

September — October 2003 • \$4.50

RACQUETBALL

Team Mexico breaks through at the Pan American Games

Viva Mexico!



INSIDE ...

- Pan American Games
- Junior Olympics
- Choice U.S. OPEN Preview
- Gathering of the Greatest
- Pro Instruction, People

U.S. Racquetball Association • 1685 West Uintah
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from the >>>



The event's opening ceremonies were already weeks past our deadline, but the Pan American Games were well worth waiting for ... not only for the four-years between them, but for the excitement and surprise that they held for the sport. You can see it on this issue's cover, hear it from anyone who attended, and feel it from the daily website reports that supplement the story that begins on page six.

We learned that the Dominican Republic in August was grueling "tropical," but the new venue was spectacular. We saw many household names among the athletes, but followed results that logged upset after upset, and produced standout career performances across the board. The U.S. was challenged in a way that often motivates them to bounce back even stronger than before; other countries closed a gap that — up to now — had seemed insurmountable. Top coaches took their skills on the road to share the wealth of their knowledge, and the international playing field leveled so much so that it's now anyone's game, at any time. Top-flight, hard-fought competition is precisely what "sport" is all about, and racquetball offered up its fair share at the largest and most prestigious multi-sport international event in its lineup. Sure ... it wasn't the Olympics, but it was definitely the next best thing.

But back at home, while those very Games were being played, the U.S. Olympic Committee Reform Act being deliberated by the House and Senate threatened to omit the "Pan Am only" sports (those that only have Pan Am status, but are not yet included in the Olympic Games) from the USOC's mission. Simply put, the approval of bills that do not specifically include references to Pan Am only sports (seven, including racquetball) threatens to disenfranchise these sports, athletes and their national governing bodies. Since the USOC is the USRA's largest sponsor, the impact of such a move could be devastating. At press time, the results of lobbying efforts to address the situation were not known, but we'll continue to monitor the issue and update the websites as news is released.

So what is it about curling that makes it an Olympic Sport, but not bowling? Alpine skiing, but not water skiing? TaeKwonDo and Judo, but not Karate? Baseball, but not softball? Figure Skating and Ice Hockey, but not Roller Sports? And Tennis, Badminton and Table Tennis, but not Squash and Racquetball? Each of the "have not" sports that was fielded at the 2003 Pan American Games, and all of the athletes who competed in them were treated equally, without regard for the marginal distinctions that exist at the Olympic level. They trained as hard as anyone, and struggled for their countries, never stopping to entertain the notion their sport was less worthy than any other.

Could we really be viewed as second rate? I don't see it. But the fact remains that, right now, the state of racquetball can't just be about our national pride ... it's a great deal more far-reaching than that.

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RACQUETBALL™ is the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association. USRA memberships are available for \$30.00 per year (foreign=\$45.00 U.S.) and include a one-year subscription to RACQUETBALL™ and other USRA related publications. The USRA is recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as the national governing body [NGB] for the sport. All ideas expressed in RACQUETBALL™ are those of the authors or the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the USRA. Articles, photographs and letters are welcome and will be considered for inclusion. Acceptance of any print advertisement does not imply USRA endorsement of the product or service.

DEADLINES | Six weeks prior to issue release date.

ISSUE	COPY DEADLINE
January/February	November 15
March/April	January 15
May/June	March 15
July/August	May 15
September/October	July 15
November/December	September 15

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POSTMASTER | Send address changes to USRA, 1685 W. Uintah, Colo. Springs, CO 80904-2906.

ISSN 1060-877X



www.racquetballmagazine.com

RACQUETBALL

Volume 14, Number 5
September - October 2003

FEATURES

Pan American Games	6
National Juniors	14
U.S. OPEN Preview	24
U.S. OPEN Tipsheet.	48
Gathering of the Greatest	49

PROfile: TOUR NEWS

IRT OPEN Lineup	28
IRT Rankings & Calendar.....	29
LPRA OPEN Lineup	30
LPRA Rankings & Calendar ..	31
Legends OPEN Lineup.	34

DEPARTMENTS

From the Editor.....	2
Reader Forum	4
RB: Global.....	52
RB: People & Places	49
USRA National Rankings	60
USRA National Calendar	62
Sponsors & Advertisers	64

INSTRUCTIONAL

Sudsy's Magic Show	35
Ektelon Performance	38
Wilson Game Plan	39 & 43
Fran's House	40
Ashaway Mains & Crosses.....	41
Winning Racquetball.....	42
Training: Injury Imaging	44
AmPRO.	44

EVENTS

World Juniors	53
U.S. OPEN	inside back cover

... on the cover ... Mexican Doubles Teams took the Pan Ams by storm, with a debut victory for Susana Acosta and Rosy Torres and a second win for current World champs Alvaro Beltran and Javier Moreno. Photo: courtesy Federacion Mexicana de Raquetbol. Fotografias © 2003 Deporte.gob.mx and www.fmr.org.mx ... this page ... USA's Jack Huczek (upper left) and Cheryl Gudinas (below right) capped successful seasons with Pan Am gold medals. Also shown L-R: Kim Russell and Rocky Carson. Team photo: Getty Images.



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Moving Forward

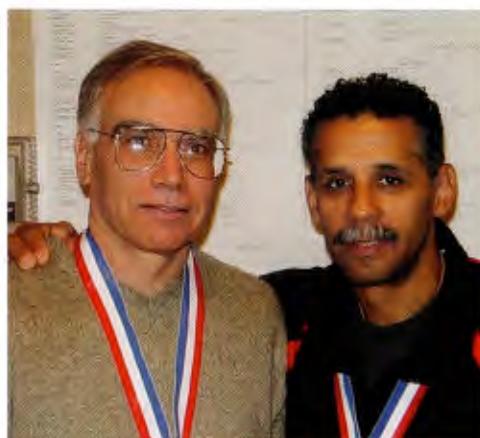
I think we are at a turning point in racquetball. I have seen the high and low points in our great sport and truly feel we are in for an upturn. The recent fundraising efforts of my friend, Randy Stafford, and the upcoming USRA Summit are big steps in the right direction. I want to offer my full support to the USRA in its endeavors to grow and better the sport.

I'm proud to be a part of the Legends Tour "Play Hard and Have Fun" Junior



hmmm ... who 'dat — II?

Still close after all these years ... Lifetime chums Ruben Gonzalez and Russ Mannino may be separated by an entire continent, but they gladly (and successfully) teamed up at National Doubles in Minnesota to take the Men's 50+ title.



Scholarship program. I'm also extremely excited to have my good friend and mentor, Dr. Steve Keeley, active in racquetball again. Keeley Wheeley, as I affectionately call him, is the best instructor in the history of the game. He's a genius on the court and a great asset to the game.

We are a great community of racquetball players — six million strong — and if we all pitch in we can take our sport to levels never even seen before. Racquetball has a glorious past and a great future ahead. I encourage all players to support the efforts of Randy and the USRA to lead our sport's resurgence.

Marty Hogan • Chesterfield, MO

Website Debut

In follow up to the previous letter, Steve "Bo" Keeley [Dr.K] reports that the Legends Tour recently unveiled its new website at www.legendsrbtour.com and that organizers are seeking your reaction and suggestions.

You'll find the tour's 16-stop schedule, results, forum, current events, newsletter, photo archives, and tips from Dr.K — plus photo archives that promise action shots of history's best players, beginning this fall when a pro photographer covers the Fountain Valley event. Look for Dr.K's instructional tips on the site, which correspond with his new book "Racquetball for Smarties." Please direct your enthusiasm for the website to contactus@legendsrbtour.com.

Steve "Bo" Keeley • On the road again

Just Say No to Ceiling Balls!

If some of you are like me, you may dominate the local competition only to be squashed later when you enter a real tournament of any size. After analyzing my game, I found that I was becoming complacent in my game and therefore, was not aggressive enough when I needed to be. I became content to play the ceiling game, waiting for the perfect setup or mistake from my opponent. I estimated that 85% of my ceil-

ing shots were nothing more than lazy returns because I wasn't in position early enough or I was content to take the "safe" return versus going for a more aggressive offensive shot.

I decided to change that strategy and mindset. I needed a way to make myself become more aggressive and shoot ALL shots when any opportunity presented itself. When playing with all my friends locally, I made a rule applicable just for me: Any ceiling shot I hit was an automatic point for them (if serving) or a sideout for me. In this way, I would be forced to take an aggressive offensive shot rather than flick the ball back the ceiling. Having used this approach for two months now, I must say it has definitely improved my game! It has given me a whole new arsenal.

So, if your game has stagnated like mine had, try adopting your own "No Ceiling" rule into your game with your local friends.

Lenny Haney • Marietta, Georgia

Correction

In the USRA's [Intercollegiate] Record Book, the 1985 listing is shown as "no results available." That year's championship was played in Memphis, and MSU won.

In fact, Memphis won every year from 1976 in Urbana, Illinois until 1990 in Berkeley, California — 15 successive years, then in 2000 in Phoenix, and now 2003 in Tempe for a total of 17 men's titles. In 30 years of Intercollegiate Racquetball, Memphis has won 17 titles, or an amazing 56.6%.

Congratulations to all of those outstanding young men who made this possible.

Jack Fulton • Memphis, Tennessee

In researching this correction, we not only found that the men's listing was incorrect, but the women's as well. Both sets of results have been changed to reflect the fact that MSU men and women have a long history of earning intercollegiate championship titles for their alma mater. — Editor.

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Younger and Younger ...

Generation Z! I took this picture of my daughters and later noticed they had my Racquetball Magazine. I thought it was too cute. Kirstyn is the one looking at the camera and Katelyn has the necklace on. They are twins and just turned two in June.

John Dill • Keller, Texas

Time to Recognize our Own ...

Take part in recognizing outstanding athletes and contributors in our sport by nominating candidates for annual awards. Here's the rundown, and contact information, for each of the award opportunities that will be reviewed in committee during the fall and winter months. All program specifics are indexed online at www.usra.org, under the "Sitemap/Index" heading.

Nomination Timeline

Award/Recognition (period reviewed)	Nomination Due
Hall of Fame (career achievement)	October 1
Sobek Contributor Award (current year)	December 1
[State] Presidential Award (current year)	December 1
Halverson Fair Play Award (current year)	December 1
Athletes/Year (current calendar year)	December 1
Steding [Female Age Group AY] (ccy)	December 1
Muehleisen [Male Age Group AY] (ccy)	December 1
Junior Athletes of the Year (preceding 12 months)	June 1

Please take a moment to review the online details of each award and then direct any questions to the national office or designated committee chairs, shown below:

National Office: Linda Mojer LMojer@usra.org
Presidential Award: Kevin Joyce KJoyce@usra.org
Hall of Fame: Jim Easterling djeasterling@earthlink.net
Annual Awards: Jack Hughes racquetballplus@attbi.com
Junior Awards: John Ferguson ferguson85@attbi.com

be sure to open this mail ... it's your new membership card!

Later in the season — when you join or renew — you'll receive an envelope that looks like the one shown below. And while you might mistake it for a fundraising solicitation from the U.S. Olympic Committee, you definitely don't want to toss it out! The USRA has partnered with the U.S. Olympic Xcel program to enhance membership benefits and do away with your flimsy paper membership card, and replace it with a credit-card style. It's colorful, sturdier and will carry some added discounts that you won't want to pass up! So when you see this in your mail ... be sure to go ahead and OPEN it!



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IT'S EVERY DAY

In the third playing of a Pan American Games racquetball event, 2003 marked the first time that the U.S. did not sweep gold in every division. It was also the first year that someone other than an American or a Canadian reached the final of any division at what has become the sport's most prestigious international competition. And although the U.S. may have walked away from Santo Domingo disappointed, it is hard to view two gold, three silver, and a bronze medal as sub par. It just goes to show that the world is catching up with the U.S. on the hardwood.

Instead of looking at it from the perspective that the U.S. didn't sweep every division, it might be better to view it as the year that other countries broke through. Argentina and Bolivia earned their first racquetball medals. For Bolivia, it was one of only two medals the country earned in the entire 2003 Pan Ams. Mexico had never before reached a final at the Pan Ams, but made the most of it this year by winning both of the finals that they reached, to earn the first non-U.S. gold medals in racquetball. Chile also medaled, for only the second time in Pan Am competition.

a pan am first for mexico

With only a handful of exceptions, the U.S. women's doubles teams have historically been considered a lock for bringing home a gold in international competition. Since teaming up for the 2002 World Championships, Jackie Rice and Kim Russell hadn't lost a game, let alone a match. Even with other talented doubles teams on the rise, none had even come close to challenging the pair. But what was supposed to be a routine walk-through for Rice and Russell took a downturn at the Pan Am final, when faced by the lefty-righty Mexican pair of Susana Acosta and Rosey Torres.

Things had seemed to be rolling along for the reigning World Champs. As expected, they had come through their pool without losing a game and handily defeated Bolivia's Paola Nunez and Carola Santos in the semifinal of the medal round, 15-8, 15-3.

At the same time, Acosta and Torres also seemed to be cruising comfortably, advancing undefeated in their pool, then winning back to back medal round playoffs to get to the final. First they dispatched Colombians Maria Gomez and Claudia Ramirez, 15-1, 15-2, then defeated Josee Grand'Maitre and Julie Neubauer of Canada, 15-13, 15-1 in the semifinal.

In their final against the U.S., Acosta and Torres pressed from the outset, opening the first game with aggressive play that kept the match tight. The momentum went back and forth, with each team siding out repeatedly until tying it up at 6-6. Then, predictably, Rice and Russell found their groove and pulled away to win the first game, 15-8.

But the second game took on a different tone as Acosta and Torres brought renewed energy, and jumped out to a 7-0 lead. The U.S. nearly caught up at 8-7, but that was as close as they would get. Mexico ran off

the last seven points of the game to force a tiebreaker, the first that Rice and Russell had ever experienced together.

The U.S. didn't seem fazed as they went into the deciding third. Sure, it was the first breaker that they had faced together, but far from the first that either veteran had seen.

As play began, Mexican fans thundered celebration in the stands, but it was quickly quieted when the U.S. took a 4-1 lead, which then stretched to 7-3.





Alvaro Beltran leaps for a shot, while teammate Javier Moreno covers back court in their semifinal. They are flanked by Canada's Francois Viens (left) and Cory Osborne.

That was when Mexican spectators launched a resurgence of support, and Acosta and Torres followed suit. They rolled off five straight points to take their first lead of the game at 8-7. Rice and Russell seemed a little surprised after the run, but settled back into the service box to score two straight points and gain a slight advantage.

Acosta and Torres then reclaimed the service box, much to the delight of fans who could sense that something special was about to happen. And they weren't disappointed as Acosta and Torres closed out the match with a three point run to secure one of the biggest upsets in recent history, with a remarkable 11-9 victory.

Repeat Performance

From the outset, the men's doubles draw had seemed to be the most even playing field at the Pan Ams. As expected, the teams of top-seeded Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Guidry for the U.S. and Alvaro Beltran and Javier Moreno for Mexico were stand-outs, but many other talented teams in the draw were also in the hunt.

Coming out of preliminary rounds, Gonzalez and Guidry, Beltran and Moreno, and Canadians

Gonzalez Out Front

At the opening ceremonies of the 14th Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, as the U.S. made their way into Juan Pablo Duarte Olympic Stadium in front of a capacity crowd, USA Racquetball's Ruben Gonzalez was walking out in front. In an unprecedented move, the U.S. put the first and second runners-up in the flag bearer elections at the front of the procession, just behind elected flag bearer Carl Eichenlaub. The first row is usually reserved for U.S. delegation officials only.

"It feels good. It's really great out of all of these athletes to be a finalist [for flag bearer]," Gonzalez said. "Just walking out there is great, but to be chosen to walk out front ... I was just overwhelmed."

Gonzalez, among the eldest competing athletes at the games, narrowly missed being elected flag bearer and finished first runner-up in the voting. The second runner-up was USA Shooting's John McNally. Ruben is pictured in the center of the shot [see larger view at www.racqmag.com]. Photo: Getty Images.





Cory Osborne and Francois Viens all won their respective pools. But Gonzalez and Guidry had gone to tiebreakers before advancing, after slow starts saw them drop their first game in each of their early matches.

Heading into the medal rounds at the close of the week, the Mexican team seemed to be the hottest. They had outscored their opponents 60-16 during the pool play and continued on that tear in the main draw. They got past the tough Colombian team of Francisco and Juan Gomez, 15-4, 15-8 in the quarterfinals, then ousted the Canadians in the semifinals 15-3, 15-9, to move into the gold medal contest.

While the Mexicans looked like the team to beat, the U.S. stepped up their game when the medal rounds began, defeating the Chilean team of Pablo Fajre and Sebastian Roesller 15-7, 15-9 [pictured above]. They then defeated pesky young Argentineans Daniel Maggi and Shai Manzuri, 15-14, 15-8.

With that, the finals were set as a rematch of the 2003 Tournament of the Americas, in which the U.S. had pulled out an 11-10 win over Mexico. Gonzalez and Guidry knew they couldn't rest on that April win and had to be prepared for an equal, or better, challenge from Beltran and Moreno.

"We won 11-10 at the Tournament of the Americas, but that was five months ago," Gonzalez said before the match. "This is now. A new gold medal. A new ball game. This is the Pan Ams."

Although there had been plenty of signs, no one expected Beltran and Moreno to come out like they did in the finals. They chalked up ten points before the U.S. could even get on the board. Gonzalez and Guidry cut

the lead in half at 10-5, before Beltran and Moreno once again moved ahead, eventually winning the first game 15-9.

The second game was even more punishing, as Mexico racked up a blistering 14-0 lead. To their credit, Gonzalez and Guidry never gave up, and rallied to score seven straight points on an exceptional run, but it was too little, too late. Beltran and Moreno continued the celebration begun earlier by their female teammates, with a 15-7 win to take the gold medal in straight games.

"We couldn't get anything going. They played great," a disappointed Guidry said after the match. "We got into the (service) box, but couldn't score any points."

First Pan Am for Huczek

After advancing through pool play, which Jack Huczek called "a good warm-up for the main draw," the seeds were set for the medal rounds. The winners of each of the three round-robin pools earned the top three seeds in the draw. Canada's Mike Green (No.1), Brian Istace (No.3), and Jack Huczek (USA, No.2), each won their respective pools and thus earned their spots in the draw. USA's Rocky Carson lost a close

match with Green in their pool, which dropped him into the No.6 spot and in the same half of the draw as teammate Huczek.

The quarterfinals saw Green advance past current 16-world junior champ Augustin Tristan of México, 15-5, 15-6, while Huczek cruised past Colombia's Francisco Gomez, 15-2, 15-1. Current world doubles champion Gilberto Mejia of Mexico played singles at this event and defeated Bolivia's Jorge Sambrana, 15-4, 15-2, for the chance to meet Green in the semifinals. Carson faced Istace in a match that started out close until Carson took control to win, 15-12, 15-7, and set up the all-U.S. semifinal.

"Luckily Brian wasn't on top of his game," Carson said after the match. "I've played [him] when he's playing good and this wasn't one of those times."



In the top half Green and Mejia battled it out against a backdrop of vocal crowd support from both the Canadians and the Mexicans in the stands. Green was able to edge Mejia in two games that could have gone either way, 15-13, 15-14.

As soon as that match was over, all the attention, and the crowd, shifted to the rematch of the 2003 U.S. National Singles final between Carson and Huczek, which was already in progress, but far from over.

Carson won the first game by taking an early 8-0 lead and then hanging on to win 15-11. The second game was much closer, with Huczek earning the last three points of the game to win 15-12.



After agitating each other in the first two games, situations got even more tense in the third. Carson earned the first point, followed by a sideout and a point for Huczek, to even the score at 1-1. But Huczek was convinced that he had earned two points, despite the referee's scorecard, the scoreboard, and the linesman's scorecard all indicating only a single point earned. Huczek appealed, lost the challenge, and then lost control. He tossed his towel into the referee's face, was issued a technical, and ended up losing the single point he'd gotten so far.

Huczek quickly shook off the incident and rattled off seven straight points to take a 7-1 lead. He then built it to 10-3 despite the crowd leaning heavily in Carson's favor after the outburst. Carson managed to score

Sharing the Wealth

Something that stood out from the sidelines at the Pan American Games was the number of U.S. head coaches leading South American teams. There were four in all; Brian Fredenberg for Venezuela, Brian Hawkes for Argentina, Marcy Lynch for Chile, and IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete for the Dominican Republic. Fredenberg and Hawkes are, themselves, former U.S. National Team members.

Most of the coaching positions started with a phone call, not too far in advance of the games.

"Rafael (Fernandez, Dominican Republic) called and told me they were looking for a coach and asked if I was interested," explained Negrete. "I accepted and came down here twice before the games and had Claudine (Garcia) and Rosa Gomez come to Chicago once to train."

Lynch was at a coaching seminar giving lectures on nutrition and the mental aspects of the game when she met Pablo Fajre and Angela Grisar. "I was at a coaching workshop in January when I met Angela and Pablo," she said. "They called me about a month before the games and asked me if I wanted to coach."

The former U.S. Team members were asked if they would have trouble coaching against their own country. They each had a different response.

"Not at all," said Hawkes who was on the team in 1988. "It doesn't matter to me who is playing. I am just coaching my players and helping them to win."

Fredenberg, who didn't have to face his country in any of the matches, was a little more hesitant. "I think it would have been hard."

Did the coaching help? It's hard to say, but Chile's Angela Grisar earned a bronze in singles and Argentina's men's doubles team of Daniel Maggi and Shai Manzuri also earned bronze. Either way, Lynch felt like it was a good step for other countries to tap into the U.S. resources.

"I feel like it's good for racquetball for other countries to get better," she explained. "I think when they take advantage of what the U.S. has — like coaching — they will get better. That makes the sport better and helps it to grow."



