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... this page

Jackie Paraiso (left) and Christie Van Hees jockey for position during a rally at the Flu Central Pro-Am at the Lakewood Athletic Club in Denver. Photo: John Foust.

... on the cover

Jackie Paraiso shows off her championships form, and her one-of-a-kind skirt-style! Photo: Filter Design.



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from the editor

Let me say, up front, that I have mixed feelings on many of the arguments surrounding competitive lifestyles. But of course, whenever a situation pertains to me *specifically*, I feel compelled to give it at least a little extra thought. You know, kind of like when you look at a draw sheet to find that you'll feed into someone from your own club in one or two advances (if you get there) and you can't figure out how on earth the TD failed to see such an *obvious* conflict? One person, one point of view ...

So what's the point? It's similar to the "glass ceiling" theory as it applies to women in business – you can only get so far.

Racquetball's glass ceiling – at least as far as most of us are concerned – is the Open division. Gender notwithstanding, it's clearly a quantum leap between the "A" skill division and the "Open." And nothing makes that more obvious than a trip to national singles!



So here's where I fit in (and presumably many of you ...). I play Open in Colorado during the regular season. Not because I train, or (heaven forbid!) *practice*, but simply due to 20-years-worth of on-court experience that has taught me where the ball is going to end up

most of the time – and what to do with it when it gets there. If I ever *did* practice (bite your tongue), there's just no telling how good I might become. Sigh.

Still, when I consider what division to play at Nationals, the mere thought of going up against big-name Open division players like Jackie Paraiso or Robin Levine strikes fear in my heart. Both very nice people, mind you, but these women are *serious*! But does that make it fair for me to play "A's"? Not really – and until this year I had a lot of ethical angst about it.

Now I have an option. This year, National Singles offers an "Elite" division for which I fully expect to qualify. I'll enter Open, where I belong, then try to "build character" against someone who has a much more legitimate shot at making the U.S. Team than I ever will. Then, with my scruples intact, I'll drop down into what is called the "Elite" division for continued *regulation* play against what I hope will shake out to be *my* peer group.

It's just another little "tweak" to a system that at least tries to accommodate as many everyday players as possible. And I, for one, intend to make use of it ... with no mixed feelings whatsoever!

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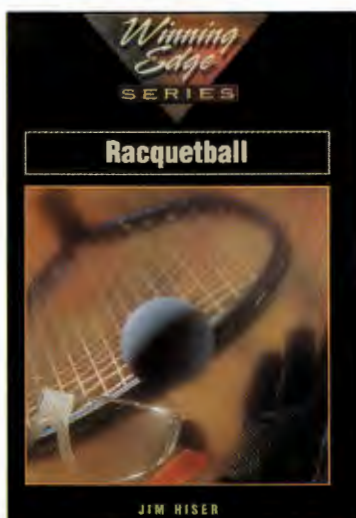
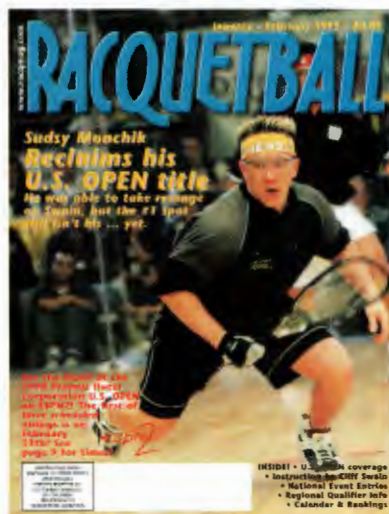
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reader forum



Correction! Dates published with entry information for intercollegiate nationals [Jan/Feb pg.31] were incorrect! The E-Force Intercollegiate Championships will be held APRIL 7-11.

GOOD CHOICE

As an avid racquetball player and promoter, court club owner, and a father of three racquetball hopefuls I applaud your article in the Jan/Feb issue regarding Sudsy's "Hard Choice." Bringing this topic up at this time when our nation is in a tailspin regarding the honesty of our worlds' most powerful and influential leader is, I think, of major importance. I am however disappointed that your stance on this issue wasn't, shall I say, a little more candid and a little less politically correct.

I can tell you as a sports spectator, be it professional or amateur that there is nothing more refreshing than when a participant calls an infraction on himself. This is the way it should be. Plain and simple! The ref is there to do the best that he can, and if both the players have any integrity at all the ref will have an easy as well as enjoyable task. We as players and promoters of this sport should be striving to get this message out to all.

I appeal to all in our sport, especially the greats like Sudsy and Cliff to understand the impact that they have on the rest of the racquetball playing population. Take a stance and do the right thing. Play fair and call it like it is. We all look up to you guys and respect the enormous talent that you have for this game. We would also like to be proud of the way you conduct yourself on and off the court. Please try. The youth of America need some positive role models to look up to.

Geoff Hunter
Naples, Florida

I would like to commend Kevin Vicroy for his article concerning reversing calls during professional matches. It's unfortunate when athletes, for whatever reason, feel compelled to cheat. It's even more unfortunate when it's "justified." Throughout my career I've heard many reasons to justify cheating. The ref is there to make the calls, my opponent cheated on me, it all works out in the end, all pro athletes do it ... the list is endless. Maybe it would show slightly more integrity if a player just admitted, "I was afraid to lose, so I cheated." Competitive situations, and

the drive to reach certain goals, brings with them an enormous amount of pressure. Winning at any cost is usually the better alternative than losing. Most athletes won't admit this, but integrity is always lost to some degree each time we cross the fragile line of winning at any cost

I thank Kevin for writing this article. I'm sure to some it will reinforce their attitude that cheating is not only acceptable, but "the way it is." To the rest of us, I hope the article helps us to look at how we go about achieving the goals we set for ourselves, regardless of the money or fame they may bring to us.

Chris Evon
Chicago, Illinois

STUDY BREAK

An important resource from which to draw new players into the sport are the colleges and universities across the country. At the recent Leadership Conference we heard that Dr. Tim Miller (USRA Collegiate Coordinator, Central Region) – initially using AmPRO and Wilson players – will be contacting college recreation departments to organize vacant programs, assist in leadership roles and further educate collegiate racquetball instructors about the sport.

An excellent resource available to them is a text by Jim Hiser, Ph.D. The book, *Winning Edges Series: Racquetball*, is well-organized into fifteen chapters which could easily fit in a semester-long racquetball class. The information is straightforward and includes everything — from equipment and rules to basic shots and strategies to nutritional, conditioning and mental aspects of the sport. Also accompanying the text is a test bank which contains pertinent questions and their answers with regards to the chapters.

As adviser for the UW-Madison racquetball club, I've started using this text to better educate my club members. Every player seems to lack some type of information and this text pretty much covers every aspect of the sport. And the text can easily be adapted to teach juniors at your club; another great way to introduce new players to our sport.

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

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

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

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

February 19-21	Region 7 – Northwest Athletic Club – Houston, TX	Annie Muniz	713-432-0881
March 19-21	Region 14 – Garden Health & Fitness – Monterey, CA	Margo Daniels	831-372-7224
March 27-28	Region 2 – Club Fit – Briarcliff, NY	Jennifer Mayadas Dering	914-763-5466
April 9-11	Region 16 – Courts Plus – Jacksonville, NC	Jan Stelma	919-633-2221
April 9-11	Region 4 – Orlando Racquet & Fitness Club – Orlando, FL	Mike Mojer	407-645-3550
April 15-18	Region 6 – Missouri Athletic Club – St. Louis, MO	Bill Crist	314-439-4428
April 15-18	Region 12 – Aurora Athletic Club – Denver, CO	Scott Lewis	303-699-7988
April 15-18	Region 3 – Merritt Athletic Club – Baltimore, MD	Craig Rappaport	610-520-0338
April 15-18	Region 9 – Hall of Fame Fitness Center – Canton, OH	Shelley Ogden	513-941-7641
April 24-25	Region 10 – Shelbyville County Athletic Club – Shelbyville, IN	Cathy McGrath	317-879-8100
April 24-25	Region 11 – Central Courts – Columbia Heights, MN	Dave Schulenberg	651-777-6673
April 30-May 1	Region 8 – Site TBA – Chicago, IL	Rich Clay	847-918-7407
April 30-May 2	Region 5 – Downtown YMCA – Birmingham, AL	Jim Garner/Natalie Crockett	205-988-3819
April TBA	Region 13 – Billings YMCA – Billings, MT	Mike Nys/Steve Pinnow	406-245-6204
May 7-9	Region 15 – Site TBA – Anchorage, AK	Steve Arturo	907-275-0449
PENDING	• Region 1 – ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT		

Check it out if you can either from the publisher (WCB/McGraw-Hill, ISBN 0-8151-4463-6) or directly from the USRA.

Ed Arias
www.asra.net

I WANT MY "R"TV

I just want to thank you and your staff for publishing a magazine that covers a sport that doesn't receive the mainstream support it deserves.

I get so angry at ESPN for covering other "sports" events that raise the "who cares" flag in my mind. For me, racquetball is much more interesting to watch than a dog show, an equestrian event, or some other activity that appears to have a smaller fan base than racquetball.

Racquetball deserves more airtime than it currently receives. And, when ESPN does cover racquetball, it airs the event late at night – which doesn't allow those who are not familiar with racquetball to see how great a game it is.

Maybe we need to have more prestigious events, like the Promus U.S. Open with its traveling glass-court, that are attractive enough for ESPN to cover. The PGA has four major tournaments that are televised. Why can't racquetball have something along those lines?

I really like to watch racquetball on television. Because major tournaments are held all over the country, it is impossible to see them all. Televised events would

allow those of us who don't have time or resources to travel to all over the country to see racquetball at its highest level.

I have found that the last two U.S. Opens, which I have on tape, have allowed me to improve my game because I can see for myself how racquetball at its highest level is played and I can see strategies and techniques that I can incorporate into my game. I certainly hope that those who love the sport will write to ESPN and demand more coverage of racquetball, and that those who can facilitate this request will do so.

Brad Baum
Flagstaff, AZ

To send a letter to ESPN, go to: <http://espn.go.com/sitertools/contact/lettersespn.html>
To write a letter to the ESPN editors, go to: <http://espn.go.com/sitertools/contact/letterseditor.html>



Left (L-R): 18 and under singles champion Rocky Carson and runner-up Josh Tucker teamed to take the silver in doubles, losing to Ryan Staten and James Ford; Jason Bronson placed fourth in doubles, with partner Matt Gehling (not pictured). Below (L-R): Most of the G18- doubles players – Katie Gould, Sara Borland, Lisa Kerr, Karina Odegard, Dionna Brown, Brooke Crawford & Meghan Guardiani.



PRO KENNEX IX IRF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Approximately 500 entrants converged on the Los Caballeros Sports Village in Fountain Valley, California to compete in the Pro Kennex International Racquetball Federation World Junior Racquetball Championships this past December 18-22. Ten countries competed for 31 individual and doubles championships, as well as the boys', girls' and overall team world titles.

The U.S. Junior National Team won its eighth consecutive world team championship, outdistancing Mexico, 1,494.5 to 938. Canada finished third with 505 points, while Ireland, attending its first-ever World Junior Championships, tallied 109.

10-year-old Mexican Tabbed "Best Ever"

Described as "the best I've ever seen at his age" by tournament director Jim Hiser, Mexico's David Ortega cruised past all competition in the boys' 10-and-under bracket to win his fourth world junior singles title at the 1998 Pro Kennex IRF World Junior Championships this past December in Fountain Valley, California

"He (Ortega) has great racquet control," said author and instructor Jim Hiser. "David has it all."

A native of Chihuahua, ten-year-old Ortega trounced U.S. players Noah Trowbridge (15-4, 15-4), Allan

Crockett (15-3, 15-4) and David Lewis (15-3, 15-4), respectively, to reach the semifinals. There, he blasted Alaska's Nick Arturo 15-1, 15-6.

Meanwhile, Chris Coy of Elk City, Oklahoma began his trek to the semifinals by defeating Brandon Callihan, 15-3, 15-10 in a feeder match, then fifth-seeded Edson Martinez of Mexico, 15-2, 15-12 in the round of 32. Rather amazing for an unseeded player with a prosthetic lower left leg. Young Coy was born with cancer in his stomach, which spread to his legs via vascular infection.

At age four, Coy's left foot and ankle were amputated. He travels to Louisiana every six months for a checkup, where he usually receives a new prosthetic leg due to his strenuous physical activities and the frequent breakage.

Nonetheless, Coy continued to upset the field by downing Ireland's Seamus Power (4-15, 15-13, 11-8) in the round of 16 and Mike Keddle (15-3, 5-15, 11-10) in the quarterfinals. The 4-foot-1, 70-pound Oklahoman then disposed of Mexico's Jose Ramos 15-11, 15-5 in the semis. Ramos had just upset top-ranked Andrew Grissom of Campbell, California, 14-15, 15-13, 11-6.

by kevin vicroy

Ortega took charge early in the finale, not allowing Coy to get on track, winning 15-6 in game one. Coy battled back in the second frame, but was unable to overcome the talented Mexican, eventually falling 15-10.

"He's awesome . . . he's like Sudsy (Monchik)," Coy said of his opponent. "He was just killin' everything. I would set him up and he would kill it."

Monchik, now ranked No. 2 in the world on the men's professional tour, was commonly referred to as the greatest junior ever, until now.

"He (Ortega) has a better all-around game than Sudsy did at that age," Hiser said. "Sudsy was more of a crowd pleaser, but David has a better game."

Carson "graduates" with another Gold

Californian Rocky Carson, of Santa Maria, dominated the boys' 18-and-under singles division – allowing an average of only 5.7 points per 15-point game – en route to his third consecutive world singles crown. The Saddleback College sophomore won each of his five matches without dropping a single game.

Having won the 18's the past two years, Carson was positioned atop the bracket as the No. 1 seed. Last year's boys' 16-and-under champ Kris Odegard of Canada held the second seed. But Odegard was upset by the U.S. National Team's Josh Tucker, 15-12, 9-15, 11-3, in the quarterfinals.

Tucker went on to cruise past 1997 runner-up Ryan Staten of Dodge City, Kansas in the semifinals, 15-6, 15-5. In the top half of the draw, Carson was destroying all opposition, including Wyoming's James Ford in the quarters, 15-2, 15-4. The soon-to-be-crowned three-time 18-and-under champion then put away U.S. teammate Willie Tilton 15-6, 15-11 to reach the finals.

There, Carson toppled 7th-seeded Tucker in straight games of 15-7, 15-3. Carson, who finished second in the boys' 18-and-under doubles bracket with Tucker (losing to Ford and Staten, 15-11, 15-6), closed out his junior career with five world championships, and tying Sudsy Monchik's record for the most world junior singles titles won in a division (three). Monchik, the current Promus U.S. OPEN champion, captured three boys 18's singles crowns from 1991-93.



Above: Mexico's David Ortega serves to Chris Coy in the Boy's 10 and under final at World Juniors. Below: A month later, Coy paid rapt attention from the sidelines as Sudsy Monchik won an IRT final in Denver. Photo: John Foust.





Above (l-r): Shane Vanderson, Matt McElhiney, Scott Foster, Stephen Lewis and Mike Harmon. Below left (l-r): Bart Crawford & Jack Huczek. Below right/top (l-r): Molly Law and Crystal Winfrey. Below right/bottom (l-r): Brittany Legget & Shannon Inglesby. Bottom: Mexico's Paulina Aldrete & Rebeca Tristan



Canadian Super-Girls

Over the past two years, Canadians have dominated the girls' 18-, 16- and 14-and-under singles divisions. More accurately stated, Lisa Kerr of White Rock, British Columbia and Karina Odegard of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, have won five of the past six world titles in those age groups.

Kerr, the defending champ, won a hard-fought 18-and-under championship by overcoming U.S. national titleist and No. 2 seed Brooke Crawford of Klamath Falls, Oregon, 15-6, 11-15, 11-8. Iowa's fourth seeded Sara Borland may have provided Kerr with her stiffest test, in a 15-5, 8-15, 11-10 semifinal contest.

Odegard, winner of the '97 girls' 14's, pounded fellow Canuck Veronique Guillemette 15-4, 15-5 in the 16-and-under draw finale. Only one opponent scored more than five points against the 6-foot Odegard, whose seven world junior singles titles are tied for the most in history.

Ohio's Crystal Winfrey spoiled the Canadian's chances to repeat their '97 sweep of the three elder divisions. Winfrey lived up to her top seeding in the girls' 14-and-under event by moving past Lindsay Deutsch (15-5, 14-15, 11-2) in the semis and Adrienne Fisher (15-14, 15-9) in the finals. Fisher, of Westerville, Ohio, then re-grouped to capture the girls' 12-and-under crown, 15-11, 15-7 over fellow American Deraï Darling of Seaside, Oregon.

Record Books Challenged

Together, Shane Vanderson of Dublin, Ohio and Jack Huczek, of Rochester Hills, Michigan own 22 world junior titles in both singles and doubles. Huczek is tied with Canada's Odegard for the most world singles gold medals as he won his seventh in a row this year with a punishing 15-4, 15-7 victory over Bart Crawford in the finals of the boys' 14-.

Vanderson captured the 16's by downing Mexico's Erwin Bernal 15-2, 13-15, 11-5 for his sixth world singles crown. "Vandy" holds

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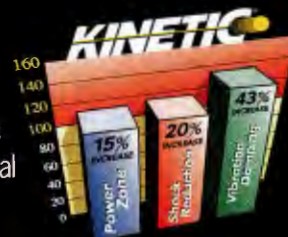
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the record for most doubles titles (6) and overall championships (12) won at the World Juniors.

Mexico is Grassroots Champ

Mexico swept the boy's 12-, 10-, 8- and 8-and-under multi-bounce singles titles as Chihuahuans Juan Arzate took the 12's, David Ortega earned his sixth world junior crown as he won the 10's and Ruben Estrada captured both 8-and-under brackets. The young Mexican players were also victorious in the boy's 12- and 10-and-under doubles divisions. For the past three years, Mexico has won seven of nine possible championships in the boys' 10-, 8- and 8-and-under multi-bounce divisions.



In all, nearly 400 players wore their respective country's colors and competed for the many world junior titles available at this event. Ireland flew 14 players to Fountain Valley for a first-ever appearance for "Junior Team Ireland," while hosting players from the U.S. represented 34 states. Mexico's contingent consisted of 64 athletes, while Costa Rica, led by coach and adult national team member Allan Chacon, showcased an improving junior program with 11 hopefuls. South America fielded three other countries with players from Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela.

