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Volume 16, Number 6 November - December 2005



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## INSIDE

U.S. National Doubles  
New Outdoor Portable Court  
Christmas Gift Ideas



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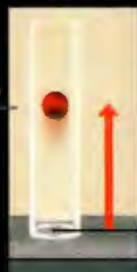


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## Mission Statement

USA Racquetball (USAR) is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide opportunities for members and enthusiasts to actively participate in the sport, through sanctioning of events, administration of programs and development of competitive teams.

## Vision Statement

To provide racquetball opportunities in the sport of racquetball for all levels of participation through:

### Objectives:

- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT** - USAR values its members and will strive to provide the best possible member services at all levels.
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT** - USAR believes that racquetball is a lifetime endeavor and the benefits of health, recreation, and competition should be available to everyone. USAR will strive to expand its membership in order to share these benefits with as many players and supporters as possible.
- **PROMOTION OF THE SPORT** - in order to sustain a strong player base USAR will promote the numerous benefits of participation through mass marketing efforts.
- **COMPETITIVE SUCCESS** - USAR strives to maintain America's position as the number one racquetball nation in the world. Success at the elite levels has a positive influence on every other facet of our sport.
- **SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS** - USAR values its relationship with sponsors and will continue to maximize benefits and exposure.



# FEATURES



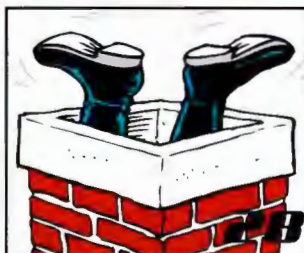
## Doubles

Dave Azuma wins three gold medals. Numerous upset stories and photos.



## Outdoor Racquetball

Ektelon unveils a new outdoor portable court.



## Christmas Specials

Great Christmas ideas for that racquetball lover.

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# FROM THE TOP

## James Hiser, Ph.D.

USAR Executive Director



The new ranking system is up and running. So why a new ranking system and how is it different than the old system?

The previous ranking system was basically a participation based system. The more you played the better your ranking. The new system is a skilled based system. The better you play the higher your ranking.

The old system was difficult if not impossible to use for seeding and had little viability across state lines. As soon as the new system accumulates sufficient data (probably eight months to one year), the rankings will be a primary tool used for seeding and will not be affected by state boundaries. In the old system a "B" player in California may be a "C" player in South Dakota. Since the system is

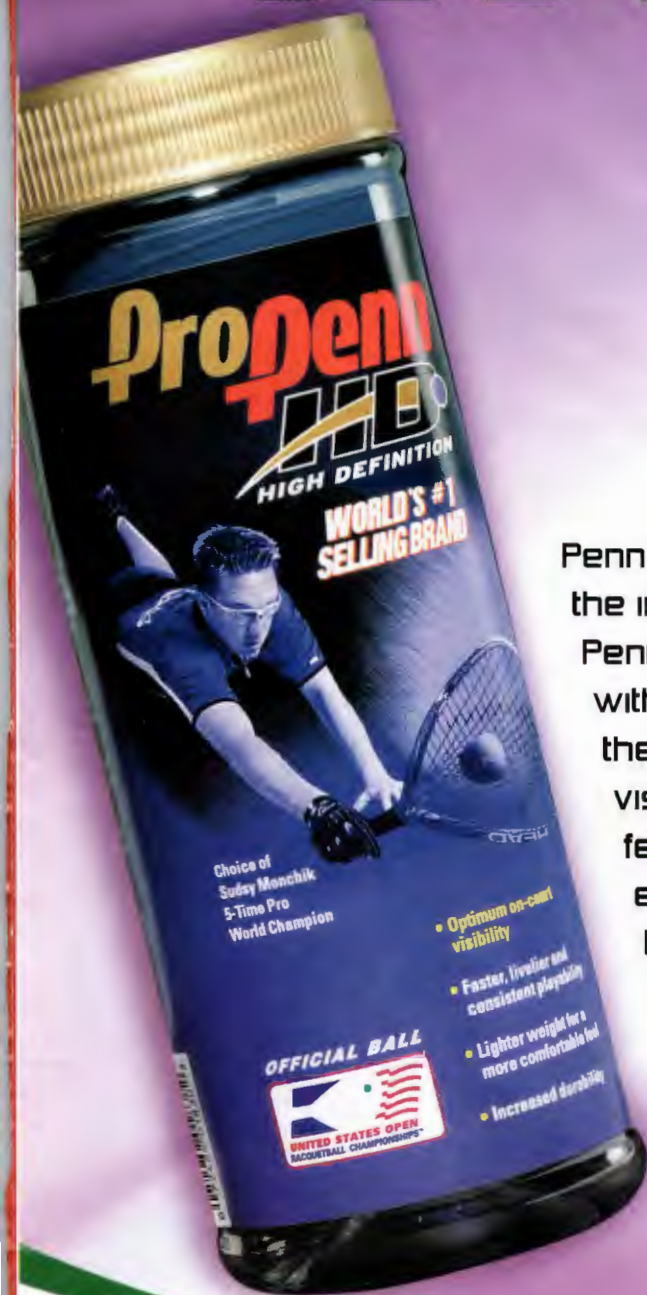
based on skill only, players are all measured by the same criteria – the skill level of their opponents. States can still develop their own arbitrary cut-offs for skill levels if they feel the national standard is too high, but the national standard will be the same for everyone from California to New York. The new rankings also allows recreational or league players to develop a national ranking without playing in national events. Since the levels are determined by skill, if only one player from the league plays competitively (state or national events) he will attain a national ranking. During league play whenever he plays other players, these players will be measured against his ability level thus accumulating a national ranking level for them.

Although rankings are only a tool that is used to assist tournament directors with seeding, the new system should provide a much more reliable measurement of all players' skill levels.



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# PLAYERS HELPING PLAYERS



By RANDY STAFFORD, PRESIDENT, USAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Electronic Newsletter

I'd like to introduce a new outreach for USA Racquetball that I believe will benefit all players as well as our association. We are in the beginning stages of starting an online electronic newsletter. This newly-created e-newsletter will be updated monthly and will be free to all racquetball players. It will include content ranging from information for beginning players to detailed instruction for tournament players. This e-newsletter will be a way to keep players current on recent happenings in the racquetball world and connect them to vendors within our industry.

