

# EQUIPMENT PREVIEW

**RACQUETS • GLOVES • EYEGUARDS • SHOES • STRING • BALLS**

1. The first group of variables includes the demographic characteristics of the respondents, such as age, gender, and education level. These variables are used to control for potential confounding factors that may influence the relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

**PLUS:**

**INSTRUCTION  
AND MORE!**



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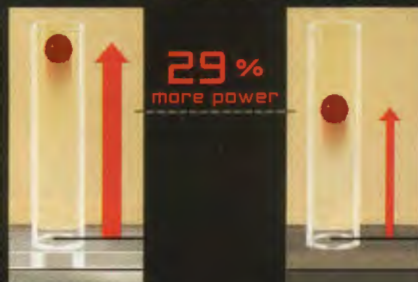
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HEAD brings the Liquidmetal revolution to the sport of racquetball. Due to its unique "liquid" atomic structure, Liquidmetal material provides 29% more power than Titanium. Liquidmetal technology, together with HEAD's new Total Sweetspot Construction, brings unprecedented power to the sport of racquetball.



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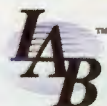
U.S. Jr. Olympics



U.S. National H.S. Championships



Summit in the Rockies



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Official Racquet **EKTELON**

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Official Grip **PYTHON**

Official String **ASHAWAY**

Official Apparel **CREW WEST**

Approved Balls **PENN  
EKTELON  
WILSON**

Preferred Printer **SPORT GRAPHICS**

## Mission Statement

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

## Vision Statement

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

### Objectives:

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



# FEATURES



## '04-'05 Equipment Preview

Check out all of the latest equipment from racquetball's leading manufacturers covering racquets, gloves, eyeguards, shoes, string, and balls.



## IRF XII World Championships

The U.S. reestablished itself as the world's racquetball powerhouse by sweeping both the individual and team competitions for just the second time in history.



## WOR National Championships

Rocky Carson proved his 2002 Outdoor National title wasn't a fluke as he got past Brian Hawkes and Dave Genevay to earn his second championship.

## DEPARTMENTS

Editors Note .....	4
Countdown .....	4
Sound Off! .....	5
Players Helping Players .....	6
On Campus .....	44
Junior Matters .....	45
What's the Call? .....	46
Get With the Program .....	48
Back Courts .....	62
USAR Schedule .....	66
The Inside Scoop .....	68

## PROFILES

National Team Spotlight .....	56
Jack Huczek, Cheryl Gudinas	
Junior Team Spotlight .....	57
Dan Sheppick, Adrienne Fisher	
Coaches Corner .....	58
Kelley Beane	
Shakers & Movers .....	59
Doug Ganim	

## ON TOUR

IRT .....	26
LPRA .....	28
Legends .....	30

## TOURNAMENT COVERAGE

IRF XII World Championships ...	22
WOR National Championships ...	32
NMRA International .....	60

## INSTRUCTIONAL

Marcy's Coaching Corner .....	47
Fran's House .....	49
Doubles Strategy .....	50
Sudsy's Magic Show .....	52
Ellistyle .....	54

## SPECIALS

'04-'05 Equipment Preview .....	10
US OPEN Preview .....	34
Sudsy Retires .....	42



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Racquetball Magazine is a publication of USA Racquetball. Readers are encouraged to submit items of possible interest to Ryan John at the address listed below or via email ([RJJohn@usra.org](mailto:RJJohn@usra.org)). All items submitted are subject to editing by Racquetball Magazine.

### PUBLISHER

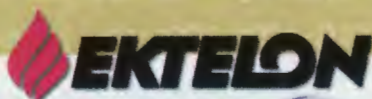
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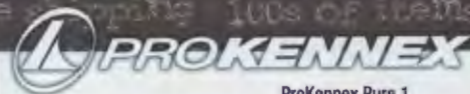


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# EDITOR'S NOTE

**RYAN JOHN**  
**MANAGING EDITOR**

Questions, questions, and more questions. That is what we face as we head into the new racquetball season. Sure, there are always questions at the beginning of any new season, but 2004-2005 looks to hold some of the most exciting answers racquetball has seen in a long time.



One question has already been answered - the U.S. solidified its reclamation as the best racquetball country in the world with an amazing sweep of both the individual and team competitions at the XII World Racquetball Championships in Seoul, Korea this past August. Congratulations to Coach Dave Ellis, Rocky Carson, Mike Dennison, Cheryl Gudinas, Mike Guidry, Jack Huczek, Rhonda Rajsich, Jackie Rice, Kim Russell, and Shane Vanderson for their outstanding performances.

Can the U.S. Juniors recapture the IRF World Junior Championships? Head Coach Kelley Beane had her troops in Colorado Springs this past July for their annual training camp. I had a chance to visit the camp and there was a sense of purpose in the air as the team trained hard each day, working towards a single goal - to bring home the cup. After two-straight heartbreaking losses to Mexico, the team must now travel to San Luis Potosi, Mexico this December to face their rivals on their home court. Good luck to everyone on the junior team. I know that you will represent your country well.

What will happen on the IRT? Last season will be hard to top for the IRT, but with one tournament in the books, it looks like another amazing season is in store. Kane Waselenchuk and Jack Huczek already appear to be in midseason form as they met in what is sure to be the first of many finals. Can Jason Mannino and Cliff Swain regain the form that led them to No.1 rankings in the past? Will now tour veterans Rocky Carson or Alvaro Beltran make a move? Or could another one of the young guns such as Shane Vanderson or Josh Tucker leave their mark on this season? And what will it be like without Sudsy?

Can Cheryl Gudinas record her fifth-straight LPRA title? Cheryl won six out of nine tournaments last season - on a broken foot! She is now healed but will need to play some of her best racquetball to hold off a slew of ladies gunning for her. Will Christie Van Hees continue to ride the momentum that she created at the end of last season? Can Rhonda Rajsich build upon her big wins of last season? Will Kristen Walsh or Adrienne Fisher have their breakthrough years? Or can Kerri Wachtel or Kersten Hallander make a run at the title?

What about the sports National Governing Body? The USA Racquetball National Office Staff and Board of Directors have been working diligently on new programs and improvements throughout the summer. This will be the season when most of those programs will be unveiled and we will get a chance to see all of the hard work pay off. Will we finally secure the large sponsor that we need to bring the sport to the next level? Will our new programs be successful? Will you, the member, continue to support us and give us the opportunity to serve you better?

There are no answers to these questions just yet, but what would be the fun if we already knew? So strap on your seatbelt, as we are in for a wild ride. As the answers come in, I promise that we will share them with you in each issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine.

# COUNTDOWN

10

Years ago that Sudsy last played the USAR National Doubles Championships. (hint, hint)

9

Times Sudsy finished in the top 10 on tour.

8

Sudsy's final season ranking in '94-'95. The last time he finished lower than No.1 or No.2 when competing for a full season.

7

Pro events Sudsy entered before winning his first.

6

Junior Olympic singles titles owned by Sudsy.

5

Times Sudsy finished the pro season ranked No.1.

4

US OPEN titles won by Sudsy.

3

World 18- singles titles won by Sudsy.

2

World Junior doubles titles Sudsy and Jason Mannino have won together.

1

Reason he retired from playing professionally - Family. (Wife, Lisa and children Derek & Lauren)



# SOUND OFF!

## CHEATING?

The article by Eric Muller is offensive on two main levels. In an effort to be concise we will try to limit our comments, although there are volumes that could be said.

The implication that only "professionals" are qualified to be good referees is ridiculous. A player at almost any level has the ability to know the rules, have good eyesight and have the intelligence to be a good referee. There are many, many more of us non-professionals (over a million by the USAR count) than there are the select few who deem themselves "professionals" in this game of racquetball. Certainly not everyone knows or cares about playing the game strictly by the rules, but we are not all too stupid or uncaring to be able to officiate properly.

More distressing is the attitude expressed regarding cheating. The difference between the story of Sudsy Monchik having to justify his cheating, which Eric cites, and Marat Safin, Andy Roddick or many other pro tennis players we have witnessed, is that they have indeed overturned obviously wrong calls. There is nothing to explain or justify if you play fair. No sport should ask its athletes to justify their cheating at any level; all sports should expect their athletes not to cheat. At any level, if you cheat you are not a sportsman. If you are not a sportsman you are not an athlete - you are only a cheater.

To take a call you know to be wrong is cheating at any level. To imply differently shows a lack of honor and ethics that is appalling. To suggest that "professionals" should be held to a different, lower standard in regards to cheating is equally offensive and an embarrassment to our sport. A cheat by any other name is still a cheat.

Those who love this sport, who support this sport, and who play this sport with honesty and fairness should all be offended at the attitude of Eric Muller. We are disappointed.

Sincerely,  
Michael and Tawn Wolfe  
Washougal, WA

## THE NEW RANKING SYSTEM

I read with sadness the last issue of Racquetball which noted the demise of

the current ranking system. I can't imagine how tournament directors feel. In the last 15 years I have never considered playing in a non-sanctioned tournament. Now, why would I play in a tournament that offers no reward of ranking points for my efforts? The new ranking system which no longer rewards participation will make the successful age group competitor like me decrease the tournaments played.

For example, I normally play 18-20 tournaments a year, and now I will probably participate in 5 or 6. As if USA Racquetball, with its current financial problems and lack of growth, needed to do another thing to discourage participation. As a psychotherapist by profession, I would like to thank Ed Willis of Virginia for courageously fighting for the now defunct ranking system while he served on the board of directors. While he was unsuccessful in preventing this suicide attempt by the managing arm of our sport, at least he tried. I will be interested in seeing what happens to the future of age group participation in tournaments.

Mitch Smith  
Camp Hill, PA

**\*Editor's Note:** The new system does offer ranking points based upon skill level not participation. While it does not reward those directly for participation, we feel that it will prove to be a much more accurate ranking system. The new system should not discourage those that love to play the game and wish to be measured according to their true abilities - not just how many tournaments they are able to participate in.

We do, however, also maintain a record of participation which, along with the rankings, will be recorded in the member's competitive history. The participation record will not be used for ranking purposes but will be available to compare playing frequency, which may be rewarded in a way yet to be determined at the end of the season.

To send a letter to the editor for publication in RACQUETBALL Magazine, please send your name, address, telephone number, and the letter to:

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1685 West Uintah  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904  
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two could do?



PLAY WITH FIRE



# PLAYERS HELPING PLAYERS

BY RANDY STAFFORD, PRESIDENT, USAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The racquetball season is fast approaching and to celebrate we are kicking off a brand new fund-raising campaign. It has been redesigned with added benefits and amounts that are sure to fit most everyone's situation. By

donating to racquetball today you will not only directly help USAR continue to operate and offer programs, but those that contribute at an Open or Elite level will also be able to take advantage of limited Player Passes and VIP privileges offered at our national events (please refer to flier on page 8).

We would also like to stress that your donation can be designated to be distributed in whatever way you desire. For example, we received approximately \$7,500 in previous campaign donations that were designated towards Junior Development. This money, along with what we were already budgeted for, brought the total amount used towards Junior Development to over

\$20,000 during the last campaign period. So if you have a certain area in mind, or just wish the money to be used wherever USAR needs it most, simply specify when making your donation and we will be sure that the money goes where you, the member, wishes.

Also, we have continually refined our budget over the past several months and as a result have had to make many tough decisions. I assure you that the Board of Directors and National Office Staff will operate within a balanced budget, but we need help from our members in order to make the budget manageable. We are now at the point where we can show exactly where money is being spent and where there needs to be more money in order to operate. As always, our finances are open for discussion with our members. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either Jim Hiser or myself. (jhiser@usra.org or build@racquetballcourts.com)

Thank you for your support!

## Open Level (\$5,000 & up)

Sue & Leo Klimaitis - \$50,000  
Anonymous - \$25,000  
Anonymous - \$7,950

## Elite Level (\$1000 & up)

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Lance Gilliam - \$1,200  
Jan Stelma - \$1,175  
Susan Adolf - \$1000  
Shari Coplen - \$1,000  
Robert Fennell - \$1000  
Patrick Martin - \$1000  
Steve Meltsner - \$1,000  
Bill Parodi - \$1,000  
Tim Stelma - \$1,000

## A Level (\$500 & up)

Doug Ganim - \$658  
CARA - \$500  
Bill & Michelle George - \$500  
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Sal Perconli - \$500  
Col. Hector Topete - \$500

## B Level (\$250 & up)

Don Chisolm - \$400  
Laurel Davis - \$300  
Rebecca Coates - \$250  
Phillip Cohen - \$250

William Sanderson - \$250  
James Woolcock - \$250

## C Level (\$100 & up)

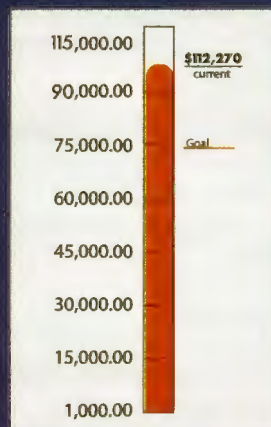
Jr. Team Colorado - \$180  
John Ferguson - \$175  
Jim Garner - \$175  
Mike Guidry - \$175  
Glenn Allen - \$100  
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Pete Dean - \$100  
Sandra Dennison - \$100  
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Lydia Rodriguez - \$50  
Victor Scammel Jr. - \$50  
Donald Schopieray - \$50  
Donna Smith - \$50  
Erin Thiele - \$50  
Robert Wanless Jr. - \$50



2004 Total Donations: \$112,270





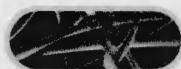
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### D Level—\$50

- Commemorative Balls



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# LIQUIDMETAL

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Kristen Walsh -  
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Sudsy Monchik  
Liquidmetal 170  
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HEAD is far and away the #1 brand on the IRT with 8 of the top 20 ranked pros\*\* playing with HEAD racquets. Liquidmetal is the hottest new racquet technology in a decade.

With 29% more power than Titanium, Liquidmetal gives you back all the energy your swing generates for perfect power. Use HEAD Liquidmetal and start overpowering your opponents with every swing!

\* Sports Tracking Europe (Germany/France: July-Dec 2003, Hitlist Total Market, in value), GfK (Austria: Aug-Dec 2003, Hitlist Tennis Racquets, in value), Sports Marketing Surveys USA, Specialty Store Retail Audit, (July-Dec 2003, in value); Yano-Kaizer Report, (Sept-Oct 2003, quote of 80 key retailers nationwide)

\*\* IRT/LPRA rankings as of April, 2004

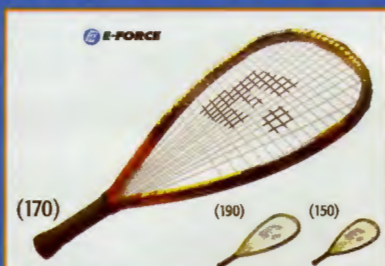
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# '04-'05 EQUIPMENT PREVIEW

## RACQUETS

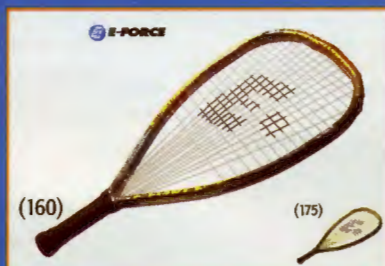
### PERFORMANCE



#### E-Force Radium

Combines new Dual Cylinder Technology with patented 22" LongString to create racquets which are totally new, completely different and incredibly powerful. The frame is made in a radical new way - from two super-powerful tubes (instead of just one) connected by a stabilizer bridge, creating a deep channel on the inner frame. The result is an amazingly stable frame and the longest strings possible unrestricted in free space. The longest strings, plus amazing frame stability, create greater string bed deflection and incredible power.

- ⇒ Weights: 150, 170, 190
- ⇒ Composition: Tri-carbon frame
- ⇒ Balance: Head heavy
- ⇒ SRP: \$330.00



#### E-Force Tyranny

Combines new Dual Cylinder Technology with patented 22" LongString to create an incredibly stable frame/hitting surface and the longest strings possible and increased stringbed deflection. The result is six new performance advantages: More power from longer strings; More power from reduced frame distortion; More power at the tip of the racquet; Bigger Kill Zone; More control from reduced frame distortion; Better touch from increased frame stability.

- ⇒ Weights: 160, 175
- ⇒ Composition: Tri-carbon frame
- ⇒ Balance: Head heavy
- ⇒ SRP: \$360.00

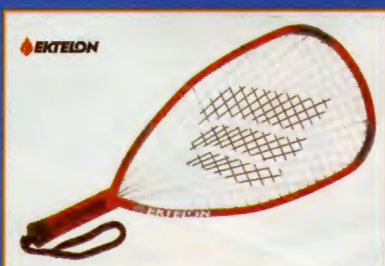
### RECREATIONAL



#### E-Force Chaos 22

Tremendous power. Graphite construction plus an arsenal of advanced E-Force power technologies. Graphite construction; 22" LongString Technology; 10.5" Cross-Strings; Full Motion Strings; Oversized String Holes; LongString Power Corners; Zero Richter Tubes; By-Pass Stringing Systems.

- ⇒ Weights: 180
- ⇒ Composition: Graphite
- ⇒ Balance: Even
- ⇒ SRP: \$69.99



#### Ektelon DPR 2500 Lite

Ektelon's new Double Power Ring (DPR) technology extends the main string length for ultimate power. The main strings wrap around two Power Rings in the throat, increasing main string length creating Ektelon's most powerful racquet ever with a power level of 2500. Grommet-less throat increases durability and stiffness.

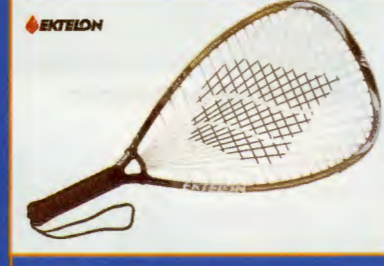
- ⇒ Weights: 170
- ⇒ Composition: Triple Threat with Tungsten and GraphitExtreme
- ⇒ Balance: Head heavy
- ⇒ SRP: \$280.00



#### Ektelon DPR 2500

Ektelon's new Double Power Ring (DPR) technology extends the main string length for ultimate power. The main strings wrap around two Power Rings in the throat, increasing main string length creating Ektelon's most powerful racquet ever with a power level of 2500. Grommet-less throat increases durability and stiffness.

- ⇒ Weights: 190
- ⇒ Composition: Triple Threat with Tungsten and GraphitExtreme
- ⇒ Balance: Even
- ⇒ SRP: \$260.00



#### Ektelon Excel

A great racquet for beginners, juniors and players with smaller hands. Includes great features such as Ektelon's exclusive Power Ring technology for advanced power, PowerLine for a lighter frame and F3 Stabilizer for an expanded sweet spot and maximum stability. Available in Super-Super Small (SSS) grip size.

- ⇒ Weights: 195
- ⇒ Composition: Aerolite Alloy
- ⇒ Balance: Head light
- ⇒ SRP: \$30.00



## PERFORMANCE



### HEAD Liquidmetal 170

Choice of 5-Time Pro World Champion Sidsy Monchik. Features Liquidmetal technology for Pure Energy and Perfect Power. Liquidmetal utilizes all the energy your swing generates, so what you put into your swing is exactly what you get out of it. Liquidmetal is 2 1/2 times stronger and is 29% more powerful than Titanium. The frame has a unique corrugated structure - Total Sweetspot Construction - so every shot feels like you've hit the sweetspot. The Liquidmetal 170 also features PowerChannels, molded tubes that pass inside the throat that lengthen the main strings and completely eliminate exterior holes for maximum stiffness and incredible power.

- ⇒ Weights: 170
- ⇒ Composition: Liquidmetal
- ⇒ Balance: 290mm
- ⇒ SRP: \$275.00



### HEAD Liquidmetal 180

Choice of 2-Time US National and 2-Time US Outdoor World Champion Rocky Carson. Features Liquidmetal technology for Pure Energy and Perfect Power. Liquidmetal utilizes all the energy your swing generates, so what you put into your swing is exactly what you get out of it. Liquidmetal is 2 1/2 times stronger and is 29% more powerful than Titanium. The frame has a unique corrugated structure - Total Sweetspot Construction - so every shot feels like you've hit the sweetspot. The Liquidmetal 180 also features PowerChannels, molded tubes that pass inside the throat, lengthen the main strings and completely eliminate exterior holes for maximum stiffness and incredible power.

- ⇒ Weights: 180
- ⇒ Composition: Liquidmetal
- ⇒ Balance: 290mm
- ⇒ SRP: \$235.00

## RECREATIONAL



### Ti. Genesis II

HEAD offers high technology and ultimate value in fused racquets. The Ti.Genesis II features PowerZone System which creates longer main strings while keeping the sweetspot up high and has unique oversized cone-shaped grommets that allow maximum string elasticity providing increased power with every hit. Also features AnTi.Torsion, a unique cross-bar in the throat area, for ultimate stability.

