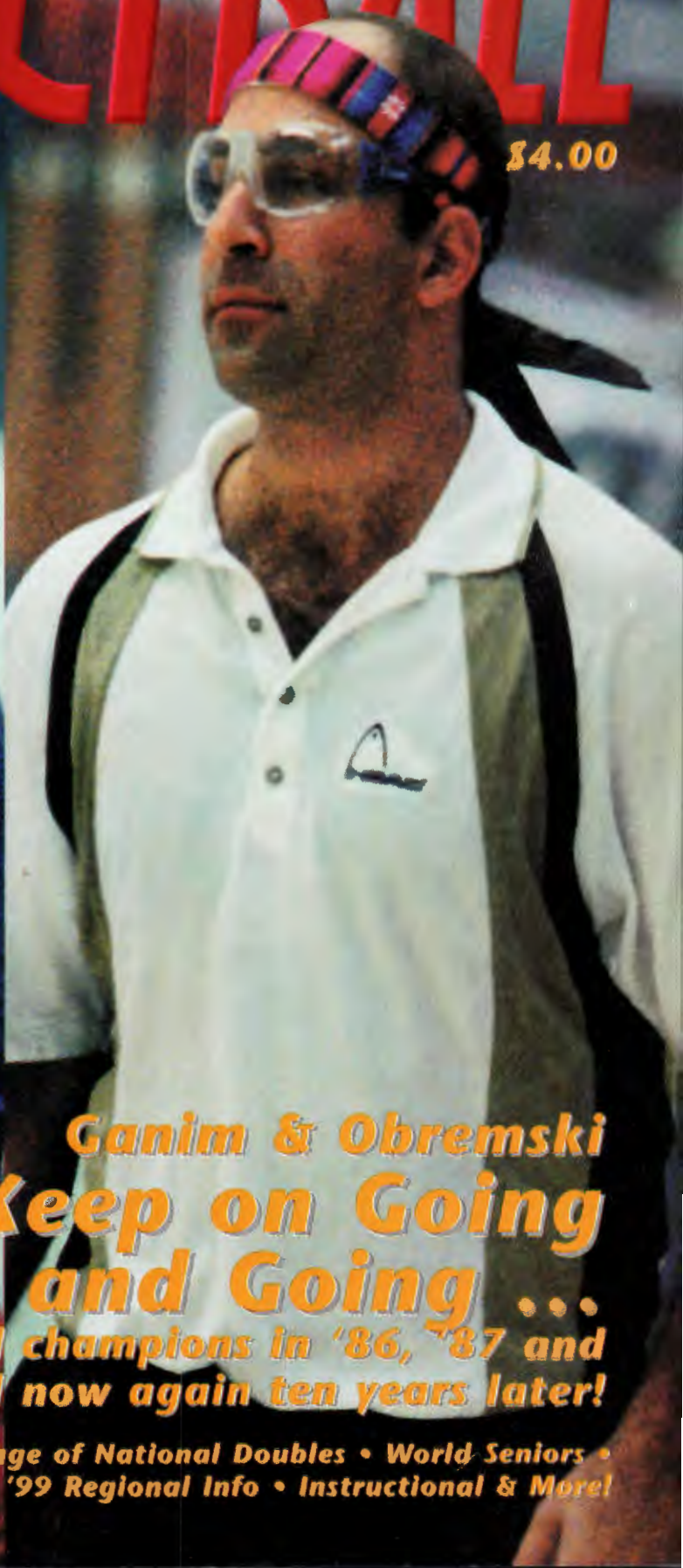


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Official publication of the
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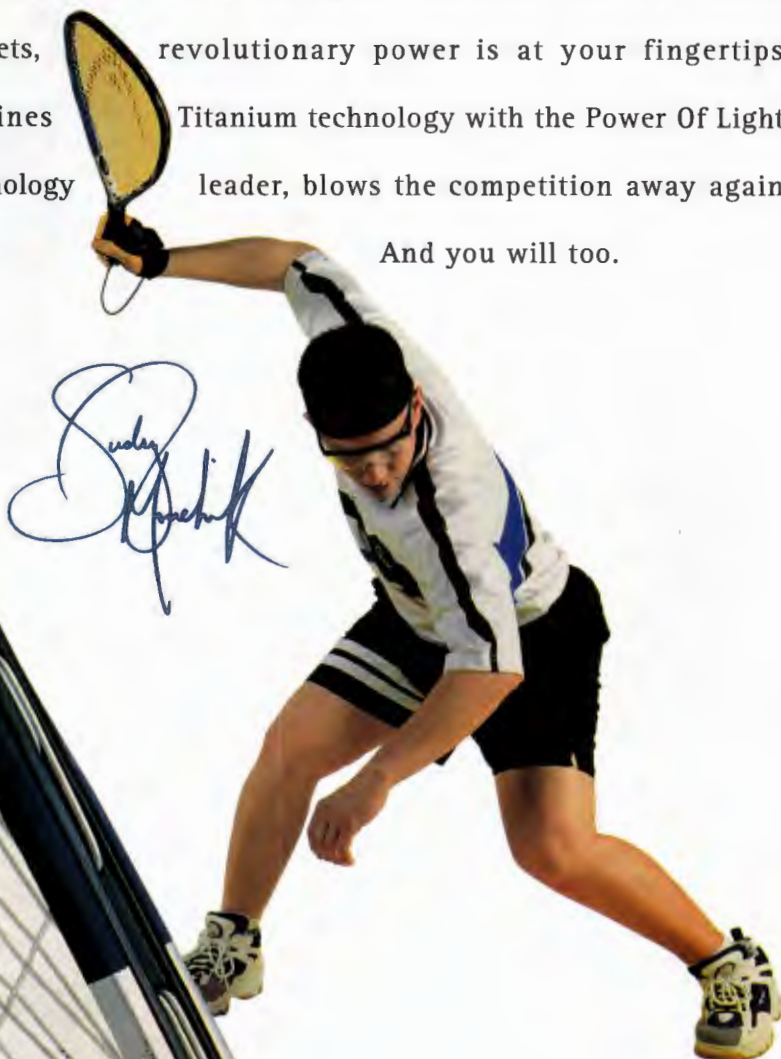
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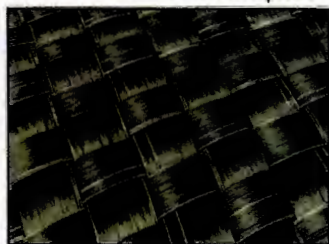
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from the editor

Normally I would use this space in our annual holiday edition to offer some warm and fuzzy, sentimental, in-keeping-with-the-season type of editorial. But I'm just back from National Doubles and I have some other issues.

First, seeing Johnny Hennen "in the house" at Baltimore was such a pleasant surprise, it gave me goosebumps. The last time I saw him I had the same reaction, but for a different reason. Looking like his old self again after a really nasty near-death experience, he's lively, down-home and as funny as he ever was while he was busy collecting doubles titles with long-time partner Ed Remen. His Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 1996 – for that doubles prowess – could well have been his last personal appearance, anywhere. That he played, and won, the Men's 50+ division this year was as inspirational to me as anything I've seen lately.



Did he complain that his opponents had enjoyed the advantage of better health during his absence from competition? Did he resent the hours they had been able to practice while he was forced to first regain and then strengthen his basic motor functions? Did he suggest that someone with better conditioning, or more free time, be ejected from his division? Not that I heard. What I heard was that he, and all of his friends, were just tickled – through and through – that he was able to be there. So ... value your good health.

Second, I had to have "the discussion" again. It made me want to leave the building. One of my opponents was improperly outfitted in the eyeguard department. I admit that she was gracious (*thank you*), and didn't appear to hold a grudge, when I asked her to obtain a model that had been ASTM tested to the standard set for racquetball – before the four of us began flailing away. I certainly felt safer and I hope she did too. Imagine my surprise when I overheard suggestions that the only reason for the rule is to generate revenue for the USRA. Gee, we never *thought* of that! There is *no* cost to manufacturer's who wish to have their eyeguards listed – they simply have to certify that their products meet the *independent* safety standard. Frankly, I appreciate that type of assurance from someone who intends to protect me from blindness. So ... value your eyesight.

The gist? Okay, it's your basic warm and fuzzy, sentimental, in-keeping-with-the-season type of editorial (*gotcha!*) Take care of yourselves. Take care of your friends and family. Enjoy your racquetball in the new year and we'll all get along just fine as we count down to the new millenium! Happy Holidays ...

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RACQUETBALL™ is the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association. USRA memberships are available for \$20.00 per year (foreign=\$35.00 U.S.) and include a one-year subscription to RACQUETBALL™ and other USRA related publications. The USRA is recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as the national governing body [NGB] for the sport. All ideas expressed in RACQUETBALL™ are those of the authors or the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the USRA. Articles, photographs and letters are welcome and will be considered for inclusion. Although advertising is screened, acceptance of any advertisement does not imply USRA endorsement of the product or service.

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POSTMASTER/Send address changes to USRA, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921.

ISSN 1060-877X

RACQUETBALL

magazine • vol. 9, no. 6
www.racqmag.com

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Ektelon Road to the Finals ...	Inside back cover

ON THE COVER

Dan Obremski (shown left) and Doug Ganim have plenty of doubles titles to their credit – but it had been over a decade since they had won the nationals. Coverage begins on page 12. Photo: Vicki Hughes.



Close quarters: Doug Eagle (foreground) and Todd O'Neill both try to keep an eye on the front court action – through Derek Robinson. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

Vol. 9, No. 6
November – December 1998

reader forum

Pro Defense

Andy Espiritu recently commented that two pro players had cancelled an exhibition scheduled for the Seattle area. He wrote that the "(pro) players (should) give back to the rec players who...help pay the contracts these top pro players sign." Perhaps Mr. Espiritu does not realize that only 3-4 IRT players and only one WIRT player make even a middle class wage solely from racquetball.

More than 95% of the WIRT, IRT and top ranked USRA open players get nothing other than equipment contracts from their sponsors. A few players have bonuses based on winning at national singles, doubles or collegiates. But even if they do win these events, the bonuses are often barely enough to pay their expenses. Most of the players that you read about in **RACQUETBALL** lose thousands of dollars a year playing racquetball. Bankruptcies (or near-bankruptcies) are more common among racquetball athletes than the number who even come close to breaking even.

So let me turn the tables. Perhaps the expectation should be that rec players are *willing* to pay to see pros put on exhibitions ... just like they would pay to see pros in other sports perform. In fact, the situation for top players now is being exacerbated as more and more tournaments become "no frills" affairs. Sure I know that it is important to keep entries low. Yes, I also have far too many T-shirts. However, I go to tournaments for two reasons; to compete myself and to watch great players compete. Nationally ranked players are willing to travel for even a few hundred dollars in prize money but they will not come to "no frills" events. These "spam" events turn into nothing but glorified in-house tournaments with even limited open draws. I for one am willing to kick in a few extra bucks to see the level of entertainment and excitement that only open and pro players can provide.

Harvey Brannigan
Sagle, Idaho

Wrong-Handed

We have adopted the habit of playing the first game, the warm-up game, using our left hands. The advantage is that the left side of our body gets better developed, we reduce the risk of injury to our right hand and arm by overuse, and yet we get a good overall body and leg workout. We do feel klutzy and we get some good racquetball laughs out of that. I love racquetball laughs. We are getting better with the wrong hand. It feels good to later start hitting precision shots with our right hands. Natural left handers, of course, play with their right, and since they have had more "wrong hand" experience, often do better with this reverse feature. My natural left handed opponent wins when we do it wrong hand, and then I get even when we do it with the normal hand.

Charles Walton
Los Gatos, California

Pro-Am Suggestion

My husband and I play at the local, state, regional and national levels. A frequent "hot topic" of conversation with our peers is the on-going issue as to whether or not professionals should be allowed to play at Nationals (Singles and Doubles). Without going into detail (as we trust that many know of this topic) we would like to suggest the idea of augmenting the tournaments with a type of "Pro/Am" divisions. The amateur may then choose to compete against the professional players in a select division. Also, this will ensure that the professionals still have the "exposure" that is desired by their sponsors, and the integrity of the amateur divisions can still be preserved.

Christine and Jim Wright
La Grange, Kentucky

Couldn't Leave My Heart in San Francisco

[After missing the NMRA Senior Tournament in San Francisco ...] One doesn't realize how fortunate it is to have one's health nor, how terribly you will miss racquetball when you can no longer get on the courts with your friends. I

can't wait to get back ... I've about worn out our lazy boy.

So I've had plenty of time to read my old magazines and some of the great instructional series. I especially like the articles by Lynn Adams, Fran Davis and Mike Guidry's illustrated serving methods. Thanks to his performance series "The Evolution of the Forehand" — with photos of the old and new methods of serving, grips, elbow extension, contacting the ball and follow-through — I've been practicing and have found I can really hit the ball much harder and lower by hitting the ball flat and keeping the racquet head parallel to the floor as long as possible. Thank you Mike and Ektelon, for those great performance series tips. I'm already looking forward to trying them out on my next opponent.

Bob Miller
Ancient Warrior and a "Yoooper" from Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Pen Pals Wanted

I will be very happy if you could try to take me as your penpal. I got your address when I was reading the USRA new magazine, which was made on July/August 1998. I am very interesting in your game that is why I got your address. I hope this information will meet your kindness and approval. Try as much as possible to reply me. Thank you very much to receive this letter.

Yours faithfully, Robert Anokye
Toase House No. 64
P.O. Box 34 • Toase-Ashanti-Region
Ghana, West-Africa

P.S. My younger brother say that, he beg you try to publish his address in magazine to find more penpals for him, too.

Christopher Anokye, S.D.A. Church
P.O. Box 87 • Toase-Ashanti-Region
Ghana, West-Africa

Doubles Hurts Singles?

Ever heard somebody say "doubles hurts your singles game"? Well, I have heard it many times over the years and my personal observation is that they are nuts!! Look at some of the skills we use when we play doubles: Explosiveness, I

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

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

February 13-14	Indiana University	Bloomington, Indiana	440-886-2286
February 19-21	Southeast Intercollegiate Regionals	Tallahassee, Florida	518-463-1352
February 26-28	Northeast Intercollegiate Regionals @ Court Club	Albany, New York	518-463-1352
March 5-6	ORA State Championships	Canton, Ohio	614-890-6073

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

April 8-10	Glass Court Swim & Fitness – Chicago, Illinois	Geoff Peters	773-935-9685
April 15-18	Lakewood Athletic Club – Denver, Colorado	Marianne Alonzi	303-422-5703
	The Quadrangle East – Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	Van Dubolsky	352-395-5356
	Southern Athletic Club – Atlanta, Georgia	Liz Lyon	770-923-5400
	Merritt Athletic Club – Baltimore, Maryland	Molly O'Brien	410-315-7900
	Cedardale Health & Fitness Club – Haverhill, Massachusetts	Bill Gargan	603-367-8533
	Missouri Athletic Club West – St. Louis, Missouri	Bill Crist	314-539-4428
	Hall of Fame Fitness Center – Canton, Ohio	Doug Ganim	614-890-6073
	Cascade Athletic Club – Portland, Oregon	Connie Martin	503-665-4142
	Northwest Athletic Club – Houston, Texas	Annie Muniz	713-432-0881
	Eau Claire Athletic Club – Eau Claire, Wisconsin	Ryan Graham	715-552-5382
April 23-25	Las Vegas Sporting Club – Las Vegas, Nevada	Mike Coulter	702-733-8999
April 30-May 2	Prime Fitness – Birmingham, Alabama	Jim Garner	205-988-3819

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

February 19-21	Region 7 – Northwest Athletic Club – Houston, TX	Annie Muniz	713-432-0881
March 19-21	Region 14 – California Athletic Club – Monterey, CA	Margo Daniels	831-372-7224
March 27-28	Region 2 – Club Fit – Briarcliff, NY	Jennifer Mayadas Dering	914-763-5466
April 9-11	Region 16 – Courts Plus – Jacksonville, NC	Jan Stelma	919-633-2221
April 15-18	Region 6 – Missouri Athletic Club – St. Louis, MO	Bill Crist	314-439-4428
April 15-18	Region 12 – Lakewood Athletic Club – Denver, CO	Marianne Alonzi	303-422-5703
April 24-25	Region 10 – Shelbyville County Athletic Club – Shelbyville, IN	Cathy McGrath	317-879-8100
April 24-25	Region 11 – Central Courts – Columbia Heights, MN	Dave Schulenberg	651-777-6673
April 30-May 1	Region 8 – Site TBA – Chicago, IL	Rich Clay	847-918-7407
April 30-May 2	Region 5 – Prime Fitness – Birmingham, AL	Jim Garner/Natalie Crockett	205-988-3819
April TBA	Region 13 – Billings YMCA – Billings, MT	Mike Nys/Steve Pinnow	406-245-6204
May 7-9	Region 15 – Site TBA – Anchorage, AK	Steve Arturo	907-275-0449
PENDING • Region 1 – ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT • Region 3 – PA, MD, VA, DE, DC • Region 4 – FL, GA • Region 9 – WV, OH, MI			

short powerfully fast rallies; Service, low margin for error in service placement; Shot selection, must have very good court presence.

Now look at the explosive part – you have to get to a position on the court in a hurry while geometrically avoiding three other bodies on the courts, as the speed of play is the equivalent of a baseball pitching machine gone nuts.

Next, think about the service zone – you have a narrow target zone for your serve to be effective, now we all know that if it's not you're in trouble. Now in doubles if you make a mistake, it's compounded by the fact that there are two people behind you covering twice the area and when a ball comes back into the hitting

power zone, the chance that one of them is going to be in prime-time position to rip it up....is...well, pretty good!!

Lastly, think about shot selection and court awareness. In singles it's fairly easy to judge where your opponent is...right?? Well, I have trouble doing this and just blast away at that little ball. This results in lucky placement a lot more often than I want to fess up!! In doubles if you don't know where your opponent is and you blast away... your "luck" is short-lived before the kill, the odds are cut in half since you now have two people waiting for your attempted return. Doubles forces you to learn and pay attention to the other team members positioning, as well as your partner's. My singles game has risen to the highest level ever due to

my doubles play and the "new" court awareness I never really had – all developed through playing doubles!!

Brian L. Pope
Erlanger, Kentucky

The Great Outdoors ...

I am a casual recreational racquetball player and subscribe to your magazine. Great job in putting out a real fine magazine. I get many hours of reading your publication from cover to cover. However, I have never read or seen anything about "outdoor" "three-wall" racquetball. It would be interesting to see something in your magazine about this. Keep up the good work.

Tommy Hom
Long Beach, California

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two peas

Some fans can't tell them apart, but for identical twins Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso, their personalities couldn't be any more different.

Jackie's your basic type A personality. Joy's a type B. And, according to MacKenzie, those differences became clear at an early age.

"One time," she said, "when this girl down the street wanted to beat me up, Jackie told me, 'You run home, Joy. I'll take care of her.' I don't think she really wanted to, but she told me to go ahead and run home and tell mom. 'I'll beat her up for you'."

Paraiso's recollection of the childhood adventure varied somewhat. "I told Joy to just run home and I'd take care of it," Paraiso said. "Then, I don't know, [the girl and I] kind of slapped each other around a little bit and that was it."

According to Joy, even that memory of what happened differs. "Actually, we threw her into a palm tree or something like that."

If anything, the two-time defending world doubles champions are opposite, yet equal.

"We were running down the alley one time and both tripped," Paraiso said. "We skinned the same places on our bodies but on opposite sides – like my left hand and her right hand. It was just really weird."

"Another time, I chipped my front tooth on a car, goofin' off with my brother. Not too long after that, Joy chipped the exact same tooth but on the opposite side." Hmm... In doubles, Joy scores points from

the forehand side (right), while Jackie hits her winners from the backhand side (left). Equally effective. Opposite sides.

So, who's going to say which one is the better doubles player?

"I think Jackie is probably one of the best doubles players ever," MacKenzie said. "She knows all of the shots in doubles and has a lot of serves. It seems like she's done well with a lot of different types of players."