Most importantly, I see this e-newsletter as a way to allow non-members the chance to get familiar with the wide world of racquetball and use this as a stepping stone to becoming a full-fledged member of USA Racquetball. As we know, the vast majority of players are not really aware of our organization. I bet there are huge numbers of players who would be interested in becoming connected to our association if the first step was easy and free! By reading this e-newsletter, they can become associated with us even if they never play tournaments.

We will be asking all USA Racquetball members to help us gather players' e-mail addresses so we can start to form a significant e-mail database.\* For example, perhaps the partners you play with are not members but would like to read about racquetball in an electronic form. And, it would be easy

for someone giving a beginners' clinic to gather e-mail addresses. By sending out the e-newsletter to players on all levels, we have the potential to build our membership as never before! More details to come...

\*Note: Be assured that USA Racquetball will keep these e-mail addresses in-house; they will not be provided to outside sources.

## Players Helping Players

We need your help more than ever. Our USOC support could be eliminated entirely this year, so we must become increasingly self-sufficient. We have reorganized our association over the past three years both internally and financially. Now is the time to rebuild some of the programs we had to cut so we can assist our players at the level they deserve. We can only do this with donations from players and I am asking everyone to join me in making a donation to USA Racquetball.

Toward this end, we are enhancing "Players Helping Players" with fresh new offerings. It's always fun to receive something back when making a donation, so we are offering these gifts as thanks to you for helping us to help racquetball. Listed along with this article are the gifts associated with each level of donation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you on the tournament trail this season!

## Players Helping Players Since January 1st, 2005 Total \$178,787.00

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# GOLDEN DOUBLES

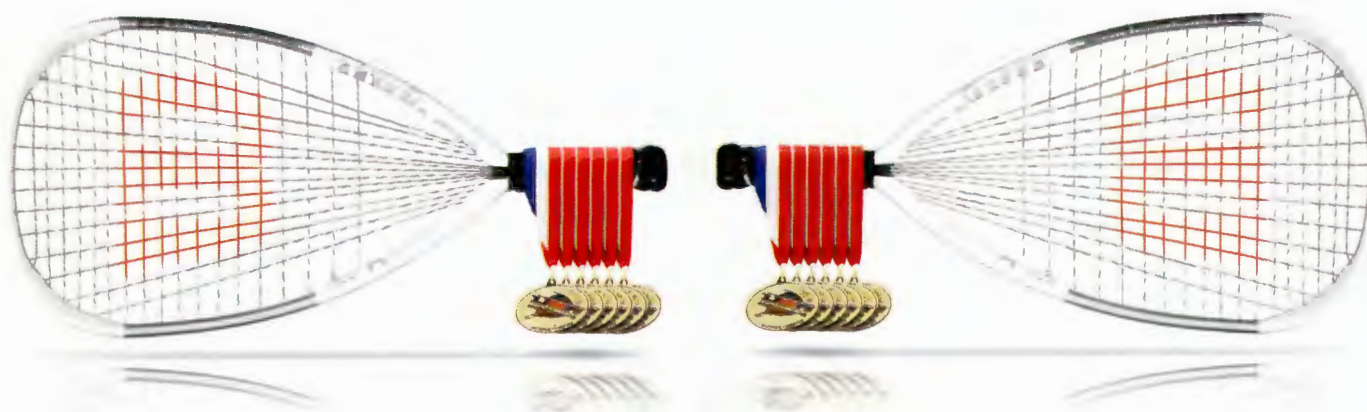
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# NATIONAL

## ***National Doubles***

*Photography by Geoff Thomson*



***Dave Azuma***  
***Triple Gold Medal Winner***



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The beautiful campus of Arizona State University was once again the site of the 2005 National Doubles Championships, September 28th - October 2nd. College football, golf and local sites (and pubs) vied for the attention of racquetball players and guests from many of our 50 states. But the ASU Rec Center was buzzing as doubles play heated up the courts, more than matching the outside temperature...

### ***Womens Open Division***

The Women's Open division has historically been extremely competitive, but this was one for the record books! The legendary team of Kim Russell-Waselenchuk and Jackie Rice arrived in Tempe intending to establish a new record of four straight national titles, while the relatively unknown team of Aimee Ruiz and Laura Fenton aspired to their first national title.

Although many were surprised to see Ruiz and Fenton in the finals, their previous appearances in national events should have sent up warning flags. In 2002, Fenton, teamed with Rhonda Rajsich, pushed Russell and Rice to the limit, and in 2003, Ruiz teamed with Malia Bailey and lost a close tiebreaker (11-9) to the Russell/Rice duo. In 2004, Fenton and Ruiz finally paired up, losing to Rice and Russell. However, their potential was evident.

Over the past year, Ruiz and Fenton played together often and sharpened their skills. Aimee hired a personal trainer and became physically stronger and quicker. As a team, they worked on strategies and patience. Fenton describes their preparation as "a time to work together, become comfortable with each other, gain confidence and not be intimidated by any team." Their efforts paid off.

In the finals, Ruiz and Fenton quickly took a 13-7 lead and seemed to be cruising toward victory. But what they feared came to pass! The experience and skill of Rice and Russell took over, with the past champions winning the match 15-13. "I really do not know what happened, either we became tentative and inconsistent, or they simply played better...I really don't know!" exclaimed Fenton.

Drawing on years of experience as a U.S. Team member and seasoned veteran, Fenton huddled between games with Ruiz, planning strategy for the second game. "I told Aimee we were playing great and all we had to do was execute our shots. Our strategy was working and we had plenty of opportunities -- we just had to execute." Her advice was prophetic as they dominated the second game 15-8 and quickly jumped into an 8-0 lead in the tiebreaker.

It truly looked like the record-breaking reign of Rice and Russell had ended, but just as Ruiz-and-Fenton fans began celebrating their impending victory; Rice and Russell began to sneak back. At 8-2, Fenton made two unforced errors on return-of-serve, making the score 8-4. Then, before anyone realized what was happening, the score was Rice/Russell, 9-8. Would the world champions pull off





another victory? After exchanging serves and points, Rice/Russell went up 10-9 and were serving for the match. Russell delivered her stunningly accurate turn-around serve to Fenton. Laura turned, shot the ball cross-court, jamming Rice who could not return the ball to the front wall – half out! Ruiz returned the next serve and on the fifth shot of the rally, Rice found herself unable to get out of the way – avoidable hinder and side out!