- ⇒ Weights: 230
- ⇒ Composition: Fused Ti.Graphite
- ⇒ Balance: 250mm
- ⇒ SRP: \$50.00



### Pro Kennex Pure 1 Infinity 165

New for 04', the Infinity models are the latest evolution of our award winning Kinetic Technology engineered as a complete system solution, the Infinity integrates a new frame shape, new string pattern and new kinetic system resulting in the perfect balance of hi-performance liveliness and control. POLYCEO FRAME DESIGN™ Variable shape design yielding a 43% increase in frame strength while elevating the kick point for maximum power. KINETIC BLAST CHAMBER™ Worldwide patented technology engineered to cut shock and vibration. POWERTHRUST String Pattern™ Delivering a 30% increase in energy transfer

- ⇒ Weights: 165
- ⇒ Composition: 100% Graphite with Kinetic Blast Chamber
- ⇒ Balance: Headlight
- ⇒ SRP: \$199.00



### Pro Kennex Pure 1 Infinity 175

New for 04', the Infinity models are the latest evolution of our award winning Kinetic Technology engineered as a complete system solution, the Infinity integrates a new frame shape, new string pattern and new kinetic system resulting in the perfect balance of hi-performance liveliness and control. POLYCEO FRAME DESIGN™ Variable shape design yielding a 43% increase in frame strength while elevating the kick point for maximum power. KINETIC BLAST CHAMBER™ Worldwide patented technology engineered to cut shock and vibration. POWERTHRUST String Pattern™ Delivering a 30% increase in energy transfer

- ⇒ Weights: 175
- ⇒ Composition: 100% Graphite with Kinetic Blast Chamber
- ⇒ Balance: Headlight
- ⇒ SRP: \$189.00

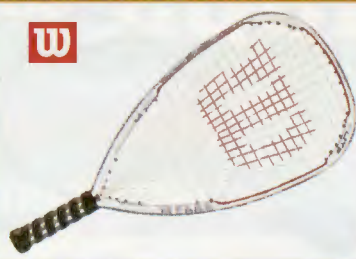


### Pro Kennex Kinetic Balanced II

- ⇒ Weights: 185
- ⇒ Composition: 85% Graphite & 15% Fiberglass
- ⇒ Balance: Headlight
- ⇒ SRP: \$89.00



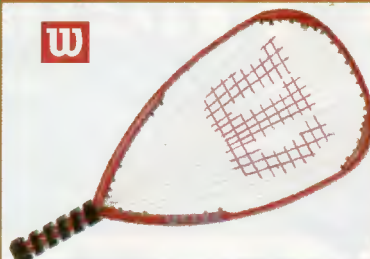
## PERFORMANCE



### Wilson nLITE™

The ultra light nLITE™ racquet from Wilson utilizes nCode™, an exclusive Wilson nano technology process that reinforces the molecular structure of the frame by filling the nanoscopic voids that exist between the individual fibers which create stress points. When a racquet is nCoded, nano-sized silicone oxide crystals permeate the voids between carbon fibers, significantly enhancing the stability of the overall carbon matrix. The result is a racquet that measures two times stronger, two times more stable, and up to 22% more powerful than ordinary racquets.

- ⇒ Weights: 150
- ⇒ Composition: nano fibers, hyper carbon, graphite
- ⇒ Balance: Head heavy
- ⇒ SRP: \$249.99



### Wilson nPOWER™

The more powerful nPOWER™ racquet from Wilson utilizes nCode™, an exclusive Wilson nano technology process that reinforces the molecular structure of the frame by filling the nanoscopic voids that exist between the individual fibers which create stress points. When a racquet is nCoded, nano-sized silicone oxide crystals permeate the voids between carbon fibers, significantly enhancing the stability of the overall carbon matrix. The result is a racquet that measures two times stronger, two times more stable, and up to 22% more powerful than ordinary racquets.

- ⇒ Weights: 170
- ⇒ Composition: nano fibers, hyper carbon, graphite
- ⇒ Balance: Head heavy
- ⇒ SRP: \$224.99

## RECREATIONAL



### Wilson Torch™

Beginning with power, the new Torch looks hot on the court and plays hot too. Wilson's revolutionary Double Beam technology adds strength and power. Power Strings - combined with Power Holes - create this bazooka with a hair trigger. Even the price is hot.

- ⇒ Weights: 210
- ⇒ Composition: Titanium Alloy
- ⇒ Balance: Even
- ⇒ SRP: \$49.99

## GLOVES



### E-Force Chill

- ⇒ Perforated .6mm Cabretta sheepskin palm
- ⇒ Air-Flo( two-way-stretch open-mesh back
- ⇒ Perforated fingers
- ⇒ Full-leather ring finger and little finger
- ⇒ Set-in thumb
- ⇒ "Stay Soft" Leather
- ⇒ Soft elastic sweat-absorbing wristband
- ⇒ Sizes: RH - XS-XL; LH - S-L
- ⇒ SRP: \$19.99



### E-Force Weapon

- ⇒ .6mm Cabretta sheepskin
- ⇒ Air-Flo( two-way-stretch open-mesh back
- ⇒ Full-leather ring finger and little finger
- ⇒ Set-in thumb
- ⇒ "Stay-Soft" leather
- ⇒ Soft elastic sweat-absorbing wristband
- ⇒ Sizes: RH - XS-XL; LH - M, L
- ⇒ SRP: \$16.99



### Ektelon Dominant Max

- ⇒ Digitized Graphite/Titanium leather
- ⇒ Ceramic cooling system
- ⇒ Coolmax moisture management system
- ⇒ Isotech™ finger padding
- ⇒ Neoprene knuckle protection
- ⇒ Spandex backing
- ⇒ Absorbent terry waistband and tab closure design
- ⇒ Sizes: XS-XL
- (Left not available in XS)
- ⇒ SRP: \$20.00





**EKTELON**



### Ektelon CoolMax Ice Glove

- ⇒ Neoprene knuckle and finger protection
- ⇒ Four-way stretch Spandex Lycra Fit System
- ⇒ Naturally tacky Cabretta Sheepskin leather with stay-soft treatment
- ⇒ Coolmax moisture management system
- ⇒ Cool and comfortable
- ⇒ Absorbent terry wristband and tab closure design
- ⇒ Sizes: S-XL
- ⇒ SRP: \$16.00



### HEAD Ballistic

- ⇒ Premium Pittards leather - the ultimate in moisture control for maximum performance and gripping power
- ⇒ Perfectly positioned "memory foam" diving pads for professional protection
- ⇒ Textured Lycra backing for extra durability and moisture absorption
- ⇒ High-performance stretch Lycra for added comfort and maximum air circulation
- ⇒ Reinforced wrist pull-tab for easy-on fitting and increased durability
- ⇒ Sizes: S-XL (Left not available in S)
- ⇒ SRP: \$22.00



### HEAD Radical

- ⇒ Cabretta leather for ultimate gripping power
- ⇒ New innovative one-piece design for perfect fit and comfort
- ⇒ "Memory foam" knuckle pads for increased protection
- ⇒ High performance Lycra backing for a cool and comfortable fit
- ⇒ Sizes: S-XL (Left not available in S)
- ⇒ SRP: \$14.50

**PROKENNEX**



### Pro Kennex Pure 1

- ⇒ Premium Pittard's Quartz Cabretta Leather
- ⇒ Sizes: XS-XL  
(Left not available in XS)
- ⇒ SRP: \$15.99

**PROKENNEX**



### Pro Kennex Ovation Glove

- ⇒ Premium Pittard's Quartz Cabretta Leather
- ⇒ Sizes: XS-XL (Left not available in XS)
- ⇒ SRP: \$13.99

**W**



### Wilson Grip N™

- ⇒ One piece Cabretta Sheepskin leather palm
- ⇒ Soft terry cloth acts as built in wristband
- ⇒ Dive padding for protection
- ⇒ Sizes: RH - XXS-XL; LH - M, L
- ⇒ SRP: \$17.99

**W**



### Wilson Maxgrip™

- ⇒ Embossed leather palm
- ⇒ Set-in "no-stress" thumb design
- ⇒ Dive padding for protection
- ⇒ Sizes: RH - XS-XL; LH - M, L
- ⇒ SRP: \$9.99



# EYEGUARDS

E-FORCE



## E-Force Dual Focus

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Two separate lenses for better vision. Full wrap-around design extends coverage.
- ⇒ Lens vents increase air flow, minimize fogging
- ⇒ Two different nose pieces for customized fit
- ⇒ Hinged, adjustable ear-pieces
- ⇒ Anti-fog and scratch-resistant.
- ⇒ SRP: \$24.99

E-FORCE



## E-Force Crystal Wrap

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Vented 1-piece lens for clearer peripheral vision. Wrap-around design extends coverage.
- ⇒ Lens vents increase air flow, minimize fogging
- ⇒ Two different nose pieces for customized fit
- ⇒ Hinged, adjustable ear-pieces
- ⇒ Anti-fog and scratch-resistant.
- ⇒ SRP: \$19.99



EKTELON

## Ektelon Spector

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Prescription lens adaptable.
- ⇒ Anti-scratch, anti-fog treated lenses
- ⇒ Adjustable side arms for custom fit
- ⇒ Adjustable Velcro headstrap included
- ⇒ Micro fiber cleaning pouch included
- ⇒ SRP: \$25.00

EKTELON



## Ektelon Strobe

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Shock-absorbent brow bridge
- ⇒ Innovative airflow brow bridge
- ⇒ Hinged, lightweight nylon frame
- ⇒ Curved shield design for maximum vision
- ⇒ Distortion free, anti-scratch/anti-fog treated polycarbonate lenses
- ⇒ Adjustable headstrap
- ⇒ Micro-fiber cleaning pouch included
- ⇒ SRP: \$20.00

EKTELON



## Ektelon Jr. Vendetta II

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Ultimate lightweight performance shield design.
- ⇒ Lightweight composite eyeguard
- ⇒ Hinged, adjustable side arms
- ⇒ Anti-fog treated lenses
- ⇒ Adjustable headstrap
- ⇒ Micro fiber cleaning pouch included
- ⇒ Available in junior size for players with small facial structures
- ⇒ SRP: \$15.00

HEAD



## HEAD Pro Elite

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Official eyewear choice of 5-Time Pro World Champion Sudsy Monchik
- ⇒ Stylish, lightweight, impact resistant frame
- ⇒ Spherical shaped, distortion free polycarbonate lenses
- ⇒ Extra durable anti-scratch and anti-fog treated lenses
- ⇒ 99.9% UV protection
- ⇒ New clear, soft, non-slip PVC nosepiece
- ⇒ Adjustable temples for a comfortable fit
- ⇒ Adjustable clip-on elastic strap holds eyewear in place
- ⇒ High quality lens cleaning bag included
- ⇒ SRP: \$29.95





### HEAD Rave

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Stylish, lightweight, impact resistant frame for ultimate comfort and protection
- ⇒ Distortion free polycarbonate lenses
- ⇒ Anti-scratch and anti-fog treated lenses
- ⇒ Soft and comfortable non-slip nosepieces
- ⇒ Rubber inlay in end of temples for more stability
- ⇒ Adjustable elastic strap to hold eyewear in place during play
- ⇒ High quality lens cleaning bag included
- ⇒ SRP: \$19.95

PRO KENNEX



### Pro Kennex Infinity

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Anti-Fog
- ⇒ Clear Frame
- ⇒ 180 degree distortion-free lenses
- ⇒ Lightweight for better comfort
- ⇒ SRP: \$22.99

PRO KENNEX



### Pro Kennex Shadow

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Anti-Fog
- ⇒ Silver Frame
- ⇒ 180 degree distortion-free lenses
- ⇒ Lightweight for better comfort
- ⇒ SRP: \$18.99



### Unique Tourna Specs

- ⇒ Distortion free lenses
- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Adult and junior sizes available
- ⇒ Available in Clear or Yellow
- ⇒ SRP: \$14.95

UNIQUE



### Unique Great Specs

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Classic design
- ⇒ 180-degree full view
- ⇒ Anti-fog coating
- ⇒ SRP: \$9.95



### Wilson Spy™

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Distortion-free lens
- ⇒ Lightweight frame
- ⇒ Anti-fog treated
- ⇒ SRP: \$24.99

W



### Wilson Jet™

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Compact design with windshield styling
- ⇒ Ventilation holes to prevent fogging
- ⇒ Lightweight and sleek
- ⇒ SRP: \$14.99

W



### Wilson Vents™

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Distortion-free
- ⇒ Anti-fog treated
- ⇒ Designed to fit smaller faces
- ⇒ SRP: \$19.99



# SHOES



## Ektelon QT Scream

- ⇒ Non-marking, gum rubber outsole
- ⇒ EVA midsole with PU forefoot insert and ShockEraser heel insert
- ⇒ Molded Titanium reinforced midfoot shank
- ⇒ Removeable EVA sockliner with padded EVA forefoot and heel inserts, plus Anti-Bacterial treatment
- ⇒ Secured cord lacing system
- ⇒ Padded achilles insert
- ⇒ Medial drag abrasion protection
- ⇒ Breathable synthetic leather upper
- ⇒ Slip lasted construction
- ⇒ Sizes: 5-12, 13, 14
- ⇒ SRP: \$80.00



## Hi-Tec Pro Mid

- ⇒ PU/skin suede upper with Nylex lining
- ⇒ External TPU Toe Cap Overlay
- ⇒ Mesh side quarter with PVC Heatseal and TPU overlays
- ⇒ California construction
- ⇒ ECI sock liner
- ⇒ Phylon midsole
- ⇒ Internal TPU shank
- ⇒ XCEL sole unit with heel QuadraForm
- ⇒ Sizes: 7-14
- ⇒ SRP: \$82.95



## QT SE Ladies

- ⇒ Molded EVA midsole
- ⇒ Molded midfoot stabilizer
- ⇒ Molded EVA sockliner
- ⇒ Duraskin II drag protection
- ⇒ Non-marking, gum rubber outsole
- ⇒ Breathable synthetic leather upper
- ⇒ Sizes: 5-10, 11
- ⇒ SRP: \$70.00



## Hi-Tec Venom XP Womens

- ⇒ Low profile look
- ⇒ Mesh/PVC/PU upper
- ⇒ Nubus underlay for contemporary styling
- ⇒ Mesh collar for comfort
- ⇒ Variable symmetric lacing system
- ⇒ ECI footbed
- ⇒ Unique CobraSole with gum rubber tread
- ⇒ Sizes: 5-10
- ⇒ SRP: \$74.95



## Wilson Torque™ DST02™

- ⇒ Available in Mid or Low
- ⇒ Added stability, comfort and cushioning
- ⇒ Duralast indoor sole for traction and durability
- ⇒ Sizes: 6.5-12, 13
- ⇒ SRP: \$84.99



## HEAD Games Indoor

- ⇒ Available in Mid or Low
- ⇒ Radial Brace Stabilizer increases torsional rigidity.
- ⇒ Quadra flex Gum Rubber provides maximum grip and optimum flexibility.
- ⇒ Compression Molded EVA Midsole for lightweight cushioning
- ⇒ Dri-Lex Lining with moisture management capabilities.
- ⇒ Ortholite Sockliner has moisture wicking properties with anti-microbial odor destroying biocides.
- ⇒ Sizes: 6.5-12, 13, 14
- ⇒ SRP: \$79.95 (Mid), \$74.95 (Low)



## Pro Kennex Friction 3/4

- ⇒ Heel Honeycomb Gel Pad
- ⇒ Gum Rubber sole for maximum traction
- ⇒ Leather toe for increased durability
- ⇒ Mesh insert for ventilation
- ⇒ Sizes: 6-12, 13
- ⇒ SRP: \$69.99



## Wilson Torque™ DST02™ Ladies

- ⇒ Stylish low cut design
- ⇒ Added stability, comfort and cushioning
- ⇒ Duralast indoor sole for traction and durability
- ⇒ Sizes: 5-10, 11
- ⇒ SRP: \$74.99



# STRING



## Ashaway PowerKill® 17

- ⇒ Manufactured with innovative Zyex® fibers
- ⇒ Exceptional power in a 17 gauge string
- ⇒ Superior tension stability at all tensions
- ⇒ Optimum durability in a 17 gauge string
- ⇒ Ideal for midsize and oversized rackets
- ⇒ Gauge: 17
- ⇒ Color: natural
- ⇒ Lengths: 40', 360' reel



## Ashaway Killfire® Pro

- ⇒ 100% braided Aramid mains; SuperKill II nylon polymer crosses
- ⇒ Provides firm string bed for superior control
- ⇒ Braided Aramid mains bite the ball for superior spin
- ⇒ 16-gauge Aramid mains provide exceptional durability
- ⇒ For power players and chronic string breakers
- ⇒ Gauge: 16
- ⇒ Colors: gold mains, natural crosses
- ⇒ Lengths: 23' mains, 20' crosses



## Ashaway SuperKill® XL

- ⇒ Constructed with a multifilament core of high tenacity nylon polymers and double-braided nylon polymer jacket
- ⇒ Multifilament core provides excellent response and resiliency
- ⇒ Textured surface offers enhanced spin and ball placement
- ⇒ Lively string that bites the ball
- ⇒ Gauge: 17
- ⇒ Colors: white with red/blue crosses
- ⇒ Lengths: 40', 360' reel



## E-Force Oxygen

- ⇒ More power, elasticity, and resilience
- ⇒ Enhanced soft feel with minimal vibration
- ⇒ Designed for racquetball-not tennis.
- ⇒ Over 1,200 composite microfibers bonded in advanced wet twist technology.
- ⇒ Gauges: 16, 17
- ⇒ Colors: optic yellow, amber
- ⇒ Length: 45'
- ⇒ SRP: \$19.99



## E-Force Fluid

- ⇒ Combination of power and playability
- ⇒ Crisp response and durable
- ⇒ Designed for racquetball-not tennis.
- ⇒ Inner wrapping of high modulus multifilament fibers fused with opposite-winding Nylon 66 outer filaments
- ⇒ Gauges: 16, 17
- ⇒ Colors: optic yellow, white, amber
- ⇒ Length: 45'
- ⇒ SRP: \$9.99



## E-Force Platinum

- ⇒ Traditional feel and response
- ⇒ Designed for racquetball-not tennis.
- ⇒ Elastic low-angle Nylon 66 filaments surround core for added resilience
- ⇒ Gauges: 16, 17
- ⇒ Colors: optic yellow, white, amber
- ⇒ Length: 45'
- ⇒ SRP: \$7.99



## Ektelon. Lightning XX™

- ⇒ Spring loaded Powerfoil releases explosive energy on impact for greater power
- ⇒ Provides broadband wear for increased durability
- ⇒ Included in all More Performance™ S Series and Air Series racquets
- ⇒ Colors: Clear, silver, gold, black
- ⇒ Gauges: 16, 17
- ⇒ Length: 40'
- ⇒ SRP - \$12.50





### Ektelon PowerPlay™ 16

- ⇒ 16-gauge synthetic gut
- ⇒ Premium grade nylon polymer blend
- ⇒ A superior feel for greater control
- ⇒ Designed specifically for the demands of racquetball
- ⇒ Color: White
- ⇒ Gauge: 16
- ⇒ Length: 38'
- ⇒ SRP - \$9.00



### Ektelon Synthetic Gut with Duraflex

- ⇒ Nylon composite with Duraflex
- ⇒ Duraflex fibers for increased durability
- ⇒ Color: White
- ⇒ Gauges: 16, 17, 18
- ⇒ Length: 38'
- ⇒ SRP: \$8.00



### HEAD MegaBlast String

- ⇒ Multifilament center core with co-polymer braided multifilament wraps
- ⇒ Slightly textured carbon co-polymer coating that delivers added durability and less string movement
- ⇒ Highly elastic "snap-back" string for maximum power
- ⇒ Color: Black
- ⇒ Gauge: 16
- ⇒ Length: 40'
- ⇒ SRP:



### HEAD PowerZone PPS String

- ⇒ PowerStrip technology used in thin multifilament ribbons for high resilience, high density, high water resistance and high heat and abrasion resistance
- ⇒ High elastic monofilament PowerZone core with PowerStrip technology surrounding the core
- ⇒ Also uses a Polyamide 6 multifilament wrap and a pearl polyamide coating
- ⇒ Features higher resilience for extra speed and power and high heat and abrasion resistance for durability
- ⇒ Color: White
- ⇒ Gauges: 16, 17
- ⇒ Length: 40'
- ⇒ SRP:



### Unique Xtreme Power

- ⇒ Highly responsive racquetball string
- ⇒ Delivers power into shots
- ⇒ Made of thousands of very thin tournafibers
- ⇒ Gauge: 17
- ⇒ Colors: yellow, black, white
- ⇒ Length: 45'
- ⇒ SRP: \$4.95



### Unique Dura Power

- ⇒ Made for high performance
- ⇒ Durable and strong
- ⇒ Made of high tensile monofilament core with layers of monofilament outer wraps
- ⇒ Economically priced
- ⇒ Gauge: 17
- ⇒ Color: light amber
- ⇒ Length: 45'
- ⇒ SRP: \$2.95



### Wilson Strike Zone

- ⇒ The preferred string of touring pro Derek Robinson
- ⇒ Increases power.
- ⇒ Reduces shock
- ⇒ Optimal comfort
- ⇒ Ultimate game improvement.
- ⇒ Gauges: 16, 17
- ⇒ Color: Natural
- ⇒ Length: 40'
- ⇒ SRP: \$15.00



### Wilson Killshot NXT

- ⇒ Ideal for all levels of play
- ⇒ Offers excellent balance, playability, and durability.
- ⇒ Gauges: 16, 17
- ⇒ Color: Natural
- ⇒ Length: 40'
- ⇒ SRP: \$6.50



# BALLS

EKTELON



## Ektelon Premium Select

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Enhanced visibility
- ⇒ Consistent bounce
- ⇒ Available in 2 ball and 3 ball cans
- ⇒ Color: Blue
- ⇒ SRP: \$3.00 (2 ball can); \$4.00 (3 ball can)

EKTELON



## Ektelon Classic

- ⇒ **NEW Rally Ball!**
- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Enhanced visibility
- ⇒ Lighter feel
- ⇒ Premium performance
- ⇒ Color: Black
- ⇒ SRP: \$4.00

Penn



## Penn Ultra-Blue

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ The World's #1 Selling Racquetball
- ⇒ Bright blue color for added on-court visibility
- ⇒ Clear plastic, foil sealed container with screw-top lid for safety and improved recycling
- ⇒ Made of optimized rubber compound for consistent playability and increased durability
- ⇒ Color: Ultra-Blue

Penn



## Penn Titanium

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Increased visibility due to purple color
- ⇒ Added speed
- ⇒ Penn durability
- ⇒ Feels lighter off of the racquet
- ⇒ Clear plastic, foil sealed container with screw-top lid for safety and improved recycling
- ⇒ Color: Purple

Penn



## Pro Penn

- ⇒ Official Ball of the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) - #1 Choice of IRT Pros
- ⇒ Official Ball of USA Racquetball
- ⇒ Engineered for faster, livelier speed
- ⇒ Bright green color increases on-court visibility
- ⇒ Clear plastic, foil sealed container with screw-top lid for safety and improved recycling
- ⇒ Addition of improved optimized rubber compound for consistent playability and increased durability
- ⇒ Color: Green

W



## Wilson Titanium Tour™

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Official ball of the LPRA
- ⇒ High-speed performance for the serious player
- ⇒ Special titanate bonding material for improved strength
- ⇒ 80-grade buffing delivers maximum bite on walls
- ⇒ Color: Green
- ⇒ SRP: \$3.99

W



## Wilson Championship™

- ⇒ USA Racquetball approved
- ⇒ Speed for all levels of play
- ⇒ Unique compound provides consistent bounce
- ⇒ Durability to last game after game
- ⇒ Color: Blue
- ⇒ SRP: \$2.99



# NEW DUAL-CYLINDER TECHNOLOGY

**TOTALLY NEW. COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.**



**FRAME MADE  
FROM TWO SUPER  
POWERFUL TUBES  
(INSTEAD OF JUST ONE)  
CONNECTED BY  
STABILIZER  
BRIDGE**



The new E-Force Radium and Tyranny are made in a radical new way— from two hand-laid carbon graphite tubes (instead of one) joined at the outside by a graphite bridge, creating a deep channel on the inner frame.

