

# RACQUETBALL

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U.S. Racquetball Association  
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## INSIDE:

- *world championships*
- *junior olympics*
- *outdoor championships*



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008 • VOLUME 19 • ISSUE 5

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## VISION STATEMENT

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

### Objectives:

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

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RHONDA'S TRIUMPH



WORLD OUTDOOR RACQUETBALL



MOTOROLA IRT NATIONALS



## USA Racquetball Staff

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By James Hiser, Ph.D.  
USAR Executive Director

# REVITALIZING RELATIONSHIPS

## Fitness Chains: Racquetball's Future?

In my last column I stressed the importance of revitalizing our relationship with the clubs. It is an obvious fact that for the sport to succeed and grow, we need courts. Although there are still a significant number of privately-owned clubs that promote racquetball, it looks more and more that the future may be with colleges and universities, with YMCAs and, most importantly, with the large fitness chains.

At USA Racquetball we work with all of the above entities and attempt to understand their differences with regards to promoting racquetball.

The small independent racquetball/fitness clubs are probably the easiest to understand and work with. They see racquetball as an important part of the total fitness package offered to their members. They want to promote the sport and often hire people to program and assist with racquetball activities. They understand that racquetball players are loyal and valued members.

YMCAs, for the most part, include racquetball as one of a number of fitness programs within the facility. Although a majority of YMCAs make racquetball available, few engage in programming.

Colleges and universities vary widely on how they approach racquetball. Some still teach racquetball as part of the physical education curriculum (e.g., University of North Carolina), but most just offer the courts for extracurricular activities. A great many universities invest little, if any, resources into organizing lessons, leagues or tournaments; they use racquetball solely as a recreational benefit for students. But schools that have teams generally

organize like a club, offering leagues and competing at national events.

Large chain fitness facilities may prove to be a lucrative factor for future promotion of racquetball. Chains like LA Fitness normally build four to five courts in each of their locations, while other large chains like Life Time Fitness may have eight or more courts in some markets.

In a recent conversation with one of the large fitness chain administrators, I received some interesting insights into their perceptions of racquetball. In this particular chain, even with its significant racquetball activity, their position is that "racquetball is like our towel service, an amenity we offer to our members as part of a total package." They consider racquetball as a successful program that is basically self-supporting. Perhaps the most interesting revelation was that although their management understands that racquetball players are quite loyal, they also see them as the biggest "complainers" in the club. Because of this, according to this administrator, many staff and management individuals do not enjoy dealing with racquetball and its enthusiasts.

To move forward, we all need to work to change this perception. Racquetball needs to be promoted as an important program within any club, and racquetball players need to be recognized as valued and contributive members. We as players must be aware that if we want the large fitness chains to support programming, we'll build relationships and collaborate with the managers and staff to assist them, within the club's guidelines, in including racquetball as a significant and positive force in every facility.



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# Rhonda's *TRIUMPH*



By Cheryl Kirk,  
USAR Board President



**“My attitude is that nothing really happens to you, it happens for you. It’s all about how you take it and learn from it.”**

**Y**ou know the feeling you get, that emotional, tingly feeling, the goose bumps when something really gets to you, really makes you proud? That's how it was to see our U.S. Team walk down the main street of Kingscourt, County Cavan, Ireland in the procession of countries at the IRF Racquetball World Championships on August 1st. I've been to several Olympic Games, and it's incredibly special. But being there to witness Coach Dave Ellis leading the Best of our Best – Rocky, Rhonda, Jack, Cheryl, Mitch and Jason, Aimee and Jackie – in that parade toward the opening ceremonies was more of a thrill for me than watching the procession of athletes into an Olympic stadium a week later. Warmest congratulations to the U.S. Team for its incredible success – a clean sweep, now the World's Best of the Best!

From their success, another story emerges, one that goes deeper even than the sport itself – a tale of the human spirit and never giving up even under the most challenging of circumstances...

Disbelief, anger, and then huge concern struck as the news rolled in waves through the racquetball world. Rhonda Rajsich, 29-year-old Phoenix native and three-time reigning #1 WPRO champion, had been viciously attacked in the early morning of Sunday, June 1st, near her home on the beach in California. Rhonda herself

describes the assault.

“I was accosted by two guys, they were verbally trying to start something up with me and I wouldn't bite. I thought I had defused the situation and walked past them. They came up from behind and started delivering punches left and right to my face; one of them had brass knuckles. I put my head down and hunched my shoulders up, trying to protect what I had left. After six to eight shots to my face and head, they stopped long enough for me to turn around. They were saying things that are all a blur now, but what I remember is the evil in the one guy's eyes. I

wanted to hit back, then decided that it wasn't in my best interest, so I turned around and started heading in the other direction to get back home. I looked back again when I was twenty yards away, and I saw him sprinting toward me with his fists up to hit me some more, and he was threatening to kill me. I made it to safety and my friends called 911. I never went down and I never passed out, but I felt my jaw, my face, my teeth shift. There was pain in my eye; I felt it closing. The right side of my face had been shattered, including my cheekbone, jaw, and orbital areas, as well as many cracked teeth on both sides of my mouth."

Rhonda spent five days in the hospital, and then she was sent home to wait for the swelling to go down before returning for six hours of reconstructive surgery on June 11th. Her spirit was intact. "It never crossed my mind that I wouldn't be at the WOR Championships or in Ireland. I was most uneasy about the surgery being scheduled for June 11th. I said, 'That's a whole week away, that's another 7-8 days I have to wait for surgery. I have tournaments coming up!'

The surgery involved removing numerous bone fragments and putting in five titanium plates. Thankfully, there is little scarring and practically no visible indication of the extreme damage and extensive repair that took place.

"By the end of June, I was concentrating on eating what I could (mashed potatoes, soup, Jell-o). I came off the three painkilling and anti-inflammatory medications on July 5th because they were keeping me from doing what I needed to do to get ready for Ireland. I preferred to deal with the pain in my face rather than feeling generally uncomfortable. I had a lot of ground to make up. It wasn't impossible and I knew that. Ireland was what I held onto. I had to tell myself to be patient – I wanted it and I wanted it now, and I had to remember that I was getting better every day.

"My regimen was pretty basic – weights and eating." She needed to re-gain at least some of the 25 pounds she'd lost during the ordeal. "Weights, some bike and elliptical, several times a week, two to three times a day. The versatility came with the types of weight training – explosive stuff with weights, lifting for mass on some days, strength and muscular endurance on others."

The issue of Rhonda's capability for competition was the subject of considerable discussion between Coach Dave Ellis and the National USA Team Committee. Would she/could she be ready to do her best for Team USA?

"Word of Rhonda's brutal beating took me completely by surprise and hearing the extent of the injuries to her face made me wonder about her participation in the World Championships," said Coach Ellis. "When I finally did have a chance to talk with Rhonda, I sensed a determination in her voice. To my complete surprise, she revealed to me that she planned to play in the WOR Outdoor Nationals and also in a WPRO satellite tournament two weeks before the World Championships. She had cleared the way for me and for our team doctor to talk with her doctors. I didn't want to eliminate Rhonda

prematurely. I traveled to WOR Nationals in Huntington Beach and observed Rhonda in action there." Rhonda didn't win the WOR title, placing in the semifinals in singles and 2nd place in mixed doubles. Ellis continued, "Talking with her after the tournament, she told me that she would be ready and I could count on her. I'll never forget what she said: 'Dave, it's only my face. It's not my arms or legs. I can still play.'"

Rhonda continued the account. "Of course, I wanted Team USA to do its best, and if I was the weakest link in the chain, I didn't want to go. I was prepared to accept the decision if I wasn't the best choice. But I'd be damned if I wasn't going to do everything in my power to be that best choice. Personally, I felt like as much as everybody believed in me that I would pull through this and come out stronger on the other side, I wasn't sure anyone believed that I could be ready for Ireland."

The rest is in the racquetball history books. Coach Ellis, giving much credit to Kristen Bellows for remaining "on deck" for the Team, decided that Rhonda would indeed compete at Worlds. "It was an incredibly tough decision, but I extrapolated that Rhonda had come so far in three weeks, that with another three weeks, she would be back. As it turned out, everything fell into place."

Rhonda Rajsich won the gold medal at the IRF Worlds, never dropping a game throughout the entire event. "After the championship match point, I fell to my knees. My immediate thought was, 'I'm not even supposed to be here.' I didn't want to leave the court yet, I was walking around it, absorbing everything I possibly could in that moment. The crowd was dead silent...everything erupted when I walked off the court."

How does she sum up the ordeal she's faced? "My attitude is that nothing really happens to you, it happens for you. It's all about how you take it and learn from it. It's been another chapter in my life that I get to take from and move forward.

"It feels so good to believe in yourself and know that it's justified. However painful this experience has been – physically, mentally and emotionally – there have been so many blessings that have come from it. Donations, flowers, correspondence from people I've never met. I'm grateful they were compelled to reach out. This has offered me new opportunities for friendship and it's given me new colleagues to help take our sport to greater heights, where it should be. It's like having a stronger army behind you."

Refusing to take no for an answer. Never giving up. Persistence, tenacity, grit and guts. Determination.

It never occurred to Rhonda to allow negativity a foot in the door as she dealt with the challenge before her. She never thought for one minute that she might not be able to achieve her goal. The analogy is clear – could there be any excuse for not giving this sport everything we have within us to give?

Join me in congratulating Rhonda Rajsich on her personal and professional triumph.

Join me in personally committing to making our sport the very best it can be.



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# NMRA UPDATE

by Bruce Adams,  
NMRA Secretary



CAP HILES AND DICK KINCADE



MR. & MRS. CAP HILES AND DICK KINCADE

The NMRA International Championships was held at the Wisconsin Athletic Club in West Allis and Waukesha, Wisconsin from July 16th -19th. The player registration on Tuesday allowed the 180 players a chance for fellowship, refreshments and some pre-tournament braggadocio before the event started. The Brookfield Suites was fabulous, with comfortable suite rooms, free breakfast and happy hour every day. Our players loved it!

Boy Scout Troop 183 (Brookfield, Wisconsin Academy, 53005) opened the Friday evening banquet by posting the colors. Scouts Joey Stevens, Kai Tikkainen, Jim Fisher, Mark Ninomiya, Luke Enderby and Scout Master Jerry Zimmerman were thanked with souvenirs for their participation in the festivities.

The banquet had the usual video of player matches; video presentation of first-timers and humorous items; Town Hall meeting; and an auction with proceeds in support of junior racquetball. A quick online demonstration of the revamped website [www.NMRA.info](http://www.NMRA.info) was given to those at the banquet. Comments from USA Racquetball came via Vice President Geoff Peters on behalf of new President Cheryl Kirk. Cheryl had signed up for the tournament, but her husband Kit Lawson was hospitalized the week of the event. Later reports confirmed that Kit is well on the mend!

One of the most important banquet items was the induction of the 34th and 35th members into the NMRA International Hall of Fame. Dick Kincade entered on Player Competitor Performance. Harold "Cap" Hiles entered the Hall of Fame in the new category of Outstanding Volunteer Service. Both were honored to be inducted into this very special group of players dating back to the 1970s.

Drawing winners at the banquet were David Nelson, Pete Pruscha, Keiko Kazahiro, Cap Hiles, and Diane Matthews. Reta Harring from Wisconsin celebrated her 80th birthday with a surprise cake and the requisite



THE CAP HILES FAMILY AND GUESTS

singing, presented by the women of the NMRA. In addition to celebrating her birthday, Reta won the Women's 80 Gold!

Thanks to the 18 first-time players who came out for the event. Results can be viewed at <http://r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=3993&fromPage=site>.

A doubles-only tournament is in the planning for the first week of December in Denver, so people should dig their skis out of storage! The entry will be on the website and in the next NMRA newsletter.

The Canoga Park (California) Spectrum Club will be hosting the NMRA National Championships in March. Details regarding registration, hotel accommodations and directions from LAX Airport can be found on the website (Newsroom section) or at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=4089>. Please get your entry in early!

## 2008-09 CPRT SEASON SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The CPRT has confirmed its 2008-09 schedule, beginning with a doubles event at the Big C Athletic Club in Concord, CA. From Concord, the CPRT opens ranking singles play at the US OPEN in Memphis where Ruben Gonzalez will attempt to defend his Grand Slam title.

In January, the CPRT returns to Concord for a singles event before heading to Rochester, NY. Following this trip to the eastern U.S., the CPRT will make its first visit to Hawaii before completing the season with the annual Pro Nationals event in Las Vegas. The CPRT continues to work with additional venues and tournament directors to add to the season schedule – visit [classicproracquetball.com](http://classicproracquetball.com) for updates and the latest CPRT information and results.

Cliff Swain returns for his first full season on the CPRT along with tour veterans Gonzalez, Woody Clouse, Mike Ceresia, Bret Harnett, Mike Ray and Gerry Price. Watch for the emergence of new tour players as the pros of the last generation return to compete as they turn 40 and look for new challenges in their pro racquetball endeavors!

- September 25-28, 2008  
Concord, CA – DOUBLES
- October 22-26, 2008  
US OPEN – Memphis, TN
- January 22-25, 2009  
Concord, CA
- March 6-8, 2009  
Rochester, NY
- April 17-19, 2009  
Kauai, Hawaii
- April 30-May 3, 2009  
Las Vegas, NV –  
PRO NATIONALS



**Big C Doubles Championships**





**WOODY CLOUSE**  
 \*#3 Ranked CPRT Player  
 \*Director of the CPRU (Classic Pro Racquetball University)  
 \*Top 20 IRT Ranking  
 \*3 Time World Seniors Champion



**RUBEN GONZALEZ**  
 \*#2 Ranked CPRT Player  
 \*2008 CPRT U.S. Open Champion  
 \*2008 CPRT Pro Nationals Champion  
 \*Racquetball Hall of Famer



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 \*Local Racquetball Legend & All Around Superstar



**CLIFF SWAIN**  
 \*#1 Ranked CPRT Player  
 \*6 Time IRT #1 Ranking  
 \*7 Time IRT Pro Nationals Champion  
 \*2 Time U.S. Open Champion  
 \*Racquetball Hall of Famer

**September 25-28, 2008**



[www.classicproracquetball.com](http://www.classicproracquetball.com)  
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*This is a Doubles Only Event!  
 Amateur Play for Men & Women Will Be Played in Conjunction With The CPRT.  
 Amateur Play Will Begin On Thursday If Necessary*

*Seating For The Classic Pro Division Will Be FREE of Charge!  
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# FAYETTEVILLE HOSTS WPRO SEASON OPENER FOR 3RD STRAIGHT YEAR

The WPRO kicked off its season at the 20th Annual Outback Steakhouse Blast It! Racquetball Championship, September 11th-14th at The Sports Center in Fayetteville, NC. This Tier One event is made possible by Lynn Stephens and Mike "Bush Hog" Bourgeois of TMT Events.

The Outback Steakhouse Blast It! again benefited the American Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF). The fundraising activities throughout the weekend raised money to support the WPRO-ABCF Racquetball for Life Campaign, which provides financial aid to uninsured breast cancer patients throughout the U.S.



## WPRO HEADS BACK TO MEXICO!



By popular demand, the WPRO returned to Mexico for a full ranking event, September 25th-28th. The Mexico Open in Tijuana is the second stop on the WPRO schedule this season. Thanks to Francisco Martin, Sinuhe Huidobro and Rosy Torres, we were able to bring a major championship back to the home country of several of our top pros, including #6 Paola Longoria (San Luis Potosi), #18 Samantha Salas (Leon Guanajuato), and Susy Acosta (Chihuahua).

For more information and results, visit the WPRO web site at <http://www.wpro-tour.com>.

