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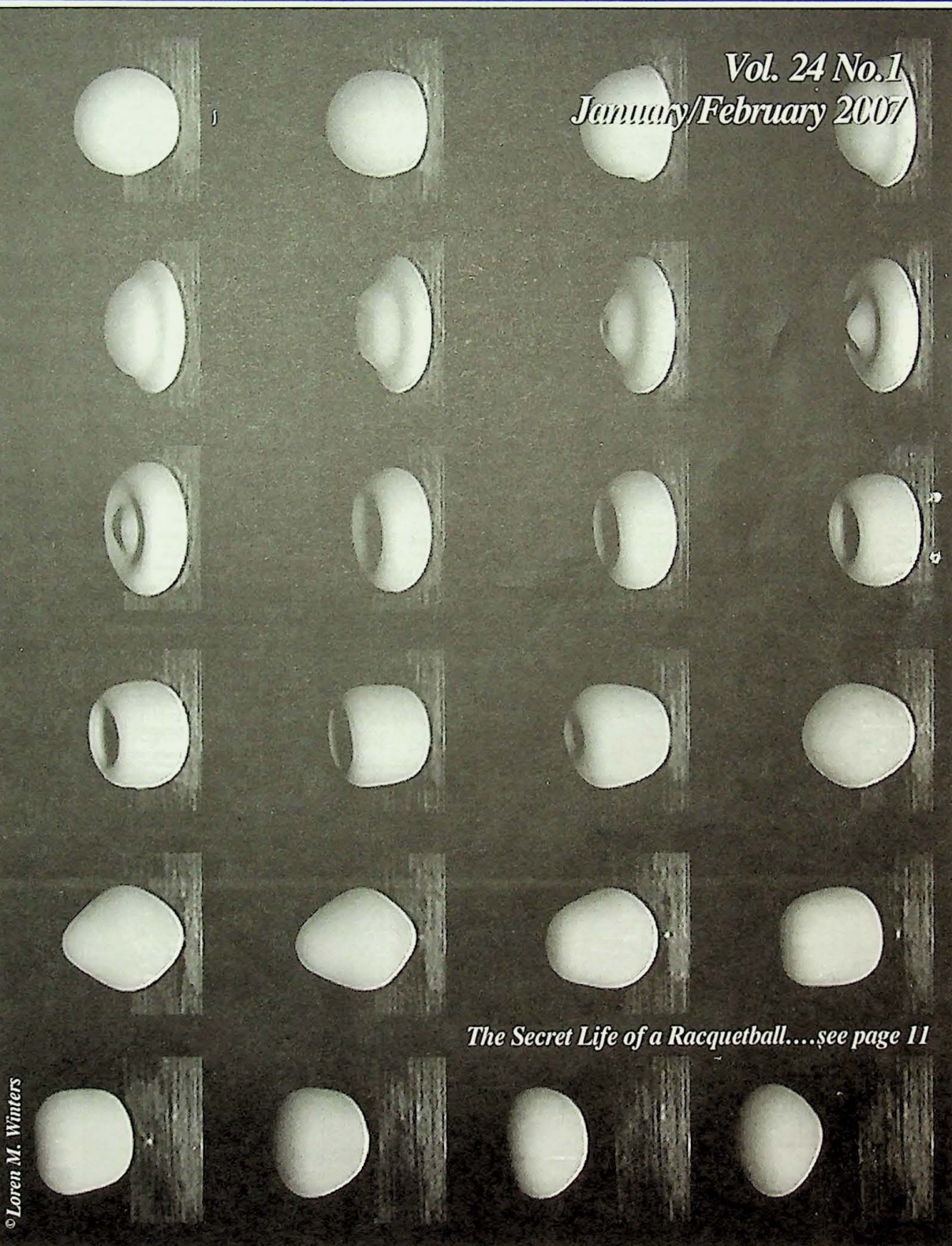
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Newsletter

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The Secret Life of a Racquetball....see page 11

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From the President

Those of you who know me well probably won't be surprised to know that this article is often the last piece to go into the newsletter. Unless inspired to write on a particular topic, I'm happy to wait until tomorrow and the next day and the next to write my article. I try to blame it on how busy I am at work, but it's mostly because often I can't think of something to write that I think will inspire or entertain you.

Because of my tendency to procrastinate, I was able to view the rest of the newsletter before I finished my article. I know you've heard many pleas to do what you can to help support the sport of racquetball and the national organization. You've been asked to give money, give time, give lessons and introduce new people to the sport.

As I reviewed the newsletter, it struck me that the reasons to support racquetball are all right here in this issue — *in the smiles on the faces of the people in the pictures*. Racquetball makes people happy...and not just the people who may have been winning the events covered here.

Look at the smiles on the faces of Boris Carvallo and Joe DeArmas who have passed their love of racquetball on to their sons and have seen them grow to love the game as much as they do and learn to play it well.

Look at the smiles of Team Illinois in the picture from the U.S. Open. What are the chances that these people would know each other, much less be friends, without the benefit of playing racquetball? I'll bet they weren't all winners in the tournament, but they sure seemed to enjoy being there. In what other sport can the amateurs mingle so easily with the professionals? Where else could we make friends with people from all over the country?

Look at the smiles on the faces of the women who participated in the One-Day Women's tournament. That tournament is the only time over the course of a year that I see many of those women. It is a thoroughly enjoyable day in a

season that is generally too busy and too stressful. It's also a fun event for a first-time tournament player.

Even the guys who are toasting their club as it closes have smiles on their faces because racquetball and that club gave them the opportunity to become friends.