Looking ahead to next year, dominant players like USA's Rocky Carson and Canada's Lisa Kerr will move on, while the Karina Odegard's, Jack Huczek's and David Ortega's will move up. Moving onward and upward ... sounds like a great 'junior' plan.

team **canada** (top), team **ireland** (middle) and team **usa** (bottom)



PRO KENNEX IRF IX WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINAL SINGLES RESULTS

- B18-: [1] Rocky Carson (Santa Maria, Calif.) def. [7] Josh Tucker (Joplin, Mo.), 15-7, 15-3.
B16-: [1] Shane Vanderson (Dublin, Ohio) def. [2] Erwin Bernal (Chihuahua, Mexico), 15-2, 12-15, 11-5.
B14-: [1] Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.) def. [6] Bart Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.), 15-4, 15-7.
B12-: [7] Juan Arzate (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. [1] Augustin Tristan (San Luis Potosi, Mexico), 15-4, 15-8.
B10-: [2] David Ortega (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.), 15-6, 15-10.
B8-: [2] Ruben Estrada (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. [1] Ismael Aldana (Stockton, Calif.), 15-6, 15-9.
B8- MB: [1] Ruben Estrada (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. [3] Rodolfo Rodriguez (San Luis Potosi, Mexico), 11-4, 11-0.
B6- MB: [2] Jake Brendenbeck (New Brighton, Minn.) def. Eduardo Hernandez (Chihuahua, Mexico), 11-6, 11-5.
G18-: [1] Lisa Kerr (White Rock, B.C., Canada) def. [2] Brooke Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.), 15-6, 11-15, 11-8.
G16-: [1] Karina Odegard (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada) def. [6] Veronique Guillemette (Deauville, Quebec, Canada), 15-4, 15-5.
G14-: [1] Crystal Winfrey (Powell, Ohio) def. Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio), 15-14, 15-9.
G12-: [1] Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) def. [3] Deraí Darling (Seaside, Ore.), 15-11, 15-7.
G10-: [2] Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. [1] Marcela Moreno (Chihuahua, Mexico), 15-10, 6-15, 11-5.
G8-: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Alejandra Licon (Chihuahua, Mexico), 6-15, 15-13, 11-7.
G8- MB: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Emily Melgaard (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho), 11-2, 11-0.
G6- MB: Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Tia Smith (Pendleton, Ore.), 11-3, 11-5.

FINAL DOUBLES RESULTS

- B18-: [6] James Ford (Riverton, Wyo.)/Ryan Staten (Dodge City, Kan.) def. [1] Rocky Carson (Santa Maria, Calif.)/Josh Tucker (Joplin, Mo.), 15-11, 15-6.
B16-: [6] Scott Foster (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Stephen Lewis (Kennewick, Wash.) def. [1] Matthew McElhiney (Bradenton, Fla.)/Shane Vanderson (Dublin, Ohio), 15-12, 8-15, 11-1.
B14-: [1] Bart Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.)/Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.) def. [3] Trevor Crowe (Portland, Ore.)/Cory Martin (Kenosha, Wis.), 15-10, 15-14.
B12-: [6] Jesus Jasso (Chihuahua, Mexico)/Agustin Tristan (San Luis Potosi, Mexico) def. [1] Juan Arzate/Cesar Guzman (Chihuahua, Mexico), 15-5, 15-8.
B10-: [1] David Ortega/Jose Ramos (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. [2] Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.)/David Lewis (Aurora, Colo.), 15-11, 15-11.
G18-: [1] Lisa Kerr (White Rock, B.C., Canada)/Karina Odegard (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada) def. [2] Brooke Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.)/Katie Gould (Huntington Beach, Calif.), 14-15, 15-5, 11-2.
G16-: [1] Krystal Csuk (Naperville, Ill.)/Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah) def. [2] Genevieve Brodeur (Ste. Rosalie, Quebec, Canada)/Veronique Guillemette (Deauville, Quebec, Canada), 15-13, 15-5.
G14-: Molly Law (Denver, Colo.)/Crystal Winfrey (Powell, Ohio) def. Erica Beaudry (Pueblo, Colo.)/Carolina Prieto (Chihuahua, Mexico), by forfeit.
G12-: [1] Deraí Darling (Seaside, Ore.)/Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.) def. [2] Brandi Jacobson Prentice/Alison Schlichemeyer (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada), 15-4, 15-5.
G10-: Eleni Guzman/Marcela Moreno (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. Alejandra Licon/Lorena Villarreal (Chihuahua, Mexico), 15-2, 15-7.
MX18-: [1] Karina Odegard/Kris Odegard (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada) def. [2] Christina Lewendal (Beaverton, Ore.)/Willie Tilton (Colorado Springs, Colo.), 15-6, 15-14.
MX16-: Ruth Beecher (Ireland)/Brent Walters (Fayetteville, N.C.) def. [1] Veronique Guillemette (Deauville, Quebec, Canada)/Vincent Gagnon (Longueuil, Quebec, Canada), 15-14, 6-15, 11-3.
MX14-: [1] Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio)/Cory Martin (Kenosha, Wis.) def. Janel Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.)/Bobby Quintana (Walnut, Calif.), 15-8, 15-14.
MX12-: [2] Deraí Darling (Seaside, Ore.)/Dan Sheppick (Milwaukie, Ore.) def. [1] Nancy Enriquez (Chihuahua, Mexico)/Agustin Tristan (San Luis Potosi, Mexico), 15-7, 12-15, 11-9.
MX10-: [2] Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.)/Nick Arturo (Anchorage, Alaska) def. [4] Katie Marshall (Fremont, Calif.)/Andrew Grissom (San Jose, Calif.), 15-2, 15-13.



TEAM RESULTS

Overall Team Results:

1. United States...1,494.5
2. Mexico.....938
3. Canada.....505
4. Ireland.....109
5. Venezuela.....96
6. Colombia.....73
7. Argentina.....60
8. Bolivia50
9. Costa Rica9
10. Dominican Republic ..0

Boy's Team Results:

1. United States975.5
2. Mexico.....757
3. Canada200
4. Ireland.....97
5. Venezuela.....96
6. Colombia.....73
7. Argentina.....60
8. Bolivia50
9. Costa Rica8
10. Dominican Republic ..0

Girl's Team Results:

1. United States519
2. Canada305
3. Mexico.....181
4. Ireland.....12
5. Costa Rica1
6. Dominican Republic ..0



Paraiso (foreground) vs. Van Hees | All photos: John Foust

Flu Central Pro Am in Lakewood Paraiso stays on Track

Maybe catching the flu isn't always such a bad deal. It certainly wasn't too painful when the WIRT caught the Flu (Central) as a title sponsor this past December at the Lakewood Athletic Club on the outskirts of Denver.

After visiting the LAC in 1996, the women's tour failed to return in '97, much to the disappointment of Flu Central owner Missy Zantop and local enthusiast Carol Zimlinghaus, both of Littleton, Colorado.

"Two years ago, the women (WIRT) were here and we really enjoyed watching them," said Zantop, a local A-level player. "Then, last year, they weren't and we missed them."

Had the WIRT not returned to Lakewood just before Christmas, Colorado fans would have missed a stellar performance by the world's No. 1 player, Jackie Paraiso.

Following a first-round bye, Paraiso brought 6-foot Canadian Karina Odegard down to earth with an 11-2, 11-5, 11-2 victory in the round of 16. Chicago resident Kerri Stoffregen provided the tour's top player with a little more competition in the quarterfinals, but not enough, as the scores read 11-3, 11-3, 9-11, 11-9.

Current world champion and second-seeded Christie Van Hees cruised past fellow Canadian Amanda MacDonald 11-4, 11-6, 11-0 in the 16's. MacDonald had just defeated tournament sponsor Zimlinghaus 11-4, 11-2, 11-3 in the opening round, while Van Hees had crushed Janet Myers and Molly O'Brien in the quarters and semifinals, respectively.

In the best match of her advance, Paraiso fought off a determined Cheryl Gudinas 11-9, 10-12, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5 in the semis. Seeded fourth, Gudinas entered the event ranked fourth on the WIRT ladder behind #1 Paraiso, #2 Van Hees and an injured #3 Robin Levine. Nonetheless, sixth-ranked Lydia Hammock was bumped up into the third seed over Gudinas in Levine's absence.

A rematch of their Memphis meeting, Van Hees and Paraiso took to the court in what turned out to be a repeat performance of the November finale. Paraiso disposed of the young Canuck in a quick 11-9, 11-6, 11-6 contest.



"Honestly, I really don't know what my problem was today," Van Hees said. "It was just a really, really bad day. I need to go home and reconsider a bunch of things about my game. Since October, it just hasn't been right."

The Vancouver native had won back-to-back matches against Paraiso before losing at the Promus U.S. OPEN and the Flu Central Pro-Am tour events. Van Hees claims a 2-3 head-to-head record against Paraiso on the WIRT circuit.

"I felt focused," Paraiso said. "A couple of my shots were up, but I think that's true with everybody's game here because of the altitude. I thought I kept her out of her game pretty well."

For the 32-year-old mother of one, her quest of winning a second pro tour title is just that much closer. Paraiso was the last player to win the women's tour crown before Michelle Gould's reign of sixth consecutive season championships.

Chrysler Plymouth Pro-Am Paraiso vs. Gudinas

The mainstays of the women's pro tour have always been the events held in the Northeast. With the direct involvement of commissioner Molly O'Brien, the Baltimore, Philadelphia, and other area events have served as a hub for women's racquetball for over ten years. In fact, 1999 marks the eleventh year for the "Women's Grand Slam."

Chalfont, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia to those unfamiliar with local geography) and the famous Highpoint Athletic Club, this year teamed up with Chrysler/Plymouth – in conjunction with its regional promotion of "Woman of the Year" – to host the Chrysler/Plymouth Pro-Am. With

WIRTPROfile

reported by Kevin Vicroy [Lakewood]
& Marvin Quertermous [Chalfont]

WIRT — Flu Central Pro-Am Lakewood, Colorado: December 11-13, 1998

- [1] Jackie Paraiso def. Karina Odegard, 11-2, 11-5, 11-2
 Kerri Stoffregen def. [8] Susy Acosta, 11-0, 11-7, 11-4
 [5] Kersten Hallander def. Kim Machiran, 11-3, 11-6, 11-9
 [4] Cheryl Gudinas def. Lori-Jane Powell, 11-6, 11-1, 11-4

- [1] Jackie Paraiso def. Kerri Stoffregen, 11-3, 11-3, 9-11, 11-9
 [4] Cheryl Gudinas def. [5] Kersten Hallander, 11-7, 11-2, 7-11, 11-8

- [1] Paraiso def. [4] Gudinas, 11-9, 10-12, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5

**[1] Jackie Paraiso defeats
 [2] Christie Van Hees, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6**

- [2] Van Hees def. [6] O'Brien, 11-3, 11-5, 11-2

- [6] Molly O'Brien def. [3] Lydia Hammock, 11-5, 11-7, 11-2
 [2] Christie Van Hees def. Janet Myers, 11-1, 11-1, 11-0

- [3] Lydia Hammock def. Jesse Carbajal, 11-8, 11-0, 11-6
 [6] Molly O'Brien def. Phyllis Morris, 11-9, 11-4, 11-9
 Janet Myers def. [7] Lisa Hjelm, by forfeit
 [2] Christie Van Hees def. Amanda MacDonald, 11-4, 11-6, 11-0

great involvement from the auto giant and plenty of regional publicity for the women's pros, this year's Chalfont event attracted a lot of attention for the WIRT, women's sports in general, and the support they are getting from the manufacturer of some very impressive automobiles.

After the impact Christie Van Hees made with her big win in Baltimore earlier this season, plus an impressive showing in the Promus U.S. Open, she was certainly the one to beat going into the event. But a midwinter bout with the flu kept Christie off the courts and out of the draw.

Impressive showings included #4 seed Kersten Hallander with a three game win over the veteran O'Brien and a game one victory before falling to #1 seed Jackie Paraiso in the semis. Unseeded and a relative unknown, Aimee Roehler fought her way past #6 seed Janet Myers and even went on to post a great effort and a near miss in game one against #2 seed Cheryl Gudinas in the other semi. Regular touring pros Michelle Wiragh and Anita Maldonado also fell to Gudinas along the way.

WIRT — Chrysler Plymouth Pro-Am Chalfont, Pennsylvania: January 8-10, 1999

- [1] Jackie Paraiso def. Lisa Kerr, 11-1, 11-3, 11-0
 [8] Lori-Jane Powell def. Doreen Fowler, 6-11, 11-7, 11-3, 11-5
 [5] Molly O'Brien def. Bev Supanick, 11-5, 11-5, 11-3
 [4] Kersten Hallander def. Jody Paul, by forfeit

- [1] Jackie Paraiso def. [8] Lori-Jane Powell, 11-2, 11-1, 11-9
 [4] Kersten Hallander def. [5] Molly O'Brien, 11-2, 11-9, 11-9

- [1] Paraiso def. [4] Hallander, 10-12, 11-8, 11-6, 11-7

**[1] Jackie Paraiso defeats [2] Cheryl
 Gudinas, 13-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8**

- [2] Gudinas def. Roehler, 12-10, 11-2, 11-7

- Aimee Roehler def. Sandy Kubany, 11-8, 11-0, 11-1
 [2] Cheryl Gudinas def. [7] Michelle Wiragh, 11-1, 11-2, 11-0

- Sandy Kubany def. [3] Lydia Hammock, by forfeit
 Aimee Roehler def. [6] Janet Myers, 11-9, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6
 [7] Michelle Wiragh def. Mindy Hartstein, 11-4, 11-2, 11-3
 [2] Cheryl Gudinas def. Anita Maldonado, 6-11, 11-1, 11-0, 11-2

The final – pitting rivals Paraiso and Gudinas – was all that a final should be. These are two of the fastest and hardest hitting women's pros and they play one another with a ferocious intensity. While Gudinas' court savvy and grit combined with a solid fundamental game have allowed her to cover more ground than any other pro in the 90's, Paraiso's experience and ability to stay cool under pressure made all the difference. After a brutal extended first game, then trading wins in games two and three, Paraiso held off Gudinas' attack to capture the second event of the women's grand slam. The women's tour has always been famous for putting on first class events, and with Paraiso and Gudinas slugging it out, they've become a showcase for some very intense racquetball as well.

A trademark of WIRT events has always been to make use of event publicity to help some very worthwhile causes. In Chalfont, the pros teamed with some special amateurs on Thursday night for some pro-am doubles to benefit the American Cancer Society. Even with a terrible storm threatening the area, the special evening raised more than a few dollars to fight cancer.

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Mike Locker (above) vs. Cliff Swain | All photos: John Foust

APH Service Pro-Am

Locker Loves Lakewood

Mike Locker made it to the finals? Of the professional draw? That's right. The St. Paul, Minnesota, native enjoyed the finest run of his racquetball career at the APH Service Company Pro-Am in early December at the Lakewood Athletic Club, west of downtown Denver.

Still smiling despite an 11-4, 11-4, 11-5 thumping by top-seeded Cliff Swain in the finals, Locker said, "Cliff played very well. I really enjoyed the lesson . . . I really did. I watched him play all week and I think Cliff's got a little vengeance now from the U.S. OPEN. He's number one . . . and number one for a reason. I learned that today."

After a four-game downing of Dan Llacera in the first round, the gravely-voiced Locker opened some eyes in the round of 16 with a stunning 8-11, 11-9, 5-11, 12-10, 11-9 upset of No. 2 seed Sudsy Monchik.

"I packed my bags hoping I would win in the 32's and make it to the 16's," said Locker, whose second-place finish vaulted him six spots in the IRT rankings to #20. "I knew I would play into Sudsy. I hadn't played Suds, so I figured it would be an experience for me to play him. It ended up being a great experience."

Sure, if you call doing your laundry in the shower a great time. Then again, Locker had never finished beyond the round of 16 in an IRT stop. He might as well take the good with the bad.

"John Ellis loaned me some clothes so I could finish the tournament," Locker said of his crazy weekend. "I was scheduled to fly home Friday morning at 7 a.m. to go and play in my own tournament. Next thing you know, I'm here until Sunday and playing in the finals. It was bizarre."

Maybe not as bizarre as Locker's game style. Like Robert Redford's last swing in "The Natural," every serve Locker hit appeared to fly in slow motion.

"When I'm in the service box, I try to hit a controlled serve, if you will," he said. "I try to be as deceiving as possible and just make sure that I get it in. I almost go for a short serve. With the pace that I'm hitting it, you can literally read 'ProPenn' on the ball."



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In the top-half of the bracket, Swain swept through his first four rounds losing only one game – to Rocky Carson in the 16's. The tour's top player disposed of H.R. Coe (11-4, 11-5, 11-4), Carson (11-8, 12-10, 4-11, 11-4) and Adam Karp (11-5, 12-10, 11-9) in the first three rounds, respectively.

Texan Doug Eagle earned an invitation to play Swain in the semifinals by upsetting fifth seed Derek Robinson 5-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-3, 11-6 in the 16's and Luis Bustillos in the quarterfinals. The unseeded Bustillos became the first Mexican player ever to reach the quarterfinals of an IRT event by defeating fourth-seeded Jason Mannino 13-11, 11-6, 9-11, 8-11, 11-4. Eagle ended Bustillos historical trip to the quarters, 8-11, 11-7, 11-0, 11-4. In the semis, Swain grounded Eagle 11-4, 11-3, 15-13.

After defeating Monchik, Locker struggled past Mike Ray in the quarters (11-4, 3-11, 11-8, 2-11, 11-5) and sixth seed Tim Doyle

IRT — APH Service Company Pro-Am Lakewood, Colorado: December 9-13, 1998

[1] Cliff Swain def. Rocky Carson, 6-11, 11-3, 11-3, 11-3
Adam Karp def. [8] Mike Guidry, 7-11, 11-4, 9-11, 13-11, 11-4
Doug Eagle def. [5] Derek Robinson, 5-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-3, 11-6
Luis Bustillos def. [4] Jason Mannino, 13-11, 11-6, 9-11, 8-11, 11-4

[1] Cliff Swain def. Adam Karp, 11-5, 12-10, 11-9
Doug Eagle def. Luis Bustillos, 8-11, 11-7, 11-0, 11-4

[1] Cliff Swain def. Doug Eagle, 11-4, 11-3, 15-13

**[1] CLIFF SWAIN defeats
Mike Locker, 11-4, 11-4, 11-5**

Mike Locker def. [6] Tim Doyle, 11-7, 11-4, 8-11, 11-3

[6] Tim Doyle def. [3] John Ellis, 11-3, 11-8, 11-6
Mike Locker def. Mike Ray, 11-4, 3-11, 11-8, 2-11, 11-5

[3] John Ellis def. James Mulcock, 11-8, 11-3, 11-5
[6] Tim Doyle def. Louis Vogel, 11-3, 11-6, 11-2
Mike Ray def. [7] Andy Roberts, 4-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9
Mike Locker def. [2] Sudsy Monchik, 8-11, 11-9, 5-11, 12-10, 11-9

round of sixteen
quarterfinals
semi-finals
final



IRTPROfile
reported by Kevin Vicroy



in the semis (11-7, 11-4, 8-11, 11-3). Unfortunately for Locker, the final match against Swain wouldn't be much of a struggle.