Ruiz and Fenton regained the serve and Ruiz finished the match with a deep-court forehand corner pinch. The thrill of victory and the realization of making the U.S. Team finally set in with Aimee. "It's hard to put into words how much this means to me. I still can't believe it. I feel like it's a dream, and I haven't woken up yet. I am honored to be part of the U.S. Team and I

look forward to competing internationally with my teammates."

Rice's and Russell's run of three straight national championships, two world championship titles and one PARC Pan American Championship has been temporarily pre-empted. But this team has brought a sense of pride, respect and class to women's racquetball. From their strategic and methodical play, to their coordinated and fashionable clothing, women in racquetball and racquetball in general have benefited from their presence. No one knows what the future may bring -- Jackie struggled last season through numerous injuries and Kim is married with a prosperous off-court career. Racquetball can only hope these two will return to provide us with many more years of excellent competition!

## Women's Age Brackets

Competition in the women's age bracket divisions went mostly as expected as six of the number one seeds (out of seven divisions) repeated as national champions. In the only division in which the #1 seeds did not win, Leslie Parker and Vicki Panzeri (#2 seeds) cruised through their division, never losing a game.

Although expected to win, it must be noted that the team of Mary Lyons and Susan Pfahler (Florida) continues to age like fine wine. Still competitive at the Open level, this team dominates Women's 45's, the most challenging division in the women's brackets. Lyons and Pfahler never lost a game in the 45's. In the finals, they faced Malia Bailey and Debbie Tisinger. Against this formidable team, Lyons and Pfahler controlled the pace and slowly but methodically overcame their opponents, 9 & 9. Bailey best describes the Florida duo: "Mary and Susan have been playing together so long they know each other's game to a fault. Consistency is a strength they bring to the court, not making mistakes and then hitting a 20-mph winner. Nothing fancy, just very steady and accurate. Their style can best be described as passive-aggressive!"

Lyons and Pfahler are without question the most successful doubles team in the history of our sport – yes, our entire sport. No other team can compare with their record – 17 National Doubles titles, one International title, and twice Olympic Festival Qualifiers!

The story in the women's divisions, as with National Singles, is female player participation. Although the turnout for Doubles is better than Singles, most likely because of mixed doubles divisions, the declining number of competitive female players is a serious problem that must be addressed and resolved.

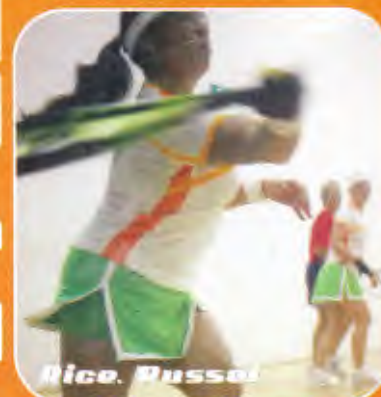
FASHION



Rice, Russell, Ruiz



Rice, Russell



Rice, Russell



Susan Pfahler



A thorn between two roses



## Mens Open Division

The surprise in the Men's Open division was not the close final match and near-defeat of Jack Huczek and Rocky Carson, but rather the early defeat of the world champion team of Shane Vanderson and Mike Dennison by the unknown collegiate team of Charlie Pratt and Sanjay LaForest. Not only was the defeat unexpected, but the second and third games were really not even close with Pratt and LaForest winning 5, and 4 in the tiebreaker. Perhaps it was Mike Dennison's lack of practice (he experienced numerous injuries this year) or the great play of Pratt and LaForest. Earlier, Pratt/LaForest defeated Josh Tucker and Shawn Royster by almost identical scores. This team is coming on strong, as are third place Greg Solis and Jonathan Dunn. Watch for both of these teams next year.

Although Jack Huczek and Rocky Carson were heavily favored, they were truly fortunate to repeat. Mitch Williams and Jason Thoerner continue to improve as a team and were within a few points of winning their first national title. Mitch has improved greatly, both in his ability to shoot and also in eliminating unforced errors. Jason has always been steady and confident. For the first two games it seemed that Huczek and Carson were always on the defensive, even when they were serving. Without their



**Rocky Carson**



**Charlie Pratt**

tremendous comeback ability, the match would have been over in two games. Their strategy was puzzling – why serve to your opponents' forehands? In the tiebreaker they switched strategies and served junk lobs down the center, forcing Jason and Mitch to move up and short-hop with their backhands. Both players struggled, skipping or leaving set-ups in the front corner. Huczek/Carson won the tiebreaker, 11-0. With Jack and Rocky having already qualified for the U.S. Team at Singles, Mitch and Jason become the U.S. Doubles Team for the upcoming Tournament of the Americas in Guatemala.



## Men's Age Brackets

The double gold medal victories by Tom Travers and Dave Azuma in the Men's 45's and Men's 50's topped the age bracket performances. Not only are these the two most heavily populated divisions, they are also the most competitive, with numerous national championship teams competing in both divisions.

In the 45's, Travers/Azuma defeated Ken Stone and Gil Cepeda. Although the final was relatively easy, the Travers/Azuma team barely won their first match in this division, escaping with an 11-9 tiebreaker win. "We were extremely fortunate," said Tim. "We got a few good bounces at critical times. We could have been gone the first day." In the 50's, Tom was able to revenge an 11-10 finals loss in 2002 to Gene Pare/Troy Stallings.

Dave followed up his double gold medal victories by also winning the Mixed 50's, making him the tournament's only triple gold medal winner – an outstanding accomplishment. Tom also has had an outstanding year and his many accomplishments will make him a strong candidate for Age Group Male Athlete of the Year. At Singles, he won two silver medals, losing in the finals to Hall of Famer Ruben Gonzales in the 50's and arch rival Tim Hansen in the 45's.

Repeat winners in the men's divisions were 2004 Age Group Athlete of the Year Jimmy Lowe and partner Tim Hansen in the 45's; Jim Bailey and Eric Bailey in the 55's; and Doug Ganim and Jeff Bell in the 35's.





## Mixed Divisions

In the Mixed events, triple gold medal winner Dave Azuma teamed with Elaine Dexter to win the 50's. Double gold medal winner Laura Fenton teamed with Kevin Buehler to win the 35's.