## 2008-2009 WPRO/RACQUETBALL FOR LIFE TOUR EVENT SCHEDULE

September 12-14 – Fayetteville, NC / Outback Steakhouse Blast It! (T1)  
 September 26-28 – Tijuana, MEX / Mexico Open (T1)  
 October 3-5 – Laurel, MD / Mid-Atlantic Tournament of Champions (Satellite)  
 October 10-12 – Edmonton, Alberta, CAN / Canadian Racquetball Classic West (T1)  
 October 22-26 – Memphis, TN / US OPEN (Grand Slam)  
 November 7-9 – Syosset, NY / Long Island Open (Satellite)  
 November 21-23 – Woodbridge, NJ / New Jersey Open (Satellite)  
 December 12-14 – Arlington, VA / Christmas Classic (T1)

### 2009

January 16-18 – Charleston, SC / Palmetto Challenge (T1)  
 February 6-8 – Cincinnati, OH / Wilson Tour for Hope Championship (Satellite)  
 February 27-March 1 – Miami, FL / Great Balls of Fire Pro-Am (T1)  
 March 20-22 – York, PA / Miller Lite Open (T1)  
 March 27-29 – Gaithersburg, MD / Terrapin Shootout (T1)  
 April 1-April 11 – Pan Am Championships  
 April 24-26 – Concord, CA / WPRO Ektelon Championships (T1)  
 May 7-10 – New Orleans, LA / World Championships presented by Ektelon (Grand Slam)

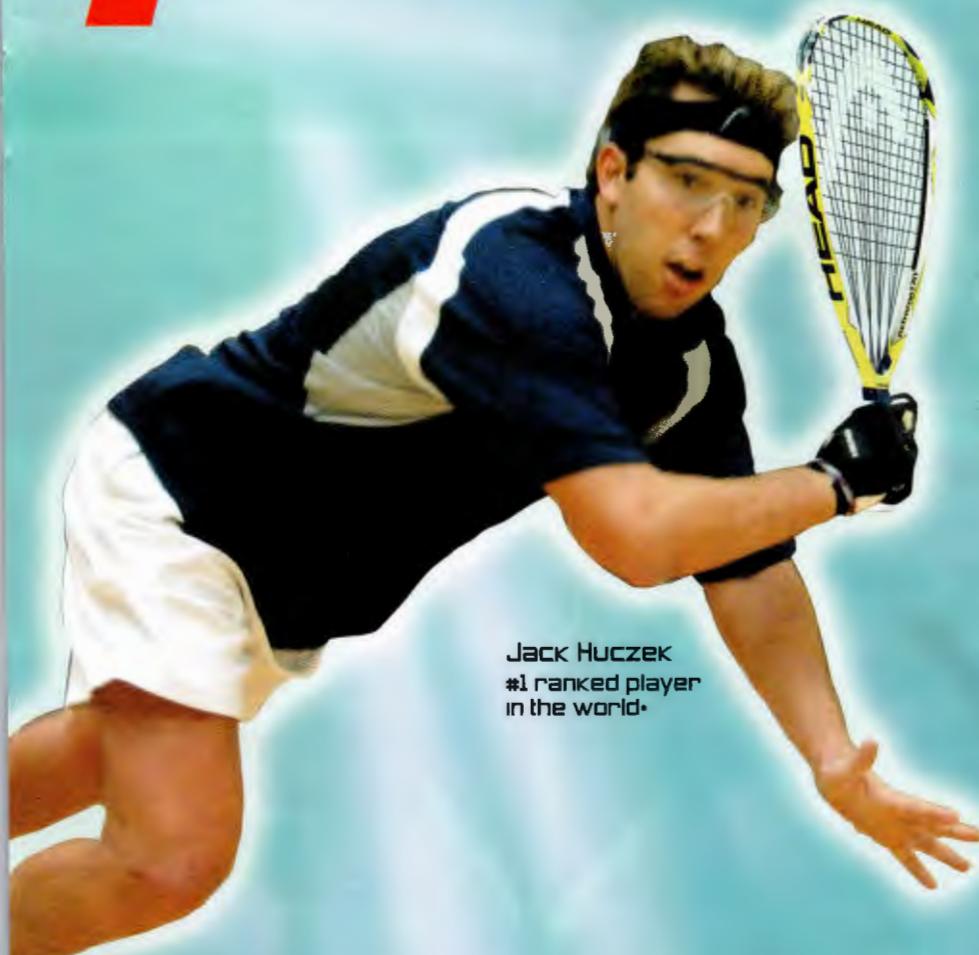
\* WPRO sanctioned events

\*\* Key international event (not sanctioned by the WPRO)

\*\*\*Please check [www.wpro-tour.com](http://www.wpro-tour.com) for updates to the schedule\*\*\*

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# THE 2008 MOTOROLA IRT PRO NATIONALS

*presented by Verizon Wireless*

by Dave Negrete

The 2008 Motorola IRT Pro Nationals presented by Verizon Wireless was held at Schaumburg Tennis Plus and Forest View Racquet Club and was one of the most exciting events of the season! The level of play was impressive and the excitement was unmatched. The debut of the new all-Lucite court, made possible by contributions from the Klimaitis and Taylor families of Chicago, was more than spectacular. The aura created by the court was something special and those who made the trek to Chicago know exactly what that statement means. Also adding to the excitement was the live streaming of the semifinal and final matches on ESPN360.com. The event reached out to over 30 million potential viewers. The players put on a great show for ESPN and the fans as Jason Mannino and Jack Huczak waged a two-hour semifinal battle with Huczak coming out on top. Rocky Carson and Alvaro Beltran went longer in the other semifinal with Rocky ending up the victor to set up the IRT's top two players of the year in the final. Huczak battled in a two-hour marathon to win this prestigious event for the second year in a row and take home the Tour's top prize money payout of the season -- \$10,000! The event will be televised on ESPN Classic, so keep your eyes on the IRT website for dates and times.

A big thank you goes out to all those who helped coordinate and sponsor this event. It is a huge undertaking to run a first class grand slam event of this nature and the volunteers and sponsors make it all possible. All your efforts to help grow the game are now being realized as we move forward with the sport and strive to take it to the next level. Thanks especially to the volunteer event staff lead by the USAR, ISRA, Julie Vincent, Diane Bunker, Liz Molitor, Lynne Weisbart



and Martha Huske. Thanks, also to Keith Minor and Jim Hiser for all your "behind the scenes" support and to Eddie Meredith and the crew for doing a great job erecting, presenting and dismantling the court. Thank you to Dan Aderhold of Motorola for bringing the sport to another level and to Leo and Sue Klimaitis for your overwhelming support of the sport and the IRT.

This great IRT event will move to a new date, May 2009, and debut the court at the famous Navy Pier on Chicago's lakefront. This will be a pro-only event for the first time in recent IRT history and we'll work closely with the city of Chicago, Motorola and Verizon Wireless on the promotion of the event. With the sport of racquetball having status under the United States Olympic Committee, the city of Chicago welcomes any sport that can bring attention to the city as they vie for the 2016 Olympic Games. This will be a spectacular event, so make your plans early to come watch your favorite IRT stars in the great city of Chicago.

# IRT UPDATE

The 2008-09 season schedule is nearing completion. There are a few dates still pending, but most of the schedule is set and ready for IRT action! The tour will visit many of the cities that have been on the schedule for many years plus a few new ones along the way. Be sure to mark your calendar with the new dates for the US Open – October 22nd-26th, four weeks earlier than previous years.

The tour kicked off with the Motorola World Racquetball Championship presented by Verizon Wireless. This was a unique event – the first time the new all-Lucite court was on display outdoors in a public setting. The court was set at the Peak near a Verizon Wireless store on the 16th Street Mall in downtown Denver. This event featured an amateur draw which was held a few blocks away at the famous Denver Athletic Club.

The season will finish in May this year at the Motorola IRT Pro Nationals presented by Verizon Wireless. The event will be held at Chicago's famous Navy Pier and will be a bit different than in years past



– a pro-only event featuring top IRT pros from the U.S. and around the world. This will be a change from the traditional racquetball tournament, but make your plans to come and watch some great racquetball and enjoy a beautiful city and all that it has to offer.

The tour will also be exciting this year with the comeback of former #1 pro Kane Waselenchuk. Kane will be back full force and has already shown that he is ready to play again, winning in South Carolina this summer. Rocky Carson will be defending his #1 ranking and is coming off a remarkable year of racquetball, winning two IRT Grand Slams, the USAR National Singles title, and the WOR Outdoor Nationals plus the gold in the IRF World Championships in Ireland in August. Jack Huczek finished the

season strong, winning the Pro Nationals and was on Rocky's heels all season. Jason Mannino will be back after re-signing with Pro Kennex and is always a threat for #1. Alvaro Beltran, aka the "Tijuana Tornado," played very solid ball last year and will contend for the top spot. Shane Vanderson, Mitch Williams, Chris Crowther and Ben Croft all had a very good season in 2007-08 but will need to raise their games one more notch to reach the top four.

The IRT Tour will be solid from top to bottom and we may see some surprises and new faces emerge. Rumor has it that former #1 Cliff Swain could be playing a few selected IRT events this season...

Keep your eyes on [www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com) for all updates and changes to the schedule.

## ESPN and IRT Sign Deal to Broadcast IRT Events

**ESPN360.com**

**ESPN  
Classic**

ESPN360.com will become the official home for live International Racquetball Tour action this fall. Prior to the Motorola IRT Pro Nationals presented by Verizon Wireless, a deal was signed between ESPN and the IRT to broadcast all semifinal and final matches at all Tier One IRT events in the United States. Also as part of the deal, ESPN will air the Motorola Pro Nationals in Chicago and the

Motorola World Championships in Denver on ESPN Classic on a tape-delayed basis. Air times will be in prime time and re-aired in prime time. More details are coming, so keep your eyes on the IRT website.

ESPN360.com is ESPN's signature broadband sports network, delivering more than 2,500 live global sports events per year. The service offers a mosaic of screens that allows users to follow multiple events simultaneously and expanded controls including live-event pause, rewind and fast forward. ESPN360.com is currently available in nearly 23 million homes nationwide via more than 20 Internet service providers including

Verizon, AT&T, RCN, Insight, Frontier, Cavalier, Charter, Mediacom, Conway, Grande Communications and more. Additionally, it is available to approximately 18 million U.S. college students and U.S.-based military personnel (fans access ESPN360.com from computers connected to an on-campus educational or military network – those with ".edu" or ".mil" domains).

Consumers wanting more information about ESPN360.com, such as which high speed Internet services currently provide it and how they can get it, should go to [www.espn360.com](http://www.espn360.com).

by John Ellis

# CARSON REPEATS

## AT 2008 WOR EKTELON CHAMPIONSHIPS

**T**he eight outdoor courts at the Marina Park in Huntington Beach, CA were the setting for the largest outdoor national championship in the past ten years. Players numbering 220 descended on So Cal, up 100 players from the '07 event! The four-day racquetball party, equipped with two hospitality BBQ stands, a full-fledged DJ booth and plenty of bleacher seating, was by far one of the highlight events of 2008 to date. To top it all off, the WOR Ektelon Championships drew some of racquetball's greatest talents to the outdoor court to mix it up with the regular outdoor population.

Rocky Carson once again dominated the Men's Pro Singles division, having to deal with a very difficult draw along the way to winning his 5th Hawkes Cup. Rocky's challenge got started early with a Round of 16 match up against IRT foe Ben Croft. Rocky handled Ben in two games, using his superior outdoor skills to teach the newbie a thing or two. After a quarterfinal clash with good friend and practice partner, Dawoud Garfeshed, Rocky met up with brewing outdoor rival Cliff Swain for a semifinal battle. The battle never happened as Rocky cruised in two easy games, leaving him with a finals match-up against indoor rival and WOR Champs first-timer Alvaro Beltran. Alvaro proved to be a tough opponent, especially for a first-time player at this event, but Rocky had too much experience and was able to capture a close two-game victory for the title. Congrats to Rocky on his win and for a wonderful season of racquetball, resulting in a #1 ranking in both indoor and outdoor.

Moving on to the Men's Pro Doubles, we saw some major changes this year to the regular teams. For starters, Rocky Carson did not have his regular partner and defending champion, Rob Hoff, and ended up pairing up with local legend and former outdoor great Scott McMasters. Ruben Gonzalez and Alvaro Beltran brought a Latin flair to the division, partnering up for the first time. Also together for the first time was the formidable team of Cliff Swain and Chris Crowther. There were other new teams within the regular So Cal outdoor population that created quite a stir. All in all, the Men's Pro Doubles was a tremendous draw of 34 teams! Some upsets were had as top seeds Craig "Clubber" Lane and Greg Solis went down in the quarterfinals along with that scary team of Swain and Crowther. The semifinals came down to the matchups of Gonzalez/Beltran vs. Carson/McMasters and Booth/Peters vs. Tucker/Nguyen. In the end, we had two new finalists in Gonzalez/Beltran vs. Tucker/Nguyen, with Josh Tucker and Son Nguyen capturing their first Men's Pro Doubles Title on their fourth try together.

Rhonda Rajsich is back! That's right, Rhonda was present throughout the event, beginning with a grand entrance on the back of a sweet little convertible. She looked great considering what she'd been through over the



**CARSON CELEBRATES WITH HIS DAUGHTER AND THE HAWKES CUP AFTER SINGLES WIN. ALSO PICTURED ARE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR JOHN ELLIS & WOR NATIONAL DIRECTOR ALLAN KAZEM**

MARK NAYLOR

past month and a half, constantly smiling and very approachable. Her game was rusty but that really was beside the point for this event. Just having her as part of the tournament play was all we could ask for and as fate had it, Rhonda ended up playing the last match of tournament as well. All in all, she ended up with a quarterfinal performance in the Women's Pro Singles, a semifinal effort in Women's Doubles and a runner-up finish in the Mixed Pro Doubles. Due to her performance at the WOR Champs and her incredible determination and spirit, Rhonda convinced USA Team Head Coach Dave Ellis that she would be ready to participate with the US Team in Ireland at the IRF World Championships in August. Her spot on the team was in debate due to the injuries she sustained in the early June attack. Congrats to Rhonda on her "Speedy" return!

With Rhonda going down in the singles and doubles play that meant a new champion would be crowned in both divisions. When the dust settled, the finals match-ups of Angela Grisar vs. Keely Franks in the Women's Pro Singles and Veronica Sotomayor/Kristen Bellows vs. Angela Grisar/Keely Franks in Women's Pro Doubles were set. The doubles match was a battle that was captured by the first-time pairing of Sotomayor and Bellows. This was the first year playing for Bellows and second year for Sotomayor (Ecuador). Veronica also added the Mixed Pro Doubles title with Jacob Hutzkins. The Women's Pro Singles final matched up partners Grisar and Franks but was not much of a match. Angela used her superior experience to put away Keely in two quick games, adding another title to her tremendous racquetball resume. Keely continues to improve her outdoor game and will be a threat to win this event in years to come.

To round out the highlight divisions, the Classic Pro Racquetball Tour (CPRT) sponsored the Men's 40+ Doubles, providing a nice prize purse for the winners and runners-up. The division was populated with 20 teams in all and believe me, there were plenty of upsets along the way. The biggest upset of the event took place in the CPRT Doubles division as Floridians and outdoor-only players Dave Smith and Ken Grandy brought down the

legendary pairing of Cliff Swain and Ruben Gonzalez in the Round of 16! However, Smith and Grandy's run came to an end in the semis as top seeds Rick Sandello and Jeff Johnson advanced to a finals match-up vs. #3 seeds Kevin Booth and Mike Peters. Even though Booth and Peters were the #3 seeds, they were the favorite in this match and brought this to fruition as they took down the top seeds with ease, winning the CPRT Outdoor Doubles Championship.

In addition to the Pro Divisions, the WOR Ektelon Championships hosted 24 amateur divisions with consolation brackets for each. All WOR Ektelon Championships players were guaranteed at least two matches per division. Here's a list of the finalists for each division.