In game one, Locker went up 1-0 on a forehand pinch for his only lead of the match. Swain jumped on each and every soft serve and repeatedly moved Locker out of mid-court.

"Actually, I thought it (the off-speed serve) would work a little more against Cliff – him being a lefthander," Locker said following the match. "I like to throw in the Z-serve to the right side, but Cliff was all over it. Next thing I knew, there was no medium-pace serve, I had to try to find something that worked."

Locker's search came up empty, due in large part to Swain's experience.

"I watched him a lot throughout the weekend," Swain said. "He has slow, deceptive serves, so I just decided to jump all over them and not let any of them get to the back wall. Even if I left it off the back wall, at least I would get him out of the middle."

"I saw the other guys were pinching it and leaving the ball up. The other thing is I don't think he served as well

as he had throughout the week. Because I jumped on him early, it took away his confidence. Thus, he wasn't serving as well."

Locker admitted he was pretty excited to be in his first-ever final, but said that this May's U.S. National Singles Championships holds his true ambition.

"I feel I'm playing well enough to be in the hunt," he said of the upcoming national

amateur championship. "I've never really had a good national tournament. That's really my ultimate goal."

For Swain, the early Monchik loss only helped his drive to a sixth pro tour championship. The Boston native increased his lead by another 232 points and now holds a 3,591 to 3,129 advantage over Monchik.

"I always want to play him (Sudsy)," Swain said of his rival. "But if he loses early, it's good for the points too. There's a long way to go and as long as I keep working hard, I know what the results will be."

At each IRT stop, local sponsors and top pros are paired for a kick-off doubles event. The group pictured at right played off in Lakewood. **Back row:** Trev Umble, James Lockhart, Art Johnson, Harry Byerly, Jason Mannino, Derek Robinson & Carol Zimlinghaus. **Center row:** Melissa Zantop, John Ellis, Adam Karp, Cliff Swain & Juergen Denk. **Front row:** Sudsy Monchik, Bruce Burgess, Michael Guidry, & Neil Frame. Photo: courtesy IRT.



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Monchik (back court) vs. Swain | All photos: John Foust

Ralph Schomp Pro-Am Super Bowl Pre-Game: Monchik vs. Swain

Up, then down. Dominant, then defenseless. However you phrase it, Sudsy Monchik has endured a tough couple of seasons. But early on Super Bowl Sunday, he narrowed the gap between himself and top-ranked Cliff Swain.

After explosive, back-to-back season tour titles (1995-96 and '96-97), Monchik suffered a setback when five-time champion Cliff Swain, at 33, regained his top ranking last season. This year, Monchik took two of the first three stops of the IRT season, then failed to even make a finals appearance until his grudge rematch victory over Swain at the Promus U.S. OPEN.

At the eighth stop on the circuit, the Ralph Schomp Automotive Pro-Am featured the unstoppable and dominant Monchik – not the one who lost to Mike Locker in the round of 16 of the previous event, held in the mile-high city just weeks earlier. This time it was Swain who appeared defenseless at the Denver Athletic Club in January.

"Lakewood in December was the first stop after Memphis and it's a big letdown," Monchik said of his five-game loss to the unseeded Locker. "I'm still learning and I let myself mentally not be ready – I wasn't focused. I played Locker and he played good. But, obviously, that shouldn't happen. He beat me and I'm looking forward to playing him next time."

Playing Suds Monchik when he has a reason to embarrass you is not a scheduling advantage. Locker should beware.

"Coming here, I really wanted to win," Monchik said. "The race between me and Cliff is probably right about deadlocked right now for the year. I think this is the sixth time Cliff and I have played each other in the finals this year – including doubles. It's been fun."

The Sunday finale between Monchik and his rival was less than entertaining for Swain, who bowed to the 24-year-old 11-6, 11-8, 11-3.

"Everything just felt lousy," Swain said following the dismantling. "I don't know why. I started off strong and just went downhill from there. I don't have a good explanation. I played hard today, but it just didn't click and he played well. I just didn't bear down . . . I wasn't in the right frame of mind for whatever reason."

IRT — Ralph Schomp Pro-Am Denver, Colorado: January 13-17, 1999

Swain, who remains atop the IRT rankings, was on course for his second consecutive pro stop title before meeting a red-hot Monchik in the finals. He earned three-game wins over H.R. Coe, Mike Locker, Adam Karp and Jason Mannino.

Monchik erased deficits of 5-1 and 6-2 in the first two games, respectively. At 7-7 in the second stanza, Swain was overheard telling his racquet, "OK, you stink right now." No matter what the Boston veteran tried, Monchik answered ... aggressively.

"Against Cliff, you've got to be aggressive," Monchik said. "He's the greatest of all time. I'm shooting to be the greatest of all time. I want to be what Cliff has been throughout the game, and better. He gives me that motivation."

The victory trimmed 43 points off of Swain's 462-point lead in the IRT standings. Monchik now trails 3,785 to 3,366.

"Yea, I'm goin' to (catch Cliff by the end of the year)," Monchik said assuringly. "It's going to be me and Cliff to the end. I'm just going to keep playing my butt off and trying hard. Hopefully, I'll win."

[1] Cliff Swain def. Mike Locker, 11-7, 11-5, 12-10
Adam Karp def. [8] Tim Doyle, 7-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-6
[5] Derek Robinson def. Javier Moreno, 11-8, 11-7, 11-3
[4] Jason Mannino def. Luis Bustillos, 11-7, 3-11, 5-11, 11-2, 11-6

[1] Cliff Swain def. Adam Karp, 11-4, 11-5, 11-1
[4] Jason Mannino def. [5] Derek Robinson, 12-10, 9-11, 11-4, 11-6

[1] Swain def. [4] Mannino, 11-8, 11-7, 11-2

**[2] SUDSY MONCHIK defeats
[1] Cliff Swain – 11-6, 11-8, 11-3**

[2] Monchik def. [3] Ellis, 11-7, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7

[3] John Ellis def. [6] Andy Roberts, 11-7, 11-4, 14-12
[2] Sudsy Monchik def. [7] Mike Guidry, 10-12, 11-6, 11-4, 11-2

[3] John Ellis def. Eric Muller, 11-5, 11-2, 11-2
[6] Andy Roberts def. Brian Istace, 12-10, 11-8, 11-9
[7] Mike Guidry def. Mike Ray, 11-5, 11-9, 11-1
[2] Sudsy Monchik def. Kelly Kerr, 11-5, 11-5, 11-9

round of sixteen
quarterfinals
semi-finals
final

"I want it (the #1 ranking) back. It's going to be me and him. I know it. He knows it. Who knows, it could come down to the last tournament of the year. It stinks (being introduced as the second-best player in the world), but I know what I want worse than anything and that's being number one. I can't wait to hear it again - 'The number one player in the world . . . Sudsy Monchik.'"

Left: Monchik and Ellis await the verdict on a call during their semi-final match. Below (l-r): Jim Byner of Ralph Schomp Automotive presents the top prize money to Sudsy Monchik; tournament director Brian Pointelin looks on as Cliff Swain accepts his check from US West's Connie Williams.





pro tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

IRT Rankings

[Through 2/8/99]

	Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1.	Cliff Swain	1	1	3,785
2.	Sudsy Monchik	2	2	3,366
3.	John Ellis	3	3	2,950
4.	Jason Mannino	4	5	2,177
5.	Mike Guidry	6	6	1,922
6.	Andy Roberts	5	4	1,885
7.	Derek Robinson	8	16	1,789
8.	Tim Doyle	7	27	1,781
9.	Adam Karp	9	9	1,578
10.	Mike Ray	10	8	1,501
11.	Dan Fowler	11	7	1,428
12.	Louis Vogel	12	12	1,370
13.	Doug Eagle	13	18	1,042
14.	Tony Jelso	14	10	823
15.	Kelly Kerr	16	25	743
16.	Kelly Gelhaus	15	11	707
17.	Mike Locker	20	37	653
18.	Dan Llacera	19	31	639
19.	James Mulcock	17	15	593
20.	Rocky Carson	18	32	587

WIRT Rankings

[Through 2/8/99]

	Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1.	Jackie Paraiso	1	2	1,045
2.	Cheryl Gudinas	3	3	670
3.	Christie Van Hees	2	14	577
4.	Kersten Hallander	6	10t	519
5.	Lydia Hammock	5	10t	518
6.	Molly O'Brien	7	7	403
7.	Janet Myers	8	9	353
8.	Robin Levine	4	32t	348
9.	Michelle Wiragh	9	23t	334
10.	Doreen Fowler	19t	13	232
11.	Aimee Roehler	18	64	202
12.	Phyllis Morris	12	19	194
13.	Beverly Supanick	-	29	190
14.	Sandy Kubany	-	31	183
15.	Caryn McKinney	10	16	180
16.	Lori-Jane Powell	16	37	168
17.	Susana Acosta	11	-	133
18.	Laura Fenton	13	4	132
19.	Mindy Hartstein	19t	15	130
20.	Angela Burth	-	-	120

1998-99 IRT SEASON

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

February 25-28	Rochester, NY	Penfield Racquet & Fitness Club
March 11-14	TBA, CA	Club TBA
March 18-21	Santa Barbara, CA	Goleta Valley Athletic Club
April 7-11	Columbus, OH	Continental Athletic Club
April 21-25	Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Sporting House
May 5-8	San Diego, CA	Club TBA
May 13-16	Honolulu, HI	Club TBA
May 19-23	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona Athletic Club
June 2-5	Portland, OR	Multnomah Athletic Club

1998-99 WIRT SEASON

Baltimore	Van Hees def. Paraiso	(8), 6, (1), 6, 9
Memphis	Paraiso def. Van Hees	6, 6, 5
Denver	Paraiso def. Van Hees	9, 6, 6
Chalfont	Paraiso def. Gudinas	11, 8, (7), 8
Roanoke	Paraiso def. Gudinas	(4), 2, 3, 8

March	Rockville Centre, NY	Sportset Rockville Centre
April 23-25	Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Sporting House
May 6-8	San Diego, CA	Club TBA
May 21-23	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona Athletic Club
June 3-5	Portland, OR	Multnomah Athletic Club

BONUS POOL STANDINGS

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

Pro Penn Glove: 1. Ray, 2. Kerr, 3t. Kerr, 3t. Llacera
Ektelon NFS Shoe: 1. Guidry, 2. Roberts, 3. Ray, 4. Fowler
Tacki Mac: 1. Mannino, 2. Karp, 3. Ray, 4. Vogel
Babolat String: 1. Mannino, 2. Ray, 3. Kerr, 4. Mulcock

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

Pro Penn Glove: 1. Hallander, 2. Hammock, 3. Wiragh, 4. Myers
Ektelon NFS Shoe: 1. Gudinas, 2. Hallander, 3. Hammock, 4. O'Brien
Tacki Mac: 1. Hallander, 2. Hammock, 3. Wiragh, 4. Myers
Babolat String: 1. Hallander, 2. Hammock, 3. Wiragh, 4. Myers
RAD Eyewear: 1. Paraiso, 2. Hallander, 3. Hammock, 4. Wiragh



Cleverly designed to look like a bruise in flight.

A new and potent fusion of power, speed and visibility. The Penn Titanium Racquetball. It's destined to leave its mark on the sport.

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RACQUETBALLS

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rb:people & places



Above: Circa 1988, Baltimore. Below: With Jim Bailey at the 1991 Hall of Fame Induction ceremony in Houston.



Hennen-Remen National Doubles Titles & Career Highlights:

- 1998 Men's 50+: Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)/Ed Remen (N.C.)
- 1993 Men's 45+: Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)/Ed Remen (Va.)
- 1992 Men's 45+: Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)/Ed Remen (Va.)
- 1991 Hennen/Remen inducted to USRA Hall of Fame
- 1988 Men's 40+: Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)/Ed Remen (Va.)
- 1985 Men's 35+: Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)/Ed Remen (Va.)
- 1983 Men's 35+: Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)/Ed Remen (Va.)

JUST TWO GUYS FROM THE SOUTH

by Ed Remen

For nearly 20 years, Johnny Hennen and I have been competing against each other, and together as a team to collect 11 national doubles titles – and share six of them. He's from Chattanooga, Tennessee and I originally hailed from the South Bronx, New York ... but from Buffalo, to Boise, to Baltimore and many cities in between, we've traveled the country playing racquetball – the game we both love.

We've played many great teams and enjoyed the competition and camaraderie with guys from all over the country. Needless to say, we've made a lot of great friends and shared many wonderful experiences together.

But for the past five years, Johnny hasn't played racquetball. He's been fighting for his life against an opponent he couldn't see. He had vasculitis, which affected his immune system and eventually shut down his kidneys. While he was on dialysis and waiting for a kidney transplant, whether or not he'd ever play racquetball again must have seemed insignificant.

However, with the powers from above, a loving family and friends, this story enjoys a happy ending. With a successful kidney transplant two years ago, Johnny began his miraculous recovery. With hard, hard work and determination, progress was taking place.

Johnny's progress was so good, that – in a conversation a year ago – we mentioned getting back on the court and trying to play some doubles again. How sweet it would be if we could play in the 1998 U.S. National Doubles in Baltimore. It was 10 years ago since the National Doubles had been played in Baltimore and it brought back good memories to us when we won the 40+ division.

You think about the good things racquetball has brought into your life ... and how much you miss it when you can't play the game that you love so much. I wish everyone would realize just how fortunate we are to have our health *and* be able to play this game at whatever level.

Well, Baltimore '98 has come and gone. I've played a lot of sports in my life, a lot of games and contests. Won some and lost some. But playing side-by-side with my partner again was truly an inspiration. Knowing what he has gone through just to get there makes my aches and pains irrelevant.

**Champs
Again in
1998!**



Emotionally, we were fired up. When that last point was scored, we had won the 50+ division. It's hard to describe the feelings. We just hugged and cried. We knew this journey was over for now. Let's enjoy it . . . and we did.

Appreciate the day and stay healthy. For if we are lucky, we'll have many more journeys in our lives. Keep on stroking!

TITANIUM DOES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD !

by Kevin Vicroy

Hall-of-famer Jo Kenyon thought her racquetball career was over. But the only reason she was able to get back on a court at the 1998 Ektelon National Doubles was titanium ... not a racquet, but a hip.

"My (hip) problems started a year ago January," Kenyon said. "I began to feel discomfort in the hip and it gradually got worse and worse . . . within a year's time, I had no cartilage and it was just bone on bone."

Kenyon played three tournaments in extreme pain. "I can remember at the U.S. OPEN last year ('97), after I got through playing, I'd have to crawl on my hands and knees because I couldn't walk. It was that bad."

In May of 1998, the eight-time world seniors champion went in for a hip-replacement surgery, which included a full week in the hospital, then two weeks of outpatient care. On and off the court in Baltimore, Kenyon skittered about without a trace of a limp, and didn't appear to favor the side even slightly.

"Even after researching it (hip-replacement surgery), I thought I was going to be limited forever with this thing," she said of her new titanium hip. "It doesn't seem to be (limiting me). The only thing hurting me now is my right hip from stretching. I didn't feel a

thing in my left hip that last match."

Immediately after the surgery, the 14-time U.S. national champ had been anxious to get back and swing the racquet.

According to Kenyon, "I started back hitting after that three-month check up, which was the last weekend of August. Each time I get in the court, it gets a little bit better ... I figured that if I could keep up with the 35-year old guys back home, that when I got here and played in my age group it would be OK."

A bit more than "okay," Kenyon played through a five-team round robin to earn a silver medal finish in the Mixed 60+ division with partner Victor Sacco.

"I'm really excited about being back. I thought my racquetball days were over. I could live without it (the competition). The worst thing in the world was to think that I was not going to be in touch with these racquetball people. Here I am and I'm as happy as I can be."



*Before surgery photo (top): Mary Lyons.
After recovery photo (bottom): Vicki Hughes.*

THE GREATEST PLAYER I EVER SAW

by James Woolcock

Before this story unfolds, you should understand that I have been blessed with the opportunity to see, in person, most of the greatest professional racquetball players of all time. I did miss Charlie Brumfield in person, but have seen him play on TV. This story is not about any of those great champions, although my memories of Hogan vs. Yellen, Yellen vs. Peck, Hilecher vs. Hogan, etc. are still etched deeply in my memory banks. This story is about an aging, long-legged, polite man by the name of Gordon Chapman, the greatest player I ever saw.

rb:people & places



Never too Young

At the wise old age of four-and-a-half, Ron Gerardis of Colorado Springs knows the importance of eye protection on the court. Of course, he's never really allowed to play racquetball without his goggles, but he's always having so much fun that they don't appear to "bug" him.
Photo: Jeff Short

Unless you hung around the Des Moines, Iowa downtown YMCA in the 70s, you would not know Gordon Chapman. At that time, he was in his mid-40s, and would often be found on the splendid glass courts at that facility 2-3 times per week. He was a tall, quiet man who did not stand out to any casual viewer of the action on those courts. In fact, he did not stand out for me at all for the first few months I took my fledgling game to that arena.

His regular beatings of me were initially written off as due to his being so tall. As I played him, and watched him with more interest, it became clear to me that Gordon was not playing the same game as others at that facility, including myself. I have now come to realize that Gordon had the "secret". What is the "secret"? The "secret" is that deep understanding of how to play racquetball "the right way," including all the inherent subtleties that make our game "chess in a box." Charlie Brumfield had the "secret." Steve Strandemo had the "secret." And yes, even the great Marty Hogan had the "secret."

I remember Gordon's effortless stroke of the ball on both the forehand and backhand sides, with the silver frame of his Beau Mark shining off the ceiling lights. You see, Gordon's Beau Mark was always bright silver because it never had a nick on it. It looked new every time he used it. He never wore a glove because I never remember seeing him worked up into a great sweat. He never pumped his fist, shouted "C'mon, Gordon", or show any emotion either way. I never remember seeing him skip the ball. I do remember one piece of advice that he gave me as

he came to realize that I was taking "chess in a box" seriously. He said, "I noticed that you skip a lot of balls up front in the service area. You should put these away, like a lay-up in basketball."

