

RACQUETBALL



PAN AMERICAN GAMES

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NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

FEBRUARY 10 - 14, 2016 - TEMPE, AZ

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

FEBRUARY 24 - 28, 2016 - PORTLAND, OR

NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 30 - APRIL 2, 2016 - TEMPE, AZ

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



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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. All submissions are subject to editing.

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Fall	JUL 1	AUG 1	SEP 30
Winter	OCT 1	NOV 1	DEC 30



FREE! Get the latest digital magazine, email updates, discounts and more as an eMember of USA Racquetball. Scan the QR code or visit USARacquetball.com to sign up.

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.



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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

Communication • Customer Service • Dedication • Excellence • Integrity



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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 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!

The US OPEN has known two major metro homes over the years. It debuted at the Racquet Club of Memphis in 1996 and was held there annually until shifting north to Minneapolis in 2010. Now the portable glass championship show court rises in center stage at the Target Center each year, and multiple Life Time Fitness venues throughout the metro area have become home to hundreds of far-flung competitors who kick off the season there each Fall.

Of course, the most important group to shape the success of the US OPEN has been the thousands of players who have competed over the two decades. We know that many of these players will be with us to celebrate the 20th Anniversary, and we thank all who have been a part of the US OPEN experience over the years.



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.



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

For more information, visit 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

There 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!

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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

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 Burrue	25+ Elite	Alex Brown		Open	Janet Tyler	Hannah Shnurman	Boys 18-	Thomas Riganti	Benjamin Hyman
24-	Robert Hemphill	Joel Barshaw	30+ Elite	Keith Sapp	Bryan Shaw	40+	Jennifer Dering	Mildred Gwinn	Boys 14-	Caleb Law	Carter Harbeck
25+	Derek Izzi	Nick Blanchard	40+ Elite	Mike Grisz	John Starks	45+	Sue Goodwin	CJ Herceg	Boys 10-	Benjamin Horner	Nathan Geiger
30+	Brent Walters	Jeremy Best	50+ Elite	Kevin Barlia	Rick Betts	50+	Laura Brandt	Cindy Tilbury			
35+	Raymond Maestas	Toby Devore	60+ Elite	Chris Poucher	Jerry Ayers	55+	Cindy Tilbury	Janet Tyler	Girls 14-	Lily Caldwell	
40+	Jeff Stark	Arturo Burrue	25+ A	C.J. Sanders	Brent Johnson	60+	Terry Latham		Girls 10-	Heather Mahoney	Ava Naworski
45+	Jimmy Lowe	Jeff Stark	30+ A	Bruce Evans	Jon Rafkind	65+	Terry Rogers	Lilly Macintyre			
50+	Keith Minor	Jimmy Lowe	40+ A	Bruce Evans	Alec Mauritsen	70+	Mildred Gwinn				
55+	Mike Grisz	Jeff Wichers	50+ A	Glenn Carlson	Al Wieweck	75+	Marquita Molina				
60+	Dave Azuma	Steve Joannes	60+ A	William Cooper	Dennis Harris	Elite	Sue Goodwin	Cindy Burman			
65+	Russ Montague	Joe Lee	70+ A	Kyle Smith		A	Laura Kirkpatrick	Terry Latham			
70+	Robert Lattanzio	Gary Jones	24- B	Gregory Heinle	Tommy Andraos	B	Emily Stanton	Kathy Stellema			
75+	Gordon Kelly	Tom Schaber	25+ B	Scott Fish	Andrew Moser	C	Heidi Bauer	Paula Tran			
80+	Arthur Johnson	James Funk	30+ B	John Crowe	Josh Reddinger	D	Cheryl Keffeler	Lily Caldwell			
Heroes Open/Elite	Troy Vanbemmelen	Paul Julbes	40+ B	Frank Senger	Darren Ford	25+ Elite	Cindy Burman				
Heroes 30+	David Shafer	Michael Welch	50+ B	Frank Senger	Rick Moses	50+ Elite	Debra Bryant	Louise Winter			
Heroes 40+	Billy Ray	Philip Eliana Jr.	60+ B	Bill Selke	John McManamon	30+ A	Dragana Bulatovic				
Heroes 50+	Glenn Martineau	Richard Romero	70+ B	James Troutt	Dan Davis	40+ A	Nancy Davis				
Elite	Raymond Maestas	Dan Salamone	24- C	Braeden D'Almeida	Alex Gerlock	50+ A	Cheryl Kirk				
A	Greg Beistle	Luis Villarreal	25+ C	Nick Ierardi		60+ A	April Settell				
B	Josh Paul	Darren Ford	30+ C	Alfredo De La Torre		70+ A	Marquita Molina				
C	Braeden D'Almeida	Don Lundberg	40+ C	Don Lundberg	Earl Corney	30+ C/D	Heidi Bauer				
D	Zach Brady	Larry Prince Jr.	50+ C	Michael D'Almeida	Ray Cornell	50+ C/D	Cheryl Keffeler				
Heroes A	Albert Ortiz	Glenn Carlson	60+ C	Steven Helling	Claude Moore	60+ C/D	Irene Shere				
Heroes B	Mark Maldonado	Bill Bearden	70+ C	Mario Najera	Bruce Hollander						

DOUBLES	CHAMPIONS	RUNNERS-UP	DOUBLES	CHAMPIONS	RUNNERS-UP
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	Glenn 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 **EKTELON** **Penn**



Mauro Rojas & Sam Bredenbeck

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, capital 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 (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	Brittany Click	
16 and Under	Jordan Barth	Mauro (Daniel) Rojas	Erika Manilla	Jordan Cooperrider	
14 and Under	Akul Ramayani	Antonio Rojas	Briana Jacquet	Kaitlyn Boyle	
12 and Under	Antonio Rojas	Akul Ramayani	Heather Mahoney	Estefania Perez	
10 and Under	Vedant Chauhan	Josh Shea	Heather Mahoney	Kareena Mathew	
10 and Under DB	Ariaan-Thor Ghatate	Ashton Akins	Kareena Mathew	Audrey Schreiner	
8 and Under	Joseph Marshall	Angel Galvan	Ava Naworski	Sonya Shetty	
8 and Under MB	Bobby Singh	Angel Galvan	Ava Naworski	Sonya Shetty	
6 and Under MB	Gael Trejo	Taij Singh	Andrea Perez-Picon	Aanshi Thakur	

