

November → December 2003 • \$4.50

RACQUETBALL

Coach Rich Donnelly plays ...

For the
Love of
the Game

INSIDE ...

- National Doubles
- Pro Tour Coverage
- IAB Summit Recap
- New Membership Services
- Instruction, People

Brewers

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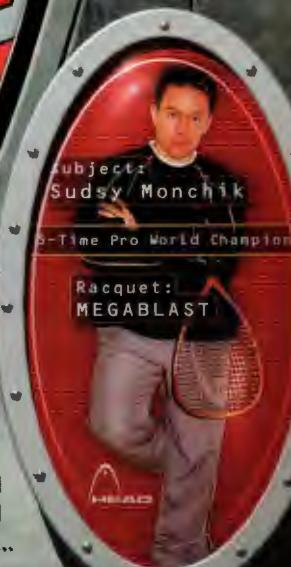
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Well, of course I know we're not TIME magazine here, but really ... don't you still trust the printed word when you *truly* want to know what's going on? With print, the main operative principle is simply that you have to make every effort to get it right before you start the presses. A physical press run of any size requires commitment to basic journalistic principles of accuracy, or else what do you have? The Racquetball Inquirer ... ?

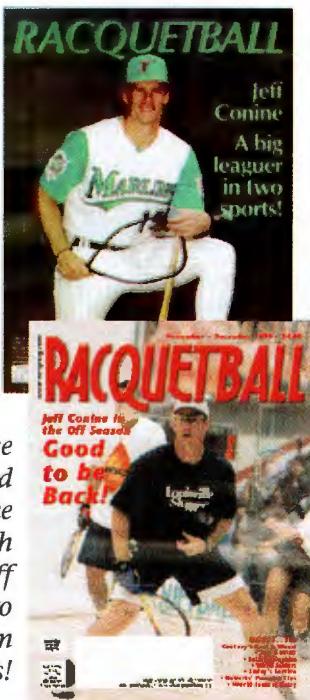
So, from time to time, when I get that nagging feeling that we're just fooling around with this little niche publication, I have to remind myself that -- no matter how small -- there are still professional standards that every editor and publisher are bound to uphold.

The Society of Professional Journalists breaks down its Code of Ethics into four parts: Seek Truth and Report It; Minimize Harm; Act Independently; and Be Accountable. Pretty straightforward, in my book. A similar document, governing the Associated Press Managing Editors stresses: Responsibility; Accuracy; Integrity and Independence. All high-minded ideals for those dozens of reporters and department editors at TIME (or even Sports Illustrated, for that matter) ... but how does that relate to our little, specialized bi-monthly? It's only RACQUETBALL, after all ... right? Wrong. We have exactly the same tasks and responsibilities to our readers.

But on the business end, the publisher (USRA) is in a bind. It has to find more and more creative ways to underwrite this little production. How does it enhance the bottom line, without compromising quality? Without passing along more costs to the subscriber, advertiser, member? Without cutting back pages, or even the number of issues?

We have a new marketing department, working feverishly to drum up some major sponsorship dollars to help the cause. We have another fundraising campaign in the works. We have a dedicated staff, cutting corners at every turn. And one of the most unusual things we have is a one-of-a-kind, long-running, target market publication with a quirky editor who treats it like it's TIME magazine. Silly rabbit.

P.S. So with all that said, what's with these covers? At press time with a related baseball feature on our current cover, the Marlins had just won the World Series, with the help of our favorite big-leaguer, Jeff Conine. It seemed like just the right time to slip in a line or two, to congratulate him and show off his own covers!



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... on the cover ... Milwaukee Brewers third base coach Rich Donnelly is a racquetball fanatic — and takes on the pros at Shea Stadium. Photo: Scott Paulus.
... this page ... Two rookie U.S. Team members — Janel Tisinger & Mike Dennison — were named at Doubles. Tisinger still beams at her second place finish; Shane Vanderson and Mike Dennison also made the cut [l-r, inset]. Photos: Tyler Ohlbrecht.



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Non-Smoking, Please

I think that the selection of a photo of the number one pro player of the year is appropriate for the cover, but *not with a cigar in his hand!* This is not a message that the USRA should send to the junior players.

Jack Hughes • Burlingame, California

The [cover] shows a picture of Jason Mannino sporting a cigar. What kind of athlete would smoke a cigar or even pose with one? What kind of sports magazine would allow such a picture to be printed (on the cover, no less) Wouldn't a racquetball racquet have been more appropriate?

Sylvia Sawyer • Orem, Utah

[We realized that this photo might elicit this response from some of our readers. But the cigar was shown as an unlit prop, meant to convey a level of affluence and achievement to which Jason now feels entitled (and the set-up was very similar to a "Tennis" cover, featuring Pete Sampras, of a season or two back). The USRA doesn't promote smoking as part of a healthy lifestyle, and we hope that parents will take this opportunity to reinforce their own values about personal habits and choices. — Editor]

Attention TD's: Want to Grow the Sport?

Check out what John Ellis did to get junior participation at the Stockton California ProAm event ...

1. All Junior events were free. Twenty boys and six girls played juniors.
2. Free Juniors clinic by Derek Robinson Thursday and Saturday. He is perfect in making it fun for kids.
3. All Juniors received personally autographed trophies, racquetballs, and posters from the top Pros, Sudsy, Jason, Alvaro, John, Jack, etc. My kids loved them.
4. Luau at the club and dance party with the Pros, for all players.
5. No charge for viewing the Pro games.

I hope other tournament directors follow John's example and create an encouraging environment for kids. Why is this important besides the obvious reasons? Because kids are more likely to play (and

practice) when they can be with other kids. At tournaments, they obtain easy success in forming healthy social connections in a safe environment.

You should see the Juniors pack the bleachers and watch with complete attention when their hotshot 10 year old buddies are playing grown men in the men's C finals. That's the type of bonding that this great sport offers to kids. It introduces them to what racquetball has created: a safe setting where they can be out of the hot sun or rain to spend a weekend together with friends that become one extended racquetball family, and get inspired.

Alex Glaros • Davis, California

Players Helping Players: The Juniors

By Adam Katz • Denver, Colorado

During the recent USRA Summit in the Rockies, one of the hot topics among the attendees was Junior Racquetball development in the U.S. After all, the juniors are the future of our sport and we should be focusing on the next generation. From junior programs at health clubs to junior tournaments throughout the country, there is a huge opportunity to grow the sport that we need to capitalize on.

Back in June, I attended my first Junior Olympics in Manchester, NH. I had no idea what to expect when I arrived, but in the end I was very impressed with all the players from throughout the country. There were well over 200 players entered in this year's event. At first, I was content with this number, but this was my first Junior Olympics. One evening, I had a conversation with one of my fellow Team Colorado coaches and former Junior National Team members, Jen Meyer. She relayed to me that back in her day, there were usually

700-800 players at the Junior Olympics. It occurred to me that we needed to get back to that number as a starting point and continue to build from there.

With that in mind, an idea developed. Last year, the USRA had the "Players helping Players" campaign. This year I'm going to do this in a raffle form for the juniors. I have come into possession of an autographed Patrick Roy jersey that has been matted and framed. Roy is widely considered to be the greatest goaltender in National Hockey League history and he just retired after last season.

On the national side, all monies donated from outside of my state, Colorado, will be put towards a scholarship for one boy and one girl to attend Junior Worlds and the next Junior Olympics, a total of four scholarships at a minimum. I will be happy to offer more if there is money available, plus I will also donate money from this pool to junior programs in other states in order to promote the sport. Any monies coming in from the state of Colorado will be used specifically for the Colorado Junior Program.

Tickets are: one for \$10.00; three for \$25.00; seven for \$50.00. To purchase tickets, you can send a check made payable to CACA Junior Racquetball Raffle and send to: CACA Junior Racquetball, 18985 East Mercer Drive, Aurora, CO 80013



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The actual drawing will take place during the Colorado State Singles Championships currently slated for the first weekend in April 2004.

Clarification

We received some anonymous comment about the September/October cover choice, featuring the Mexican women's doubles champions in celebration at the Pan American Games. In it, some opinions were voiced that bear response and clarification.

As the official publication of the USRA, the International Racquetball Federation and both pro tours, RACQUETBALL is ethically bound to consider "crossover" players from each of those constituencies for cover placement — given any outstanding career achievement, regardless of gender or national origin. It was on that basis that the editorial selection was made to feature players who have not been on the cover previously.

Each of the four cover subjects (main photo and inset) are USRA members in good standing. Each are members of the IRF, representing a national team competing in the sport. Each are touring professionals, highly-ranked on the IRT and LPRA tours. And finally, the women's doubles team logged a first-ever career peak with their win, at an event that is considered to be a pinnacle in international competition.

It is often difficult to put aside our national pride to focus on what is a more objective process of selecting how best to present the sport in a far-reaching, diverse and global sense. Being able to do so is what gives legitimacy and integrity to the sport's single, official publication. — Editor.

PLAYERS HELPING PLAYERS II

We at the USRA are still pleasantly surprised at the results of last year's Players Helping Players campaign. We really didn't know what to expect from our first yearlong, association-wide fundraising effort, but it quickly became clear that there are many people who love our sport and want to help us reach our goals through their charitable gifts. The donations that we received far exceeded our expectations, and we thank everyone who took part in last year's campaign.

As promised, listed in the sidebar at right are the specific major areas to which those dollars were allocated. In addition, all of the more general service, growth and development areas have also been directly aided through these donations.

This year we are starting a new campaign cycle, calling it "Players Helping Players II". Our goal is the same as last year's \$100,000, and we're off to a great start. Following an anonymous gift of \$25,000, fifteen IAB Summit in the Rockies attendees signed on as lifetime members to bring our current total to \$40,000.

Those new lifetime members are: Pat Bernardo (N.Y.), Debra Bryant (N.C.), Laurel Davis (Ill.), Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.), Dave George (Calif.), Elizabeth Higa (Hawaii), Tom Keogh (N.Y.), Cheryl Kirk (Ill.), Taylor Knoth (Ore.), Jennifer Mazaroff (N.M.), Doug Phillips (S.D.), Lynn Stephens (N.C.), George Tellez (Calif.), Peggie Callahan Tellez (Calif.) and Chad Yoshinaga (Hawaii). Most are pictured at right with previous campaign donors and state presidents, toasting the success of the Summit.

CAMPAIGN FUNDING AREAS*

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Web database development | \$25,000 |
| Computer upgrades | \$10,000 |
| Junior Team Expenses | \$5,000 |
| Adult Team Expenses | \$5,000 |
| Debt Reduction | \$20,000 |
| Campaign Expenses | \$3,000 |
| Marketing Department | \$18,000 |
| Insurance Increases | \$12,000 |
| New Membership Card | \$5,000 |
| New Ranking System | \$5,000 |

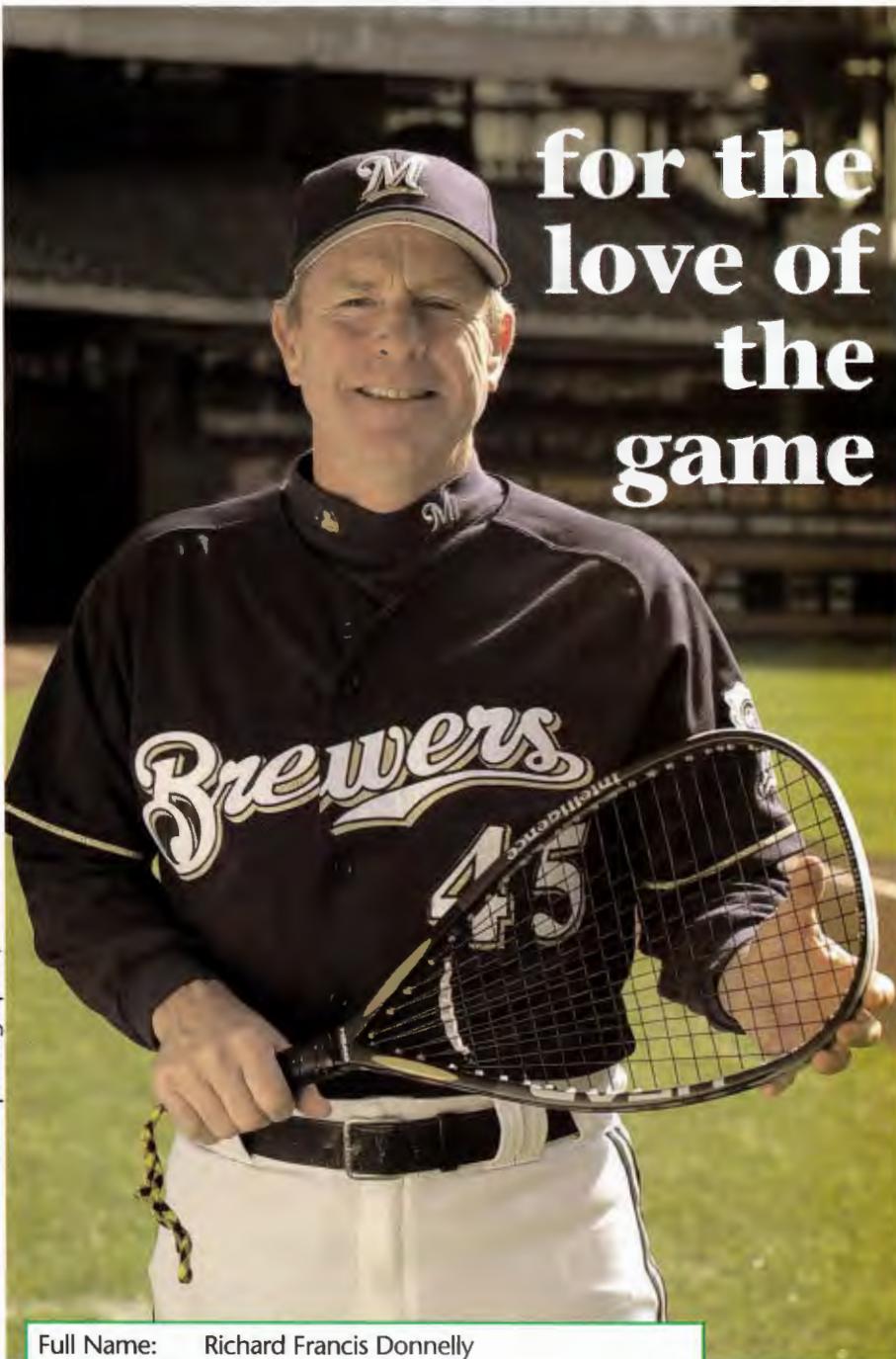
* Expenditures represent the allocation of contributions collected to date; some pledges remain outstanding.



As we know, giving to the USRA benefits the sport in many ways. Again this year, we will be offering a revised benefits package that will personally benefit you as a donor, at levels similar to the previous campaign.

So, as the end of the tax year approaches, I am asking you to please include the USRA in your regular, year-end charitable giving. Bound elsewhere in this issue, you'll find a card for your convenience in designating any preferences you may have, and we hope you'll complete and mail it back to the USRA office during the holidays. If you'll support your sport with your gifts, we will renew our promise to be very diligent and responsible in putting those monies to the best use on behalf of racquetball.

In conclusion, I would again like to thank every donor who has been involved with this campaign. It is new to me to spearhead something like this and everyone has been very gracious and helpful while we learn the ropes. I have met many wonderful people and these same people are what make racquetball so fun to play and enjoy both on and off the courts. Thanks again and hope to hear from you in the near future. — Randy Stafford



for the love of the game

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Full Name: | Richard Francis Donnelly |
| Date of Birth: | August 3, 1946 [57] |
| Place of Birth: | Steubenville, Ohio |
| Resides: | Hopedale, Ohio |
| Occupation: | Third Base Coach – Milwaukee Brewers |
| Started RB: | 1980 |
| Home Club: | In Season - Wisconsin Athletic Club, Milwaukee, Wis.; Off Season – Millsop Center, Weirton, W.V. |
| Family: | Wife – Bert, Children (8) Bubba, Amy, John, Tiffany, Mike, Leigh Anne, Tim, and Adam |

by ryan john

He began playing racquetball in the way most people at that time did — through handball. "I started playing handball while in college with a

If you are lucky enough to engage in a conversation with Rich Donnelly, don't expect to hear him tell tales of Barry Bonds, Richie Sexson, or Larry Walker, although he has coached all of them. Instead the third base coach for the Milwaukee Brewers will talk of Sudsy Monchik, Jason Mannino, and Rhonda Rajsich — the superstars of his favorite sport ... racquetball.

"Rich is a racquetball nut," Sudsy explained. "He loves racquetball more than any person I have ever met."

Not that Rich *won't* talk to you about the players and coaches that he has encountered in his 30 years of managing and coaching baseball, he would just rather talk racquetball. A prime example is when he invited avid Cubs fan and IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete to a baseball game between the Brewers and Cubs at Wrigley Field. Before the game they were on the field talking about the IRT players, with All-Star slugger Sammy Sosa standing mere feet behind Rich. Finally Negrete had to interrupt Rich to ask, "Sudsy and Jason are great, but could we please meet Sammy?"

Although Rich got his start in baseball, he still wonders "how good I could have become at racquetball if I had started younger and kept with it." In 1964 the New York Yankees drafted him right out of high school. He didn't sign with the Yankees, but instead opted to attend college at Xavier in Cincinnati, Ohio where he played three years of baseball and two years of basketball. Xavier is also where Rich became hooked on racquetball.



Photo: Shane Vanderson

guy named David Lynch, who was one of the best handball players in the country at that time," he explained. "After that I moved on to racquetball and just fell in love with it."

After college Rich signed a free-agent contract with the Minnesota Twins and spent three years in their minor league system as a catcher before being drafted again by the Washington Senators, who are now the Texas Rangers. He played two years at the Ranger's Denver affiliate and then, during spring training with the great Hall of Famer Ted Williams as his manager, he was approached with an offer to manage in the minor leagues.

"I told them I'd like to manage, but I was only 24 at the time. I still wanted to play," he explained. After reevaluating his playing career, Rich decided to give managing a shot. It seemed to be his calling, and he earned Minor League Manager of the Year awards in '73, '74, and '75.

He continued to manage in the Texas farm system until 1980 when he was called up into the big leagues to serve as the bullpen coach for the Rangers. He then went back to managing in the minors in 1981 and '82 before getting called back up as the first base coach for

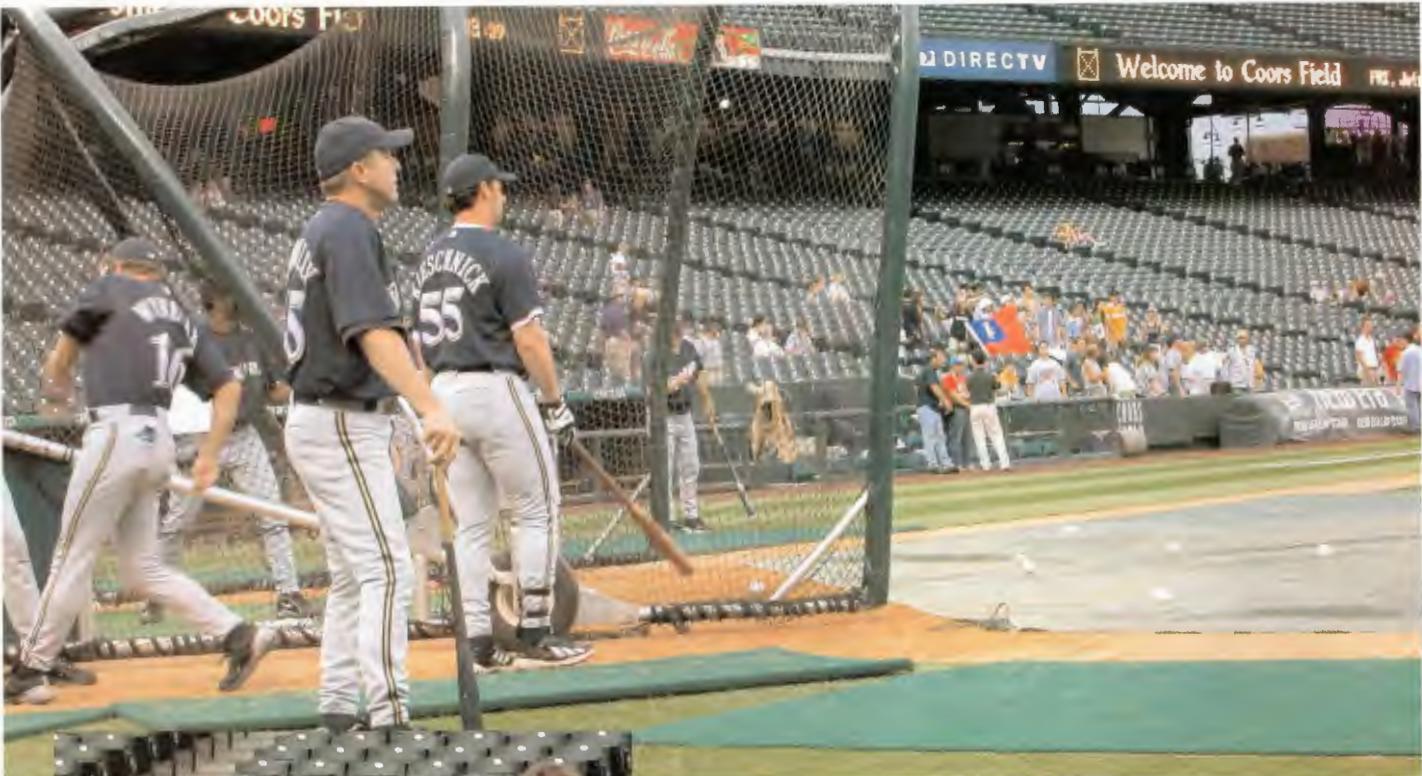
the Rangers. He was there until 1986 when he became acquainted with Jim Leyland who was the manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Rich stayed with Leyland and the Pirates organization until 1997 at which time he followed Leyland to the Florida Marlins. It was there that Rich earned a World Series title coaching third base. In fact, Rich waved Craig Counsell home for the winning run in the bottom of the eleventh inning of the seventh game against the Cleveland Indians.

Through all of this Rich continued to play racquetball, but not as often as he would have liked. That soon changed.

In 1999 Leyland left the Marlins organization and moved on to the Colorado Rockies. Rich followed suit and when Leyland resigned in 1999, Rich decided to stay on. Little did he know then that staying with the Rockies would rekindle his passion for racquetball.