**Men's Pro Singles:** Rocky Carson d. Alvaro Beltran  
**Men's Open Singles:** Ben Croft d. Mike Orr  
**Men's Pro Doubles:** Josh Tucker/Son Nguyen d. Alvaro Beltran/Ruben Gonzalez  
**Men's Open Doubles:** Ken Grandy/Dave Smith d. Brian Pineda/Charlie Pratt  
**Women's Pro Singles:** Angela Grisar d. Keely Franks  
**Women's Open Singles:** Aubrey O'Brien d. Christie Singleton  
**Women's Pro Doubles:** Kristen Bellows/Veronica Sotomayor d. Angela Grisar/Keely Franks  
**Women's Open Doubles:** Michelle Earl/Kris Kaskawal d. Jody Nance/Kathy Geels  
**Men's A Singles:** Marcos Rojas d. Vic Leibofsky  
**Consolation Winner:** Jody Davis  
**Men's A Doubles:** Art Pena/Jim Fernandez d. Georges Barrera/Sam Barrera  
**Consolation Winner:** Marcos Rojas/Jose Serrano  
**Women's A Singles (RR):** 1st - Devon Pimentelli, 2nd - Sarah Warhaftig  
**Women's A Doubles (RR):** 1st - Debra Garrett-Woods/Sonya Green, 2nd - Devon Pimentelli/Teresa Diaz  
**Men's B Singles:** Justin Ivers d. Mario Estevez  
**Consolation Winner:** Dave Rocchi  
**Men's B Doubles:** Sam Brust/Geoff Osberg d. Rick "Soda Man" Koll/Victor Salinas  
**Consolation Winners:** Steve Cook/Kyle Kazmierczak  
**Women's B Singles (RR):** 1st - Misty Goldstone, 2nd - Sue Sublaban  
**Men's C Singles (RR):** 1st - David Bogosian, 2nd - James Medina  
**Men's C Doubles (PP):** James Medina/Javier Mendoza d. David Bogosian/Jill Federman

**Men's First Time Player Singles:** Kevin Holmes d. Jeremy White

**Consolation Winner:** Nathaniel Eck

**Men's 40+ Singles:** Ravi Sohoni d. Norm McNutt

**Consolation Winner:** Vince Santilli

**Men's 40+ Doubles:** Kevin Booth/Mike Peters d. Rick Sandello/Jeff Johnson

**Consolation Winners:** Marty Hogan/Gary Martin

**Men's 50+ Singles:** Bill George d. Raul Nieves

**Consolation Winner:** Ty Kelly

**Men's 50+ Doubles (PP):** Dennis Riggs/Mike Alderson d. Marty Hogan/Mike Augustine

**Mixed Pro Doubles:** Veronica Sotomayor/Jacob Hutzkins d. Rhonda Rajsich/Son Nguyen

**Consolation Winners:** Martha & Greg McDonald

**Mixed A Doubles (RR):** 1st - Darrin McNally/Jill Federman, 2nd - Rick Koll/Sarah Houghtailing

**Mixed B Doubles (RR):** 1st - Sonya Green/Sam Barrera, 2nd - Robelyn Cadiz/Stephen Fitzsimmons

**Junior 18 & Under Singles:** Jody Davis d. Justin Ivers

**Consolation Winner:** Daniel Winters

**Junior 12 & Under Singles:** Christopher Kazem d. Dane Kazem

**Consolation Winner:** Keanu Ho

**Junior 12 & Under Doubles (RR):** 1st - Andrew Martin/Devin Herrick, 2nd - Christopher & Dane Kazem

**Junior 10 & Under Singles (RR):** 1st - Brandon Cook, 2nd - Carson Nguyen

Special thanks to all of the tournament staff who helped make this event possible, before and during. Also, this event would not have happened without our event sponsors, thanks for your support, especially Scott Winters and Ektelon Racquetball. Bad Ass BBQ and Jimbo & Gary's Grill were awesome all weekend long; we'll get it all together for next year. Orlando Mayo's DJ skills added a level of professionalism to this event that has not been seen on the outdoor courts in some time-- thanks for your efforts. Same goes to Angela Grisar and Pablo Fajre for providing the online streaming service of RacquetballOnline.TV. Thanks to these two, the whole world had the opportunity to watch outdoor racquetball live. Lastly, I want to thank Ryan and Tish Rodgers for their R2 Sports site. We have now introduced the outdoor racquetball world to the technology of the indoor world and it made things so much easier. I'm sure I'm leaving out a few of you, but please know that everyone's support was very much appreciated. Can't wait until next year as this could be the biggest and best event in racquetball. IT'S OUTDOOR, BABY!

MARK NAYLOR



MARK NAYLOR



# BUILDING YOUR *PERFECT GAME*

By Fran Davis

**Q:**

*I know goals are important in your work and personal life, but how important are goals in racquetball?*

**A:**

I can't stress enough how important it is to have goals for yourself not only in life, but in racquetball too, which is part of your life! Goals give you something to strive for, something to accomplish as well as have an objective. It keeps you focused and grounded, and it gives you a purpose.

Here are some quotes that I thought would set the tone to my article:

*"A dream is a commitment made in your mind; a goal is a commitment made on paper."*

*"A man without a goal is like a man without a heart... For we are goal-setting animals In constant pursuit of our dreams."*

After reading these quotes, let's really delve into goal-setting because it truly is the best tool available to us in self-actualizing our dreams.

**First things first...let's set a few parameters:**

**A) Goals must be:**

- Challenging
- Realistic and attainable (good chance of success)
- Measurable
- Time bound (have a target date)
- Able to be visualized
- Stated specifically, in a positive light

**B) Sport Specific Areas**

- 1) Physical Skills
- 2) Mental Skills
- 3) Physical Conditioning
  - Weights
  - Aerobic/anaerobic
  - Strength/Power
- 4) Nutritional
- 5) Footwork
  - Speed
  - Agility
  - Plyometrics

**C) General Time Frames of Goals**

- 1) 0-3 months – Immediate
- 2) 3-6 months – Short Range
- 3) 6 months-1 year – Short Term
- 4) 1-3 years – Long Range
- 5) 3-5 years – Long Term
- 6) 5+ years – Ultimate

In order for you to reach your Ultimate Goal, focus on having many smaller goals within each one of the Sports Specific Areas and state them using the General Time Frames above. If you want to be a national champion in five years within your age group, you'll want to set (in writing!) immediate goals within the Physical Skills, Mental Skills, Physical Conditioning, Nutritional and Footwork categories, then short range goals for each one of those same areas. Envision (and then record) the short term goals for each one of those same areas – what will you need to do to get there? Then do the same for the long range goals and finally the long term goals.

The progressive attainment of your stated goals in each of these areas will guide your successful journey toward realizing your Ultimate Goal!

You might be thinking, "Wow, that's a lot of work!" Just keep in mind, all successful people, in all walks of life, not just sports...

- a) Know who they are, know what they want, and set goals to get there
- b) Use the process of thinking it, feeling it, believing it and visualizing the end result

Nothing in life comes easy. I was taught early on that you have to work for everything you want...so racquetball is no different. If you want to be the best you can be and rise to your own potential, take these very steps on goal-setting that I've laid out for you. The best of the best like Jason Mannino, Jack Huczak, Rhonda Rajsich and Rocky Carson all have had goals since they were junior players and still have goals to this day. Follow in their footsteps and you too can make things happen.

*Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction on this topic and many other topics. The next best thing is to buy my video if you can't make a camp at this time. Go to [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details on both.*



by Otto Dietrich  
USA Racquetball National  
Rules Commissioner

**T**his issue I am going to discuss several non-playing reasons why some matches take longer than others and why some tournaments seem to run late. The following time factors are presented in no particular order, but all contribute to some extent toward matches taking longer than they should.

Few referees limit the players' on-court warm-ups to the times permitted by Rule A.8. At most, the warm-up should take no longer than ten minutes. If you are not aware of this relatively new rule, then you should review it and start applying it. Most warm-up activity should take place off-court so the next match on each court can begin



second game and the tiebreaker. Again, give the players a "heads-up" about ten seconds before the allotted time expires so they can get back on court and be ready to play.

Yet another important "time

used to dry the court after one or more players dive to get a shot. When this type of delay becomes frequent, give some consideration to requiring the players to change their shirts. This power is fully within

**JUST AS YOU SHOULD MONITOR THE LENGTH OF TIMEOUTS, ALSO KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE TIME BETWEEN GAMES. THE RULES STATE TWO MINUTES BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND GAMES AND FIVE MINUTES BETWEEN THE SECOND GAME AND THE TIEBREAKER.**

shortly after the prior match and a brief on-court warm-up.

Extended timeouts are another problem area. Players get three timeouts in the first two games and two in the tiebreaker, but the troublesome issue with timeouts is not the number, but rather the length of each one – they are limited to 30 seconds each! Just as soon as a timeout is called by either player, I make a point of calling to the players' attention that it is for just 30 seconds. This reminds them of the limit and alerts them to the fact that you are aware of the limit, too, and plan to enforce it. I then give them a "ten seconds remaining" warning so that they can get back on the court and be ready to play at about the 30-second point.

Just as you should monitor the length of timeouts, also keep a watchful eye on the time between games. The rules state two minutes between the first and second games and five minutes between the

matter" is when to call the score. Referring to the rule governing the "start" of the serve (Rule 3.3) you will see that the score (or "second serve") should be called "... as the both server and receiver prepare to return to their respective positions, shortly after the previous rally has ended—even if the players are not ready." Read that again very carefully. The referee should NOT wait until the players get back to their positions nor should the referee delay calling the score while the player bats the ball about the court. Of course, the player can do that if he wants, but it must be done as part of his own ten-second preparation period and not as an extension of the total match time. If I see that the players are being quite diligent about returning to their respective positions, I may wait until they are just about there before I call the score, but only if they are being diligent.

Finally, there are many matches that are delayed while a towel is

the referee's authority, especially if the match is being interrupted by frequent drying of the court.

Last, but certainly not least, once the match is over, get the completed scorecard back to the tournament desk as quickly as you can so the next match can be called. If you want to chat with the players, that's okay, but do it after the desk knows that it can put another match on that court. (To further expedite this process, ask one of the spectators to let the tournament desk know that the match is over and the scorecard is on its way.)

Always "Play by the Rules!" If you don't have a copy, you can find and review them on-line at: <http://www.usaracquetball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=839>. Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Email it to me at [ODietrich@usra.org](mailto:ODietrich@usra.org) and you may find it featured in an upcoming issue of *Racquetball magazine*.

# THE LOB SERVE

In the last two issues, I discussed two of my best low hard serves...my magical "Power Drive Serve" and my magical "Power Drive Z Serve," both coming from the family of "power" serves.

Remember the "power" principle...the harder you hit the ball, the less time your opponent has to react, which gives you an advantage. Also, having two power serves with the same starting motion from the same position creates deception which gives you another advantage. Power coupled with Deception gives you Advantage+!

Now in this issue, I want to turn your attention to the family of "soft" serves...and teach you my magical "Lob Serve." This serve is being used by the pros more and more. I developed my "Lob Serve" for several reasons:

- a- The ball is hit softer, quite a change of pace from the 150+ mph ball hit during the power drive serves
- b- The ball is hit higher and is out of your opponent's hitting zone (more like chest high or higher) so your opponent cannot just turn and burn and go offensive
- c- There is a higher percentage of getting the ball over the short line, which makes it an excellent 1st or 2nd serve

This concept is the same as a pitcher in baseball: "If a pitcher in baseball only throws fast balls right over the middle of the plate, the batter will get used to it and learn how to handle it and handle it well."

If the pitcher now throws a changeup or changes where the ball goes over the plate, the batter will be kept off balance and guessing and not get used to the same pitch over and over again."

In racquetball, the concept of having variety in your serve (as a pitcher has in baseball) is critical to forcing a weak return or no return at all (an ace). The change of pace and/or height can cause this weak return of serve.

Now, let's break down my magical "Lob Serve", so you, too, can effectively use this serve with the same confidence as I do to force a weak return of serve:

## Trick 1: The Ready Position

- Body square to side wall
- One foot on the back line (short line), lined up about shoulder width apart, side by side
- Knees soft and relaxed
- Body erect
- Weight even
- Racquet cocked up and chest high
- Eyes on ball

## Trick 2: The Step and Swing

- It's a one-step motion, straight ahead, unlike the two-step drive serve motion because we do not want to generate power
- A short step with the left foot for righties or the right foot for lefties

- Ball dropped as the step begins off front foot, about chest high
- Front toe slightly opens to the front corner
- Hips and shoulders begin to open
- Racquet starts to come through, begins to move across body...wrist cocked back
- Knees continue to be soft and relaxed
- Weight shifts slightly to front foot (55/45)
- Body erect
- Eyes on ball

## Trick 3: The Contact Point

- Legs remain lined up with one another
- Ball at full extension from the body
- Racquet comes through, chest high, slightly angled up so the ball lofts over the short line and parallel to the floor
- Wrist relatively stiff
- Hips and shoulders open even more, towards corner
- Back foot begins to pivot and slightly bend
- Body erect
- Eyes on ball

## Trick 4: Follow Through

- Legs are completely in line with each other and weight even (50/50)
- Racquet is coming around and should end up facing the back wall
- Hips and shoulders completely open facing the front wall
- Body erect
- Knees relaxed
- Eyes on ball

Well, there you go...you now have the magic of my "Lob Serve." Too often, players get stuck on delivering only power serves because it "feels good, sounds good and looks good." But I encourage you to learn and develop my magical LOB SERVE because sooner or later, as you move up the ranks, you will need this very serve to strategically help you win a match.

Remember, if you play that "power player" or "big bruiser" who likes to hit low and hard, you can turn to the lob serve to defuse his power and keep the ball out of his hitting zone. Believe me, I live by this philosophy myself...and if it works for me at the pro level, I know it can work for you at the amateur level.

Come to one of Fran Davis's camps for live personal instruction. The next best thing is to buy our video if you can't make a camp at this time. Visit [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details on both.



**ONE**



**TWO**



**THREE**



**FOUR**

# PRACTICE-PRACTICE-PRACTICE OR PERFECT PRACTICE!



by Woody Clouse  
[www.ektelon.com](http://www.ektelon.com)

**O**ne of the greatest qualities about racquetball players is their pursuit in trying to improve and the desire to take their game to the "next level." It's an admirable effort and one we can all relate to no matter what our level of play.

The two biggest hindrances I have seen over the years are that people first misinterpret the difference between practicing and "perfectly practicing." And then they combine an unhealthy attitude towards their progress by overanalyzing. This is commonly referred to as "paralysis by analysis." The old adage is so true – it's useless to practice bad habits.

To address the first challenge, we have to understand the definition of "perfect practice." Perfect practice in racquetball is improving the weakest part of your game until it is no longer the biggest point of concern. Too often, people will try to improve on something that they are already good at. Come match time, this still leaves them vulnerable, when their opponent can attack the same area that has been haunting them. When you are focusing on one part of your game, make sure you are very repetitive with your routine. If you are trying to improve your serve, hit the same serve a minimum of 25 times in a row. This will allow your body to fall into a consistent groove, rhythm, tempo, and hopefully a zone. Take the time after each serve to let your body know that you want to reproduce the same motion or to let your body know what little adjustments are needed to make it right. This is vital to your success. Keep in mind that repetition counts!