GARCIA & NEGRETE



LYNCH & FAJRE



MAGGI/MANZURI & HAWKES



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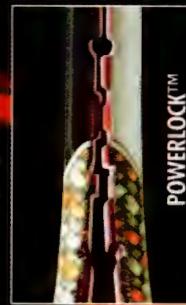
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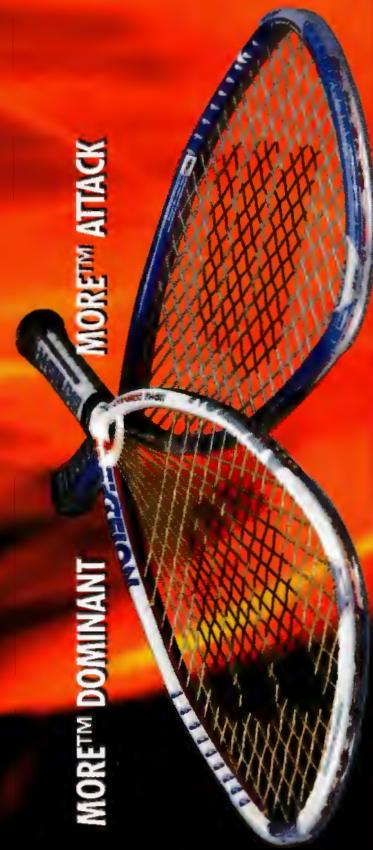
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three more and treated the crowd to a little dance before Huczek closed the door 11-6.

When asked how he managed to shut out the technical and the crowd to focus on the win, Huczek offered, "I have been used to them my whole career; the non-calls, the bad calls. I've been used to them my whole life and I am not going to let them affect me now."

Carson had a different outlook, "I didn't play consistent and he played tough," he said. "It was an honor to play for my country in front of all the Dominican fans and all of the racquetball fans. I just tried to leave it all on the line today."

In the following Huczek vs. Green final, it was apparent that Huczek had left his frustration behind. He looked sharper and more confident as he methodically went about winning the match in straight games 15-12, 15-7.

"I felt more relaxed today. I don't know why," he said. "I felt good all morning and in my warm-up. I was in a zone and felt very comfortable."

"Mike played well, but missed some shots that gave me opportunities," he continued. "I played consistent and that's all you have to do."

Gudinas Defends

From the start, it had appeared to be a two-woman race between top USA women Cheryl Gudinas and Laura Fenton. That turned out to be the case, when the two met in the women's singles final, but there were a series of interesting happenings along the way.

Early on, Fenton had been placed into what was considered the toughest prelim pool, but quickly turned it around to be a positive instead of a negative. "We definitely have the toughest pool, but sometimes that works to your advantage," she explained. "Sometimes when your pool isn't as tough and you come up against a better player in the (single elimination) draw, you may not be ready."

Fenton went on to win her round-robin, as did Gudinas and Canada's Lori Jane Powell, positioning Gudinas in the No.1 spot, Powell No.2, and Fenton No.3. Chile's

Angela Grisar, who won a bronze medal in women's doubles at the 1995 Pan Am games, secured the No.4 spot after finishing second to Fenton in their flight.

Moving into medal round play, the quarterfinals had some intriguing match-ups. The Dominican Republic's Claudine Garcia was one of the faster rising players on the LPRA tour before a knee injury. Now in her comeback, she faced Gudinas who wasted no time in dispatching the local star, 15-4, 15-5.

Angela Grisar faced Mexico's Nancy Enriquez, the 2002 16- world junior runner-up and a sure bet to become a

force in the future. Grisar had no trouble dispatching the youngster in this faceoff, 15-6, 15-5, but it may not be so easy next time.

Another young player with promise, Bolivia's Carola Loma, had to face Laura Fenton, who, since turning 40, has been playing some of the best racquetball of her life. Loma kept her nerves a little better than when she faced Gudinas in the pool, but it was still Fenton who walked away with the straight game win 15-7, 15-6.

Due to the preliminary round seedings, Powell and fellow Canadian Jennifer Saunders had the misfortune of facing each other very early in the draw. But what was bad luck for them was good luck for the spectators, who were treated to an exceptional match. Powell narrowly won the first game 15-14, then Saunders came back to squeak by with the same score in the second. Powell then surprised everyone by running away with the tiebreaker, 11-1.

In the semifinals Gudinas blew past Grisar in straight games of 15-5, 15-2, looking unstoppable in the process. Fenton had some trouble with Powell (who showed no signs of fatigue), but still managed the win, 15-10, 15-14.

Fenton and Gudinas have been the two most successful females in U.S. team singles competition in recent years. Fenton won the last two Tournament of the Americas events, including the one held this past April in Santo Domingo. Defending her Pan Am title, Gudinas has won just about everything else, including five straight USRA National Singles Championships and the past two world singles crowns.

Fenton scored the first five points of the match like a woman on a mission. Gudinas brought it even at 8-8, but seemed to be out of sorts, leaving the ball up and giving Fenton too many opportunities to put the ball away. Fenton pulled away again, this time never looking back, to take the first game 15-11.

The second game was a seesaw battle to 7-7, when Gudinas began to grind out her points, while keeping Fenton at bay. After three sideouts, Gudinas notched two points to go up 9-7. After eight more sideouts with no score, Gudinas tacked on another. Finally after four more sideouts she ended the game, 15-7, with a five-point run to force the tiebreaker.

The tiebreaker was played almost exactly as the second game had been, with both players staying close until it was tied at 5-5. Numerous sideouts followed until Gudinas once again tacked on a point here and there, until she came away with an 11-5 win for her second straight gold medal.

"It's more of a relief to have accomplished what I've wanted to do," she said after the match. "Of course I'm happy. I've wanted this for four years. It's been my goal."

• Site coverage & photos by Ryan John, USOC Press Officer

Additional photos by Sara Greenlee, USOC Press Officer

Diary of a Champion

By Cheryl Gudinas

Wednesday, July 30 — Traveling. Two weeks seems like a long time. I am eager to get this going. But as with every international event, it is hard to get the nervousness I need to play well this many days before competition begins. As is tradition, I am filled with self doubt, but reassure myself that, when the time comes, I will be ready.

My main concern: How will we all function with 11 individuals in one apartment/suite? I worry that, as a restless sleeper, this will be an issue. I know I need to begin to prepare mentally for this; perhaps one of the perceived obstacles enroute to the gold.

Thursday, July 31 — Still Traveling. Team briefing video makes me remember that getting here has been my goal since '99. Just when I think I am really fit, being around other USA athletes makes me realize there is so much room for improvement.

In Tampa's airport, Ruben steals the passport of an athlete from another sport. Typical Ruben. He delays departure a good 30 minutes, but it is good for a laugh.

The apartment suite is better than anticipated. Time to settle in and establish my space and living quarters, which will allow me to begin to get in my routine.

Friday, August 1 — First Day of Practice and Opening Ceremonies. We see the club for the first time and the courts are great. It's a very nice facility. As we walk toward the stadium to march in as Team USA, it is difficult to fight back tears, remembering all the hard work it has taken to get here and how important it is to be here.

The Weekend, August 2-3 — Second & Third Practice Days. It is hard to stay on my routine here, so long before competition. Practices go as usual. It's an uncomfortable feeling, always playing tentatively against my teammates. It always makes me wonder, "Is this how I will play once we start?" I am content knowing this is a common feeling with every trip and am confident and hopeful I will be ready when the time comes.

continued on page 52

In June the country's best junior racquetball players converged to the Executive Health & Sports Center in beautiful Manchester, New Hampshire for the Head 30th USRA Junior Olympic Championships. It was only the third time that the tournament has been held on the east coast and the first since 1997 when it was held in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Executive is also the home club of U.S. Junior Team Head Coach Kelley Beane where she works as the Court Sports Director. Coach Beane put together a wonderful volunteer staff that helped the USRA run a successful tournament. "Kelley and her staff went above and beyond the call of duty," said USRA Event Coordinator Heather Fender. "Without their help, the tournament wouldn't have been as successful as it was."

Not only did the Executive welcome the tournament with open arms, but New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson declared Saturday June 28 Junior Racquetball Day for the state.

Changes ... The U.S. Junior Team selection process had changed since last year's tournament. Now, instead of the top three singles players in the boy's and girl's 18-, 16-, and 14- making the team, only the top two would earn spots — adding even more drama to the semifinals. Also changed was the appointment of the top doubles pairs to the team, from the same age groups, allowing the best doubles players to compete for roster spots on their own merit, and adding importance to fields that had formerly only been considered "warm-ups" for singles.

A whole new ball game

Wide open for the first time in several years, the Boy's 18- division featured Ben Croft and Dan Sheppick in the top seed positions, followed by several other top contenders including Clay Burris, Brandon Shoemaker, and Travis Woodbury.

The first few rounds advanced without incident. Brad Slocum recorded the first upset by knocking off No. 8 Marc Moccia in an 11-6 tiebreaker in the round of 16, before running into top-seeded Croft in the quarters. Of the remaining seven

croft & fisher lead junior winners

seeds to face off in that round, No.2 Sheppick, after surviving a close first game, got past No. 7 Brady Hernandez, 15-13, 15-5, while No.4 Shoemaker defeated his doubles partner, No.5 Woodbury, in straight games of 15-9, 15-11.

In the remaining turnover, No.6 Shane Karmelin surprised everyone by defeating No.3 Clay Burris to earn a spot in the semifinals. It wasn't that Karmelin took the match, but the ease in which he did so, 15-4, 15-11.

Later Sheppick turned the tables on Karmelin, ending his run in a 15-7, 15-3 rout, thereby moving into the finals and onto the junior team. In the remaining semi, one of the most anticipated match-ups of the tournament, Croft defeated Shoemaker in two close games of 15-12, 15-11.

This Sheppick vs. Croft rematch echoed not only last year's boy's 16- final, but also the most recent U.S. High School Nationals. Sheppick had been able to defeat Croft in both of the previous match-ups, although Croft had been forced to withdraw from the high school finals at 4-4 in the tiebreaker after severely spraining his ankle.

When the games were split to force a tiebreaker, USRA Executive Director Jim Hiser was called in to calm the contestants down, after each had committed several unsportsmanlike acts. Both downplayed the incidents, claiming instead that it was just misinterpreted gamesmanship.

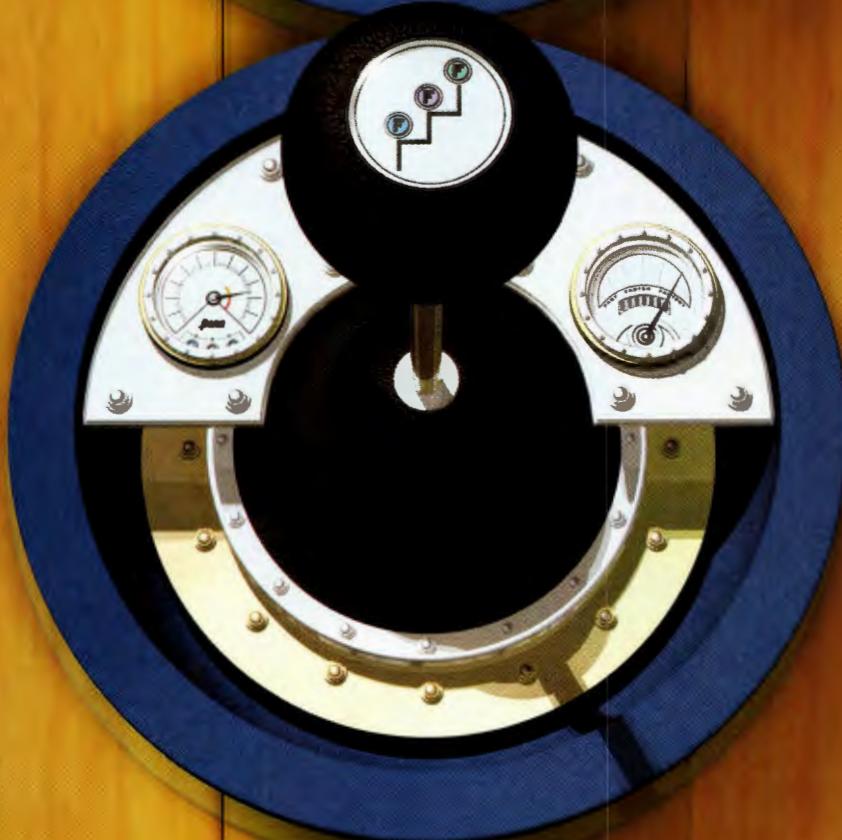
With a national championship on the line, both players abandoned the head games and concentrated on their racquetball. Croft came out of the gate hot and took an



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Double Duty

The Executive Health & Sports Center was not only the home for the Head Junior Olympic Championships, but the workplace for U.S. Junior Team Head Coach Kelley Beane. Kelley works as the Court Sports Director for the club and helped the USRA with organizing the tournament.



"The volunteer staff came together months and months beforehand. We contacted the Oregon (junior) group and got some ideas from them," Kelley explained. "We wanted our tournament to be like in the old days with lots of stuff to do besides just playing in the tournament."

There were plenty of activities for the players off the court with robot wars everyday in the gym along with a Segway demonstration. They also organized a basketball shootout, a lounge for the players complete with Playstation II, and two cookouts hosted by the New Hampshire and Massachusetts Racquetball Associations.

The extras weren't just for the kids, but also for their parents. There was always someone on hand at an information table to give out directions or ideas on what to do in the area.

"I had some of my senior racquetball players help us out with giving people information," Kelley said. "Just so if someone had a few hours during the day to kill they could ask what there was to do."

One thing Kelley didn't have to do at the tournament was coach. "I take a personal stand at these tournaments and won't coach for or against anyone," she made clear. "There's no rule against it. It's just something that I won't do."

She did take the chance to scout her new team and meet with each of the players individually as they earned their spots.

"It's always nice to come to a tournament like this and see your star athletes perform and not coach. I can just sit back and watch the game rather than dissect it. I can enjoy watching two great racquetball players."

early 6-1 lead before Sheppick made a comeback to pull within 1 at 6-5. But that was as close as he would get, as Croft ended the match on a 5-0 run to capture his first national championship, 11-5.

"This is the best feeling ever," Croft said after his match. "I've never done it before (win a national title), but after winning it I have to do it again next year because the feeling's great."

The boy's 16- were also viewed as wide open, and last year's third place finisher, Charlie Pratt, earned the top seed, followed by Drew Toland, Anthony Herrera, and Jordan Walters. Hometown hero Mike Keddie also hoped to make his mark on a new division after finishing second last year in the 14's. And his efforts didn't go unnoticed; he had plenty of crowd support and his matches were well documented in the local press and on television.

The top eight had no problem advancing to the quarterfinals, and the top half of the bracket played true to form with No.1 Pratt and No.4 Walters earning semifinal spots. The bottom half was anything but, with both of the higher seeds falling in straight games.

Keddie, in the No.6 spot, dismantled No.3 Herrera, 15-5, 15-2. No matter what Herrera tried, Keddie was able to do it better [see sidebar, facing page]. Down 14-2 in the second game Herrera called a timeout. Before going back onto the court, he looked at the capacity crowd cheering for Keddie and asked in jest, "Are you ready to see the best comeback ever?" Despite his optimism, it wasn't to be and Keddie took the last point to advance.

Recording the second upset in the bottom half was No.7 Joey Lakowske over No.2 Toland. Last year Lakowske had played a sub par tournament when he was knocked out early by Brady Hernandez. Now he was looking to make amends. He defeated Toland easily in straight games 15-7, 15-6 to move into position against the local hero.

lakowske vs. pratt



After Pratt advanced past Walters in straight games to get to the finals, 15-9, 15-8, he then waited to see if his best friend and doubles partner Lakowske would be able to meet him there. Lakowske played a steady game in the first, closing out strong to win 15-7, but Keddie came out more determined in the second game and built a 12-7 lead. Lakowske tied things up at 12 only to find himself facing game point a few moments later.

Down 14-12, Lakowske focused on the task at hand, "I told myself that I was going to play perfect or lose this game," he said. "I played perfect for the last three points." In doing so he was able to take the narrow comeback win and join Pratt in the finals.

Doubles partners may sometimes find themselves facing each other in their singles draws, but rarely in the finals, and even less often when they are best friends. "One of us has been in the finals of every age group, but we haven't played against each other in the finals since the 10-and unders," Pratt explained. "We wanted a rematch, but he's my best friend and it's hard to look at him as an enemy."

It seemed as though they were able to put their friendship on hold as they played two very close games, splitting with identical scores of 15-12. Pratt stepped his game up a notch in the tiebreaker, leaving Lakowske behind, 11-2. "We wanted a good match today," Pratt said after the match. "It was really an exciting way to finish."

In the youngest team qualifying division, the **Boys' 14**-players have their first chance to make their mark nationally, and seedings can almost be thrown out the window. This year was no exception to that rule, and heading into the quarterfinals only half of the top eight seeds were left. More would fall there.

Unseeded Allan Crockett had attended the USRA Elite camp a year earlier and was already seeing results as he downed No. 2 Richard Sledzik Jr. in a rollercoaster match, 15-4, 10-15, 11-7. Jonathan Doyle, also unseeded, gave No.3 Tripp Isley all he could handle - and then some. Doyle won a close first game 15-13 over Isley and then took control of the match in the second, winning 15-5.

Top seeded Ismael Aldana had been cruising through the draw and continued to do so in the quarters, getting by Jerome Jackson 15-10, 15-3. Sean McGrath, at No.5, became the only other seed to make the semifinals after a nailbiter against Jacob Hukins. In an



Comic Relief

Matt McAdam [pictured with his dad Bob], came up with some of the best straight lines heard all week. Matt is the grandson of 80+ champ Robert McAdam of Texas, who received the Bud Muehleisen Age Group Athlete of the Year Award at National Singles [M/J], pg.46.

The youngest McAdam was in New Hampshire to compete in the 6 and unders for Team Colorado, and was cheering for Rocky Mountain neighbor Anthony Herrera when he came up with his first bomb.

Herrera was down early, 8-2, to Mike Keddie and had called a timeout. As he went for a sip of water Herrera rhetorically asked, "Where's this kid from? He's rolling everything." Matt was quick to help his buddy out. He stood up, tugged Anthony's shirt, and suggested, "Probably Oregon ..." causing everyone within earshot to laugh, including Herrera, who choked on his water and sprayed everyone in the stands. Even though he'd guessed wrong, Matt was certainly in the loop, and was well aware that Oregon was one of the junior powerhouses that had numerous players advancing each day.

Matt then went on to savor his 6- multi-bounce playoff for third. From the sidelines, his father was worried that he was going to get called for serving before his opponent was ready because he was playing so fast. Then at match point Matt stood in the box waiting to serve for an unusual amount of time. Then Dad was worried about a delay of game call.

After Matt won the match, Bob asked his son why he waited so long to serve. Matt's reply was insightful beyond his years, "I was just thinking that it was my last serve ever in 6's. I just wanted to enjoy it."

More of us should take the time to enjoy the little things. Grandpa would definitely be proud.

admirable display of sportsmanship, McGrath overturned the referee's non-call of a door hinder at 10-7 in the tiebreaker. Instead of taking the match on a questionable call, he opted to play the point over, and went on to win it cleanly, 15-13, 12-15, 11-8.

Crockett continued to play well in the semifinals and blew past Doyle in straight games, 15-4, 15-3, while Aldana received his first real test against McGrath.

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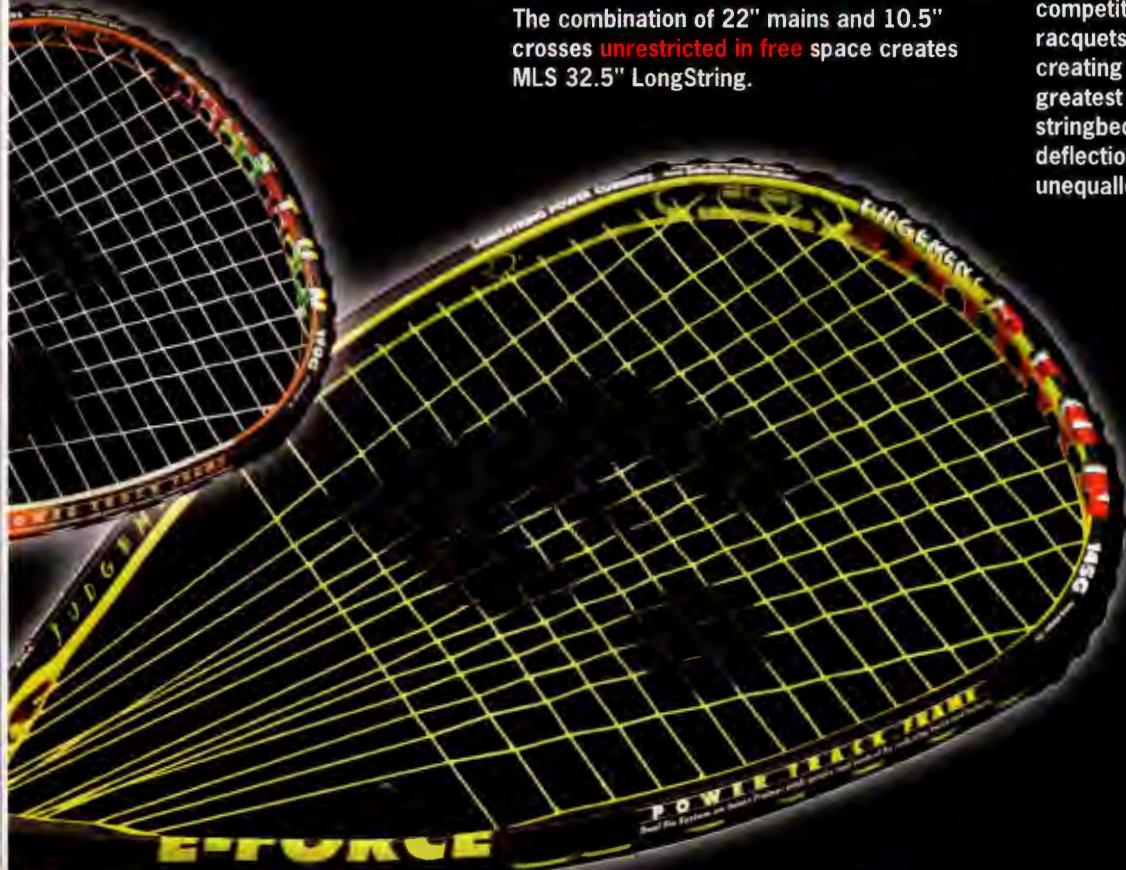
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New Horizons

No one knew what would be in store when the USRA decided to add the top doubles pairings to the U.S. Junior National team. Previously, only the top three singles players in the 18-, 16- and 14- divisions had been appointed, and were later paired to make up the doubles teams at the IRF Junior World Championships.