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	Daniela Torres/Karina Quintanilla	
16 and Under	Kevin Vazquez/Wayne Antone	Jordan Barth/Justus Benson	Erika Manilla/Jordan Cooperrider	Kristine Holman/Madison Kerzel	
14 and Under	Julian Singh/Mitchell Turner	Brian Barberis/Nick Birnel	Briana Jacquet/Kaitlyn Boyle	Graciana Wargo/Elena Dent	
12 and Under	James D'Ambrogia/Tommy Andraos	Andrew Gleason/Timmy Hansen	Heather Mahoney/Julia Stein	Elena Mathew/Kareena Mathew	
10 and Under	Vedant Chauhan/Josh Shea	Cody Elkins/Gatlin Sutherland	Sage Harman/Sarai Santana-Arechiga	Emily Hernandez/Raina Hartman	

MIXED DOUBLES		
	Champion	Runner-Up
18 and Under	Nicholas Pavloski/Brittany Click	
16 and Under	Lukas Le/Karina Quintanilla	Rebecca Van Rhee/Dane Elkins
14 and Under	Megan Carver/Nick Birnel	Cayden Akins/Nikita Chauhan
12 and Under	Rei McCormick/Roland Siverling	Aidan Tu/Raina Hartman

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 Ghatate	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	Graciana 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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2014-15

SEASON RECAP

Athletes Ready to Start Fresh in the Fall

By T. J. Baumbaugh

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.

The 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

Racquetball 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 tiebreaker. 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



Denver Athletic Club sponsors and supporters are pictured L-R: Dave Guentert, Andrew Rodriguez, Zach Casebolt, LPRT #1 Paola Longoria, Linda Winters, Deb Beldring, Victor Manilla, Phil Zavala. Photo courtesy John Foust.

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 Sofia 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.

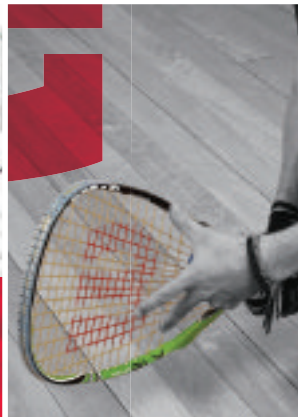
Sheryl Lotts

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. 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/lprtour>. 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 lprt.com and follow us on our Facebook page at facebook.com/lprtour.



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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 Kurzbard

The 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...



...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.

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."

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 – Conrado 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 – Conrado 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!



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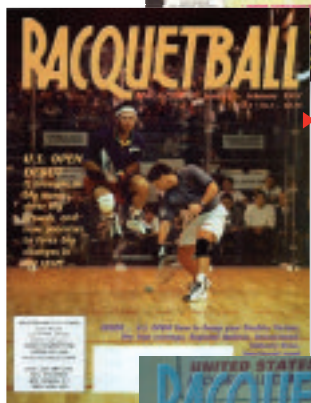
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ALL-TIME RECORD BOOK OF CHAMPIONS



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.)

LPRT WOMEN

Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
Rhonda Rajsich (Calif.)
Paola Longoria (Mex.)
Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)
Christie Van Hees (Can.)
Christie Van Hees (Can.)
Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)
Cheryl Gudinas (Ill.)
Kerri Wachtel (Ohio)
Christie Van Hees (Canada)
Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
Michelle Gould (Idaho)
Michelle Gould (Idaho)

IRT Men's Pro Doubles

2014	Ben Croft (Ill.) / 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 Huczek (Mich.)
2000	Jack Huczek (Mich.)
1999	Jack Huczek (Mich.)
1998	Ruben Gonzalez (N.Y.)
1997	Aaron Embry (Calif.)
1996	Joel Bonnett (Mich.)

Women's Open

Susana Acosta (Mexico)
Maiko Sato (Japan)
Veronica Sotomayor (Calif.)
Frederique Lambert (Canada)
Nancy Enriquez (Mexico)
Krystal Csuk (Ill.)
Veronica Sotomayor (Calif.)
Jen Saunders (Canada)
Diane Moore (Ind.)
Adrienne Fisher (Ala.)
Angela Grisar (Chile)
Angela Grisar (Chile)
Brenda Kyzer (S.C.)
Lori Jane Powell (Canada)
Lori Jane Powell (Canada)
Josee Grand'Maitre (Canada)
Lydia Hammock (Calif.)
Lori Jane Powell (Canada)
Christie Van Hees (Canada)

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 (Ill.)
2001	Mitch Williams (N.C.)
2000	Andy Hawthorne (Ill.)
1999	Jack Huczek (Mich.)
1998	Jeff Bloom (Texas)
1997	Jeff Bloom (Texas)
1996	Rocky Carson (Calif.)

Women's 24-

Maria Renee Rodriguez (Guatemala)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Mariana Paredes (Venezuela)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Cristina Amaya (Colombia)
Kara Mazur (Conn.)
Sharon Jackson (Ind.)
Da'Monique Davis (Ala.)
Da'Monique Davis (Ala.)
Janel Tisinger (Calif.)
Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)
Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
Aimee Roehler (Pa.)
Aimee Roehler (Pa.)
Shannon Feaster (D.C.)
Amanda McDonald (Can.)

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)

Women's 25+

No division
Youngock Lee (Korea)
Emily Coonse (Idaho)
No division
Sarah Warhaftig (Colo.)
No division

2008	Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)	No division
2007	Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)	No division
2006	Jason Bledsoe (N.C.)	Carolyn Peddle (Can.)
2005	Matthew Davenport (Mo.)	Shannon Feaster (Md.)
2004	Cesar Carrillo (Tenn.)	Shannon Feaster (Md.)
2003	Dale Valentine (Calif.)	Shannon Feaster (Md.)
2002	Dale Valentine (Calif.)	Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)
2001	Kyle Veenstra (Wis.)	T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
2000	Dale Valentine (Calif.)	Debra Bryant (N.C.)
1999	Sameer Hadid (Calif.)	No division
1998	Mike Locker (Minn.)	Mukai Youku (Japan)
1997	Kevin Graham (N.D.)	Michelle Wiragh (Md.)
1996	Mike Locker (Minn.)	Michelle Wiragh (Md.)

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 (Ill.)
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 Llacera (Del.)
1996	John Amatulli (Ind.)

Women's 30+

No division
Shannon Feaster (Md.)
No division
No division
Tracey Hawthorne (Ohio)
T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
Vallana Perrault (Minn.)
Vallana Lundstrom (Pa.)
Vallana Lundstrom (Minn.)
Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)
Etsuko Noda (Japan)
Heather Dunn (Mass.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Lori Lepow (Fla.)
Shigemi Yasuda (Japan)
Debbie Tisinger (Calif.)
Kersten Hallander (Fla.)

