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RACQUETBALL

Suds Monchik Reclaims his U.S. OPEN title

*He was able to take revenge
on Swain, but the #1 spot
still isn't his ... yet.*

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airings is on
February
13th! See
page 9 for times!

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• Instruction by Cliff Swain
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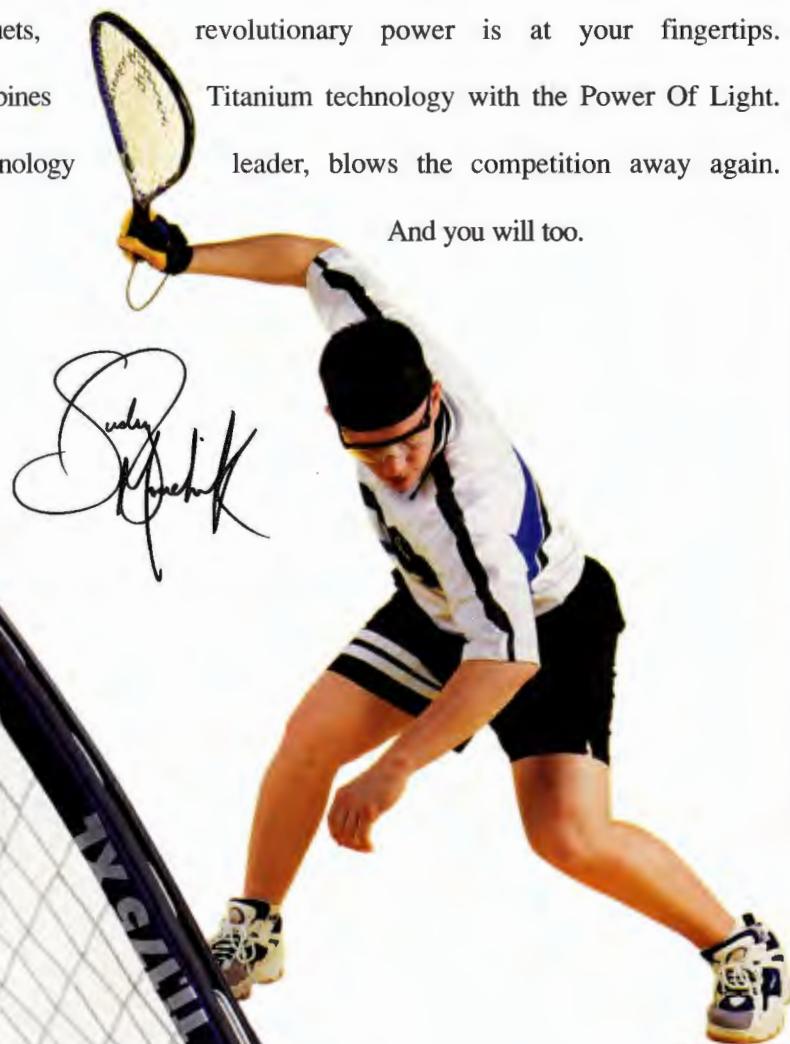
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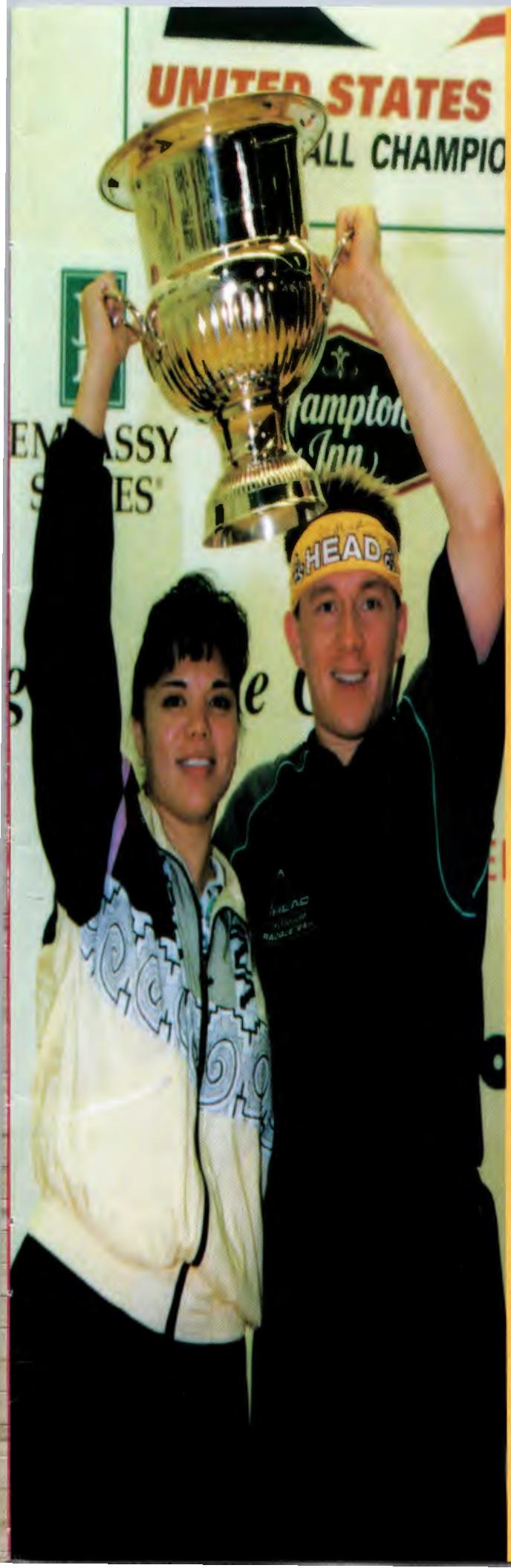


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<< at left

1998 Promus U.S. OPEN champions Jackie Paraizo and Sudsy Monchik – a first for her, his re-claimed. Story on Page 8. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

... on the cover

Sudsy Monchik was focused and driven throughout his run to a second Promus U.S. OPEN title in Memphis. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

from the editor

Well, Happy New Year to you, too! If you're reading the January/February issue and it's not just a dozen or so black and white copied pages stapled together at the top left corner, it will be a very good sign. You see, for Christmas, we decided to give you a brand new magazine.

Oh sure, it *looks* the same (*I swear I'm getting a new picture taken!*) but it really is all new. Since the holidays are traditionally so stress-free for me (*like most people, right?*), we first decided to acquire Killshot and incorporate former content from the publication into **RACQUETBALL**. That negotiation, successfully finalized and

announced at the U.S. OPEN, opened the door to a whole new world of cross-platform file transfer issues, frantic emails and computer-babble that continues to make my head spin. You'll see a re-design of the PROfile pages in this issue that reflect some of that "new world order" as we begin to selectively adopt some of the neat-o graphics and artwork that jazzed up Killshot's pages in the past. As part of the deal, former Killshot editor Marvin Quertermous will be



authoring pro tour coverage in the coming year as a regular contributor, and **RACQUETBALL** will take over newstand space in selected markets served by major booksellers like Barnes & Noble. Oh! And **RACQUETBALL** has now become the official publication of the pro tours, too! Just a few little extras to make life more interesting in 1999.

Secondly, I guess I was getting a little too cozy with the folks who help us produce the magazine in the pre-press stages (*helping with design, scanning photos, generating film, that sort of thing*), and the crew who actually put the ink on paper every eight weeks, so ... we changed all our production/support services heading into the holidays. All new people to convince that if *I'm* at work on Christmas Eve, everyone else should be too! Tell me again about that nine-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs? I think I finally got that move down ...

So, we're hoping that all this frantic change will result in more of the type of improvement that you've come to expect in the pages of **RACQUETBALL**. We're heading into our tenth year, counting down the millenium, and making big plans. But be forewarned. The first person to ask (*even jokingly*) when **RACQUETBALL** is going to start coming out monthly had better be able to duck, and fast!

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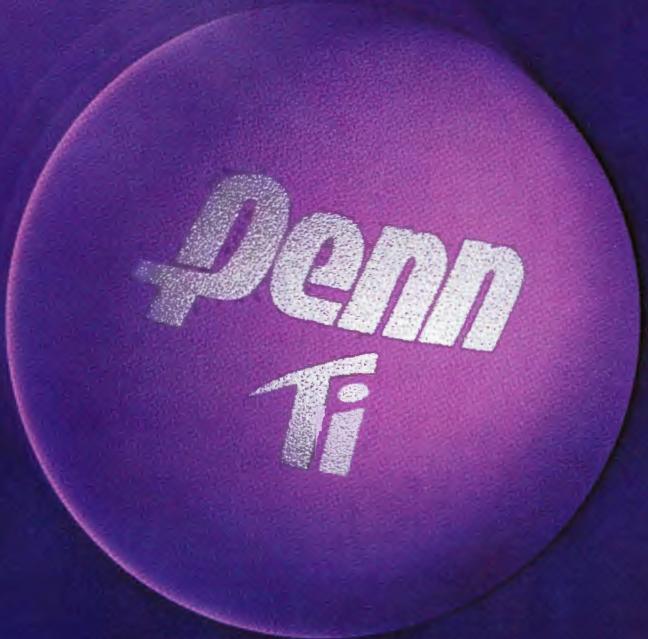
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reader forum



Tony Rosales, with son Tonio's "Tigger" in Memphis.
Photo: Jen Yokota.



THANKS, ALL AROUND!

<< As a manager for the Hampton Inn-Anchorage I would like to thank Mr. Ray Schultz and Promus Hotel Corporation for putting their enthusiastic stamp on the sport of racquetball. I was truly proud to represent Promus Hotels, Stonebridge Companies and Hampton Inn-Anchorage. I would also like to thank the USRA and the IRT for making my time in Memphis truly spectacular. I have been to many tournaments in many different states and I must say that the U.S. Open is a first class event. I take my hat off to Doug Ganim and everyone involved. An absolutely fantastic job!

I came to the tournament not really caring if I won or lost, I just wanted to see some old friends and watch some great racquetball. Well, I got everything and more. I returned to Alaska feeling like I truly won something special. I am not talking about the fact that I won my division, but the fact that I spent a wonderful week with old friends, made new friends and played some great racquetball players. I have renewed confidence in my abilities and a new desire to better my game, and help others better theirs. I would like to dedicate my win to my beautiful 10 month old son Antonio, he is my life and my inspiration. This was for you Tonio!

On behalf of all of the Alaska Racquetball players I want to say thank you to everyone in Memphis for their outstanding hospitality. We all go back to the frozen north knowing that we have been a part of something wonderful.

Tony Rosales
Hampton Inn-Anchorage, Alaska
'98 U.S. Open Men's 25+ A/B Champion

<< I want to personally thank you and the entire staff for the coverage Doug and I received from the National Doubles. It's also an honor for me to appear on the cover of RACQUETBALL magazine.

When I retired from the tour four years ago, I thought I'd never venture into competitive play again. But the lure of becoming a U.S. Team member again, and the benefits that come with it, have inspired

me to compete again with enthusiasm. I look forward to representing the United States in next year's Pan Am games, along with partner Doug Ganim. Thanks for the opportunity!

Dan Obremski
North Versailles, Pennsylvania
"USRA Athlete of the Year"

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending a clinic directed by Lynn Adams, the Hall-of-Famer, who unfortunately had to leave the game in the early '90's due to illness. Lynn came to our little club, a YMCA in Staunton, Va. with only two courts, but with a dedication to the game rarely seen in clubs three times that size.

I want to thank her, on behalf of everyone who attended, for a fun, informative session that enhanced all of our skills. While it would be easy for a player of Lynn's stature to simply rest, basking in her achievements, she took the time to come to our little club and spend two hours teaching us hacks how to play better racquetball. It showed a true love of the game and a desire to promote the sport that I consider to be the best game in the world.

I was impressed, not only by her skill as a player which, I believe, has not diminished one bit since she won her last championship, but by her ability to explain the most fundamental and the most complex aspects of the game to both our beginner players and those of us who have worked hard to climb the club ladder.

Thank you Lynn for your time, and thank you for your contribution to the game. And thank you most for telling me I had a "good forehand." It was the best compliment I have ever received.

David Meeks
Staunton, Virginia

Thank you so much for allowing me to go to the [Elite] camp. It was the best experience of my life. I called my father after the first day and told him what we did and that I did about 700 pushups. Then I told him "this was heaven." My game as improved tremendously since the camp.

1999 regional qualifiers

Qualifying Competition is REQUIRED to participate in the 1999 Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles in Houston, Texas and the 1999 Ektelon 26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships! However, women age 45 and over, and men age 55 and over (as of May 26, 1999) are NOT required to pre-qualify for competition at a regional qualifier. You probably still want to, however, since it's the only way to accumulate ranking points and earn seeding consideration! AND Junior/Intercollegiate athletes who have already played in a junior or intercollegiate regional to qualify for their associated championship events don't have to re-qualify for national singles at an adult regional championship. **WAIVERS:** All legitimate waivers of qualifying competition at any of these events must be approved **prior** to the scheduled regional weekend. All waivers must be directed to – and approved by – the USRA Headquarters. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.

1999 intercollegiate regional qualifiers [level 4] ... nationwide

February 13-14	Indiana University	Bloomington, Indiana	440-886-2286
February 19-21	Southeast Intercollegiate Regionals	Tallahassee, Florida	518-463-1352
February 26-28	Northeast Intercollegiate Regionals @ Court Club	Albany, New York	518-463-1352
March 5-6	ORA State Championships	Canton, Ohio	614-890-6073
March 18-20	BYU Regionals	Provo, Utah	801-378-5301

1999 ektelon adult regional qualifiers [level 4] ... nationwide

April 8-10	Glass Court Swim & Fitness – Chicago, Illinois	Geoff Peters	773-935-9685
April 15-18	Lakewood Athletic Club – Denver, Colorado	Marianne Alonzi	303-422-5703
	The Quadrangle East – Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	Fred White	954-528-2311
	Southern Athletic Club – Atlanta, Georgia	Liz Lyon	770-923-5400
	Merritt Athletic Club – Baltimore, Maryland	Molly O'Brien	410-315-7900
	Cedardale Health & Fitness Club – Haverhill, Massachusetts	Bill Gargan	603-367-8533
	Missouri Athletic Club West – St. Louis, Missouri	Bill Crist	314-539-4428
	Hall of Fame Fitness Center – Canton, Ohio	Doug Ganim	614-890-6073
	Cascade Athletic Club – Portland, Oregon	Connie Martin	503-665-4142
	Northwest Athletic Club – Houston, Texas	Annie Muniz	713-432-0881
	Eau Claire Athletic Club – Eau Claire, Wisconsin	Ryan Graham	715-552-5382
April 23-25	Las Vegas Sporting Club – Las Vegas, Nevada	Mike Coulter	702-733-8999
April 30-May 2	Prime Fitness – Birmingham, Alabama	Jim Garner	205-988-3819

1999 junior regional qualifiers [level 4] ... nationwide

February 19-21	Region 7 – Northwest Athletic Club – Houston, TX	Annie Muniz	713-432-0881
March 19-21	Region 14 – Garden Health & Fitness – Monterey, CA	Margo Daniels	831-372-7224
March 27-28	Region 2 – Club Fit – Briarcliff, NY	Jennifer Mayadas Dering	914-763-5466
April 9-11	Region 16 – Courts Plus – Jacksonville, NC	Jan Stelma	919-633-2221
April 15-18	Region 6 – Missouri Athletic Club – St. Louis, MO	Bill Crist	314-439-4428
April 15-18	Region 12 – Lakewood Athletic Club – Denver, CO	Marianne Alonzi	303-422-5703
April 15-18	Region 3 – Merritt Athletic Club – Baltimore, MD	Craig Rappaport	610-520-0338
April 15-18	Region 9 – Hall of Fame Fitness Center – Canton, OH	Shelley Ogden	513-941-7641
April 24-25	Region 10 – Shelbyville County Athletic Club – Shelbyville, IN	Cathy McGrath	317-879-8100
April 24-25	Region 11 – Central Courts – Columbia Heights, MN	Dave Schulenberg	651-777-6673
April 30-May 1	Region 8 – Site TBA – Chicago, IL	Rich Clay	847-918-7407
April 30-May 2	Region 5 – Prime Fitness – Birmingham, AL	Jim Garner/Natalie Crockett	205-988-3819
April TBA	Region 13 – Billings YMCA – Billings, MT	Mike Nys/Steve Pinnow	406-245-6204
May 7-9	Region 15 – Site TBA – Anchorage, AK	Steve Arturo	907-275-0449
PENDING	• Region 1 – ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT		
PENDING	• Region 4 – FL, GA		

The drills we learned are awesome and the exercises are great. I am trying hard to reach my goal of getting to the quarters in the Worlds. So I would just like to thank you again for a great learning experience.

*Josh Epstein
Great Neck, New York*

CORRECTION

Last month, I received the magazine and I wanted to let you know that there was a slight error in your published scores for the National Doubles that were held in October at the

Merritt Athletic Club in Maryland. First, my partner's name is Russ Montague, not Ross. Additionally, the scores in the 45+ finals against [Gene] Pare and [Stan] Wright were actually 9-15, 15-11 and 11-7. You did get the outcome correct, but the scores you had indicated in the magazine (15-3 and 15-9) were in error and should have reflected a closer finish. Would appreciate if you would give Russ and I the credit that is due instead of the embarrassing straight game scores indicated. If not, we will just have to set the record straight next time!

*Ed Garabedian
West Chester, Pennsylvania*

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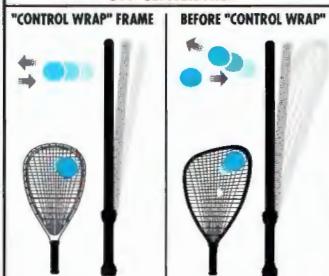
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"CONTROL WRAP" FRAME MAXIMIZES CONTROL BY LIMITING DISTORTION ON OFF-CENTER HITS



Off-center hits – computer-enhanced drawing demonstrates "Control Wrap" decreasing distortion and increasing control.

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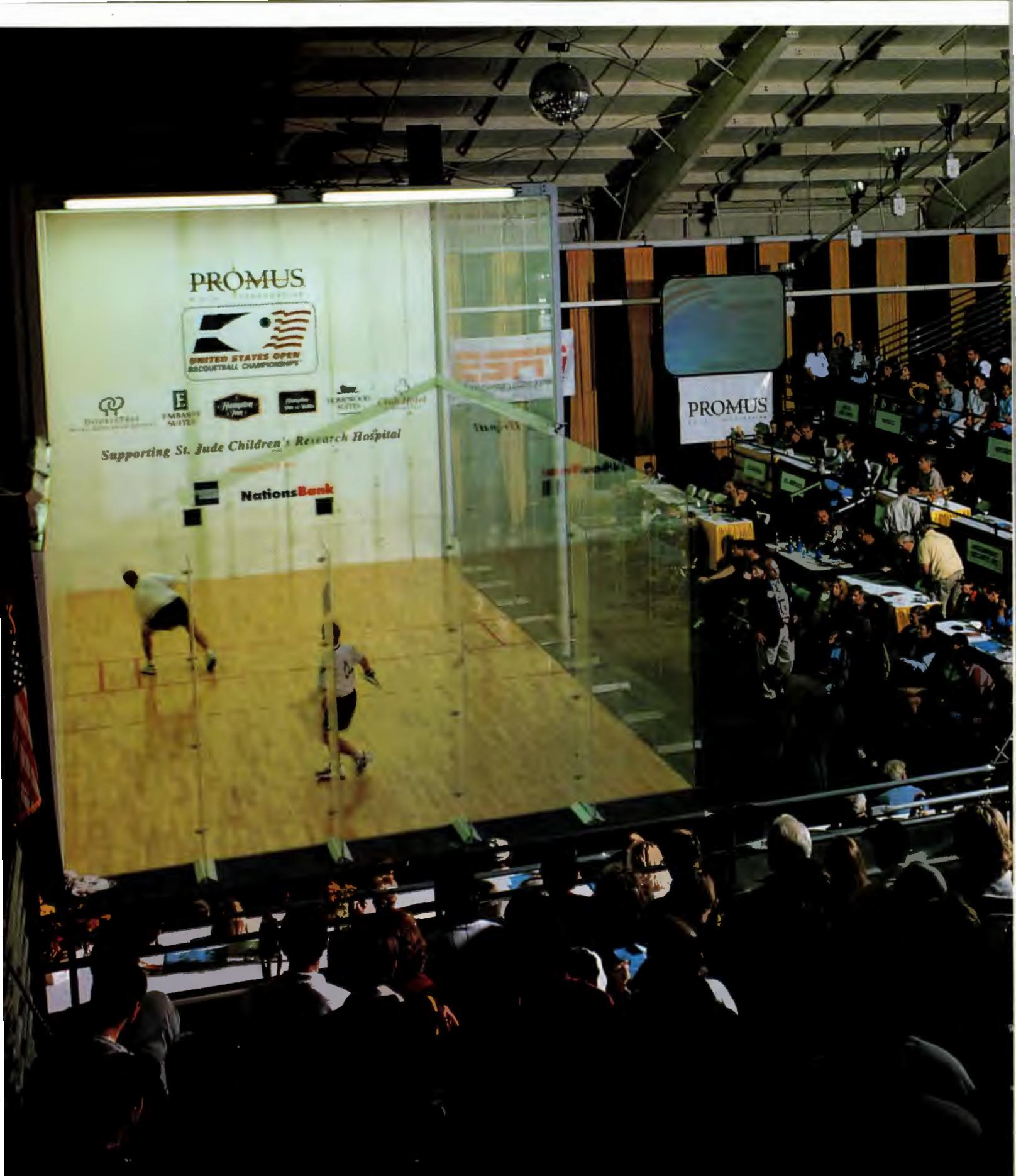