## INCREDIBLY STABLE FRAME



These tubes are structurally stronger. Combining the two strong tubes with the Stabilizer Bridge creates an amazingly stable frame/hitting surface.

## LONGEST STRINGS



The deep inner channel plus strings through the handle allow every string to be the longest possible unrestricted in free space. *The longest strings, plus maximum frame stability, create greater stringbed deflection and incredible power.*

**INCLUDES E-FORCE'S  
EXCLUSIVE PATENTED  
LONGSTRING® ADVANTAGE**

**Longest Mainstrings—  
22" LongString®**

The mains extend unrestricted in free space 22" from the outer edge of the racquet tip all the through the handle.



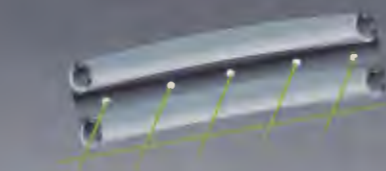
**Longer  
Cross-Strings—10.5"**

Crosses extend unrestricted in free space a full 10.5" to the outside edges of the frame.

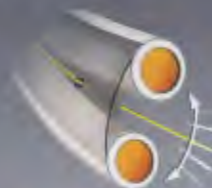
**INCREDIBLY STABLE FRAME +  
MORE STRINGBED DEFLECTION**



**INCREDIBLY  
STABLE  
FRAME**



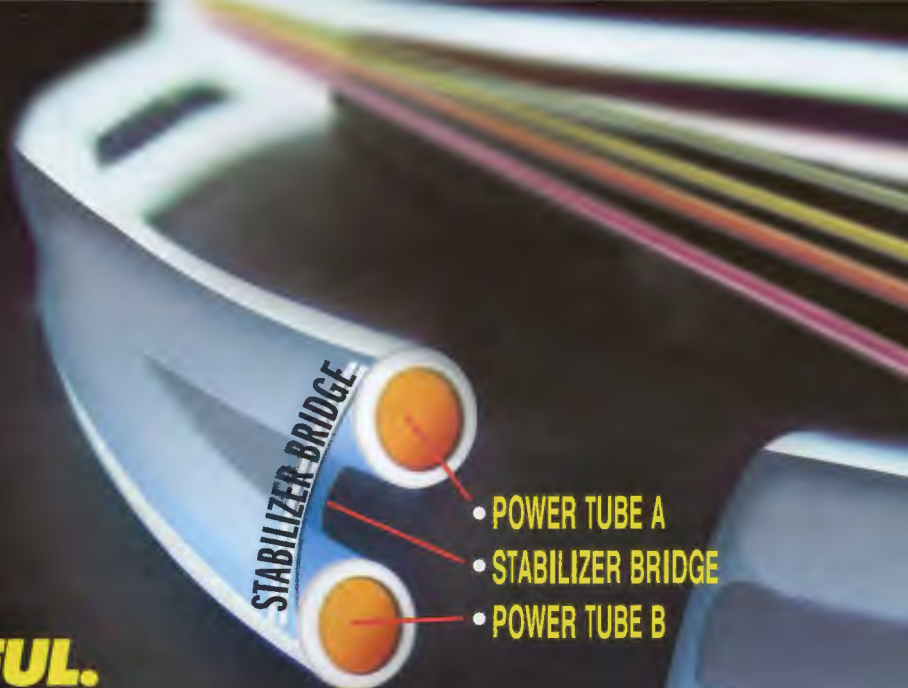
**LONGEST  
STRINGS  
POSSIBLE**



**MORE STRINGBED  
DEFLECTION,  
MORE POWER**

A performance breakthrough never before seen. Longest strings and increased frame stability result in devastating new power advantages.





STABILIZER BRIDGE

- POWER TUBE A
- STABILIZER BRIDGE
- POWER TUBE B

PATENT PENDING

# INCREDIBLY POWERFUL.

## MORE POWER, MORE CONTROL, BIGGER KILL ZONE, MORE TOUCH

### MORE POWER from Longer Strings

The longer the strings, the greater the stringbed deflection and the greater the power. The combination of new Dual-Cylinder Technology with exclusive patented E-Force LongString Technology creates the longest strings possible by allowing every string to extend unrestricted in free space to the outside edge of the frame. The strings cannot be longer.

### MORE POWER from Reduced Frame Twist/Distortion

The combination of two strong tubes – spanned by the Stabilizer Bridge – creates an amazingly solid structure. This reduces distortion and twisting in unwanted ways at ball impact. More energy is transmitted to the ball – for more power.

### BIGGER KILL ZONE

Because the strings are longer — and the frame is more stable — the kill zone is much bigger.

### MORE POWER AT TIP

For the first time in racquetball history, mains and crosses extend unrestricted in free space to the outside edges of the corners of the frame.

### MORE CONTROL

The Stabilizer Bridge holds the two tubes in position so that the frame does not twist or distort. Pinches. Kills. Passing shots. The ball goes where you want it to go.

By eliminating twisting and distortion, Dual Cylinder Technology prevents the transfer of erroneous vibration signals through the handle. You play with more touch, increased confidence.

### BETTER TOUCH

BETTER FEEL FOR THE BALL

## NEW RADIUM TRI-TEAR

150G  
170G  
190G

# LONGEST STRINGS = AND MORE POWER

## E-FORCE HAS THE LONGEST STRINGS\*

	Longest E-Force	Competitor	E-Force Advantage
Longest Mainstring*	22"	16"	37% Longer
8 Center Mainstrings*	172"	121"	34% Longer

**Cross-Strings** (Longest possible – crosses extend from outside edge to outside edge of frame.)

\* strings unrestricted in free space



160G  
175G

## NEW TYRANNY QUADRAFORM



# E-FORCE

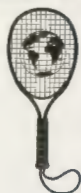
www.e-force.com



# 2004 IRF XII World Racquetball Championships

## July 31-August 7 • Seoul, Korea

INTERNATIONAL  
RACQUETBALL  
FEDERATION



### A U.S. SWEEP

For just the second time in history, the U.S. swept both the individual and team competitions at the IRF World Racquetball Championships. Coach Dave Ellis led his squad to perfection that was only previously seen by the 1992 U.S. National team. And the fact that the world has seemed to catch up with the U.S. on the courts is only further testament to the accomplishments of this year's team. Coach Ellis was able to mold touring pros into a team, and instead of resting on their accomplishments after the individual portion of the tournament, they pulled together to root for one another until they had brought home the World Cup for the 11th time.

### DOMINATION

It wasn't surprising that Cheryl Gudinas and Jack Huczek successfully defended their World Singles titles, as they were the favorites heading into the event, but the manner in which they won was a little shocking. Both looked untouchable as they breezed through their draws in straight games.



Cheryl Gudinas

Gudinas only let one opponent reach double-digits and that was in the first game of the tournament to China's Pat Kong. She got past Kong, 15-12, 15-4, and then proceeded to show everyone why she is the best women's player on the planet. She defeated the Dominican's Claudine Garcia, Japan's Toshiko Sakamoto, and Canada's Amanda Dunn before facing Chilean racquetball star Angela Grisar in the final.



Jack Huczek

Grisar had earlier knocked off Gudinas' teammate, Rhonda Rajsich, in the quarterfinals and then dispatched the young Mexican up-and-comer Nancy Enriquez in the semifinals to face Gudinas. Although Grisar had had a great tournament, she had no answer for Gudinas and Gudinas won handily, 15-3, 15-7, for her third straight World Singles title.



The U.S. accepts the World Cup

As dominating as Gudinas was, Huczek's performance may have even been more so. He didn't give up a single point in his first match, and then only gave up a few through his entire draw. In fact, only one player, Hiroshi Shimizu of Japan, was able to score more than five points in a game against Huczek.

Huczek faced Mexico's Alvaro Beltran in the final in what looked to be a good match on paper. Huczek was ranked No.2 and Beltran No.5 on the IRT and Beltran entered the match with a lot of confidence after defeating the U.S.'s Rocky Carson in the semifinals. Instead, Huczek continued to play on another level and defeated Beltran 15-3, 15-2 for his second straight World Singles crown.

### SURPRISE

There was some controversy in deciding who would represent the U.S. as the men's doubles team heading into the tournament, but after a playoff it was settled that Mike Dennison and Shane

Vanderson would be the team. Despite early years of domination, the U.S. had failed to field a World Doubles Championship team since Adam Karp and Bill Sell won their second straight in 1998. Dennison and Vanderson definitely entered the tournament as dark horses amid a field of strong contenders



Dennison and Vanderson atop the Gold Medal stand



including Canada and two-time defending champions Mexico. After getting through their preliminary rounds, the U.S. faced what most thought would be their first real test in Canada's Brian Istace and Tom O'Brian. Dennison and Vanderson passed the test with flying colors by winning in two close games, 15-14, 15-12.

Next up for the American's would be Mexico's Javier Moreno and Polo Gutierrez, who narrowly defeated the Argentinean team of Shai Manzuri and Daniel Maggi in the semifinals, 15-8, 11-15, 11-6. Whereas this was just Dennison and Vanderson's second international event, Gutierrez and Moreno had each already won a world title. Moreno had even earned a gold medal at the 2003 Pan American Games with Alvaro Beltran as his partner.

Dennison and Vanderson weren't thinking of any of this as they entered the match and squeaked out a first game win, 15-14. The Mexican's answered back in the second game with a 15-14 win of their own to force a much anticipated tiebreaker. Dennison and Vanderson knew they needed to turn it up a notch in the tiebreaker, which they did, and won 11-6.

Before his departure to Korea, Dennison spoke of the pride that he felt being able to represent the U.S. and how it was important for him and his longtime-friend, Vanderson, to make a good showing. They not only made a great showing, but gave the U.S. their first doubles championship in six years. Considering that it was unexpected made it that much sweeter.

## REVENGE

Going into the 2003 Pan American Games, Jackie Rice and Kim Russell had been riding on a wave of invincibility. Since teaming together for the 2002 World Championships they had yet to be defeated. Then, in the gold medal match, the wave came crashing down as they were narrowly



Kim Russell  
and Jackie Rice

defeated by the Mexican team of Suzy Acosta and Rosy Torres in one of the biggest upsets in the history of racquetball.

Although neither Rice nor Russell put any added emphasis on the loss or admit that they felt any need to avenge the defeat, one would have to think that they looked forward to a rematch with Mexico in the final of the individual competition. Rice and Russell cruised through their early rounds and into the final. Mexico on the other hand, had some trouble getting past Canada's Jose Grand Maitre and Jennifer Saunders. They still advanced, but needed a tiebreaker to do so.

The final was fitting as the teams split the first two games and found themselves locked up at 9-9 in the tiebreaker - the exact same position that the teams were in during the final of the Pan Am Games. Russell admitted to having a mild flashback to Santo Domingo, but quickly told herself, "No. Not this time." She was right and the Americans were able to score the final two points of the match to repeat as World Champions.

Although it was their second straight world title as a team together, it was Russell's third in a row. She partnered with Kersten Hallander to win in 2000. Rice has now captured an amazing six World Doubles titles with four different partners. Besides Russell, she has teamed up with her sister Joy MacKenzie (1998, 1996), Laura Fenton (1994), and Malia Bailey (1990).



PLAY WITH FIRE®



## CLUTCH

Rocky Carson may have been disappointed with his individual competition, where he earned a bronze medal, but none of that was evident when he took to the court in the team competition. The team competition is played different than the individual competition in that two countries face off in a best-of-three format pitting each country's No.1 singles, No.1 doubles, and No.2 singles against each other. Several times the U.S. was forced to pin their hopes of advancing on Carson's play. What made things more difficult for Carson was that after Huczek's performance in the individual competition, the other countries flip-flopped their No.1 and No.2 singles players so, in essence, Carson was forced to play the No.1 singles player from each country even though he was in the No.2 slot.

Rocky Carson



"Halfway through the second game I realized what I needed to do," Carson said. "I started executing and hitting my shots."



2004 World Championship participants and organizing committee

Again, in the team final against Canada, Carson was put into position to make or break the U.S. hopes of earning not only the men's team championship, but also the overall team championship. This time it was against Canada's Mike Green, who had been pulling double duty for Canada in both singles and doubles. Carson was full of confidence after defeating Beltran and continued to play at a high level, dispatching Green in straight games to secure the men's and overall team titles for the U.S.

The first time that the U.S. needed a win from Carson was in the semifinals against Mexico. Huczek had won his match, but Dennison and Vanderson were defeated forcing a deciding match between Carson and Beltran. Carson lost the first game and was down in the second before making a comeback to force a tiebreaker, which he also won.

Rocky wasn't the only clutch player on the U.S. squad. Rhonda Rajsich helped to clinch the women's team title against Canada with a tight tiebreaker win over Lori Jane Powell in the women's team final. The win gave the U.S. women a 2-0 win over Canada and took much of the pressure off Rice and Russell.

## 2004 XII IRF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

### INDIVIDUAL FINAL RESULTS

**Men's Singles:** Jack Huczek (USA) def. Alvaro Beltran (Mexico), 15-3, 15-2

**Men's Doubles:** Mike Dennison/Shane Vanderson (USA) def. Polo Gutierrez/Javier Moreno (Mexico), 15-8, 11-15, 11-6

**Women's Singles:** Cheryl Gudinas (USA) def. Angela Grisar (Chile), 15-3, 15-7

**Women's Doubles:** Jackie Rice/Kim Russell (USA) def. Susana Acosta/Rosy Torres (Mexico), 10-15, 15-10, 11-9

### MEN'S TEAM FINAL RESULTS

**USA DEF. CANADA, 2-1**

**No.1 Singles:** Jack Huczek (USA) def. Brian Istace (Canada)

**No.2 Singles:** Rocky Carson (USA) def. Mike Green (Canada)

**Doubles:** Mike Green/Brian Istace (Canada) def. Mike Dennison/Shane Vanderson (USA)

### WOMEN'S TEAM FINAL RESULTS

**USA DEF. CANADA, 3-0**

**No.1 Singles:** Cheryl Gudinas (USA) def. Amanda Dunn (Canada)

**No.2 Singles:** Rhonda Rajsich (USA) def. Lori-Jane Powell (Canada)

**Doubles:** Jackie Rice/Kim Russell (USA) def. Josee GrandMaitre/Jennifer Saunders (Canada)

### FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

#### OVERALL

1. United States	13. Puerto Rico	27. Ukraine	10. Japan	4. Mexico
2. Canada	14. Argentina	28. Brazil	11. Guatemala	5. Japan
3. Mexico	15. Netherlands	28. Switzerland	12. Netherlands	6. Bolivia
4. Chile	16. Vietnam		13. Germany	7. Korea
5. Bolivia	17. Germany		14. Korea	8. Puerto Rico
6. Venezuela	18. Tonga		15. Dominican Republic	9. Guatemala
7. Japan	19. Belize		16. Puerto Rico	10. Dominican Republic
8. India	20. Montserrat		17. Tonga	11. Venezuela
9. Korea	21. Peru			12. Vietnam
10. Ecuador	22. Panama			13. Ecuador
10. Guatemala	23. Belgium			14. India
12. Dominican Republic	23. France			
	25. Philippines			
	25. China			

#### MEN

- United States
- Canada
- Mexico
- Venezuela
- Argentina
- India
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Ecuador

#### WOMEN

- United States
- Canada
- Chile





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**USA Racquetball - 719-635-5396**

**or**

**Dave George, RMC Project Coordinator**

**1-888-559-0099 or [Dave@DaveattheClub](mailto:Dave@DaveattheClub)**





# What's up Cliff Part 2



## An interview with 6-time pro champion Cliff Swain

**RM:** How do you feel about the state of the IRT?

**CS:** Racquetball is my favorite sport in the world and I consider myself an extremely fortunate person to have played professional ball as long as I have, all the while being handsomely rewarded for it. However, as appreciative as I am, I have also been disappointed for a very long time. I think racquetball is a great game, and I have been expecting so much more for it for such a long time. Racquetball is rock bottom in the world of pro sports and this affects all levels of the game from juniors to women and so on. Other "sports" like poker and bowling are on TV more and now have more credibility than racquetball strictly because they are more organized and are marketed better. This, in my opinion, is one of the downfalls of our sport.

One reason I feel we lack the marketing for the aforementioned is that the events are not entertaining enough. The players' images are poor and/or not well developed. Since our images are poor, marketing is poor, and we don't sell anything other than racquets.

It is common knowledge that there's little money in racquetball regarding both money to be made and money available for the marketing/organization of the sport. The traditional line of thought has been that we need to first raise money with the promise to fix the shortcomings of the game, and then offer a good product. I feel just the opposite is necessary. I think that we the players need to first fix all that we can within our control and then we can expect more monetary rewards.

I feel that more money will be generated when we the players behave more professionally and offer a better product. Money from, for example, a major corporation would be more realistic if we first offered a better product. We'd get the backing we need because it'd be more fun and more profitable to be associated with us because they could actually make money being associated with us.



Right now, we have very little to offer to any money granting entity, because we have no reputation.

I have listed these issues here regarding your question about the state of the IRT, but I would like to reiterate that I feel the issues are first for the review of the players ourselves. There is no

blame to be placed on any one person...the process needs to be started with the players. However, until I myself have the time and the means to directly change

and/or affect the governing issues, I don't want to sound as if I'm complaining. I am not complaining. I am just disappointed that the necessary changes have not yet been made.

**RM:** Did you idolize any sports figures when you were growing up?

**CS:** Bobby Orr was my favorite and I was lucky enough to meet and play racquetball with him. He was the epitome of class and hard work. He now donates substantially each year to the Red Swain/ Foxwoods Memorial racquetball tournament.

**RM:** What top flight player did you enjoy playing the most?

**CS:** I loved playing Marty Hogan. He played hard every time and was very entertaining even to me.

**RM:** Who was the most difficult player for you to play?

**CS:** It's no secret amongst the players that I'd rather slug it out than play a boring lob and pass style. It's the players who use that style more so than a particular person. By the way, this more prevalent type of play style, due to the one serve rule, is not as entertaining to our fans.

**RM:** How many more years would you like to play the IRT?

**CS:** I have never limited myself to a set time, so I can't give you a definitive answer here. I love to compete, so I will continue to play until I can't or until I'd rather do something else. If Roger Clemens and Ray Borque can do it at 40 plus, then it can be done!

**RM:** You have played for 20 years and yet your intensity has remained at an extremely high level. What do you think of to make each match important to you?

**CS:** I'd say that pride and appreciation are my driving forces. I take great pride in showing up in shape and prepared for any type of match. I really get uncomfortable with myself when I don't do my absolute best. I don't like the thought of somebody else trying to make himself happy at my expense. These are pride issues. I don't exactly understand any other way of thinking.

I'm also very appreciative of the gifts that I have been given. To not do the very best that I can every time I go on the court would be something to be ashamed of. My family and friends are also extremely supportive of what I do. The least I can do in return is try to make them proud of me.

**RM:** Okay the score is 11-10 in the fifth and you are serving to close out your next tour win. Exactly what will you do mentally to get yourself ready for this penultimate point?

**CS:** Play it like it's just another very important point like all the others. •



## SUMMER COOLER PRO AM

Elmwood Health & Fitness • New Orleans, LA • August 26-29

The IRT season picked up right where it left off last season with some great racquetball and a Huczek/Waselenchuk final. The Summer Cooler Pro Am took place at the beautiful Elmwood Health & Fitness Center in New Orleans, August 26-29. The first event of the season can set the tone for the rest of the year. If that is the case, then players and fans alike have a lot to look forward to.

Although there were many close matches, the early rounds followed script with the top four players on tour reaching the semifinals. The first semifinal pitted No.2 Jack Huczek against No.3 Jason Mannino and featured some spectacular retrievals that left the crowd in awe. It was obvious that Huczek didn't take much time off over the summer and he looked sharp while dispatching Mannino in straight games, 11-5, 11-7, 11-3.

No.1 Kane Waselenchuk and No.4 Rocky Carson faced off in the other semifinal. The match started off close until Waselenchuk brought his game to another level at 6-5 in the first. He began hitting blistering serves that kept Carson off balance en route to an 11-6, 11-1, 11-3 victory and a chance at his third straight Summer Cooler title.

Just a few months ago Huczek and Waselenchuk faced off in Dallas to see who would end the season ranked No.1. This time they would face off to see who could get a head start in the rankings race this season. Waselenchuk out-shot Huczek in the first to take it, 11-3. Huczek took advantage of early errors by Waselenchuk in the second then held on to win, 12-10. They then traded the next two games to force a decisive fifth. The fifth game may have been the best of the match with the players battling back and forth the entire time. Waselenchuk was forced to take an injury timeout, with Huczek up 8-6, after diving into the sidewall glass. When he returned to the court there appeared to be no lingering effects as he came back to win the game, and the match, 11-9.