In addition to the numerous titles with Joy, Jackie claims two separate world titles – one each with Malia Bailey (1990) and Laura Fenton (1994). Paraiso also teamed with Michelle Gould to capture the 1990 and '91 U.S. national doubles crowns.

But according to Jackie ... "When [Joy] is on and she's playing her game, there's nobody I've ever played with that's as good as her," Paraiso said. "Her shot selection, her quickness . . . just the way we click together."

OK, they're both excellent. But when did they realize their potential? According to Paraiso, "In 1987 – we played doubles at (WPRA) pro nationals. I think it was our first pro stop ever. We both did really well in singles and then we got to the finals in doubles. We didn't lose by much. I think we went tiebreaker. We almost won it."

So, why did it take another five years before the twins would team up to earn national crown?

"[Joy] stopped playing and started her family," Paraiso said. "My first nationals (doubles) was with Robin Whitmire and we got to the semis

by Kevin Vicroy

in a pod

and lost really close. Then, I played with Michelle for like three years. Then I asked my sister to come back and play . . . It was her first nationals back when we played Mary Lyons and Susan Pfahler (winners in 1992). We've been in the finals ever since."

The twins took second in '92 and again in '93 before gaining some revenge on the Lyons-Pfahler duo in the U.S. national finals in '94. Two more silver medals followed as Cheryl Gudinas and Gould dominated the fall event . . . until last year, when upstart Yesenia Delbusto and Kersten Hallander beat the two-time defending champs in a surprise, early round upset which cleared the way to another title for the twins.

As the current defending national champs and the two-time defending world titleholders, the twins understand their success.

"I think I work really well with her," Joy said of Jackie. "I think she's a strong player. I have to be patient. The forehand (right side) player must be patient. If not, you can take away a lot of shots that would be a better opportunity for the backhand (left side) player to take with their forehand."

Paraiso — the type A twin — feels that the mental aspect is important, as well. "You definitely have to have that (killer) mentality," she said. "Otherwise, you'll be feeling so nice that you have to give the other team a point by skippin' it or something like that. You have to have that mentality of wanting to win.

"At the same time, you can still be nice and still say, 'Good shot.' And you can give up a shot if you

think the call was wrong — which we've done."

The toughness mentality of high-level doubles was maybe the toughest aspect for MacKenzie to grasp. "I've learned to be that way," MacKenzie said. "I used to be a lot nicer on the court. My husband (Bob) and Fran Davis taught me how to be tough.

"Fran told me once, 'If you want to win at this level, you have to learn to play at this level.' She was just telling me that I needed to be a little bit tougher, not take things personally and hold my ground."

But, perhaps the most important part of playing great doubles is finding a good friend.

"I like a partner that I can hang with — off and on the court," Paraiso said. "Somebody that you really enjoy playing with and also enjoy being with."

"It's definitely a lot more fun playing with my sister [Joy]. You've got the whole dynamics of being a twin, too. I think it's neat for people to see twins and friends getting along out there and enjoying it."

And what about those freaky "twins" experiences?

"We might say the same things at the same times or something," Jackie said. "We might think the same things, but I don't know if that's really weird twin stuff or not . . . It's just like any two good friends hanging out together."

So maybe they're not so similar after all . . . well, except for their looks.

Can you tell the difference? That's Joy on the left, Jackie on the right. Photos: Courtesy Pro Kennex Racquetball.



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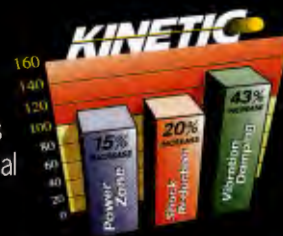
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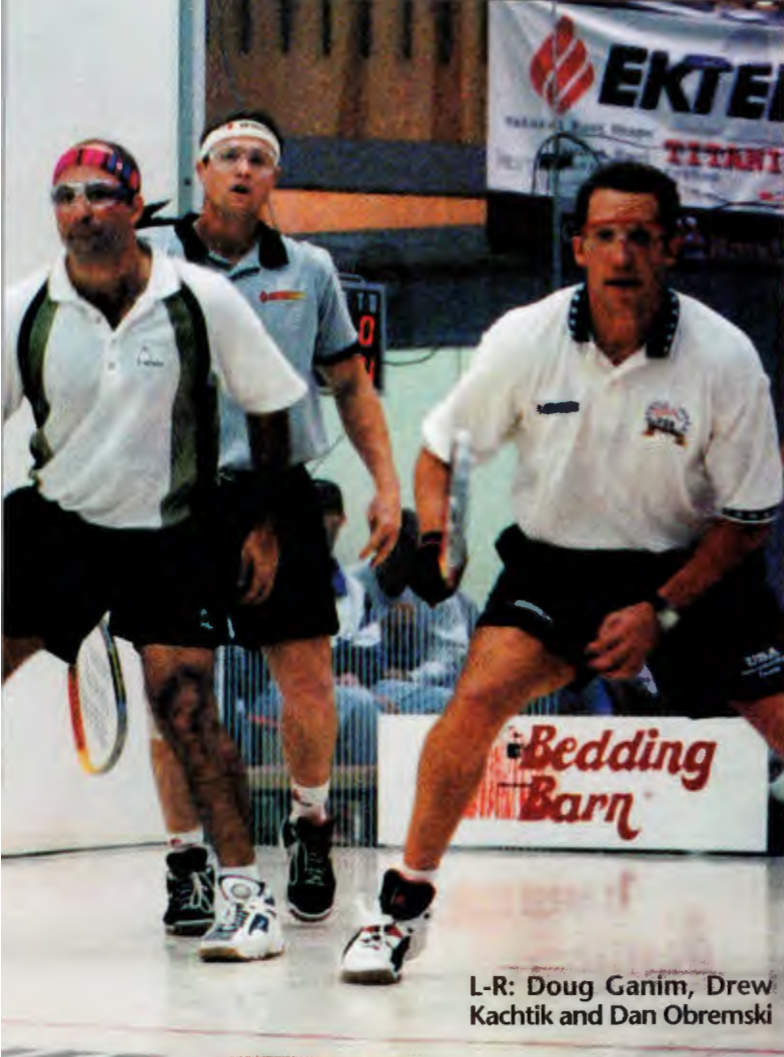
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L-R: Doug Ganim, Drew Kachtik and Dan Obremski



L-R: Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso.

"So, where do you see yourself in 10 years?" A silly interview question with no hope for a real answer — all anyone can do is make an attempt at predicting the future. In October of 1998, the U.S. National Doubles Championships returned to the Merritt Athletic Club/Security in Baltimore for the first time in 10 years. What happened there the last time — in 1988 — tells some tales.

Bill Sell teamed with Brian Hawkes to defeat Tim Hansen and Sergio Gonzalez in an 11-10 tiebreaker for the '88 men's open crown — the first of three national doubles crowns for Sell. Hansen would win his first tandem title two years later with a different partner. This year — once again with new partners — Sell and Hansen re-claimed the #1 and #2 seeds respectively. Neither team made it out of the quarterfinals.

Johnny Hennen, winner of the men's 40-and-over crown with Ed Remen 10 years ago, would later be inducted into racquetball's Hall of Fame in May of '96. A few months after that ceremony, a priest administered Hennen's last rites. But despite losing over 100 pounds of his 230-pound frame, Hennen remarkably recovered from his crippling disease . . . to once again team with Remen to win the men's 50-and-over title this year.

Cindy Doyle and Michelle Gilman finished fourth in the '88 women's open bracket; Toni Bevelock and Malia Bailey won the title. Doyle would marry future Major League Baseball all-star and World Series champion Jeff Conine in October of '93. Gilman married Rod Gould and dominated the late 80's and '90's by winning six national doubles titles, eight national singles crowns and three world singles championships. Not one of those top female players from a decade ago returned to Baltimore to compete at this year's event.

So, now where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Hopefully, 10 years older, wiser and better lookin' — maybe even playing with the same partner — and quite possibly back at the Merritt Athletic Club! Stranger things have happened ...

***The Ektelon USRA 31st National Doubles Racquetball Championships
Presented by Penn Racquet Sports • Coverage by Kevin Vicroy — Photos by Vicki Hughes***

A TOUGH MEN'S OPEN

All of the top seeds survived the first round, with byes for the top three: #1 Adam Karp & Bill Sell; #2 Tim Hansen & James Lorello; and #3 Todd O'Neil & Derek Robinson. But with such a wide-open draw, upsets were bound to occur and day two provided more than just close calls. Two-time Minnesota state champs Mike Locker and Jim Frautschi blasted sixth-seeded Eric Muller and Chris Wright out of the round of sixteen in straight games of 15-10, 15-2. Late on Thursday evening, the "Madmen of Racquetball," second-seeded James Lorello and Tim Hansen, were shocked by their tiebreaker defeat at the hands of Air Force servicemen Rob DeJesus and Tom Fuhrmann 15-14, 5-15, 11-4.

"It was a tough win against two good shooters and two experienced guys," Fuhrmann said after the match, which ended at 10 minutes past midnight. "To come into our first National Doubles and take out the No. 2 seeds, we're feeling pretty good."

Some other duos were feeling pretty good in the round of 16 as well. Top seeds and defending champs Karp and Sell cruised past John Ledig and Chris Zalegowski 15-4, 15-5, while the third-seeded tandem of Rocky Carson and James Mulcock moved past Hart Johnson and Todd Stead, 15-6, 15-3.

Former two-time national doubles champs O'Neil and Robinson were the first to advance into the semifinals with a 15-8, 15-3 spanking of Frautschi and Locker. Two-time world and three-time national doubles titleists Doug Ganim and Dan Obremski squeaked past Carson and Mulcock in the next quarterfinal, winning 15-7, 5-15, 11-7.

According to Ganim, "In the first two games, we went down 6-0. In the tiebreaker, we went up 7-2 and still barely won."

Ganim and Obremski, who've been playing elite-level doubles for 15 years together, decided that a victory would only be possible if the powerful young Carson could be isolated and taken out of play.

"We pretty much kept it away from Rocky, but when he got his racquet on it, he put it away about every time," Ganim said. "We were hoping we'd bore him a little bit and then when he'd get a shot, he'd miss it. Still, every time he hit the ball, he put it away."

Hiding in the draw was the ultimately dangerous duo of former pro tour champion Drew Kachtik and fellow Texan Doug Eagle. As the bracket's seventh seeds, the talented Texans fought past the DeJesus-Fuhrmann team, a.k.a. Stars & Stripes, 14-15, 15-9, 11-6 for their semifinal invite.

In the last quarterfinal match of the evening, newly-formed teammates Jason Thoerner and Michael Bronfeld, who reside on opposite coasts (making practice together a bit difficult) provided the capacity crowd with yet another major upset. The victims were defending champions Karp and Sell, by the scores of 15-12, 15-13. Since all doubles finalists earn a one-year appointment to the national squad, the round had been crucial to Sell, who lost his spot on



Top: Rocky Carson.
Bottom (L-R): Adam Karp, Michael Bronfeld, Jason Thoerner.

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the team due to the loss. Karp remained on the roster due to his win at the National Singles last May, another U.S. Team qualifier.

Robinson and O'Neil kicked off Saturday's semifinal action by building a swift 10-1 lead on Kachtik and Eagle. But the Texans replied by outscoring the former champs 12-2 to knot the game at 13-13. O'Neil then connected with a forehand pinch into the right corner and Eagle skipped a service return to conclude the first game, 15-13.

While Kachtik entered "the zone," the Texans jumped out to a 7-2 game two advantage. O'Neil and Robinson fought back to 8-8 and then went up 10-8. Following three more ties and three lead changes, O'Neil and Robinson held a 14-13 lead and served for the match but couldn't convert. Back in the service box, Kachtik served to O'Neil, who promptly drove the return into the floorboards, 14-14. Another serve, coupled with a forehand pinch from Kachtik into the left corner for the game, forced the tiebreaker.

"I felt we put the pressure on those guys and kind of had the tide turned winning that 15-14 (second) game," Kachtik said after the match.

ESPN's Sportscenter's Dan Patrick would have had a field day with Kachtik in the third game. The Southern Texas native was on fire, hitting seven winners in the 11-3 victory. O'Neil and Robinson couldn't stop him, they could only hope to contain him ... which they didn't.

"I've known him since I was 12 - I'm 26 now, when he gets hot like that, I'm just going to let him play," Eagle said. "I know what he's capable of, everyone's seen it."

Bronfeld and Thoerner entered the championship court with little fear of what has been considered one of the finest men's doubles teams of all time: Ganim-Obremski. Bronfeld closed the first game by smacking a forehand rollout into the right corner to finish at 15-6. Facing a second round with Ganim struggling and

Bronfeld on his game, it looked like it might be over quickly. And it was ... only it went to Ganim-Obremski, 15-5. Two games, two players, hot and cold.

In the third, both squads performed well and wrestled to an 8-8 tie. Two sideouts followed. With Ganim on serve, the Ohio native jammed a forehand into the glass left corner to reach 9-8. A perfect lob serve to Bronfeld on the left side hit the crack and forced a weak return, which Obremski also put away in the left corner for 10-8. Bronfeld skipped his last shot and the #8 seeds were history.

As the crowd took their seats for the men's final, Ganim walked to the court with his gear, having already worked up a good sweat warming up. He seemed ready for battle. As it turned out, he was *really* ready for battle.

Ganim served to open the match. Lob to Eagle against the left-side glass ... return ... Ganim hit a pinch winner. Next serve ... Eagle return ... Ganim winner. Kachtik took his first shot on the next rally and earned the sideout. Two half-outs and Ganim was back in the box. In one of the most fantastic runs in doubles history, Ganim served out the game — 13 consecutive points — to win the first game 15-0. With very few hinders (or even rallies), the first game seemed to finish in under 15 minutes. Ganim lob serve to Eagle ... poor return ... Ganim put away. Over and over. Again and again.

The veterans were successfully keeping Kachtik out of the match. He touched the ball only five times in the first game. Ganim finished with seven winners and Eagle tallied six skips. Obremski, ironically, concluded the run with a forehand reverse pinch. Kachtik dropped his racquet in disgust and amazement. Eagle was Webster's definition of flustered.

"I don't think I missed one shot," Ganim said of his first-game performance. But the veterans knew that game two was brand new. Eagle hit his first kill. He then proceeded to hit a deep pinch rollout that drew "Oooo's" and "Aaaaaah's" from the crowd. It was a complete reversal of fortune and Ganim-Obremski



L-R: Doug Eagle & Drew Kachtik

found themselves down 11-3 and facing a tiebreaker for the crown. Down 12-5, the "no way, not again" happened to Eagle and Kachtik.

After three points and two sideouts, Ganim hit a backhand pinch winner, Kachtik was called for an avoidable, Eagle skipped a backhand, on and on ... 8-12, 9-12, 10-12. Ganim hit a forehand into the right corner ... and again ... 11-12, 12-12. Obremski crossed over the left on his serve to add insult to injury with his own high lobs to Eagle. Timeout Eagle-Kachtik. It couldn't possibly be happening again, but it was.

Following the break, Kachtik badly skipped the next ball, Ganim hit another pass and Obremski finished with another forehand into the right corner, 15-12. Stunned and livid, Kachtik left the court, gathered his gear and walked toward the locker room before being called back to receive his silver medal.

"We've had a tendency, the last three times we'd won, to be able to play ugly and still win," Obremski said afterward. "At dinner last night, I said, 'I wish there was one time that you could hit crisp like I know you can and not have to carry me, and I can hit crisp and not have to carry you. This is one of the few times I can remember where, against a top-caliber team, we both moved well, covered well and hit well.'"

WOMEN'S OPEN

With the break-up of two-time national doubles champs Michelle Gould and Cheryl Gudinas, twins Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso were overwhelming favorites to successfully defend their title. Following an early-round bye, the Twins took out Aimee Roehler and Michelle Wiragh 15-4, 15-11 in the quarterfinals, without much fanfare.

Next up in the round was third-seeded Kim Russell and current U.S. National Singles champion Robin Levine, who faced sixth seeds Gudinas and new partner Kerri Stoffregen. Gudinas and Stoffregen had defeated Floridians Michelle Dodson and Teri Lawrence 15-7, 15-3 a day earlier in the round of 16. After a tight first game, in which Levine and Russell came out on top - 15-13, Gudinas and Stoffregen fell hard in the second, 15-2.

"In the first game, we made a lot of mistakes and they took advantage of everything," Levine said. "The second game - we really didn't give them any opportunities. Kim was making great shots and we really didn't give them a chance to get into the rallies."



IN THE SEMIS ... ABOVE: KIM RUSSELL, LORRAINE GALLOWAY & LAURA FENTON. BELOW: AN OVERHEAD PINCH WINNER FROM BACK COURT GOT SUSAN PFAHLER AND MARY LYONS PUMPED UP WHILE JACKIE PARAISO LOOKED ON.



Mary Lyons and Susan Pfahler, 1992 champions, moved past last year's bronze medalists Kari McDonough and Lisa Hjelm 15-10, 15-10. Second-seeded Kersten Hallander and Yesenia Delbusto ran into an ambush in the final match of the night. Laura Fenton and Lorraine Galloway upset the highly-touted duo 15-13, 6-15, 11-8.

Unfortunately for the newly-matched Fenton and Galloway, their winning streak came to an abrupt end in the semifinal against Levine and Russell, 15-4, 15-8. "When we were warming up, we both said that we were feeling great," Russell said. "Robin and I tend to feed off of each other."

Meanwhile, the Twins started out strong with a 15-5 win, but then had to struggle with the tenacious Lyons and Pfahler. Although the twins certainly claim more life experience as a pair, it's Lyons and Pfahler who have the longest true track record in doubles. Teammates for over 15 years, the two frustrate power players with a control game that depends largely on keeping the ball in play so that their opponents can have plenty of time to make mistakes. Employing that strategy, along with a

U.S. Team ?

Hey, guess what? You're on the U.S. National Racquetball Team! It was no surprise to most of the open finalists who were tapped for the team after the qualifying semifinal round ... except Doug Eagle.

"Am I? That's awesome," Eagle said after his roster appointment. "I thought you actually had to win it (the championship). I'm going to keep telling myself that you have to win it to get on (the team)."

Eagle's partner was also pleased but obviously focused on the task at hand - a national title. "The U.S. Team is great," he said. "I was on it back in 1990. It's a lot of fun."

Doug Ganim, three-time world doubles champion, was humble. "I'm very grateful to be back (on the team)," Ganim said. "This is my ninth time to qualify. The last time was two years ago and I was starting to wonder if I would ever be able to play at this level again."

For his partner, Dan Obremski, an extended one-year appointment was pleasant news, saying, "Being the athlete representative for the (USRA) board (of directors), it's neat for me to be able to say that I'm still one of the players."

"I haven't been on it since 1994, because I was in anesthesia school," Kim Russell noted. "My goal coming in (to this tourney) was just to play the best I could and win, of course."

According to Levine, "It (making the team) means everything to me. I always love representing my country and being part of the team. It's great experience and great competition. I love seeing how the other countries improve."

Defending 1995 Pan American Games champs Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso are just pleased to be on the squad together.

"It's a great thing," Paraiso said after her semifinal match. "It's a lot of fun. I qualified at (National) Singles, but it's great being on it with Joy for another year. That adds a whole new meaning to it."

few well-placed pinches by Pfahler, the challengers reached a 14-10 advantage in the second game, before MacKenzie and Paraiso chipped away at the lead to narrowly take the match, 15-14.

"It was frustrating, I don't think Joy and I ever got into our groove," Paraiso said of the match. "They're tough, they kept us on the defensive. They left a lot of balls up. We're used to playing men that are killing it and hitting the ball hard and they played a different style - they played a smart game."

Pleased with re-qualifying for the U.S. Team, MacKenzie admitted she was happy, but not satisfied. "I'm happy, but not completely happy until I win tomorrow," she said. "Then I'll really be happy."