Men's 35+

2014	Aaron Granberg (Minn.)
2013	Aaron Metcalf (Fla.)
2012	Aaron Granberg (Minn.)
2011	Wesley Miller (Fla.)
2010	Brad McCuniff (Iowa)
2009	Brad McCuniff (Iowa)
2008	Brad McCuniff (Iowa)
2007	Brad McCuniff (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 McCuniff (Iowa)
1999	Tim Hansen (Fla.)
1998	Dave Watson (Okla.)
1997	Mitch Smith (Pa.)
1996	Marty Hogan (Mo.)

Women's 35+

T.J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
Vallana Perrault (Minn.)
Bernadette Zimmerman (Texas)
T. J. Baumbaugh (Va.)
No division
Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
No division
No division
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Kelley Beane (N.H.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Lorraine Galloway (N.Y.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Kim Machiran (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 Fluhardt (Fla.)
1996	Mitt Layton (Fla.)

Women's 40+

Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
Tammarian Rogers (Wash.)
No division
Cindy Conine (Fla.)
Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
No division
Kelly Beane (N.H.)
Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Anita Maldonado (N.Y.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Kim Machiran (Mo.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
Linda Moore (Neb.)
Linda Moore (Neb.)

Men's 45+		Women's 45+	
2014	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2013	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2012	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2011	Brad McCunniff (Iowa)		Laura Fenton (Calif.)
2010	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Anita Maldonado (N.Y.)
2009	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Laura Brandt (Fla.)
2008	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2007	Scott Cullins (Ga.)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2006	Scott Cullins (Ga.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2005	Richard Mordachini (Miss.)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2004	Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Texas)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2003	Miguel Santiago-Cruz (Texas)		Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Meena Evans (N.C.)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)
1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Meena Evans (N.C.)
1998	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)
1997	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
1996	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Janet Myers (N.C.)

Men's 50+		Women's 50+	
2014	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Laura Fenton Kovanda (Ohio)
2013	Jimmy Lowe (Hawaii)		Janice Kennedy (Ga.)
2012	Richard Eiseemann (Texas)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2011	Ivan Sanchez (Texas)		Debra Tisinger-Moore (Calif.)
2010	Daniel Pischke (Wash.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2009	Edward Fink (Texas)		Kelly Kirk (Minn.)
2008	Glenn Bell (Texas)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2007	Patrick Gibson (Texas)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2006	Thomas Travers (Fla.)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2005	Greg Campbell (Ore.)		Marsha Berry (Ky.)
2004	Howard Walker (Texas)		Janet Myers (N.C.)
2003	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Marsha Berry (Ky.)
2002	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)
2001	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Nancy Kronenfeld (Ill.)
2000	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
1999	Mitt Layton (Fla.)		Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
1998	Rick Fusari (Fla.)		Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
1997	Rick Fusari (Fla.)		Margaret Hoff (Ill.)
1996	Ed Remen (Va.)		Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)

Men's 55+		Women's 55+	
2014	Wes Sneed (N.C.)		Debra Tisinger Moore (Calif.)
2013	Ivan Sanchez (Texas)		Debra Tisinger Moore (Calif.)
2012	Mike Grisz (Texas)		Linda Moore (Neb.)
2011	Mark Gilmore (Texas)		Jill Mitchell (Calif.)
2010	Jim Luzar (Wis.)		Elaine Dexter (Calif.)
2009	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
2008	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
2007	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Terry Rogers (Calif.)
2006	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Janet Myers (N.C.)
2005	R.E. Montague (Pa.)		Susan Kieffer (Minn.)
2004	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
2003	Greg Hasty (Ill.)		Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2002	Dwayne McKnight (Md.)		Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
2001	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Nidia Funes (Calif.)
2000	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
1999	Ray Huss (Ohio)		No division
1998	Warren Reuther (La.)		No division
1997	Glenn Allen (Va.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1996	Les Barbanell (N.J.)		Nancy Kay Butts (Wis.)

Men's 60+		Women's 60+	
2014	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)		Marsha Berry (Ky.)
2013	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Wanda Collins (Wash.)
2012	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)		Wanda Collins (Wash.)
2011	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Kathleen Ruzycski (Ill.)
2010	Joe Lee (Hawaii)		Joan Vande Kieft (Ill.)
2009	Frank Taddonio (Ariz.)		Shirley Parsons (Colo.)
2008	Greg Hasty (Ill.)		Merjean Kelley (Calif.)
2007	Jim Hiser (Colo.)		CeCe Palaski (N.M.)
2006	Ed Remen (N.C.)		CeCe Palaski (N.M.)
2005	Ed Remen (N.C.)		Nidia Funes (Calif.)
2004	Jeff Leon (Fla.)		Gail Shaefer (Md.)
2003	Dan Jones (Ga.)		Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)
2002	Glenn Allen (Va.)		Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
2001	Warren Reuther (La.)		Gail Schaefer (Md.)
2000	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)		No division
1999	Bob Webster (Ala.)		Jo Kenyon (Fla.)

1998	Lee Graff (Ore.)
1997	Jerry Stoltmann (Wis.)
1996	Jay Krevsky (Pa.)

Men's 65+	
2012	Gregory Hasty (Ill.)
2011	Jeff Leon (Panama)
2010	Donald Gunderson (Wis.)
2009	Robert Lattanzio (Calif.)
2008	Mitch Milewski (N.H.)
2007	Patrick Taylor (Ill.)
2006	Patrick Taylor (Ill.)
2005	Leland Riens (Minn.)
2004	Ron Hutcherson (Ind.)
2003	Rex Lawler (Ind.)
2002	Lee Graff (Ore.)
2001	David Lund (Mich.)
2000	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
1999	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
1998	Joe Lambert (Texas)
1997	John O'Donnell (Ill.)
1996	J.D. Driver (Mich.)