Malia Bailey repeated her outstanding National Singles performance by winning two gold medals, in the 40's with Jimmy Lowe and the 45's with Bill Hartwell. Combined with her silver medal in the Women's 45's, Malia's resume for the '04/'05 season makes her a top candidate for the Women's Age Group Athlete of the Year. When asked the secret of her success, Malia answered, "I enjoy doubles and get very pumped to play. It would be very different if I were playing with someone lacking desire and passion, but I think my partners have the same attitude as mine." Malia's accomplishments are even more exceptional when you consider that only 18 months ago she was diagnosed with a very serious illness that threatened to put a stop to her racquetball career.

## Skill Divisions

Double gold medal winners in the skill division were James Rapoport and Rob Barbara in the Men's B and 45B division and Greg Imhuta and Bob Hammond in the Men's C and 45C divisions. Both teams had to survive close tiebreakers on their way to achieving their double gold victories.



Aimee Ruiz, Jon Dunn,  
Janet Tisinger

## Tournament Notes

- Joey Lee teaming up with Connie Martin in Mixed 45's – will Connie ever be the same again?
- Doug Ganim managing to fit in a few racquetball matches around his daily golf outing.
- Jimmy Lowe – is he really the best-looking player ever to play the sport?
- Fire alarm evacuates the building, causing a 45-minute delay – oh, yeah, it happened at 9 p.m.!
- Aimee Ruiz teaching Jason Thoerner the fine art of strategy...
- Eddie Meredith, Otto Dietrich, and Mary Meredith working a mere 81 hours over 5 days with no relief and (most of the time) with smiling faces.
- Many Texas/Louisiana players had to cancel due to the hurricanes.
- Jeff Stark ready to party but no one showed – the story of Jeff's life!
- Between matches many of the young single players would be found outside – we wonder why?
- Russ Bonanno and John Peterson – entertaining or obnoxious?

\*From the Editor: Admittedly, for some of these you just had to be there!

### Multiple Gold Medal Winners

David Azuma – M45, M50, MX50  
Malia Bailey – MX45, MX50  
Rob Barbara – MB, M45B  
Laura Fenton – WO, MX35  
Bob Hammond – MC, M45C  
Greg Imhuta – MC, M45C  
Jimmy Lowe – M40, MX40  
James Rapoport – MB, M45B  
Aimee Ruiz – WO, MXO  
Tom Travers – M45, M50

### Where is everyone from?

CA – 125	NC – 12	KS – 5
AZ – 98	NM – 12	TN – 5
WA – 33	OR – 12	GA – 4
TX – 22	NY – 10	MO – 4
FL – 21	MI – 7	RI – 4
IL – 20	MD – 6	AK – 3
CO – 14	MN – 6	AL – 3
IN – 14	NV – 6	CT – 3
OH – 14	SD – 6	NJ – 3
VA – 14	KY – 6	
PA – 13	UT – 5	



