

# RACQUETBALL



## PAN AMERICAN GAMES

USA

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U.S. Racquetball Association

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# NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

FEBRUARY 10 - 14, 2016 - TEMPE, AZ

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FEBRUARY 24 - 28, 2016 - PORTLAND, OR

# NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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# NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 25 - 29, 2016 - DENVER, CO

# NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 22- 26, 2016 - MINNEAPOLIS, MN

# UnitedHealthcare US OPEN

OCTOBER 5 - 9, 2016 - MINNEAPOLIS, MN

2016



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#### ON THE COVER

For racquetball, the Pan American Games are the closest the sport gets to an Olympic experience - for its athletes, coaches and fans. At the Opening Ceremonies in Toronto, Rocky Carson greets an adoring crowd. Photo courtesy Getty Images, by permission USOC.

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#### Submissions

*Racquetball* Magazine welcomes submissions from our members and readers. If you have an idea for an article, propose it by email to: [magazine@usra.org](mailto:magazine@usra.org). All submissions are subject to editing.

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Spring	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 30
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Fall	JUL 1	AUG 1	SEP 30
Winter	OCT 1	NOV 1	DEC 30



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This striking mirror image photo was snapped during a doubles match on the show court in Toronto, featuring **José Rojas** in the background, shooting underneath **Vincent Gagnon**. It was a key match in Round Two of preliminary pool play between USA's Rojas/Jansen Allen (#5 seeds) and Canada's Gagnon/Tim Landeryou (#8 seeds). This particular match ended 15-14, 15-8 in the Canadian's favor (the U.S. pair later won Gold in the individual round), and you can read the full account of the US Team's performance beginning on page 16. Photo courtesy Getty Images.



## CONTENTS

# IN THIS ISSUE

<b>3</b>	<i>From the Executive Director</i>	<b>26</b>	<i>Making of a Champion</i>
<b>4</b>	<i>From the President &amp; Board</i>	<b>28</b>	<i>What's the Call?</i>
<b>6</b>	<i>National Singles</i>	<b>30</b>	<i>First Serve / RBU</i>
<b>8</b>	<i>Junior Olympics</i>	<b>32</b>	<i>Service Line News</i>
<b>10</b>	<i>International Racquetball Tour</i>	<b>34</b>	<i>We Are Racquetball: Seth Farber</i>
<b>12</b>	<i>Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour</i>	<b>36</b>	<i>Senior Moment / NMRA, WSMRA, USRF</i>
<b>16</b>	<i>Pan American Games</i>	<b>38</b>	<i>Tournament Events Calendar</i>
<b>20</b>	<i>UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Recordbook</i>	<b>40</b>	<i>Nice Shot ... at Junior Olympics</i>



## USA RACQUETBALL MISSION STATEMENT

*USA Racquetball, recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport, is committed to our members and the growth of racquetball from recreational play to international competition.*

## USA RACQUETBALL CORE VALUES

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USA RACQUETBALL



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### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & TEAM QUALIFYING

All future national events details remain tentative until entries are published and registration opens.

#### IN 2016

National Doubles - February 10-14  
Tempe, AZ | Arizona State University

National High Schools - February 24-28  
Portland, OR | Multnomah Athletic Club

National Intercollegiates - March 30 - April 2  
Tempe, AZ | Arizona State University

National Singles - May 25-29  
Denver, CO | Highlands Ranch Recreation Center

Junior Olympics - June 22-26  
Minneapolis, MN | Life Time Fitness / Fridley

#### New U.S. National Team Qualification Process

In an effort to help ensure that the top American racquetball players have an equal and fair opportunity to qualify for the U.S. National Team, USA Racquetball has announced changes to the qualification process for the 2016-17 U.S. National Team.

While the process for qualifying for the Team as a doubles team is generally the same, the singles selection procedure will be determined by performance at three Selection Events, including:

-2015 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Pro Division  
-2016 U.S. Team Singles Qualifying Division at USA Racquetball National Doubles Championships  
-2016 U.S. Team Qualifying Division at USA Racquetball National Singles Championships

To learn more and for complete details, including the process to qualify for Elite Athlete Health Insurance, please visit <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/programs/team-usa>.



FROM THE

Executive Director

By Steve Czarnecki,  
Executive Director  
USA Racquetball

## Twenty Amazing Years for the US OPEN

The 20th Anniversary of what has become the world's greatest celebration of the sport – the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN – will be marked this year. From just a concept in the mid-90s to what it has become today, the US OPEN has been on an incredible journey. This premier event has showcased the amazing talent of professional athletes on both the men's and women's pro tours, alongside some of the top amateur players worldwide.

The idea for a US OPEN Grand Slam event to unite the entire sport was realized between then-USA Racquetball (titled the American Amateur Racquetball Association at the time) Executive Director Luke St. Onge, Associate Executive Director Jim Hiser, and then-Board member Doug Ganim. USA Racquetball agreed to back the new Championship to help it get off the ground, with Ganim serving as its director and promoter. The rest is history, with Ganim leading and shaping the US OPEN into what it is today.



USA Racquetball is pleased to announce that Ganim Event Management will take the US OPEN through 2020.

To help recognize all of those athletes, we hope you enjoy the all-time US OPEN record book centered in this issue.

A special thank you goes to the dedicated and generous sponsors of the US OPEN who contribute greatly to the player experience and overall success of the Championship. Companies like UnitedHealthcare, Dick's Sporting Goods, Cardinal Health, Life Time Fitness, Coors Light, ACE, Lewis Drug, and Sports Minneapolis underwrite the Championship itself which, in turn, helps to support USA Racquetball promotional activities.

We also greatly appreciate the excellent work done by Doug Ganim over these many years. Along with his loyal staff and dedicated volunteers, he is the lifeblood of the US OPEN Championship, and USA Racquetball is pleased to announce that it has engaged Ganim Event Management to direct the US OPEN for another five years, through 2020. We couldn't be more pleased to continue working with such a great team.

If you haven't yet participated in a US OPEN Championship, be sure to put October 5-9, 2016, on your calendar and join us next year. Of course, visit [UnitedHealthcareUSOPEN.com](http://UnitedHealthcareUSOPEN.com) anytime to find spectator opportunities, including how to buy tickets, watch the Championship live, and view the finals on the Tennis Channel during Thanksgiving week. Congratulations on a great run for this groundbreaking effort!



## From Toronto to Minneapolis

Returning from another worldwide stage in July, the U.S. National Racquetball Team brought home a fistful of medals from the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto. Overall, the team won six medals at the Games, including two individual Gold medals and two Team Silver medals. The 2015 team was led and supported by Head Coach Dave Ellis, Assistant Coach RO Carson, Trainer Brent Huff, and Team Leader Cheryl Kirk, whose sideline wrap-up begins on page 16.

The United States has enjoyed tremendous Pan Am Games success over the years, winning 13 of the 20 individual Gold medals awarded in the five Pan Am Games in which racquetball was contested. This includes all five Men's Singles Gold finishes in the record books. Both the Men's and Women's Teams have won either Gold or Silver in every Pan Am Games that has included team competition.

Racquetball was included in five of the last six Pan Am Games, including: Mar del Plata, Argentina (1995), Winnipeg, Canada (1999), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (2003), Guadalajara, Mexico (2011), Toronto, Canada (2015), and has already been named as a full medal sport for the Lima Games in 2019. More than 6,000 athletes were fielded in 36 sports in Toronto this year.

With his father RO at his side, Rocky Carson added to his already remarkable international record by successfully defending his Pan Am Games Gold Medal from 2011, and becoming the first man in Singles to win back-to-back Games. His two Pan Am Singles Gold Medals combined with a record four World Championship titles make him the most decorated man in the history of international racquetball.

And many of those same pro tour athletes have been in training to face off again in Minneapolis at the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN, so look for plenty of familiar names and faces throughout this issue.

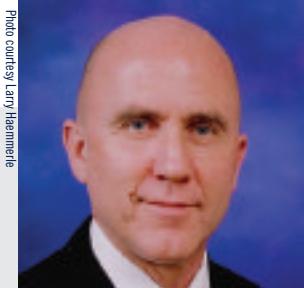


Photo courtesy Larry Haemmerle

FROM THE  
President

# WELCOME TO A NEW SEASON

By Larry Haemmerle

Welcome to a new season of racquetball! This is the time of year when we are all beginning to feel the excitement building as tournament calendars and league offerings are being prepared and publicized. Competitive and recreational players alike begin to hit the courts in preparation for increased playing opportunities. The manufacturers have released their new product lines with new and innovative equipment that will continue to advance your level of play. Make certain you take stock of your racquets, shoes, gloves, strings and accessories and, if you are lacking in any area, now is the time to get the latest and greatest products. Don't be left behind by playing with outdated equipment while your competitors take advantage of the newest technological advances.

This is the time to review the National and State event calendars to plan your season. We are delighted with our relationship with R2 Sports. They provide us with one stop shopping for all of our sanctioned events throughout the nation. You will find everything from small one day shootouts, local multi-day events, State Championship tournaments, Regional Championships, and National events. Some of these events include our pro tours, providing you with the opportunity to see the very best competitive play our sport offers.

The largest and most unique event is the U.S. Open. Easily the largest event in the world, it transcends the normal tournament atmosphere and is a festival and celebration of our sport. Everyone who is serious about our sport should attend this event and each of our National Championship events at least once. Each one offers its own, unique experience.

I wish everyone success this season in achieving your goals!

**CORRECTION:** In the Summer issue, the last line of the President's message was dropped. The closing sentence read, in full: The U.S. Open will be an outstanding opportunity for all of us to demonstrate that "Together, We Are Racquetball".



## CALL FOR BOARD CANDIDATES

### Candidates Sought to Fill Upcoming Board Vacancies

USA Racquetball seeks individuals to serve as Board members who reflect the diversity of our members, including experience (both life and business), geographic, gender, age and ethnicity.

Candidates should possess a strong work ethic, excellent communication skills (both verbal and written), a passion for the sport, a willingness to be directly involved in fundraising activities, and the time to be very involved, well beyond the two annual face-to-face meetings and regular conference calls (e.g. committee work).

Specific experience in marketing, fundraising, public relations, finance and technology is preferred. Potential Board members must be citizens of the United States who are at least 18 years of age and maintain a current USA Racquetball membership.

*Are you up to the challenge to help guide our Sport?*  
Do you know someone you would like to see serve on the Board?

Please send your indication of candidacy (including a digital head shot and statement in 200 words or less as to "Why I want to serve on the USA Racquetball Board of Directors") by November 17th to: [usarelectionchair@yahoo.com](mailto:usarelectionchair@yahoo.com)

For more information, visit  
[teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/leadership/board-of-directors](http://teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/leadership/board-of-directors).

## USA RACQUETBALL RENEWS AGREEMENT WITH ROLLOUT

USA Racquetball is pleased to announce that it has extended its relationship with Rollout Racquetball as the Official Lifestyle Apparel Brand of the Association through at least 2016. In addition to offering cutting edge attire of all sorts, Rollout is the exclusive provider of official uniforms for the U.S. National Teams and the complete USA Racquetball collection. As part of the agreement, Power Monkey has joined the stable of USA Racquetball partners as our Official Screen Printer. Shop the USA Racquetball Collection, including National Team uniforms, at <http://wearrollout.com/product-category/featured/usa-collection/>.



## A STATEMENT

from the Executive Committee of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors

Larry Haemmerle – President  
Jason Thoerner – Vice President  
Laurel Davis – Treasurer  
Leo Vasquez – Secretary

# WHY RULES MATTER

*PLAY BY THE RACQUET SPECIFICATION RULES*

**T**here is nothing more important to a sport than its rules. Rules ensure that the sport played by one person is the same as that played by another. This simple dynamic allows for fair play.

Nearly 50 years ago, USA Racquetball was formed, in part, for the very purposes of standardizing the rules and identifying national champions for the then young sport in accordance with those rules.

**THE MOST VIEWED CONTENT ON THE USA RACQUETBALL WEBSITE IS THE RULES SECTION. PLAYERS OF ALL SORTS LOOK TO THE RULES FOR HOW TO PLAY RACQUETBALL.**

Over the ensuing half century, racquetball players have enjoyed the sport both recreationally and competitively by playing by the rules. The key attributes -- that the served ball must pass the short line, the ball must be struck prior to its second bounce, and the struck ball must travel to the front wall without touching the floor are just a few of the many rules that define racquetball as the sport that it is.

**WITHOUT STANDARDIZED RULES, WHAT IS RACQUETBALL, OR ANY SPORT FOR THAT MATTER?**

There have been many changes and innovations introduced to racquetball over the years -- from the addition of the safety line and the requirement for eye guards, to ceiling balls, the sport has evolved. During this time, players felt that when they stepped onto a court in sanctioned competition or recreational play, they were on equal footing with their opponents and that the outcome of their match would be based on skill because they were playing by the same rules.

USA Racquetball takes its responsibility to manage and administer the Rules of Racquetball very seriously. This is a responsibility that has developed and become more meaningful over the past five decades.

**WE KNOW THAT THE RULES ARE IMPORTANT TO PLAYERS AT ALL LEVELS OF PLAY.**

Because of this, we have an open and public rules modification process that includes input from individual players. We also have a longstanding policy in place that requires an additional two-year waiting period for any changes to racquet specifications to come into effect. Similar to many other sports, the delay is in place to help ensure that changes in racquet specifications are fair to manufacturers and players alike.

Recently, racquet frames that are longer than currently allowed by the rules were introduced into the marketplace. USA Racquetball believes that product introductions made of the rules are counter to the best interests of the sport. It is important to note that such racquets are not allowed for use in any USA Racquetball sanctioned events.

**AS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE, WE ENCOURAGE PLAYERS AT ALL LEVELS OF THIS GREAT SPORT TO PLAY BY THE RULES TO BEST PROMOTE FAIRNESS, WHICH IN TURN LEADS TO INCREASED ENJOYMENT AND CAMARADERIE.**

To assist in this, and to support sanctioned event directors, USA Racquetball has recently added a List of Non-Conforming Racquets to its website.

USA Racquetball appreciates the resources that equipment manufacturers bring to the sport and recognizes that most product innovations are within the rules. Manufacturers do this out of respect for the integrity of the sport and the knowledge that an environment without racquet specifications would not only be damaging to the sport but could, in short order, lead to the inability to define what is and is not racquetball.

While it may be tempting to ask how much difference a half-inch here or inch there can make, the real question that must be asked is why not three inches longer, or perhaps five inches, or more? What if manufacturers kept making racquets incrementally longer than their competitors?

**THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT ANY RACQUET LONGER THAN 22 INCHES IS CURRENTLY OUTSIDE THE ALLOWED LIMITS AND ITS USE IS, THEREFORE, NOT RACQUETBALL AS PLAYED BY THE RULES.**



Practically speaking, racquets in excess of 22 inches bring safety considerations into play and are likely to further speed up the sport. Many would contend that increasing racquet length and speed may make the sport even more intimidating to beginners and especially women and children, segments that are important to the future of the sport.

**USA RACQUETBALL, AS THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY OF THE SPORT, STANDS FIRMLY BY ITS RULES AND RULES MODIFICATION PROCESSES.**

We strongly believe it in the best interests of the sport and its players to play by the rules and the spirit of the rules.

Of course, as we always have, we intend to listen to racquetball players when it comes to what defines our sport.

We are, since day one, an association of players and strive every day to serve the interests of those who share our passion for racquetball – yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE RACQUETBALL**

View the USA Racquetball Rule Book at  
<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/how-to-play/rules>

# BREDENBECK & RAJSICH

DEFEND NATIONAL SINGLES TITLES IN DENVER

By Steve Czarniecki | Photos by Ken Fife



**FLY ON THE WALL ...** Whatever sideline advice Coach Jim Winterton was whispering to National Singles Champions Rhonda Rajsich and Jake Bredenbeck seemed to work! The pair were victorious in Denver last May.



The 2015 U.S. National Singles Championship presented by Penn, Ektelon and Wilson, was held in the Denver suburb of Highlands Ranch and marked the first time that an adult national championship had been held in the Centennial State. With a more centralized location and economical travel costs, as well as new event amenities and everything Colorado has to offer, more than 325 players from around the country took part in the Mile-High spectacular.

An unseasonably soggy week reminded participants why it's sometimes good to play an indoor sport, but the rain didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm! The primary venue at the Highlands Ranch Recreation Center at Northridge offered ten glass-backwall courts and an open-air gymnasium that easily accommodated a spacious player village with great views of play. In all, the combination of first class venues with outstanding volunteer support made Colorado a wonderful host for this year's Championship.

The main events were the U.S. Team Qualifying divisions, which also saw increased entries from the previous year, and plenty of fan involvement. Whether on the sidelines in person, or at home, many enjoyed supporting their favorite players by viewing selected, hard-fought matches – thanks to USA Racquetball's new streaming partner, LiveStream. The platform, along with a growing group of volunteer "color commentators" who offered play-by-play coverage of the action, was a great addition.

A total of 19 hopefuls entered the Men's Division to compete for the National Singles title and a shot at qualifying for a position on the U.S. National Team. Defending champion Jake Bredenbeck made his way to the final after defeating Joel Barshaw, Jeff Stark, and local favorite Adam Manilla. In the bottom half, Marco Rojas got past Jordan Walters and fellow Stockton neighbors Jose Diaz and David Horn to reach the final. In the end, Bredenbeck defended his title with a 15-8, 15-11 victory over Rojas.

The Women's Team Qualifying division saw top seeds Rhonda Rajsich and Cheryl Gudinas advance to the finals with relative ease. In earlier semifinals, Rajsich had eliminated LPRT tour principal T.J. Baumbaugh, while Gudinas defeated Kimberly Thomas of Bay Village, Ohio. In the final, Rajsich came out on top in straight games of 15-7, 15-5, securing her eighth National Singles title and tying Gudinas for the most all time wins. With the victory, Rajsich again triple qualified for the U.S. National Team after having finished as the top American on the LPRT and earning National Doubles gold with partner Kim Russell-Waselenchuk.

Following the Championship matches, players and fans gathered at the revamped Hall of Fame Induction and Annual Awards party. The evening celebrated 2015 Hall of Fame inductee Sudsy Monchik (with gracious acceptance remarks delivered by Doug Ganim), and the six Annual Award recipients on hand were honored. Athletes of the year Jake Bredenbeck, Rhonda Rajsich, Jimmy Lowe and Cindy Tilbury, along with contributors Cheryl Kirk and Dan Whitley, joined players, fans, and special guests in enjoying dinner, drinks, and each other's company in a Rocky Mountain backdrop.

The 2016 National Singles Championships will return to greater Denver for what will be the last of a new three-event series that will identify the members of the U.S. National Team. Following the U.S. OPEN and a new Singles Team Qualifying Division at National Doubles, Singles will likely include even more great players and many exciting matches as National Team positions will be on the line. Join us May 25-29, 2016 in beautiful Colorado for great play and an even better time!