"There were two reasons why we changed the format for making the team," explained USRA Junior Council chair John Ferguson. "The first was because some of the players were skipping doubles to play in two singles divisions. Secondly, we lost a lot more doubles [titles] than we should have last year at the worlds. The two best singles players don't necessarily make the best doubles team."

Ferguson's theory proved true in the boy's divisions, where there were no "double qualifiers" (players to make the cut in both singles and doubles). Brandon Shoemaker and Travis Woodbury earned the boy's 18- title, Anthony Herrera and Jared Torres the boy's 16- (*finalists shown at right*), and Tripp Isley and Richard Sledzik Jr. the boy's 14-. But the theory fell short in the girl's divisions, where the top two singles players in the girl's 16- and 14- took home the doubles titles as well. Only Da'Monique Davis earned a doubles-only spot on the team, when she teamed with Jesi Fuller to help win the girl's 18- title.

Most of those involved felt that the qualifying change was a good move that will benefit the U.S. at the upcoming Junior Worlds, where the team will attempt to regain the title lost for the first time to Mexico last year.

"I like having the doubles included because it gives the singles players the chance to just concentrate on singles and the doubles teams to just concentrate on doubles," said Junior team Head Coach Kelley Beane.

Although he was disappointed at not making the team in singles, Brandon Shoemaker welcomed the change. "I'm glad they did it or I wouldn't be on the team," he laughed. "I just hope that it helps the team out with points at worlds."

Da'Monique was a little more insightful. "I think that it is better to have people that are comfortable together in doubles play together rather than just random people." She continued, "You can't just take two great singles players and put them together and expect them to gel as a team. You can put two good doubles players together and expect a little more."

Herrera thinks it comes down to communication. "Jared and I communicate well on the court," he explained. "When I say communicate, it doesn't mean that we just talk well. We always just seem to know where the other one is and what shots they are going to hit. You don't just get that with putting anyone together."

Isley agrees with Shoemaker and believes that it will help the team at worlds. "I think the doubles side of the team will do better this year since last year it was one of our weaker aspects." *Photo: Dan Davis*.



Aldana survived a close first game, 15-14, and then found his groove in the second, winning 15-7.

In the finals it looked as though Crockett's Cinderella run would come to an abrupt end, after Aldana took the first game 15-6. But Crockett wanted to continue his roll for a little longer and won the second game 15-13. But despite momentum in Crockett's favor heading into the decisive third, Aldana quickly turned the tide in his favor to win it 11-6.

Fisher Leads Girl's Divisions

Unlike most of the boy's divisions, there was a clear favorite in the [Girl's 18-](#) ... top seeded Adrienne Fisher. Fisher had won both the girl's 18- and 16- titles a year ago and just ended an unprecedented four-year winning streak at the National High Schools.

In a small draw, Fisher found herself in the semifinals right off the bat, along with the other top seeds, who also advanced to battle it out for team spots. Ironically, both semi match ups pitted doubles partners against one another. Fisher would take on No.4 Katie Ferguson and No.2 Da'Monique Davis faced No.3 Jesi Fuller.

Fisher advanced past an improving Ferguson in straight games with identical scores of 15-5, 15-5. Davis and Fuller replayed their quarterfinal of last year, which had kept Fuller off of the national team. Fuller, who gave up track in her senior year to concentrate on racquetball, earned her revenge, 15-4, 15-6.

"It feels good because I lost to her last year," Fuller explained. "I'm glad I was able to go through her to regain my spot on the team."

In another rematch, the girl's 18- echoed the high school nationals in March. It was there that Fuller discovered a chink in Fisher's seemingly impenetrable armor. Although Fuller eventually lost, she was able to take Fisher to a tiebreaker —



something most junior challengers have had trouble doing.

"I was thinking about it actually (the high school final)," Fisher said. "I know she's tough and I wanted to play well and not go to a tiebreaker."

There was no need for a tiebreaker as Fisher took advantage of early mistakes by Fuller and rolled to a 15-1, 15-8 victory. Fisher mixed up her serves, as well as her shots, against Fuller to keep her off balance.

"She's quick and I know that when she sits on something I'm done," Fisher explained. "I can't react as quickly as she can so I tried to keep her guessing."

The Girl's 16- had only one feeder match into the quarterfinals, in which Sarah Moyle defeated Dianne Meyer 15-9, 15-10 for a shot at top seeded Kelley Fisher. Kelley is the younger sister of Adrienne, to whom she lost to in the finals of the girl's 16- last year.

Kelley got past Moyle 15-10, 15-9, while the other top three seeds also advanced easily in straight games. From the No.2 position, Elise Wilson got past Elizabeth Ferguson, 15-2, 15-3, No.3 Ashley Willhite defeated Kimberly Walsh, 15-2, 15-6, and No.4 Ashley Legget, coming back from an injury that kept her out of last year's tournament, showed no signs of being rusty in defeating Sarah Hettesheimer, 15-1, 15-0.

The semifinals pitted the top four seeds against each other. Fisher faced Legget and defeated her with a solid perfor-

The First Gold Medalist

Most of the focus in the Junior Olympics is set on the top qualifying divisions, but there are 16 other divisions that have just as much competition. It's where rising stars are made and the future of racquetball is in their hands.

Elizabeth Vargas, 7, is one of those players and was the first to win a gold medal. She defeated Danielle Falvey in her first round-robin match and then got past Danielle Elder to clinch the title.

"I played well because I practiced and I tried hard," she said after her match.

Elizabeth also earned a bronze medal in the girl's 8- multi-bounce and planned to show her medals to her friends back home "I like to show my medals," she said shyly. "Sometimes they think I am showing off, but ... oh well." Photo: Dan Davis.

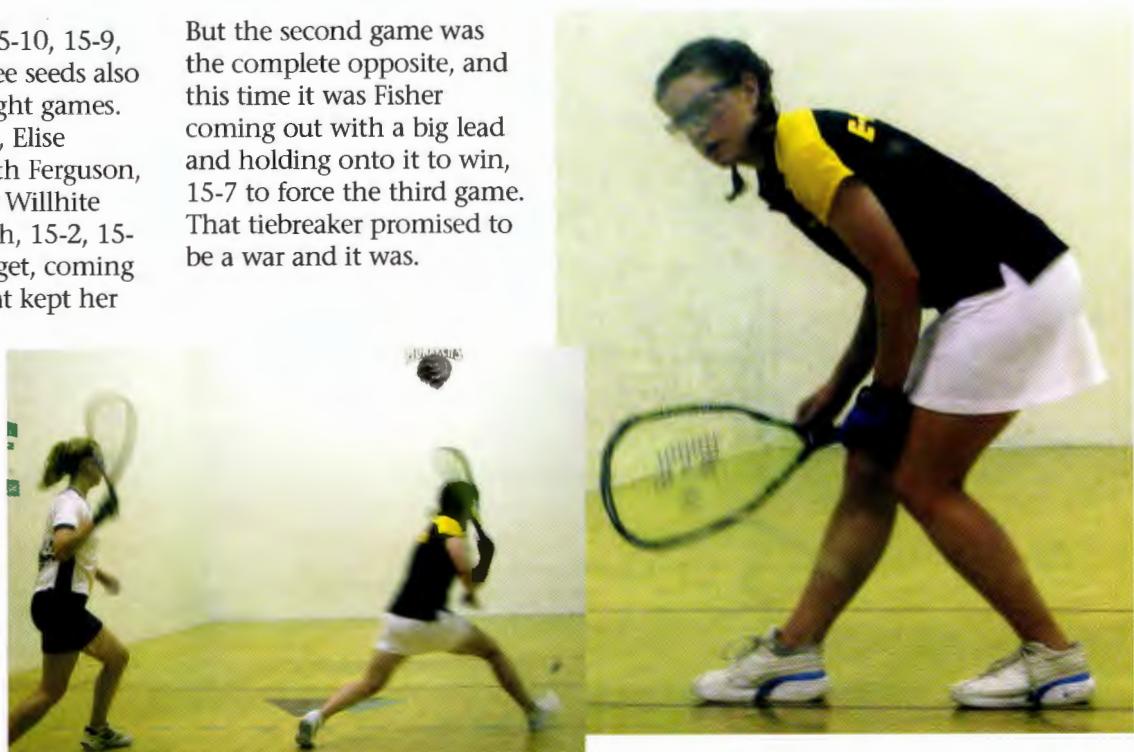


mance, 15-10, 15-4. Wilson and Willhite battled it out in the bottom half, splitting the first two games, before Wilson was able to pull out some key rallies at the end of the third to edge Willhite 11-8.

The girl's 16- final was one of the most exciting, as Wilson (*below right*) flew out of the gates and ran up a 12-7 lead. Fisher (*below left*) scraped together a few more points, but Wilson closed out game one 15-9.

But the second game was the complete opposite, and this time it was Fisher coming out with a big lead and holding onto it to win, 15-7 to force the third game. That tiebreaker promised to be a war and it was.

Wilson took control in building a 6-3 lead, but the momentum changed when Fisher tied it up 6-6. Again Wilson made another push and was on the verge of closing out the match 10-6. Fisher changed her serve to a hard-Z to the forehand, which gave Wilson fits, and brought the match even at 10-10. Fisher pitched another hard-Z to the lefty's forehand, but this time Wilson rolled it out for a winner. Five side-outs later, Wilson closed out the match 11-10.



"I was worried (during the comeback), but I worked hard and I wanted this win really bad," Wilson said after the match. "I was just concentrating on getting a sideout or a point every rally."

Shannon Inglesby and Brittany Legget have been battling it out on the court since they began competing in the girl's 8- multi-bounce. They received the top two seeds in the Girl's 14- with Inglesby earning the top spot after winning the girl's 12- title last year. Also in the mix were No.3 Dannielle Pimental and No.4 Kara Mazur.

The action really heated up in the quarterfinals and although the top four seeds survived, three of them needed tiebreakers to do so. Inglesby lost a close first game, 15-14, to Hettesheimer before dominating the next two, 15-5, 11-2. Legget also survived a three game match that went down to the wire against No.7 Sharon Jackson, 14-15, 15-13, 11-10. Pimental won the first

game easily against Michelle Key 15-6, but dropped the second, 15-13, then managed to regain her focus to win the third 11-3. Only Mazur won in straight games against doubles partner Jennifer Fenton, 15-9, 15-10.

After such close quarterfinal matches, the semifinals were relatively ho-hum. Inglesby disposed of Mazur in straight games of 15-7, 15-7. Legget and Pimental looked like they would have another classic match, after Legget escaped with a narrow 15-14 win in the first. But the second game was all Legget, as she cruised to a 15-5 advance.

The final looked like it was going to be a blowout with Inglesby taking the first game 15-5, but the tide turned in Legget's favor in the second as she forced a third with a 15-6 win. The tiebreaker started out close, but Legget pulled ahead in the end with some key shots to complete the upset, 11-6, for this year's title.

head junior olympics

Executive Health & Fitness
Manchester, NH: June 25-29, 2003

SINGLES

Boys' 18: Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.) def. Dan Sheppick (Milwaukie, Ore.) 15-11, 7-15, 11-5

Boys' 16: Charlie Pratt (Portland, Ore.) def. Joey Lakowske (Corvallis, Ore.) 15-12, 12-15, 11-2

Boys' 14: Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.) def. Allan Crockett (Birmingham, Ala.) 15-6, 13-15, 11-6

Boys' 12: Taylor Knoth (Milwaukie, Ore.) def. Danny Lavelly (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) 15-11, 11-14

Boys' 10: Joseph Lee (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Dylan Reid (Portland, Ore.) 15-9, 15-9

Boys' 8: Sam Reid (Portland, Ore.) def. Ryan Coates (Springboro, Ohio) 15-3, 15-5

Boys' 8 MB: Keegan North (Springboro, Ohio) def. Doug Brenner (Portland, Ore.) 8-11, 11-4, 11-8

Boys' 6 MB: Spencer Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio) def. Kyle Ulliman (Westerville, Ohio) 15-6, 15-4

Girls' 18: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) def. Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15-1, 15-8

Girls' 16: Elise Wilson (Bristol, Conn.) def. Kelley Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) 15-9, 7-15, 11-10

Girls' 14: Brittany Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) 5-15, 15-6, 11-6

Girls' 12: Danielle Key (Gilbert, Ariz.) def. Wesley Toland (Parkin, Ark.) 15-13, 10-15, 11-9

Girls' 10: Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.) 15-5, 12-15, 11-2

Girls' 8: Abbey Lavelly (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) def. Micaela Garrison-Desany Def. (ns)

Girls' 8 MB: Abbey Lavelly (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) def. Lauren Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) 11-9, 9-11, 11-1

Girls' 6 MB: Elizabeth Vargas (Aurora, Colo.) def. Danielle Falvey (Madison, Wisc.) 11-5, 11-6

DOUBLES

Boys' 18: Brandon Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio)/Travis Woodbury (Arlington, Va.) def. Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.)/Dan Sheppick (Portland, Ore.) 14-15, 15-5, 11-2

Boys' 16: Anthony Herrera (Grand Junction, Colo.)/Jared Torres (Garden City, Kan.) def. Joey Lakowske (Corvallis, Ore.)/Charlie Pratt (Portland, Ore.) 15-13, 15-12

Boys' 14: Tripp Isley (Arden, N.C.)/Richard Sledzik Jr. (Brockton, Mass.) def. Jake Bredenbeck (St. Croix, Minn.)/Cam Grundman (St. Cloud,

Minn.) 12-15, 15-4, 11-9

Boys' 12: Taylor Knoth (Milwaukie, Ore.)/Billy Wainwright (West Linn, Ore.) def. John-Craig Chisolm (Marlborough, Mass.)/Bradley Kirch (Syracuse, N.Y.) 15-10, 15-8

Boys' 10: Taylor Regier (Gladstone, Ore.)/Dylan Reid (Portland, Ore.) def. Jacob Boyle (Beaverton, Ore.)/Sam Reid (Portland, Ore.) 15-9, 15-5

Girls' 18: Da' Monique Davis (San Antonio, Texas)/Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.) def. Katie Ferguson (Portland, Ore.)/Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) 15-10, 8-15, 11-5

Girls' 16: Kelley Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Elise Wilson (Bristol, Conn.) def. Ashley Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.)/Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 15-7, 15-7

Girls' 14: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Brittany Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Jennifer Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.)/Kara Mazur (Avon, Conn.) 15-8, 9-15, 11-10

Girls' 12: Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Nicole Grundman (St. Cloud, Minn.)/Wesley Toland (Parkin, Ark.) 15-12, 15-10

Girls' 10: Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Tarryn Harborth (Sacramento, Calif.)/Monique Horyza (Orangevale, Calif.) 15-5, 15-7

Mixed 18: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Brandon Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio) def. Da' Monique Davis (San Antonio, Texas)/Brady Hernandez (New Orleans, La.) 15-2, 15-7

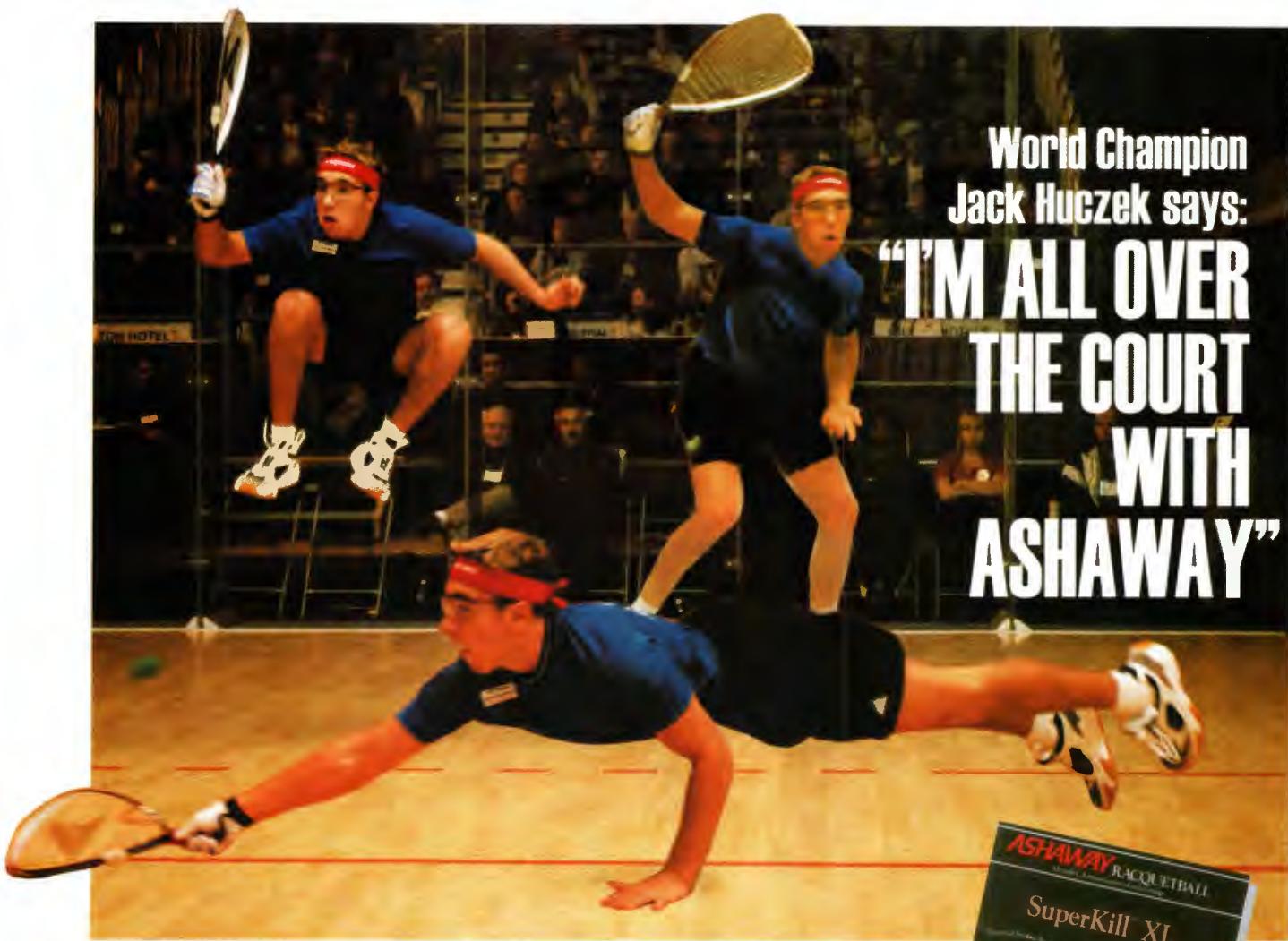
Mixed 16: Kelley Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Drew Toland (Parkin, Ark.) def. Elise Wilson (Bristol, Conn.)/Mike Keddie (Manchester, N.H.) 4-15, 15-4, 11-8

Mixed 14: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Jansen Allen (Rice, Texas) def. Dannielle Pimental (Corvallis, Ore.)/Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.) 1-15, 15-9, 11-3

Mixed 12: Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Taylor Knoth (Portland, Ore.) def. Wesley Toland (Parkin, Ark.)/Danny Lavelly (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) 15-12, 15-13

Mixed 10: Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.)/Taylor Regier (Gladstone, Ore.) def. Monique Horyza (Orangevale, Calif.)/Andy McGuffey (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-2, 15-3

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SPECIAL PREVIEW

It's hard to believe, but the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships, slated for November 19-23 in Memphis, Tennessee, is just around the corner. This year's event promises to be the best ever — with a record turnout of both players and spectators — so this special preview is designed to give you an idea of what you can look forward to ... whether you plan to attend or have to follow the action from home.

Amateur Draws: With a limit of 750 players, at press time there were only about 250 spots left. You'll need to make your move now if you plan to attend, and hope we can get you into the draw. Amateur matches are played primarily at the Six50 TotalClub (formerly Wimbledon) and the University of Memphis. I strongly recommend that players enter two divisions (three, if one is doubles) to get a full week of play in, since no consolation rounds are offered due to draw size and court limitations. With players coming in from all around the world, the competition should be excellent in each of the over 70 divisions offered. The top four finishers in each division will receive oversized medallions that weigh almost a full pound each!



Pro Match Tickets: There is no better place in the world to watch pro racquetball than at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, since every top tour player in the world [IRT, LPRA and LEGENDS] will be on hand in Memphis. For the true enthusiast, this means incredible matches right from the round of 64, all professionally wired for sound so spectators can hear every grunt, groan, and muttered comment. All the feature matches take place on the beautiful made-for-TV portable stadium court, where the ball sounds like a missile going off (so be sure to bring your earplugs if you're sensitive). This engineering marvel has two walls made of crystal clear Lucite acrylic that is optically correct (no tinting, blurring, or bending of light), supported by Lucite "fins" and "L" brackets which result in a seamless visual experience that makes you feel like you're right inside the court. The stadium seats about 1,000 fans and ticket sales have been hot, with over 65% of ticket inventory for the week already sold, and the semi and finals sessions closer to 85%. Even if you can't commit to competing in the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, take the weekend off and come into town for the parties and outstanding pro play. Don't miss out ... call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to order your tickets now!