Once I took my game to the tournament circuit, I remember paying special attention to the Masters-age players, to see how they compared to Gordon. It finally dawned on me at my first Midwest Regional that I hadn't seen a single Masters' player in any tournament that could "touch" Gordon. Of course, I just had to tell him at our next encounter. That's when Gordon told me about the polio he had contracted in his younger years, and how it had sapped him of the stamina he now needed for tournament play. He could manage to play for a hour or so at a time, but had difficulty playing two days in a row, and more than once in one day was out of the question.

That gave me a greater appreciation for the man and I came to value him as one of the guys at the "Y". I did get to the point of being able to beat Gordon, but I was sure it was purely youth vs. age that worked to my benefit, as my understanding of the "secret" still paled in comparison.



Gordon came back to my memory banks recently as I bested a very young, athletic player in my current racquetball league. It reminded me of some of my first encounters with Gordon and, like that time, my young opponent had no understanding of how this aging racquetball warrior could spot him 6 points, and still win. You see,

like Gordon, I now have the "secret". Thank-you, Gordon.

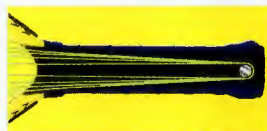
New CONTROL WRAP™ FRAME

Patent Pending

Increases control without sacrificing the power of 22.0" LongString Technology.

New Omen
195 grams

New Torrent
220 grams



When a racquet's shape is maintained at ball impact, control is maximized. Conversely, when the racquet shape is distorted – usually by off-center hits – control is lost.

The revolutionary patent-pending Control Wrap frame outperforms all other racquet designs. It prevents frame distortion and therefore increases control... **without sacrificing the tremendous power generated by 22.0" LongString Technology.**



Here's how control is increased:

1. Elimination of 100 string holes

The Control Wrap frame removes 100 string holes – one entry and one exit hole at each of the 50 string contact points. This vastly decreases frame distortion while increasing frame stability and durability.

ALL COMPETITOR FRAMES HAVE MULTIPLE STRING HOLES.



Each string contact point has both entry and exit holes... totalling over 110.

"CONTROL WRAP" FRAME ELIMINATES 100 HOLES IN FRAME.



Increases control, stiffness, stability and durability.

2. Exclusive Cylinder Rail™ construction

Cylinder Rail construction also limits frame distortion, *further maximizing control*. This is achieved by combining a stiff graphite/titanium tube with a rigid structural support. The structural support limits racquet distortion at ball impact, while allowing the necessary straight back-and-forth racquet flex.



EXCLUSIVE "CYLINDER RAIL" CONSTRUCTION



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Before Control Wrap, the strings penetrated the frame, turned at a sharp 90-degree angle, ran a half-inch, then re-entered at a sharp 90 degrees. The Control Wrap frame is different. It directs the strings over longer distances around the frame and into the string bed at softer angles. Local stresses on the strings are reduced. Ball responses and the player's feel for the ball are enhanced.



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UNITED STATES RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS
[Established 1988]

recordbook

Boys #1 Singles

- 1998 Josh Tucker (Mo.), Joplin High School
- 1997 Erin Brannigan (Idaho), Sandpoint High School
- 1996 Eric Storey (Ind.), Lawrence North High School
- 1995 Eric Storey (Ind.), Lawrence North High
- 1994 Shane Wood (Mass.), Auburn High School
- 1993 Jason Armbricht (N.C.), West Forsyth High School
- 1992 James Mulcock (N.M.), Albuquerque Academy
- 1991 **Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.), Tottenville HS**
- 1990 Joel Bonnett (Mich.), Forest Hills Central HS
- 1989 Jason Waggoner (Fla.), Ft. Myers High School
- 1988 Jim Floyd (Mich.), Bentley High School

Girls #1 Singles

- Brooke Crawford (Ore.), Henley High School
- Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.), Thunderbird High School
- Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.), Thunderbird High School
- Vanessa Tulao (Tenn.), Baylor High School
- Shannon Feaster (D.C.), School without Walls
- Tammy Brockbank (Idaho), Borah High School
- Elkova Icenogle (Calif.), Placer High School
- Elkova Icenogle (Calif.), Placer High School**
- Elkova Icenogle (Calif.), Placer High School
- Michelle Gilman (Ore.), Ontario High School
- Holly Gray (Va.), Broad Run High School



Team Results

- 1998 Sprague High School (Salem, Oregon)
- 1997 Beaverton High School (Beaverton, Oregon)
- 1996 Beaverton High School (Beaverton, Oregon)
- 1995 Service Stellar High School (Anchorage, Alaska)
- 1994 Lafayette High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
- 1993 Lafayette High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
- 1992 Lafayette High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
- 1991 Lafayette High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
- 1990 Parkway West High School (St. Louis, Mo.)
- 1989 Manatee High School (Bradenton, Fla.)
- 1988 Manatee High School (Bradenton, Fla.)

Boys Doubles

- 1998 Mike Harmon/Larry Peek (Sarasota HS, Fla.)
- 1997 Mike Harmon/Larry Peek (Sarasota HS, Fla.)
- 1996 Mike Harmon/Larry Peek (Sarasota HS, Fla.)
- 1995 Brit Berkey/Bryan Berkey (R. Nelson Snider HS)
- 1994 Jaime Alexander/Andrew Haywood (Nacogdoches HS, Texas)
- 1993 Shai Manzuri/Dawoud Gharfashad (Foothills HS, Calif.)
- 1992 Jason Thoerner/Andrew Haywood (Lakeside HS/Ga.)
- 1991 Britt & Allan Engel (Manatee HS/Bradenton, Fla.)
- 1990 Scott Reiff/Andy Reiff (Taravella HS, Fla.)
- 1989 Robbie Walden/Allan Engel (Manatee HS, Fla.)
- 1988 Robbie Walden/Allan Engle (Manatee HS, Fla.)

Girls Doubles

- 1998 Megan Bals/Kristen Kovar (Piux X HS, Neb.)
- 1997 Liana Kerwood/Christina Lewendal (Beaverton HS, Ore.)
- 1996 Erin Frost/Brooke Crawford (Henley HS, Ore.)
- 1995 Dianne Torrey/Meghan Guardiani (Notre Dame Academy, Mass.)
- 1994 Katie Gould/Christy Gould (Lafayette HS, Mo.)
- 1993 Dianne Torrey/Stephanie Torrey (Notre Dame Academy, Mass.)
- 1992 Jennifer Modica/Stacey Olson (St. Joseph's Academy, Mo.)
- 1991 Jodie & Jeannie Eggebrecht (Parkway West/St. Louis, Mo.)
- 1990 Elkova Icenogle/Rusti Icenogle (Placer HS, Calif.)
- 1989 Elkova Icenogle/Hayden May (Placer HS, Calif.)
- 1988 Linda Gates/Martha Gates (Clifton HS, Ill.)

Mixed Doubles

- 1998 Brooke Crawford/Bart Crawford (Henley HS, Ore.)
- 1997 Melissa Harmon/Mike Harmon (Sarasota HS, Fla.)
- 1996 Maggie DeBord/Andrew Tucknott (Lincoln SE HS, Neb.)
- 1995 Katie Gould/Brian Thompson (Lafayette High, Mo.)
- 1994 Sadie Gross/Andy Gross (Apple Valley HS, Minn.)
- 1993 Joe Maginn/Colleen Maginn (Portage-Turner HS, Ore.)
- 1992 Elkova Icenogle/Jaron Icenogle (Placer HS, Calif.)
- 1991 Britt Engel/Allan Engel (Manatee HS/Bradenton, Fla.)

... in 1991, Sudsy Monchik appeared on his first RACQUETBALL magazine cover ... (shown above left) with Elkova Icenogle !

**UNITED STATES RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION
U.S. NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS
[Established 1973]**

Men's #1 Singles	
1998	Rocky Carson, Saddleback CC
1997	Brian Simpson, Indiana Univ.
1996	Eric Muller, Harvard
1995	Shane Wood, Nichols College
1994	Tim Sweeney, SMSU
1993	Tim Sweeney, SMSU
1992	Tim Sweeney, SMSU
1991	Tim Sweeney, SMSU
1990	Todd O'Neil, MSU
1989	Jimmy Floyd, UM/Flint
1988	Michael Bronfeld, SAC
1987	Andy Roberts, MSU
1986	Roger Harripersad, SAC
1985	Andy Roberts, MSU
1984	Andy Roberts, MSU
1983	Jack Newman, MSU
1982	Jack Newman, MSU
1981	Larry Fox, Univ./Mich.
1980	Keith Dunlap, MSU
1979	Keith Dunlap, MSU
1978	John Dunlap, MSU
1977	John Dunlap, MSU
1976	John Lynch, Univ./Ill.
1975	Steve Smith, MSU
1974	Randy Stafford, TN
1973	Jerry Hilecher, MSU

Women's #1 Singles	
Christie Van Hees, Okanagan (Can.)	
Tammy Brockbank, Boise State	
Tammy Brockbank, Treasure Valley CC	
Tammy Brockbank, Treasure Valley CC	
Kerri Stoffregen, MSU	
Tanya Spangler, San Jose State	
Cindy Doyle, Coastline CC	
Elaine Hooghe, Franklin Univ.	
Kim Russell, Univ./Kentucky	
Cindy Doyle, MSU	
Robin Levine, SAC	
Toni Bevelock, MSU	
Crystal Fried, SAC	
Crystal Fried, SAC	
Kathy Gluvna, MSU	
Kathy Gluvna, MSU	
Tammy Hajjar, Marist College	
Barbara Faulkenberry, AFA	
Barbara Faulkenberry, AFA	
Barbara Faulkenberry, AFA	
Carolyn Ghelardini, Univ./Ill.	
Janet Marshall, MSU	
Sarah Green, MSU	
Martha Byrd, Univ./Fla.	

Team Results

1998	University of Southern Colorado
1997	Brigham Young University (BYU)
1996	Brigham Young University (BYU)
1995	Brigham Young University (BYU)
1994	SW Missouri State University (SMSU)
1993	SW Missouri State University (SMSU)
1992	SW Missouri State University (SMSU)
1991	SW Missouri State University (SMSU)
1990	Memphis State University (MSU)
1989	Memphis State University (MSU)
1988	Sacramento State (SAC)
1987	Sacramento State (SAC)
1986	Sacramento State (SAC)
1985	Memphis State University (MSU)
1984	Memphis State University (MSU)
1983	Memphis State University (MSU)
1982	Memphis State University (MSU)
1981	Memphis State University (MSU)
1980	Memphis State University (MSU)
1979	Memphis State University (MSU)
1978	Memphis State University (MSU)
1977	Memphis State University (MSU)
1976	University of Illinois
1975	Memphis State University (MSU)
1974	University of Tennessee
1973	University of Illinois

*... randy stafford designed & built
the portable glass court for the promus u.s. open...*

Men's #1 Doubles	
1998	Luis Bustillos/Willie Tilton, Southern Colorado
1997	Luis Bustillos/Javier Moreno, Univ./So. Colorado
1996	Javier Moreno/Luis Munoz, Univ./So. Colorado
1995	Shane Wood/Erik Ekman, Nichols
1994	Fabian Balmori/Luis Munoz, MSU
1993	Joel Bonnett/Scott Reiff, MSU
1992	Mike Engel/Simon Roy, SMSU
1991	Mike Engel/Brian Rankin, SMSU
1990	Tim Hansen/Sergio Gonzalez, MSU
1989	Brian Hawkes/Bill Sell, Cal State/Fullerton
1988	Brian Bliss/Mark Isley, SMSU
1987	Hart Johnson/Todd Stead, Minnesota
1986	Rick Komistek/Andy Roberts, MSU
1985	Rick Komistek/Andy Roberts, MSU
1984	Jim Jeffers/Brian Sheldon, MSU
1983	Tim Hansen/Bubba Gautier, Santa Fe CC
1982	Paul Bakken/Dan Constable, Bethel
1981	Paul Bakken/Dan Constable, Bethel
1980	Dan Cohen/Mike Gora, MSU
1979	Mike Gora/Pete Tashie, MSU
1978	Jerry Bildsby/Carey Finn, MSU
1977	Jim Cullin/David Fleetwood, MSU
1976	Eric Hinds/Dennis Mahjer, Univ./Ill.
1975	Dean Nichopoulos/Jim Thoni, MSU
1974	Jeff Bowman/John Parks, Univ./Ill.
1973	Davey Bledsoe/Randy Stafford, Univ./Tenn.

Women's #1 Doubles	
1998	Erin Frost/Liana Kerwood, Oregon
1997	Cindy Richards/Darla Wenger, BYU
1996	Britt Engel/Sadie Gross, Univ./Memphis
1995	Dawn Peterson/Nicole Buresh, Univ./Wis.
1994	Kerri Stoffregen/Britt Engel, MSU
1993	Chris Deer/Heather Dunn, SMSU
1992	Heather Dunn/Jen Yokota, SMSU
1991	Chris Deer/Jen Yokota, SMSU
1990	Cindy Doyle/Holly Gray, MSU
1989	Robin Levine/Kelly Pulis, SAC
1988	Robin Levine/Kelly Pulis, SAC
1987	Robin Levine/Kelly Pulis, SAC
1986	Mona Mook/Trina Rasmussen, SAC
1985	Crystal Fried/Tracy Eagleson, SAC
1984	Theresa Beresford/Kim Cooling, MSU
1983	Lisa Faquin/Renee Trammell, MSU
1982	Lisa Faquin/Renee Trammell, MSU
1981	Dawn Kell/Karen Randich, Univ./Ill.
1980	Candi Gavin/Linda Levene, MSU
1979	Kirsten Conrad/Meg Hooper, Auburn
1978	Melanie Mobley/Cynthia Wilson, MSU
1977	Sally Disconza/Kay Haynes, MSU
1975	Janet Marshall/Debbie Vinson, MSU

*... jen yokota currently serves as the
state president for Missouri ...*

intercollegiate champions

newsindustrynews



NEW RELEASES FROM ASHAWAY

For the first time in its 50-year history, Ashaway Racket Strings released a "racquetball-only" brochure, highlighting new racquetball strings for 1999. Included are the company's newest releases, which offer relief to chronic string breakers: MonoKill™ and Killfire™ Pro.

MonoKill™ is a tough polyester monofilament, 17-gauge (1.20 mm) string available in 660 ft. reels (200 meters). Firmer than nylon strings, but more resilient than Kevlar®, it provides a balance of power and control that many power players find ideal. With polyester's high tensile strength, MonoKill™ stands up longer than nylon strings. Polyester strings have long been popular in Europe, but are virtually unknown in the U.S. Because polyester is highly resistant to abrasion and "notching," it does not require a jacket layer, making it the only true monofilament string in racquetball and tennis. The absence of an outer jacket layer makes MonoKill™ smoother and easier to string.

Killfire™ Pro is designed for top amateurs and professional athletes who are chronic string breakers. The string sets combine ultra-tough 16-gauge Kevlar® main strings with resilient, notch-resistant 16-gauge SuperKill® II nylon crosses to produce a hybrid set that has enough "pop" for power players, along with firmness for control and durability in the extreme. The braided Kevlar® also has good "bite," for excellent ball spin. Killfire™ Pro string sets include 23 ft. (7 M) of Kevlar® mains and 20 ft. (6 M) of SuperKill® II crosses - enough for the largest oversize racquets. Both strings are a hefty 1.30 mm in diameter, Kevlar® is a registered trademark of E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. Inc.

ARIAS CHOSEN TO HEAD UP PROMUS U.S. OPEN WEBSITE

A diehard racquetball player for the past 26 years, Ed Arias of Madison, Wisconsin, was recently appointed to the Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships tournament committee. The 4th annual USRA event will be held November 17-21, 1999 at The Racquet Club of Memphis, Tennessee.

Arias will be in charge of developing and maintaining an increased online presence for the Promus U.S. OPEN. A Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Animal Health and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Arias earned his doctorate in Physiology and Biophysics from the University of Illinois-Chicago in September of 1997.

"My vision for the Promus U.S. OPEN website is to present the most extravagant event in racquetball in the most extravagant way to the Internet community," Arias said. "We are going to show the world what the sweetest flavor of racquetball is ... on an 'on-demand' basis. It will not only have audiovisual capabilities via video-conferencing and perhaps videostreaming, but also interactive areas (chatrooms) where people who could not attend can chat with various officials, pros and amateur players."

Promus U.S. OPEN tournament director Doug Ganim was pleased with the selection, saying, "We're very excited to welcome Ed Arias to the Promus U.S. OPEN tournament committee. His expertise in the area of website design will help us grow this event into the next millennium."





HEAD NAMED TITLE SPONSOR OF JUNIOR OLYMPICS

HEAD representative Doug Ganim recently announced that HEAD would become the official title sponsor of the USRA Junior Olympic National Championships and the USRA Junior Regional Qualifier Series. The sponsorship is worth an estimated \$340,000.

Also a gold-level sponsor of the International Racquetball Federation (IRF) World Seniors Championships in Albuquerque, N.M., HEAD signed a 3-year contract with the USRA.

"We really want to make a push to support grassroots racquetball and we think junior racquetball is the place for us to do it," Ganim said. "We're going to be a cash sponsor of the (Junior) Nationals and we're going to donate 15,000 extra-small and small gloves to be used in junior programs all throughout the United States." The gloves will be used to help promote junior membership and participation.

AUCTION AT STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RAISES \$8,000

1998 U.S. Olympic Team apparel from the Winter Games in NAGANO, Japan, became the focus of an auction held for the "Olympic Dream" as part of the 1999 State Leadership Conference. \$4,500 was raised directly from the Saturday night auction run by New Mexico State President Gary Mazaroff. Artwears donated \$2,000; Internet West, \$500; North Carolina, \$500; and the World Seniors Racquetball Championships, \$500. Industry leaders who were not present chipped in another \$1,000 to bring the total to \$8,000 . . . the largest amount ever raised at the annual auction.



ABOVE TOP: DAVID BELL OF RACQUETBALL CANADA ASSISTED GARY MAZAROFF DURING THE AUCTION - BY OFFERING THE SHIRT (JACKET) OFF HIS BACK. IT WENT TO HIGH BIDDER JEN YOKOTA. ABOVE CENTER: CALIFORNIA'S SHARON RUMMEL WAS SO THRILLED AT SUCCESSFULLY BIDDING FOR A SWEATER THAT SHE COULDN'T WAIT TO EXCHANGE IT WITH THE ONE SHE WAS WEARING. ROOMIE CONNIE MARTIN OF OREGON PROVIDED A HELPING HAND WHEN SHARON DISCOVERED SHE'D TAKEN OFF ONE THING TOO MANY. LEFT: IN A MORE FORMAL POSE, THE ASSEMBLED STATE ASSOCIATION LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE. PHOTO: JOHN FOUST.