# To Us, The Ball Matters™



*"I love the Pro Penn Green ball. The fast crisp action off my racquet helped me win GOLD Medals at the 2011 Pan American Games and 2012 World Championships. No other brand compares to Penn!"*

**Paola Longoria**

*"All the Pro's on the IRT know that the Pro Penn HD ball is second to none. With today's lightweight racquets this is the only ball to play with. Its lightweight design and softer feel offers players of all levels the most comfortable experience on the court, even with shots exploding over 180 mph!"*

**Rocky Carson**

# 2015 U.S. NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

## RESULTS

### MEN'S U.S. TEAM QUALIFIER DIVISION

Champion: Jake Bredenbeck  
 Runner Up: Marco Rojas  
 Third Place: David Horn

### WOMEN'S U.S. TEAM QUALIFIER DIVISION

Champion: Rhonda Rajsich  
 Runner Up: Cheryl Gudinas  
 Third Place: Kimberly Thomas

MEN'S	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	MEN'S	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	WOMEN'S	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	JUNIORS	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP
Open	Thomas Carter	Arturo Burriel	25+ Elite	Alex Brown	Bryan Shaw	Open	Janet Tyler	Hannah Shnurman	Boys 18-	Thomas Riganti	Benjamin Hyman
24+	Robert Hemphill	Joel Barshaw	30+ Elite	Keith Sapp	John Starks	40+	Jennifer Dering	Mildred Gwinn	Boys 14-	Caleb Law	Carter Harbeck
25+	Derek Izzi	Nick Blanchard	40+ Elite	Mike Grisz	Rick Betts	45+	Sue Goodwin	CJ Herceg	Boys 10-	Benjamin Horner	Nathan Geiger
30+	Brent Walters	Jeremy Best	50+ Elite	Kevin Barlia	Jerry Ayers	50+	Laura Brandt	Cindy Tilbury	Girls 14-	Lily Caldwell	
35+	Raymond Maestas	Toby Devore	60+ Elite	Chris Poucher	Brent Johnson	55+	Cindy Tilbury	Janet Tyler	Girls 10-	Heather Mahoney	Ava Naworski
40+	Jeff Stark	Arturo Burriel	25+ A	C.J. Sanders	60+ A	60+	Terry Latham	Lilly Macintyre			
45+	Jimmy Lowe	Jeff Stark	30+ A	Bruce Evans	William Cooper	65+	Terry Rogers				
50+	Keith Minor	Jimmy Lowe	40+ A	Bruce Evans	Dennis Harris	70+	Mildred Gwinn				
55+	Mike Grisz	Jeff Wickers	50+ A	Glenn Carlson	75+	75+	Marquita Molina				
60+	Dave Azuma	Steve Joannes	60+ A	William Cooper	Elite	Elite	Sue Goodwin				
65+	Russ Montague	Joe Lee	70+ A	Kyle Smith	A	A	Laura Kirkpatrick				
70+	Robert Lattanzio	Gary Jones	24- B	Gregory Heinle	24- B	B	Emily Stanton				
75+	Gordon Kelly	Tom Schaber	25+ B	Scott Fish	Frank Senger	C	Heidi Bauer				
80+	Arthur Johnson	James Funk	30+ B	John Crowe	40+ B	D	Cheryl Keffeler				
Heroes Open/Elite	Troy Vanbemmelen	Paul Julbes	40+ B	Frank Senger	40+ B	25+ Elite	Cindy Burman				
Heroes 30+	David Shafer	Michael Welch	50+ B	Frank Senger	50+ B	50+ Elite	Debra Bryant	Louise Winter			
Heroes 40+	Billy Ray	Philip Eliana Jr.	60+ B	Bill Selke	60+ B	30+ A	Dragana Bulatovic				
Heroes 50+	Glenn Martineau	Richard Romero	70+ B	James Troutt	70+ B	40+ A	Nancy Davis				
Elite	Raymond Maestas	Dan Salamone	24- C	Braeden D'Almeida	24- C	50+ A	Cheryl Kirk				
A	Greg Beistle	Luis Villarreal	25+ C	Nick Ierardi	25+ C	60+ A	April Settell				
B	Josh Paul	Darren Ford	30+ C	Alfredo De La Torre	30+ C	70+ A	Marquita Molina				
C	Braeden D'Almeida	Don Lundberg	40+ C	Don Lundberg	40+ C	30+ C/D	Heidi Bauer				
D	Zach Brady	Larry Prince Jr.	50+ C	Michael D'Almeida	50+ C	50+ C/D	Cheryl Keffeler				
Heroes A	Albert Ortiz	Glenn Carlson	60+ C	Steven Helling	60+ C	60+ C/D	Irene Shere				
Heroes B	Mark Maldonado	Bill Bearden	70+ C	Mario Najera	70+ C						
<b>DOUBLES</b>	<b>CHAMPIONS</b>	<b>RUNNERS-UP</b>				<b>DOUBLES</b>	<b>CHAMPIONS</b>	<b>RUNNERS-UP</b>			
Men's Elite	Brian Pearson / Dan Salamone	Richie Asay / Steve Black				Men's Centurian B/C	Dennis Chandler / Hermann Li	Mario Najera / Michael Harter			
Men's A	Gary Durbin / Luis Villarreal	Daniel Kreuzer / Durrell McAdoo				Mixed A	Briana Jacquet / Eric Jacquet	Madeline Gauch / Thomas Riganti			
Men's B	Deven Naik / Richard Owens	David Nix / John Crowe				Mixed B/C	Emily Stanton / Kerry Rohweder	Cathy Law / Joe Law			
Men's C	Braeden D'Almeida / Michael D'Almeida	Eric Heinzen / Ethan Heinzen				Mixed Centurian A	Debra Bryant / Eric New	Aiaga Roffey / Edward Roffey			
Men's Centurian Open	Glen Bell / Mark Gilmore	Mark Baron / Ryan Rodgers				Mixed Centurian B/C	Ed Krest / Irene Shere	Bill Fearing / Taryn Boomgaard			
Men's Centurian A	Raymond Maestas / Ronald Maestas	Rock Carrion / Rico Southee									

For complete results visit <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=13213>

## 2015 U.S. NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Steve Czarnecki | All photos by Ken Fife

### Nation's Best Juniors SHOW OFF AT JUNIOR OLYMPICS

In late June, nearly 200 Juniors traveled to northern California for the 2015 U.S. National Junior Olympic Championships, presented by Penn and Ektelon. "Visit Stockton" organizers and an outstanding crew of local volunteers went all out in hosting the largest group of athletes to compete in the event since 2008. At the end of the week, champions Sam Bredenbeck and Lexi York took top junior singles honors with marquee wins in their respective 18 and under divisions.

Following family tradition, 19-year old Sam Bredenbeck, of Marine On St. Croix, Minnesota, earned his national championship crown in a two-game final, 15-11, 15-11, defeating Mauro (Daniel) Rojas. [Coincidentally the month before, both finalists' relatives had faced off in the adult National Singles final, where Jake Bredenbeck defeated Markie Rojas in straight games.] With his own national win, Sam, a rising sophomore at Buena Vista University, qualified for the U.S. National Junior Team for the fifth time. He also claimed double Gold Medals by winning the Boys 18 and under Doubles with partner (and USA Racquetball scholarship winner) Jake Birnel, 17, of Bellingham, Washington.

Lexi York, 18, of Milwaukie, Oregon, captured her first 18 and under singles crown, following a four-year winning streak at the U.S. National High School Champion-

Presented by



ships. She took a straight-game win over Brittany Click, 15-7, 15-10, for the singles title, then also doubled up on gold medals by winning the Girls 18 and under Doubles with partner Hollie Scott, 16, of Lynden, Washington. A recent graduate of La Salle Catholic College Preparatory High School, Lexi will attend Oregon State University in the fall.

Members of the U.S. National Junior and Esprit Teams have secured invitations to the International Racquetball Federation Junior World Championships to be held in November in Santo Domingo, capitol of the Dominican Republic. Additionally, members of the Junior National Team attended the Junior Training Camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs in August.

You can make a difference helping these young players realize the experience of a lifetime by supporting the TEAM USA Challenge. Through the Challenge, you can see your donation doubled and receive great premiums. Learn more at [www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/programs/team-usa/team-usa-challenge](http://www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/programs/team-usa/team-usa-challenge) (or see pg.5).

We are excited to bring the 2016 Championships to Fridley, Minnesota, just north of Minneapolis, so make plans now to join us in the Land of 10,000 Lakes for a great time with juniors and their families.



Lexi York prepares a winning forehand against Brittany Click in the Girls 18 and under final.

## 2015 JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

BOYS SINGLES		GIRLS SINGLES	
Champion	Runner-Up	Champion	Runner-Up
18 and Under	Sam Bredenbeck	Mauro (Daniel) Rojas	Lexi York
16 and Under	Jordan Barth	Mauro (Daniel) Rojas	Brittany Click
14 and Under	Akul Ramayani	Antonio Rojas	Erika Manilla
12 and Under	Antonio Rojas	Akul Ramayani	Jordan Cooperrider
10 and Under	Vedant Chauhan	Josh Shea	Briana Jacquet
10 and Under DB	Ariaan-Thor Ghatake	Ashton Akins	Kaitlyn Boyle
8 and Under	Joseph Marshall	Angel Galvan	Heather Mahoney
8 and Under MB	Bobby Singh	Angel Galvan	Heather Mahoney
6 and Under MB	Gael Trejo	Taij Singh	Kareena Mathew

BOYS DOUBLES		GIRLS DOUBLES	
Champion	Runner-Up	Champion	Runner-Up
18 and Under	Jake Birnel/Sam Bredenbeck	Kyle Ulliman/Thomas Carter	Hollie Scott/Lexi York
16 and Under	Kevin Vazquez/Wayne Antone	Jordan Barth/Justus Benson	Erika Manilla/Jordan Cooperrider
14 and Under	Julian Singh/Mitchell Turner	Brian Barberis/Nick Birnel	Briana Jacquet/Kaitlyn Boyle
12 and Under	James D'Ambrogia/Tommy Andraos	Andrew Gleason/Timmy Hansen	Heather Mahoney/Julia Stein
10 and Under	Vedant Chauhan/Josh Shea	Cody Elkins/Gatlin Sutherland	Sage Harman/Sarai Santana-Arechiga

MIXED DOUBLES	
Champion	Runner-Up
18 and Under	Nicholas Pavloski/Brittany Click
16 and Under	Lukas Le/Karina Quintanilla
14 and Under	Megan Carver/Nick Birnel
12 and Under	Rei McCormick/Roland Siverling

## 2015 JUNIOR ALL AMERICANS

Ace Akins	Elena Mathew
Ashton Akins	Kareena Mathew
Tommy Andraos	Rei McCormick
Wayne Antone	Ava Naworski
Brian Barberis	Jessica Naworski
Jordan Barth	Adriana Perez
Justis Benson	Estefania Perez
Jake Birnel	Andrea Perez-Picon
Nick Birnel	Kara Piepenbrink
Kaitlyn Boyle	Nikhil Prasad
Sam Bredenbeck	Karina Quintanilla
Camilo Canchola	Akul Ramayani
Thomas Carter	Haiden Rivera
Ashlyn Carver	Antonio Rojas
Nikita Chauhan	Mauro Rojas
Vedant Chauhan	Sarai Santana-Arechiga
Brittany Click	Audrey Schreiner
Jordan Cooperrider	Hollie Scott
James D'Ambrogia	Josh Shea
Elena Dent	Sonya Shetty
Cody Elkins	Bobby Singh
Owen Forsythe	Julian Singh
Angel Galvan	Taij Singh
Ariann-Thor Ghatake	Julia Stein
Andrew Gleason	Gatlin Sutherland
Alexander Gomez	Aanshi Thakur
Timmy Hansen	Krish Thakur
Raina Hartman	Sahil Thakur
Sage Hartman	Daniela Torres
Emily Hernandez	Gael Trejo
Kristine Holman	Leah Trejo
Briana Jacquet	Ethan Tu
Madison Kerzel	Mitchell Turner
Heather Mahoney	Kyle Ulliman
Erika Manilla	Kevin Vazquez
Caleb Marshall	Graciela Wargo
Joseph Marshall	Lexi York

# Eric Muller

KEEPS WINNING EDGE WITH THE IRT  
AND GOLDMAN, SACHS & CO.

By Jen Sinclair Johnson | Photo courtesy Goldman, Sachs & Co.

You wouldn't expect the road of a professional racquetball player to lead to merchant banking, but Eric Muller, the IRT's Chairman of the Board, has found that the two careers share a skill set that brought him to the helm of the men's pro tour and to being selected as a partner with Goldman, Sachs & Co. last November.

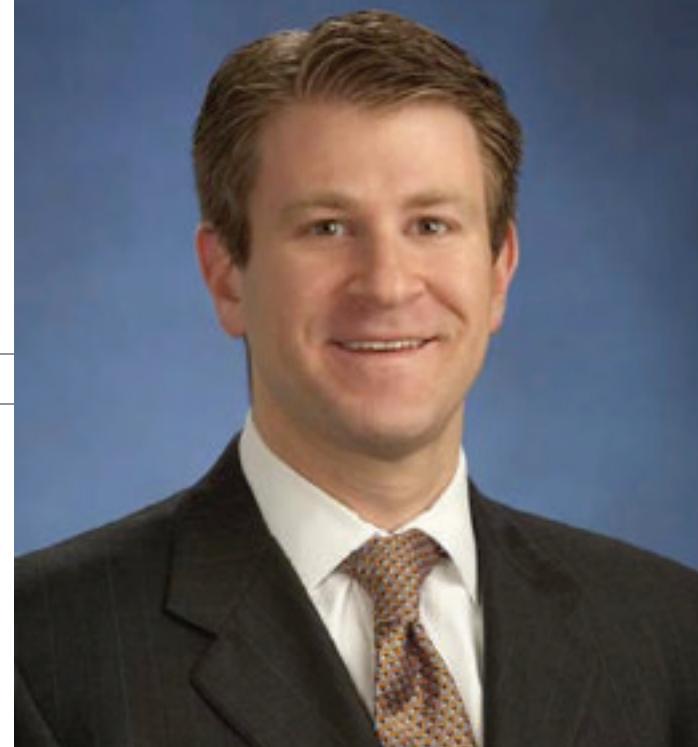
As a top junior player for many years, Muller earned a spot on the debut USA Racquetball Junior National Team in 1991 and later won the 1996 Intercollegiate Championships before taking the 1997 Tournament of Champions title (a precursor to today's Pan American Racquetball Championships). He went on to coach the USAR junior national team, and win the USAR National Doubles with John Ellis (1991 and 1993) and IRF World Doubles Championships twice, with Doug Ganim (1992) and John Ellis (1994).

Which was Muller's best win? The 3rd U.S. Open Racquetball Championships in 1998, when the student athlete resolved a scheduling conflict by sitting for a graduate school ethics exam in Memphis, Tennessee, where the sport's biggest tournament was held. After passing his test, he rushed over to make his quarterfinal match and defeated Mike Ray to claim a spot in the semifinals.

"I've definitely had some good wins over the years," Muller said, downplaying the fact he ranked as high as #12 on the pro tour while also earning a BSBA, summa cum laude, salutatorian, from Boston University in 1994; a JD (Juris Doctor) from Harvard Law School; and an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1999. What the degrees and accolades don't reveal is an easy affability and boyish good looks that don't fit a stereotypical image for the smartest guy in the room.

Truly a nice guy off of the court, Muller's demeanor has been described as "a bull" on the hardwood as he held his own against opponents. Muller competed in an era boasting seven current, former, and future #1 professionals, with a depth that included Cliff Swain, Sudsy Monchik, Andy Roberts, Jason Mannino, John Ellis, Ruben Gonzalez, and Drew Kachtik. Muller's game style was tenacious, fearless, and not intimidated by higher-ranked players. "No one liked to play Muller because he never walked onto the court defeated," explained IRT President, Jason Mannino, "He fought until the last point and used strategy, fitness, and his mental strength to maneuver the game into his favor."

Muller approaches his current career similarly, as a Managing Director in Goldman's Merchant Banking Division, where he helps lead the firm's efforts to provide debt capital on a principal basis, often for multi-billion dollar leverage buyouts. Like racquetball at the highest levels, winning in business often requires getting creative, being aggressive, and strategizing where to place time and attention. "A big part of my job is building trust and long-term



relationships," Muller said, adding that enabling his team is also critical to success. "No one does it alone."

In addition to a demanding day job, he advises the IRT team, helping to make major decisions, develop long-term strategy, and build material relationships along with now-tour Commissioner Jason Mannino, who focuses on the day-to-day. "Originally I'd planned on retiring when I turned forty," explained Mannino, who celebrated that milestone birthday this year. "The main reason I stopped playing early was for love of the game and for the chance to partner with Eric, a close friend who shares my passion for the sport and offers a business acumen I knew I could learn from."

Their corporate philosophy is built on a core tenet they employ. "We are clear who our constituents are — tournament directors, players, sponsors, and fans — and how decisions impact them," said Muller. "Every decision we make has an impact on these four groups, and we have to use our limited resources in the best way we can to benefit these parties. Sometimes interests conflict."

It's not always easy to manage opposing positions, but Muller is clear on the IRT's approach. "If we have a disagreement, we are upfront and unpack our thinking to explain why we're doing what we are. We pride ourselves on follow-through, and if we say we'll do something, we do. It changes perspectives and has served us well over time. We have a lot of places to improve and are cognizant of these things. But our #1 focus has been hosting a full season, which we've done over these five years." Muller's thoughtful, direct approach makes what could be an adversarial perspective understandable, especially as it clearly comes from someone who cares about racquetball, what he does for a living, and the people he works with.

For Muller, his role with the IRT has provided a great way to stay involved as the sport faces challenges. "There are a lot of things we can learn from other sports. I think racquetball's leadership isn't rowing in the same direction. Many of the various leaders in the sport have differing views on what is in racquetball's best interest. The sport would benefit from more broad-based buy-in to a common vision and strategic direction."



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The competitive edge and winning spirit that Muller has devoted to racquetball since his playing days has found an outlet in his career at Goldman, Sachs & Co. The kind of quiet confidence and strategic thinking that allowed him to ace an exam just before his biggest win on the court has also propelled Muller to the upper echelons of Wall Street and IRT leadership. It's why he loves his job, and it's how he continues to give back to racquetball.



*With a degree in communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Jen worked in financial marketing until pursuing freelance writing for newspapers and magazines, including a gardening column for three local and one state-wide newspaper. After discovering racquetball at her local YMCA, she quickly became a certified instructor, racquetball director, and tournament regular. She's now finalizing her first novel: a mystery set within the quirky communities of her favorite sport and luxury taxidermy, making sense of the world by finding humor and beauty in how ordinary life is not.*



# 2014-15 SEASON RECAP

Athletes Ready to Start Fresh in the Fall

By T. J. Baumbaugh

**T**he end of the 2014-15 season was busy for players who competed in the final four events in April and May. And when it was over and the final rankings were set, Paola Longoria had captured the #1 position for the sixth time and - in only her second full year on tour - Maria Jose Vargas locked up the #2 spot.

The first of the series started in Glendale, Arizona, with a LPRT satellite. The "Final Battle" of Arizona WOR (World Outdoor Racquetball) was won by two-time scholarship winner Michelle Key, who defeated seven challengers in a round robin pro division.

Heading north for the Mile High Pro/Am, players enjoyed the sights and downtown shops surrounding the Denver Athletic Club, where Debbie Beldring and all of the sponsors offered outstanding hospitality at this first class event.

Playing at altitude didn't faze top-ranked Longoria as she swept the pro singles draw without dropping a game, defeating #2 ranked Vargas in a pretty straightforward final. Earlier on, the most exciting match of the tournament was the upset by #6 ranked Cristina Amaya, who fought hard for over two hours to take out #3 ranked Rhonda Rajsich in the round of 16.

Meanwhile, two future LPRT stars, juniors Erika Manilla and Jordan Cooperrider, had tested their skills against top players Veronica Sotomayor and Susy Acosta. The veterans came out on top in three games each, but the fans got a preview of some great new talent.

Next, tour athletes traveled to San Antonio, Texas for "The Battle at the Alamo," where hosts Mike Cantu and the Alamo City Racquetball Association pulled together a huge event with an even bigger crowd. There, Longoria and Vargas met in the singles final, which went to Longoria in four games.

## Ashaway Features Top Names At US OPEN

**R**acquetball legend turned coach Cliff Swain, along with other Ashaway sponsored players like Maria Jose Vargas, will host a clinic with live training drills, strategies for pros and amateurs, and exhibition matches at the United HealthCare US Open Racquetball Championships.

After a stellar pro tour career, Hall of Famer Cliff Swain retired from the IRT after the 2006-07 season - but he might still be the busiest guy in racquetball. He's remained active in doubles and outdoor play; coaches top players like Maria Jose Vargas, Jose Rojas, and Coby Iwaasa; manufactures and markets his own Cliff Swain Signature Series racquet; and hosts clinics and training seminars nationwide.

Now Cliff has a new job as National Racquetball Coach and Training Coordinator for Life Time Fitness, based at the St. Louis Park facility, where he will be coaching at the local and national levels as well as conducting remote video analysis for Life Time Fitness members anywhere in the world. Cliff swears by "the red string," Ashaway's PowerKill® 17. "Lots of people have seen me using it and now are switching," he said. "We're seeing the red string all over, especially here in Minnesota, and I'm stringing it in every Cliff Swain Signature racquet."

Also sponsored by Ashaway, Bolivian-born Maria Jose Vargas switched to the red PowerKill 17 before the 2014 US Open, where she finished runner-up. Since then Maria has been on a tear and captured two championship victories on tour, one at the 2014 Christmas Classic and the other at the 2015 New Jersey Open, improving her ranking from #3 last season to #2 currently.

And while Longoria and partner Samantha Salas Solis won the doubles final by default, the matches that truly pushed fans to the edge of their bleacher seats had been earlier ones on the opposite side of the draw. In the quarterfinals, Michelle Key and Frederique Lambert edged out Sheryl Lotts and Kim Thomas in an 11-10 tiebreaker. In the semifinals, Key/Lambert repeated with an upset over Rhonda Rajsich and Maria Jose Vargas in another 11-10 tie-breaker. Unfortunately, due to a flight cancellation, Key/Lambert were unable to play the final, handing the win to Longoria/Salas.

Shifting to the east coast, the LPRT Pro Nationals, presented by Ektelon, was held in Herndon, Virginia, to cap the season. To cement the rankings, Paola Longoria won the pro singles division and held the top spot by a convincing point margin. Despite



losing to #3 Rhonda Rajsich in a straight-game semifinal, Maria Jose Vargas held her season-ending #2 position, followed by the next five players holding steady in their spots. The roster playoff for the U.S. National Team proved to be exciting right to the end. Although Rajsich's appointment was secure, the battle for the next spot saw #7 Michelle Key edge out #10 Cheryl Gudinas in a 2-1/2 hour, 5-game, 12-10 tiebreaker to clinch the U.S. Team spot.

In pro doubles action, the team of Paola Longoria and Samantha Salas finished the season as the top-ranked doubles players, after defeating Michelle Key and Frederique Lambert in a hard-hitting final.

The LPRT Scholarship Program also ended its second year and, to get an idea just how things are going, here's what some of those scholarship winners had to say:

#### **Sofia Rascon**

This season was interesting for me. I struggled a lot in the beginning, while also studying at the University, but I wanted to be in the top-10 by the end of this season. So I tried my best to get that goal.

I definitely learned so much, and like everything, there are nice parts and other parts not nice at all. Of course I had fun playing the sport I like, traveling almost every month and meeting people from everywhere that love racquetball like me. I had failures, but I really want to keep pushing myself. If this were an easy thing, everyone could do it. I learned a lot from my mistakes, and now I



Cristina Amaya  
Photo by John Foust

know that I want to be part of the top-5 next season, (so) I'm training for that. Racquetball and being part of the LPRT is a challenge, and a lot of brave women take this challenge.

I think every event is special and each person that is running the tournaments do their best to make it happen, and for that I am grateful. I have to say that in this past season there were new events like the one in San Luis Potosi - the "Paola Longoria, The Experience" - was an unbelievable show, with a big crowd and nice people. Another new one was in Denver, I really like the city, and the club was just across the street from the hotel. I hope there are going to be new cities to play racquetball the next season.