As we start the new year and move into the heart of the tournament season, I've put the following items on my New Year's resolution list. I hope you will, too:

- ☐ Submit nominations for Player of the Year and Distinguished Service awards
- ☐ Update my USA Racquetball profile with my current information and especially my email address
- ☐ Vote for Geoff Peters for the USA Racquetball Board
- ☐ Thank the people/clubs who host tournaments and other racquetball events
- ☐ Thank the volunteers who help make the tournaments possible (and send in entries early to help them out)
- ☐ Support racquetball in whatever way I can!

Laurel



ISRA Family News

The **James B. Dvorak Award** will be presented at the ISRA State Singles Tournament awards banquet on March 31, 2007. Mr. Dvorak was an individual who supported racquetball and especially loved to watch young people play. Through the generosity of Doug and Kathy Dvorak (his son and daughter-in-law), \$250 is awarded annually in Mr. Dvorak's memory to a deserving junior player who exhibits high standards in the areas of racquetball accomplishment, sportsmanship, community service and scholastic achievement.

Applications will be accepted on or before March 2, 2007, and should be written by junior players themselves, addressing the categories mentioned above.

An application form is posted on the ISRA Website and may be downloaded at your convenience. Please send completed applications to cherylkkirk@aol.com. The ISRA Board of Directors and Juniors Committee will make the final selection.

We look forward to hearing from interested junior players. Past winners of this prestigious award are Kevin Schulz (2004), Jake Sutton (2005), and Trevor Snyders (2006).



*Michelle Halverson,
ISRA Treasurer*

Meet the Board –

Featuring Michelle Halverson

Michelle Halverson, ISRA Treasurer, has lived in Lombard for over 16 years. She met Doug Halverson when they were both working at Glass Court back in the mid-90's. They were wed (with the blessing of her daughter Amanda, now 13) on October 20, 2000. "We were married on that date so Doug could easily remember our anniversary!"

In addition to her ISRA role, Michelle assists Doug with the Glass Court tournaments, performing many of the behind-the-scenes tasks such as logging

in the entries (a daunting task!), preparing draw sheets and scorecards, and generally making sure the administration of the tournament is top-notch.

"Though I don't play racquetball, I really enjoy the sport and I love watching it. I also have my own business with Arbonne International, a Health and Wellness Company."

Michelle debuted as ISRA Treasurer in September 2004. We are supremely fortunate to have her on the Board – besides her valuable contributions as Treasurer, she brings fun as well as a "forest for the trees" perspective to the group. Thanks, Michelle, for your many contributions to the ISRA and its membership!

Naper Olympic Health Club Closes

I suppose we don't like to dwell on things like this in our sport. Seeing this nine-court club in the west suburbs close its doors is something none of us who were members ever expected, not in a million years. But Naper's 27-year reign as Naperville's biggest and best health club did indeed end on October 14, 2006. It now sits dark, waiting for someone to come along, buy the property, and move into the future. Chances are it won't be a racquetball club again. And I know some of you are thinking, well, it isn't the first...there was Edens, and Bloomingdale, and Oak Park, and Palos, and so on, and so on.

So, I want to do two things here – first, to thank Dave and Margo Gebraski (and Rich, too!) for the many great years you gave us – a racquetball home where people came together not only as players but as friends, and sometimes more...Jim Wehrli met his wife Diane there...Kit Lawson knocked on the door of Court 8 one April morning

wearing a suit and tie, got down on one knee, and proposed. Lynn and Kevin Yeazell's romance blossomed on the Naper courts. In January 1997, Court 9 was dedicated to Art Pacanowski, Bob's dad, who played there with his cronies for many years. Art passed away of cancer soon after that, but



*Bob Pacanowski with
Art's plaque*



Naper Olympic's Dave & Margo Gebraski

Bob played on that court every Saturday morning (including October 14) and left a racquetball behind for his dad, every single time.

It's *the worst feeling*, as many of you are already too aware, to walk out of a place for the last time that was so much more than a health and racquet club.

So what I'd really like to discuss is where we go from here.

We feel pain when we lose clubs (or lose courts within clubs). This is the call to action – no more clubs closed, no more courts gone. We can each think of more ways to contribute. Monetarily, as possible...supporting the tournaments and the travel league and the in-house leagues...donating a little time teaching someone to play...organizing a clinic for new players/women/juniors...*letting the club owners know we care, we appreciate them and we'll do everything we can to keep racquetball alive and well.*



*A toast to Naper: L to R, Bill Walsh,
Dan Musgrove, Scott Fauque,
Ethan Wayne Hunt, Dave Kramer*

ISRA Family, this sport is worth saving. Laurel and Geoff and I and the entire Board are open to your thoughts and ideas. There's a lot to do and it will take all of us to get it done. Easier to get rolling now than to look back and wish we had.

Naper, thanks for the memories.

— Cheryl Kirk

2006 U.S. National Doubles Championships

Arizona State University Student Recreation Center - Tempe, Arizona

September 27-October 1, 2006

Tournament Director - Jim Hiser

Illinois Stats:

Men - 8

Women - 3

Divisions Entered - 21

Medal Count - 9

Top Finishers (Quarterfinals and better) - 12

Congratulations to Women's 55+ Gold medalists Nancy Kronenfeld and her partner Meri Jean Kelley (CA) as well as to Jason Thoerner and Aimee Ruiz (NJ) who took first in Mixed Open!