### FINAL

Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczek 11-3, 10-12, 11-3, 6-11, 11-9



Kane Waselenchuk

## 2004-05 International Racquetball Tour Scorecard

New Orleans Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczek 11-3, 10-12, 11-3, 6-11, 11-9

## 2004-2005 International Racquetball Tour Schedule

Sept. 9-12	Stockton, CA	Stockton Pro-Am	In-Shape Health Club
Oct. 7-10	Casper, WY	Wyoming Open	Wyoming Athletic Club
Oct. 20-24	Chicago, IL	Chicago Open*	Schaumburg Tennis Plus
Oct. 28-31	West Allis, WI	Milwaukee Open	Wisconsin Athletic Club
Nov. 17-21	Memphis, TN	Choice Hotels US OPEN*	The Racquet Club of Memphis
Jan. 14-16	Orlando, FL	Florida Open	Orlando Health & Tennis
Jan. 20-23	Syosset, NY	New York City Open	Sportime of Syosset
Feb. 24-27	San Diego, CA	San Diego Open	American Athletic Club
March 10-13	Louisville, KY	Louisville Open	University of Louisville
March 17-20	Greensboro, NC	Greensboro Open	Pyramids Athletic Club
March 31-April 3	Chesapeake, VA	Virginia Open	Chesapeake YMCA
April 21-24	Chicago, IL	Pro Nationals	Schaumburg Tennis Plus
April 28-May 1	Dallas, TX	The Players Championship*	Landmark Fitness Club

\* - denotes "Grand Slam" event

For information concerning any IRT events, contact IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete at 630-430-11RT (1478), send e-mail to negretz@mindspring.com, or go to [www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com)

## Men's International Racquetball Tour 2003-2004 Season Rankings

(as of 9/1/04)

	Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1.	3720	Jack Huczek	Rochester Hills, MI	2	3
2.	3684	Kane Waselenchuk	Edmonton, Alberta	1	2
3.	3238	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	3	1
4.	2991	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	4	8
5.	2736	Alvaro Beltran	Tijuana, Mexico	5	6
6.	2339	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	6	4
7.	2315	Derek Robinson	Denver, CO	7	9
8.	2064	Mike Green	Burlington, Ontario	8	11
9.	1890	Shane Vanderson	Berea, OH	10	19
10.	1714	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	11	15
11.	1514	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX	12	10
12.	1267	Josh Tucker	Joplin, MO	13	18
13.	1074	Dan Llacera	Rehoboth Beach, DE	14	13
14.	1023	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	15	14
15.	986	Mike Dennison	Twinsburg, OH	16	17
16.	667	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	17	7
17.	500	Mitch Williams	Raleigh, NC	19	24
18.	496	Javier Moreno	Chihuahua, Mexico	18	20
19.	485	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	24	16
20.	465	Rodrigo Urzua	Boca Raton, FL	20	153





## LPRA Ready to Kick Off New Season

With the 2004-2005 LPRA season about to get underway in Rosarito, the fight for No.1 will be up for grabs. Cheryl Gudinas is healthy once again and is prepared to defend her No.1 ranking. Christie Van Hees made a strong showing in the second half of last season and plans on challenging Gudinas for the top spot. Rhonda Rajsich won two of the biggest tournaments last year, the US OPEN and National Singles, which should give her confidence going into the new season. Kerri Wachtel was bumped two spots to No.4 last season but appears ready to make a move back up the rankings. The rest of the top eight are all contenders that can beat anyone on any given day. Look for Tammy Brown and Angela Grisar to really make their move into the top 8, and maybe even win some tournaments.

The LPRA has launched a program for the new season called "Patrons of the LPRA." Many people have approached the players looking for a way to grow the tour, and it can happen with this program. There are various sponsor levels starting with the Friend level at only \$30 and we appreciate every tax deductible contribution. In return, our friends will receive various LPRA merchandise and "perks" such as exclusive access to the "Members Only" section of the website. The contributions from generous individuals serve as a springboard for the growth of racquetball and especially women's racquetball. With your support, we will reach our goal of being one of the most highly respected professional women's sports organizations in the country.

We are proud of our accomplishments to date, but we know we have a lot of work to do. We also know that the future of racquetball is not only in our tour, but in all of the up-and-coming junior players and committed amateur players as well. Therefore, from the contributions we receive we will be giving back to these important groups. A portion of your contributions will be donated to RB4U, a grassroots effort to promote racquetball to all juniors across the world. We also will be making a donation to each state association or country, based on the contributions we receive from members of those particular areas.

In addition to this, I have hired LPRA touring pro Kerri Wachtel to use her background in public relations and marketing to gain more exposure for the LPRA. Chris Wachtel will continue to run the day-to-day operations.

We are very committed to reaching our goal of being one of the most highly respected professional women's sports organizations in the country. With your support, I know we can do it.

Claude Crocker, LPRA Commissioner

### 2004-2005 Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Tour Schedule

Sept. 10-12	Rosarito Beach, Mexico	Rosarito Racquet Club
Oct. 7-10	Gaithersburg, MD	Gaithersburg Health & Fitness
Nov. 17-21	Memphis, TN	The Racquet Club of Memphis
Dec. 2-5 (tentative)	Denver, CO	TBA
Jan. 13-17	Honolulu, HI	The Honolulu Club
Feb. 10-13 (tentative)	Atlanta, GA	Southern Athletic Club
Mar. 18-20	Nashville, TN	Downtown YMCA
Mar. 25-27 (tentative)	Miami, FL	University of Miami
April/May TBA (tentative)	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona State University

For information concerning LPRA events, contact Chris Wachtel at 513-383-0219, send e-mail to [cwachtel@ladiesproracquetball.com](mailto:cwachtel@ladiesproracquetball.com), or visit [www.LadiesProRacquetball.com](http://www.LadiesProRacquetball.com)





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**U**ndoubtedly, everyone has heard about the "Racquet for the Cure," the driving force to help with Cancer research, on an annual basis. The Legend's Tour is happy to announce an alliance in conjunction with the Colorado Racquetball Association, in helping promote another effort to help one of our young players in time of need.

On May 10th, 17-year-old Jeremy Lanosga was doing some rock climbing at the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs, when he fell about 50 feet breaking his neck and causing him to become a quadriplegic. Jeremy and his family didn't have insurance at the time and are now relying on Medicaid to cover some of the bills. At the time of this writing, there are many corrective and adaptive devices or equipment that could be very beneficial to Jeremy in the recovery process. It seems that everyone is trying to do what they can to help Jeremy and his family. Phone calls have been made from players Sudsy Monchik, Jason Mannino, and even Legend, Marty Hogan. There have been many events and activities to try and help with the expenses that the family will incur.

Of those events and financial donations, none may be as selfless as the one you are about to discover. Former touring pro and striving Legend's rookie, Woody Clouse of Denver, Colo., has come up with a plan.

"I am going to donate 50 cents for every point I win at every tournament I play in" said Clouse. "I am asking people from the racquetball

community to match my donation or donate 50 cents a point for every point they win in any given tournament they choose".

With Woody's plan, players are welcomed and challenged to match his efforts in any individual tournament or for the entire season. All money raised will be directly donated into a special fund directed by the Lanosga family. Now, 50 cents may not seem like a lot of money at first, but let's look at the breakdown of this plan.

If a player wins a tournament that has four rounds in it with matches being played to 15, you would score 120 points, if there were no tie-breakers played. This would mean that a donation of \$60.00 would be made to Jeremy's fund.

If there were twenty people to match the contributions at each event played for the season, the contributions per event would be around \$1,200.00 per event. This does not include the donations that people could make independently, regardless of the results.

When asked for the vision for the plan, it was very simple according to Clouse.

"Really, it is the gift of being able to play this game that allows me to dedicate the rest of my playing career to the recovery of Jeremy Lanosga", said Clouse. "Jeremy is one of the most inspiring, down to earth, good guys racquetball has ever had walk on a court. I am hoping that with the blessings of the Legend's Tour, the

Colorado Racquetball Association, and whoever else wants to join in my efforts, we can try and minimize the costs that the family may incur until he can get back on his feet".

"The two greatest moments I've experienced in my racquetball career have actually happened off the court", said Clouse. "The first time, was when Cliff Swain and I were in Hawaii playing in a charity event to benefit the Hawaiian Hospice groups. We had taken a trip to visit one of the hospice groups and the people who were 'staying there' to get a better feel of what hospice was all about. The second time was during the inaugural US OPEN when Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain, and myself went to visit The Children's Hospital to again see what the bigger picture really was at the US OPEN. The experience left me humbled and honored that my presence was actually making a difference with something so much larger than the sport we all were being allowed to enjoy".

So as we all struggle with a referee or a bad bounce or a shot that cracks out at the worst time, keep in mind we are lucky to have the things we have and to never take advantage of the things we might take for granted. There is a young man who loves this game and longs to be on his feet playing this great sport again. Let's all band together and see if we can get him back on the court. If you would like to take Woody up on his offer or match his donations, you can contact him at [woody\\_clouse@hotmail.com](mailto:woody_clouse@hotmail.com).

## 2004 - 2005 LEGENDS TOUR SCHEDULE

October 22-24	Coral Springs, Florida	February 10-13	Honolulu, Hawaii (Tentative)
November 11-14	Sarasota, Florida	February 17-23	Salt Lake City, Utah
November 18-21	US OPEN - Memphis, Tennessee	March TBA	Salem, Oregon
January 20-23	Legends Doubles Event - Denver, Colorado	April 1-3	Boston, Massachusetts
January 27-30	Dallas, Texas	April/May	Phoenix, Arizona (Tentative)
February 3-6	Coral Springs, Florida	May 12-15	St. Louis, Missouri (Legends National Championships)

\*Tentative cities include: Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C.

For information concerning any Legends Tour events, contact Legends Tour Commissioner Brian Pointelin at [BPointelin@aol.com](mailto:BPointelin@aol.com) or go to [www.LegendsRBTour.com](http://www.LegendsRBTour.com)



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# 2004 WOR EKTOLON OUTDOOR NATIONALS

ARTICLE & PHOTOS  
BY SUZANNE GALE



Blazing heat; Shadows shifting on the court; wind; glare from the sun - and did I mention the heat? High sloping side

walls that end mid-court, with no back wall to keep a poorly hit ball in the court or to save you from the pass. Diving for the ball hurts and carries the risk of embedding gravel and dirt into freshly opened scrapes, but be prepared for your opponent to throw their body on the concrete to make a shot when you think the rally is over. This is the world of outdoor racquetball and Brian Hawkes is the undisputed king of the concrete and still the man to beat. He has dominated this sport to the tune of 19 national titles, while losing to only three men in well over 20 years. Tony Jelso and Dave Bohnert have defeated him; recently Rocky Carson added his name to that list, taking down Hawkes in a huge upset to win his first Outdoor National title in 2002. Carson's only the second top-ranked indoor pro to win Outdoor Nationals since Marty Hogan did it in 1984. (I need to check this date. SG).

Indoor players can have a difficult time adjusting to the outdoor game. Everything you have learned to become a top indoor player doesn't mean a whole lot outside - shots which are truly horrible on an indoor court are great outdoors. High defensive lobs that kiss the back line, forcing your opponent to either short-hop or shoot the ball from way off the court would be an easy setup on an indoor court. And that miss hit

pinch your opponent left up about three-feet high for the down the line kill is actually going to spin out the door, just past the gap where the side wall ends. And unless you can move like Greg Solis, you won't be getting to it.

Carson has gotten past the stigma of being an indoor pro to become one of the most feared players in the draw. His loss to Dave Genevay in the 2003 semifinal put him in the same half of the draw as Hawkes, which set up a highly anticipated semifinal. On the other side of the draw, Genevay and



Solis were expected to live up their seeding and meet in the other semifinal. The top four seeds moved through the quarter's easily, with the exception of Solis, who faced tough battles right from his very first match against Robert Sostre. Solis defeated Sostre in a tiebreaker (see The Iceman Cometh), then went on to narrowly defeat Gary Martin 15-14, 15-14 in the quarter's before having to default his semifinal match against Genevay after losing the first game 15-14.

"I probably would have kept going in the singles if I had won the first game, but I didn't win that game," Solis said after the match. "My shoulder wouldn't have enough left to really compete in the finals,

so I decided to default and save it all for the Pro Doubles final". This gave Genevay his second consecutive trip to the finals, where he would face the winner of Hawkes versus Carson.

Both Hawkes and Carson looked untouchable all weekend long and a huge crowd had gathered outside of the court to see the battle go down. Going into the match talk centered on how Hawkes had looked unstoppable in his quest for his 20th National Outdoor crown. Carson apparently didn't get that message, and came out firing right from the first point. They battled back and forth, but Carson clearly had the edge in the first game, even though the score was tight, 15-14. Hawkes turned on his serve and raised his level of play to take the second game 15-12, giving the crowd the tiebreaker they were waiting for. The tiebreaker seemed anticlimactic after the excitement of the first two games. It was all Carson, as he quickly got out to a 9-3 lead. Hawkes played hard to stay in the match, but Carson's game was too strong and he closed it out, 11-6.

## THE FINAL

The final was a rematch of the 2003 semifinal, which saw Genevay emerge victorious. The match was played on one of the middle courts, while the adjoining courts were cordoned off for television filming. The exciting doubles final, in which Craig Lane and Greg Solis defeated Gary Martin and Greg Freeze in a fiery tiebreaker, still had the crowd pumped up as the singles final got underway.



Carson started off the final much like he did his semifinal against Hawkes. He took an early lead, but Genevay steadily chipped it away. Carson seemed out of sorts and frustrated that he wasn't putting his shots away. This was highlighted after he drilled a ball out over the crowd only to have it ricochet off a post and coming flying back down. No one seemed too surprised that Genevay took the lead and the first game, 15-14. Rocky pulled his head together for the second game, drilling passes at Genevay's weaker backhand side. It wasn't too long before Carson put away the second game 15-5. The tiebreaker began with the momentum solidly in Carson's favor. He looked like a man who was ready to win another National title, which he did by finishing Genevay off 11-6.



## WOR 2004-2005 SEASON RANKINGS (through 8/17/2004)

### MEN'S PRO SINGLES

	Name	Points
1.	Rocky Carson	600
2.	Dave Genevay	475
3t.	Brian Hawkes	390
3t.	Greg Solis	390
5t.	Tim McGuire	275
5t.	Greg Freeze	275
5t.	Gary Martin	275

5t.	Jesus Ocana	275
9t.	Mike Behar	150
9t.	Mark Naylor	150

### MEN'S PRO DOUBLES

	Name	Points
1.	Gary Martin	750
2.	Greg Solis	700

3.	Craig Lane	600
4t.	Greg Freeze	550
4t.	Kevin Booth	550
6.	Rob Hoff	515
7.	Jesus Ocana	450
8t.	Gabe Medina	440
8t.	Mike Beltran	440
10.	Mark Naylor	400

## THE ICEMAN COMETH



In the early part of the weekend, there was a lot of talk surrounding this mystery man from New York. Rumor had it that he had never played outdoor racquetball before and yet he was entered in the pro draw. No one knew what to expect, but Greg Solis quickly learned what everyone in the Northeast already knows - put a racquet in the Iceman's hand and he will be a

contender regardless of the sport. Robert "Iceman" Sostre is a 6-time National One Wall Paddleball champion and also a National Handball champion. He is a low Open level indoor racquetball player and quickly established himself as a serious competitor on the outdoor courts of California. Sostre made it through to the round of 16 when his first round opponent didn't show up. There, in his first outdoor racquetball match, he was pitted against Greg Solis, perennial semifinalist and one of the toughest players in the draw.

The crowd gathered around the court, expecting to see Solis give Sostre a lesson on his home courts. Instead, Solis found himself down a game and in a very real battle to make it through to the quarterfinal round against a guy who had never played on his courts. The Iceman adjusted in a heartbeat, delivering a hard, fast drive Z serve to both sides of the court, hitting inches from the line before spinning off beyond even Solis' reach. Solis was diving off the court trying to get a racquet on the ball, but was aced several times in the first game. Sostre continued his level of play to take the first game against a frustrated Solis, 15-10. Despite the first game loss, Solis wasn't ready to exit the tournament just yet. He won a close second game, 15-12, and then cruised in the tiebreaker, 11-4. Despite the loss, the Iceman announced his arrival onto the outdoor scene. Anyone drawing his name this coming season now knows what the Northeasterners know - when you see Robert Sostre's name in the draw of any tournament, be it handball, paddleball, indoor or outdoor racquetball - you had better come prepared to play.



# 2004 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY DOUG GANIM



Well it's hard to believe but it is already time for the 2004 Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships, scheduled for November 17-21 in Memphis, TN. This year's event promises to be the best ever with a certain record turnout of both players and spectators. The purpose of this special Racquetball Magazine Preview Section is to give you an idea of what to expect at this year's tourney, whether you plan to attend or are forced to follow the action from home.

**AMATEUR DRAWS:** The draw will be cut off at 750 players. At the time of this writing there are only about 350 spots left so if you want to attend make your move now. The amateur matches will be played primarily at Six50 TotalClub (formerly Wimbledon), Ridway Baptist Rec. Center, and The University of Memphis. No consolation divisions will be offered due to the huge draw and lack of available court time. I strongly recommend that all players enter two divisions (three if one of them is doubles) to get a full week of racquetball in. The competition should be excellent in all of the 70+ divisions offered as we have competitors from all over the world entered into the tournament. The top four finishers in each division will receive oversized US OPEN medals that weigh about 1 lb. each!

**PRO MATCH TICKETS:** There is no better place in the world to watch pro racquetball than at the Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships. First of all, every top player in the world on the IRT, the LPRA, and the LEGEND's Tour will be in Memphis. For the true racquetball enthusiast this means incredible matches to watch right from the round of 64. Second, ALL pro match courts are professionally wired for sound so spectators can hear every grunt, groan, and under-the-breath comment throughout every match of the tournament. The ball sounds like a missile being shot off so be sure to bring your earplugs if you have

sensitive "flappers". Third, all feature matches take place on the breathtaking made-for-TV portable stadium racquetball court. This engineering marvel has two walls made of crystal clear Lucite acrylic that is not only optically correct (no tinting, blurring, or bending of light) but is beautiful to behold. All the Lucite material is butted up against each other with Lucite "fins" providing the support. Even the "L" brackets are made of Lucite so the result is a seamless visual experience that makes you feel like you right in the court with the players. The stadium seats about 1,000 fans and ticket sales have been hot. At the time of this writing we have sold 65% of ticket inventory for the week with the semi's and finals sessions closer to 85%. Even if you cannot participate in the Choice Hotels US OPEN for the entire week I suggest you take the weekend off and come in to town for the parties and outstanding marquee pro matches. Call the Choice Hotels US OPEN now at (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to order your tickets NOW!

**PARTIES, PARTIES, AND MORE PARTIES:** One of the things the Choice Hotels US OPEN is best known for is the evening social functions. For those planning to attend you can expect more of the same this year starting with the "free admission" Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude on Tuesday evening, the all new "Players Gathering" at the Fox and Hound on Thursday evening, the



Players Dance Party in the Pub on Friday evening and the largest bash of the year-the Saturday evening Grand Gala -THE PARTY WITH THE PRO's. Other activities include a special Wednesday evening International Reception for all of our "out of the country" guests and a weeklong Industry Trade Show in the Player's Hospitality Village featuring all the top racquetball manufactures displaying the latest and greatest gear available in the sport. Look for returning special events this year including the IRT Champions Clinic and the IRT/LPRA Super Skills Challenge sponsored by The Legend's Tour!

**CAN'T MAKE IT TO MEMPHIS!:** If you can't play in this year's tournament or even come in for the weekend to watch the featured matches and do some partying, then the last resort is to follow the action from home. To help make this easier for you we will transform our website —

[www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com)— into a computer "window" for you to look in on the action at the tournament. Plans include offering frequent amateur division results posting, up to the minute pro match results, digital photography from throughout the event, streaming video of select pro matches, and web-radio voice interviews with top pro's as well as play-by-play voice streaming of the quarters, semi's, and finals. Special thanks to our computer guru and webmaster Willie Tilton for spearheading this ambitious project for the Choice Hotels US OPEN.

**THE PRO'S!:** As always, the focal point of the Choice Hotels US OPEN are the pro players and the incredible entertainment they provide as each player quests for the coveted US OPEN title. Anyone on tour will tell you that at the US OPEN, intensity is at it's highest so every match sees both players at 120% effort. The following pages provide some detailed insights about which players to keep your eye on at this year's Choice Hotels US OPEN.

## TIPS FOR ATTENDING THE 2004 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN

**Tip #1: ENTER EARLY!** The event has completely sold out each of the last three years. At 750 entries we cap the draw and last year we had to turn away nearly 50 people. Don't get shut out. Send in your entry today.

**Tip #2: ORDER TICKETS NOW!** You must have a ticket to view any of the pro matches. Although the Stadium Court seats over 1,000, the event is a sell-out from the quarters on. No-shows can free up some session tickets "at the door" but it's risky to wait. By far, the best deal is to purchase the ticket package (\$79) for unlimited viewing for all pro matches for the entire week — this guarantees you a seat - but ticket packages are sold only in advance!

**Tip #3: ENTER TWO EVENTS.** Court time restrictions (and the large draw) do not allow us to offer consolation divisions, so we strongly recommend that you enter two divisions so that you are guaranteed at least two matches. Although players are limited to just two divisions there are a couple of exceptions. First, if you would like to play "up" into the Men's or Women's Pro draw (perhaps just for the experience?) you can still play in two amateur divisions, for a total of three events. Second, if at least one of your divisions are doubles, you can play in any third event you choose. For these two exceptions only, a third event is permitted.

**Tip #4: STAY AT THE HOST HOTELS.** The official host hotels are the Comfort Inn & Suites and the Sleep Inn. By staying at the main host hotels you'll have the convenience of the complimentary shuttle (running every half hour from the hotels to The Racquet Club and back) and receive special rates. These hotels will fill up VERY fast so call to book your room immediately. For a complete list of hotels in the area offering special US OPEN room blocks and rates visit [www.ChoiceHotelsUSOPEN.com](http://www.ChoiceHotelsUSOPEN.com) and click on "Hotels".

**Tip #5: BRING NICE CLOTHES AND YOUR DANCING SHOES!** One of the really fun parts of attending the US OPEN is experiencing the many evening social activities offered, especially the Grand Gala - The Party with the Pro's. Racquetball or casual attire is not allowed at this bash so "Dress to Impress" will be the rule!