Parties, Parties, and More Parties! Aside from top-notch competition, the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN is best known for its evening social functions. Entrants can expect more of the same this year, starting with the "free admission" Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude on Tuesday, the all new "Late Night in the Pub" Dance Party on Thursday (featuring the midnight all-you-can-eat hot fudge sundae bar),

Preview to the 2003 Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN ... by Doug Ganim

the Players Dance Party in the Pub on Friday and the largest bash of the year -- Saturday's Grand Gala Party with the Pros. Other activities include a special International Reception on Wednesday for all of our "out of the country" guests and a weeklong Industry Trade Show in the Player's Village, where all the top racquetball manufacturers will display the latest and greatest gear available in the sport. Look for new special events this year, including a special IRT Champions Clinic and the IRT/LPRA Super Skill Challenge!

Can't make it to Memphis? If you're sure you can't play, or even come in for the weekend to watch featured matches and do some partying, your last resort will be to follow the action from home. To make this easier, we will transform our website — www.choicehotelsusopen.com — into a computer "window" to bring

the action to your computer screen. This year's plan includes frequent results posting, up-to-the-minute pro match reporting, digital photography, streaming video of select pro matches, and web-radio interviews with top pro's as well as audio play-by-play voice streaming of the quarters, semi's, and finals. Special thanks to computer guru and webmaster Willie Tilton for spearheading this ambitious project.

The Pros! As always, the focal point of the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN is high-quality professional competition. Anyone on tour will tell you that the intensity is at its highest at this event, making every match yield 120% effort from both players. These athletes provide first-rate, incredible entertainment in the quest for the coveted U.S. OPEN



CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

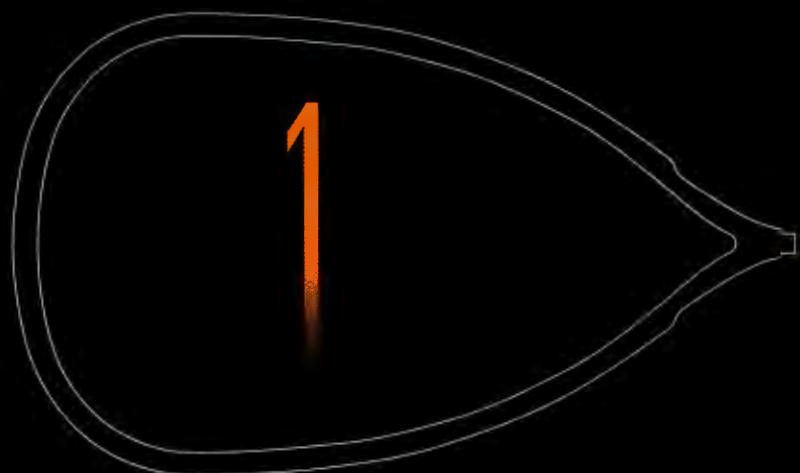
Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

title, and never before have so many different players had a real shot at winning this particular crown. The IRT, LPRA, and LEGENDS Tours have begun to show more parity at the upper positions, thanks to hot talent on the rise. Follow along with the companion previews of the tour lineups elsewhere in this issue, to learn more about which players to watch at this year's Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN. See you there!

performance statsheet ...

see individual odds, beginning on page 28 ...								Performance Factors	
Men		'02	'01	'00	'99	'98	'97	'96	Performance Factors
Sudsy Monchik	1st	dnp	1st	semi	1st	2nd	1st	semi	Bookmaker's nightmare!
Cliff Swain	2nd	1st	2nd	2nd	2nd	1st	semi	Does he have one more in him?	
Jason Mannino	qtrs	semi	32s	1st	16s	qtrs	16s	16s	How will he do as the favorite?
John Ellis	qtrs	2nd	qtrs	semi	semi	semi	qtrs	Must maintain his power all week	
Kane Waselenchuk	semi	qtrs	qtrs	—	—	—	—	Can he win, at less than best?	
Jack Huczak	semi	16s	16s	32s	—	—	—	Not if, but when, he'll win his first	
Alvaro Beltran	qtrs	qtrs	semi	64s	—	—	—	Fit enough for multiple upsets?	
Rocky Carson	qtrs	qtrs	qtrs	16s	—	—	32s	Must do his best, is he due?	
Mike Guidry	16s	semi	16s	16s	qtrs	16s	qtrs	Court suits him, but he'll need it all	
Mike Green	16s	32s	32s	—	—	—	—	Needs to turn it up a notch	
Women		'02	'01	'00	'99	'98	'97	'96	Performance Factors
Cheryl Gudinas	1st	semi	semi	semi	qtrs	semi	2nd	2nd	Defender with confidence
Jackie Paraiso Rice	2nd	2nd	semi	1st	1st	2nd	semi	semi	Always plays well in Memphis
Kerri Wachtel	semi	1st	32s	—	—	—	32s	32s	Will Cinderella's magic return?
Rhonda Rajsich	qtrs	16s	2nd	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	Needs all her firepower
Kersten Hallander	qtrs	semi	qtrs	qtrs	qtrs	32s	—	—	Would be a career peak
Kristen Walsh	16s	16s	16s	—	32s	—	—	—	Her time will come ... this year?
Adrienne Fisher	qtrs	dnp	32s	—	—	—	—	—	Has the power to beat them all
Kim Russell	qtrs	qtrs	—	—	—	—	—	—	Needs a miracle, and more power
Laura Fenton	semi	qtrs	qtrs	16s	qtrs	qtrs	32s	32s	Past her prime, but experienced
Christie Van Hees	dnp	dnp	1st	2nd	2nd	16s	32s	32s	Past champ is back, look out!

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ONE THREE



Derek Robinson
Top IRT Pro Player

Cliff Swain
Six Time Pro
World Champion

Zach
Future Superstar

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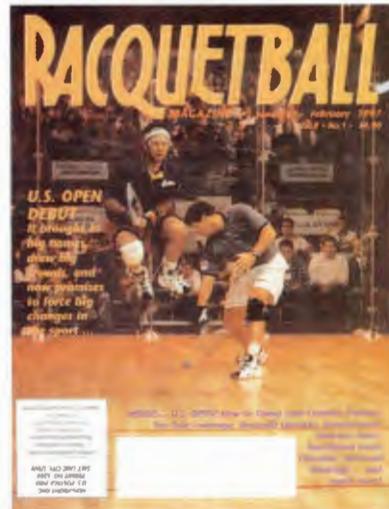


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special preview ... IRT



Nearly a decade has passed since racquetball power broker Doug Ganim pitched the then-AARA Board of Directors on the U.S. OPEN concept. Now, as the USRA marquee event enters its eighth year, it remains the most eagerly anticipated tournament of the year, for players and fans alike.

Over the years, the pursuit of the sport's most prestigious crown has produced some incredible performances and spectators have been treated to some of the finest matches ever seen. Here are some of my favorites:

The Men's Line and Other Musings ... by Eric Muller

1996 ... At the inaugural US OPEN: Marty Hogan and Dave Peck relive the glory days of the '80s on the portable court; Woody Clouse's inspired run to the semis; hometown hero Andy Roberts' surgically-precise win over Cliff Swain in the semis; Sudsy Monchik's convincing victory and affirmation of his place atop the sport.

1997 ... John Ellis' game-five nail-biter win over Jason Mannino in the quarters; Cliff Swain's determined performance in earning his first U.S. OPEN crown, which allowed him to regain the #1 ranking from Monchik; the resulting feeding frenzy among the racquet manufacturers (which ultimately led to Swain's long-term, lucrative contract with Wilson).

1998 ... Mike Locker's upset over Andy Roberts in the 32's; Eric Muller's Cinderella run to the semis (*this author's favorite moment*); Swain's ability to reach the finals without hitting a single drive serve (due to an elbow injury); Monchik's devastating drive serves and power from both sides led to his second US OPEN title and one of the most dominating single tournament performances in history.

1999 ... Jason Mannino's back-to-back victories over Monchik and Swain to win the title (in my mind, the finest moment in Mannino's career).

2000 ... 17 year old Kane Waselenchuk's first-round drubbing of defending champion Jason Mannino; Locker's inspired appearance in the semis; the foreshadowing five-game quarterfinal battle between Waselenchuk and Alvaro Beltran (won by Beltran); Monchik's third U.S. OPEN win affirms that he is a lock to win the event in every even-numbered year.

lineup ... lowdown

MEN

Sudsy Monchik
Cliff Swain
Jason Mannino
John Ellis
Kane Waselenchuk
Jack Huczak
Alvaro Beltran
Rocky Carson
Mike Guidry

Age

29
37
28
31
22
20
25
24
33

Odds*

2:1
3:1
2:1
8:1
3:1
6:1
15:1
15:1
25:1

Favored Against

Cliff Swain
Rocky Carson
Alvaro Beltran
Cliff Swain
Sudsy Monchik
John Ellis
Cliff Swain
Jack Huczak
Cliff Swain

Hands Full with

Kane Waselenchuk
Alvaro Beltran
Rocky Carson
Jack Huczak
John Ellis
Sudsy Monchik
Jack Huczak
Cliff Swain
Jack Huczak

2001 ... Monchik breaking his foot two days before the event; Ruben Gonzalez turning back the hands of time with a round of 16 win over partner Mike Guidry; age and treachery overcoming youth and skill, with Swain gutting out a grueling five-gamer over Waselenchuk in the quarters; Swain nabbing his second title and regaining the #1 ranking (which he would retain for the remainder of the season).

*Odds are calculated for winning the entire event ... In a potential quarterfinal match up against the opponents listed, it could go either way ... !

... IRT ... continues on page 45

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SEASON RANKINGS

[2003 Season-End Rankings]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	In '02
1. 4964	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	1	2
2. 4040	Kane Waselenchuk	Edmonton, Canada	2	4
3. 3580	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	3	1
4. 3474	Jack Huczak	Rochester Hills, MI	8	5
5. 3360	Alvaro Beltran	Tijuana, Mexico	5	6
6. 3263	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	7	7
7. 3169	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	4	3
8. 3003	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	6	17
9. 2684	Derek Robinson	Kennewick, WA	9	8
10. 2554	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX	10	10
11. 2266	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada	11	11
12. 1786	Jason Thoerner	Canton, GA	12	30
13. 1290	Dan Llacera	Rehoboth Beach, DE	17	22
14. 1280	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	15	14
15. 1076	Javier Moreno	Chihuahua, Mexico	14	16
16. 1044	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	13	12
17. 1038	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	16	15
18. 926	Mike Dennison	Twinsburg, OH	18	27
19. 844	Josh Tucker	Joplin, MO	25	154
20. 813	Shane Vanderson	Dublin, OH	20	34



Swain ... Off Season

The Legends Tour traveled to Portland, Oregon June 6-8 for the Tournament of Champions, where twelve players competed for \$10,000 and the Champions Cup. In the semi, top seeded Cliff Swain defeated Steve Lerner, 15-7, 15-12, while Mike Ray defeated Marty Hogan 15-14, 15-14. For the grand prize, Swain defeated Ray in straight games of 15-10, 15-9.

It was the third Legends event of the year, setting the season rankings to date as: 1) Cliff Swain, 2) Marty Hogan, 3) Mike Ray, 4) Dave Peck, 5) Steve Lerner, 6) Ruben Gonzalez, 7) Gregg Peck, 8) Corey Brysman.

• men's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2003-2004 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

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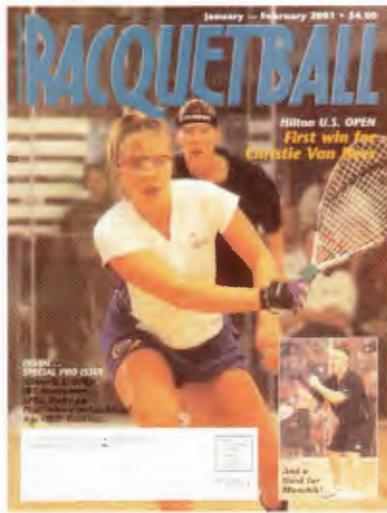
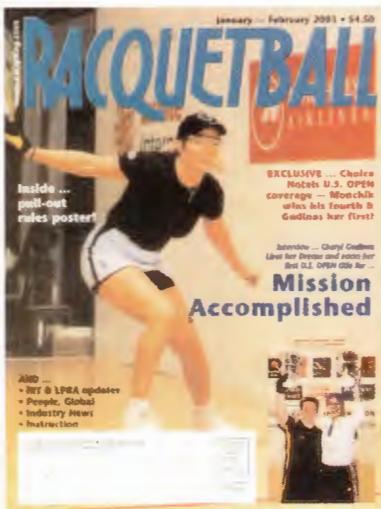
August 21-24New Orleans, LA.....Summer Cooler @ Elmwood Fitness, 504-553-0119
 Aug. 28-Sept.1Stockton, CA.....Stockton Pro-Am @ InShape Sports Club, 209-472-2100
 October 9-12Washington, DCTeam Ed Pro Am @
 October 17-19Albuquerque, NMNew Mexico Invitational @ Midtown Sport & Wellness, 505-888-4811
 October 30-Nov 2Chicago, ILHalloween Classic @ Athletic Club of Bloomingdale, 630-430-1478
 November 6-9.....Norfolk, VA.....Virginia Open @ Chesapeake YMCA,
 November 19-23Memphis, TN.....Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400

January 8-10.....Cleveland, OHCleveland Open @ Severance Athletic Club, 216-291-5550
 January 15-18.....New York, NYNew York City Pro Am @ SportTime of Syosset, 516-496-3100
 February 26- 29San Diego, CA.....San Diego Open @ American Athletic Club, 619-954-9802
 March TBABoston, MAFoxwoods Pro-Am, TBA
 March 4-7Florence, KYTBA
 March 25-28Greensboro, NC.....Greensboro Open @ Sportscenter Triad, 336-841-0100
 April 22-25Las Vegas, NV.....Chuck Minker Sports Center, TBA
 April 29-May 1Phoenix, AZ.....Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University, 480-965-8900

For information concerning any IRT events, contact Dave Negrete at 630-430-1IRT [1478] or send e-mail to negretz@mindspring.com, or go to www.irt-tour.com.



special preview ... LPRA



A summer of upheaval on the women's pro circuit has led to an interesting 2003-04 season kickoff in Mexico. Will new management, a new commissioner and a new board of directors help the LPRA continue to strengthen itself? We'll see.

**Predictable? ...
by Todd Boss**

With an entire summer off, and no major events between the May USRA Nationals in Houston and the first scheduled LPRA stop in Rosarito Beach, Mexico in August, this prognosticator (*much lambasted in the past for his poor predictions ... hey, I'm not Jimmy the Greek here*) offers up his preview of the Choice U.S. OPEN championships for 2003, on the women's side of the card.

#1 Cheryl Gudinas: We're in familiar territory here. For the second season in a row, Cheryl has absolutely dominated the women's tour, winning 9 of its 12 events while only missing one final, and she holds a commanding point lead over her closest rivals. The only difference this year is that her top priority has been met, having finally taken the 2002 U.S. OPEN crown. This confidence will only serve to help her defend, making her an overwhelming favorite in Memphis. *Odds 6-5.*

#2 Jackie Rice: By the time this write-up hits the streets, Jackie very well may have dropped from the #2 slot, or announced her retirement altogether. After a difficult loss in the final of her own event back in January, Jackie skipped all but the two primary women's events in the first half of 2003 (Pro nationals and USRA Singles). Is she stepping back from the rigors of touring and just competing in the majors? If so, will the two-time U.S. OPEN champ have what it takes to make it to the top once again? It could be tough. *Odds 5-1.*

#3 Kerri Wachtel: Kerri didn't match her outstanding 2001 season (where she took out the #1 and #2 players to win the U.S. OPEN crown) last year, but she did manage a win in her hometown event and made a number of final appearances. It's possible that Kerri could enter the U.S. OPEN as the #2 seed. She'll need to focus, though, to return to this event final, and draw from all her past experiences to take out long-time rival Gudinas for the crown. *Odds 3-1.*

#4 Rhonda Rajsich: Rhonda maintains a somewhat strong hold on the #4 slot entering the new season. She didn't quite match her performance in the two seasons prior, having only made one final and getting shut out of the win column. She also suffered a setback in the quarters of last year's OPEN. Can she bounce back? Rhonda plays hot and cold, and she can show flashes of brilliance (like her run as the #44 seed into the 2000 final). Hopefully we'll see the Rhonda of old in Memphis. *Odds 5-1.*

#5: Kersten Hallander: Kersten has consistently been ranked No.4 or 5 for the last five seasons, but has only made a single final in that same period. The No. 4/5 seeding is always a tough one: you're faced with the prospect of a quarterfinal match-up against your closest rival on tour, a player who is probably your absolute equal. Then, the winner of this (more often than not) marathon turns right around and plays Cheryl Gudinas, the most dominant player on tour in a decade. Kersten will need the win of her career to have a chance at the crown. *Odds: 8-1.*

#6: Adrienne Fisher: Adrienne has all the tools to be the sport's next superstar. Ranked well below the top 10 just a year ago, she shot to the No.6 spot by

lineup ... lowdown			
WOMEN	Odds	Age	
Cheryl Gudinas	6-5	36	
Jackie Rice	5-1	37	
Kerri Wachtel	3-1	29	
Rhonda Rajsich	5-1	25	
Kersten Hallander	8-1	39	
Adrienne Fisher	5-1	18	
Laura Fenton	5-1	41	
Christie Van Hees	4-1	26	

... LPRA ... continues on page 47



Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Season Rankings

[2003 Season-End Rankings]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	In '02
1	1213.00	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1 1
2	695.750	Jackie Paraiso Rice	El Cajon, CA	2 2
3	649.750	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	3 3
4	476.500	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	4 4
5	324.750	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	5 5
6	244.000	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	7 17
7	240.750	Kim Russell	Austin, TX	6 8
8	187.500	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	8 6
9	183.500	Lori-Jane Powell	Canada	11 9
10	171.250	Susy Acosta	Mexico	9 11
11	166.750	Brenda Kyzer	Lexington, SC	10 25
12	156.000	Amy Foster	Fairlawn, OH	12 26
13	125.000	Jennifer Saunders	Canada	15 13
14	107.000	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD	13 15
15	106.500	Rosy Torres	Mexico	14 43
16	95.7500	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO	17 18
17	87.0000	Laura Fenton	Overland Park, KS	16 10
18	70.0000	Rachel Gellman	Phoenix, AZ	19 14
19	67.0000	Denise Mock	Allen, TX	18 12
20	62.5000	Ramona Vonondarza	Venezuela	20 21

ladiesproracquetball.com

Update ...

Changes for the ladies seem to be the norm, as they enter the fall half of the 2003-04 season with a new commissioner. Claude Crocker, a long-time supporter of the tour's North Carolina stop, recently licensed the rights to promote and administer the tour for the next three years.

Claude's generosity has been highlighted in tour write-ups [Nov/Dec. '02] and he was pictured in the July/August edition [pg.50] accepting his Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award. We wish him the best of luck in this new endeavor!

• women's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2003-2004 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

OFFICIAL SHOE OF THE LPRA: EKTELON

September 5-7Rosarito Beach, MexicoRosarito Beach Resort, 800-343-8582
 September 19-21Charlotte, NCDowd YMCA, 704-716-6100
 October 17-19Albuquerque, NMNew Mexico Invitational @ Midtown Sport & Wellness, 505-888-4811
 November 19-23Memphis, TNChoice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400
 December 5-7Denver, COSite TBA

January 16-18Honolulu, HISee www.ladiesproracquetball.com for calendar updates between issues
 January 29-Feb.1Coral Springs, FLSite TBA
 February 20-22Salt Lake City, UTSite TBA
 March 12-14Nashville, TNSite TBA
 March 19-21Baltimore, MDSite TBA
 April 29- May 1*Phoenix, AZPro Nationals @ Arizona State University, 480-965-8900

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

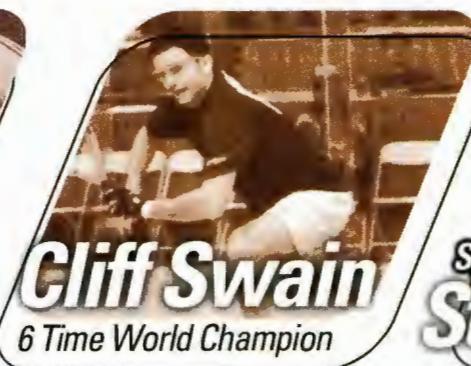
Don't miss the \$35,000 2003 World Racquetball Championships!

The Legends of Racquetball are returning to the historic St. Louis JCC October 23-26th.

Join Marty Hogan, Cliff Swain, Jerry Hilecher, Steve Keeley, Charlie Brumfield, Rich Wagner, Ruben Gonzalez, Dave Peck, Mike Ray, Greg Peck, Brett Harnett, Ben Koltun, Gerry Price, Davey Bledsoe, Steve Lerner and more!



Marty Hogan
6 Time World Champion



Cliff Swain
6 Time World Champion



Special Free Clinic by
Steve 'Bo' Keeley

All proceeds benefit St. Louis Children's Hospital
Party at Harrah's Casino • Hard Hit contest • Shuttle Service Provided



For tickets and info email: slc314@aol.com

Party for all participants with the Legends at Harrah's casino featuring the Smashband. Massage therapy and racquet stringer will be available.

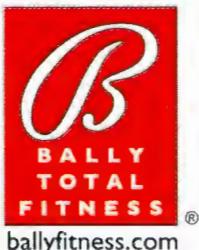
- Host hotel: Wingate Hotel \$82.00/night continental breakfast, free shuttle to Harrah's - Mention code #3113 - Phone: 800-228-1000
- Harrah's Casino \$119.00/night rate given only with Thursday night stay. Only 15 rooms available Mention code #S1023RB - Phone: 800-427-7247

For more information visit our websites at www.legendsrbtour.com and www.missouriracquetball.org



The Legends Tour
Classic Pro Racquetball

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tournament is hosted by the JCC and Bally's Total Fitness

Official Entry Form

All entries receive: Souvenir Shirt • Free Tournament Pro-View Tickets
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Entries and checks should be made out to Missouri Racquetball Association 4470 Westminster Place, St. Louis MO 63108 | Phone 314-531-0988
You can enter online at www.active.com

Fees

Open Division - \$70.00

All other Divisions - \$55.00

Junior Divisions (18-) - \$15.00

(does not include ticket to Legends party. Party ticket may be purchased for an additional \$25.00 with signed waiver from parent.)