To address the second challenge – attitude – we have to understand where we go wrong with our approach. It's not every case that we have to take one step back to take two steps forward, but often enough, it is. Our expectations for results are way too immediate! When we don't get the results we want right away, we get frustrated and begin to assume we are doing something incorrectly. This leads to over-thinking and straying away from continued repetitions – paralysis by analysis. I like to compare it to the process we all went through as infants learning to walk. When we took our first step or steps and proceeded to fall, we did not have an ego involved that scolded us for not taking more steps or taking them the right way. We simply pushed ourselves back onto our feet and tried a few more. We may have had moments of frustration but that only inspired us to continue the process, i.e. take more steps. Before we knew it we were walking all over the place, getting into places and situations that presented a whole new set of

challenges. It is this attitude I encourage you to embrace. As you improve and take your game to the next level, you will be faced with a whole new set of challenges that will take time, effort, and yes, patience to get the next desired level.

So far I have been referring to a person going onto the court to drill alone. You can also practice during match play. I recommend that when you're practicing portions of your game that need an opponent, do not allow yourself to get emotionally attached to the result of the game. Shot selection, footwork, and game strategy are all areas that can be improved upon while you're playing lower level opponents or those who have been giving you trouble in the past. The key is to work on one thing at a time while remaining detached from the outcome. This will give you clarity and improvement without injecting frustration into the process.

So keep playing and improving for the love of the game while you continue to improve through "Perfect Practice," one baby step at a time!



# 14TH IRF RACQUETBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

KINGSCOURT, IRELAND • AUGUST 1-10, 2008

By Dave Ellis • Coach, Team USA

**M**an, it's green in Ireland. You see it as you fly in and as you are touring. It looks like one gigantic beautiful golf course. Stereotypes hold true sometimes. The Irish proudly love their potatoes and their beer. Guinness seems to be the lifeblood of the country and everyone here has seen the ad that says, "It's alive inside." Ireland is a landscaper's paradise with houses routinely fronted by beautiful walls and gorgeous gardens. The farm animals appear so healthy and strong. The houses themselves appear to be ready to withstand tornadoes. One thing, however, the Irish drive on the "wrong" side of the road and Team USA learned quickly that when crossing a street, cars would come from unexpected directions. Looking both ways several times became sound practice.

Arriving on the mornings of July 30th and 31st, players quickly settled into the Fairways Hotel in Dundalk, about a 45-minute drive from the town of Kingscourt. Normally the team has an hour and a half practice, which is followed by a meeting where rules and proce-

dures are discussed. Due to a mistake in reading the bus schedule, our meeting was held at the hotel, and then it was on to practice afterwards. At the meeting Aimee Ruiz and Jack Huczak were elected captains, Dr. Greg Melvin was introduced, and Felix Ruiz and Pat Ellis were presented as the unofficial Team Father and Mother. (Actually, Jack was elected captain in a runoff election with Rocky. Before the runoff, Rocky suggested they be co-captains, that team members bring the bad news to Jack and the good news to him. With this campaign speech, Jack was elected in a landslide.)

On Friday, August 1st, practice was scheduled for late in the afternoon. Our plan was to practice and then go to eat together in the town of Kingscourt. We would then be there at the club for the Opening Ceremonies and thus save an extra bus trip to and from the hotel. With opening ceremonies scheduled for 6:00 pm, at 5:30 team members began to think about the short five-minute walk to the club. Upon exiting the restaurant, someone noticed

that the Irish delegation was walking briskly in the opposite direction. After asking the obvious question (why were they going the "wrong way"?), it was learned that all of the teams were to participate in a parade that lasted slightly less than a mile and that the parade staging area was some distance up a hill away from the club! We then hurriedly moved towards the parade formation area and arrived at our spot after the parade began. Enduring the (copious) teasing of the other delegations, we arrived behind our United States sign bearer, Rory, an Irish lad of 17, who quickly and falsely accused us of lingering at the pub for a reason that would have put us in violation of team rules. "I see, now, yuse guys were drinking, now, weren't yu." Rory's wit and good nature led quickly to his adoption as a team member. We reached one point in the parade where a number of girls were cheering for us. Jason Thoerner said to Rory, "Get their phone numbers now, Rory, while you have the chance." Rory replied, "Don't worry, Jason. I already have them



all." (Let the record show that "Rory's" true Irish name is Ruaidhri O'Rourke.)

Team USA was dealt a fabulous hand with both the IRT and WPRO #1 and #2 professional players competing. Coupled with two great doubles teams, our players were all proud to be in Ireland as part of this delegation, representing the USA as one of 25 countries participating. Quickly, the team motto became, "Overconfidence is our worst

enemy," and this saying was frequently repeated throughout the individual and team competitions. Each of the players had a story. Rocky Carson was trying to put the icing on the cake of one of his best seasons ever, having finished first on the IRT, and having won the US Open, the Motorola Grand Slam, and the U.S. National Championship. Jack Huczek was striving to achieve a "four-peat", having won the World Championship in 2002, 2004, and

2006. Rhonda Rajsich was on the comeback trail as a result of the assault and subsequent surgery that took place in June. Cheryl Gudinas Holmes was dedicating her tournament to her father who was recovering from a heart attack. Aimee Ruiz and Jackie Paraiso have not lost since first playing together in the Pan American Championships, Guatemala, in 2006. Jason Thoerner and Mitch Williams had wanted the chance to play together in international competition for some time. "I want to be able to play one with Mitch before I retire," Jason had frequently proclaimed.

The opening rounds of the individual competition went smoothly for Team USA. With few serious challenges to our players, only a few matches before the finals are worthy of mention. Rocky faced #4 professional Alvaro Beltran of Mexico in the semifinals. Passing Alvaro frequently, Rocky's excellent physical condition proved to be the difference as Alvaro clearly tired as the match went on. Jack defeated a determined Vincent Gagnon of Canada who had taken out Polo Gutierrez of Mexico. Rhonda, playing calmly and a bit more conservatively than usual, revenged her Pan American Championships loss to Paola Longoria. In the quarters, Cheryl drew Angela Grisar who is always tough. Cheryl won the match in two straight. In the evening during the same day, she was matched up with deceptive Canadian Jen Saunders, who had trained hard for the event. Cheryl won the first game easily but then just got hammered at the first part of the second. Fighting back, she got to 11 points and thus earned the serve for the tiebreaker. In the tiebreaker, Cheryl fell behind early but gamely fought back. The two women traded points until the score was 9-9. After scoring number 10, Cheryl had a couple of chances at match point before finally getting number 11 to win 11-9.

The all-USA Women's final started off with Rhonda skipping many shots and falling behind 10-4. She found her rhythm and began to put pressure on Cheryl with her numerous gets. Rhonda knotted the score

at 11-11, and then moved ahead to take the first game, 15-13. In the second game, Rhonda continued her dominance, winning by a score of 15-8. Responding to a question as to whether her tough quarterfinal and semifinal matches had taken something out of her, Cheryl responded no and gave Rhonda credit. After scoring match point, all the emotions of the previous two months hit Rhonda as she sunk to her knees in tears. The comeback was complete.

The Men's final was a classic and many of the spectators will remember it as the best match they ever saw. Rocky Carson and Jack Huczek, good friends and good rivals, played three of the hardest-fought games that the World Championships has ever seen. Rocky broke out to lead the first game, only to see Jack fight back and win the game. In the second game, Jack had several championship point opportunities, all of which were denied by Rocky. The tiebreaker was equally close with both players having chances to win the game. Jack hit a passing shot that was inches off the back wall.

Rocky hit an off-balanced backhand that appeared to some to have skipped. Referee Ryan Rodgers and the two linespersons both called the shot good and that was the match. Jack thought the shot had skipped and mentioned it in his post-game remarks. He said, "Okay, everyone, this is fuel for the fire for the next IRT season." Both players were happy that Team USA had won both the gold and the silver medal in the event.

Look for both finals to be archived and available shortly on [www.racquetballonline.tv](http://www.racquetballonline.tv).

In the women's doubles, Jackie and Aimee were just too good, defeating Canada 15-8, 15-6. It would be easy to take these champions for granted as no other doubles team has seriously threatened them. Watching them play is like watching mirror images as they complement each other in their court coverage.

Jason and Mitch faced off against Javier Moreno and Gil Mejia and everyone knew it would be a battle. The crowd enjoyed the many diving gets, unbelievable fast action, and of course Jason Thoerner's incessant

good-natured chatter. Mitch and Jason won the first game, 15-13, lost the second 15-10, and then were just clever enough to take the tiebreaker, 11-7.

The "day off" saw the majority of the tournament participants taking a tour to Dublin for a bit of R&R. On Thursday, the team competition commenced.

First seed Team USA had little trouble in making the finals in both the men and women's categories. The finals of the women's competition turned out to be against Bolivia, who had defeated Japan. Cheryl started the competition against Yazmine Sabja. Winning the first game easily, Cheryl found herself in a bit of trouble the second game. Playing with determination, she evened the score at 11-11. She then served four straight backhand lob z-serves that Yazmine did not handle well and closed out the match, 15-11. Rhonda played #1 seed, Jenny Daza, but the Bolivian was no match for the WPRO #1 player. The Bolivian doubles team asked to play the doubles match and Aimee and Jackie graciously obliged, even though with both singles wins it was not necessary to play.

The men's team was matched up against a tough Mexico team. Jack





IRF WORLD TEAM TROPHY

Huczek got us off on the right foot by solidly defeating fellow IRT pro Polo Gutierrez in two games. Things got interesting with the doubles. The Mexicans made some adjustments, slowing the game down with lob serves and ceiling balls, and suddenly Jason and Mitch's rhythm was gone, with Mexico winning the match in two games, 15-11, 15-3. This loss put the Men's team title up for grabs with Rocky Carson vs. Alvaro Beltran. Rocky, playing solid ball, defeated Alvaro easily in the first game, 15-9. Things once again changed in the second game. Alvaro has a solid lob serve down the right side and referee Pablo Fajre was closely watching the encroachment line. Rocky was called three times for encroachment, and these calls helped produce additional unforced errors. Alvaro took the second game, 15-5. Considering other strategies, Rocky began to return the lob with accurate ceiling balls to the left corner. With Rocky in top physical condition and Alvaro a bit suspect, the longer the rallies went, the more it was to Rocky's advantage. There were many side-outs, but in the end, Rocky prevailed with a score of 11-5. This victory completed the total sweep by Team USA in both the Individual and Team competitions. We proudly listened to the Star Spangled Banner seven times during the awards presentations.

At the closing banquet, team captains Aimee and Jack thanked the Irish organizing committee and complimented them on a job well done. Various gifts were presented as well in appreciation of all the hospitality and hard work by the Irish.

As Coach, I want to once again recognize Aimee, Rhonda, Cheryl, Jackie, Jack, Rocky, Jason, and Mitch who represented USA Racquetball so very well. The German delegation mentioned to me as they were leaving how open



GOLD MEDALIST WOMEN'S DOUBLES • JACKIE PARAISSO-RICE & AIMEE RUIZ

GOLD MEDALIST MEN'S DOUBLES • MITCH WILLIAMS & JASON THOERNER



U.S. WOMEN'S TEAM

and available the USA players had been throughout the tournament. As USA Racquetball members, please mention your gratitude to them for a job well done, both on and off the court. I also want to mention that our new USAR President Cheryl Kirk and her husband Kit Lawson were in attendance. Needless to say, Cheryl's charm also placed USA Racquetball in a positive light. A final word of congratulations is in order for Team Bolivia who finished second in the overall competition. This was the first time that a country other than the



USA, Canada, and Mexico, had finished as high as second place!

In conclusion, I would be remiss not to offer some very well-deserved recognition. SplatShotz generously provided the team uniforms once again...our team not only played great, they looked great as well! Team USA also wishes to extend our gratitude to the many donors for their support leading up to the tournament. Noteworthy are all the people who purchased the beautiful commemorative statues, who donated their referee's fees at our national events and who participated in the silent auction at National Singles in Houston. Dennis Rosenberg deserves specific mention for his generous donation in procuring the poster signed by all of the Hall of Fame members in Houston. Many thanks also to Geoff Peters who provided plane tickets, especially the one for Dr. Greg Melvin, who ministered regularly to five of our players. Last but not least, a big thank you to Mike Lippitt and the San Ramon, California boys for their continued support. Truly, the definition of "Team USA" goes well beyond the coach and players...thanks to all!

## TEAM FINISHES

	Men's Team	Women's Team	Combined Team
1	USA	USA	USA
2	Mexico	Bolivia	Bolivia
3	Canada	Canada	Canada
4	Bolivia	Chile	Mexico
5	Venezuela	Mexico	Venezuela
6	Ecuador	Japan	Japan
7	Costa Rica	Venezuela	Ecuador
8	Japan	South Korea	Chile
9	Ireland	Ecuador	South Korea
10	Netherlands	Germany	Ireland
11	South Korea	Ireland	Costa Rica
12	Germany	Guatemala	Germany
13	Catalonia	Catalonia	Catalonia
14	Argentina	Honduras	Guatemala
15	Chile	Costa Rica	Honduras
16	India	Turkey	Netherlands
17	Dominican		Argentina
18	Republic		India
19	Honduras		Dominican
20	Belgium		Republic
21	Guatemala		Belgium
22	Poland		Poland
23	Taipei		Taipei
24	Brazil		Brazil
			Turkey

# NEW GOM

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THAT SIMPLE”**

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**“TOTALLY SMOOTH.  
ZERO VIBRATION”**

*- “Open” Player, Minneapolis*

**“SOLID FEEL.  
MORE CONFIDENCE  
TO TAKE THE SHOT”**

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INTO ROLLOUTS"**

*- Doubles Champion, Arizona*

**"I CAN SWING EASIER AND STILL HAVE  
BURNING POWER"**

*- Top Ten Pro*

**"DRIVES SERVES - GOT MY OPPONENT LEANING"**

*- "A" Player, Kansas City*

**"MORE WHIP!"**

*- Former National Team Coach*

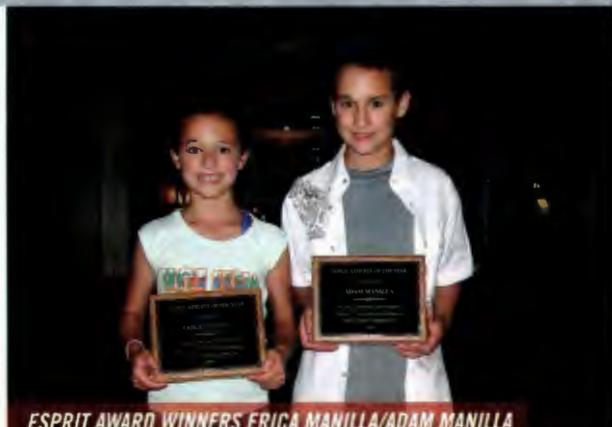
**"BUY IT, BORROW IT, DEMO IT - JUST GET  
YOUR HANDS ON IT!"**

*- Club Pro*



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**YOU WANNA WIN OR WHAT?**

## JUNIOR OLYMPICS



ESPRIT AWARD WINNERS ERICA MANILLA/ADAM MANILLA



JUNIOR TEAM  
AWARD WINNERS:

SPORTSMANSHIP –  
ISMAEL ALDANA

OUTSTANDING FEMALE –  
SHARON JACKSON

OUTSTANDING MALE –  
JOSE ROJAS

# 35TH USAR JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 25-29, 2008

### Matches of the Event

Boys 18 semifinals – Dan Lavelly (OH) came from a 6-1 deficit to defeat John-Craig Chisholm (MA), 11-9. Danny strategically changed the pace of the game, slowing down John's momentum and overcoming the deficit.

In the Boys 16 Singles, after losing to #1 seed Taylor Knoth (OR) 15 -1 in the first game, Joseph Lee (LA) fought back to win the second game (14) and eventually lost in the tiebreaker (10). Joseph exhibited a great deal of maturity and composure in this come-from-behind match.

### Impressive Up-and-Coming Talent

Mauricio Zelda (MD) although he lost to #1 seed Jose Rojas (CA), exhibited all of the talent and skills to be one of the top juniors in the country.