**Tip #6: LAST FLIGHT OUT ON SUNDAY.** Make sure you book the very latest flight you can get home on Sunday. The Men's Pro final is the last match of the tournament and you won't want to miss it. A packed house, booming music, laser light show introductions and the television camera's make this an experience like no other in the sport. The match usually ends around 3:30 pm so any evening flight will do. Can't get a late flight out? Consider going home Monday morning. It will be worth it!

Keep these tips in mind when making plans to attend the 2004 Choice Hotels US OPEN and you will have the inside track. Lastly, if you really want to experience everything the event has to offer and you have a few bucks laying around earmarked for "gifts for myself" here are a couple ideas to treat yourself to the ultimate VIP weekend.

**PRO-AM DOUBLES FOR ST. JUDE:** On the Tuesday evening before the U.S. OPEN begins, a special fundraiser is held for the event's designated charity - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Have you ever dreamed of playing doubles with one of the best pro players in the world as YOUR partner? Well, here's your chance. For a \$250 donation to St. Jude you'll be one of 32 lucky amateurs to be paired with top ranked men and women professionals to compete in a single elimination draw. The evening will be fully catered and each amateur player will receive an autographed racquet from their pro partner. This popular event has sold out each of the last six years, so call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to request a Pro-Am Doubles Entry. The first 32 paid entrants will get the spots.

**GOLD LUXURY BOX SEATING.** If you really want to go first class, consider purchasing a four-person, courtside GOLD Luxury Box. Most are already reserved for event sponsors, but a very limited number are available for individual purchase. The cost is \$2,400 for the week and includes 4 GOLD All-Access credentials, a four-person stadium courtside Luxury Box with your name it (table service included), and unlimited access throughout the week to the fully catered PRO/GOLD lounge (only top 16 ranked pro's, event sponsors, and VIP's allowed). If you are interested, please call (614) 890-6073 to check Luxury Box availability for the 2004 U.S. OPEN.



# THE CHRONICLES OF KANE

By ERIC MULLER

"The King is Dead, Long Live the King!"

- Roddy McDowall as Caesar in "Conquest of the Planet of the Apes", 1972

If you hear a lot of screaming at the Choice Hotels US OPEN this year in Memphis, it won't be the late, great Fay Wray; rather it will be the rest of the IRT pros attempting to squirm out of the crushing grip of King Kane Waselenchuk, a 2:1 favorite and my pick to win it all at the 2004 US OPEN.

At last year's OPEN, Kane ascended to the throne with a lethal combination of raw power, preternatural reflexes, desire and maturity. Beyond winning his first Choice Hotels US OPEN crown, Kane ushered in a new era in professional racquetball, and the question we must ask is whether anyone has what it takes to topple him. Yes, there are many talented competitors on the IRT and certainly nobody can remember a time when the year-end title came down to the final match in the final tournament between the #1 and #2 ranked players. However, Kane set the tone for the rest of the season with his win in Memphis, and he ultimately finished the year as the #1 player in the world despite missing a good chunk of the season due to injuries. As much as I'd like to see a battle royal again this season, all of the fracas may be for #2 if Kane stays healthy.

Something tells me that the other guys on tour may not share my enthusiasm for Kane's prospects of becoming the first back-to-back men's champion at the OPEN. Here are the players with the best chance of disrupting Kane's plans:

**JACK HUCZEK (4:1 ODDS)** - With his own designs on destiny, nobody has a bigger incentive to crack the code on Kane than Jack Huczek. In the highest quality match of the 2003 US OPEN, Kane prevailed over Huczek in the semi's with bigger serves and better shots at critical moments. For Jack to come out on top this year, he'll have to move outside of his counter-puncher comfort zone and take the game right to Kane. No guts, no glory! With more aggressive play combined with his superb retrieving, Jack might be able to create incremental offensive opportunities and gain the upper hand. Regardless of the outcome, you can rely on Jack to work hard and compete well if he plays Kane in this year's final. Nonetheless, he is not a lock to reach the finals, particularly if he faces Mannino in the semi's.

**JASON MANNINO (3:1 ODDS)** - The 2003 US OPEN was a disappointment for Mannino, as he fell in the quarterfinals, a victim to the best performance of Derek Robinson's career. As a result, Mannino

relinquished the #1 ranking, and even a heroic late season surge left him just a few rounds shy of repeating as the year-end champ. With a nose for smelling opportunities and the goods to capitalize on them, Mannino recognizes that a win in Memphis this year may bring him enough ranking points to recapture the #1 position at a critical juncture in the season. As lightning rarely strikes twice, look for Mannino to successfully advance past the quarter's this time around and face off against Huczek in the semi's. In this battle of the IRT's two best strategists, I give a slight edge to Mannino. Should he face Kane in the finals, Mannino can prevail with the same game plan he used to defeat Cliff Swain in the championship round of the 1999 US OPEN - essentially disrupt Kane's rhythm, "fight the fire" when Kane gets hot and smother any open ball in the front court.

**ROCKY CARSON (8:1 ODDS)** - Carson's rocky track record at the US OPEN, including a disappointing loss to Sudsy Monchik in 2003, belies the steady improvement in his quality of play and overall performance during the past few seasons. A win in Memphis would move Carson solidly into the top 3 for the first time in his career and distinguish him from the pack as a player with a legitimate shot at #1. The good news for Carson is that if he reaches the finals as the #4 seed, he will feel comfortable taking on either #2 Huczek or #3 Mannino for the US OPEN crown. The bad news is that he has struggled with #1 Kane, his likely semifinal opponent. In addition, while I expect to see him in the semi's, he may face a tough quarterfinal match against probable #5 seed Alvaro Beltran.

**ALVARO BELTRAN (12:1 ODDS)** - Beltran's best US OPEN performance came in 2000 where he was stopped by Swain in the semi's. While Beltran has been a steady top 5-8 player for several seasons now, he has yet to demonstrate the consistency required against the top 4 to be a real threat for #1. Much like Carson, Beltran would supercharge his career with a US OPEN crown. Beltran should be pleased with a #5 seeding (and potential matches with Rocky and Kane) given that he appears to be more at ease with the blasters than the thinkers (e.g. Mannino, Huczek).

**MIKE GREEN (25:1 ODDS)** - Green turned, well, green under the bright lights of the portable court in his 2003 quarterfinal loss to Huczek. This year, a more seasoned Green will be better prepared to handle the big moments on center stage. Green is likely to be money thru the quarters once again this year, but he'll need everything he's got to advance to the semi's or finals.

**SHANE VANDERSON (20:1 ODDS)** - Vandy had a dandy of a US OPEN in 2003 with a huge win over Cliff Swain in the 16's and an ultimate appearance in the semi's (where he lost to a more experienced Derek Robinson). Last year's performance proved that





while Vanderson has not moved up the hucks as quickly as his contemporaries Kane and Huczek, he nonetheless has the goods to be a top 4 player in the very near future. Playing the entire 2003-2004 IRT season and competing for the U.S. National Team is bringing greater maturity to Vanderson's game, so expect to see more of him in the quarters and semis this year. While still not a favorite, it would not come as a complete shock to see Vanderson put himself in contention for the US OPEN title this year.

**CLIFF SWAIN (12:1 ODDS)** - Despite his early departure last year, two time US OPEN champ Swain should not be underestimated. It would not surprise me in the least to see him make a Sampras-like run at the title this year. If he can survive the early rounds, Swain is just the man to wreak havoc against the top 4 seeds. The word on the street is that he has been secretly training over the summer to the tune of 4 hours per day with Mike Boyle, the legendary speed and strength coach known for his work with the Boston Bruins.. The US OPEN is his favorite stage so look for all the stops to be pulled out in Memphis.

**DEREK ROBINSON (15:1 ODDS)** - Robinson's spectacular run to the 2003 US OPEN finals was an inspiration to the over 30 crowd. While I think his performance of last year will be difficult to replicate, Robinson has built a national following with his clinic series, so the crowd will be with him every splat of the way.

**CHRIS CROWTHER (100:1 ODDS)** - While not a full-timer on the IRT anymore, the Crippler deserves honorable mention for his impressive quarter final appearance in 2003. If Crowther can be lured away from the paddleball courts this year, he has a chance to repeat his performance with the right draw.

**SUDSY MONCHIK (WILD CARD)** - just when you thought it was safe to enter the qualifying.... Given his announced retirement from professional racquetball, Sudsy is unlikely to compete in Memphis. However, if he does play, Sudsy would be a truly lousy early round draw for any top player. Nonetheless, time stands still for no man (except for Ruben Gonzales) and I would expect most of the top players to take advantage of his ring rust. Nonetheless, I would never underestimate the power of the Suds in Memphis, especially in an even numbered year.



IRT	Line	Performance Factors/Burning Questions?	'03	'02	'01	'00	'99	'98	'97	'96
KANE WASELENCHUK	3-1	Is everybody else just playing for second?	1st	Semis	Qtrs	Qtrs	-	-	-	-
CLIFF SWAIN	12-1	At 38, does he have one more in him?	16s	2nd	1st	2nd	2nd	2nd	1st	Semis
JASON MANNINO	3-1	Effort will not be an issue. Could be time for #2!	Qtrs	Qtrs	Semis	32s	1st	16s	Qtrs	16s
SHANE VANDERSON	20-1	Semi's in 2003 but is he ready to win it all?	Semis	32s	64s	-	64s	16s	-	64s
JACK HUCZEK	4-1	Not if, but when, will he win his 1st US OPEN?	Semis	Semis	16s	16s	32s	-	-	-
ALVARO BELTRAN	12-1	Does he have the fitness for back-to-back upsets?	16s	Qtrs	Qtrs	Semis	64s	-	-	-
ROCKY CARSON	8-1	Has yet to do really well at US OPEN. Is he due?	16s	Qtrs	Qtrs	Qtrs	Qtrs	16s	-	32s
DEREK ROBINSON	15-1	Cinderella finalist in 2003. More magic?	2nd	16s	16s	Qtrs	16s	Qtrs	16s	64s
MIKE GREEN	25-1	Must turn it up a notch for the biggest event	Qtrs	16s	32s	32s	-	-	-	-
CHRIS CROWTHER	100-1	Quarter's in 2003. Dangerous in 2004?	Qtrs	32s	16s	-	32s	-	-	-
SUDSY MONCHIK	???	Retired, but in the draw. What form will he be in?	Qtrs	1st	-	1st	Semis	1st	2nd	1st





# LPRA

## By Toon Boss

Welcome to one of the more anticipated seasons on the women's tour in years. Why? Because the title race could be more than just a one-horse race. The reemergence of former tour powerhouse Christie Van Hees has sent shudders through the rest of the tour regulars.

The tour veterans should have two tournaments under their belt by the time the 2004 US OPEN comes around. The tour's 2nd, 3rd, and 4th ranked players are only separated by 30 points at the season's start, so the positioning may depend on results in the first two season events. Here's a preview of some of the tour's top players:

**#1 Cheryl Gudinas:** By all accounts, Cheryl once again dominated the LPRA tour in '03-'04; winning six of the nine events while only losing four times all season. It almost isn't fair to not consider Cheryl the favorite to take home her second US OPEN crown. However, her rivals are nipping at her heels, they play tough in the big events and none is bigger than the US OPEN. Despite being the four-time defending

tour champ, she may be considered an underdog once she makes the finals. Odds 3-1.

**#2 Christie Van Hees:** After not playing the tour for several years, Christie made a big splash at the 2003 US OPEN by taking out #1 Cheryl Gudinas in a thrilling match (13-11 in the fifth) in the semi's before losing in the final. Christie finished off the year by making four straight finals - winning the final two tournaments. She finished the season 2-3 against her rival Gudinas, 3-1 against #3 Rhonda and 3-0 against #4 Wachtel. However, she's never been ranked #1, and that could be her goal in the '04-'05 season. She can take a large step towards that goal by winning her second US OPEN crown. Odds 3-2.

**#3: Rhonda Rajsich:** Rhonda achieved her highest ranking yet on tour by the end of the '03-'04 season, buffeted by her first US OPEN crown. It took her until the last event of the season to again reach the finals, where she couldn't repeat her Memphis feat and lost to a streaking Van Hees in Phoenix. However, she redeemed herself by getting a thrilling 11-10 tiebreaker win over #1 Gudinas at National Singles in May. Rhonda split her season series with Gudinas and Wachtel, but lost to Christie no less than three times in pro events. She'll have to summon her Memphis magic to take out Van Hees in a potential semifinal match-up. Odds 4-1.

**#4 Kerri Wachtel:** Kerri's been pushed back to #4 after two seasons ranked in the top three on tour. She also got shut out of the win column for the season, losing the first three finals of the year to #1 Gudinas and then never again making it that far. For the season, she split her season series with closest rivals Rajsich and Walsh, but never beat Christie or Cheryl. Has her time peaked? Or can she regain the form that she rode to a US OPEN crown in 2001? She'll be challenged to make the



LPRA	Line	Performance Factors/Burning Questions?	'03	'02	'01	'00	'99	'98	'97	'96
CHERYL GUDINAS	3-1	The best player, but has only one US OPEN title!	Semis	1st	Semis	Semis	Semis	Qtrs	Semis	2d
KERRI WACHTEL	5-1	Champ in 2001! Will the magic return?	Qtrs	Semis	1st	32s	-	-	-	32s
RHONDA RAJSICH	4-1	Defending champ! Could be tough to repeat.	1st	Qtrs	16s	2nd	-	-	-	-
TAMMY BROWN	7-1	Would be the win of her career. You never know!	Qtrs	32s	-	-	-	-	32s	16s
KRISTEN WALSH	8-1	Most believe her time will come. 2004?	Semis	16s	16s	16s	-	32s	-	-
ADRIENNE FISHER	10-1	Has the power game to beat everyone. Maturity?	32s	Qtrs	-	32s	-	-	-	-
KIM RUSSELL	10-1	Bride-to-be could be Cinderella story in 2004!	32s	Qtrs	Qtrs	-	-	-	-	-
JACKIE RICE	5-1	Past her prime but experience will help at big event.	-	2nd	2nd	Semis	1st	1st	2nd	Semis
CHRISTIE VAN HEES	2-1	Play's well in Memphis and gunning for #1 ranking!	2nd	-	-	1st	2nd	2nd	16s	32s



semi's in this deep field, especially given her additional tour duties this season. Odds: 5-1.

## THE REST OF THE FIELD

**#5 Kristen Walsh:** Kristen may have risen to her highest ranking yet, but a huge gap still remains between her and the top 3 players on tour. She went winless against the triumvirate of Cheryl/Christie/Rhonda for the year and did not make a final. Kristen has been an early upset victim in the past, and making the semi's of the US OPEN would be a great achievement. Odds: 8-1.

**#7 Adrienne Fisher:** Adrienne showed flashes of brilliance, with wins over both Van Hees and Rajsich, but also showed her inexperience with early round losses at the hands of Gellman, McKinney and Morton. Adrienne needs confidence and a decent draw to have a chance at the semi's. Odds: 10-1.

**#8 Tammy Brown:** I'd be surprised if, by publication time, Tammy isn't ranked higher than #8 if she's playing full time. Tammy earned some good wins in '03-'04, defeating Gudinas, Rice and Walsh on her way to two semifinal and two quarterfinal appearances in five events played. She's got a great power game that can give players fits, and nobody wants to see her in their quarter of the draw. Odds 7-1.

## DARK HORSES

**#10 Jackie Rice:** Jackie skipped six of the nine LPRA events last season, but had quality wins (over Rajsich and Wachtel) when she did show up. Always a dangerous opponent, there's no reason to think she won't challenge for the semi's if she enters. Odds 5-1.

**#12 Kim Russell:** after starting the season strongly (two semifinal appearances in her first two LPRA events last season), Kim got a very unfortunate draw (facing Van Hees in the round of 32) in last year's event. This seemed to side-track Kim's season, and she only played one pro event afterward. Despite this, she has quality wins (over Rhonda and Jackie) and can play anyone tough. She could make a top seed's round of 16 very unhappy. Odds 10-1.

**PREDICTIONS:** I'm predicting very predictable semifinals, with the top four players all surviving various challenges from dark horses and up-and-comers. Gudinas takes out Wachtel once again in one semifinal, and Van Hees wins a tight match over Rhonda in the other. Final: Van Hees dominates Gudinas for her 2nd US OPEN Crown.

See you in Memphis! Boss

# LEGEND'S TOUR AGING LIKE FINE WINE

By BRIAN POINTELIN

As we are in our third full season and my first as the Legend's Tour Commissioner, I am pleased to have the 2004 Choice Hotels US OPEN on our schedule. For those of you that are unfamiliar with the Legend's Tour, we are offering a competitive circuit for some of the greatest players to ever play the game of racquetball. Most of these players and events are for the "old-timers" who are in the 45+ Age category. The names are synonymous with racquetball, players like Ruben Gonzalez, Marty Hogan, Dave Peck, and Dave Fleetwood. Most events are by invitation only, including this year's US OPEN. The Legend's Tour would like you to sit back, relax, and enjoy as our players will take you back to a time when racquetball was pure, and the competition was fierce. You will see that although our players are aging, they're aging like fine wine. We sincerely hope that you enjoy the matches and your experience in Memphis.

**Ruben Gonzalez, "Rubes", The Defending US OPEN Champion:** Ruben is the only player within this Legend's group that has never stopped playing competitive racquetball since his days on the pro tour. Ruben is the 2003 US OPEN Champion, and also the 2004 Legends National Champion. He still plays numerous events every season including all the Legend's events, and other select tourney's such as the U.S. National Singles and Doubles Championships. The most amazing thing about Rubes is that he is 52 years old! There is no question that Ruben Gonzalez is one of the greatest natural athletes to have ever played ANY sport. His energy and strategy are still awesome to watch with incredible gets and rally ending kills that will make your jaw drop. Look for him to reach the finals for a potential "war" against Marty Hogan in a re-match from last year. Odds: 2-1

**Marty "Smokin" Hogan, The King:** Marty Hogan is the 2002 and 2003 Legends National Champion, and also a US OPEN finalist in 2002 and 2003. To say that Marty can still play is an understatement. Marty is still considered by many to be the greatest player to have ever played the game. He captured the season end #1 ranking in six different years and during his prime "reign of terror" on the pro tour he captured nearly 70% of the events each season. He



was the first player to introduce true power to the sport and was a superstar athlete that helped raise the popularity of racquetball. Marty is still very competitive in squash, paddleball and racquetball as he continues to play full-time on the Legend's Tour. Entertaining to the fans, they will still see that he hasn't lost his touch or his phenomenal backhand. Marty is constantly reminding his fans why it was as good as it was back in the day as he hits it every chance he gets. Hogan will have his hands full with the older, but crafty, Ruben Gonzalez; Dave "The Bulldog" Peck; and also hometown favorite, Dave Fleetwood. Hogan still hates to lose and will be trying to make his fans happy as he tries to win the US OPEN for the first time. Odds: 4-1

**Dave Peck, The Bulldog;** Dave Peck has also played a fair amount of competitive amateur age-division ball since retiring from the pro tour and with quite a bit of success. Dave remains one of the original players on the Legend's Tour; now in its third year. Although his mobility has become a problem over the last few years, his legendary forehand is still automatic, even at this stage of his career. Despite the lack of court time lately, his ferocious competitive drive that made him a champion is still present. Dave has been referred to as the "John McEnroe" of the Legend's Tour and the original "Bruiser" from back in the day. Dave placed third at the Legends National Championships and has been a semifinalist at the US OPEN for the past two years. One of the great guys on the Legend's Tour, Dave is sure to entertain this year in Memphis, but a third place finish may be his best finish with this tough field of players. Odds: 8-1

**Dave Fleetwood, The Hometown Boy;** Dave is a former top 5 player on the pro tour. He played during the late 70's and early 80's while defeating the best players in the game, including Mike Yellen, Charlie Brumfield, Dave Peck, Davey Bledsoe, and Jerry Hilecher. After turning pro in 1977, following an Intercollegiate National title, Dave was voted as the IPRO Rookie of the Year. After playing the Catalina Tour for the first half of its inaugural year, Dave took a temporary vacation until 1987 when he came back to the courts; teaming with Brian Sheldon to finish second at National Doubles in the 30+ Age Group. Dave currently lives in Memphis with his wife Susan and kids Rachel (15), and Grayson (13) where he is in the Advertising business.

*On behalf of the Legend's Tour, the Executive Director, the Board of the Legend's Tour, the sponsors, and all the players, I look forward to seeing everyone in Memphis and contributing once again to a very wonderful charity - St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Have fun enjoying the stroll down memory lane with the Legend's, enjoy the new young stars from the other tours, and remember to have fun this week in Memphis.*

LEGENDS	Line	Performance Factors/Burning Questions?	'03	'02
MARTY HOGAN	4-1	Has that backhand and the confidence to go with it!	2nd	2nd
RUBEN GONZALEZ	2-1	The "Freak of Nature" will be diving everywhere	1st	-
DAVE PECK	10-1	Can't move, but don't hit the ball to him.	Semis	Semis
DAVE FLEETWOOD	100-1	Local favorite but could be rusty!	-	-



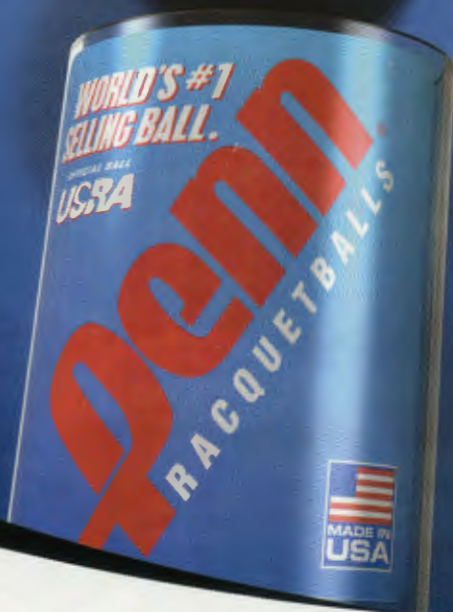


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# SAY IT AIN'T SO

One of the greatest players to ever step onto a racquetball court has decided to leave. In a statement released just prior to deadline, fan favorite Sudsy Monchik announced his retirement. He will no doubt be missed by players and fans alike and many will be left wondering why he left when he dominated for so long at the young age of 29. But instead of wondering "What if?" we should be thankful for the opportunities that we have had to watch one of the most electrifying players to play the game. Sudsy raised the bar and forced others to adapt to his style of play. We here at USA Racquetball wish Sudsy the best in his future endeavors and want to thank him for the time that we have spent together.