In that final, the challengers opened the final match with three consecutive points on a diving winner by Levine, sandwiched between skips by each of the twins. But it was Russell who would struggle throughout the first game as the Twins scored 14 unanswered points.

Following a side-out, Russell and Levine earned three more points before losing serve. On the next rally, Russell skipped another return of serve and the game one concluded, 15-6. Paraiso's wrap-around jam serve was causing severe problems for Russell.

"It (the serve) was kind of coming off a different angles," Russell said. "At

first, when I was taking it with my backhand, it was working. Then, she kind of made it a little bit wider which is why I had to swing it back."

Clearly motivated in the second game, Russell and Levine opened with six straight points, then proceeded to build an impressive 14-4 advantage. The Twins cut the lead to 14-8, but MacKenzie drove a Russell serve into the floor for the final point of the game to force the deciding third.

In the extra frame, Russell skipped a forehand on the first rally. Twins, 1-0. A sideout and Levine and Russell moved into the service box. Returning Levine's serve, Paraiso went hard cross-court for a reverse pinch which hit Russell's racquet and fell short of the front wall for a replay. A Paraiso put away and Levine skip resulted in a sideout and the Twins were back in the service box.

Paraiso and MacKenzie got hot and surged out to an 8-2 lead. The two squads split the next six points and the Twins were crowned champions once again. "This was a big tournament for us because we want to play in the Pan American Games again and defend our title there," Paraiso said. "This means a lot to us."

Sister Joy was finally happy and gave most of the credit to her sister. "I'm really psyched," she said. "Jackie really held us in that game - in that whole match, actually. She played awesome."



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EKTELON USRA 31st U.S. NATIONAL DOUBLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Merritt Athletic Club/Security: Baltimore, Maryland — October 14-18, 1998

FINAL MATCH RESULTS

PAN AMERICAN TEAM OPEN DIVISION QUALIFIERS

MEN'S OPEN — Doug Ganim (Westerville, Ohio)/Dan Obremski (North Versailles, Pa.) def. Doug Eagle (Carrollton, Texas)/Drew Kachtik (Lewisville, Texas) 15-0, 15-12

WOMEN'S OPEN — #1 Joy MacKenzie/Jackie Paraiso (San Diego, Calif.) def. #4 Robin Levine (Sacramento, Calif.)/Kim Russell (Chattanooga, Tenn.) 15-6, 8-15, 11-5

MEN'S DIVISIONS [Skill, Open Age & Combined]

MA.....Ted Castro (Virginia Beach, Va.)/Dale Valentine (Riverside, Calif.) def. Mark Bouchard (Carver, Mass.)/Steven Pace (Brockton, Mass.) 15-12, 15-8

MB.....David Hohman (Woodbine, Mo.)/J.W. Peebles (Rockville, Md.) def. Kevin Keenan (West Chester, Ohio)/Geoffrey Marshall (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-12, 15-7

MC.....David Dibernardino (Owings Mills, Md.)/Stephen Lee (Randallstown, Md.) def. Gary Bray (Tamarack, Fla.)/Steve Conklin (San Jose, Calif.) 9-15, 15-9, 11-8

M24.....Jeff Bloom (Metairie, La.)/Mark Bloom (Austin, Texas) def. Matt Adesso (Westerville, Ohio)/Mike Dennison (Middleburg Heights, Ohio) 13-15, 15-8, 11-3

M25+.....Rob DeJesus (Luke AFB, Ariz.)/Tom Fuhrmann (Wichita Falls, Texas) def. #4 Mike Locker (St. Paul, Minn.)/Jim Frautschi (St. Paul, Minn.) 12-15, 15-3, 11-9

M30+.....#2 Michael Bronfeld (Monterey, Calif.)/Drew Kachtik (Lewisville, Texas) def. Tony Boscia/Mark Helton (Denver, Colo.) 15-13, 15-7

M35+.....Tom Ackerman (Somers Point, N.J.)/Kevin Pillion (Arlington, Va.) def. David Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.)/Ken Stone (Pleasanton, Calif.) 15-7, 15-12

M40+.....#1 David Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.)/Stan Wright (Fremont, Calif.) def. John Peterson (Huntington, N.Y.)/Jim Young (Baltimore, Md.) 15-4, 15-12

M45+.....#1 Gene Pare (Campbell, Calif.)/Stan Wright (Fremont, Calif.) def. Ed Garabedian (West Chester, Pa.)/Ross Montague (Jenkintown, Pa.) 15-3, 15-9

M50+.....Johnny Hennen (Chattanooga, Tenn.)/Ed Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. #4 Tom McKie (Garland, Texas)/Craig Olsen (Grand Island, Neb.) 15-13, 15-10

M55+.....Graig Shaak (Gainesville, Fla.)/Roger Wehrle (Flowery Branch, Ga.) def. #1 Jerry Davis (Shaker Heights, Ohio)/Jack Ross (Miami, Fla.) 11-15, 15-5, 11-0

M60+.....Lee Graff (West Linn, Ore.)/Tom Penick (San Diego, Calif.) def. Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Tom Moore (Arcadia, Calif.)

M65+.....#1 Don Alt (Ft. Myers, Fla.)/Otis Chapman (Cleveland, Ohio) def. #2 Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas)/Victor Sacco (Norwood, N.Y.) 15-5, 15-10

M70+.....Joe Goldman (Framingham, Mass.)/Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Duane Russell (Lansing, Mich.)/Marvin Schinagle (Beachwood, Ohio) 7-15, 15-7, 11-3

M75+.....Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.)/George Spear (Venice, Fla.) def. Don Goddard (Glasgow, Mt.)/Irv Zeitman (Louisville, Ky.) 15-13, 15-11

M24- A/B.....James Swift/Jason Wagner (Gold River, Calif.) def. Brad Bodai (Carmichael, Calif.)/John Churchwell (Anderson, Calif.) 15-14, 15-11

M25+ A/B.....#3 Dana Cornelius (Santa Maria, Calif.)/Jonathan Dunn (Camarillo, Calif.) def. David Barnes (Warwick, R.I.)/Ben Mendoza (Foster, R.I.) 15-10, 15-10

M25+ C/D.....Steve Conklin/Stephen Lee (Randallstown, Md.) def. Mel Gordon (North Wales, Pa.)/Jerry Kalick (Lower Gwynedd, Pa.) 15-12, 15-6

M35+ A/B.....Steve Myers (Frederick, Md.)/James Snowden (Ashburn, Va.) def. Pete Gallucci (Virginia Beach, Va.)/Richard Sampson (Chesapeake, Va.) 15-7, 8-15, 11-9

M45+ A/B.....#1 Bert Castelanelli (Lodi, Calif.)/Dave Ortega (Stockton, Calif.) def. Clair Steffan (Raleigh, N.C.)/Gary Tomlinson (Raleigh, N.C.) 15-6, 15-4

M45+ C/D.....Harvey Baines (Albany, N.Y.)/Tom McGuirk (Schenectady, N.Y.) def. Eddie Lacost (Colleyville, Texas)/Harold Lightfoot (Desoto, Texas) 3-15, 15-5, 11-0

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS [Skill, Open Age & Combined]

WA.....#1 Mary Keenan/Linda Mojer (Colorado Springs, Colo.) def. #2 Kim Cameron (Fremont, Calif.)/Rosita Cornelius (Santa Maria, Calif.) 15-3, 15-9

WB.....Faye Cobb/Stephanie Cobb (Troy, Mich.) def. Sharon Barrett

(Wautauga, Texas)/Donna Cooper (Fort Worth, Texas) 14-15, 15-7, 11-0

WD.....Robbie Compson (Columbia, Md.)/Summer Markert (Baltimore, Md.) def. Lisa Barrett (Wyoming, Pa.)/Lynette Ross (Pipersville, Pa.) 15-4, 10-15, 11-0

W25+.....#2 Susan Dale (Ontario, Canada)/Jodi Paul (Allentown, Pa.) def. Debbie Bryant (Sneads Ferry, N.C.)/Holly Remen (Apex, N.C.) 11-15, 15-12, 11-3

W30+.....#2 Kersten Hallander (San Diego, Calif.)/Chau Phan (Reseda, Calif.) def. #1 Lisa Hjelm/Kari McDonough (Citrus Heights, Calif.) 15-11, 15-10

W35+.....#1 Chris Evon/Terri Graham (Wheeling, Ill.) def. #3 Barbara Faulkenberry (Arlington, Va.)/Caryn McKinney (Atlanta, Ga.) 15-11, 15-6

W40+.....#4 Mary Lyons/Susan Pfahler (Neptune Beach, Fla.) def. #3 Janell Marriott (West Warwick, R.I.)/Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.) 15-12, 15-0

W45+.....Janell Marriott (West Warwick, R.I.)/Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.) def. Jeannine Farrell-Ove (Arnold, Md.)/Marilyn Ross (Pittsburgh, Pa.) 15-14, 15-1

W50+.....#2 Shelley Ogden (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. #1 Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/MeriJean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.) 15-5, 15-13

W25+ A/B.....Christine Allison (Newark, Del.)/Erika Hawley (Newark, Del.) def. Terry Fields (Grand Rapids, Mich.)/Felicia Mann (Farm Hills, Mich.) 15-4, 15-7

W25+ C/D.....Yvonne Nelson (Baltimore, Md.)/Sandra Siffrin (Balto, Md.) def. Sharon McNeill (Randallstown, Md.)/Pamela Trent (Baltimore, Md.) 3-2 round robin finish

W35+ A/B.....#2 Deb Brosious (Northumberland, Pa.)/Mary Beth Rodriguez (Northumberland, Pa.) def. Paula McDermott (Harrisburg, Pa.)/Claudia Sisti (Harrisburg, Pa.) 15-11, 6-15, 11-5

W45+ A/B.....Gail Bell (Putnam Valley, N.Y.)/Jean Heckman (Queensbury, N.Y.) def. Michael Marie Hill/Johnnie Hill-Hudgins (Princeton, N.J.) 15-14, 15-10

MIXED DIVISIONS [Skill & Open Age]

MXO.....#2 Jackie Paraiso (San Diego, Calif.)/Rocky Carson (Santa Maria, Calif.) def. #4 Katie Gould (Huntington Beach, Calif.)/Sameer Hadid (Sacramento, Calif.) 15-10, 15-2

MXA.....Ileana Villarreal (Miami Lakes, Fla.)/Alain Pujolar (Hialeah, Fla.) def. Kim Cameron (Fremont, Calif.)/Rick Ramirez (Fremont, Calif.) 15-9, 15-11

MXB.....Ann Winder (Balto, Md.)/Mike Kellem (Baltimore, Md.) def. #1 Donna Cooper (Fort Worth, Texas)/Eddie Lacost (Colleyville, Texas) 15-13, 15-10

MXC.....#1 Cari Mitlitsky/Hal Mitlitsky (Fresh Meadow, N.Y.) def. Julie Wiedis (Princeton, N.J.)/Mel Gordon (North Wales, Pa.) 15-9, 10-15, 11-10

MX24.....Aimee Roehler (Allentown, Pa.)/Craig Rappaport (Bryn Mawr, Pa.) def. Yesenia Delbusto (Miami, Fla.)/Matt Gehling (Annapolis, Md.) 15-5, 15-5

MX25+.....#1 Jody Nance (Stockton, Calif.)/Marko Perez (Visalia, Calif.) def. #3 Mindy Hartstein (Bayside, N.Y.)/Fabian Pedraza (Moonside, N.Y.) 15-4, 15-8

MX30+.....#1 Jody Nance (Stockton, Calif.)/Marko Perez (Visalia, Calif.) def. Teri Lawrence (Sunrise, Fla.)/Armando Alonso (Monmouth Beach, N.J.) 15-14, 12-15, 11-6

MX35+.....#2 Laura Fenton (Portland, Ore.)/Troy Stallings (Sioux Falls, S.D.) def. #1 Chris Evon (Wheeling, Ill.)/Dave Eagle (Vandalia, Ohio) 15-7, 15-4

MX40+.....Susan Pfahler (Neptune Beach, Fla.)/Gordon Kirkland (Orlando, Fla.) def. #1 Elaine Dexter (Pleasanton, Calif.)/Dave Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.) 12-15, 15-12, 11-3

MX45+.....#3 Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Ron Woolard (Dublin, Ohio) def. #4 MeriJean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Rick Ramirez (Fremont, Calif.) 12-15, 15-14, 11-7

MX50+.....#2 Shelley Ogden (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Dave Kovanda (Columbus, Ohio) def. #1 MeriJean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Tom McKie (Garland, Texas) 9-15, 15-7, 11-3

MX55+.....Joy DeSantis (North Hollywood, Calif.)/Rex Lawler (Terre Haute, Ind.) def. Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.) 15-10, 7-15, 11-6

MX60+.....Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.)/Ron Maggard (Lake Tapawingo, Mo.) def. Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Victor Sacco (Norwood, N.Y.) 15-12, 10-15, 11-8

Find semi-final results, and earlier open round reporting, online at — <http://www.racqmag.com/racqmag/98news/98dbls1.htm>

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profile: irt & wirt

Coors Light Doubles in Las Vegas

Monchik & Doyle Win

The team of Sudsy Monchik and Tim Doyle have only one match loss on a record they kept alive at the 1998-99 IRT season kick off at the Las Vegas Sporting House the first week in August. While the players got back into the rhythm of the IRT season in the more relaxed atmosphere of doubles, don't think for a moment that it was just for fun. The Vegas stop is the only doubles event on the tour. It offers the players a chance to build momentum leading into a tough singles circuit. And it often made the temperature inside the court much hotter than the 100 degree desert outside.

This year's field featured defending champions Todd O'Neil/Derek Robinson and last year's surprise finalists Tony Jelso/Steve Lerner, in addition to a new, but fairly well-known pair of John Ellis/Cliff Swain. Monchik & Doyle were on hand to reclaim their title as the #1 doubles team in the world, but the crowd favorites were locals Bret Harnett/Mike Coulter and the legendary Ruben Gonzalez/Mike Ray, who have spent 10 years dominating up-and-coming doubles teams.

The first round saw Harnett/Coulter employ an entire bag of veteran tricks to come from behind to defeat Jason Mannino/Ray Abady in a fifth game tiebreaker. This match had all the contact of an NFL playoff, with bodies flying all over the court and a few elbows exchanged. Also in the round, Jelso/Lerner enjoyed revenge in an surprisingly easy three game win over James Mulcock/Rocky Carson, who had defeated them just one week earlier at the Craig McCoy Memorial in Riverside. Drew Kachtik, former IRT national champion played his first event in a year with fellow Texan Doug Eagle, but they drew defending champs Robinson/O'Neil and went down in three straight.

The top seeds cruised through the quarterfinals while Kelly Gelhaus/Joe Paraiso defeated #3 seeded Mike Guidry/Adam Karp in a marathon three-hour, five-game match. The other quarterfinal featured crowd favorites Harnett/Coulter vs. Gonzalez/Ray. The crowd was thrilled by Gonzalez's gets and the sportsmanship of all four. When Harnett/Coulter won the first and went up big in the second, they seemed well on their way to the semis. But Gonzalez/Ray used their experience to take the second game, then finished off the next two with ease. It was the IRT's yearly reminder of how good Harnett still is, despite his retirement years ago.

Ellis/Swain brought their power games to the semis, but still had to work on learning about each other as partners. Gonzalez/Ray brought teamwork gained from years on the court as partners and friends. Power won out! Swain/Ellis pounded serves and shot the ball from everywhere on the court to keep Gonzalez/Ray off balance throughout the four game match.

Monchik/Doyle also used power and court coverage as their weapons against the somewhat unorthodox pairing of Gelhaus/Paraiso, who also claim tremendous playing experience. Once again power won out as Monchik's exploding backhand and diving court coverage mixed perfectly with Doyle's newfound forehand strength in their four game victory.

You could argue that a final match up of Swain/Ellis & Monchik/Doyle offered a chance to see the top four players in the world on one court. Swain, Monchik and Ellis are squarely in those ranking spots, and Doyle has made the type of remarkable comeback from injury that could put him in the #4 spot by the end of the season. It was Monchik/Doyle's chance to get their title back after not playing the year before and, as the fans in Vegas know, any match between Swain and Monchik is going to be exciting. Monchik/Doyle came out a little lackadaisical and Swain/Ellis pounded them in the first game. But that was it, as Monchik/Doyle controlled front court, making fewer and fewer mistakes as they took control to win the next three games and reclaim their title. Are they the best doubles team ever, as Monchik claims? No one can really say for certain, but they were definitely the best doubles team in Las Vegas that week!

*Elmwood Summer Cooler in New Orleans
Presented by Coca-Cola & Miller Lite*

Monchik Back to Back

Most of the pros flew straight from Las Vegas to a hot, humid (but fun) New Orleans to officially start the season with the traditional singles debut at the beautiful Elmwood Fitness Center. Even though most were sleep-deprived from a week in Las Vegas, this wasn't the place to play catch up. New Orleans sets the scene for players to make a good start and establish momentum, or realize it could be a long season of uncertainty.

Swain and Monchik were ready to begin their face-to-face battle for #1. John Ellis was ready to prove that last season was just a stepping stone, and Andy Roberts seemed ready to work his now-healthy knees through a final season of competition. New Orleans has turned into

racquetball hotbed for the South with media, spectator, and amateur interest at an all-time high. The pros would not disappoint.

The two toughest matches in the 32's featured Texans Doug Eagle and Drew Kachtik. From the #15 spot, Eagle was taken to the limit by the always-improving Kelly Kerr from Canada. Eagle won the match in five, but Kerr showed he is one of the toughest opponents to draw in the first round. Next Drew Kachtik, former pro national champion, went up against #9 Kelly Gelhaus. New Orleans is somewhat of a home club for Kachtik so he was clearly the crowd favorite, while most of the pros were curious about his level of play after a year off. It only took a few points for the old Kachtik to re-appear; elbows flying, diving gets, and front court rekills put Gelhaus at a disadvantage for three out of the four games.

On the tour, the round of 16 used to be considered a warm-up round. The top seeds would play hard, but felt confident of a win and would use the match to work on some shots and entertain the crowd. But times have changed and the depth of competition extends much further down the rankings. This was proven again in New Orleans, with matches that made it hard to choose which court to watch — once you selected a sideline, you could be missing something special on any one of the others.

Surprises and near-upsets started with #12 Louis Vogel dominating #5 Jason Mannino for the first two games — and much of the third — with his explosive serve and lethal backhand. With Mannino completely frustrated by Vogel's stellar play, the match appeared to be over until Mannino clawed his way back in to win an unbelievable five-gamer. A number of other top seeds were not so lucky. Tony Jelso, #13, came out ripping against #4 Andy Roberts and won all the big points in a four-game victory to starting his year off with a bang. John Ellis, #3, fared no better against #14 Tim Doyle, who continued his hot play of late last season in his four-game win. The upsets still didn't end. From the

#10 spot, Adam Karp defeated Mike Guidry in a five-game diving festival that had the fans in awe. Although disappointed, Guidry had to feel good about his game since coming back from shoulder surgery in the short off-season. Mike Ray, #8, took on the hot Kachtik in a match up that for many years had been a final. Kachtik's first game win took 45 minutes, but Ray's trademark consistency and control won out in the end.



This season picked up where the last had ended — with Swain and Monchik cruising to the semi-finals, while everyone else had to fight to get there. Swain vs. Mannino matchups have been thrillers since Mannino won for the first time last season in Rochester. Although Swain came to their semi-final undefeated in the tournament, Mannino believes he can beat Swain and it shows on

the court. After splitting the first two games, Swain turned his vicious serve up a notch on the tough three wall glass exhibition court at Elmwood and played all the big points to win in four.

Monchik's road to the semis wasn't as easy; Karp had given him everything he wanted in the quarterfinals by going up by two games before succumbing to pressure and losing in five. Now Monchik faced one of the hottest players on the tour, and his own doubles partner, Tim Doyle. They split the first four games with great play and shifting momentum before Doyle put the crowd on the edge of their seats by going up 7-3 in the tiebreaker. But Monchik's confidence is always a major factor and he started creeping back. At 9-9 Doyle missed a backhand to lose the lead and Monchik finished him off with a forehand splat.