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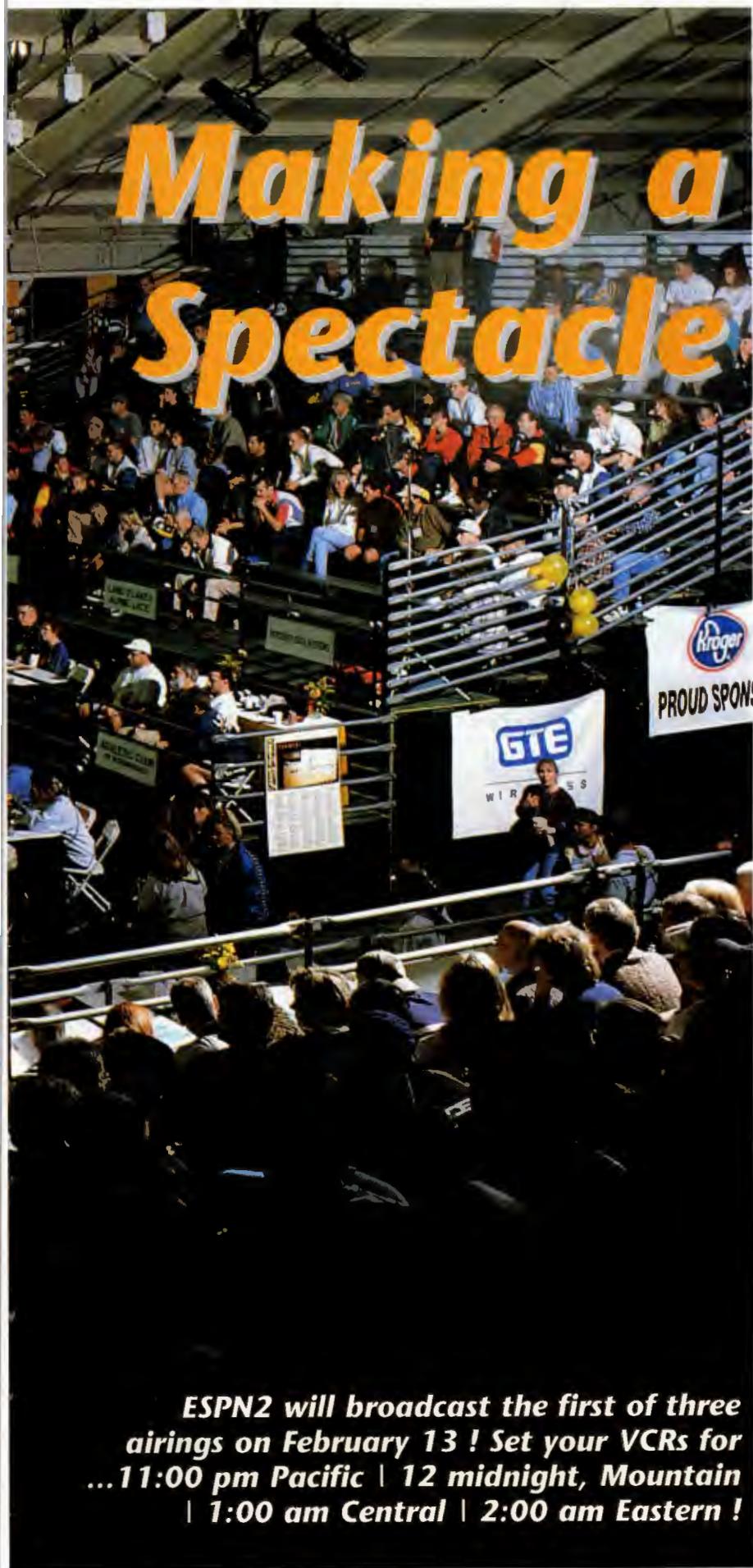
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An early-round crowd scene, shot by Mike Boatman



ESPN2 will broadcast the first of three airings on February 13 ! Set your VCRs for ... 11:00 pm Pacific | 12 midnight, Mountain | 1:00 am Central | 2:00 am Eastern !

PROMUS
HOTEL CORPORATION



It's racquetball like you've never seen it before ... unless you've been to Memphis to experience the Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN for yourself. Since its debut in 1996, this event has just gotten bigger and better each year.

This past November the sold-out stadium court for the men's and women's pro finals was once again flanked by ESPN cameramen positioned next to the made-for-TV portable court like storm troopers of the airwaves. Spectators and players witnessed surprising runs by Eric Muller and Caryn McKinney to the reach the semifinals of their respective pro draws, and a host of other surprises were also in store. With that said, one can only imagine how impressive the Promus' 4th U.S. OPEN might prove to be in 1999. One thing's for sure – better get your tickets early! From the looks of this

crowd, they won't be around for long.

espn2



One Up, One Down

If Cliff Swain and Sudsy Monchik could ever get on the same page — healthwise — their match would rival any in racquetball's history.

But their highly-touted rematch at the 3rd Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships only mirrored its '97 counterpart. Last year, Monchik had entered the event as the top seed and limped his way through the draw. This year, Swain became the hobbled defending champion.

A year ago, it was a hungry Swain who dismantled an ailing Monchik in a three-game final. This go-round, it was a red-hot Monchik who made Swain look like first-

round fodder with a humbling 11-2, 11-8, 11-4 championship win.

Why can't these two just get it on in Memphis? After five days of build-up, crowds were ready for a marathon. But the fact remains, the Promus U.S. OPEN has yet to see anything longer than a three-game finale (men or women) since its inception. Exciting, to be sure, but just too brief!

Getting There

Earlier in the week, Swain had moved past Craig Rappaport (who scored the most points, other than Sudsy, against the lefty; 11-5, 8-11, 11-3, 11-7) and Matt Adesso (11-3, 11-2, 11-4) in the tourney's first two

Left: Cliff Swain vs. Sudsy Monchik

Right: Monchik comes in for a landing. Photos: Mike Boatman

rounds, while, on the bottom of the draw, second-seeded Monchik took apart Canada's Francis Guillemette (11-8, 11-8, 11-1) and Mexico's Luis "Nacho" Bustillos (4-11, 11-1, 11-1, 11-2) for his entry into the round of 16.

Early-round upsets included U.S. Junior Team member Josh Tucker's 12-10, 10-12, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9 victory in the round of 64 over 13th seed Doug Eagle. In the second round, no one was more shocked than hometown hero and fourth seed Andy Roberts who was put in the deep freeze by Minnesota's Mike Locker 14-12, 11-7, 11-9.

"Andy Roberts is the king," Locker told the crowd after his stunning upset. "I don't care what anybody says, he's the king of racquetball and someone I've always looked up to."

Later, Locker continued, "I play a lot of junk, I play a medium-paced game, if you will, and that tended to throw him off a little. I don't think Andy was on his game, but I'll take that and run with it."

Roberts, who has stated this will be his final season on the tour full-time, said, "I missed some shots in the second and third games that were crucial. I just could not get anything goin'. Normally when I don't play well, it's a physical ailment, but I had no excuses."

Perhaps the most entertaining match of the 32's was between rocket-launcher Rob DeJesus and elder statesman, Ruben Gonzalez. The two split the first four games with DeJesus taking one and two (11-8, 11-6) and Gonzalez the next two (11-6, 11-7). DeJesus eventually won the fifth 11-9.

Referee Todd O'Neil described the match: "DeJesus came out with his noise and funk and Ruben was off-balance. Like the cagey veteran he is, Ruben found a weakness and exploited it for the third and fourth games and most of the fifth. Then, DeJesus made a little quick-fix, got some first serves in and turned the momentum of the match. DeJesus short served in the range of 13-16 times in the match. Ruben only faulted once."

The Sixteens

The round of 16 began and Swain's sore elbow was the talk of the tournament. How bad is it? What is it [tendonitis, pinched nerve, bruise]? Is he really hurt? Can he even get to the finals? And, of course, Swain never let on too far in either direction.

story by Kevin Vicroy, photos by Mike Boatman and Vicki Hughes

January – February 1999



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"I'm just trying to use as little of my arm as possible," Swain said after derailing 16th seed Kelly Kerr, 11-1, 11-9, 8-11, 11-2 in the round of 16. "I'm trying to use the angles more than the usual power. I'm less than 100-percent, but I've been less than 100-percent before."

After storming past Rocky Carson 11-3, 11-3, 11-8 in his 16's match, third-seeded John Ellis was quoted as saying, "If Cliff is in the finals, I guarantee his arm feels fine."

Surprises in the Quarters

For the second consecutive year, unseeded Eric Muller advanced into the quarterfinals. This time by downing the tournament upstart, Locker, 11-4, 9-11, 12-10, 3-11, 11-4. Also earning an unsuspected quarterfinals invite was 12th seed Mike Ray, who patiently disposed of fifth seed Jason Mannino, 11-3, 11-8, 11-4.

In Friday's first quarterfinal action, Muller continued his Cinderella trip to the semifinals with an impressive 8-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-9 upset of Ray.

Next up was expected to be the high-flying circus acts of Ellis and sixth-seeded Mike Guidry. But neither was on their game and Ellis eventually emerged victorious, 7-11, 11-0, 11-2, 11-7.

"I felt somewhat flat and lacked a little motivation, if you can believe it," Ellis said after the match. "I'm thankful that he didn't play his best racquetball either. Together, we kind of stunk it up a little bit, but you gotta do what you gotta do to win the tournament."

The top two seeds, Monchik and Swain finished the evening with wins over 10th seed Tim Doyle (13-11, 11-6, 11-9) and eighth seed Derek Robinson (11-2, 12-10, 11-7), respectively.

"That's as tough as you'll see a three-game match," Monchik said of his match up with friend Doyle. "Out there it felt like it could have been four or five games, easily."

About his current injury status, Swain said, "As I go on, the strength is coming back in my hand. But, I've been compensating for the injury, so other things have been going on in that hand. I felt better today than I did all week . . . by far."

In the semifinals, no one in the world would have beaten Suds Monchik. After losing game one 11-6 to Ellis, the Staten Island, N.Y., native was relentless. Serve, return, cram it into the left corner. Again and again. The match appeared to flow with Monchik's every will and desire. Ellis was finished. The final three games read: 11-1, 11-1, 11-3.

"I wanted to really make a statement," Monchik said. "John's beaten me the last couple of times out. That was a big match for me mentally. I really wanted to send a message. I'm hoping' that I sent it." Like Bose speakers . . . loud and clear.

Swain overcame a stubborn Muller in the evening's final semi 11-9, 11-5, 11-6 for his second straight U.S. OPEN finals appearance.

"I'd like to just take my hat off to Cliff Swain," Muller told the crowd after the match. "I think he's the greatest player of all-time."

Swain responded by saying, "With all of the practice that Eric and I have done, we've become friends. Since he's going to become a billionaire lawyer in about six months and this is my real job, I think he was just being nice to me today."



Ellis vs. Guidry | Photo: Mike Boatman

So, how's the arm? "The strength's coming back," Swain said. "I haven't really tested it on the (drive) serve yet, but it feels pretty good."

Everything was going well for the five-time tour champion until the finals against Monchik. The most shocking aspect of Monchik's 11-2, 11-8, 11-4 win was the fact that he seemed to play even more powerfully than he did in the semifinals . . . his serve in particular.

"I went out there and was definitely thinking about last year – thinking about the beating I took and I wanted to change that," Monchik said. "I got my ass kicked and that's not gonna happen again. Play the numbers. I'm not gonna get beat three straight again."

"After the match last year, I knew he (Monchik) was gonna be more hungry," Swain said. "He was going to be focused and wanting to show all of those people that he could do better and he did."

Monchik finished by saying, "Cliff was maybe banged up a little bit this year, I was banged up last year. Maybe you haven't got us both at our best yet. But, I know last year he played his best and, today, I think I played my best. If you would have combined my play this year and his play last year, we would have been out there for another three hours."

Maybe next year ...

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World's #1 Racquetball Player
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Paraiso (foreground) vs. Van Hees | Photo: Mike Boatman

Who said that it's better to be on top? Not in this year's Promus U.S. OPEN WIRT draw. Among the 16 players in the top-half of the 1998 bracket were: former pro tour champ and top seed Jackie Paraiso, consistent top finisher and '96 world silver medalist Cheryl Gudinas, current U.S. national singles titleholder Robin Levine and '98 world singles silver medalist Kersten Hallander.

Although the bottom bracket featured current world champ and winner of the past two WIRT stops, Christie Van Hees, along with former pro tour winner Caryn McKinney, this U.S. OPEN ladies' draw was most definitely top heavy. One reason for the imbalance was the incredible weight placed on the points per event, combined with only a handful of tournaments on the WIRT schedule.

"I don't think the way we do our rankings is right," fourth-seeded Gudinas said after dealing Sadie Gross a quick 11-3, 11-6, 11-2 defeat in the round of 32. "We have players shooting from being in the 20's up to No. 4 when they do well in one tournament."

One player that fit such a mold was two-time defending Canadian national champ Van Hees. Winner of last year's season-ending Tournament of Champions (with no point earnings), and this year's opener in Baltimore, Van Hees jumped from 19th to 4th on the WIRT ladder.

Van Hees, the tournament's second seed, began her trek toward a third consecutive pro crown by disposing of an impressive Kristen Walsh 11-0, 11-5, 11-1.

"She (Walsh) was getting to every single ball," Van Hees said of the youngster from Utah. "No matter if it was a rollout or whatever, she was goin' for it. That kind of made it tough. She's an up-and-comer for sure."

The women's opening round passed with very few upsets. Nebraska's Linda Moore shocked eighth-seeded Lorraine Galloway (7-11, 11-13, 11-7, 12-10, 11-2), while the pride of Allentown, Pa., Aimee Roehler, upset tour commissioner and sixth seed Molly O'Brien (11-4, 4-11, 11-9, 17-19, 11-6).

Most of the top seeds found the Sweet 16 to be rather tasty. Paraiso put away Mexico's Susana

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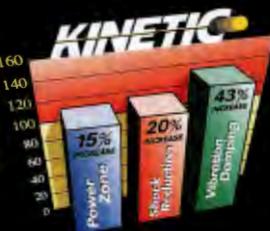
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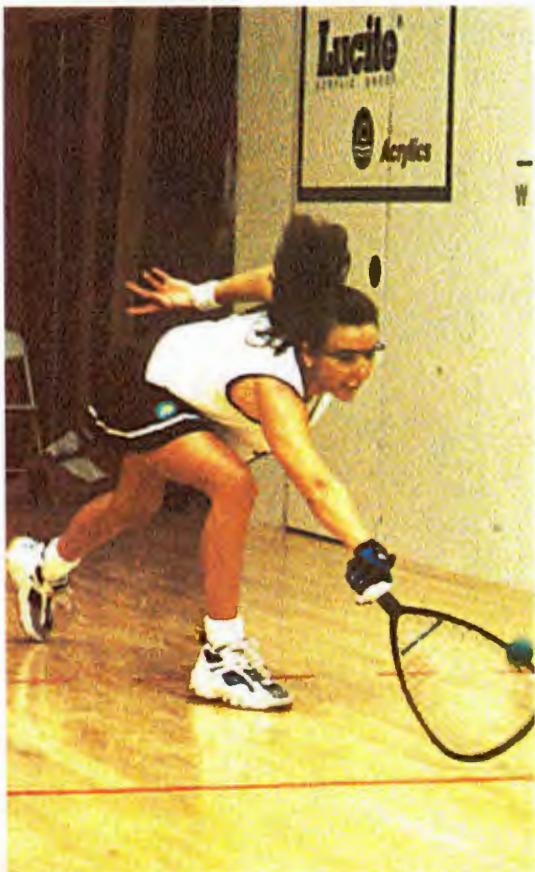
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*Above: Laura Fenton | Photo: Mike Boatman.
Below: Caryn McKinney vs. Christie Van Hees
| Photo: Vicki Hughes.*



Acosta 11-3, 11-2, 11-2 after chipping Acosta's front tooth with her backswing early in the first game.

"I think it was the first shot, unfortunately," Paraiso said. "I took my backswing and there she was. If there was any face I didn't want to hit, it was her's."

Van Hees moved past 15th seed Lisa Hjelm (11-2, 11-3, 11-2), while third-seeded Laura Fenton overcame early struggles with veteran Janet Myers to win, 5-11, 12-10, 15-13, 11-6. The only unseeded player to reach the quarterfinals was McKinney. The Georgia native's experience proved to be too much for Roehler, 7-11, 11-8, 11-3, 11-4.

With the final eight in place, most fans in Memphis were observing how both Paraiso and Van Hees looked solid. Some felt that the experience and savvy of McKinney could lead her to the title. Also mentioned in the title chase was Levine, who shut down Chris Evon (11-3, 11-4, 11-4) for her invitation to the quarters. Nobody seemed to list the third and fourth seeds, Fenton and Gudinas, respectively.

"It's annoying that nobody gives me any credit," Gudinas said after her round of 16 win over Michelle Wiragh, 11-3, 11-2, 11-1. "It's been that way for years."

To earn that credit, Gudinas would need to beat her next opponent, Levine. After falling behind the current U.S. national singles champ 11-2, 11-8, Gudinas' shots began to roll. The Chicago native captured games three and four with identical 11-8 scores to tie the match, 2-2. However, Gudinas couldn't completely shut Levine down and eventually fell in the fifth, 11-9.

Later that same Saturday, a rematch of this past May's USRA national title playoff between Levine and Paraiso would pack the house, after Paraiso's 11-7, 11-6, 11-4 quarterfinal victory over Hallander.

When asked about her upcoming rematch with the Sacramento, Calif., native, Paraiso said, "I'm trying to keep an even keel, stay in the now and not get too excited."

On the bottom-half of the bracket, seventh-seeded Lydia Hammock ran into a Canadian that finally got the best of her. After beating Canadian national team members Lori-Jane Powell and Josee Grand'Maitre in the first two rounds, respectively, Hammock was handled by Van Hees in three straight, 11-5, 11-4, 11-7.

McKinney, who boasts of one semifinal (1996) and one quarterfinal (1997) appearance at previous U.S. OPEN's, stuck with her game and recovered from a 2-1 game deficit to upset Fenton and move into the semis with an 11-0, 9-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-4 win.

"That match with Laura was good enough that I caught myself thinking things that I hadn't thought of in years," McKinney said after the match.

When asked what she thought of her next opponent (Van Hees), the cagey veteran said, "I have not seen her hit ball one. I've heard that she's a shooter, rock-n-roll, rip and shoot – which will test me right now. That means you've really got to move."

Van Hees opened the evening's first semifinal by doing exactly what her opponent expected – rip and shoot. Down one line and then the other. However, McKinney was moving well. After losing the first game 12-10 and the second 11-6, McKinney regained her fire – as if she were playing Lynn Adams in a WPRA final years ago. Van Hees fell 11-5.

When the two came out to begin the fourth game, computer scoreboard operator Ben Simons flashed a picture of McKinney, circa 1984. McKinney caught notice and supposedly asked Van Hees, "How old were you when that was taken?" Van Hees, who was 14 at that time, proceeded to shelve her opponent among the other racquetball legends with a decisive 11-3 win.

McKinney, disappointed with the loss, was pleased with her week's performance and said of her 21-year-old opponent, "She plays smart and I love seeing that – I really appreciate that. She's not just rock-n-roll, rip and shoot and that's it. She started thinking and doing some things. I'm impressed. She hits the ball solid and seems to have a good head on her shoulders."

The always polite Canadian followed suit, saying, "I had never met her (McKinney) before, but I felt honored to be on the same court with her," Van Hees said. "She's an excellent champion and I hope to follow in her footsteps."

Van Hees continued of her first U.S. OPEN finals appearance, "This is a dream of mine. I've been on a roll and don't want to stop."

The only roadblock in her way would be Paraiso, who lost to Van Hees the past two times they've met. The current world and national doubles champion won an injury-shortened semifinal with friendly rival Levine, 2-11, 11-7, 8-5.

Down 8-5 in the third game, Levine paid dearly for her aggressive, diving style when she landed, not so smoothly, and strained her shoulder.

"I strained my teres minor and will be off the court for three weeks," Levine said after

returning home to California. "I won't be at the Denver (Lakewood) pro stop, but I'll be at the other tourneys."

"It's a little bittersweet," Paraiso said. "Like I told the audience, obviously I don't want to win like that."

So, for the third consecutive WIRT event, Paraiso and Van Hees met in the final. But this time Paraiso's experience paid off. With the ESPN cameras running and a packed house cheering her on, Paraiso swept past the young Canuck 11-6, 11-5, 11-5.

According to Van Hees, it was Paraiso's solid start that set the tone for the match. "Jackie just played a really great game," she said. "She got out in front right away. She came out on top today, but I'm going to be here next year fighting for that title again."

But will it be harder? "Making it to the finals is a whole different bag of worms. The environment is completely opposite to any other tournament." Van Hees admitted.

Following such a convincing victory, one might wonder how Paraiso lost to Van Hees in their previous two meetings.

"The first time I lost to her (Van Hees) it was the end of the season and wasn't really for points," Paraiso said. "I think I was overconfident. That gave her a little edge for the last time (Baltimore). This tournament, I prepared better mentally and physically. My goal is to finish No. 1 this year – regardless of who comes to play, Marci (Drexler), Michelle (Gould), whoever."



Van Hees & Paraiso | Photo: Mike Boatman.



Sal Perconti (top) and with pro doubles partner Tony Jelso | Photo: Vicki Hughes.

U.S. OPEN HIGHLIGHTS

<< The amazing Sal Perconti !

Sure, his forehand is blazing, his backhand fearless. But for Sal, it's his humility that shocks racquetball fans.

"Sal is a master of the game," said Tony Jelso, Sal's partner in winning the Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude, 15-11 over IRT pro Dangerous Dan Llacera and Dr. Bill Weiss. "Anytime you play with a master, it's a learning experience. I just took as much as I could from it. I'm going to go home and work on what I saw from Sal's game and what he taught me."

The thoughtful Sal even took time to keep his partner's fragile confidence intact. According to Jelso, "Every time I got down, Sal would say, 'Hey, let's have some fun here.' He'd roll one out and get me back into it. He's a great inspiration."

Humble, yet pleased with his performance, Sal said, "I was hitting the ball pretty good. I thought I learned a lot on the court when I was playing with Tony. But I learned a lot more listening to that last interview."