2nd or 3rd event - \$35.00 (May only play 3 events if one is mixed doubles)

Party ticket - \$25.00

Legends viewing ticket - \$10.00

USRA Membership - \$30.00

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Prize Money

Legends draw 1st-\$7000.00 2nd-\$5500.00 \$4000.00 for semis & \$2500 for quarters

Legend doubles 1st-\$600.00/team 2nd-\$300.00/team

Mens Open-1st-\$1200.00 2nd-\$600.00 semis-\$200.00 (min. of 16 players)

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Pro Paddleball Tournament with \$3,000.00 in prize money

Enter at www.active.com if using a credit card

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Date of Birth: / /

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USRA Membership #:

Doubles Partner:

- > USRA sanctioned
- > Players may enter only 2 events unless playing mixed doubles then may enter three
- > All divisions single elimination
- > Tickets to Pro viewing are \$10.00 (free for all players)
- > Tickets for player party - \$25.00

No refunds after deadline

Divisions

Divisions for men and women

Open (1st round losers will drop down to Elite)

<input type="checkbox"/> Elite (AA)	<input type="checkbox"/> 25+	<input type="checkbox"/> 35+A/B
<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> 30+	<input type="checkbox"/> 35+C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> 35+	<input type="checkbox"/> 45+A/B
<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> 40+	<input type="checkbox"/> 45+C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> D/novice	<input type="checkbox"/> 45+	<input type="checkbox"/> 55+A/B
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 50+	<input type="checkbox"/> 55+C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 14-	<input type="checkbox"/> 55+	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+A/B
<input type="checkbox"/> 16-	<input type="checkbox"/> 60+	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 18-	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 24-		

Doubles divisions

<input type="checkbox"/> Mens Open
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Open
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed A/B
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> Mens A
<input type="checkbox"/> Mens B



The Legends Tour
Classic Pro Racquetball

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
(Parents signature if under 18)

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all claims for damages that I may have against The Legends Tour, The Missouri Racquetball Association, JCC, USRA, Ballys Fitness, Tournament Staff and Sponsors or their respective agents for any and all injuries which I may suffer in connection with my participation in this tournament.



special preview ... LEGENDS

Now in its third season, the Legend's tour will once again be featured at the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN. This special circuit showcases some of the greatest players of the sport's heyday and most events are by invitation only. At the time of this writing the Memphis lineup has not yet been confirmed ... but it's highly likely you will see most, if not all, of these former stars:

Marty Hogan — Still considered by many to be the greatest player to have ever played the game, Hogan was a superstar athlete that helped raise the popularity of racquetball. He remains in excellent shape and fans will see that he hasn't lost his touch; his backhand remains devastating. He'll have his hands full with a younger Bret Harnett and Cory Brysman and the older, but tournament tough, Ruben Gonzalez. One thing is for sure, Hogan still hates to lose and that makes his matches a "must see." *Odds: 4-1*

Ruben Gonzalez — The only player on the Legend's group who never stopped playing competitively, Gonzalez — at 51 years old — is one of the greatest natural athletes; his game is still awesome to watch with incredible gets and rally ending rollouts that will make your jaw drop. Look for him to reach the finals for a potential "war" against the younger Bret Harnett or Cory Brysman. *Odds: 2-1*

Bret Harnett — This lefty is still in fighting shape, even though he hasn't played much competitive racquetball since retiring from the pro tour. But his game is raw power and he still has all the shots that made him the most dangerous player on tour in his prime. He is the defending U.S. OPEN Champion in the LEGEND's division and will be looking to repeat. *Odds: 2-1*

Dave Peck — Having played a fair amount of competitive amateur age division ball since retiring from the pro tour, Peck's not as quick as he used to be, but he still has the "money" forehand and ferocious competitive drive that made him a champion. He's the "John McEnroe" of the Legend's Tour so you may want to avoid refereeing his matches if asked. But spectating is safe and enjoy-

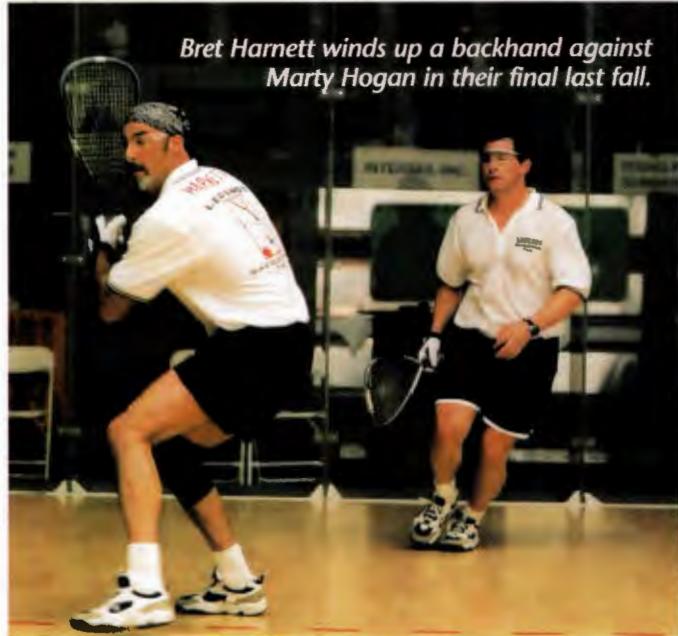


Photo: Vicki Hughes

able; he's always entertaining, although not a real threat to bring home the title. *Odds: 8-1*

Gregg Peck — In his prime, this Peck brother was one that nobody wanted to face. After Marty Hogan he was the first pro player to take the backhand stroke to the next level, and those who played on tour with him can recall that they avoided hitting the ball to the left side of the court at all costs! He still has an excellent backhand but his lack of competitive play has left him somewhat out of shape. *Odds: 8-1*

Cory Brysman — Some may not remember Brysman from his days on the pro tour, since he was never a headliner, but in his prime he had a knack for regularly taking out the top seeds. Always in excellent shape, he has been really playing well on the recent LEGEND's Tour and will be a strong threat to win the tournament if he shows up in Memphis. *Odds: 4-1*

Mike Ray — As a former #1 ranked player, it's great to see Mike Ray back on the courts again as a part-time LEGENDS competitor. Another lefty, possessing perhaps the most deadly forehand stroke in the history of the sport, Ray can still give anyone all they can handle. If in Memphis, look for him in the finals. *Odds: 3-1*

Don't miss a chance to catch these stars ... See you there!

lineup ... lowdown

Marty Hogan	4-1	Still has that backhand, and the mouth to go with it!
Ruben Gonzalez	2-1	The "freak of nature" will be diving everywhere
Bret Harnett	2-1	Modern game will be tough for others to handle
Dave Peck	8-1	Can't move, but don't hit the ball to him
Gregg Peck	8-1	Starting to find his old form, and backhand
Cory Brysman	4-1	Not a big name, but he's got a big game
Mike Ray	3-1	Still has that forehand, and plenty of height

In the last two installments, I discussed my magical "Center Court Position" and "Relocating Out of the Box after the Serve." Both of these articles addressed the topic of positioning, during a rally as well as after the serve. Today I want to cover yet another positioning topic, my magical "Positioning After Hitting a Ceiling Ball."

Too often I am asked at tournaments and at camps, "Where do I go after I hit a ceiling ball?" This is a very common question, so let's take a close look at the photos on the following pages, which illustrate the correct way and incorrect way of moving into position after hitting a ceiling ball.

I can't stress enough how important it is to move *behind* your opponent after you hit your ceiling ball, *not in front* so you don't get trapped on the wall.

Fran and I see it all the time where people put themselves out of position on the wall giving their opponent the whole court and making themselves vulnerable to everything.

Make sure you work on moving the correct leg so you put yourself in good center court position, see May/June, 2003, the most advantageous position to be in to handle the majority of the shots. Don't voluntarily trap yourself.



Positioning after the Ceiling Ball

After you study the examples, you'll have the proper footwork to position yourself after hitting a ceiling ball. Try it, since it really works. I do it just that way so I always have a fighting chance and, at my level or yours, you always need that edge.

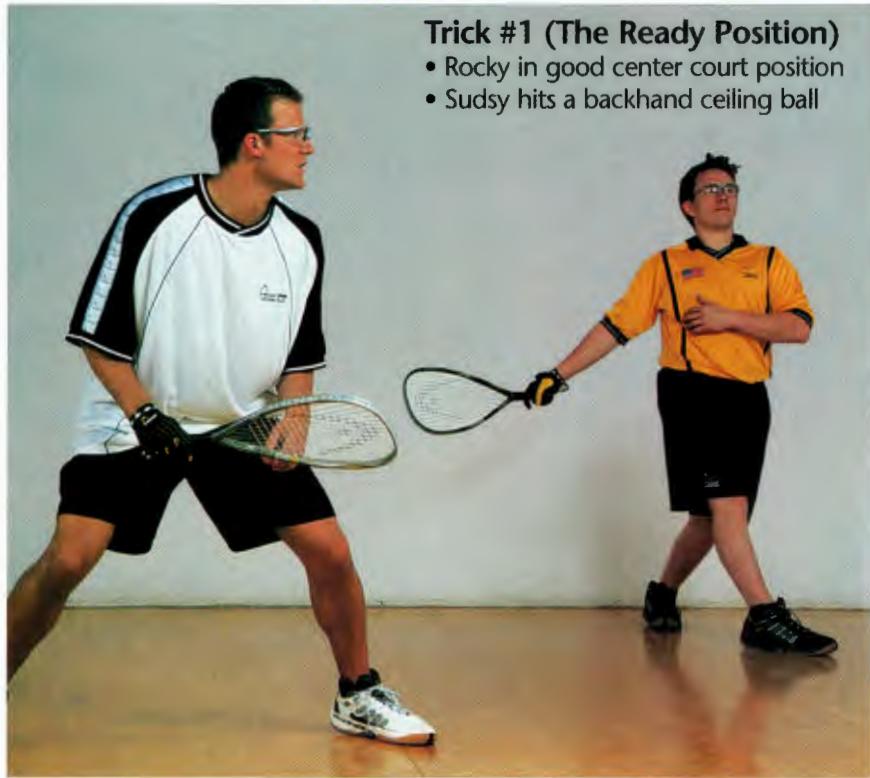
Good luck and I'll see you at a camp!

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

correct positioning

Trick #1 (The Ready Position)

- Rocky in good center court position
- Sudsy hits a backhand ceiling ball

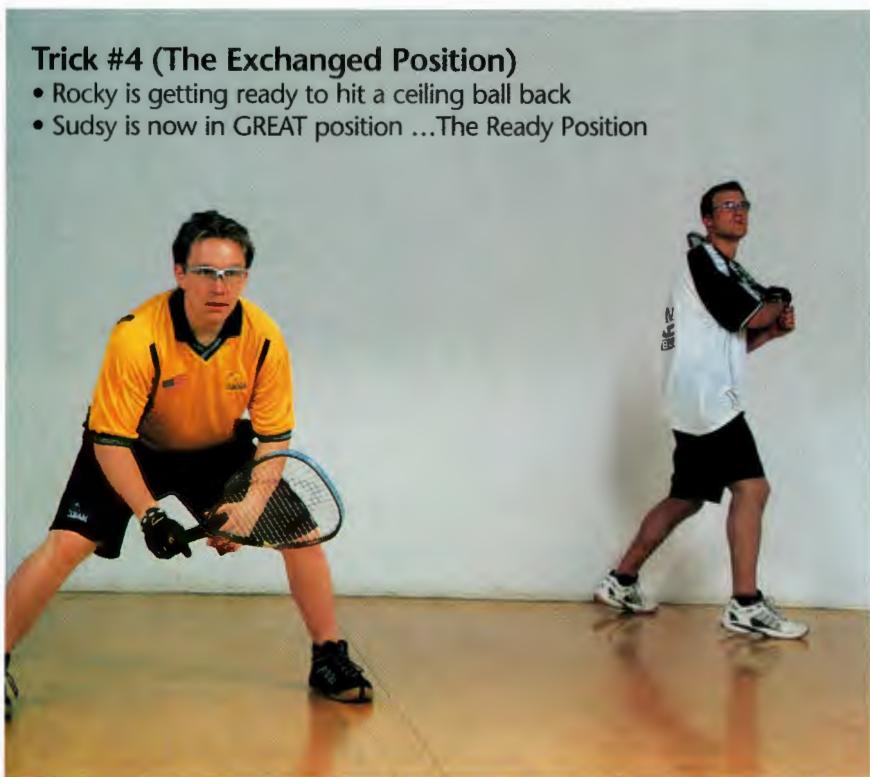


Trick #2 (The First Step)

- Rocky begins to move back toward the corner
- Sudsy moves his right leg back and begins to move *behind* Rocky

Trick #3 (The Second Step)

- Rocky continues to move back toward the corner
- Sudsy takes another step moving *behind* Rocky





Trick #1 (The Ready Position)

- Rocky in good center court position
- Sudsy hits a backhand ceiling ball



Trick #2 (The First Step)

- Rocky begins to move back toward the corner
- Sudsy moves his left leg forward and begins to move in front of Rocky against the sidewall getting trapped



Trick #3 (The Second Step)

- Rocky continues to move back toward the corner
- Sudsy takes another step and really gets trapped on the sidewall



incorrect
positioning

Trick #4 (The Exchanged Position)

- Rocky is getting ready to hit a ceiling ball back
- Sudsy is now *trapped and out of position*



Ektelon Performance Series
The Drive Serve by Kane Waselenchuk



The drive serve, in my opinion, is one of the most important parts of the game today. The drive serve can be used to keep your opponent off balance and guessing. It is used to produce a weak return from your opponent, thereby setting you up for the offensive shot (and hopefully a point). It can even be used to change the momentum of the game and allow you to control the pace.

Since I am left-handed (kudos to all you fellow lefties out there), I position myself more toward the right side of the server's box, at the end of the right third of the box. The sequence is as follows:

PHOTO #1

- Align your feet 1fi feet apart right on the inside of the short line, with knees bent at a 45 degree angle.
- Bring non-leading leg behind body and toward front wall, as racquet is in beginning part of stroke.

PHOTO #2

- Ball drop and step forward are simultaneous, with the leading leg stepping toward the front wall.
- Transfer weight to leading leg while swinging through with racquet (keep racquet face parallel to floor).
- Arm is at a 90 degree angle at this time.

PHOTO #3

- Upon contact with the ball, extend arm out slightly to follow through.
- Hips and shoulders turn to face the front wall.

Key points to remember: Stay low, do not revert to standing position and always, always, always keep your eyes on the ball.

It is best to serve a variety of serves from the same spot/area in the server's box, this will prevent your opponent from forecasting your serve pattern. The key to perfecting a drive serve is to practice of course! Become comfortable with the drive serve and it will prove to be a useful tool time and time again.

Simplify your Ceiling Balls

Learning the proper technique for an overhead ceiling ball will give you an important weapon to help keep your opponent deep in the back court, allowing you to control center court.

Cliff's technique of comparing a forehand ceiling ball to throwing a ball works! It is the best way to simplify your stroke and to eliminate mistakes. This will help keep your opponent on the defense and you on the offense. A definite winning combination!

Practice

First practice the stroke by removing your racquet and holding a ball in your racquet hand. Stand and throw the ball to the ceiling. Hitting the ceiling is not important.

Because of the lightness of the ball, you may throw your arm out trying to throw it too hard. Simply try to throw it as high as possible toward the front wall.

The Real Thing

1. For the overhead ceiling ball, contact is made when the ball is above your head, and slightly forward. If it drops too low or too far behind you at contact, it will probably hit the ceiling and then the floor, missing the front wall completely.
2. Find the contact point that allows you to hit the ceiling first, a few feet before the crack of the ceiling and the front wall.
3. Extend your arm as you contact the ball.
4. Allow for a natural follow through.



Practice Points:

1. Turn sideways.
2. Rotate your shoulders.
3. Step into the shot.
4. Line up your shoulders so they point towards the target.

After a few successful throws, put the racquet in your hand and try it again.



Practice Points:

1. Be sure your racquet handle is positioned above your shoulder.
2. The racquet head should be well above your head and pointing up.
3. Maintain the same shoulder angle as you did when throwing the ball.



Quote This ...

"The better you get, the less you will use a ceiling ball, but the better you'll have to be at executing them."

ABILITY SCALE

Advanced/Pro
Intermediate
Beginner

Wilson Game Plan instructors are the legendary Cliff Swain, and top teaching pro Chris Evon.

Building your Perfect Game

would really help my game tremendously. What do you think?

In my estimation video analysis is the *best* teaching tool you can get. You know the old saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words"? I truly believe when you can see it you can understand it, and when you understand it you can then make the changes or adjustments necessary to make improvements.

Forehand & Backhand Mechanics

Court Coverage

Shot Selection

Serves

Service Relocation

Return of Serve

Footwork

Emotional State

Comments (single most important thing):

My local club pro wants to videotape me, claiming it

At my camps the participants rave about it. They tell me, "I didn't know that I don't ... follow through on my forehand, or ... bend my knees, or ... relocate back into good center court position after the serve ..." Now I can *tell* them these observations until I'm blue in the face, but when they see the videos they say, "Wow, Fran you were right."

Following each of my camps I send out an evaluation form to participants, asking them to critique the camp and give me feedback on what areas were the most valuable. Inevitably I receive the same replies: #1 Video Analysis and #2 Play the Pros. I have conducted over 1,200 camps/clinics in my 20-year career of teaching and the response is always the same.

So the answer is yes, videotaping and video analysis could be a tremendous help ... 1) if done correctly, 2) by someone who knows what they are looking for, and 3) knows how to help you make the corrections you need. First make sure your instructor is AmPRO certified, and that they have experience in video analysis. Then the feedback will be monumental.

The chart at left is designed to guide you in zeroing in specific problem areas when looking at a tape. Of course there are other areas to look at, but in my opinion those contained in the chart are the most crucial and will give you more than enough to start out with.

I coach Jason Mannino, the # 1 Player in the World, and twice each year we sit down for hours and go over match after match after match until we tweak everything in his game from the physical to the mental and then to the emotional part of his game. We study these matches at the mid-point, and again at the end of the season, and use these same nine areas in our analysis. Jason believes this was the most important factor that helped him move up from being in the top four over the last several years to finishing #1 at the end of the IRT's 2002-03 season. Try it for yourself!

by Fran Davis

fran@frandavisracquetball.com



MAINS & CROSSES: Factory Direct Stringing Does this "Freebie" Cost your Game too Much? By Steve Crandall Vice President, Ashaway Sales & Marketing

Has this ever happened to you? You buy a new racquetball racquet, and then have to spend some time getting used to the feel of the string and the way it affects your game. Then, just when you have settled into a comfortable groove — BAM! — you break a string. "No problem," you think, as you trot off to your friendly racquetball stringer and request the racquet be restrung according to manufacturer's recommendations for string and tension. You step onto the court for your first game with your newly strung racquet. But as soon as you start to play, you suddenly realize that everything is different—the feel of the racquet, the tension of the string, the bite (or lack thereof) on the ball. And you find yourself starting from scratch, getting used to a new string setup.

This is exactly the problem I recently discussed with a reader. Having come across this frustrating situation several times, he finally called his racquet manufacturer to ask if he could send his racquet back to be restrung by them. Their response surprised him. Not only does the manufacturer not offer restringing services, but they insisted that his racquet would never play like new due to changes to the racquet itself that occur as the result of the initial stringing job.

This answer may or may not be true. Even with strict quality control checks in place, a lot can happen to a

racquet between the time it rolls off the manufacturing line and the time it appears in your local sporting goods store. The majority of racquets are manufactured offshore, predominately in Asia, and Asian manufacturers use a wide variety of stringing techniques, equipment and string.

The racquets are then packaged in bulk and shipped around the world, being stored in warehouses and on retail shelves before ultimately being purchased by racquetball players. All of this introduces a lot of opportunity for the factory string job to vary from the original specifications.

And even though some racquet manufacturers may assure you that stringing results are reproducible if you stick to their recommended string and tensions, the reader's concern does raise an interesting question: is playing with factory string the best choice for your game? Playing with the factory string does have some advantages. First is cost: it is admittedly cheaper to play with the string that comes as a "freebie" with the racquet than to buy new. Second is convenience: playing with factory string allows for one-stop shopping. In fact, you could pick up a new racquet on your way to the game without missing a beat.

A third factor is that recreational racquetball players often do not devote a lot of time to learning about string materials, gauges and tensions, and how all of these characteristics affect performance. They assume that racquet manufacturers string their racquets for the "average" racquetball player, and that the string job will be "good enough." And while in large part that may be true, it will not take your game to the next level, or help when you need to restrung.

Many serious racquetball players have followed the lead of some of the top professional racquetball players, who immediately cut the factory strings out of new racquets, and have them restrung with their favorite high performance string by a stringer they know and trust. These players are willing to go to this extra effort because they rely on their string to give them the extra power,



By discussing your strengths and weaknesses on the court, and the types of strings available, a professional stringer should be able to help you with a setup that will boost your performance and offer you consistency from one stringing job to the next.



control, or bite that they need to push their game to the next level. Also, they need to know that they can rely on their racquets to be strung consistently. When a string breaks in the middle of a game, there is no time to adjust to a new string setup. Points are on the line, and the next racquet they grab must give them the same level of performance they started the game with. We will discuss this subject in more detail in an upcoming column, in which we'll take a peek into the stringing habits of a top IRT pro.

Top tennis players do not have to go the extra step of removing factory strings, because in the tennis industry a full 80% of all performance racquets are sold unstrung. Why? Because these players want to customize their racquet string and setup to meet their playing needs—not adapt their style of play to an existing string job. And, by using the same string and stringer, players ensure that the string setup will be consistent from one job to the next. Perhaps someday racquetball racquet manufacturers will offer their performance frames unstrung for just this reason.