Team Illinois (& Friends) Results

** Denotes Top Finishers

Men's Open - **Ben Croft/Woody Clouse (CO), **Jason Thoerner/Mitch Williams (CO)

Men's A - Steve Horve/Scott Garretson (NM), Geoff Peters/Juan Majalca (CA)

Men's C/D - **Gene Cromwell/Mike Mahon

Men's 24/25+ - **Ben Croft/Charlie Pratt (OR) - 3rd

Men's 35+ - **Keith Minor/John Amatulli - 3rd

Men's 35+A - Ken Cook/Dan Kolodziej

Men's 40+ - Steve Horve/Scott Garretson (NM), ** Keith Minor/John Amatulli (IN) - 2nd

Men's 45+A - Ken Cook/Dan Kolodziej (IN); ** Geoff Peters/Steve Hirsch (VA)

Men's 25-55+C - **Gene Cromwell/Mike Mahon

Womens 35+ - **Cheryl Kirk/Thao Le (VA) - 4th Blue

Women's 50+ - **Cheryl Kirk/Linda Mojer (CO) - 4th Red

W55+ - Nancy Kronenfeld/Merijean Kelley (CA) - 1st

Mixed Open - **Cheryl Gudinas/Holmes/Jimmy Lowe (HI), **Jason Thoerner/Aimee Ruiz (NJ) - 1st



Nancy Kronenfeld: "Go Team!"

Competition was close...Friday's late evening matches were attributed to the fact that 37% of matches went to tiebreakers on that particular day!

Notable in the Men's 40+ final was the close match between Illinois/Indiana team Keith Minor/Amatulli vs. Jimmy Lowe/Tim Hansen - scores were 9, (8), 8. Keith and John unfortunately ended up on the short end, but departed Tempe with very respectable Silver medals to transport through the airport metal detectors.

The USAR Board Women's Committee hosted a women's breakfast on Saturday of the tourney. This well-attended event, supported by Ektelon and Wilson, featured discussion topics ranging from Olympic format to Racquet for the Cure tournaments to an update on WPRO initiatives.

— Cheryl Kirk

Mixed B - Cheryl Kirk/Mike Mahon

Mixed 55+ - Nancy Kronenfeld/Russ Mannino (CA) - 2nd

Tournament Notes

High temperature was somewhere around 105 degrees, which didn't matter that much except when you were walking to the parking lot or, heaven forbid, to your hotel (several long, hot blocks, depending on where you were staying). One had to keep thinking, "Reprieve from fall, it's probably raining back home..."



Ken Cook and Dan Kolodziej teamed up in Men's 35+A



A well-attended USAR Women's Committee Breakfast Meeting

Geoff Peters Up For Re-election To USA Racquetball Board

It seems as if the past three years have flown by since I last ran for a seat on the USA Racquetball Board of Directors. In those three years, I have seen both of my children start college, both children send emails home asking for racquetball gear to be sent to them at school (not money!), changed jobs, run the Chicago Marathon, weathered a near-death collapse that resulted in a defibrillator being implanted in my chest, and helped USA Racquetball come back from its own near-death experience.

In 2004 when I rejoined the USA Racquetball Board (thanks to your support), the Association was near collapse. Prior administration and Boards had spent beyond their means, that is, "our" means, and had accumulated over \$600,000 of debt. The budget for 2004 was unbalanced - we were projected to spend over \$100,000 more than our income for the year - and there was no easy fix in sight. With a lot of hard work, I can confidently state that we are well on our way to being fiscally sound,

and our current Board (including Illinoisians: Cheryl Kirk, Dave Negrete and Jason Thoerner) is the most fiscally responsible Board we have had in our sport's history. We have a smaller, more focused staff and we've reviewed all programs to ensure they directly impact our mission to promote competitive racquetball. When required to spend money, we weigh the pros and cons carefully to ensure that the expenditures will have the greatest possible impact on our sport and our members.

However, we are not home free yet. Our sport requires an endowment like that of squash, tennis or even handball that will ensure that the sport survives into the next generations. We need to grow our player base with exposure through vehicles like The Tennis Channel and additional Grand Slam Events like the Motorola Pro Nationals. We have great working relationships with the manufacturers and Pro Tours - and we need to continue to seek outside funding to expand beyond our traditional constituencies.

I'd like to be a part of making it all happen. I WILL be a part of making it happen. As Vice President of USA Racquetball, I am committed to ensuring the organization has the fiscal underpinnings to be successful next year and into the future. I am the Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee because I believe that this is critical to our future, and I would like to finish the job our current Board has started.

I am running for re-election for an additional three-year term on the Board. Please take a minute to fill out your ballot in **RACQUETBALL** Magazine (March/April issue). A vote from everyone in Illinois would help to ensure that I work my butt off the next three years to make USA Racquetball serve all of its members even more effectively! Please don't hesitate to stop me at any tournament and provide any feedback, good or bad, on our efforts...

Geoff Peters
(773) 251-4413 cell

Southlake Fall Open

The Southlake Club, Mundelein

November 4-5, 2006

Tournament Director - Cindy Flores-Mocarski

Results

Division: First; Second ; Semifinals

Men's Open/A (4): Geoff Goldblatt; Mike Hammel; Randy Weber (3rd), Blair Wagner (4th)

Men's B (7): Keith Brown; Rick Seaberg; Moses Elias, Steve Saeks

Men's C (7): Rick Nielsen; Moses Elias; Tony Cornelious, Bryan Tubbs

Men's D (4): Arlyn Tratt; Lupe Aguirre; John Newton (IN) (3rd), Antonio Aguirre (4th)