The event earned \$8,000 for the children of St. Jude, in the first of many fundraising efforts by the Promus U.S. OPEN for the research hospital. "That's what matters . . . helping out the kids," Perconti said.

The Fab Four

For a handful of U.S. OPEN players, the annual Memphis event has been nothing short of successful. Florida's Mitt Layton and Jo Kenyon, along with Earl Acuff of North Carolina and California's Debbie Tisinger each have won a record four U.S. OPEN gold medals in the initial three years.

Kenyon and Layton literally "own" their respective women's 60-and-over and men's 45-and-over divisions, having won three consecutive titles. Kenyon also won

the 1997 women's 55-and-over, while Layton took the '96 men's 40's. Amazingly, Kenyon won this year's gold medal with a new titanium hip.

Tisinger captured a pair of first-place finishes in '98 by winning the women's 35's and 40's. Acuff added to his previous three U.S. OPEN victories by winning the men's 80-and-over bracket.

Finally . . .

Jackie Paraiso finally captured her first U.S. OPEN title by downing Christie Van Hees in the women's pro finals. But Paraiso wasn't the only one celebrating a first win. The ageless Ruben Gonzalez and Lydia Hammock won their open divisions by defeating Dan Llacera and Kersten Hallander, respectively.

Other first-ever U.S. OPEN winners: Jon Albright, (MB); Nantille Boards, (M24-A/B); Mary Crawford, (W35+A/B); Adrienne Fisher, (W24-A/B); Rex Fisher, (M24-C/D); Ken Foster, (M55+A/B); Phil Gebert, (MC); Lance Gilliam, (M30+); Lee Graff, (M60+); Lance Hudson, (MD); Jennifer Hunter, (WA); Jason Jansen, (MA); Walter McDade, (M45+A/B); Jack Morgenroth, (M45+C/D); Jill Nelson, (W25+A/B); Joanne Pomodoro, (W45+); Warren Reuther, Sr., (M55+); Aimee Roehler, (W24-); Tony Rosales, (M25+A/B); Akiko Saito, (WB); Don Sanderson, (M35+A/B); Nick Sans, (M75+); Juan Soto, (M35+C/D); Ralph Temple, (M55+C/D); Dave Watson, (M35+); Steve Wattz, (M40+); Richard Wells, (M25+C/D); Dominique Winfrey, (WD); Shigemi Yasuda, (W30+); Mukai Youku, (W25+).

Career Highs

Missouri's Josh Tucker, 18, earned one of his greatest wins at the U.S. OPEN with a 12-10, 10-12, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9 victory over 13th-seeded Doug Eagle in the round of 64. Tucker is the current USRA national high school champion and a member of the U.S. Junior National Team.

"That was a little surprising," he said after the match. "I just wanted to work on

Derek Robinson and Robin Levine win with Ashaway string in their racket.

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Japan's Akio Hanaki (4th, MB) and Akiko Saito (1st, WB) | Photos: Jen Yokota.

hitting down the line shots and cross court. In the pros, I think that's what they use a lot more than just a pinch. It's a lot harder shot to return. I think he (Eagle) sort of had an off day, but that's the way it goes."

Unseeded and IRT ranked at #44, Minnesota's Mike Locker upset fourth-seeded Andy Roberts in the round of 32. The straight-game win for Locker marked the first round of 32 loss for Roberts in his ten year career. Locker dealt with the veteran's power and precision shooting by utilizing off-speed slice serves and refusing to let Roberts get his footing during rallies.

Following what he considered the greatest victory of his career, Locker said, "I hate to be the one to bring him down, but yet it feels great."

<< Far Out, Far East

Eleven Japanese players made the trip to Memphis and came away with three golds and one silver. Akiko Saito of Kanagawa held off Beverly Austin 15-12, 15-13 for the women's B title (*According to staffer Jen Yokota, Akiko was so excited after the match that she ran all the way to the tournament desk – in tears – to pick up her medal.*)

Mukai Youku of Chiba defeated Lori Lepow for the women's 25-and-over crown, 15-14, 15-3. Also from Chiba, Shigemi Yasuda pounded WIRT pro Mindy Hartstein 15-5, 15-6 for the women's 30's championship. Yasushi Hakoishu fell to Richard Wells in the finals of the men's 25-and-over C/D 15-12, 15-4.

Finally ... a Rematch!

Lance Gilliam of San Antonio, Texas and Hart Johnson, of St. Paul, Minnesota had been waiting a long time to get back on a court. Their face off in the Men's 30+ division of this year's Open was the first time in 20 years that the two had been on the same court. They'd seen each other at plenty of national tournaments over the years, but the last time they'd played had been in a 15 and under junior match. At that time, Hart had come away the victor

— Lance said that Hart "whipped me" bad.

So bad, in fact, that Lance's father had tried to comfort him afterward with a life-saver (remember that commercial?). In their all-grown-up quarterfinal, Lance had his turn, with a straight game victory, and later went on to clinch the division title.

Kochis Attack

Peter and Rhonda Kochis of Edmond, Okla., might catch Mary Low Acuff and her husband Earl's U.S. OPEN record for most wins by a husband and wife duo (5). In '97, Peter won the men's 35+C/D and 45+C/D. At this year's OPEN, Rhonda duplicated her husband's effort with wins in the women's C and 25+C/D.

Duck, Duck, Goose

Chris Wachtel, of Massillon, Ohio had an interesting trip to Memphis, starting with a quick turnaround after his flight left Cincinnati. Just after takeoff, his aircraft went head-to-head with an airborne goose and had to return to the Cincinnati airport for a mechanical inspection before continuing on to Memphis. On arrival, Chris found that his baggage — including all his court gear — hadn't accompanied him on his trip ... goose notwithstanding. Using borrowed racquet, shoes and playing clothes, Chris still showed up at the University of Memphis for his first round of Men's A against Georgia's Mark Brien, but couldn't pull out the win. Duck!

Eyes & Ears

Tournament directors at the Wimbledon Sportsplex and the University of Memphis did an excellent job of keeping everyone informed, fed and on schedule, plus found time to make several of these reports over the course of the event.

Under the direction of event coordinator Margo Daniels (ably assisted by daughter Erica) — Kay McCarthy and Martha Butler were the eyes & ears of the Wimbledon Sportsplex venue, while Jen Yokota and Craig Rappaport held down the fort at the University of Memphis. Thanks for all their hard work!

IRT, WIRT & USRA Invitational Final Results

IRT Men's Pro: #2 Sudsy Monchik (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. Cliff Swain (South Boston, Mass.) 11-2, 11-8, 11-4

WIRT Women's Pro: #1 Jackie Paraiso (San Diego, Calif.) def. #2 Christie Van Hees (British Columbia, Canada) 11-6, 11-5, 11-5.

Men's Open	Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. Dan Llacer (Newark, De.) 15-10, 15-9
Men's A	Jason Jansen (Fargo, N.D.) def. Fernando Gambrizio (Oceanside, Calif.) 10-15, 15-7, 11-7
Men's B	Jon Albright (Cordova, Tenn.) def. James Justice (Dalzell, S.C.) 9-15, 15-5, 11-9
Men's C	Phil Gebert (Gaston, S.C.) def. Juan Soto (Sumter, S.C.) 15-4, 15-3
Men's D	Lance Hudson (Langley, S.C.) def. Matthew Stroup (West Orange, N.J.) 15-3, 15-4
Men's 24-	Jeff Bloom (New Orleans, La.) def. Francois Guillemette (Quebec, Canada) 15-9, 15-9
Men's 24- A/B	Nantille Boards (Memphis, Tenn.) def. Cory Martin (Kenosha, Wis.) 15-11, 15-10
Men's 24- C/D	Rex Fisher (Miamisburg, Ohio) def. Kris Robinson (Berea, Ky.) 15-9, 15-6
Men's 25+	Mike Locker (St. Paul, Minn.) def. Kevin Graham (Fargo, N.D.) 15-8, 15-13
Men's 25+ A/B	Tony Rosales (Anchorage, Alaska) def. Sandy Stephens (Arlington, Va.) 15-4, 15-6
Men's 25+ C/D	Richard Wells (Bartlett, Ill.) def. Yasushi Hakoishu (Chiba, Japan) 15-12, 15-4
Men's 30+	Lance Gilliam (San Antonio, Texas) def. Scott Hamon (Shoreline, Wash.) 15-0, 15-7
Men's 35+	Dave Watson (Miami, Okla.) def. Dave Eagle (Vandalia, Ohio) 15-6, 4-15, 11-3
Men's 35+ A/B	Don Sanderson (Park City, Utah) def. Ron Fowler (Lithonia, Ga.) Forfeit
Men's 35+ C/D	Juan Soto (Sumter, S.C.) def. Lynn Stephens (Carthage, N.C.) 15-12, 15-5
Men's 40+	Steve Wattz (Santa Rosa, Calif.) def. Michael Anderson (Newaygo, Mich.) 15-9, 9-15, 11-6
Men's 45+	Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Dominic Palmieri (Strongsville, Ohio) 15-6, 15-5
Men's 45+ A/B	Walter McDade (Hermitage, Tenn.) def. Richard Aitken (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-8, 15-12
Men's 45+ C/D	Jack Morgenroth (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Robert Jacobs (Jackson, Miss.) 12-15, 15-14, 11-8
Men's 50+	Rick Fusari (Clearwater, Fla.) def. Richard Bocanegra (Topeka, Kan.) 15-10, 15-13
Men's 55+	Warren Reuther, Sr. (New Orleans, La.) def. Glenn Allen (Virginia Beach, Va.) 15-10, 15-11
Men's 55+ A/B	Ken Foster (Lewisville, Texas) def. Wayne Toyne (Alexandria, Va.) 15-8, 15-5
Men's 55+ C/D	Ralph Temple (Augusta, Ga.) def. Leo Kouremetis (Kodiak, Alaska) 15-12, 15-14
Men's 60+	Lee Graff (West Linn, Ore.) def. Jerry Holly (Northridge, Calif.) 15-7, 15-7
Men's 65+	Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Charles Kaiser (Grand Rapids, Mich.) 5-4 round robin
Men's 70+	Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Hugh Groover (Searcy, Arkansas) 4-3 round robin
Men's 75+	Nick Sans (Irvine, Calif.) def. Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 15-13, 6-15, 11-2
Men's 80+	Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. Ben Penchan (Germantown, Tenn.) 15-2, 15-7
Women's Open	Lydia Hammock (San Diego, Calif.) def. Kersten Hallander (San Diego, Calif.) forfeit
Women's A	Jennifer Hunter (Powell, Tenn.) def. Robyn Mount (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) 7-15, 15-4, 11-8
Women's B	Akiko Saito (Kanagawa, Japan) def. Beverly Austin (Alhambra, Calif.) 15-12, 15-13
Women's C	Rhonda Kochis (Edmond, Okla.) def. B.J. Calloway (Buford, Ga.) 15-8, 15-4
Women's D	Dominique Winfrey (Powell, Ohio) def. Anna Martino (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-3, 15-0
Women's 24-	Aimee Roehler (Allentown, Pa.) def. Karina Odegard (Saskatoon, Canada) 15-12, 15-4
Women's 24- A/B	Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) def. Kelley Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) 15-6, 15-2
Women's 25+	Mukai Youku (Chiba, Japan) def. Lori Lepow (Orlando, Fla.) 15-14, 15-3
Women's 25+ A/B	Jill Nelson (Bartlett, Ill.) def. Vivian Gomez (Coral Gables, Fla.) 15-9, 14-15, 11-7
Women's 25+ C/D	Rhonda Kochis (Edmond, Okla.) def. Camille Hatcher (Greer, S.C.) 15-2, 15-2
Women's 30+	Shigemi Yasuda (Chiba, Japan) def. Mindy Hartstein (Bayside, N.Y.) 15-5, 15-6
Women's 35+	Debbie Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. Lorraine Galloway (Queens, N.Y.) 15-4, 13-15, 1-0 (injury forfeit)
Women's 35+ A/B	Mary Crawford (Naperville, Ill.) def. Beverly Austin (Alhambra, Calif.) 15-8, 15-10
Women's 40+	Debbie Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. Linda Moore (Madison, Neb.) 15-5, 15-13
Women's 45+	Joanne Pomodoro (East Boston, Mass.) def. Jere Luttner (Arlington, Texas) 15-11, 15-10
Women's 45+ A/B	Sharon Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.) def. Karen Weins (Palm Harbor, Fla.) 15-10, 15-2
Women's 50+	Sharon Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.) def. Mildred Gwinn (Maxhaw, N.C.) 4-3 round robin
Women's 60+	Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.) def. B.J. Calloway (Buford, Ga.) 15-14, 10-15, 11-0

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At press time for the last issue, the results were already in from Birmingham and Riverside, so it's common knowledge that Sudsy Monchik and John Ellis took turns upsetting Cliff Swain in the finals. For those who have become accustomed to expecting the winner in the Swain - Monchik rivalry to pretty much sum up the tour in a nice tidy package, maybe you had better take a closer look. While the Swain - Monchik rivalry is a good bet for the best horse race going, some others from the field have begun to make some movement and post serious title challenges. John Ellis possesses many of the same attributes as Swain or Monchik, including speed and power. And what Mannino may lack in textbook form, he more than makes up for in drive and resourcefulness.

If you will recall the tour of the early nineties — before there was anything or any one called "Sudsy" — seeing Swain play meant going to a professional tennis match. In those days, there was no clearly dominant player or rivalry. A handful of top players could mix it up and shake out four or five different winners in as many weeks. A watchful eye reveals that just below the surface of the top two IRT spots brews a nice pot of "player stew" full of meaty talent ready to threaten the two-man stronghold.

Clearly, Swain and Monchik are still the ones to beat. The difference now is that there are several who, on any given day, can do it. Ellis and Mannino have proved it. Derek Robinson looks to be putting together a breakthrough season that has landed him squarely in the top eight. Dan Fowler finds himself in that same group for the second season in a row. Andy Roberts, more accustomed to the top three than the top eight, still wields a powerful right arm. Still-young players like Adam Karp

are honing their skills, while an even younger Rocky Carson has shown glimpses of amazing talent in only a handful of outings.

Tim Doyle claims to be returning to the tour with a renewed sense of purpose and a healthy body. Plagued by injury for the past several seasons, Doyle has tasted the number one ranking on more than one occasion and longs for it again. Now a seasoned veteran, Doyle was the next would-be leader a few seasons back at the dawn of the \$200.00 racquet and the obligatory power game.

Birmingham

Back in Birmingham, Prime Fitness' Magic City Classic Pro Am offered the traditional final between rivals Swain — the man whose name has meant champion for most of the nineties — and Monchik, the only player who has been able to wrestle that title from his grasp. Since these players cannot stand losing to each other, this is as much of a rivalry in reality as it is on paper. In a broad sense, Swain presents an attack with few flaws marked by precision and confidence. Monchik's attack is more of a flurry that leaves no room for defense. One thing in common is that each will fight bitterly for control, and never surrender it once attained.

In Birmingham, Monchik found the groove, returned some amazing rekills, and served flawlessly to get that control. After falling at nine in the first, Monchik returned to the court fired-up enough to deliver Swain the doughnut and sweep the next three.

On his way to that final, Monchik's gets and guns were more than enough for his mentor and former



Monchik (this page) & Swain (opposite) face off in Birmingham. Photos: Vicki Hughes



coach, Ruben Gonzales. With a bit of hesitation in a game one loss to Fowler, Monchik moved on to face the man who (other than Swain) is the best at taking him out of his game. Able to match Monchik with both speed and weapons, Ellis still couldn't seem to get a foothold in Alabama.

Swain, still king of the hill, could do little with Monchik past the first game of the final, but had no trouble at all getting there. With clear wins over the Northeast's Dan Llacer and journeyman pro Mike Guidry, Swain went on to face another onetime rival. While Swain's speed-and-power-based game hasn't suffered with maturity, Roberts couldn't mount enough of an offense in Birmingham to capture a game from Swain. The big man, admittedly in the late stages of a distinguished career, still has the power and mind of a champion, but lacked the getting ability and the mental edge against the undisputed number one player in the world.

In other noteworthy play, Guidry's experience kept him in control for the edge

against Karp in the second round. Robinson made short work of Mike Ray, the veteran and former National Champion who cannot be taken lightly. Doyle stayed in control of things, never allowing Mannino into full stride, before falling victim to Ellis' speed and diligence in a very close five that was one of the best matches of the event. And finally, an often-underestimated Fowler knocked out New Mexico's hard-hitting Louis Vogel in three good but decisive games.

The first year event in Birmingham marked a very successful entry into the pro tour lineup for Jim Garner and team. A great event, ample media coverage and all the trimmings clearly showed that even though it was a first time event on the tour, Garner and the folks in Birmingham have a long-standing tradition for hosting first-

Suds Monchik

9-11, 11-0, 11-6, 11-9

Cliff Swain

QUARTERS

Swain d. Guidry

11-2, 9-11, 11-5, 11-2

Roberts d. Robinson

4-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-4

Ellis d. Doyle

10-12, 7-11, 11-8, 11-4

Monchik d. Fowler

8-11, 11-3, 11-7, 11-3

SIXTEENS

Swain d. Roberts

14-12, 11-2, 11-4

Guidry d. Karp

11-4, 5-11, 11-9, 11-8

Robinson d. Ray

11-4, 11-3, 11-7

Roberts d. J. doo

11-7, 11-4, 11-4

Ellis d. Doyle

11-6, 11-4, 11-7

Doyle d. Mannino

11-9, 8-11, 11-4, 11-7

Fowler d. Vogel

11-3, 11-3, 13-11

Monchik d. Gonzalez

14-12, 11-2, 11-4

IRT

Birmingham

Magic City

Classic

Pro-Am

John Ellis

11-7, 11-3, 11-5

Cliff Swain

SEMIS

Swain d. Guidry

7-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-4

Ellis d. Monchik

11-1, 11-2, 11-3

Swain d. Fowler

10-12, 11-3, 11-3, 11-4

Guidry d. Carson

F.

Ellis d. Ray

9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-4, 11-9

Monchik d. Vogel

9-11, 11-4, 11-3, 11-8

SIXTEENS

Swain d. Roberts

11-0, 11-4, 11-3

Fowler d. Doyle

3-11, 11-7, 11-3, 7-11, 11-4

Guidry d. Guidry

11-6, 11-3, 11-2

Carson d. Mannino

11-2, 11-7, 11-13, 11-9

Ellis d. Doyle

11-7, 11-3, 11-1

Ray d. Embry

11-1, 11-4, 11-4

Vogel d. Karp

11-7, 11-3, 3-11, 11-8

Monchik d. McCook

11-4, 11-4, 11-3

IRT

Riverside

Ralph's

Pro-Am

IRTPROfile

reported by Marvin Quertermous



the event, children at the Birmingham Children's Hospital were treated to a visit by the world's top player and one of the hottest rising stars when Swain was joined by Texas' Doug Eagle for an afternoon with the kids.

Riverside

The tournament in Riverside is one of the longest-standing events on the tour, and one steeped in tradition. Historically, Riverside's Tournament House has been the home club to a number of touring pros as well as a hotbed for top-level racquetball. What's more, it seems one step closer to major sport status when the same "Ralph's" seen on the outfield walls of California ball parks is also the title sponsor on the exhibition



Monchik in Riverside

court wall at a professional racquetball event.

Players like to turn it up a notch for California crowds, some of the most colorful and most vocal on the tour. But California fans cheer for nobody like they do for their own Ellis. And maybe that was just the extra weapon Ellis needed to knock off both Monchik and Swain in consecutive days ... in only three games each!

Riverside brought it all together for Ellis. The crafty Ray challenged him the most in taking him to 9-11 in the breaker in the quarters. But when Ellis is on, his backhand rips and he appears everywhere at once, little can stop him.

The rest of the draw witnessed few upsets, but a surprisingly good five-gamer between Fowler and Doyle in the second round was worth a second look. While Doyle showed few signs of his recent nagging injuries or the

class tournaments. In conjunction with

time away from the tour that they caused, Fowler played with the maturity that has now made him a familiar face in the top eight. Always a formidable opponent, Fowler has now added consistency to his bag of tricks.

Carson, the #20 ranked rookie did post the one standout upset over fellow Californian Tony Jelso, only to have to forfeit in the next round due to traffic problems on the way to his next match. With a little more experience, Carson could develop the pro game necessary to play with the best.

Chicago

The 1998 Chicago event was, in itself, as much news as the play in the Windy City. From its roots at Dave Negrete's Woodfield Club, the Chi Town event has long been heralded as a player favorite. This year the event moved to Negrete's new club, the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale. Still part-and-parcel to the event were the sold-out crowds hungry for racquetball that have become a hallmark of the event, as well as the now famous (or is that infamous) Negrete Halloween parties!

I unwittingly insulted the hospitality of Mr. Negrete (an accomplished professional player himself) in early coverage of the Chicago event several years ago in noting a couple of reasons why that club was not well-suited for pro matches. While I learned over the years that the pluses of that event far outweighed the minuses, I am now happy to report that the new venue offers all of the pluses with none of the minuses. I also stand by something that I've said all along, that Dave Negrete is one of the best assets this game has to offer and that he is the personification of the things most players like about racquetball.

Robinson in Chicago



Chicago crowds easily rival California's in their impact on matches, with players knowing full well the value of crowd support in the Chicago suburbs. And never has a character graced the court more-loved by these crowds than Jason Mannino. While Mannino is pure New York bravado with some transplanted Southern California attitude thrown in, he is the object of affection for a Northern Illinois crowd that values guts and cleverness. Say what you will about his abilities or weaknesses, in Chicago he unsettled veterans Ray and Roberts, then red hot Swain and Ellis. While his brashness and determination may be his vehicle for victory, Mannino has honed a solid game on which he can rely against the best in the world. The no-ball-is-ever-really-down mentality and an affinity for low boards have served him well.

In a pattern that is becoming familiar, Fowler, Guidry, Roberts and Robinson rounded out the quarters. I've touted Doyle as being back to form, but he retired early from the Halloween event at the hands of Canada's Sherman Greenfeld. Greenfeld plays with a unique style and carries with him the earmarks of a veteran seasoned by years of international play and the confidence of numerous national singles championships. Few other upsets appeared in Chicago, but there seemed to be an unusual amount of three game matches. Canada's Brian Istace, a factor last year in Chicago, nearly claimed an upset against Roberts. Rounding out a solid showing by the Canadian contingent, Kelly Kerr advanced to the second round with some very promising play.