By chance, local tournament director Marianne Alonzi approached Rich to help out with a pro stop run at the Lakewood Athletic Club in Denver. The tournament was hosting a pro/am doubles and Rich brought in



Photos: Sara Greenlee



Tough duty ... bottom L-R: Ohio player Matt Adesso, author Ryan John and USRA Membership Director Kevin Joyce scheduled a field trip to Coors Field to meet with Donnelly.

Rockies players Todd Helton and Juan Pierre, now a standout with the Florida Marlins, to help out with the promotions.

"Marianne asked me if I could get some of the players to come in and play in the pro/am," Rich explained. "I was watching the tournament and saw some of the players in my age bracket playing and I thought to myself, 'I know I can play with these guys.' Then I started watching some of the pros play and just wanted to see if I could play with them."

Rich instantly became friends with some of the top pros, including Mannino and Monchik, and began playing racquetball again as often as possible. He even started bringing his racquetball gear on the road with him and searching for matches in whatever city the team happened to be playing.

"I got this system set up with Sudsy. It's kind of like a network," Rich said. "Whenever I get into a new town I call Sudsy and he will have an Open or above player for me to go and play with. It's just great and since then I have been able to play some of the top pros on the men's and women's tours as well as some of the top players in my age bracket."

Rich resigned from the Rockies in the middle of the 2002 season while they were going through some managerial changes. He is now with the Milwaukee Brewers where he is regarded as one of the best third base coaches in the game and a top candidate for a big league manager position if one opens.



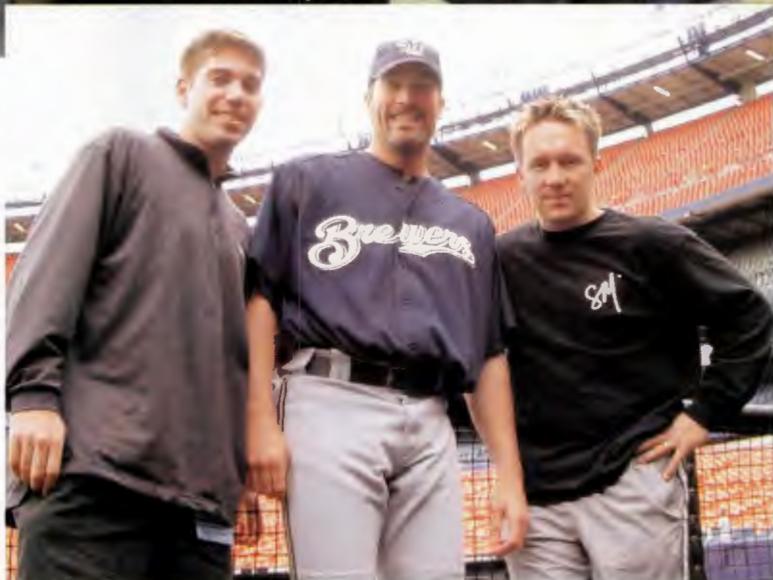
Donnelly, with pitcher Ben Sheets, Monchik, and pitching coach Mike Maddux at Shea Stadium in June. Below: U.S. Team member Shane Vanderson, pitcher Mike DeJean, and Monchik.

"I've thought about managing and if it is offered then I would probably take it," he said. "It's not something that I am really worried about or thinking about."

What he does think about all the time is racquetball. Anyone that has ever spoken to Rich can attest to that, including top IRT pro Mannino. "Rich loves racquetball as much as anyone I have ever talked to in my life," Mannino confirmed. "He loves racquetball like an avid baseball fan loves baseball. Notice I used the word 'avid' and not 'average'. He knows everything about everyone on the tour."

Mannino has played Rich on many occasions and believes that he would be a leader in his age group. "I play Rich just about every time that he comes to town and he would definitely be in the top five of his age bracket," he said. "He is extremely athletic and has great hands. He plays hard and is a real competitor."

Monchik would go a step further by declaring Rich would be tops in his age bracket. "I really think he could be a national champion," Monchik asserts. "He is one of the most competitive guys I have ever met, but also one of the classiest. Our sport is privileged to have a guy like Rich in it."



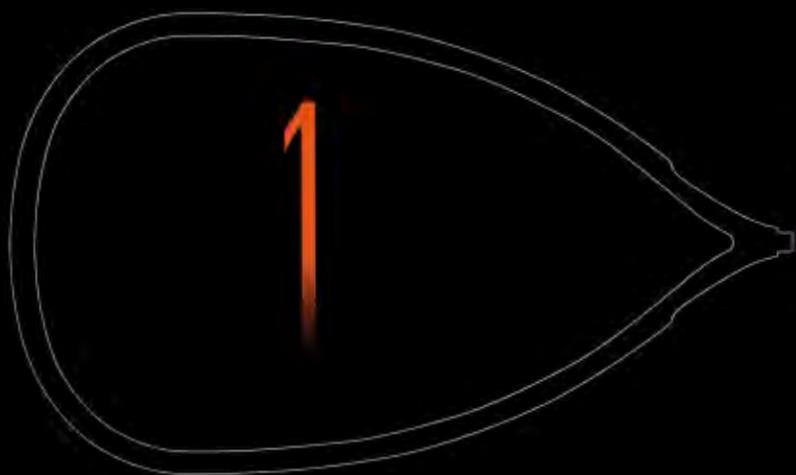
Photos: Shane Vanderson & Ryan John

Rich describes his game style as unorthodox and says that playing on one-walled courts forced him to learn how to short-hop the ball. He takes shots from everywhere, including cutting off any ceiling ball hit to him.

"I play a different kind of game and it throws a lot of guys off," he said of his style. "When I first started I learned to cut everything off and shoot it from wherever I could. Ceiling balls, everything."

Still, with his hectic schedule, Rich hasn't had the time to travel to any USRA national events. The National

THE POWER



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Cliff Swain
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new TRIAD 150 or 170.



TRIAD 150



TRIAD 170

TRIAD



wilson.com

Singles are held in May during the baseball season. The National Doubles interfere with the baseball playoffs and even if the team he is coaching is out of contention at that time, it's too close to the end of the season. "I probably wouldn't have a wife to come home to if I told her I was leaving two days after the baseball season ended to play in a racquetball tournament."

The best bet to see Rich at a national tournament would be at the U.S. OPEN. He has contemplated attending the premiere event, but still prefers to use that time to catch up with family. He does feel that he will make the trek to Memphis one of these years. Until then he remains satisfied with playing the top men's and women's pros as well as top ranked age group players from around the country to hone his skills.

Although Rich hasn't made appearances at the major racquetball events, his passion for the sport hasn't gone unnoticed. In fact, he has earned the respect of racquetball's elite and was recently named to the IRT Board of Directors.

"Rich was appointed for many reasons," explained Negrete. "For his love of the game, his experience in dealing with professionals, and the contacts that he has in the sports world. He might be able to open some doors that we have found closed in the past."

And that is what Rich wants to do. Help out the sport that has given him so much joy. "That's what it is all about," he said. "Giving back and trying to help out. I just want to help this sport and hopefully get these great athletes what they deserve."

When asked which sport he liked best, baseball or racquetball, the answer was out of his mouth before the question was even complete. "Racquetball." When asked why, his answer was short and simple, "I just love this game."

"The Chicken Runs at Midnight ... "

During spring training in 1992, while coaching with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Rich received an ominous phone call from his daughter Amy, a high school senior at the time. "Amy called me during spring training when I was with the Pirates and told me that she didn't want me to get mad, but she said that she had a brain tumor."

After performing exploratory surgery, the doctors determined that the tumor was, in fact malignant. It was also inoperable, forcing Amy to endure months of chemotherapy with Rich flying down to see her as often as he could during the busy baseball season.

Meanwhile the Pirates were doing great. They ended up winning their division and faced the Atlanta Braves in the playoffs. Amy was always one of Rich's biggest supporters and wanted him to get to the World Series almost as much as he did. When one of Rich's friends, Vince Genovese, asked if he could fly Amy and her friend Cindy up to one of the games in Pittsburgh, they jumped at the opportunity.

After the game Amy, Cindy, and Rich were driving back to the hotel and Amy asked Rich an odd question. "When I am coaching third I get down into a stance, cup my hands and shout instructions to the runners. After the game, when we were driving back, Amy leaned up in the front and asked, 'Dad, when you get down in the stance what are you telling those guys? The chicken runs at midnight, or what?'" Rich recalled. "I laughed and asked her where she got that from and she said she didn't know, that it just came out. So that was like a funny deal."

The Pirates ended up losing their playoff series to the Braves, but Amy's saying, "The Chicken Runs at Midnight", stuck. It became a family motto during her illness. Whenever the family needed a lift someone would repeat the phrase that Amy coined and it would bring a smile to their faces. "It's in our house, on our pictures, and when we write letters to each other we always sign them 'The Chicken Runs at Midnight.'"

In January of 1993 Amy took a turn for the worse and went into a coma. She remained in a coma for three weeks and then passed away on January 28. Amy was buried in Arlington, Texas with the inscription "The Chicken Runs at Midnight" on her tombstone.

"That was an honor to her because she came up with that and kept the family going through all of this; all her sickness and illness," Rich said amid a wave of emotion. "She was upbeat all the time and would periodically say something about the chicken runs at midnight to help us get through this."



Rich even carries a note in his pocket that Amy had written him during the series with Atlanta. "She wrote me a note saying 'Good Luck' and on the note she put, 'Dear Dad, The chicken runs at midnight. Love, Amy.' I've carried it for 10 years now and it is still a note that I carry today."

Five years after Amy's passing Rich followed Manager Jim Leyland to the Florida Marlins, to coach third base. The Marlins won their play-

off series against San Francisco then Atlanta to earn the National League pennant. Rich had finally made it to the World Series. "I promised my youngest son, Tim, that if we ever made it to the playoffs again and the World Series that he would be there for every game. He was with Amy all of the time. When she got her chemo treatment he would not leave her side."

The Marlins faced the Cleveland Indians in one of the most dramatic World Series ever. Another of Rich's sons, Mike, joined Tim as the batboy for the decisive game seven. The game went into extra innings and in the bottom of the 11th the Marlins had the bases loaded with two outs. The Marlins Craig Counsell was on third, representing the winning run. Counsell's nickname was "Chicken Man" because of the way he held his elbow up high and flapped it like a chicken wing when he batted. Edgar Renteria was at the plate and got a base hit off of Charles Nagy, scoring Counsell, and winning the game.

Rich tells the rest of the story, "It was complete pandemonium; crazy. There were 67,000 people in the place going nuts. You couldn't even hear yourself and there were people jumping everywhere on the field. I found my two sons, Mike and Tim, and Tim jumped into my arms and he was crying and screaming. I knew he was happy, but he was screaming and I could

see that there was something different here. He was bawling his eyes out, you know how you sort of cry when you are happy sometimes, but he kept screaming for me to look. I asked him, 'Look? Look? What do you mean look? Where?' He was screaming and he said, 'Dad, look at the clock.' And there was a clock at Pro Player Stadium behind me where I coached third base and we looked up at the clock and it was twelve midnight and he said, 'Dad, the chicken ran at midnight.' Craig Counsell, the 'chicken', scored the winning run at midnight and it was like Amy knew. She came up with the phrase five years prior to that and then it happened — the chicken ran at midnight. A strange feeling just came over my whole body. I was just completely numb like someone just gave me a shot of Novocain. I couldn't even move or talk. I was just like, 'Wow.'

"After everything had happened, we all went into the clubhouse and everyone was celebrating all night. When everything calmed down, at like three in the morning, I reached into my briefcase and pulled out the note that she had written me five years ago. 'Dear Dad, The Chicken Runs at Midnight. Love, Amy.' I just looked at it and I wanted to call her and tell her that yes, the chicken *did* run at midnight."

*Amy is centered below, among her brothers and Dad
L-R: Bubba, Amy, Rich; Tim & Mike (foreground)*





ellis & karp are ... new champs in doubles

Action by Bruce Adams; medal photos by Tyler Ohlbrecht

Last year Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Guidry became the first team to repeat as national doubles champions in fifteen years, after Doug Ganim and Dan Obremski last set the mark in '86 and '87.

In Minneapolis again this year, their attempt to earn an unprecedented third straight title as a team would mean getting through a draw littered with seven former national doubles champions

(including Ganim) and a slew of young guns looking to make their mark in the record books.

Still, Gonzalez and Guidry entered the event as the team to beat followed by the lethal lefty-righty combination of No.2 seeded Jason Thoerner and Mitch Williams, a revived No.3

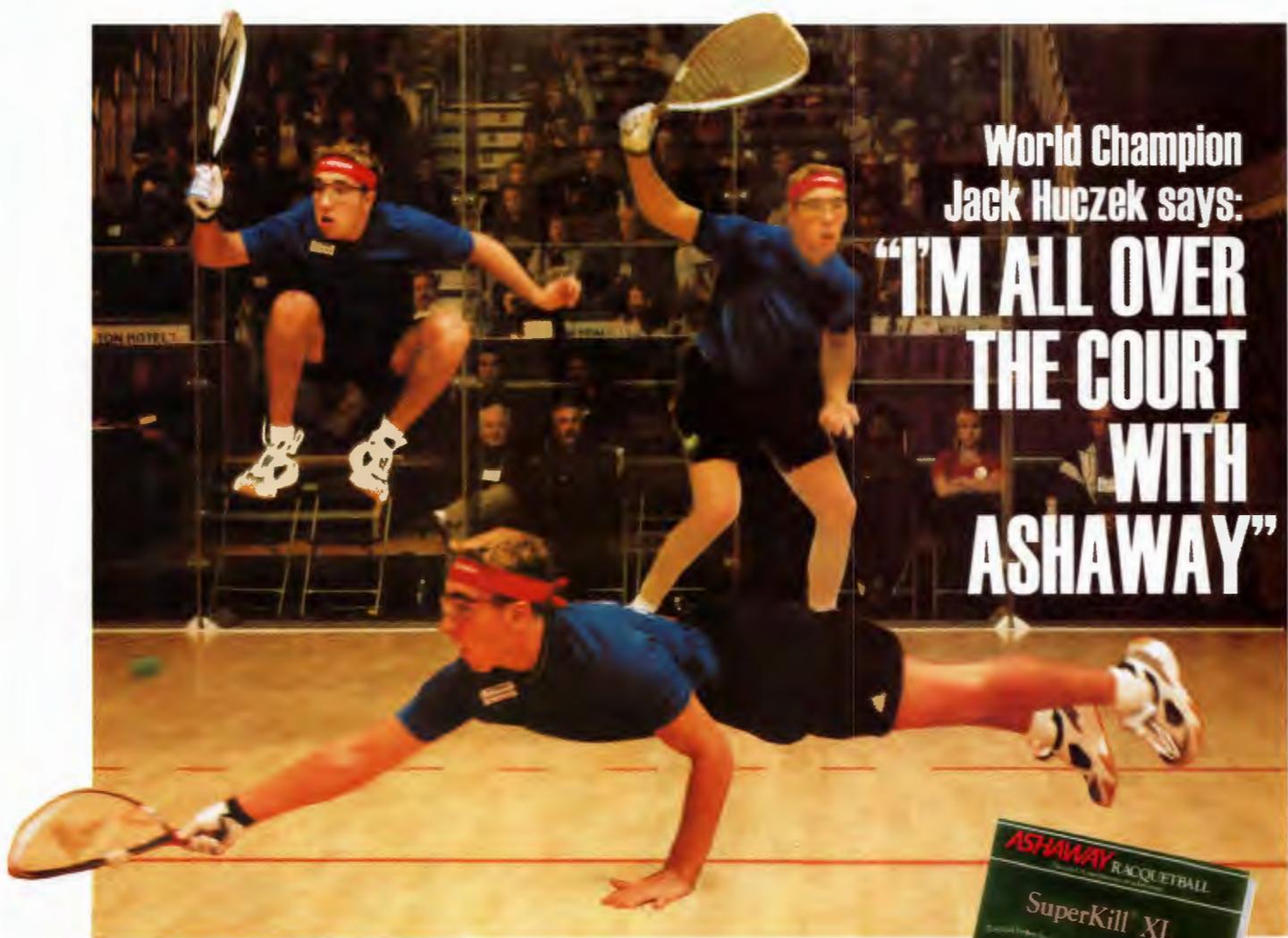
Doug Ganim and partner Jeff Bell, and No.4 Jack Huczek playing with former doubles champ Todd O'Neil, who was back in action after a three-year hiatus.

Also returning to the fray were John Ellis and Adam Karp, seeded No.5. Ellis hadn't played in a USRA event since he last won the national doubles title in 1993 with Eric Muller. Karp hadn't played in national doubles since he took the title with Andy Roberts in 2000. But it wasn't as if they were rusty. Ellis had vaulted to a No. 3 ranking on the IRT (and currently ranked No. 6) since his last USRA appearance.

"I'm just playing in this because I love the sport and I love playing doubles," Ellis explained of his decision to compete. "I kicked the idea around with Adam and I thought we would have a good chance here."

After a few uneventful feeder rounds the men's draw kicked into high gear with the round of 16 and, as it seems to happen every year, a few seeds weren't able to advance. Jimmy Lowe and Jeff Stark recorded another upset in the 16's for the second year running. Last year it was No.2 Dan Llacera and Brian Pointelin, this year's victims were No.6 Josh Tucker and Chris Wright. After the teams split two lopsided games the match was on in the third, where Lowe and Stark came up with the

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and elsewhere ...



Back in action! L-R: Scott Steinberg and Ron Garzia brought home silver in 25+A and a bronze in the 35+A. Last year, Scott tore his ACL at Doubles, then underwent surgery and rehab before returning for another medal bid.



Mike Pawka and Merjean Kelley won the Mixed 55+ division; giving them a total of two golds (2001, 2003) and a silver (2002) in the three years they've been playing together.



North Carolina's Ed Remen and Janet Myers. Photo: Meena Evans.

big shots at the end to win the 11-10 breaker.

Tim Hansen and Dan Llacera provided the other upset in the round by thrashing No. 8 Michael Bronfeld and Dan Fowler in straight games of 15-4, 15-3. Ganim and Bell survived a scare from California's Jonathan Dunn and Greg Solis, 14-15, 15-3, 11-8, and No. 7 Mike Dennison and Shane Vanderson nearly spent the rest of their week on the sidelines before edging past Mike Harmon and Matt McElhinney, in another narrow 11-10 advance.

After that scare, it was a peculiar turn of events that gave Dennison and Vanderson a free ride into the semifinals. They were scheduled to play Thoerner and Williams, until Jason was called home for the birth of his first child. Vanderson had mixed feelings about the unscheduled bye. "No one wants to win a match like that, but after going 11-10 yesterday we could use the day off."

Not everyone had the day off, and particularly not Bell and Ganim, who faced upset-minded Lowe and Stark in a heated three-gamer. Lowe and Stark drew first blood by taking game one 15-12, but Bell and Ganim narrowly converted the second, 15-14. Prior to the breaker, Bell and Ganim spent some time coming up with a plan.

"We were wondering what was going on because we had beat them badly last year," Ganim said referring to their 30+ final. "Then Jeff reminded me that we'd served them lobs right down the middle of the court, so that's what we did in the tiebreaker." The dusted-off strategy was just as effective twelve months later, and Bell and Ganim cruised through the tiebreaker 11-1.

In the top half, Gonzalez and

Guidry continued their trek toward a three-peat by downing Hansen and Llacera in straight games of 12 each, while Ellis and Karp recorded a minor upset by defeating Huczek and O'Neil, 15-13, 15-11, in a match that nearly wasn't as close as the scores indicate.

The all-important semifinals were set as the teams moved closer to U.S. National Team spots, and they were truly veteran-abundant, with six of the eight players either current or former team members. Only Bell and Dennison were vying for a rookie position, and they happened to go head to head in the first match of the round.

From the outset, Bell and Ganim seemed to have the advantage. Ganim is a four-time national doubles champ and had been training specifically for another semifinal team cut, even dropping 20 lbs, since he and Bell lost a heartbreaking 11-10 tiebreaker in last year's semifinals to Gonzalez and Guidry. There was only one hitch: locally, both Dennison and Vanderson had come up through the Ohio ranks by taking their beatings from Ganim, so they not only knew his game, but felt comfortable on the court with him.

"I have been on the court with both Shane and Mike thousands of times," Ganim said. "I think that helped them in this match, their first real big doubles match on the national stage. Normally they may have tightened up with so much on the line, but because it was me they were able to play relaxed and loose."

Dennison and Vanderson cruised to a 15-9 win in the first, before Bell and Ganim switched up their strategy. The younger pair countered and used Dennison's power to squeak by in the second, 15-14. "They made a switch to cover the cross-courts and

wide-angle passes," Dennison explained. "so we changed our strategy from hitting those shots to more down the line passes."

The amount of gold that has been hung around the necks of Gonzalez, Guidry, Ellis, and Karp would put even Mr.T to shame. With eleven national doubles titles between them, the match held promise for fans, but it quickly took a turn toward a blowout. Everything pointed to a straight game advance for Gonzalez and Guidry to claim their fifth straight finals appearance. They won the first game 15-11 and had built a seemingly insurmountable 13-4 lead in the second.

"It was a pretty big lead and I was definitely thinking about catching a morning flight home," Ellis said after the match. "But you never know in doubles because things can change so quickly."

Things didn't change *all* that quickly, but Ellis and Karp were able to force much needed sideouts and score a few points along the way, to eventually put themselves right back into the match at 13-10. "At that point you have nothing to lose," Karp explained. "John's the type of player that can catch fire and take over a match and that's what happened."

Ellis did turn up the heat and led the way to the improbable 15-14 comeback in the second, then capped things off by holding onto that momentum to win the tiebreaker 11-4.

By contrast, the final proved to be anticlimactic as Ellis and Karp took advantage of their experience to give Dennison and Vanderson a lesson in doubles, 15-5, 15-2. At one point Vanderson became so frustrated that he turned to ask for advice from the crowd, "Anybody have any suggestions?"

"I think we caught a real good team on an off day," Karp said. "But we played real well today and it feels great to win this tournament again."

"The win feels pretty good," Ellis added. "Adam and I do a lot of things together as neighbors and this just adds to our friendship." •



rice & russell are back on top ... the champs repeat



Even though the women's draw wasn't as large as in recent years, the competition was just as fierce ...