Rajisch Family



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# JUMPING





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# CONVICT & DIVE



**AT NATIONALS**



<b>Division</b>	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>4th Place</b>
MEN'S 24 (UNDER)	CHARLES PRATT / BEN CROFT	ALEJANDRO HERRERA / ANDY HAWTHORNE	DEVIN ROGERS / MICAH RICH	JARED TORRES / ANTHONY HERRERA
MEN'S 25+	GREG SOLIS / JON DUNN	JASON BERNERTH / ANDY GROSS	JAMES SWIFT / MICHAEL LIN	MARTY HAMMOND / RICARDO SOTO
MEN'S 30+	JEFF STARK / THOMAS FUHRMANN	MIKE GUIDRY / GREGG PECK	SHANE DODGE / MATTHEW ANDERSON	LARRY YERTON / TOMMY MEDINA
MEN'S 35+	JEFF BELL / DOUG GANIM	MICHAEL BRONFELD / MARKO PEREZKEITH	MINOR / JOHN AMATULLI	DOUG JONES / DAVE PECK
MEN'S 40+	JIMMY LOWE / TIM HANSEN	MIKE LUBBERS / DARIN RANGLES	GORDON KIRKLAND / LEONARD MERVIN	HART JOHNSON / GREGG PECK
MEN'S 45+	THOMAS TRAVERS / DAVID AZUMA	KEN STONE / GILBERT CEPEDA	RUSS BONANNO / JOHN PETERSON	GORDON KIRKLAND / TIM HANSEN
MEN'S 50+	THOMAS TRAVERS / DAVID AZUMA	TROY STALLINGS / EUGENE PARE	DAVID ORTEGA / BERT CASTELANELLI	SAMUEL SMITH / RICK HOWICK
MEN'S 55+	ERIC BARKEY / JIM BAILEY	NEIL EICHELBERGER / DAN SCHAFFER	JIM HISER / ED REMEN	DAVID DENNIS / JOE LEE
MEN'S 60+	MIKE PAWKA / ED REMEN	GARY ROBERTS / RON GALBREATH	CHUCK CHILDERS / MICHAEL ARNOLT	LEN CORTE / JON WALKER
MEN'S 25+ A	ERIC JUBIN / ANDREW KULBACK	JEFFREY RENGEL / MARK CARPENTER	BRUCE BRYANT / ERIC NEW	JASON HICKS / TERRY DAVIS
MEN'S 25+ C	RAPHAEL CARRILLO / ROB BALSIMO	GARETT BERMAN / RUBEN BARAJAS	ED DUTTON / TAVO SASTRE GARCIA	
MEN'S 35+ A	BEN MENDOZA / DAVID BARNES	DEAN SELMER / DANIEL PISCHKE	RO BLACKWOOD / THOMAS BAKER	CHARLES POWERS / ADRIAN WON
MEN'S 45+ C	GREG IMUTA / BOB HAMMOND	JOHN COOPER / PETER KOCHIS	JACKIE EATON / AL KITLICA	RALPH DIFELICE / EDWARD WENDER
MEN'S 55+ C	TOM CURTIS / MIKE MAHON	CHUCK FRENCH / DALE BLAN	RONALD MCELWEE / RON ADAMS	RONALD MAESTAS / LLOYD FERRAN
MEN'S A	PIO MONIZ / BRETT BAUM	DEAN SELMER / DANIEL PISCHKE	TOM KEOGH / BRIAN LESIEUR	BEN MENDOZA / DAVID BARNES
MEN'S B	JAMES RAPOPORT / ROB BARBARA	NEAL HEGGEN / GEORGE WILLET	JUAN DIAZ / WESLEY OBANA	MICHAEL PECKINPAUGH / DAVE PECKINPAUGH
MEN'S C	GREG IMUTA / BOB HAMMOND	CHUCK EVANS / BRUCE HUBRICH	RAPHAEL CARRILLO / ROB BALSIMO	MARC ORTEGA / SAM KRAWL
MEN'S D	RICHARD HOCKENBERRY / DALE HEATH	RONALD MAESTAS / LLOYD FERRAN	HARRY MOORE / EDDIE MARU	SHANE FRENCH / LARRY MATTHEWS
MEN'S ELITE	TODD ENTRIKIN / ROBIN DIXON	MAX CLOUD / RAYMOND MAESTAS	RICARDO SOTO / JIM WRIGHT	MARCO HIDALGO / EVAN USSERY
MEN'S OPEN	JACK HUCZEK / ROCKY CARSON III	JASON THOERNER / MITCH WILLIAMS	GREG SOLIS / JONATHAN DUNN	JEFF BELL / DOUG GANIM
MEN'S 65/75	LEE GRAFF / CARMEN FELICETTI	TOM PENICK / PAUL BANALES	LEN CORTE / RON ADAMS	BEN SMITH / BOB KULSCAR
MEN'S 45A/55A	MARK COLBERT / ALAN BARON	PAUL SONDEL / CURT ALATORRE-MARTIN	TOM O'REILLY / ALAN JORGENSEN	DAVE LETSCHE / BRUCE BURGESS
MEN'S 45B/55B	JAMES RAPOPORT / ROB BARBARA	DAVE PECKINPAUGH / HANK ESTRADA	DAVID LEVESQUE / DAVE GREEN	MARK WELLS / MICHAEL FINNEY MD.
MEN'S 25B/35B	MARK WELLS / MICHAEL FINNEY MD.	MIKE EASTHOPE / JOHN WILSON	JUAN DIAZ / WESLEY OBANA	ALLYN NOCK / GEOFF HOLMES
MIXED 45+	MALIA BAILEY / BILL HARTWELL	DEBRA TISINGER / TROY STALLINGS	CHRIS EVON / BILL LYMAN	SUSAN PFAHLER / LEONARD MERVIN
MIXED 50+	ELAINE DEXTER / DAVID AZUMA	MEENA EVANS / MARK BARON	JOE LEE / CONNIE MARTIN	DEBBIE CHANEY / DENNY VINCENT
MIXED 55+	MIKE PAWKA / MERIJEAN KELLEY	JOANN JOHNSON / DENNY VINCENT	SALVATORE PERCONTI / SHARON HASTINGS-WELTY	TIM LAVOI / SUSAN KIEFFER
MIXED A	SHANE PINKSTON / DARLENE OLICH	DORCY NORTON / DENNIS FRENCH	DANIEL PISCHKE / PAT KONG	SHAWN WILSON / MARNI WAGNER
MIXED B	BRIAN LESIEUR / JASMINE PLAZA	JUAN DIAZ / TRACY CEROVSKI	BEN MENDOZA / GINGER RASID	MARCI LARAMEE-DAVIS / LARRY HICKS
MIXED ELITE	BRENDA LEE / TIM ANNEAR	GILBERT CEPEDA / CINDY GILBERT	RAMONA VON ONDARZA / ALEJANDRO HERRERA	DEBRA BRYANT / EDDIE ALBERTY
MIXED OPEN	JASON THOERNER / AIMEE RUIZ	JONATHAN DUNN / JANEL TISINGER	THOMAS FUHRMANN / RACHEL GELLMAN	DAVID HAMILTON / KRISTEN WALSH
MIX 60/65/70	MARQUITA MOLINA / RON ADAMS	JERRY NORTHWOOD / GAIL SCHAEFER	JOY DESANTIS / LEN CORTE	LOLA MARKUS / RONALD MCELWEE
MIX C/D	DIANA JOHNSON / SAM KRAWL	JEFFREY SLIGAR / COLLEEN KEATING	RALPH TORRES / PEARL TORRES	JON TUMAS / LISA WINSTEAD
WOMEN'S 50+	LESLIE PAWKA / VICKI PANZERI	MEENA EVANS / KAREN BOUCHARD	SUSAN HENDRICKS / BRENDA WHITE	MARCIA RICHARDS / BARBARA MEHEGAN
WOMEN'S A	KATHRYN BOWEN / DORCY NORTON	TAMERA SCHLEGEL / MAYLEN GASPARBARBARA	CURRAN / CHERYL KIRK	LORI TURLEY / ROWENA BIRNEL
WOMEN'S B	DIANA EASTHOPE / DEBBIE WILSON	CHERYL BIRD / ANN DRAUDT	JAN JOHNSON / DIANA JOHNSON	LORNA ROSE / FAYE COBB
WOMEN'S ELITE	JANEL TISINGER / ROXANNE DAVISSOL	ANNA TARAGAN / B.J. EHROTT-HAAB	HOLLY REMEN / DEBRA BRYANT	PEGGY STEPHENS / MARSHA BERRY
WOMEN'S OPEN	AIMEE RUIZ / LAURA FENTON	KIM RUSSELL-WASELENCHUK / JACQUELINE RIC	RHONDA RAJSICH / JANEL TISINGER	CHERYL GUDINAS / KRISTEN WALSH
WOMAN'S 30+ / 35+	KARIN SOBOTTA / LORRAINE GALLOWAY	LEAH REDWINE / KIM WILKERSON	TAMMARRIAN ROGERS / VIVIAN RODRIGUEZ	MARILYN ROSS / JEANINE OVE
WOMEN'S 55/65	KATHLEEN RUZYCKI / MERIJEAN KELLEY	TERRY ANN ROGERS / JOANN JOHNSON	DAWN KERRIGAN / CAROL PALOMBINO	NANCY MARTIN / MARQUITA MOLINA
WOMEN'S 60/65/70	SHARON HASTINGS-WELTY / NIDIA FUNES	LOLA MARKUS / SARAH FOSTER	JOY DESANTIS / GAIL SCHAEFER	MARQUITA MOLINA / CECE PALASKI
WOMEN'S 25A/35A	KATY WOOD / MELODY GORNO	LORI TURLEY / ROWENA BIRNEL	THAO LE / REGINA BOUIE	JEAN GALLAGHER / TAMERA SCHLEGEL
WOMEN'S 25B/35B/45B/55B	TRACY CEROVSKI / MARCI LARAMEE-DAVIS	DIANA EASTHOPE / DEBBIE WILSON	PAT KONG / JEANNIE BUNTJER	CHERYL KIRK / LYNNE WEISBART
WOMEN'S 45A/55A	GLADYS LEONARD / JUDITH FLIS	DAWN KERRIGAN / CAROL PALOMBINO	KIM SKERRY / GINGER RASID	KATHIE TROTTER / NANCY LARGE
WOMENS C/D	MAYUMI TOMODA / DEBBE BARBARA	RICHELLE KULJU / SANDY POLING	COLLEEN KEATING / PEARL TORRES	LISA WINSTEAD / JAN STELMA