As with all racquet string issues, whether to play with the factory string or to restring with a professional stringer is a personal choice. If you would like to customize your string setup, but are unsure about what to do, talk to your stringer. By discussing your strengths and weaknesses on the court, and the types of strings available, he or she should be able to help you with a setup that will boost your performance—and offer you consistency from one stringing job to the next. You can also visit our website at www.ashawayusa.com for more racquetball stringing tips, and to learn more about what might work best for you.



Winning Racquetball Ten Tips on Picking a Doubles Partner

by Marcy Lynch

National Doubles is right around the corner ... but if you haven't picked a partner, you still have time! Here are my tips on finding the "right" one.

1. Make sure you like the person you choose for a partner. This sounds incredibly obvious, but liking your partner is key to having fun—and if you're not having fun, you're not going to win very often. Picking someone you think you can 'win' with is not as important as playing with someone you like.
2. Pick a doubles player. Good singles players aren't always the best doubles partners.
3. Find someone you can practice/play with. It's tough to show up at a tournament without playing with your partner.
4. Be able to discuss and agree upon how to give each other feedback—before, during, after matches. You want a partner who can support you by knowing what to say to you and when.
5. Check out your potential partner's on court demeanor by watching them play and make sure it complements yours. There's nothing wrong with having a 'fired up' partner if you are aware of that possibility and don't find it distracting.
6. Beware of choosing your spouse as a partner—it can work, but there is a tendency to take matches 'home' with you.
7. Look for a partner that likes to play the opposite side of the court than what you like to play. Again, sounds obvious, but don't compromise your strength because a potential partner plays your side 'better'.
8. A lot of right handed players look for left handed partners. Lefty/righty teams aren't always the strongest. As I mention in the tips above, compatibility is more important.
9. Make sure you can agree on your basic doubles strategy; side to side, up and back, or a floating side to side.
10. Agree on your goals for playing together; whether you want to 'have some fun' and 'see how you do' or you want to win a division or national title.

So go on out and ask someone to play. If the person you wanted to choose already has a partner, don't stop looking. If you and your partner have outgrown each other, perhaps it's time to look for a new one. Just remember to tell your old partner before you commit to the new one! If someone asks you to play, consider carefully before you respond—sometimes the last person you thought to ask will ask you and be your best choice!

Marcy is a personal coach specializing in racquetball, fitness, and sports performance. She currently coaches the Guatemalan National Racquetball Team and consults for the U.S. National Racquetball Team. Send an e-mail for Marcy's free on-line newsletter to marcy@marcylynch.com and visit the web page at [www.marcyl Lynch 2003](http://www.marcylynch.com).

The Big D Two-Handed Backhand

Wilson Game Plan



At seven years old, Derek's father taught him to use two hands when setting up for his backhand. Now, 27 years later, and with one of the best backhands in the business, Derek is a firm believer that this technique can work for everyone.

The biggest mistake kids and adults make is not getting their racquet up and ready before every shot. Poor racquet preparation can be the cause of countless unforced errors. Try this technique and you will see an improvement in both your consistency and your power! How can you ask for more?

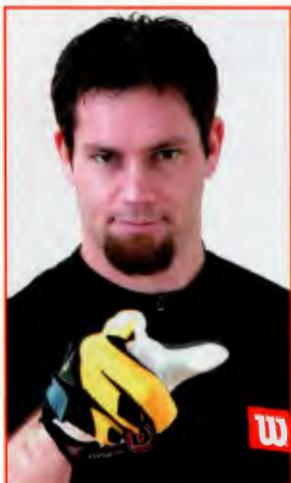
Practice Points

1. Turn sideways.
2. As you pull your racquet back, touch or hold your forearm with your non racquet hand. (Juniors may actually hold their forearm for extra support).
3. The shoulder of your hitting arm should almost touch your chin.
4. Keep your racquet up and away from your head.

The Big D Two Handed Backhand ...

Why it works:

1. Helps you get in proper ready position for every shot.
2. When your non-racquet hand touches your forearm you are reminded that you are in the correct position to hit the ball.
3. Your non-racquet hand can actually help you raise your racquet arm a little higher. This provides more rotation and better power.
4. Touching your forearm helps you to turn your shoulders to get maximum rotation.



Quote This ...

"This technique works! It is a great teaching tool for juniors, beginners, and anyone wanting to take their backhand to the next level."



Wilson Game Plan instructor:
"Big D" RoadShow clinician, Derek Robinson.

Want to improve your backhand? Try this simple tip, for every level of player!

ABILITY SCALE

Advanced/Pro
Intermediate
Beginner

Training Sports Injury Imaging

by Aaron Haydu, D.C.
ahaydu18@hotmail.com

The world of sports injuries has seen many changes over recent years and advances in diagnostic imaging are no exception. Technology has allowed sports medicine doctors to better understand the nature of an injury, injury risk, and body mechanics as it relates to the injured athlete. This article will discuss some of the most common choices you and your doctor may make in the evaluation of your injury.

Most commonly, plain film radiograph (X-ray) is the initial image of choice and its primary goal is to show fractures, dislocations, or instability. Modern x-ray machines are capable of fine detail, much of which can now be produced digitally. Also, newer machines allow much less radiation exposure to the patient. X-ray examination always involves multiple views that allow a complete evaluation of the injured bone or joint. Often, non-specific soft tissue swelling can be seen based on the nature and severity of the injury. X-ray is limited to bone only, as it does not allow for detailed soft tissue evaluation.

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) has become the premiere choice for evaluating injuries because of its detail for soft tissue injuries. MRI does not use radiation because magnetic fields allow a computer to produce a picture of the area. It is incredibly useful in evaluating ligament, spinal disc, tendon, and muscle tears and



sprains. Often, small fractures not seen on an x-ray are readily apparent on MRI. Depending on the nature of the injury, MRI may be the ordered as the first method of evaluation. Surgeons depend largely on the detail of MRI to plan treatment protocols and surgical techniques.

CT (computed tomography) has also seen wide use in the workup of athletic injury. CT is an advanced form of x-ray, allowing doctors to see various layers of bone injury, especially useful in head injuries, and injuries to the large bones such as the pelvis, spine, and other pelvic trauma. CT can also provide clear pictures of the internal organs for the evaluation of chest and abdominal trauma.

There are also other, more specialized, imaging techniques such as bone scan and diagnostic ultrasound. A bone scan is a specialized radiation scan, which can show bone changes and fractures that may be missed with x-ray or MRI. Ultrasound can help determine muscle injury and injury to internal organs.

Of paramount importance in any diagnostic study is quality of the image and a specialist to read the films and interpret the results. Having an open dialogue with your physician will help determine the image of choice for your particular injury. Consider an imaging center familiar with sports injury, as athletes can present with unique challenges to a radiologist. Hopefully none of these procedures will be necessary in your upcoming season!

AmPRO

... Clinic Schedule ... Clinic Schedule ...

Date	Site	City	Contact	Phone
September 13-14	Club Sport	Schaumburg, IL	David Negrete	630-430-1478
September 24-25	Cascade Athletic Club	Gresham, OR	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960
September 19	LA Fitness	Tempe, AZ	Karen Key	602-315-5919
September 26-28	LA Fitness	Tempe, AZ	Karen Key	602-315-5919
September 27-28	LA Fitness	Roswell, GA	Gary Gloeggler	678-575-6579
October 4-5	The Court Club	Albany, NY	Jim Winterton	315-884-5945
October 4-5	Auburn Racquet & Fitness Club	Auburn, CA	Dave George	650-589-6904
November 17-18	The Racquet Club of Memphis	Memphis, TN	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960

Want to host a Clinic at your Club?
Call Gary Mazaroff at 505-266-8960.

... between issues ... find updates at usampro.org

continued from page 28 ... **special preview ... IRT**



2002 ... Classic five-game quarterfinal between Monchik and Mannino (the highest selling racquetball DVD of all time); Monchik facing Swain for the fifth time in the finals; Monchik winning his fourth title, keeping him undefeated in even years.

As deep as the talent pool was in 2002, this year the competition will be even tougher, since eight separate players won IRT events last season (not including Swain!). With so many capable professionals, the outcome could hinge on some key match ups in the 16's and quarters. Here's what to expect from the top guns:

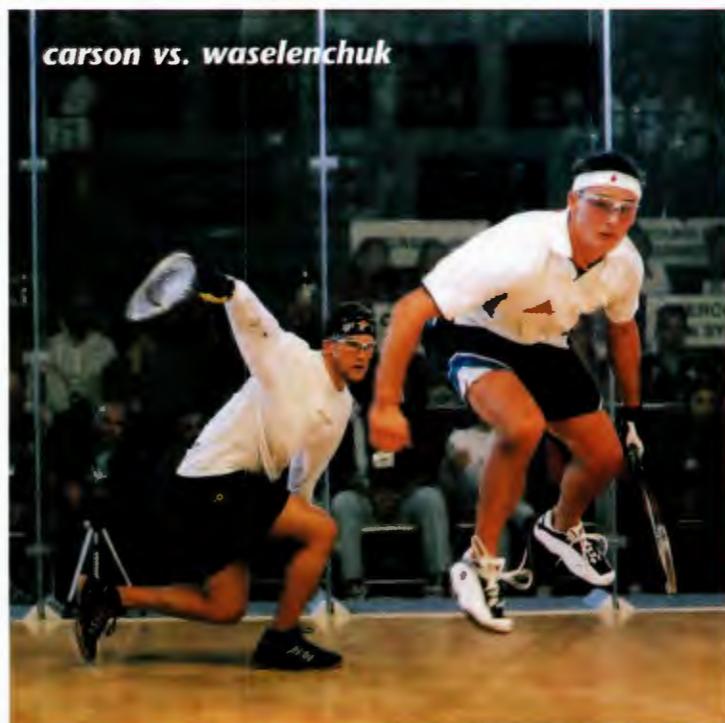
Defending Champ Sudsy Monchik

— With four wins, one place, and one semifinal show in six appearances, Sudsy is to the OPEN what Sampras is to Wimbledon. Suds loves Memphis — the adulation, the crowds, the broadcast crews, the flying Elvis impersonators, the cheerleaders, the music, the interviews, the spotlight — it is the quintessential Monchik environment. The biggest hurdle for Suds will be how badly his body is beaten up in the events leading to Memphis. If he is hobbled, I suspect he may struggle this year. If he's healthy, I expect him to take a serious run to break the odd year jinx. *Odds: 2:1*

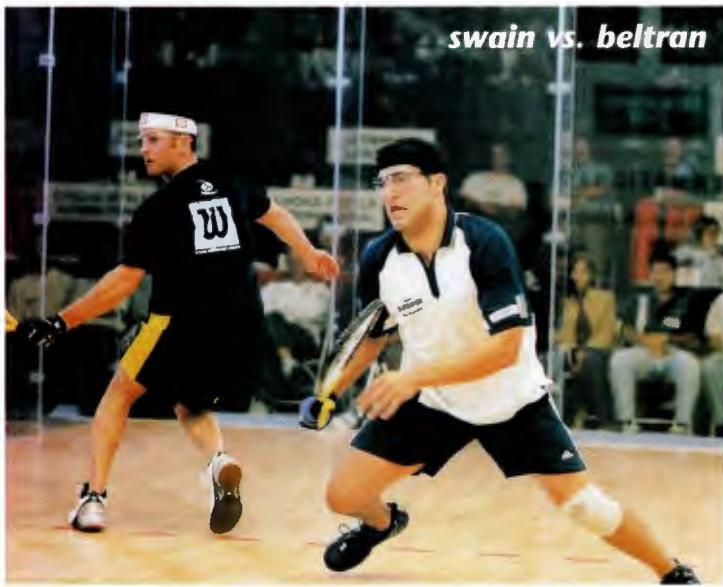
Jason Mannino — Despite his win in '99, Mannino's record has been mixed; he's advanced past the quarterfinals on only one other occasion ('01). His quarterfinal loss to Monchik last year, while gut wrenching, will actually play to Mannino's advantage this year; the U.S. OPEN will present him a clear opportunity to improve his overall standing at a critical juncture in the season. I expect Mannino to seize the opportunity with poise and confidence. He is the player to beat.

Odds: 2:1

Kane Waselenchuk — With his serve, speed, power, agility, McEnroe hands and moxie, Kane is the most feared player on the IRT. Still, despite his first round win over Mannino in '00, Kane's best performances have not come at the OPEN. With his injuries on the mend, I expect Kane to get his groove back early in the season, and if he hits his stride in November, he may just crush everyone in Memphis. *Odds: 3:1*



• All photos with these previews by Vicki Hughes
... captions list players left to right ...

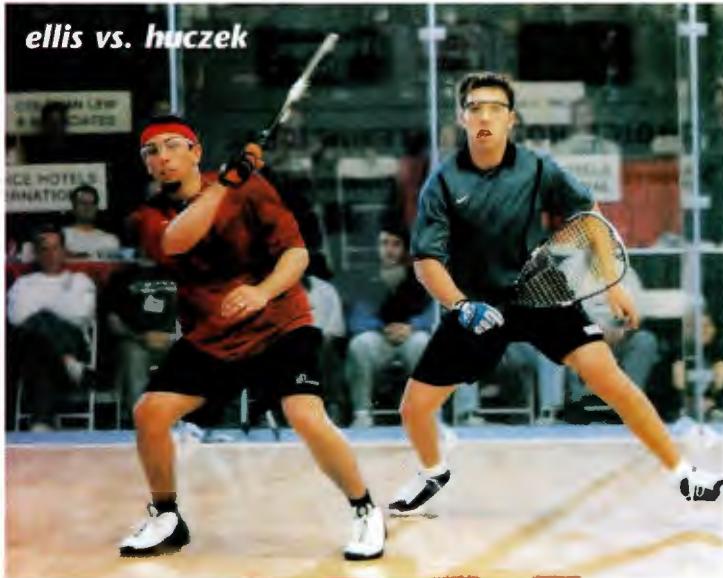


Cliff Swain — The pressure will be on Swain in Memphis, as he will be defending his finals appearance of 2002 (a bright spot in an otherwise frustrating season). With so many great moments and such an impressive record at the OPEN (two first place finishes, four seconds, 1 semi), rest assured that Swain will show up ready to play. *Odds: 3:1*

Jack Huczek — Huczek is not a rookie anymore, and this is the perfect backdrop to step up and make a serious run at the #1 ranking. The biggest challenge for Huczek will be finding ways to win against those ranked ahead of him. While he struggled with Mannino, Kane and Sudsy last season, he made mincemeat out of everyone else, so I expect that he's favored to defend his semi-final points from 2002. Putting aside the fact that six out of seven titles have been won by power players, the spongy floor of the portable court should suit Jack's control game. *Odds: 6:1*

Rocky Carson — Rocky has never put himself in contention at this event, but I suspect that he'll come to the party prepared in 2003. He quietly had a stellar 2002 — with his first IRT victory and multiple wins over Mannino. While somewhat susceptible to an early round upset, I expect Rocky to give fits to the top guys if they're having an off day. *Odds: 15:1*

Alvaro Beltran — Beltran surprised many with his frequent finals appearances and a win in 2002. If Beltran can avoid losing in the 16's early in the season, this could present an opportunity for him to move into the top four. Early match ups will be critical for Beltran, as he might struggle in the 32's and 16's. If he makes it through to the quarters, he has a better chance with the blasters (Swain, Ellis, Monchik, Waselenchuk) than the thinkers (Mannino, Huczek). *Odds: 15:1*



John Ellis — Ellis got off to a rough start in 2002 that didn't turn around until after Memphis. With a solid performance, Ellis could pick up significant ranking points and move himself back into the top four, and contention for the #1 ranking. I expect him to start the season strong, buoyed by a new sponsor and the nation-wide rollout of the Ektelon "Elli Experience" roadshow. Fitness will be the issue for Ellis, and if he has too many early round battles, he may not have the juice he needs on Saturday or Sunday. *Odds: 8:1*

Mike Guidry — While he is a long shot to win the U.S. OPEN, I have tremendous respect for Guidry's attainment of a career-long goal of winning an IRT event. As he has now demonstrated that he can win on any given day, don't count him out in Memphis. Having said that, he has only one semi to his credit in Memphis and he's been susceptible to early round losses on the back courts. *Odds: 25:1*

The Field — I don't believe that anyone else has a realistic chance of winning ... but nevertheless, Derek Robinson, Jason Thoerner and Mike Green are just as likely to reach the quarters or semis as anyone else in the top 10. If history is any indication, there's always an excellent chance of a lower ranked player popping up in the semis. The most likely dark horses include young guns Gilberto Mejia, Javier Moreno, Agustin Tristan, Mitch Williams and Shane Vanderson. *Odds: 1,000:1*

continued from page 30 ... special preview ... LPRA



consistently making the quarterfinals (with one semi in Canada) at pro events. Unluckily, she typically runs into Jackie or Cheryl in these quarterfinals, which has quickly ended her tournament each time. Like Kersten, a breakthrough win is needed at some point for her to move into the sport's elite, a breakthrough win that *will* come at some point in the very near future. *Odds 5-1.*

Dark Horse Picks

#17: Laura Fenton: it seems to me that, at exactly this time last year, I was mentioning Ms. Fenton as a dark horse candidate as well. She made the OPEN semis last year, and recently defeated Jackie Rice enroute to the finals of the USRA National Singles. She'll have to rely on seeding magic though, to avoid the top seeds in the very early rounds, since she fallen all the way to No.17 in the rankings. *Odds 5-1.*

Unranked ... Christie Van Hees: that's right, sports fans ... via the hotline to U.S. OPEN central (tourney director Doug Ganim), the latest reports indicate that Christie *will* return to competitive racquetball and will play this year's U.S. OPEN. After rocketing to the No.3 ranking in 1998-99 season, and winning the 2000 U.S. OPEN crown, she suddenly retired from the sport (to ride horses?!).

Is she back on the tour? What will this mean for the sport's power elite? What will it mean for the odds-makers for the 2003 US OPEN? It's hard to tell how long it will take Christie to get back into tournament shape (not long at all, if she's been practicing with fellow countryman Kane Waselenchuk, but then, rumor has it he's living in Canadian-exile somewhere in Texas). I'm predicting she'll make the semis in a glorious return. *Odds 4-1.*

Predictions: Van Hees and Fenton make the semis. Wachtel and Gudinas make the finals. Cheryl wins a four-game final to repeat as champ. Fearless predictions, always. See you in Memphis! Boss



photos above & left by Vicki Hughes [2002]; below by Mike Boatman [2001]





special preview ... ENTRY TIPS!

Tip #1: ENTER EARLY! The event has become a sell out. We cap the draw at 750 and last year we had to turn away 50 entrants. Don't get shut out. Send in your entry today.

Tip #2: ORDER TICKETS NOW! The 1,000-seat Stadium Court has become a sell out. Tickets are required to view all of the pro matches, and seats sell-out quickly. No-shows might free up some session tickets "at the door" but it's risky to wait. The ticket package (for unlimited viewing all week) is the best way to guarantee a seat - but packages are sold only in advance!

Tip #3: ENTER TWO (or more) EVENTS. A large draw and limited court time do not allow us to offer consolation rounds, so we strongly recommend entering two divisions to guarantee at least two matches. Entries are limited to two divisions, but there are a couple of exceptions: 1) if you would like to play "up" into the Men's or Women's Pro draw you can still play in two added amateur divisions; and 2) if you enter two doubles divisions, you can play in any third event you choose. For these two exceptions only, a third event fee is the same as a second event fee.

Tip #4: STAY AT THE HOST HOTEL. The official host hotel was the Comfort Inn East but they're under renovation! The new host hotel — The Ridgway Inn — offers

an \$89/night quad rate and is located just two miles from the Racquet Club of Memphis. From the Ridgway you'll have the convenience of the complimentary shuttle, running every half hour from the hotel to the venue and back (shuttle also runs from the Hawthorne Suites). This hotel will fill up VERY fast so call to book your room immediately. For a complete list of hotels offering special U.S. OPEN room blocks call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 and ask for the "US OPEN Hotel list."

Tip #5: BRING NICE CLOTHES AND YOUR DANCING SHOES!

One of the best things about the U.S. OPEN is the opportunity to socialize at the many evening activities, especially the Grand Gala 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: HEAD HOME LATE. Book the very latest flight you can get to head home on Sunday. The Men's Pro final is the last match scheduled and you won't want to miss it. A packed house, booming music, laser lights and TV cameras make this an experience unlike any 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 2003

Tips for Attending the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN

Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN and you'll have the inside track. Lastly, if you really want to experience everything to its fullest, and can splurge to treat yourself to an ultimate VIP weekend, here are a couple of other ideas.

PRO-AM DOUBLES FOR ST. JUDE:

Before the event begins, a special, fully-catered Tuesday night fundraiser is held to benefit the 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 paired up with a top ranked male or female pro to compete in a single elimination draw, plus you'll receive an autographed racquet from your pro partner at the end of the evening. This popular event has also become a sell-out, so call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to request a Pro-Am Doubles Entry. The first 32 prepaid entrants will get the spots!

VIP LUXURY BOX SEATING. If you really want to go first class, reserve a four-person, courtside VIP Luxury Box for the week. Most are pre-allocated to event sponsors, but a very limited number are available for individual reservation. The cost is \$2,200 for the week and includes four Gold All-Access credentials, a

four-person stadium courtside Luxury Box with your name on it (table service included), and unlimited access to the fully catered PRO/VIP Hospitality Room (only the top 16 ranked pro's, event sponsors, and VIP's allowed). Interested? Please call (614) 890-6073 to check availability.

Check back after August 20th for more information on the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN
[Downloadable PDF Entry](#)

www.choiceusopenracquetball.com
www.racquetballmagazine.com

rb:people & places

GATHERING THE GREATS

by Theresa Sumner
Nautilus Fitness and Racquet Club

The only event of its kind ever to take place in the history of the sport, the Gathering of the Greatest II succeeded — again — in reuniting some of the world's greatest female racquetball professionals for a weekend of intense play. Lighting up the courts of Nautilus Fitness and Racquet Club in Erie, Pennsylvania, fifteen of the finest female pros of the 70's, 80's, and 90's gathered to raise scholarship money for the John Tramontano, Jr. Education Foundation.