Defending champs Jackie Rice and Kim Russell claimed the No.1 spot and were known as the team to beat. Kersten Hallander and youngster Janel Tisinger moved up into the No.2 seed after finishing third a year ago, followed by '92 champs Mary Lyons and Susan Pfahler in the No.3 position. The No.4 spot went to Amy Foster and new partner Rhonda Rajsich, who finished second last year with Laura Fenton.

After suffering their first loss together as partners at the 2003 Pan American Games, Rice and Russell were determined to rebound. At the same time, some of their opponents were hopeful that there might now be a chink in Rice and Russell's seemingly impenetrable armor. But Russell explained that it just wasn't so and that, if anything, the international loss had made them stronger as a team.

Action by Bruce Adams; medal photos by Tyler Ohlbrecht



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and elsewhere ...



I have had a goal that I have wanted to meet by the time I turned 50 years old, which was to win one national gold medal in singles or doubles. I came close in '97 in when my Mixed A partner (Robert Lybbert) blew his knee out during our final tiebreaker. I took him home in a wheelchair that year with our silver medals. I've been attending national singles and doubles tournaments for over eight years and I finally won a gold medal with Mary Bennett (above left) in the Women's A! The twist is that I finally got a women's partner to go to national doubles, and she doesn't come away with just one gold medal, but she wins two — in her first time at national doubles! She did in the first try what has taken me years to accomplish, plus she outdid me right off the bat! Way to go! At least I know how to pick a partner! — Diane Pratt

"I never thought that we struggled at the Pan Am's, Rosy and Suzy just played well," She explained. "The loss opened our eyes that we could possibly lose and that we had to be on top of every point. I've trained hard since then and I know that Jackie is always ready."

There were only three feeder matches before the bracket firmed up to a solid quarterfinal. One early round involved national singles champ Cheryl Gudinas and current intercollegiate singles champ Kristen Walsh, who made quick work of Lisa Hjelm and Kari McDonough. In another, Rachel Gellman and Jo Shattuck got by Teresa Beresford and Doreen Fowler in two. But in the third, Tammy Brown and World Junior champ Adrienne Fisher needed a tiebreaker to get past the hometown duo of Jamie and Jill Trachsel.

Everyone got involved in the quarterfinals, including top seeds Rice and Russell who had no trouble neutralizing Gellman's power and Shattuck's dives to warm-up and win in two. Hallander and Tisinger also advanced in straight games over Brown and Fisher.

Malia Bailey and Aimee [Roehler] Ruiz logged the first upset among the women by defeating No.4 Foster and Rajsich. The win itself wasn't surprising, but it was that they did it in straight games of 15-12, 15-9. Bailey last won national doubles in 1988, but finished second in 2001 with Rajsich, proving that she still has exceptional talent in doubles.

Another duo that still has it is Lyons and Pfahler, who passed the 20-year mark at this year's event; they've been playing together in women's open, at national doubles events, for two full decades. Although they're now in their mid-40's they can still play some ball and proved it last year by shocking then No.2 Gudinas

and Walsh by handing them a quarterfinal loss. As fate would have it, the teams again faced each other in the quarters. This time it was Gudinas and Walsh looking for the upset.

Gudinas and Walsh took the first game 15-11 and seemed to be in control until Lyons and Pfahler knotted the match with a 15-10 win of their own in the second. The tiebreaker played out much like the first two games, with tight rallies until Gudinas and Walsh pulled away to close it out, 11-7.

Like the men's bracket, the women's semi's were filled with former and current national team members. Only Ruiz and Tisinger hadn't earned previous positions on the team, but unlike the men, they didn't have to face each other in a head-to-head playoff for a spot. Instead the lefty-righty pair of Ruiz and Bailey challenged the defending champions and shocked everyone in attendance, including Rice and Russell, by opening the match with a decisive 15-6 win.

"I have played doubles with Malia before so I know that she is a good doubles player and Aimee can play hot. She's a shooter," Rice said. "But still, they played a little better than I thought they would."

Although it was the first loss on U.S. soil for Rice and Russell, and only their second loss, ever, as a team, it was just a small bump in the road, as they bounced back to take the second game 15-8.

"We just need to regroup and focus," Rice explained. "We weren't playing to our game plan (in the first) so we felt comfortable knowing that it hadn't been tested yet."

The tiebreaker was an even match with Bailey and Ruiz taking a slight 6-5 lead before Rice and Russell



Photographers & friends [L-R]: Tony Feldstein (Colo.), Curtis & Carmen Alatorre-Martin (Va.) and Bruce Adams (Okla.). Carmen and Bruce shared their digital files for this segment ... Thanks!

scored four straight to go ahead 9-6. Bailey and Ruiz didn't fold under the pressure, however, and came back to knot things up at 9-9. It was then that Rice and Russell fired themselves up to get the last two points needed to advance to their second straight finals appearance, 11-9.

"Overall I felt like it was a good match, but of course I am disappointed with losing," Bailey said afterwards. "We had opportunities. They made theirs and we didn't make ours. That was the difference."

On the bottom half No.2 Hallander and Tisinger faced No.6 Gudinas and Walsh for the right to face the champs. In singles play the edge would have to go to Gudinas/Walsh, but this wasn't singles, and Hallander and Tisinger wanted to prove that their finish last year wasn't a fluke.

They came out and handed Gudinas and Walsh a 15-8 loss in the first, by moving them up and back to pull them out of position. The second game was closer, but Hallander and Tisinger were able to close the match out in two, 15-13.

"Our strategy was to hit wide angle passes to move them to the back of the court," Tisinger said of their simple, yet effective strategy. "Once they were behind us we would go for the pinch."

Again, this open final seemed to be a mismatch on paper. Rice and Russell have won ten national doubles titles between them, and one or the other of them has appeared in every final since 1990. Hallander had a finals showing in 1997, but it was the first for the young Tisinger.

Even so, it was hard to tell early on, as Hallander and Tisinger held their own while Rice and Russell took the first game 15-9. But the second belonged entirely to Rice and Russell as they dominated to log a final score of 15-4.

"They could have played better, but I think our experience paid off," Rice said of Hallander and Tisinger. "I also felt that we were mentally better prepared."

Russell didn't take the win for granted and showed that she was still grateful to make the U.S. squad even though she has done so a half dozen times. "Even though it has been six times, I still feel that it is an honor to be on the U.S. team."

Father & Son Team up for Gold

• by Juan Martinez

I am so honored to be able to play with my son and to compete at the national level and win a gold medal! How many fathers can say that they were able to accomplish that with their son?

I am so proud of my son — Juan Martinez III — who started out as a great junior player. I taught him how to play when he was six years old and within a month he played in his first tournament. He won several state and regional titles and competed at the national and world level when he turned seven. Dave Negrete's younger brother John coached him early on, and ten years ago he won the Boys 10 & under doubles divisions at both the National and World tournaments. We both stopped playing when he was about 12, and after eight years, we're back! This has been our comeback year and we are having so much fun playing again.

My southpaw son is 20 now and attends Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, where there are two courts. He started playing last year and caught the racquetball bug again. I'm now 39 and started playing in the C's last October and after playing seven tournaments I finished second in Men's 35C/D at the state tourney, and the following week I won the division at our regional.

While my son was home on his summer break we started the 2003-2004 season at the Glass Court Summerfest tournament and won C doubles. We both played well and we were diving all over the place! We realized that we make a great lefty-righty team, and we both love to dive at balls that some players think are "irretrievable"! We simply love to dive! After this tournament we were fortunate to get a sponsorship from E-Force, and we decided to enter the National Doubles.

We started training with my coach Cheryl Gudinas, who tweaked our game, gave us a good framework, plus some training session notes that proved to be critical. Before and during every match, we reviewed the notes and adjusted our game according to her advice. We advanced to the final where we played against two young players (in their 20s) from North Dakota, who were tough and had our same playing style — diving all over the place! We fell behind 10-3, took a time out, adjusted our game and came back to win the first 15-10. The second game was a point-by-point battle to 8-8 and then we turned it on to win it 15-8. We played great under pressure and we credit the win to our awesome coach!

It was great to start the season with gold medals! We are looking forward to playing at the U.S. Open and to continue to move up the ranks as we win more tournaments.

I love this game and I love my doubles partner. Winning a national title with my son is a memory that I will treasure forever.



usra national doubles

OPEN U.S. TEAM QUALIFIERS

Men's Open: John Ellis/Adam Karp (Stockton, Calif.) def. Mike Dennison (Twinsburg, Ohio)/Shane Vanderson (Middleburg, Ohio) 15-5, 15-2
Women's Open: Jackie Rice (Ramona, Calif.)/Kim Russell (Austin, Texas) def. Kersten Hallander (San Diego, Calif.)/Janel Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 15-9, 15-14

MEN'S DOUBLES

Men's Elite: Gus Farrell (El Paso, Texas)/Tony Feldstein (Colo. Springs, Colo.) d. Micah Rich (Paradise, Calif.)/Devin Rogers (Fair Oaks, Calif.) Def (ns)
Men's A: Bill Kessel (Tualatin, Ore.)/Danny Nye (Keto, Wash.) def. Doug Dicks/Greg Shapiro (Atlanta, Ga.) 15-10, 4-15, 11-2
Men's B: Thomas Baker/Ron Blackwood (Oceanside, Calif.) def. Gary Hoagland (Rosemount, Minn.)/Terry Kisling (Eden Prairie, Minn.) 7-15, 15-12, 11-6
Men's C: Juan Martinez III (Springfield, Mo.)/Juan Martinez (Aurora, Ill.) def. Justin Fetsch (Fargo, N.D.)/Lance Freier (Gardner, N.D.) 15-10, 15-8
Men's 24+: Brent Walters/Mitch Williams (Raleigh, N.C.) def. Mike Harmon (Sarasota, Fla.)/Matt McElhiney (Bradenton, Fla.) 15-14; 12-15; 11-7
Men's 25+: Jonathan Dunn (Palmdale, Calif.)/Greg Solis (Orange, Calif.) def. Ryan Rodgers/Charles Shaffer (San Antonio, Texas) 15-13, 15-13
Men's 30+: Jeff Bell (Tucson, Ariz.)/Doug Ganim (Westerville, Ohio) def. Jimmy Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska)/Jeff Stark (Olympia, Wash.) 15-7; 15-1
Men's 35+: Michael Brontfield (Pacific Grove, Calif.)/Mark-O Perez (Visalia, Calif.) def. Hart Johnson (St. Paul, Minn.)/Todd Stead (Eden Prairie, Minn.) 15-9, 15-6
Men's 40+: Scot Consoli (Orlando, Fla.)/Scott Cullins (Woodstock, Ga.) def. Gus Farrell (El Paso, Texas) / Tony Feldstein (Colo. Springs, Colo.) 15-9; 15-2
Men's 45+: Gene Pare (Campbell, Calif.)/Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.) def. Russ Bonanno (Seaford, N.Y.)/John Peterson (Huntington, N.Y.) 15-9, 15-11
Men's 50+: Jim Hiser (Colo. Springs, Colo.)/Tom Travers (Westlake, Ohio) def. Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.)/Russ Mannino (Poway, Calif.) 15-12; 15-7
Men's 55+: Garv Peterson/Glen Withrow (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. Mike Pawka (San Diego, Calif.)/Ralph Worthington (Chula Vista, Calif.) 15-8; 15-13
Men's 60+: Dan Jones/Roger Wehrle (Atlanta, Ga.) def. Jerry Davis (Cleveland, Ohio)/Jim Pruitt (Zionsville, Pa.) 15-9, 15-11
Men's 65+: Carmen Felicetti (Bloomington, Ind.)/Charles Gunn (New Castle, Ind.) def. Lee Graff (Beno, Ore.)/Jay Krevsky (Harrisburg, Pa.) 15-5, 15-0
Men's 70+: Don Alt (Dublin, Ohio)/John O'Donnell, Jr. (Champaign, Ill.) def. Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas)/Ronald McElwee (Huntsville, Ala.) 15-9, 8-15, 11-0
Men's 75+: Ivan Bruner (Madison, Wis.)/Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) def. Ray Gordon (Grand Forks, N.D.)/Amos Rosenbloom (Edina, Minn.) 8-15, 15-6, 11-1
Men's 80+: William Gillio Sr. (San Lorenzo, Calif.)/Robert McAdam (Crowley, Texas) unchallenged

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Women's Elite: Jamie Trachsel (Fargo, N.D.)/Jill Trachsel (St. Louis Park, Minn.) def. Beth Neff (Puyallup, Wash.)/Vicki Panzeri (Seattle, Wash.) 5-15; 15-9; 11-5
Women's A: Mary Bennett (Shoreline,

Wash.)/Diane Pratt (Renton, Wash.) def. Barb Megehan/Ann Schramm (Colo. Springs, Colo.) 15-10, 15-8

Women's B: Cheryl Jones (Rochester, Minn.)/Susan Schatz (Fergus Falls, Minn.) def. Vicki Taylor (Burnsville, Minn.)/Terese Zadnik (Andover, Minn.) 15-12, 15-6

Women's C: Kelli Beebe (Lake Oswego, Ore.)/Karen Kessel (Tualatin, Ore.) def. Kathy Matson (Henderson, Nev.)/Bette Miller (Denver, Colo.) 15-5, 14-15, 11-10

Women's 25+: Amy Foster (Westerville, Ohio)/Aimee Ruiz (Stirling, N.J.) unchallenged

Women's 30+: Heather Dunn (Prides Crossing, Mass.)/Roslyn Petronelli (Neanton, Mass.) def. Diane Moore (Griffith, Ind.)/Mary Pomeroy (Chesterton, Ind.) 15-14, 15-13

Women's 35+: Kersten Hallander (San Diego, Calif.)/Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. Chris Evon/Terri Graham (Wheeling, Ill.) 15-10; 15-10

Women's 40+: Chris Evon/Terri Graham (Wheeling, Ill.) def. Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Linda Moore (Madison, Neb.) 15-12; 15-8

Women's 45+: Mary Lyons/Susan Pfahler (Jacksonville, Fla.)/Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Leslie Pawka (San Diego) 15-8; 15-10

Women's 50+: Nancy Kronenfeld (Park Ridge, Ill.)/Terri Rogers (San Mateo, Calif.) def. Linda Covault (Waukesha, Wis.)/Renee Fish (Dunedin, Fla.) 11-15; 15-13; 11-8

Women's 55+: Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Merijean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.) def. Joy DeSantis (Oak Park, Calif.)/Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) 15-11, 15-2

Women's 60+: Joy DeSantis (Oak Park, Calif.)/Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) unchallenged

MIXED DOUBLES

Mixed Open: Aimee Ruiz (Sterling, N.J.)/Shane Vanderson (Berea, Wash.) def. Kristin Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah)/Mitch Williams (Raleigh, N.C.) 15-9; 15-11

Mixed Elite: Alain Pujolar/Ileana Villarreal (Hialeah, Fla.) def. Stephanie Munger (Anchorage, Alaska)/Jonathan Munger (Olathe, Kan.) 15-5; 15-5

Mixed A: Don Skadeland/Jan Skadeland (Williston, Md.) def. Bruce Burgess (Denver, Colo.)/Barb Mehegan (Colo. Springs, Colo.) 15-13; 15-13

Mixed B: Cheryl Jones (Rochester, Minn.)/Brian Phillips (Chaska, Minn.) def. Joel Matautia (Fife, Wash.)/Wiswell Cyn (Tacoma, Wash.) 15-13; 5-15; 11-9

Mixed C: Beth Marshall/Mike Marshall (Summerfield, N.C.) def. Leatha Wold/Tom Wold (Minneapolis, Minn.) 11-15; 15-14; 11-4

Mixed 25+: Diane Moore (Griffith, Ind.)/Jose Martinez (St. John, Ind.) def. Debra Bryant (Sneads Ferry, N.C.)/Eddie Alberty (Jamestown, N.C.) 15-1; 15-8

Mixed 30+: Jody Nance (Stockton, Calif.)/Mark-O Perez (Visalia, Calif.) def. Rich Bowman (Carmel, Ind.)/Diane Moore (Griffith, Ind.) 15-11; 15-12

Mixed 35+: Teresa Beresford (Fort Washington, Md.)/Gregg Peck (Coppell, Texas) def. Terri Graham (Wheeling, Ill.)/Bill Lyman (Berwyn, Ill.) 15-11, 15-8

Mixed 40+: Malia Bailey (Norfolk, Va.)/Jimmy Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska) def. Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.)/Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 15-7; 15-12

Mixed 45+: Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.)/Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. Gordon Kirkland (Orlando, Fla.)/Susan Pfahler (Jacksonville, Fla.) 13-15; 15-14; 11-5

Mixed 50+: Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.)/Ed Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. Debbie Chaney

**Northwest Athletic Club
Minneapolis, MN: October 1-5, 2003**

(Indianapolis, Ind.)/Denny Vincent (Blacklick, Ohio) 15-14; 15-5

Mixed 55+: Merijean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Mike Pawka (San Diego, Calif.) def. Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.)/Bill Welaj (Hillsboro, N.J.) 15-6, 15-3

Mixed 60+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.)/Lee Graff (Bend, Ore.) def. Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Dan Jones (Atlanta, Ga.) 15-13, 15-8

AGE + SKILL DIVISIONS

Men's 25+A: Andrew Goldman (Bellaire, Fla.)/Greg Shapiro (Atlanta, Ga.) def. Ron Garzia (Tappan, N.Y.)/Scott Steinberg (Pearl River, N.Y.) 9-15, 15-13, 11-5

Men's 25+B: Kent Osland/Jim Tallackson (Fargo, N.D.) def. Jason Hicks/Larry Hicks (Vine Grove, Ky.)

Men's 35+A: Robert Morgan (Clearwater, Fla.)/Sal Perconti (St. Petersburg, Fla.) def. Giovanni Luciano (Lakeville, Minn.)/Phil Rosenbloom (Minneapolis, Minn.) 15-14, 9-15, 11-1
Men's 35+B: Thomas Baker/Ron Blackwood (Oceanside, Calif.) def. Neil Cozad (Rex, Ga.)/Michael Kaufman (Marietta, Ga.) 8-15, 15-4, 11-0

Men's 45+A: Roger Rossi (Annandale, Va.)/James Weathers (Dale City, Va.) def. Thomas Curran (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Herman Mitchell (Dayton, Ohio) 15-4, 15-10

Men's 45+B: Tom Murray (Sioux Falls, S.D.)/Walter Rhodes (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. John Cotoia/John Odell (Santa Fe, N.M.) by forfeit

Men's 45+C: Gary Baier (Stevens Point, Wis.)/Randy Rautenberg (Beaver Dam, Wis.) def. Robert Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Brian Tanner (San Jose, Calif.) 15-3, 15-6

Men's 55+A: Robert Morgan (Clearwater, Fla.)/Sal Perconti (St. Petersburg, Fla.) def. Mark Cohen (Eagan, Minn.)/Ray Usher (Maple Grove, Minn.) 15-7, 15-4

Men's 55+C: Warren Larson (Chicago, Ill.)/Mike Mahon (Warrenville, Ill.) unchallenged

Women's 25+A: Karen Green (Waterford, Mich.)/Stephanie Winfrey (Troy, Mich.) unchallenged

Women's 25+C: Christina Noe (San Diego, Calif.)/Cyn Wiswell (Tacoma, Wash.) unchallenged

Women's 35+A: Mary Bennett (Shoreline, Wash.)/Regina Bouie (Reston, Va.) def. Karen Green (Waterford, Mich.)/Stephanie Winfrey (Troy, Mich.) 15-8, 15-12

Women's 35+C: Jennifer Cook/Jan Stelma (New Bern, N.C.) unchallenged

Women's 45+A: Carla Francis (Castro Valley, Calif.)/Terry Rogers (San Mateo, Calif.) def. Carmen Alatorre-Martin (Arlington, Va.)/Regina Bouie (Reston, Va.) 15-12, 15-9

Women's 45+B: Cheryl Jones (Rochester, Minn.)/Susan Schatz (Fergus Falls, Minn.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.)/Lynne Weisbart (Highland Park, Ill.) 15-12, 15-4

Women's 45+C: Kathy Matson (Hendersonville, Nev.)/Bette Miller (Denver, Colo.) unchallenged

Women's 55+A: Joy DeSantis (Oak Park, Calif.)/Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) def. Judy Buckeye (Erie, Pa.)/Janet Conti (Vero Beach, Fla.) 15-6, 5-15, 11-4

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ProFILE Tour News



... 200 mile per hour shots, unbelievable gets, great personalities and a true "Extreme Sport Mentality" ... the 2003-04 International Racquetball Tour is here!

As we start the 2003-2004 season I am happy to report a strong rise in racquetball interest around the country. Since I became commissioner in late 2001, we have created a strong tour. Competing in over 40 major cities with prize monies totaling \$360,000, the highest in many years, the tour looks forward to bigger things in the near future.

Amateur divisions have exceeded expectations, indicating that racquetball is as strong as ever. Also, for the first time in the history of the game, the IRT, USRA and the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association [LPR] are all working together for the betterment of the sport. The IRT looks forward to taking on a leadership role in this great sport.

A big thank you to all the tournament directors out there and local sponsors for bringing the tour to your cities. Hopefully we will soon have a tour sponsor to relieve the pressure from all of you. In the meantime, we're grateful for your continued support!

Look for a strong push this season from Sudsy Monchik, back from his broken foot and injured shoulder to challenge current No.1, Jason Mannino. We can't forget tour veteran and six-time No.1, Cliff Swain, who promises to raise the bar, along with last year's southpaw phenom and current No.2 Canadian, Kane Waselenchuk. Keep your eyes on No.3 Jack Huczek, last year's pro National Champ and the "Pride of Mexico", No.5 Alvaro Beltran to mix it up. And let's not overlook the sportsman of the year winner, No.6 John Ellis, who is working harder than ever. First time stop winner, No.7 Rocky Carson is always there for a challenge along with Derek "Big D" Robinson, Canadian Mike Green and Texan Mike Guidry, who all have the ability to log an upset this season. Newcomers Jason Thoerner, Mike Dennison and Shane Vanderson will also be in the fray. And I would be remiss if I did not mention the Legendary Hall of Famer, Mr. Ruben Gonzalez ... you just never know when this young 50+ athlete will play like an inspired 19-year-old again.