New Orleans had proven to be quicksand for a number of the top seeds as the week went on, but some things

pro file: irt & wirt

didn't change. When the crowd started lining up an hour before the finals, it was to see Swain vs. Monchik — the two best players in the world battling for the first title of the new season. Swain, bound and determined to keep his re-captured #1 ranking for another season and Monchik, a young tour veteran looking to be #1 again. Their rivalry ranks among the ultimate rivalries of all time; Brumfield-Serot and Hogan-Yellen. But the best part is the respect that the two have for each other both on and off the court and the fact that every fan can feel the intensity when they square off. They don't just play a match, they fight a battle of tremendous skills.

The fans got their money's worth on this one as the two titans of the sport battled in what many other pros said was their best match ever. Monchik won the first game easily and after that they were never separated by more than two points as Swain won the second. Both played great but Monchik was a little better on the big points as he won games three and four; 13-11 & 11-9. So the new season opened as it had closed — with the Swain vs. Monchik rivalry alive and well!

Coors Light Pro-Am in Stockton

Swain turns the Tables

Next on the schedule, the IRT made it's annual trip to the In Shape Sports Club Westlane in Stockton, California, which boasts the longest running pro event in the history of the sport. Hosts Mort Rothbard and Rob Farrens have seen the greatest players in the history of the sport appear on Court 1 — from Hogan, Yellen, Harnett, and the Peck brothers. The tradition continued this year as two players who belong on that list continued their rivalry: Swain and Monchik. Even in the "backyard" of John Ellis and Adam Karp, the top two players in the world could not be stopped from playing each other in the finals for the third time this season. So as it had been in Las Vegas and New Orleans, the city of Stockton was hot, the fans were ready for the racquetball season in California to begin, and Swain faced Monchik in the finals.



Any IRT event in California brings out the toughest local stars to take their shots at the pros. Stockton would prove no different as two top locals upset much higher seeded players in the round of 32. Junior National Champion Rocky Carson showed the skill and promise fans have seen throughout his amateur career in a four game beating of #13 Tony Jelso. Another California star, Joe Paraiso, lost the first game of his match against #14 Doug Eagle, but came back to win it in four. Also from the region, last season's IRT Sportsman of the Year James Mulcock, beat the tough Kelly Kerr in straight games.

The round of 16 offered some interesting match ups, with one of the toughest being a surprise game win by #17 Darrin Schenck as he pushed Swain to four, marking the first time Swain had dropped a game before the semis this season! Hometowners Karp and Ellis each moved on to the quarterfinals with sell-out crowd support, while #4 Andy Roberts bounced back from a first round loss in New Orleans to beat the upstart Carson in four solid games. Tim Doyle, #12, continued his comeback from injury with the late match win over

#5 Mike Guidry in a brutal five-gamer that kept the crowd and club staff around until well after midnight. Jason Mannino, #7, and #10 Louis Vogel picked up right where they left off in New Orleans. Vogel played great to go up two games, then lost the next three at 11-9 apiece. Monchik quietly (?) advanced to the quarters with a competitive four-game win over Mulcock.

The quarterfinals very often showcase some of the best IRT action, but Stockton saw the big-4 simply blast their

way through the opposition to reach the semis. Roberts controlled front court and wore Doyle down in three straight. The crowd banged on the glass after each of Ellis's winners as he powered his way past #6 Derek Robinson in three games. Monchik had a surprisingly easy three game win over best friend and old rival

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World's #1 Racquetball Player
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pro file: irt & wirt

Mannino. Swain was the only seed working this round, in a drawn-out four game win over Karp that stretched to 13-11 twice.

On Sunday the big-4 were set for a full day of semi-final action. The lead-off match was Monchik vs. crowd favorite Ellis, whose gallery was hoping he could move on to the finals at his home club. After Ellis won the first game they were encouraged, but wary. Between games, Monchik seemed to relax by carrying on a conversation with a former New Yorker in the crowd who was rooting for Ellis. He returned to the court and took control of the match, making the fan promise to root for him when he played a Bostonite in the finals. The crowd was entertained by the antics but didn't care for the comeback, which ended with a four game victory for Monchik.

Next up was a classic IRT match up between Swain and Roberts, who have battled one another for years. Both of

these guys were all-business as they split the first four games, and going into the fifth the sell-out crowd (including Monchik) wondered who had enough left to make the finals. Swain quickly answered the question as he turned up the intensity another notch and served Roberts off the court for the win.

IRT finals are becoming a personal battlefield for Swain and Monchik as they brought their rivalry to the third city in a month. Monchik had captured the first two meetings, and even though it was still early in the season, it was obvious to everyone that Swain wanted – and needed – the win in Stockton. What Swain gave the fans was a glimpse of what players routinely faced in the early 90's, when Swain was basically unbeatable. No matter what Monchik did, Swain had an answer. No matter how well Monchik played, Swain played better. Consistent and deadly, Swain took the Stockton win in four.



pro X.

Overuse Syndromes by Grant P. Smith D.C.

Overuse syndromes occur in:
10% OF ALL CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12
30% OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES
75% OF COLLEGE ATHLETES
100% OF PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES

injurious overload of biochemical stress on a particular body part. Instead, as its name suggests, an overuse syndrome will result from repeatedly performing the same movement. Once such an injury is sustained, those who continue to increase their level of competition can also expect a rise in the rate of injury as they mature (as shown above).

Racquetball has always been a great way to knock the body out of alignment. Remember, the walls don't move when you hit them, and being a one-sided sport with all its twisting, lunging, and diving, the game does tend to wear on the body. Racquetball players are notorious for ignoring their own limits. If you have been playing the sport injury-free for more than a year, I salute you.

In sports, the most common causes of injury are poor fitness, strength imbalance, limb misalignment, and inflexibility. The recurrence of the same injury will wear on the joints, ligaments, and tendons, which in turn can lead to overuse syndromes. What is meant by an overuse syndrome is that there is no single, specific causative agent that has lead to the

Those injuries most commonly incurred on the court are those to the elbows and shoulders. Knees follow close behind. In fact, many of the IRT pros are known to wrestle with these types of injury-related problems. But not because these guys are out of shape! Rather, many of these conditions are caused by overuse syndromes, a particular body part or parts being repeatedly taxed without adequate time for recuperation in between. These kinds of injuries can erode a player's ability to perform competitively and should be taken seriously. Adequate rest is a good start. Make sure you get enough of it during your weekly training schedule so your body can work to its maximum potential. However, if rest isn't your thing, try cross-training. If your playing arm is giving you problems, try playing offhand. There are plenty of ways to remain active while still providing the necessary relief to an injured area. Just remember, rest is vital for a full recovery. Without it, healing will remain incomplete.



pro tour

results • schedules • rankings

1998-99 IRT RANKINGS

[Through Riverside, 10/12/98]

1. 3542.....SWAIN, CLIFF
2. 2934.....MONCHIK, SUDSY
3. 2639.....ELLIS, JOHN
4. 2059.....ROBERTS, ANDY
5. 1775.....MANNINO, JASON
6. 1623.....GUIDRY, MIKE
7. 1615.....FOWLER, DAN
8. 1404.....ROBINSON, DEREK
9. 1335.....KARP, ADAM
10. 1322.....DOYLE, TIM
11. 1265.....VOGEL, LOUIS
12. 1237.....RAY, MIKE
13. 1053.....GELHAUS, KELLY
14. 882.....JELSO, TONY
15. 877.....EAGLE, DOUG
16. 703.....MULCOCK, JAMES

IRT BONUS POOLS

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

- PRO PENN GLOVE** — 1. MANNINO, 2. RAY, 3. MULCOCK, 4. CLOUSE
- EKTELON NFS FOOTWEAR** — 1. ROBERTS, 2. FOWLER, 3. GUIDRY, 4. GELHAUS
- TACKI MAC GRIP** — 1. MANNINO, 2. ROBINSON, 3. KARP, 4. VOGEL
- HEAD PRO BAG** — 1. MONCHIK, 2. MANNINO, 3. KARP, 4. VOGEL
- BABOLAT STRING** — 1. MANNINO, 2. RAY, 3. MULCOCK, 4. LLACERA

1998-99 WIRT RANKINGS

[Through Portland, 06/08/98]

1. 986.....GOULD, MICHELLE
2. 741.....PARAISO, JACKIE
3. 656.....DREXLER, MARCI
4. 628.....GUDINAS, CHERYL
5. 617.....FENTON, LAURA
6. 460.....COBURN, LYNNIE
7. 382.....O'BRIEN, MOLLY
8. 363.....GALLOWAY, LORRAINE
9. 299.....HAMMOCK, LYDIA
10. 295.....FOWLER, DOREEN
11. 265.....MYERS, JANET
12. 260.....LEVINE, ROBIN
13. 223.....HARTSTEIN, MINDY
14. 215.....FRIEDMAN, RANDI
14. 209.....HALLANDER, KERSTEN
16. 204.....PAYNE, CAROLYN

WIRT BONUS POOLS

The following represent the current standings of the top four ranked professionals using the WIRT official products shown.

- PRO PENN GLOVE** — 1. PARAISO, 2. DREXLER, 3. FENTON, 4. HAMMOCK
- EKTELON NFS SHOE** — 1. GOULD, 2. GUDINAS, 3. O'BRIEN, 4. GALLOWAY
- TACKI MAC GRIP** — 1. PARAISO, 2. DREXLER, 3. FENTON, 4. LEVINE
- BABOLAT STRING** — 1. PARAISO, 2. DREXLER, 3. FENTON, 4. LEVINE

1998 IRT SEASON SCORECARD & SCHEDULE

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

Oct. 28- Nov. 1	Chicago, IL	Athletic Club of Bloomington
November 4-7	New York, NY	Sportset at Syosset
November 11-15	Memphis, TN	Racquet Club of Memphis
December 9-13	Denver, CO	Lakewood Athletic Club
January 7-10	Albuquerque, NM	Tom Young's Athletic Club
January 13-17	Denver, CO	Denver Athletic Club
January 20-24	Lincoln, NE	Sports Courts
February 3-7	Seattle, WA	Harbor Square Athletic Club
February 17-21	Boston, MA	Ridge Athletic Club
February 25-28	Rochester, NY	Penfield Racquet & Fitness Club
March 11-14	TBA, CA	Club TBA
March 24-28	Santa Barbara, CA	Goleta Valley Athletic Club
April 7-11	Columbus, OH	Continental Athletic Club
April 21-25	Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Sporting House
May 5-8	San Diego, CA	Club TBA
May 13-16	Honolulu, HI	Club TBA
May 19-23	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona Athletic Club
June 2-5	Portland, OR	Multnomah Athletic Club

1998-99 WIRT SEASON SCHEDULE

Oct. 30 - Nov. 1	Baltimore, MD	Merritt Athletic Club
November 11-15	Memphis, TN	Racquet Club of Memphis
December 9-13	Denver, CO	Lakewood Athletic Club
January 8-10	Philadelphia, PA	TBA
February 5-7	Roanoke, VA	TBA
March	Long Island, NY	TBA
April 23-25	Las Vegas, NV	TBA
June	Portland, OR	Multnomah Athletic Club

TOUR UPDATE

IRT EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNOUNCED: The International Racquetball Tour recently named Mike Guidry, Tony Jelso, Adam Karp, Sudsy Monchik, Andy Roberts and Cliff Swain to the 1998-99 IRT Executive Board. The tour players were selected and voted into office by the top 16 ranked players and will serve a one year term. The IRT Executive Board works in conjunction with the tour, events, and players to chart a successful course for professional racquetball.

PENN & BABOLAT RENEW TOUR CONTRACTS: Penn Racquet Sports recently announced the renewal of their sponsorship of the Women's International Racquetball Tour. Under the agreement, Pro Penn will continue to serve as the official ball and glove of the WIRT, and Babolat will be the official string of the tour. Babolat will also remain the official string of the IRT. The new contracts run through the year 2000. "Professional racquetball is excited about its sponsorship from Penn and Babolat and looks forward to a positive relationship through the year 2000 and beyond," said Hank Marcus, Executive Director of the IRT.

industry news



<< TITANIUM RACQUETBALLS FROM WILSON

Wilson Racquetball just unveiled its latest innovation — the titanium racquetball. The ball is the first to utilize titanium technology in this form, and is designed to provide increased wall strength and durability for all levels of play. The new Ultra™ Titanium racquetball (patent pending) utilizes an advanced rubber compound, which features a powder titanium coupling agent for improved performance. A titanate powder bonds the rubber compound more tightly together into a cohesive unit. This bonding significantly increases the racquetball's strength and durability as well as its consistency and performance. "We are very excited about the Ultra™ Titanium racquetballs" said Terri Graham, marketing manager at Wilson Racquetball. "The bounce is true and consistent, the speed is ideal, and above all, they really last."

PRO KENNEX LACES UP HI-TEC

Racquetball players sponsored by Pro Kennex will now have HI-TEC footwear to compliment their racquets, thanks to a new sales and promotional alliance between the two companies. The joint announcement was made early September by Mike Martinez, national director of racquetball for the San Diego-based racquet manufacturer, and Arnie Berman, president of HI-TEC Golf & Court Sports USA which is headquartered in Tustin, Calif. "Recognizing that proper footwear is essential to the performance of any racquetball player," Martinez said, "we wanted to affiliate with a footwear manufacturer whose products would compliment the quality of our racquets."

Under the terms of the agreement, Pro Kennex's John Ellis, ranked among the IRT's top four, has signed on to endorse HI-TEC's line of indoor court footwear. All members of the Pro Kennex racquetball advisory staff at the pro, elite and performance levels will also be provided with HI-TEC indoor court footwear. The Pro Kennex national sales force will sell HI-TEC products and the companies will work together on various racquetball promotions.

<< PURPLE HAZE AT PENN

Penn Racquet Sports recently introduced its own new Penn Titanium racquetball — and it's purple. Penn play testing has shown that purple is easy to track with the eye, speeding up reaction time to the ball and enhancing any player's game. "The Penn Titanium racquetball exemplifies our effort to offer fresh, innovative products and to grow the game of racquetball," said Mike Curtis, director of marketing for Penn Racquet Sports.

RAD GOES FISHING TO LAND KARP AND RAY

Through Network Marketing, RAD Eyewear recently announced the signing of Adam Karp and IRT veteran Mike Ray. A member of the U.S. National Team, Karp is the reigning world and national doubles champion, and also holds the 1998 national

singles crown. Ray, the 1990-91 pro tour champ, has enjoyed a top-10 ranking for the past decade.

EKTELON TABS ROBERTS AS PLAYER PROMOTIONS CONSULTANT

After 14 years of success on the men's pro tour, Andy Roberts was recently offered, and accepted, the position of national player promotions consultant for Ektelon. Roberts also announced that the 1998-99 IRT season will be his last as a full-time player. One of the premier competitors in professional racquetball, Roberts has four national professional titles, two world titles and has never finished a season with a ranking lower than fourth.

"My decision to leave the professional tour did not come easily," Roberts said. "However, knowing that I will remain as part of the Ektelon family to continue toward our goal in raising the sport of racquetball to the next level, has made this transition easier."



Derek Robinson and Robin Levine
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<<< In his new position, Roberts will serve as Ektelon's liaison to the pro tour and the United States Racquetball Association. Roberts will also be instrumental in the recruitment, organization and coordination of Ektelon's player staff, including members of its Junior Elite Team.

INTERCHANGEABLY RAD

Now, along with the RAD Turbos, LXs, Feather Jr./Ladies and Neon frames, the eyewear company recently introduced the RAD "Interchangeables." The three lenses offered, clear, amber and mirrored, are available in two models – SSS with adjustable wraparound earpiece or No. 105 classic type.

And for prescription wearers ... inserts are available to fit all of the Rad frames (except the Feather Jr.)! Network can have a pair of Rads with your prescription to you within a week in most cases for \$95.00 complete (including postage). For more information, email Doug Smith at python2@earthlink.net, or order direct through Network Marketing (see display ad on page 54).



<< NEW GLOVE LINE FROM PENN

Penn Racquet Sports offers a new line of gloves developed to meet the needs of every player, from the local club enthusiast to the touring pro. The Pro Penn Tackified, Pro Penn Cabretta, Penn Cabretta Stay Soft, and Penn Synthetic Black can be found in pro shops, sporting goods and sports quality shops. Made from the highest quality materials, the new "secure-fit" finger on the Pro Penn Tackified and the Penn Cabretta Stay Soft allows players to feel confident and secure about their grip on the racquet.

"It's a very simple concept," said Mark Smith, Product Manager for Penn. "An all-leather index finger allows the player to feel as though his or her hand is locked on the racquet, allowing them to concentrate more on their game."



Other features include protective padded fingers on the Pro Penn gloves, premium Cabretta leather, comfort fitting power mesh, and a wide absorbent elastic wristband. Suggested retail pricing ranges from \$9.99 to \$18.99 per glove. For more information, visit Penn Racquet Sports at: www.pennracquet.com.

WILSON ANNOUNCES GRASSROOTS GROWTH GRANT WINNERS

In February Wilson Racquetball introduced a one-of-a-kind program called the Grassroots Growth Grant which offered \$5,000.00 to fund grassroots efforts by state associations to grow the game of racquetball. The grand prize winner was the Cascade Athletic Club in Gresham, Oregon which, under the direction of Connie Martin, developed a very effective program between the local high schools in the area and the club. Participants received a free 4-month membership, plus a special racquet and eyeguard package. Cascade also offers inexpensive racquetball lessons to the club's fitness members, with a racquet as a part of the program. Connie's goal is to have 200 fitness members go through the lesson program, and to convert 10-30% into racquetball members.

The runner-up was the Illinois State Racquetball Association and TJ Ferro, who conducted a successful series of junior clinics throughout the Chicago area for over 200 kids ages 8-15, and utilized top area juniors to help teach them. Honorable mentions were awarded to three state associations: the Florida Racquetball Association and president Laura Brandt for increasing women's participation; the Alabama Racquetball Association and Natalie Crockett for developing a travel program to clubs and churches, conducting free lessons and clinics for adults and juniors; and the Indiana State Racquetball Association and Cathy McGrath for offering free junior clinics statewide.

NEW TECHNOLOGY FROM E-FORCE >>

Two new frames from E-Force – the Omen and the Torrent – feature the company's advanced proprietary technology, the "Control Wrap" frame, which reduces racquet-frame distortion at ball impact, resulting in a significant increase in control – without loss of the power of E-Force's 22.0" LongString technology. Both the Omen (195 grams unstrung) and the Torrent (220 grams unstrung) feature the new graphite/titanium frame, which eliminates 100 string holes and decreases frame distortion, while increasing stability and durability. A special structural support, the "Cylinder Rail," supports the graphite/titanium tube, further limiting distortion while allowing the necessary back-and-forth flex. "LongString technology and the Control Wrap frame deliver the two things racquetball players want most – power with control," said E-Force president Ron Grimes. "Acceptance of the Omen and Torrent has been exceptionally strong among players who have tested the product."



SWISSAIR TRAGEDY TOUCHES RACQUETBALL >>

Tennis, squash and racquetball communities all mourned the tragic death of Pierre Babolat, who perished along with 228 other passengers on Swissair Flight 111 on Wednesday, September 2. Babolat, 51, was returning to his home in Lyon, France from the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York. Since 1985, in his role of chairman for the one hundred year old company, Pierre Babolat expanded the international presence of the Babolat brand and established its reputation among the world's finest strings, accessories and stringing machines.



PYTHON GRIPS GREAT WHITE NORTH

Racquetball Canada recently announced the signing of a one-year contract with Doug Smith of Network Marketing establishing the Python Grip as the "Official Grip" of the national association. According to Smith, "Python, the 'Official Grip' of Racquetball Canada, USRA and No. 1-ranked racquetball player, Sudsy Monchik, is proud to continue its support of Racquetball Canada for another year!" In a current promotion, Racquetball Canada offers a Python Grip and a can of racquetballs to any current member who renews their membership for another year, or any new member who wishes to take out a new two-year membership. For information on this offer, contact David Hinton at: 2185 West 14th Avenue; Vancouver, British Columbia CANADA V6K 2V8; phone: (604) 734-6600; fax: (604) 734-2233; e-mail: hinton@ican.net.