Men's 35/45 + (6): Dave Milazzo; Rick Nielsen; Charlie Naber, Geoff Peters

Women's Open/A (3): Joan Vande Kieft; Karen Thurlow; Alexandra Newman

Mixed Beginner (3): Jesse Aguirre; Maria Frane; Sonia Maria Dias

Men's Open Doubles (4): Brian Berkelhamer/Zach Archer; Jim McHale/Mitch Becker; Geoff Goldblatt/Geoff Peters (3rd), Joey Limonciello/Dave Milazzo (4th)

Men's A/B Doubles (6): Rob Littledale/Brett Crawley; John DiMasi/David Smith; Waylon Adams/Pat McGrath, Kerry Putkonen/Howard Lampert

Men's C Doubles (4): Jesus Aguirre/Julian Diaz; Tony Cornelious/Joe Garay; Pete Hart/Carlos Vidrio (3rd), Val Carrasco/Antonio Vasquez

Mixed Doubles (3): Zach Archer/Jean Vande Kieft; Dan Kolodziej (IN)/Mary Herron; Geoff Goldblatt/Alexandra Newman

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League Racquetball

Turkey Shoot Open

The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
November 9-12, 2006

Tournament Director – Doug Halverson

Glass Court tournaments usually present opportunities for winning full draws and earning a ticket into the next highest skill division. The Turkey Shoot proved no exception. Next year there will be new blood (so to speak) in Men's Open (Richard DeArmas), Men's A (Vince Carvallo), Men's B (Moses Elias) and Men's C (Brad Rupsis). Congratulations!

This was another fine example of a well-run and enjoyable tournament, hosted by Joe and Diane DeArmas and the outstanding Glass Court staff. Tournament Director Doug Halverson extends his appreciation

to his team of volunteers who prepared the draws and manned the tournament check-in and control desks: Char Borre, Ron Calloway, Patrice Calvi, Joey Eminger, T.J. Ferro, Dan Flood, Geoff Goldblatt, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Michelle Halverson, Cheryl Kirk, Keith Mecklenburg, Dave Milazzo, Liz Molitor, Eric Rieman, Joe Silius, Chuck Snyders, Trevor Snyders, John Thorson, Tom Utterback, and Lynn Yeazell.

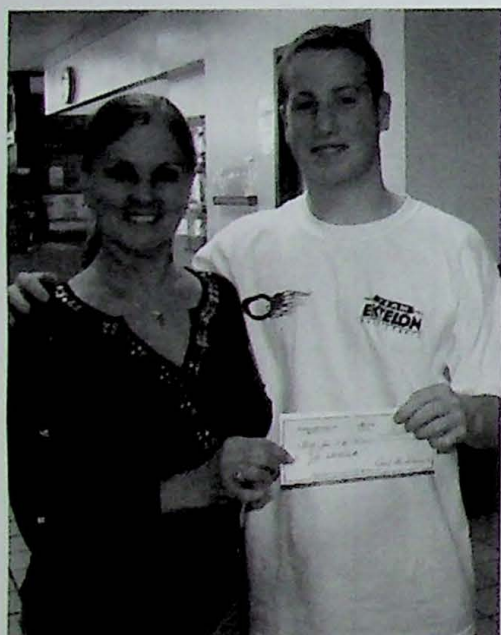
Not only do tournament participants (including visitors from Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin) enjoy the competition, but they also appreciate the great hospitality, especially the deliciously-anticipated traditional turkey dinner served on Saturday evening. It's also great to know that the TLC Camp (a charity that provides a week-long camp experience to kids with cancer) benefits with donations from this tournament.

Check out the results below...

— Cheryl Kirk



Proud Dad Joe DeArmas to Richard:
"It's Men's Open for you next year!"



Barb Vagedes congratulates Men's AA
Champ Geoff Goldblatt



Vinny's movin' on up to A's in '08!
Meg Olcese, Vinny Carvallo, Boris Carvallo and Pilar Carvallo

Results

Division: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (7): Ben Croft; John Amatulli (IN); Jorge Ortiz, Eugene Coyle

Men's AA (3): Geoff Goldblatt; Ron Calloway; Zach Archer (3rd)

Men's A (14): Richard DeArmas; Trevor Snyders; Chris Liljestrand, Brent Huff

Men's B (24): Vince Carvallo; Juan Martinez; Scott Fauque, John Anaya

Men's C (16): Moses Elias; Steve Kudwa; Ron Muklewica, Antonio Vasquez

Men's D (13): Brad Rupsis; Rick Rodriguez; Glen Bero, Zac Antonoff

Men's Novice (3): Adam Jania; Odysseas Mitropoulos; Brian Pillan (3rd)

Men's 30/40 + (4): Tom Utterback; George Pappas; Brent Huff (3rd)

Men's 45/50 + (7): Jim Hillman; Dennis Healy; Dave Milazzo, Kevin Yeazell

Men's 45/50 + Int. (4): Leo Formanski; Ray Redelman; Larry Schum (3rd)

Men's 55 + (6): Dennis McKee; T.J. Ferro; Pat Taylor, Dennis Healy

Men's 60/65 + (4): Joe Quirke; Michael Goodyear; Manuel Rosiles (3rd)

Women's Open (6): Ellen Somberg; Diane Bunker; Karen Thurlow, Joan Vande Kieft

Women's AA (3): Lynn Yeazell; Joan Vande Kieft; Julie Vincent (3rd)

Women's A/B (6): Carolyn Watkins; Pam Grace; Laura Rosiles, Char Borre

Men's Open Doubles (9): Eugene Coyle/Ben Croft; Bob Morrison/Dave Bachar; Jorge Ortiz/Brian Berkelhamer, Geoff Goldblatt/Zach Archer

Men's A Doubles (11): Dan Flood/Trevor Snyders; Keith Mecklenburg/oe Kukielski; Joe DeArmas/Richard DeArmas, Chris Liljestrand/Matt Malcheski

continued on next page

Choice Hotels U.S. Open

The Racquet Club - Memphis, Tennessee

November 15-19, 2006

Tournament Director - Doug Ganim

Boasting 729 entries, four clubs, and decent weather, the U.S. Open hit Memphis once again. All was in place - the Players' Village, ProAm Doubles and Silent Auction benefiting St. Jude Children's Hospital; the portable court with stands to hold spectators in the hundreds; lights and music and introductions...the atmosphere was electric!