In conclusion, I am thrilled with the direction of the tour and the class and professionalism of all its players. I encourage you to keep your eyes on our website, IRT-Tour.com for all the latest news, and also to voice your opinions on our forum page. I love to hear feedback directly too — positive, negative or constructive — and I can be reached via email at negretz@mindspring.com.

I hope you have a chance to enjoy racquetball at its highest level this season ... by attending a nearby stop on the International Racquetball Tour!
— Dave Negrete



Jack "the comeback kid" Huczek Outlasts in Arlington

by Todd Boss

For the second year in a row, the Team-ED Pro-Am featured lots of upsets, plenty of great comebacks and a tour "up-and-comer" walking away with the title. Returning to the Crystal Gateway Club in Arlington, it was the first time since 1995 that the club had hosted a full pro stop. Formerly the site of a long running Charles E. Smith Pro-Am in the late 80s, Crystal Gateway is the site of the famous Ruben Gonzales



overturned "skip" call on match point against Marty Hogan in 1985. We could only hope for similar excitement this year.

The round of 16 saw two qualifiers eliminate ranked opponents, both under pained circumstances. D.C. native and #20 ranked Dan Fowler defeated #1 Jason Mannino (2), 7, 7, 1, who was clearly affected by a death in the family earlier in the week. In another mild upset, #10 ranked Derek Robinson moved forward after receiving an injury forfeit over #7 John Ellis. The match was even at one game apiece when Ellis strained a back muscle. "It's not a major injury," commented Ellis after the match. "I stretched it out really well and it should be fine for next week."

Photos by Victor Zambrano



In the quarters, Robinson continued his run in defeating #2 Kane Waselenchuk 9,4,(5),8. Serving very well and taking advantage of a tricky sidewall glass, Robinson advanced to his first semifinal since Pro Nationals in May. Ranked #7, Rocky Carson avoided a similar upset by defeating Fowler in three, to gain his first semi appearance of the season as well. Jack Huczek, #3, defeated #5 Alvaro Beltran 2,8,10 in a rematch of last year's title bout. Finally, in what looked to be an epic quarterfinal, #4 Cliff Swain went up against #8 Sudsy Monchik. After taking the first two games easily, Swain jumped ahead in the third before Monchik retired with an injury.

In the semis, Swain put an end to Carson's tournament hopes in dominating fashion, winning 4,0,4. "That's probably the worst beating I've ever taken," Carson commented afterwards. Swain had his complete game working, using his drive serves to setup kill shots with ease. In the other half, Robinson's efforts to reach only his second final since 1998 were thwarted by Huczek's amazing comeback from two games down. Jack's fitness level and quickness, both generally acknowledged as the best on tour, continues to help him outlast rivals. Robinson ran out of gas in the fifth, allowing Huczek to advance (6),(8),5,5,2.

Cliff Swain opened the final with the same dominance he displayed in earlier rounds,

... IRT ...
continues
on page 43



irt-tour.com

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SEASON RANKINGS

[Dated 09/23/03, following Stockton]

| Points | Player | Hometown | Last Issue | In '02 |
|----------|------------------|---------------------|------------|--------|
| 1. 4176 | Jason Mannino | San Diego, CA | 1 | 1 |
| 2. 3460 | Kane Waselenchuk | Alberta, Canada | 2 | 3 |
| 3. 3354 | Jack Huczak | Rochester Hills, MI | 4 | 5 |
| 4. 3213 | Cliff Swain | Braintree, MA | 3 | 2 |
| 5. 2923 | Alvaro Beltran | Chihuahua, Mexico | 5 | 6 |
| 6. 2909 | John Ellis | Stockton, CA | 7 | 4 |
| 7. 2840 | Rocky Carson | Santa Maria, CA | 6 | 8 |
| 8. 2350 | Sudsy Monchik | Staten Island, NY | 8 | 12 |
| 9. 2156 | Mike Guidry | Carrolton, TX | 10 | 10 |
| 10. 2079 | Derek Robinson | Kennewick, WA | 9 | 7 |
| 11. 2024 | Mike Green | Ontario, Canada | 11 | 9 |
| 12. 1696 | Jason Thoerner | Canton, GA | 12 | 28 |
| 13. 1288 | Dan Llacerá | Rehoboth Beach, DE | 13 | 20 |
| 14. 1044 | Ruben Gonzalez | Staten Island, NY | 16 | 13 |
| 15. 1033 | Chris Crowther | Riverside, CA | 14 | 14 |
| 16. 986 | Mike Dennison | Twinsburg, OH | 18 | 25 |
| 17. 949 | Josh Tucker | Joplin, MO | 19 | -- |
| 18. 929 | Shane Vanderson | Dublin, OH | 20 | 40 |
| 19. 870 | Brent Walters | Raleigh, NC | 22 | 55 |
| 20. 708 | Dan Fowler | Rockville, MD | 17 | 16 |

Win, Lose or Draw?

Is it points, earnings or pro national wins that determine how a player finishes the season? With the current IRT, it's strictly on points — since reported earnings can vary due to sponsorship and endorsement income. Today's players know exactly what they have to do — when and how — in order to finish in any particular spot in the annual rankings ... and especially as each season draws to a close.

Early in the sport's history, there were a variety of methods used to determine season-winners — which may or not have been fair or accurate — but they were the same rules for everyone. Right or wrong, the published facts on record reflect those methods, their results, and the winners determined by them.

• men's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2003-2004 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

SPONSORS • ASHAWAY • CREW-WEST • E-FORCE • EKTELON • HEAD • PRO KENNEX • PROPENN

New OrleansKane Waselenchuk def. Jason Mannino.....14-12, 11-9, 11-4
StocktonJack Huczak def. Alvaro Beltran6-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-4
AlexandriaJack Huczak def. Cliff Swain.....7-11, 2-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-9

October 30-Nov 2Chicago, ILHalloween Classic @ Athletic Club of Bloomingdale, 630-430-1478
November 19-23Memphis, TN.....Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400

January 8-10Cleveland, OHCleveland Open @ Severance Athletic Club, 216-291-5550
January 15-18New York, NYNew York City Pro Am @ SportTime of Syosset, 516-496-3100
February 27- 29San Diego, CA.....San Diego Open @ American Athletic Club, 619-954-9802
March 5-7Louisville, KYTBA
March 18-21Greensboro, NC.....Greensboro Open @ Sportscenter Triad, 336-841-0100
April 22-25Las Vegas, NV.....Chuck Minker Sports Center, TBA
April 29-May 1Phoenix, AZ.....Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University, 480-965-8900

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

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Isabel, Charlotte and Cheryl

By Lynn Stephens & Jo Shattuck

Swirling in on the heels of Hurricane Isabel, the ladies of the LPRA tour converged on Charlotte, North Carolina for the third year in a row on September 19-21 to compete for the largest purse awarded at any event thus far this season. Through the efforts of the new tour commissioner, Claude Crocker, and long time tour player Janet Myers, last year's \$15,000 prize money was matched once again.

Notably absent from the draw was Jackie Rice, who has been nursing an ankle injury on and off for what must seem, to her, like an eternity. Her absence gave the #2 seed position to previous U.S. Open Champion Kerri Wachtel.

The round of 16 saw only three matches go beyond straight game wins, and an injury forfeit in the slated mother/daughter playoff between Gerri Stoffregen and No.2 ranked Kerri Wachtel. Gerri forfeited to her daughter Kerri after suffering a whiplash injury in a waterskiing accident earlier in the week, but promised to teach her a lesson later on.

Kristen Walsh had her hands full with a scrappy Doreen Fowler in a match that seemed as if it would never end. With Kristen spending as much time on the floor diving as she did on both feet, she managed to pull out the win in five, (7), 6, 7, (9), and 2. In the other five-gamer, a tough No.12 Rachel Gellman pulled out the upset over No.5 Adrienne Fisher, 8, (6), (9), 9, and 8, in a match that was all about three-shot rallies at 150mph, ace drives and blistering returns. The third match pitted Brenda Kyzer (who has risen in the ranks from #25 last year to #11) against #10 ranked Suzy Acosta. In this tournament, the two were in the No.8 and No.9 spots, and the slightly higher-rated Brenda was able to pull out the win after dropping the first game 6-11, then going on to win the next three, 5, 4, and 4.

In the quarters Brenda's next opponent was the No.1 seeded Cheryl Gudinas, who was stunned by a series of forehand drive aces that she simply couldn't get her racquet on. Brenda held a remarkable 10-2 lead in the first game before Cheryl was able to get into a rally and then mount a comeback.



Above, L-R: Committee members Janet Myers, Kim Russell and Brenda Kyzer, with Commissioner Claude Crocker. Near right, Kerri Wachtel with Cheryl Gudinas.

To get back on track, Gudinas recalled a Lynn Adams quote "If I can get it to 3-10, it's still a game," and later admitted "I was trying to weather the storm with Brenda's serves, hoping she would get out of her rhythm eventually. But she kept it up for one and three-quarter games. It was frustrating and hard to react to, since she was so close to the side wall."



Both continued to play some great ball, and Cheryl gritted it out to take the first game 12-10. It was more of the same in the second, up to 8-7, when Brenda met Cheryl's racquet with her forehand on a down the line shot. Cheryl made the shot to tie it up at 8-8 and turned around to see Brenda — apparently dazed but hardheaded — on the floor. Expectedly, that became the turning point, and while Brenda returned to play quickly, the second game went to Cheryl, 11-9.

Shaken up and all out of aces, Brenda eventually fell in the third, 11-2, after a 17-point run (following the blow) driven by Cheryl's consistency and pinpoint shot-making.

Kersten Hallander drew the focused Rachel Gellman in the quarters, but the veteran's experience advanced Kersten 10, 6, (6), and 5. The only tiebreaker in the round was between Rhonda Rajsich and Kim Russell. This had to be one of the best matches of the tournament with Kim pulling out the upset win over Rhonda, 10, (4), 4, (4), and 3. The last quarter saw Kerri Wachtel make only a handful of mistakes in her first two games against Kristen Walsh, winning 2 and 6. But Kristen put together a gutsy third game before Kerri was able to secure her place in the semis with a 13-11 win.

The first semi on Saturday evening pitted Kim Russell against Kerri Wachtel. Kim had been playing well and seemed confident going into the match, but Kerri showed why she has risen to the top-four on tour, and only dropped one game in advancing to the final, 9 (6) 5, 3. In the remaining semifinal Cheryl Gudinas went up against Kersten Hallander and continued her tournament streak of not dropping a single game and took the win 1, 7, and 3.

The final was closer than the scores would suggest. Taking her cue from the earlier match with Kyzer, Cheryl used ace drive serves four times in the first six points to take a 6-3 lead, before it became Kerri's turn to toss in a couple of sliders of her own and even the score. One point more for each of them gave Kerri her limit, and Cheryl pulled away with a series of solid shots, for an 11-6 finish. Cheryl kept her distance in the second, gaining a quick 5-0 lead, then cruising to an 11-4 game advantage with more ace serves, patient and cautious ceiling ball rallies, plus an unerring backhand.

Down two games to none, Kerri still never goes away, and she fought back to take the only game of the weekend from Cheryl. In the third, Kerri took her second early lead of the match, with a 4-0 start, then controlled the rest of the game with her own skillful backhand. She placed a series of effective cross-court passes with it, and dropped in enough flat out winners to keep Gudinas at bay and earn her 11-5 win to keep the match alive.

But in the fourth and final game, both players buckled down and while Cheryl took a quick 3-0 lead on her first serve, Kerri stayed in the game to 4-4, 5-5, 6-6 and 7-7. From there, Gudinas took

... LPRA ... continues on page 53

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Introducing Anita Court

Anita Court is an expression of the power, strength and determination of the women who play in the LPRA.



Anita was

first conceived about nine months ago (no pun intended) by co-creators Karen Morton and Christelle DeDecrease of Erie, Pennsylvania. Morton, an LPRA regular, says that "The image reflects what I see when I envision the LPRA. The women are strong, confident and ready to take on tough competition. I find the image inspiring and believe that many LPRA players can relate to it because of their love for the game and competitive spirits." Anita made her debut appearance in Charlotte, as the graphic for the event's official souvenir. Good job!

• women's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2003-2004 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

OFFICIAL SHOE OF THE LPRA: EKTELON

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Rosarito Beach..... | Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel | 11-6, 10-12, 11-8, 11-4 |
| Charlotte | Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel | 11-7, 11-4, 5-11, 11-7 |
| Albuquerque | Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel | 11-5, 11-8, 9-11, 11-1 |
| November 19-23 | Memphis, TNChoice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400 | |
| December 5-7 | Denver, CO | Lakewood Athletic Club, 303-989-5545 |
| January 16-18 | Honolulu, HIHonolulu Club, 808-949-0177 www.hawaiiracquetball.org | |
| January 29-Feb. 1 | Coral Springs, FL.....See www.ladiesproracquetball.com for calendar updates between issues | |
| February 20-22 | Salt Lake City, UT | Site TBA |
| March 12-14 | Nashville, TN..... | Site TBA |
| March 19-21 | Baltimore, MD | Site TBA |
| April 29- May 1* | Phoenix, AZ.....Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University, 480-965-8900 | |

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

THE LEGENDS TOUR: Sing Along!

By Dave Peck

The Legends Racquetball Tour is like going to a Rolling Stones concert — and you know the words to every song! Remember the harmony of Marty Hogan ripping his backhand against Dave Peck ... ? Ruben Gonzalez running down everything that Cliff Swain hits ... Gregg Peck and Bret Harnett's rivalry (carried over from juniors!) continues, with Peck's backhand "splat" winning the rally. No ... it's not the 80's, it's today's Legends Racquetball Tour!

The Legends Racquetball Tour opens this year with a full season of events. The "Legends" was the brainchild of legend-in-his-own-right, Marty Hogan, who wanted to bring together over-35 former professional players who have made significant contributions to the sport. These former pros make up the most impressive "who's, who" in racquetball. They are World Champions, Hall of Fame inductees, former top-8 touring professionals and some of the most tenacious competitors to ever play the game.

Marty Hogan, Ruben Gonzalez, Cliff Swain, Gregg Peck, Bret Harnett and Dave Peck form the nucleus of the players, whose goal is to start small and grow the tour for the next generation of notable athletes. There are approximately 14 events scheduled throughout the United States and one event in Puerto Rico. There has been interest in have additional International events in Mexico, Canada, and Japan.

Though the bodies, and skills, of these players are not what they once were, the classic style of play on the Legend's Tour is something to behold. The Legends style encompasses ball placement first, strategy, verbal combat, coupled with the intense competitive rivalry between all the players.

You don't become a top 8-touring Pro, World Champion or Hall of Famer by enjoying a loss. What's even more important with the Legend's players is they really hate to lose to *each other* ... much less anyone else. Once a match is underway, it's fun, fast and entertaining to watch as the players taunt each other with comments about age, slowness, and a variety of other verbal jibes!

To find out where the Legends Racquetball Tour will be playing you can go to www.legendsrbtour.com for tour dates, player bio's, instruction and lots of other fun information about the tour and the players. Follow along here as well, as we update you on some of the recent tour activities ...



The Legends Tour
Classic Pro Racquetball



The Legends Tour
Classic Pro Racquetball



Back row: Steve Lerner, Gerry Price, Marty Hogan, Corey Brysman.
Front: Dave Johnson, Cliff Swain, Ruben Gonzalez, Scott Oliver.

Photo by Carole Chelsea George

LEGENDS TOUR SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| November 19-23 | Memphis, Tennessee |
| December 11-14 | Denver, Colorado |
| 2004 | |
| January 23-25 | Austin, Texas |
| February TBA | San Diego, California |
| February 6-8 | Coral Springs, Florida |
| March TBA | Boston, Massachusetts |
| April 16-18 | New York, New York |
| May TBA | Las Vegas, Nevada |



The Legends Tour

Classic Pro Racquetball

Marty Hogan: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9x ... World Champ? What is it?

by Hank Marcus

Marty Hogan burst onto the racquetball scene in 1976 and did the unthinkable. The eighteen year old from St. Louis, Missouri outplayed and overpowered racquetball's reigning King, Charlie Brumfield, and the other top players of the time, the three Steves, Keeley, Serot and Strandemo. Hogan won his first tour title in his first full season. Charlie Brumfield beat Marty in the finals of the Pro Nationals coming back from a 21-1 first game loss. Rumors circulated that day that a well-placed racquet to the windpipe was more responsible for the amazing comeback than any of Charlie's other well-placed shots.

Hogan never publicly claims the '76 crown out of respect for the Great Brumfield, but Charlie acknowledges the title belongs to Marty. "Marty was the World Champion from 76-81, no two ways about it." "People get confused because the player who won the Nationals was known as the National Champion, but Marty was the World Champion six years in a row."

While several people have offered opinions on the subject, none nearly as qualified as Brumfield have ever explained the seventies racquetball tour. When you want to know what happened you go to the lead dog, because the rest of the pack had the same view of Brumfield's big hindering butt from 1969 to 1975. Charlie was virtually unbeatable. He was in a class by himself and was ranked in the top two for an amazing ten consecutive years, from 1969-1978, so Brum had a view of it all.

Hogan followed up the 1976 season with a much more dominant effort in 1977. It was definitely the greatest



season any player has had in the history of pro racquetball. Marty won twenty tournaments in a row and his match record for the season was 107 wins and 2 losses. It makes Cliff or Sudsy's best season look average in comparison. His first loss was to Steve Strandemo in the quarters of the first event, and his second loss was in the finals of the Nationals to Davey Bledsoe. Marty was named Player of the Year and had captured his second World Championship.

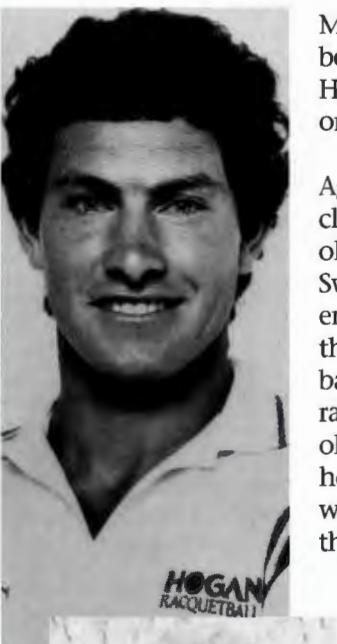
"Marty was definitely the 1977 World Champion, I don't think anyone could dispute that," said Scott Hirsch, Executive Director of the Legends Racquetball Tour. Davey Bledsoe played a great tournament and a great match, but that makes him the Pro Nationals Champ; Marty is the undisputed 1977 World Champ."

Marty followed up by winning the tour title and Pro Nationals in 1978, 1979, 1980 and in 1981, making Marty a six-time World champion at the ripe old age of 24.

In 1982 a serious challenger emerged to the Hogan Dynasty. Dave Peck, the 1979 Rookie of the Year, had been working his way up the rankings and was sitting in the number two position. The big Texan with the

smooth strokes, who wasn't intimidated a drop by the great Hogan, wanted to be number one. Hogan and Peck battled back and fourth all season long and it wasn't until the points were calculated after the last event that a Champion was named. Peck had emerged victorious 1020 points to 960 for Hogan. Marty had the look of a boxer who just got a Don King decision in Vegas. He had won the same number of events as Dave, had beaten Peck head to head, had won more prize money than Dave and won the season ending, DP Pro Nationals. How could this be?

The system in use in '82 treated all matches equally and Dave had won more matches by having no early round losses. Pro Kennex agreed to pay Marty his number one bonus for winning what everyone referred to as the "money title." In today's current IRT system, dollars correlate with ranking points and by today's standards, this would be Marty's seventh title.



Marty finished number two five consecutive years, before dropping out of the top five in 1988. Was Hogan done? Was his last title '81 or '82, depending on your viewpoint?

Again in the following season, 1989 was one of the closest races in racquetball history. Thirty-two year old Marty Hogan and twenty-three year old Cliff Swain were dead even coming into the season-ending Pro Nationals. They had split four meetings that year and each had held up his end of the bargain and made the finals of the big show. Would racquetball be crowning a new King, or would the old King rule one more time? They battled for two hours and Marty prevailed in the tiebreaker. Swain would soon have his day, but this day belonged to the great Hogan.

His 1989 title was his seventh, or eighth, World Title ... depending on how you see 1982.

What's Marty's take on the supposed controversy? "I don't talk much about it, but it's insulting for someone to try to minimize the achievements I worked so hard for." Hogan said. He added "The funny thing is the alleged controversy didn't start until some time in the early nineties. Some of it was some friends of Davey trying to change history to promote his racquetball legacy, and the rest was people who don't like that I speak my mind. I won seven points titles, eight money titles and nine Pro Nationals. Just judge me on the same standard that you judge every other player."

It doesn't matter the criteria, any fair examination of Marty Hogan's career will establish he's at least a seven-time World Champion and, more importantly, the Greatest Player of All Time.



The Legends Tour

Classic Pro Racquetball

RIVERSIDE LEGENDS

By Hank Marcus

Vance Lerner and Robin Dixon hosted the Legends Tour at the Tournament House in Riverside, California, September 5-7. The event and the atmosphere were great. It was old school racquetball at its finest.

In attendance were Charlie Brumfield, Dr. Bud Muehleisen and Steve "Bo" Keeley. The play was as good as it gets; the quarters featured four outstanding matchups. Marty Hogan defeated Corey Brysman 15-14, 15-9, Steve Lerner eliminated Dave Peck 12-15, 15-6, 11-8, Ruben Gonzalez advanced past Dave Johnson 15-14, 15-14 and Cliff Swain took out Gregg Peck, 15-8, 15-7.

This set up two of what looked like the toughest semis on the Legends Tour. Ruben was the one player everyone thought might challenge Cliff and Steve Lerner had been red hot. He'd beaten Ruben, Dave Peck, Gregg Peck and Corey Brysman in the last three events. Swain and Hogan entered Riverside ranked number one and two on the Legends Tour, but would they make the finals?

The semis didn't live up to the hype. Marty blew out Lerner 15-4, 15-3 on his home court and Cliff quickly dispatched Ruben 15-1, 15-2. The finals were set. It was a battle of six-time World Champions.

The match was better than the semis and both played well, but in the end Cliff's serve and shots were too much. Cliff defeated Marty 15-9, 15-13.

Hogan vowed to avenge his loss at the next event in Puerto Rico. "It's going to be 1989 all over again in San Juan." I never doubt the greatest player of all time, but the smart money is still with Swain.