THOERNER SIGNS WITH PRO KENNEX

Jason Thoerner of North Augusta, South Carolina has signed a three year deal with Pro Kennex to endorse its products through the year 2000. A consistent quarterfinalist at USRA national events and a pro tour regular, Jason has also taken over the duties of representing the Pro Kennex line throughout the Southeast. Jason will be using the Kinetic Diamond Reach 15G racquet for the remainder of the season. If you have any questions regarding Jason's new duties on behalf of Pro Kennex,, please email him at: thoerner@csranet.com.

FREE SOFTWARE FROM WIN SPORTS

Win Sports offers a large variety of sports software for free download from its web site at: <http://members.aol.com/Win4sports>. The free downloads introduce tournament directors to the company's high-performance tennis and racquetball sports software for tournaments, leagues, ladders, double elimination, match partners, mixers, ranking, rating, and databases. For more information, browse the website direct, or email Win4sports@aol.com.

RACQUETBALL

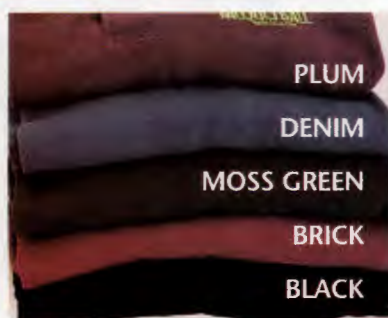
court gear



Colorado players (and USRA staffers!) get ready for a fall tournament season in the Rockies with new gear from RACQUETBALL magazine! Pictured left to right ...
Top step: Chris Keenan & Barb Mehegan
Middle step: Mary Keenan, Michael Mehegan & Kevin Vicroy
Bottom Step: Heather Fender & Jason Mehegan

Photo: John Foust

for fall/winter!



racquetball magazine gear

#JK-RBZ — ID Wear Pacific Club Jacket: Blue denim body, khaki sleeves w/tan embroidery. \$69.00.

#PO-RBZ — Garment washed Polos: Weathered pique, short-sleeved sport shirt, generous cut. Colors shown left. \$32.00.

#TS-RBZ — Authentic Pigment Tee Shirts: Garment washed 100% cotton, generous cut. Colors shown left. \$18.00

#CS-RBZ — Pullover Crewneck Sweatshirt: Authentic pigment in Kiwi (on model), Washed Plum & Black. \$32.00

#ZS-RBZ — Quarter Zip Sweatshirt: Authentic pigment in Spruced Teal (on model), Periwinkle (light blue/purple), & Smoke (grey). \$36.00

#BC-RBZ — Caps: Toppers heavy brushed canvas, six-panel pro cap w/front and back embroidery (website address on back). Colors: Olive, Hazelnut, Navy, Black (all shown left). One size, adjustable. \$17.00

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AmPRO lessons

American Professional Racquetball Association

Court Coverage for Doubles

By Jim Hiser

It's considered by some to be the most crucial part of playing doubles ... selecting a compatible partner! Although skill is important too, you'll often find that the team that interacts best together will beat the team that depends on skill alone. A number of factors contribute to the making of a good team, including court coverage, chemistry and communication.



In this lesson, we'll talk about court coverage — since the team that masters this doubles component stands a much better chance of winning.

There are three types of court positions most common to doubles: 1) the up-and-back method; 2) the side-to-side method; 3) the "modified" side to side method

Using elite camp instructors Chris Evon (Wilson), Cheryl Gudinas (Ektelon), Adam Karp (Head) and Dan Obremski (Ektelon), we set up a mock "men vs. women" match to illustrate these positions. Adam and Dan are illustrating the principles explained ...

up-and-back

side-to-side



doubles strategy

<< up & back

In the **up and back** method, the "up" person covers the front part of the court, and their partner covers the back part of the court. This method is most effective when one player is extremely quick and is a good retriever in front court. The back player must be an excellent shooter, have an effective ceiling game, and also possess equal ability on both sides of the court.

side to side ^^

In the **side to side** method, the court is split down the middle, and each player covers both the front and back half of their "side." This requires special attention to balls that go down the middle and good communication between the players to avoid errors. Wide angle passes can be problematic in this scheme, and each player must be strong on their chosen side for this method to be effective.

PHOTOS: JOHN FOUST

modified side to side



^^ slightly off-center

A more advanced way of playing doubles is the **modified side-to-side** method, in which one player plays “up” around the short line in the “middle” of their side, while their partner plays “back” about 4-5 feet behind the short line – also in the “middle” of their side. This “off center” angle has the advantage of positioning the players a bit closer to the front and back walls, making them less susceptible to certain shots. When one player is “up” to cover pinches in front court, the other player covers the pass and ceiling shots. Whenever play dictates, the players can exchange positions – one moving up, the other moving back – while staying on their chosen side to take advantage of their shot-making strengths.

AmPRO CLUB RACQUET

American Professional Racquetball Organization

News for Professionals in the Business of Racquetball • Special to RACQUETBALL

What exactly does being 'fit' look like to you? What does it feel like? Take a minute and think about it. What would you have to be doing to call yourself fit? Are you doing it? If you are, good for you! And if you aren't, why not?

I pose this question not as a way of chastising, but as a way of urging you to take a look at what is preventing you from doing what *you* define as fitness. Perhaps instead of feeling bad, you might reconsider your definition. Does the way you define fitness make you depressed because you feel so far away from it? Or does it excite and motivate you? Go back to the original questions and re-think them. One of the ways to know if you have the answer that is right for you is if you feel a sense of excitement about doing something.

So much of what most of us have come to believe about fitness is based on the 'no pain, no gain' philosophy. We have to force ourselves to work out, eat certain foods, and then act like we enjoy it. After a while, fitness for fitness sake alone is never enough. Inevitably boredom and frustration set in.

I know this from personal experience. I've been on the path to fitness for many years. On the women's pro tour I was motivated to gain a level of fitness that would allow me to compete successfully. In the year since I've played on the tour, I've had to literally re-define what fitness means to me. I'm certainly not fit in the same way as I was. But I continue to take care of myself in ways that contribute to a sense of well being.

I think of fitness as having three aspects: physical, mental and spiritual. Anything that enhances these areas contributes to fitness. So yoga, meditation, t'ai chi, reading a book, getting a massage, all relate to fitness? In my mind they do. Of course a well-rounded fitness program includes all the aspects of the fitness trio. If we can start to look at fitness from a bigger perspective and expand how we think about it, we can define and re-define fitness to suit our personalities.



Ultimately, the ideal fitness program makes you feel good – physically, mentally, and spiritually. What do you need to do to create that for yourself? If you have to beat yourself up to work out, and not doing it makes you feel incredibly guilty, what's missing? Mentally and spiritually you are out of balance and in my opinion, not fit.

There was a time this past year when all I did was walk. I struggled with the thought that I wasn't doing 'enough' to be fit, given I was used to putting in several hours of hard training every day. But I listened to my body and gained a tremendous amount of mental and spiritual satisfaction from being outdoors and honoring the part of me that needed a rest. After 14 years on the pro tour, I was ready for a break from the rigors of a strict training regimen.

It would have been tempting to use my absence from the tour as an excuse not to exercise – my main motivation for being no longer existed! By accepting another way of being active, and at times even choosing to do nothing, I was able to honor my physical, spiritual, and mental needs and create well being.

It's a constant challenge to figure out ways to create fitness for ourselves. My criteria is that it needs to be enjoyable and I have to want to do it. Sometimes it can be a race or a tournament that gives meaning to my workout. Sometimes it's just listening to what my body needs and wants to do.

We can all be more successful at making fitness a lifestyle if we can define what fitness looks like to each of us, rather than buying into someone else's notion of what fitness is. By choosing to see fitness as an ever-changing, ever-evolving pursuit, mirroring the process of our own personal growth as human beings, we can derive meaning from the process and learn valuable lessons that cross over into all areas of our lives.

© Marcy Lynch '98. If you'd like to receive a copy of my free newsletter, send me your e-mail address and I'll add you to the mailing list. Coach2u812@aol.com



Q&A...Q&A...

Question: I am tired of losing matches because I am not warmed up...help me please!!! How do I properly warm up for a match so I am good and ready to kick butt?

Answer: I can't tell you how many people tell me at my camps that they use the first game to warm up — a mentality that usually costs them match after match! They inevitably wind up losing the first game ... then find themselves in a catch-up situation. Think about it ... if you lose the first game of a match, you now have to win 100% of the remaining games while your opponent only has to win 50% of the remaining games. I don't know about you, but I don't like the odds.

Here are a variety of great warm-ups that the pros and elite athletes like Cliff, Sudsy and Michelle use prior to their matches:

1. They might take a hot shower, sit a few minutes in the jacuzzi, or hop in the steam or sauna.
2. They then go to the cardio area and use one of their favorite pieces of equipment — like the bike, stairmaster, treadmill, elliptical or rower — and break a sweat for anywhere up to 15 minutes ... but a light 15 minutes.
3. Now that their muscles are nice and warm, they stretch for 10-15 minutes.
4. Next it's court time ... they go onto a court and hit an array of shots at 50% to ease into the movements...as their muscles become totally warm they eventually hit at 80-85% to "groove" their shots and serves for their match.
5. They stretch again slightly so they are totally loose and mobile.
6. They are now good and ready to kick butt.

Head Rules!

Featuring Fran Davis



I'm sure you're saying to yourselves..."Yeah right. Who has *time* to do all that?" If that's the case, just do a shortened version. Something is better than nothing. Remember, if you want to be competitive — and even win the first game — your body has to be warmed up and ready to do the job and go the distance.

If you're tired of losing matches because you're not properly warmed up, try this six-step approach ... either the long or short version. It's a winning formula ... just ask the pros!

Q&A...Q&A...

Question: A certain opponent hits ceiling balls to my forehand. Every time I try to hit a ceiling ball back to the left side of the court, I seem to hit the side wall a lot, leaving my opponent a setup. Help!!

Sounds as if you are playing a smart opponent. A lot of players have weak forehand ceiling balls, but most of us would never know it because we are too afraid to hit to someone's forehand side.

First, I want you to visualize throwing a baseball. Do you stand facing your target or do you stand sideways to your target? The answer should be sideways. If you hit your forehand ceiling balls with your chest facing the front wall, that is why you keep hitting the side wall.

Even if you have never thrown a baseball before, and you aren't sure what I am talking about, go watch a baseball game on TV and focus on the pitcher. He starts his delivery motion sideways. If he pitched facing the batter, his pitches would go way left of the plate, (assuming he is right handed) or he would lose power in order to put the ball over the plate. You want to approach a forehand ceiling ball the same way: sideways.

If your chest is facing the front wall instead of the sidewall, when you swing your arm through the shot, the natural path of your racquet will be dramatically angling towards the left wall of the court. Hence, your shots will hit the sidewall.

So next time a ceiling ball travels over to your forehand, don't run in behind or underneath the ball. Stay to the side – with your chest facing the sidewall – and take side-to-side steps that keep the ball in front of you, and you'll be lined up correctly. When you return that ceiling ball from this position, it will help keep your own ceiling balls on target and away from the sidewall. And your opponent will get far fewer setups that way!



Game Plan
Featuring Lynn Adams

Wilson
RACQUETBALL

MAINS & CROSSES

By Steve Crandall
Vice President, Sales & Marketing

ASHAWAY
RACKET STRINGS



Players Have Big Say in New Products

Where does new sports equipment come from? (No, it's not the stork.) Here's the story of how a new racquetball string entered the world.

We used to manufacture a string with a very particular focus: extreme durability and superior control for chronic string breakers. The string possessed these qualities by virtue of its construction, which consisted of:

- a core of aramid fiber, which provided great strength, stiffness, and tension-holding ability.
- an outer jacket of highly abrasion-resistant nylon monofilaments with an unusual oval cross-section; when four of these fibers were twisted around the core, they gave the string a unique, square cross-section, which would bite deeply into the surface of the ball.

This very stiff string was not designed to be a mass-market seller. With little elasticity or power, it was a niche product for really powerful players. But when the company that manufactured the oval fibers stopped making them, we announced that we would have to discontinue the string.

Usually, such an announcement is received without much comment, because there are lots of competing strings on the market. But this string had such a specific focus that the players who used it had nowhere to turn. We began hearing from distributors and retailers, who were hearing from their customers, who were urging that a string of this description *had* to be produced.

So we asked Peter Burns, head of our Research & Development department, to come up with a new, stiff, durable string with good "bite" and extreme resistance to breakage and creep. Peter started by placing two round nylon monofilaments side by side, which nearly replicated the cross-section of the oval fibers. He braided four pairs of the round monofilaments together in a kind of basket-weave fashion, to build up the same total weight of nylon as in the old jacket. Because it was no longer possible to build up a square cross-section, the braid was given a "nubby" texture, which would have a similar gripping effect.

Peter had also been investigating a fiber from Hoechst Celanese, called Vectran®, for possible use as a core material. Vectran exhibits excellent tensile strength, abrasion resistance, and low creep, and has a vibration-damping effect in some applications. "We're always test-

ing new materials that seem to hold promise for racquet string," said Peter. "We didn't know if it would be a good aramid replacement, but it was worth trying."

When the prototype string was ready, it was tested on a special instrument to measure tensile strength and knot strength. Through experience, we know that any string that falls below certain minimum values won't hold up in use, and the new string was well above these values. But that's about it for lab testing. "We've never found any lab tests that allow us to predict playability," said Peter. "For that, we do play testing."

We produced a few thousand feet of the string, and provided samples to our network of play-testers. We usually start with high-level players, because they have greater opportunities to test new strings, and will uncover weaknesses sooner than less skilled players. If they like it, we send samples to players of all skill levels, all around the country.

Every tester fills out a questionnaire, in which they rate the string as better, worse, or about the same as their usual string for power, control, durability, ease of stringing, etc. The player also reports how long the string lasted and, if it broke, describes exactly where in the racquet the break occurred.

Then we compile the questionnaires and analyze the results. If any serious shortcomings appear, it's back to R&D to see if they can be fixed. In this case, we got it right the first time; the new design proved itself equal to the old one in durability, control, and tension holding, while power was actually increased. We managed to retain all of the old design's advantages, and eliminate its one serious limitation.

So now we're about to put the new string into production. Maybe the players who liked the old model will love it, or maybe we missed some subtle characteristic that makes all the difference in the world to them. Maybe a competitor will introduce a new string for the same niche, or maybe we've got a winner on our hands. The product started with consumer demand; technology played a big role in making it happen; but the consumer still has the final say.

changingtimes

by Luke St. Onge



It seems like only yesterday that 1998 rang in a banner year for our association and sport. It's been quite a year, and now 1999 promises to be even more exciting! So — as I do in each "holiday" issue — I'd like to share some of the USRA's high points in my final column for the calendar year.

Events!

State Presidents attend the annual January Seminar at the Olympic



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Training Center in Colorado ... U.S. Open airs on ESPN2 for the second straight year ... The second quadrennium Pan Am Qualifiers for racquetball are held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada ... The Wilson U.S. High School Championships show a 15% increase in participation ... The E-Force Intercollegiate Championships shows a 20% increase in participants ... Ektelon U.S. National Championships — "The Finals" — revamped and upgraded. Ektelon U.S. National Championships show an increase of 150 participants or 25% ... Ektelon Junior Olympics increases participation and is extremely successful ... Ektelon World Championships are held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where 32 countries compete. USA (7 gold); Canada (2 gold); and Mexico & Bolivia come out on top ... Central American Caribbean Games held with seven full men's and women's teams supported by their Olympic Committees.

Programs!

Major incentive effort to have USRA membership increase by 10% at the end of 1998 ... First time ever programming award for racquetball given to Connie Martin of the Gresham Athletic Club in Oregon ... The IHRSA convention holds four sessions on racquetball ... Major upgrade in **RACQUETBALL** magazine in quality, content, and color ... Major joint effort from Penn and Ektelon to increase the subscriber base

of **RACQUETBALL** magazine ... Ads for racquetball continue to be run in the IHRSA magazine, supported by the racquetball industry and the USRA

Administration

Otto Dietrich assumes the Presidency of the USRA in May. Elected officers of the USRA are: Annie Muniz, Texas, treasurer; Janell Marriott, Rhode Island, secretary; Shelley Ogden, Ohio, executive vice president ... USOC votes unanimously to allow the Olympic rings to be used on the Pan American Team uniforms ... World Seniors raises \$12,000 toward the Olympic Dream. Total proceeds now exceed \$170,000 in the 14 year history of the event ... Ektelon signs four year contract as title sponsor of National Singles, Doubles, Regionals, 'Official Shoe', 'Official Racquet', and official sponsor of the U.S. National Adult and Junior Teams ... USRA brings AmPRO position in-house to national office in Colorado Springs.

End of Year Predictions

Ektelon National Doubles in Baltimore will show an increase of 20% in participation and will be extremely successful ... Promus U.S. Open will be extremely successful with Swain and Gould repeating ... A multi-week television series on ESPN is announced ... Pro Kennex Junior World Championships have 13 countries competing ... USRA pays for 22 junior National Team members to attend the 1998 Worlds.

rb:people & places

It Hurts so Good

World Seniors in Albuquerque

by Kevin Vicroy

If the round-robin playing format for the IRF World Seniors Racquetball Championships is a little grueling, the players don't seem to mind.

"It was between fun and torture," women's 45-and-over champion Karen Key said jokingly.

Key, an Arizona resident, held off Californian Raymie Roland, 528-483, to win the Women's 45+ division in Albuquerque, New Mexico in late August. One of the nation's elite age-group athletes, Key enjoyed the high altitude of the city saying, "The ball was always up . . . so I could always get it off the back wall."

Paul Banales, from Phoenix, won his ninth World Seniors crown, but his first in the men's 65+. Banales downed Ohio's Don Alt 15-13, 15-9 for the title.

"I was playing really good," Banales said. "I had just come off of an operation on my knee. I was testing it and it worked pretty good."

One player who thrives in the annual Labor Day event is Debbie Tisinger of Canoga Park, Calif. She won her sixth consecutive title — her first in the 40+ division — after defeating Linda Moore 483-456 in the final tally of their round-robin playoff.

"I tend to gain momentum the more I play," Tisinger said. "They schedule back-to-back matches each day, so there's no time to cool off. You just go from one match to another. I tend to enjoy that because I seem to get on a roll."

When asked if she would return to the exhausting event, Tisinger said, "Oh, yea!"

RESULTS — MEN'S 35+: Dave Watson (Miami, Okla.) def. Dave Eagle (Vandalia, Ohio), 11-9, 6-11, 11-5; **Men's 40+:** Bill Yates (Canton, Ohio) def. Steve Wattz (Santa Rosa, Calif.), 15-7, 15-10; **Men's 45+:** Jim Luzar (Brookfield, Wis.) def. Gary Mazaroff (Albuquerque, N.M.), 15-3, 15-14; **Men's 50+:** Grag Hasty (Peoria, Ill.) def. Bill Walaj (Somerville, N.J.), 15-10, 15-3; **Men's 55+:** Glenn Allen (Virginia Beach, Va.) def. Mike Aubrey (Phoenix, Ariz.), 15-7, 15-9; **Men's 60+:** Ron Adams (Camarillo, Calif.) def. Jim Wilking (Salt Lake City, Utah), 15-5, 15-11; **Men's 65+:** Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Don Alt (Ft. Myers, Fla.), 15-13, 15-9; **Men's 70+:** Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Earl Dixon (Indianapolis, Ind.), 11-5, 11-6, 11-8; **Men's 75+:** Nick Sans (Irvine, Calif.) def. Lake Westphal (Sun City West, Ariz.), 11-8, 11-8, 11-8; **Men's 80+:** Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. George Spear (Venice, Fla.), 11-3, 11-3, 11-3; **Men's 85+:** Harry Steinman (Baltimore, Md.) uncontested.