With several players gaining ground, Ellis is the one that is really on fire. With the news after Chicago that Swain has a pinched nerve in his left arm coming out of the event, his ability to hold fast to the number one spot may be in jeopardy, especially with so many would-be takers. Check out the US Open feature coverage, and the scoreboard for last-minute news from Denver. You see that the stage is set for some movement in the ranks of the IRT.

WIRT Baltimore

Maryland Open Pro Am "Run for the Roses"
by Cheryl Gudinas and Robin Levine

Following on the heels of the USRA National Doubles, the Merritt Athletic Club in Baltimore once again hosted a major event: the season premiere for the WIRT. A favorite event for many, this tournament proved to open the door to the rest of the season. With Michelle Gould noticeably absent, the number one ranking seemed within the grasp of anyone who chose to step up by the end of the season. It's still anyone's game ... Who will prove to be the most consistent? ... Who wants it the most?

While Jackie Paraiso and Cheryl Gudinas have played the most consistent ball of the last couple of seasons, where will Robin Levine fit in to the rankings when all is said and done? She seems to have a new perspective, and continues to entertain with her diving/"retro", style. If she can update the shoes, she'll be someone to think about.

Jason Mannino

3-11, 12-10, 11-3, 2-11, 11-5

John Ellis

QUARTERS

Swain d. Robinson

11-1, 11-5, 11-5

Mannino d. Roberts

11-3, 11-5, 11-2

Ellis d. Guidry

11-3, 11-6, 11-4

Monchik d. Fowler

11-3, 11-5, 11-0

SIXTEENS

Swain d. Kerr

11-1, 11-2, 11-3

Robinson d. Karp

11-6, 11-6, 8-11

Mannino d. Ray

12-10, 11-7, 11-3

Roberts d. Etter

4-11, 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 11-7

Ellis d. Doyle

11-2, 11-4, 11-3

Guidry d. Vogel

11-1, 11-4, 11-4

Fowler d. Greenfeld

12-10, 11-9, 7-11, 11-5

Monchik d. Gonzalez

12-10, 11-7, 11-4

IRT

Chicago

Halloween

Pro-Am

Kristi Van Hees

8-11, 11-6, 1-11, 11-6, 11-9

Jackie Paraiso

QUARTERS

Paraiso d. Hammock

11-3, 11-0, 11-1

Van Hees d. Gudinas

11-13, 11-5, 11-6, 12-10

Hammock d. Galway

F

Van Hees d. O'Brien

11-3, 11-2, 11-5

Gudinas d. Wragg

11-1, 11-1, 11-6

SIXTEENS

Paraiso

Byz

Levine d. O'Brien

11-4, 11-1, 13-11

Hammock d. Morris

11-0, 11-9, 11-1

Galway d. Johnson

11-1, 11-4, 11-4

O'Brien d. Supnick

11-0, 11-0, 11-5

Van Hees d. Fowler

1-2, 11-4, 11-5

Wragg d. Hees

12-10, 6-11, 4-11, 11-4

Gudinas d. Ruth

11-2, 11-4, 11-4

WIRT

Baltimore

WIRT PROfile

reported by Cheryl Gudinas



Christie Van Hees has some confidence after winning the World Championships this summer in Bolivia. She has obviously been hunkering down and working on the game a bit, and is sporting a "new and improved" bod and drive serve. Does she have what it takes to make the Wall of Fame? Right now, we don't know, and we can't be sure she wants it all that bad.

In the sixteens it was just another day at the office for Levine in her victory over Mindy Hartstein. Hartstein is certainly improving, but it's hard to keep up with the energetic Levine. Lydia Hammock advanced over another up-and-comer, Phyllis Morris, in three straight, handing her a doughnut in the first game. Ouch. Lorraine Galloway defeated Sandy Kubany, in a routine three, as did Molly O'Brien over Bev Supanik,

who is also into the fitness thing and has whipped herself into great shape as of late. Michelle Wiragh escaped with a narrow victory over Janet Myers in five games, while Cheryl Gudinas ousted hometown hopeful Angela Burth in three.

In the quarters, Gudinas cruised past Wiragh in three. While some were betting on the experience of O'Brien to hold off Van Hees, it was not to be. Christie rolled by in three straight, and all Molly could do was chuckle about it afterwards. Galloway forfeited to Hammock, advancing Pebbles into the first semi-final appearance of her career. Levine and Paraiso faced off in a matchup which will, no doubt, continue to be thrilling in the future. They split the first four games evenly before Paraiso pulled ahead to win the fifth and advance her into the semis against Hammock.

In that semi, Jackie looked tough and Lydia just tried to hang. In actuality the match was much closer than the

low scores indicated, with plenty of sideouts and some serious shot-making from the corduroy queen. But Paraiso and her experience proved to be too much to handle, as she seemed to float around the court to put the ball away with relative ease.

On the other half, Van Hees came out strong early, and capitalized on her opportunities. For some unknown reason, Gudinas' normal passing style was abandoned in favor of a new splat and pinch game which, time and again, found Van Hees waiting in the center court to put the ball away. Gudinas snuck in a victory in the first game, but failed to take advantage of her opportunities in the next three games, falling to Van Hees in four.

Van Hees vs. Paraiso ... hmmm ... Jackie's earlier play made her the obvious choice to take a win at the season opener. Confidently forecasting that she was in Baltimore fully intending to take over the number one spot in Gould's absence, it appeared that she wanted it badly.

But we all know the "underdog" story. Van Hees played as if she had nothing to lose, and the longer the match went on, the more heat Paraiso seemed to feel. But, down 0-6 in the tiebreaker, the momentum changed just a bit. Experience again becoming a factor, Paraiso battled back to a much smaller 7-8 deficit. Could Van Hees stay strong? Girl, you know it's true! Van Hees kept on course to win her first pro stop, 11-9. Congrats!

1997-98 WIRT Awards Announced

By vote of the top sixteen Women's International Racquetball Tour players, the WIRT selected annual awards for its top tour players. Five awards were voted upon; Player of the Year, Most Improved Player, a Sportsmanship Award, Rookie of the Year, and the Steding Cup for outstanding contributions to women's racquetball in the past year. The award winning players will be honored at the banquet during the first event of the new season in Annapolis and each will receive a commemorative plaque. The winners were:

Player of the Year: Michelle Gould

Most Improved Player: Marci Drexler

Sportsmanship Award: Lorraine Galloway

Rookie of the Year: Mindy Hartstein

Steding Cup: Molly O'Brien



pro tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

IRT Rankings

[Through 12/18/98]

Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1. Cliff Swain	1	1	3,591
2. Sudsy Monchik	2	2	3,129
3. John Ellis	3	4	2,910
4. Jason Mannino	5	5	1,966
5. Andy Roberts	4	3	1,839
6. Mike Guidry	7	6	1,837
7. Tim Doyle	10	34	1,729
8. Derek Robinson	8	22	1,672
9. Adam Karp	9	9	1,500
10. Mike Ray	12	8	1,492
11. Dan Fowler	6	7	1,476
12. Louis Vogel	11	12	1,394
13. Doug Eagle	15	20	1,019
14. Tony Jelso	14	11	839
15. Kelly Gelhaus	13	13	760
16. Kelly Kerr	20	25	666
17. James Mulcock	16	15	647
18. Rocky Carson	26t	42	641
19. Dan Llacer	18	33	624
20. Mike Locker	41	38	564

WIRT Rankings

[Through 12/14/98]

Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1. Jackie Paraiso	2	2	651
2. Christie Van Hees	19	14	577
3. Cheryl Gudinas	4	3	370
4. Robin Levine	12	-	341
5. Lydia Hammock	9	11	331
6. Kersten Hallander	14	9	272
7. Molly O'Brien	7	7	235
8. Janet Myers	11	10	219
9. Michelle Wiragh	25	21	198
10. Caryn McKinney	18	18	180
11. Susana Acosta	41	-	156
12. Phyllis Morris	17	26	133
13. Laura Fenton	5	5	132
Lorraine Galloway	8	12	132
15. Karina Odegard	37	38	93
16. Lori-Jane Powell	36	37	89
17. Kerri Stoffregen	43	25	87
18. Aimee Roehler	58	-	86
19. Doreen Fowler	10	13	82
Mindy Hartstein	13	16	82

1998-99 IRT SEASON

Las Vegas	Monchik/Doyle def. Swain/Ellis	(6), 5, 7, 8
New Orleans	Monchik def. Swain	1, (10), 11, 9
Stockton	Swain def. Monchik	9, (5), 7, 2
Birmingham	Monchik def. Swain	(9), 0, 6, 9
Riverside	Ellis def. Swain	7, 3, 5
Chicago	Mannino def. Ellis	7, 3, 5
Memphis	Monchik def. Swain	2, 8, 4
Denver	Swain def. Locker	4, 4, 5

January 13-17	Denver, CO	Denver Athletic Club
January 20-24	Lincoln, NE	Sports Courts
February 17-21	Boston, MA	Ridge Athletic Club
February 25-28	Rochester, NY	Penfield Racquet & Fitness Club
March 11-14	TBA, CA	Club TBA
March 24-28	Santa Barbara, CA	Goleta Valley Athletic Club
April 7-11	Columbus, OH	Continental Athletic Club
April 21-25	Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Sporting House
May 5-8	San Diego, CA	Club TBA
May 13-16	Honolulu, HI	Club TBA
May 19-23	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona Athletic Club
June 2-5	Portland, OR	Multnomah Athletic Club

1998-99 WIRT SEASON

Baltimore	Van Hees def. Paraiso	(8), 6, (1), 6, 9
Memphis	Paraiso def. Van Hees	6, 6, 5
Denver	Paraiso def. Van Hees	9, 6, 6

January 8-10	Chalfont, PA	Highpoint Athletic Club
February 5-7	Roanoke, VA	Roanoke Athletic Club
March	Rockville Centre, NY	Sportset Rockville Centre
April 23-25	Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Sporting House
May 6-8	San Diego, CA	Club TBA
May 21-23	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona Athletic Club
June 3-5	Portland, OR	Multnomah Athletic Club

BONUS POOL STANDINGS

IRT Bonus Pools – The following represents the current standings of the top four ranked professionals using the IRT official products shown.

Pro Penn Glove: 1. Mannino, 2. Ray, 3. Kerr, 4. Llacer

Ektelon NFS Footwear: 1. Roberts, 2. Guidry, 3. Fowler; 4. Ray

Tacki Mac: 1. Mannino, 2. Karp, 3. Ray, 4. Kerr

Babolat String: 1. Mannino, 2. Ray, 3. Mulcock, 4. Schenck

WIRT Bonus Pools – The following represents the current standings of the top four ranked professionals using the WIRT official products shown.

Pro Penn Glove: 1. Paraiso, 2. Drexler, 3. Fenton, 4. Hammock

Ektelon NFS Footwear: 1. Gudinas, 2. O'Brien, 3. Wiragh, 4. Galloway

Tacki Mac: 1. Paraiso, 2. Drexler, 3. Fenton, 4. Levine

Babolat String: 1. Paraiso, 2. Drexler, 3. Fenton, 4. Levine

industry news



<< STRING FOR "CHRONIC" BREAKERS

A new racquetball string has been developed by Ashaway Racket Strings specifically for advanced players who are chronic string breakers. DuraKill Pro String is extraordinarily resistant to breakage and loss of tension, and provides better power and control than typical "durability" strings. The 16 gauge (1.35 mm) string is made to stand up to abuse from the most powerful players, even when strung at up to 55 lbs. of tension in oversize racquets. DuraKill Pro features a load-bearing central, braided vectran fiber, liquid crystal polymer that provides tremendous strength and stability, without the excessive stiffness of aramid fiber. This translates into greater power, plus a limited degree of vibration damping to reduce player fatigue. A spiral-braided outer jacket protects the central core from abrasion, and gives the string a good gripping surface to enhance pinches, kills, and ceiling shots. DuraKill Pro is the only racquetball string with braided Vectran core. (Vectran is a registered trademark of Hoechst Celanese Corporation.) For additional information on DuraKill Pro racquetball string, contact: Ashaway Line & Twine Mfg. Co. Telephone (800) 556-7260. Fax: (401) 377-9091. E-mail: ashawaysales@edgenet.net



<< WILSON INTRODUCES JUNIOR RAK-ATTAK

Wilson is proud to announce the first racquetball kit specifically designed for players age 4-10. The Junior Rak-Attak features a compact, lightweight aluminum racquet, 18.5 inches long in a "kid friendly" handle size. Also included are a pair of wraparound "Terminator"-style junior eyewear and a multi-colored racquetball. The suggested retail price of the Junior Rak-Attak is \$24.95.

"Clubs have talked about having a junior kit for years," said Terri Graham, Marketing Manager for Wilson Racquetball. "We can't expect to grow the sport of racquetball at the junior level if we don't provide the necessary equipment for these players to use."

IRF & PARC CHOOSE PENN AS OFFICIAL RACQUETBALL

Penn Racquet Sports has been named the official ball of the International Racquetball Federation (IRF) and the Pan American Racquetball Confederation (PARC) for 1999 and the year 2000. The Penn ball will be used in the Tournament of the Americas, Pan American Games, Central American Games and the 2000 World Championships to be held in San Luis, Potosi, Mexico.

IRF Secretary General Luke St. Onge announced the agreement at IRF World Headquarters and stated, "After an absence of two years, it's great to have the highest quality and most accepted racquetball in the sport as our 'official ball' for all of our premier events. It's great to have Penn back."

According to Penn National Promotions Manager Amy Wishingrad, "The players might as well play with the best."

<< NEW MEXICO'S MAZAROFF FILLS USRA POSITION

Gary Mazaroff, of Albuquerque, N.M., recently joined the USRA staff as the Director of Instructor Certification for the American Professional Racquetball Organization (AmPRO). AmPRO concentrates on club programs, coaching and teaching certification, profitability through programming, instruction and the overall promotion of the sport in the nation's health clubs.

PHOTO: JOHN FOUST



Mazaroff comes to AmPRO with a wealth of racquetball knowledge and 25 years of involvement in the sport. He also serves as the state president of the New Mexico Racquetball Association and executive director of the World Seniors Racquetball Championships. The Racquetball Hall of Fame member coached the U.S. National Racquetball Team to a world title, instructed several top international athletes and won over a dozen medals in world and national competition as a player.

"I'm excited," Mazaroff said. "I'm looking forward to the task of enhancing AmPRO as a major factor in promoting and growing the sport of racquetball."

PRO KENNEX RE-SIGNS LOCKER, PICKS UP THREE

Making a recent splash on the IRT, Mike Locker is beginning to see the fruits of his hard work. Pro Kennex National Director of Racquetball, Mike Martinez, recently announced the signing of Locker to a lucrative multi-year contract along with three new signees.

One of the best doubles players in the world, James Lorello, and one of Colorado's top players, Brian Pointelin, also signed to multi-year binds. Perhaps Martinez' best prospect is junior Jack Huczek. The Michigan native is on course to have the finest junior career in the history of racquetball.

"These four players are great assets to Pro Kennex Racquetball and represent a commitment that we all share to the sport," Martinez said.

WILSON SPONSORS AMPRO

The USRA announced recently that Wilson Racquetball and AmPRO have joined forces to help the sport grow through quality instruction, programming and coaching. The agreement between AmPRO and Wilson will run through 2002.

"We believe that this new relationship with Wilson and its vast resources in the field will allow us to further develop the program," USRA Executive Director Luke St. Onge said. "Together, we can show clubs how to make a profit through racquetball and bring the AmPRO program to the same status that tennis enjoys with the USPTA [United States Professional Tennis Association]."

"We are very concerned about the growth of the sport," Wilson National Promotions Manager Terri Graham said. "We're hoping that by supporting AmPRO, more people will be educated on racquetball promotions and development. We're interested in the future of the sport and making sure it goes in the right direction. Teaming up with AmPRO seems to make all the sense in the world."

PARENT COMPANY TO SELL PENN

GenCorp has initiated the process for divesting its Penn Racquet Sports division, a step which is aligned with the company's strategy to focus on its core growth businesses. "While Penn is an established, solid performer, it is not a strategic core business for GenCorp," GenCorp Chairman and CEO John Yasinsky said.

According to Penn President Gregg Weida, "This announcement in no way diminishes Penn's commitment to the tennis and racquetball industries. We will continue to conduct business as usual to provide the superior quality and service you have come to expect from Penn."

U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK

Affairs of State: Presidents of Federations in attendance at this year's Promus U.S. OPEN were: David Bell, Canada; Enrique Villagran, Mexico; Manuel Medina, Venezuela; Jennifer Mayadas-Dering, India; Michael Wang, China; Fernando Gambirazio, Peru. Countries represented were: Canada, USA, Mexico, India, Peru, China, Ireland, Japan, Venezuela, Puerto Rico.

Industry Leaders on Display! Ektelon, Wilson, Leader, Pro Kennex, E-Force, Penn, Ashaway, Head and Network Marketing were all on hand, with booth display space, at the Open. Stringing was done at Ektelon, Head, and Ashaway booths, and the Wilson booth raised over \$300.00 in popcorn sales, which was donated to St. Jude's.

VIP Treatment: Also on hand were: Ray Schultz - President Promus Hotel Corporation; Cindy Smith - Assistant Vice President Nations Bank; Mac Winker - President/CEO Racquet Club of Memphis; Rudy Reyna - Director 2007 Pan Am Games Bid Committee; Paul Winston - Venue manager Pan Am Games 1999; Shigemi Yasuda - Secretary Japan Racquetball; Jerry McKinnis - ESPN; Fred Smith - President/CEO Federal Express; Dick Hackett - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Miscellaneous ... Randy Stafford, President The Court Co, and Jim Easterling showcased their collection of racquetball memorabilia throughout the Open ... Based upon the large number of spectators who were on hand to watch the legendary Marty Hogan play at the Open, he'll still be a main draw when he is 80 years old ... Once again, the hit of the Open was the spectator-friendly portable court which will travel to Winnipeg, Canada, for the 1999 Pan Am Games. The USRA continues to raise money toward the remaining \$30,000 debt ... It was great to have the local school children in attendance Wednesday and Thursday - over 150 new players were introduced to the sport ... The Racquetball Manufacturers Association met Friday and discussed the ongoing promotions with IHRSA as well as support for the Pro Tour.



national

USRA RULES: USRA Official Rules will govern both competitions, including the mandatory use of lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. Verify that your eyewear meets "spec" by checking the ASTM list online at: <http://www.usra.org/> (via "index" | "eyeguards").

OFFICIATING: Losers will be required to referee, and \$5.00 will be paid back for every match refereed in a gold division.

Entries accepted after the deadline will be surcharged an additional \$15.00 late fee, including any payments accepted at tournament check-in. Only pre-paid entries are placed into the draw and ALL ENTRIES ARE FINAL. Absolutely no refunds after entry deadline.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS: Jim Hiser, USRA Associate Executive Director/Programming @ 719/635-5396, ext. 130 & Margo Daniels, National Tournament Director @ 831/372-7224.

THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TRAVEL DESK AND UNITED AIRLINES JOIN THE USRA TO OFFER UNITED'S LOWEST POSSIBLE AIRFARES TO NATIONAL EVENTS • For reservations, phone United's U.S. Olympic Travel Desk, toll-free, at 800/841-0460 between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm EST weekdays. Then reference the special USRA conference account number – 542HO – to receive your low fare! Your support of this program brings racquetball closer to becoming an Olympic Sport!



RACQUETBALL

WILSON USRA 12TH NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 5 - 7

**Sunset Athletic Club | 13939 NW Cornell Road
Portland, Oregon 97229 • 503/645-3535**

- **ENTRY FEE:** \$45.00 First event (includes referee fee), \$20.00 second event, \$15.00 third event. • **DIVISIONS:** Singles, doubles and mixed doubles are offered. In doubles, both players must be from the same school, except in the non-championship mixed doubles event. • **ENTRY DEADLINE:** Entries must be received no later than Friday, FEBRUARY 19, (postmarked by 02/17).

- **STARTING TIMES:** Available by calling 503/645-3535 after 5:00 pm (Pacific Time) on Wednesday, MARCH 3. Do not call the national office for starting times! • **PLAY BEGINS:** Matches may be scheduled to begin as early as 9:00 am on Friday, MARCH 5. Local players may be scheduled to begin play on Thursday evening. • **CHECK IN:** Registration will be held at the club from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Thursday, MARCH 4, plus all day on Friday.

- **GROUND TRANSPORTATION:** You must arrange your own ground transportation on arrival at the airport. Call Enterprise Rent-a-Car at 1-800-RENTACAR to make reservations. The host hotel will provide shuttle service between the hotel and venue during tournament hours. • **LODGING:** The Greenwood Inn [503/643-7444], 19799 SW Allen Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. Rate: \$65.00 per night for up to four persons per room (reservations must be made by February 20 to secure this rate). Mention the High School Championship to receive your special tournament rate. • **HOSPITALITY & SOUVENIR:** Entrants will be provided a Continental Breakfast on Saturday & Sunday, and one meal per day on Friday, Saturday & Sunday. A souvenir tournament shirt will be given to all participants.

- **OFFICIAL BALL:** Pro Penn.