I have to say, it's because of the LPRT Scholarship program that I can be in the top-10 right now. It really helped me a lot to keep pushing myself, to try to get better in every event, and it's a program that helped a lot of us. Learning, traveling, it's such a great thing, and I'm so thankful for that. Muchas gracias LPRT Scholarship program!



Rhonda Rajsich shoots away from Maria Jose Vargas. | Photos by Ken Fife



Michelle Key winds up against Sheryl Lotts. | Photos by Ken Fife

### Michelle Key

My first time playing in a LPRT event I was incredibly nervous but also really excited! It was a great experience, and I enjoyed it so much, I chose to participate in more. Playing at the events now, I don't get nervous like I used to.

I set goals for myself for my first season on tour, but they were very ambitious. This next season I'm excited to have more realistic goals, and I know what it takes to obtain them. I have learned and gained a lot playing on tour. I'm really happy to have made friends with a lot of the girls, and I look forward to seeing everyone at all the tournaments. Mostly, I learned what it takes to play on tour for a full season ... and it's a lot. There's a lot of travel and time demands, as well as the adjustment of the tournament style. It's very intense, but only during concentrated periods of time. It can also be very frustrating until you are able to find balance with all the adjustments.

Traveling to Mexico was a lot of fun! The tickets tend to be a lot more expensive, but the experience was worth it. There are a lot more elements when traveling to other countries, but the tournament really helps to accommodate the players. I love to travel to new places, and being able to compete in Mexico is incredible. The people and the culture are amazing! They love racquetball, and it's a really big deal there so you get treated really nicely. They do a really great job and go to a lot of work to make everything extraordinary, which is greatly appreciated.

There are a lot of LPRT tournaments that I really enjoy. The work that goes into getting a pro stop together is extensive, and each and every place we go has its own special distinctions. If I had to choose a favorite, it would most likely be San Antonio, mainly because of the people. They do such a great job, and I'm able to have a lot of things that mean a lot to me outside of the event. I also really like the tournament in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, held in conjunction with the state fair which made it unique, but besides that I was able to be with my family and a lot of people I care about. LPRT events are all great, and as players we can really tell when tournament directors do their best to make it special and really memorable.

### Maria Renee Rodriguez

Thanks to the LPRT Scholarship, I was able to do many of the things that I love the most in this world, playing racquetball, traveling, trying different foods, and meeting people from different countries and cultures.

I start getting nervous for an event when I get Andy's email with the draw (which is usually two days before the tournament!). I wanted to make a quarterfinal by the end of the season, but I missed the last pro stops because of a shoulder injury. I also wanted to finish at a specific spot in the rankings, but the competition is really tough. There are so many great players on the tour that it is a real challenge. However, every tournament you get another chance, you learn a little more about yourself, about the other players, and about what you need to do to get to where you want to be. I learned that putting in a lot of work in the gym can really improve your game, or at least that's what happened to me. Next season, I want to keep training hard on my strength, speed, and footwork.

Traveling in the US and Mexico is awesome. We are not just traveling for tournaments, we are traveling as pro athletes. It's still unbelievable for me, sometimes, to say I got a chance at participating at the highest level of the sport that I love, a dream come true without a doubt.

I had so much fun all season, but every tournament has its own special thing. The Grand Slams in Mexico impressed me the most ... the lights, music, and food for the athletes in the glass court, plus the amazing dinner, and all the coverage makes it really special. When we went to San Luis Potosí, I stayed with Sofía Rascon and her aunts for a couple of days. We went to a breakfast one morning and they interviewed Sofia, Frederique and me, and the next day, listening to the radio, I heard my own interview. It was the opportunity of a lifetime. I don't have enough words to thank the ones that make the LPRT Scholarship possible.

### Sheryl Lotts

I am so grateful for the LPRT scholarship this year! I wouldn't have been able to travel to all of the events otherwise. I am happy with the end of my first full time season on the LPRT and am continuing to set high goals for myself for the future! It is very difficult traveling, training, working a full time job, and being away from home, but I learned a lot from this past season, such as taking rest time, keeping a balanced schedule, and continuing to be happy and love what I do. I think with this I will be very happy with my results after next season! It's always fun to travel to different countries and experience different lifestyles. My favorite tournament was in Arlington because the people are so great, and my entire family is always able to come support me. Thank you to everyone for this wonderful opportunity, and I hope to continue to achieve big things in this great sport!

If you want to support the LPRT Scholarship Fund, you can make a tax deductible donation to the Reaching Your Dream Foundation [reachingyourdreamfoundation.org](http://reachingyourdreamfoundation.org). If you missed any of the LPRT's great matches LIVE!, you can still check them out in our archives at <http://new.livestream.com/lprt>. Don't want to miss the latest LPRT action and live-streamed matches in the future? Stay in the know by checking out our website at [lptour.com](http://lptour.com) and follow us on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/lptour](http://facebook.com/lptour).



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# 2015 PAN AMERICAN GAMES

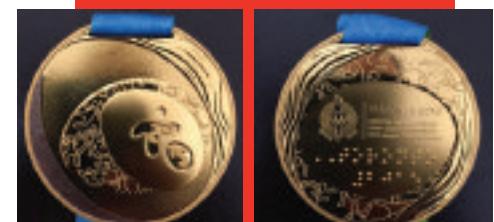
Article & Photos by Cheryl Kirk



Top: Team (standing L-R): Kim Waselenchuk, Dave Ellis, RO Carson, Jansen Allen, Michelle Key, Brent Huff, Rhonda Rajsich, Cheryl Kirk. Kneeling: Jake Bredenbeck, José Rojas, Rocky Carson.



Expert IRF Technical Staff | Standing L-R: Walter Capandegui, Osvaldo Maggi; Seated: Mauro Grandio, Pablo Berriel; Not shown: Francisco Kurzbarb



**T**he Pan American Games are racquetball's most prestigious international competition. Established by the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO), the inaugural Games were held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1951 and it remains a major quadrennial sporting event in the Americas today. And the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto exceeded all expectations.

Earlier in the year, 16 countries competed in the Pan American Racquetball Championships (PARC) in the Dominican Republic, where 12 qualified to compete in Toronto: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, United States, and Venezuela. In total, 54 racquetball athletes made the journey to Toronto.

On arrival, they were escorted to a zoned Athletes' Village. In full service to the athletes and delegates, the Residential Zone was impressive in offering an Internet Cafe, lounge and meeting facilities, free-of-charge beverages via many conveniently placed coolers, concierge service, self-service laundry, Main Dining Hall (no charge), a multi-faith center, a polyclinic, transportation to competition venues, relaxation lounges and game rooms, a 24-hour fitness center, and an 18-acre park.

It was a thrill to enter Hall C of the Exhibition Centre, Canada's largest facility for conventions, exhibitions and events, to be greeted by brand new portable racquetball courts that were primed to see their first action – ever! There was one all-glass show court as well as three match courts with panel walls and glass backs. Bleachers stretched across the back of the match courts and along the sides and back of the show court.

Pan Am Games Racquetball was actually three events in one, featuring two phases of individual competition followed by the team competition.

Individually, Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles athletes were seeded into pool play groups based on their performance at PARC. Coming out of pool play, they were then seeded according to their finishes and positioned in a single elimination bracket to seek a spot on the medal platform.

Directly after the last finals match, tiered medal stands were brought onto the main court, flags and medals were readied, and the individual medals ceremony commenced. Each of the four divisions was celebrated individually with processions onto the court. First it was women's singles (Paola Longoria, gold medalist), then men's singles (Rocky Carson, gold medalist), followed by women's doubles (Paola Longoria/Samantha Salas, gold medalists) and men's doubles (José Rojas/Jansen Allen, gold medalists). The national anthems of the winners were played, and there was considerable media presence – paparazzi everywhere!

In successfully defending his Pan Am Games Gold Medal from 2011, Rocky Carson became the first man in Singles to win back-to-back Games. His two Pan Am Singles Gold Medals, combined with a record four World Championship titles, make him the most decorated man in the history of international racquetball.

Pan Am Games bank sponsor, CIBC, hosted a Victory Celebration every evening at 7:00 pm for medal winners. After collecting their medals, Kim, José, and Rocky attended and had a wonderful time being celebrated by several thousand fans as well as Pachi, the Pan Am Games mascot.

Returning to the courts for the Team Competition, teams were composed of two, three, or four players, depending upon the number of spots the country had secured at the earlier qualifier in Santo Domingo. Seeding was determined by the combined results of each country's players in both phases of the individual medal rounds.

# THE COURTS IN TORONTO...



Team competition was single elimination, as each team's roster players went head-to-head (SglS#1 vs. SglS#1, #2 vs. #2, Dbls vs. Dbls). Random order of the three playoffs was applied, and if either country reached 2-0 against its opponent country, the third match was not played. The best-of-three winner of each match-up advanced, until Mexico had marched to the top of both the men's and women's brackets.

Coach Ellis observed, "We were in the finals of both the men's and women's team competition. In both divisions, our singles players lost, so our doubles teams never got the chance to get on the court. The U.S. ended up with two silver medals in the team competition. Each and every player in our delegation is admired for the dedication they bring to our sport. It sounds really glamorous being here, but actually it is the result of countless hours of training both on and off the court. My gratitude goes out to each member of the team."

An estimated 37,000 people were on hand to view the closing ceremonies show with Kanye West, Pitbull, and Serena Ryder at the Rogers Centre (home to the Toronto Blue Jays). The two-hour extravaganza featured a light show, fireworks, videos, dancers, and the Hamilton Children's Choir. A highlight of the ceremony was the passing of the PASO flag from the mayor of Toronto to the mayor of Lima, Peru, the site of the 2019 Pan American Games.

Already planning to be on that lineup, the US Team anticipates more great support. "As Coach, I'm truly indebted to our staff," remarked Coach Ellis, "Cheryl Kirk is our Team Leader and she brings years of organizational experience that makes everyone's trip run smoothly. Brent Huff was there for the players throughout the day, giving countless treatments and massages. R.O. Carson was on hand for all of the matches, simply wracking his brain to find any little thing that would give our players even the smallest advantage. Thanks so much to you three dedicated people. I am proud of my role as National Team Coach and the experience of working with our country's top players."

...**were made in Germany** (all except the panels on the match courts), and once they hit the mainland of Canada they were transported in four tractor-trailers. It took Brian Valin (contractor) and fourteen men two weeks, 7 days a week, 16 hours a day, to complete the construction.

**A fun fact about the show court:** before the floor was laid down, an IRF coin and a Canadian loonie (one dollar coin) were placed underneath. Once the court floor came back up, both pieces were retrieved to be put on a plaque commemorating racquetball's participation in Toronto 2015.

**These courts are Toronto 2015's legacy to Racquetball Canada.** After the venue closed on July 26, Brian and his crew had four short days to dismantle and pack up the courts for their trip to Regina, Saskatchewan, where they will be set up again, this time in a more permanent location to serve as a racquetball training facility.

## Behind the Scenes

A 24-person team of international referees and staff supported racquetball and the athletes, including Americans Gustavo Farell, Bronc Hughes, Gary Mazaroff, and JoAnna Reyes. We thank everyone, both U.S. and international, who traveled to provide a first-class experience to athletes and spectators alike.

Ecuador and Mexico were fortunate for the support of Sudsy Monchik and Fran Davis, respectively. It was great to see them there working for the sport and enjoying the experience.

Routinely at IRF events, Tim Baghurst, was on re-assignment with the World Anti-Doping Agency Outreach Team, providing doping education and awareness to athletes, coaches, and other support personnel.

Keith Calkins, IRF President Emeritus and Past President of USAR, celebrated his birthday in Toronto, while Luke St. Onge, Secretary General of the IRF, did a great job of supporting all of the delegations.

USA Racquetball's Executive Director Steve Czarnecki was on hand with Team USA, snapping lots of photos during team competition.

It was so great to have family members in Toronto to support Team USA – thanks to the Allens, Bredenbecks, Carsons, Russells, and Schneiders for making the trip!

## In Gratitude

*The US Team Delegation appreciates everyone who made this event so truly memorable:*

Volunteers, 23,000 strong and fabulous! They were all friendly, respectful, and they took their jobs very seriously to make the Games successful.

# Medal Counts by Country

National Olympic Committees (NOCs) consider medal counts extremely important as a measurement of their countries' success at major sporting events such as this one. To the individual sports themselves, earning medals demonstrates the value they bring their NOCs and is a major criterion for how much financial support they and their athletes receive.

## Pan Am Games – Final Medal Counts – Total (Gold)

1 USA 265 (103)	3 Brazil 141 (41)	5 Colombia 72 (27)
2 Canada 217 (78)	4 Cuba 97 (36)	6 Mexico 95 (22)

# RESULTS

## Racquetball at the Pan American Games

### INDIVIDUAL

#### Women's Singles

Gold – Paola Longoria (Mexico)  
Silver – Maria Jose Vargas (Argentina)  
Bronze – Rhonda Rajsich (USA)  
Bronze – Veronica Sotomayor (Ecuador)

#### Men's Singles

Gold – Rocky Carson (USA)  
Silver – Alvaro Beltran (Mexico)  
Bronze – Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico)  
Bronze – Conrrado Moscoso (Bolivia)

#### Women's Doubles

Gold – Paola Longoria/Samantha Salas (Mexico)  
Silver – Maria Jose Vargas/Veronique Guillemette (Argentina)  
Bronze – Rhonda Rajsich/Kim Russell-Waselenchuk (USA)  
Bronze – Veronica Sotomayor/Maria Paz Muñoz (Ecuador)

#### Men's Doubles

Gold – Jansen Allen/José Rojas (USA)  
Silver – Conrrado Moscoso/Roland Keller (Bolivia)  
Bronze – Alvaro Beltran/Javier Moreno (Mexico)  
Bronze – Vincent Gagnon/Tim Landeryou (Canada)

### TEAM

#### Women's Team

Gold – Mexico  
Silver – USA  
Bronze – Canada  
Bronze – Ecuador

#### Men's Team

Gold – Mexico  
Silver – USA  
Bronze – Bolivia  
Bronze – Canada

# Pan Am Games FACTS

36 Sports      52 Disciplines      364 Medal events

6135 Athletes      29 Competition Venues      20 Competition days

Opening Ceremony July 10, 2015 • Closing Ceremony July 26, 2015

Organized by the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO), the Pan American Games are a major sporting event in the Americas held every four years in the year before the Summer Olympic Games. The inaugural Games were held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1951. More than 6,000 athletes competed in the 36 sports contested at the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto, Canada. Pictured at right: Jansen Allen at Opening Ceremonies!



### STAFF

RO Carson (CA) – Assistant Coach  
Cheryl Kirk (IL) – Team Leader  
Dave Ellis (CA) – Head Coach  
Brent Huff (IL) – Athletic Trainer

continued - In Gratitude - from page 17

The USOC staff had been in Toronto a solid month ahead of time, but they seemed as fresh as if they had just arrived. Every question or request was met with good humor and immediate action. We all thought they needed buttons reading "Yes! Now, what's the question?" since they truly embodied the concept. Thanks to Linda Addington, Nancy Gonsalves, Lynn Wentland, A.J. Turkovich, Tony Olivieri, Sheri Escher, Tammie Forster, Rebecca Crawford, Jennifer Geisheker, and many others.

Rafael Fernandez, President of PARC, for his efforts on behalf of the delegations

The IRF/PARC tournament staff: IRF President Osvaldo Maggi, Drawmaster Francisco Kurzbard, Pablo Berriel, Walter Capandegui, and Mauro Grandio

The 20 referees from Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Canada, Costa Rica, and USA who traveled to add professionalism to the sport's officiating

Jack McBride, Jan Hanson, Racquetball Canada, and Racquetball Ontario for their promotions work and venue operations

Jonathan and Carolyn Clay of Rollout Racquetball for being the Official Apparel Sponsor for USA Racquetball and the US Team

And, of course, Coach Dave Ellis, who puts his heart into coaching the team. His record of five winning IRF World Championships as well as many other key events has made impact on the past, present, and future of the sport.



Leo Vasquez who dropped everything to post blogs and photos!

Cheerleaders through all the highs and lows. It's so great to have family and friends close at hand as well as supporting from afar!

Great Job, Team USA ...you represented your country's racquetball community very well indeed!



# EXTREME PASSION

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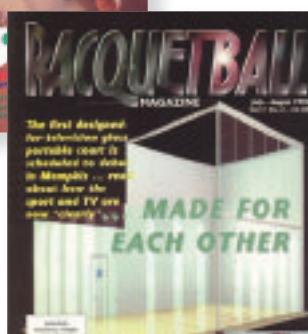
[pennracquet.com](http://pennracquet.com)



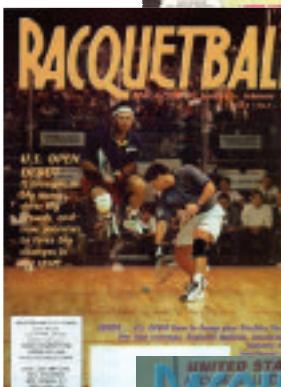
# ALL-TIME RECORD BOOK OF CHAMPIONS



In 1996, a Swain vs. Monchik debut final was predicted, and plans for the groundbreaking glass exhibition court were unveiled.



The breakthrough semi-final win by Andy Roberts over Mike Guidry yielded the best action photo of the bracket



A year later, in 1997, the highly anticipated final saw Swain upset defending champ Monchik. Michelle Gould retained her title over challenger Jackie Paraiso.



## PROFESSIONAL TOUR CHAMPIONS

### IRT MEN

2014	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2013	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2012	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2011	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2010	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2009	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2008	Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
2007	Rocky Carson (Calif.)
2006	Jason Mannino (Calif.)
2005	Kane Waselenchuk (Can.)
2004	Kane Waselenchuk (Can.)
2003	Kane Waselenchuk (Can.)
2002	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)
2001	Cliff Swain (Mass.)
2000	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)
1999	Jason Mannino (Calif.)
1998	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)
1997	Cliff Swain (Mass.)
1996	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)

### IRT Men's Pro Doubles

2014	Ben Croft (III.) / Kane Waselenchuk (Texas)
------	---

### LPRT Women's Pro Doubles

2014	Paola Longoria (Mexico) / Veronica Sotomayor (Ecuador)
------	--

## USA RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONS

### Men's Open

2014	Coby Iwaasa (Canada)
2013	Andres Parrilla (Mexico)
2012	Carlos Keller Vargas (Bolivia)
2011	Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico)
2010	Vincent Gagnon (Canada)
2009	Vincent Gagnon (Canada)
2008	Gilberto Mejia (Calif.)
2007	Alejandro Landa (Texas)
2006	Gil De Los Rios (Mo.)
2005	Gilberto Mejia (Calif.)
2004	Agustin Tristan (Mex.)
2003	Polo Gutierrez (Mex.)
2002	Josh Tucker (Mo.)
2001	Jack Huczak (Mich.)
2000	Jack Huczak (Mich.)
1999	Jack Huczak (Mich.)
1998	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)
1997	Aaron Embry (Calif.)
1996	Joel Bonnett (Mich.)

### Age Divisions

#### Men's 24-

2014	Cristian Chavez (Ecuador)
2013	Andrés Gómez (Colombia)
2012	Sebastian Franco (Colombia)
2011	Joel Barshaw (Oregon)
2010	Roland Keller (Bolivia)
2009	Alex Ackerman (Texas)
2008	Jansen Allen (Texas)
2007	Chris Coy (Okla.)
2006	Armando Lando (Texas)
2005	Charles Pratt (Ore.)
2004	Alejandro Herrera (Fla.)
2003	Travis Woodbury (Va.)
2002	Ben Croft (III.)
2001	Mitch Williams (N.C.)
2000	Andy Hawthorne (III.)
1999	Jack Huczak (Mich.)
1998	Jeff Bloom (Texas)
1997	Jeff Bloom (Texas)
1996	Rocky Carson (Calif.)

#### Men's 25+

2014	Andrew Gale (Utah)
2013	Dennis Myers (N.C.)
2012	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)
2011	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)
2010	Bryan Crosser (Iowa)
2009	Francisco Gomez (Colombia)

### LPRT WOMEN

2008	Paola Longoria (Mex.)
2007	Paola Longoria (Mex.)
2006	Paola Longoria (Mex.)
2005	Paola Longoria (Mex.)
2004	Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
2003	Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
2002	Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
2001	Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
2000	Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
1999	Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
1998	Christie Van Hees (Can.)
1997	Christie Van Hees (Can.)
1996	Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)

#### Men's 30+

2014	John Goth (Minn.)
2013	John Goth (Minn.)
2012	John Goth (Minn.)
2011	John Goth (Minn.)
2010	Kevin List (Fla.)
2009	Andres Ramirez (Fla.)
2008	Dale Valentine (Calif.)
2007	Cary Slade (III.)
2006	Andy Gross (Ga.)
2005	Aaron Metcalf (Fla.)
2004	Brian Fredenberg (Texas)
2003	Eric Williams (N.C.)
2002	Brian Fredenberg (Texas)
2001	Dale Valentine (Calif.)
2000	Kevin Graham (Wis.)

1999	Jim Minkel (Texas)
1998	Lance Gilliam (Texas)
1997	Dan Llacer (Del.)
1996	John Amatulli (Ind.)

#### Men's 35+

2014	Aaron Granberg (Minn.)
2013	Aaron Metcalf (Fla.)
2012	Aaron Granberg (Minn.)
2011	Wesley Miller (Fla.)
2010	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)
2009	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)
2008	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)
2007	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)
2006	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)
2005	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)
2004	Chris Wright (Mo.)
2003	Jimmy Lowe (Alaska)
2002	Jim Minkel (Texas)
2001	Jim Minkel (Texas)
2000	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)
1999	Tim Hansen (Fla.)
1998	Dave Watson (Okla.)
1997	Mitch Smith (Pa.)
1996	Marty Hogan (Mo.)