# Does Racquetball Require Change

By Jim Hiser

# to Succeed!

At National Doubles, I watched the men's and women's finals with a reporter from the local newspaper. Both matches went to a tiebreaker and had numerous great rallies and moments of excitement. As the matches progressed, I sensed discontent in the reporter, so decided I to confront him with the inevitable question, "So, what do you think of the sport?" Although polite and rather hesitant in his response, the reporter said, "Although there are periods of great action, it's kind of boring." Boring, I thought, how could someone watch a come-from-behind 11-10 upset (women's final) plus two of the greatest athletes in the sport (Huczek and Carson) and term the spectacle boring?!

After the initial shock, I decided to analyze the reporter's comments by looking at the sport with another set of eyes. Perhaps racquetball is simply a "participation sport," a game that will never be accepted by the everyday enthusiast. Or, perhaps it is a spectator sport, its players and fans struggling to find the key to solidifying the passion within non-racquetball players. Maybe it's a little of both but requires change to maximize the impact.

I asked a couple of influential people within the sport for their comments. Doug Ganim, U.S. Open tournament director, agrees that changes must occur within the game, but primarily at the professional level. "The game itself at the amateur level is fine: ball speed is okay, scoring is okay and the recreational players seem to enjoy the game." Relative to the professional side, Ganim takes a more aggressive approach. "There is no doubt that some players need to clean up their acts. Unsportsmanlike, belligerent conduct really has no place in the professional game."

Ganim continues, "Pro players need to understand that to elevate the spectator experience they need to be great players and entertainers. Fans love to see the passion on the court (e.g., the Tiger Woods fist pump) while at the same time hearing a line from the player that makes everyone laugh. At his best, Jason Mannino is a perfect example of combining on-court passion and pure entertainment. People eat it up! However, Jason and others on the tour are not always at their best. A zero tolerance policy needs to be instituted and enforced.

Ganim also feels there is too much down time between points and during player/referee discussions. Boredom sets in when the action is stalled. He believes modifications and enforcement of rules can rectify these problems. With reference to spectators, Luke St. Onge, Secretary General of the IRF (International Racquetball Federation) says the technology is currently available to display the sport in a way

that any sport fan will appreciate. "The future is television, but we will never generate the money necessary to publicize the sport unless we clean up our act," states St. Onge. Ganim agrees that the technology is there, we just need more financial support to implement the necessary changes to televised matches – dark walls, white ball, more cameras, slow motion replays.

Mike Ceresia, former World and National Canadian Champion, believes the scoring system needs to be modified. "There needs to be more importance to each point, more excitement with each rally. Games to 11 just have too many points that have little significance to the common spectator." Ceresia also agrees with implementing rules that will reduce the time between rallies. Ceresia continues "The conversation between the players and referees is very tiresome. The referee is there to ref and not to have a conversation with players. Furthermore, once the referee does not respond, the players will stop talking. There are plenty of ways to show personality that don't involve ongoing banter with the ref!"

Dave Negrete, IRT Commissioner responds to some of the comments. "I agree with many of the comments refereeing to the professional game. It is tough to police yourself when we do not really have a professional referee system. Money solves this problem to a certain degree. The current players have all been made aware that they have the ability to change the integrity of the sport. I receive far more positive emails than negative about our players... I believe things have changed for the better both on and off the court!" Negrete also has attempted to invoke rules to reduce the time between rallies.

Last but not least, consider the status of the referee. Another interesting comment by the reporter was his inability to follow what was happening during the match. The referee frequently did not relay the scores to the audience, always muted the microphone during discussions and never clarified rulings or appeals. Perhaps if the referee had restricted conversation, communicated the reason for the appeals to the spectators, and had an "open microphone" during discussion, the reporter wouldn't have become bored. Officials, especially in professional matches, are an important part of the spectator's involvement in the match.

It seems that racquetball can be both a participation and a spectator sport in the future. To maximize benefits of participation and the enjoyment of spectators, racquetball leaders must carefully consider making some changes – the sooner the better!





# THE 2005 NEW ORLEANS SUMMER COOLER

by Dave Negrete

As the 2005-06 IRT season kicks off, the big buzz is the new Pro Penn HD ball. The players have adjusted quickly to the ball and it shows. As the New Orleans Summer Cooler commenced, The Elmwood Fitness Center, with its two stadium-style courts, looked great and its excellent staff welcomed the tour and players back with open arms. Locals were treated to some great racquetball in the pro-am doubles on Thursday evening. Sponsors and players alike had a great time as the pro's exhibited their dazzling shot-making abilities. Al Schof does a first class job of running this event; his hard work does not go unnoticed.

Qualifying was tough as the biggest pro draw in the history of this event kicked off on Thursday. All the higher seeds advanced in the preliminary round, creating some great match-ups for the Round of 32. No real upsets here. Former top four ranked professional John Ellis, still battling health issues, bowed out to Kyle Veenstra in four games. The Herrera brothers, Juan and Andres, battled for family bragging rights with Juan coming out on top in a close five-game match.