## BELOW IS SUDSY'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT:

To my friends and fans in the racquetball community:

After several months of soul searching and consulting with my family, sponsors and advisors, I have made the decision to officially retire from professional racquetball, effective immediately. While I have come back strong from a series of injuries and have confidence in my ability to regain the #1 ranking in the world, I believe at the age of 29, it's just the right time to begin a new chapter in my life. I look forward to traveling less, spending more time with my family and hopefully beginning a new career as an entrepreneur. I have always had a dream of starting my own business, and I am planning on pursuing that goal with the same enthusiasm and commitment that I made to my professional racquetball career.

In the months leading up to this decision, I spent a lot of time reflecting on my 22 years in the game. In the end, I remember with fondness all of the great times that I had, the challenges that I faced and the friendships that will last a lifetime. While racquetball does not offer the same financial rewards as some other sports, I feel privileged to have earned a good living playing a game that I love, and I would not trade these experiences for any others.

I would like to thank the many people and companies that have enabled me to achieve my dreams. I want to personally thank Head/Penn for supporting me through the peaks and valleys of my entire professional career. I am looking forward to continuing our relationship in a promotional capacity. I would also like to thank my parents for their lifelong support. Of course, I want to thank my beautiful wife Lisa and our two awesome kids for supporting me in any decision that I make. You know that I'm making this decision for us.

Finally, I want to thank all of my fans who have been a constant source of energy and always made me feel like a superstar.

Play Hard and Have Fun,

Sudsy Monchik  
5 Time #1 Player in the World  
Play Hard and Have Fun!

# SUDSY RETIRES





## HEAD/PENN AND MONCHIK SIGN NEW 3-YEAR AGREEMENT

HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports and Sudsy Monchik announced the beginning of a new chapter in their long-standing relationship. Now retired from the IRT, Monchik has agreed to serve as a company spokesman for HEAD/Penn including a minimum of 12 appearances per year to include clinics, exhibitions, and even competing in some major events.

"HEAD/Penn has stood by me throughout my professional career and created incredible products for me to be able to play my best. Now retired, I am thrilled that HEAD/Penn remains my major corporate partner which will allow me to stay close to the game I love" Monchik stated at a press conference.

Sudsy Monchik's pro career with HEAD/Penn marked one of the most dominating periods in the history of the sport with Sudsy winning the year-end number one ranking tour title five times. Only a string of unfortunate injuries seemed to keep him from achieving two to three more year-end titles during his prime.

Director of Indoor Court Promotions for HEAD/Penn, Doug Ganim, was quoted at the press conference to say "No player in the history of the sport of racquetball has ever struck more fear into their opponents than Sudsy Monchik. During his prime, his awesome power, raw athleticism, and uncanny shot-making ability made him unbeatable. Although we are sad to see him retire from the pro tour at a relatively young age we are grateful to have the opportunity to work with him in the coming years as our spokesman. We realize that racquetball fans throughout the world still want to see Sudsy on the court and our plan is to have him compete in a handful of major events each year. For starters, don't be surprised to see him at the 2004 Choice Hotels US OPEN!"

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Courtesy of Todd Boss*

- Sudsy owns four US OPEN titles and has never lost the event in an even-numbered year
- He has a 77.7% career winning percentage on tour
- Sudsy has finished the IRT season ranked No.1 five times
- He won his first pro tour title in just his seventh appearance
- Only Kane Waselenchuk has a winning record against him
- Sudsy has won over 30% of the tournaments that he has competed in
- Sudsy only lost five times during the entire 2000-2001 season en route to another No.1 ranking

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING:

"I think it's a black eye for the sport. If we can't keep the greatest, most charismatic, popular, well liked player ever in the sport, then it is a sad day."

- Jason Mannino

"I'm going to miss battling with him. I hope that someday he changes his mind so that we can battle some more. Racquetball will be worse off without him."

- Cliff Swain

"I obviously wish him well, but I don't think that this is the last we will see of him at a pro stop. I think he needs a little break and I understand what he feels with all of his injuries."

- John Ellis

"As I see it, our sport is not only losing an exceptional athlete, we are losing a role model with a tremendous sense of loyalty, determination, passion, and a level of positivity that doesn't flow naturally in most human beings. I respect him for making the decision and I'm excited to see what happens for him next."

- Christie Van Hees

"Obviously it will have a big impact on the sport. It's too bad that he retired but everyone has their time. I wish him luck in whatever he pursues."

- Jack Huczek

"It's too bad for the game. He adds an element of excitement and was really good at giving back to the juniors."

- Cheryl Gudinas

"You really don't want to see him go. He was good for the sport and people loved to watch him play. I don't think that you can really replace him."

- Josh Tucker

"I think that if he is really not enjoying the game anymore and if he can't put his whole heart into training and competing then it is time to take a step back. It is a sad day for racquetball."

- Kim Russell

"People still come to watch Sudsy play so there will be a lot of disappointed fans. It makes my job easier, but if I had a choice of having him be there or not - I want him to be there. Whatever decision he makes I support him as a friend."

- Kane Waselenchuk

"As a player, husband, and father I understand how much it means to be close to your family. I'm happy for him that he can spend time with his family."

- Rocky Carson

"Every time I played against him I felt like I was at war with Superman."

- Jason Mannino (Always worth another quote)



# ON CAMPUS

## STARTING A COLLEGIATE PROGRAM

By SHANE WOOD



I have received several e-mails and phone calls recently from racquetball playing students that would like to learn how to get a team together when they head back to their College or University. The following article gives a step-by-step outline of how you can start a collegiate program at your school and would be a good reference to keep around for yourself and to share with someone at another school interested in starting up a program. Remember: Playing collegiate racquetball is great - Playing on a collegiate racquetball team is unforgettable.

The first step is to get your core group of players. Many schools have a Club or Activity Fair that is run by the Student Government Association (SGA) within the first couple weeks of classes. Find out when and where this fair is and get yourselves involved so you can bring in new players. By the time you go the fair you should have already established a meeting time and place where everyone will assemble to discuss how the racquetball club will operate. Pass this information along to the participants you meet at the fair in order to generate as much interest as possible. Also be sure to post as many signs and notices as you can at the courts, dorms, gym, dining hall, or anywhere there's a lot of traffic where students will see your posters.

At the meeting, make sure that you work with everybody to set a solid practice schedule. Many students take night classes, so you'll have to work with everybody to find out what nights work best. Make sure that you set a start date for practices within one week after the meeting (at the latest) while you still have a lot of interest.

The first practice should be spent to make sure that everybody knows the rules. Go into them with limited detail, but enough that the players are ready to get out there and start. Spend some time on stroke mechanics and the basics, but be sure to capture their attention by keeping them on the court hitting and playing as much as possible. Your focus at this point should be to eliminate bad habits instead of lecturing for an hour on the fine details and mechanics of the forehand and backhand.

The next two practices should be "Placement Nights" for the ladder that you are ready to put together. The ladder is simply a list of the players in order from No.1 down for both men and women. This will be used all year to determine their placement on the team. As the year goes on, each player will have the opportunity to challenge players above him or her in order to move up the ladder. It is important that you put a ladder in place right off the bat as you will find this as the No.1 motivator for the athletes to continue to come to practices and work hard.

From there, continue to teach the mechanics and focus your time to ensure that everybody is swinging properly, avoiding injuries, and eliminating bad habits (not gaining center court, swinging with feet facing the front wall, etc.). A good plan is to

have a couple practices a week where everybody is working on or learning a new skill and one practice a week designated for challenge matches.

Now for the tricky part - becoming recognized by the College/University as a Club Sport. The first step is to talk to your professors, guidance counselors, athletic faculty, or anyone employed by the school that may be interested in supporting your program as an Advisor. Once an advisor is in place, you will need to find out from the Director of SGA next steps to forming a Club Sport. No doubt this will include quite a bit of paperwork at the start, but remember that once recognized, you may be eligible to receive funding from the school that would enable you to expand the program and possibly travel to tournaments. Continue to work with SGA and they will lead you in the right direction to getting this accomplished.

This may seem like a lot, but I can assure you it's possible. When I was attending college I worked with a friend of mine attending the same school. We followed the same simple steps that have been laid out above and were able to form a team that earned a Division I National Championship trophy that year in a school of only 550 students. It is easily my proudest and most memorable tournament of my career.

As you all know, I am more than willing to work individually with every one of you that is truly interested in starting a program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (508) 479-6597, or e-mail me at [racquetballchamp@hotmail.com](mailto:racquetballchamp@hotmail.com).

I look forward to seeing you and your team at the 2005 USAR National Intercollegiate Championships!





# Junior Matters

The U.S. Junior National Team was in Colorado Springs for their annual training camp to get ready for the IRF 16th World Junior Championships to be held this December in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Head Coach Kelley Beane felt confident about the camp, although she was keeping specifics under wraps about what her squad was doing in order to get ready for the tournament.

What we were able to get out of her though is that the team starts their day at 6:00am with a three-mile run followed by calisthenics, hill-climbs, stairs or sprints, then breakfast at the Olympic Training

Center. After that, it is off to the Lynmar Health & Racquet Club to get in some court-time, along with speed drills and other drills designed for each individual player.

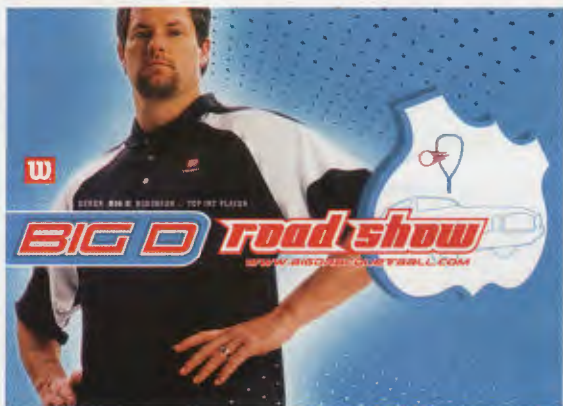
"You can see in their eyes that this team doesn't want to lose to Mexico again," Beane stated during the camp. "They really want it."

Besides Beane, assistant coaches Cheryl Gudinas and Shane Wood were on hand, as well as IRT pro Derek Robinson, LPRA pro Kristen Walsh, and Carol Pellowski.

## THE JUNIOR TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP



With all of the hard work that the team has put in, they still need help from our members. The total cost of sending the team to San Luis is approximately \$40,000 of which \$12,000 has been raised. There have been several top pros and other organizations that have stepped up to help out, but more money is needed. Below are just two of the programs that have been set up in order to help out the team.



You can also help by sending your donation to USA Racquetball - 1685 West Uintah - Colorado Springs, CO - 80904. Be sure to specify that your donation is intended for the U.S. Junior National Team. IRT pro and former U.S. Adult Team member Derek Robinson not only donated his time at the Junior

*Someone could win a week in  
Beautiful Sedona or Scottsdale!*



The Junior U.S.A. Racquetball Team will compete in Mexico at the Junior World Championships. Your help is needed to send our Team to San Luis Potosi on December 17-21, 2004 by participating in this raffle. There will only be 2500 tickets printed @ \$10.00 each. Visit [www.rb4u.com](http://www.rb4u.com) for complete details. Email: [askscott@fuse.net](mailto:askscott@fuse.net) with questions. The money will only be used for U.S.A. Junior Racquetball.

Drawing to be held on November 21st at this year's U S OPEN at Choice Hotels. Details and limitations of this prize are fully described on the website [www.rb4u.com](http://www.rb4u.com). This is lodging only at this time. Incidentals such as airfare, greens fees, food and beverage, car rental, etc are NOT included.

Team camp this July, but is also trying to help out the team at his Big D Roadshow series of clinics. Derek will be collecting donations for the team at each of his stops and also encourage those who attend the clinic to help out.

"I'm doing this to help out with our juniors. They are the future of our sport," he explained. "I really enjoyed the time I spent competing in junior racquetball and I hope that this is a way to raise money for their trip."

Be sure to look for updates on when the Roadshow will be in your town by checking [www.BigDRacquetball.com](http://www.BigDRacquetball.com)



# WHAT'S THE CALL?



BY OTTO DIETRICH • USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL RULES COMMISSIONER

## NATIONAL DOUBLES IS UPON US, SO HERE ARE A FEW QUICK TIPS ON DOUBLES.

The serving order can be changed only at the start of each game and, if you do change the serving order, you must tell the referee of the change or else be guilty of an out-of-order serve. I like to keep track of which partner should be serving by first marking a "1" and a "2" beside the player's names on the scorecard to indicate the order they tell me when the game starts. Then I use either a coin (heads represents the first server) or a top from a can of balls to indicate whether it's the first or second server that should be serving. In doubles, some rallies can be so long that none of the players can recall which team, much less, which partner on that team, was serving! By the way, any time you are concerned about possibly being out-of-order, it's perfectly acceptable to ask the referee who's serve it is.

In doubles, both players on a team are entitled to try for the ball. So, even when a shot is obviously one that the right side player would normally get, his partner is still entitled to try for the ball and thus can possibly be hindered in that attempt assuming, of course, that he could have gotten to the ball had there been no hinder. The fact that it may have obviously been "the other player's ball" is no excuse.

At the start of the service motion and until the ball crosses the short line, the non-serving partner must have both feet on the floor inside the box, generally be standing upright, and have his back facing toward the sidewall. To do otherwise is a foot fault. While this is a paraphrasing of the actual rule, it is an accurate interpretation. Incidentally, if the non-serving partner steps across the short line before the ball crosses it, the proper call is a "side out" rather than a mere foot fault.

**"... treat the last point exactly the same as the first point!"**

On another note, Danny Eckley from Atlanta, Georgia, mentioned that he has experienced several referees who add extra words to their call of the score once game point is reached - words like "possible game point serving" or "possible match point serving". He wanted to know if that was a good thing.

Although this issue not covered by the rules, the referee's use of such "added verbiage" is generally considered to be in poor taste. Why? Well, first of all it unduly emphasizes and announces that the receiver is "on the verge of losing". Moreover, at this very critical place in the game, saying that disrupts the verbal rhythm that the ref has used for calling the score during the rest of the game. Just watch a major tennis event on TV and, if you pay very close attention at game or match point, you will find that even though the TV announcer comments that the server has three championship points (to win the title), the referee on court will still call the score exactly like he did all the other games, i.e. 40 - love! The referee should always call and treat the last point exactly the same as the first point!

Always "Play by the Rules" and, if you don't have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them on-line at: <http://www.usra.org/usra/pub&ref/Rulebook.htm>. Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at [ODietrich@usra.org](mailto:ODietrich@usra.org) and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of RACQUETBALL.



# Marcy's Coaching Corner

## TRAINING TIPS FOR BODY AND MIND



I'm sick to death of the barrage of 'Lo-Carb' foods and supplements. It's EVERYWHERE from vitamins to restaurants to convenience foods. The nutritionist in me wants to take a paint ball gun to every sign and billboard I see. The bottom line of the companies that sell these products is to prey upon you, the consumer, who wants a quick fix to your dietary woes. Well, let me cue you in on some basic truths regarding carbs.

1

You need carbs in your diet - especially if you are active (and since you play racquetball you are, right?).

2

All carbs are not created equal. Cakes, chips, muffins, bagels, white bread and rice are what we called refined carbohydrates. They have little fiber and few nutrients. Fresh vegetables, whole grains, and fruits are considered complex carbohydrates and are loaded with fiber and nutrients. I don't need to tell you which ones are good for you.

3

The key to proper nutrition is balancing the food sources, not eliminating them. We are all different but it's fair to say that we need anywhere from 40-60% of our calories from complex carbohydrates, 20-30% from fat, and 15-20% from protein.

4

The way to lose weight is to consume fewer calories than what you burn. PERIOD!

5

If you hang around long enough, eventually something else will be touted as the next best thing to creating 'easy' weight loss. Remember 'Lo-fat' and the promise that eating rice cakes would solve all your worldly problems? So, what happened?

**BOTTOM LINE:** food propaganda is no different than any other type of marketing, such as ads that claim all you need is this cool shoe or racquet to make you a better racquetball player. We believe it because it sounds like an easy way to get what we want. There's just no substitute for consistency over time, whether it's practicing and drilling to improve your game or watching and carefully planning what you eat.

*Marcy is a NASM Certified Personal Trainer and Flexibility Specialist, ICF Certified Personal Coach, and a Certified Nutrition Consultant. She can be reached at [www.marcylynch.com](http://www.marcylynch.com).*



# GET WITH THE PROGRAM



By **CONNIE MARTIN**

## Bring In the Schools

Working with local schools in your area can be a great avenue to filling some of your daytime court hours and supplementing the income of your club and instructors. And, if followed up correctly, can create new members as well.

Public schools, as well as private schools, may offer a chance for kids to try various 'off campus' sports and recreational activities such as racquetball, skiing or bowling within their P.E. curriculum. For example a couple of public high schools and private middle schools in the Gresham area bring their kids to Cascade Athletic Club for racquetball lessons in courses named "Life Time Sports" and "Off Campus Sports". Cascade provides the use of courts, racquets, balls, eyeguards, a basic rules sheet and instructors. The schools bring along their P.E. teacher. The students are bussed in during regular school hours and the lessons take place over one of their class periods.

For example, one of the high schools involved in the program busses 35 students, every other day, for a 50 minute period. There is anywhere from four to seven classes throughout the session which can

place anywhere from 125 to 245 students through the club in a two week period. When not on the court, the students are allowed to spend time in the gymnasium to shoot baskets until it is their turn for court time. Another school spends a six-week span at the club separated into two-week increments. Two weeks are spent on racquetball, two weeks on weight training, and two weeks in a cardio exercise class.

The costs are covered by the students, who pay the school, which then, in turn, pays the club. Following is a sample of what we cover. The fees are assessed on a school-by-school basis. We factor in the number of students, whether the school is public or private, and which district the school is in. You may need to put a proposal together for the school and then alter it to meet their needs and yours.

For the last class we make sure each student receives a one time Family Guest Pass. Hosting a Friday Family Night gives the students, their families and friends the opportunity to use the pass and gives you the opportunity to create new members.

Below is a sample lesson plan to get you started:

### LESSON ONE:

- Forehand & Backhand Stroke (Grip, Stance, Swing)
- Rally
- V Serve
- Safety
- Play

### LESSON Two:

- Review Forehand & Backhand Stroke
- Off the Backwall Shots
- Rules
- Play

### LESSON THREE:

- Review Off the Backwall Shots and Rules
- Angle Shots
- Play

### LESSON FOUR:

- Review Angle Shots and Rules
- Play

Your options for creating programs like this are limitless. You can offer these types of programs to church groups, business groups, daycare facilities, after daycare programs, you name it. Remember to start out small. Work with one school and then build from there.



# FRAN'S HOUSE

By FRAN DAVIS

1 Instructions



**QUESTION:** Pass or Kill?...that is the Question

**ANSWER:** I coach former #1 ranked pros, Jason Mannino and Sudsy Monchik, numerous other pros, top juniors, and, in the past, the U.S. National Team. EVERYONE of them lives and dies by the pass to win the point and/or match. Before we go any further let's define the options first and then I'll give you statistics that will convince you these pros are top pros in racquetball for a reason:

**PASS** • bounces 2x before the backwall and hits 18" and lower on the front wall.

**PASS-KILL** • bounces 2x before the dotted line and hits 12" and lower on the front wall.

**KILL** • bounces 2x before the short line and hits 6" and lower on the front wall.

## STATISTICS:

1-I think everyone would agree the kill shot is the lowest percent shot possible of all three of these shots because a 6" target is harder to hit than an 18" or 12" target. The more you go for the kill the more you skip.

2-The national average of hitting a kill shot from the dotted line is 30%. I think you would all agree that the odds of effectively killing the ball diminish the deeper you go in the court.

I work with the 2 of the most well known male professionals in the game and they both advocate that if they had a choice to win the rally with a pass or kill they would always elect the pass. It's a sure thing... it's money in the bank...it's high percentage racquetball. They all learned the hard way coming up the ranks. They told me this; "The more you attempt to kill the more you skip. The more you skip the more matches you lose". Pretty easy philosophy.

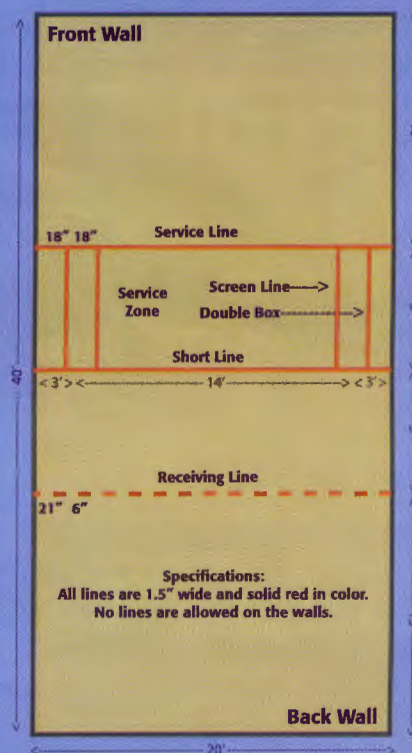
## HERE IS A GOOD GENERAL RULE OF THUMB TO FOLLOW:

- Pass or Pass-Kill when your opponent is in front of you or boxed in against either side wall.
- Kill when your opponent is behind you and you are on or in front of the dotted line.

I read this in the 80's from one of the pros and it's always stuck in my mind....

"Pass for dough, kill for show"!

Good luck in your passing game ... the odds are in your favor.