The Legends Tour

Classic Pro Racquetball

Simply Remarkable

By Jim Hiser, USRA Executive Director
Myth, folktale, traditional, fiction, fable, remarkable, superhuman, saga ... All these terms can be found in Webster's dictionary to define "Legends", and the current Legends tour certainly encompasses all of those traits and more.

As one fortunate enough to actually have seen many of these players compete during their prime, I encourage both old and new players to experience the Legends Tour. You'll enjoy the charisma and myth of the great Hogan, the tradition and fable of the eccentric Keeley, the fiction and saga of the unpredictable Peck, and of course the remarkable athleticism of Gonzalez and Swain.

Unique to itself, the Legends Tour can not and does not intend to compete with the IRT. The show is different ... less intense, perhaps amusing, but still competitive and exciting. Racquetball needs exposure and publicity and the Legends fill a niche. It offers a nostalgic look at great champions, which holds appeal for many of today's players. Although the athleticism, speed and power of the IRT professionals is absent, the mysticism of sentimental personalities and memories of championships past still exist.

Many of today's aging players can still remember the Hogan/Peck battles of yesteryear and the numerous diving exhibitions of Gonzalez. New players can relate to these exploits, and continued exposure to these great ambassadors can only help promote the game. Exposure is what the Legends is all about; exposure to a great sport, and a great work out. Bring your friends, your fellow competitors and players to enjoy a nostalgic glimpse at that exciting past ... experience the Legends!

PUERTO RICO LEGENDS

By David Cuevas, San Juan

We recently had the great privilege of having racquetball's Legends come to San Juan, Puerto Rico on September 26-28. We all filled the stands at Parka de Central to see a great show, it was better than the circus. We saw Marty Hogan, who we had only read of in the past. Marty surprised us all by beating Cliff Swain 15-14, 15-13 on Friday night. We had heard Cliff was unbeaten in Legends play, but strange things are known to happen in San Juan. All the players were great. Dave Peck, Corey Brysman, Cliff and Marty, but our favorite of course was Ruben. Ruben Gonzalez was born in Puerto Rico and much of his family still lives here.



We learned that Marty Hogan spends as much time talking to the audience as hitting the ball and Cliff thinks every ref is cheating him. He didn't like the calls of our top player, Osvaldo Garcia or our Federation President, Jose "Pucho" Miranda. We didn't take it personally because he also argued calls with the Legends President, Scott Hirsch, who seemed to go out of his way to give Cliff calls in his match with Hogan.

Cliff and Ruben did more than play; these great Legends each spent hours giving free lessons to the children in the San Juan junior racquetball program. They brought equipment for kids badly in need of new racquets and deserve a special thanks from Coach Hector Torres and everyone in the San Juan racquetball community.

The players all headed to the home of Osvaldo and Kim Torres for a Saturday night party. It was a real feast. The food and the company made for a great evening away from the courts.

Sunday's big final between racquetball legends Marty Hogan and Ruben Gonzalez was the highlight of the event. The first game went back and forth; Ruben was intense, Marty was joking, but both players played great. Ruben rolled out the last two shots to win game one 15-14.

Between games Ruben was presented with a Lifetime Achievement award from the Legends Tour. It was very touching.

Marty declared to the crowd that he would not only beat Ruben and the three hundred fans rooting for him, but he would destroy the whole commonwealth with his play in game two. Marty still joked and smiled but turned on his drive serve to edge Ruben 15-12 and force the tiebreaker.

Hogan emerged from the court after game two, and asked us who we wanted to win the tiebreaker? We all yelled Ruben, Ruben, Ruben! Marty said "that's what you think, the score will be 11-4." The crowd was quiet as Hogan played well at the end of game two and nobody wanted to see Ruben lose 11-4. Could Hogan really call the score?

The third game started with Hogan serving and running off four points in a row. He was ahead 4-0 and we were sweating in the San Juan sun. Hogan skipped an easy one and Ruben was finally up. Ruben managed to run off an amazing eleven points in a row. All his serves were barely returned and he quickly pounced on the setups and put them away. Had Marty let the local hero have his day? We in San Juan prefer to think Ruben got hot at the right time. In any case, the right man won and both showed why they are true legends.

In the last few issues I've covered my magical "positioning" basics:

- Relocation Out of the Box into Center Court [May/June 2003]
- Center Court [July/August 2003]
- Relocating into Center Court after a Ceiling Ball [September/October 2003]

Today I want to address a completely different part of my game, my magical "Grip Change." Since my move to Florida and working with Fran at camps my time spent on the court teaching has increased considerably. I am often surprised how many players do *not* change their grip from forehand to backhand...which ultimately holds them back. All of the top pros including myself change our grips because it keeps the racquet head flat and is an integral part of being and staying consistent.

Let's take a look at both my forehand and backhand grips so you too can experience more consistency ... a must if you want to move up in your level of play.

As you will clearly see from the following photos, if you do not change your grip from forehand to backhand and use a forehand grip to hit backhands the racquet head is up (Trick #5) rather than flat (Trick #4), your ball will float high which leads to inconsistency.

I am known on tour to have the best backhand in the game. One of the reasons (besides my total technique; see 1999...Power Backhand) is that I hit the ball the *flattest* and at full extension which are key ingredients in consistency.

To learn how to change your grip you can pick up one of our new instructional videos which includes myself,



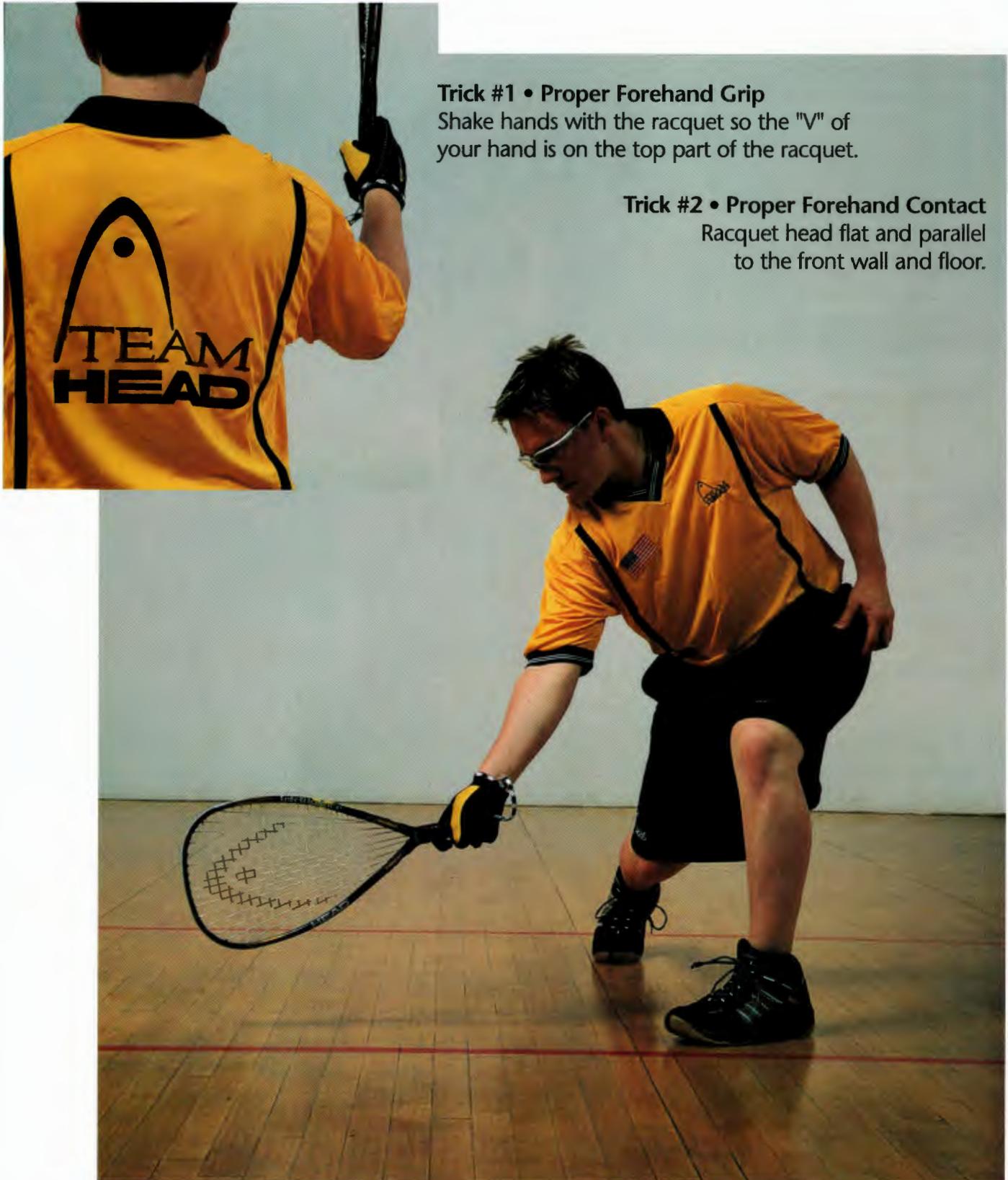
Grip Change

Fran and Jason, "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" or attend one of our camps (see page 57 for details). You too can experience the success I have had with my backhand by learning to change your grip ... one of the most important techniques of the backhand mechanics. Good luck in your quest to a more consistent backhand.

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

Photos: Tony Biggs

correct positioning



Trick #1 • Proper Forehand Grip

Shake hands with the racquet so the "V" of your hand is on the top part of the racquet.

Trick #2 • Proper Forehand Contact

Racquet head flat and parallel to the front wall and floor.

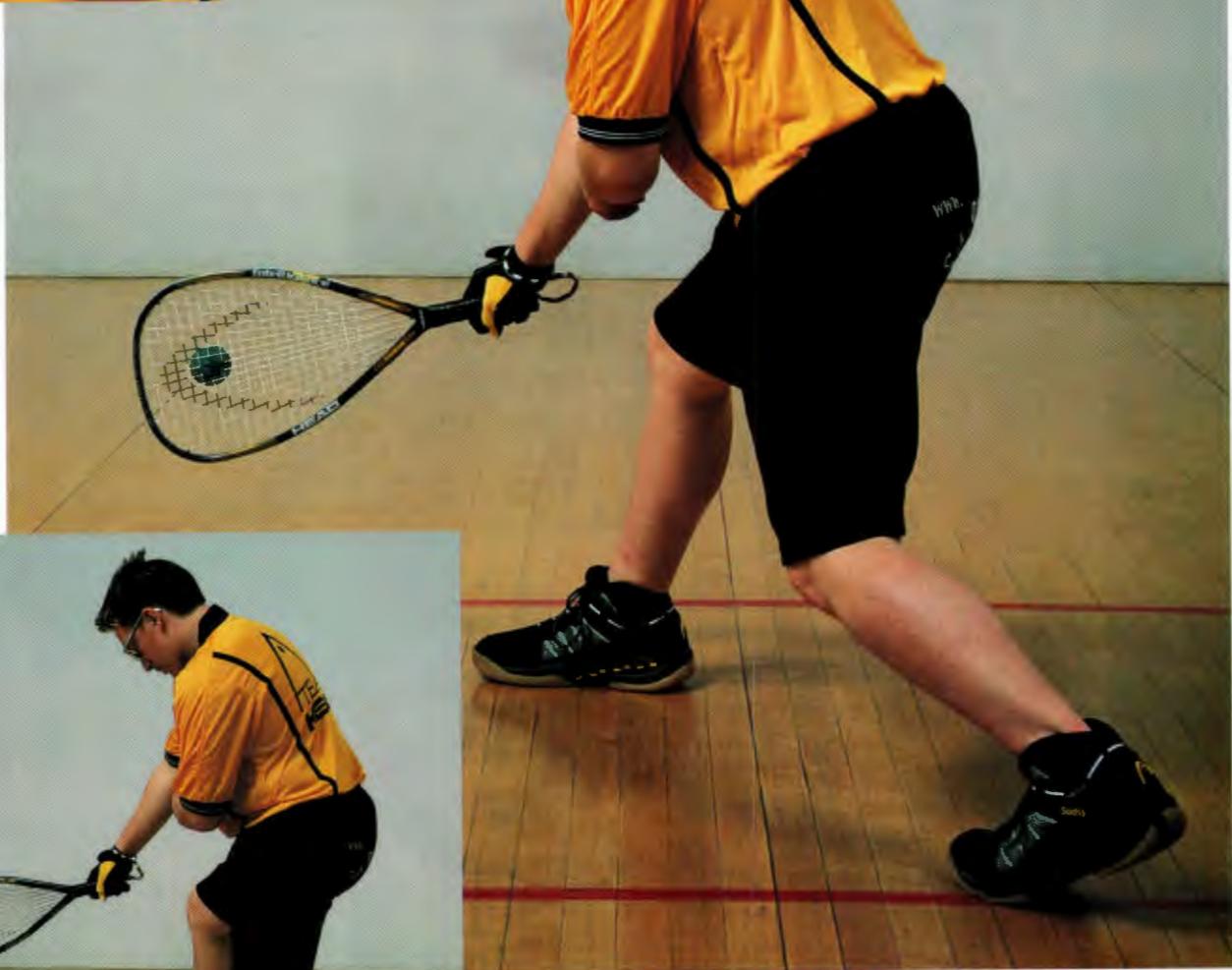


Trick #3 • Proper Changed Backhand Grip

Keep racquet stationary and turn your hand 1/8 inch toward the back wall so now the "V" of your hand is on the corner of the racquet and your knuckle is on the top.

Trick #4 • Proper Backhand Contact

Racquet head flat and parallel to the front wall and floor.



incorrect positioning

Trick #5 • Improper Backhand Grip (No Grip Change)

Racquet head is up and NOT parallel to the front wall or floor.



Ektelon Performance Series

Off the Back Wall by Kersten Hallander

Taking the ball off the back wall and executing an effective offensive shot doesn't come easily even for the most advanced players. Hitting the ball into the back wall because you aren't comfortable taking it with your backhand is a complete "no-no" and should only be used as a last resort in these two situations:

1. When the ball is too close to the back wall to get your racquet behind it. This usually happens when an opponent hits a good Z-serve and the ball travels closely parallel to the back wall.
2. If your opponent passes you and, if you let it go, it won't come off the back wall.

The most common mistakes I see are poor racquet preparation, poor footwork, misjudging the height and speed of the ball and not allowing the ball to drop into the hitting zone before contact. The following steps and drills will help you to feel more comfortable taking the ball off the back wall.

Three steps to hitting the ball off the back wall:

1. **RACQUET PREPARATION:** As soon as you know whether it is going to be a forehand or a backhand get your racquet back and elbow high. (See photo #1)
2. **FOOTWORK:** On the balls of your feet with knees slightly bent, sidestep with the ball between you and the sidewall towards the back wall. Watch the ball hit the back wall (see photo #2). Then,



Questions? Email them to
kersten@teamektelon.com.

1.



2.

3. 4.



using side steps, follow the ball back towards the front wall allowing it to drop into your hitting zone. Remember, the hitting zone is when the ball drops to about knee height between your leading foot and the respective sidewall. The ball cannot be too close or too far away between your leading foot and the sidewall, as this will inhibit power and control when you swing through the ball. If the ball travels into a sidewall before hitting the back wall then you'll need to follow the ball in sort of a circular fashion and adjust the direction of your sidesteps to account for the angle the ball will come off the back wall.

3. CONTACT AND FOLLOW THROUGH: As the ball falls into the hitting zone, start your swing. Timing is crucial here to hit the ball solid. At the point of contact your racquet face should be perpendicular to the floor with your shoulders square to the sidewall if you are hitting a straight in shot. (See photo #3) If the ball is behind your leading foot at contact, you'll hit the sidewall first. If the ball is ahead of your leading foot at contact, you'll hit a cross-court shot. While either of these shots might be the ones you want to hit, you should hit them by slightly adjusting the direction of your leading shoulder and how you step into the ball. To hit a pinch shot, step with your leading foot and shoulder pointing towards the target on the sidewall. To hit a crosscourt shot, step with your leading foot and shoulder pointing towards the target on the front wall that will give you an angle into the opposite corner. If you want to hit a wide-angle pass then you'll need to move your front wall target right or left accordingly.

After contacting the ball, make sure that you follow through on your swing using the core of your body to hit through the ball. (See photo #4) This is especially important when the ball is barely coming off the back wall and it's hard to get your racquet behind the ball. In those really tight spots, focus on coiling your torso and getting your racquet ready in a more compact fashion. Rotate your torso fully through the shot. You'll be surprised how many rollouts will happen if you do this.

OFF THE BACK WALL DRILL

1. Stand in the middle of the backcourt and hit the ball into the front wall approximately 10 feet high and hard enough that it will bounce in the backcourt and come off the back wall into the middle of the backcourt area. Focus on either the forehand or backhand one at a time.
2. Sidestep with the ball towards the back wall and back towards the front wall executing the steps explained above and hit the ball before it bounces a second time as low and straight into the front wall as possible. For beginners, you can allow the ball to bounce several times after the back wall before

... continues
on page 40

selecting a doubles partner

by Kim Russell

My first observation (and probably the most important to state) is that the best singles player does not necessarily make the best doubles player. If you realize that doubles is its own game, you'll also understand why you want to look for a partner who knows doubles — inside and out.



The key points in selecting a doubles partner are:

- 1) Which side are you looking for?
- 2) Who has a similar game style to your own?
- 3) Past history of playing doubles.
- 4) Trust, confidence, and respect.

- 1) Side. Do you need a left- or right-side player? This may seem like an obvious question, but one too often overlooked. A skilled right-side player may be a fish out of water on the left. There is a difference in shot selection, serving strategy and court positioning.
- 2) Game Style. If you are a fast-paced player who enjoys momentum in a match, look for a partner with a similar game style. Avoid the partner who "slows" the game, and lacks intensity. This type of player may actually bring you out of your own game style. Just the opposite for the slower paced competitor (a fast paced partner may cause undue tension and leave you high strung).
- 3) History. Has the player competed *seriously* in doubles? Meaning, are they a tournament doubles player, or a once a month doubles at the local club? Experience speaks for itself.
- 4) Trust. Can you trust that your partner is practicing, preparing, focusing and essentially putting in 110% effort prior to the next tournament? Is your partner reliable? Will they arrive well prepared and on time for your matches? Confidence. You must have confidence in each other to hit the shot according to the joint game plan discussed prior to the match. Then if the game plan isn't working, to adjust accordingly. Respect. You have to respect your partner's abilities and believe in them, thereby believing in you both as one unit.

After selecting your partner, treat it as a relationship with communication as the key. If it doesn't work, then you may have to try different partners before you find the one for you. Choosing a partner is like trying on shoes. If it is not a good fit, then change it. And remember, it's not personal, it's just business.

Off the Back Wall *continued*

hitting it, just as long as you make contact when the ball is in the hitting zone. As you improve your timing on the ball then work towards hitting the ball before it bounces.

3. Try to re-hit the ball high on the front wall again after each low shot comes back to you to keep the drill going. Not only will this help your footwork and control but it will get your heart rate up too. If you can't control the ball enough to keep it going continuously then just drop and hit the ball after each off the back wall shot.
4. Repeat on opposite side.

I usually do this drill for my forehand and backhand about 5-10 minutes each, and try to hit a variety of high and soft as well as low and hard set-ups to better prepare me for all sorts of game situations. During my pre-match warm-up, I'll set myself up a few off the back wall shots on both sides. Doing this has greatly improved my off the back wall shot execution.

OFF THE SIDEWALL AND BACKWALL FOOTWORK DRILL

1. Stand about 6 feet from either back corner of the court.
2. With your racquet back and ready in either the forehand or backhand position, sidestep in a circular direction towards the closest sidewall then the back wall and back to your starting spot. This part of the drill is done without the ball.
3. Repeat the circle 4-5 times.
4. Once your feet understand what to do, try to set yourself up a shot that bounces deep in backcourt and then hits the sidewall and back wall. Using the circular footwork path you should be able to move with the ball as it travels towards the sidewall and then off the back wall.

It takes a little know-how, and lots of patience and practice to feel completely comfortable with the wide variety of speeds, heights and angles we are presented in any given game. I hope this article and these drills help you to work towards your goals.

Building your Perfect Game

I am getting beat by the pass after my well-hit serves. I am so frustrated ... can you tell me what I am doing wrong?

Since you have already determined it is not your serves themselves, let me address the other problem area I think it could be: relocation out of the box after your serve. Often players do one of two things:

1. Stand in the service zone and admire their "awesome" serve and count on it as a point ... or ...
2. Do not move back far enough into good center court position and wind up too far forward in front of the dotted line [see Sudsy's Magic Show, July/August 2003].

The point I am making is no matter how well you hit your serve you want to move back into center court position which puts you in the most advantageous position to get to a majority of the shots.

Here are some tips for relocating back into center court position after the serve:

1. Always watch your opponent and the ball (look over your shoulder).
2. Look to see if your opponent is going High Zone or Low Zone. *If High Zone*, be in the back half of the center court box because they are probably going for a ceiling or pass. *If Low Zone*, be in the front half of the center court box because they are probably going for a kill or a pinch. (By looking you can make a better determination and then you can float up and back in the center court box being in great position not to get passed.)
3. Move at a 45 degree angle (shuffle never back step). You want to drop back into good center court position at least to the dotted line or back.
4. Lead with shoulder; keeping your eye on the ball (also use this as a shield).
5. Hold your position once your opponent sets their feet for the shot.

Dropping back into good center court position will make it less likely you'll be too far forward, which is what makes you vulnerable to the pass. The further up you are, your reaction time diminishes and you wind up scrambling and running backwards to cover the pass, which leads to the frustration that it sounds like you are experiencing. Your serve is only as good as you relocating back into good center court position after you serve.

Believe
me

by Fran Davis

fran@frandavisracquetball.com



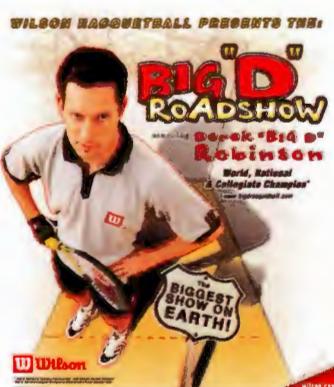
Wilson Game Plan Backhand Basics



If you haven't experienced the Big D Roadshow in person, it's your lucky day. The Roadshow has made a first-ever "pit stop" in Racquetball. If you have had the fortunate opportunity of attending the Roadshow in person, then you know that Big D, also known as Derek Robinson, discusses and demonstrates a variety of strategies including shot selection, court positioning, and the all important serve.