Thanks to extremely generous local and equipment sponsorship; enthusiastic support from the Pros, and a well-crafted schedule of events by tournament director, Julee Nicolia, the event proved to be everything that any "gathering of the greatest" should be. The Pros were a class act, both on and off the courts. Players and spectators alike reveled in the charged atmosphere and superb hospitality, which included gift packages for each entrant and a food tent boasting everything from bagels and coffee to catered Italian dishes and even a pig roast. It was the right combination of great racquetball and serious fun as attendees raised thousands of dollars for the designated charity.

Guests of honor included Lynn Adams, Malia Bailey, Fran Davis, Chris Evon, Laura Fenton, Lorraine Galloway, Kaye Kuhfeld, Mary Lyons, Joy MacKenzie, Janell Marriott, Caryn McKinney, Molly O'Brien, Susan Pfahler, Jean Sauser, and Shannon Wright. Upon arrival at her complimentary Clarion Hotel room, each pro found a welcome package containing a commemorative sweater, wall clock, wine, chocolate, and more. As has become tradition, the Pros also enjoyed a private, poolside dinner on Friday night.

Beginning with the Friday Pro-Am event and ending with the Amateur Doubles finals on Sunday afternoon, play filled all eight courts. In between, double elimination pro Doubles and Amateur Doubles events kicked off on Saturday with 56 amateur teams placed into seven divisions. To the delight of the crowd, seven pro teams rotated on two pristine glass courts. A roster of thirteen Pros was rounded out at the last minute by the addition of one-time Erie local Karin Sobotta, and the Pro Doubles tournament captivated fans throughout.

Sunday morning brought the much-anticipated finals, featuring McKinney and Fenton against Bailey and MacKenzie. The match was complete with news cameras, a photographer, and sideline



Above, top to bottom, L-R:
Mackenzie, Evon, Wright, Davis
Bailey, Pfahler, Adams, Lyons, Fenton
Kuhfeld, Marriott, Galloway, McKinney

Below (l-r): Malia Bailey, Shannon Wright and Lynn Adams. Photos: Courtesy Shannon Wright and Julee Nicolia.



rb:people & places



L-R: Mary Lyons, Susan Morgan Pfahler, Janell Marriott

commentary by Sobotta. Spectators stood on chairs, sat on the floor, and lined the balcony to watch the competition, and even the well-traveled food tent was forgotten in the playoff excitement.

Combining tight teamwork with a tenacious drive to succeed, Bailey and MacKenzie took the first game, 15-8. Replying with sound serves and smart play, McKinney and Fenton pulled together to force a tiebreaker after taking the second game, 15-12. The fluid play, poise, and tempo control employed by Bailey and MacKenzie, however, became most evident during the tiebreaker. MacKenzie, three months pregnant at the time, managed to twist into three half-dives to keep the ball in play and once took a shot from under Bailey's feet when Malia jumped over a ball off the back wall. Bailey and MacKenzie went on to take the match with a decisive 11-4 tiebreaker win.

Fundraising began Friday evening, successfully raising \$3420 by the evening's end. Amateurs opened bidding to team-up with a Pro, with the first auction donation setting the tone by topping out at \$600. Each top bidder then selected a pro partner through a blind draw and no one was disappointed, as McKinney took every diving opportunity and Adams entertained opponents and spectators alike. Many pros graciously offered play-

ing tips and strategic advice during their one-on-one court time with their partners. In the finals, McKinney and her partner, Joe Garbarino, defeated Molly O'Brien and Bob Martini.

The big bash took place Saturday night at the Party with the Pros gala in the Clarion Hotel banquet room. A long table lined with bouquets, wine, and pictures of the Pros focused everyone's attention on the guests of honor. Nicolia, in her ongoing efforts to recognize these renowned athletes, enlisted the talents of local artist Deb Peffer to provide a little ambiance for the gala. Peffer did so by sketching 5-foot tall caricatures of every pro, each portraying the athlete with a little "flair." [shown bottom right]

General Manager of Nautilus Fitness and Racquet Club, Mike Davis, opened the evening by recognizing the attendees, while Lynn Adams played emcee, auctioneer and comic relief. Between them, they assisted in raising thousands more dollars as many of the 250 guests bid on such donated items as racquets signed by a few top touring Pros, racquet bags, golf clubs, a softball bat, and various other athletic equipment.

In a surprise appearance, U.S. Air Force Colonel Barb Faulkenberry showed up for the banquet, after flying directly from the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. She had planned on playing in both of the Gathering of the Greatest tournaments but had, up until this point, been unable to depart from her tour of duty in the Middle East.

Events such as the Gathering of the Greatest hold multi-tiered significance for our communities, charities, and athletes, and more specifically, for the sport. For many fans, this was not just an opportunity to watch great racquetball; it was a chance to witness, firsthand, the outcome of years of dedication by a few female athletes focused on a common goal. Thanks go out to all who so graciously donated time, money, and talent for the benefit of so many.

As happens with any great show, repeat performances are in high demand. For your chance to take part, look for announcements in RACQUETBALL about a Gathering of the Greatest III ...



2003 Dallas Open

Story and photos by Christy Cramer and Ben Brewster

Dallas native Jack Gian purchased the Landmark Fitness Club last year and promptly began a comprehensive development program for racquetball. An avid player and experienced businessman, Jack stated that he feels, "very lucky to be able to turn my hobby into a full-time business." One of his first steps was to commit to a full-time racquetball staff, and to hire Martin McDermott to head his programs. "Martin is an excellent instructor and we share the same passion for developing the sport."

The Landmark features an all-glass court dubbed "The Fishbowl" by the pros, and Martin and Jack are currently trying to secure a Pro Stop for early 2004 and are already committed to hosting next year's Dallas Open. Jack believes the sport will grow through vigorous sponsorship of grassroots efforts, and he currently has many ongoing programs underway, including: the Dallas Doubles Series, Saturday Handicap Shoot-outs, daily leagues, Junior Camps and the Dallas Singles Series.

Some of the results of these efforts were evident at the Second Annual Dallas Open Tournament, May 16-18. Highlights of this year's "landmark" event included prize money for each division winner, with the total purse topping \$6,000, and 12-year old Taylor McDermott winning the Men's C division. At the other end of the spectrum, Mike Guidry won the \$2,000 pro division prize for the second straight year, with a win over Brian Fredenberg. This came on the heels of his big pro win in New York, where Mike defeated season-champ Jason Mannino to mark the first tour stop title of his career.

Jack was pleased that, "with the help of sponsors we were able to triple the tournament purse and provide great hospitality." Financial Services, represented by player and CEO Virgie Brooks was once again the major underwriter, and a total of sixteen player-patrons helped the total prize money top \$6,000. And with the help of Greg McElroy, VP Marketing for the Texas Rangers Baseball team, products from Budweiser, Dr. Pepper, Dasani Water and Powerade were donated.

In the coming months, Jack and Martin are committed to making the 3rd Annual Dallas Open a reality, and plan to combine it with a pro stop. They believe that many more sponsorship opportunities exist and that prize money can double next year. Visit the Landmark Club's website at: www.sofdesign.com/landmark/ to find dates of upcoming events, plus read a complimentary series of Martin's instructional articles.

Dallas Open Winners: Pro: Mike Guidry; Men's Elite: Martin McDermott; Women's Open: Denise Mock; Men's A: Tim Larrabee; Men's B: Bruce Reiff; Men's C: Taylor; 30+: Brandon Smith; 35+: Don Sims; 40+: Mark Frohman; 45+: Jimmy York; 50+: Howard Walker; 55+: Ottis Campbell; 65+: Bob Sullins.



Top: At check-in, Martin McDermott (L) Tournament Director, and Christy Cramer staff the tourney desk, while Club Owner Jack Gian welcomes players.

Middle: Denise Mock, (R) Women's Open Winner accepts congratulations and check from Carly McDermott.

Bottom: Winner-Men's C Division: Taylor McDermott. Taylor is 12 years old ... watch out B Division!

diary ... continued from page 13

Monday, August 4 — Last Practice Day. Team USA is settling into their corners of the apartment. It begins to feel livable, though not ideal. I need my space and solitude, and am determined to find ways to get it.

Tuesday, August 5 — Competition Begins. In a way, it is nice to begin after being here almost a week. It is time to determine my fate. Beginning to feel the nervousness, and I am a little envious of the comfort found in being part of an actual team - like volleyball or B-Ball. But in reality, there is so much to be said for having only oneself to hold accountable or hopefully to credit, and having the courage to do this on my own. I wouldn't have it any other way, singles competition, for me, is where it's at.

The Round Robin's don't necessarily go as predicted. I am certain the main draw will be full of surprises. There is no use thinking ahead. I have to attempt to do the things I need to do to play well. I can't worry about who or what will come next.

Wednesday, August 6 — Second Day of Round-Robin. I play Lupita Torres from Mexico. I win the first game, 15-5 and go up 10-4 in the second. The next thing I know it is 10-8, although I ultimately win 15-9, I am displeased with Lupita's run of four points. I know I won't be able to allow runs like that in the medal rounds. Hopefully, this will sharpen me for tomorrow.



Thursday, August 7 — Third Day of Round Robin. I am nervous about my match with youngster Carola Loma of Bolivia [pictured left]. She took care of Lupita easily when they played. I know this little girl is going to be good. She's a server, a getter, a shooter. I start strong. The nervous energy helps me. I beat Carola 15-1, 15-1.

She never gets going, but she is nervous to play me and our scores are no indications of how great she will become. I like the way I am feeling on the court, but have a feeling I will draw Claudine Garcia in the quarter of the medal rounds. I find out this is indeed true. I am certain I will have to bring my best game to beat her, as she will have her hometown crowd behind her.

Friday, August 8 — Day One of Medal Round. Claudine and I have played numerous times. I never remember my record against her, only the potential she has to beat anyone here. She is a fair player and a good shooter. I feel a mix of quiet confidence and dread. The dread is normal, but I am eager to see what I can do.



the beautiful new venue attracted a number of dignitaries, who dropped in to take a firsthand look at racquetball in connection to their own marquee events ... see more photos of the courts at www.racqmag.com.



clockwise from top left: (L-R) 1. DR Federation president Rafael Fernandez, PARC President Oswaldo Maggi and IRF President Keith Calkins hit the first ball on the new courts. 2. President of the Mexican Olympic Committee Filipe Munoz talks with Fernandez. 3. Mexican Federation President Aldolfo Baca, Fernandez and PASO President Mario Vasquez Rana. 4. Carlos Nuzman, President of the National Olympic Committee of Brazil, with Maggi. Photos: Luke St. Onge.



International Racquetball Federation
Pro Kennex XIII World Junior Championships
Orlando Fitness & Racquet
Club | Orlando, Florida
December 17-21, 2003

entry form – please print . . .

Name _____ Gender: M | F

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Country _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Email _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

National Championship Division _____ Finish _____

Competition in a third division must be mixed doubles. Need a doubles partner? Check here and we'll try to match you up.



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

Participant Signature & Date

LIABILITY: I agree to be liable for all costs for damages for which my child is responsible and to pay for all costs arising from any disciplinary action imposed as stated in the Junior Code of Conduct, as adopted by the IRF.

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date

Use your USRA MBNA credit card to receive an additional 10% off your fees. Only USRA MBNA charges are eligible for this discount!

MC/Visa _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____ USRA Visa? _____

EVENT DETAILS: For host hotels and special events, go to www.usra.org > "Index" > "Entry Forms" to download an expanded entry form in PDF format, or call 719-635-5396 to request a full entry form by mail or fax. For online details and updates, go to: www.racqmag.com > "Event Coverage".

ENTER ONLINE: www.usrastore.com. **TRAVEL:** United Airlines @ 800-841-0460 [use acct. #511SM] for best United rate.

OFFICIAL BALL: Pro Penn

TEAM DESIGNATION

I am an official member of my national team, designated to compete for team points.
 I am an unaffiliated, individual competitor.

SINGLES

18 & under 10 & under
 16 & under 8 & under
 14 & under 8- multi-bounce
 12 & under 6- multi-bounce

DOUBLES

18 & under
 16 & under
 14 & under
 12 & under
 10 & under

PARTNER

MIXED DOUBLES

18 & under
 16 & under
 14 & under
 12 & under
 10 & under

PARTNER

Mail completed entry and fees to: IRF World Junior Championships, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906.

DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 28 (Postmarked by 11/21)
FAX TO: 719-635-0685

FEES AND PAYMENT

USRA membership # . . .	_____
Junior Membership	(\$20.00) _____
First event	(\$70.00) _____
Second event	(\$35.00) _____
Mixed Doubles	(\$35.00) _____
Late Fee	(\$20.00) _____
Telephone Entry Fee	(\$10.00) _____
TOTAL DUE:	\$ _____

ACCEPTANCE: Entries are not accepted without pre-payment and required signatures. Additional surcharges may include: \$23.00 for returned checks and \$10.00 for declined credit cards.

Pro Penn

diary ... continued from page 52

The match goes more smoothly than anticipated, 15-4, 15-6. It is enjoyable to silence any Chicago critics that doubted my chances with Claudine.

Saturday, August 9 — Day Two of Medal Round. My match with Angela Grisar of Chile; Angela has had the best event of anyone as an underdog, so far. I respect her game. I am nervous, especially since many U.S. Team members began feeling ill last night. I slept restlessly with a sore throat and congestion. Surprisingly, this hampers my play in no way whatsoever. Right until 5-5, I runoff 24 straight, looking at a 14-0 lead in game two. It is a relief to have this over with, but I know I will have to get rest tonight to do this all again tomorrow.

My reward for winning today: having to feel nauseous and painfully nervous for one more day. But this is the way it is at every event, and I guess this is what it is all about: Having the courage time and time again to put myself out there-- win or lose, with no excuses.

Sunday, August 10 — Gold Medal Match. I wake up hoping I will feel nauseous. That is always a good sign for me. If I am not nervous, then I really start to worry. I make myself go through my rituals. Sometimes it is not easy. Many days I wish to get back under the covers and sleep away the stress, see a movie and have an unhealthy dinner; anything but wonder what my fate will be. Again there is a mix of excitement and dread.

I wake up after tossing and turning all night. As I tremble, I remind myself this is a good sign for me. I force myself to go through my routine, which does not come easily. This is a bad sign. I have no feel for how things will go. I have a mix of thoughts on a day when I need to quiet my mind.

The countdown begins: 25 minutes to the start. What will my day hold? I pray I will do well. But my start is less than stellar. I am a completely different person than all week. I know this will be a mental struggle. Fortunately, this is my strength.

I cannot silence my mind. I justify a potential loss. Would a loss here ruin my year? No. Yes! A few things occur that urge me on to "chip away." Somehow, through one of my less pretty performances I manage to win game two, and the tiebreaker 11-5. I feel comfortable infrequently throughout. But it doesn't matter to me if it was a beautiful match for the fans. It is a mission accomplished, a goal of four years captured. Mostly I am relieved and overjoyed to silence any critics I have.



Brown to Lead Racquetball Canada

Racquetball Canada recently announced that long-time national team coach Ron Brown has been named its new Executive Director, after taking over for the departing Jan Coates on July 2.

"I've been involved a long, long time," said Brown of his time in racquetball. "I have worked for a lot of executive directors ... I think now is a good time to [become executive director] myself, there are a lot of unique challenges out there."

Brown, 48, was born in Halifax but has lived in Winnipeg for the past 25 years, and has been involved with racquetball since he moved to the Manitoba capital, as a provincial and national team coach, and as an administrator. He also ran the Supreme Racquet Club in Winnipeg for four years in the '90s. Brown says he wants to grow the sport at the grass roots level.

"We need to get more people to our facilities, more people playing, and more places to play" says Brown.

"I think that we have lived off the high-performance end of the sport for a long time. That may have left some of the provinces to tackle grass roots stuff ... Jan started some things and I would like to continue them. I like to build stuff."

Brown's involvement with the national team started at the original world championships in 1984 in Sacramento. He was also national team coach in 1996, 2000 and 2002 when the Canadian men's team won the world team title, as well as Canada's overall team title in 2000. In addition, Brown has overseen numerous individual Canadian medalists at the World Championships and at the Tournament of the Americas. He also coached the Canadian team at the 1999 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg.

For more information contact Peter Robinson at 647.227.5540 or Ron Brown at 204.489.5889.

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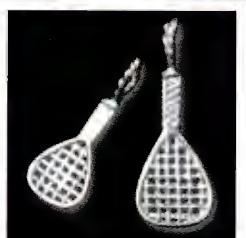
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September 6-7(doubles) NJ/NY
September 19-21 So. Florida
October 24-26 Portland, OR
November 14-16 San Antonio, TX
December 4-11 Aruba(Caribbean Island)

2004

January 23-25 Chicago, IL
February 13-15 Seattle, WA
February 20-22 TBA
March 12-14 Greensboro, NC
April 2-4 Minneapolis, MN
April 16-18 TBA
May 7-9 TBA
May 14-16 TBA

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national rankings

MEN

Men's Open

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Shane Vanderson, OH
3. Josh Tucker, MO
4. Nate Gagne, ME
5. Shane Wood, MA
6. Ben Croft, IL
7. Brian Fredenberg, TX
8. Rocky Carson, CA
9. Mike Locker, MN
10. Chris Crowther, CA

Men's Elite

1. Ralph Cuesta, FL
2. Raymond Maestas, NM
3. Alex Zamudio, IN
4. Rodrigo Urzua, FL
5. Ismael Aldana, CA
6. Dana Mahar, NM
7. James Kostal, WY
8. Tom Carey, ME
9. Damon Peterson, IL
10. David Guentert, CO

Men's A

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

Men's B

1. Rick Rubin, FL
2. David Levy, FL
3. Tim Page, PA
4. Dennis Whitehead, TX
5. Joel Ernst, OH
6. Tom Pendleton, MD
7. Bryan Hiraya, NY
8. Chris Hulke, MN
9. Sid Harshavat, IL
10. Jason Hicks, KY

Men's C

1. Garry Carter, CA
2. Tim Kirk, TX
3. Bob Reou, MI
4. Scott Stoodley, NH
5. Paul Tatz, AZ
6. Jonathan Collins, FL
7. Desmond Slusher, IL
8. Drew Toland, AR
9. Jonathan Burton, WA
10. Brian Butzer, PA

Men's D

1. Jim Stein, PA
2. Mauro Moreira, CA
3. Ron Collins, WA
4. Armstead Williams, AR
5. Marc Sherman, TX
6. Jorge Bejar, GA
7. George Parobek, IN
8. Jason Small, NJ

9. Ron Maestas, NM
10. Daniel Russell, TN

Men's Novice

1. Greg West, NH
2. Alex Bahls, NM
2. Dusty Gallivan, TX
2. Freddy Guevara, FL
2. Bruce Hotchkiss, MI
2. Michael Rivers, OH
7. Pete McConnell, DC
8. Matt Anderson, MA
8. Logan North, OH
10. James Fahey, CT

Men's 24+

1. Marc Moccia, MA
1. Mitch Williams, NC
1. Andy Hawthorne, OH
4. Alejandro Herrera, FL
4. Jack Huczak, MI
6. Ben Croft, IL
6. Matthew McElhiney, FL
8. Mike Gaffney, PA
8. Shane Vanderson, OH
10. Chris Coy, OK

Men's 25+

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

Men's 30+

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

Men's 35+

1. Eugene Coyle, IL
2. Kelly North, KY
3. Dan Llacer, DE
4. Tony Feldstein, CO
4. Doug Ganim, OH
6. Jim Frautschi, MN
7. John Collison, DE
8. John Barrett, PA
9. Sam Tolisano, NY
10. Steve Goedker, MI

Men's 40+

1. Tony Feldstein, CO
1. Dave Watson, OK
3. Eric Foley, MD
3. Jimmy Lowe, AK
5. Scott Cullins, GA
5. Bobby Haab, CT
7. Randy Forrest, FL

8. Ron Maestas, NM
8. Joe Garbarino, NY
10. Bob Wright, IN

Men's 45+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Joe Hassey, NV
3. John Greer, PA
4. Dave Milazzo, IL
5. Patrick Gibson, TX
6. Glenn Bell, TX
7. Len Knudsen, FL
8. Mark Baron, VA
8. James Jones, CA
10. Glenn Loehr, VA

Men's 50+

1. Darryl Warren, CA
2. Mitt Layton, FL
3. Mark Baron, VA
3. Frank Taddonio, AZ
5. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
5. Jim Luzar, WI
7. John Vohland, CO
8. Russ Palazzo, CT
9. Sal Perconti, FL
10. Walter McDade, TN

Men's 55+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Ed Remen, NC
3. Tom McKie, TX
4. Russ Mannino, CA
5. Bill Wolfe, NY
6. David Warner, MN
7. Dan Jones, GA
8. Joe Quirke, IL
9. Ron Marr, KY
10. Greg Hasty, IL

Men's 60+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
1. Dan Jones, GA
3. Warren Reuther, LA
4. Pat Taylor, IL
5. Ron Burdo, FL
6. Chris Segura, UT
7. Ed Sword, KY
8. Pete Keiser, OH
9. Leland Rients, MN
10. Michael Jackson, CT

Men's 65+

1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Michael Jackson, CT
3. Dave Snyder, TX
4. Rex Lawler, IN
5. Grant Morrill, PA
6. Bob Sullins, TX
7. Bob Drouin, NH
7. Alan Dwyer, FL
7. Dave Lund, MI
7. Al Miller, OH

Men's 70+

1. John O'Donnell, IL
2. Don Alt, OH
3. Sean Reid, NV
4. Chuck Kaiser, MI
5. Robert Miller, SC
6. Ken Karmel, NM

7. Wendell Hall, NM
8. Joe Miller, FL
9. Jim Stahl, TX
10. Roy Gaul, TX

Men's 75+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Duane Russell, MI
3. Carl Buschner, MA
4. Ken Yahiro, IL
5. Tony Lang, IL
6. Dick Kincade, CO
7. Philips Dulaney, VA
8. Earl Acuff, NC
8. Michael Martin, CO
10. Philip Dziuk, IL