### Boys Most Dominant Appearance

Boys 12 Singles - Adam Manilla (CO) dominated the division with only one player in five matches scoring over 10 points.

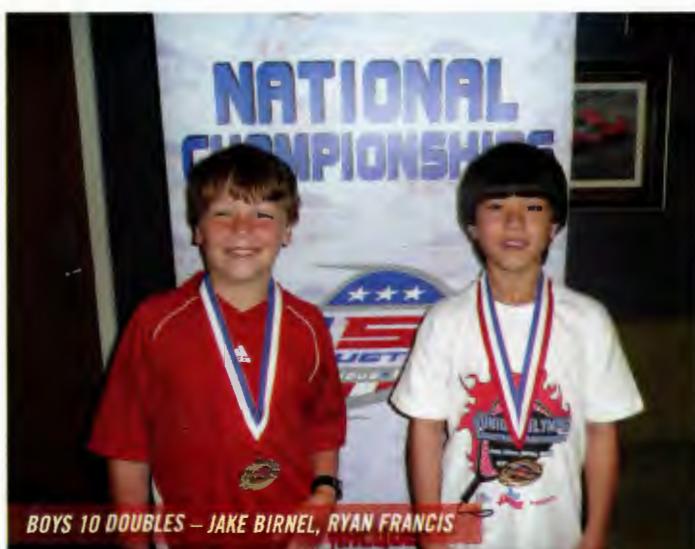
Boys 12 Singles – Marco Rojas hardly broke a sweat in any of his matches. Not only did Marco win all his matches in two straight games, no opponent accumulated over 14 points total.

### Girls Most Dominant Appearance

Girls 10,12,14,16 – all of the champions (Erika Manilla, Devon Pimentelli, Aubrey O'Brien, & Sabrina Viscuso) respectively won their divisions without going to a tiebreaker in each of their matches.

### Special recognition

The Big C Athletic Club is an excellent venue for a large racquetball event. The club has two great exhibition courts with plenty of room for viewing. The management staff, led by Jon Evan, goes out of their way to assist and make the event successful. Special thanks go to John Ellis, Larry Steiner, Dave Ruybaled, and Brian Dixon, who assisted at the club. For this event we also used a second club, the Renaissance Club. Perhaps one of the most elegant clubs in the area, the club and staff again went out of their way to make everyone feel welcome. Many thanks to Margaret Pederson, Amy Tye, Ana Roxas and Jack Hughes.



BOYS 10 DOUBLES – JAKE BIRNEL, RYAN FRANCIS



TEAM COLORADO

**35TH USAR JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Boys Doubles 10 & Under - Round Robin

**1st:** Jake Birnel / Ryan Francis - Bellingham, WA/Litchfield, NH  
**2nd:** Derek Lynn / Justus Benson - Odenton, MD/Sun Prairie, WI  
**3rd:** Connor Cowan / Deryk Wray

Boys Doubles 12 & Under - Single Elimination

**1st:** Bobby Sehrgosha / Sawyer Lloyd - Pleasanton, CA/Petaluma, CA  
**2nd:** Adam Manilla / Sean Cooperrider - Centennial, CO/Palm Harbor, FL  
**3rd:** Spencer Shoemaker / Kyle Ullman

Boys Doubles 12 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination

**1st:** Jesse Mendoza / Logan Nance - Tucson, AZ/Lodi, CA  
**2nd:** Cody McVay / Robert Hemphill - Wesley Chapel, FL/Fosters, AL  
**3rd:** Joshua Lebow / Matt McAdam

Boys Doubles 14 & Under - Single Elimination

**1st:** Marco Rojas / Jose Diaz - Stockton, CA/Stockton, CA  
**2nd:** Rick Charbonneau / Ryan Charbonneau - Oregon City, OR/Oregon City, OR  
**3rd:** Sam Reid / Zachary Wertz

Boys Doubles 14 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination

**1st:** Mark Brower / Matthew Wray - Hudson, OH/Huron, OH  
**2nd:** Sam Zeng / Sammy Newport - Troy, MI/Fayetteville, NY  
**3rd:** Jacob Newberry / Luke Sewall

Boys Doubles 16 & Under - Single Elimination

**1st:** Nick Montalbano / Bradley Kirch - West Islip, NY/Syracuse, NY  
**2nd:** Jake Bredenbeck / Taylor Knoth - Marine On St. Croix, MN/Milwaukee, WI  
**3rd:** Joshua Hungerford / Trevor Snyders

Boys Doubles 16 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination

**1st:** Zachary Brancato / Cody Alsup - Pleasanton, CA/Dixon, CA

**2nd:** Joel Barshaw / Kyle Lebow - Portland, OR/Salem, OR  
**3rd:** Jeremy Niece / O. Rion Ocampo

Boys Doubles 18 & Under - Single Elimination

**1st:** Jansen Allen / Jose Rojas - Rice, TX/Stockton, CA  
**2nd:** Chad McGuffey / Danny Lavelly - Cincinnati, OH/Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
**3rd:** David Horn / Ismael Aldana

Boys Doubles 18 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination

**1st:** Sean Taylor / Tim Ho - Enumclaw, WA/Bellingham, WA  
**2nd:** Jacob Boyle / Lincoln Andres-Beck - Beaverton, OR/Merlin, OR  
**3rd:** Jared Imhausen / Jeremy McGlothlin

Boy's Singles 10 & Under Blue - Olympic Format

**1st:** Derek Lynn - Odenton, MD  
**2nd:** Mauro Rojas - Stockton, CA  
**3rd:** Deryk Wray

Boy's Singles 10 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Jake Birnel - Bellingham, WA  
**2nd:** Jordan Barth - Cold Spring, MN  
**3rd:** Ryan Francis

Boy's Singles 10 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** William Metherd - Centennial, CO  
**2nd:** Nicholas Godwod - Green Bay, WI  
**3rd:** Connor Cowan

Boy's Singles 10 & Under White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Warren Bailey - Norfolk, VA  
**2nd:** Evan Wargo - Clearwater, FL  
**3rd:** Connor Pimentelli

Boy's Singles 12 & Under Blue - Olympic Format

**1st:** Conlon Berry - Columbus, OH  
**2nd:** Robert Hemphill - Fosters, AL  
**3rd:** Zachary Pellowski

Boy's Singles 12 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Adam Manilla - Centennial, CO  
**2nd:** Sawyer Lloyd - Petaluma, CA  
**3rd:** Bobby Sehrgosha

Boy's Singles 12 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** Connor Laffey - Salem, OR  
**2nd:** Logan Nance - Lodi, CA  
**3rd:** Nicholas Godwod

Boy's Singles 12 & Under White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Dmytro Gafarov - Petaluma, CA  
**2nd:** Steven Boyle - Beaverton, OR  
**3rd:** Jorge Contreras

Boy's Singles 14 & Under Blue - Olympic Format

**1st:** Timothy Lerow - Bradenton, FL  
**2nd:** Nicholas Riffel - Loveland, CO  
**3rd:** Trevor Deason

Boy's Singles 14 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Marco Rojas - Stockton, CA  
**2nd:** Jose Diaz - Stockton, CA  
**3rd:** Zachary Wertz

Boy's Singles 14 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** David Lillie - Milwaukie, OR  
**2nd:** Mark Brower - Hudson, OH  
**3rd:** Sammy Newport

Boy's Singles 14 & Under White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Matthew Wray - Huron, OH  
**2nd:** Grant Hoffecker - Franklin, MI  
**3rd:** Daniel Collantes

Boy's Singles 16 & Under Blue - Olympic Format

**1st:** Andrew Price - Saginaw, MI  
**2nd:** Tyler Lanman - Danville, CA  
**3rd:** Jeremy McGlothlin

Boy's Singles 16 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Taylor Knoth - Milwaukee, OR  
**2nd:** Bradley Kirch - Syracuse, NY  
**3rd:** Nick Montalbano

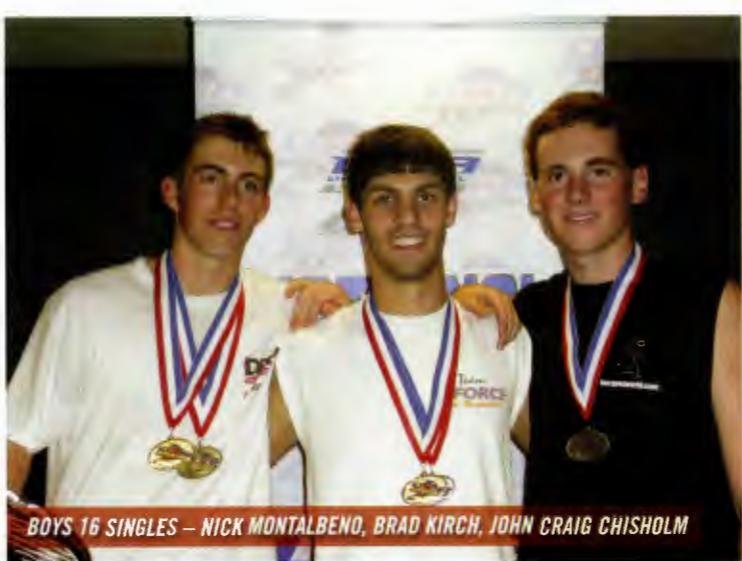
Boy's Singles 16 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** Dylan Reid - Portland, OR  
**2nd:** Brad Falvey - Sussex, WI  
**3rd:** Jacob Boyle

Boy's Singles 16 & Under White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Jeremy Niece - Milwaukee, OR  
**2nd:** Jonathan Ari Cohen-Kurzrock - Bellaire, TX  
**3rd:** Bryan Schopieray

(RESULTS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)





#### Boy's Singles 18 & Under Blue - Olympic Format

**1st:** Shawn Merrill - Burnsville, MN  
**2nd:** Jonathan Doyle - Cincinnati, OH  
**3rd:** Miguel Wiggins

#### Boy's Singles 18 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Jose Rojas - Stockton, CA  
**2nd:** Danny Lavelly - Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
**3rd:** Tyler Otto

#### Boy's Singles 18 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** Vinny Carvallo - Worth, IL  
**2nd:** David Horn - Stockton, CA  
**3rd:** Tim Ho

#### Boy's Singles 18 & Under White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Robert Collins - Kapolei, HI  
**2nd:** Jeffrey Pyne - Tucson, AZ  
**3rd:** Todd Elias, Jr.

#### Boy's Singles 8 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Sean Henry - Georgetown, IN  
**2nd:** Christian Ulliman - Westerville, OH  
**3rd:** David Zeng

#### Boy's Singles 8 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** Cody Bailey - Anchorage, AK  
**2nd:** Jordan Birnel - Bellingham, WA  
**3rd:** Cameron Ghoddoucy

#### Boy's Singles 8 & Under White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Jeremy Rowley - Mesa, AZ

#### Boy's Singles Multibounce 6 and Under - Round Robin

**1st:** Dillon Huang - Fremont, CA  
**2nd:** Antonio Rojas - Stockton, CA  
**3rd:** Jett Guthrie

#### Boy's Singles Multibounce Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** David Zeng - Troy, MI  
**2nd:** Cody Bailey - Anchorage, AK  
**3rd:** Cameron Ghoddoucy

#### Boy's Singles Multibounce Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** Antonio Rojas - Stockton, CA  
**2nd:** Andres Barrera - Pleasanton, CA  
**3rd:** Jordan Birnel

#### Boy's Singles Multibounce White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Nick Birnel - Bellingham, WA

#### Girls Doubles 10 & Under - Round Robin

**1st:** Erika Manilla / Jordan Cooperrider - Centennial, CO/Palm Harbor, FL  
**2nd:** Christina Lavelly / Mary Zeng - Cuyahoga Falls, OH/Troy, MI  
**3rd:** Hollie Scott / Victoria Leon

#### Girls Doubles 12 & Under - Round Robin

**1st:** Hollee Hungerford / Sabrina Viscuso - Milwaukie, OR/Auburn, CA  
**2nd:** Kaitlyn Simmons / Madeline Butler - Crofton, MD/Bellingham, WA  
**3rd:** Krystle Boyle / Lexi York

#### Girls Doubles 14 & Under - Round Robin

**1st:** Courtney Chisholm / Devon Pimentelli - Marlborough, MA/San Bruno, CA  
**2nd:** Elizabeth Simmons / Samantha Simmons - Crofton, MD/Crofton, MD  
**3rd:** Abbey Lavelly / Kelani Bailey

#### Girls Doubles G16D/18D - Round Robin

**1st:** Shannon Inglesby / Sharon Jackson - Portland, OR/Shelbyville, IN  
**2nd:** Aubrey O'Brien / Danielle Key - Auburn, CA/Gilbert, AZ  
**3rd:** Sheryl Lotts / Lily Berry

## TEAM RESULTS

State	Team points
California	838
Oregon	710.5
Ohio	375
Colorado	257.5
Michigan	222.5
Minnesota	173
Maryland	171
New York	161
Florida	154
Washington	124
Wisconsin	102
Arizona	95
Louisiana	93
New Hampshire	84
Illinois	82
Massachusetts	78
Indiana	76
Texas	65.5
Missouri	54
New Mexico	46.5
Virginia	46
North Dakota	36
Alaska	30
Nebraska	28
South Dakota	21
Alabama	18
Montana	11
Nevada	8
Idaho	4
Utah	4
Hawaii	3
Pennsylvania	2

#### Girl's Singles 10 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Erika Manilla - Centennial, CO  
**2nd:** Mary Zeng - Troy, MI  
**3rd:** Lexi York

#### Girl's Singles 10 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** Christina Lavelly - Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
**2nd:** Sierra Reid - Portland, OR  
**3rd:** Hollie Scott

#### Girl's Singles 10 & Under White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Lindie Rowley - Mesa, AZ  
**2nd:** Allie Rowley - Mesa, AZ

#### Girl's Singles 12 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Sabrina Viscuso - Auburn, CA  
**2nd:** Abbey Lavelly - Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
**3rd:** Kaitlyn Simmons

(RESULTS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



CONNER COWAN



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Girl's Singles 12 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** Krystle Boyle - Beaverton, OR  
**2nd:** Rena Ann Cohen-Kurzrock - Bellaire, TX  
**3rd:** Alicia Fladstol

Girl's Singles 12 & Under White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Ashley Boyle - Beaverton, OR  
**2nd:** Madeline Butler - Bellingham, WA

Girl's Singles 14 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Devon Pimentelli - San Bruno, CA  
**2nd:** Courtney Chisholm - Marlborough, MA  
**3rd:** Kelani Bailey

Girl's Singles 14 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** Elizabeth Simmons - Crofton, MD  
**2nd:** Tanya Ulloa - Salem, OR  
**3rd:** Michelle Hernoko

Girl's Singles 14 & Under White - Olympic Format

**1st:** Rena Ann Cohen-Kurzrock - Bellaire, TX  
**2nd:** Krystle Galloway - West Jordan, UT

Girl's Singles 16 & Under Blue - Olympic Format

**1st:** Kaylea Henderson - Clackamas, OR  
**2nd:** Rachel Smith - Grand Junction, CO  
**3rd:** Lily Berry

Girl's Singles 16 & Under Gold - Olympic Format

**1st:** Aubrey O'Brien - Auburn, CA  
**2nd:** Danielle Key - Gilbert, AZ  
**3rd:** Amanda Lindsay

Girl's Singles 16 & Under Red - Olympic Format

**1st:** Tanya Ulloa - Salem, OR  
**2nd:** Krystle Galloway - West Jordan, UT  
**3rd:** Mia Parisi

Girl's Singles 18 & Under Round Robin

**1st:** Sharon Jackson - Shelbyville, IN  
**2nd:** Sheryl Lotts - Bedford, OH  
**3rd:** Teresa Diaz

Girl's Singles G8 - Round Robin

**1st:** Kaitlyn Boyle - Beaverton, OR  
**2nd:** Victoria Leon - Chula Vista, CA  
**3rd:** Loriann Pepe

Girl's Singles G8MB - Round Robin

**1st:** Kaitlyn Boyle - Beaverton, OR  
**2nd:** Victoria Leon - Chula Vista, CA  
**3rd:** Graciana Wargo

Junior Mixed Doubles 10 & Under - Single Elimination

**1st:** Justus Benson / Mary Zeng - Sun Prairie, WI/Troy, MI  
**2nd:** Erika Manilla / William Metherd - Centennial, CO/Centennial, CO  
**3rd:** Derek Lynn / Kaitlyn Boyle