Entry Form, Fees & Payment

Name _____
(please print)
Birthdate _____ Age _____ Male / Female

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eves) _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Regional Qualifier _____ Division(s) _____
(required)

I won a national championship title in 1998, at: _____

FOR SEEDING — Please indicate your finish in these events:

1998 National Singles Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____
1999 State Championship Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____
1999 Regional Championship Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____
1998-99 National Invitational Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____
1998 U.S. OPEN Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

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

Participant Signature & Date _____

SKILL LEVEL VERIFICATION I am certified to compete in the skill level I have selected, as shown below. Further, I understand that this information will be verified and that re-classification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director. Check one and obtain signature, if required.

☐ I competed in my regional at this level, as shown above.

☐ I have been AmPRO certified at this level by:

AmPRO Certified Instructor (name required)

☐ I have competed at this level in my state since January 1, 1999.

Verified by: State President (signature required)

Use your USRA MBNA credit card to charge your entry, and receive an additional 10% off your fees.

MC/Visa _____ Exp. _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

ALL players must pre-qualify by competing in any division at a regional event. (see exceptions in "Qualifiers & Certifications").

MEN	• OPEN •	WOMEN
_____	Open*	_____
_____	24-	_____
_____	25+	_____
_____	30+	_____
_____	35+	_____
_____	40+	_____
_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____
_____	Wheelchair	_____

*An "Elite" drop-down division will be offered to every first-round loser in the Open Team Qualifier. Players will automatically be placed into this draw and re-seeded for continued competition. Champions will receive title recognition and award, but no consolation round will be played in this division.

Player may enter only one of the divisions shown in RED, and must be approved to compete at that skill level (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

MEN	• SKILL •	WOMEN
_____	A	_____
_____	B	_____
_____	C	_____
_____	D	_____

Players must be approved at the skill level chosen along with their age (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

MEN	• AGE + SKILL •	WOMEN
_____	24- A/B	_____
_____	24- C/D	_____
_____	25+ A/B	_____
_____	25+ C/D	_____
_____	35+ A/B	_____
_____	35+ C/D	_____
_____	45+ A/B	_____
_____	45+ C/D	_____
_____	55+ A/B	_____
_____	55+ C/D	_____

1st EVENT (\$75.00) \$ _____

2nd EVENT (\$35.00) \$ _____

USRA Competitive

License (\$20.00) \$ _____

Late Fee (\$15.00) \$ _____

Phone/fax fee (\$8.00) \$ _____

Guest Package ... (\$70.00) \$ _____

Guest Name _____

Tax deductible donation.. \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

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

THE FINALS

EKTELON

NATIONAL SINGLES

RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Penn HOUSTON, TEXAS USA
MAY 26 - 31, 1999

MEMBERS ONLY: This National Event is hosted for USRA members only. A USRA competitive license is required of all participants, and entrants may purchase this membership at registration, or must be able to present a current membership card, a receipt, or a cancelled check indicating recent enrollment as proof of membership.

FEES: ENTRY: \$75.00 First event (includes referee fee), \$35.00 second event. Players may enter two events. • **LATE FEES:** Entries received after the deadline will be surcharged an additional \$15.00 late fee, including cash payments accepted at tournament registration. *No credit card payments will be accepted on-site at the registration desk.* • **PROCESSING:** Telephone and fax entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with an \$8.00 service charge and Visa/Mastercard payment.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Wednesday, MAY 12, postmarked no later than MAY 10. Only pre-paid entries are placed into the draw – All entries are final – No refunds after the deadline date.

EXPANDED ENTRY FORM: Full entries, with additional hotel, travel and general information can be obtained at all Regional Qualifying Events, or by calling 719/635-5396.

QUALIFIERS & CERTIFICATIONS

Regionals: All players must have competed – in any division – at a **recognized Regional Qualifier** (Adult, Intercollegiate or Junior Regional) to be eligible to compete in the U.S. National Singles Championships. Any legitimate waivers of qualifying competition must have been approved prior to the scheduled regional weekend. Any such waivers must have been directed to – and approved by – the USRA Headquarters. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason. *Exception: Women age 45 and over, and Men age 55 and over (as of May 26, 1999) are not required to pre-qualify for competition.*

Skill Division Certification: A, B, C, and D division entrants must:

- have competed in the same division in the regional qualifier.
- be AmPRO rated in those divisions (certified by an AmPRO instructor since January 1, 1999), or
- submit signature verification by their State Director indicating competition at the entered level since January 1, 1999 – or

NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria for corresponding skill levels in "Age+A/B" & "Age+C/D" divisions.

Amateur Status: Only amateurs may participate. A professional is defined as anyone who has accepted prize money in the preceding 12 months, regardless of amount, in any IRT/WIRT pro sanctioned tournament or any other event so deemed as professional by the USRA Board of Directors.

Official event of the
USRA
United States Racquetball Association



Presented by
Propenn

Phone United's U.S. Olympic Travel Desk, toll-free, at 800/841-0460 between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm EST weekdays. Then reference the special USRA conference account number – 542HO – to receive the lowest available United fare!



"The Players Event"
 The "Finals" is the only national championship for singles competition in open, skill, age group and combined divisions. In addition to a full week's worth of competition in this Level Six event, you'll enjoy special activities all week long ...

TUESDAY

VIP and National Champions Wine and Cheese Reception — Hyatt Regency. An invitation-only reception to honor any individual who has won a National Championship within the past year.

THURSDAY

Country Western Hoedown Sponsor Party — Hyatt Regency. Ektelon, Penn and the USRA will host an authentic western party. A talent show featuring western themes, country western dancing and 'best western dress' contest will highlight the evening. Complimentary munchies and drinks!

FRIDAY

Casino Night — Hyatt Regency. A special night ... Las Vegas style! Each player will receive complimentary "starter" cash to begin the evening's entertainment. At the end of the evening, lucky winners will be able to use their 'bankrolls' to purchase special items from golf clubs to airline tickets.

SATURDAY

USRA Annual Awards Banquet and Dance — Hyatt Regency. The Hyatt's Grand Ballroom will host over 600 players and guests to honor outstanding performances from 1998, Hall of Fame inductees, Athletes of the Year, and other surprise award winners. Enjoy a circus theme during dinner, then take in the USRA Midway featuring magicians, fortune-tellers and games of skill and chance.

SUNDAY

Karaoke at the Back Room Bar — Hyatt Regency. Special awards and entertainment for those willing to test their singing skills!

AND ALL WEEK LONG ... MEET IN THE PARK!



Sudsy's Magic Show

I hear it all the time... "Sudsy, you're like a magician out there... your moves, your strokes, your serves, they're like magic! How do you do that? You're awesome!" Well, there is some truth to all that ... but on a more serious note, it's been the result of lots of hard work, dedication, hours and hours of drilling, having role models and coaches like Ruben Gonzales & Fran Davis and of course, some God-given talent. Put all that together and you get ... SUDSY'S MAGIC SHOW ...

PHOTOS: MIKE BOATMAN

Me ... a magician ... kinda hard to believe, but true! Let's take a closer look at magic legends like Houdini and David Copperfield. When you watch one of their performances you are in total awe. Your mouth hangs open through magic trick after magic trick. And you say the same things, "How'd they do that?" "That's amazing!" But if you take a really close look and study their moves you can see how each trick unfolds. It's the basics — at the highest level of execution.

Well that's me ... I "perform" the basics at the highest level of execution. Fundamentally sound, as they say, but then I began investing at the early age of seven. My parents owned a club and I pretty much lived there. Every day I'd go there after school and do nothing but hit the ball around. Then when I got older I practiced what I saw Ruben do and later I practiced what he taught me — the fundamentals. All of us, including you, have the ability to be the best, but not everyone is willing to invest. There is always a price to pay and sacrifices to make to be the best you can be.

What I'm going to share with you in "Sudsy's Magic Show" are the very fundamentals that have helped me to earn Junior National Championships in every age group, several World titles, the '96 and '98 Promus U.S. Open championship titles, and be named the IRT's #1 Player in the World (twice).

In this issue I'll focus on... Sudsy's Magical Power Backhand!

You might ask, "Why did Sudsy pick his backhand to analyze before his forehand?" First of all, I always like to be a little different, but more importantly, I love my backhand and the players on the tour fear it. Most club players have weaker backhands and will either run around it to hit a forehand and get out of position, or they'll poke at the ball for a setup. So what happens? Opponents pick on their backhand with a lob serves, ceiling balls, and even hard passes — all to their backhand. Once you're known in your club as a player with a weak backhand, you'll be branded for life!

I want you to feel like I do about my backhand ... love it and learn to depend on it as an offensive weapon, not just for keeping the ball in play. I am a firm believer that your backhand should be better than your forehand because it's a much more natural shot. You coil, then uncoil and release (rather than swinging across your body in the forehand). So it's only a matter of building your confidence up so you can truly believe in your backhand. In order to help you boost your confidence level, I will simplify the most powerful, fundamentally sound backhand in the game today ... MINE... by breaking the stroke down into a five-step approach.

These five steps — or "magic tricks" — will be: The Grip, ERP (Early Racquet Preparation), The Swing, The Contact Point and the Follow-through.



TRICK #1: THE GRIP

- Take a look at my forehand grip (shaking hands with the racquet, the "v" between my thumb & forefinger is over the top part of the racquet handle).
- Take a look at my backhand grip (I have moved my hand 1/8 of a turn toward my body and now the "v" is on the "corner" of the handle). The reason I make this adjustment is so the racquet face can be flat on contact with the ball.





TRICK #2: ERP

[Early Racquet Preparation]

Upper Body

- Look at my upper body rotation — my back is facing the front wall and my right shoulder is pointing toward the side wall (coiling affect).
- Look at the height of my racquet above my shoulder.
- Non-hitting arm is up and rotated.
- Upper body erect.

Lower Body

- Look at my hip rotation — my belly button is facing the back left corner (coiling affect again).
- Knees bent.
- Feet a little wider than shoulder width apart.
- Weight distribution is relatively even, with a slight shift to the back foot.



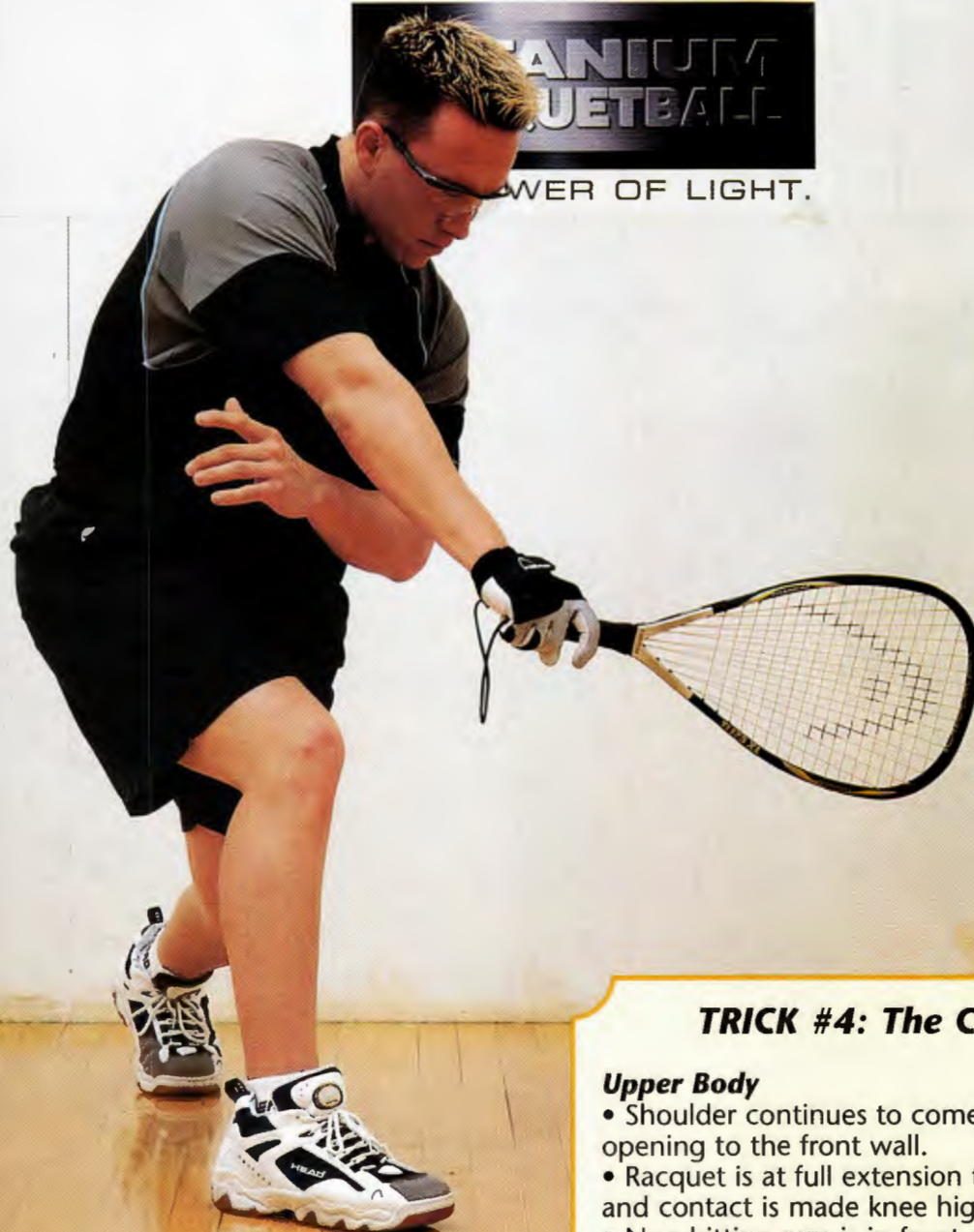
TRICK #3: The Swing

Upper Body

- Notice my racquet head drops to below shoulder level and my back is facing the right side wall and my right shoulder is pointing toward the front wall.
- Non-hitting arm is coming through for balance.
- Upper body erect.

Lower Body

- As I step at a slight 45 degree angle the weight shifts to a more even distribution and my belly button is now facing the side wall.
- Knees still bent.
- Feet a little wider than shoulder width apart because of the step, back foot starts to pivot and back leg is at 90 degree angle.



TRICK #4: The Contact Point

Upper Body

- Shoulder continues to come through and begin opening to the front wall.
- Racquet is at full extension to body, flat and level and contact is made knee high or lower.
- Non-hitting arm is in front of the body for balance.
- Upper body erect.

Lower Body

- Hip rotation continues to come through and my belly button is now pointing to the front left corner.
- Back foot continues to pivot and back leg is still at a 90-degree angle.



TRICK #5: The Follow Through

Upper Body

- Shoulders are completely though and are facing the front wall.
- Racquet is completely through and pointing to the back wall, not up toward the ceiling.
- Non-hitting arm is completely around.
- Upper body erect and uncoiled.

Lower Body

- Hip rotation is now complete and the hips are facing the front wall.
- Back foot is completely pivoted and bears 40-50% of the weight.
- Back leg is at a 90 degree angle.
- Balanced up.
- Uncoiled and power released.

That's the fundamental magic to my backhand. The pictures slow everything down so you can see it – frame by frame – and figure out "the magic."

When I fully swing with my backhand, I've been clocked at hitting over 175 mph and yes, that's using the same techniques detailed in this article. Remember, it's just the basics at the highest level of execution. Now with this new magical backhand of yours, your confidence level should rise and you can become a threat to be reckoned with from the backhand side. Hey, don't worry – the forehand is next, so you can get 'em from both sides. See ya' in the next issue!

ADVISORY STAFF
AmPRO



Head Rules by Fran Davis

"The will to win means nothing without the will to prepare." Unknown.

Q&A...Q&A

Mental toughness is the buzzword of the 90's for athletes. What does it mean, exactly?

At a recent camp my guest instructor, sports psychologist Dr. Latell Clark, summed it up with this formula: Mental Toughness = Determination (internal) + Preparation (external). A handful of athletes in all sports are the epitome of being mentally tough, but let's take a look at some of our own ...

• *Sudsy Monchik. He lost in the quarterfinals of the '95 USRA Nationals in Houston then flew to the Pro Nationals the following day and won it. Ever since he's been #1 or #2 on the IRT circuit.* • *Cliff Swain. He was #1 on the pro tour for five straight years, left racquetball for over a year to play pro tennis, then came back and recaptured the #1 pro-ranking in his first year back on the IRT circuit. He hasn't looked back, and has held the #1 or #2 spot on the IRT ever since.* • *Robin Levine. She came back after shoulder surgery and 18 months of recovery to upset Michelle Gould in the semis of the '98 Pro Nationals, then repeated that win just a month later and went on to become the '98 USRA national champion.*

With these "mentally tough" athletes as prime examples, let's take a closer look at that formula:

#1 Determination: the internal segment of the formula — Determination is ...

... setting a goal(s) for yourself and not letting anything get in your way of achieving it.

... looking at things that get in your way as challenges that can and will be overcome, not as obstacles you can't conquer.

... self-commitment to achieving that goal.

... a burning desire, an inner drive inside you to make it happen. You have heart and are a fighter.

... you are creating a firmness of purpose and a fixed intention.

... you are dedicated to your goal.

... that you are willing to invest the time and are disciplined enough to do what it takes to get the job done.

#2 Preparation: the external segment of the formula — Preparing ...

... physically ... both in the areas of skills/techniques and conditioning (aerobic, anaerobic, weight training, and stretching), is a must. Remember "Perfect practice makes perfect."

... nutritionally ... is important so you don't run out of gas or become dehydrated — you want to be able to go the distance at 100%.

... a plan ... develop a plan of action not only for your match (a game plan), but also for your training schedule (including workouts).

... mentally ... pre-game psych plan, rituals, routines, visualization, focus, concentration, positive thinking and strategies.

... to have fun and enjoy yourself just for the simple pleasures racquetball provides.

... to challenge yourself to go beyond your limits.

Now you know the inner secrets of what makes Sudsy, Cliff and Robin so mentally tough. You can apply the same principles, if you want to. Just remember how mentally tough you are depends on how determined and prepared you are!

Q&A...Q&A

My buddy and I play racquetball two times a week. We are normally pretty even, until he learned to hit a "Z" serve. I can't figure out where it's going and sometimes I can't even swing at the ball. I'm getting more and more frustrated! HELP!

A "Z" serve can seem like a trick serve until you get the hang of it. Actually, a Z serve is fairly predictable in the path it takes. The key is knowing the path!

If you ever come up against a shot that you can't figure out, try this simple strategy: *find out where the ball takes its second bounce*. Ok, so what does that mean?