Peripheral events added to the hustle and bustle of the tourney: the USAR Board Meeting; Wilson, E-Force, Head and Ektelon team meetings; and the Women's Gathering (hosted at a nearby pub by the USAR Board Women's Committee supported by Ektelon and Wilson).

At the Party with the Pros on Saturday evening, the IRT presented its annual awards to deserving athletes; Cliff Swain bade farewell to the pro racquetball world; and many danced to the wee hours. Those playing finals matches on Sunday presumably took advantage of an early bedtime (yeah, sure...we're talking about racquet-

ball players here).

Pro Results

Mens Pro Singles
= > **Semi Finals:**

Jason Mannino (USA) def. Jack Huczek (USA) 11-5, 11-6, 6-11, 9-11, 12-10
Rocky Carson (USA) def. Shane Vanderson (USA) 11-5, 11-8, 11-3

= > **Final:** Jason Mannino (USA) def. Rocky Carson (USA) 11-9, 11-8, 11-5

Ladies Pro Singles

= > **Semi Finals**

Christie van Hees (Canada) def. Brenda Kyzer (USA) 11-3, 11-3, 11-9
Cheryl Gudinas Holmes (USA) def. Kerri



Team Illinois Partied with the Pros!

Wachtel (USA) 11-0, 5-11, 12-10, 2-11, 11-9

= > **Final:** Christie van Hees (Canada) def. Cheryl Gudinas Holmes (USA) 11-3, 11-2, 11-2

Team Illinois Made Its Mark

Men: 21

Women: 6

Events Entered: 44

Medal Count: 11

Gold (3) - Ben Croft (doubles), Lola Markus, Pat Taylor

Silver (4) - Cheryl Gudinas Holmes, John O'Donnell, Jr., Rick Reynolds, Rick Seaberg

Bronze (3) - Cheryl Kirk/Lynne Weisbart (doubles), Keith Minor, Lynn Yeazell

Pewter (1) - Mike Vicary

Top Finishers (Quarterfinals or better, see below **): 22

Ben Croft: Men's Pro

Geoff Goldblatt: Men's Pro

Juan Herrera: Men's Pro

Jason Thoerner: Men's Pro

Geoff Goldblatt: Men's Open

Mike Hammel: Men's A

Fred Conforti: Men's C

Mike Hammel: Men's 25 + A

** Keith Minor: Men's 35 +

Mike Vicary: Men's 35 +

** Pat Armstrong: Men's 35 + A

** Mike Vicary: Men's 35 + A (4th)

** Rick Seaberg: Men's 35 + B

** Fred Conforti: Men's 35 + C

Mike Davern: Men's 40 +

** Keith Minor: Men's 40 + (3rd)

Mike Davern: Men's 45 +

Rick Reynolds: Men's 45 +

** Rick Reynolds: Men's 45 + A (2nd)

** Kevin Yeazell: Men's 45 + A



Tournament Director Doug Halverson with Men's C Doubles winners Dave Wielgus and Wayne Lorenz

Turkey Shoot Results

continued from previous page

Men's B Doubles (7): Brett Crawley/Tony Ferruzza; Greg Benjamin/Lee Scoville; Wayne Lorenz/Jim Wehrli, Scott Fauque/Dan Musgrove

Men's C Doubles (6): Wayne Lorenz/Dave Wielgus; Argyll Piansay/Antonio Vasquez; Steve Kudwa/Glen Bero, Darren Halligan/Bill Purl

Men's 40+ Doubles (5): Tony Cosmano/Doug Peterson; T.J. Ferro/Chuck Snyders; Tom Utterback/Dave Milazzo (3rd)

Women's Open/A Doubles (5): Liz Molitor/Julie Vincent; Barbara Curran/Cheryl Kirk; Nancy Amaro/Janet Eminger (3rd)

Mixed Open Doubles (9): John Amatulli (IN)/Liz Molitor; Janet Eminger/Tom Utterback; Nancy Amaro/Chuck Snyders, Jim Hillman/Ellen Somberg

Mixed A Doubles (3): Mike Hammel/Lynn Yeazell; Jim Wehrli/Cheryl Kirk; Jeff Grace/Pam Grace (3rd)

Mixed B/C Doubles (3): Joe Quirke/Carrie Howard; Richard Lux/Nancy Healy (IN); Jim Bastile/Deb Bordignon (3rd)