In these articles, Derek will focus on one particular shot or game strategy. This issue's discussion is the backhand, including the splat, down-the-line pass and cross-court pass shots. Although these shots may seem and look difficult to execute, you really only need to remember *one* key point: Are you paying attention?

... THE STROKE REMAINS THE SAME
REGARDLESS OF THE
SHOT YOU ARE HITTING ...



The only thing that changes is *where* you position your feet. That positioning will dictate where the ball goes. Now that you know this, here's a little test for you. Apply what you have just read along with what you know about the game of

racquetball and look at the three pictures. Try to determine which picture shows Derek in position to hit a down-the-line shot, a cross-court shot or a backhanded splat shot.

Check the answer key at the bottom of the end to see how well you did.

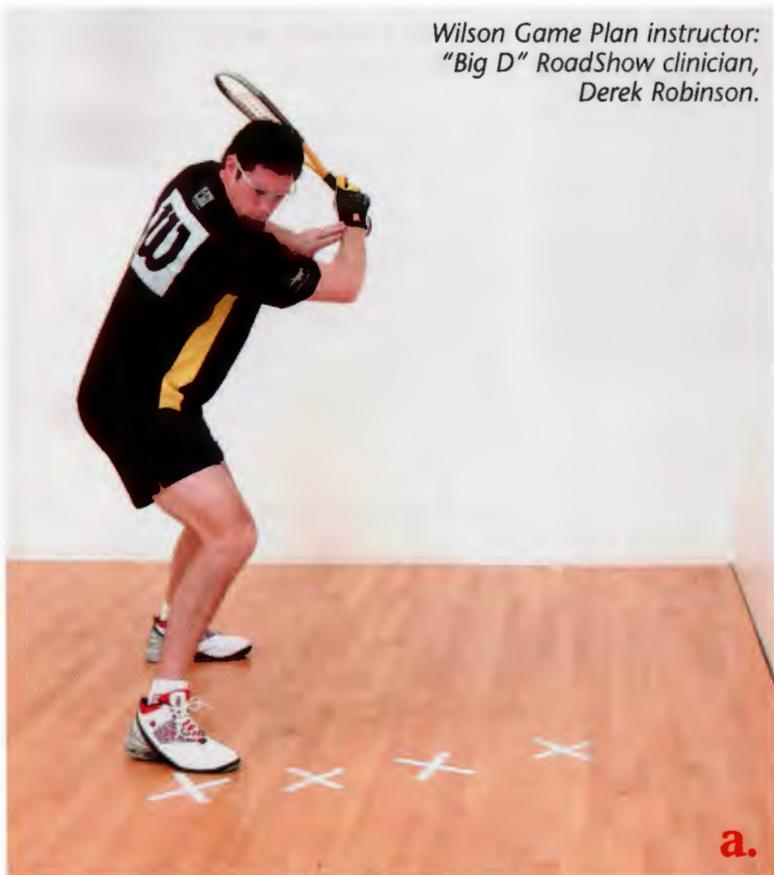
No matter your score, hopefully you have learned something from this article that will help your racquetball game.

Better yet, make a point to take a ride on the next Big D Roadshow event near you! You'll be glad you made the trip. [bigdracquetball.com]

Answers:

A = Cross Court; B = Splat; C = Down the Line

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





Officiating What's the Call?

by Otto Dietrich, NRC
ODietrich@usra.org

Bob Hirko from Groton, CT, asked: *Is it illegal for the offensive player to fake a swing at the ball to catch the defensive player off guard and out of position? If this maneuver would create a situation where the ball passes the offensive player, but still could be played off the back wall, but instead strikes the defensive player, what is the ruling? Would the ruling be the same as if the offensive player, with the defensive player standing directly behind, actually swings and misses the ball and the ball strikes the defender?*

Some good questions, Bob, that I'm sure others may have as well! First, the only time that a player *cannot* take a "fake swing" at the ball is during the service motion. Thereafter, the person whose turn it is to hit the ball is entitled to swing at and miss the ball — either intentionally or accidentally — and then continue to try to hit the ball until the ball touches the floor a second time. He can also be "hindered" in making other attempts to hit the ball. But, of course, once the person trying to hit the ball touches it at all, they cannot touch (or hit) it again.

So, what is the effect of a missed ball hitting the other player? The player who is hit immediately loses the rally without exception! Thus, he must **not** let the ball touch him at all while it is still in play. And that is true even if the offensive player had no chance of getting to the ball or if the player who was hit by the ball was "screened"! Only the player on offense can be screened.

Juan Sanchez, from Miami, Florida, also asked: *When serving the ball, is an overhand serve, like in tennis, allowed?*

Well, as long as the ball is bounced on the floor one time before it is struck, an overhand serve (like tennis) is okay. However, this type of serve usually produces a set-up for an alert receiver. But sometimes the element of surprise can offset that factor and the serve might become a winner. Also, the average player can generally hit this type of serve a bit harder, thus providing another possible reason for using an overhand serve.

Always "play by the rules" and, if you don't have a copy, you can find and review them online at usra.org (indexed in the sitemap, under "R"ulebook), or you can purchase a copy at www.usrastore.com. Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org and you might find it featured in a future issue.

Training Alternates to Pain Meds

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

Racquetball demands a lot of the body and often the terrific workout goes hand in hand with aches and pains. Many of us use over the counter (OTC) pain medication to alleviate many of the pains associated with rigorous play. Most of these pain medications are non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAID's) which includes the family of medications such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, and acetaminophen. While limited use is essentially harmless, prolonged use can cause many disturbing health problems. There are many natural alternatives to NSAID's, which can be of equal benefit with little or no side effects.

Although the action of these medications is not completely understood, they are widely used for acute and chronic pain control. Prolonged use has been shown to cause many side effects, including stomach bleeding and kidney complications. There are also potentially dangerous interactions with prescription medications. It is not uncommon to see players at tournaments or after weekday matches clearly abusing these medications. With some simple nutritional changes, these medications can be largely avoided or even eliminated from your daily routine.

There are a number of natural alternatives to NSAID's that can be just as effective for pain control and anti-inflammatory properties. A multivitamin/multimineral complex is essential for maintaining body tissues during rigorous exercise and to decrease soreness and pain associated with tissue injury. Natural supplements, such as Boswellia, has been shown to be as strong as NSAID's with no known side effects. Carnitine will decrease muscle soreness by helping the body utilize fats,

... IRT ... continued from page 24



preventing the breakdown of muscle for energy during prolonged activity.

As an alternative to NSAID's, try using a combination of proteolytic enzymes and bioflavonoids, both have shown to be effective in decreasing inflammation and pain.

Proteolytic enzymes (bromelain and papain) can be taken in tablet form or can be absorbed from natural foods such as pineapple and papaya. Bioflavonoids are plentiful in foods such as orange zest, citrus fruits, cherries and grapes. A health food store will have many of these supplements available over the counter and many of which will be combined into one tablet.

Most recently, there have been studies suggesting that NSAID use can actually interrupt the healing process by interfering with the body's natural and necessary inflammatory process. Athletes must understand that there are many natural and nutritional alternatives to NSAID's. The healthy choice is to use these medications sparingly and only in the early phase of an injury, not as a part of daily routine.

taking the first two games over Huczek 11-7 and 11-2. The general consensus about the crowd was that Swain was just playing too well for anyone to beat him. "This is as good as I've seen Cliff play in two years," observed Dan Llacera, who has drawn Cliff numerous times after qualifying. "He seems to be bending a little more, which makes his shots better," noted tour commissioner Dave Negrete, an indication that Cliff's back injury at last year's U.S. Open may have affected his season more than he's let on.

The tides turned on Swain's fortunes though, as Huczek modified his serving strategy, benefited from several controversial calls and took the third game 11-2. In the fourth, Swain seemed to tire a bit and lose some focus, and dropped the game 11-5. Huczek's high fitness level gave him the advantage once again, and he entered the fifth and deciding game looking just as fresh as he had at the start of the match. He jumped out to an 8-0 lead before Swain even scored. Swain climbed back into the match slowly, one exciting rally at a time, closing the gap to 9-8. But Huczek closed out the match on his fourth attempt, taking advantage of an errant service return to foil Cliff's comeback, 11-9.



Photos by Victor Zambrano

AmPRO ... Clinic Schedule ... Clinic Schedule ...

| Date | Site | City | Contact | Phone |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| November 17-18 | The Racquet Club of Memphis | Memphis, TN | Gary Mazaroff | 505-266-8960 |
| January 17-18 | Riverpoint Sports & Wellness | Albuquerque, NM | Joe Wittenbrink | 505-890-0096 |

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

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



USRA Update The Board Report

by Frank Taddonio, President BOD

franktaddonio@att.net

In my last report, I wrote about plans to establish a new and improved national ranking system, an automated membership data base, a tournament software program, and the implementation of a quality membership card. By the time you read this, these plans are now a reality and on October 1, USA Racquetball entered a new era where our actions speak louder than words.

The Summit in the Rockies conducted September 4-6 of this year and highlighted elsewhere in this issue was a defining moment in our sport's history. Jim Hiser and the National Office Staff worked diligently to plan, coordinate and conduct a very successful conference. The entire conference was filled with enthusiasm and positive ideas about improving our sport. I was extremely impressed by representatives from every interest level of our sport who contributed open, honest and meaningful ideas to revitalize racquetball at all levels of participation.

Jim presented everyone with our identified weaknesses, and then commenced to show how those weaknesses will be fixed. I believe he established a vision and goals that unified USA Racquetball with all the State Associations and Manufacturers as well. The organization will continue to demonstrate effective leadership, communicate with the States and work more closely with them to reach out to recreational players. This conference went far beyond throwing around buzz words like 'grass roots' and specifically briefed and discussed initiatives and objectives to accomplish our goals of increasing membership and increasing exposure for our sport. By now, the primary initiatives have been in place for a couple of months and I'm positive there have been some implementation challenges. I'm also confident that everyone working together with the spirit of teamwork and camaraderie I witnessed at the Summit will overcome any of these challenges.

Now that these improvements have been initiated, it's time to focus on the recreational players and the clubs where they play. Keep in mind, juniors won't be far behind!

Finally, I want to leave you with one thought — can you imagine going to a shopping mall, maybe a major sporting event, or even passing through Grand Central Station in New York and seeing a portable glass court with players putting on a great match? Well, thanks to Scott Hirsch and Randy Stafford this will soon be a reality.

We have clearly entered a new era in racquetball and I invite you all to enjoy the excitement.

IAB Summit in the Rockies

Initiatives Unveiled

by Ryan John

In an effort to show members, manufacturers and state associations that the USRA is moving in a new direction, the organization revamped its annual conference and offered the all-new 2003 International Association of Businesses USRA Summit in the Rockies.

The early September event took place in Colorado Springs, at the beautiful Cheyenne Mountain Resort, with more than 100 participants from across the U.S., plus guests from Canada and Venezuela. The Summit was a success, as USRA Executive Director Jim Hiser explained.

"The purpose of the summit was to explain to everyone that the USRA is going in a new direction than it has in past years." He continued, "We want to improve our member services and communication between the states, as well as the manufacturers. From the responses we have received since the summit, we believe that it was a success and we are moving forward with our plans."

The Summit kicked off with a pre-event golf outing, fielding 52 players to 13 teams. The winning team in the four-man scramble was Steve Fredericks, Rob Getts, Brad Lunquist, and Don Miller who shot a 12-under par (59). There were also individual prizes awarded for various skills challenges throughout the course. All proceeds raised from the golf outing benefited the U.S. National Racquetball Team.

The Summit officially got underway Friday morning with Jim Hiser's opening session, themed "A New Direction and Initiative," in which he outlined the results of a 2002 USRA survey and proposed a plan of action that identified areas of concern.

James Wood, CEO of IAB, then enthusiastically spoke of the new partnership forged

between IAB and the USRA. "I'm impressed with the dedication of all of the representatives attending the summit and I feel that it will be a big success," Woods said after his presentation. "It renews our commitment to assist the USRA in all of its goals." Woods also stated that he looked forward to a "long and prosperous" relationship with the USRA.

Following Wood was Acting CEO of the USOC, Jim Scherr, and USOC Sports Partnerships Manager Tyrone Lockhart, who each took time from the USOC's huge 25th Anniversary Gala to show their support for the USRA. Both Scherr and Lockhart showed excitement for the new course taken by the USRA and feel that it will benefit both the members and the organization.

Ivan Davis, the USRA's new Director of Marketing, then took center stage to present the new marketing strategy for the organization. Davis has big-time experience in sports marketing, after stints with the New York Yankees, Washington Wizards, and USOC. Davis set forth his plan to attract new sponsors to the sport and unveiled the catchy new tag line – *Fast, Furious, Fitness*.

"There are three components to the tagline. The first one – *Fast* – which is the essence of our sport with the ball traveling to speeds of 180 mph," Davis explained. "Then there is *Furious*. Due to the dynamics of the court a furious atmosphere is created when two players battle it out during a match. *Fitness* is, of course, maintaining our core."

After a brief break, Scott Winters and Doug Ganim took the podium representing the Racquetball Manufacturers Council. They shared the new RMC plan to grow the sport from a grassroots level within the health clubs. Winters and Ganim also stressed that the bond between competing racquetball manufacturers has never been stronger and that they were all working towards the common goal of increased participation in the sport. The RMC's new Coordinator, Dave George, then closed the session with his remarks on what's in store for the group [see page 52].

Bruce Rider of the Tennis Channel, in a precursor to an exciting announcement, previewed the newly-debuted, all-digital broadcast network. Rider assured the audience that the Tennis Channel was not just for tennis, but more of a "racquet sports network" and that racquetball would fit nicely into their programming.

Under wraps at that time was the fact that the USRA and the Tennis Channel had already begun negotiations to televise the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN. Since the Summit, the USRA and the Tennis Channel have come to terms on a contract that will produce five 90-minute episodes to be broadcast three times each. The episodes will be both IRT semifinals and the final, the LPRA final, and the Legends final.

"We are thrilled to have this new partnership between the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN and the Tennis Channel," U.S. OPEN Director Doug Ganim stated. "There are many advantages for the sport of racquetball including the ability to air full match coverage via 90 minute shows, primetime air slots for the first time in our sports history, and a national television partner that will truly be promoting all telecasts."



During the focus group sessions, Randy Stafford and Scott Hirsch came forward with an offer to fund a new portable court.



Joe Garcia wrapped up the presentations Friday with a discussion on a new portable court. The new portable court would be faster to assemble and disassemble and easier to ship from venue to venue making it a truly portable court.

During the afternoon breakout sessions, focus groups were tasked with identifying and prioritizing a series of "blue sky" proposals. The portable court once again came up in discussion as a priority at which point Dr. Hiser announced that Scott Hirsch and Randy Stafford had already begun working together to make the new court a reality. Construction should begin sometime in December and the court is expected to be completed before the start of the 2004-05 racquetball season.

After the big announcements made Friday, Saturday began with an air of excitement. USRA Membership Director Kevin Joyce continued to energize the summit attendees with a little humor before getting down to business. Joyce's presentation focused on the complete restructuring of the USRA's membership program. Members will be able to access and manage their memberships online, as well as renew, signup, view certifications, competition history, national standing, and update their information on a secure server. It is a revolutionary concept and the USRA will be one of the first NGB's to install such a program.

"The online membership system will create a critical link between our members, state associations, health clubs, and the national office," Joyce explained. "Our intention is to make it user friendly, fun to use, and, over time, a series of additional online services will begin to unfold and be available to our members."

Greg Serrault, presidential director of IAB, explained the goals and benefits of the relationship between IAB and the USRA. Serrault carried over the enthusiasm from Wood's earlier presentation as he explained IAB's goals of making available affordable comprehensive medical and dental benefits to all members and associates of the USRA in addition to creating membership growth that will provide monthly revenue contributions to help support local efforts of each state within the USRA.

"IAB plans to give long term support to build the sport of racquetball," Serrault stated. "The more racquetball is successful, the more IAB will be successful."

Usher Barnoff of VantageTech then demonstrated the new ranking system that is based on a player's performance against others and not just the number of tournaments that a player participates in. The new ranking system should be a more accurate barometer as to player's abilities and is scheduled to be in place as soon as the upcoming season begins.

Joyce was back up at the podium during the afternoon session to unveil the new credit-card style USRA membership card, which is more attractive and durable than previous versions plus additional sponsor benefits. Some of the cards have already been issued and the majority of members can expect to begin receiving theirs sometime after the New Year.

The summit wrapped up with a banquet for attendees and guests that included dinner followed by a silent auction to benefit the U.S. National Team. Many attendees showed their support by buying lifetime memberships to the USRA for \$1000 [see page 5]. Look for more details on upcoming changes at the USRA in future issues of RACQUETBALL and you can access more Summit details (including PowerPoint presentations) online at www.racquetballmagazine.com, under the "News" heading.

At the closing banquet, newly appointed board member Jeff Elder joined USRA Event Coordinator Heather Fender and IAB's Greg and Kelly Serrault for dinner. Photo: Lynn Stephens.



new online membership options!

Here's a preview of the new screens that you'll see when you join or renew your USRA memberships online this fall ... and we'll give you more visuals in future issues, to walk you through new member records, tournament sanctioning, calendars and ranking programs as they go live for public use.



USRA
United States Racquetball Association

Benefits of Membership
[Join USRA Today!](#)
Login Info
[Member Login](#)
[Request a Login](#)
[Forgot Password?](#)
Other Links
[www.usra.org](#)

With the USRA's new online membership and database features, members be able to manage all of their USRA business at the touch of a button. Renewals, record maintenance, address changes, tournament history, performance reports and ranking services are all being developed for maximum "interactivity" online. If you've got internet access, you're in the pipeline ... for all sorts of new services.

You'll be able to:

- Monitor your Membership Status
- Update your contact information, change your address
- Review Customer History
- Order, Shop and Sign Up for Events Online
- Review Your Competition History
- Review Your National Standing
- Search the National Calendar of Events w/ expanded features
- Review Your Certification History
- Renew Online
- New Ranking System
- Link Directly to Your State Website from Your Record

Select Membership Type >> Enter Member Information >> Confirm >>

USRA Membership Options

STANDARD MEMBERSHIPS are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL*. One third of all dues remain with each state affiliate organization for local programs

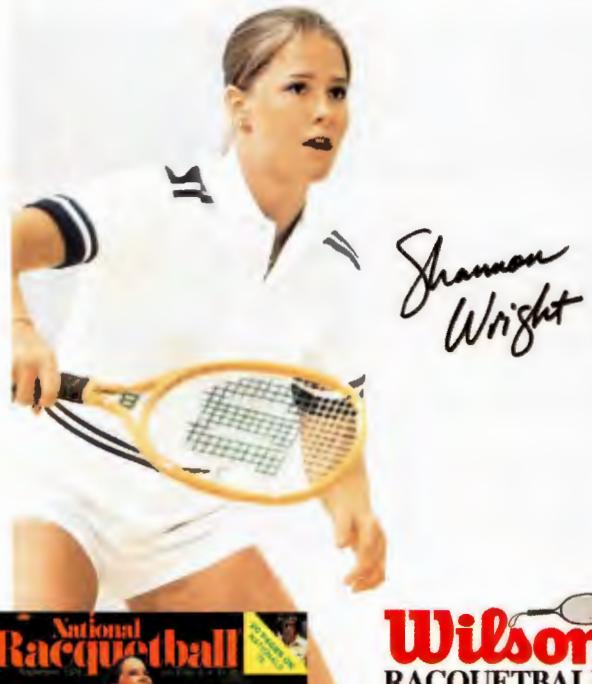
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP includes all USRA benefits, plus first class shipping of RACQUETBALL outside the U.S.

| Membership Type | Price | Description |
|---|---------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> USRA Adult | \$30 | Includes a one-year subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine and full benefits . |
| <input type="radio"/> Junior (18 & under) | \$20 | (18 and younger only) includes a one-year subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine and full benefits . |
| <input type="radio"/> Junior (18 & under - no magazine) | \$15 | (18 and younger only) receive one year junior competitive benefits without RACQUETBALL Magazine. |
| <input type="radio"/> Lifetime Membership | \$1,000 | Includes lifetime subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine and full benefits for life. |
| <input type="radio"/> International Adult Membership | \$45 | Includes all USRA benefits , plus first-class shipping of RACQUETBALL Magazine outside the U.S. |
| <input type="radio"/> International Junior (18 & Under) | \$30 | (18 and younger only) includes a one-year subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine and full benefits . |
| <input type="radio"/> International Junior (18 & under - no magazine) | \$15 | (18 and younger only) receive junior competitive benefits without RACQUETBALL Magazine. |

NOTE: All adult & junior competitors must be members in good standing to compete in USRA sanctioned events.

[Sign In](#)

rb:people & places



Wilson
RACQUETBALL

Where are they Now? Shannon Wright

... Well ... maybe is IS brain surgery, after all ...

In the late 1970's and early 1980's Shannon Wright dominated women's racquetball. According to Racquet Magazine (1981), "Racquetball Champion Shannon Wright ... revolutionized the game with her aggressive, hard-hitting style." During her 12-year career, she won over 35 professional tournaments, captured seven National Championships, and was the #1 ranked player on the WPRA tour for four years. Wilson Sporting Goods manufactured the "Shannon Wright Autograph" racquetball racquet.

In 1977 the International Racquetball Association voted Shannon "Athlete of the Year" and in 1979 she was selected "Player of the Year" by Racquetball Illustrated Magazine. Shannon was a founding member of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA), and in 1980 she authored "The Women's Book of Racquetball." In 1981 Shannon took 3rd place in the televised ABC Superstar Competition in Key Biscayne, FL.

Shannon made her final appearance in competitive racquetball at the National Championships in her hometown of Ft. Worth, Texas where she advanced to the semis.

In 1991 Shannon entered the Medical Scientist Training Program, a combined MD/PhD Program, at the University of Minnesota. After completing the first two years of Medical School, Shannon began work on a PhD in Neuroscience. In the Lab of Dr. Robert Elde, a world renown expert on peptidergic neurotransmission, Shannon's research focused on understanding how two different, yet highly homologous, opioid receptors traffic within cells. The opioid system is importantly involved in both pain and drug addiction (e.g. opiate pain medications, and drugs like heroin and opium).