Junior Mixed Doubles 10 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination

**1st:** Jordan Cooperrider / Mauro Rojas - Palm Harbor, FL/Stockton, CA  
**2nd:** Hollee Scott / Ryan Penders - Bellingham, WA/Puyallup, WA  
**3rd:** Evan Wargo / Lexi York

Junior Mixed Doubles 12 & Under - Single Elimination

**1st:** Kaitlyn Simmons / Sawyer Lloyd - Crofton, MD/Petaluma, CA  
**2nd:** Hollee Hungerford / Joshua Lebow - Milwaukie, OR/Salem, OR  
**3rd:** Bobby Sehrgosha / Sabrina Viscuso

Junior Mixed Doubles 12 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination

**1st:** Abbey Lively / Kyle Ulliman - Cuyahoga Falls, OH/Westerville, OH  
**2nd:** Connor Laffey / Krystle Boyle - Salem, OR/Beaverton, OR  
**3rd:** Victoria Fladstol / Zachary Pellowski

Junior Mixed Doubles 14 & Under - Round Robin

**1st:** Kelani Bailey / Nicholas Riffel - Norfolk, VA/Loveland, CO  
**2nd:** Brad Schopieray / Devon Pimentelli - Swartz Creek, MI/San Bruno, CA  
**3rd:** Connor Hueffner / Samantha Simmons

Junior Mixed Doubles 16 & Under - Round Robin

**1st:** Amanda Lindsay / Jeremy McGlothin - Oregon City, OR/Canby, OR  
**2nd:** Jacob Boyle / Kaylea Henderson - Beaverton, OR/Clackamas, OR  
**3rd:** Karin Foster / Kyle Lebow

Junior Mixed Doubles 18 & Under - Single Elimination

**1st:** Sharon Jackson / Taylor Knoth - Shelbyville, IN/Milwaukie, OR  
**2nd:** Jonathan Doyle / Shannon Inglesby - Cincinnati, OH/Portland, OR  
**3rd:** Geoff Goldblatt / Sheryl Lotts

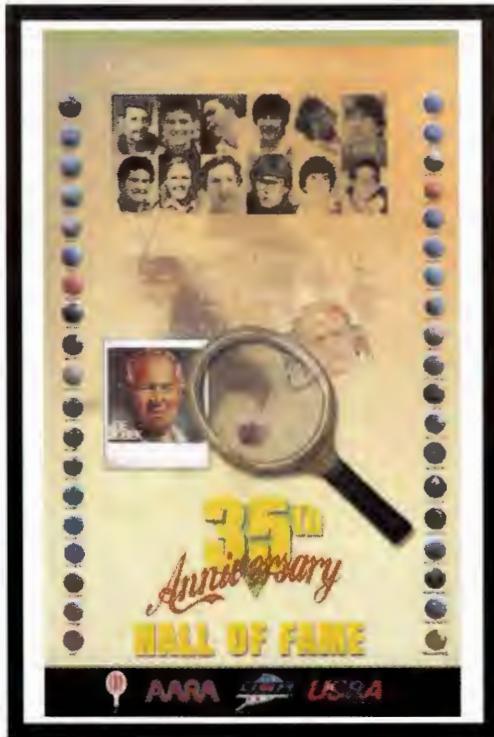
Junior Mixed Doubles 18 & Under Consolation - Single Elimination

**1st:** Brianna Ho / Tim Ho - Bellingham, WA/Bellingham, WA  
**2nd:** Lincoln Andres-Beck / Tanya Ulloa - Merlin, OR/Salem, OR  
**3rd:** Nathan Lott / Shanae Taylor

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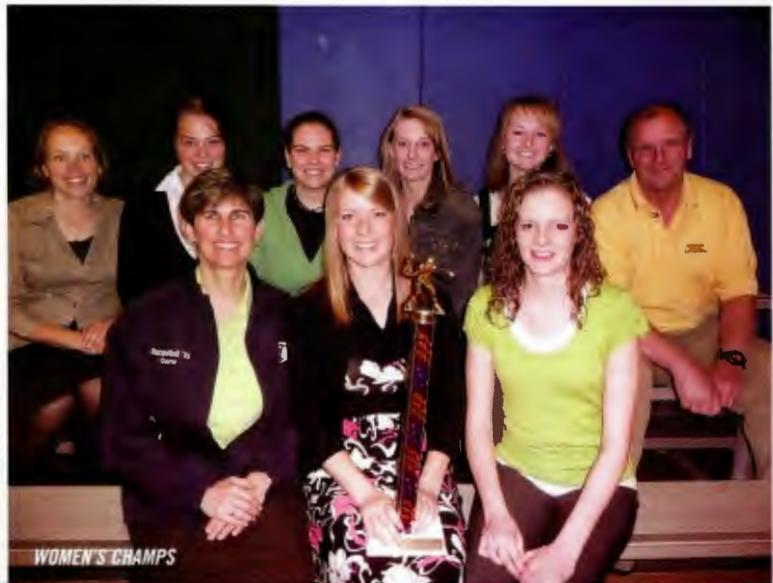


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MEN'S CHAMPS



WOMEN'S CHAMPS

## COLLEGE RACQUETBALL

by Darrin Schenck

**P**icture this...the entire team is sitting on the edge of our seats at the awards banquet as Dr. Jim Hiser begins to read the list of teams, designating their finishes for this year's Intercollegiate Racquetball Championships. "At #10...#5, and then #3...and #2...

We had yet to be named, and we knew we had won. My first year as Head Coach of ASU Racquetball, and the Women's Team had won it all!

I have been around the game for over twenty years, including playing five years on the IRT. After retiring from the Tour, I was looking for a way to give back to the game, and I've found it: college racquetball! This was actually in 2007, and yet I remember it like it was last night. The college racquetball scene is alive and well, and it's showcasing some of the sport's best players from the past and future, including some of the sports best right now – players like Tony Carson, Kara Mazur, Anthony Herrera, and Sarah Hettesheimer, to name just a few.

In the two years that I have been involved at ASU, I've learned a lot about building a program. I hope over the course of these articles in the coming months I'll be able to assist you in building a program in your hometown. An integral part of our success from the beginning was to secure help from some friends and local players in Phoenix. Leading a team of players is a fun but difficult job, and being able to rely on my assistant coaches Thomas Linn and Bur Raby is a huge help to me. The ASU program is run by committee; although it may seem I get most of the credit.

One thing that seems to plague college racquetball is that a student who wants to start a racquetball team or

club does a lot of work to get things organized and running, but then this person graduates and the program sits idle for a year or two. At ASU, we're doing our best to combat this by naming both a club president and vice president, and we also have a freshman or sophomore who can be trained by these two officers, knowing the younger player(s) are likely to be around for awhile. It is our goal to break this common cycle by properly preparing for the expected turnover of players within the racquetball club.

It is important to have consistency in your program in order to get any support from the school. Most club sports must apply for funding grants; there are a variety of funding sources and/or opportunities for the team members to earn money to put towards expenses. We ask for donations from the racquetball players in our community to raise funds as well and we're fortunate to have some benevolent players in our circle of friends to help ASU Racquetball meet their monetary goals. As a Club Sport, our goal is to have the students free of financial responsibility for their participation at the Intercollegiate Championships.

We were lucky to inherit some very good players who were willing to work hard and improve their games. In an effort to round out our Women's team, we began recruiting girls from other sports. Some of our players are former and/or current tennis players or and some hail from other sports like lacrosse and soccer. It is easier to teach an established athlete something new vs. trying to teach a new player how to be an athlete. A few of our players had very little competitive athletic backgrounds, and for those we focused on a few specific skills that would serve them



well in the Big Event. Even the players new to the game have a chance to become Collegiate All Americans – a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved.

Since we do not currently have any Regional Collegiate events for practice, and due to the inexperience of some of our players, we require each person to play in at least one local tournament in preparation for Intercollegiates. Another thing to consider is that building a program is a process, and it will take time before you can be truly competitive at a National level. We got a little lucky at ASU, having the crew of players that we did when we took over. But we are always looking for players in the SRC who are searching for courts with racquets in their hands. Our Racquetball Club is an open invitation to all, and we offer group instruction to anyone who shows up. The team is selected from the players in the club, so everyone has a chance to try out for the team.

If you are interested in starting a team at your college or university, please let me know if I can help. If you would like assistance with coaching and developing players, you may wish to consider purchasing one of my books to assist you in this process. Racquetball 101 and Percentage Racquetball are both available on my website at [www.rbguru.com](http://www.rbguru.com) I also offer a Distance Coaching program that you can learn more about at this site as well. This website was designed to provide a one-stop shop for college racquetball and a few other items, too. Log on to [www.rbguru.com](http://www.rbguru.com) for more information about the conference schedules, coach's contact information, and much more. If you have questions or comments, email me at [darrin@rbguru.com](mailto:darrin@rbguru.com) I look forward to hearing from you.



## SPONSORSHIPS

### A WINNING PROPOSITION WORTH WORKING FOR

By Steve Crandall  
Vice President,  
Sales & Marketing  
Ashaway Racket Strings

Young and upcoming players are always interested in sponsorships. Since this is a subject that is often talked of but seldom written about, I thought it would be of interest to offer a few observations. However, rather than just toot Ashaway's horn as having been an active sponsor for many years, I thought it would be better to get the opinion of someone who has perhaps even wider experience than we do: our own Jack Huczek. We caught him just after his return from the World Championships in Ireland where he finished a very close second to fellow teammate and new World Champion Rocky Carson. Jack has been an Ashaway sponsored player since he was fourteen years old and in the years since has had experience with a number of other sponsorship arrangements as well.

First, says Jack, young players need to understand that sponsorships are not endorsements. They hear about big endorsement dollars paid to top professional athletes and they tend to think of these arrangements as one-way streets. They're not. The reality is that sponsorships are intended to drive sales for the sponsoring company. "So whether you're a fourteen-year-old playing at the local level," says Jack, "or at a regional level or national level, or even a professional player, the goal of a sponsorship arrangement is to promote the brand you're representing and to get people to buy that product."

That may sound overly mercenary to idealistic young ears, but it is the engine that drives the process and supports all the other benefits—and there are many—that sponsorships have to offer. But at base, says Jack, it's a business arrangement in which you must willingly use your influence as a player on behalf of the sponsoring company.

This does not make you a salesperson, but rather, something of an ambassador. Says Jack, "If you're the top

player at your club, or the top junior, you are a very visible player at that facility, someone other racquetball players know. As such, you have a degree of influence over the other racquetball players at your club. You agree to use that influence as part of a sponsorship agreement."

The terms are usually not as lucrative as young imaginations might conjure; in fact, for most young amateur sponsorships, you must pay before you receive. "The basic level of sponsorship is a paid contract," said Jack. "In a paid contract, you pay the manufacturer a certain amount of money each year, which gets you a certain amount of equipment. The manufacturer is recognizing you have local influence at your club, and in exchange for your using that influence, they say, 'We'd like to sponsor you, so that instead of paying full retail price, we're going to give you a package deal where you're paying a certain amount and getting a bunch of equipment.'"

As you rise in the sport, sponsorship terms may improve. "The level of sponsorship that you get is directly related to your level of influence," said Jack. So someone like me who competes all over the world and is recognized all over the world can get better terms than Joe Schmo who plays on the A league at the local YMCA in Palm Springs. It is directly related to your level of influence, to the number of people and eyeballs that see you with the sponsored product."

But that's not to say sponsorship is all about the manufacturer. There's a lot in it for the players, too, and for the sport. "It works both ways, because the manufacturers will recognize their team players in publications, newsletters, and advertisements—sometimes even in Racquetball magazine!—and help promote them in different tournament brochures at bigger tournaments."

"Also, larger manufacturers usually take a team approach with sponsored players. For example, at Head, all sponsored players, including myself, fall under the Team Head program. Our players are recognized at national sales meetings, in front of our sales reps, and also at major events where we discuss upcoming products and programs. We also help Head staff to test new products. So in addition to added recognition, team tee-shirts, and camaraderie, we actually have direct input on the company's decisions."

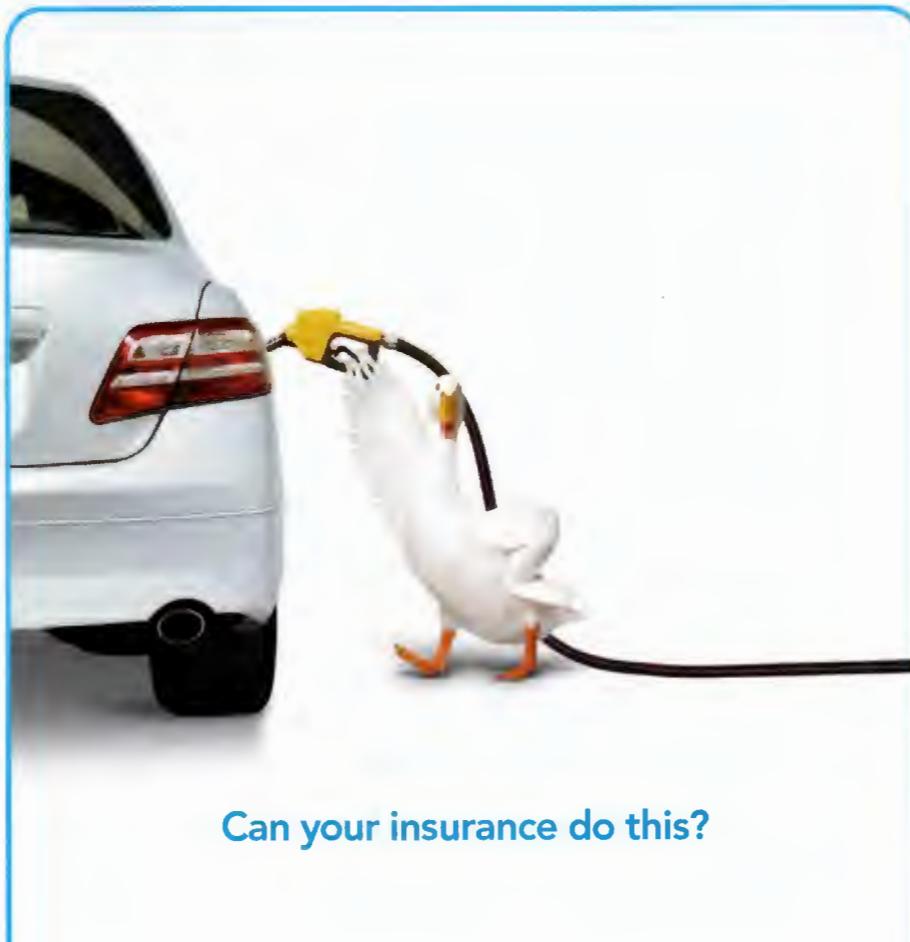
Being sponsored also helps players maintain discipline. Says Jack, "Just because you're sponsored, that's not the end of the road. With Head, every year we have an evaluation process with certain requirements for different levels of sponsorships. For example, players have to play in a certain number of local or national tournaments, depending upon their contract, and if they don't, they are removed from the program."