U.S. Open

continued from previous page

Keith Brown: Men's 45 + B

Navin Deo: Men's 45 + B

**Rick Seaberg: Men's 45 + B (2nd)

Geoff Peters: Men's 50 +

Kevin Yeazell: Men's 50 +

** Greg Hasty: Men's 55 +

** Leo Klimaitis: Men's 55A +

**Pat Taylor: Men's 65 + (1st)

** John O'Donnell, Jr.: Men's 75 + (2nd)

Women's Singles

** Cheryl Gudinas Holmes: Women's Pro (2nd)

** Carolyn Watkins: Women's A

** Carolyn Watkins: Women's 24/25/30 + A

Lynn Yeazell: Women's A

** Lynn Yeazell: Women's 24/25/30 + A (3rd)

** Lola Markus: Women's 75 + (1st)

Men's Doubles

** Ben Croft/ Charlie Pratt (OR): Men's Open Doubles (1st)

Geoff Goldblatt/Bryan Crosser (IA): Men's Open Doubles

** Fred Conforti/Michael Conforti (MN):

Men's C Doubles

** Patrick Armstrong/Mike Vicary: Men's 35 + Doubles

Kevin Yeazell/Joey Logan: Men's 35 + Doubles

Women's Doubles

** Cheryl Kirk/Lynne Weisbart: Women's B Doubles (3rd)

Mixed Doubles

Mike Hammel/Lynn Yeazell: Mixed A/B

Cheryl Kirk/Geoff Peters: Mixed A/B

Lynne Weisbart/Tom Curran

(OH): Mixed A/B

Team Illinois Cheerleaders

Bringing their enthusiasm and support to Memphis were Eugene Coyle, Beth Croft, Bob Croft, Dick Goldblatt, Doug Holmes, Susan Klimaitis, Arlene O'Donnell and Kim Seaberg. Thanks to each of you for hanging out with us!

Y'all Come

Overheard, more than once, "Gee, I don't know if I'll ever make it to a national tournament." To coin a phrase, "Just do it!"

National Tournament Planning Checklist

Six to eight weeks in advance

___ Make hotel reservations (host hotel is encouraged)

___ Choose mode of transportation (ask seasoned participants about the virtues of flying vs. driving and vice versa)

Four weeks in advance

___ Send in your entry (respecting your eligibility)

One week in advance (or for some of you, an hour before departure)

— Pack your gear and especially your outfits



At the Party

Clockwise from left: Leo Klimaitis, John Amatulli, Eugene Coyle, Ruben Gonzalez, Dave Negrete

Starting now!

___ Practice, practice, practice, train, train, train

___ Look forward to a great time!

Thanks to Doug Ganim and his dedicated staff of volunteers who once again made our experience pleasant and memorable...see you next year!

— Cheryl Kirk



Kim & Rick Seaberg chatted with Cliff Swain (center)



Mike Hammel (r) played a 3-pointer against Rocky Carson!

Pro Kennex Women's Classic

Schaumburg Tennis Plus, Schaumburg

December 3, 2006

Tournament Director – Dave Negrete

Early December, traditionally the time when women rev up their stress engines in anticipation of a busy holiday season.

Which is all the more reason to preface all that stress with a bit of stress *relief*. We all look forward to playing in this annual event – food, prizes, camaraderie, and a ton of play in an 11-point round robin format.

Then, on to the holidays...

Thanks, Dave & Co. (Martha, Julie, Diane, Liz, et al) for throwing this great soiree, just for us, every year!

– Cheryl Kirk

P.S. It was great to have so many new players joining us. Stay with us, ladies, stay with us!

Women's Open

1st: Liz Molitor, 2nd: Diane Bunker

Flight A: Janet Eminger, Liz Molitor, Renee Roux, Karen Thurlow, Julie Vincent

Flight B: Diane Bunker, Laurel Davis, Martha Huske, Ellen Somberg, Carolyn Watkins

Women's A

1st: Bernadette Bland, 2nd: Lynn Yeazell

Participants: Bernadette Bland, Pam Grace,

Cheryl Kirk, Lynne Weisbart, Lynn Yeazell

Women's B

1st: Sharon Hunter, 2nd: Donna Albert

Flight A: Julianne Beran, Sharon Hunter, Lola Markus, Lorena Olsen

Flight B: Donna Albert, Janet Christie, Pauline Kelly, Patti Moser

Women's C/D

1st: Delores Bethune, 2nd: Deanna Wheatland

Participants: Deb Albig, Dolores Bethune, Joy DeShazer, Sue Gohman, Laura Hessel, Jeanine Izzo, Deanna Wheatland



Dave's Women's Classic is a Perennial Success!



Jeanine Izzo (first tournament!) with Dolores Bethune (r)



Send to:

ISRA
603 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148

Member Sport,
U.S. Olympic
Committee



COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business) _____

E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDATE _____

Adult competitor \$35.00 _____

Junior competitor \$20.00 _____

RACQUETBALL Magazine subscription only \$20.00 _____

Tax-deductible donation \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Tournament _____ Representative _____

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine (six times/year) and the Illinois Newsletter (four times/year).

2006 ISRA Players of the Year and 2007 Distinguished Service Award

2006 Male and Female Players of the Year and Most Improved Player Award

Vote for your favorite male and/or female Player of the Year and Most Improved Player using the form below. Please submit a brief comment regarding your selection(s) using the following criteria:

1. Accomplishments
2. Number of years played
3. Sportsmanship
4. Improvement
5. Contribution to the sport of racquetball

Nominees must be USRA/ISRA members and may play at any level. Winners will be chosen by the ISRA Governing Board and will be honored at the ISRA State Singles Championships on March 31, 2007.