## Round of 16

- Jack Huczek continued where he left off in Dallas, disposing of Juan Herrera in three straight games.
- Shane Vanderson was a little sha-ky and Chris Crowther was hitting missiles as Chris pulled off the first upset of the day, defeating Shane in three straight.
- Kane Waselenchuk looked relaxed and confident as he took out Mitch Williams in three games. Mitch played tough in the third, losing 12-10. (Mitch has moved to Colorado to work on his graduate degree at Colorado State and compete on the university's racquetball team. He's planning on playing most of the stops this season and should make an impact.)
- The other 12:30 match featured Josh Tucker and Mike Guidry. Mike turned thirty-five this summer but played like he was eighteen, defeating Josh in four games. Josh played tough in spurts, but it wasn't enough.
- The 1:30 matches featured Cliff Swain against Alejandro Herrera and Alvaro Beltran against Jason Thoerner. Swain was dominating and his serve was blistering. He beat Herrera easily in three. The Beltran-Thoerner match-up was one of the longest three-game matches on the tour. Alvaro looked very fit and did control the court as Jason struggled to put together a run of points. Beltran prevailed in this one.
- Rocky Carson met Kyle Veenstra in the 2:30 session and was up for the challenge, winning in three. The tour will welcome Kyle and his traveling partner from Minneapolis, Aaron Granberg, full-time this season.
- In the other 2:30 match, the fans saw Jason Mannino face off against Andy Hawthorne. Andy had one of the tougher match-ups in the Round of 32, defeating Mexico's Javier Moreno in four tough games to get to the Sixteen's. Andy played tough the first game and surprised Jason (12-10) but then it was all Mannino as he turned up the gets, winning the next three games easily.

## QUARTERFINALS

The first quarterfinal featured #2 Jack Huczek and #10 Chris Crowther. Chris came to play and used his power right from the start. He controlled the beginning of the game while Jack played steady. It was Jack who executed the key shots to take the first game, 12-10. Chris kept the pressure on in the second, hitting rocket passes and kills from all over the court. Jack could not close this game out and it was Crowther who finished 11-8. Jack took the lead right away in game three, handling everything that

Crowther hit at him at warp speeds. Chris was leaving it all on the court, blasting everything. Huczek showed some great hands, returning some hard blasts from Crowther with soft pinches. Jack took game three, 11-7, and went on to finish the match as Chris ran out of gas, 11-1. Match time was 1 hour and 45 minutes!

The second match showcased #1 Kane Waselenchuk and #8 Mike Guidry. Kane, seeking his fourth straight New Orleans title, played like he wanted it and served the ball well. Mike played some tough ball, jumping on a few serves but it was not enough as Kane took game one, 11-5. Guidry picked up his intensity in games two and three but Kane was just too much, winning 11-8, 11-9. A young junior posed a question to Mike after the match, "How long have you been playing, Mr. Guidry?" Guidry replied, "Kane, when were you born, 1981? I've been playing since Kane was born, wow!" The reply elicited laughter from the crowd.

#3 Cliff Swain met #6 Alvaro Beltran in the third match. Alvaro came out blazing, taking a commanding 10-4 lead, only to see Swain light up the serve and battle back to tie it at 10. Both players traded serve numerous times until Swain finally put away the game, 13-11. It was all Beltran in the second as his drive serve came alive and Swain struggled to find his game. Beltran won shot after shot with his patented corner kills, 11-2. Beltran once again took off right away as Cliff tried to find his drive serve. A few unforced errors by Swain and Beltran's great drive serves helped him take game three, 11-4. Beltran capped off both the second and third games with crack aces to the right side. Alvaro kept the pressure on in the fourth and took the match, 11-5.

The last pair-up of the evening featured #4 Jason Mannino and #5 Rocky Carson. Jason continued his stellar play and Rocky just couldn't seem to find a way to put together a string of points in any game. Mannino, 4,4,7.

## An Unexpected Outcome

Earlier in the evening on Friday, players began watching the television for information on the threat of Hurricane Katrina. At first, all indications were that the storm was not going to approach the New Orleans area with any great force. No one seemed to be concerned over the impending storm. As we rose on Saturday morning, the mood changed quickly as Katrina seemed now to be heading right towards New Orleans. After careful consideration for the safety of all, the IRT, Elmwood Fitness Center and Tournament Director Al Schof made the decision to postpone the event and evacuate the club that afternoon. Most of the players were able to get flights home that afternoon or Sunday morning and the locals finished their matches and left the city. By Sunday evening, the city had called for mandatory evacuation and the weather service had upgraded the hurricane to a Level Five. We wish the best to all who were affected by Katrina.

## SIDE NOTES

Thanks to Houston's (hospitality sponsor) and to Charles Hollinger, sponsor of the main exhibition court. The IRT and the players greatly appreciate your generous support.

The IRT wishes good luck to long-time Elmwood Fitness Center General Manager Ken Kachtik, father of former tour professional Drew Kachtik, as he departs to move on to new and exciting ventures in the health and fitness world. Ken, you will be missed at the New Orleans event next year. Our sincere thanks for all you have done for the IRT and for racquetball!



# IRT Makes a Successful Return to Canada:

## Huczek and Waselenchuk Renew Rivalry

Evan Pritchard



International Racquetball Tour

The International Racquetball Tour (IRT) made a successful return to Canada with the first Canadian Open Racquetball Classic at the Cedar Springs Racquet Club in Burlington, Ontario. This was the first IRT tournament in Canada in several years. The top 8 IRT players were there as well as 31 players in the qualifying rounds, including several members of the Canadian National Team.

Three Canadians qualified for the round of 16 - Canadian National Team members Vincent Gagnon and Brian Istace as well as Canadian Junior Champion Ryan Smith - but they made it no farther. Indeed, the tournament went according to form up to the final where Jack Huczek and Kane Waselenchuk renewed their rivalry.

In the final, second seeded Huczek broke with form by defeating Waselenchuk, the top seed and number 1 IRT player. But it was a tough five game match that required Huczek to fight back from a two games to one deficit. Waselenchuk won the first game 11-5, after building a 7-1 lead, but Huczek came back with a relatively easy victory in game two converting an early 5-0 lead into an 11-6 win.

Game three was closer. The players were level at 4 when Waselenchuk took the next three points. Huczek called timeout, but couldn't wipe out the deficit as Waselenchuk went on to win 11-6. In game four, the players also found themselves tied at 4, but it was Huczek who took the lead building up a 9-4 advantage. Waselenchuk seemed frustrated, and clearly didn't want to play a fifth game as they fought back and forth at 9-4 with several consecutive side-outs. Eventually, Waselenchuk succumbed, and Huczek won 11-4.