So, how aggressive should young players be in seeking sponsorships? "Very," says Jack, "but not directly. Growing up I had a coach who said, 'If you take care of winning, everything else will take care of itself.' So the moral is you just focus on playing and beating everyone, and everything else will come, including sponsorships."



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2008 NC EAST COAST RBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10/17/2008	10/19/2008	
2008 TX YMCA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES OCTOBER	10/18/2008	10/19/2008	281-827-7420
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2008 IL THE TURKEY SHOOT OPEN	11/13/2008	11/16/2008	630-629-3390
2008 ALL MILITARY SERVICES NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	11/14/2008	11/16/2008	
2008 TENNESSEE STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	11/14/2008	11/16/2008	615-895-3679
2008 MO 7TH ANNUAL GREENSFELDER ST. LOUIS OPEN	11/14/2008	11/16/2008	314-842-3111 EXT. 3
2008 MI SPARTAN SPLAT	11/15/2008	11/16/2008	517-881-8584
2008 MD TURKEY SHOOTOUT	11/15/2008	11/16/2008	410-579-2295
2008 WA PUGET SOUND CHALLENGE	11/21/2008	11/23/2008	
2008 MN OPEN - DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	11/21/2008	11/23/2008	612-616-7009
2008 NMRA DOUBLES DUEL	12/4/2008	12/6/2008	
2008 RAM STATE DOUBLES	12/5/2008	12/7/2008	810-217-8668
2008 VA MISTLETOE MATCHUP HOPE TOUR	12/5/2008	12/7/2008	757-515-1269
2008 MD ST NICK SPLAT	12/5/2008	12/7/2008	410-579-2295
2008 NC COURTS FOR THE CURE	12/5/2008	12/7/2008	
2008 CT STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	12/5/2008	12/7/2008	860-678-7806
2008 TN MOUNTAIN MADNESS RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT	12/6/2008	12/7/2008	865-436-4990
2008 TN MUSIC CITY OPEN	12/12/2008	12/14/2008	615-895-3679
2008 TX MAVERICK HOLIDAY RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	12/12/2008	12/13/2008	817-275-3340
2008 TX HOLIDAY CLASSIC	12/13/2008	12/14/2008	281-827-7420
2008 20TH IRF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS	12/14/2008	12/20/2008	
2009 TX TEST TRAINING EVENT	1/1/2009	1/3/2009	
2009 MN ST. CLOUD TOURNAMENT #1	1/9/2009	1/11/2009	612-616-7009
2009 MICHIGAN MAJIA JUNIOR TEAM BENEFIT	1/10/2009	1/11/2009	810-287-9394
2009 MD LAKEFOREST SHOOTOUT	1/10/2009	1/10/2009	301-445-2021
2009 WSMRA 20TH US WOMEN'S SENIOR MASTER CHAMPIONSHIPS	1/16/2009	1/18/2009	
2009 MN HALL OF FAME TOURNAMENT	1/16/2009	1/18/2009	612-616-7009
2009 KY YMCA SPIRIT TOURNY	1/16/2009	1/18/2009	270-945-9695
2009 MI BAC DOUBLES	1/17/2009	1/17/2009	269-370-2013
2009 MWRA DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	1/17/2009	1/18/2009	410-579-2295
2009 AZ STATE DOUBLES	1/23/2009	1/25/2009	
2009 MN ROCHESTER RAC'N'ROLLOUT	1/23/2009	1/25/2009	612-616-7009
2009 MI MAC OPEN	1/24/2009	1/24/2009	669-560-944
2009 MN SUPER BOWL SPLAT	1/30/2009	2/1/2009	612-616-7009
2009 MO PINCHSHOT.COM RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	2/6/2009	2/8/2009	314-842-3111 EXT. 3
2009 MI MOTOR CITY ROLLOUT	2/7/2009	2/9/2009	248-651-8365
2009 42ND USAR NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	2/11/2009	2/15/2009	719-635-5396
2009 MD EASTERN REGIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS	2/21/2009	2/22/2009	410-579-2295
2009 22ND USAR NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS	2/25/2009	3/1/2009	
2009 FL GREAT BALLS OF FIRE PROAM	2/27/2009	3/1/2009	305-606-1756
2009 MN ST. CLOUD TOURNAMENT #2	2/27/2009	3/1/2009	612-616-7009
2009 MI CAPITAL CHALLANGE	2/28/2009	3/1/2009	517-881-8584

# 2008 RACQUETBALL CALENDAR

CONTACT		FACILITY NAME	FACILITY CITY	STATE
RON	MARR	WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY	BOWLING GREEN	KY
DOUG	GANIM	BALLY TOTAL FITNESS	BEACHWOOD	OH
RICHARD	SEABERG	NORRIS CENTER	ST. CHARLES	IL
BRANDON	GEGG	Texas A & M University College Stat	COLLEGE STATION	TX
RAFAEL	LOPEZ	YMCA - YAKIMA	YAKIMA	WA
DAVID	TORNELL	Central Courts	COLUMBIA HEIGHTS	MN
MIKE	VAN VALKENBURG	UNIVERSITY OF UTAH	SALT LAKE CITY	UT
DEBBY	KOUNTZ	YMCA - LYNCHBURG	LYNCHBURG	VA
DEBRA	TISINGER-MOORE	SPECTRUM CLUB	CANOCA PARK	CA
DAVID	TORNELL	Rochester Athletic Club	ROCHESTER	MN
NEAL	HEGGEN	BALLY'S TOTAL FITNESS - KENT	KENT	WA
LEO	VASQUEZ	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX
DON	SCHOPIERAY	DAVISON RACQUET & FITNESS CLUB	DAVISON	MI
PAULA	SPAGNUOLO	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB	GRAND RAPIDS	MI
MIKE	WEDEL	The Athlete Club of Overland Park	OVERLAND PARK	KS
CHARLES	HAUSER	WILMINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB	WILMINGTON	NC
CURTIS	HAINES	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX
MIKE	VAN VALKENBURG	REDWOOD MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER	WEST VALLEY	UT
DOUG	GANIM	THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS	TN
STEVE	HARRIS	CROSS COURT ATHLETIC CLUB	WOODLAND	CA
SUSAN	FLAESCH	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE	MD
NEAL	HEGGEN	YMCA - EVERETT	EVERETT	WA
CYNTHIA	FLORES-MOCARSKI	SOUTHLAKE CLUB	MUNDELEIN	IL
RAFAEL	LOPEZ	YAKIMA ATHLETIC CLUB	YAKIMA	WA
DOUG	GANIM	OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY	COLUMBUS	OH
JOHN	ROBERG	RIVERSIDE WELLNESS & FIT CTR.	GLOUCESTER	VA
MIKE	CHAMBON	RIVERVIEW RACQUET CLUB	GRAND RAPIDS	MI
LEO	VASQUEZ	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX
DOUGLAS	HALVERSON	GLASS COURT SWIM & FITNESS	LOMBARD	IL
STEVEN	HARPER	SAN DIEGO NAVAL BASE	SAN DIEGO	CA
TERRY	DAVIS	Vanderbilt University Recreation Center	NASHVILLE	TN
DAN	WHITLEY	VETTA SPORTS CONCORD	ST. LOUIS	MO
DANIEL	MULLIN	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING	MI
SUSAN	FLAESCH	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE	MD
CHEYENNE	HAYES	BALLY'S TOTAL FITNESS - OLYMPIA	OLYMPIA	WA
DAVID	TORNELL	Central Courts	COLUMBIA HEIGHTS	MN
THOMAS	CURRAN	Highlands Ranch Recreation Center	HIGHLANDS RANCH	CO
TOM	BLAKESLEE	TOTAL SPORTS	HARRISON TOWNSHIP	MI
CARTER	GREEN	YMCA - Greenbrier North	CHESAPEAKE	VA
SUSAN	FLAESCH	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE	MD
JAN	STELMA	COURTS PLUS OF JACKSONVILLE	JACKSONVILLE	NC
JULIET	CAMPBELL	NEW ENG HLTH & RAC @ BRISTOL	BRISTOL	CT
DAVE	ANDERSON	GATLINBURG COMMUNITY CENTER	GATLINBURG	TN
TERRY	DAVIS	YMCA - Downtown Nashville	NASHVILLE	TN
LEO	VASQUEZ	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX
CURTIS	HAINES	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX
USHER	BARNOFF	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	TEMPE	AZ
RYAN	RODGERS	Spectrum Health Club	SAN ANTONIO	TX
DAVID	TORNELL	Suburban HealthClub	ST. CLOUD	MN
DON	SCHOPIERAY	DAVISON RACQUET & FITNESS CLUB	DAVISON	MI
BEVERLY	SUPANICK	Lakeforest Sport & Health Club	GAITHERSBURG	MD
MERIEJAN	KELLEY	SPECTRUM CLUB	CANOCA PARK	CA
DAVID	TORNELL	Central Courts	COLUMBIA HEIGHTS	MN
BARRY	STEWART	YMCA - OF GREATER LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE	KY
MARTIN	VANDE WERD	BRONSON ATHLETIC CLUB	KALAMAZOO	MI
SUSAN	FLAESCH	SPORT FIT LAUREL RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB	LAUREL	MD
KAREN	KEY	LA FITNESS CHANDLER II	CHANDLER	AZ
DAVID	TORNELL	Rochester Athletic Club	ROCHESTER	MN
PAULA	SPAGNUOLO	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB	GRAND RAPIDS	MI
DAVID	TORNELL	Olympus Athletic Club	NORTHFIELD	MN
DAN	WHITLEY	VETTA SPORTS CONCORD	ST. LOUIS	MO
CHARLES	VAN HOOSE	COURTLAND RACQUETBALL	UTICA	MI
EDDIE	MEREDITH	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	TEMPE	AZ
SUSAN	FLAESCH	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE	MD
EDDIE	MEREDITH	VETTA SPORTS CONCORD	ST. LOUIS	MO
LYNNE	OLVEY	University of Miami	CORAL GABLES	FL
DAVID	TORNELL	Suburban HealthClub	ST. CLOUD	MN
DANIEL	MULLIN	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING	MI



Pablo Fajre

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**R**acquetballonline.tv is a great breakthrough for the sport of racquetball. Instead of waiting for a television network to decide to put racquetball on its schedule, we can now bring our sport to people all over the world--LIVE! Given the low budget this group has had to work with, the quality is remarkably good and I anticipate the shows will get nothing but better as time goes on. We're looking forward once again to streaming nearly all the pro matches live from this year's US OPEN."

— Doug Ganim, Director,  
US OPEN Racquetball Championships

Interview with Pablo Fajre – [www.racquetballonline.tv](http://www.racquetballonline.tv)

## 1. Why did you start Racquetballonline.tv?

Racquetball was lacking exposure and traditional television has always been too expensive, so I started to search on the Internet for a less costly way to broadcast racquetball worldwide. In doing so, I found out about streaming.

## 2. What do you hope to accomplish?

I want Racquetballonline.tv to become the gathering place where all racquetball players and fans around the world meet online to follow different racquetball events, hopefully one every week, so we become a stronger and more cohesive community within our sport. Also, I hope tournament directors will view Racquetballonline.tv as their partner, so we can make each other stronger and help racquetball grow.

## 3. How do you finance the broadcasts?

We started financing it with our savings, but fortunately this year we received a grant from the Chilean government for support of entrepreneurs in the field of new technologies. We also ask for a broadcast fee from the organizations that use our services and we receive donations from our viewers.

## 4. Do you have any plans for expanding the broadcasts?

We plan to expand our services to other sports and even to the cultural field, starting hopefully in the second half of 2008.

## 5. What has been the response of the players?

Most players seem very grateful for this initiative. They feel Racquetballonline.tv is a big contribution to the growth of our sport and that also helps make it more visible and popular.

## 6. What can the racquetball community do to help you with your efforts?

A way to help us is to spread the news that Racquetballonline.tv exists -- not only among players, so we have more viewers, but also among racquetball tournament directors, so they use this online service and racquetball gets more exposure all over the U.S. and the world.



## JUNIOR RACQUETBALL CHAMPION

# SHARON JACKSON

**SIGNS CONTRACT WITH HEAD  
PENN RACQUET SPORTS**

**H**ead Penn Racquet Sports is proud to announce the signing of Sharon Jackson to a long-term contract to exclusively use equipment from HEAD. Jackson (Shelbyville, Indiana) is the reigning USA Racquetball 18 & Under Junior Champion in Girls Singles, Girls Doubles and Mixed Doubles. The titles earned her a spot on the USA Racquetball Junior National Team, which will take to the courts against the rest of the world in December at the 20th International Racquetball Federation (IRF) World Junior

Championships in Tempe, Arizona.

In addition to her junior championships, Jackson is the 2008 Girls High School Singles Champion and was named the 2008 USA Racquetball High School Female Athlete of the Year. In her junior career, Jackson has amassed 14 national titles and one world title. This fall she will begin her college career at the University of Alabama, where the Crimson Tide has won two of the last three National Collegiate Racquetball Team Championships.

Outside the racquetball court,

Jackson has earned varsity sports letters in basketball, volleyball, soccer, track and tennis at Waldron High School in Shelbyville. She also excelled in the classroom, becoming a member of the National Honor Society.

"We are excited to have Sharon Jackson join the HEAD Penn family," said Doug Ganim, HEAD Penn Indoor Promotions Manager. "We look forward to seeing Sharon attack the collegiate and professional racquetball ranks for many years to come using HEAD's racquetball line of products."

## BRYAN CROSSER JOINS PRINCE INDOOR

as Assistant Product and Promotions Manager

**P**rince Sports, Inc. is proud to officially announce the addition of Bryan Crosser to its Indoor Court and Paddle Sports team. Bryan joins the brand as the Assistant Product and Promotions Manager and will be responsible for handling product management and promotions activities for Ektelon, Prince Squash and recently acquired Viking brand.

A recent graduate from the University of Northern Iowa, Bryan has a love for racquet sports and deep relationships throughout the industry having grown up in a family which owned a racquetball and squash club in Des Moines, Iowa.

Prior to joining Prince, Bryan served as the Assistant IRT Tour Commissioner for the men's pro racquetball tour for the past two and a half years. He is a pro caliber

racquetball player who also owned a racquet re-stringing business for the past 2 years.

"Bryan brings a wealth of knowledge and a host of fresh ideas to these brands and we are very excited to have him help support our indoor and paddle businesses," said Scott Winters, Vice President of Indoor Court and Paddle Sports at Prince Sports, Inc. "With an understanding of the industry's various organizations, a technical training when it comes to product and having been a top player in his own right, Bryan can quickly and effectively develop and execute on new programs designed to help our sales force, retailers and of course players in all indoor sports."

More specifically, Bryan's duties will include identifying new cross promotional opportunities for the indoor



brands, helping develop new product innovations, and providing general support to Vice President Scott Winters.

"I have incredible respect for the Prince, Ektelon and Viking brands and am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue to grow these brands and bring the best programs and products to players," said Crosser.

Bryan will be based in Prince's global headquarters in Bordentown, NJ and went on to say:

"This is definitely a dream come true. I never thought I would have the chance to work in my dream job at such a young age. I am like a kid at a candy store every time I walk through the doors of the office."

# WILSON INTRODUCES

## [K]FACTOR RACQUET LINE



If you show up at the club this fall and hear a "Ka-Boom" coming from the courts, you'll know that sound is coming from a player using Wilson's newest [K]Factor racquet: the [K]Boom!

Wilson has launched four new [K]Factor racquets for the fall. The [K]Boom (165g) and the [K]Sonix (175g) are two of the new racquets. Both racquets have explosive power, even on off-center hits. Both racquets feature Wilson's exclusive power string technology which delivers [K]rushing power without sacrificing [K]ontrol. And to add even more power, both racquets are engineered with a combination of Turbo Tubes and Power Holes for increased stability and power.