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championships

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MARCH 25-29

**Texas A&M University | 202 Student Recreation Center
College Station, Texas 77843-4250 • 409/845-7826**

- ENTRY FEES: \$60.00 first event, per person (includes referee fee, and a week-long, unrestricted access pass to the Texas A&M Recreation Center), \$20.00 second event, per person. • DIVISIONS: Men's Team-Singles #1,#2,#3,#4,#5,#6 and Doubles #1,#2,#3. Women's Team-Singles #1,#2,#3,#4, #5,#6 and Doubles #1,#2,#3. Only one men's team and one women's team will be permitted per school. • ENTRY DEADLINE: Entry must be received by Monday, MARCH 22 (postmarked by 03/19). Entry fees and registrar eligibility form must accompany entry. • LATE FEES: Entries received after the deadline will be surcharged an additional \$15.00 late fee, including any payments accepted at tournament check-in. • DRUG TESTING: Random drug testing will be performed. Important Note: The entire team will be disqualified if any member fails the test. For more information about specific medications, call the USOC Drug Hotline at 1-800-233-0393.
- STARTING TIMES: Available by calling 409/862-1322 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm (Central Time) on Tuesday, APRIL 6. Do not call the national office for starting times. • PLAY BEGINS: 8:00 am Wednesday, APRIL 7. No exceptions. • CHECK-IN: Registration will be held at the club beginning at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, APRIL 6.
- AIR TRAVEL & GROUND TRANSPORTATION: The nearest airport is the Easterwood Airport [code: CLL], or you can drive from Dallas (3 hours) or Houston (1.5 hours). Advantage Rent-a-Car [800-777-5500] rents to qualified college students under the age of 25, with rates from \$29/day for compacts to \$54/day for vans (refer to code 141015-FSC for reservations). The three hotels listed below offer airport shuttle service from Easterwood, and each will provide hotel/venue shuttles during tournament hours. • LODGING: Hilton Convention Conference Center [409/693-7500], 801 University Drive East, College Station 77343. Rate: \$75.00/night for up to four persons per room (reserve by 03/19). The Quality Suites Hotel [409/695-9500], 1010 University Drive East, College Station 77840. Rate: \$72.00/night for two-room suites with mini-kitchens (reserve by 03/25). Manor House Inn [800-231-4100], 2504 Texas Ave. South, College Station 77840. Rate: \$59.00/night for double/double occupancy (reserve by 03/20). You must mention National Intercollegiates to receive these special tournament rates. • HOSPITALITY & SOUVENIR: Entrants will be provided at least one meal per day, beginning with lunch on Wednesday. An awards banquet will also be held on Saturday evening at 7:30 pm. A souvenir tournament shirt will be offered to all participants.
- OFFICIAL BALL: Pro Penn.

*Online? Download a complete entry form at:
<http://www.usra.org/usra/interact/00forms.htm>*



E-FORCE

event information

RACQUETBALL

court gear



Colorado players (and USRA staffers!) get ready for a fall tournament season in the Rockies with new gear from **RACQUETBALL** magazine! Pictured left to right ...

Top step: Chris Keenan & Barb Mehegan

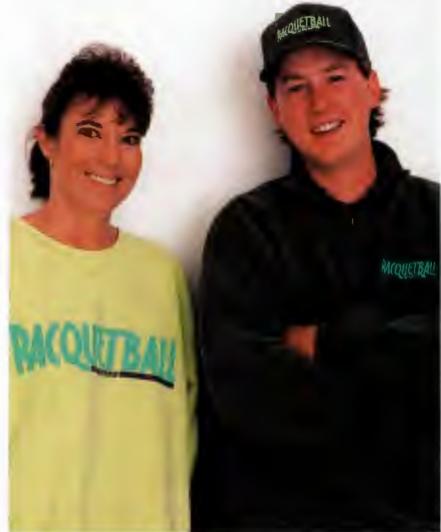
Middle step: Mary Keenan, Michael Mehegan & Kevin Vicroy

Bottom Step: Heather Fender & Jason Mehegan

Photo: John Foust

for fall/winter!

polos
tees
tees



racquetball magazine gear

#JK-RBZ — ID Wear Pacific Club Jacket: Blue denim body, khaki sleeves w/tan embroidery. \$69.00.

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#TS-RBZ — Authentic Pigment Tee Shirts: Garment washed 100% cotton, generous cut. Colors shown left. \$18.00

#CS-RBZ — Pullover Crewneck Sweatshirt: Authentic pigment in Kiwi (on model), Washed Plum & Black. \$32.00

#ZS-RBZ — Quarter Zip Sweatshirt: Authentic pigment in Spruced Teal (on model), Periwinkle (light blue/purple), & Smoke (grey). \$36.00

#BC-RBZ — Caps: Toppers heavy brushed canvas, six-panel pro cap w/front and back embroidery (website address on back). Colors: Olive, Hazelnut, Navy, Black (all shown left). One size, adjustable. \$17.00

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*Add \$6.95 shipping/handling for first three pieces, plus \$1.00 per piece thereafter.

** Add \$2.00 per item for XXL Sizes.

Visa/Mastercard # _____

Signature _____ Exp. _____

Subtotal _____

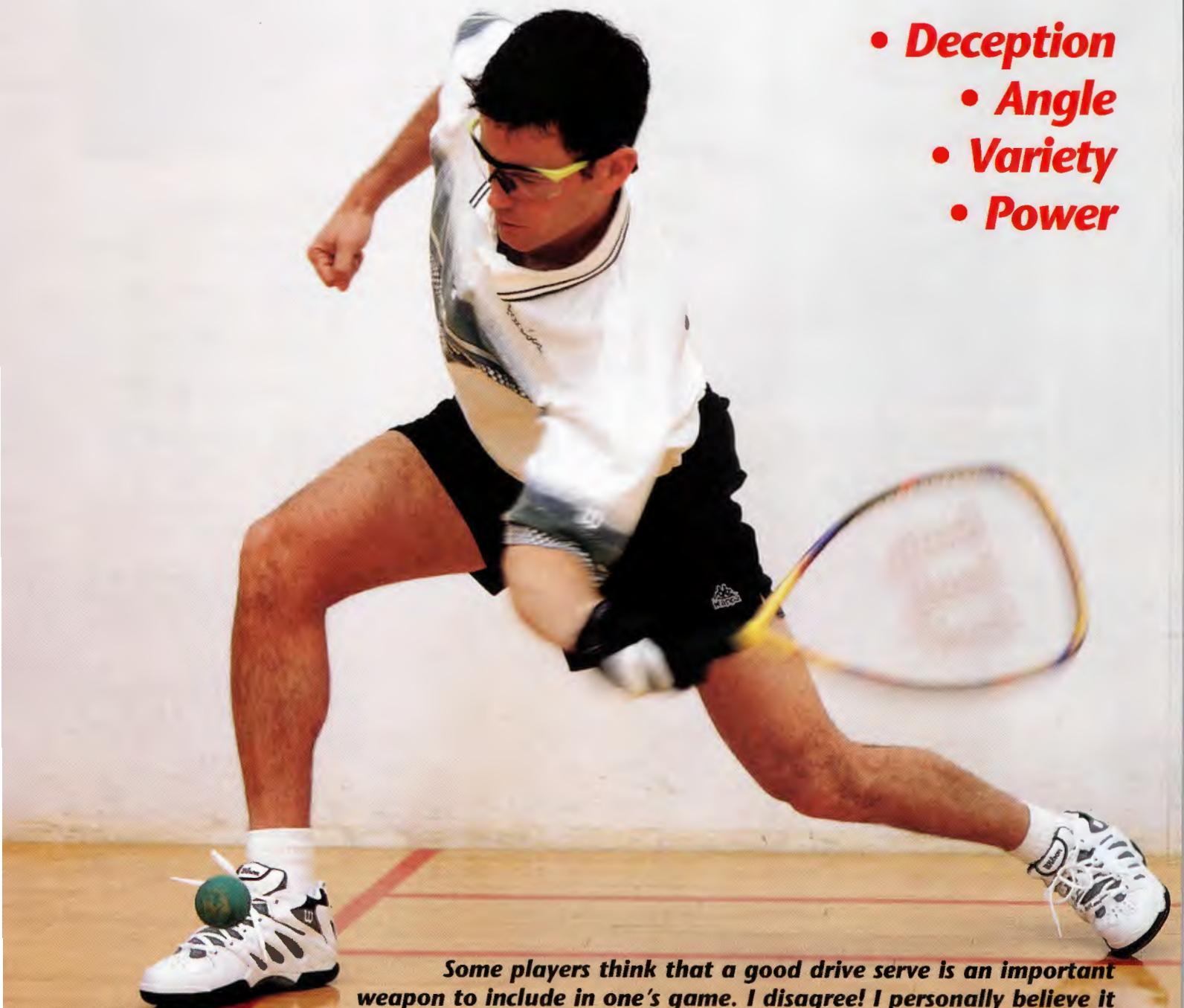
Shipping/Handling* _____

Total enclosed _____

Wilson

RACQUETBALL

A Winning Drive Serve



- **Deception**
- **Angle**
- **Variety**
- **Power**

Some players think that a good drive serve is an important weapon to include in one's game. I disagree! I personally believe it is THE ONLY WEAPON when you are in the service box. Without it, you can't put sufficient pressure on an opponent and you risk letting them breathe, both physically and mentally.

by Cliff Swain

In any given match, I probably hit my drive serve 96% of the time. In order for the drive to be effective, I concentrate on four important factors. These four key points are crucial to the success of my drive serve, especially since my opponent knows exactly what I'm going to do! The four key points are:

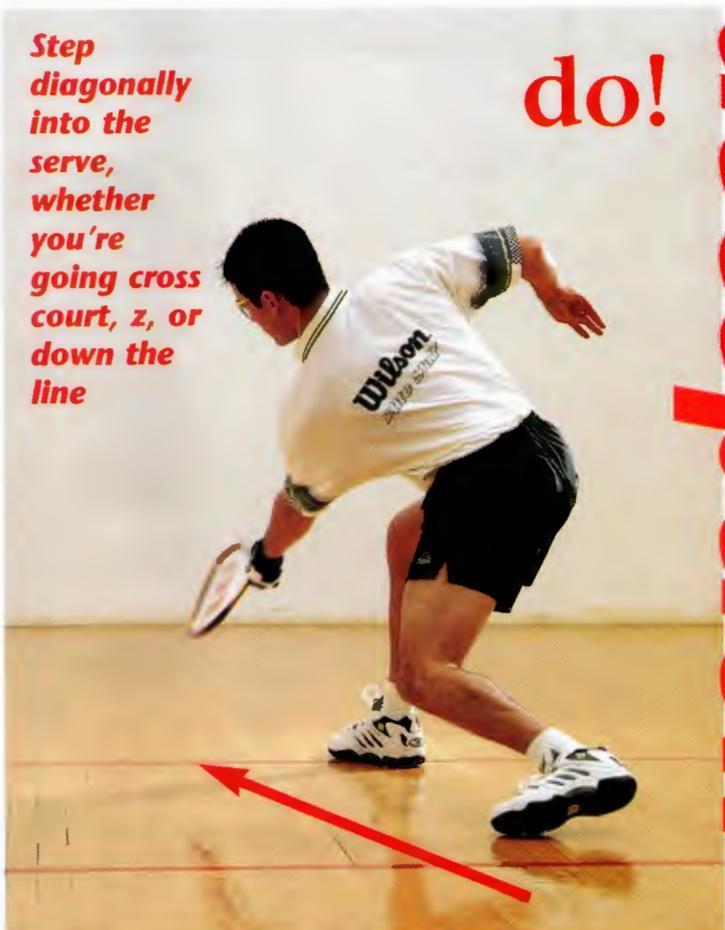
1. Deception
2. Angle
3. Variety
4. Power

Lets look at each "key" to help you unlock your drive serve potential.

Deception

The word deception means to mislead, to make a person believe something that isn't true. This is exactly how I want my opponent to feel when they are receiving serve. How can I create deception? The service motion and the ball toss.

Step diagonally into the serve, whether you're going cross court, z, or down the line



do!

deception

^^ service motion

Whatever your motion, keep it the same! If you step one way for a serve the left and a different way for a serve to the right, you won't deceive anyone.

don't!



PHOTOS: MIKE BOATMAN

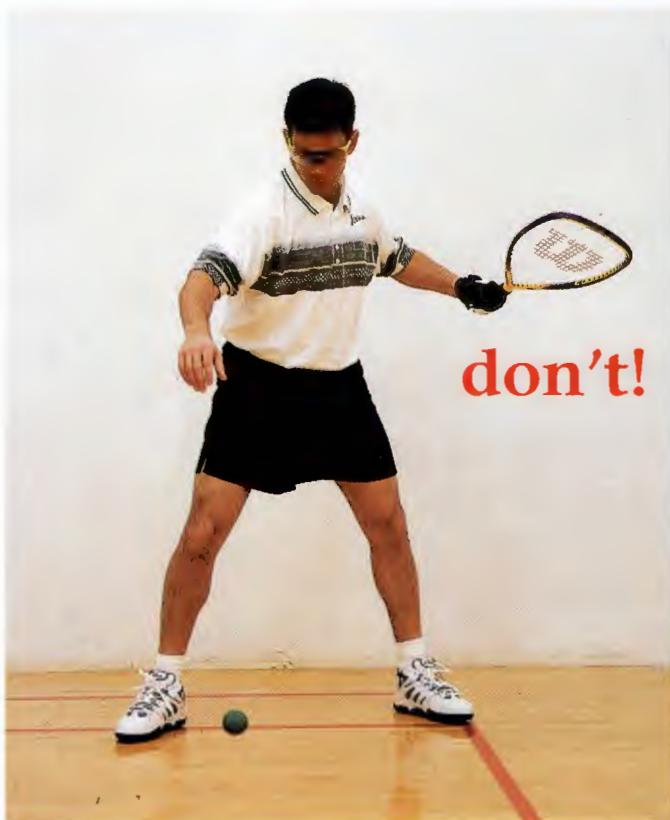
deception



^^ ball drop

Keep the drop low, out in front, and away from your body. Don't jam yourself up with a drop that lands too close to your body.

The drop should appear to be in the same place, give or take a few inches, whether you are serving the ball to the left, to the right, Z serve, or a jam.



angle

Angle

If I am able to deceive my opponent as to which side of the court I am serving, but then hit a side wall and the serve angles in towards the middle of the court, my deception loses its effectiveness. So how can I know where to hit the ball on the front wall to create the perfect angle? Targets and repetition.



targets ^^

Pick any spot in the service box and hit drive serves until you find the right angle to put the ball into the corner. Mark that spot on the wall with some tape. Then go place a bag or a box about 6-12 inches behind the short line. You have just created two excellent targets.

Repetition: Once you have found your ideal target points, hit a ton of serves until you can find those front wall target points with your eyes closed. Your bag or box target will help you focus on keeping your serves low and off the back wall.

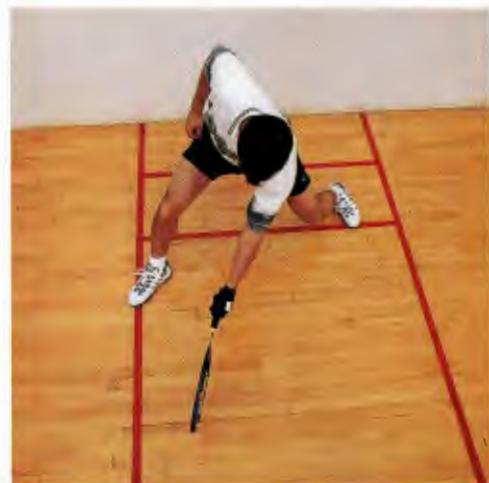
variety

variety >>

It's important that you not get into a rut by serving the same type of serve over and over.

Plus you don't want your opponent to get into a rhythm of seeing the serve coming from the same spot and direction in the service box. You must create variety by serving from different places in the box, and hitting different serves with the same motion.

Another way to create variety with your drive serves is to change the pace of the serve, similar to what a pitcher does in baseball.



Power

Power in the serve is created by executing the following steps: use a two step motion, stay low throughout the entire serve, keep the ball away from your body for full extension at impact, and swing hard!



^^ two step motion

By taking two steps into your serve you generate more force behind your shot, as opposed to taking only one step.



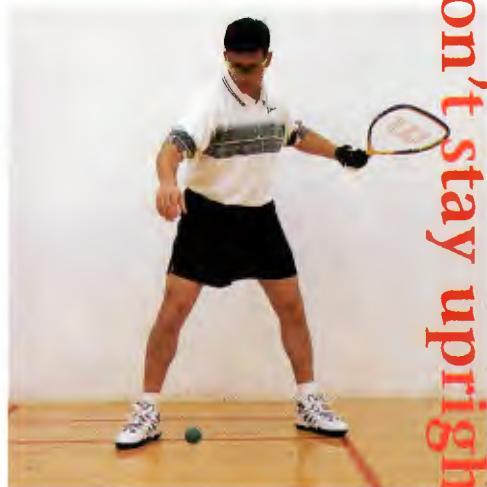
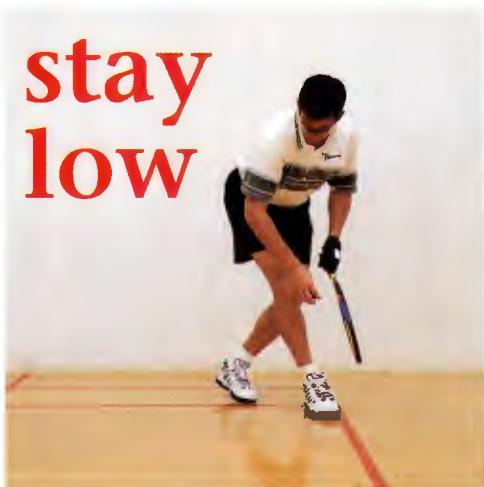
power

stay low >>
A lot of players start low, rise up and then drop back down. Staying low throughout the entire service motion forces you to use your legs, which are an incredible source of power.

do! start low



stay low



don't stay upright!

finish low



power



^^ extension

Extension equals power. It's that simple. If the ball gets too close to your body, you will lose power. Keep the ball away from your body.



swing hard >>

It sounds so easy, yet a lot of players forget to swing hard and fast through the ball. Come on, swing as fast as you can and see what you are capable of!



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

Question: How does one recover, mentally, from either an injury or just a bad season?

That's a commonly asked question at my camps, and there are three racquetball pros, in particular, who come to mind when I think about my answer:

Sudsy Monchik • Ends 1996/97 pro tour season as IRT #1, wins the U.S. Open; • Ends 1997/98 pro tour season as IRT #2, takes silver at U.S. Open; • Mid-season 1998/99, IRT #2, wins the U.S. Open.

Cliff Swain • Ends a five-year run as the #1 IRT Pro Tour Champion, through 1995/96 season; • Ends 1996/97 pro tour season as IRT #2, reaches semifinals at U.S. Open; • Ends 1997/98 pro tour season as IRT #1, wins U.S. Open; Mid-season 1998/99, IRT #1, takes silver at U.S. Open.

Robin Levine • Ends 1995/96 pro tour season as WIRT #2, and in the #2 spot on the U.S. National Team. • Takes a year layoff to come back in the 1997/98 season to win the 1998 National Championship and regain the #1 position.

All of these elite players have had major setbacks due to injury, which naturally resulted in bad season finishes. For Sudsy, it was a broken big toe, severe sprained ankles, and a separated shoulder; Cliff had orthoscopic knee surgery and a bruised elbow; Robin underwent shoulder surgery.

Over the years I've noticed that these athletes have many "comeback qualities" in common. They each have desire, heart, tenacity, and a never-give-up attitude. They're fighters and believers. They may be down but never out. They'll turn the negative into positive

and keeps things in perspective. But, unfortunately, these qualities alone won't allow even these top athletes to come back successfully. But if you couple these admirable qualities with the Three Phase approach I've outlined below, you'll come back mentally tougher than before your injury.

1 — Beginning Phase

- a. Visualize (mental rehearsal). Each & every day, either watch videotapes of yourself or close your eyes and see yourself play a great match point by point, game by game until the match is over.
- b. Read mental toughness books by authors like James Loehr and Tom Urlick (or many other prominent authors in the field) and do the exercises.
- c. Think only positive, nothing negative.
- d. Take time to recover.
- e. Rehab slowly with a physical therapist or expert.

2 — Intermediate Phase

- a. Keep visualizing, reading mental toughness books and staying positive.
- b. Begin light physical rehabilitation with the assistance of a therapist or expert.

3 — Final Phase

- a. Continue visualizing, reading and staying positive
- b. Continue rehabbing, but day by day – as you get stronger and healthier – you'll be released to hit around and then play.

Each and every one of these athletes followed these three phases to a "T" – no shortcuts! No matter how minor, or severe, your injury may be – or what the setback is – this three phase approach will help you to a speedy and full recovery. If you attempt short cuts, which people do all the time, you'll wind up back on the couch or in the doctor's office or in a mental slump. Take it from Sudsy, Cliff or Robin ... the slow and steady way is the best, while you believe in yourself and stay positive in your recovery.

HeadRules!

by Fran Davis

changingtimes

by Otto Dietrich

Once again, the USRA's annual election for the Board of Directors is just around the corner ... the "polls" will close in early May. This recurring event invariably triggers questions about who actually runs the USRA. At the same time, I'm amazed at the number of members who erroneously believe that Luke St. Onge is the President of the USRA or that the Board receives some form of monetary compensation. So, let's clear up these issues!

The United States Olympic Committee has approved the USRA's formal constitution as part of their recognition of the USRA as the national governing body of the sport of racquetball in the USA. A rather awesome responsibility!

That constitution calls for the USRA to be governed by a 13-member Board of Directors. At least 20 percent of these members must be "elite" athletes and at least 20 percent must be women. Athlete members (three persons) are elected for four-year terms from and by those persons who have played racquetball at the elite level (i.e. National Team members) during the past 10 years. The ten remaining Board members are elected from the general membership for three-year terms and can be re-elected once before "resigning" for at least two years. For continuity reasons, terms are staggered so that only three or four actually end each May. Thus, an annual election! Officers of the Board are elected from and by the Board and serve a two-year term. After the new board is seated each May, a vote is taken to fill any officer vacancy that may exist.

Board members serve **without** compensation for their services! This volunteer Board meets twice a year — once immediately prior to National Singles and again in the fall — either September or October — at the National Office in Colorado Springs. The meetings are very intense, 2-3 day affairs usually lasting from 8:00 AM well into the night. Of course, the USRA does underwrite the expenses associated with these meetings.