#### Men's 40+ CPRT (est.2006)

2014	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)
2013	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)
2012	Woody Clouse (Colo.)
2011	Woody Clouse (Colo.)
2010	Woody Clouse (Colo.)
2009	Woody Clouse (Colo.)
2008	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)
2007	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)
2006	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)
2005	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)
2004	Scott Cullins (Ga.)
2003	Jimmy Lowe (Alaska)
2002	Scott Cullins (Ga.)
2001	Tim Hansen (Fla.)
2000	Tim Hansen (Fla.)
1999	Jeff Hanno (N.Y.)
1998	Steve Wattz (Calif.)
1997	Terry Fluharty (Fla.)
1996	Mitt Layton (Fla.)

#### Women's 40+

2014	Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
2013	Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
2012	No division
2011	Cindy Conine (Fla.)
2010	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2009	No division
2008	Kelly Beane (N.H.)
2007	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2006	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2005	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2004	Anita Maldonado (N.Y.)
2003	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2002	Kim Machiran (Mo.)
2001	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2000	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1999	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1998	Linda Moore (Neb.)
1997	Linda Moore (Neb.)
1996	Linda Moore (Neb.)

#### Women's 30+

2014	No division
2013	Carolyn Peddle (Can.)
2012	Shannon Feaster (Md.)
2011	Shannon Feaster (Md.)
2010	Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)
2009	T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
2008	Debra Bryant (N.C.)
2007	Mukou Youki (Japan)
2006	Michelle Wiragh (Md.)
2005	Michelle Wiragh (Md.)

2004	No division
2003	No division
2002	No division
2001	No division
2000	No division

#### Women's 35+

2014	T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
2013	Vallana Perrault (Minn.)
2012	Bernadette Zimmerman (Texas)
2011	T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
2010	No division

#### Women's 40+

2014	Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
2013	Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
2012	No division
2011	Cindy Conine (Fla.)
2010	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)

#### Women's 25+

2014	No division
2013	Youngock Lee (Korea)
2012	Emily Coonse (Idaho)
2011	No division
2010	Sarah Warhaftig (Colo.)

2009	No division
2008	No division
2007	No division
2006	No division
2005	No division

#### Women's 24-

2014	Susana Acosta (Mexico)
2013	Maiko Sato (Japan)
2012	Veronica Sotomayor (Calif.)
2011	Frederique Lambert (Canada)
2010	Nancy Enriquez (Mexico)

2009	Krystal Csuk (III.)
2008	Veronica Sotomayor (Calif.)
2007	Jen Saunders (Canada)
2006	Diane Moore (Ind.)
2005	Adrienne Fisher (Ala.)

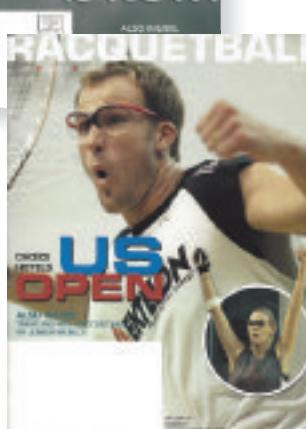
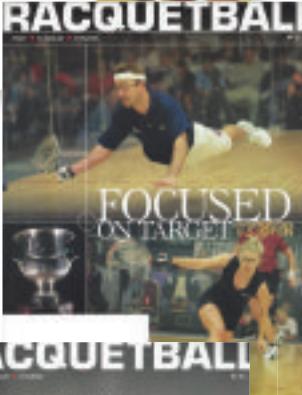
2004	Angela Grisar (Chile)
2003	Brenda Kyzer (S.C.)
2002	

Men's 45+		Women's 45+		
2014	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)	1998	Lee Graff (Ore.)
2013	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)	1997	Jerry Stoltmann (Wis.)
2012	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)	1996	Jay Krevsky (Pa.)
2011	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	Laura Fenton (Calif.)		
2010	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Anita Maldonado (N.Y.)		<b>Men's 65+</b>
2009	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Laura Brandt (Fla.)	2012	Gregory Hasty (III.)
2008	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)	2011	Jeff Leon (Panama)
2007	Scott Cullins (Ga.)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)	2010	Donald Gunderson (Wis.)
2006	Scott Cullins (Ga.)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2009	Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)
2005	Richard Mordachini (Miss.)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2008	Mitch Milewski (N.H.)
2004	Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Texas)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2007	Patrick Taylor (III.)
2003	Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Texas)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2006	Patrick Taylor (III.)
2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2005	Leland Rients (Minn.)
2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Meena Evans (N.C.)	2004	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)	2003	Rex Lawler (Ind.)
1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Meena Evans (N.C.)	2002	Lee Graff (Ore.)
1998	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)	2001	David Lund (Mich.)
1997	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Shelley Ogden (Ohio)	2000	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
1996	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Janet Myers (N.C.)	1999	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
Men's 50+		Women's 50+		
2014	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Laura Fenton Kovanda (Ohio)	1996	J.D. Driver (Mich.)
2013	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Janice Kennedy (Ga.)		<b>Men's 70+</b>
2012	Richard Eisemann (Texas)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)	2012	Gordon Kelly (Fla.)
2011	Ivan Sanchez (Texas)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)	2011	David Zabinski (Minn.)
2010	Daniel Pischke (Wash.)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2010	David Zabinski (Minn.)
2009	Edward Fink (Texas)	Kelly Kirk (Minn.)	2009	Howard Nellor (Fla.)
2008	Glenn Bell (Texas)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2008	Dave Lund (Mich.)
2007	Patrick Gibson (Texas)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2007	Lee Graff (Ore.)
2006	Thomas Travers (Fla.)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2006	Dave Lund (Mich.)
2005	Greg Campbell (Ore.)	Marsha Berry (Ky.)	2005	Paul Banales (Ariz.)
2004	Howard Walker (Texas)	Janet Myers (N.C.)	2004	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2003	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Marsha Berry (Ky.)	2003	Don Alt (Ohio)
2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)	2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Nancy Kronenfeld (III.)	2001	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Sharon Huczak (Mich.)	2000	John O'Donnell (III.)
1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Shelley Ogden (Ohio)	1999	John O'Donnell (III.)
1998	Rick Fusari (Fla.)	Sharon Huczak (Mich.)	1998	Joe Lambert (Texas)
1997	Rick Fusari (Fla.)	Margaret Hoff (III.)	1997	Joe Lambert (Texas)
1996	Ed Remen (Va.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)	1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
Men's 55+		Women's 55+		
2014	Wes Snead (N.C.)	Debra Tisinger Moore (Calif.)	2012	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2013	Ivan Sanchez (Texas)	Debra Tisinger Moore (Calif.)	2011	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2012	Mike Grisz (Texas)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2010	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2011	Mark Gilmore (Texas)	Jill Mitchell (Calif.)	2009	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2010	Jim Luzar (Wis.)	Elaine Dexter (Calif.)	2008	John O'Donnell (III.)
2009	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)	2007	John O'Donnell (III.)
2008	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)	2006	Fred Wiegand (Texas)
2007	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Terry Rogers (Calif.)	2005	John O'Donnell Jr. (III.)
2006	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Janet Myers (N.C.)	2004	Robert Miller (S.C.)
2005	R.E. Montague (Pa.)	Susan Kieffer (Minn.)	2003	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2004	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)	2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2003	Greg Hasty (III.)	Sharon Huczak (Mich.)	2001	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2002	Dwayne McKnight (Md.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)	2000	Dick Kincaide (Colo.)
2001	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Nidia Funes (Calif.)	1999	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2000	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)	1998	Nick Sans (Calif.)
1999	Ray Huss (Ohio)	No division	1997	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1998	Warren Reuther (La.)	No division	1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1997	Glenn Allen (Va.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)		<b>Men's 75+</b>
1996	Les Barbanell (N.J.)	Nancy Kay Butts (Wis.)	2012	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
Men's 60+		Women's 60+		
2014	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)	Marsha Berry (Ky.)	2011	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2013	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Wanda Collins (Wash.)	2010	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2012	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)	Wanda Collins (Wash.)	2009	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2011	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Kathleen Ruzyci (III.)	2008	John O'Donnell (III.)
2010	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Joan Vande Kieft (III.)	2007	John O'Donnell (III.)
2009	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)	Shirley Parsons (Colo.)	2006	Fred Wiegand (Texas)
2008	Greg Hasty (III.)	Merjeian Kelley (Calif.)	2005	John O'Donnell Jr. (III.)
2007	Jim Hiser (Colo.)	CeCe Palaski (N.M.)	2004	Robert Miller (S.C.)
2006	Ed Remen (N.C.)	CeCe Palaski (N.M.)	2003	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2005	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Nidia Funes (Calif.)	2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2004	Jeff Leon (Fla.)	Gail Shaefer (Md.)	2001	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2003	Dan Jones (Ga.)	Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)	2000	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2002	Glenn Allen (Va.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)	1999	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2001	Warren Reuther (La.)	Gail Shaefer (Md.)	1998	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2000	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)	No division	1996	George Spear (N.Y.)
1999	Bob Webster (Ala.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)		<b>Women's 75+</b>
Men's 65+		Women's 65+		
2014	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)	2012	Gregory Hasty (III.)
2013	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)	2011	Jeff Leon (Panama)
2012	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)	2010	Donald Gunderson (Wis.)
2011	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)	Laura Fenton (Calif.)	2009	Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)
2010	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Anita Maldonado (N.Y.)	2008	Mitch Milewski (N.H.)
2009	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Laura Brandt (Fla.)	2007	Patrick Taylor (III.)
2008	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)	2006	Patrick Taylor (III.)
2007	Scott Cullins (Ga.)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)	2005	Leland Rients (Minn.)
2006	Scott Cullins (Ga.)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2004	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)
2005	Richard Mordachini (Miss.)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2003	Rex Lawler (Ind.)
2004	Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Texas)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2002	Lee Graff (Ore.)
2003	Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Texas)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)	2001	David Lund (Mich.)
2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2000	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Meena Evans (N.C.)	1999	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)	1998	Joe Lambert (Texas)
1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Meena Evans (N.C.)	1997	John O'Donnell (III.)
1998	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)	1996	J.D. Driver (Mich.)
Men's 70+		Women's 70+		
2014	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Laura Fenton Kovanda (Ohio)	2012	Gordon Kelly (Fla.)
2013	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)	Janice Kennedy (Ga.)	2011	David Zabinski (Minn.)
2012	Richard Eisemann (Texas)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)	2010	David Zabinski (Minn.)
2011	Ivan Sanchez (Texas)	Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)	2009	Howard Nellor (Fla.)
2010	Daniel Pischke (Wash.)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2008	Dave Lund (Mich.)
2009	Edward Fink (Texas)	Kelly Kirk (Minn.)	2007	Lee Graff (Ore.)
2008	Glenn Bell (Texas)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2006	Dave Lund (Mich.)
2007	Patrick Gibson (Texas)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2005	Paul Banales (Ariz.)
2006	Thomas Travers (Fla.)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2004	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2005	Greg Campbell (Ore.)	Marsha Berry (Ky.)	2003	Don Alt (Ohio)
2004	Howard Walker (Texas)	Janet Myers (N.C.)	2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2003	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Marsha Berry (Ky.)	2001	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)	2000	John O'Donnell (III.)
2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Nancy Kronenfeld (III.)	1999	John O'Donnell (III.)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Sharon Huczak (Mich.)	1998	Joe Lambert (Texas)
1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Shelley Ogden (Ohio)	1997	Joe Lambert (Texas)
1998	Rick Fusari (Fla.)	Sharon Huczak (Mich.)	1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1997	Rick Fusari (Fla.)	Margaret Hoff (III.)		<b>Men's 80+</b>
1996	Ed Remen (Va.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)	2012	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
Men's 75+		Women's 75+		
2014	Wes Snead (N.C.)	Debra Tisinger Moore (Calif.)	2011	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2013	Ivan Sanchez (Texas)	Debra Tisinger Moore (Calif.)	2010	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2012	Mike Grisz (Texas)	Linda Moore (Neb.)	2009	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2011	Mark Gilmore (Texas)	Jill Mitchell (Calif.)	2008	John O'Donnell (III.)
2010	Jim Luzar (Wis.)	Elaine Dexter (Calif.)	2007	John O'Donnell (III.)
2009	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)	2006	Fred Wiegand (Texas)
2008	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)	2005	John O'Donnell Jr. (III.)
2007	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Terry Rogers (Calif.)	2004	Robert Miller (S.C.)
2006	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Janet Myers (N.C.)	2003	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2005	R.E. Montague (Pa.)	Susan Kieffer (Minn.)	2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2004	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)	2001	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2003	Greg Hasty (III.)	Sharon Huczak (Mich.)	2000	Dick Kincaide (Colo.)
2002	Dwayne McKnight (Md.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)	1999	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2001	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Nidia Funes (Calif.)	1998	Nick Sans (Calif.)
2000	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)	1997	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1999	Ray Huss (Ohio)	No division	1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1998	Warren Reuther (La.)	No division		<b>Women's 75+</b>
1997	Glenn Allen (Va.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)	2012	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
1996	Les Barbanell (N.J.)	Nancy Kay Butts (Wis.)	2011	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
Men's 80+		Women's 80+		
2014	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)	Marsha Berry (Ky.)	2011	John O'Donnell Jr. (III.)
2013	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Wanda Collins (Wash.)	2010	John O'Donnell Jr. (III.)
2012	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)	Wanda Collins (Wash.)	2009	John O'Donnell Jr. (III.)
2011	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Kathleen Ruzyci (III.)	2008	No division
2010	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Joan Vande Kieft (III.)	2007	No division
2009	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)	Shirley Parsons (Colo.)	2006	No division
2008	Greg Hasty (III.)	Merjeian Kelley (Calif.)	2005	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2007	Jim Hiser (Colo.)	CeCe Palaski (N.M.)	2004	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2006	Ed Remen (N.C.)	CeCe Palaski (N.M.)	2003	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2005	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Nidia Funes (Calif.)	2002	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2004	Jeff Leon (Fla.)	Gail Shaefer (Md.)	2001	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2003	Dan Jones (Ga.)	Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)	2000	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2002	Glenn Allen (Va.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)	1999	Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
2001	Warren Reuther (La.)	Gail Shaefer (Md.)	1998	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2000	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)	No division	1996	George Spear (N.Y.)
1999	Bob Webster (Ala.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)		<b>Skill Divisions</b>
Men's Elite		Women's Elite		
2014	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)	Marsha Berry (Ky.)	2012	Nicolas Bousquet (Canada)
2013	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Wanda Collins (Wash.)	2011	Alejandro Romo Garcia (Mexico)
2012	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)	Wanda Collins (Wash.)	2010	Andres Acuna (Costa Rica)
2011	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Kathleen Ruzyci (III.)	2009	Melania Sauma (Costa Rica)
2010	Joe Lee (Hawaii)	Joan Vande Kieft (III.)	2008	Kurtis Cullen (Canada)
2009	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)	Shirley Parsons (Colo.)	2007	Natalie McCann (Minn.)
2008	Greg Hasty (III.)	Merjeian Kelley (Calif.)	2006	
2007	Jim Hiser (Colo.)	CeCe Palaski (N.M.)	2005	
2006	Ed Remen (N.C.)	CeCe Palaski (N.M.)	2004	
2005	Ed Remen (N.C.)	Nidia Funes (Calif.)	2003	
2004	Jeff Leon (Fla.)	Gail Shaefer (Md.)	2002	
2003	Dan Jones (Ga.)	Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)	2001	
2002	Glenn Allen (Va.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)	2000	
2001	Warren Reuther (La.)	Gail Shaefer (Md.)	1999	
2000	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)	No division	1998	
1999	Bob Webster (Ala.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)	1997	





New Season. The Battle for #1



Previews, opinion, predictions, a new court, upsets and surprises surrounded the US OPEN in its second decade.

2010 Rob Carey (Minn.)  
2009 Andres Ramirez (Fla.)  
2008 Roland Keller (Bolivia)

#### Men's A

2014 Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecuador)  
2013 Craig Herr (Ala.)  
2012 Jose Ubilla (Costa Rica)  
2011 Nick Hand (Fla.)  
2010 Missael Leija (Mexico)  
2009 Chase Robison (Tex.)  
2008 Eric Vought (Ohio)  
2007 Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)  
2006 Cesar Castillo (Ven.)  
2005 Allan Hernandez (Texas)  
2004 Darrel Miller (Wis.)  
2003 Joe Klibowitz (Wis.)  
2002 Andres Ramirez (Fla.)  
2001 Joey Lakowske (Ore.)  
2000 Cory Martin (Wis.)  
1999 Andy Babinchak (N.D.)  
1998 Jason Jansen (N.Y.)  
1997 David Guentert (Kan.)  
1996 Daniel Pischke (Wash.)

#### Men's B

2014 Jake Ryan (III.)  
2013 Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecuador)  
2012 Diego Pimentel (Dom. Republic)  
2011 Jay Mathis (Ga.)  
2010 Jerry Everts (Wash.)  
2009 David Walker (Tenn.)  
2008 Armando Vasquez (Calif.)  
2007 Chase Stanley (La.)  
2006 Joseph Lee (La.)  
2005 Alan Martin (Tenn.)  
2004 Erik Becker (Mo.)  
2003 Brandon Stanley (La.)  
2002 Erik Beltran (Canada)  
2001 Andres Ramirez (Fla.)  
2000 John Dill (Texas)  
1999 Brian Shwer (Tenn.)  
1998 Jon Albright (Tenn.)  
1997 Anthony Borden (Texas)  
1996 Sam Ryder (Wis.)

#### Men's C

2014 Nicholas Zhindon (Ecuador)  
2013 Carlos Acuna (Costa Rica)  
2012 Dawud Akbar (Ga.)  
2011 Craig Sadowski (Minn.)  
2010 Christian Longoria (Mexico)  
2009 Jesus Lara (Fla.)  
2008 Gregorio Machado (Ven.)  
2007 Sebastian Franco (Colombia)  
2006 Chase Stanley (La.)  
2005 Dayan Yamin (Fla.)  
2004 Steven Short (La.)  
2003 Barry Cruthirds (Mich.)  
2002 Brandon Stanley (La.)  
2001 Bryan Shaw (Mo.)  
2000 Drew Toland (Ark.)  
1999 Gilbert Said (Calif.)  
1998 Phil Gebert (S.C.)  
1997 Marc Claybon (Ohio)  
1996 Kazushige Oikawa (Japan)

#### Men's D

2014 Darryl Lewis (Ga.)  
2013 Jose Miramontes (Mexico)  
2012 Nils Mogensen (III.)  
2011 Richard Naidenoff (Venezuela)  
2010 Ricardo Ruiz Matus (Chile)  
2009 Leon Rivera (Mich.)  
2008 Fernando Padron (Mex.)  
2007 Kerry Clark (Ariz.)  
2006 Angel Munoz (Ven.)  
2005 Fabian Caballero (Fla.)  
2004 Carlos Duran (Dom. Rep.)  
2003 Jeff Van Horn (Pa.)  
2002 Joseph Lee (La.)

2010 Melissa McElfresh (Calif.)  
2009 Jocelyn Loredo (Mex.)  
2008 Jessica Parrilla (Mex.)

#### Women's A

2014 Kanesha Madison (Ga.)  
2013 Hollie Scott (Wash.)  
2012 Alexis Iwaasa (Canada)  
2011 Michele Morissette (Canada)  
2010 Natalie McCann (Minn.)  
2009 Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)  
2008 Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)  
2007 Christina Amaya (Colombia)  
2006 Jennifer Lynch (Mass.)  
2005 Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)  
2004 Fabiola Marquez  
2003 Harumi Kajino (Japan)  
2002 Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)  
2001 Candi Hostovich (Va.)  
2000 Robyn Perrin (Tenn.)  
1999 Akiko Saito (Japan)  
1998 Jennifer Hunter (Tenn.)  
1997 Deb Fiordilino (N.Y.)  
1996 Michele Kinaan (Calif.)

#### Women's B

2014 Maria Munoz (Ecuador)  
2009 Sara Leon (Calif.)  
2008 Kanessa Madison (Ga.)  
2007 Kathryn Iwaasa (Canada)  
2006 Therese Zadnik (Minn.)  
2005 Elizabeth Selaya (Mo.)  
2004 Cheryl Jones (Minn.)  
2003 Sarah O'Brien (Ga.)  
2002 Melissa McElfresh (Fla.)  
2001 Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)  
2000 Lori Good (III.)  
2000 Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)  
2000 Diana Courtney (Mich.)  
2000 Kyoko Hirobayashi (Japan)  
2000 Rosario Kelley (Texas)  
2000 Kelley Fisher (Ohio)  
2000 Akiko Saito (Japan)  
2000 Kristen Kovar (Neb.)  
2000 Yesenia Delbusto (Fla.)

#### Women's C

2014 Kelly Johnson (Minn.)  
2013 Paulina Sempertegui (Ecuador)  
2012 Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)  
2011 Yollet Mendez (Venezuela)  
2010 Raelene Ostberg (Minn.)  
2009 Emily Brickell (Tenn.)  
2008 Julia Mouser (Calif.)  
2007 Jackie Wray (Ohio)  
2006 Tia Lecland (Mich.)  
2005 Rita Stewart (Ky.)  
2004 Tori Davis (Calif.)  
2003 Janice Bell (Ga.)  
2002 Tomoko Muromachi (Japan)  
2001 Petra Allen (Colo.)  
2000 Dyan Anderson (Md.)  
2000 Lynn Hiorns (III.)  
1999 Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)  
1998 Terry Truvillion (Mich.)  
1996 Heather Elliott (Fla.)