Men's 70+	
2012	Gordon Kelly (Fla.)
2011	David Zabinski (Minn.)
2010	David Zabinski (Minn.)
2009	Howard Nellor (Fla.)
2008	Dave Lund (Mich.)
2007	Lee Graff (Ore.)
2006	Dave Lund (Mich.)
2005	Paul Banales (Ariz.)
2004	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2003	Don Alt (Ohio)
2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2001	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2000	John O'Donnell (Ill.)
1999	John O'Donnell (Ill.)
1998	Joe Lambert (Texas)
1997	Joe Lambert (Texas)
1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)

Men's 75+	
2012	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2011	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2010	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2009	Jerry Holly (Calif.)
2008	John O'Donnell (Ill.)
2007	John O'Donnell (Ill.)
2006	Fred Wiegand (Texas)
2005	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
2004	Robert Miller (S.C.)
2003	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2002	Joe Lambert (Texas)
2001	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2000	Dick Kincade (Colo.)
1999	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1998	Nick Sans (Calif.)
1997	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1996	Earl Acuff (N.C.)

Men's 80+	
2012	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
2011	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
2010	John O'Donnell Jr. (Ill.)
04-09	No division
2003	No division
2002	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2001	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
2000	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1999	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1998	Earl Acuff (N.C.)
1996	George Spear (N.Y.)

Skill Divisions

Men's Elite	
2014	Nicolas Bousquet (Canada)
2013	Alejandro Romo Garcia (Mexico)
2012	Andres Acuna (Costa Rica)
2011	Kurtis Cullen (Canada)

Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
Jo Kenyon (Fla.)

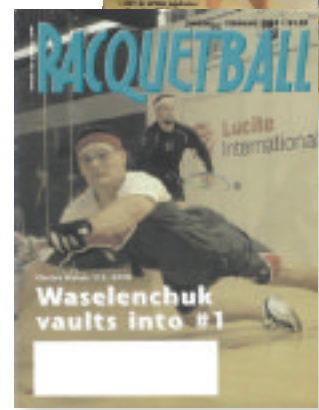
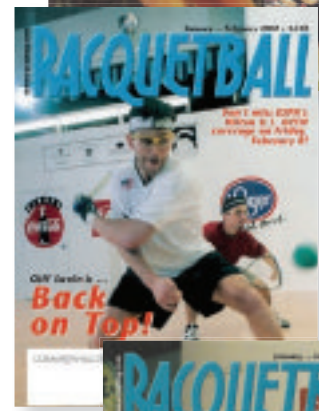
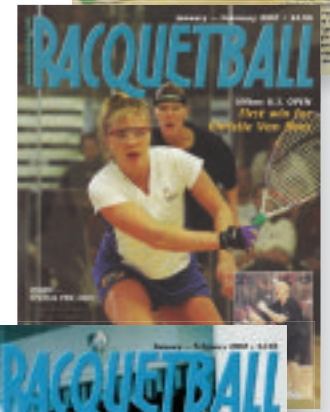
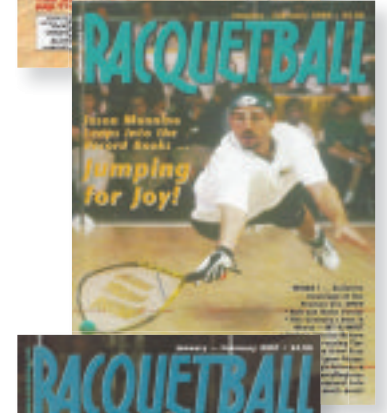
Women's 65+	
Terry Ann Rogers (Nev.)	
Merjean Kelley (Calif.)	
No division	
CeCe Palaski (N.M.)	
Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)	
Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)	
Mildred Gwinn (N.C.)	
No division	
Gloria Piscoran (Ore.)	
No division	
No division	
Jo Kenyon (Fla.)	
Jo Kenyon (Fla.)	
Jo Kenyon (Fla.)	
Lola Markus (Ill.)	
Lola Markus (Ill.)	

Women's 70+	
Marquita Molina (Calif.)	
Marquita Molina (Calif.)	
No division	
Shirley Barron (Ky.)	
Shirley Barron (Ky.)	
No division	
No division	
No division	
Lola Markus (Ill.)	
No division	
No division	
Lola Markus (Ill.)	
No division	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
No division	

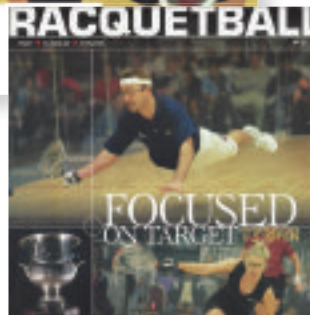
Women's 75+	
No division	
No division	
No division	
Lola Markus (Ill.)	
No division	
Lola Markus (Ill.)	
Lola Markus (Ill.)	
No division	
No division	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
No division	
No division	

Women's 80+	
No division	
No division	
No division	
No division	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)	
No division	
No division	
No division	

Women's Elite	
Danielle Drury (Canada)	
Sofia Soley (Costa Rica)	
Melania Sauma (Costa Rica)	
Natalie McCann (Minn.)	



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 (Flo.)
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 (Ill.)
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 Clayton (Ohio)
1996 Kazushige Oikawa (Japan)

Men's D

2014 Darryl Lewis (Ga.)
2013 Jose Miramontes (Mexico)
2012 Nils Mogensen (Ill.)
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.)

Melissa McElfresh (Calif.)
Jocelyn Loreda (Mex.)
Jessica Parrilla (Mex.)

Women's A

Kanesha Madison (Ga.)
Hollie Scott (Wash.)
Alexis Iwaasa (Canada)
Michele Morissette (Canada)
Natalie McCann (Minn.)
Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)
Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)
Christina Amaya (Colombia)
Jennifer Lynch (Mass.)
Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)
Fabiola Marquez
Harumi Kajino (Japan)
Claudia Ramirez (Fla.)
Candi Hostovich (Va.)
Robyn Perrin (Tenn.)
Akiko Saito (Japan)
Jennifer Hunter (Tenn.)
Deb Fiordilino (N.Y.)
Michele Kinaan (Calif.)

Women's B

Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
Sara Leon (Calif.)
Kanesha Madison (Ga.)
Kathryn Iwaasa (Canada)
Therese Zadnik (Minn.)
Elizabeth Selaya (Mo.)
Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
Sarah O'Brien (Ga.)
Melissa McElfresh (Fla.)
Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)
Lori Good (Ill.)
Shannon Inglesby (Ore.)
Diana Courtney (Mich.)
Kyoko Hirobayashi (Japan)
Rosario Kelley (Texas)
Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
Akiko Saito (Japan)
Kristen Kovar (Neb.)
Yesenia Delbusto (Fla.)