Dr. Wright was awarded her PhD in December 2002, and is now in the process of completing the last two years of Medical School. After a residency in Internal Medicine, Shannon, her husband, Dr. Lloyd Nietling, and their two little miniature dachshunds plan to remain in Minnesota. [Pictured near left, with Molly O'Brien, 2003]

Best Foot Forward

By Cara L. Koski

Sixty-one year old Tom Francois recently won the silver medal in doubles racquetball with Gene Pare at the California State Championship Senior Games. There's nothing special about that unless you consider he did it competing against men 10 years his junior. And against men who have both their legs.

Tom became a below knee amputee less than two years ago after losing feeling in his lower leg. Doctors were unable to determine the cause and prescribed amputation as the best course of treatment after multiple vascular surgeries were unsuccessful.

After surgery, Tom was certain he'd never play racquetball again as none of the prosthetic feet he tried were able to give him the durability and function he needed in order to continue his active lifestyle. Then he was fitted with the Springlite Advantage DP, a high-performance foot made by Otto Bock Health Care.* Not only is it one of the lightest weight feet available to amputees, it provides the dynamic response demanded by an athlete of Tom's caliber.

Tom says the Advantage DP gives him mobility far beyond what he ever thought possible and maintains the foot, "literally gave me my life back." Because of the advances in prosthetics and how they now so closely mimic a sound limb, Tom says he often forgets he's wearing the Advantage DP. In fact, he says he's even gone so far as to empty his pockets and submit to searches at airports before remembering he wears an artificial foot and that is what set off the metal detector!

Tom is an energetic, enthusiastic man, and when he's not on the racquetball court preparing to conquer his next goal of competing in able-bodied singles competitions, he does motivational speaking engagements for churches, groups, and schools, and mentors other amputees.

In his "spare" time, Tom hosts "Who's Cooking?" (www.whoscookin.net), a local cable cooking show. A butcher by trade, he's hosted the show for the past 17 years in what he describes as a "Wayne's World" format



— what happens, happens with no retakes allowed!

Not only are viewers informed on cooking and meat merchandising, they are highly entertained by this fun-loving grandfather.

Tom also had the privilege of carrying the Olympic Torch for the 2002 Winter Olympics [see May/June 2002, RACQUETBALL]. Tom was a reserve police officer for 28 years and now works as a security officer two days a week for Xilinx Corporation through Creative Security Concepts. His parttime employer nominated Tom, recognizing his exemplification of the Olympic spirit as he experienced his amputation and recovery.

Tom has a lot to say about living life to its fullest, not only because of the excellent example he sets for those with disabilities, but for the endless optimism he shares with everyone wherever he goes. He loves to put it all in perspective by declaring, "The world doesn't stop at the end of your knee!"

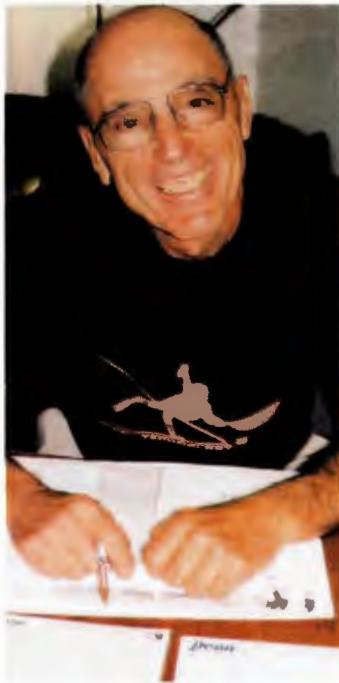
**Established in 1958, Minneapolis-based Otto Bock Health Care is a leading international prosthetic and orthotic manufacturer, which produces over 20,000 types of prosthetic and orthotic components, rehabilitation products and technical plastics, and also provides information technology services. (www.ottobockus.com)*

rb:people & places

Vance Lerner's Tournament House

A Tribute to the Past, Paving the Way for the Future ...
By Carole Chelsea George

During the late 70s and early 80s, racquetball was America's fastest growing sport. Racquetball clubs seemed to be springing up on every corner. With the boom, courts were always crowded and professional players were making a name for themselves. Then the craze subsided and a smaller yet steady group of die-hard fanatics remained.



Reminiscent of racquetball's glory days is Tournament House in Riverside, California. While corporations like LA Fitness and 24-Hour Nautilus have put many of the small guys out of business, the Tournament House keeps going strong, changing with the times and bringing in new players as others retire.

Vance Lerner, 72, one of the original owners when the club opened in 1979, deserves a lot of the credit for Tournament House's success. He and sons Mike and Steve are all racquetball fanatics who drew other

players to the sport. To help the members' children have fun and be competitive, they held juniors clinics each summer. Vance taught racquetball classes at the club for the local community college. And as the club name implies, he organized countless tournaments.

Lerner discovered racquetball in the 1960s before most people had even heard of it. The only courts available at that time had originally been built for handball at YMCAs, JCCs, and community colleges around the country. The first privately owned club was Mel Gorham's in San Diego, where racquetball pioneers like Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Charlie Brumfield, Steve Keeley and Carl Loveday smacked many a black Seamco ball against the walls.

Back in the early days, games were two out of three to 21. Matches sometimes lasted two or three hours. Not surprisingly, tournaments ran far behind schedule. Vance recalls one tournament at Gorham's, where his match was scheduled for 9:00 p.m., but he and his opponent didn't get on the court until 3:00 a.m.

"When we finally finished, the sun was coming up," laughed Vance. "But nobody complained in those days. We always knew the matches would run late."

Originally the Tournament House featured 11 racquetball courts, three with backwall glass, plus a jacuzzi and small weight room. It was the third and largest club built by Lerner and his original business partner Bob Henley. They opened their first club in Colton in 1976 and another in nearby Rialto in 1977. By the early-80s, racquetball was at its peak and so was the Lerner family. Vance was winning in the Masters' division, while sons Mike and Steve were coming up in Juniors.

Then in the mid-80s, racquetball lost its momentum. "Things got so bad, my wife and I were cleaning toilets at the club," said Vance. "I quit taking a salary for myself." Both the Colton and Rialto clubs were sold, and two racquetball courts at Tournament House were converted to aerobics studios.

"I hated taking out the racquetball courts, but we had to keep up with the times in order to survive," said Vance. Today the club is down to seven racquetball courts, but has become a complete sports and fitness center to meet customer demand.

Another tragedy in Vance Lerner's life was the loss of Jackie, his wife of 35 years, in 1993. For two years, Vance dropped out of racquetball and lost interest in the tournaments and the club. After marrying Dessie, a nurse who worked with his ailing father, Vance got a new lease on life.

When asked about other accomplishments, Vance simply points to a plaque given to him in 1990 by the California Legislature Assembly. It reads in part: "Whereas Vance Lerner, a racquetball national champion [in his age group] is committed to promoting good health and physical fitness through sports of all ages ... Mr. Lerner received a bachelor's degree [in physical education] from UC Berkeley and a masters [in business] from University of Oklahoma ... He served 22 years as a pilot in the United States Air Force with one

year of that time spent in Vietnam ...Through his achievements in racquetball, Mr. Lerner has been instrumental in the development of racquetball as a sport for Californians of all ages, thereby supporting the philosophy that good health and physical fitness can be achieved and maintained throughout one's life."

A few years ago, Vance turned over his share of club ownership to his sons, however he still helps out majority owner Robin Dixon, particularly with the tournaments. At the Legends pro stop, he could be seen calling for players over the PA, passing out scorecards and looking for refs from morning till night. Dixon, a four-time national doubles champion in his age group, has been playing racquetball for 17 years. He helped transform Tournament House into a complete-fitness athletic club.

These days, Vance keeps fit on the golf course more often than the racquetball court. He credits his good health to a lifetime of sports...and good genes. His father lived until age 89 his mother until 96.

As long as Tournament House keeps changing with the times, it looks to have a long and prosperous future. Like its original owner, it must have good genes. For more information, visit the website at: www.tournamenthouse.net. To read an unedited, expanded version of this article, go to "extras" at www.racquetballmagazine.com.



World Senior Champions Debra Tisinger [45+], Joanne Pomodoro [50+] and Lorraine Galloway [35+] show off their hardware. See full results on page 54.

RETROspective

by Luke St. Onge

As I mentioned in my previous column I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the characters, and unsung contributors, who have made our sport so special.

Meet John Foust ... player, tournament director, international silver medalist in wheelchair competition, premier photographer, former state president, Regional Director, club owner, National Team Leader, and all around good guy.

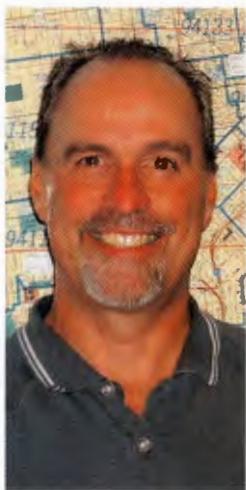


I met John in 1978, at what was my first National Singles Tournament as Executive Director. The club was then called the Denver Sporting House, and at that time the present-day USRA was named the International Racquetball Association [IRA]. The IRA also ran a pro stop in conjunction with the IRA Nationals under the umbrella of IPRO.

Well anyway, there was John sitting in front of the front glass court (yes, front wall glass, which was popular at that time) shooting pictures. Next to Art Shay, John was one the finest action racquetball photographers in the business.

We immediately became friends and started our mutual adventure in racquetball. Since that time I have watched John grow and become a leader in the sport wherever he landed. Many players, administrators, promoters and zealots have come and gone during his tenure, but John has always been there for the sport and we are fortunate that he chose us.

Today John is a founding partner of RacquetballCatalog.com and an AmPro certified instructor who strings racquets, continues to shoot professional photography for RACQUETBALL and other publications, promotes tournaments, writes for the state newsletter, periodically runs a regional, and is the teaching pro and racquetball programmer/promoter for the Colorado Athletic Club in Aurora.



RMC Hires Dave George

On June 1 the Racquetball Manufacturers Council announced the hire of Dave George, of San Bruno, California, as their Project Coordinator. In the newly created position (in addition to managing many exciting projects) Dave will act as a liaison between the racquetball community and the RMC.

Formed at the U.S. OPEN in 2000, under the umbrella of the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), the RMC is

a non-profit industry organization comprised of the leading racquetball manufacturers. The group's objective is to increase the market through a joint effort of supporting programs that will bring new players to the sport as well as retain existing players.

Some RMC projects include: a national Court Club survey, a collection of current Court Club data; a new Racquetball Programmers' Book for use by owners, managers and pros to help grow the sport; an official RMC website (playracquetball.org); and by mobilizing certified AmPRO instructors and sponsored players throughout the country, to assist clubs and facilities with racquetball court programs.

Mr. George brings over 25 years of racquetball related experience to his new position. Currently the Racquetball Director at Fitness West SportsClubs in the San Francisco Bay Area, Dave is also an AmPRO Clinician, active player, coach and long time club manager and pro. Dave's background and experience includes earning a B.A. in Physical Education, coaching at the intercollegiate level, being a former California AARA State President, earning his USPTA (Tennis), teaching Certificate; and, is a lifetime member of AmPRO and the USRA.

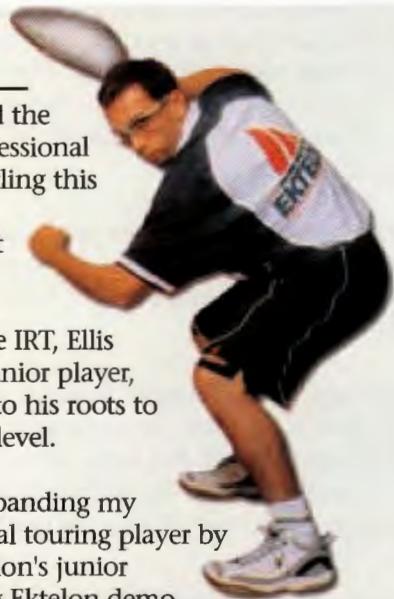
Dave states: "My ambitions and the RMC's mission statement are the same: 'Dedicated to growing the sport of racquetball!' I look forward to filling this position to the best of my ability. I cherish the opportunity to be in such a great position to really make a difference. It is exciting to see a real Racquetball Renaissance emerging."

Dave is happily married to Vera Lynn George, with two grown children (Darren and Kim), two growing grandchildren, (D. J. and Ryan), and two cats (Tommy and Friday). Dave can be reached by mail at: 2526 Sherwood Drive, San Bruno, California, 94066. Email: dave@DaveAtTheClub.com, or telephone: 1-888-559-0099.

Ellis Signs with Ektelon

In July, Ektelon announced the signing of top touring professional John Ellis, who will be battling this tour season with Ektelon's new More™ Attack racquet along with all of Ektelon's accessories and apparel.

Currently ranked #7 on the IRT, Ellis started with Ektelon as a junior player, and has decided to return to his roots to take his career to the next level.



"I'm looking forward to expanding my career beyond a professional touring player by getting involved with Ektelon's junior programs and also running Ektelon demo clinics," stated Ellis. "Ektelon has separated themselves from the competition over the past few years and showed a lot of interest in signing me which made me feel like they truly value my services and game plan for the future. My job is racquetball and I feel Ektelon will provide the type of support I need."

Ellis will also be Ektelon's Junior Team Coordinator, in charge of Ektelon's Junior Elite Team members as well as represent Ektelon and coach Ektelon players at the Junior Worlds and Junior Nationals. In addition to his role with Ektelon's juniors, Ellis will run demo clinics throughout the country called The Ellistyle Experience. During The Ellistyle Experience clinics, participants can expect to receive playing tips, play-test Ektelon racquets, as well as have chances to win prizes.

"We are thrilled to have Eli back on Team Ektelon!" stated Scott Winters, General Manager of Indoor Court Sports. "Eli will be a huge asset to Ektelon with everything he'll be doing with juniors and his clinics, all on top of being one of the most talented and respected players on tour."

another tack and began to z- and lob serve to the forehand, and ran the next three points on errors to reach match point. Stalled at 10, Kerri continued to skip forehands on offense to give Cheryl four more chances to sideout, before she was able to force a final error from her close friend and rival. A final z-serve to the right ended the match with a skipped return by Wachtel and yet another tour victory for Gudinas.

Rosarito 2003 • by Jo Shattuck

Beautiful beaches, sunsets and a top-notch facility drew thirty LPRA touring pros to a truly international draw in Rosarito. In addition to six "locals" from throughout Mexico (including 2003 Pan Am Doubles Gold medalists Rosy Torres and Susy Acosta), entrants included Angela Grisar from Chile, Jennifer Bendfeldt from Guatemala, 19 Americans from as far away as Alaska, and the notable return of former Canadian National Champ and 2000 U.S. Open winner Christie Van Hees.

Van Hees, who took a two and a half year break from the game, has been working in Barbados with the Olympic Committee, helping to develop a youth program, and has devoted time to training her race-horse. Back on the tour circuit, she plans to compete in the remaining stops with the exception of Charlotte. Top ranked player Cheryl Gudinas welcomed the return of her long-time rival, saying "Its great that she's playing again."

Early rounds featured interesting matchups between Amy Foster, who lost a heated, controversial four-gamer to Nancy Enriquez, and the scrappy Angela Grisar over No.9 seeded Brenda Kyzer. The tightest first round match went to Jo Shattuck over Karen Morton, in an 11-9 breaker. Hallander, Van Hees, Wachtel, Walsh, Rajsich and Acosta all advanced without trouble.

In the round of 16, there were few upsets as Lisa Hjelm fell to Hallander in four, while Shattuck lost to Wachtel and Munger was defeated by Gudinas, each in straight games. But No.24 Grisar logged another upset in her win over southpaw No.8 Susy Acosta, to go up against the top seed on Saturday.

In another major upset, No.13 Rosy Torres beat No.4 seeded Rhonda Rajsich, in a marathon five-gamer. The fans were decidedly for local pro Rosy, who ran Rhonda ragged. In the fourth game Rhonda took a full 15-minute injury timeout after dinging her side on a dive.

Tour trainer Dan Welch treated her with ice and when the match resumed, Rhonda rallied to win it and force the tiebreaker. But the afternoon belonged to Rosy, whose excited fans erupted when she rolled out the match winner, 11-9.

After an easy first round, Van Hees fell to Fisher in a four-game cannon shooting match, with both strong players pounding the ball. Walsh also advanced over Enriquez in four, while Wachtel shut out Shattuck in three.

The biggest upset of the round was by No.18 Tammy Brown, former U.S. team member and Collegiate Champ over No.2 Jackie Rice. Brown dominated Rice in the first two games like a waitress at supper: serve, roll, serve, roll, 11-2, 11-5. But Jackie recovered to serve up her own rollouts to come closer in the third game, but it was Brown who held on for the 12-10 advance.

All that good luck came to an end in the quarters, as all the challengers fell to the higher seeded tour regulars. Grisar launched a brief comeback in the third, but lost to Gudinas in three, while Hallander dispatched Torres with the same count.

There was more action in the bottom half, with an exciting five-game tiebreaker between Wachtel and Fisher and a shorter struggle between Walsh and Brown. Fatigued from her earlier matches, Brown wasn't shooting as well, then took a blow to the eye after a wrap-around ball went wild, then took a six-minute timeout, before losing in four.

In what has become a more common lineup on tour, Gudinas moved into the final after defeating Hallander in three; Wachtel was there to greet her after eliminating Walsh in four.

In their final, Cheryl won the first game 11-6, and was serving at 10-8 in the second, before Kerri claimed the service box and scored four straight points to take it 12-10 and come even in the game count. In the third, Cheryl was down 4-1, but launched her own comeback to finish 11-8, then mixed up her serves in the fourth to take a solid 6-0 lead, and an 11-4 win.

All weekend long, our Rosarito hosts provided meals in the resort restaurant, horseback riding, fireworks, and beach volleyball. Not a bad way to start the new season!

world seniors XV



Men: Terry Lauritsen & David Jordan

Women: Mary Lou Kackert & B.G. Railey



IRF 15th World Senior Racquetball Championships

Women Final Matches/Positions

35+ Cheryl Johnson (N.M.) def. Paulina Labrado (Mexico) 2, 3
40+ Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.) 392 pts def. Shari Coplen (Mo.) 327 pts
45+ Debra Tisinger (Calif.) def. Lynette Froehlich (Neb.) 7, 3
50+ Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.) def. Karen Key (Ariz.) 6 (8) 0
55+ Dee Stribling (N.C.) def. Paula Sperling (N.M.) (7) 10, 6
60+ Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.) 294 pts def. Mildred Gwinn (N.C.) 261 pts
65+ Annabelle Kovar (Neb.) 97 pts
70+ Lola Markus (Ill.) 392 pts def. Louise Kiss (N.M.) 216 pts
75+ Reta Harring (Wis.) 290 pts def. Mary Lou Kackert (N.M.) 57 pts

Men Final Matches/Positions

35+ Doug Ganim (Ohio) def. Woody Clouse (Canada) 2, 7
40+ Dave Watson (Okla.) def. Oscar Fierro (Mexico) 7, 3
45+ Tom Neill (N.M.) def. Joe Hassey (Ariz.) 6, 6
50+ Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.) def. Mark Baron (Va.) 2, 3
55+ Greg Hasty (Ill.) def. Bill Welaj (N.J.) 9, 8
60+ Glenn Allen (Va.) def. Jim Trammel (Mo.) 7, 7
65+ Lee Graff (Ore.) def. Jerry Northwood (Ariz.) 7 (7) 7
70+ Don Alt (Ohio) 482 pts. def. Ken Karmel (N.M.) 425 pts.
75+ Joe Lambert (Texas) 371 pts. def. Dick Kincade (Colo.) 330 pts
80+ Robert McAdam (Texas) def. Sam Harry (Pa.) 7, 3

Action photos courtesy Rick Anderson

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March 5-7 Minneapolis, MN
March 12-14 Greensboro, NC
March 26-28 Las Vegas, NV
April 16-18 TBA
May 7-9 St. Louis, MO
May 14-16 Dallas, TX
June 4-6 Cleveland, OH
June 11-13 San Diego, CA
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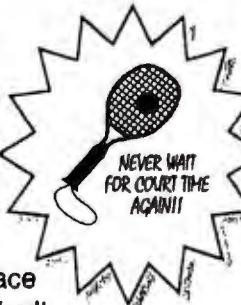
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3. Shane Wood, MA
4. Nate Gagne, ME
5. Josh Tucker, MO
6. Ben Croft, IL
7. Rocky Carson, CA
- 8t. Chris Crowther, CA
- 8t. Brian Fredenberg, TX
10. Tony Boscia, CO

Men's Elite

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

Men's A

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

Men's B

1. Rick Rubin, FL
2. David Levy, FL
3. Tim Page, PA
4. Joel Ernst, OH
- 5t. Bryan Himaya, NY
- 5t. Dennis Whitehead, TX
7. Tom Pendleton, MD
8. Sid Harshavat, IL
- 9t. Jason Hicks, KY
- 9t. Chigozie Ijeoma, FL

Men's C

1. Garry Carter, CA
2. Tim Kirk, TX
- 3t. Bob Reou, MI
- 3t. Scott Stoodley, NH
- 3t. Paul Tatz, AZ
6. Desmond Slusher, IL
7. Jonathan Burton, WA
8. Drew Toland, AR
9. Chris Brammer, CO
10. Jonathan Collins, FL

Men's D

1. Mairo Moreira, CA
2. Jim Stein, PA
3. Ron Collins, WA
- 4t. Jorge Bejar, GA
- 4t. George Parobek, IN
- 4t. Jason Small, NJ
7. Armstead Williams, AR
8. Ron Maestas, NM

- 9t. Daniel Russell, TN
- 9t. Mike Barrows, CO

Men's Novice

1. Greg West, NH
- 2t. Alex Bahls, NM
- 2t. Dusty Gallivan, TX
- 2t. Freddy Guevara, FL
- 2t. Bruce Hotchkiss, MI
- 2t. Michael Rivers, OH
7. Pete McConnell, DC
8. David Piper, AZ
- 9t. Matt Anderson, MA
- 9t. Logan North, OH

Men's 24-

1. Marc Moccia, MA
2. Mitch Williams, NC
3. Andy Hawthorne, OH
4. Jack Huczak, MI
- 5t. Ben Croft, IL
- 5t. Alejandro Herrera, FL
- 5t. Matthew McElhiney, FL
- 8t. Mike Gaffney, PA
- 8t. Shane Vanderson, OH
10. Chris Coy, OK