#### Women's D

2014 Jessica Kisling (Minn.)  
2013 Maria Munoz (Ecuador)  
2012 Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)  
2011 Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)  
2010 Graciela Gonzalo (Fla.)  
2009 Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)  
2008 Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)  
2007 Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)  
2006 Brenda Granados (Mex.)  
2005 No division  
2004 Tia Lecland (Mich.)  
2003 Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)  
2002 Janice Bell (Ga.)

2001 Tom Tierney (Texas)  
2000 Bryan Shaw (Mo.)  
1999 Sid Harshavat (III.)  
1998 Lance Hudson (S.C.)  
1997 Joe Schmitz (Ark.)  
1996 Leonard Toth (Texas)

2001 Tom Tierney (Texas)  
2000 Bryan Shaw (Mo.)  
1999 Sid Harshavat (III.)  
1998 Lance Hudson (S.C.)  
1997 Joe Schmitz (Ark.)  
1996 Leonard Toth (Texas)

#### Combined Age + Skill Divisions

Prior to 2003, skill divisions were played in A/B and C/D brackets.

Those wins are incorporated into the higher skill level records.

#### Men's 24- A

2014 Set Cubillos (Colombia)  
2013 Cristian Chavez (Ecuador)  
2012 Jose Ubilla (Costa Rica)  
2011 Jordan Barth (Minn.)  
2010 Clint Mehta (Texas)  
2009 Christian Wer (Guatemala)  
2008 Sebastian Franco (Col.)  
2007 Miguel Wiggins (N.M.)  
2006 Jorge Nassar (Mass.)  
2005 Jansen Allen (Texas)  
2004 Luis Reveron (Ven.)  
2003 Alberto Donado (Mexico)  
2002 Juan Rivas (Mass.)  
2001 Joey Lakowske (Ore.)  
2000 Shannon Kohl (Mich.)  
1999 Justin Jones (Ohio)  
1998 Nantille Boards (Tenn.)  
1997 Andrew Babinchak (N.D.)  
1996 Alain Pujolar (Fla.)

#### Men's 24- B

2014 No division  
2013 Juan Francisco Cueva (Ecu)  
2012 Diego Pimentel (Dominican Republic)  
2011 Felipe Arenas (Colombia)  
2010 Jordan McKnight (Fla.)  
2009 Gregoria Machado (Ven.)  
2008 Armando Vasquez (Calif.)  
2007 Chase Stanley (La.)  
2006 David Perez (Fla.)  
2005 Teobaldo Fumero (Costa Rica)  
2004 Jansen Allen (Texas)  
2003 Carlos Olvedo (Mex.)

#### Men's 24- C

2014 Nicholas Zhindon (Ecuador)  
2013 Carlos Ochoa (Ecuador)  
2012 Jorge Puche (Colombia)  
2011 Jared Schnee (Texas)  
2010 Justus Benson (Wis.)  
2009 Fernando Padron (Mexico)  
2008 Andres Acuna (CR)  
2007 Sebastian Franco (Col.)  
2006 Chase Stanley (La.)  
2005 Roberto Santander (Venezuela)  
2004 Steven Short (La.)  
2003 Joshua Jeter (Tenn.)  
2002 Brandon Stanley (La.)  
2001 Bradley Butler (Tenn.)  
2000 Drew Toland (Ark.)  
1999 Brandon Cortese (Mich.)  
1998 Rex Fisher (Ohio)  
1997 Shannon Kohl (Mich.)  
1996 Fabrizio Avelar (Fla.)

#### Men's 24- D

2014 Heather Hojat (Texas)  
2013 Kipp Atwell (La.)  
2012 Bryan Shaw (Mo.)  
2011 Quentin Mieure (Fla.)  
2010 Andrew Kulback (Ohio)  
2009 Ryan Graham (Wis.)  
2008 Jose Roldan (Fla.)  
2007 Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)  
2006 Francisco Perez (Fla.)  
2005 Brent McDade (Tenn.)  
2004 John St. Pierre (Fla.)  
2003 Jeff Marmer (Ohio)  
2002 Jason Linnell (Va.)

#### Women's 24- A

2014 Ana Velez (Ecuador)  
2013 Nawoo Kim (Korea)  
2012 No division  
2011 Michele Morissette (Canada)  
2010 Kelly Gremley (Ind.)  
2009 Mariel Salcido (Calif.)  
2008 Vivianna Reveron (Texas)  
2007 Cristina Amaya (Col.)  
2006 Haley Rollins (Ga.)  
2005 Sharon Jackson (Ind.)  
2004 Kara Mazur (Conn.)  
2003 Laurie Fisk (Mo.)  
2002 Keely Franks (Texas)  
2001 Kelley Fisher (Ohio)  
2000 Kelley Fisher (Ohio)  
1999 Brenna Bilbrough (Ore.)  
1998 Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)  
1997 Kristen Kovar (Neb.)  
1996 Vallana Perrault (Minn.)

#### Women's 24- B

2014 Ivana Sempertegui (Ecuador)  
2013 Maria Renee Rodriguez (Gua)  
2012 Diego Pimentel (Dominican Republic)  
2011 No division  
2010 Liane Bissonnette (Canada)  
2009 Rachel Smith (Colo.)  
2008 No division  
2007 Monica Escobar (Guatemala)  
2006 No division  
2005 No division  
2004 Sharon Jackson (Ind.)  
2003 Sarah Hettesheimer (Ohio)

#### Women's 24- C

2014 Nicholas Zhindon (Ecuador)  
2013 Maria Munoz (Ecuador)  
2012 No division  
2011 Sarah Duchi (Calif.)  
2010 Beatriz Mendez Gandica (Venezuela)  
2009 No division  
2008 Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)  
2007 No division  
2006 Abbey Lively (Ohio)  
2005 No division  
2004 Haley Rollins (Ga.)  
2003 Danielle Joliff (Mo.)  
2002 Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)  
2001 Wesley Toland (Ark.)  
2000 Kiromi Iida (Japan)  
2000 No division  
2000 No division  
1999 Kristie Gisinier (Mo.)  
1998 No division

#### Women's 24- D

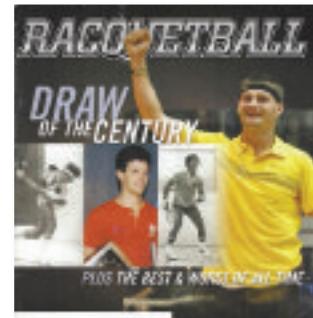
2014 Heather Hojat (Texas)  
2013 Rebecca Bowman (Ind.)  
2012 Penny Hietala (Colo.)  
2011 Yayoi Nagasue (Japan)  
2010 No division  
2009 Karen Simon (N.Y.)  
2008 No division  
2007 Kimberly Glansberg (Calif.)  
2006 No division  
2005 Paula Saad (Mich.)  
2004 Felicia Mann (Mich.)  
2003 Hilary Anderson (Ohio)

2001	John Halpin (Conn.)
2000	Corbin Dirks (N.C.)
1999	Bob Jackson (Miss.)
1998	Tony Rosales (Alaska)
1997	John Leding (Fla.)
1996	Ken Blalock (Texas)
	<b>Men's 25+ B</b>
2014	Nic Koch (N.D.)
2013	Samuel Gomez (III.)
2012	Jason Korbol (Minn.)
2011	Steven Koshol (Minn.)
2010	Christopher Conrad (Calif.)
2009	Jesus Lara (Fla.)
2008	Joshua Purdy (Fla.)
2007	Mauro Barbosa (Fla.)
2006	Aaron Lovinger (Ga.)
2005	Jason Levoy (Fla.)
2004	Jeff Johnson (Mich.)
2003	Carlos Ramirez (Fla.)

2001	Nathania Stewart (Ga.)
2000	Vivian Gomez (Fla.)
1999	No division
1998	Jill Nelson (III.)
1997	Ann Doucette (Maine)
1996	Angela Burth (Va.)
	<b>Men's 25+ B</b>
2014	No division
2013	Elizabeth Levine (Minn.)
2012	Kanesha Madison (Ga.)
2011	Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)
2010	Penny Hietala (Minn.)
2009	No division
2008	No division
2007	Tish Rodgers (Texas)
2006	Ashley Ward (Del.)
2005	Dorsinayer Thompson (Fla.)
2004	Marci Laramee (Tenn.)
2003	Dorsinayer Thompson (Fla.)

2014	<b>Men's 35+ C</b>
2013	Roberto Marcillo (Ecuador)
2012	Jorge Bacallao (Fla.)
2011	Jim Unterberger (Minn.)
2010	Richard Naidenoff (Venezuela)
2009	Rudy Olivares, Jr. (Texas)
2008	Leon Rivera (Mich.)
2007	David Wiles (Tenn.)
2006	Daniel Russell (Tenn.)
2005	Jacques Boisvert (Can.)
2004	Jeffrey Van Horn (Pa.)
2003	Gonzalo Castillo (Texas)
2002	Bill Pobega (Ohio)
2001	Jeff Johnson (Mich.)
2000	Garry Carter (Calif.)
1999	Jeff Bell (Conn.)
1998	Kerry Hughes (Tenn.)
1997	Juan Soto (S.C.)
1996	Peter Kochis (Okla.)

2014	<b>Women's 35+ C</b>
2013	No division
2012	Felicia Green (Ga.)
2011	Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)
2010	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
2009	Becca Brinkman (Minn.)
2008	No result
2007	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2006	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2005	Laya Lee (Ga.)
2004	No division
2003	Laurell Burrows (Fla.)
2002	Eunsook Kim (Korea)
2001	Susan Simmons (Tenn.)
2000	Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
1999	No division
1998	Sharon Curran-Wilks (N.C.)
1997	No division
1996	Terri Truvillion (Mich.)



2014	<b>Men's 25+ C</b>
2013	Aby Thottiyil (Texas)
2012	Adam Paulson (Minn.)
2011	Dawud Akbar (Ga.)
2010	Rudy Olivares Jr. (Texas)
2009	Fernando Rodriguez (Venezuela)
2008	Yuri Machuca (Md.)
2007	Dennis Yamin (Ven.)
2006	Josh Gibson (Tenn.)
2005	Tyler Scott (Calif.)
2004	Jeff Nungesser (Tenn.)
2003	Felton Cox (Bahamas)
2002	Robert Goldsmith (Fla.)
2001	Filipe Veracoechea (Texas)
2000	Sid Harshavat (III.)
1999	John Halpin (Conn.)
1998	Emmanuel Drege (Texas)
1997	Richard Wells (III.)
1996	Jesus Iñigo (Fla.)

2014	<b>Women's 25+ C</b>
2013	Victoria Martinez (Texas)
2012	Brenda Granados (Mexico)
2011	No division
2010	No division
2009	Heather Olson (Texas)
2008	Emily Brickell (Tenn.)
2007	No division
2006	Brenda Granados (Mexico)
2005	Rachel Wolff (Ohio)
2004	Tracie Valentine (Md.)
2003	Tracie Valentine (Md.)
2002	Carolyn Watkins (III.)
2001	Priscilla Krammer (Fla.)
2000	Viviana Reveron (Venezuela)
1999	Emilse Cuartas (Argentina)
1998	Lynn Hiorns (III.)
1997	Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)
1996	Rhonda Lindemann (Okla.)

2014	<b>Men's 35+ A</b>
2013	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)
2012	Ted Rohlwing (Minn.)
2011	Kipp Atwell (La.)
2010	Andy Wiegand (Minn.)
2009	Paul Krueger (Wis.)
2008	Andrew Kulback (Ohio)
2007	Marco Mijares (Ga.)
2006	Ray Cordero (Colo.)
2005	Rod Van Dyke (Fla.)
2004	Mark Davis (Fla.)
2003	Edward Fink (Texas)
2002	Oscar Barraza (Mex.)
2001	Stanley Shaw (Mass.)
2000	David Marrero (Puerto Rico)
1999	Bill DiGregorio (N.J.)
1998	Ron Fowler (Ga.)
1997	Don Sanderson (Utah)
1996	Gavin Higgins (Tenn.)

2014	<b>Women's 35+ A</b>
2013	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
2012	Cindy Herceg (Calif.)
2011	Clara O'Brien (Texas)
2010	Bernadette Zimmerman (Texas)
2009	Clara O'Brien (Texas)
2008	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2007	Thao Le (Va.)
2006	Hiroko Asari (Japan)
2005	Debraylyn Kahik (Calif.)
2004	Paula Saad (Mich.)
2003	Vivian Rodriguez (Wash.)
2002	Karen Mickel (Ga.)
2001	Felicia Mann (Mich.)
2000	Karen Green (Mich.)
1999	Lauren Proctor (Tenn.)
1998	Lauren Proctor (Tenn.)
1997	Rose Cornelius (Calif.)

2014	<b>Men's 35+ B</b>
2013	John Starks (Mo.)
2012	Tom Janke (N.D.)
2011	Hector Garcia (Mexico)
2010	Lorne Renouf (Canada)
2009	Jerry Evarts (Wash.)
2008	Rich Mattheis (Mo.)
2007	Ricardo Gutierrez (Mex.)
2006	Robert Cole (Okla.)
2005	James Campbell (Va.)
2004	Stephen Rapp (Mo.)
2003	Barry Cruthirds (Miss.)

2014	<b>Women's 35+ B</b>
2013	Joy Herth (III.)
2012	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2011	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2010	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2009	Tracie Valentine (Md.)
2008	No result
2007	No division
2006	Beth Gainer (Pa.)
2005	Eva Alle (Ga.)
2004	Lynn Yeazell (III.)
2003	Sue Hunt (Miss.)

2014	<b>Men's 45+ A</b>
2013	Giovanni Luciano (Minn.)
2012	Ryan Rowlands (Texas)
2011	Jerry Lis (Mo.)
2010	Kipp Atwell (La.)
2009	Ryan Rowlands (Texas)
2008	Alan Nichols (Ga.)
2007	Charlie Andrews (Tenn.)
2006	Andrew Kulback (Ohio)
2005	Edward Fink (Texas)
2004	Derek Kazakos (Fla.)
2003	Paul Whitten (Calif.)
2002	Edward Fink (Texas)
2001	Sal Perconti (Fla.)
2000	David Gross (S.D.)
1999	Ernesto Cisneros (Mexico)
1998	Steve Conn (La.)
1997	Walter McDade (Tenn.)
1996	Thomas Rall (N.Y.)

2014	<b>Women's 45+ A</b>
2013	No division
2012	Hiroko Asari (Japan)
2011	Barb Hoffner (Minn.)
2010	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2009	Laura Woodbury (Va.)
2008	Sandy Long (Texas)
2007	Laura Natividad (Hawaii)
2006	Chizuko Furuta (Japan)
2005	Diane Chappel (N.Y.)
2004	No division
2003	Karen Green (Mich.)
2002	Beth Sacco (La.)
2001	Karen Green (Mich.)
2000	Cheryl Kirk (III.)
1999	Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
1998	Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
1997	Sharon Huzek (Mich.)
1996	Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)

2014	<b>Men's 45+ B</b>
2013	Kurt Ross (N.D.)
2012	Tom Janke (N.D.)
2011	Daan Klem (Minn.)
2010	Terry Delaney (N.D.)
2009	Steve Carroll (Minn.)
2008	Girish Vallabhan (Texas)
2007	Ron Wheeler
2006	Mark Candy (Mich.)
2005	Allen Lawrence (Miss.)
2004	Michael Nichols (Ark.)
2003	Rick Grace (Texas)
2002	Joerg Leinemann (Md.)

2014	<b>Women's 45+ C</b>
2013	Jackie Deyo (Colo.)
2012	John Provan (Calif.)
2011	Samir Music (Neb.)
2010	Ben Howell, III (Ala.)
2009	Darrin McNally (Ore.)
2008	John Peloso (Fla.)
2007	David Mimms (Ky.)
2006	Navin Deo (III.)
2005	Ed Garrison (Tenn.)
2004	Danny Borden (Ky.)
2003	Tom Gibbons (Can.)
2002	Terrance Holt (Ind.)
2001	Larry Knetzger (Ga.)
2000	Sez Ozden (Ga.)
1999	Garry Carter (Calif.)
1998	Donald Acklin (Pa.)
1997	Jack Morgenroth (Ohio)
1996	Peter Kochis (Okla.)

2014	<b>Women's 45+ B</b>
2013	Marsha Johnson (Ga.)
2012	Kimberly Franklin (Ga.)
2011	Denise Berto (Mich.)
2010	Rosa Smith (Texas)
2009	No division
2008	Elaine Ransom (Ariz.)
2007	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2006	Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
2005	Tia Lecland (Mich.)
2004	Tia Lecland (Mich.)
2003	Deborah Reauso (Mich.)
2002	Genie Martin (N.C.)
2001	Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
2000	Jan Stelma (N.C.)
1999	No division
1998	No division
1997	Martine Dorner (N.C.)
1996	No division

*This pair has shared the same winner's circle - undefeated together - since 2011. Before that, each had logged only brief, two-year breaks in their winning streaks (Waselechuk in 2006 & 2007; Longoria in 2009 & 2010).*

**Men's 55+ A**

2014	Larry Matula (Texas)
2013	Rick Betts (Calif.)
2012	George Brewer (Wash.)
2011	Bill Stein (Minn.)
2010	Brad Cress (Texas)
2009	George Henshaw (La.)
2008	Kim Keltner (Mo.)
2007	Tyrone White (Ala.)
2006	Robert Steele (Va.)
2005	David Gross (Tenn.)
2004	Garry Carter (Calif.)
2003	Thomas Curran (Ohio)
2002	Leo Klimaitis (Ill.)
2001	Jerald Kriger (Va.)
2000	Paul Pearce (Texas)
1999	Ken Foster (Texas)
1998	Ken Foster (Texas)
1997	George Tashie (Tenn.)
1996	Jay Krevsky (Pa.)

**Women's 55+ A**

2014	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2013	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2012	Ly Abbott (Texas)
2011	No division
2010	Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2009	Kathleen Ruzicki (Ill.)
2008	Shirley Parsons (Colo.)
2007	Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2006	Sandy Gross (Tenn.)
2005	Susan Kieffer (Minn.)
2004	Dee Stribling (N.C.)
2003	Andee Glangsberg (N.Y.)
2002	Sharon Brockbank (Iowa)
2001	No division
2000	No division
1999	No division
1998	No division
1997	No division
1996	Pauline Kelly (Ill.)
	No division

**Men's 55+ B**

2014	Bob Mayo (Neb.)
2013	Ronald Harris (Texas)
2012	No result recorded
2011	Ray Redelman (Ill.)
2010	Chris Poucher (Ga.)
2009	Gary Buckmaster (Texas)
2008	George Henshaw (La.)
2007	Billy Askins (Texas)
2006	Darrell Crocker (Mo.)
2005	Billy Askins (Texas)
2004	Kenneth Foster (Texas)
2003	Garry Carter (Calif.)

**Women's 55+ B**

2014	Ly Abbott (Texas)
2013	Dotti White (Texas)
2012	Dotti White (Texas)
2011	Susan Schatz (Minn.)
2010	Susan Schatz (Minn.)
2009	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2008	No division
2007	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2006	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2005	No division
2004	No division
2003	No division

**Men's 55+ C**

2014	Brian Rissinger (Pa.)
2013	J. Hancuch (Minn.)
2012	David Olson (Minn.)
2011	Ron Berquist (Minn.)
2010	Kevin Webb (N.C.)
2009	David Roth (Tenn.)
2008	Ronald Harris (Texas)
2007	Navin Deo (Ill.)
2006	Judy Huneycutt (Ark.)
2005	Alfredo Radillo (Mexico)
2004	Bob Lampley (Miss.)
2003	James Douglas Key (Ala.)
2002	Charles Van Hoose (Mich.)
2001	Don Russell (Miss.)
2000	Ben Brewster (Texas)
1999	Willie Davenport (Va.)
1998	Leo Kouremetis (Alaska)
1997	Ralph Temple (Ga.)
	Norman Copeland (Ala.)

**Women's 55+ C**

2014	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2013	Joyce Satorius (Ill.)
2012	Diane Martin (Ga.)
2011	No division
2010	Ron Berquist (Minn.)
2009	No division
2008	No division
2007	Kathy Krueger (Mo.)
2006	Judy Huneycutt (Ark.)
2005	No division
2004	Patty Caldwell (Tenn.)
2003	Aurora Bocanegra (Kan.)
2002	No division
2001	No division
2000	No division
1999	No division

**Men's 65+ A**

2014	Tony Alfaro (Calif.)
2013	Ron Miller (N.D.)

**Women's 65+ A**

2014	No division
2013	No division

**Men's 65+ B/C**

2014	George Goudie (Mich.)
2013	Leonard Sonnenberg (Calif.)

**Women's 65+ B**

2014	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2013	No division

**Men's 65+ C**

2013	Kyle Smith (Texas)
2012	Ron Miller (North Dakota)

**Women's 65+ C**

2013	No division
	Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)

**Men's 70+**

2014	Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)
------	---------------------------

**Men's Military Singles**

09-11	No division
2008	Justin James (Miss.)