The Board of Directors makes all key policy and organizational decisions, and sets the direction for the USRA. Perhaps the single most critical decision the Board makes on a recurring basis is "Who should be the USRA's Executive Director?" The Executive Director is an employee who serves, under contract, at the will of the Board. Each year, the entire Board collectively evaluates the current Executive Director's performance.

For many years now, the USRA has been indeed fortunate to have an Executive Director who obviously is

much, much more than just another "contract employee." The Board has empowered Luke St. Onge, on the basis of his superior track record and proven abilities, to manage the USRA's daily operations in accordance with established policies. For instance, Luke makes all personnel decisions for the paid staff at the national office, such as hiring, firing, promoting, or disciplining. However, the Board could vote to cancel a particular program or reduce funding to a level that would mandate a reduction in personnel. At the far extreme, the Board could even terminate or fail to renew Luke's contract if necessary to impose its collective will!

The Board spends many hard hours working on the USRA's annual budget, which largely sets the course for each year's operations. And while Luke actually negotiates most contracts, he cannot sign one without Board approval! Therefore, he regularly seeks input from the board to ensure that he is on the correct course. Since most of the decisions reserved by the Board usually can't wait for the next scheduled formal meeting, an executive committee provides the mechanism for more rapid feedback. Board officers (President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary), along with one athlete member, serve on the committee, which often meets via teleconference to advise Luke on time-sensitive issues. Executive Committee decisions are later subject to full-board review at the next full meeting.

Who's currently on the USRA's Board of Directors? Well, I'm currently in my first year as President, Shelly Ogden is Executive Vice President, Annie Muniz is Treasurer, Janell Marriott is Secretary, and Eric Muller is the Athlete Representative on the Executive Committee. Other Board members are athlete representatives Malia Bailey and Dan O'Bremski; plus Keith Calkins, John Giunta, Jack Hughes, Ron Maggard, Dario Mas, and Carlton Vass.

As you can see the Board of Directors and its officers set the direction of the USRA and are largely responsible for the way it runs. So, your responsibility for electing them shouldn't be taken lightly! Please take the time to learn about the candidates [ballot information will appear in the next issue] and cast your votes accordingly!



rb:people & places



SHANNON FEASTER



KORI GRASHA



SADIE GROSS

Scholarship Winners

Shannon Feaster (New York, N.Y.)

Don't be disappointed if it takes Shannon Feaster a couple of days to return your e-mail message or phone call. She's a tad busy these days. A May 1998 graduate of the well-respected Howard University, Feaster is now enrolled in Columbia University's accelerated master's degree program in Broadcast Journalism - ranked first in the nation.

Three-time member of the U.S. Junior National Racquetball Team, Feaster was named Female Junior Athlete of the Year in '94. Recently, Feaster earned a spot in the Sweet 16 at the '98 U.S. National Singles women's open division. In her career, the former U.S. National High School Champion ('94) has captured 14 national and world junior titles, combined.

Feaster, 22, has put a promising pro racquetball career on hold while finishing her graduate program at the Ivy League school. "Hopefully, I have not yet reached my racquetball peak," she said. "This (attending Columbia) is the chance I must take right now and there are many, including family and sponsors, who hope and believe that my professional racquetball debut will soon come . . . perhaps after the master's degree (concludes) in the summer of 1999. Only time and timing will tell."

Kori Grasha (Amherst, N.Y.)

Current two-time defending New York State women's open champion Kori Grasha could have ditched racquetball for varsity playing time on a successful Canisius (N.Y.) College squad. She was an all-conference shortstop in high school. Fortunately for the racquetball world, the former two-time U.S. Junior National Team member stayed true to the court.

DeWitt Shy: 1923 - 1998



Majoring in elementary education at the Buffalo, N.Y., institution, Grasha, 21, has continued to maintain her racquetball abilities by playing and teaching on a regular basis. Grasha even earned her referee certification at a local AmPRO clinic. At the '98 U.S. National Intercollegiates, Grasha finished in the quarterfinals of the women's No. 1 singles bracket. Grasha pointed to her father, Arthur Grasha, as her most influential sports figure. "He introduced me to the world of sports at a very

young age," she said of her father. "Since then, he has sacrificed countless hours practicing, coaching, traveling and supporting all of my athletic pursuits . . . Most importantly though, he taught me what the result of dedication is when striving to reach your goals."

Sadie Gross (Yankton, S.D.)

An accounting/pre-law major at the University of Memphis, Sadie Gross was nominated for Academic All-American due to her fourth-place '98 U.S. National Intercollegiates finish and a 3.8 grade point average. Gross was named Female Junior Athlete of the Year in 1996. A six-time World Juniors champ, the South Dakota native also earned six U.S. Junior National titles and three Canadian Junior crowns.

Trying to work her way through college, Gross is on schedule to graduate one semester early. "Memphis appeared to have everything that I was looking for, but mostly I wanted to continue to play racquetball," Gross said. "Racquetball had always been a huge part of my life and I wanted to continue to play even after my college years."

Applications for annual USRA scholarships are available to any USRA member currently accepted or enrolled in a college degree program as a full-time student. Since 1990, the USRA scholarship program has granted 27 awards totaling over \$13,000 to aspiring student athletes. The application deadline for the 1999 scholarships is June 15, 1999. Inquiries and requests for applications may be made by contacting the:

USRA Scholarship Program
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
Attn: Kevin Joyce, Director of
Membership Services
Tel: (719) 635-5396 ext. 123
Fax: (719) 635-0685

<< Former Board President Passes Away

DeWitt Shy, second president of the former International Racquetball Association, died in a single-car accident in Memphis, Tenn., this past April at the age of 75. Shy succeeded first president Bob Kendler, after Kendler split with the former United States Racquetball

Association in 1973. Shy served as president from 1973 to '76, and was responsible for driving the tremendous growth of racquetball in the United States during that period.

Colorado Junior Racquetball >>

by John Foust

Under the direction of Scott and Cindy Lewis, junior racquetball in Colorado is on the upswing. Over the past two years, the Lewis', in association with the Colorado Racquetball Association, have been tireless in their efforts to promote junior play at both a club and tournament level. All indications are that their hard work is paying off. The last junior fun day at the Colorado Athletic Club/Aurora drew more than 35 players from along the Front Range. Their son, David, is the 1998 10-and-under U.S. national champion. He's also a product of the program and donates time working with the younger players. It's a family affair.

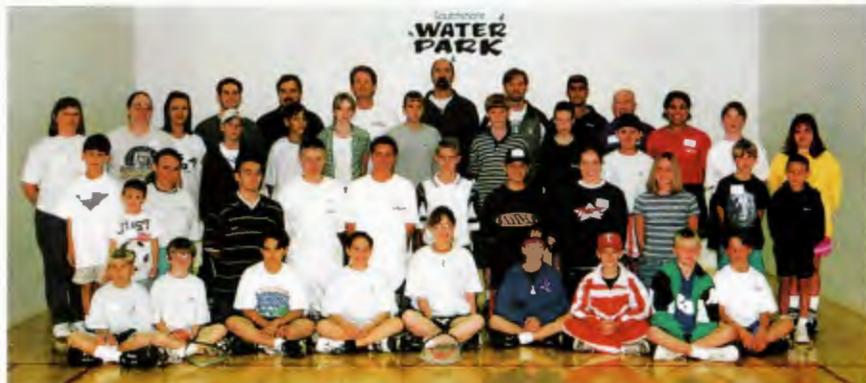
What other factors are involved with their success? Hours of phone calls to parents. The unending pursuit of silent auction items, bake sales and basic hard work. The overall objective of the program is to teach the fundamentals, instill a respect for the game, and most of all, have fun. All of which is not to be overshadowed by their love of children and the ability to involve others in their mission. Former regional open champion Mike Johnston regularly works with the players and serves as their official "travel" coach.

The Colorado Athletic Club/Aurora has been supportive of their efforts by donating club time and courts on a consistent basis for both the junior fun days and the C.A.C.A. Saturday junior program. In fact, the C.A.C.A. junior program has grown along with the help of the CRA and a number of volunteer instructors that make the Colorado junior program the success that it is. Many thanks to Adam Katz, Jim Loman, Dan Davis, Larry Daub, Rudy Zamarippa, Joe Cohen, Howard Tilton, Jessie and Henry Carbajal, Jurgen Denk, Renee Law, and other unnamed souls, all of whom have donated countless hours in the pursuit of making Colorado a great place for juniors to play racquetball.

U.S. Team Roster Set for 1999 Tournament of the Americas in Houston

The U.S. National Racquetball Team roster was recently announced for the PARC 13th Tournament of the Americas to be held at the Northwest Fitness and Sports Club in Houston, Texas, March 26 through April 4.

The men's squad will feature current U.S. national singles champion Adam Karp (Stockton, Calif.) and former two-time national titleholder Michael Bronfeld (Monterey, Calif.) at the Nos. 1 and 2 singles positions, respectively. Winners of the men's doubles gold medal at the 1990 Tournament of the Americas, veterans Doug Ganim (Westerville, Ohio) and Dan Obremski (North Versailles, Pa.) will fill the doubles spot.



ABOVE: COLORADO JUNIORS CLAIM A COURT FOR A GROUP SHOT. BELOW: MIKE JOHNSTON SETS UP A PLYOMETRIC DRILL FOR THE YOUNGSTERS. PHOTOS: JOHN FOUST



For the women, 1998 national singles winner Robin Levine (Sacramento, Calif.) and Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) will be respectively set at the first and second singles positions. Current world, national and Pan American Games doubles champions Joy MacKenzie (Santee, Calif.) and Jackie Paraiso (El Cajon, Calif.), will look to earn their third consecutive Tournament of the Americas crown.

U.S. squads have won the past 12 PARC Tournament of the Americas team crowns, and will be coached on this trip by Jim Winterton of Syracuse, N.Y. and Tom Travers of Westlake, Ohio. Team leader for the 13th annual PARC event will be Shelly Ogden of Cincinnati, Ohio, and the team manager is Kelly Beane of Manchester, N.H.

Team Alternates are: Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.), Doug Eagle (Carrollton, Texas), Drew Kachtik (Lewisville, Texas), Michelle Gould (Boise, Idaho) and Kim Russell (Chattanooga, Tenn.).

New Perspectives

You could see it in their eyes. John Ellis, Cliff Swain and Sudsy Monchik were affected – not with an injury, but with realization. Life is today . . . and hopefully, tomorrow. Don't take anything for granted.

"This morning, John, myself and Cliff had a chance to go over to St. Jude (Children's Research Hospital)," Sudsy told the crowd after defeating Ellis in the Saturday's first semifinal. "Going over there really puts everything into perspective."

rb:people & places

While visiting with numerous youngsters and parents, the world's top three racquetballers signed balls, posters and gave away headbands. Sudsy, Cliff and John served up smiles and pleasant interruptions for some of the most hopeful and determined young people they'd ever met.

One patient in particular, 18-year-old Harris Jones, struck a nerve with the visiting threesome. Harris graduated from Milan (Tenn.) High School, where he was class president, held a 3.96 GPA, hit .400 on the baseball team, passed for more than 1,000 yards and seven touchdowns on the football field and finished second in the voting for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award.

Now, he laid in bed at St. Jude's, with his mother beside him, waiting for ESPN's College Football Gameday to begin. Harris was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia during pre-season football drills at Murray (Ky.) State University only four months earlier. Cliff, John and Sudsy spent the better part of an hour with Harris that morning.

"It would be easy to give up if I had nothing to look forward to," Harris says. "But, I've always wanted to play college football. Now that I've got a chance, I'm not going to let leukemia beat me . . . Everything happens for a reason. That's why I'm not bitter. I feel so lucky that I have the disease instead of some little kid who wouldn't have the strength to lick it like I can."

By the time the final champion was crowned at this year's U.S. OPEN, Cliff, Sudsy and John had donated \$1,300 of their prize money to Harris and the rest of the children of St. Jude.

"Everybody asked, 'How'd it go today?' And really, it couldn't go any better," Sudsy said to the Memphis crowd. "I'm waking up healthy. You're all waking up healthy. You know, you really ought to think about how lucky we all are."

In its third year supporting St. Jude, the Promus U.S. OPEN has donated more than \$40,000. To give your donation, please call 1-800-877-5833. Write to Harris at: Patient Harris Jones; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; 322 North Lauderdale; Memphis, TN 38105.

LASIK Eye Surgery for Racquetball

by Cindy Tilbury

What's the latest trend in racquetball? No, it's not pleated skirts, portable courts, or the top male pros gaining a little weight. It's 20/20 vision under those approved eyeguards! If you've ever lost a contact lens in the corner of your eye or had a RecSpecs prescription five years older than your current one, you would probably be interested in the latest in refractive surgery techniques. And I don't mean radial or laser keratotomy—technology has progressed light-years since you heard the horror stories about those procedures. LASIK surgery is the most exciting and pain-free way to achieve

perfect vision for racquetball players—at least for another few years, that is.

At National Doubles in Baltimore, many people were asking me about my LASIK (LASer In-situ Keratomileusis) surgery I had had done the week before. It seems many people have considered it, but just weren't sure what to expect or where to go to get their questions answered.

Motivations / Good Candidates

Although the thought of someone lasering my eyes while I was awake was a little daunting, my motivations were many. I have worn thick glasses or contacts to see clearly since second grade and I was now at a 20/1100 prescription (-11.0). Glasses fog up and contacts cause an occasional trip to the ophthalmologist. On the court, it is common to lose a rally when a contact goes crazy. Buying prescription eyeguards was something I hoped I never had to experience. I was a perfect candidate with my nearsightedness, but other conditions can also be corrected, including farsightedness, astigmatism and bifocal problems. (Other sports enthusiasts benefit too—for instance, my brother had his eyes done so he could hunt better.)

Finally, with the advent of the IBM Excimer laser and LASIK surgery, I was convinced the technology was worth the risk and the money. It was time to act.

And by the way, I lost a match to someone I probably should have beaten, and she had had the surgery a few months earlier. Kim highly recommended her surgeon, Dr. Ralph Chu of the Minnesota Eye Laser and Surgery Centers. I called and got their informational video, and even attended his seminar. I was sure Dr. Chu was the perfect doctor for me.

Preparation

Part of the timing of having the surgery done was scheduling around the two weeks when I couldn't wear my contacts—not fun or easy to play in a "bowed-wall" racquetball court after 15 years without glasses. Finally, the day came for the special eye exam, then it was time to go under the laser to get my eyes re-shaped.

Expectations / Recovery

I wasn't exactly sure what to expect—pain, blurriness, watering, light sensitivity. I should have taken the Valium they offered, because I was a little nervous during the event. Because my eyes were so bad, the laser took almost 60 seconds per eye. It was all over in about 15 minutes, my friend drove me home, and by the first set of drops three hours later, the watering was stopped and I was done with corrective lenses forever. Some discomfort and itchiness, but no real pain. Part of the reason for the quick healing is that there are no open cuts. The laser takes microscopic layers off of your inner cornea to re-shape your eye for proper focus.

Recovery was a breeze. The important thing was to keep foreign objects out of my eyes and to keep the drops in. I played in a tournament in two days; however, the doctor told me that my eyes would be fully healed in two to three months. If I wasn't completely satisfied, I could have touch-up surgery to make any corrections I wanted. I love my new eyes and don't plan to face the laser again for many years. One of my racquetball friends said he has had some halo-ing of car headlights at night, but I haven't heard of anyone asking for the "touch-up."

Cost

In Minnesota, it seems the price is pretty much set at \$2,000 per eye for normal prescriptions, with another possible \$500 per eye for prescriptions like mine or other complications. The initial eye exam will be about \$100. I've heard that other parts of the country offer some savings. I can't confirm this, but it might be possible to spend only \$1,000 per eye. Remember that you get what you pay for, so make sure your doctor has done thousands of laser procedures and don't base your decision on cost alone. Get references!

Results

If necessary, LASIK surgery can be performed several times on the same cornea. However, laser surgery can't stop the normal aging process, so it is possible that my vision won't be 20/20 forever. Already new lasers are being approved by the FDA—the technology could be very different if I need to have this done in the future. There is also a possibility that I could need magnifying reading glasses. All in all, it's a small price to pay for the freedom from nearsightedness.

For More Information

For a free informational video and booklet, call 612.336.5800, or a doctor nearer you. There are also over 100 Internet sites that can help you find information, doctors and testimonials. Here are two of them: <http://www.lasikdocshop.com> and <http://www.lasik.com>. If you have questions of someone who has had the surgery done, just ask me.

Laser eye surgery and racquetball seem to be a natural match, but can it improve your game? I asked my opponent, Kim, and she said she thought it made a big difference in hers.

A Hard Choice
Up two games to zero and 9-4 in the third game of the finals at the Promus U.S. OPEN, Sudsy Monchik made a choice. Whether he knew it or not.

Following a backhand splat return of serve for a sideout, Monchik moved back into the service box against top-ranked Cliff Swain. Monchik had been destroying Swain all afternoon and nothing dared stand in the way of his last two points.

With six aces in the first two games, Monchik attempted to deliver another. Swain, along with the entire side-wall audience witnessed a short serve. But referee Dan Llacer saw it as good. The crowd voiced their discontent as the rally continued.

A few shots later, Monchik attempted a diving get on the right side glass that was, again, an obvious double-bounce to all but Llacer—and presumably Monchik.

The rally ended with Monchik's 10th point and Swain, along with the over 1,000 fans, was incensed. The crowd booed and began chanting "Two, two, two, two," referring to the two-bounce get.

Then Monchik made a choice. A choice not to play the rally over. He took the call. "I was up 9-4 and 2-0 (in games). I don't think it really mattered at that point," Monchik said when questioned about the rally. "The calls go both ways. There's nothing you can do. The ref makes the call . . . we don't see Michael Jordan say, 'I fouled him. Stop the play.' We don't see Pete Sampras tell the linesman, 'Hey, that was out. That was a bad call.' The ref makes the call. We're professional athletes. We're battlin'. We're warriors. We're not there to make friends. We're there to win."

Swain agreed, saying, "I don't like that at all when people expect players to give calls. Why would we have a referee then, other than a scorekeeper? The referee's there to make the calls. Sudsy did the right thing by taking them. It just stinks for me that they worked out that way. They (the calls) were clearly wrong."

Sure, Denver Bronco Bill Romanowski doesn't say, "Hey ref. I just spit on that guy. You better give me a 15-yard personal foul penalty." But, they can't. It's not in their rules. It is in racquetball's rules to give back a call that you know is incorrect.

"I know everyone hears about the pros taking all of the calls and stuff like that," said John Ellis. "It depends who you're playing against and what the circumstances are. If the other guy takes calls, then you're probably going to take calls. You'll find that more and more guys are starting to accept the fact that we need to be a little bit more honest at times."

Respect is priceless and maybe that's not that important at the moment. But there's a reason why racquetball fans give ovations for good sportsmanship. Replaying that point would have seemed to be the better choice . . . and it's doubtful Monchik would have lost any prize money over it.

— Kevin Vicroy, *Racquetball Magazine*



Racquetball Canada's National Team Coaches Honoured With Wittnauer Coaching Excellence Awards

Reported by Lori Johnstone

On Friday October 30th, National Team Coaches Ron Brown and Carol Mulholland were honoured at the annual Coaching Awards Dinner in Ottawa for their contribution to our National Team's recent achievements at the World Championships.

The Wittnauer Coaching Excellence Awards were introduced 12 years ago to recognize the contribution of the coach in athletic achievement. Each coach whose athletes have won a gold, silver or bronze medal in an Olympic Games, Paralympic Games or Open World Championship receive a distinctive Swiss watch and a plaque commemorating their athletes' achievements. (Coaches must also be fully certified at Level 3 of the 3M National Coaching Certification Program.)

The outstanding performances by Team Canada at the 1998 Ektelon IX IRF World Championships in July ensured recognition for Brown and Mulholland. In particular, the Gold medal victories by Christie Van Hees and Sherman Greenfeld in the Women's and Men's Individual Singles Competitions as well as a Silver medal in Women's Doubles (Josee Grand'Maitre and Debbie Ward) and a Bronze medal in Men's Doubles (Mike Green and Kane Waslenchuk) were highlighted when the coaches were given their awards.

After the ceremony, both Brown and Mulholland spoke of their appreciation for the recognition of their efforts. They agreed that it was a privilege to be honoured by their peers and they commended the accomplishments of their athletes.

New hot wheels for Mexico

Earlier this fall, the Mexican Olympic Committee funded the purchase of an official van for use by the Mexican Racquetball Federation. Team travel and day-to-day business has been made much easier for the federation since the new purchase.

Brown and Mulholland were among a very accomplished and impressive group of coaches to receive awards, a group which included Shannon Miller (Women's Ice Hockey), Al Morrow (Rowing), Bob Kierstead (Shooting), Leroy Washburn (Athletics), and Anita Ford (Curling).

Racquetball Canada would like to thank Ron Brown and Carol Mulholland for their contributions to racquetball in Canada and congratulate them for their achievements with the National Team.

New President for Newfoundland

Reported by David Hinton

Mr. Eric Easton of St. John's, Newfoundland recently advised the National Office of Racquetball Canada that he has taken over the position of President of the Newfoundland Racquetball Association. In this position, Mr. Easton also becomes the Newfoundland provincial representative to the Racquetball Canada Board of Directors.

Please welcome Mr. Easton to these positions and amend your records accordingly with the following information:

Eric Easton
16 Fairhaven Place
St. John's, Newfoundland A1E 4S1
(709) 364-9151 (Home)
(709) 364-4281 (Work)
easton@nf.sympatico.ca (E-mail)

And finally, Eric reports that within the past month two new racquetball courts have opened in the town of Clarenville (which is approximately 120 mile from St. John's) in a new community center.