Women's C

Kelly Johnson (Minn.)
Paulina Sempertegui (Ecuador)
Kelly LeBlanc (Ga.)
Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)
Raelene Ostberg (Minn.)
Emily Brickell (Tenn.)
Julia Mouser (Calif.)
Jackie Wray (Ohio)
Tia Lecland (Mich.)
Rita Stewart (Ky.)
Tori Davis (Calif.)
Janice Bell (Ga.)
Tomoko Muromachi (Japan)
Petra Allen (Colo.)
Dyan Anderson (Md.)
Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)
Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)
Terry Truvillion (Mich.)
Heather Elliott (Fla.)

Women's D

Jessica Kisling (Minn.)
Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)
Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
Graciela Gonzalo (Fla.)
Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)
Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
Brenda Granados (Mex.)
No division
Tia Lecland (Mich.)
Ashley Loyd (Tenn.)
Janice Bell (Ga.)

2001 Tom Tierney (Texas)
2000 Bryan Shaw (Mo.)
1999 Sid Harshavat (Ill.)
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 Chávez (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.)

Women's 24- A

Ana Velez (Ecuador)
Nawoo Kim (Korea)
No division
Michele Morissette (Canada)
Kelly Gremley (Ind.)
Mariel Salcido (Calif.)
Viviana Reveron (Texas)
Cristina Amaya (Col.)
Haley Rollins (Ga.)
Sharon Jackson (Ind.)
Kara Mazur (Conn.)
Laurie Fisk (Mo.)
Keely Franks (Texas)
Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
Brenna Bilbrough (Ore.)
Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
Kristen Kovar (Neb.)
Vallana Perrault (Minn.)

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.)

Women's 24- B

Ivana Sempertegui (Ecuador)
Maria Renee Rodriguez (Gua)
No division
No division
Liane Bissonnette (Canada)
Rachel Smith (Colo.)
No division
Monica Escobar (Guatemala)
No division
No division
Sharon Jackson (Ind.)
Sarah Hettesheimer (Ohio)

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.)

Women's 24- C

No division
Maria Munoz (Ecuador)
No division
Sarah Duchi (Calif.)
Beatris Mendez Gandica (Venezuela)
No division
Sabrina Martinez (Ven.)
No division
Abbey Lavelly (Ohio)
No division
Haley Rollins (Ga.)
Danielle Joliff (Mo.)
Holly Hettesheimer (Ohio)
Wesley Toland (Ark.)
Kiromi Iida (Japan)
No division
No division
Kristie Gisner (Mo.)
No division

Men's 25+ A

2014 Kyle Smith (Ind.)
2013 Kipp Atwell (La.)
2012 Bryan Shaw (Mo.)
2011 Quentin Mieux (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 25+ A

Heather Hojat (Texas)
Heather Hojat (Texas)
Rebecca Bowman (Ind.)
Penny Hietala (Colo.)
Yayoi Nagasue (Japan)
No division
Karen Simon (N.Y.)
No division
Kimberly Glansberg (Calif.)
No division
Paula Saad (Mich.)
Felicia Mann (Mich.)
Hilary Anderson (Ohio)

2001	John Halpin (Conn.)	Nathania Stewart (Ga.)
2000	Corbin Dirks (N.C.)	Vivian Gomez (Fla.)
1999	Bob Jackson (Miss.)	No division
1998	Tony Rosales (Alaska)	Jill Nelson (Ill.)
1997	John Ledig (Fla.)	Ann Doucette (Maine)
1996	Ken Blalock (Texas)	Angela Burth (Va.)

Men's 25+ B

2014	Nic Koch (N.D.)	No division
2013	Samuel Gomez (Ill.)	Elizabeth Levine (Minn.)
2012	Jason Korbol (Minn.)	Kanesha Madison (Ga.)
2011	Steven Koshiol (Minn.)	Yolet Mendez (Venezuela)
2010	Christopher Conrad (Calif.)	Penny Hietala (Minn.)
2009	Jesus Lara (Fla.)	No division
2008	Joshua Purdy (Fla.)	No division
2007	Mauro Barbosa (Fla.)	Tish Rodgers (Texas)
2006	Aaron Lovinger (Ga.)	Ashley Ward (Del.)
2005	Jason Levoy (Fla.)	Dorsinayer Thompson (Fla.)
2004	Jeff Johnson (Mich.)	Marci Laramie (Tenn.)
2003	Carlos Ramirez (Fla.)	Dorsinayer Thompson (Fla.)

Men's 25+ C

2014	Aby Thottiyil (Texas)	Victoria Martinez (Texas)
2013	Adam Paulson (Minn.)	Brenda Granados (Mexico)
2012	Dawud Akbar (Ga.)	No division
2011	Rudy Olivares Jr. (Texas)	No division
2010	Fernando Rodriguez (Venezuela)	Heather Olson (Texas)
2009	Yuri Machuca (Md.)	Emily Brickell (Tenn.)
2008	Dennis Yamin (Ven.)	No division
2007	Josh Gibson (Tenn.)	Brenda Granados (Mexico)
2006	Tyler Scott (Calif.)	Rachel Wolff (Ohio)
2005	Jeff Nungesser (Tenn.)	Tracie Valentine (Md.)
2004	Felton Cox (Bahamas)	Tracie Valentine (Md.)
2003	Robert Goldsmith (Fla.)	Carolyn Watkins (Ill.)
2002	Filipe Veracochea (Texas)	Priscilla Krammer (Fla.)
2001	Sid Harshavat (Ill.)	Viviana Reveron (Venezuela)
2000	John Halpin (Conn.)	Emilse Cuartas (Argentina)
1999	Emmanuel Drege (Texas)	Lynn Hiorns (Ill.)
1998	Richard Wells (Ill.)	Rhonda Kochis (Okla.)
1997	Jesus Inigo (Fla.)	Rhonda Lindemann (Okla.)
1996	No division	Tammy Leitang (Wis.)

Men's 35+ A

2014	Bryan Shaw (Mo.)	Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
2013	Ted Rohlwing (Minn.)	Cindy Herceg (Calif.)
2012	Kipp Atwell (La.)	Clara O'Brien (Texas)
2011	Andy Wiegand (Minn.)	Bernadette Zimmerman (Texas)
2010	Paul Krueger (Wis.)	Clara O'Brien (Texas)
2009	Andrew Kulback (Ohio)	Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
2008	Marco Mijares (Ga.)	Thao Le (Va.)
2007	Ray Cordero (Colo.)	Hiroko Asari (Japan)
2006	Rod Van Dyke (Fla.)	Debralyann Kahik (Calif.)
2005	Mark Davis (Fla.)	Paula Saad (Mich.)
2004	Edward Fink (Texas)	Vivian Rodriguez (Wash.)
2003	Oscar Barraza (Mex.)	Karen Mickel (Ga.)
2002	Stanley Shaw (Mass.)	Felicia Mann (Mich.)
2001	David Marrero (Puerto Rico)	Karen Green (Mich.)
2000	Bill DiGregorio (N.J.)	Laura Woodbury (Va.)
1999	Ron Fowler (Ga.)	Madeleine Edwards (Tenn.)
1998	Don Sanderson (Utah)	Mary Crawford (Ill.)
1997	Gavin Higgins (Tenn.)	Lori Edmonds (Neb.)
1996	Geoff Hunter (Fla.)	Rose Cornelius (Calif.)