**Men's Open Doubles**

2014	Nicolas Bousquet / Samuel Murray (Canada)
2013	John Goth / Aaron Granberg (Minn.)
2012	Polo Gutierrez (Mex) / Alejandro Landa (Texas)
2011	Polo Gutierrez (Mex) / Alejandro Landa (Texas)
2010	Jansen Allen (Texas) / Tony Carson (Colorado)
2009	Andres Herrera (Ill.) / Juan Herrera (Colombia)
2008	Shai Manzuri (Texas) / Fabian Pedraza (N.Y.)
2007	Juan Herrera / Andres Herrera (Mexico)
2006	Ben Croft (Ill.) / Charles Pratt (Ore.)
2005	Ben Croft (Ill.) / Charles Pratt (Ore.)
2004	Chris Coy (Okla.) / Brian Fredenberg (Texas)
2003	Javier Moreno / Andy Yambrek (Tenn.)
2002	Vincent Gagnon / Francis Guillemette (Canada)
2001	No division
2000	Hart Johnson (Minn.) / Shawn Royster (Calif.)
1999	Alvaro Beltran / Javier Moreno (Mexico)

**Men's 19+ Doubles**

2014	Kenny Green, Jr. / David Marrero (Texas)
2013	Larry Cashion / Jim Fanning (Fla.)
2012	Bryan Crosser (Iowa) / Travis Mettenbrink (Neb.)
2011	Bryan Crosser (Iowa) / Travis Mettenbrink (Neb.)
2010	Alex Ma (Texas) / Bryan Shaw (Ore.)
2009	Darjon Bittner / Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)
2007	Kevin Francis / Andy Gross (Ga.)
2006	Kevin Francis / Andy Gross (Ga.)
2005	Brent McDade / Walter McDade (Tenn.)
2004	No division
2003	Alberto Donado / Juan Gutierrez (Colombia)
2002	William Andreu / Richard Maggard (Mo.)
2001	David Hunter / Walter McDade (Tenn.)

**Men's 35+ Doubles**

2014	George Bustos / Alex Ma (Texas)
2013	Bryan Killins / Corey Osborne (Canada)
2012	Corey Osborne (Canada) / Scott Schafer (Texas)
2011	Tim Doyle (Calif.) / Brian Fredenberg (Texas)
2010	Roland Grassi / Dale Valentine (Calif.)
2009	George Bustos / Ivan Sanchez (Texas)
2008	John Ivers / Dale Valentine (Calif.)
2007	Kevin Buehler / Daniel Pfaster (Kan.)
2006	Scott Cullins (Ga.) / Aaron Metcalf (Fla.)
2005	Keith Minor (Ill.) / David Watson (Ark.)
2004	Scot Consoli (Fla.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)
2003	Scot Consoli (Fla.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)
2002	Scot Consoli (Fla.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)
2001	Bruce Ritacco / Sandy Tucker (S.C.)
2000	Scott Consoli / Gordon Kirkland (Fla.)
1999	Tim Hansen / Teddy Koukoulis (Fla.)
1998	(40+) Joe Ault (Ind.) / Bill Lyman (Ill.)

**Men's 30+ Doubles**

2000	Scot Consoli / Gordon Kirkland (Fla.)
1999	Tim Hansen / Teddy Koukoulis (Fla.)
	Men's 30+ A / B Doubles

2000	Eddie Barber / Eddy Connor (Utah)
------	-----------------------------------

**Men's 45+ Doubles**

2014	Mike Ladge (Calif.) / Cliff Swain (Mass.)
2013	George Bustos / Ivan Sanchez (Texas)
2012	Mike Ladge (Calif.) / Cliff Swain (Mass.)
2011	George Bustos / Ivan Sanchez (Texas)
2010	Keith Minor (Ill.) / Scott Schafer (Texas)
2009	Richard Eisemann / Scott Schafer (Texas)
2008	Scot Consoli (Fla.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)

**Men's 50+ Doubles**

2007	Sal Perconti / Randy Pfahler (Fla.)
2006	Sal Perconti / Randy Pfahler (Fla.)
2005	Greg Campbell (Ore.) / Randy Pfahler (Fla.)
2004	Thomas Rall (Ariz.) / Denny Vincent (Ohio)
2003	Richard Bocanegra (Kan.) / Jim Brane (Mo.)
2002	Richard Bocanegra (Kan.) / Jim Brane (Mo.)
2001	Jim Hiser (Colo.) / Ed Remen (N.C.)
2000	Jim Hiser (Colo.) / Ed Remen (N.C.)
1999	Jim Bailey (Va.) / Ed Remen (N.C.)

**Men's 50+ A / B Doubles**

2000	Michael Barnes / Ken Foster (Texas)
1999	Michael Barnes / Ken Foster (Texas)

**Men's 55+ Doubles**

2014	Mark Baron (Va.) / Mike Grisz (Texas)
2013	Mike Grisz / Doug Kite (Texas)
2012	Mark Baron (Va.) / Mike Grisz (Texas)
2011	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.) / Walter McDade (Tenn.)
2010	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.) / Walter McDade (Tenn.)
2009	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.) / Walter McDade (Tenn.)
2008	Billy Cannon / Ronald Martucci (Ala.)

**Men's 65+ Doubles**

2013	Fred Letter (N.J.) / David Olson (Minn.)
2012	Joe Burton (Fla.) / David Olson (Minn.)

**Centurion Men's Open (Combined Age=100+) Doubles**  
 2014 Richard Eisemann (Texas) / Troy Vanbemmelen (Neb.)  
 2013 Doug Ganion / Troy Stallings (Ohio)  
 Centurion Men's A  
 2014 Harlan Faircloth / Salvatore Perconti (Fla.)  
 2013 Eric Lindquist / Kent Vandehaas (Wis.)  
 Centurion Men's B  
 2014 Brian Rissinger / Chuck Smalley (Pa.)  
 2013 David Singer / Lee Frick (Ill.)

**Centurion Mixed Open**

2014 Chris Eron (Ill.) / Troy Vanbemmelen (Neb.)  
 2013 Sara Noyes / Jon Wuerffel (Fla.)  
 Centurion Mixed A / B  
 2014 Deb Stefandel (Ind.) / Tom Janke (N.D.)

**Women's Open / Elite Doubles**

2014 Elizabeth Simmons (Ariz.) / Samantha Simmons (Md.)  
 2013 Aimee Ruiz (N.J.) / Janel Tisinger (Calif.)  
 2012 Aimee Ruiz (N.J.) / Janel Tisinger (Calif.)  
 2011 Cristina Cordova / Maria Paz Munoz (Ecuador)  
 2010 Keely Franks (Texas) / Brandi Prentice (Canada)  
 2009 Brandi Jacobson Prentice / Jen Saunders (Canada)  
 2008 Kimberly Ferina (N.Y.) / Michelle Poage (Calif.)  
 2007 Michele Earl (Ark.) / Kimberly Ferina (N.Y.)  
 2006 Toshiko Kakamoto / Naomi Wakimoto (Japan)  
 2005 Nancy Enriquez / Samantha Salas (Mexico)  
 2004 Nancy Enriquez / Samantha Salas (Mexico)  
 2003 Jennifer Hunter (Tenn.) / Christine Wright (Ala.)  
 2002 Sylinda Kenyon / Phyllis Morris (Texas)

**Women's A Doubles**

2014 Page Kern (Minn.) / Ana Velez (Ecuador)  
 2013 Janice Kennedy / Kanesha Madison (Ga.)  
 2012 Melania Sauma / Sofia Soley (Costa Rica)  
 2011 Janice Kennedy / Terri McWilliams (Ga.)  
 2010 Carolina Escobar / Marie Gomar (Guatemala)  
 2009 Sandy Long (Texas) / Julia Mouser (Calif.)  
 2008 Ashley Loyd (Tenn.) / Alexis Ross (Ala.)  
 2007 Angela Adams (Md.) / Dolly Watson (Ga.)  
 2006 Chizuko Furuta / Hiroko Asari (Japan)  
 2005 Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio) / Sharon Jackson (Ind.)  
 2004 Wanda Collins / JoAnn Johnson (Wash.)  
 2003 Sharon Dunn / Kristy Gallow-Cramer (Texas)  
 2002 Kim Glansberg / Carolyn Hollis (Calif.)  
 2001 No division  
 2000 Donna Spano / Diane Taylor Whitman (Mass.)  
 1999 Bonnie Sanderson (Fla.) / Robin Wiles (Pa.)

**Women's B Doubles**

2014 Maria Munoz / Ivana Sempertegui (Ecuador)  
 2013 Jesica Haak / Pam Klein (Wis.)  
 2012 Jo Johnson / Therese Zadnik (Minn.)  
 2011 Pam Lillich / Fariba Roughhead (Minn.)  
 2010 Nancy Davis (Mo.) / Clara O'Brien (Texas)  
 2009 Jenny Cole (Kan.) / Elizabeth Selaya (Mo.)  
 2008 Terry Carbonell / Susan Carastro (Fla.)  
 2007 Patricia Beltranena / Carolina Escobar (Guat.)  
 2006 Julie Decker / Melissa McElfresh (Fla.)  
 2005 Youko Chiba / Hiromi Iida (Japan)  
 2004 Laurell Burrows / Susan Simmons (Fla.)  
 2003 Holly Hettesheimer / Samantha McGuffey (Ohio)  
 2002 Joy DeSantis (Calif.) / Gail Schaefer (Md.)  
 00-01 No division  
 1999 Michael Hill / Johnnie Hill-Hudgins (N.J.)

**Women's C Doubles**

2014 Kelly Johnson / Jessica Kisling (Minn.)  
 2013 Maria Munoz / Ivana Sempertegui (Ecuador)  
 2012 No division  
 2011 Graciela Gonzalo / Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)  
 2010 Marilyn Hoagland (Minn.) / Jan Stelma (N.C.)  
 2009 Tracy Schaefer / Jackie Wray (Ohio)

**Women's 35+ Doubles**

2014 Susie Boulanger / Kerri Brown (Ariz.)  
 2013 Thao Le (Va.) / Bernadette Zimmerman (Texas)  
 2012 Trish Beatty (Wis.) / Lori Minch  
 2011 No division  
 2010 Denny Erardi / Melissa McElfresh (Calif.)  
 2009 Yuni Cobb (Wash.) / Melissa McElfresh (Calif.)

2008 Debra Bryant (N.C.) / Beth Neff (Wash.)  
 2007 Melody Butler / Jean Trimble (Fla.)  
 2006 Karen Key (Ariz.) / Debra Tisinger (Calif.)  
 2005 Debra Bryant (N.C.) / Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)  
 2004 Debra Bryant (N.C.) / Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)  
 2003 Kelley Beane (N.H.) / Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)  
 2002 Marsha Berry / Peggy Stephens (Ky.)  
 2001 Peggy Stephens / Christine Wright (Ky.)  
 2000 (30+) Stephanie Cobb / Laura Patterson (Mich.)

**Women's 45+ Doubles**

2014 Susan Pfahler / Janet Tyler (Fla.)  
 2013 Claudia Andrade / Carmen Hernandez (Fla.)  
 2012 Cindy Tilbury / Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)  
 2010 Debra Bryant / Brenda Kyzer (N.C.)  
 2009 Debra Bryant (N.C.) / Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)  
 2008 Kelley Beane (N.H.) / Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)

**Women's 50+ Doubles**

2007 Linda Moore (Neb.) / Beth Sacco (La.)  
 2006 Elaine Dexter (Calif.) / Linda Moore (Neb.)  
 2005 Linda Covault (Wis.) / Jere Luttnar (Texas)  
 2004 Debbie Chaney (Ind.) / Elaine Dexter (Calif.)  
 2003 Debbie Chaney (Ind.) / Terry Rogers (Calif.)  
 2002 Debbie Chaney (Ind.) / Brenda White (Ill.)

**Women's 55+ Doubles**

2014 Linda Moore (Neb.) / Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)  
 2013 Wanda Collins (Wash.) / Terry Rogers (Calif.)  
 2012 Renee Fish / Jean Trimble (Fla.)  
 2010 Renee Fish / Jean Trimble (Fla.)  
 2009 Renee Fish / Karen Weins (Fla.)  
 2008 Nidia Funes / Merijean Kelley (Calif.)

**Mixed Open Doubles**

2014 Samantha Simmons (Md.) / Sebastian Franco (Colombia)  
 2013 Michelle Key (Ariz.) / Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico)  
 2012 Aimee Ruiz (N.J.) / Jose Diaz (Calif.)  
 2011 Frederique Lambert / Corey Osborne (Canada)  
 2010 Janel Tisinger / Dale Valentine (Calif.)  
 2009 Janel Tisinger / Dale Valentine (Calif.)  
 2008 Sharon Jackson / Allan Crockett (Ala.)

**Mixed Elite Doubles**

2014 Sara Noyes / Tom Bevelock (Fla.)

**Mixed A Doubles**

2014 Valerie Failu / Dylan Scattolon (Canada)  
 2013 Vivian Schneider / Juan Diaz (Calif.)  
 2012 Kelly Gremley / David Lyvers (Ind.)  
 2011 Kelly Van Zant / James Russell (Fla.)  
 2010 Julia Mouser / Tim Herman (Calif.)  
 2009 Kimberly Wilson (Texas) / Kipp Atwell (La.)  
 2008 Ashley Loyd / Gavin Higgins (Tenn.)

**Mixed B Doubles**

2014 Michele Biese / Marco Rodriguez (Wis.)  
 2013 Esther Lozano / Richard Aal (Calif.)  
 2012 Carrie Reitmeier / Dave Anderson (Neb.)  
 2011 Barb Hoffner / Scott Schreier (Minn.)  
 2010 Connie Faber / John Turner (Minn.)  
 2009 Barbara Jinks / Jon Lanford (Texas)  
 2008 Alexis Ross (Ala.) / Leo Cage (Tenn.)

**Mixed C Doubles**

2014 Kelly Johnson / Grant Taylor (Minn.)  
 2013 Marsha Johnson / Cecil McNair (Ga.)  
 2012 Diane Martin / Fred Martin (Ga.)  
 2011 Carolina Troncoso (Fla.) / Christian Troncoso (Chile)  
 2010 Jan Stelma / Kevin Webb (N.C.)  
 2009 Marilyn Lemmon / Bob Lampley (Miss.)  
 2008 Robin Rickerman / Thurman Brooks (Mo.)

**Mixed A / B Doubles**

2007 Young-Mi Lee / Park Minsoo (Korea)  
 2006 Trish Beatty / Matt Stamborski (Wis.)  
 2005 Young-Mi Lee / Eunbyung Kim (Korea)  
 2004 Sadie Hall / Andrew Gross (Tenn.)  
 2003 Sharon Dunn / John Dill (Texas)  
 2002 Debbie Ulliman / Jeff Marmer (Ohio)

2001 Jennifer Hunter / Walter McDade (Tenn.)  
 2000 Sandra Gross / David Gross (S.D.)  
 1999 (A) Esther McNany (Conn.) / David Barnes (R.I.)  
 1999 (B) Valerie Willis (N.C.) / Ken Joy (Va.)

**Mixed C / D Doubles**

2007 Sarah O'Brien / Greg Eisenberg (Ohio)  
 2006 Marilyn Lemmon / Bob Lampley (Miss.)  
 2005 Rita Stewart / Richard Rydman (Ky.)  
 2004 Rita Stewart / Richard Rydman (Ky.)  
 2003 Becky Smith (Okla.) / James Carothers (La.)  
 2002 Pamela Trent / Stanley Trent (Tenn.)  
 2001 Tina Davenport / Steve Johnson (Mc.)  
 2000 Kastle Arturo / Ryan Kofoid (Alaska)  
 1999 Vicki Leetch (Ark.) / Ryan Kinnaman

**Mixed 30+ Doubles**

2014 Jessica Haak (Wis.) / Ryan Ratchford (Iowa)  
 2013 T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.) / Russ Bruns (S.C.)  
 2012 Trish Beatty / Scott Kraemer (Wis.)  
 2011 Trish Beatty / Scott Kraemer (Wis.)  
 2010 Melissa McElfresh (Calif.) / Ken Angelocci (Fla.)  
 2009 Trish Beatty / Scott Kraemer (Wis.)  
 2008 Trish Beatty / Scott Kraemer (Wis.)  
 2007 Trish Beatty (Wis.) / Andy Gross (Ga.)  
 2006 Melissa McElfresh / Ralph Cuesta (Fla.)  
 2005 Lynn Fonseca / Gary Gloggler (Ga.)  
 2004 Cari Kresa / Herve Bony (Fla.)  
 2003 Brenda Kyzer / Sandy Tucker (S.C.)  
 2002 Cari Kresa / Herve Bony (Fla.)  
 2001 Brenda Kyzer / Sandy Tucker (S.C.)  
 2000 Brenda Kyzer / Sandy Tucker (S.C.)  
 1999 Cintya Salazar (Md.) / Jim Leveque (Va.)

**Mixed 40+ Doubles**

2014 Sara Noyes / Tom Bevelock (Fla.)  
 2013 Linda Moore / Troy Vanbemmelen (Neb.)  
 2012 Wanda Collins / Vincent Kiteley (Wash.)  
 2011 Laura Fenton (Calif.) / Dave Kovanda (Ohio)  
 2010 Debra Bryant (N.C.) / Howard Walker (Texas)  
 2009 Chris Eron (Ill.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)  
 2008 Chris Eron (Ill.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)  
 2007 Beth Sacco / Kipp Atwell (La.)  
 2006 Shari Coplen (Mo.) / Woody Clouse (Colo.)  
 2005 Shari Coplen (Mo.) / Woody Clouse (Colo.)  
 2004 Debbie Chaney (Ind.) / David Watson (Okla.)  
 2003 Debbie Ulliman / Andy Kulback (Ohio)  
 2002 Debbie Chaney (Ind.) / Dave Watson (Okla.)  
 2001 Debra Stefandel / Joe Ault (Ind.)  
 2000 Debbie Chaney (Ind.) / Bill Lyman (Ill.)

**Mixed 50+ Doubles**

2014 Laura Fenton Kovanda (Ohio) / Troy Stallings (S.D.)  
 2013 No division (replaced with Centurion)  
 2012 Chris Eron (Ill.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)  
 2011 Chris Eron (Ill.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)





CONTINUING THE

# Making of a Champion

by Fran Davis (The Coach) • Diana McNab (Sports Psychologist) • Dan Obremski (Fitness Expert)

Okay, let's continue "Making You a Champion" using the core principles of "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" as you build your championship game one assessment at a time. In the Winter & Spring 2015 issues, I discussed The Serve in detail, which is a key element in creating your "championship game." Today, we'll discuss the "Return of Serve"...

Just like the server sets the tone of the match, the return of serve sets the tone to the rally. Both are extremely important and, combined, they are worth 40-50% of your game ... which should not be taken lightly!

When you are returning the serve, you are positioned in the back of the court about 2-3 feet from the back wall. You are as far away from the front wall as possible, unlike the server, who is positioned in the middle of the court approximately 20 feet from the front wall and is hitting the ball out of their hand. The server is in total control and on offense.

With this in mind, the purpose of the return of serve is to move the server out of center court and put them in the most difficult position to score ... or ... in the very back of the court which is the furthest from the target. Your goal is to gain strategic control of center court position by placing your opponent in the back court. The two shots that will accomplish these objectives are ceiling shots and passing shots, which will help you neutralize the server (who is in total control of the match at this point).

It is plain and simple -- if you cannot at least return the serve or return the serve well, you will not be able to get your opponent out of the middle, nor will you be able to get yourself into good position so you can rally and possibly force a side out.

With this in mind, let's address the four skill areas needed to help make you a more consistent player, a must in developing your championship game.

## 1-RACQUETBALL SKILLS

**The mechanics of the return of serve are crucial** because the serve will be coming back into the back corners or off the side wall at you at different speeds, angles and heights. You have to be able to read, react, and execute as quickly and efficiently as possible. The mechanics/techniques of the return of serve is the same for

both the returns of a drive serve or lob serves except for a few minor variations. We will break down the return of serve as follows:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. <b>Down and Ready</b></p> <p>2. <b>Pivot</b></p> <p>3. <b>Crossover Step</b></p> | <p>4. <b>Swing/Contact Point</b></p> <p>5. <b>Follow Through</b></p> |
|--|--|

Rocky, Jason and Paola as well as the rest of my championship team do this to make sure they get their opponents into the back of the court as they move back into good center court position. This will pay big dividends for them to play at the top of their game.

## 2-MENTAL SKILLS

**Mental toughness is the ability to understand and control one's mind in order to optimize performance.** In sport psychology, we say that an athlete has two brains—one in his head (learning brain) and one in his gut (sports brain).

**1. Learning brain:** This is the brain in your head, where you absorb auditory and then visual information. At first you listen to instructions (auditory), and once you have heard the message, your brain tries to see, or visualize, the message. In this way you have heard it and then seen it, and now you are ready to try it.

*\*Auditory brain:* When you first learn a new skill, it enters the auditory brain, the left side of your brain, and you understand the concept. For some athletes this is good enough, and they hear what you say and then do it.

*\*Visual brain:* Most athletes need more than just hearing instructions; they need to add the visual picture of the skill, and this happens in the right side of the brain.

**2. Sports brain:** Once you have performed a skill perfectly at least seven times, it gets imprinted and sent to your "second brain" (kinesthetic/feeling center), which is located around your belly button -- this is called your gut, or instinct. All muscle memory is stored here and is triggered by sight and sound. This research comes from Eastern theology, which maintains that all your intuitive knowledge is stored in your ki, or center. James Loehr, a famous sports psychologist, calls it playing in the zone. This occurs when an athlete's mind and body come together and are on automatic pilot for peak performance.

### 3-FITNESS SKILLS

Speed can be defined as getting from point A to point B as quickly as possible ... from the return of serve position back to center court position. Almost every athlete involved in a sport that requires running would love to move faster and more efficiently. Speed in racquetball is imperative but unique because of the nature of the court itself. You must negotiate a 20-foot by 40-foot room while watching your opponent, the ball, and the wall.

The techniques and skills of racquetball require five different speed motions:

- 1. Starting speed
- 2. Foot speed
- 3. Hip speed (or rotation)

- 4. Backpedal speed
- 5. Change of direction speed

Paola, Rocky and Jason have fitness trainers that work with them on a regular basis and focus on developing their speed in their training routines.