In racquetball, you have to hit the ball before it hits the floor a second time. You can't let the ball bounce twice. If you stand in the area where the ball will take its second bounce, then you are in the right area to hit the ball.

To learn about a Z serve, go into the service box and hit a dozen of them. Watch the path the serve takes and notice where the ball strikes the floor for the second time.

As you hit the Z's, you will begin to notice a pattern. The ball almost always takes its second bounce towards the middle of the court. Whether it hits the side wall and comes out, or it hits the side wall and then rolls off the back wall, it ends up in the direction of the middle of the court.

What does that mean to you, as the receiver? The best place for you to stand to receive a Z serve is right where you already are! The middle of the court.

The reason we struggle with a Z serve is because we take a step or two towards the side wall. Then when the Z serve hits the side wall and rebounds towards the middle, we get all jammed up. There's no room to swing, so we end up pushing the ball, hitting our return into the side wall, losing power, or simply not swinging at all.

The key to returning a Z serve is two things: one, when you recognize a Z serve coming your way, turn your body so your chest is squared off to the side wall. Second, get your racquet up and your feet ready to move and step into the serve. You may have to move a few quick steps up or back, but now you are ready for whatever path the ball may take.



Game Plan
by Lynn Adams

Returning the Z-Serve
with Authority!

Customizing your Racquet

We've discussed at length how to "tune" your racquet through your choice of string type and tension. Let's now look at some other accessories to customize your racquet. I got help from Jonah Bishop, owner of Racquet Sports Unlimited and Rex Lawler, owner of Lawler Court Products. Both are good friends, tournament players, and experienced stringers, and even though they often disagree, I'd trust either of them for good advice.

According to Jonah, vibration dampeners cut the amount of high-frequency vibration that is transferred from the strings, through the frame, and into your arm. This vibration, he explains, can aggravate an existing arm injury, although it's unlikely to cause injury by itself. "Dampeners work," he says, adding that they weigh very little, and their effect on racquet balance is negligible.

Dampeners come in two basic types: a plastic button that snaps over the strings, and a thick ribbon of fabric, rubber, gel, or some combination thereof, which is woven through the strings. Both are installed at the racquet's throat, just above the handle. (Some players weave a regular rubber band through the strings.)

"Dampeners don't interfere with shotmaking," says Jonah. "If you were to hit the ball down there in the throat, you'd have blown it anyway." He notes, however, that dampeners deaden the feel of the racquet, which can rob the player of valuable tactile feedback, because mis-hits and good shots feel much the same.

Rex, on the other hand, says the benefits of dampeners are mostly psychological. "Very little vibration goes down the string toward the throat area where the dampener is," he says. "It radiates out at all angles into the frame, then down the frame into the handle, and then into your arm if there's enough of it." Rex says dampeners do change the sound of the racquet, and that many players

equate this to a reduction in harmful vibration.

But Rex sees no disadvantage to dampeners, and agrees that they do reduce at least some vibration. Considering that they last almost forever, and cost just \$3 or \$4, I'd say there's really no reason not to try one and form your own opinion.

Adhesive-backed lead tape can be used to customize the weight and balance of a racquet, and even slightly shift sweet spot location and shape. But, according to Jonah, re-weighting a racquet is a job only for experienced technicians. "Even most stringers are not qualified to weight and balance a racquet," he said. "I hesitate to give players general advice on the subject, because it's too easily misinterpreted. A lot of the changes that players seek might better be made by modifying their grip, or their stance, or their swing, than by re-weighting the racquet."

Rex has no such compunctions. He recommends the use of Gamma Swing Weights™ to some players, and encourages them to experiment with the number and placement until they get the feel they like. Swing Weights are discreet, adhesive-backed, 3 gm. weights that are applied to the inside surface of the frame, between the strings, as compared to tape, which is cut to length and applied on the outer surface. Tape must be removed for every string job, while Swing Weights can remain in place through restringing.

Other accessories? There's your choice of grips. Rubber, slip-on grips are a bit heavier than most wrap-on grips, but tend to last longer, and most players find them easier to keep hold of, especially if they're wearing gloves. On the other hand, wrap-on grips are available in a wider variety of



materials, textures, thicknesses, etc. The choice is strictly a matter of preference.

Wrist lacers replace the regular safety cord that comes attached to the butt of the handle. Rex feels that lacers are a little more convenient, because they stay snugged up and don't get in the way if you have to shift your grip during a rally.

Stringers often stencil the logo of the racquet manufacturer, or perhaps the Ashaway String logo, onto the stringbed. I'm not sure that ink is an "accessory," but the logos do look cool. We've found that a felt-tip pen produces a neater job than regular stencil ink, and the logo seems to hold up longer as well. Players have asked if the ink might react with the string in any way. The answer is: No. So stencil away to your heart's content.

Ranked #1 nationally, Robin Levine is one player who believes that vibration dampeners are effective. Robin also customizes her racquet by having the Ashaway string logo inked onto the stringbed. Photo: Thomas Rankin Associates.



AmPRO

American Professional Raquetball Association

Instructor Certification — 1999 Clinic Schedule

Date.....	Host Club	City/State	Clinician	Contact
February 12-14	Club International	Santa Fe, NM	Gary Mazaroff.....	505/266-8960
February 25-28	Executive Health & Sports Center	Manchester, NH	Jim Winterton	315/426-9204
March 1-3	Clovis Community College	Clovis, NM	Gary Mazaroff.....	505/266-8960
March 19-21	LA Fitness	Phoenix, AZ	Joe Wittenbrink.....	602/883-1010
March 14-16	Results Health & Fitness	Cleveland Heights, OH	Jim Winterton	315/426-9204
May 24-25	Downtown YMCA.....	Houston, TX	Ken Woodfin	281/280-8408
June 4-6	Downtown Athletic Club.....	Amarillo, TX	Gary Mazaroff.....	505/266-8960

For more information about conducting an AmPRO Instructor Certification clinic, or about becoming certified, please contact Gary Mazaroff [Director of AmPRO Instructor Certification] at 505/266-8960, or email mazaroff@usra.org.



A World of String

by Kelly Kirk, CRT

In racquetball, technology has been in a race between composite frames and quality string. And, until recently, one would have to give the winning edge

to frames judging by the frequent string breakage. But thanks to string advances (yes, that's *real* racquetball string, not tennis leftovers) the playing field has now been leveled. So if you've had a love/hate relationship with your racquet's consistency, shop around! There's a world of string out there!

CHOICE

If your stringer offers you two choices ... such as the \$20 string job or the \$25, or a color range of "white" or "red," grab your frame and run to someone who offers you better variety than that!

So the next stringer you run to offers you an onslaught of choices. Except for color, 40' coils of string in fancy packaging all look pretty much the same. How do you choose what will work for you?

COST

Most stringers divide string into four categories: durability, durability/performance, performance, and specialty. All stringers stock a base string which is usually inexpensive and durable. For sometimes as little as a \$2 increase, you may graduate to the next string "up" which is often touted as a durability/performance compromise. If cost is not a deterrent, then it's the grade above – the one which leads into premium and specialty strings – that a tournament player should consider.

If you haven't investigated premium string before, try it! Performance string should both feel and

play better in your racquet. Most certified racquet technicians believe that the higher end frames both deserve and warrant quality string. (By the same token, don't put premium string into a \$50 frame. It won't help.) If you're hesitant to try new products, inquire if your stringer offers a warranty – some stringers will guarantee a job for up to thirty days or offer you a discount on first-time premium strings.

Specialty strings are those which have one or more of the following characteristics: enhanced performance, more resiliency, more power, more comfort, or a quicker response. Did the phrase "more comfort" catch your attention? Tecnifibre was the first to market arm-friendly string. Tecnifibre string requires pre-stretching and is coated with a silicone lubricant to enhance durability and reduce the "sag" sometimes associated with coreless string. Most racquetball players are familiar with Tecnifibre's 505, but if your experience with 505 was short-lived, consider Tecnifibre's 515 SPL which has considerably more wraps than 505.

Another specialty string designed for arm problems and not used nearly enough in racquetball is Gamma's TNT RX 16 Plus. This string actually has a thin line of Zorbicon (the same gel in Gamma's shockbuster worms) running through the center to dampen string vibration. If you use this product, you will concede some power in order to have a softer, more forgiving string bed.

If your stringer is really into the trade, ask if he or she recommends a hybrid such as Gamma's TNT Bullet. Hybrids are two-piece string jobs using completely different strings. Many stringers, through trial and error, mix and match their favorite strings in an attempt to find a combination to better suit a particular customer's needs. Some of the very best hybrid combinations were simply discovered in an attempt to defray customer's cost. A coil of very expensive string for instance, may be cut in half and used only for the main strings. The stringer may then select a less expensive string for the crosses.

GAUGE

Although standards for determining string gauge (the diameter of the string) vary from company to company, one factor always remains the same: the higher the given number, the thinner the string. I once believed that – just like your racquet cannot be rated too high on the power index – neither can your string be too thin. Ashaway's PowerKill Pro has forever changed that! It's a 16 gauge, slightly textured string which carries a surprisingly amount of "pop" for what at first appears to be most unforgiving string bed.

TEXTURE

The pace of our game keeps creeping ever upward. As it does so, the importance of textured strings moves downward. A hexagon string, a flatter string, coatings, or lack of a coating, will affect a string's performance. More often it is the control player, not the power player, who discerns more of a difference in regard to texture.

KEVLAR®

Aramid fiber, better known as Kevlar® is still a favorite among racquetball players who ask for nothing more than an ultra-firm string bed and durability. For those faced with chronic string breakage, you may discover that Ashaway's Kevlar® leader Killfire XL will be easier on your pocketbook. If a Kevlar® string is your choice, make life a little easier on your elbow and ask for your string tension to be lowered a good 3-4 pounds (or 10%) to counter the stiffness associated with Kevlar®.

And there's something new out there – polyester. Almost as stiff as Kevlar®, it resists notching (a culprit in premature breakage) and is affordable. Will it rival the Kevlar® strings out there? That remains to be seen, but Ashaway has started marketing a polyester string for racquetball called Monofire. Currently available only in 660' reels, Monokill is attractively priced. (Because of polyester's tendency to be so stiff, you may wish to consider using it only for the mains, not the crosses.)

COLOR

Yes, even color makes a difference. By keeping accurate records, many stringers accidentally discover the impact of dyes. So if your favorite blue string lasted less than three weeks, but the sickly yellow held out for three months, abandon loyalty to color and put the yellow in next time! For the moment, due to their construction, premium strings are often restricted to natural colors. If color is a fashion priority, you may, sadly, never graduate to premium strings.

How often should you re-string? In general, your strings lose most of their resiliency at the twenty hour mark. During the summer when tournaments are at a low ebb, you might opt not to re-string, but once the tournament season is up and running, you may discover that having a fresh racquet in your arsenal can prove to be quite rewarding.

The strings mentioned in this article are the ones I am most familiar with. Your selection is by no means limited to those mentioned. A quick look at what the pros are using turns up quite a cornucopia: Ashaway Superskill II, Babolat IRT Pro, Forten Explosion, Tecnifibre 505, and Wilson Sensation, just to name a few.

Your string choice should be determined not only by how you perceive the importance of brand loyalty, cost, texture, etc., but also by your choice of equipment and style of play. If short hops, splats, and / or mis-hits (the three negatives for string life expectancy) are considered integral to your standard game plan, it may require a few string trials before you find a brand that will measure up to your expectations in both performance and durability.

How important is a point or two to you in a big tournament?

How important is consistency? Stay aggressive in your choice of string! Don't neglect the guts!

**CERTIFIED
RACQUET
TECHNICIAN**





changing times

by Luke St. Onge

I want to share with you some of the comments made by Chuck Leve, National Sales Director for the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association [IHRSA],

at the USRA's annual Leadership Conference this past January in Colorado Springs. I believe that Chuck has summed up our situation quite nicely and even though we might not all agree with him at times, I believe that he offers a unique insight.

By way of background, for over 16 years the USRA has simply not been involved in the club industry scene — in fact, turning our backs on that industry is largely responsible for the position we find ourselves in today. And frankly, it is amazing that our sport has survived and is still able to claim as large a player base as it does. So despite that long period of non-promotion, it remains obvious that we have a built-in feeder system that has never been exploited. Now more than ever before, we as an industry have the opportunity to change attitudes, visibility, and promote our sport in a unified way.

Recent support of the Promus U.S. OPEN, AmPRO, IHRSA, NIRSA, and other grassroots programs has definitely changed attitudes. I'm pleased to report that each and every USRA development program is now sponsored by a racquetball manufacturer, each of which have tremendous potential — in partnership with the USRA — to influence the growth of the sport. By virtue of their sponsorships, each of these manufacturers must now have a solid commitment to working closely with the USRA to maximize these opportunities.

One of our main goals has been to re-establish a bridge to the club owners. Now that we have built — and crossed — that bridge, we must develop long-range plans. With a sponsored player base of well over 6,000 players and an attractive schedule of major USRA, IRT and WIRT events to open doors, there is no reason why we can't move forward to impact the club industry immediately and positively.

I'd like to share an example which seems outlandish. Alaska's State President, Steve Arturo, recently shared his situation: A nine-court facility, with 900 members paying \$125 per person/per month bring in a total

income of \$150,000 per court/per year. Of course this is far from the norm, but it is crucial that we convince each and every club owner that racquetball can realize this type of potential. Chuck Leve's comments go to the heart of this issue.

*The idea is ... when things are good, **that** is the time to re-invest in the industry. That is the time to create the plan and to mobilize the people to do it. So a point in our favor is that business is good and clubs are not under the financial pressure to max out the revenue per square foot or to worry about ... "gee racquetball is down a little bit so I'd better get rid of that court." **Because** business is good, now is the time to re-energize and remind them [the club owners] of all the good things that racquetball brings to them.*

However, there are some harsh realities we have to deal with. Harsh reality number one is that most club owners don't give a hoot about tournament players ... so how to deal with that? I'm looking at a sea of faces of those who spend the majority of their time promoting and running tournaments. You generate your memberships from those tournaments, and those memberships feed into the USRA and that's how things work. But here I am telling you that my constituency, the health club owners, don't care about tournament players, they care about everyday, recreational players. I love the tour. I ran the tour in the early years.



*There is a place for it — it can be a catalyst for growth — but the average, common club owner isn't concerned with that. So there's work to do in promoting grassroots programs to get people into the sport. It is something that **has** to happen. So I hope that we — club owners, manufacturers and the USRA — can begin to kick some ideas around, do some brainstorming, set a target at some point in the future and then commit ourselves to creating plans to help us get there.*

Harsh reality number two is — IHRSA has a convention every year [San Diego, March 24-27, 1999] and I will tell you that there will be more kickboxing activity in terms of visibility, sponsored activities, classes, and so forth than there will be racquetball. This will be a convention of 10,000 health club owners, managers, fitness directors, fitness club employees as well as another 2500-3000 manufacturer personnel — and there will be kickboxing classes sponsored by Kickboxing Inc., there will be BodyPump classes, YogaFit classes, PowerBoarding classes, but there won't be any racquetball classes. That has to change. Sure, there are restrictions to holding a racquetball class when there are no courts right in the convention center, but still ... we're in town. There will be racquetball activities and we'll get a racquetball group together (like we did last year in Phoenix, where we had a great night of pro exhibition), but these other

things aren't going away. The kickboxers, and the body-pumps, yogafit, whatever. We have to hold our own and push forward against this barrage of whatever the next thing is ... and there is going to be the next thing. Right now you have a 1200-booth trade show occupied by 12-20 booths of racquetball and 1180 booths of everything else ... and the sole purposes of those companies is to sell their products and services to health club owners. There's a big fight out there ... and we have to — always — fight that fight.

I'm not here to tell you what to do...but I would suggest something I think we shouldn't do. Someone previously mentioned that tennis is also down. A few years ago when tennis was really down, the tennis people got together and put in a lot of time, effort and generated a lot of money for a "grow their game" initiative. And after several million dollars of expense and 18-24 months of effort, there wasn't a blip on the screen. So I don't think this is an issue that we, necessarily, need to throw money against. If someone gave our industry 1-2 million dollars, that would be wonderful, but as an industry we would have to really figure out how to spend that money. I don't think throwing money at it is the answer. I think the ultimate answer is the people in this room [state association volunteers], the people I represent [club owners], and the manufacturers. We all have to work together with commonality to promote the sport.



usra board of directors election & official ballot

There are five (5) candidates for four (4) vacancies on the USRA Board of Directors. Biographical and other candidate information appears on these two pages. For this ballot to be valid, the following is required:

- *Postcard ballot must bear a legible signature, plus the mailing label from this publication, attached where indicated.*
- *Member must have a current competitive license membership.*
- *Only one ballot per member may be cast (either with a national singles entry or this postcard ballot delivered via RACQUETBALL, not both).*
- *No more than four (4) persons may be chosen.*
- *Ballot must be received by MAY 12, 1999.*



Keith Calkins — Mission Viejo, CA

Racquetball has been a big part of my life for the past 30 years. I have served on the Board for the past three years and sincerely believe that the direction of the USRA is dynamic. For the past 20 years I have worked to move both the AARA and the USRA into positions so they could provide greater opportunities for their members. There will always be a will to serve the sport with professionalism and commitment. The current Board has wonderful diversity and members who have great leadership skills and a shared vision for the future. I wish to work with these people for the next three years. I currently represent the USRA on the United States Olympic Committee. The USRA receives a large portion of their funding from the USOC and the communication that is so necessary with the two is greatly enhanced if the representative serves on the Board.

I have served the USRA as treasurer for two years and currently serve on the financial committee. During our last audit it was reported that the USRA financial committee has been paramount to the organization. I would like to continue serving on this committee. I would appreciate hearing from any of our members and would enjoy sharing my thoughts about being on the Board. I take responsibilities seriously and my participation in racquetball has always been for personal satisfaction and growth as an individual.



Rosita G. Cornelius — Santa Maria, CA

As a fifteen-year player and sponsored athlete, I am excited about the opportunity to serve a sport that has brought so much to my life. Currently, in addition to working a full-time career, I am the racquetball director at the Pismo Beach Athletic Club and have served in this capacity for the past three years. I am an accomplished tournament player, sponsored by Ektelon and PowerBar and selected as Ektelon's Player of the Year for several years in a row. I've served on the CARA Board of Directors for two years and am active in publicizing racquetball locally by taking the sport to local schools to promote the connection between feeling good about racquetball and feeling good about oneself.

I'm also a proponent of developing the sport at the local level, lobbying for players' needs and participation at community levels. I feel I am a qualified candidate with energy, enthusiasm and leadership skills that could benefit the board. I am also the President of the Board of Directors for the local Boys and Girls Club as well as a member of several civic organizations. Serving on the USRA Board of Directors would be a great honor for me.