# sD+OrUaB+LeEgSy

**Featuring, Derek Robinson, Malia Bailey, and Cliff Swain.**

**By CHRIS EVON**

Doubles is probably the most interesting game in racquetball. Take four players, put them on a 20 x 40 enclosed court, add a good level of competition, and you've got something exciting enough for ESPN! To some it feels dangerous, out of control, and intimidating. To others it's a challenge to work with a teammate and develop strategies to out play their opponents. Once you get comfortable with the space (or lack of), and find a partner you click with, you are on your way to some of the most exciting racquetball of your life!

## FAVORITE SHOTS FROM THE PROS

### THE REVERSE PINCH

Cliff Swain (left), has an offensive shot in the front court. He has three good choices against the staggered formation of Malia (front), and Derek (back). Cliff's favorite shot in this situation is the reverse pinch. The ball will come back towards him. If the ball stays down, Derek will not be able to get to it. The other choices are a cross court pass or a down the line kill.



### THE OVERHEAD DRIVE

Derek is returning a deep ceiling ball. He can return the ball to the ceiling or use his favorite shot in this situation, which is an overhead drive. His goal is to drive the ball past his opponents (Chris is on Derek's side, and Cliff), for the point, or to force a weak return.



### THE Z BALL

Chris has just retrieved a shot in the front court. She can try to put the ball away, but with Derek and Malia so close, she chooses her favorite shot, a high Z ball. By hitting the ball high and hard to the left corner, it will travel to the back court, hit the forehand side wall and Z out toward the other side. This will move both Malia and Derek back, hopefully forcing a weak return and giving her and Cliff center court position.



### DOWN THE LINE KILL

This is one of Malia's favorite shots (demonstrated by Chris). In this situation, Malia and Derek are set up in a staggered defensive position. Derek is responsible for everything in the front court, except the down the line kill or pass. Malia is back slightly, so the best shot is the down the line kill. Another favorite option of Malia's is a two wall cross court pass. This shot will go cross court and hit the side wall even with or behind Derek. It will pull him out of the play and force his partner (Malia) to return the shot from deep in the back court.



If your goal is to win a National Championship, or simply to be more competitive at your club, these four "Directions for Great Doubles" will be sure to make you and your doubles partner the team to beat.

## DIRECTIONS FOR GREAT DOUBLES

- 1 Make sure you and your partner are in sync, and identify a way to communicate during rallies and between points.**

Many teams who have been playing together a long time take this for granted. Discuss any problems, ideas, or concerns as they arise. Be sure to know how you will call for shots, and work on effective ways to communicate between points. Have fun together! \*DO NOT underestimate the importance of this direction. It is placed #1 for a good reason!

- 2 Fine tune the style of play that works best for you. Identify your style but develop a knowledge for the strengths and weaknesses of all styles.**

There are basically three styles of play. Side by side, Up and back, and Staggered. The staggered style is the most popular and allows for maximum coverage of the court.

- 3 Identify your opponent's style of play.**

If you have the chance to scout your opponents you should be able to identify the type of doubles they play. By knowing the strengths and weaknesses of each style you can determine the best shots to exploit their weaknesses. If you cannot scout them, you should be able to figure this out early in the match.

- 4 Choose serves that work best for doubles. Your serve should always put you and your partner in the best offensive position.**

Serving to your partner's side is only recommended as a surprise tactic for your opponent. Have a way to communicate to your partner what you are going to do. Otherwise develop serves to your side that force a weak return.

## CONSIDER THESE SERVING TIPS:

- 1 Good lob servers will give you and your partner a chance to get out of the box and in good position.**
- 2 Jam serves can confuse your opponents and throw off their timing.**
- 3 Serve down the middle. Especially against a lefty - righty team.**
- 4 High, hard Z - serves, give you a chance to get in position and often times force a defensive return.**
- 5 Mix up your serves. Keep your opponents off guard and off balance.**



# THE FOREHAND STROKE COMPARED TO A BASEBALL SWING



BY SUDSY MONCHIK

Well, baseball season is winding down now, but I wanted to take this time while it's still fresh in your mind and compare my "Magical Forehand Stroke with the Baseball Swing"...as they are SO similar. At the camps I do with Fran Davis we use a lot of analogies to make it easier for people to understand the concept we are trying to teach. Today I will be going into depth and, as I break down both, you will see just how similar the mechanics of both really are.

The reason I am focusing on my forehand stroke is it is one of the most important parts of building a solid foundation to your game ...see our "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" video for live details. There is no substitute for a consistent, powerful and explosive forehand...like mine. Let's take a closer look:

## TRICK 1 READY POSITION

### FOREHAND

**GRIP** • Shake hands with the racquet

**STANCE** • Good power base

- feet a little wider than shoulder width apart
- knees relaxed and flexed
- upper body erect
- shoulders level and rotated
- weight even - 50/50

**EARLY RACQUET PREPARATION (ERP)**

- elbow up and in line with shoulder

### BASEBALL

**GRIP** • Shake hands with the bat

**STANCE** • Good power base

- feet a little wider than shoulder width apart
- knees relaxed and flexed
- upper body erect
- shoulders level and rotated
- weight even - 50/50

**EARLY BAT PREPARATION (EBP)**

- elbow up and in line with shoulder



## TRICK 2 STEP & SWING

### FOREHAND

**STEP** • Toward front wall - weight shifts slightly, but remains relatively even so you can drive off back leg (goes 60/40 then back to 50/50)

**HIP ROTATION** • Back foot pivots

- hips open

**UPPER BODY** • Shoulder leads then followed by elbow, wrist, then racquet

- wrist relaxed snaps through

### BASEBALL

**STEP** • Toward the mound - weight shifts slightly, but remains relatively even so you can drive off back leg (goes 60/40 then back to 50/50)

**HIP ROTATION** • Back foot pivots

- hips open

**UPPER BODY** • Shoulder leads then followed by elbow, wrist, then bat

- wrist relaxed snaps through





### TRICK 3 CONTACT POINT

#### FOREHAND

##### CONTACT POINT

- Power zone - off lead foot
- racquet flat and level
- arm at full extension
- knee-high or lower depending on shot

#### BASEBALL

##### CONTACT POINT

- Power zone - off lead foot
- bat flat and level
- arms at full extension
- chest to shoulder-high depending on pitch

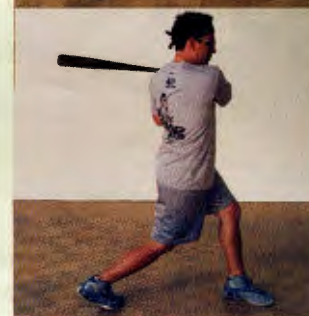


### TRICK 4 FOLLOW THROUGH

#### BASEBALL

##### FOLLOW THROUGH

- Bat pointing toward backstop
- chest and belly button facing front wall
- both hands on the bat come through and around
- weight relatively even



#### FOREHAND

##### FOLLOW THROUGH

- Racquet pointing toward back wall
- chest and belly button facing front wall
- non-hitting arm comes through and around
- weight even

Now you have my magical "Forehand Stroke compared to a Baseball Swing" ...they say a picture is worth a thousand words. Remember the forehand stroke is part of building a solid foundation. So, if you are a baseball or softball nut, this little exercise of comparing the two motions can make your forehand a weapon in your game. In this issue I decided to discuss the forehand stroke, but have no fear; in the next issue I will discuss my magical backhand using an analogy as well. This will round out your solid foundation and make you a strong player from both sides...a must in order to move up a level. Start with the forehand this month and make it as consistent, powerful and as explosive as mine and you will be on your way to that next level you've always dreamed of.



# Movement Out of Center Court

By JOHN ELLIS

Generally speaking, you have one of three plays on a ball after your opponent hits their shot.

- 1) Ideally - you have time to set up and get your body into an offensive shot.
- 2) The opposite situation - you're making a rally saving get, usually defensive.
- 3) Most often you are taking a running or crossover swing at the ball.

Whichever the case may be, your movement out of center court is key to making an effective shot. It's all about balance and footwork. **Here are some tips to follow....**

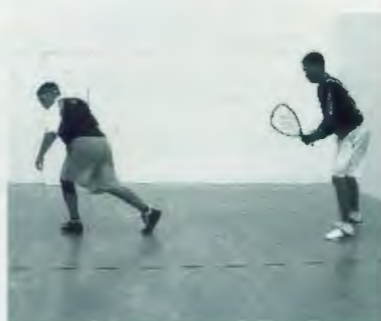


# 1

As I mentioned in my previous article, bend your legs and be ready to move. **Don't get caught standing straight up.** This body positioning will allow you to have great balance and a sense of readiness for shot retrieval or setup position. Watch your opponent's setup before their shot. Look for signs of where they are going with their shots so you can begin to anticipate.

# 2

**Minimize your Negative Steps.** What's a negative step you ask? Good question. A negative step occurs when you take a step in the wrong direction to gain your balance before moving towards the ball. (Check photos 2-5) Happens all the time even at the pro level. Whichever direction your opponent's shot is headed, that is the foot you want to lead your movement with. If you constantly find yourself getting to balls a step too late, you are probably guilty of negative steps. Notice in photo 5 that I am attempting to hit a shot with my feet pointing slightly towards the back wall.

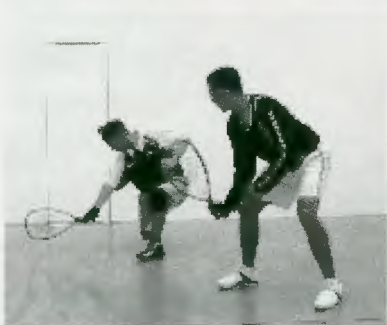




# 3



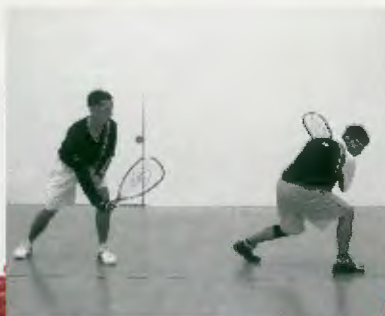
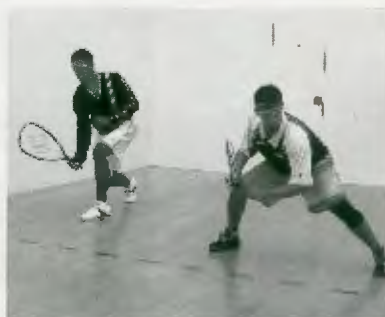
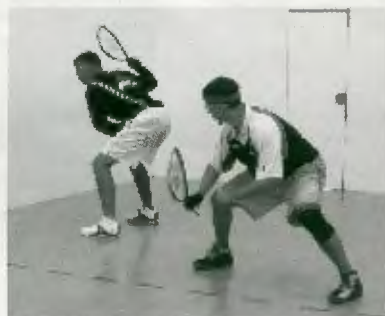
With a setup opportunity, focus on getting a step and a half behind your ideal contact spot so you can create momentum and power by shuffling into the shot. **Don't just move to your perceived contact spot and let the ball play you.** If you're off a little then it will result in a flat-footed shot from the wrong contact point in relation to your stance. This means you'll have to work harder with your movement. Of course this is easier when you're on balance and you minimize your negative steps. (See photos 6-9 for an example of moving to shoot a short ceiling ball.)



# 4

Crossover shots from center court happen so quickly that precise footwork is key.

**Again, negative steps will mess up your timing.** If you are standing straight up you won't be able to cross over and cover ground to hit your shot. Bend your legs to establish balance, which should allow you to cross over without taking a step backwards with your non-lead leg. If your opponent's shot is hit at too wide an angle, first take a step with your lead leg and then crossover to hit your shot. (See photos 10-12) Again, minimize your negative steps!!



Now it's time for all of you to find out how often you take the negative steps when you move towards the ball. If you care about your game then the only way to really help your court movement is by videotaping your match play. I promise it will be an eye-opening experience. After video analysis comes practice and that is another article in itself. Seek out your local professional for lessons on how to practice on-court movement drills. If you are in NorCal then give me a call and set up your lesson. Best of luck and as Sudsy says, "GET THE BALL!!!"



# NATIONAL TEAM



**Name** ➡ Jack Huczek  
**Nickname** ➡ Huczek



**Did You Know?** ➡ Jack finished in the top 10 of the national DECA competition in the written Entrepreneurial event while in high school. He wrote a 40-page manual on a start-up business, then had to pitch his idea to the judges.

**National Team Appointments** ➡ 8  
**Most Recent Qualifier** ➡ 2004 National Singles Championships (1st)  
**Sponsors** ➡ Pro Kennex, Ashaway, Python, Racquet Monkey  
**Occupation** ➡ Pro Racquetball Player, Student  
**Date of Birth** ➡ January 13, 1983 (age - 21)  
**Birthplace** ➡ Warren, Michigan  
**Hometown** ➡ Rochester, Michigan  
**Current Residence** ➡ Rochester, Michigan  
**Biggest Influence** ➡ Mother, Sharon Huczek  
**Strengths** ➡ Fitness, Mental Toughness  
**Training Schedule** ➡ Weights - 5x's per week, Court time - 5x's per week, Sprints - 3x's per week, Plyometrics - 3x's per week  
**Goals** ➡ To become the No.1 player on the IRT

**Did You Know?** ➡ Cheryl, who is known for wearing hats during her matches, has a collection of over 200 different baseball hats in her home.

**National Team Appointments** ➡ 17  
**Most Recent Qualifier** ➡ 2004 National Singles Championships (2nd)  
**Sponsors** ➡ E-Force, Quelifex, Crew West  
**Occupation** ➡ Pro Racquetball Player, Certified Strength and Conditioning Trainer  
**Date of Birth** ➡ May 11, 1967 (age - 37)  
**Birthplace** ➡ Chicago, Illinois  
**Hometown** ➡ Lisle, Illinois  
**Current Residence** ➡ Lisle, Illinois  
**Biggest Influence** ➡ Kelley Beane  
**Strengths** ➡ Mental Toughness and the Ability to Adapt  
**Training Schedule** ➡ Strength - 2-3x's per week, Court time - 5x's per week, Cardio - 3x's per week, Plyometrics - 2-3x's per week, Cross-training - 3-4x's per week  
**Goals** ➡ Remain No.1 on the LPRA tour, win the 2005 National Singles and defend her IRF World Singles title in 2006

**Name** ➡ Cheryl Gudinas  
**Nickname** ➡ Goods or Gudder







# SPOTLIGHT

**Junior National Team Appointments** ➡ 15

**Most Recent Qualifier** ➡ 2004 Junior Olympics  
(1st - 18- Girl's  
Singles, 1st - 18- Girl's  
Doubles with Jesi  
Fuller)

**Sponsors** ➡ Head, Gamma

**School** ➡ University Alabama

**Date of Birth** ➡ May 31, 1985 (age - 19)

**Birthplace** ➡ Dayton, Ohio

**Hometown** ➡ Centerville, Ohio

**Current Residence** ➡ Tuscaloosa, Alabama

**Biggest Influence** ➡ Parents, Elaine and  
Rex Fisher

**Strengths** ➡ Backhand

**Goals** ➡ Become No.1 on the LPRA Tour and win a  
gold medal at the Pan American Games

**Favorite Food** ➡ Pizza

**Favorite Color** ➡ Green

**Favorite Band** ➡ Aerosmith



**Name** ➡ Adrienne Fisher

**Nickname** ➡ Fish, A-Rock

**Junior National Team Appointments** ➡ 6

**Most Recent Qualifier** ➡ 2004 Junior Olympics  
(18- Boy's Doubles  
with Ben Croft)

**Sponsors** ➡ Wilson

**School** ➡ Oregon State University

**Date of Birth** ➡ April 18, 1985 (age - 19)

**Birthplace** ➡ Portland, Oregon

**Hometown** ➡ Milwaukie, Oregon

**Current Residence** ➡ Corvallis, Oregon

**Biggest Influence** ➡ Parents, Laurie and Craig  
Sheppick

**Strengths** ➡ Staying calm in tough situations

**Goals** ➡ Become No.1 on the IRT and serve as a  
U.S. Junior Team Coach

**Favorite Food** ➡ Lasagna

**Favorite Color** ➡ Red

**Favorite Band** ➡ Eminem

**Name** ➡ Dan Sheppick

**Nickname** ➡ Shep



# JUNIOR TEAM





**RACQUETBALL Magazine:**  
When did you first start competing in racquetball?

**Kelley Beane:**  
I started playing recreationally after high school. I was looking for something to stay in shape after Volleyball, basketball and softball were finished.

**RM:** As a player, who were some of the people that were instrumental in raising your game?

**KB:** Mary Dee was actually the club pro at the club I joined and at the time she was the on the pro tour and on the national team. She took me under her wing and helped me not only in becoming a better player, but a good instructor. My opponents are the ones who help me raise my game, as I am really not a good loser!

**RM:** How did you become involved in coaching?

**KB:** I was teaching racquetball at my club at night, and running tournaments. Eric Muller was coaching and was going to school up here and called one day and asked if I would be interested in assisting the adult team at the Tournament of the Americas. I was thrilled, and really enjoyed trying to help in any way I could. I then stayed on with Jim Winterton to assist with the Junior Team.

**RM:** When and how did you become the National Junior Team Head Coach?

**KB:** I was assistant coach for two years with Jim Winterton and two years with Gregg Peck. When Gregg stepped down I interviewed for the spot.

**RM:** What keeps you going as the Jr. Team coach?

**KB:** I am very fortunate to be involved with these kids. So much talent! They keep me sharp on coaching and test my abilities across the board. Working with these kids has made me a better person. I like to lead by example and try to make sure anything I ask them to do I do, both on and off the court. They inspire me to train harder, and the communication with them when I don't see them motivates me. Looking back on the team members from years ago, they have turned into such great people and they call you and say thanks about something you said years ago. That really says it all. That's all I need to keep going.

**RM:** You recently completed the Junior Team camp in Colorado Springs, how do you feel that it went?

**KB:** This camp in August was one of our best. We change each camp to suit our needs and address our weaknesses. This year we did a lot of different drills that took care of some "problem" areas. I had asked Derek Robinson to come in and work with the team one day on some specifics, which he did, it was great. You could see it in their faces when I challenged them on sprints and hill climbs how much they want it this year. They have something to prove. Blood, sweat and tears at this camp.

**RM:** What are the goals of the team as they get ready for the IRF World Junior Championships?

**KB:** We came into camp as 18 racquetball players and left as one team USA. We need to stay that way and help each other from now until December. Each team member has their individual goals set for the next four months, and the coaches will be checking on that progress. Our number one goal as a team is to stay focused on our training and not let anything interrupt that.

**RM:** What do you see as the U.S. Junior Team's strengths?

**KB:** Doesn't Mexico get this magazine?

**RM:** What will they need to do in order to defeat Mexico?

**KB:** After training camp, each athlete knows exactly what they need to do to win. I will tell you in January.

**RM:** What would it mean to you for the team to reclaim the World title?

**KB:** With all of the sacrifices that these kids make along the way to become great players they so deserve to win that title. I would especially like it for the group of graduating 18's. They are such good kids. They play with integrity, number one, and will leave all they have on the court for you. It is very emotional when you see these kids play and know what they have put in and see them come up short on the total points. The coaches are so into these matches; they take the losses as hard, or harder, than the athletes themselves. The best Christmas gift I could get or give (would be) to see these kids going up there as a team to accept that trophy. We don't put so much on that world title as we do all having a great performance, if we do that then the end result will come.



Doug Ganim has been involved in racquetball since he was a junior. Although he still plays

competitively to this day (he just recently won his third 35+ World title), and wears many different hats within the sport, he may be best known as the Choice Hotels US OPEN Director. In Part I of a two part segment RACQUETBALL Magazine spoke with Ganim about the US OPEN, racquetball's only "Grand Slam" event.



**RM:** How did you come up with the idea for starting the US OPEN?

**DG:** I was sitting on the (USAR) Board at the time, and it came to the board's attention that a local promoter in Indiana was running a tournament called the US OPEN Racquetball Championships. I felt pretty strongly at the time that, number one, US OPEN Racquetball Championships should be a moniker that is owned and eventually operated by the national governing body of the sport, just as it is owned by the national governing bodies of tennis and golf. I suggested that we immediately copyright the name 'US OPEN Racquetball Championships' to make sure we own it." And then we really started to brainstorm it right there at that meeting, and it just all kind of came out. I said that if we were going to do a US OPEN Racquetball Championships and add it to our national championship series of events like national doubles and national singles, we would want it to be the absolute greatest tournament where every statute of the sport is there. The pros are there, television, the largest prize money purse, fans, tons of amateurs, all the things you see at the US OPEN of tennis, and the US OPEN of golf. We would want to do that if we ever did a US OPEN of racquetball. We just kept getting back to the point that we can't ask the local promoter to give up the name if we're not prepared to do it. And at that meeting, I said, "Well, we have to do it, and let me take a crack at it, see if I can get it off the ground." That's how it was born. It wasn't some grand plan that I had or presented to the board.

**RM:** How did you come about choosing Memphis for the site?

**DG:** That's an interesting question. Really, Jim Hiser worked with me to try to find the right site. It was largely facility driven. We really narrowed it down pretty quickly to Minneapolis and Baltimore. Our first choice at the time was Minneapolis because it would be possible that we could maybe go in and set up our stadium on top of the tennis courts, set up next to that the village, which is like what we have now in Memphis, and all the amateurs could play on the 22 racquetball courts that those clubs have in Minneapolis.

Really, we were pretty sold on Minneapolis, and we were ready to go into town there and negotiate with them and make it happen. Kind of in the eleventh hour right before we were ready to go to Minneapolis, we got a call from the owner of The Racquet Club (of Memphis), Mac Winker, and Mac is kind of a big event, big time idea type of guy. He had pulled off bringing a major ATP event to the city of Memphis for many, many years called the Kroger Saint Jude Tennis Classic. He said that he wanted to talk to me about bringing this "Grand Slam" event concept to Memphis. I asked him, "Geez, I think you only have like four courts. Did you build sixteen more?" And he replied, "Nope, still only have four courts." And I said, "Well, I really don't need to come down to Memphis, then, because four courts are not going to cut it." And he said, "Well, we have lots of other courts in town, and I want to talk to you about this because I have some ideas you might be interested in." We took a look at that club, and really, the vision started to come together as we were walking around the club. It became clear to us that for at least the professional portion of the US OPEN, it was an absolute ideal scenario. By the time we got to town, Mac had pre-arranged that we would have access to the University of Memphis courts and to 650 Total Club, another club in town. So when we got to town, he had 19 courts plus our portable court would be 20. He had 20 courts ready and lined up for us, so Jim and I discussed it the day after the meeting, and we signed our deal with the city of Memphis which we have since renewed once, and we are getting ready to renew it a third time.