Top IRT Pro Mitch Williams recently won the Gold Medal in Doubles at the World Championships playing with the [K]Sonix.

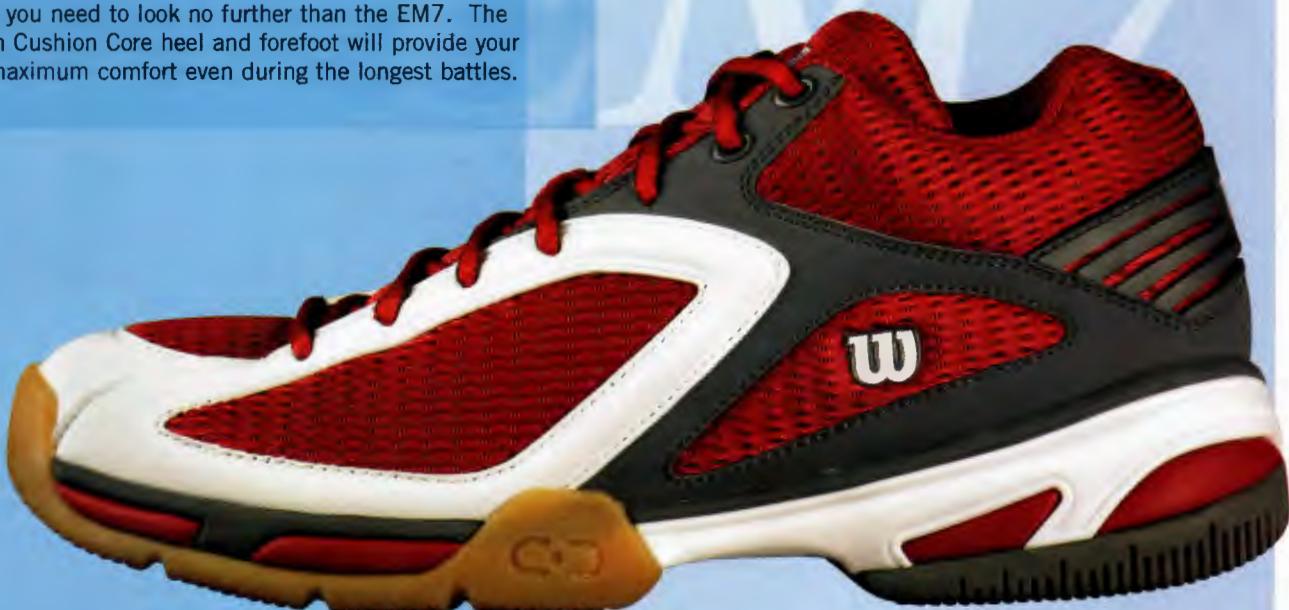
Christie Van Hees, former #1 player in the world, is hitting with the new [K]Boom.

For more information on any Wilson products please visit [Wilson.com](http://Wilson.com)

# WILSON INTRODUCES

## EM7 NEW SHOE

If you're looking for a shoe that feels great from the start, you need to look no further than the EM7. The blown Cushion Core heel and forefoot will provide your foot with maximum comfort even during the longest battles.

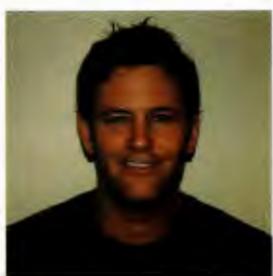


# SWAIN JOINS HEAD PENN

**H**EAD Penn Racquet Sports is proud to announce the return of one of racquetball's all-time great players to its family of playing professionals. Six-time Men's Professional World Champion Cliff Swain (Boston, MA) has signed a long-term contract to exclusively use equipment from HEAD.

Swain's return to the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) coincides with his return to HEAD, whose equipment he used in earning most of his world titles. The USA Racquetball Hall of Famer plans to play in all IRT Grand Slam events during the 2008-2009 season as well as most of the Tier 1 events.

Voted into the New England Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, Cliff's career credentials are permanently displayed in his hometown next to other American sports icons like Larry Bird, Ted Williams, and Tom Brady. These



credentials include eleven IRT Grand Slam event titles, an 80 percent career winning percentage on the IRT Tour, and 65 IRT Tour wins in 100 finals appearances.

In addition to winning the IRT World Championship six times, Swain finished as runner-up in the season points race five times. In the early 1990s, he quit professional racquetball for two years to pursue a professional tennis career. After his tennis detour, Swain returned to the racquetball court and quickly reclaimed his No. 1 ranking in his first year back.

"Cliff Swain is truly a racquetball legend and has been the iconic face of the sport for a quarter of a century," said Doug Ganim, HEAD/Penn Indoor Promotions Manager. "We at HEAD Penn Racquet Sports are honored to welcome back 'the greatest racquetball player of all time.'"

## CERESIA ELECTED TO SARNIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**M**ike Ceresia will be inducted as the lone professional into the Sarnia Sports Hall of Fame on October 11, 2008. Ceresia spent 18 years on the Canadian National Team from 1988-2004 and is the only player to have won a World Championship in three different decades. Additionally, he won five IRT World Championships and eleven Canadian National Championships.

Ceresia won the Men's World Gold Medal in 1988 and 2002, bookending an outstanding international career. Over the course of his playing career, he posted tournament victories over Egan Inoue, Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain, Kane Waselenchuk, Rocky Carson, and Jason Mannino. .

Past Sarnia Sports Hall of Fame inductees include professional golfer Mike Weir and professional hockey players Dino Ciccarelli and Dale Hunter.

Ceresia currently competes on the Classic Professional Racquetball Tour (CPRT) and finished last season ranked #5.



## WHAT IF...

The screenshot shows a search results page for 'Pandora Radio' on the GoodSearch website. The page includes a search bar, a 'Choose Your Cause' section, and a 'We Donate' section. Below the search results, there are links for 'Web', 'Images', 'Video', and 'Shopping'. A 'GoodShop' banner is also visible at the bottom.

**W**hat if USA Racquetball earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's, Expedia, and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop. Every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter USA Racquetball as the charity you want to support. And...please spread the word!



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Ti 175 XL 3 5/8	nLite SS	
	nPower SS	

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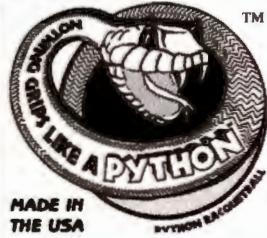
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For additional information go to  
[www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com)

Questions? [video@FranDavisRacquetball.com](mailto:video@FranDavisRacquetball.com)

**Camp Schedule**

Weekend Racquetball Fantasy Camps

2008

September 5-7 (Doubles Only) Portland, OR  
October 10-12 Sarasota, FL  
October 17-19 Atlanta, GA  
November 7-9 TBA

2009

January 23 - 25 Albuquerque, NM  
January 30-February 1 Las Vegas, NV  
February 6-8 Seattle, WA  
March 6-8 Minneapolis, MN  
March 20-22 Long Island, NY  
March 27-29 Overland Park, KS  
May 29-31 San Diego, CA

**Week Long Racquetball Fantasy Camps™**

December 4-11, 2008 Aruba  
(Caribbean Island...Advanced Camp)

April 30- May 7, 2009 Kauai, HI  
(Hawaiian Island...Advanced Camp)

Possible Future Cities...IN, IL, LA, PA, TX, WI + more  
The above dates are subject to the IRT schedule

Questions? Upcoming camp dates...  
[camps@FranDavisRacquetball.com](mailto:camps@FranDavisRacquetball.com)

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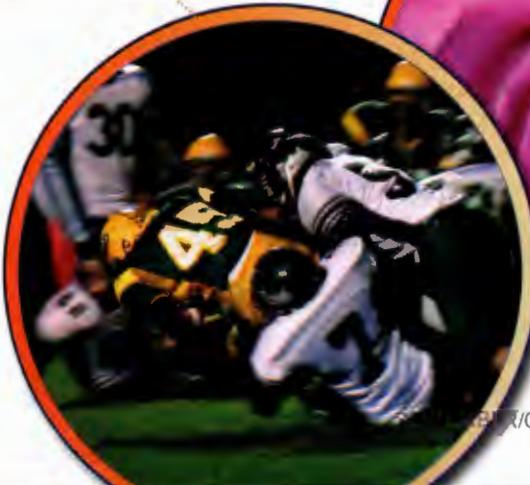
for details. ©2008 Verizon Wireless

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IRT World Racquetball Championships

# Interview with Cheryl Gudinas Holmes

1. Do you live in a house or apartment?  
Townhouse
2. What book are you reading now?  
*Standing Tall*
3. What's on your mouse pad?  
Don't have one
4. Favorite board game?  
Chess
5. Favorite magazine?  
Dog Fancy
6. Favorite smells?  
Roses or fruit
7. Least favorite smells?  
Curry
8. Favorite sound?  
Sound of a roll out!
9. What is the first thing you think of when you wake up in the morning?  
How much I love life
10. Favorite color?  
Red
11. How many rings before you answer the phone?  
Very few, as soon as I can get to it
12. What is most important in life?  
Doing everything with honesty and integrity
13. Favorite foods?  
BBQ pizza
14. Chocolate or vanilla?  
Chocolate
15. What type was your first car?  
1989 Ford Mustang

16. If you could meet one person dead or alive?  
Dara Torres, US Olympic swimmer
17. What is your zodiac sign?  
Taurus
18. Do you eat the stems of broccoli?  
Yes
19. If you could dye your hair any color what would it be?  
Red
20. Is the glass half empty or half full?  
Always half full
21. Favorite movie?  
Miracle
22. Do you type with your fingers on the right keys?  
Yes I think so
23. What is your favorite number?  
23
24. Favorite sport to watch other than racquetball?  
Football!



# WHAT'S in my BAG?



by Jack Huczek

- 8 Head 175AMP racquets
- 1 dozen Head AMP Pro gloves
- 2 pair of Head PowerZone Shield eyewear (one regular lens, one amber lens)
- 4 Head headbands
- 2 cans of ProPenn HD racquetballs
- 6 Python rubber grips (Black)
- Python anti-slip shoe spray
- Dry-Grip
- 6 Sets of Ashaway SuperKill II String
- Athletic tape
- Tiger Balm
- Aleve
- Tums
- 2 wrist lacers
- 1 pair of Ashaway Amps Shoe
- 1 water bottle
- Gatorade mix
- I-pod (songs ranging from country to rap)
- Business cards
- Ink pen
- Change
- T-shirt

## word search

S	K	U	E	T	R	O	H	S
S	E	R	V	E	P	P	M	U
A	R	X	S	W	Q	R	G	S
E	N	T	R	Y	F	O	R	M
O	I	A	H	I	N	D	E	R
M	D	R	E	S	E	L	U	R
E	E	R	E	F	E	R	T	J
S	S	P	L	A	T	O	S	E
J	V	I	T	A	M	I	N	S
U	E	A	M	A	T	E	U	R

find these words:

SPLAT

PRO

AMATEUR

RULES

VITAMINS

SHORT

POWER

SERVE

HINDER

REFEREE

ENTRY FORM

Dear people who work at Gear Box, I have been wishing that whenever I could meet you guys. Racquetball is the sole sport ever. Racquetball is the only one that I do, but sometimes I also most play swimming racquetball.



Sincerely,  
Ashley  
Boyle



I love  
GEAR BOX



USA  
RACQUETBALL



Sharpen

# HUMOR ON THE COURT

By Charlie Brumfield  
"HOF Class of '93"



**T**here has always been a discussion as to whether or not racquetball stars of years ago such as Marty Hogan, Charlie Brumfield, and Mike Yellen are as good or better than stars of the past ten years such as Cliff Swain, Sudsy Monchik, and Jack Huczak. The attributes of all of these players can be argued at length without a final conclusion.

However, there is no doubt that Charlie Brumfield was the most humorous, articulate and intelligent racquetball player I had ever interviewed when I was writing for Racquetball magazine. Following are some of the stories and situations (involving Charlie and others) that I encountered in my years of competing, both in tournaments and practice.

#### BRUMFIELD TELLS THE SCORE

In the early 1970's, Brumfield was dominating the world of racquetball. An upcoming pro tournament was approaching and Brum had been hurt for a few weeks with a lingering leg injury. He had just started playing again about ten days before the tournament.

I asked him before the tournament if he had any chance of winning due to his injury. "Gar, you know if I'm hundred percent no one will do better than 21-10, 21-10 against me," Brumfield said. I replied, "That may be true. However, you have a serious injury and you've just started playing again. Realistically, how do you think you'll do?"

After mulling the question over for what seemed about five minutes, Brumfield looked at me and said, "Yes, it's true. I could be in trouble. They'd probably get eleven or twelve points on me." Talk about confidence.

#### BRUMFIELD GETS REVENGE

The best win of my racquetball career occurred when I defeated #2 world ranked Brumfield (sorry, Elliott

Papermaster) in the 1970 National Championships that were held in Salt Lake City. In the rematch that took place at the 1971 Nationals, Brum soundly defeated me 21-7, 21-5. After the match, Brumfield looked at me, smiled, shook my hand, and said, "Gar, playing you was better than drawing a bye."

How is that for the all-time putdown?

#### SMALL TOWN BRUM

When Brum would occasionally roll out a shot from behind his back or make some absurdly ridiculous shot, he would turn to the gallery and say, "You don't see shots like that in small towns."

#### MARSOCCI STILL BELIEVES

In the mid 1970's, I was playing Leo Marsocci in the finals of the Penn State Open in State College, Pa. Due to a huge draw, it was our third singles match of the day.

Suffice to say, after two torrid games which we split, we were both suffering from leg cramps. I knew that if I sat down that I wouldn't be able to get up. So...

I decided to walk around the quadrangle, near the racquetball courts. As I reached the end of the quadrangle, I decided to sprint the last fifty feet. As I rounded the corner, Marsocci said, "I know you're kidding. You didn't run around that whole track. I can barely move." I nodded affirmatively.

When I was leading 10-2 in the tiebreaker, Marsocci took a time out. He asked me again and after the match if I had really run the whole quarter mile. Naturally, I replied, "Yes!" Even today Marsocci still thinks I ran the whole quarter mile.

#### IS STANGE LEAVING ON A TRIP?

Bud Stange is a good friend of mine and we used to play twice a week. He reached the finals of the National 40's in 1984 and was a fine player.

During one of our practice matches, I had won the first game and had a

setup off the back wall in the second game. Unbelievably, I missed the shot and then laughed.

Stange got the serve back and had a sure put-away fifteen feet from the front wall. Before he swung at the ball he said, "Say goodbye, Garfinkel!" He skipped the ball into the floor. I quickly ran outside the glass court and said to the thirty or so spectators, "Is Bud going on a trip?"

#### PRETTY REFEREE

A few years ago I was engaged in a really tough match. The referee was beautiful. However, she was a lousy referee. After two or three obviously bad calls I asked for line judges. Sure enough, shortly after they took their places there was a controversial call. I raised my hand and the referee said, "You're appealing!" I said, "You're not so bad yourself!"

#### STEDING PLAYS SEVEN FOOTER

When Peggy Steding was the women's national champion, I challenged her to a Winner Take All \$1,000 match. I won 21-10, 21-11 and she told a local reporter, "How can you defeat someone who is 7 feet tall and has the wingspan of a condor?" I replied, "I greatly resemble that remark?"

#### MILT IS BEFUDLED

A few years ago I played Milt Mosher in Syracuse, New York. He told me before the match that his family was visiting from out of town. He said that he knew he had no chance to defeat me and would appreciate it if I took it easy on him. After winning 15-3, 15-3, he said to me "I've only been playing once a week." I replied, "It's not as bad as you think. I've been playing five times a week. Between us, we're been playing six days a week. That means that each of us has been playing an average of three days a week."

He replied, "I guess you're right. I never looked at it that way."

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**STRING:** Premier Power 16

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