Men's 25+

1. Mike Orr, PA
- 2t. Mike Dennison, OH
- 2t. Jason Sylvester, NY
4. Dan Whitley, MO
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- 6t. Alain Pujolar, FL
- 8t. Craig Allen, WA
- 8t. Jason Bledsoe, FL
10. Oscar Macias, TX

Men's 30+

- 1t. Brian Fredenberg, TX
- 1t. Aaron Metcalf, FL
3. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ
4. Dave Stark, NY
5. Jamal Harris, MD
- 6t. Roberto Cantos, TX
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2. Dan Llacer, DE
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4. Sam Tolisano, NY
5. John Barrett, PA
6. Eugene Coyle, IL
- 7t. Jim Frautschi, MN
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Men's 40+

1. Dave Watson, OK
- 2t. Eric Foley, MD
- 2t. Jimmy Lowe, AK
- 4t. Scott Cullins, GA
- 4t. Bobby Haab, CT
6. Randy Forrest, FL
7. Tony Feldstein, CO

8. Joe Garbarino, NY
9. Gustavo Farell, TX
10. Glenn Leib, PA

Men's 45+

1. Joe Hassey, NV
2. Mitch Smith, PA
3. Dave Milazzo, IL
4. John Greer, PA
5. Glenn Bell, TX
6. Patrick Gibson, TX
7. James Jones, CA
- 8t. Glenn Loehr, VA
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2. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
3. Mark Baron, VA
4. Mitt Layton, FL
5. Frank Taddonio, AZ
6. Jim Luzar, WI
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- 7t. Sal Perconti, FL
9. Russ Palazzo, CT
10. Gary Peterson, MN

Men's 55+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Ed Remen, NC
3. Tom McKie, TX
4. Greg Hasty, IL
5. Russ Mannino, CA
6. Bill Wolfe, NY
7. Dan Jones, GA
8. Mike Hylden, MN
9. David Warner, MN
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Men's 60+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Dan Jones, GA
3. Pat Taylor, IL
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. Chris Segura, UT
6. Leland Rients, MN
- 7t. Pete Keiser, OH
- 7t. Mitch Milewski, NH
9. Michael Jackson, CT
10. Ron Burdo, FL

Men's 65+

1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Michael Jackson, CT
3. Dave Snyder, TX
4. Jerry Northwood, AZ
- 5t. Ron Adams, CA
- 5t. Rex Lawler, IN
7. Bob Sullins, TX
- 8t. Bob Drouin, NH
- 8t. Alan Dwyer, FL
- 8t. Dave Lund, MI

Men's 70+

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

7. Wendell Hall, NM
8. Joe Miller, FL
9. Paul Banales, AZ
10. Roy Gaul, TX

- 7t. Christine Watson, TX
- Women's B
1. Chandra Shaw, TX
2. Diana Courtney, MI
3. Lori Good, IL
4. Priscilla Krammer, FL
5. Sandy Mercado, DE
6. Cheryl Kirk, IL
7. Patty Barrows, MA
8. Melanie Hanson, UT
9. Karen Thurlow, IL
10. Judy Ostoich, PA

Women's C

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

Women's D

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

Women

Women's Open

1. Heather Dunn, MA
2. Aimee Ruiz, NJ
3. Malia Bailey, VA
4. Denise Mock, TX
5. Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 6t. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
- 6t. Brenda Kyzer, SC
8. Shannon Feaster, MD
9. Tammy Brown, ID
10. Lorraine Feeney, MA

Women's Elite

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

Women's A

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

Women's Novice

- 1t. Shaeova Danes, FL
- 1t. Jackie Morrison, NY
- 1t. Jennifer Wells, TX
4. Courtney Hill, NM
5. Courtney Chisholm, MA
- 6t. Katherine Affeltranger, UT
- 6t. Lucy Avraamidou, PA
- 6t. Diane Bass, TX
- 6t. Monica Gotelaere, GA
- 6t. Myriam Lakabi, VA

Women's 24-

1. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
- 2t. Lauren Deutsch, CA
- 2t. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 2t. Kristen Walsh, UT
5. Kelley Fisher, OH
6. Krystal Csuk, IL
7. Melissa Borgwat, CA
8. Sara Borland, IA
- 9t. Da'monique Davis, TX
- 9t. Jeni Fuller, NM

Women's 25+

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



national rankings

Men

Men's Open

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

Men's Elite

- 1t. Ralph Cuesta, FL
- 1t. Raymond Maestas, NM
3. Alex Zamarro, IN
4. Rodrigo Urzua, FL
5. Ismael Aldana, CA
6. Dana Maher, NM
7. James Kostal, WY
8. Tom Carey, ME
9. Damon Peterson, IL
10. Zach Pope, TX

Men's A

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

Men's B

1. Rick Rubin, FL
2. David Levy, FL
3. Tim Page, PA
4. Joel Ernst, OH
- 5t. Bryan Himaya, NY
- 5t. Dennis Whitehead, TX
7. Tom Pendleton, MD
8. Sid Harshavat, IL
- 9t. Jason Hicks, KY
- 9t. Chigozie Ijeoma, FL

Men's C

1. Garry Carter, CA
2. Tim Kirk, TX
- 3t. Bob Reou, MI
- 3t. Scott Stoodley, NH
- 3t. Paul Tatz, AZ
6. Desmond Slusher, IL
7. Jonathan Burton, WA
8. Drew Toland, AR
9. Chris Brammer, CO
10. Jonathan Collins, FL

Men's D

1. Mairo Moreira, CA
2. Jim Stein, PA
3. Ron Collins, WA
- 4t. Jorge Bejar, GA
- 4t. George Parobek, IN
- 4t. Jason Small, NJ
7. Armstead Williams, AR
8. Ron Maestas, NM
- 9t. Daniel Russell, TN

9t. Mike Barrows, CO

Men's Novice

1. Greg West, NH
- 2t. Alex Bahls, NM
- 2t. Dusty Gallivan, TX
- 2t. Freddy Guevara, FL
- 2t. Bruce Hotchkiss, MI
- 2t. Michael Rivers, OH
7. Pete McConnell, DC
8. David Piper, AZ
- 9t. Matt Anderson, MA
- 9t. Logan North, OH

Men's 24+

1. Marc Moccia, MA
2. Mitch Williams, NC
3. Andy Hawthorne, OH
4. Jack Huczak, MI
- 5t. Ben Croft, IL
- 5t. Alejandro Herrera, FL
- 5t. Matthew McElhiney, FL
- 8t. Mike Gaffney, PA
- 8t. Shane Vanderson, OH
10. Chris Coy, OK

Men's 25+

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

Men's 30+

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

Men's 35+

1. Kelly North, KY
2. Dan Llacer, DE
3. Tony Feldstein, CO
4. Sam Tolisano, NY
5. John Barrett, PA
6. Eugene Coyle, IL
- 7t. Jim Frautsch, MN
- 7t. John Collison, DE
9. Steve Goedker, MI
10. Tim Kirch, NY

Men's 40+

1. Dave Watson, OK
- 2t. Eric Foley, MD
- 2t. Jimmy Lowe, AK
- 4t. Scott Cullins, GA
- 4t. Bobby Haab, CT
6. Randy Forrest, FL
7. Tony Feldstein, CO
8. Joe Garbarino, NY
9. Gustavo Farrell, TX

10. Glenn Leib, PA

Men's 45+

1. Joe Hassey, NV
2. Mitch Smith, PA
3. Dave Milazzo, IL
4. John Greer, PA
5. Glenn Bell, TX
6. Patrick Gibson, TX
7. James Jones, CA
- 8t. Glenn Loehr, VA
- 8t. Bud Mervin, FL
- 8t. Mike Murphy, OH

Men's 50+

1. Darryl Warren, CA
2. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
3. Mark Baron, VA
4. Mitt Layton, FL
5. Frank Taddonio, AZ
- 5t. Ben Croft, IL
- 5t. Alejandro Herrera, FL
- 5t. Gregg Mandell, IL
- 7t. Sal Perconti, FL
9. Russ Palazzo, CT

Men's 55+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Ed Remen, NC
3. Tom McKie, TX
4. Greg Hasty, IL
5. Russ Mannino, CA
6. Bill Wolfe, NY
7. Dan Jones, GA
8. Mike Hylden, MN
9. David Warner, MN
10. Denny Frye, MO

Men's 60+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Dan Jones, GA
3. Pat Taylor, IL
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. Chris Segura, UT
- 5t. Roberto Cantos, TX
6. Leland Rients, MN
- 7t. Pete Keiser, OH
- 7t. Mitch Milewski, NH
9. Michael Jackson, CT

Men's 65+

1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Michael Jackson, CT
3. Dave Snyder, TX
4. Jerry Northwood, AZ
- 5t. Ron Adams, CA
- 5t. Rex Lawler, IN
7. Bob Sullins, TX
- 8t. Bob Drouin, NH
- 8t. Alan Dwyer, FL
- 8t. Dave Lund, MI

Men's 70+

1. Don Alt, OH
2. John O'donnell, IL
3. Robert Miller, SC
4. Chuck Kaiser, MI
5. Ken Karmel, NM
6. Sean Reid, NV
7. Wendell Hall, NM
8. Joe Miller, FL
9. Paul Banales, AZ

10. Roy Gaul, TX

Men's 75+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Duane Russell, MI
3. Carl Buschner, MA
4. Dick Kincade, CO
5. Ken Yahiru, IL
- 6t. Tony Lang, IL
- 6t. Victor Sacco, NY
8. Michael Martin, CO
9. Phillips Dulaney, VA
10. Earl Acuff, NC

Men's 80+

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

Men's 85+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Ben Marshall, TX
3. Luzell Wilde, UT
4. Walter Gardner, UT

Women

Women's Open

1. Heather Dunn, MA
2. Aimee Ruiz, NJ
3. Malia Bailey, VA

4. Denise Mock, TX
5. Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 6t. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
- 6t. Brenda Kyzer, SC
8. Shannon Feaster, MD
9. Tammy Brown, ID
10. Lorraine Feeney, MA

Women's Elite

1. Teresa Beresford, VA
- 2t. Tina Hagen, CO
- 2t. Solanna Taragan, CA

4. Debra Bryant, NC
5. Tina Joslin, TX
6. Jill Crouse, CA
- 7t. Jesi Fuller, NM
- 7t. Claudia Ramirez, FL
- 7t. Lisa Warshawsky, CA
10. Sandy Colello, ME

Women's Novice

- 1t. Shacoeva Danes, FL
- 1t. Jackie Morrison, NY
- 1t. Jennifer Wells, TX

4. Courtney Hill, NM
5. Courtney Chisholm, MA

- 6t. Katherine Affeltranger, UT
- 6t. Lucy Avraamidou, PA

EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION

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

At selected national events:

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

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

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

FINISH/POINTS

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

event calendar

november ...

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--------------|
| November 14-16 | November Madness @ North Jeffco | Arvada, CO | 303-431-9004 |
| November 14-16 | Puget Sound Challenge @ The Valley Athletic Club | Tumwater, WA | 425-235-3186 |
| November 14-16 | Seniors Invitational @ Mt.Vernon Health & Racquet | Alexandria, VA | 703-360-7300 |
| November 14-16 | Sims Open @ Sims Racquet Club | Charlton, MA | 508-479-6597 |
| November 14-16 | Spartan Splat @ Michigan Athletic Club Lansing | East Lansing, MI | 577-267-0186 |
| November 14-16 | Turkey Shootout @ Springfield Athletic | Springfield, OH | 937-399-2360 |
| November 14-16 | Minnesota State Doubles @ Northwest Athletic Club | Brooklyn Center, MN | 320-251-3965 |
| November 14-16 | North Dakota State Doubles @ Courts Plus Fitness Center | Fargo, ND | 701-237-4805 |
| November 14-16 | Dallas Doubles Series @ Landmark Fitness Factory | Dallas, TX | 972-392-1500 |
| November 15 | Points Rally @ The Alaska Club | Fairbanks, AK | 907-452-6801 |
| November 15-16 | Mullett Hoover Open @ Orem Fitness Center | Orem, UT | 801-229-7154 |
| November 19-22 | All Valley Open Championships @ Mid Valley Athletic Club | Reseda, CA | 818-705-6500 |
| November 21-23 | Cross Court Open @ Cross Court Athletic Club | Woodland, CA | 530-666-1319 |
| November 21-23 | Super 7 Shootout Series #3 @ 5 Seasons Country Club | Westlake, OH | 440-871-2811 |
| November 22 | Kill Shot Shootout @ Tri-City Court Club | Kennewick, WA | 509-783-5465 |
| November 29 | One Day Turkey Shoot @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio | San Antonio, TX | 210-344-8596 |

december ...

| | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------|--------------|
| December 02-06 | Rocky Mountain Masters @ Redwood Multipurpose Center | West Valley City, UT | 801-974-6923 |
| December 04-07 | Happy Joe's Open @ Center Court Fitness Club | Grand Forks, ND | 701-746-2790 |
| December 04-07 | Snowball @ Highpoint Sports & Wellness | Albuquerque, NM | 505-350-2809 |
| December 05-07 | Holiday Cash Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet | Orlando, FL | 407-645-3550 |
| December 05-07 | Holiday Magic @ Westerville Athletic Club | Westerville, OH | 614-882-7331 |
| December 05-07 | Key Sports Tournament Series @ LA Fitness | Chandler, AZ | 480-545-1363 |
| December 05-07 | St. Nick Splat @ Severna Park Racquet & Fitness Club | Millersville, MD | 410-987-0980 |
| December 05-07 | Superstars Of Racquetball @ Central Courts | Columbia Heights, MN | 763-572-0330 |
| December 05-07 | 5th Annual Mistletoe Matchup @ Greenbrier North YMCA | Chesapeake, VA | 757-366-9622 |
| December 06 | Junior Fun Day @ Colorado Athletic Club Aurora | Aurora, CO | 720-870-3261 |
| December 06 | Nwfc Winter Shootout @ Northwest Fitness Center | Houston, TX | 713-895-8688 |
| December 06 | Winter Shoot-Out @ World Class Fitness | Ft Smith, AR | 479-646-4022 |
| December 10-14 | Holiday Open @ Cascade Athletic Club | Gresham, OR | 503-665-4142 |
| December 11-14 | Choice Hotels ProAm @ Lakewood Athletic Club | Lakewood, CO | 303-989-5545 |
| December 12-14 | Christmas Classic @ Tyson's Sport & Health | McLean, VA | 703-442-9150 |
| December 12-14 | Fabulous Five Series #3 @ Southview Athletic Club | West St. Paul, MN | 651-450-1660 |
| December 12-14 | Mountain Madness @ Gatlinburg Community Center | Gatlinburg, TN | 865-436-4990 |
| December 12-14 | Snowball Open @ Cedardale Athletic Club | Haverhill, MA | 978-927-3923 |
| December 13 | Maverick One Day Shootout @ Maverick Athletic Club | Arlington, TX | 817-275-3348 |
| December 13-15 | Rollingwood Winter Classic @ Rollingwood Racquet Club | Fair Oaks, CA | 916-988-1727 |
| December 20-21 | Holiday Doubles @ Pojoaque Wellness Center | Santa Fe, NM | 505-455-9355 |

january 2004 ...

| | | | |
|---------------|--|----------------------|--------------|
| January 02-04 | Roll Out The New Year @ Robious Sport & Fitness | Richmond, VA | 804-747-7833 |
| January 03 | Bridle Trails Shootout @ Bally's Bridle Trails | Kirkland, WA | 425-881-6081 |
| January 06-10 | Alta Canyon Avalanche @ Alta Canyon Sports Center | Sandy, UT | 801-568-4600 |
| January 09-11 | B/C Challenge @ Great Bay Athletic Club | Newmarket, NH | 603-659-3151 |
| January 09-11 | Ice Fog Classic @ The Alaska Club | Fairbanks, AK | 907-452-6801 |
| January 09-11 | New Years Ball @ Courts Plus Fitness Center | Fargo, ND | 701-237-4805 |
| January 09-11 | Pen Club Challenge Clup @ Peninsula Club | Grand Rapids, MI | 616-771-0312 |
| January 09-11 | Sunshine Tourney @ Gaithersburg Sport & Health | Gaithersburg, MD | 301-258-0661 |
| January 09-11 | Winter Chiller @ Suburban Health Club | St. Cloud, MN | 320-251-3965 |
| January 12-14 | Superbowl Open @ In-Shape West Lane | Stockton, CA | 209-472-2100 |
| January 15-18 | Hara Women's Pro Am @ Honolulu Club | Honolulu, HI | 808-949-0177 |
| January 16-18 | Hall Of Fame @ Central Courts | Columbia Heights, MN | 763-572-0330 |
| January 16-18 | Key Sports Tournament Series @ LA Fitness | AZ | 480-545-1363 |
| January 16-18 | Winter Classic @ Capital Racquet & Fitness Center | Bismarck, ND | 701-221-6855 |
| January 16-18 | Women Senior/Master Singles Championship @ Royal Athletic Club | Burlingame, CA | 650-697-9162 |

event calendar

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| January 16-18 | New Hampshire State Doubles @ Golds Gym | Portsmouth, NH | 603-436-6664 |
| January 16-18 | Southlake Pro-Am @ Southlake Athletic Club | Morrow, GA | |
| January 16-18 | 33rd Annual Peter Cornell @ Richmond YMCA. | Richmond, VA | 804-644-9622 |
| January 21-25 | Griffith Memorial Tournament @ Courtsports Athletic Club. | Eugene, OR | 541-687-2255 |
| January 21-24 | Orem Open @ Orem Fitness Center | Orem, UT | 801-229-7154 |
| January 23-25 | Another Leftover @ Arlington Sport & Health | Arlington, VA | 703-522-1702 |
| January 23-25 | Duboise Electric Classic @ World Class Fitness | Ft. Smith, AR | 479-646-4022 |
| Jan.30 - Feb.02 | Mitch Nathanson Classic @ Executive Health. | Manchester, NH | 603-624-9300 |
| Jan.30 - Feb.01 | Stuck In The Snow @ Moorhead RB & Fitness Center. | Moorhead, MN | 218-233-0230 |
| Jan.30 - Feb.01 | Super Bowl Splat @ Olympus Athletic Club | Northfield, MN | 507-645-8007 |

february ...

| | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------------|--------------|
| February 03-07 | 2004 Massacre @ Redwood Multipurpose Center | West Valley City, UT | 801-974-6923 |
| February 06-08 | Fabulous Five Series #4 @ Southview Athletic Club. | West St. Paul, MN | 651-450-1660 |
| February 06-08 | Minot Invitational @ Minot YMCA Family Center | Minot, ND | 701-852-0141 |
| February 06-08 | Nac Winter Classic @ Northwest Athletic Club | Springdale, AR | 479-750-3538 |
| February 06-08 | Wintergreen Classic @ Laurel Sport Fitness. | Laurel, MD | 410-987-0980 |
| February 06-08 | 2004 Rochester Pro-Am @ Rochester Athletic Club | Rochester, MN | 507-282-6000 |
| February 13-15 | Ground Hog Open @ Metro South Athletic Club. | Brockton, MA | 508-588-3444 |
| February 13-15 | 12th Annual Winter Classic @ American Family. | Richmond, VA | 804-382-7663 |
| February 18-22 | Beaverton Classic @ Parkplace Athletic Club. | Beaverton, Or | 503-644-3900 |
| February 20-22 | Burnsville Hotshots" @ Northwest Athletic Club" | Burnsville, MN | 952-435-7125 |
| February 20-22 | Mexican Village Classic @ Center Court Fitness Club. | Grand Forks, ND | 701-746-2790 |
| February 20-22 | Railyard Classic @ Railyard Athletic Club | Woodsville, NH | 603-747-8006 |
| February 27-29 | Virginia State Singles @ Tyson's Sport & Health. | Mclean, VA | 703-442-9150 |
| February 28-29 | Points Rally @ The Alaska Club | Fairbanks, AK | 907-452-6801 |
| February 28 | 33rd Annual Sugarloaf Ford @ YMCA | Winona, MN | 507-454-5170 |

March ...

| | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| March 03-06 | Spring Smash @ Marv Jenson Fitness & Recreation | South Jordan, UT | 801-253-4404 |
| March 05-07 | Hot Springs Open @ Hot Springs Health & Fitness. | Hot Springs, AR | 501-525-4900 |
| March 05-07 | March Madness @ Suburban Health Club | St. Cloud, MN | 320-251-3965 |
| March 05-07 | March Madness @ Courts Plus Fitness Center. | Fargo, ND | 701-237-4805 |
| March 05-07 | Maryland State Singles @ Severna Park Racquet & Fitness Club. | Millersville, MD | 410-987-0980 |
| March 05-07 | New Hampshire State Singles @ Executive Health. | Manchester, NH | 603-624-9300 |
| March 12-14 | Minot Open @ Minot YMCA Family Center | Minot, ND | 701-852-0141 |
| March 16-20 | Gold's Gym Open @ Gold's Gym | W. Jordan, UT | 801-347-9607 |
| March 18-21 | Spring Doubles Tournament @ East Side Athletic Club. | Milwaukie, OR | 503-659-3845 |
| March 18-21 | Spring Pinch LPRA Pro-Am @ Laurel Sport Fitness. | Laurel, MD | 410-987-0980 |
| March 19-21 | Fabulous Five Series #5 @ Southview Athletic Club. | West St. Paul, MN | 651-450-1660 |
| March 19-21 | Killshot Classic @ John Brown University | Siloam Springs, AR | 479-204-1000 |
| March 19-21 | March Mayhem @ Moorhead Racquetball & Fitness Center. | Moorhead, MN | 218-233-0230 |

2003 national event entries @ www.usrastore.com

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-------------|--------------|
| November 19-23 | Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN Championships [5]. | Memphis, TN | 719-635-5396 |
| December 17-21 | ProKennex IRF 15th World Junior Championships [5] | Orlando, FL | 719-635-5396 |

2004

| | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|--|
| January 16-18 | WSMA 16th U.S. Women's Senior/Master Championships [5] | Burlingame, CA | 608-592-2497 |
| March 4-7 | 17th USRA National High School Championships [6] | Portland, OR | www.usra.org |
| March 10-13 | NMRA Masters National Championship [5] | Canoga Park, CA | www.nmra.info |

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

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