### 4-NUTRITION SKILLS

Sleep.... an athlete needs 6-8 hours of deep R.E.M. state sleep in order to totally repair tissues and cells and also for mental visualization images to imprint into the gut. It is in the third phase of your sleep cycle where your body takes all of the nutrients that you have eaten that day to repair itself. And it's in the fourth cycle where your sub-conscious imprints images into your muscle memory. So a good night's sleep is imperative. Jason, Paola and Rocky ALL know how to enjoy themselves, but it's about getting enough rest and sleep, so this is a way of life for them.

For more details on the concepts discussed in this article see my book, "Championship Racquetball", Chapters 3, 9, and 10.

*Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction. Or buy my video, "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" or my book, "Championship Racquetball" if you can't make a camp at this time. For details go to: [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com).*

# Championship Racquetball

## Using the Core Principles of "Building Your Racquetball Dream House"

*If you want to play like a champion, turn to the champions!*

### App

- Bring your mobile device on the court with you
- Coaching one on one with Fran & Jason
- Dynamic video/diagrams on techniques & tactics
- Top coaching worldwide

### Video

- Learn to vary serve-deception
- Learn the perfect strokes
- Improve shot selection/court position
- Game plans/Strategies a must
- Be aggressive on the return of serve
- Perfect practice makes perfect -

### Camps

- 13+ Hours of Instruction and Court Time
- Physical and Mental aspects of the game
- Lectures/Playing/Critiquing
- Video Tape Analysis / Play the Pro
- Camp Manual/ T-Shirt / Penn Racquetballs

### Books

- Core Principles discussed
- Advance your skills, tactics and toughness for a winning game
- Targets Intermediate players and above

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Taylor Knoth  
Jr. World Champion

Jason Mannino  
#1 Pro Player 2003

Rocky Carson  
#1 Pro Player 2008

Sharon Jackson  
Jr. Nat'l Champion

Paola Langoria  
2X #1 Pro Player

Suds Monchik  
6X #1 Pro Player

### Fran's Credentials

- 25+ Years Camp Experience
- Woman of the Year 2009
- 2004 Hall of Fame
- U. S. National Team Coach 1989-1996, 2002
- Pan American/World Championship Coach
- USOC National Coach of the Year 1997
- Coaches Rocky Carson, Paola Longoria, Taylor Knoth, Sharon Jackson
- Coached Legends Jason Mannino and Sudsy Monchik
- USAR-IP Master Professional

### Jason's Credentials

- #1 IRT Professional Player 2003
- 2X U.S. Open Champion
- IRT Most Improved Player 1998
- IRT Rookie of the Year 1996
- International Racquetball Tour President

### Camp Schedule:

#### Weekend Camps 2015

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| August 28-30 | San Antonio, TX |
| November 6-8 | Chicago, IL     |
| December     | TBA             |

#### Weekend Camps 2016

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| January 15-17  | Sarasota, FL       |
| February 5-7   | Seattle, WA        |
| March 11-13    | Findlay, OH        |
| April 1-3      | Las Vegas, NV      |
| April 29-May 1 | Warren, NJ         |
| June 3-5       | TBA                |
| TBA            | Houston/Dallas, TX |
| TBA            | Phoenix/Tucson, AZ |
| TBA            | Los Angeles, CA    |
| TBA            | Denver, CO         |
| TBA            | St. Louis, MO      |

#### Week Long Fantasy Camps 2015/2016

- ARUBA CAMP - December 3-10, 2015 (Caribbean Island...Intermediate to Advanced Camp)  
CANCUN CAMP - TBA 2016 (Mexico...Intermediate to Advanced Camp)

Contact me to add a camp in YOUR City/State.

Presented by  
featuring Fran Davis and Jason Mannino



HEAD

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## WHAT'S THE CALL?

by Otto Dietrich, USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

STRIKE “AVOIDABLE” FROM YOUR VOCABULARY

# “PENALTY HINDER”

IS WHAT IT’S CALLED

*So, what kind of hinder was it?*

**A** quick reminder to officials and announcers at marquee events: Please wipe the archaic term “avoidable hinder” from your vocabulary! Although the concept was unaltered in its application, the term assigned to describe it was renamed “penalty hinder” many years ago. Conversely, the other hinder category is properly deemed “replay hinders” and not just “hinders.” So, if a referee stops play with a “hinder” call, it’s legitimate to ask, “... but what kind of hinder?”

A question I am often asked is, “How can I tell if the right call is ‘penalty hinder’ or not?” Here’s a simple key I’ve concocted that works in most instances. A penalty hinder happens when a player (1) does something that they didn’t have to do, or else (2) fails to do something that they could have done – and as a result, the opponent was hindered. Of course, whenever that happens, the rally is lost by the offending player. Here are several recent questions and my related answers.

**Frank G. asked:** After hitting his shot, my opponent hit me with his racquet on my way to my shot. I stopped play because of it. He said it was not a hinder, I said it was. Who is right?

**I responded:** If the contact (with you) occurred on the follow-through of his shot, then, unfortunately, he is likely right – it’s not a hinder. Why not? Because you were probably standing too close to him when he took the shot – a violation called crowding. Please read the last few sentences of Rule 3.14(a)3. I often describe this rule as being the cruelest in the game. What usually happens in such situations is the person who swung stops playing out of sincere concern for having harmed his opponent, while the more knowledgeable (but harmed) opponent just keeps playing and often wins the rally because his opponent stopped play.

**Jerry A. wrote:** At National Singles, my opponent served the ball and immediately raised his hand indicating that he thought it was a short serve. I hesitated for a moment and lost the point. The referee indicated that I should have not stopped, which I agree, but I feel there should be some consequence to him raising his hand. What’s your feeling?

**I answered:** Actually, the rules encourage players to raise their hands during a rally to silently indicate that they saw something wrong. Doing that is most useful when line judges are used as it is a way of referencing the “non-called” problem so that all three officials can agree on the play that may be appealed/assessed once the rally is over.

## DO YOU HAVE A RULES/REFEREEING QUESTION?

Be sure to email it to me at [rules@usra.org](mailto:rules@usra.org) and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of *Racquetball Magazine*. I will personally answer every question I get, no matter how simple or complex it may be!



photo by Geoff Thomsen

So, a player doing that during a rally should just be ignored by his opponents. Also, signaling like that during a rally does not require the player to appeal once the rally is over.

**Gary N. emailed me this:** Who has the right to call a back wall/long serve in doubles – the player who the ball was hit to, his partner, or either one? It seems if his partner calls it long after the player that the ball is hit to hits it, then that should still be a fair ball in play. Besides making it dangerous if someone looks back.

**I told Gary:** Just to be very clear, a serve is never “long” until it actually touches the back wall without being touched at all by a receiver. After anyone calls it “long,” all play should stop immediately and everything that happens thereafter should be ignored. By the way, a serve into the “crotch” formed by the floor and the back wall or either sidewall is a good serve (not long). Anyone on the court (no ref, I assume) who is sure that a serve was long before it has been returned should call it ASAP.

**Gary followed up with:** What happened in this case was the person who was served to hit the ball even though it might have been long since it was three feet off the floor. His partner stopped the play by picking up the ball in the rally and calling the serve “long.” Does he have the right to do that if his partner hit it, even though it was “long?” He says that either person can call it “long” even after it has been hit.

**So, I added:** Once again, the serve is not (never, ever) truly long until it actually hits the back wall! A serve could be ten feet high as it gets to the receiver, but if the receiver jumps and hits the ball (before it reaches the back wall), then the ball is “in play” and the serve is NOT (never was) long. Moreover, if anyone were to call a serve like that long before it touches the back wall, then that would be interference with the on-going play and therefore a hinder -- most likely a penalty hinder and a loss of that rally -- for the person/team who did that. Also, if the receiver were to simply catch or even touch the served ball before it touches the back wall -- even if it obviously would have been long had it not been caught -- then that would be an ace (point) for the serving team. Lastly, since the serve you described was actually never long (because the receiver hit it before it touched the back wall) then play should have continued and his partner was wrong for stopping the rally for a reason that never existed. The serving team should win that rally.

## Always Play by the Rules

... and, if you don’t have a copy of them, I encourage you to go online where you can find, review, and/or download them – especially to your Smartphone – at: [teamusa.org/USA-Racquetball/How-To-Play/Rules](http://teamusa.org/USA-Racquetball/How-To-Play/Rules).



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Pictured with her award at the Sunshine State Games, **Graciana Wargo** of Palm Harbor, Florida was named the state's Female Athlete of the Year by the Florida Sports Foundation in June. The 13-year-old National Champion was selected from among 12,000 Florida athletes and is only the second racquetball player to be so honored in the 35-year history of this prestigious award. "To be chosen from 12,000 athletes of all ages and from 29 sports was completely overwhelming and emotional. I am grateful to represent the sport of racquetball."

This talented young lady has competed in 15 tournaments over the last 12 months and often plays in both adult and junior divisions to hone her skills. She is no stranger to being honored on the local and national level, and she is a three-time recipient of the Florida Racquetball Association Junior Female Player of the Year Award. Nationally, Graciana also qualified to represent Team USA as a member of the Junior National Team on four occasions and recently marked her eighth consecutive year competing at the USA Racquetball Junior Olympics. There, she reached the quarterfinal round of the Girls 14 and under singles, and earned a silver medal finish in Girls 14- doubles with partner **Elena Dent**. [pictured with Wargo, above]

"My long-term goals are to continue to train even harder and to learn from every match in leagues and in tournaments. I am motivated to get good enough to be able to one day beat my older brother **Evan**! Eventually, I would love to be able to travel and compete on the Ladies Pro Tour." *Photos courtesy Gary Wargo, Vice-President, Florida Racquetball Association.*

Many generous outdoor players donated to California/Nevada Racquetball Association junior programs while enjoying the WOR Championships this summer. Juniors **Jasmine Carson**, **Cody Elkins**, and **Madison Elkins** conducted a successful fundraiser with half of the proceeds going to the winner. Raffle winner **Rudy Lara** generously donated \$40 extra to improve his chances, then applied his winnings toward purchasing a new racquetball bag. Well done Jasmine, Cody, and Madison!



Rudy Lara thanks raffle organizers **Madison Elkins**, **Jasmine Carson**, and **Cody Elkins**. Photo by Brett Elkins.



Team IOWA and their coach, Hall of Famer **Jim Winterton**, find ways to work together online even when they are separated by 800 miles.

Pictured L-R (back row): **Cheryl Gudinas**, **Adam Manilla**, **Julian Singh**, **Kevin Vazquez**, **Mitchell Turner**, **Thomas Carter**, **Luis Avila**, **Sam Bredenbeck**, **Wayne Antone**, **Jake Birnel**, **Daniel Rojas**, **Jody Nance**, **Antonio Rojas**, **Jen Meyer**, **Jeff Conine**. (front row): **Jordan Cooperrider**, **Krystal Boyle**, **Lexi York**, **Erika Manilla**, **Briana Jacquet**, **Brittany Click**, **Hollie Scott**, **Elena Dent**. Photo by Jim Hiser.

USA Racquetball's U.S. Junior National Training Camp was held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado in August, hosting 21 of the country's top junior athletes. Head Coach Cheryl Gudinas was joined by veteran coaching staffers **Jim Hiser**, **Jen Meyer** and **Jody Nance**, along with newly-appointed **Jeff Conine**.

Best known for his outstanding career in Major League Baseball, Conine is a 1997 and 2003 World Series champion with the Miami Marlins, is among the top 300 home run hitters in history and ranks 224 on the all-time RBI list. In his youth, Conine had a standout junior racquetball career, playing five years at Junior Nationals and winning Boy's 18- Gold in 1985.

The current host of Marlins pre- and post-game shows still competes at the national level in racquetball, pairing with Hall of Famers Marty Hogan and Sudsy Monchik for title wins in M25+ in 1994 and M35+ in 2012, respectively. Married to former US Team member Cindy (Doyle) Conine, the couple won the Mixed 25+ national title in 1999.





2015 Hidalgo Award honoree **Jay Noon** from Bryant University, with Army Team Captain **Daniel Blaine**.  
Photo courtesy of Rob VanSchalkwyk

Each year, the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference remembers a true hero and racquetball alumnus, **Daren M. Hidalgo**. Among ECRC players, the Daren M. Hidalgo Award for Sportsmanship is the highest honor a player can receive. Photos courtesy, the Hidalgo family.

Daren Hidalgo died fighting for his country in February 2011. His influence on the collegiate racquetball community, however, lives on in the Northeast and in the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference. A team captain at West Point, Hidalgo's passion for racquetball pushed him to compete in ECRC and USA Racquetball Championships including the 36th and 37th National Intercollegiate Championships. ECRC Assistant Commissioner **Robert Van Schalkwyk** commented on Hidalgo, "He epitomized what the Conference stands for, not only the tournament itself but what it meant to be a collegiate racquetball player. Daren played his heart out on the court, but once he stepped out, he was your best friend. He touched many lives with his own."

Former opponent **John Chisolm** remembers a true warrior and gentlemen. "Daren was the embodiment of tough competition (Daren always played to win, always had himself a grinding battle for a match); fair play (Daren always put his hand out first to shake, always had a joking smile on his face as he pretended to take a bad call); and fun (Daren always led the invites to join the gauntlet, always drew people in to be included)."

In his memory, the Hidalgo family continues to honor Daren by hosting a summer golf fundraiser in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, to assist students with scholarships and to aid military organizations.

Photos from the first-ever (sold out!) Arizona Racquetball Conference Tournament at Northern Arizona University this past summer. Congratulations and thanks to Kevin Hayes of NAU for taking the lead on this effort to establish competition between NAU, ASU, and the University of Arizona in the coming season. If you are with a school in the southwest that would like to be included, contact NAU for more information at: [Racquetball@nau.edu](mailto:Racquetball@nau.edu)



ASU player **Zach Patterson** and dad **Ken**, winners of Men's Open Doubles. Zach also won Men's Open Singles

Father **Noe** and **Carlos Rascon** (NAU), winners of Men's B Doubles

## RACQUETBALL

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Early Bird crew in 1991. Photo courtesy of Fran Smith



The originals with year started (clockwise from top left): Jim Wetzel-1981, Fran Smith-1982, Bill Smith-1981, Gary Biedenkapp-1985

**IN MARYLAND ... IT'S 32 YEARS AND COUNTING....**

Member **Fran Smith** has been a part of one of the longest continuous racquetball leagues in the country at the Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club in Millersville, Maryland. "We started with ten players in the spring of 1981, we have an A and B League, each plays two mornings per week at 6:00 a.m., and we have started a Doubles League one morning a week. We go year 'round, and once the regular season ends, we go to playoffs and the new league starts three weeks later."

Fran, **Jim Wetzel**, and **Bill Smith** have been the longest league participants with Wetzel never missing a season since 1981. Keeping costs down is important (\$11 covers the season), and making it available for new players is important, too. Continues Fran, "Half of the A's make the playoffs, and those who do not make the playoffs can be challenged by the B leaguers. You start in the B's, win the Division, and that allows you to compete in the A's."

What makes it special? "I can't imagine too many leagues that have been non-stop like ours. The other thing is the camaraderie -- my best friends are from the league." With an age range of 29-63, there is a broad range of talent and experience, and while the camaraderie and friendship of the league players is huge, there is still a high level of competition. "Absolutely, I am 58 years old, I just lost in semis, I am disappointed. I want to win. I go in every day trying to win, and I certainly don't want to give someone an opportunity to challenge me from the B's. I don't even want to think about going to the B League. We are out there to win."

The Early Birders are well known in their club for their work off the courts as contributors to community service programs. "Our club has a Christmas program to help those less fortunate, and the League collects gifts and funds to participate. It is a very generous group -- people look to help others, not just in the racquetball community. There is always something going on where we are helping each other."

How long has your racquetball league been in business? Can you top 1981? If so, please let us know at [magazine@usra.org](mailto:magazine@usra.org).

**IN ILLINOIS ...** The Illinois State Racquetball Association is targeting their State Members to promote FREE eMembership. With just a little re-write to co-brand and market the USAR offer locally, the state is supporting an important

program that offers some great benefits to enthusiasts. Thank you, Illinois, for promoting this important initiative. Here's how you can follow ISRA's lead with your own modification ... just cut, paste and personalize!

**FREE MEMBERSHIP ...** The [ insert your state association name here ] often gets asked how our players can help grow the sport -- and here's an easy way! Communication is the lifeblood of any organization like USA Racquetball, and we are helping by actively promoting a FREE eMembership that's easy to start enjoying right away!

The program is designed for the recreational player or casual fan who may not compete in sanctioned tournaments, but does have an interest in expert instruction, partner discounts and updates about the sport. The greater our reach to these expanded audiences, the more resources we can develop to support growth.



Early Bird players at retirement match for 30-year league veteran Hal Roche. Photo by Jay Stearns



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## IN ARIZONA ...

### EXERCISE REHAB IS KEY FOR GOODRICKE

Article & photo by Terry Rogers

The Military Racquetball Federation (MRF) hosted its largest-yet Racquetball Rehabilitation Clinic (RRC) National Challenge at National Doubles last fall, with 28 veterans competing from six different Veterans Administrations (VAs) around the country. But it was local players from Prescott, Arizona, that made the finals, with **Casey Goodricke** taking the title over runner-up **Dennis Webb**.

The stories of many of the veterans are both tragic and heartwarming, in equal measure, when you hear about their military experiences and then how they have persevered. The MRF is proud to have helped toward their mental, physical, and emotional healing through RRC programs. Casey shares his story below.

"I just won first place in the MRF RRC Challenge held for 30 veterans at USAR National Doubles. I got to proudly represent the Prescott VA military league. I am very interested in continuing my journey in racquetball. I cannot explain how much passion, love, and dedication I have for this sport. I practice almost three hours every day, and I recently played for five hours straight. I just can't get enough of it. Any chance to get on the court, and I'm there. I would like to further advance myself in this sport I love so much, especially when it comes to representing all my fallen and living brothers and sisters in arms. I want to become more involved, as I know I could easily spread the word and represent any company and the MRF and bring tons more vets into this beautiful sport."

"My short-term dream is to be a sponsored player, and my long-term dream is to play a major role in the MRF in helping to motivate and bring more vets like me into this amazing world of racquetball. Any advice would be greatly appreciated and definitely put to great use. Thanks from all of us vets for the support!"

Casey's mom Gail added that Casey had been challenged by school, but hockey and racquetball were his saving grace. He had several very good friends, was very respectful and had a good heart, but struggled with what he wanted to do after high school and decided to enter

the Army at the age of 18. Casey did two tours in Iraq: deployed in 2007 for 14+ months, home for about a year, and then in 2009 deployed again for 12 months. From 2010 to 2012, knowing full well he was suffering from PTSD, Casey did not want to ask for help. His escape was drinking, and he was extremely angry. He was in and out of several VA facilities and even living in his car at times. Casey just could not 'play by the rules' and wouldn't admit he was ill and needed help.

In November 2014, Casey began with the Prescott VA and seemed to make some real connections and, through MRF volunteer Jerry Northwood and Corey, a VA Recreational Therapist, got involved in the RRC program. His mom now says he is more connected than he has ever been, is more social now, and is really coming out of his shell. She cannot say enough about the Prescott VA and about the racquetball program that Casey is embracing, not only for himself but also because he wants to reach out to more veterans across the country. He wants to share his story and get them involved in the sport he loves and sees as helping him on his road to recovery. "He truly loves this sport, and the part about him being a racquetball addict is too true. My prayer is that he will bring many more to realize how awesome it is and how much exercise can do for you, both physically and emotionally."



Dennis Webb, Steven Harper, Casey Goodricke.

## ARE YOU UP TO THE TEST?

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# BIG APPLE BLUES

INTERVIEW BY BOB BODOR  
PHOTOS COURTESY SETH FARBER



*In a high-pressure situation musically (or a 9-9 tiebreaker) the most important thing is to clear your mind, to be in the best place to perform.*

You've heard the story before ... person walks into his club, sees people playing racquetball, gives it a try, and is instantly hooked. That's what introduced Seth Farber to the sport in 1985, at the West Side YMCA on 63rd street in Manhattan. And while his racquetball story may not be unique, consider that he's also a four-time Grammy Award nominee while competing as the eleventh-ranked player in New York. Now you have a compelling racquetball story to tell!

Farber found immediate gratification and love for the sport on that day in 1985. "It's one of those rare sports where it doesn't matter how big or strong you are, it's all about skill and speed. I was immediately attracted to it and started playing tournaments before long. It's got nothing to do with size and strength ... it's all about fitness: the worse you are, the better the workout. Points last longer!"

For racquetball players, it's difficult to comprehend why someone would prefer exercise in solitude when competition, camaraderie, and an intensely productive workout await inside the 20 by 40 arena. "As soon as I picked up a racquet and played for an hour, I had an incredible workout, but I wasn't standing on a treadmill, jogging or riding a bike. It was competition, and it was five times as much fun as any other kind of exercise you might do on your own. It became really clear to me that this was my sport, and I wanted to get better."



Farber at 2014 New York State Singles Championships



Farber on stage.

Like many USA Racquetball members, Farber cherishes his time on the courts to balance the stress of time spent building a successful career. In this case, his particular skills developed into a flourishing career that has taken him around the world as a musician, producer, and performer. For more than 30 years, Farber has performed on Broadway, in the studio, and on the road with some of the world's greatest creative talent.

Unlike stumbling onto racquetball as a random passion, music "has always been something in my heart. I never debated what I should do." It started at age four, learning piano from his mother. After studying Jazz at City College of New York, Farber mastered every style of music, from rock, to jazz, to blues. "As a musician in New York, you need to be able to play many different styles in order to be a working musician."