Jim Garner — Pelham, AL

In 1990 my son expressed an interest in racquetball, and this was the beginning of my serious involvement with the sport. I have served as a Junior Regional Director and am currently President of the Alabama Racquetball Association. As director of "The Rumble", an elite camp for juniors, I have helped develop some great junior talent. The USRA Leadership conference has helped me to share common goals, problems, and opportunities with other racquetball leaders. As a player, a tournament director and a club owner, I have enjoyed promoting racquetball. I believe the experiences that I have had prepare me to contribute to the USRA as a board member.

I, like all of you, would like to see our sport prosper and would like to provide leadership to see this accomplished. I am an unabashed junior advocate. Junior participation is the future of racquetball. We have to get more juniors, women, and seniors on the courts. Racquetball has given this Dad a lot of great quality time with his son, as well as helped me to meet a great group of folks along the way. I would appreciate your consideration and vote for the USRA Board of Directors.



Shelley Ogden — Cincinnati, Ohio

I have been privileged to serve on the USRA Board of Directors for the last three years. This past year I have been elected to the position of Vice President. These past years have been a culmination of a positive and exciting 24 years involved in the sport of racquetball. I began teaching in 1975, working as a program director in 1977 and have worked and played competitively ever since. I have managed clubs, front desk service areas, run racquetball programs and instructed. I am currently program director, racquetball pro and membership director at a club of which I have been employed since 1981. My experience running tournaments and grass roots programs as well as playing competitively on a national level has enabled me to see many sides of the sport.

I have been involved in many exciting changes in racquetball in the last three years on the Board. We upgraded the national tournaments, helped the U.S. OPEN to its prestigious stage, improved the AmPRO program and brought manufacturers into the grass roots and out reach areas of programming. I am encouraged by the prospects of upcoming years in this still young sport. Yes, racquetball is surviving and moving forward every year on a professional level. I would love to continue to be a part of that decision making process in the next three years.



Geoff Peters — Chicago, IL

The USRA, and racquetball, are at a critical juncture in our history. Growth has stagnated, manufacturers are cutting back, and we have been unable to market racquetball to the masses that have bypassed us in search of "trendier" activities. To turn the corner we need to:

1. Increase exposure in the "mainstream" marketplace
2. Cross-market the "fitness" attributes of playing
3. Increase marketing and programs for juniors and female players

I've been involved in racquetball since being taught the game at Lake Forest College in 1973 and first competed in an organized tournament in January of 1974. I founded the Wisconsin Independent Racquetball Association (later affiliated with the USRA) and have served on Illinois State Racquetball Association Board of Directors for a total of 14 years including two years as President. In 1996 I was recognized by the USRA with the Presidential Award.

Like many of you, I never was, and never will be an Open level player. I play racquetball for the joy of the game, the exercise and the camaraderie. I'd like to serve on the USRA Board as a player's representative who will implement our desire to promote and market a game we love.

Racquetball in Worms

Submitted by Mike Mesecke
German Racquetball Federation

What can you do to have the sport grow again after 20 years of racquetball in Germany? That is definitely not an easy task and the German Racquetball Federation decided very early on to focus their efforts on making the best use of the courts remaining from the U.S. Army and Air Force base closures.

Germany has the largest number of racquetball courts in Europe, but nearly 95% of them are not open to the German public. Since the German Unification in 1990 and U.S. Forces troop reductions in Europe, tournament entries have gone down, but the Army left behind very good fitness centers with wonderful courts in the best condition. After several years, we realized that many Germans who had built up friendships with U.S. soldiers still wanted to play racquetball for fun, but had no chance to play after the Army left, since the German government had no interest in the sport or in these facilities.

So, how about renting the facility – or at least the courts – for a longer time to show the sport to schools and other local organizations? That is what the German Racquetball Federation is trying to do, and our success speaks for itself. In Worms, a newly founded local racquetball organization called "Racquetball Club Worms," just signed a contract for utilizing the courts in an old U.S. Army Base. A couple of interested Germans were brought together by the GRF and they now have the chance for some new growth.

You might not think this is very exciting, since it is just one facility, but do not forget how small the sport is over here, so every court is a big step for the future. But Worms is just one location, others might follow. Augsburg and Schwabach (both in Bavaria) are our next tasks and we are also trying to work on something in Germany's capital of Berlin. Some ideas have been developed with an old facility in Munich. So, please wish us good luck with our efforts, we might need it.

Blumenschein joins Racquetball Canada

Submitted by David Hinton
Racquetball Canada

Susan Blumenschein, a native from Winnipeg, Manitoba, was recently named as media relations consultant for Racquetball Canada, to help promote some of racquetball's key events, players and the sport in general.

Blumenschein was in charge of Media Relations for the Pan Am Trials for racquetball held at the University of Winnipeg, in April of 1998. She brings to her position a Bachelor of Commerce with a marketing major and a formidable psychology background. Her work experience to date consists of Promotions/Marketing with the Winnipeg Jets Hockey Club,

Media and Marketing Director for the Winnipeg Family Kite Festival, Corporate Relations Director for the Festival du Voyageur, French instructor, long-time interviewer and consultant for the Workers Compensation Board and Society for Manitobans with Disabilities.

Susan also has a strong sports background and has actively competed in a number of sports including track and field, cross-country, volleyball, tennis, handball and flag-football. She is not unfamiliar with the game of racquetball either. She is a high C racquetball player and on a really good day, aspires to move up to the B leagues.

Email Susan at: sblumen@escape.ca, or you can reach her by phone at: (204) 453-2136 (phone/fax), or write to her at: #2 720 Dorchester Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 0R5

GRF Executive Committee Elections

Submitted by Mike Mesecke
German Racquetball Federation

Members of the German Racquetball Federation met in Hamburg, at Europe's biggest racquetball club, for their annual meeting. After a very successful year for German Racquetball with opening new courts and founding new clubs, most of the GRF Executive Committee officers were re-elected. Only Roland Christ, Vice-President since 1996, was not available.

"Roland helped us in the beginning, we have to thank him for his great support," said Joerg Ludwig, re-elected GRF President. "He will support our goals on a new position in the future."

New Vice-President of the GRF is Hermann Bachmaier. Christ, a racquetball enthusiast since the early 80s, will be running for the presidency of the Bavarian State Racquetball Association.

"We will support him on his possible new position. It will be good for Bavaria to have him as the President," Ludwig said. The elections for the Bavarian State Association are dated for April 23th.

The German Racquetball Federation Executive Committee:

President: Joerg Ludwig
Vice-President: Hermann Bachmaier
General-Secretary: Mike Mesecke
Treasurer: Steffen Schroeder
Headcoach: Bjoern Jensen

Canadian Team Prospects so Bright – Coaches Need Shades!

Submitted by Susan Blumenschein
Racquetball Canada

Only the best men and women's doubles teams were able to shine at the Canadian National Doubles Team Monitoring

Event hosted by the 1999 David's Doubles Tournament. These world class athletes absolutely dazzled their coaches in early February, at the prestigious Mayfield Inn and Suites Athletic Club, in Edmonton.

Ten men's doubles and five women's doubles pairs battled for only four berths on Canada's National Racquetball Team and a chance to compete in the Tournament of the Americas, to be held in late March, in Rosarito, Baja California, Mexico. This international event is the precursor to the Pan Am Games.

Canada's brightest young racquetball stars include World Champions Lisa Kerr of White Rock, (1997 Elaine Tanner award winner), and Karina and Kris Odegard, Saskatoon's World Class brother and sister combo, who have won a combined total of eleven world championships!

Sherman Greenfeld, ten-time Canadian national champion and three-time World Champion, along with Christie Van Hees, 1998 World Champion, had the weekend off.

In Men's final action in Edmonton, outstanding veteran Mike Ceresia, of Burlington, led partner Mike Green, of Hannon, Ontario to a tie-breaking victory over Kane Waselenchuk, of Spruce Grove and Brian Istace, of Calgary (7-15), (15-10), (11-7). This was an important win for Green, who felt good about his chances to make the Canadian doubles team.

"I finally showed I belong on the team and I am here to stay. And . . . Ceresia is so damned smart on the court, he makes my job easy!"

Finishing first overall in Women's round robin play were top seeded Josee GrandMaitre, of Longueuil, PQ, (who coaches Canada's Junior Team in her spare time!) and Lucie Guillemette of Lac Beauport. The Quebec ensemble defeated fifth seeded Jenny Saunders, of Winnipeg, and Julie Neubauer, of Calgary (15-7, 15-10), before easily putting away third seeded Lori-Jane Powell, of Saskatoon, and Chantal Turgeon, of Rock Forest, PQ, (15-5, 15-3). Powell and Turgeon saved face later by defeating Saunders and Neubauer (15-14, 15-9).

Second place overall went to fourth seeded Saskatoon hopefuls, Karina Odegard and Amanda MacDonald, who really pulled the tablecloth from under Canadian team veterans, Debbie Ward, of Prince George, AB and Lisa Kerr, of White Rock, BC, (seven time World Junior Champion) in a hair wrenching tie-breaker (15-8, 14-15, 11-10). Ward and Kerr graciously accepted third place.

Now that tournament results are in, the really big question is . . . how in the world are coaches Ron Brown and Carol Mulholland going to choose four Canadians from all this pool of talent? No disrespect intended . . . but I would not want to be coach for all the Vuarnet shades in the world!

Site Announced for Japan Open '99

The Sporting World Levene Choufu will host the 99 Japan Open May 1 to 5th in Choufu city. The club is located near Choufu station, 25 minutes by train from Shinjuku, Tokyo. They have five racquetball courts with glass walls. Two or three other clubs around Tokyo area will be named to sub-host the event. Japan Racquetball Association will announce more details on February 15th.

Yasushi Tanahara

Japan Racquetball Association

tanahara@mb.infoweb.ne.jp

Canadians "Monitor" '99 Pan Ams

Members of Canada's National Racquetball Team and other athletes hoping to be named to the Team were in Halifax, NS to compete in the National Team Singles Monitoring Tournament sponsored by A.A. Munro Insurance of Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Competitors included current World Champions Christie Van Hees and Sherman Greenfeld, plus recently crowned Junior World Champions Lisa Kerr (Girls 18 & under) and Karina Odegard (Girls 16 & under).

In the women's division, top seed Christie Van Hees of British Columbia, current National and World champion, defeated #3 seed, Lori-Jane Powell of Saskatchewan (15-9, 15-10).

In the men's division, second seeded Mike Ceresia of Ontario upset current National and World champion, Sherman Greenfeld of Manitoba in a tiebreaker (14-15, 15-4, 11-6).

Final Results – Men's Open: 1st & 2nd Place: Mike Ceresia (ON) def Sherman Greenfeld (MB) 14-15, 15-4, 11-6. 3rd & 4th Place: Michael Green (ON) def Brian Istace (AB) injury default. Women's Open: 1st & 2nd Place: Christie Van Hees (BC) def Lori Jan Powell (SK) 15-9, 15-10. 3rd & 4th Place: Josee GrandMaitre (PQ) def Lucie Guillemette (PQ) 8-15, 15-4, 11-7

European Championships in Germany

Submitted by Mike Mesecke

German Racquetball Federation

The European Racquetball Federation (ERF) recently selected Germany to once again host the European Championships in 1999. The German Racquetball Federation chose the city of Bad Tolz (Federal State of Bavaria) and its local racquetball club as the host site for this event, which will be held July 20-25, 1999. During these five days, actually two European events will take place: The 10th European Championships (Individual and Team event) and the 7th European Masters (Seniors Individual and Team event). The following age divisions are planned for the European Masters: Singles in 30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+. Doubles in 30+, 40+.

**November 14-15: Sembach, Germany
Sembach Fall Classic**

Men's Open: 1. Scott Kreps (USA); 2. Otto Carrizo (USA); 3. Ray Garcia (USA). Men B: 1. Jack Jacques (USA); 2. Fred Komett (USA); 3. Jeff Specht (USA); 4. Gerd Backhaus (Germany). Men Senior/Master: 1. Harry Truhn (USA); 2. Ron Ruiz (USA); 3. Mack Blanton (USA); 4. Jack Jacques (USA). Men C: 1. Calos Morales (USA); 2. Paul Crusier (USA); 3. T. Jacques (USA); 4. Frank Cole (USA). Women: 1. Ynez Slaymaker (USA); 2. Sylvia Godfrey (USA); 3. Teresa Jacques (USA); 4. Jennifer Blanton (USA).

**November 28th: Zoetermeer, Netherlands
Dutch Nationals**

Men's Open: 1. Michiel van der Holst; 2. Pascal Matla; 3/4. Peter de Jong, Fred Giere. Men's B: 1. Eric Meijer; 2. Karel Matla. 30+: 1. Peter de Jong; 2. Paul Dano. Doubles: 1. P. Matla/M. van der Holst; 2. Paul Dano/Peter de Jong.

**November 28-29: Wiesbaden, Germany
Thanksgiving Tournament**

Men's Open: 1. Scott Creps (USA); 2. Joachim Loof (GER); 3. Trevor Hayter (GER); 4. Mike Bowers (USA). Men's B: 1. Thomas Gennrich (GER); 2. Joerg Ludwig (GER); 3. A. Jalleh (GBR)/J. Altman (USA). Men's Senior's/Master's: 1. Mike Bowers (USA); 2. Otto Carriso (USA); 3. Dean Smith (USA)/Tobi Paulsen. Women's Open: 1. Ynez Slaymaker (USA); 2. Yvonne Kortess (GER); 3. Elke Esquibel (GER). Doubles: 1. Loof/Lysakowski (GER/AUT); 2. Creps/Carriso (USA); 3. A. Jalleh/J. Sattler (GBR/GER); B. Jensen/M. Klippel (GER)

**December 5-6: Castlebar, Ireland
U11-U17 All Ireland Championships**

Girls Under 11: A. Gibney def T. Feerick 2-1. Under 13: Final: M. Hogan def A. Hickey 2-1. Under 15: H. Shanahan def S. O'Doherty 2-0. Under 17: E. Gibney def N. O'Neill 2-0. Boys Under 11: S. Power def M. Ryan 2-0. Under 13: D. Shanahan def T. Hickey 2-0. Under 15: P. Boyce def P. Cunningham 2-0. Under 17: L. Hughes def T. Cunningham 2-1

**December 5-6: Schinnen, Netherlands
Schinnen Christmas Tourney**

Men's Open: 1. James Johnson (USA); 2. Pedro Canabal (USA); 3. Dean Smith (USA). Men's Masters: 1. James Johnson (USA); 2. Marvin McDaniels (USA); 3. Dean Smith (USA).

**December 5-6: Mildenhall, England
1st Annual Mildenhall Classic**

Men's Open: 1. Trevor Smith (USA); 2. Mike Niska (USA). Women's Open: 1. Nadine Huyck (USA); 2. Ava Jackson (USA).

**December 12-13: Anglet, France
Noel Open**

Men's Open: Semi's—Bouillac (RTC) def. Lataillade (RTC); Lecomte (RB+) def. Baros (RTC). Final—Bouillac beats Lecomte. Women's Open: Semi's—Deplanque (RTC) beats Castelain (RTC); Dumont (RTC) beats Lesgourgues (RTC). Final—Deplanque beats Dumont.

**January 30-31: Hamburg, Germany
18th German Nationals**

Men's Open: Trevor Hayter def. Achim Loof 15:4/15:8. 3rd place: Martin Klippel def. Ralf Lysakowski 15:5/15:8. Women's Open: Yvonne Kortess def. Melanie Voigt 15:2/15:0. 3rd place: Aldona Piec by forfeit. Doubles Open: Ralf Klinke/Bernd Droege def. Trevor Hayter/Achim Loof 14:15/15:9/11:7. 3rd place: Martin Klippel/Ralf Lysakowski def. Mike Mesecke/Steffen Schroeder 12:15/15:3/11:7. Seniors 35+: Bjoern Jensen def. Roland Christ 15:11/15:12. 3rd place: Dexter Chon-Joerg Ludwig 15:12/15:5. Seniors 40+: Roland Christ def. Ed Torres 15:11/15:2. 3rd place: Holger Fischer def. Tobi Paulsen 10:15/15:14/11:8. Seniors Doubles 35+: Joerg Ludwig/Bjoern Jensen def. Hermann Bachmaier/Roland Christ 11:15/15:6/11:6. 3rd place: Vincent Arcouette/Ed Torres-Joerg Sattler/Albert Jalleh 15:13/15:3. Juniors U11: Marco Runge def. Jan Jensen by forfeit. 3rd place: Maxi Florian-Tobias Schunke 15:7/15:4. Juniors U15: Jan Buchholtz-Arne Schmitz 6:15/15:9/11:1. 3rd place: Michael Krueger-Gun Choi 15:14/15:10.

don't forget ... if you'll be "abroad" this summer, the first annual IRF World Senior Doubles Championships will be held June 17-20 in Paris! For more information, contact Gary Mazaroff at 505/266-8960, or Eric Meyer at 00 32 3 231-8019



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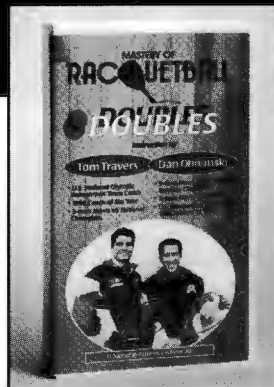
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April 9-11

Richard's Pub Silver Bullet @ River Bend A.C.	Peace Dale, RI	401-789-9585
Spring Classic @ Quad West A.C.	Clearwater, FL	727-535-4901
Maine State Singles @ Central Maine A.C. [3]	Lewiston, ME	207-786-4820
Wyoming State Singles @ Wyoming A.C. [3]	Casper, WY	307-265-6928
NMRA National Masters [5]	Indianapolis, IN	812-235-3701
The Last Blast @ Sportsforum	Woods Cross, UT	801-298-3231
Hampton Inn Columbus Pro-Am @ Continental A.C.	Powell, OH	740-548-4955
Alaska State Singles @ Alaska Club Midtown [3]	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
E-Force USRA Intercollegiate Championship [6]	College Station, TX	719-635-5396
"Not So Small" Tourney @ Lynmar Racquet Club	Colorado Springs, CO	719-598-4069
Adult Regional @ Glass Court Swim & Fitness [4]	Lombard, IL	773-935-9685
All Valley Open @ Mid Valley A.C.	Reseda, CA	818-605-6500
Raq-Attack @ Dan Gamel's Health & Athletic	Fresno, CA	209-227-8405
Spring Swatfest @ Bally's Racquet Club	Kansas City, MO	816-356-6651
Junior Regional @ Courts Plus [4]	Jacksonville, NC	919-633-2221
Minnesota State Singles [3]	TBA, MN	651-351-7349
Oregon State Singles @ Timberhill A.C. [3]	Corvallis, OR	541-757-8559

calendar...calendar...