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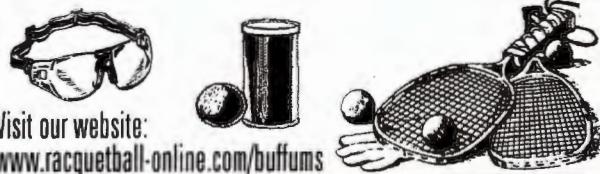
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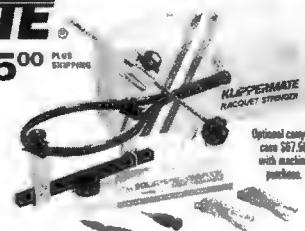
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Requirements: Four years teaching experience; played in sanctioned tourneys in pro or open division, must have directed USRA sanctioned tourneys. Will promote play to members and non-members, conduct leagues, lessons, run clinics for juniors and adults. Position open from roughly January to mid-May, with possible added summer employment. Negotiable base plus percent of clinics, tourneys and leagues, plus room, and 100% of lessons. Contact Stan Watkins, Kalispell Athletic Club, 770 West Reserve Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901. Tel: 406-752-2880, Fax: 406-752-9098.

COACHING STAFF SOUGHT

The USRA is accepting applications for Assistant Coach of the U.S. National Adult Team. The suitable candidate will serve as assistant coach for four years and upon satisfactory review will assume the position of the head coach. The position will begin Sept. 1, 1999.

U.S. TEAM QUALIFYING

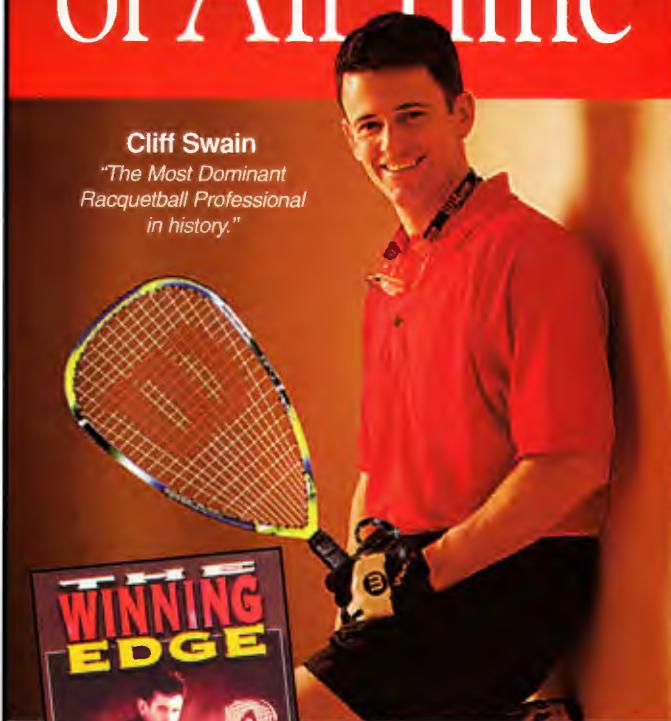
In order to earn an appointment to the U.S. National Team, benchmark performances must be reached at selected national championship qualifiers. In 1998, the team will be made up of Intercollegiate National champions (1 each, male & female = 2); semi-finalists from the U.S. National Singles Championships (4 each, male & female = 8); and finalists from the U.S. National Doubles Championships (4 teams, 2 each, male & female = 8). By reaching these benchmarks, individuals are appointed to the U.S. Team for a term of one year, and are then added to a pool of athletes to compete internationally and conduct goodwill tours abroad.

For Juniors, two events serve as qualifiers for the U.S. Junior National Team in 1998. The National High School champions (1 each, male & female = 2) will be appointed to the team for a term of one year, along with top finishers at the Junior Olympic Championships in selected divisions: 18 and under semi-finalists (4 each, male & female = 8); 16 and under semi-finalists (4 each, male & female = 8); plus 14 and under finalists (2 each, male & female = 4). Like its adult counterpart, the 22-member U.S. Junior Team competes internationally and conducts annual goodwill tours.

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january ...

January 15-19

Cocoa Classic @ Cocoa Club	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
Ektelon Series/Chilly Open @ Amerimed	Stow, OH	330-633-2133
Iron Range Open @ Supreme Court	Virginia, MN	218-749-8318
Lander Open @ Windriver Fitness	Lander, WY	307-332-2811
Pro Kennex Super 6 Stop #4 @ Southview A.C.	W. St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
Richard's Pub Silver Bullet @ River Bend A.C.	Peace Dale, RI	401-789-9585
Superbowl Open @ ISSC at West Lane	Stockton, CA	209-472-2100
Tri-State Open @ Tri-State Athletic Club	Evansville, IN	812-479-3111
3rd Annual Low Country Classic @ St. Andrews	Charleston, SC	843-556-2518
Alta Canyon Avalanche @ Alta Canyon Sports Ctr	Sandy, UT	801-942-2582
Griffith Memorial @ Courtsports Athletic Club	Eugene, OR	541-667-2255
Ice Fog Classic @ Fairbanks Athletic Club North	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
Superbowl @ Riverpoint Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	505-262-1911
Goodwin Institute For Cancer @ The Quadrangle	Coral Springs, FL	954-753-8900
Greenbriar Classic @ Greenbriar Athletic Club	Indianapolis, IN	317-257-3261
Hall of Fame Tournament @ Central Courts	Columbia Heights, MN	612-572-0330
Metroplex Championships @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
ORA Intercollegiate Doubles @ Baldwin Wallace College	Berea, OH	440-826-2286
The Head Titanium Tour @ Midtown Health & Fitness	Westerville, OH	614-890-6073
Winter Classic @ Southridge Athletic Club	Greenfield, WI	414-421-5770
Winter Warmup @ Club at Woodbridge	Woodbridge, NJ	973-742-8806
3rd Annual Racquetball Open @ St. John Fisher College	Rochester, NY	716-377-5696
6th Annual Ponca City Tourney @ Ponca City YMCA	Ponca City, OK	580-762-3943
Smash & Splash @ Green River Rec Center	Green River, WY	307-872-0511
Orem Open @ Orem Fitness Center	Orem, UT	801-229-7154
Amarillo Racquetball Champs @ Gold's Gym	Amarillo, TX	806-359-5438
Alliance YMCA RB Rollout @ Alliance YMCA	Alliance, NE	308-762-2201
Club Shelard Pro Am @ Club Shelard	St. Louis Park, MN	612-541-0000
Fitness Classic @ Fitness Inc.	Pocatello, ID	208-233-8035
Hampton Inn Open @ Continental Athletic Club	Powell, OH	740-548-4955
Meals On Wheels Benefit @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376
Super Bowl Tournament @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
Sycamore Open @ Indiana State University	Terre Haute, IN	812-235-3701
US Women's Senior Masters @ Lattoff YMCA [5]	Des Plaines, IL	847-825-5564
10th Annual Bell Socialization @ Yorktown Racquet	York, PA	717-848-5767
3rd Annual Siloam Springs @ Walton Lifetime	Siloam Springs, AR	501-524-7247

february ...

February 3-7

Alaska State High School @ Alaska Club East [3]	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
Kachina Invitational @ The Fitness Center	Gallup, NM	505-722-7271
Columbus YMCA Open @ Columbus YMCA	Columbus, NE	402-454-2765
February Fever @ Concord Sports Club	St. Louis, MO	314-842-6363
HCI Open @ Campbell County Park & Rec	Gillette, WY	307-682-7406
Icicle Open @ Allentown Racquet Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
Players RB Tournament @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
6th Annual Rochester Pro Am @ Rochester A.C.	Rochester, MN	507-282-6000
St. Valentine's Day Massacre @ YMCA	Idaho Falls, ID	208-523-0600
Terry Bidlack Memorial @ Lake Front Racquet	Celina, OH	419-586-6688
Valentine Open @ Newtown Health & Fitness	Newtown, CT	203-248-1869
W.N.Y. Open @ Bally Total Fitness	Buffalo, NY	716-639-0621
Zub Zero Pro Am @ Itasca County YMCA	Grand Rapids, MN	218-327-2224
21st Indy Open @ Noblesville Athletic Club	Noblesville, IN	317-227-7555
Total Sports Annual @ Total Sports	Harrison TWP, MI	810-463-2000
St. Valentine's Massacre @ Redwood MultiPurpose	W. Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
Valentine Doubles @ Alaska Club Midtown	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
Alpha Valentine Double Trouble @ Alpha Club	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
Decathlon Pro Am @ Decathlon Athletic Club	Bloomington, MN	612-854-7171
St. Valentine's Tourney @ Bay Area A.C.	Coos Bay, OR	541-888-5507
Sweetheart Doubles @ Sawmill Athletic Club	OH	614-889-7698
Valentine's @ Racquetball International	Windham, ME	207-892-3231

February 6-7

February 9-13

February 10-14

February 12-14

calendar...calendar...

February 13-14	Valentine's Day Massacre @ Sports Courts.	Lincoln, NE	402-475-5686
	C.N.Y. Doubles @ Gold's Gym [3]	Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376
	LMRA Classic @ Lockheed Martin Rec Assoc	Ft. Worth, TX	817-732-8560
February 17-20	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational [5]	Phoenix, AZ	907-452-6801
February 18-21	Mid-Winter Classic Doubles @ Fairbanks A.C.	Fairbanks, AK	314-539-4428
February 19-21	Missouri State Singles @ Missouri A.C. [3]	St. Louis, MO	907-452-6801
	All Sport Open @ Rawlins Rec Center.	Rawlins, WY	307-328-4573
	Ektelon Players Appreciation @ Results Fitness.	Stow, OH	440-291-5550
	Fitness Barn Open @ The Fitness Barn.	Valparaiso, IN	219-762-3191
	Junior Regional & State Warm-Up @ Northwest Fitness	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
	President's Day Open @ Wisconsin A.C.	Waukesha, WI	414-544-4111
	Pro Kennex Super 6 Stop #5 @ Southview A.C.	W. St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	The Head Titanium Tour @ Heights Health	Westerville, OH	614-890-6073
	Ugly Dog Open @ McDermott's Athletic Club.	West Chester, PA	610-436-6200
	5th Annual Winter Classic @ American Family Fitness.	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400
February 23-27	Spring Smash @ Marv Jensen Fitness Center.	South Jordan, UT	801-253-4404
February 25-28	Midtown Open @ Midtown Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
	TBA @ City Square Sports Club	Phoenix, AZ	716-586-7777
February 26-28	12th Annual Just For Fun @ Penfield Racquet	Rochester, NY	651-426-1308
	End of Winter @ White Bear Swim & Racquet	White Bear Lake, MN	308-381-2516
	Grand Island YMCA Open @ Grand Island YMCA	Grand Island, NE	360-352-3400
	Oregon-Washington Challenge @ Valley A.C.	Tumwater, WA	816-356-6651
	Titanium Winter Tournament @ Bally's	Kansas City, MO	817-761-1000
February 27-28	Tornado Alley @ Wichita Falls YMCA	Wichita Falls, TX	810-774-6900
	Players Annual @ Players Athletic Club	Warren, MI	

March ...

March 4-7	New Mexico Open @ Roswell Spa & Court Club.	Roswell, NM	505-622-7130
March 5-7	Citgo/MDA Benefit Classic @ Thornton Family YMCA	Tulsa, OK	918-495-4965
	Wilson USRA National High School Championships [6]	Portland, OR	719-635-5396
	Ball Buster/Collegiate Qualifier @ Fitness Inc.	Pocatello, ID	208-233-8035
	Omni 41 Open @ Omni 41 Health & Fitness	Schererville, IN	219-865-6969
	Scottsbluff YMCA Open @ Scottsbluff YMCA	Scottsbluff, NE	308-635-2318
	Wilson Doubles @ Central Courts.	Columbia Heights, MN	612-572-0330
	Connecticut State Doubles @ Downtown Health [3]	New Haven, CT	203-248-1869
	Maine State Doubles @ Racquetball Internatl [3]	Windham, ME	207-892-3231
	New Jersey State Singles @ 46 Fitness [3]	Fairfield, NJ	973-742-8806
	Ohio State Singles @ Hall of Fame Fitness Center [3]	Westerville, OH	614-890-6073
	Pennsylvania State Singles @ Penn State Univ. [3]	State College, PA	610-892-6997
	Rhode Island State Singles @ Riverbend A.C. [3]	Peace Dale, RI	401-789-9585
March 6-7	Kill Shot @ Aerofit Health & Fitness	Bryan, TX	409-823-0971
March 9-13	Luck of the Heights @ Cottonwood Heights Rec	Salt Lake City, UT	801-943-9673
March 10-14	Spring Fever Doubles @ East Side A.C.	Milwaukie, OR	503-659-3845
March 11-14	Alaska State Doubles @ Alaska Club East [3]	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
March 12-14	Arizona State Singles @ City Square Sports Club [3]	Phoenix, AZ	970-259-2579
	Durango Invitational @ Durango Sports Club	Durango, CO	317-897-5481
	March Madness Open @ Shelby County A.C.	Shelbyville, IN	614-470-2029
	Radical R-Ball Series @ Heights Health & Racquet	Westerville, OH	817-275-3348
	Texas State Singles @ Maverick Athletic Club [3]	Arlington, TX	307-872-0511
	Wyoming State Juniors @ Green River Rec Center [3]	Green River, WY	248-589-0900
March 13-14	Annual Madison Challenge @ Madison A.C.	Madison Heights, MI	352-332-3334
March 13-15	Gator Spring Classic @ UF Campus	Gainesville, FL	207-324-1154
March 13	Maine State Juniors @ The Fitness Forum [3]	Sanford, ME	907-452-6801
March 18-21	Spring Fling @ Fairbanks Athletic Club	Fairbanks, AK	814-868-0072
March 19-21	Classy 100/Georges Open @ Nautilus Fitness Center	Erie, PA	218-749-8318
	Mathisen Tire Tournament @ Supreme Court.	Virginia, MN	651-450-1660
	Pro Kennex Super Stop #6 @ Southview A.C.	W. St. Paul, MN	704-252-0222
	Spring Classic @ Sports Club of Asheville.	Asheville, NC	440-942-5613
	St. Paddy's Day Open @ Riverview Racquet Club	Stow, OH	505-769-4153
	St. Pat's Festival @ Clovis Community College	Clovis, NM	

continued ...

March 23-27
March 24-28
March 25-28
March 26-28

March 27
March 27-28

april ...

February 3-7
April 2-4

April 7-11

April 9-11

April 10-11

April 14-18
April 16-18

April 23-25

W.N.Y.R.A. Championship @ Bally Total Fitness [3]	Buffalo, NY	716-639-0621
Nebraska State Singles @ Cottonwood Club [3]	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
Wyoming State Doubles @ Club Energize [3]	Gillette, WY	307-686-7627
Utah State Singles @ Sportsmall [3]	Murray, UT	801-261-3426
Singles Tune-Up @ The Alaska Club East	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
New Mexico State Singles @ Tom Young's A.C. [3]	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
Camp Confidence @ All American Club	Brainerd, MN	218-829-6453
Northern Ohio Championships @ Solon A.C.	Stow, OH	440-349-3349
Regional Warm-Up @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376
Sugar Loaf Ford Tournament @ Winona YMCA	Winona, MN	507-454-1520
Tina Luciano Memorial @ Riverbend A.C.	Peace Dale, RI	401-789-9585
Indiana State Singles @ Greenbriar A.C. [3]	Indianapolis, IN	317-889-0892
PRA Women's Only Tournament @ Cocoa Club	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
Michigan State Singles @ Davison A.C. [3]	Davison, MI	810-653-9602

Alaska State High School @ Alaska Club East [3]	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
Maine State Singles @ Central Maine A.C. [3]	Lewiston, ME	207-786-4820
Wyoming State Singles @ YMCA [3]	Casper, WY	307-265-6928
E-Force USRA Intercollegiate National Championships [6]	College Station, TX	719-635-5396
Hampton Inn Columbus Pro-Am @ Continental A.C.	Powell, OH	740-548-4955
The Last Blast @ Sportsforum	Woods Cross, UT	801-298-3231
Alaska State Singles @ The Alaska Club Midtown [3]	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
Spring Swatfest @ Bally's Racquet Club	Kansas City, MO	816-356-6651
Minnesota State Singles [3]	MN	651-351-7349
Wisconsin State Singles @ Southridge A.C. [3]	Greenfield, WI	414-421-5770
Onondaga County Champs @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376
Women's Spring @ Lincoln Racquet Club	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
USRA Regional @ Cascade Athletic Club [4]	Gresham, OR	503-665-4142
Adult Regional @ Northwest Fitness Center [4]	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
USRA Adult/Jr Regional @ Hall of Fame Fitness [4]	Westerville, OH	614-890-6073
Rick Weaver Buick Open @ Nautilus Fitness Center	Erie, PA	814-868-0072
Wisconsin State Juniors @ Waukesha A.C. [3]	Waukesha, WI	414-544-4111

upcoming national & international events

January 29-31
February 17-20
March 05-07
Mar. 26- Apr. 4
April 7-11
April 7-10
April 15-18
May 26-31
June 26-30
June TBA
July 14-17
July 24- Aug.8
Aug.31- Sept.4

Women's Senior/Master Championships @ Lattoff YMCA [5]	Des Plaines, IL	847-696-0796
NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational [5]	Tempe, AZ	734-426-8952
Wilson USRA 12th U.S. National High School Championships [6]	Portland, OR	719-635-5396
PARC Tournament of the Americas & Pan Am Preview	Houston, TX	719-635-5396
E-Force 27th U.S. National Intercollegiates [6]	Texas A&M, College Station, TX	719-635-5396
NMRA U.S. Masters Singles/Doubles [5]	Indianapolis, IN	812-239-3701
Ektelon Regional Qualifiers [4]	Nationwide	719-635-5396
Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, TX	719-635-5396
26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6]	Tempe, AZ	719-635-5396
1st IRF World Doubles Championships	Europe	719-635-5396
NMRA International Masters Invitational [5]	Champaign, IL	217-351-9093
Pan American Games	Winnipeg, Canada	719-635-5396
IRF 11th World Senior Racquetball Championships [5]	Albuquerque, NM	719-635-5396

adult, intercollegiate & junior regional qualifiers ... on page 5

Qualifying Competition is REQUIRED to participate in the 1999 Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles in Houston, Texas and the 1999 Ektelon 26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships! However, women age 45 and over, and men age 55 and over (as of May 26, 1999) are NOT required to pre-qualify for competition at a regional qualifier. You probably still want to, however, since it's the only to accumulate ranking points and earn seeding consideration! AND Junior/Intercollegiate athletes who have already played in a junior or intercollegiate regional to qualify for their associated championship events don't have to re-qualify for national singles at an adult regional championship. See page five for waiver policies.

- Bolded listings are USRA National Championships or International Racquetball Federation Events**

- For remaining sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)

- Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 11/98, you must renew your membership in the month of November in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

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★ FT. LAUDERDALE, FL.

★ ATLANTA, GA.

★ CANTON, OH.

★ EAU CLAIRE, WI.

★ ST. LOUIS, MO.

★ DENVER, CO.

★ HOUSTON, TX.

★ PORTLAND, OR.

April 16-18, 1999

★ CHICAGO, IL.

April 23,24,25, 1999

★ LAS VEGAS, NV.

April 30 - MAY 2, 1999

★ BIRMINGHAM, AL.