He became an accomplished pianist and keyboard player and later expanded his talents to conducting and producing. Diversifying his talent and working a broad range of venues has kept him busy, and he recalls playing "everything from Carnegie Hall to a prison for the criminally insane. Carnegie was better."

Farber has toured, recorded, and performed with artists like Jon Bon Jovi, Greg Allman, John Prine, Lucinda Williams, and Joan Osborne. His collaboration with the late, great blues artist Odetta led to two of his Grammy nominations for his productions and performances.

His work on Broadway includes some of the most successful runs on the Great White Way, including Hairspray, Fosse, Smokey Joe's Café, Catch Me If You Can, Shrek, Nine to Five, Aida, and Promises, Promises.

Farber finds many comparisons between racquetball and performing on stage or in the studio. "It is absolutely true, in a high-pressure situation musically, the most important thing is to clear your mind, be in the best place to perform. It's the exact same thing in a tough racquetball match: clear your mind from extraneous thoughts and stay in the moment when it is 9-9 in the tiebreaker." At 53, Farber plays 2-3 times a week along with keeping very active on the tournament scene, competing in five or six tourna-

ments annually throughout the tri-state region as well as in the recent USA Racquetball National Singles Championships, calling it "a fantastic experience, thrilling."

Farber didn't hesitate when asked about comparing his profession with his sport as it relates to competition, preparation and focus. "When you are playing in a theater, recording session, or concert, you want to 'win,' not be the guy who didn't take the repeat sign or got to the bridge too soon. Before a racquetball match, you want to focus and play as well as you can. You don't want to beat yourself."

And how does pressure play into performing on stage? "There's definitely pressure. It's 8 PM, the theater is full with 1,500 people who paid a hundred bucks to see a Broadway show. When you hear the wrong note, you don't want it to be you. There is teamwork, but also competition with yourself. Like racquetball, you want to play your best, regardless of the outcome."

As of this writing, Farber is rehearsing for a fall premier of "On Your Feet" on Broadway, preparing for a summer workshop for teenagers, and he just released his second solo piano CD entitled "By Myself Alone." Farber also plays in a trio, The Edna Project, with his wife Liz Queler, who is a singer as well as a violin and mandolin player, and his 16-year-old son Joey who has been performing with his parents since he was eight years old.

The racquetball competition in New York is stout, and Farber, a 12-time Age Group State Champion, continues to compete at an Elite level with the state's best. He understands the challenges the sport faces but remains clear in his outlook: "I think the sport is as great as it has ever been."

Seth Farber is Racquetball....Together, We are Racquetball

#### **CHECK OUT SETH FABER'S SOLO PIANO RELEASES:**

*"By Myself Alone" and "Late One Night"*

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/sethfarber>



# SENIORS FOR JUNIORS

## Making a difference

athletic staff to share his ideas and opinions. The idea for the after-school program Seniors for Juniors was born at that meeting.

Once the concept was fully developed, the next steps were to get enough volunteers to staff the program to teach kids the basics, plus get the equipment needed to conduct the program safely and at minimal expense.

John began by asking many of the senior players if they would consider helping out. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and he soon had enough volunteers lined up.

Next, John reached out to the United States Racquetball Foundation (USRF) and its President, Shannon Wright for advice on equipment. USRF Executive Director Kathleen Klukas suggested that he ask the North Carolina Racquetball Association (NCRA) for support, and they not only provided seed money, but also many of the racquets needed. John then approached Racquet-world, which generously provided 12 sets of junior eyeguards and cans of balls.

Seniors for Juniors was a big success and is planning to start up again as the new school year begins. The first week, eight kids signed up, the second week it swelled to capacity. John anticipates that number will continue to grow as word spreads. He says, "The kids are embracing the game – learning to play the correct way, and both the juniors and seniors are having tons of fun!"

John concludes that "this experience has evolved into more about saving the sport we all love rather than saving a single court in my hometown. If those of us who have received so much benefit from racquetball don't get involved in bringing more players into the sport, the game will disappear altogether. I hope to expand this program regionally, statewide and eventually nationwide. I want to thank the United States Racquetball Foundation (USRF) for giving me invaluable support. The USRF will be crucial in helping us take programs like Seniors for Juniors to the next level."

Seniors for Juniors is an after-school program designed to introduce youth to the great sport of racquetball. The initial target group is an after-school program run by the YMCA in Mooresville targeted for at-risk youth as they come to the YMCA after school Mondays through Thursday. In the interest of starting the program in a manageable manner, we limited the program to Monday's from 4 to 5 PM.

By Newname Gooshere • Photos by John Sharman

**I**n the olden-days, way back in about 1969, when wooden racquets and metal encased rubber eyeguards with no lenses were the tools of the game, John Sharman played his first racquetball game and fell in love.

"By the end of my first game I thought it was the best sport I ever played and was hooked for life. Nothing in the last 45 years has diminished that opinion; however, the thing that has caused me great consternation over the last 25 years has been the continuous decline I've seen of clubs, courts and racquetball as a sport."

After John's club closed several years ago he joined the YMCA in Mooresville, N.C., for the sole purpose of playing racquetball, since it had two very nice composite courts. At that time getting court time was reasonably easy; however, they later converted one of the courts into a weight lifting area, and the state of the sport in the area changed drastically. To make things worse, he and his fellow players saw that few people actually made use of the converted court space most of the day.

Needless to say, John and his friends were unhappy and sought an equitable solution. He was encouraged to speak with the Facility Director, and they talked briefly about why the court was re-purposed before scheduling another meeting to discuss the issue in more depth.

At the second meeting, John shared his knowledge of club operations and understanding of how difficult it can be to defend a 20' by 40' piece of real estate to people who don't play or understand the sport. He shared that the majority of racquetball players only used the courts and no other part of the facility – not the basketball gym, not the weights, not the swimming pools and certainly not the cardio equipment. John said with a smile, "We do our cardio on the court, playing the sport we love."

The Facility Director was very receptive, and they began to collaborate on how to get more people involved in utilizing the courts more fully. She then asked John to meet with her

# TUCSON in January



**WARM WEATHER IN STORE FOR WSMRA**  
by Kendra Tutsch

**D**id you skip the Women's Senior/Masters tournament in Minneapolis last year because you thought it might be too cold? Well, this January you'll have no excuse, since the event will be in sunny, warm Tucson, Arizona, for the first time ever!

When I asked our Tucson Director, Cindy Tilbury, why she was doing this when she had so much on her plate, her response was simply "why not me?". Cindy has been an integral part of the WSMRA for many years and contributes to the racquetball community in many ways. Now President of the National Masters Racquetball Association and seated on the WSMRA Board, she started her long volunteer career when Peggy Clark asked for help on the Minnesota State Association board. After more than 25 years (and several states later), she's never slowed down! She started producing newsletters and websites and, before she knew it, she was running big tournaments.

"I especially think women's programs can use a little extra help, so when the WSMRA needed someone to run a few of their tournaments, I was happy to volunteer. My experience at different NMRA venues allowed me to set up a Tucson event fairly easily."

"WSMRA tournaments are simply the best ones for women EVER!" she continued. "Perhaps it's the dancing at the banquet! And of course, playing is also great and adding doubles last year made it even better."

So what does Cindy have in store for us? The tournament will run January 15-17 at the Tucson Racquetball and Fitness Club, which has 11 courts and many amenities. We'll kick off on Thursday with fun doubles to benefit breast cancer research, then start championship play on Friday morning that will continue through Sunday afternoon. And, of course, we'll also have the renowned Saturday night banquet with music, videos, slideshows, and a DJ for all the dancing you can handle!



Players Always Have a Good Time! L-R: Linda Moore, Carla Phillips, Cheryl Jones, Vickie Onesti, Vicki Pickard. Photo by Tina Marchie

Plan now to attend and enjoy plenty of fun, friendship, and great competition. Plus, you'll want to extend your stay to enjoy all the Tucson area has to offer, from golf to hiking the desert, visiting area museums or just relaxing by the pool. Plenty of special events are planned, including a trip to the famous Biosphere 2 and a night out at the Gaslight Theater.

A silent auction fundraiser will run all weekend, so you'll be able to bid on Wilson sports equipment and many other fun items, with all proceeds

benefiting causes like USAR Collegiate Scholarships and the US Racquetball Foundation. In Minneapolis last year, Hall of Famers Dr. Shannon Wright (president of the USRF) and Dr. Bud Muehleisen ("the Father of Racquetball") stopped by to watch the action and mingle. Shannon later commented, "The Women's Senior/Masters are a true credit to racquetball. I can hardly remember seeing such a talented group of women competing at such a high level, exuding such wonderful camaraderie, and having lots of fun at the same time!"

As long-time WSMRA Board member and player Nancy Kronenfeld once observed, "This tournament is about competition, but it is even more about camaraderie among women players. We dance all night at the banquet (no other tourney boasts that), and the ball is pink! I love this tourney, and I am so proud to have been a reason it grew to the best tourney for 35+ women ever"!

Find more details at [wsmra.com](http://wsmra.com), including entry links, and a downloadable flyer with information on the club, hotel, and area attractions. Like us on Facebook to get regular updates, or contact Cindy Tilbury at [cindy.tilbury@att.net](mailto:cindy.tilbury@att.net) or Kendra Tutsch at [kdtutsch@wisc.edu](mailto:kdtutsch@wisc.edu) with any questions.

*Come share in the fun! Online registration is open at:  
[www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=14034](http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=14034)*



Dr Bud, Mildred Gwinn, Shannon Wright, Kendra Tutsch

## NMRA IS NOW ON TWITTER

@NMRAprez



PHOTO BY TINA MARCHIE

I occasionally checked up on the hashtag #racquetball on Twitter and was inspired by all of the tweets out there from young players! The energy is so positive and fun. I decided the NMRA President should have a

voice there, so follow me @NMRAprez as I occasionally tweet comments that pertain to 40+ racquetball players and all NMRA members. I promise not to spam-tweet ... see you on the interwebs!

-Cindy Tilbury

## JOIN US FOR ROUND-ROBIN COMPETITION

By Carmen Alatorre-Martin, NMRA Vice President

Round-robin tournaments with large numbers of players require a lot of courts, which causes the NMRA to return to clubs that we've played in before. This year we're excited to be going back to the 24-court Meridien Racquet Club in Fullerton, California, for our Doubles-Only tourney, December 3-5. And although the dates aren't confirmed yet, we'll also revisit the Sunset Athletic Club in Portland, Oregon, for our July 2016 International tourney.

A new experience for our group will be playing at the St. Louis area Vetta Sports Club in Concord, Missouri, in March of 2016. This club, like our great Portland venue, has been the host of numerous large events, so it is experienced in hosting national tournaments. Missouri can be a little chilly in March, but that's perfect weather for indoor racquetball!!

We listen to our members when they tell us they want a central US location and to move the tournaments around the country. Our December 2016 Doubles-Only tourney is tentatively planned for Atlanta, Georgia, so pencil that in and don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions about NMRA events.

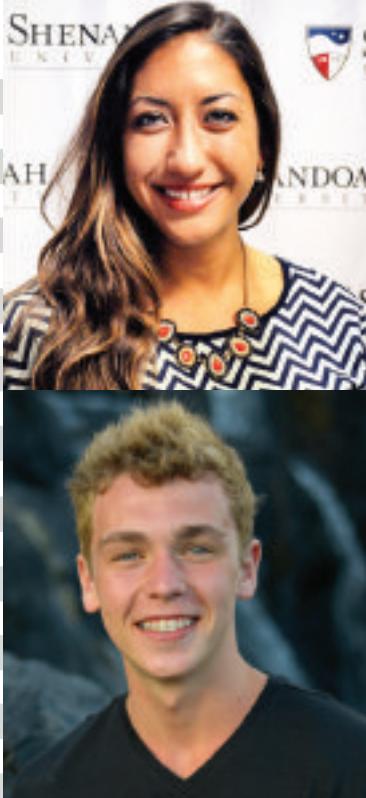


# CALENDAR of EVENTS

For the latest in USA Racquetball Sanctioned Events visit [USARacquetball.com](http://USARacquetball.com)

Date(s)	Event Name	City	State	Venue
Oct. 1-4	The Fall Brawl/IRT Pro Stop	Lombard	IL	Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Oct. 2-3	Bob Schwab Memorial Tournament	Peoria	IL	Landmark Racquet & Health Club
Oct. 2-4	Garnet and Gold Classic	Tallahassee	FL	FSU Leach Center
Oct. 3	Bay City Rollout	Bay City	MI	Bay Area Family Y
Oct. 3	WOR Arkansas 3 Wall Doubles Tournament	Fayetteville	AR	Walker Park
Oct. 3	SCRC Meet 1	Austin	TX	University of Texas
Oct. 3 - 4	Hope Tournament	Tucson	AZ	Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club
Oct. 7-10	Huntsman World Senior Games	St George	UT	ST George Rec Center
Oct. 7-10	UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Championships	Minneapolis	MN	Life Time Fitness - Target Center
Oct. 10	DARA Memorial	Wilmington	DE	Central YMCA
Oct. 15-18	Timberhill Open	Corvallis	OR	Timberhill Athletic Club
Oct. 16-18	17th Annual Ghostly Gateway Classic	Arlington	TX	Sport and Health Crystal Gateway
Oct. 16-18	Fall Cypress Classic @ LA Fitness	Cypress	TX	LA Fitness
Oct. 22-25	2nd Annual Krowning Moment Pro Invitational	San Marcos	TX	Texas State University
Oct. 23-25	St. Cloud - Fall Shootout	St. Cloud	MN	The Club-Total Fitness and Racquetball
Oct. 23-25	PSRA USAR Membership Tournament	Philadelphia	PA	Sporting Club at Bellvue
Oct. 23-25	Marigold Resources Quad City Open	Eldridge	IA	Eldridge Rec & Fitness
Oct. 24	HOPE for a Cure Breast Cancer Shootout	Lilburn	GA	Recreation Atl
Oct. 24	Izzi Open	Gillette	WY	Campbell County Rec Center
Oct. 24-25	Monterey Bay Racquetball Shootout	Monterey	CA	In-Shape Sport Monterey
Oct. 24-25	Kentucky Seniors Tournament	Louisville	KY	Downtown Louisville YMCA
Oct. 29-Nov. 1	Galaxy Custom Printing IRT	Lilburn	GA	Recreation Atl
Oct. 30-Nov. 1	WRT Modesto Open	Modesto	CA	Fitness Evolution
Oct. 31	Maverick SpookFest Shootout	Arlington	TX	Maverick Athletic Club
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	6th Annual Ghostly Doubles	San Antonio	TX	Gold's Gym HCV
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	New Jersey State Doubles	Hillsborough	NJ	HRC Fitness
Nov. 5-8	WRT San Diego	San Diego	CA	San Diego Fitness
Nov. 6-8	Fran Davis Camp	Chicago	IL	Glass Court Swim & Fitness
Nov. 6-8	UCF Collegiate Showdown	Orlando	FL	UCF Racquetball
Nov. 7	WOR Lowcountry State Championship	Savannah	GA	Lake Mayer Community Park
Nov. 11-15	Turkey Shoot	Portland	OR	Sunset Athletic Club
Nov. 13-15	Texas State Doubles Championships	Arlington	TX	Maverick Athletic Club
Nov. 13-15	MO 14th Annual Pinchshot. Com	St. Louis	MO	Vetta Sports - Concord
Nov. 13-15	CNRA State Doubles	Stockton	CA	TBD
Nov. 19-22	MO St. Louis Pro Winter Rollout Tournament	St. Louis	MO	Missouri Athletic Club
Nov. 19-22	Kitsap Splat!	Bremerton	WA	Kitsap Tennis & Athletic Center
Nov. 20-22	PSL Shootout	Port St Lucie	FL	Port St Lucie Civic Center
Nov. 20-22	MN State Doubles Championships	Fridley	MN	Life Time Fitness Moore Lake
Dec. 3-5	NMRA Doubles	Fullerton	CA	The Meridian Sports Club
Dec. 5	MO High School League Top Seed Tournament	St. Louis	MO	Vetta Sports - Concord
Dec. 5-6	FL Intl. Sr. Games and State Championships	Port Richey	FL	Richey Racquet Club
Dec. 9-13	Holiday Doubles	Milwaukie	OR	Eastside Athletic Club
Dec. 11-13	WRT Alamo City Open	San Antonio	TX	Thousand Oaks Family YMCA
Dec. 11-13	St. Cloud - Winter Shootout	St. Cloud	MN	The Club-Total Fitness and Racquetball
Dec. 11-13	Bad Santa	Simi Valley	CA	Oakridge Athletic Club
Dec. 12	Maverick Holiday Shootout	Arlington	TX	Maverick Athletic Club
Dec. 12	RYDF Fund Raiser	Concord	CA	Big C
Dec. 19	Vetta Sports Holiday Charity Classic	St. Louis	MO	Vetta Sports - Concord
Jan. 1-3	UCF Winter Multi-Day Classic!	Orlando	FL	UCF Racquetball
Jan. 15-16	MO Blizzard	St. Louis	MO	Vetta Sports - Concord
Jan. 15-17	WSMRA 27th Annual National Championship	Tucson	AZ	Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club
Jan. 15-17	MN Hall of Fame	Bloomington	MN	Life Time Fitness - 98th St.
Jan. 21-24	OSU Classic	Corvallis	OR	Timberhill Athletic Club
Jan. 23	MO High School League Doubles Tournament	St. Louis	MO	Vetta Sports - Concord

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In June, **Kelani Bailey** and **Jake Birnel** were named 2015 USA Racquetball Scholarship recipients, following a review round that included a pool of 10 applicants. Each will receive a \$1,000 award to assist with their college education.

A senior at Shenandoah University, in Winchester, Virginia, Kelani Bailey carries a 3.9 GPA and is on the Dean's List while majoring in Business Administration. She's been a four-year member of the Shenandoah Varsity Field Hockey team, and she is very involved in student organizations. Kelani also volunteers with organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, Relay for Life, and Habitat for Humanity.

The 21-year-old has been a USAR member for 11 years and is currently ranked #42 nationally and #1 in Virginia, just ahead of her mother, Malia Bailey (herself a 12-time U.S. National

Team member). Kelani has already won 23 National Championships in her budding career, including the 2013 and 2015 National Intercollegiate Championships.

A standout player at the Stonebrook Club in Winchester, Kelani remarked, "As a [USAR] Certified Instructor, I give lessons to members of all ages and provide free clinics. I have brought countless peers to the club to learn the sport including classmates, professors, and coaches."

When Jake Birnel, 17, graduated from Meridian High School in Bellingham, Washington, this past Spring, it was with a perfect 4.0 GPA and Presidential Academic Achievement awards earned in each of the past three years. He took multiple AP classes and played four years of soccer while also serving as a Peer Tutor and staff member for the annual Meridian 3v3 soccer tournament.

A USAR member for the past nine years, Jake plays at the Bellingham Athletic Club where he trained to win two National Junior Championships and earn an appointment to the 2013 U.S. Junior National Team. He is currently ranked #39 nationally and is the top-ranked American in his age division.

Named an All American for nine consecutive years, Jake will begin his undergraduate studies as a Pre-Med major at the University of Washington this Fall. "There are racquetball courts at the University of Washington and I plan on starting a club team. I hope to build a team to bring to Collegiate Nationals."

Begun in 1989, the USA Racquetball Scholarship Program provides funds to assist with college costs to USAR members who have shown achievement on and off the court. To date, more than 100 individuals have received nearly \$60,000 in funding. USA Racquetball congratulates these fine student athletes, thanks all of the candidates who applied, and is grateful to donors who help make the Scholarship Program possible. For details, follow top-level navigation from [USAR-racquetball.com](http://USAR-racquetball.com) > Programs > Scholarship.

## NICE SHOT



PHOTOGRAPHER KEN FIFE



### SAY CHEESE!

Junior Team members were great troopers in this makeshift studio - complete with propane canisters - set up on the fly by **Ken Fife** along the outer wall of the University Plaza Hotel in Stockton. The results were great and Ken shares how he did it ...

*Our junior models, clockwise from top left:*

**Jordan Cooperriider, Tommy Andraos, Hollie Scott, James D'Ambrogia.**



**I**n a recent shoot for USA Racquetball at the National Junior Olympic Championships I was asked to take headshots of the Members of the 2015 U.S. Junior National Racquetball Team at the awards and banquet ceremony. It seemed like a reasonable request from Executive Director Steve Czarnecki, and I wanted to do a good job, but it wasn't going to be easy. You see, one of my specialties as a photographer is headshots.

My normal routine is to meet the client to talk about wardrobe, schedule the makeup artist with shoot date, prepare my studio, take 100 or more shots with the client, then pick the best 4 to be polished up in Photoshop. I had 15 minutes to prepare in Stockton.

Background was the first hurdle. These were not going to be selfies, so eliminating clutter like trees, posters, and photo bombers with a smooth surface was a big deal. The wall to the side of the venue worked, and it had a lamp at about 10 feet above the ground. The lamp became a studio hair light. I had my studio picked out, and the setting sun was the main light. Actually there was no direct sun because it was blocked by buildings, but it did light up the sky, providing a softer light that is always good for headshots.

My subjects were fabulous. Each one put on their best looks as I snapped a series of shots. My only problem was that the sun was going down and time was running out. Not much time to chitchat. All in all this was the best part of the shoot.

The hard part was sitting at the computer picking out shots and editing in Photoshop. Color was a challenge because it was changing with the setting sun. Yes, color was a moving target albeit not as fast as racquetball.

For those of you that love photography as I do, you can catch me on Facebook if you'd like to chat in more detail about how we did this.



**HAVE NEWS?**

SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND NEWS ITEMS TO [MAGAZINE@USRA.ORG](mailto:MAGAZINE@USRA.ORG)  
TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A FUTURE ISSUE.



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