Men's 80+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Robert McAdam, TX
3. Sam Harry, PA
4. J.W. Studak, TX
5. Bill Matotan, NM
6. Al Romero, NM
7. Wendell Hall, NM
7. Stuart Strand, CA
9. Don Goddard, MT
10. Keith Wardell, OR

Men's 85+

1. Bill Sherman, TX
2. Ben Marshall, TX
3. Luzell Wilde, UT
4. Walter Gardner, UT

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Denise Mock, TX
2. Heather Dunn, MA
3. Malia Bailey, VA
4. Rachel Gellman, AZ
5. Shannon Feaster, MD
5. Aimee Roehler, NJ
7. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
7. Brenda Kyzer, SC
9. Tammy Brown, ID
10. Lorraine Feeney, MA

Women's Elite

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

Women's A

1. Suzette Solomon, IN
2. Susan Lichtman, NY
2. Vicki Taylor, MN
4. Pat Sims, ME
5. Diane Chappel, NY
6. Maria Vera, GA
7. Barbara Christensen, UT
8. Tara Arnett, VA
8. Esther McNany, CT

8. Christine Watson, TX
- Women's B

1. Chandra Shaw, TX
2. Diana Courtney, MI
3. Lori Good, IL
4. Priscilla Krammer, FL
5. Sandy Mercado, DE
6. Patty Barrows, MA
7. Cheryl Kirk, IL
8. Melanie Hanson, UT
9. Karen Thurlow, IL
10. Judy Ostoch, PA

Women's C

1. Marci Laramee, TN
2. Beth Gainer, PA
3. Jean Lerch, NH
4. Aline Jackson, AR
5. Teresa LaBrie, NH
6. Kelly Carson, IL
6. Sharon Shapiro, NH
8. Cherie Evans, WA
8. Nancy Hodges, OH
10. Tracey Flaesch, MD

Women's D

1. Carolyn Watkins, IL
2. Danielle Key, AZ
3. Sarah Warhaftig, CO
4. Richelle Kulju, WA
4. Ashley Loyd, TN
6. Cathy Doucet, NH
7. Janice Bell, GA
8. Nancy Aiken, OR
8. Kim Roy, NH
8. Debbie Vering, NM

Women's Novice

1. Shacoeva Danes, FL
1. Jackie Morrison, NY
1. Jennifer Wells, TX
4. Courtney Hill, NM
5. Courtney Chisholm, MA
6. Katherine Affeltranger, UT
6. Lucy Avramidou, PA
6. Diane Bass, TX
6. Monica Gotelaere, GA
6. Yvonne Grinnell, NM

Women's 24+

1. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
2. Lauren Deutsch, CA
2. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Kristen Walsh, UT
5. Kelley Fisher, OH
6. Krystal Csuk, IL
7. Melissa Borgwat, CA
8. Sara Borland, IA
9. Da'monique Davis, TX
9. Jeni Fuller, NM

Women's 25+

1. T.J. Baumbaugh, VA
2. Rachel Gellman, AZ
2. Kerri Wachtel, OH
4. Jennifer Lynch, CO
4. Aimee Roehler, NJ
6. Stephanie Munger, AK
7. Stephanie Bird, OK
8. Shannon Feaster, MD



national rankings

8. Claudia Ramirez, FL
10. Ramona Vononderza, FL

Women's 30+

1. Heather Dunn, MA
2. Amy Foster, OH
3. Jo Shattuck, CO
4. Tina Hagen, CO
4. Candi Hostovich, VA
4. Lisa Warshawsky, CA
7. Claudia Ramirez, FL
7. Paula Truman, ME
9. Cintya Leveque, VA
9. Linda Moore, PA

Women's 35+

1. Solanna Taragan, CA
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Felicia Mann, MI
3. Denise Mock, TX
3. Holly Remen, NC
6. Anita Maldonado, NY
6. Lisa Mayo, ME
8. Sherron Boyea, CA
9. Lynn Fonseca, GA
10. Roz Petronelli, MA

Women's 40+

1. Cheryl Miosi, NY
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Denise Mock, TX
4. Kim Machiran, MO
5. Malia Bailey, VA
5. Laura Brandt, FL
7. B.J. Ehr Gott, CT
7. Terri Thornton, MN
9. Anita Maldonado, NY
10. Cyd Evans, NM

Women's 45+

1. Marcia Richards, CO
2. Linda Moore, NE
3. Susan Pfahler, FL
4. Jere Luttnar, TX
5. Chris Evon, IL
6. Meena Evans, NC
6. Karen Key, AZ
8. Julie Hill, OK
8. Val Shewfelt, UT
8. Jean Trimble, FL

Women's 50+

1. Debbie Chaney, IN
2. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
3. Elaine Dexter, CA
3. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
5. Marsha Berry, KY
6. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
7. Karen Key, AZ
8. Jere Luttnar, TX
9. Carla Francis, CA
9. Susan Kieffer, MN

Women's 55+

1. Cece Palaski, NM
2. Merijean Kelley, CA
3. Paula Lemon, OK
4. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
5. Paula Sperling, NM
6. Mary Petty, TX
7. Mildred Gwinn, NC

7. Jackie Jones, FL
9. Margaret Hoff, IL
9. Dee Stribling, NC

Women's 60+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Mildred Gwinn, NC
3. Marquita Molina, CA
4. Joy Desantis, CA
5. Nidia Funes, CA
6. Gail Schaefer, MD
7. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
8. Gloria Piscoran, OR
9. Donna Backus, MI
10. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

Women's 65+

1. Annabelle Kovar, NE
2. Linda Baldwin, MO
2. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Jo Penny, SC
5. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
6. Naomi Eads, MO
7. Carol Brown, AZ
8. Jeanne Leben, AZ

Women's 70+

1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Reta Harring, WI
3. Louise Kiss, NM

Women's 75+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
2. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
3. Mary Wysocki-Schwartz, WI

Women's 80+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

BOYS

Boys' 6-

1. Thomas Santilli, CT
2. David Zingale, AZ
3. David Njoroge, CT
4. Kyle Ulliman, OH
5. Kyle Einstein, AZ
5. Skywalker Garcia, AZ
5. Ralph Grillone, MA
5. Will Kszywanos, CT
5. Matt McAdam, CO
5. Spencer Shoemaker, OH

Boys' 6- MB

1. Thomas Santilli, CT
2. David Zingale, AZ
3. David Njoroge, CT
4. Kyle Ulliman, OH
4. Jesse Van Valkenburg, UT
6. Kyle Einstein, AZ
6. Skywalker Garcia, AZ
6. Ralph Grillone, MA
6. Will Kszywanos, CT
6. Matt McAdam, CO

Boys' 8-

1. Keegan North, OH
2. Sam Reid, OR
3. Ryan Coates, OH
4. Chris Vosburg, MA
5. Zach Pellowski, WI

6. Doug Brenner, OR
7. Adam Manilla, CO
7. Chase Stanley, LA
7. Matthew Wray, OH
10. Anthony Dimateo, CT

Boys' 8- MB

1. Keegan North, OH
2. Anthony Dimateo, CT
3. Doug Brenner, OR
4. Paul Frondorf, VA
5. Kyle Ulliman, OH
6. Zach Pellowski, WI
7. Jose Diaz, CA
7. Chris Vosburg, MA
9. Zachary Sabadosa, MA
10. Ian Bellisario, AR

Boys' 10-

1. Logan North, OH
2. Joey Lee, OR
3. Dylan Reid, OR
4. Brad Falvey, WI
4. Joseph Lee, LA
6. Matt Loy, IL
7. Sam Allen, CT
8. Andy McGuffey, OH
9. Chase Stanley, LA
10. Rion Ocampo, VA

Boys' 12-

1. Danny Lavelly, OH
2. Trevor Snyders, IL
3. John-Craig Chisholm, MA
3. Taylor Knoth, OR
5. James Fahey, CT
6. Tyler Lienhart, VA
6. Andrew Price, MI
8. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
9. Taylor McDermott, TX
10. John Sanderson, UT

Boys' 14-

1. Rick Sledzik Jr., MA
2. Sean McGrath, IN
3. Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
4. Brandon Ritschard, IL
5. Tripp Isley, NC
6. Nick Czatt, VA
6. Jonathan Doyle, OH
8. Alex Moe, ND
9. Allan Crockett, AL
10. Jerome Jackson, MA

Boys' 16-

1. Charlie Pratt, OR
2. Zach Apperson, OH
2. Mike Keddie, NH
2. Jordan Walters, NC
5. Joey Lakowske, OR
6. Daniel Stewart, KY
7. Rick Sledzik Jr., MA
8. Anthony Herrera, CO
9. Andrew Gale, UT
10. Angel Khamis, IL

Boys' 18-

1. Ben Croft, IL
2. Dan Sheppick, OR
3. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
4. Dain Taylor, IN

5. Marc Moccia, MA
6. Jose Flores Jr., CT
6. Scott Manship, MA
8. Shane Karmelin, GA
9. Joey Lakowske, OR
10. Jack Huczek, MI

GIRLS

Girl's 6-

1. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
2. Railey Zantop-Zimlinghaus, CO
3. Sidney Bercovich, AZ
3. Brooke Lynn Rushefsky, AZ
5. Jessica Noll, AZ
6. Madison Gilluly, AZ
7. Zosia Howard, CO

Girl's 6- MB

1. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
2. Danielle Falvey, WI
3. Danielle Elder, MD
4. Abbey Lavelly, OH
5. Krystal Boyle, OR
5. Emily Hathaway, MN
7. Railey Zantop-Zimlinghaus, CO

Girl's 8-

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
2. Micaela Garrison-Desany, MA
3. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
4. Laura Lyndon, NH
5. Natalia Canovas, FL
6. Nicole Bruns, VA
6. Rebecca Nader, NH
6. Kayla Pereira, MA
6. Brooke Lynn Rushefsky, AZ

Girl's 8- MB

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
2. Lauren Stanley, LA
3. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
4. Natalia Canovas, FL
4. Danielle Elder, MD
4. Micaela Garrison-Desany, MA
4. Hannah Ocampo, VA
8. Hollee Hungerford, OR
9. Nicole Bruns, VA
9. Nike Onimole, NM

Girl's 10-

1. Courtney Chisholm, MA
2. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR

EVENT LEVEL/ DESCRIPTION

FINISH/POINTS

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8	9-16
30	20	15	10	5	0
50	30	20	15	10	0
150	100	75	50	25	0
250	150	100	75	50	0
300	200	150	100	75	25*
600	400	300	200	100	50*

At selected national events:

Round of 16 finishers receive added points (in draws of 48 or more)*

Blue division winners receive 20 points (in draws of 16 or more)

Red division winners=15 points; White division winners=10 points.

event calendar

september ...

September 12-14	American Family Fall Open @ American Family Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400
	Jesse James Shootout @ Olympus Athletic Club.	Northfield, MN	507-645-8007
	Kentucky Seniors @ Elizabethtown Swim & FitNESS	Elizabethtown, KY	270-765-7946
	Outback Blast It @ The Sports Center.	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3303
	Premier Fall Classic @ Fayetteville Athletic Club	Fayetteville, AR	479-587-0500
	Triple Crown Championships @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
	2003 Regional Doubles @ Southlake Athletic Club	Morrow, GA	770-968-1792
September 18-21	Fall Opener @ Sports Mall	Salt Lake City, UT	801-261-3426
September 19-21	Alpha Fall Kick Off @ Alpha Racquetball & Fitness.	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
	California State Doubles @ What-A-Racquet Club	Dale City, CA	650-697-9162
	Fall Classic @ Dowd YMCA.	Charlotte, NC	704-716-6100
	1st Annual Sw Mi. Rb Shootout @ Bronson Athletic Club	Kalamazoo, MI	269-998-0977
	2003 Ky State Doubles @ Louisville YMCA.	Louisville, KY	270-497-4348
	2003 Tx State Doubles @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
	Bend Classic @ National Fitness & Racquet	Bend, OR	541-389-2009
	Balloon Fest Blow-Out @ Redbud YMCA Of Abilene	Abilene, TX	915-695-3839
	Diez Y Seis @ San Antonio College	San Antonio, TX	210-733-2761
	Fall Brawl Racquetball @ Riverview Athletic Club.	Grand Rapids, MI	616-363-7769
	Falls Rally @ Olympus Racquet & Fitness	Sterling, VA	703-430-0666
	Valley Championships @ Millenium Sports Club	Merced, CA	209-722-3988
September 27-28	Arkansas State Doubles @ World Class Fitness	Ft. Smith, AR	479-646-4022

october ...

October 01-04	University Of Utah Open @ University Of Utah.	Salt Lake City, UT	801-347-9607
October 01-05	NATIONAL DOUBLES	Minneapolis, MN	www.usra.org 254-753-0228
	Fall Shoot Out Of The Brazos @ Lakewood Tennis & Fitness	Waco, TX	239-262-1112
	Florida Junior Challenge @ Naples Fitness Center	Naples, FL	801-298-3231
	Fall Blast @ Sports Forum	Woods Cross, UT	503-585-2582
	Capital City Challenge @ Courthouse Athletic Club-North	Salem, OR	218-233-0230
	Fall Kickoff Spectacular @ Moorhead Racquetball & Fitness Center.	Moorhead, MN	530-246-8435
	Redding Fall Classic @ Kangaroo Kourts	Redding, CA	703-416-0469
	Team Ed Inc Pro-Am @ Crystal City Sport & Health	Arlington, VA	972-392-1500
	Dallas Doubles Series @ Landmark Fitness Factory	Dallas, TX	651-450-1660
	Fabulous Five Series #1 @ Southview Athletic Club.	West St. Paul, MN	717-540-5111
	Halloween Open @ Cocoa Court Club	Hershey, PA	919-778-8557
	Racquetball October Fest @ Goldsboro YMCA.	Goldsboro, NC	804-330-2222
	Robious/CJW Fall Smashball @ Robious Sport & Fitness	Richmond, VA	818-884-5034
	Tournament Of Terror @ Spectrum Club	Canoga Park, CA	616-956-0944
	West Michigan Open @ Michigan Athletic Club	Grand Rapids, MI	270-497-4348
	1st Annual Ichabod Memorial @ Louisville YMCA.	Louisville, KY	817-275-3348
	Texas State Seniors @ Maverick Athletic Club.	Arlington, TX	801-974-6923
	Swing Into Fall @ Redwood Multipurpose Center.	West Valley City, UT	314-533-0294
	2003 St. Louis Legends Tourney @ Jewish Community Center	St. Louis, MO	910-343-5950
	East Coast Doubles @ Wilmington Athletic Club	Wilmington, NC	703-527-7785
	Ghostley @ Worldgate Sport & Health	Herndon, VA	210-344-8596
	Spook Fest @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs Of Sa.	San Antonio, TX	559-227-8405
	Thunderbolt Open @ Dan Camel's Health & Athletic Club.	Fresno, CA	

november ...

November 05-08	State Doubles Championships @ Marv Jenson Fitness & Recreation.	South Jordan, UT	801-253-4404
November 07-09	Bay Area Open @ Racquetball Plus	Burlingame, CA	650-697-9162
	Fabulous Five Series #2 @ Southview Athletic Club.	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	Mwra Doubles Championships @ Laurel Sport Fitness.	Laurel, MD	410-987-0980
	Turkey Shoot @ Vision Sports.	Asheville, NC	828-232-0668
November 08	NWFC Fall Shootout @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688

event calendar

November 12-16	Ora Tour Stop #3 @ Sunset Athletic Club	Portland, OR	503-645-3535
November 14-16	Minnesota State Doubles @ Northwest Athletic Club	Brooklyn Center, MN	320-251-3965
	Seniors Invitational @ Mt Vernon Health & Racquet	Alexandria, VA	703-360-7300
	Spartan Splat @ Michigan Athletic Club/Lansing	East Lansing, MI	577-267-0186
	Dallas Doubles Series @ Landmark Fitness Factory	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
November 19-22	Mullett Hoover Open @ Orem Fitness Center	Orem, UT	801-229-7154
November 19-23	CHOICE 8TH U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS	Memphis, TN	800-234-5396
November 21-23	All Valley Open Championships @ Mid Valley Athletic Club	Reseda, CA	818-705-6500
	Cross Court Open @ Cross Court Athletic Club	Woodland, CA	530-666-1319
November 29	One Day Turkey Shoot @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs Of San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596

december ...

December 02-06	Rocky Mountain Masters @ Redwood Multipurpose Center	West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
December 05-07	St. Nick Splat @ Severna Park Racquet & Fitness Club	Millersville, MD	410-987-0980
December 05-07	Superstars Of Racquetball @ Central Courts	Columbia Heights, MN	763-572-0330
December 06	NWFC Winter Shootout @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
December 10-14	Holiday Open @ Cascade Athletic Club	Gresham, OR	503-665-4142
December 12-14	Christmas Classic @ Tysons Sport & Health	McLean, VA	703-442-9150
	Fabulous Five Series #3 @ Southview Athletic Club	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
December 13	Maverick One Day Shootout @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
December 13-15	Rollingwood Winter Classic @ Rollingwood Racquet Club	Fair Oaks, CA	916-988-1727
December 17-21	PROKENNEX IRF 15th WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS	Orlando, FL	719-635-5396

january 2004 ...

January 06-10	Alta Canyon Avalanche @ Alta Canyon Sports Center	Sandy, UT	801-568-4600
January 09-11	Pen Club Challenge Clup @ Peninsula Club	Grand Rapids, MI	616-771-0312
	Sunshine Turney @ Gaithersburg Sport & Health	Gaithersburg, MD	301-258-0661
January 12-14	Winter Chiller @ Suburban Health Club	St. Cloud, MN	320-251-3965
January 16-18	Superbowl Open @ In-Shape West Lane	Stockton, CA	209-472-2100
January 21-25	Hall Of Fame @ Central Courts	Columbia Heights, MN	763-572-0330
January 21-24	Griffith Memorial Tournament @ Courtsports Athletic Club	Eugene, OR	541-687-2255
January 30 - Feb. 01	Orem Open @ Orem Fitness Center	Orem, UT	801-229-7154
January 30 - Feb. 01	Stuck In The Snow @ Moorhead Racquetball & Fitness Center	Moorhead, MN	218-233-0230
	Super Bowl Splat @ Olympus Athletic Club	Northfield, MN	507-645-8007

february ...

February 03-07	2004 Massacre @ Redwood Multipurpose Center	West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
February 06-08	Fabulous Five Series #4 @ Southview Athletic Club	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	Wintergreen Classic @ Laurel Sport Fitness	Laurel, MD	410-987-0980
	2004 Rochester Pro-Am @ Rochester Athletic Club	Rochester, MN	507-282-6000

2003 national event entries @ www.usrastore.com

October 1-5	USRA 36th National Doubles Championships [6]	Minneapolis, MN	719-635-5396
November 19-23	Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN Championships [5]	Memphis, TN	719-635-5396
December 17-21	ProKennex IRF 15th World Junior Championships [5]	Orlando, FL	719-635-5396

2004

January 16-18	WSMA 16th U.S. Women's Senior/Master Championships [5]	Burlingame, CA	608-592-2497
March 4-7	Wilson 17th U.S. National High School Championships [6]	Portland, OR	www.usra.org
March 5-7	NMRA Masters National Championship [5]	Millersville, MD	410-987-0980

• The majority of listed, sanctioned events are level two events; where titles indicate a "state" "regional" or "national" tournament, a higher level of point earnings may be applied. • Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 06/03, you must renew in the month of June in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month. For expanded calendar listings, refer to the online edition of RACQUETBALL at www.racqmag.com. For online entries, go to www.usrastore.com.

ad index

Vol.14, NO.5.....	SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER 2003	
AmPRO	550-266-8960	44
Ashaway.....	800-556-7260	23
Bell Racquet Sports	800-724-9439	56
Crossroads Access	281-782-4409	58
E-Force	800-433-6723	18/19
Ektelon Racquets.....	800-435-8356.....	10/11
Ektelon	800-435-8356	BC
Excell.Net	413-399-0599	59
First Coast Promotions.....	800-762-4653	57
Fran Davis Camps.....	415-821-3726	58
Fran Davis Video	415-821-3726	59
Head Sports Inc.	800-874-3234	IFC+1
IRT	630-430-1478	29
Holabird Sports	410-687-6400	59
Klippermate	847-742-1300	57
Lawler Sports	800-875-3701	56
Legends, St. Louis	314-531-0988.....	32/33
LPRA.....	719-635-5396	31
Penn	800-289-7366	15
Python Racquetball.....	800-456-4305	56
Racquet Connection	888-822-2501	58
RacquetballCatalog.com.....	866-443-2777	57
RacquetballWarehouse.com	800-883-6647	55
Risky Designs.....	619-890-9300	56
U.S. OPEN.....	800-234-5396	IBC
USRA Merchandise	719-635-5396	56
USRASTORE.com	719-635-5396	59
Wilson	800-272-6060	26/27

GENERAL INFO.....	719-635-5396	
Hall of Fame	719-635-5396	5
World Juniors	719-635-5396	53
Choice U.S. OPEN	800-234-5396.....	IBC

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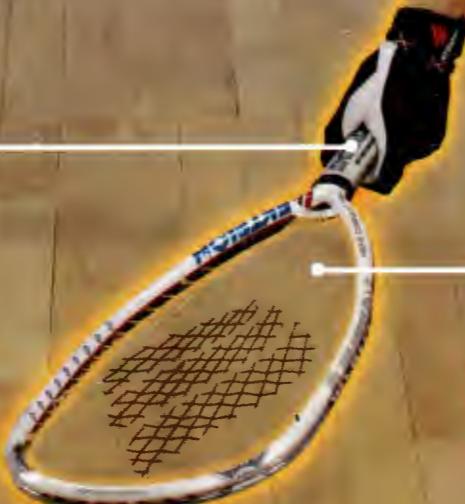
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