Players of the Year — past recipients: Chris Evon, Marshall Waldo (1988); Cheryl Gudinas, Rich Clay (1989); Pat Tarzon, Bill Lyman (1990); Laurel Davis, Ron Johnson (1991); Lola Markus, Bill Lyman (1992); Cheryl Gudinas, Andy Pitock (1993); Cheryl Gudinas, Greg Hasty (1994); Cheryl Gudinas, Horace Miller (1995); Dawn Gates, John Negrete (1996); Krystal Csuk, John O'Donnell, Jr. (1997); Mary Crawford, Greg Hasty, Sr. (1998); Terri Graham, Cary Slade (1999); Cheryl Gudinas, Bill Lyman (2000); Nancy Kronenfeld, Bill Lyman (2001); Liz Molitor, Ben Croft (2002); Liz Molitor, Dave Milazzo (2003); Krystal Czuk, Dave Milazzo (2004); Liz Molitor, Keith Minor (2005)

Most Improved Player Award — past recipients: Robert Gates, Jr. (1998); Ben Croft (1999); Diane Bunker (2000); Ubaldo Melo (2001); Angel Khamis (2002); Carolyn Watkins, Adrian Beltramino (2003); Geoff Goldblatt (2004 & 2005).

2007 Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 2007 ISRA Distinguished Service Award. Criteria for consideration include commitment to the sport of racquetball; quality of service; and accomplishments benefiting the sport and its players. Any ISRA member may make nominations. The winner, chosen by the ISRA Governing Board, will be honored at the ISRA State Singles on March 31, 2007.

Distinguished Service Award — past recipients: Tom Street (1978); Bob Troyer (1979); Art Michaely (1980); Gay Kenna (1981); Jim Harper (1982); Jim Cartwright (1983); Alan Shetzer (1984); Clyde Senters (1985); Diane Gabrisko (1986); Geoff Peters (1986); Bill Feigen (1987); Alvin Barasch (1988); Judy Young (1989); Bill Roberts (1990); Al Danielwicz (1991); Bill Piggott (1992); Rich Clay (1993); Dave Negrete (1994); Lori Kaiser (1995); Brian Stuetz (1996); Diane DeArmas (1997); T.J. Ferro (1998); Laurel Davis (1999); Rich Clay (2000); Mike Davern (2001); Pam Grace (2002); Cheryl Kirk (2003); Patrice Calvi (2004); Geoff Peters (2005); Doug Halverson (2006).

Act Now: Nominations must be received by March 2, 2007!

Send to: Illinois State Racquetball Association, 1064 Sylvan Circle, Naperville, IL 60540; or email your nomination to Cheryl Kirk at cherylkkirk@aol.com. Your nomination(s) should include your name, address, day and evening phone numbers, the name of the nominee(s), and the reasons why that person(s) should receive the award, including a list of achievements.

Note: The more detailed your nomination (including tournament results), the better chance your nominee(s) will have!

—Cheryl Kirk

ISRA Players of the Year & Most Improved Player NOMINATION FORM

Male Nominee's Name _____

Female Nominee's Name _____

Most Improved Player's Name _____

Include paragraph regarding your selection(s)
(use separate sheet of paper).

Name of ISRA member initiating nomination (please print): _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (night) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return by March 2, 2007 to:

ISRA
c/o Cheryl Kirk
1064 Sylvan Circle
Naperville, IL 60540

or email nomination to: cherylkkirk@aol.com

Distinguished Service Award NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's Name _____

Nominee's Address _____

Nominee's contributions to the sport of racquetball (use
separate sheet of paper to describe).

Name of ISRA member initiating nomination (please
print): _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (night) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return by March 2, 2007 to:

ISRA
c/o Cheryl Kirk
1064 Sylvan Circle
Naperville, IL 60540

or email nomination to: cherylkkirk@aol.com

One-Day Shootout – Men's B & C Singles

Forest View Racquet Club, October 1, 2006
Tournament Director – Dave Negrete

Men's B: 1st: Pete Schmeichel, 2nd: Matt Sochacki

Participants: Brett Crawley, Scott Fauque, Pete Schmeichel, Lee Scoville, Rick Seaberg, Matt Sochacki

Men's C: 1st: Jim Thurber, 2nd: Kevin McMillan

Participants: Bill Doyle, Moses Elias, John Frisone, Dan Manoogian, Mike Mayfield, Kevin McMillan, Jeff Moirano, Jim Thurber, Dave Wielgus, Dave Wroble

One-Day Shootout – Men's Open & A Singles

Schaumburg Tennis Plus, Schaumburg, November 25, 2006
Tournament Director – Dave Negrete

Men's Open: 1st: Keith Minor, 2nd: Eugene Coyle

Participants: Eugene Coyle, Geoff Goldblatt, Keith Minor, Dave Negrete, Jorge Ortiz, Tony Rosselli

Men's A: 1st: Brent Huff, 2nd: Jeff Grace, 3rd: Mike Davern, 4th: Matt Sochacki

Flight A: Glenn Bero, Mike Davern, Brent Huff, Leo Klimaitis, Blair Wagner

Flight B: Jeff Ferguson, Jeff Grace, Josh Norman, Matt Sochacki, Pat Taylor

Note from Dave Negrete: I want to thank all the players who came out and supported these events. Also thanks to Martha Huske and Julie Vincent for running the desk all day (November shootout), their reward being the opportunity, for six hours, to tell sixteen men where to go. And, Big Thanks to Leo Klimaitis, Pat Taylor, Eugene Coyle and Keith Minor for your support of Rip It Racquetball and the one-day events.

Front Page (cont.)



Page 1 explains a lot!

Besides being really fun to look at, the sequence makes a strong case for eyeguards!

Dr. Loren Winters of the N.C. School of Science and Math says, "This sequence of 24 images of a racquetball striking a wall at 60 mph were taken at intervals of 0.00025 seconds. The entire collision lasts about five thousandths of a second." For more, visit his website at <http://hiviz.com/projects/racquetballs.htm>.