Men's 35+ B

2014	John Starks (Mo.)	Joy Herth (Ill.)
2013	Tom Janke (N.D.)	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2012	Hector Garcia (Mexico)	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2011	Lorne Renouf (Canada)	Nancy Davis (Mo.)
2010	Jerry Everts (Wash.)	Tracie Valentine (Md.)
2009	Rich Mattheis (Mo.)	No result
2008	Ricardo Gutierrez (Mex.)	No division
2007	Robert Cole (Okla.)	Beth Gainer (Pa.)
2006	James Campbell (Va.)	Eva Alle (Ga.)
2005	Stephen Rapp (Mo.)	Lynn Yeazell (Ill.)
2004	Barry Cruthirds (Miss.)	Sue Hunt (Miss.)
2003	Rom Resendez (Calif.)	Jeannette Clark (Can.)

Women's 25+ B

Women's 25+ C

Women's 35+ A

Women's 35+ B

Men's 35+ C

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

Men's 45+ A

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

Men's 45+ B

2014	Kurt Ross (N.D.)
2013	Tom Janke (N.D.)
2012	Daan Klem (Minn.)
2011	Terry Delaney (N.D.)
2010	Steve Carroll (Minn.)
2009	Grish Vallabhan (Texas)
2008	Ron Wheeler
2007	Mark Candy (Mich.)
2006	Allen Lawrence (Miss.)
2005	Michael Nichols (Ark.)
2004	Rick Grace (Texas)
2003	Joerg Leinemann (Md.)

Men's 45+ C

2014	Kevin Deyo (Colo.)
2013	John Provan (Calif.)
2012	Samir Muslic (Neb.)
2011	Ben Howell, III (Ala.)
2010	Darrin McNally (Ore.)
2009	John Peloso (Fla.)
2008	David Mimms (Ky.)
2007	Navin Deo (Ill.)
2006	Ed Garrison (Tenn.)
2005	Danny Borden (Ky.)
2004	Tom Gibbons (Can.)
2003	Terrance Holt (Ind.)
2002	Larry Knetzger (Ga.)
2001	Sez Ozden (Ga.)
2000	Garry Carter (Calif.)
1999	Donald Acklin (Pa.)
1998	Jack Morgenroth (Ohio)
1997	Peter Kochis (Okla.)
1996	Jerry Williams (Texas)

Women's 35+ C

No division
Felicia Green (Ga.)
Jennie Jones-Huggins (Ga.)
Dragana Bulatovic (Texas)
Becca Brinkman (Minn.)
No result
Nancy Davis (Mo.)
Nancy Davis (Mo.)
Laya Lee (Ga.)
No division
Laurell Burrows (Fla.)
Eunsook Kim (Korea)
Susan Simmons (Tenn.)
Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
No division
Sharon Curran-Wilks (N.C.)
No division
Terri Truvillion (Mich.)
Kassi Herr (Fla.)

Women's 45+ A

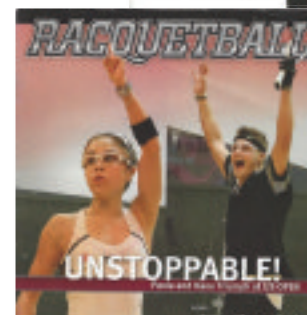
No division
Hiroko Asari (Japan)
Barb Hoffner (Minn.)
Marie Gomar (Guatemala)
Laura Woodbury (Va.)
Sandy Long (Texas)
Laura Natividad (Hawaii)
Chizuko Furuta (Japan)
Diane Chappel (N.Y.)
No division
Karen Green (Mich.)
Beth Sacco (La.)
Karen Green (Mich.)
Cheryl Kirk (Ill.)
Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
Kay McCarthy (Tenn.)
Margaret Hoff (Ill.)

Women's 45+ B

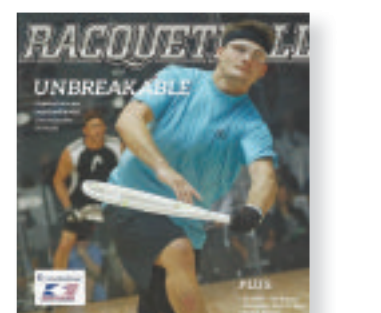
Esther Lozano (Calif.)
Robbie Mack (Wis.)
Zia Yang (Texas)
Therese Zadnik (Minn.)
Therese Zadnick (Minn.)
Elaine Ransom (Ariz.)
No division
Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
No division
Loretta Seager (Kan.)
Grace Jaworsky (Mo.)
Alyse Cori (Calif.)

Women's 45+ C

Jackie Wray (Ohio)
Marsha Johnson (Ga.)
Kimberly Franklin (Ga.)
Denise Berto (Va.)
Rosa Smith (Texas)
No division
Elaine Ransom (Ariz.)
Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
Marilyn Lemmon (Miss.)
Tia Lecland (Mich.)
Tia Lecland (Mich.)
Deborah Reauso (Mich.)
Genie Martin (N.C.)
Jessica Hamlin (Fla.)
Jan Stelma (N.C.)
No division
No division
Martine Dormer (N.C.)
No division



With a record-setting ten crowns to his credit (starting his run in 2003), **Waselenchuk** holds over 50% of available US OPEN titles ... **Longoria** claims over 25% with five total, beginning in 2008.