**RM:** The economy hasn't been the greatest in the last few years. How have you continued to gain sponsorships and keep the sponsorships for the US OPEN?

**DG:** That's been a huge challenge, and quite frankly the way that we've managed to keep and grow sponsorship with the US OPEN is largely because of relationships within the sport of racquetball. That's half the battle in the sponsorship game, just getting to the right person and when you do get to them, having enough of their time to be able to tell your story, what you have to offer. So we have had that, and then once you get a couple of biggies involved, it makes it a little easier to get non-racquetball contact sponsors involved. A company like Coca Cola, for instance, it gives them a little bit of comfort looking at the event seeing that there are other Fortune 500 companies that have already signed on. So, I would say with this struggling economy, using our racquetball contacts to the fullest, and then really beating down doors and understanding that you have to make a hundred presentations and get ninety-nine no's before you get one yes, having the willingness to do that work has allowed us to survive the tough economy. Now that things are getting a little better, I am very optimistic that we can really ramp things up and take the tournament to the next level. I strongly encourage anybody in the sport of racquetball that has a corporate contact that they think would have an interest in the US OPEN or more "Grand Slam" style events or the sport of racquetball in general to call me or e-mail me and put me in contact with the decision-makers and let me take it from there. I believe there are a lot of people out there who don't realize that they either know someone or they're working for a company that would be a good fit.

*Be sure to check out the November/December issue of RACQUETBALL to catch Part II of Shakers & Movers with Doug Ganim when we delve into other subjects such as his playing career and his views on what racquetball needs to get to the next level.*



# NATIONAL MASTERS RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

The National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) held its International tournament in the Milwaukee area July 21-24, 2004, at the top ranked Wisconsin Athletic Clubs in West Allis and Waukesha. The courteous staff ran a very efficient tournament that featured the maximum number of entrants competing in divisions separated in five-year increments from 45+ to 85+. The tournament was conducted in round robin format for singles, doubles and mixed doubles.



Lola Markus accepts her Hall of Fame plaque

Activities began with a players meeting, registration, and a reception sponsored by Ektelon. The hospitality offerings included beef filet, smoked salmon, beverages and Milwaukee's famous frozen custard. The good food and great company encouraged entrants and guests to linger and visit with friends, old and new. Once competition began there was almost continuous food service with light breakfast, lunch and afternoon hospitality - always with frozen custard on the menu. The tournament banquet, held Friday evening, accommodated over 300 people. The evening began with an inspirational song performed by NMRA member and competitor Cy Dietrich, who was accompanied on the piano by his wife Sue. During the buffet dinner, videos of the previous days competition, taken by Cap Hiles, were projected onto a large screen for all to enjoy and "critique." The after-dinner program included the traditional "Get Over It!" slide show of tournament "moments" with entertaining comments added by Tom Curran. The highlight of the evening was the induction of Lola Markus into the NMRA International Hall of Fame. Lola, a long time supporter of the NMRA, is an avid racquetball player who epitomizes good sportsmanship. Those gathered responded enthusiastically to the announcement of her election to the Hall of Fame. The final day of the tournament included the last rounds of all round robin events, as well as playoffs in events with multiple flights.

## TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Huczek wins gold! No, it was not Jack. Instead it was his mother Sharon (W55+) who earned a gold medal in her first NMRA tournament. Sharon was overheard saying that she had trained rigorously in preparation for the tournament. She explained that she got up early each morning to run several miles, followed by two or more hours of weightlifting and practicing. Obviously all her hard work paid off.

Lou Eller (M80+), one of three in his age group, broke a finger in a fall while playing racquetball just a week before the tournament. He was determined to participate so, with a soft cast protecting the injury to his offhand, he played all of his matches.

Bob Kelley (MXD 55+) won his first NMRA gold medal. Bob's recipe for success - tour the local brewery-manufacturing plant and end up in the tasting room "sampling," 8 oz at a time, several different beers just one hour before his first match.

The top four teams in 65+ Men's Doubles had average match scores differing by less than one point! Obviously the division was very competitive, evenly matched and hard fought. Congratulations to all the winners.

## CONSPICUOUS ABSENTEES:

Mary Low and Earl Acuff (NC) rarely miss an NMRA event. Apparently, before a start date had been decided, Earl agreed to teach a racquetball class at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. As these things so often happen, the class was eventually scheduled at the same time as the Wisconsin Tournament. Earl thanks for sharing your love for the game with new players!



Earl and Mary Low Acuff were unable to attend

Phil Dziuk (IL) had successful quadruple coronary artery by-pass surgery midsummer. Also, John O'Connell (IL) has been in and out of the hospital and Mildred Gwinn and Gale Schaefer have been recovering from injuries. Best wishes to all. Hopefully they are back on the court and will return to competition soon.

Complete tournament results are available at the organization's web site [www.NMRA.info](http://www.NMRA.info) or online at NMRA's interactive site on [www.myfamily.com](http://www.myfamily.com). (Contact NMRA member Jim Emerson at [racquetballjim@comcast.net](mailto:racquetballjim@comcast.net) if you need assistance accessing the interactive site.)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The NMRA tournament dates and sites in 2005 will be March 9-12 in Canoga Park, CA and July 13-16 in Canton, OH. Both locations have outstanding club facilities and AmPRO instruction will be offered preceding each tournament. Entry forms will be posted online at [www.NMRA.info](http://www.NMRA.info) when they become available.

For more information please contact:

Merijeau Kelley  
650-856-2292  
[mkelley959@aol.com](mailto:mkelley959@aol.com)

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## HI-TECH SIGNS FIVE NEW PLAYERS



In an effort to solidify its name and resurgence into the racquetball world, Hi-Tech Shoes has signed a crop of young talent. Included are top-20 IRT pros Rocky Carson (No.4), Shane Vanderson (No.10), Josh Tucker (No.13), Chris Crowther (No.15) and Argentinean National Champion Shai Manzuri. Hi-Tech has been in the indoor court shoe business since 1974 and have developed a new line of shoes that will tailor to the most aggressive racquetball player.

"I'm excited about the new product that Hi-Tech is putting out for the sport of racquetball," said Carson. "With the variety of styles that they have, they are sure to have a shoe for everyone."

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## RACQUETBALL HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS DUE

Nominations for the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame are due November 1, 2004. The Racquetball Hall of Fame is maintained to recognize and honor those athletes and contributors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in competition, or in the development, leadership, and advancement of the sport. The award is based upon years of consistent excellence in one or more of the following areas:

**COMPETITOR** In either an amateur or professional field, the person must have influenced other competitors with his or her performance through any or all of the following: high performance standards; sportsmanship and fair play; competitive techniques; persistent and inspirational leadership.

**CONTRIBUTOR** The person must have made a significant and noteworthy contribution, which has left a lasting, positive effect on the advancement of the sport. The person's efforts should have been devoted to the sport and organization of racquetball.

### NOMINATION CRITERIA: CONTRIBUTOR & COMPETITOR

1. Age Limit: Candidates must be 40 years of age or older.
2. Requirements: The candidate must have influenced the sport of racquetball through any or all of the following: outstanding performance, leadership, fair play, competitive techniques, or lasting and beneficial contributions to the advancement of the sport.

#### 3. Criteria:

[Contributor] Nominees must have been involved in racquetball at a state, regional, or national level for a minimum of ten (10) years. [Competitive Professional] Top-level professionals may be nominated, once they have been retired from professional tour play for at least three (3) years. [Competitive Amateur] Nominees must have exhibited outstanding performance at the national level in either singles or doubles play over an extended period of time. Quality of competition and depth of field should be

key criteria in the consideration of national champions, and all nominees must adhere to the highest standards of fair play and sportsmanship.

Stipulation: In the case of special circumstances (death, career-ending injury, or illness) a person may still be eligible for a nomination, even though specific criteria (10 years in the sport; top ranking or retired for three years) may not have been met.

4. Nominations: Any current USAR member may nominate a candidate. The USAR may designate a specific form for nominations that must be used and the timeframe for submitting nominations. The call for nominations will be publicized in RACQUETBALL Magazine with sufficient lead-time to allow response. A person may not nominate him or her self.

5. Eligibility: Staff members or members of the respective IRT/LPRA/USAR Boards of Directors shall not be eligible for nomination until three years after their term has expired or three years following their last employment by one of the above associations.

Stipulation: If consistent with nomination criteria, USAR Board members who serve specifically in an athlete capacity (athlete representatives to the board) may be considered for Hall of Fame review during their terms of service [three-year waiting period may be waived in this instance].

6. Documentation: The person presenting a nomination must obtain and submit a resume and complete a cover letter. This, one page, cover letter should accurately summarize the resume.

7. Limits: A candidate nominated, but rejected for three consecutive years, may not be nominated again for a minimum of three years.

In order to nominate a candidate who fits the bill, please review the guidelines above, then submit the proper text and support materials to complete your nomination. If the needed documentation is available in digital form, you may deliver it by email, or send your postal package to:

"Racquetball Hall of Fame"

ATTN: Kevin Joyce

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Colorado Springs, CO 80918

## OHLBRECHT RESIGNS POST AT USAR



Tyler Ohlbrecht, USAR Retail Sales Director, has resigned his post effective September 15, 2004 in order to concentrate more on his online retail business. Tyler began working at USAR in April of 1997 and was in charge of all shipping and distribution for the organization. He also helped to revamp USAR's online retail department.



In 2002 he began his own online collectible store, Toy Force, which carries hard to find toys, statues, and other sorts of pop culture items. A collector himself, Tyler came up with the idea of starting Toy Force when he was having trouble finding certain items that he wished to obtain. Now that his company has grown, he plans to spend full-time developing his website and expanding to





include a physical address for the business.

"It's grown too big for me to continue to maintain in my spare time after work at USAR," he explained. "I need to concentrate on handling more business during the day and expanding to the point where we have an actual walk-in location to service our customers."

We wish Tyler the best of luck with his business pursuits and thank him for the years of service that he has put in with USAR. You can check out Tyler's online store at [www.ToyForce.com](http://www.ToyForce.com).

## Former USAR President in Afghanistan



Greetings were sent from former USAR Board of Directors President Frank Taddonio, who is working with the Afghan government to help with their

national securities strategy. Taddonio is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army where he served for 31 years focusing on operations and training.



While his exact duties and location are kept secret for obvious reasons, Taddonio still serves as a member of the USAR Board and communicates with the other members through e-mail. We are glad to hear that he is safe and wish him and our other military and civilian personnel serving overseas a secure return. The photos were taken during an early morning walk through one of the towns in Afghanistan.

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March 4-6 Minneapolis, MN  
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Sept. 3-5	Best of Texas @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
	South Carolina State Doubles @ Pine Street YMCA	Spartanburg, SC	803-796-3938
Sept. 7-11	Jordan Valley Fall Bash @ Jordan Valley Athletic Club	West Valley City, UT	801-849-0227
Sept. 10-12	Arizona State Doubles @ Arrowhead LA. Fitness	Phoenix, AZ	480-545-1363
	Outback Blast It! @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-947-3029
	Stockton Pro Am @ In Shape West Lane	Stockton, CA	209-472-2100
	Triple Crown Championships @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
	Florida Regional Doubles @ The Body Mill	Clearwater, FL	727-538-0078
Sept. 17-19	American Family Fall Open @ American Family Fitness Center	Richmond, VA	804-382-7663
	Fall Classic @ Dowd YMCA	Charlotte, NC	704-716-6100
	Jesse James Shootout @ Olympus Athletic Club	Northfield, MN	507-645-8007
	Georgia Regional Doubles @ Southlake Athletic Club	Morrow, GA	770-972-2303
	Kentucky State Doubles @ Louisville Downtown YMCA	Louisville, KY	270-497-4348
	New York State Doubles @ Allsport of Fishkill	Fishkill, NY	508-438-3935
	Texas State Doubles @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	718-895-8688
	Virginia State Doubles @ Robious Sport & Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-330-2222
Sept. 18-19	Tad McCullough Memorial Open @ Indiana State University	Terre Haute, IN	812-235-3701
Sept. 21-25	Utah Open @ University Of Utah	Salt Lake City, UT	801-910-2354
Sept. 24-26	Balloon Fest Blow-Out @ Redbud YMCA of Abilene	Abilene, TX	325-695-3839
	Fall Rally @ Olympus Racquet & Fitness	Sterling, VA	703-684-4146
	West Michigan Pro Am @ Michigan Athletic Club	Grand Rapids, MI	616-956-0944
Sept. 25	Dallas Doubles Series II @ Landmark Fitness Factory	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
Sept. 25-26	Fall Kickoff @ The Athletic Club	APlains, PA	570-693-2882
Oct. 1-3	Special Olympics Doubles @ Club Fit	Jefferson Valley, NY	914-245-4040
Oct. 2	One Day Shootout @ YMCA of Central Texas	Waco, TX	254-799-4437
Oct. 5-9	Fall Blast @ Sports Forum	Woods Cross, UT	801-860-9263
Oct. 7-10	Casper Racquetball Classic @ Wyoming Athletic Club	Casper, WY	307-262-3863
Oct. 8-10	Aggieland Open @ Texas A&M	College Station, TX	979-571-3882
	Battle of Bangor @ Gold's Gym	Bangor, ME	207-947-0763
	Fall Junior Benefit Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club	Orlando, FL	407-679-3993
	Kentucky Seniors @ Elizabethtown Swim & Fitness	Elizabethtown, KY	270-765-9941
	Long Island Championship @ Sportset of Rockville Center	Flushing, NY	718-429-8489
	Meals On Wheels @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt, NY	315-453-2495
	Paul Gorman Memorial @ Interbay Family YMCA	Tampa, FL	813-765-5120
	2nd Annual SW Michigan Racquetball @ Bronson Athletic Club	Kalamazoo, MI	269-370-2013
Oct. 14-17	Multnomah Open @ Multnomah Athletic Club	Portland, OR	503-223-8740
Oct. 15-17	Gathering of the Greatest @ Nautilus Fitness & Racquet	Erie, PA	814-459-3033
	Lou Bradley Pro-Am @ Prairie Athletic Club	Sun Prairie, WI	608-837-4646
	Racquetball October Fest @ Goldsboro YMCA	Goldsboro, NC	919-778-8557
	3rd Annual Fort Stewart Open @ Newman Fitness Center	Fort Stewart, GA	800-335-5066
Oct. 16-17	Texas State Seniors @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
Oct. 19-23	Swing Into Fall @ Redwood Center	West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
Oct. 22-23	Spartan Splat @ Michigan Athletic Club	East Lansing, MI	517-267-0186
	Spooky Kooky Racquetboo @ Shelbyville Athletic Club	Shelbyville, IN	317-398-2582
Oct. 22-24	East Coast Doubles Championships @ Wilmington Athletic Club	Wilmington, NC	910-343-5950
	Halloween Classic @ Healthtrax	East Providence, RI	401-739-4491
	Octoberfest @ The Court Club	Albany, NY	518-438-3935
	Playing For Blood @ Arizona State University	Tempe, AZ	480-965-8900



Oct. 22-24	Rik Harmon Memorial @ Sarasota Family YMCA	Sarasota, FL	941-952-9533
	2nd Annual Ichabod Memorial @ Louisville Downtown YMCA	Louisville, KY	270-497-4348
	Nebraska State Doubles @ Prairie Life Center	Omaha, NE	402-454-2765
	25th Anniversary Tournament @ Quadrangle	Coral Springs, FL	954-753-8900
Oct. 23-24	Halloween Open @ Cocoa Court Club	Harrisburg, PA	717-540-5111
Oct. 29-31	Halloween Brew @ Ascona Health & Fitness	Augusta, ME	207-622-6800
	Spook Fest @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
	Tri-State Open @ Chalfont Athletic Club	Chalfont, PA	610-399-8478
Oct. 30	Dallas Doubles Series II @ Landmark Fitness Factory	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
Nov. 2-6	Utah State Doubles @ Marv Jenson Fitness Center	South Jordan, UT	801-253-4404
Nov. 5-7	Doubles Only @ Central Penn Fitness	Harrisburg, PA	717-564-4171
	Holiday Cash Classic @ The Club	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Long Island Open @ Sportime of Syosset	Syosset, NY	718-429-8489
	Turkey Shoot @ Vision Sports	Asheville, NC	828-232-0668
	Turkey Shootout @ Riverside Wellness & Fitness	Newport News, VA	757-875-7525
	Wisconsin State Doubles @ Prairie Athletic Club	Sun Prairie, WI	608-837-4646
Nov. 6-8	Omni 41 Classic @ Omni 41	Schereville, IN	219-865-6969
Nov. 12-13	Noblesville Fall Classic @ Noblesville Athletic Club	Noblesville, IN	317-879-8100
Nov. 12-14	Club Fit Turkey Shoot @ Club Fit	Briarcliff, NY	914-762-3444
	Fall Classic @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt, NY	315-453-2495
	1st Annual Sarasota Pro-Am @ Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club	Sarasota, FL	863-494-2975
	Sims Open @ Sims Athletic Club	Charlton, MA	508-479-6597
Nov. 12-15	Sunset Turkey Shoot Pro Am @ Sunset Athletic Club	Portland, OR	503-645-3535
Nov. 13	Dallas Doubles Series II @ Landmark Fitness Factory	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
	E-Force Extreme Championship @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
	Juniors Only Tournament @ Fort Lee Athletic Club	Leesburg, VA	804-991-2129
	Lehigh Valley Open @ Allentown Racquetball Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
Nov. 16-20	Mullett Hoover Open @ Orem Fitness Center	Orem, UT	801-229-7118
Nov. 19-21	Interbay Winter Classic @ Interbay Family YMCA	Tampa, FL	813-765-5120
	Turkey Gobbler @ Cocoa Court Club	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
	Turkeyfest @ Saco Sport & Fitness	Saco, ME	207-284-5953
Nov. 20	Turkey Shoot @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Sept. 29 - Oct. 3	USAR 37th National Doubles Championships	Tempe, AZ
Nov. 17-21	9th Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships	Memphis, TN
Dec. 17-22	IRF 16th World Junior Championships	San Luis Potosi, Mexico
Jan. 14-16	WSMA 16th U.S. Women's Senior/Master Championships	Indianapolis, IN
March 4-6	18th USAR National High School Championships	St. Louis, MO
March 9-12	NMRA Masters National Championships	Canoga Park, CA
March 18-26	PARC 18th Tournament of the Americas	Caracas, Venezuela
April	33rd USAR National Intercollegiate Championships	TBA
April 14-17	USRA Regional Championships	Nationwide
May 25-30	38th USAR National Singles Championships	Houston, TX
June 22-26	32nd USAR Junior Olympic Championships	Portland, OR



## AULD LANG SYNE



by Eric Muller

On a lazy Thursday afternoon this past August, I was sitting at my desk, thumbing thru a thesaurus in an attempt to come up with some multi-syllabic words for my next "Inside Scoop" column when the phone rang. Sudsy Monchik was on the line saying that he had decided to retire from professional racquetball, effective immediately. It was a phone call that I expected to receive some day, but maybe not that day because like many, I believe Sudsy has the talent and enough gas left in the tank to make another run at #1.

For me, Sudsy's retirement validates one of the cold realities of our sport, namely the lack of meaningful financial rewards for even the best among us. Lucrative racquet manufacturer sponsorships are a rare commodity, and only the top pros earn a reasonable wage. But for a few of exceptions, most pros do not net enough during their playing days to permanently (or even semi) retire. Even those who achieve real success on tour often are forced to hang it up long before their expiration dates because sponsorships are not renewed. As difficult as it is to make a living playing racquetball, life after the pro tour is even more challenging. While some look to build careers as teaching pros or work for one of the racquet manufacturers in some capacity, such opportunities are rare and the upside typically capped.

For sure Sudsy has been one of the highest paid professionals in the sport's history, and to the extent he chose to continue playing, certainly he would earn a comfortable living even if he never again reached the #1 ranking. However, his six-figure income probably has been flat for a decade and was much more appealing as a 20 year old single guy living with his parents than it is as a 30 year old husband and father to two small children. Sudsy recognizes that building a new career as an entrepreneur takes time and a short-term pay cut, and he would just assume start the process now rather than wait another three to five years. He is savvy enough to recognize the law of diminishing returns - namely that the benefits to beginning his next career now outweigh the incremental utility of collecting more racquetball titles. Surely Sudsy is not the first top professional to go this route, he is just the most prominent (see table below).

While we can understand Sudsy's decision in the context of the vagaries of racquetball's particular lot, we cannot help but be disappointed as sports fans. For some thirty years our greatest

champions  
have risen to  
the

challenge of combating the next generation. Marty Hogan began beating Charlie Brumfield regularly in 1976, but Brumfield continued to win matches against younger players until his retirement in 1982. Hogan won his first pro event in 1975 and his last in 1992, and along the way he finished #1 before and after Mike Yellen, Dave Peck and Ruben Gonzalez. Upon attaining his publicly stated goal of finishing #1 in five consecutive seasons, Yellen continued to perform against a new generation of power players and in fact regained the #1 ranking for a short time in the early 1990s. Cliff Swain's success in reclaiming the #1 ranking in 1998 after Sudsy's emergence stands as one of the sport's great achievements and possibly makes him first among racquetball immortals. In a similar vein, the racquetball community longed to see the adjustments that Sudsy would make in order to join battle with the massively talented Kane Waselenchuk. That Sudsy has chosen a different path on the dawn of a great challenge leaves us wanting more.

Nonetheless, I firmly believe that Sudsy has earned the right to be taken at his word in saying that he retires with no regrets and nothing left to prove. In finishing as #1 player in the world five times, Sudsy more than fulfilled the promise of his potential, and he breathes the rarified air of racquetball's supreme champions.

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**DREW KACHTIK**  
1997  
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**AARON KATZ**  
1995  
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