2007 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- These rates are in effect until December 31, 2007.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Issue Mail Date:** 4/4/07
- **Articles/Releases Due:** 3/1/07
- **Stuffers/Inserts Due:** 3/8/07

- All stuffers/inserts are to be received by:

Laura Kreiner, 2307 Arrow Street, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110

- Ad rates:

Full page: \$150/issue

Half page: \$75/issue

Quarter page: \$50/issue

Other sizes quoted on a case by case basis

- For any questions or submission:

Joe Silius, jsilius@yahoo.com

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Here's a challenge to:

- ▶ Sponsor ONE NEW player to the sport of racquetball this year. Any age.
- ▶ Take him/her to your club... and teach the game. Stay with them until they can join a league on their own.
- ▶ Just think how good you'll feel when each of us sponsors the players of



www.illinoisracquetball.com



TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar, please contact
Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413 or at Petersgeoff@Hotmail.com

February 9 – 11

**ISRA State Doubles
Championships**

The Glass Court Swim and
Fitness, Lombard
Laurel Davis; (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

February 17

**One Day Shootout –
Mixed Doubles
O/A and B/C**
Location TBD

Dave Negrete; (847) 430-1478
www.ripitracquetball.com
SANCTIONED

February 23 - 25

The Lakeshore Open

Lakeshore Athletic Club,
Chicago
Bob Good (847) 226 - 8382
SANCTIONED

February 28 – March 4

**20th Wilson National
High School Championships**

St. Louis, MO
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

March 8 – 11

The Shamrock Shootout , JR

The Glass Court Swim and Fitness,
Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

March 16 – 18

March Madness

Willow Creek Club, Rosemont
Joe Gill; (312) 315-4413
SANCTIONED

March 28 – 31

35th Annual Ektelon Intercollegiates
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

March 29 – April 1

**The 35th Annual ISRA State Singles
Championships**
The Chalet, Willow Springs
Cheryl Kirk; (630) 215-4242
SANCTIONED

April 12 – 15

**USA Racquetball
Regionals Weekend**
Various Sites Nationwide
View: www.usaracquetball.org
SANCTIONED

April 14 – 15

Junior State Championships

The Glass Court Swim and
Fitness, Lombard
TJ Ferro; (630) 820-8009
SANCTIONED

April 25 – 29

**Third Annual IRT Motorola
Pro Nationals/Chicago USAR
Regionals**
Schaumburg Tennis Plus,
Schaumburg
Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

May 23 – 28

**40th USA Racquetball
National Singles Championships**
The Downtown YMCA,
Houston, TX
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

July 27 – 29

**14th Annual Summerfest
Open , JR**
The Glass Court Swim and
Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson;
(630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

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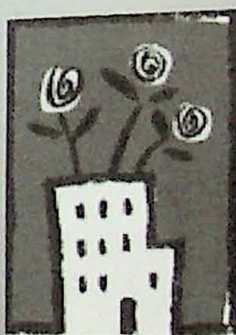
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Only 55 minutes from Illinois' Northwest Suburbs.**

Final day to register by mail is: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

Racquetball Challenge Courts

Bartlett Health and Fitness **(630) 540-4848**

Bartlett, IL
Wednesdays 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Saturdays 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
\$5.00

Bloomington Health, Handball and Racquetball, Inc. **(630) 924-0788**

Saturdays & Sundays
8:30 a.m. - Noon \$6.00

Buehler YMCA **(847) 359-5098**

Palatine, IL
Thursdays 8-10 p.m.
Saturdays 8 a.m. - Noon
\$15 One-Day Guest Pass

Courts Plus **(Elmhurst Park District)** **(630) 833-5064**

Saturdays
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Members \$3, Non-Members \$10

Glass Court Swim & Fitness **(630) 629-3390**

Saturdays 7 a.m. - Noon
Members Free, Non-Members \$7

Heritage YMCA **(630) 420-6270**

Naperville, IL
Saturdays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Members \$4, Non-Members \$8

Lakeshore Athletic Club - Downtown **(312) 644-4880**

Chicago, IL
Mondays & Wednesdays
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Members free, Non-Members \$12

Landmark Health & Racquetball **(309) 685-8200**

Peoria, IL
First & Third Fridays of Month
6-8 p.m. \$5.00

MultiSports Complex **Melrose Park** **708-343-5151**

Mondays 7 - 9 p.m.
Members \$5
Non-Members \$7

Norris Rec Center **(630) 377-1405**

St. Charles, IL
Tuesdays and Thursdays
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Fridays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Sundays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
\$5.00 Members & Non-Members

Palos Olympic Health & Racquet Club **(708) 974-1900**

Thursdays 6 - 8:30 p.m.
\$12.00

Schaumburg Park District **(847) 490-2505**

Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Sunday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Members \$3, Non-Members \$9

Schaumburg Tennis Plus **(630) 430-1478**

Women Open/A Players
Fridays 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Members \$3, Non-Members \$9

Silver Lake Country Club **(708) 349-6940**

Orland Park, IL
Fridays 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Members &
Non-Members \$7.00

The Southlake Club **(847) 949-8180**

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
\$10.00 for ISRA Members
(with membership card)

West Cook YMCA **(708) 383-5200**

Wed. 7-8 p.m.,
Thurs. 2-4 p.m.,
Sat 8-10 a.m.
Free to Y Members,
\$9 for Non-Members

To add your club to
this list, contact:
Lynne Weisbart
(847) 732-7245



Illinois State Racquetball Association

c/o Cheryl Kirk
1064 Sylvan Circle
Naperville, IL 60540

CHERYL KIRK
1064 SYLVAN CIRCLE
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