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	Women's 55+ A
2014 Larry Matula (Texas)	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2013 Rick Betts (Calif.)	Cheryl Jones (Minn.)
2012 George Brewer (Wash.)	Ly Abbott (Texas)
2011 Bill Stein (Minn.)	No division
2010 Brad Cress (Texas)	Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2009 George Henshaw (La.)	Kathleen Ruzycki (Ill.)
2008 Kim Keltner (Mo.)	Shirley Parsons (Colo.)
2007 Tyrone White (Ala.)	Sharon Huczek (Mich.)
2006 Robert Steele (Va.)	Sandy Gross (Tenn.)
2005 David Gross (Tenn.)	Susan Kieffer (Minn.)
2004 Garry Carter (Calif.)	Dee Stribling (N.C.)
2003 Thomas Curran (Ohio)	Andee Glansberg (N.Y.)
2002 Leo Klimaitis (Ill.)	Sharon Brockbank (Iowa)
2001 Jerald Kriger (Va.)	No division
2000 Paul Pearce (Texas)	No division
1999 Ken Foster (Texas)	No division
1998 Ken Foster (Texas)	No division
1997 George Tashie (Tenn.)	Pauline Kelly (Ill.)
1996 Jay Krevsky (Pa.)	No division

Men's 55+ B	Women's 55+ B
2014 Bob Mayo (Neb.)	Ly Abbott (Texas)
2013 Ronald Harris (Texas)	Dotti White (Texas)
2012 No result recorded	Dotti White (Texas)
2011 Ray Redelman (Ill.)	Susan Schatz (Minn.)
2010 Chris Poucher (Ga.)	Susan Schatz (Minn.)
2009 Gary Buckmaster (Texas)	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2008 George Henshaw (La.)	No division
2007 Billy Askins (Texas)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2006 Darrell Crocker (Mo.)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2005 Billy Askins (Texas)	No division
2004 Kenneth Foster (Texas)	No division
2003 Garry Carter (Calif.)	No division

Men's 55+ C	Women's 55+ C
2014 Brian Rissingar (Pa.)	Nancy Hodges (Ohio)
2013 J. Hancuch (Minn.)	Joyce Satorius (Ill.)
2012 David Olson (Minn.)	Diane Martin (Ga.)
2011 Ron Berquist (Minn.)	No division
2010 Kevin Webb (N.C.)	No division
2009 David Roth (Tenn.)	No division
2008 Ronald Harris (Texas)	Kathy Krueger (Mo.)
2007 Navin Deo (Ill.)	Judy Huneycutt (Ark.)
2006 Alfredo Radillo (Mexico)	No division
2005 Bob Lampley (Miss.)	No division
2004 James Douglas Key (Ala.)	No division
2003 Charles Van Hoose (Mich.)	Patty Caldwell (Tenn.)
2002 Don Russell (Miss.)	Aurora Bocanegra (Kan.)
2001 Ben Brewster (Texas)	No division
2000 Willie Davenport (Va.)	No division
1999 Leo Kouremetis (Alaska)	No division
1998 Ralph Temple (Ga.)	No division
1997 Norman Copeland (Ala.)	No division

Men's 65+ A	Women's 65+ A
2014 Tony Alfaro (Calif.)	No division
2013 Ron Miller (N.D.)	No division

Men's 65+ B/C	Women's 65+ B
2014 George Goudie (Mich.)	Marquita Molina (Calif.)
2013 Leonard Sonnenberg (Calif.)	No division

Men's 65+ C	Women's 65+ C
2013 Kyle Smith (Texas)	No division
2012 Ron Miller (North Dakota)	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 A Doubles	
2014 Jared Schnee / Justin Schnee (Texas)	
2013 Wayne Nesbit / Ted Rohlwing (Minn.)	
2012 Michael Gage / Tanner Gross (Minn.)	
2011 Pablo Sauma (C.Rica) / Manolo Sandoval (Gua.)	
2010 Rob Carey / Brian Pearson (Minn.)	
2009 Brad Guidry / Brian Watson (Okla.)	
2008 Kipp Atwell / Joseph Lee (La.)	
2007 Darjon Bittner / Ignacio Jaimes (Texas)	
2006 Kipp Atwell (La.) / Martin McDermott (Texas)	
2005 Jansen Allen / Taylor McDermott (Texas)	
2004 Darrel Miller / Ron Miller (Wis.)	
2003 Bob Jackson (Miss.) / Drew Toland (Ark.)	
2002 William Andreu / Jim Brane (Mo.)	
2001 Arturo Casillas / David Leon (Calif.)	
2000 Steven Best / Jackson Burnette (Md.)	
1999 Steven Arizmendi (Fla.) / Jeffrey Huang (N.Y.)	

Men's B Doubles	
2014 Lee Frick / David Singer (Fla.)	
2013 Jake Ryan / David Singer (Ill.)	
2012 Tom Janke / Kurt Ross (N.D.)	
2011 Brian Phillips / Paul Ryan (Minn.)	
2010 Tim Herman (Calif.) / Roby Partovich (Nev.)	
2009 James Eastman (Miss.) / Bobby Hudson (Tenn.)	
2008 Kevin Caouette / Marc Caouette (Canada)	
2007 Gary Frasco / Michael Hall (Calif.)	
2006 Barry Cruthirds / Don Russell (Miss.)	
2005 Michael Mack / Sean Towe (Ohio)	
2004 Neil Cozad / Michael Kaufman (Ga.)	
2003 Diego Melendez / Fernando Pozo (Mexico)	
2002 Billy Sewell (Ky.) / Jim Zimmerer (Ohio)	
2001 David Aaronson / Joe Schmitz (Fla.)	
2000 Gilberto De Los Rios / Rene Enriquez (Mexico)	
1999 Bill Sewell / David Sturm (Ky.)	

Men's C Doubles	
2014 John Aldritt / Grant Taylor (Minn.)	
2013 Angel Barreno / Gonzalo Bionco (Venezuela)	
2012 Ron Berquist /Jim Unerberger (Minn.)	
2011 Allen Kiecker / Craig Sadowski (Minn.)	
2010 Peter Berger / Jeff Weinstein (Fla.)	
2009 Carlos Duran / Antonio Sanchez (Dom. Republic)	
2008 Jaime Contreras Jr. / Carlos Vargas (Texas)	
2007 Mike David / Joe Klingbeil (Ark.)	
2006 Michael Barnes (Ireland) / Kenneth Foster (Texas)	
2005 Larry Ford / Thomas Turner (Ark.)	
2004 Chuck Evans / Bruce Hubrich (Ky.)	
2003 Mike Easthope / Don Wilson (Mich.)	
2002 Eddie Barber / Eddy Connor (Utah)	
2001 William Elliott / Craig Stout (W.V.)	
2000 John Cotoia / John Odell (N.M.)	
1999 Eddie Barber / Eddy Connor (Utah)	

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 Pflaster (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.)	
1999 (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 Schaffer (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 Ganim / 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 Evon (Ill.) / Troy Vanbemmelen (Neb.)
 2013 Sara Noyes / Jon Wuertfel (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 Jessica Haak / Pam Klein (Wis.)
 2012 Jo Johnson / Therese Zadnik (Minn.)
 2011 Pam Lillich / Fariba Roughead (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 Luttner (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 / Merijeane 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 Gloeggler (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 Evon (Ill.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)
 2008 Chris Evon (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 Evon (Ill.) / Scott Cullins (Ga.)
 2011 Chris Evon (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:

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

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.