Women's 40+ Finishers (l-r): Sara Ackley (3rd), Debbie Tisinger (1st) and Karen Venditti (4th). Men's 35+ "Top-Four" (l-r): Mitch Smith (4th), Dave Eagle (2nd), Dave Watson (1st) and Gary Sanchez (3rd). Photo: Mike Young

WOMEN'S 35+: Laura Fenton (Oregon City, Ore.) def. Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.), 15-10, 15-11; **Women's 40+:** Debbie Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. Linda Moore (Madison, Neb.), 483-456; **Women's 45+:** Karen Key (Gilbert, Ariz.) def. Raymie Roland (Sebastopol, Calif.), 528-483; **Women's 50+:** Mary Lou Furaus (Albuquerque, N.M.) def. Carol Palombino (Novato, Calif.), 575-527; **Women's 55+:** Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Nidea Funes (Puerto Rico), 343-294; **Women's 60+:** Sue Embry (Tacoma, Wash.) def. Annabelle Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.), 11-9, 3-11, 11-9; **Women's 65+:** Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) def. Louis Kiss (Albuquerque, N.M.), 11-1, 11-1, 11-1; **Women's 70+:** Reta Harring (Madison, Wis.) def. Dorothy Vezetinski (Edmonds, Wash.), 11-0, 11-1, 11-1; **Women's 75+:** Mary-Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. Eleanor Quackenbush (Salem, Ore.), 11-4, 11-3, 11-4.

See full results online at: <http://www.racqmag.com/racqmag/news98/98irfsr.htm>

NMRA Championships

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: April 1-4, 1998

Submitted by Ron Pudduck

A robust group of masters' racquetball players assembled at The Racquet Club of Pittsburgh for a four-day round robin invitational. The tournament started on April Fool's Day, but there was little fooling around on the courts, where things got serious mighty quickly. Tournament hosts, Allen Schattner and Gene Grapes, along with tourney directors John Pushak, Suzy Klingensmith and Dave Kimmick ran their usual superior tournament. Matches were on schedule, the banquet was great and the competition ran smoothly for the entire four days. The Racquet Club of Pittsburgh is one of the finest facilities available for hosting a major event.

RESULTS — MEN'S SINGLES — 50+: 1. Ron Galbreath, PA; 2. Bob Keppler, PA; 3. Frank Hill, SC; 4. Ken Weinstein, MD. **55+:** 1. Glenn Allen, VA; 2. Warren Reuther, LA; 3. Len Wilson, PA; 4. Bela Eross, PA. **60+:** 1. Rex Lawler, IN; 2. Lee Graff, OR; 3. Ron Pudduck, MI; 4. Jerry Stoltmann, WI. **65+:** 1. Don Alt, FL; 2. Otis Chapman, OH; 3. Ted Cooke, CA; 4. Jack Bogasky, VA. **70+:** 1. Joe Lambert, TX; 2. Ray Gordon, ND; 3. Philip Dziuk, IL; 4. Dick Kincade, CO. **75+:** 1. Earl Acuff, NC; 2. Bob McAdam, TX; 3. Nick Sans, CA; 4. George Spear, FL. **80+:** 1. George Spear, FL; 2. Charlie Russell, CA. **WOMEN'S SINGLES — 45+:** 1. Karen Weins, FL; 2. Charlene Luckman, MT. **50+:** 1. Merjean Kelley, CA. **55+:** 1. Rose Stoltmann, WI. **MEN'S DOUBLES — 50+:** 1. Craig Cummins (SC)/Frank

Hill (SC); 2. Bob Keppler (PA)/Steve Milhalko (PA); 3. Dennis Misal (DC)/Ken Weinstein (MD); 4. Allen Schattner (PA)/Chuck Thomas (PA). 55+: 1. Glenn Allen (VA)/Ron Halloran (VA); 2. Rex Lawler (IN)/Ron Maggard (MO); 3. Lee Graff (OR)/Joe Jackman (PA); 4. Jack Sussman (FL)/Len Wilson (PA). 60+: 1. Rex Lawler (IN)/Ron Maggard (MO); 2. Lee Graff (OR)/Joe Jackman (PA). 65+: 1. Don Alt (FL)/Otis Chapman (OH); 2. Eugene Ferris (LA)/Emil Kuenzler (NY); 3. Mark Cosgrove (NC)/Pearce Grove (VA); 4. Philip Dziuk (IL)/John O'Donnell (IL). 70+: 1. Joe Goldman (MA)/Joe Lambert (TX); 2. Ray Gordon (ND)/Amos Rosenbloom (MN); 3. Duane Russell (MI)/Marv Schinagle (OH); 4. Jack Gushue (NY)/Dick Kincade (CO). 75+: 1. Sam Caiazza (PA)/Les Skelton (CA); 2. Earl Acuff (NC)/Nick Sans (CA); 3. Charlie Russell (CA)/George Spear (FL). 80+: 1. Charlie Russell (CA)/George Spear (FL). **MIXED DOUBLES:** 1. Marilyn Ross (PA)/Bela Eross (PA); 2. Merjean Kelley (CA)/Ron Pudduck (MI); 3. Karen Weins (FL)/Mike Weins (FL); 4. Carol Taylor (MD)/Luis Fuentes (PA). **MIXED 55+:** 1. Carol Taylor (MD)/Luis Fuentes (PA).

NMRA International Championships

Las Vegas, Nevada: July 8-11, 1998

Submitted by Ron Pudduck

The night lights blaze, the heavy rollers win and lose, the show girls strut their stuff, the heat rises from the hot sidewalks and the daily temperature hovers near 105 degrees. What a great place for a red hot racquetball tournament, because the real show was not in the casinos but on the racquetball courts at the Las Vegas Sporting House and the Las Vegas Athletic Club.

For four days, the NMRA International Masters Racquetball Tournament held front and center stage for the 150 masters players who converged on Las Vegas to test their skills against some of the finest masters players in the world. Under the guidance of tournament director Margo Daniels, her daughter Emily and son Carl, over 2000 matches were held and almost all were on schedule.

While the ground sizzled outside, the hardwood floors of the courts witnessed some of the best masters' racquetball ever seen. In five-year age brackets, ranging from 35+ for women and 45+ for men, every contestant got as much racquetball as they could handle. All three of the NMRA tournaments are full round robin events, and in many cases a flight winner is declared only after all flight players had completed 12 to 15 matches. So entering a second event could require as many as 12 to 15 more matches. Those who took that route soon started to wonder if playing two events was really a wise move. While their minds might have still said, "Go for it!" their bodies and feet screamed back, "You must have been affected by the heat to have marked two x's on the entry form!"

Fatigued but happy, many players looked forward to that last contest after which they could rest their weary bodies, shower, cool-down and then get ready to hit the hot sidewalks and bustling nightlife of steaming Las Vegas. The final event of the tournament was the great banquet held at the Imperial Palace. A great program of entertainment, humor, information and awards followed a scrumptious buffet dinner.

The NMRA, in its 27th year of existence, proudly inducted its 23rd member into the Hall of Fame — **Nick Sans** of California (above right). The Ivan Bruner Contributor Award went to Joe Jackman of Pennsylvania for his many contributions to and support of masters' racquetball. The annual Sportsmanship Award was well earned by Ken Moore of California for his atti-

tude on and off the courts, win or lose.

Newly elected NMRA President, Ron Pudduck (MI) presented retired President **Ivan Bruner** (WI) with a special and beautiful laser produced image of himself on a large wall plaque (below right). This award was given for Ivan's 27 years of leadership and dedication to the sport. Ivan has left behind large footprints and this special award is only a small token repayment for his years of effort, concern and caring.

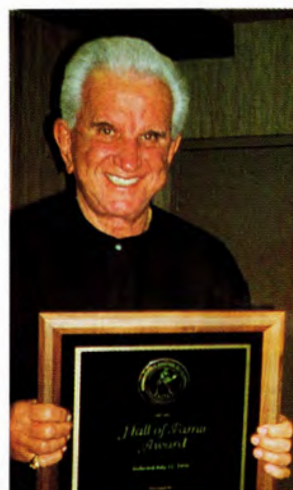
At the banquet, match winners in all categories were awarded international gold, silver, bronze and pewter Olympic style medals. And, the flash bulbs of blinking cameras recorded forever these victories and memories in the lives of the players.

RESULTS — MEN'S SINGLES — 45+: 1.

Stan Wright, CA; 2. Darryl Warren, CA; 3. Howard Walker, TX; 4. Glenn Loehr, VA. 50+: 1. Greg Hasty, IL; 2. Skip Deal, CA; 3. Tommy Ochoa, AZ; 4. Glen Withrow, MN. 55+: 1. Glenn Allen, VA; 2. Terry Myers, CA; 3. Ray Huss, OH; 4. Luis Guerrero, CA. 60+: 1. Joseph Jackman, PA; 2. Ron Adams, CA; 3. Ray Huss, OH; 4. Jerry Northwood, AZ. 65+: 1. Paul Banales, AZ; 2. Jay Krevsky, PA; 3. Don Alt, OH; 4. Otis Chapman, OH. 70+: 1. Bob Fraser, NV; 2. Victor Sacco, NY; 3. Verlyn Dunn, ID; 4. Benjamin Kerr, CA. 75+: 1. Earl Acuff, NC; 2. Nick Sans, CA; 3. Ross Filippone, CANADA; 4. Carlton Appleby, CA. 80+: 1. George Spear Sr., FL; 2. Harold Brody, NY; 3. George Golson, NV; 4. Harry Steinman, MD. **WOMEN'S SINGLES — 35+: 1.**

Denise Mock, TX; 2. Sandra Maxwell, CA; 3. Anita Hammond, AZ. 40+: 1. Debra Tisinger, CA; 2. Sherron Boyea, CA; 3. Mary Beke, AZ. 45+: 1. Brenda White, IL; 2. Judy Sands, NJ; 3. Karen Weins, FL. 50+: 1. Merjean Kelley, CA; 2. Donna Ebner, MO. 55+: 1. Nidia Funes, CA; 2. Joy DeSantis, CA; 3. Marquita Molina, CA. 60+: 1. Annabelle Kovar, NE. 65+: 1. Lola Markus, IL. 70+: 1. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA. 75+: 1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

DOUBLES RESULTS — MENS 45+: 1. Mike Robinson, TX/Howard Walker, TX; 2. Glenn Loehr, VA/Glenn Allen, VA; 3. Stan Wright, CA/Dave Gross, SD; 4. Dan Davis, TX/Dave Puma, TX. 50+: 1. Don Cola, NV/Dan Takahashi, NV; 2. Jim Kohls, CA/Skip Deal, CA; 3. Charles Brown, AZ/Gary Wells, AZ. 55+: 1. Ray Huss, OH/Rex Lawler, OH; 2. Bob Gatewood, NV/Roger Geopfarth, NV; 3. Dan Baharav, CO/Paul Wehmyer, NJ; 4. Leonard Sonnenberg, CA/Jay Jayson, CA. 60+: 1. Tom Moore, CA/Jay Krevsky, PA; 2. Ron Pudduck, MI/Paul Banales, AZ; 3. Ronald Adams, CA/Jerry Holly, CA; 4. Jerry Northwood, AZ/Lee Graff, OR. 65+: 1. Don Alt, OH/Otis Chapman, OH; 2. Jim Keenan, CA/Ted Cooke, CA; 3. Joe Luckman, MT/Harold "Cap" Hiles, MN; 4. Bill Bodnarek, CANADA/Gene Ferris, LA. 70+: 1. Victor Sacco, NY/Saal Lesser, NY; 2. Verlyn Dunn, ID/Amos Rosenbloom, MN; 3. Bill Gencarella, CA/Bob Fraser, CA; 4. Gordon Towns, AZ/Ross Filippone, CANADA. 75+: 1. Sam Caiazza, PA/Lester Skelton, CA; 2. Peter Farina, AZ/Earl Acuff, NC; 3. Nick Sans, CA/Carlton Appleby, CA. **WOMENS 40+: 1.** Sherron Boyea, CA/Sandra Maxwell, CA. 50+: 1. Nidia Funes, CA/Merjean Kelley, CA. **MIXED DOUBLES 35-50+: 1.** Denise Mock, TX/Bob Coe, TX; 2. Anita Hammond, AZ/Chuck French, AZ; 3. Mary Beke, AZ/Ron Bewsey, AZ; 4. Marquita Molina, CA/Larry Simmons, CA. **MIXED DOUBLES 55-80+: 1.** Joy DeSantis, CA/Luis Guerrero, CA; 2. Lola Markus, IL/Gene Pletcher, UT; 3. Annabelle Kovar, NE/Harold "Cap" Hiles, MN.



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DJ-USRA \$69.00
DJ-USA \$69.00

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80/20 heavyweight pique fleece half-zip pullover with two in-seam pockets. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

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FP-USA \$66.00

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OLYMPIC EXPERIENCES

The Olympic training center in Colorado Springs you have no idea of what joy it brings getting up at six for a long morning run believe me people it's not that fun we ran three miles then took a break we did dozens of drills 'til our muscles ached we did pushups and sit-ups in sets of thirty then jogged to a track in no rush or hurry we ran our hearts out at the sound of the whistle we sprinted and sprinted just like a missile Coach blew it once more and we started to walk we were oh so tired, too tired to talk twenty minutes of this kept going on and when it was done our minds were gone we were focused and ready and always cautious for the sprinting and jogging made us quite nauseous we jogged back to the training center rested a while and all was better we got on a bus and went to the club we played racquetball and for lunch had a sub we ended the day by collapsing in bed but the rest of the week was still in my head a twelve hour workout seven days a week truthfully, I'd rather climb Pike's Pea When the training was over I gave some thought to how much this camp had really brought I gained strength and courage and desire to meet each challenge as a future Olympic athlete.

Charley Pratt • September 7, 1998

Online Profile: The Racquetball Meet & Play Website

by Tami Evers

It all started one day about a year ago. I walked into a local athletic club requesting phone numbers of the racquetball ladder participants. The lady behind the desk looked at me and said, "I can't give out those phone numbers." "That's ridiculous!" I said, "how can I contact them if I can't call them?" She said "well, you will just have to show up to the challenge courts on Thursday nights." "Lovely" I said as I walked away, knowing I had to work Thursday night. That evening, out of pure frustration, the Racquetball Meet and Play Website idea was born.

I am a married mother of three young children, working part-time as a Medical Technologist in a local hospital, and running a business on the side. Needless to say, I couldn't just show up to the challenge courts whenever I felt like it; yet I really wanted to start playing my beloved sport of racquetball again (I had just had a baby).

It's now a year later and the Racquetball Meet and Play website idea has caught on big time. I am receiving hundreds of player names on

In the News

Compiled by Kevin Vicroy

The late Joe Sobek was once again remembered for inventing the sport of racquetball when Craig Waters, publisher and editor-in-chief of Club Business International, wrote "Pro in Memoriam — Joseph Sobek still has lessons to teach." A rather large piece, Waters' article took up the entire last page of the June 1998 issue . . . Matt Johnson of Farmington, N.M., was featured in the June 3, 1998 edition of the Farmington Daily Times. Johnson, 12, was pictured in the lengthy article by Sam Aselstine, the Daily Times' sports editor. The young New Mexican was also the subject of a piece broadcast by KBOF's (NBC) 10 p.m. nightly news . . . National 16-and-under champion Shane Vanderson earned celebrity status in his hometown of Dublin, Ohio. An article by Jeff McCallister featured Vanderson, with photos, in the July 4th edition of the Suburban News . . . Women's open player Aimee Roehler, current 24-and-under National Singles champion, was featured in a large June 18 article in The Morning Call of Allentown, Pa. Titled "Her Racquet is a Winner," Roehler is quoted throughout the piece and pictured with several locals from the Allentown Racquetball Club in a color photo. She was also photographed in action against Bill DiGregorio . . . Current National Singles Champion Robin Levine earned some ink back home in the Sacramento Bee, which displayed photos and recapped her comeback from injury . . . U.S. Armed Forces champion Gladys Leonard was featured in a lengthy article in the June 5 edition of the Post Community (Ft. Dix newspaper). Retiring from the Army this November, the staff sergeant was quoted as saying, "This has to be my best accomplishment in sports." During the XVIII Central American and Caribbean Games in Maricao, Venezuela this past August, Puerto Rico's Anita Maldonado couldn't stay out of the papers. In the August 18 edition of the Maricao paper, Maldonado is pictured in action, as well as celebration — her gold medal was the first for Puerto Rico in international competition. Special thanks to Joe Czekala for all of his time and effort in sending RACQUETBALL several of this issue's news clips.

a monthly basis, worldwide. It is a free service to those racquetball lovers in the internet community. The meet and play website can be accessed by surfing to my homepage at: <http://www.meetandplay.com>.

My goal is to have this website fully automated very soon, as I have very little time to spend updating the information. Problem is, this website is costly to automate and I am generating no money from it's presence on the internet. Originally..I had no idea of the response I would be getting from this website, but due to the support of the other r-ball internet gurus, the Meet and Play website has gone ballistic!

In an effort to help with the costs of supporting this website, and to ensure it will remain a free service for the racquetball public, I am offering ad space on the existing pages to anyone who would like to sponsor a page for a very small monthly fee. If you'd like to see your ad on this website, please refer to the meet and play homepage for more information. All in the name of racquetball! And thank you to all of you racquetball internet gurus! (You know who you are!). Tami Evers, Platte Valley Net 1-970-785-1000 — <http://www.pvni.com> • Racquetball Meet and Play Website — <http://webm32bc.ntx.net>



SETTLE DOWN, YOU!

It was a busy summer for some of racquetball's high-profile "players" as wedding bells rang from coast to coast for this blissed-out bunch:

1. U.S. Team member Tim Hansen wed Sarah Cooley in Palm Beach, Florida on July 18 — providing some of the most colorful players on the circuit with yet another excuse to party. **2.** Doubles partner James Lorello (far right) dressed up, along with (l-r) Julio Junki, Hector Capo, Oscar Alvarez and the groom.

3. ProKennex's Mike Martinez and fiancée Jules La Montagne picked a simple date to remember, setting off their own fireworks in Laguna Beach on July 4.

Former National Doubles champions Todd O'Neil and Derek Robinson spaced their ceremonies only a month apart (in order to attend each other's receptions!). **4.** Derek took the plunge first with his June bride, Tina Alonzi, in Seattle, Washington on the 20th. **5.** Todd followed suit on July 25th in Dallas, tying the knot with Mary Helen Rickard.

6. Earlier in the season, former University of Tulsa coach Chris Brinkley was married to Carole Dawn Arrendale on April 11, in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

7. Men's 40+ gold medalist Bill Yates just wanted to add a little something special to his award presentation at the World Senior Championships. He and bride Jayne DePietro of Canton, Ohio chose the banquet podium as "the very spot" to exchange their nuptial vows — issued by the duly-ordained Gary Mazaroff!

8. And last but not least the USRA's own Director of Membership, Kevin Joyce, was hitched to long-time squeeze (and former USRA intern) Rebecca Sanford on September 12 in St. Louis. Congratulations to all!



Juniors Go 'Bragh by Jen Yokota

Members of the '97-'98 U.S. Junior National Team traveled to Ireland for a goodwill tour this summer, and coach/chaperone Jen Yokota kept track of their adventures.

Thursday, July 30: Most of the team arrived and we stayed in Limerick, at a hotel with tea pots in every room. That night, we ate at an Italian restaurant in the heart of "town centre."

Friday, July 31: Decided to do the "Ring of Kerry," a coastal drive around Kerry county. What the guidebook says is a three-hour journey actually turned out to

Saturday, August 1: We had our first racquetball session, which included about 30 minutes of exhibition and a couple of hours of clinic work. Although we found the basic mechanics to be a bit rough all over the country, the kids were very eager to learn. Afterwards, we had dinner with our families then attended a hurling match and brought good luck to the "our" village's victory. Later the kids tried Irish dancing.