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MAY 26 - 31, 1999 HOUSTON, TEXAS

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MEN

Men's Open

1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Dan Llacer, DE
3. Todd O'Neil, TX
4. Jason Thoerner, GA
5. Adam Karp, CA
6. Mike Locker, MN
7. Matt Gehling, MD
8. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
9. Rob Dejesus, AZ
10. Aaron Metcalf, FL

Men's A

1. Dave Bartscher, TX
2. Jason Samora, OR
3. Mitch Williams, NC
4. Erik Leetch, AR
5. Fernando Gambirazio, CA
6. Terry Kisling, MN
- 7T. Joey Delfino, MA
- 7T. Jorge Diaz, NJ
9. Jeff Kneson, VT
10. Al Schof, LA

Men's B

1. Darryl Thompson, TX
2. George Anthon Jr., LA
3. Ryan Rodgers, TX
4. Jeff Gillquist, MN
5. Jon Albright, TN
6. Kent Wagner, SC
7. Eric Zamudio, IN
- 8T. Roberto Forte, FL
- 8T. Horacio Perez, FL
10. Bill Trott, AZ

Men's C

1. Lorne Burry, NC
2. Hector Tenorio, TX
- 3T. Armando Cabrera, NJ
- 3T. Paul Carroll, ID
5. Rob Bultnick, MN
6. Not a Member, NM
7. Larry Weene, MA
8. Pete Kochis, OK
9. Shawn Barrera, TX
10. Lannom Smith, TX

Men's D

1. Mukesh Wadhawan, TX
2. Lance Hudson, SC
3. Roberto Tinajero, TX
4. Garry Carter, CA
5. Doug Sanders, TX
6. Dan Prieto, WA
7. Grant Macuba, IL
8. Brandon McGhee, LA
- 9T. Mike Baker, CA
- 9T. Bill Foster, MN

Men's Novice

- 1T. Brian Covarrubia, NM
- 1T. Sam Doria, OH
- 1T. Audi Gutauskas, IL

- 1T. James McDonald, FL
- 1T. Not a Member, NY
- 1T. J.R. Rule, NM
- 7T. Andrew Kopf, NY
- 7T. Lue Marchese, NM
9. Timmy Parrish, FL
10. David Blackwell, AR

Men's 24+

1. Willie Tilton, CO
2. Mike Dennison, OH
3. Rocky Carson, CA
- 4T. Cristan Guerra, CO
- 4T. Andrew Kane, CO
- 4T. Sammy Menache, CO
- 4T. Don Petrella, FL
8. Jack Long, TX
9. Not a Member, WI
10. Erin Brannigan, ID

Men's 25+

1. Mike Locker, MN
2. Brian Pointelin, CO
- 3T. Matthew Anderson, GA
- 3T. Anthony Defusto, NY
- 3T. Matt Fontana, FL
- 3T. Kevin Graham, ND
- 7T. Rob Dejesus, AZ
- 7T. Sameer Hadid, CA
9. Al Schof, LA
10. Not a Member, IL

Men's 30+

1. Dave Watson, OK
2. Brad McCunniff, IA
3. John Davis, LA
4. Donald Sims, TX
- 5T. Hector Capo, FL
- 5T. Scott Hamon, WA
- 7T. John Barrett, PA
- 7T. George Bustos, TX
- 7T. Joe Canuel, FL
- 7T. Dan Llacer, DE

Men's 35+

- 1T. Dave Eagle, OH
- 1T. Dave Watson, OK
3. Mitch Smith, PA
4. Jimmy Lowe, AK
5. Bobby Haab, CT
6. Jim Gillhouse, CO
7. John Scargle, FL
8. Bill Serafin, NJ
9. Jim Lukeman, NH
10. Scott Cullins, FL

Men's 40+

1. Gil Rodriguez, VA
2. Jesus Moctezuma, TX
3. Steve Wattz, CA
- 4T. Terry Fluharty, FL
- 4T. Bill Yates, OH
- 6T. Jim Lazar, WI
- 6T. Russ Palazzo, CT
8. Stan Shaw III, MA
9. Mitt Layton, FL
10. Gary Gloegger, GA

Men's 45+

1. Gary Mazaroff, NM
- 2T. Mitt Layton, FL
- 2T. Jim Lazar, WI
4. Rick Sorenson, MO
5. Dominic Palmieri, OH
- 6T. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
- 6T. Russ Palazzo, CT
8. Darryl Warren, CA
9. Howard Walker, TX
10. Ed Garabedian, PA

Men's 50+

1. Greg Hasty, IL
2. Bill Welaj, NJ
3. Rick Fusari, FL
4. Tom McKie, TX
5. Bruce Shafer, NY
6. Ed Remen, NC
7. Dave Warner, MN
8. Dan Davis, TX
9. Bill Young, CA
10. Dennis O'Brien, ID

Men's 55+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Warren Reuther, LA
3. Tom Rearden, IL
4. Luis Guerrero, CA
5. Ron Galbreath, PA
6. Ray Huss, OH
7. Jim Trammell, MO
8. Ron Hutcherson, IN
9. Don Harrington, RI
10. Pete Keiser, OH

Men's 60+

1. Rex Lawler, IN
2. Jerry Holly, CA
3. Lee Graff, OR
4. Jim Wilking, UT
5. Jerry Stoltmann, WI
6. Ron Pudduck, MI
7. Ron Adams, CA
8. Jerry Northwood, AZ
9. David Stiles, TX
10. Art Hotchkiss, RI

Men's 65+

1. Charles Kaiser, MI
2. Don Alt, OH
3. Paul Banales, AZ
4. Otis Chapman, OH
5. John Reid, CA
6. John O'Donnell, IL
- 7T. Skip Kiphart, TX
- 7T. Don Maxey, MO
- 7T. Frank Trask, ME
10. Bill Dunn, TX

Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Richard Davis, TX
3. Windell Hildebrandt, AZ
4. Philip Dziuk, IL
- 5T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 5T. Hank Richard, GA

7. Ken Yahir, IL
8. Mai Roberts, FL
9. Bob Fraser, NV
10. Carl Buschner, MA

Men's 75+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Nick Sans, CA
3. Robert McAdam, TX
4. Bill Matotan, NM
5. Al Romero, NM
- 6T. Hank Richard, GA
- 6T. Lake Westphal, AZ
8. Luzell Wilde, UT
9. Andy Trozzi, MA
10. Michael Bugel, CA

Men's 80+

1. George Spear, FL
2. Charles Russell, CA
- 3T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 3T. Luzell Wilde, UT
5. Andy Trozzi, MA
- 6T. Not a Member, NY
- 6T. Ben Marshall, TX
- 6T. Ben Penchan, TN
- 6T. Harry Steinman, MD
10. George Golson, NV

Men's 85+

1. Harry Steinman, MD

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Robin Levine, CA
2. Kersten Hallander, CA
3. Aimee Roehler, PA
4. Denise Mock, TX
5. Lorraine Galloway, NY
- 6T. Lydia Hammock, CA
- 6T. Kelly Kirk, MN
8. Jackie Paraiso, CA
9. Kim Machiran, MO
10. Janell Marriott, RI

Women's A

1. Mary Crawford, IL
2. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
3. April Settell, CO
4. Sandy Sexton, TX
5. Jennifer Hunter, TN
6. Sherri Feldman, NY
7. Pattie Schof, LA
- 8T. Mary Baca-Markham, NM
- 8T. Leanne Mays, LA
- 8T. Susan Williams, UT

Women's B

1. Janel Tisinger, CA
2. Esther McNany, CA
3. Debbi Misanin, VA
4. Vivian Gomez, FL
5. Adlisha Payne, CA
6. Kelly Strachan, CO
7. Christina Pastore, MA

- 8T. Barbara Allen, NY
- 8T. Sheri Kinnaman, AR
10. Valerie Willis, NC

Women's C

1. Christine Fenton, FL
2. Rhonda Kochis, OK
3. Rosario Bauer, CA
- 4T. B.J. Calloway, GA
- 4T. Christa Davis, TX
6. Melissa Young, TX
7. Sharon Stevens, MA
8. Diana Castillo, TX
9. Candy Arquett, LA
10. Dyan Anderson, VA

Women's D

1. Candy Arquett, LA
2. Kerry Lyn O'Meara, NM
- 3T. Christa Davis, TX
- 3T. Cherie Hale, NC
5. Carla Thompson, CO
6. Kastle Arturo, AK
7. Cristy Aguirre, FL
8. Not a Member, TX
9. Nikki Winfrey, OH
10. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA

Women's Novice

1. Penny Madanick, NM
2. Carrie Peppler, SC
3. Helen Armijo, NM
4. Lisa Barrett, PA
5. Gena Reilly, NM
6. Sabieta Dass, NY
- 7T. Pam Duran, AK
- 7T. Rita Espinoza, NM
- 7T. Janice Heinemann, MO
- 7T. Debbie Pinto, KY

Women's 24-

1. Aimee Roehler, PA
2. Shannon Feaster, DC
- 3T. Jennifer Birchenough, UT
- 3T. Not a Member, UT
- 3T. Liana Kerwood, OR
- 3T. Janette Olsen, UT
- 3T. Not a Member, UT
- 3T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
9. Samantha Gibbs, FL
10. Yesenia Delbusto, FL

Women's 25+

1. Jennifer Dering, NY
2. Jo Shattuck, CO
3. Tina Bragdon, CO
4. Heather Dunn, VT
5. Holly Remen, NC
6. Jen Yokota, MO
7. Stacy Sour, CO
- 8T. Kim Herrold, SC
- 8T. Cara Pellowski, WI
10. Kelley Beane, NH

Women's 30+

1. B.J. Ehrhart, CT
2. Lydia Hammock, CA

ankings...rankings

Rankings are based on results processed by the national office as of November 15, 1998

- Kersten Hallander, CA
- Lori Lepow, FL
- Mindy Hartstein, NY
- Stacy Sour, CO
- Grace Hastings, TX
- Holly Remen, NC
- Michelle Wiragh, VA
- Lorraine Galloway, NY

Women's 35+

- Lorraine Galloway, NY
- Debbie Tisinger, CA
- Denise Mock, TX
- Kim Machiran, MO
- Jodi Paul, PA
- Mary Crawford, IL
- B.J. Ehrhart, CT
- Cheryl McConaghay, NM
- Mary Ragland, LA
- Paula Saad, MI

Women's 40+

- Debbie Tisinger, CA
- Linda Moore, NE
- Jean Trimble, FL
- Chris Evon, IL
- Susan Pfahler, FL
- Sherri Feldman, NY
- Mary Beke, AZ
- Paula Carter, GA
- Liz Molitor, IL
- Laurel Davis, IL

Women's 45+

- Brenda White, IL
- Judy Sands, NJ
- Karen Kattengell, LA
- Janet Myers, NC
- Terry Ann Rogers, CA
- Karen Key, AZ
- Debbie Chaney, IN
- Jere Luttnar, TX
- Karen Weins, FL
- Renee Fish, FL

Women's 50+

- Mary Lou Furaus, NM
- Merjean Kelley, CA
- Donna Ebner, MO
- Pattie Schof, LA
- Gerri Stoffregen, OH
- Nancy Kay Butts, WI
- Sharon Huczak, MI
- Mildred Gwinn, NC
- Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
- Mary Jane Weldin, DE

Women's 55+

- Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
- Nidia Funes, CA
- Rose Stoltmann, WI
- Nancy Kay Butts, WI
- Joy DeSantis, CA
- Mildred Gwinn, NC
- Lavonne Kohlhepp, WI
- Lola Markus, IL

- Marquita Molina, CA
- Catherine Stewart-Roache, NM

Women's 60+

- Annabelle Kovar, NE
- Susan Embry, WA
- Jo Kenyon, FL
- Jane Graham, GA
- Eleanor Higgins, NM
- B.J. Calloway, GA
- Not a Member, MN
- Naomi Eads, MO
- Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- Norma Carlisle, UT

Women's 65+

- Lola Markus, IL
- Reta Harring, WI
- Louise Kiss, NM
- Marilyn Hoagland, MN
- Audrey Thixton, OK

Women's 70+

- Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
- Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- Mary Lou Kackert, NM
- Reta Harring, WI
- Roberta Schoenfeld, NM
- Tillie Davies, AZ

Women's 75+

- Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- Beth Keene, TX
- Christine Stephens, TX
- Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

BOYS

Boy's 6 & Under

- Not a Member, WI
- Brad Falvey, WI
- Not a Member, WI
- Ben Mabson, WI

B6- Multi-Bounce

- Jake Bredenbeck, MN
- Blake Thompson, OR
- Austin Zuck, OR
- Joseph Lee, LA
- Ryan Noble, NC
- Benjamin Long, NM
- Jordan Faith, CO
- Erick Podwill, OR
- Andres Garcia, CA
- Rutger Jackson, CO

Boy's 8 & Under

- Trevor Smith, OR
- Matt Keddie, NH
- Ismail Aldana Jr., CA
- Colin Stock, OR
- Tim Tilton, CO
- John Sanderson, UT
- Matthew Pacinelli, NM
- Sean McGrath, IN

- Jansen Allen, TX
- Chad Laforest, NY

B8- Multi-Bounce

- Erick Podwill, OR
- Matt Keddie, NH
- John Sanderson, UT
- William Lee, LA
- Sean McGrath, IN
- Matthew Machiran, MO
- Tim Tilton, CO
- Colin Stock, OR
- Joseph Lee, LA
- Cameron Pfahler, FL

Boy's 10-

- David Lewis, CO
- Nick Arturo, AK
- Mike Keddie, NH
- Andrew Grissom, CA
- Chris Coy, OK
- Allan Crockett, AL
- Brady Prince, MN
- Jammin Godwin, FL
- Joey Leggett, NY
- Nathaniel Dyer, MA

Boy's 12-

- Dan Sheppick, OR
- Eddie Mazur, CT
- Nicholas Rowley, AZ
- Charlie Pratt, OR
- Ben Craft, IL
- Chris Coy, OK
- David Key, LA
- Tyler Hollingsworth, OR
- Shane Karmelin, GA
- Mike Keddie, NH

Boy's 14-

- Jack Huczak, MI
- Adrian Anulewicz, CT
- Josh Epstein, NY
- Rusty Powell, LA
- Bart Crawford, OR
- Cory Martin, WI
- Trevor Crowe, OR
- Michael Lawrence, AL
- Ryan Lindell, OR
- Clay Burris, FL

Boy's 16-

- Shane Vanderson, OH
- Matthew McElhiney, FL
- Joey Delfino, MA
- Scott Foster, CA
- Stephen Lewis, WA
- Danny Beaudry, CO
- Mike Harmon, FL
- Scott Fisher, NY
- Nick Giunta, OR
- Tim Wilson, CT

Boy's 18-

- Rocky Carson, CA
- Josh Tucker, MO
- Ryan Staten, KS

- Jeffrey Garner, AL
- Stephen Mykalcio, NY
- Willie Tilton, CO
- James Ford, WY
- James Marchetti, AK
- Joe Marchetti, AK
- Kyle Harris, MA

GIRLS

G6- Multi-Bounce

- Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
- Amy Willhite, OR
- Becca Machiran, MO
- Tia Smith, OR
- Kaitlyn Pacinelli, NM
- Stephanie Rojas, OR
- Brittany Legget, OR
- Amber Hanson, OR
- Sondra Payne, NM
- Kara Mazur, CT

Girl's 8 & Under

- Shannon Inglesby, OR
- Brittany Legget, OR
- Jennifer Fenton, NE
- Sharon Jackson, IN
- Shanae Taylor, IN
- Sarah Parrish, FL
- Danielle Spolowicz, WI
- Laura Van Der Veer, OR
- Danielle Key, AZ
- Dannielle Pimental, OR

G8- Multi-Bounce

- Sharon Jackson, IN
- Laura Van Der Veer, OR
- Shanae Taylor, IN
- Carol Payne, NM
- Nikki Robinson, OR
- Heather Collins, TN
- Emily Melgaard, ID
- Samantha Pimental, OR
- Sarah Parrish, FL
- Courtney Hill, NM

Girl's 10-

- Ashley Willhite, OR
- Kara Mazur, CT
- Rebeka Kopf, NY
- Dannielle Pimental, OR
- Sarah Moyle, OR
- Jenny Epstein, NY

Event Level & Description

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8
1 = Closed State Tournament	30	20	15	10	5
2 = Open Tournament	50	30	20	15	10
3 = State Championship	150	100	75	50	25
4 = Regional Championship	250	150	100	75	50
5 = National Invitational	300	200	150	100	75
6 = National Championship	600	400	300	200	100*

*In draws of 48 or more at a national championship, the 9-16th place finishers receive \$50 points.

MORE RANKINGS
NEXT PAGE!

**In the new year
we'll publish the
Age + Skill
Rankings roughly
twice a year
[following each
major, point-
earning event].**

**And since this is a
"new" list, we've
established a
grace period for
players whose
memberships
have expired. In
the next go-
round, expect
"not a member,"
notations
wherever
appropriate! You
know who you
are ... join up
before the next
list goes to press!**

**You can earn big
points in these
divisions at
National Singles
in May [Level 6]
and at the
Promus U.S. OPEN
in November
[Level 5].**

MEN'S AGE + SKILL

Men's 24- A/B

1. Reed Bastian, CA
2. Ryan Rodgers, TX
- 3T. Nantille Boards, TN
- 3T. Jason Samora, OR
5. Cory Martin, WI
6. Keith Taylor, NC
- 7T. Kevin Barr, TX
- 7T. Travis Noe, WI
- 7T. Ron Sutek, TX
- 7T. Christ Wachtel, OH
- 11T. John DeHaan, ND
- 11T. Marcus Hughes, GA
- 11T. Brad Jantz, WI
- 11T. Che Lopez, GA

Men's 24- C/D

1. Jeremiah Jones, TX
2. Roberto Tinajero, TX
- 3T. Rex Fisher, OH
- 3T. Stan Shaw IV, MA
- 5T. Amarinder Singh Bedi, TX
- 5T. Kris Robinson, KY
7. Nick Arturo, AK
8. Jason Hicks, KY
- 9T. Nicholas Cline, MI
- 9T. Andrew Coon, KY

Men's 25+ A/B

1. Jack White, MI
2. Al Schof, LA
- 3T. Rob Hartmann, NM
- 3T. Tony Rosales, AK
- 5T. George Anthon Jr., LA
- 5T. Sandy Stephens, VA
7. Rob Cook, VA
- 8T. Bill DiGregorio, PA
- 8T. Raymond Flowers, LA
- 8T. Jodie Hittle, ME
- 8T. Eric Jubin, TX
- 8T. Dino Tashie, TN
- 13T. Mark Farias, FL
- 13T. J.W. Peebles, MD
- 13T. Tommy Pugh, NC
- 13T. Brian Shwer, TN

Men's 25+ C/D

1. Andrew Silva, FL
2. Doug Hale, NC
- 3T. Hector Tenorio, TX
- 3T. Richard Wells, IL
5. Twayne Howard, MI
6. Rick Parker, OK
- 7T. Kenny Arnett, MS
- 7T. Cruz Jimenez III, TX
- 7T. Shawn Piel, TX
- 7T. Michael Wang, TX
- 11T. Jason Carroll, MI

11T. Lance Hudson, SC

- 11T. Rob Renner, TN
- 11T. Chris Van Zoest, MA

Men's 35+ A/B

1. Jack White, MI
2. Ruben Desimone, TX
- 3T. Lance Hodgkinson, OH
- 3T. Don Sanderson, UT
- 5T. Ron Fowler, GA
- 5T. Tom Griffith, IL
7. Charles Lee, LA
- 8T. Mark Bianchi, OK
- 8T. Dan Griffin, SC
- 8T. Lee Larson, OK
- 8T. Mark Lobo, TX
- 8T. Gene Perryman, TN
- 13T. Terry Davis, TN
- 13T. Kevin Johnson, IL
- 13T. James Justice, SC
- 13T. Guy Payne, TN

Men's 35+ C/D

1. Melvin Todd, TX
2. Jerry Williams, TX
- 3T. Doug Sanders, TX
- 3T. Juan Soto, SC
- 5T. Ron Robison, TX
- 5T. Lynn Stephens, NC
7. Larry Hicks, KY
- 8T. Ray Engheben, GA
- 8T. Ralph Rocha, TX
- 8T. Samuel Wansack, MD
- 8T. Anthony Zeringue, LA
- 12T. Bert Anderson, MS
- 12T. Joe DeRoche, NY
- 12T. Matt Lile, AR
- 12T. Oscar Vargas, TX

Men's 45+ A/B

1. Steve Newport, TX
2. John Shadid, OK
- 3T. Walter McDade, TN
- 3T. Terry Wells, TX
5. Bob Otovic, MA
6. Richard Aitken, TN
7. William Cannon, AL
- 8T. John Africano, TX
- 8T. Mike Bell, FL
- 8T. Tom Blakeslee, MD
- 8T. Ken Hooley, FL
- 12T. Richard Booker, NJ
- 12T. Gerald Potts, GA

Men's 45+ C/D

1. Tom Sikorski, TX
2. Robert Jacobs, MS
3. Dennis Fischer, NY
4. Jack Morgenroth, OH
5. Frank Malowski, NY

6. Jerry Williams, TX

7. Tom Curran, VA
- 8T. Ottis Campbell, TX
- 8T. Garry Carter, CA
- 8T. Jim Clyburn, TX
- 8T. Allen Kenney, OK
- 12T. Ray Firlie, MD
- 12T. Bob Metz, TN
- 12T. Warren Reynolds, MO

Men's 55+ A/B

1. Luke St. Onge, CO
2. Tom Fehsel, IL
- 3T. Ken Foster, TX
- 3T. Graig Shaak, FL
- 5T. Terry Dees, CO
- 5T. Wayne Toyne, VA
7. Ralph Temple, GA
- 8T. Larry Daub, CO
- 8T. Don Davis, IL
- 8T. Kyle Smith, TX
- 8T. Paul Wehmeyer, NJ
- 12T. Bob Coe, TX
- 12T. Dick Rodgers, TX
- 12T. Michael Weins, FL

Men's 55+ C/D

1. Ralph Temple, GA
2. John Ramsay, TX
3. James Denman, OH
- 4T. Bill Dunn, TX
- 4T. Leo Kouremetis, AK
6. Don Lindquist, FL
- 7T. Charles Curtis, TX
- 7T. Kenneth Davis, TN
- 7T. Pete Natal Jr., TX
- 7T. Bill Reese, TX
- 7T. Robert Smith, FL
- 12T. Bob Fennel, TX
- 12T. Don Lawrence, TN
- 12T. Mal Roberts, FL

**WOMEN'S AGE +
SKILL**

Women's 24- A/B

1. Janel Tisinger, CA
2. Kristi Hale, NC
- 3T. Kelley Fisher, OH
- 3T. Kristen Sutek, TX
- 5T. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 5T. Nathania Stewart, GA
7. Danielle Jameson, TN
8. Sarah Wells, TX

Women's 25+ A/B

1. Leanne Mays, LA
- 2T. Vivian Gomez, FL

2T. Esther McNany, CA

- 4T. Isabel Delgado, FL
- 4T. Jill Nelson, IL
6. Gina Fulner, TX
7. Melissa Zantop, CO
- 8T. Jeanette Coury, TX
- 8T. Jennifer Hunter, TN
- 8T. Lia Sullins, TX
- 8T. Valerie Willis, NC
12. Kelly Strachan, CO

Women's 25+ C/D

1. Rhonda Kochis, OK
2. Candy Arquett, LA
3. Cherie Hale, NC
- 4T. Camille Hatcher, SC
- 4T. Maike Marsh, TX
6. Judy Justice, SC
7. Ashley Darmer, VA
- 8T. JoJo Lindquist, FL
- 8T. Ramona Vonondarza, FL

Women's 35+ A/B

- 1T. Mary Crawford, IL
- 1T. Erin Kelly, WA
3. Anne Fangmeier, TX

- 4T. Beverly Austin, CA
- 4T. Donna Cooper, TX
6. Corinne Karnbach, FL
- 7T. Susan Cantalupi-Reichel, NY
- 7T. Connie Honeycutt, NC
- 7T. Sheri Kinnaman, AR
- 7T. Laurie Riley, PA
- 7T. Sandy Sexton, TX
- 12T. Kathleen Appleton, PA
- 12T. Rebecca Bailey, PA
- 12T. Kassi Herr, FL
- 12T. Marsha Kazarosian, MA

Women's 35+ C/D

1. Mary Jo Hodgkinson, OH
2. Judy Jones-Woods, TX

Women's 45+ A/B

1. Karen Kattengell, LA
2. Sharon Barrett, TX
- 3T. Sharon Huczek, MI
- 3T. Veronica Yorski, MD
- 5T. Sharon Brockbank, ID
- 5T. Pattie Schof, LA
- 5T. Karen Weins, FL
8. Lynne Weisbart, IL
- 9T. Joy DeSantis, CA
- 9T. Betty Gebert, SC

Women's 55+ A/B

1. Nidia Funes, CA
2. Louise Graham, WI
3. Gail Schaefer, MD
4. Lavonne Kohlhepp, WI

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

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DS-USA \$39.00

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CNS-USA \$60.00

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