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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

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- Advance your skills, tactics and toughness for a winning game
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Taylor Knoth
Jr. World Champion

Sharon Jackson
Jr. Nat'l Champion

Jason Mannino
#1 Pro Player 2003

Rocky Carson
#1 Pro Player 2008

Paola Longoria
2X #1 Pro Player

Sudsy Monchik
5X #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.

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HEAD

Penn

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STRIKE “AVOIDABLE” FROM YOUR VOCABULARY “PENALTY HINDER” IS WHAT IT’S CALLED

So, what kind of hinder was it?



photo by Geoff Thomsen

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.

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.

DO YOU HAVE A RULES/REFEREEING QUESTION?

Be sure to email it to me at 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!

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.

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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.

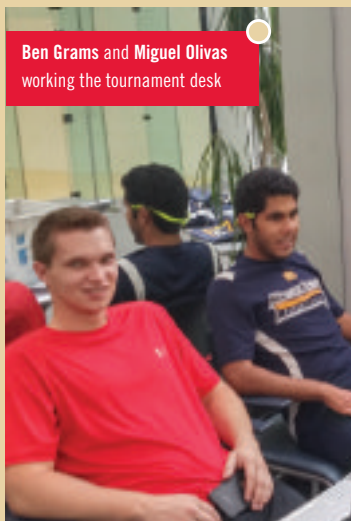
Photos from the first-ever (sold out!) Arizona Racquetball Conference Tournament at Northern Arizona University this past summer. Congratulations and thanks to Kevin Hayes of NAU for taking the lead on this effort to establish competition between NAU, ASU, and the University of Arizona in the coming 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



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



Ben Grams and **Miguel Olivas** working the tournament desk

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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.

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 EMEMBERSHIP ... 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

**HAVE
NEWS?**

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TO MAGAZINE@USRA.ORG TO BE
CONSIDERED FOR A FUTURE ISSUE.

So just follow the link below -- or go direct to USARacquetball.com to locate the eMembership button -- then enter three pieces of information and you're done! You can even sign up a friend or neighbor and they'll get gain access to ENewsletters and the quarterly digital edition of RACQUETBALL Magazine at no charge whatsoever. Try it today by signing up yourself and all your friends -- you've got nothing to lose!

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.

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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.

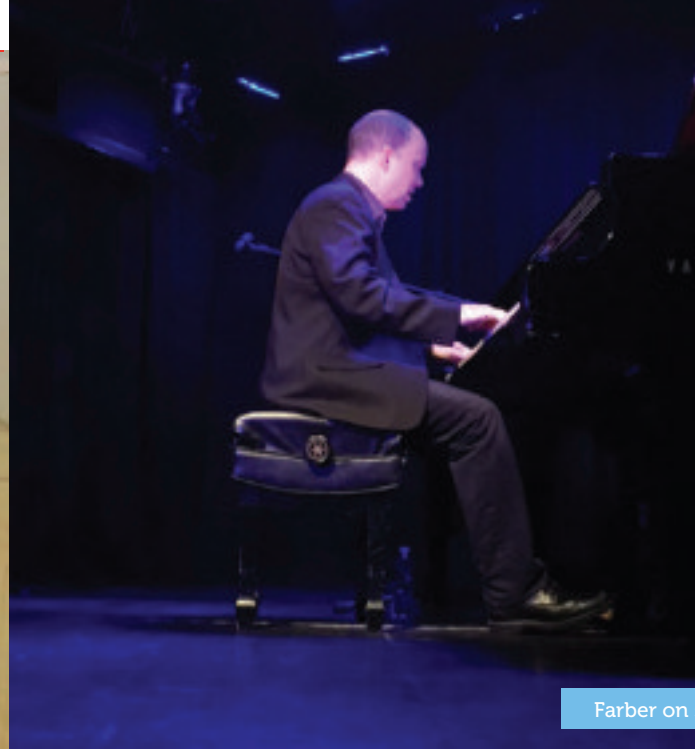
You've heard the story before ... person walks into his club, sees people playing racquetball, gives it a try, and is instantly hooked. That's what introduced Seth Farber to the sport in 1985, at the West Side YMCA on 63rd street in Manhattan. And while his racquetball story may not be unique, consider 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"

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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 Racquetworld, 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.

In 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

Did 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, Vikki 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 tournament, and I am so proud to have been a reason it grew to the best tournament for 35+ women ever!"

Find more details at 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 or Kendra Tutsch at kdtutsch@wisc.edu with any questions.

Come share in the fun! Online registration is open at: www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.aspTID=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 tournament, 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

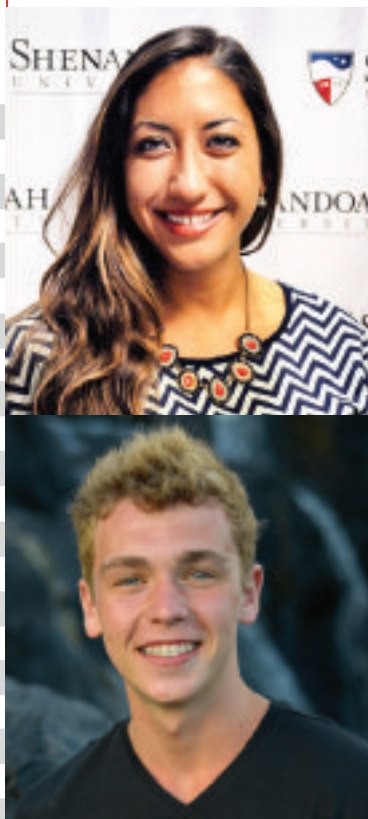
For the latest in USA Racquetball Sanctioned Events visit USARacquetball.com

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

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

BAILEY AND BIRNEL STAND OUT FOR ACADEMIC AWARDS

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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-acquetball.com > [Programs](#) > [Scholarship](#).



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 Cooperrider, Tommy Andraos, Hollie Scott, James D'Ambrogia.



In 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.



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