Sunday, August 2: We spent most of the day at Bunratty Castle, which was a "park" of shops, with demonstrations at the castle around which life revolved in the 14th/15th centuries. After some racquetball, the families had a big American-style summer BBQ ... except we had lots of rain.

Tuesday, August 4: In the morning, we re-united and left for the Waterford Crystal factory. It was amazing to see how the beautiful crystal pieces are made — and quite sad to see quality control smash the errant items and to find out that the workers only get paid on the basis on how many pieces are "sellable." One of the team members had instructions to make high-dollar purchases for his mother, while none of the rest of us thought we would be able to afford any of the glass-works. To our surprise, we were all able to make purchases and they engraved the items of those who carried it out of the store.

Wednesday, August 5: We left for a day trip to Dublin, en route to our next city. With the traffic, our two vans got separated and each managed to take an unplanned tour of the city before ending up at our destination, the Guinness factory, within five minutes of each other. The "factory" was actually a video presentation of the company's history and their ads, with a sampling room at the end. Overall we weren't taken with Dublin, but we might have missed the best parts (but we *had* managed to see the shopping district of O'Connell and Grafton streets on our detour).

We journeyed to Moylagh, a village of about 750 that was 1.5 hours northwest of Dublin, where we played a little racquetball, then separated to be with our hosts. Three girls and we coaches stayed with a couple and their six daughters in an impressive home, by Irish standards. It was simple but large, with five bedrooms, dining room, family area, entry hall, two large bath areas, laundry room and a large kitchen all on the first floor, along with one large area room upstairs.

Thursday, August 6 (my birthday!): We gathered for a climb up a large hill, from which, on a clear day, you can somehow see 18 counties. But it was quite windy, with a steady light rain. We then went to a garden/farm situated on 14th century church land, on which some remains still stood. Soaked through, we returned to our families to relax before afternoon tea

JUNIORS IN THE MIST (L-R): WILLIE TILTON, JAMES FORD, SCOTT FOSTER, LIANA KERWOOD, JACK HUCZEK, KRISTEN WALSH, JOSH TUCKER. FRONT: SARA BORLAND, JED BHUTA.



Monday, August 3: After some unscheduled racquetball, we had lunch then took final photos before departing for Toura-neena, another small village about 45 minutes west of Waterford. Upon arrival, we began teaching a group of 30 local juniors, gave an exhibition, then separated to our respective hosts for the night.

be a six-hour one. That, plus the two and a half hours to get there and then on to our next destination put us behind by three and a half hours in meeting our first hosts in Templederry, a village of 500 ... only 40 minutes east of Limerick. Once there, didn't have a street address, but had been told to meet them at the "second white pub, with red door and windows." Amazingly, we found it.

At midnight we separated to be introduced our host families. For each of our stays, the team was generally split into pairs. My family was a quiet couple and their three daughters, who owned the grocery store and pub below their living quarters and ran the village post office.

At our B&B, Carol Pellowski and I pulled into the center gravel lot of a farm and were greeted by overpowering bamyard smells! But once we walked onto the house property, we were pleasantly amazed by a gorgeous home and were greeted by Mrs. Doubtfire! We had tea and turkey sandwiches along with the other guests: two men and a family, all from Northern Ireland. The group sang traditional Irish songs and one of the men played his guitar. They assured us of our safety in Northern Ireland, as long as we didn't venture into certain areas, much like any city in the U.S (and this was before the big bombing).

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at a hotel in town centre and our instruction that evening. Afterward we had dinner with our hosts and retired, after talking until 2 a.m.

Friday, August 7: We drove two hours cross-country to the large western city of Castlebar (pop. 7000), where we did some shopping in town centre then met with our host families. I was on my own this time, staying with a couple, he a "solicitor" (aka lawyer) and she a nurse, their three young and very inquisitive children, plus a visiting niece and nephew. That night, we gathered at the community centre for a clinic and to receive a proclamation from the mayor of the city.



Saturday, August 8: We went to Ballinrobe, about 30 minutes away, for more instruction. After a brief return to Castlebar, all of the boys went golfing as they had hoped and the girls and coaches went to Westport to see the Atlantic beach (essentially, just rocks). I returned to my home to shower before our evening activity when all of a sudden, I

heard a panic over an oven fire and calls to the fire brigade! But my hosts got it under control with a towel while smoke filled the house.

The Castlebar racquetball club hosted us at one of the town hotels for a nice dinner. The kids went to the disco next door while we waited for them in the hotel lobby until 2 a.m., having a good conversation with the adults. We took the kids to a fast food place on the main street and after dropping everyone off at their respective homes, I returned to mine at 3:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 9:

Some of the key people from all of our journeys met us in Castlebar for a mini-tournament, where each of us was paired with a Irish player for a fun doubles play-off. They made a presentation, giving each of us a crystal letter holder, engraved by one of the host parents. After much debate, the team decided to all go back to Limerick for a last night together and a team dinner. This brought closure to the team trip and the 1997-98 squad,

even though seven of the team members hadn't been able to join us.

Monday, August 10: Josh Tucker (also from Missouri) and I had an early flight to London with a long five-hour layover. Unfortunately, we didn't realize that we could have easily taken an earlier TWA flight — one that they had begged people from our flight to switch to — until it was too late! Still, it worked out. I was seated for about five minutes when I was asked if I would like to be "bumped" into first-class. No problem! I was quite comfortable for the rest of my trip, with all the extra leg room and a seven-course meal!

So, our trip was quite successful, with new relationships established with the Ireland racquetball community. They are eager to learn teaching and coaching techniques, and it seems that Carol might be invited to return next year to help train these key people and help their program get funding from the Irish Olympic Committee. And it's especially nice to know that we will always have good Irish friends to visit the next time around. As many of us told our hosts, this was our first trip — but not our last!

See more photos online, courtesy of the Irish Racquetball Federation at:
<http://members.tripod.com/~Haverty/racquetballpages>

Puerto Rico's Team

Submitted by Efrain Lopez

Racquetball in Puerto Rico achieved a new plateau in the world when Anita Maldonado brought home the first ever Gold medal for international competition. The delegation sent to the XVIII Central American/Caribbean Games held in Maracaibo, Venezuela in August consisted of [pictured left-right, standing]: Jose Miranda (PR Federation President), Miguel Santiago, Efrain Lopez (Coach, Gilberto Rodriguez, Perry Lopez, [kneeling]: Anita Maldonado and Mary Diaz.

The average age of the Puerto Rican team was 38, and senior players Gil, 41, and Anita, 40, both made it to the finals in singles competition. Gil, Anita, Mary and Miguel all suffered injuries of some type, the worst being Mary, who fractured her right wrist and received eight stitches on her right knee — and still managed to win her match! For more information on how to become a member of our team, please direct email to PRRBTeam@aol.com.





irf world juniors

International Racquetball Federation
Pro Kennex IX World Junior Championships
Los Caballeros Sports Village
Fountain Valley, California
December 18-22, 1998

tournament entry

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Birthdate _____ Age _____

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Partner _____ Mixed Division _____

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National Division _____ Finish _____

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Participant Signature & Date _____

LIABILITY: I agree to be liable for all costs for damages for which my child is responsible and to pay for all costs arising from any disciplinary action imposed as stated in the Junior Code of Conduct, as adopted by the IRF.

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date _____

To receive an expanded, official entry form, call the International Racquetball Federation at 719/635-5396.

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_____	8- regulation rules	_____
_____	8- multi-bounce	_____
_____	6- multi-bounce	_____

Boys • DOUBLES • Girls

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_____	16 and under	_____
_____	14 and under	_____
_____	12 and under	_____
_____	10 and under	_____

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Mesecke Resigns

On September 12, Mike Mesecke announced his resignation from all duties as communications officer and treasurer for the European Racquetball Federation (ERF). Mesecke was elected in 1997 at the ERF Congress in Hamburg, along with President Erik Meyer and re-elected officers Rene Hehemann (General Secretary) and Phil Duignan (Vice-President). Citing "personal reasons" for the move, Mesecke requests that all ERF business be directed to remaining board members, via email, at: Erik Meyer: erik.meyer@skynet.be; Rene Hehemann: sprtraad@tref.nl; Philip Duignan: hduignan@indigo.ie.

Racquetball Canada Update

Submitted by David Hinton

- **Racquetball Athletes Sweep Canadian Airlines Athlete of the Month Award** — In August, the Spirit of Sport Foundation named Sherman Greenfeld of Winnipeg, Manitoba as their Outstanding Athlete for the month of July. The runner up to this award was Christie Van Hees who lives in Kelowna, British Columbia. Both athletes won gold medals in their respective individual singles events at the 1998 World Racquetball Championships. Greenfeld will receive a return airline ticket anywhere in the world serviced by Canadian Airlines International.

- **Johnstone Named Program Coordinator** — David Bell, President of Racquetball Canada, recently announced the appointment of Lori Johnstone to the position of Program Coordinator for the organization. Lori, a former member of the national racquetball team, graduated with Great Distinction from Concordia University, Montreal (BA-Applied Social Science, 1997) and recently completed an intensive French immersion program in Chicoutimi, Quebec. Lori can be reached at: 330 Waterville Road, Waterville, Sunbury Co., New Brunswick E2V 3S6. Office: (506) 357-8763; Fax: (506) 446-9672; Email: lori-jpc@nb.sympatico.ca

- **Athletes Receive Additional Funding Support** — The Athlete Assistance Program of Sport Canada presented ten racquetball athletes with support termed "carding" — marking the third time that all athletes representing Canada at the World Championships have received such funding. Mike Ceresia, Josee Grand'Maitre, Michael Green, Sherman Greenfeld, Lori-Jane Powell, Christie Van Hees, Debbie Ward and Kane Waselenchuk earned "A" cards. Lucie Guillemette and Brian Istace, were presented with "B" cards. The Government of Canada funded program offers "A" card athletes a tax free monthly payment of \$810.00, while "B" card athletes receive \$685.00. All "carded" athletes will also have their entire yearly tuition covered should they attend a Canadian Post Secondary institute or enroll in previously approved educational courses. Athletes are "carded" for a two year period providing they remain members in good standing of Racquetball Canada and the National Team(s) Program.

International Scoreboard

1998 Mexican National Championships

Juarez, Mexico: August 26-30

Men's Open singles: Finals - Alvaro Maldonado def. Javier Moreno, 15-10, 15-12. **Semifinals** - Alvaro Maldonado def. Alvaro Beltran, 15-13, 9-15, 11-0; Javier Moreno def. Pedro Lara, 15-3, 15-9. **Men's Open doubles:** Finals - Alvaro Beltran/Alvaro Maldonado def. Luis Bustillos/Javier Moreno, 15-11, 15-12. **Women's Open singles:** Finals - Lupita Torres def. Karina Hamilton, 15-13, 15-5. **Semifinals** - Lupita Torres def. Lourdes Sanders, 15-2, 15-5; Karina Hamilton def. Susana Acosta, 15-8, 15-12. **Women's Open doubles:** Finals - Lourdes Sanders/Lupita Torres def. Diana Almeida/Karina Hamilton, 15-7, 15-14.

<< **Photo:** (Clockwise from top left) Susy Acosta, Diana Almeida, Lourdes Sanders, Lupita Torres.



Summer Splat at Mountaineer Fitness Center Baumholder, Germany: August 28-30

Men's Open: 1. Scott Creps (USA); 2. Mike Bowers (USA); 3. Ralf Lysakowski (Austria). **Men's B:** 1. Curtis Morgan (USA); 2. Daniel Nagle (USA); 3. Jack Jacques (USA). **Men's C:** 1. Marco Garcia (USA); 2. Jean Pierre Boudart (France); 3. Markus Mindrich (Germany). **Seniors:** 1. James Johnson (USA); 2. Otto Carrizo (USA); 3. Rico Southee (USA). **Masters:** 1. Mike Bowers (USA); 2. James Johnson (USA); 3. Al Snyder (USA). **Women's Open:** 1. Ynez Slaymaker (USA); 2. Elke Esquibel (Germany); 3. Jennifer Blanton (USA).

Hanau Labor Day Shoot-Out at Hanau Fitness Center

Hanau, Germany: September 5-6

Men's Open: 1. Ted Ryon (USA); 2. Bjoern Jensen (Germany); 3. Nathan Andree (USA). **Men's B:** 1. Philip Pierce (USA); 2. Bernd Kurth (Germany); 3. Dan Osborne (USA). **Men's C:** 1. Glen Baldrige (USA); 2. Markus Mindrich (Germany); 3. Dan Nicholas (USA). **Seniors:** 1. Ted Ryon (USA); 2. Bjoern Jensen (Germany); 3. Roland Holland (USA). **Women's Open:** 1. Yvonne Kortes (Germany); 2. Judy LaFlore (USA); 3. Beverly Omohondro (USA).

15th Hamburg Open at Racquets & Fitness

Hamburg, Germany: September 18-20

Men's Open: 1. Trevor Hayter (Germany); 2. Marc Scheffler (Germany); 3. Bernd Droege (Germany); 4. Paskal Matla (Netherlands); C: Ralf Lysakowski (Austria). **Men's B:** 1. Marco Garcia (USA); 2. Thomas Gennrich (Germany); 3. Phil Pierce (USA); 4. Edwin Torres (USA); C: Hermann Bachmaier (Germany). **Men's C:** 1. Jan Buchholtz (Germany); 2. Thorbjorn Paulsen (Germany); 3. Gun Choi (Germany); 4. Sascha Schultz (Germany); C: Arne Schmitz (Germany). **Seniors:** 1. Bjoern Jensen (Germany); 2. Joerg Ludwig (Germany); 3. Hermann Bachmaier (Germany); 4. Thorbjorn Paulsen (Germany); C: Edwin Torres (USA). **Doubles Open:** 1. Loof/Lysakowski (GER/AUT); 2. Jensen/Hayter (GER); 3. Gerullis/Droege (GER); 4. Matla/deJong (NED). **Women's Open:** 1. Elke Esquibel (Germany); 2. Yvonne Kortes (Germany). **Junior's U12:** 1. Nico Garcia (USA); 2. Jan Jensen (Germany); 3. Simone Schiborr (Germany); 4. Maximilian Florian (Germany); C: Tobias Schunke (Germany). **Junior's U16:** 1. Ray Garcia (USA); 2. Jan Buchholtz (Germany); 3. Marco Garcia (USA); 4. Gun Choi (Germany); C: Arne Schmitz (Germany).

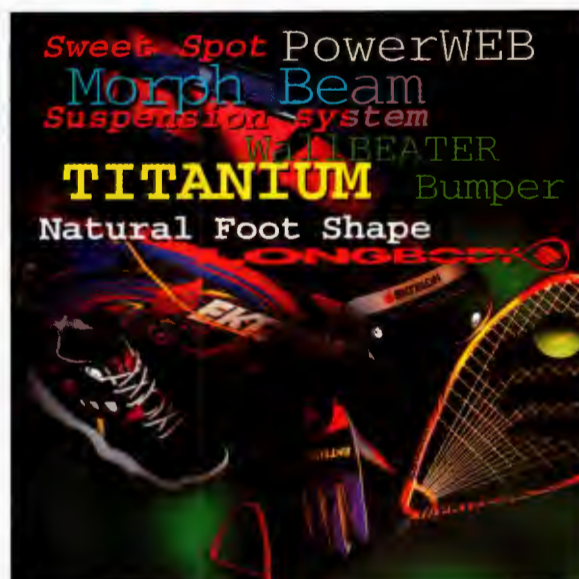
CORRECTION

In special coverage of the World Championships, "England" is incorrectly cited in the #7 position of the Men's Team Standings. England did not compete in the event, and the GERMAN men's team finished in the the #7 spot.

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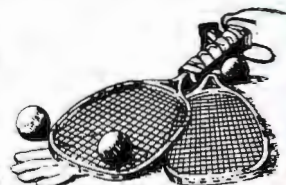
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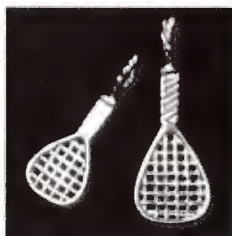
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MEN

Men's Open

1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Jason Thoenner, SC
- 3T. Adam Karp, CA
- 3T. Mike Locker, MN
5. Dan Llacera, DE
6. Todd O'Neil, TX
7. Not a Member, MI
- 8T. Rob DeJesus, AZ
- 8T. David Hamilton, OH
10. John Davis, LA

Men's A

1. Dave Bartscher, TX
2. Jason Samora, OR
- 3T. David Guentert, KS
- 3T. Rob Teren, OH
- 5T. Terry Kisling, MN
- 5T. Erik Leetch, AR
7. Mitch Williams, NC
8. Brent Walters, NC
9. Al Schof, LA
10. Ron Cook, OH

Men's B

1. Darryl Thompson, TX
2. George Anthon Jr., LA
3. Ryan Rodgers, TX
4. Jeff Gillquist, MN
5. Anthony Borden, TX
6. Kent Wagner, SC
7. Eric Zamudio, IN
8. Mike Zeigler, TN
- 9T. Roberto Forte, FL
- 9T. Horacio Perez, FL

Men's C

1. Lorne Burry, NC
2. Marc Clayton, OH
3. Hector Tenorio, TX
4. Ray Meisner, IL
- 5T. Armando Cabrera, NJ
- 5T. Paul Carroll, ID
- 5T. Twayne Howard, MI
8. Rob Bultinck, MN
9. Larry Weene, MA
10. Elliott Bailey, NM

Men's D

1. Mukesh Wadhawan, TX
2. Joe Schmitz, AR
3. Roberto Tinajero, TX
4. Doug Sanders, TX
5. Vince Session, MI
6. Dan Prieto, WA
7. Brandon McGhee, LA
8. Grant Macuba, IL
- 9T. Bobby Quintana, CA
- 9T. Melvin Todd, TX

Men's Novice

- 1T. Not a Member, NY
- 1T. J.R. Rule, NM
- 3T. Brian Covarrubia, NM

- 3T. Sam Doria, OH
- 3T. Audi Gutaszkas, IL
- 3T. Andrew Kopf, NY
- 3T. James McDonald, FL
8. Lue Marchese, NM
9. Timmy Parrish, FL
10. David Blackwell, AR

Men's 24-

1. Willie Tilton, CO
2. Mike Dennison, OH
3. Rocky Carson, CA
- 4T. Cristan Guerra, CO
- 4T. Andrew Kane, CO
- 4T. Sammy Menache, CO
- 4T. Don Petrella, FL
8. Jack Long, TX
9. Erin Brannigan, ID
10. Jonah Bishop, KS

Men's 25+

1. Mike Locker, MN
2. Kevin Graham, ND
3. Anthony DeFusto, NY
4. Brian Pointelin, CO
- 5T. Matthew Anderson, GA
- 5T. Matt Fontana, FL
- 7T. Rob DeJesus, AZ
- 7T. Al Schof, LA
9. Chris Baker, MS
10. Steve Gloss, NY

Men's 30+

1. Alan Sheppard, NC
2. Brad McCunniff, IA
- 3T. Dan Llacera, DE
- 3T. Dave Watson, OK
5. John Davis, LA
- 6T. John Barrett, PA
- 6T. Donald Sims, TX
8. Hector Capo, FL
- 9T. George Bustos, TX
- 9T. Jimmy Lowe, AK

Men's 35+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Bobby Haab, CT
3. Jimmy Lowe, AK
4. Dave Eagle, OH
- 5T. Jim Gillhouse, CO
- 5T. Dave Watson, OK
7. Don Ott, IN
8. Bill Serafin, NJ
9. Salvador Acosta, TX
10. Danny Shelton, ID

Men's 40+

- 1T. Jesus Moctezuma, TX
- 1T. Gil Rodriguez, VA
3. Terry Fluharty, FL
4. Bill Yates, OH
- 5T. Jim Luzar, WI
- 5T. Russ Palazzo, CT
7. Mitt Layton, FL
8. Stan Shaw III, MA
9. Ron Burris, FL
10. Jamie Velasco, MD