April 10-11	Wisconsin State Singles @ Western Racquet [3] Green Bay, WI	414-421-5570
	Onondaga County Champs @ Gold's Gym. Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376
	Women's Spring @ Lincoln Racquet Club Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
April 14-18	EKTELON USRA REGIONAL WEEKEND NATIONWIDE	See Page Five
April 23-25	Hawaiian Open @ Sacramento Court Club. Sacramento, CA	916-920-1933
	Illini Classic @ The Fitness Center. Champaign, IL	217-356-1616
	Rick Weaver Buick Open @ Nautilus Fitness Ctr. Erie, PA	814-868-0072
	Pro Nationals (& Regional Qualifier) @ Las Vegas Sporting House [4] . . Las Vegas, NV	702-733-8999
	Wisconsin State Juniors @ Waukesha A.C. [3] Waukesha, WI	414-544-4111
April 24-25	Junior Regional @ Shelbyville County A.C. [4] Shelbyville, IN	317-879-8100
April 29-May 1	Junior Regional @ Central Courts [4] Columbia Heights, MN	651-777-6673
April 29-May 2	Colorado State Doubles @ Colorado A.C. [3] Englewood, CO	303-526-7419
April 30-May 1	Junior Regional @ A.C. of Bloomington [4] Bloomington, IL	773-539-1112
	Life Styles Open St. Petersburg, FL	727-347-7701
April 30-May 2	Awards Tourney @ The Fitness Forum Sanford, ME	207-324-1154
	Cancer - Annapolis @ Merritt Athletic Club. Annapolis, MD	410-298-8700
	Roundup Open @ Roundup Athletic Club. Pendleton, OR	541-276-0880
	Spring Fling @ 46 Fitness & Racquetball Fairfield, NJ	973-742-8806
April 30-May 3	Spring Fling @ Clubsport Pleasanton, CA	510-968-7970

may ...

May 6-9	Cinco De Mayo @ Pueblo A.C. Pueblo, CO	719-561-3488
	National Warm Up @ Club International. Santa Fe, NM	505-266-8960
	Junior Regional @ The Alaska Club [4] Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
May 8	Club Championships @ Gold's Gym. Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376
May 14-16	Craig McCoy Memorial @ The Tournament House Riverside, CA	909-682-7511
	Georgia State Games @ Athletic Club Northeast Atlanta, GA	404-636-5993
	Spring Fling Cash Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Junior Regional @ TBA [4] TBA, NH	603-367-8533
May 15	National Shoot-Out @ Northwest Fitness Center Houston, TX	713-895-8688
May 19-23	LAC Open @ Lloyd Athletic Club. Portland, OR	503-287-4594
	Arizona Athletic Club Open Tempe, AZ	602-830-0213
May 21-23	Merced Springs Open @ Merced Sports Club Merced, CA	209-722-3988
May 24	Women's Only @ Gold's Gym Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376
May 26-31	Ektelon USRA National Singles Championships [6] Houston, TX	719-635-5396

upcoming national & international events

Mar. 26- Apr. 4	PARC Tournament of the Americas & Pan Am Preview. Baja California, Mexico	719-635-5396
April 7-11	E-Force 27th U.S. National Intercollegiates [6]. Texas A&M, College Station, TX	719-635-5396
April 7-10	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles/Doubles [5]. Indianapolis, IN	812-239-3701
April 15-18	Ektelon Regional Qualifiers [4] Nationwide	719-635-5396
May 26-31	Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles Championships [6]. Houston, TX	719-635-5396
June 26-30	HEAD 26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6] Tempe, AZ	719-635-5396
June 17-20	1st IRF World Doubles Championships. Paris, France	505-266-8960
July 14-17	NMRA International Masters Invitational [5] Champaign, IL	217-351-9093
July 24- Aug. 8	Pan American Games Winnipeg, Canada	719-635-5396
Aug. 31- Sept. 4	IRF 11th World Senior Racquetball Championships [5] Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
October 6-10	Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Doubles Championships Baltimore, MD	719-635-5396
November 17-21	Promus Hotel Corporation 4th U.S. OPEN Memphis, TN	719-635-5396
December 17-21	ProKennex 11th IRF World Junior Championships Fountain Valley, CA	719-635-5396

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

Qualifying Competition is REQUIRED to participate in the 1999 Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles at the Downtown YMCA in Houston, Texas and the 1999 HEAD 26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona! See page five for exclusions & complete waiver policies.

- **Bolded listings are USRA National Championships or International Racquetball Federation Events**
- **For remaining sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)**
- **Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 04/99, you must renew your membership in the month of April in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.**

MEN

Men's Open

1. Todd O'Neil, TX
2. Jason Thoerner, GA
- 3T. Adam Karp, CA
- 3T. Jimmy Lowe, AK
5. Dan Llacera, DE
6. Rob DeJesus, AZ
7. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
8. Matt Gehling, MD
9. Mike Locker, MN
10. Mike Johnston, CO

Men's A

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

Men's B

1. Darryl Thompson, TX
2. George Anthon Jr., LA
3. Ryan Rodgers, TX
4. Not a Member, MN
5. Bill Trott, AZ
6. Jon Albright, TN
- 7T. Kent Wagner, SC
- 7T. Eric Zamudio, IN
9. Roberto Forte, FL
10. Paul Carroll, ID

Men's C

1. Lorne Burry, NC
2. Hector Tenorio, TX
3. Armando Cabrera, NJ
4. Rob Bultinck, MN
5. Paul Carroll, ID
- 6T. Not a Member, NM
- 6T. Larry Weene, MA
8. Pete Kochis, OK
9. Rudy Begay, NY
10. Dan Flood, IL

Men's D

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

Men's Novice

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

- 1T. James McDonald, FL
- 1T. Not a Member, NY
- 1T. Not a Member, NM
7. Lue Marchese, NM)
- 8T. Andrew Kopf, NY
- 8T. Timmy Parrish, FL
10. David Blackwell, AR

Men's 24-

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

Men's 25+

1. Mike Locker, MN
2. Brian Pointelin, CO
- 3T. Matthew Anderson, GA
- 3T. Matt Fontana, FL
- 3T. Kevin Graham, ND
- 6T. Anthony DeFusto, NY
- 6T. Rob DeJesus, AZ
- 6T. Sameer Hadid, CA
9. Al Schof, LA
10. Jim Ellenberger, IL

Men's 30+

1. Dave Watson, OK
2. Brad McCuniff, IA
3. John Davis, LA
4. Joe Canuel, FL
- 5T. Hector Capo, FL
- 5T. Scott Hamon, WA
- 5T. Donald Sims, TX
- 8T. John Barrett, PA
- 8T. George Bustos, TX
- 8T. Dan Llacera, DE

Men's 35+

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

Men's 40+

1. Gil Rodriguez, VA
2. Jesus Moctezuma, TX
3. Bill Yates, OH
4. Steve Wattz, CA
5. Terry Fluaharty, FL
6. Jim Luzar, WI
7. Russ Palazzo, CT
8. Stan Shaw III, MA
9. Mitt Layton, FL
10. Gary Gloeggler, GA

Men's 45+

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

Men's 50+

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

Men's 55+

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

Men's 60+

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

Men's 65+

1. Charles Kaiser, MI
2. Don Alt, OH
3. Paul Banales, AZ
4. Otis Chapman, OH
5. John Reid, CA
6. John O'Donnell, IL
7. Bill Dunn, TX
8. Skip Kiphart, TX
- 9T. Don Maxey, MO
- 9T. Frank Trask, ME

Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Richard Davis, TX
- 3T. Philip Dziuk, IL
- 3T. Windell Hildebrandt, AZ
- 5T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 5T. Mike Landy, FL

- 5T. Hank Richard, GA
- 8T. Bob Fraser, NV
- 8T. Ken Yahiro, IL
10. Mal Roberts, FL

Men's 75+

1. Nick Sans, CA
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Robert McAdam, TX
4. Bill Matotan, NM
5. Al Romero, NM
- 6T. Hank Richard, GA
- 6T. Not a Member, AZ
8. Luzell Wilde, UT
9. Andy Trozzi, MA
10. Michael Bugel, CA

Men's 80+

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

Men's 85+

1. Harry Steinman, MD
2. Ralph Hoyle, NY

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Robin Levine, CA
2. Kersten Hallander, CA
3. Denise Mock, TX
4. Aimee Roehler, PA
5. Jackie Paraiso, CA
6. Lydia Hammock, CA
- 7T. Kelly Kirk, MN
- 7T. Janet Tyler, FL
- 9T. Jere Luttner, TX
- 9T. Kim Machiran, MO

Women's A

1. Mary Crawford, IL
2. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
3. Sandy Sexton, TX
- 4T. Jennifer Hunter, TN
- 4T. April Settell, CO
6. Stephanie Walker, NC
7. Pattie Schof, LA
8. Leanne Mays, LA
9. Robyn Mount, TN
10. Sherri Feldman, NY

Women's B

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

- 7T. Barbara Allen, NY
- 7T. Sheri Kinnaman, AR
- 9T. Christina Pastore, MA
- 9T. Sharon Steeley, SC

Women's C

1. Christine Fenton, FL
2. Rhonda Kochis, OK
3. Rosario Bauer, CA
4. Christa Davis, TX
- 5T. B.J. Calloway, GA
- 5T. Kelley Fisher, OH
- 5T. Melissa Young, TX
8. Candy Arquiett, LA
- 9T. Not a Member, MD
- 9T. Sharon Stevens, MA

Women's D

1. Candy Arquiett, LA
- 2T. Christa Davis, TX
- 2T. Cherie Hale, NC
- 2T. Kerry Lyn O'Meara, NM
5. Kastle Arturo, AK
- 6T. Crysti Aguirre, FL
- 6T. Nikki Winfrey, OH
8. Not a Member, TX
9. Ursela Pausch, AZ
10. Carla Thompson, CO

Women's Novice

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

Women's 24-

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

Women's 25+

1. Jennifer Dering, NY
2. Jo Shattuck, CO
3. Not a Member, CO
4. Heather Dunn, VT
5. Holly Remen, NC
6. Jen Yokota, MO
7. Stacy Sour, CO
- 8T. Kim Herrold, SC
- 8T. Cara Pellowski, WI
10. Kelley Beane, NH

rankings...rankings

Rankings are based on
results processed by the
national office as of:
January 15, 1999

Women's 30+

1. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
2. Lydia Hammock, CA
3. Lori Lepow, FL
4. Mindy Hartstein, NY
5. Kersten Hallander, CA
6. Stacy Sour, CO
7. Grace Hastings, TX
8. Holly Remen, NC
9. Michelle Wiragh, VA
10. Lorraine Galloway, NY

Women's 35+

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. Debbie Tisinger, CA
3. Denise Mock, TX
4. Kim Machiran, MO
5. Jodi Paul, PA
- 6T. Mary Crawford, IL
- 6T. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
- 8T. Mary Ragland, LA
- 8T. Paula Saad, MI
- 8T. Cheryl Shaw, NM

Women's 40+

1. Debbie Tisinger, CA
2. Linda Moore, NE
3. Sherri Feldman, NY
4. Jean Trimble, FL
5. Chris Evon, IL
6. Susan Pfahler, FL
7. Mary Beke, AZ
8. Liz Molitor, IL
- 9T. Paula Carter, GA
- 9T. Laurel Davis, IL

Women's 45+

1. Brenda White, IL
2. Karen Kattengell, LA
3. Janet Myers, NC
4. Judy Sands, NJ
5. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
6. Karen Key, AZ
7. Jere Luttner, TX
8. Debbie Chaney, IN
9. Karen Weins, FL
10. Renee Fish, FL

Women's 50+

1. Merijeane Kelley, CA
2. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
3. Donna Ebner, MO
4. Pattie Schof, LA
5. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
7. Sharon Huczek, MI
- 8T. Mildred Gwinn, NC
- 8T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
- 8T. Mary Jane Weldin, DE

Women's 55+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Nidia Funes, CA
3. Rose Stoltmann, WI
4. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
5. Joy DeSantis, CA
6. Mildred Gwinn, NC

- 7T. Laverne Kohlhepp, WI
- 7T. Lola Markus, IL
- 7T. Marquita Molina, CA
- 7T. Catherine Stewart-Roache, NM

Women's 60+

1. Annabelle Kovar, NE
- 2T. Susan Embry, WA
- 2T. Jo Kenyon, FL
- 4T. Jane Graham, GA
- 4T. Eleanor Higgins, NM
- 6T. B.J. Calloway, GA
- 6T. Not a Member, MN
8. Naomi Eads, MO
9. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
10. Norma Carlisle, UT

Women's 65+

1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Reta Harring, WI
3. Louise Kiss, NM
4. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
5. Audrey Thixton, OK

Women's 70+

1. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
2. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
3. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
4. Reta Harring, WI
5. Roberta Schoenfeld, NM
6. Tillie Davies, AZ

Women's 75+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
2. Beth Keene, TX
3. Christine Stephens, TX
4. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

BOYS

Boy's 6 & Under

1. Not a Member, WI
2. Brad Falvey, WI
3. Not a Member, WI
4. Ben Mabson, WI

B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
2. Joseph Lee, LA
3. Blake Thompson, OR
4. Austin Zuck, OR
5. Benjamin Long, NM
6. Jordan Faith, CO
- 7T. Not a Member, CO
- 7T. Aaron Long, NM
9. Not a Member, CO
10. Kyle Davies, CO

Boy's 8 & Under

1. Trevor Smith, OR
2. Matt Keddie, NH
3. Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
4. Tim Tilton, CO
5. John Sanderson, UT
6. Colin Stock, OR

- 7T. Sean McGrath, IN
- 7T. Matthew Pacinelli, NM
9. Avery Zuck, OR
10. Not a Member, NY

B8- Multi-Bounce

1. Erick Podwill, OR
- 2T. Matt Keddie, NH
- 2T. John Sanderson, UT
4. William Lee, LA
5. Sean McGrath, IN
6. Tim Tilton, CO
7. Matthew Machiran, MO
8. Joseph Lee, LA
9. Cameron Pfahler, FL
10. Colin Stock, OR

Boy's 10-

1. David Lewis, CO
2. Nick Arturo, AK
3. Mike Keddie, NH
4. Andrew Grissom, CA
5. Chris Coy, OK
6. Allan Crockett, AL
7. Brady Prince, MN
8. Jamin Godwin, FL
9. Nate Dyer, MA
10. Brad Starken, WI

Boy's 12-

1. Dan Sheppick, OR
2. Nicholas Rowley, AZ
3. Eddie Mazur, CT
4. Charlie Pratt, OR
5. Ben Croft, IL
- 6T. Chris Coy, OK
- 6T. David Key, LA
8. Tyler Hollingsworth, OR
9. Shane Karmelin, GA
10. Anthony Rinaldis, VA

Boy's 14-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
- 2T. Adrian Anulewicz, CT
- 2T. Bart Crawford, OR
4. Josh Epstein, NY
5. Cory Martin, WI
6. Rusty Powell, LA
7. Clay Burris, FL
8. Michael Lawrence, AL
9. Not a Member, OR
10. Justin Meadows, FL

Boy's 16-

1. Shane Vanderson, OH
2. Matthew McElhiney, FL
3. Scott Foster, CA
4. Joey Delfino, MA
5. Stephen Lewis, WA
6. Danny Beaudry, CO
7. Scott Fisher, NY
8. Mitch Williams, NC
- 9T. Nick Giunta, OR
- 9T. Mike Harmon, FL

Boy's 18-

1. Josh Tucker, MO
2. Ryan Staten, KS
3. Rocky Carson, CA
4. Jeffrey Garner, AL
5. Willie Tilton, CO
6. Stephen Mykalcio, FL
7. James Ford, WY
8. James Marchetti, AK
- 9T. Kyle Harris, MA
- 9T. Joe Marchetti, AK

GIRLS

G6- Multi-Bounce

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
2. Amy Willhite, OR
3. Tia Smith, OR
4. Becca Machiran, MO
5. Kaitlynn Pacinelli, NM
6. Stephanie Rojas, OR
7. Sondra Payne, NM
8. Lisa Reid, CO
9. Sierra Adam, CO

Girl's 8 & Under

1. Shannon Inglesby, OR
2. Brittany Legget, OR
3. Jennifer Fenton, OR
4. Sharon Jackson, IN
5. Shanae Taylor, IN
6. Sarah Parrish, FL
7. Danielle Spolowicz, WI
8. Laura Van Der Veer, OR
9. Danielle Key, AZ
10. Wesley Toland, AR

G8- Multi-Bounce

1. Sharon Jackson, IN
2. Laura Van Der Veer, OR
3. Shanae Taylor, IN
4. Carol Payne, NM
5. Emily Melgaard, ID
6. Shannon Inglesby, OR
7. Nikki Robinson, OR
8. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
9. Sarah Parrish, FL
10. Heather Collins, TN

Girl's 10-

1. Ashley Willhite, OR
2. Kara Mazur, CT
3. Rebeka Kopf, NY

4. Dannielle Pimental, OR
5. Sarah Moyle, OR
6. Jenny Epstein, NY
7. Liz Taylor, OR
8. Katie Wafer, CO
9. Katie Marshall, CA
10. Brooke Schulenberg, MN

Girl's 12-

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
3. Deraí Darling, OR
4. Jesi Fuller, NM
5. Ashley Legget, OR
6. Kara Mazur, CT
7. Brandie Hanson, OR
8. Elise Wilson, CT
9. Nikki Winfrey, OH
10. Not a Member, CO

Girl's 14-

1. Crystal Winfrey, OH
2. Molly Law, CO
3. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
4. Not a Member, NY
5. Jenny Cary, OR
6. Kimberly Irons, OH
7. Erica Beaudry, CO
8. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
9. Amy Jo Hollingsworth, OR
10. Jeni Fuller, NM

Girl's 16-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
2. Krystal Csuk, IL
3. Kristen Kovar, NE
4. Nickii Whitney, VT
5. Lauren Deutsch, TX
6. Melanie Mueller, CO
7. Crystal Winfrey, OH
8. Molly Law, CO
- 9T. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
- 9T. Anna Tsavidis, MA

Girl's 18-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR
2. Sara Borland, IA
3. Megan Bals, NE
4. Katie Gould, CA
5. Christina Lewendal, OR
6. Dionna Brown, CA
7. Chris Herrmann, MO
8. Chris Young, AK
9. Elizabeth Posey, AK
10. Kristen Walsh, UT

Event Level & Description

Finish & Point Awards

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

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

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