Men's 45+

1. Gary Mazaroff, NM
- 2T. Mitt Layton, FL
- 2T. Jim Luzar, WI
4. Rick Sorenson, MO
- 5T. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
- 5T. Russ Palazzo, CT
7. Mike Robinson, TX
8. Jerry Dye, TX
9. Ed Garabedian, PA
10. Howard Walker, TX

Men's 50+

1. Greg Hasty, IL
2. Bill Welaj, NJ
3. Rick Fusari, FL
- 4T. Tom McKie, TX
- 4T. Bruce Shafer, NY
6. Ed Remen, NC
7. Dave Warner, MN
8. Stan Lemon, TX
9. Mike Stephens, MI
10. Dennis O'Brien, ID

Men's 55+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Tom Rearden, IL
3. Ron Galbreath, PA
- 4T. Luis Guerrero, CA
- 4T. Warren Reuther, LA
6. Jim Trammell, MO
7. Don Harrington, RI
8. Pete Keiser, OH
- 9T. Ron Halloran, VA
- 9T. Bob Webster, AL

Men's 60+

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

Men's 65+

1. Don Alt, OH
2. Charles Kaiser, MI
3. Paul Banales, AZ
4. John O'Donnell, IL
5. Otis Chapman, OH
6. Don Maxey, MO
7. Skip Kiphart, TX
8. John Reid, CA
9. Frank Trask, ME
10. Bill Dunn, TX

Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Richard Davis, TX
3. Windell Hildebrandt, AZ
4. Earl Acuff, NC
5. Philip Dziuk, IL
6. Ken Yahiro, IL

- 7T. Hank Richard, GA
- 7T. Duane Russell, MI
9. Mal Roberts, FL
10. Bob Fraser, NV

Men's 75+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Robert McAdam, TX
3. Nick Sans, CA
4. Bill Matotan, NM
5. Al Romero, NM
- 6T. George Spear, FL
- 6T. Lake Westphal, AZ
8. Hank Richard, GA
9. Luzell Wilde, UT
10. Andy Trozzi, MA

Men's 80+

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

Men's 85+

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

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Robin Levine, CA
2. Aimee Roehler, PA
3. Kersten Hallander, CA
4. Janell Marriott, RI
5. Kim Machiran, MO
6. Jackie Paraiso, CA
7. Lisa Hjelm, CA
8. Ines Queiros, CT
9. Janet Tyler, FL
10. Denise Mock, TX

Women's A

1. Mary Crawford, IL
2. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
- 3T. Megan Bals, NE
- 3T. Debbie Fiordilino, NY
5. April Settell, CO
6. Sherri Feldman, NY
7. Susan Williams, UT
8. Deb Ulliman, OH
- 9T. Keri Palko, CA
- 9T. Pattie Schof, LA

Women's B

1. Janel Tisinger, CA
2. Esther McNany, CA
3. Kristen Kovar, NE
4. Vivian Gomez, FL
5. Debbi Misanin, VA
6. Not a Member, CO

7. Christina Pastore, MA
8. Sheri Kinnaman, AR
9. Adlisha Payne, CA
10. Barbara Allen, NY

Women's C

1. Christine Fenton, FL
- 2T. B.J. Calloway, GA
- 2T. Terry Truvillion, MI
4. Rosario Bauer, CA
5. Christa Davis, TX
6. Melissa Young, TX
7. Sharon Stevens, MA
8. Diana Castillo, TX
9. Rhonda Lindenman, OK
10. Candy Arquiett, LA

Women's D

1. Candy Arquiett, LA
2. Rhonda Lindenman, OK
3. Cherie Hale, NC
4. Alicia Matza, CA
5. Kerry Lyn O'Meara, NM
- 6T. Christa Davis, TX
- 6T. Candace Griffin, SC
8. Carla Thompson, CO
9. Crysti Aguirre, FL
10. Maikie Marsh, TX

Women's Novice

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

Women's 24-

1. Aimee Roehler, PA
2. Shannon Feaster, DC
- 3T. Jennifer Birchenough, UT
- 3T. Kim Blake, UT
- 3T. Liana Kerwood, OR
- 3T. Janette Olsen, UT
- 3T. Nicole Passage, UT
- 3T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
9. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
10. Samantha Gibbs, FL

Women's 25+

1. Jennifer Dering, NY
2. Holly Remen, NC
3. Tina Bragdon, CO
4. Jo Shattuck, CO
5. Heather Dunn, VT
6. Jen Yokota, MO
7. Stacy Sour, CO
- 8T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 8T. Cara Pellowski, WI
10. Kim Herrold, SC

rankings...rankings

Rankings are based on
results processed by the
national office as of:
September 15, 1998

Women's 30+

1. B.J. Ehrigott, CT
2. Lydia Hammock, CA
3. Kersten Hallander, CA
4. Holly Remen, NC
5. Lori Lepow, FL
6. Stacy Sour, CO
7. Mindy Hartstein, NY
8. Grace Hastings, TX
9. Debbie Tisinger, CA
10. Annette Williams, CO

Women's 35+

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. Debbie Tisinger, CA
3. Denise Mock, TX
4. Kim Machiran, MO
5. B.J. Ehrigott, CT
6. Mary Crawford, IL
7. Cheryl McConaghy, NM
7. Jodi Paul, PA
7. Paula Saad, MI
10. Melanie Britton, FL

Women's 40+

1. Linda Moore, NE
2. Debbie Tisinger, CA
3. Chris Evon, IL
4. Susan Pfahler, FL
5. Sherri Feldman, NY
5. Jean Trimble, FL
7. Mary Beke, AZ
8. Paula Carter, GA
8. Jere Luttner, TX
8. Liz Molitor, IL

Women's 45+

1. Judy Sands, NJ
2. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
2. Brenda White, IL
4. Shelley Ogden, OH
5. Janet Myers, NC
6. Karen Kattengell, LA
7. Karen Key, AZ
8. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
9. Karen Weins, FL
10. Renee Fish, FL

Women's 50+

1. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
2. Meri Jean Kelley, CA
3. Donna Ebner, MO
4. Pattie Schof, LA
5. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
7. Mary Jane Weldin, DE
8. Jean Heckman, NY
9. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
9. Kendra Tutsch, WI

Women's 55+

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

7. Pauline Kelly, IL
8. Jo Kenyon, FL
9. Gail Schaefer, MD
10. Lavonne Kohlhepp, WI

Women's 60+

1. Annabelle Kovar, NE
2. Susan Embry, WA
2. Jo Kenyon, FL
4. Jane Graham, GA
4. Eleanor Higgins, NM
6. Lola Markus, IL
6. Kathy Mueller, MN
8. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
8. Naomi Eads, MO
10. Norma Carlisle, UT

Women's 65+

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

Women's 70+

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

Women's 75+

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

BOYS

Boy's 6 & Under

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

B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
2. Blake Thompson, OR
3. Austin Zuck, OR
4. Joseph Lee, LA
5. Jordan Faith, CO
5. Ryan Noble, NC
7. Benjamin Long, NM
8. Erick Podwill, OR
9. Andres Garcia, CA
10. Rutger Jackson, CO

Boy's 8 & Under

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

7. Matthew Pacinelli, NM
8. Sean McGrath, IN
9. Jansen Allen, TX
10. Avery Zuck, OR

B8- Multi-Bounce

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

Boy's 10-

1. David Lewis, CO
2. Nick Arturo, AK
3. Chris Coy, OK
4. Mike Keddle, NH
5. Andrew Grissom, CA
6. Allan Crockett, AL
7. Brady Prince, MN
8. Joey Leggett, NY
9. Jamin Godwin, FL
10. Nathaniel Dyer, MA

Boy's 12-

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

Boy's 14-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Adrian Anulewicz, CT
3. Josh Epstein, NY
4. Rusty Powell, LA
5. Bart Crawford, OR
6. Cory Martin, WI
7. Michael Lawrence, AL
8. Trevor Crowe, OR
9. Justin Meadows, FL
10. Erik Leetch, AR

Boy's 16-

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

Boy's 18-

1. Rocky Carson, CA

1. Josh Tucker, MO
3. Ryan Staten, KS
4. Jeffrey Garner, AL
5. Willie Tilton, CO
6. Stephen Mykalcio, NY
7. James Ford, WY
8. Kyle Harris, MA
9. David Liakos, NE
10. James Marchetti, AK

GIRLS

G6- Multi-Bounce

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
2. Amy Willhite, OR
3. Becca Machiran, MO
4. Tia Smith, OR
5. Kaitlyn Pacinelli, NM
6. Stephanie Rojas, OR
7. Brittany Leggett, OR
8. Amber Hanson, OR
8. Sondra Payne, NM
10. Kara Mazur, CT

Girl's 8 & Under

1. Shannon Inglesby, OR
2. Brittany Leggett, OR
3. Jennifer Fenton, NE
4. Sharon Jackson, IN
5. Shanae Taylor, IN
6. Sarah Parrish, FL
7. Danielle Spolowicz, WI
8. Laura Van Der Veer, OR
9. Dannielle Pimental, OR
10. Kara Mazur, CT

G8- Multi-Bounce

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

Girl's 10-

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

5. Sarah Moyle, OR
6. Jenny Epstein, NY
7. Not a Member, OR
8. Kimberly Walsh, UT
9. Katie Marshall, CA
10. Brooke Schulenberg, MN

Girl's 12-

1. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
2. Adrienne Fisher, OH
3. Jesi Fuller, NM
4. Derai Darling, OR
5. Kara Mazur, CT
6. Ashley Leggett, OR
7. Elise Wilson, CT
8. Brandie Hanson, OR
9. Nikki Winfrey, OH
10. Natalie Starken, WI

Girl's 14-

1. Molly Law, CO
2. Crystal Winfrey, OH
3. Juliana Mayor, NY
4. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
5. Kimberly Irons, OH
6. Jenny Cary, OR
7. Jeni Fuller, NM
8. Erica Beaudry, CO
9. Amy Jo Hollingsworth, OR
10. Anna Tsavidis, MA

Girl's 16-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
2. Krystal Csuk, IL
3. Kristen Kovar, NE
4. Melanie Mueller, CO
5. Crystal Winfrey, OH
6. Nickii Whitney, VT
7. Lauren Deutsch, TX
8. Molly Law, CO
9. Anna Tsavidis, MA
10. Michelle Gonzalez, OR

Girl's 18-

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

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

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

november ...

November 19-21	Pro Kennex Grand Prix @ Courtesy Sports	Los Altos, CA	650-968-7970
	Turkey Trot @ Metro Sport & Racquet	TBA, AZ	
	Turkey Trot @ Fairbanks Athletic Club North	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
November 20-22	Alpha Turkey Gobbler @ Alpha Club	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
	Holiday Cash Classic @ The Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Kernal Klassic @ The Fitness Barn	Valparaiso, IN	219-762-3191
	Kirtland Awards Championship @ KAFB East Gym	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
	North Conway @ North Conway Athletic Club	North Conway, NH	603-356-5774
	Pizza Hut Junior Showcase @ Rawlins Rec. Center	Rawlins, WY	307-328-4573
	Texas Turkey Shoot @ Racquetball & Fitness	San Antonio, TX	713-432-0881
	Turkey Shoot @ Sports Club of Asheville	Asheville, NC	704-252-0222
	Maryland/DC State Doubles @ Laurel Sport Fitness [3]	Laurel, MD	410-987-0980
	Nebraska State Doubles @ Grand Island YMCA [3]	Grand Island, NE	402-454-2765
November 28-29	Ladies Only Thanksgiving Tournament @ Radison Fitness Center	Plymouth, MN	612-383-0620

december ...

December 2-6	Christmas Classic @ The Alaska Club East	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
December 3-5	Rocky Mountain Masters @ Redwood Multi-Purpose Center	West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
	Snowball @ Highpoint Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	505-293-5820
December 4-6	Brian Scott Memorial Tournament @ 24 Hour Fitness/Courthouse	Boise, ID	208-377-0040
	Build The Arc @ Courts Plus of New Bern	New Bern, NC	252-633-2221
	Connecticut Cup @ Downtown Health & Racquet	New Haven, CT	203-248-1869
	December to Remember @ Concord Sports Club	St. Louis, MO	314-842-6363
	Grip It And Rip It Tournament @ Supreme Court	Virginia, MN	218-749-8318
	Quad West Winter Cash Classic @ Quad West Athletic Club	Clearwater, FL	813-535-4901
	Santa Claus @ Merritt Security	Baltimore, MD	410-298-8700
	Saturn of Gwinnett Classic @ Southern Athletic Club	Lilburn, GA	770-923-5400
	Sheridan Open @ YMCA	Sheridan, WY	307-674-7488
	Snowball Classic @ Lover's Lane YMCA	Bowling Green, KY	502-842-6156
	Superstars of Racquetball XI @ Central Courts	Columbia Heights, MN	612-572-0330
	Metro Sport & Health Club Open	Phoenix, AZ	602-866-0330
	Indiana State Doubles @ Greenbriar Athletic Club [3]	Indianapolis, IN	317-889-0892
	New Jersey State Doubles @ King George Racquet Club [3]	Greenbrook, NJ	732-356-6900
December 5	Shoot-Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-215-3348
December 6	Junior Jack Frost Tourney @ Lincoln Racquet Club	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
December 11-13	Big Apple Shootout @ Sportset - R.V.C.	Rockville Centre, NY	516-754-4564
	Norfolk YMCA Open @ Norfolk YMCA	Norfolk, NE	402-454-2765
	Pro Kennex Super Six Stop #3 @ Southview Athletic Club	W. St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	Riverton Open @ Teton Athletic Club	Riverton, WY	307-856-5424
	Winter Classic @ Gold River Racquet Club	Gold River, CA	916-638-7001
	2nd Annual Frosty Open @ Bally's Holiday Fitness Center	Rochester, NY	716-377-5696
December 18-20	Christmas Crunch @ White Bear Swim & Racquet	White Bear Lake, MN	651-426-1308
December 18-22	IRF ProKennex 10th World Juniors @ Los Caballeros [5]	Fountain Valley, CA	719-635-5396

january ... 1999

January 2-3	Holiday Classic @ Gold's Gym	DeWitt, NY	315-446-0376
January 5-9	New Year Yahoo @ Salt Lake Community College	Salt Lake City, UT	801-486-0463
	NM Invitational @ Tom Young's Athletic Club	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
January 8-10	Jim Backes Memorial @ Downtown Health & Racquet	New Haven, CT	203-248-1869
	Michiana Winter Singles Open @ Pinnacle Athletic Club	Mishawaka, IN	219-259-0141
	Off the Wall New Years Celebration @ Natomas Racquet Club	Sacramento, CA	916-649-0909
	St. Cloud Pro Am @ Suburban Racquet	St. Cloud, MN	320-251-3965
	The WIRT 1999 Grand Slam @ Highpoint Racquet & Fitness	Chalfont, PA	410-315-7900
	25th Pittsburgh Open @ Oxford Athletic Club	Monroeville, PA	412-466-7325
January 9-10	Cottonwood Club Open @ Cottonwood Club	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
January 13-17	Alaska Open @ The Alaska Club Midtown	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
January 15-17	Cocoa Classic @ Cocoa Club	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
	Iron Range Open @ Supreme Court	Virginia, MN	218-749-8318
	Lander Open @ Windriver Fitness	Lander, WY	307-332-2811
	Pro Kennex Super Six Stop #4 @ Southview Athletic Club	W. St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	Super Bowl Open @ ISSC At West Lane	Stockton, CA	209-472-2100

calendar...calendar...

January 19-23	Tri-State Open @ Tri-State Athletic Club	Evansville, IN	812-479-3111
January 21-24	Alta Canyon Avalanche @ Alta Canyon Sports Center	Sandy, UT	801-942-2582
	Ice Fog Classic @ Fairbanks Athletic Club North	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
	Super Bowl @ Riverpoint Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	505-262-1911
	TBA @ City Square Sports Club	Phoenix, AZ	602-285-2929
January 22-24	Greenbriar Classic @ Greenbriar Athletic Club	Indianapolis, IN	317-257-3261
	Hall of Fame Tournament @ Central Courts	Columbia Heights, MN	612-572-0330
	Metroplex Championships @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
	Winter Classic @ Southridge Athletic Club	Greenfield, WI	414-421-5770
	Winter Warm Up @ Club at Woodbridge	Woodbridge, NJ	973-742-8806
	3rd Annual Racquetball Open @ St. John Fisher College	Rochester, NY	716-377-5696
January 23-25	6th Annual Ponca City @ Ponca City YMCA	Ponca City, OK	580-762-3943
January 26-29	Smash & Splash @ Green River Rec Center	Green River, WY	307-872-0511
January 29-31	Orem Open @ Orem Fitness Center	Orem, UT	801-229-7154
	Alliance YMCA RB Rollout @ Alliance YMCA	Alliance, NE	308-762-2201
	Club Shelard Pro Am @ Club Shelard	St. Louis Park, MN	612-541-0000
	Meals on Wheels Benefit @ Gold's Gym	DeWitt, NY	315-446-0376
	Super Bowl Tournament @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
	Sycamore Open @ Indiana State University	Terre Haute, IN	812-235-3701
	WSMA US Women's Senior Masters @ Lattoff YMCA [5]	Des Plaines, IL	847-825-5564

february ...

February 3-7	Alaska State High School @ The Alaska Club East [3]	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
February 4-7	Kachina Invitational @ The Fitness Center	Gallup, NM	505-722-7271
February 5-7	Columbus YMCA Open @ Columbus YMCA	Columbus, NE	402-454-2765
	February Fever @ Concord Sports Club	St. Louis, MO	314-842-6363
	HCI Open @ Campbell County Park & Rec	Gillette, WY	307-682-7406
	Icicle Open @ Allentown Racquet Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
	Sixth Annual Rochester Pro Am	Rochester, MN	507-282-6000
	Valentine Open @ Newtown Health & Fitness	Newtown, CT	203-248-1869
	W.N.Y. Open @ Bally Total Fitness	Buffalo, NY	716-639-0621
	Zub Zero Racquetball Pro Am @ Itasca County YMCA	Grand Rapids, MN	218-327-2224
	21st Indy Open @ Noblesville Athletic Club	Noblesville, IN	317-227-7555

upcoming national & international events

December 18-22 1999	IRF Pro Kennex 10th World Juniors @ Los Caballeros [5]	Fountain Valley, CA	719-635-5396
January 14-17	USRA Annual Leadership Conference @ USOTC	Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396
January 29-31	Women's Senior/Master Championships @ Lattoff YMCA [5]	Des Plaines, IL	847-696-0796
February 17-20	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational [5]	Phoenix, AZ	734-426-8952
March 05-07	Wilson USRA 12th U.S. National High School Championships [6]	Portland, OR	719-635-5396
Mar. 26- Apr. 4	PARC Tournament of the Americas & Pan Am Preview	Houston, TX	719-635-5396
April 7-11	E-Force 27th U.S. National Intercollegiate [6]	Phoenix, AZ (tentative)	719-635-5396
April 7-10	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles/Doubles [5]	Indianapolis, IN	734-426-8952
April 15-18	Ektelon Regional Qualifiers [4]	Nationwide	719-635-5396
May 26-31	Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, TX	719-635-5396
June 26-30	26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6]	TBA	719-635-5396

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

Qualifying Competition is **REQUIRED** to participate in the 1999 Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles in Houston, Texas and the 1999 Ektelon 26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships! However, women age 45 and over, and men age 55 and over (as of May 26, 1999) are NOT required to pre-qualify for competition at a regional qualifier. You probably still want to, however, since it's the only to accumulate ranking points and earn seeding consideration! AND Junior/Intercollegiate athletes who have already played in a junior or intercollegiate regional to qualify for their associated championship events don't have to re-qualify for national singles at an adult regional championship. See page five for waiver policies.

- **Bolded listings are USRA National Championships or International Racquetball Federation Events**
- **For remaining sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)**
- **Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 11/98, you must renew your membership in the month of November in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.**

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