Waselenchuk took the early lead in the fifth game tie-breaker at 4-1. At that point, Huczek got the serve back, and Mike Green, three time Canadian Champion, doing commentary of the match for a local cable TV broadcast, suggested that if Huczek could make it 2-4 it could change the complexion of the match. That proved to be prophetic as Huczek went from 1-4 down to 5-4 up and then to 8-4 up. It was a lead Waselenchuk wouldn't overcome.

After the match, Huczek said he "was fortunate" to win, and that he just he "kept battling" and "hanging in there tough." Waselenchuk said that at one point he realized he "had nothing in the tank." Repeating what he said after his semi-final victory that it was "an honour to play in Canada," Waselenchuk said he was already "looking forward to coming back next year," and stated "I will win next year."

But Jack Huczek is the winner of the first Canadian Open Racquetball Classic. Further, it's his second consecutive victory over Waselenchuk, as Huczek won their meeting in the finals of last season's final in Dallas. This has some wondering whether this will be a season of Huczek victories after two years of Waselenchuk wins. Certainly several people will be looking forward to the US Open to see what happens next on the IRT Tour.

The semi-finals were also five game matches, with both Huczek and Waselenchuk losing the first two games before coming back to take the next three. Huczek overcame a strong start by third seed Cliff Swain, who played with his

characteristic intensity. Swain may have drawn inspiration from playing in Canada the first time in several years. However, Huczek managed to overcome a late 9-8 Swain lead to win game three 12-10. He then used that momentum to win games four and five. The final scores were: 8-11, 6-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-2.

Swain described the match afterwards as simply a match where he "served well and returned well in the first two games" and then Huczek did so in games three, four and five. Huczek expressed a similar sentiment saying "I was lucky to win that one with the way Cliff came out serving."

Jason Mannino stunned the crowd in the other semi-final by winning a close game one, 11-9, and then taking game two relatively easily at 11-4 over Waselenchuk. But in game three Waselenchuk showed some of the flair he is known for, winning easily 11-2. Game four was more of the same, with Waselenchuk winning 11-5. But in game 5, Mannino too the early lead at 5-2, before Waselenchuk battled back to make it 7-5, and then finished it off 11-5. The crowd breathed a little easier knowing a Canadian was in the final.

Afterwards, Mannino said he "played as hard as I can all match" but didn't "play his best", which he attributed to Waselenchuk's play. Waselenchuk said it was "an honour to be playing in Canada," which was a feeling expressed by all the players.

Tournament Director Adrian Webb has bigger plans for this event. Those plans include using a portable court for improved viewing and excitement, and having the Women's Professional Racquetball Organization as part of the event. This year the top Canadian women participated, with Jennifer Saunders of Winnipeg defeating Lori-Jane Powell of Calgary in the final. Saunders is the current Canadian champion, and takes over the number 1 Canadian ranking from Powell with the victory.

This is the first International Racquetball Tour (IRT) Tier 1 event to be completed this season. The first event was in New Orleans the weekend of Hurricane Katrina, so that event was abandoned prior to playing the semi-finals.

## RESULTS SUMMARY

### FINAL

Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, MI) d. Kane Waselenchuk (Edmonton), 11-5, 6-11, 11-6, 4-11, 11-6.

### SEMI-FINALS

Kane Waselenchuk (Edmonton) d. Jason Mannino (San Diego), 9-11, 4-11, 11-2, 11-5, 11-5.  
Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, MI) d. Cliff Swain (Boston), 8-11, 6-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-2.

### QUARTER FINALS

Kane Waselenchuk (Edmonton) d. Alvaro Beltran (Mexico), 11-4, 8-11, 6-11, 11-6, 11-4.  
Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, MI) d. Rocky Carson (Laguna Niguel, CA), 11-2, 11-3, 11-4.  
Jason Mannino (San Diego) d. Shane Vanderson (Cleveland), 15-13, 11-4, 11-7.

Cliff Swain (Boston) d. Jason Thoerner (Illinois), 11-0, 11-7, 11-4.

### ROUND OF 16

Kane Waselenchuk (Edmonton) d. Brian Istace (Calgary), 11-2, 11-5, 11-8.  
Alvaro Beltran (Mexico) d. Ryan Smith (Burlington, ON), 11-4, 8-11, 6-11, 11-6, 11-4.  
Shane Vanderson (Cleveland) d. Chris Crowther (USA), 11-6, 6-11, 11-1, 11-6.  
Jason Mannino (San Diego) d. Vincent Gagnon (Montreal), 11-9, 11-5, 11-3.  
Cliff Swain (Boston) d. Augustin Tristan (Mexico), 11-5, 11-9, 3-11, 11-5.  
Jason Thoerner (Illinois) d. Mike Guidry (Carrollton, TX), 11-3, 11-9, 11-9.  
Rocky Carson (Laguna Niguel, CA) d. Kyle Veenstra (Wausau, WI), 11-3, 11-2, 11-2.  
Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, MI) d. Mitch Williams (Colorado), 11-0, 11-0, 8-11, 11-5.





# 2005-06 Season Current Rankings

As of  
October 17, 2005

Rank	Pro	Points	Prev. Rank	Season- To-Date Rank	Season- To-Date Points
1	WASELENCUK, KANE	2588	1	2	570
2	HUCZEK, JACK	2325	2	1	676
3	SWAIN, CLIFF	1883	3	4	477
4	MANNINO, JASON	1635	4	3	547
5	CARSON, ROCKY	1613	5	6	441
6	BELTRAN, ALVARO	1384	6	5	448
6	VANDERSON, SHANE	1384	7	8	309
8	GUIDRY, MIKE	1234	8	8	285
9	THOERNER, JASON	1006	9	8	310
10	VEENSTRA, KYLE	911	11	12	236
11	HAWTHORNE, ANDY	837	13	13	165
12	TUCKER, JOSH	829	10	16	148
13	CROWTHER, CHRIS	821	12	7	319
14	GONZALEZ, RUBEN	601	16		0
15	CROFT, BEN	546	14	32	39
16	WILLIAMS, MITCH	536	20	11	239
17	TRISTAN, AGUSTIN	530	17	13	165
18	HERRERA, ALEJANDRO	521	15	21	98
19	LLACERA, DAN	514	19		0
20	HERRERA, JUAN	428	18	19	128
21	URZUA, RODRIGO	356	21		0
22	ISTACE, BRIAN	311	24	17	120
23	HERRERA, ANDRES	268	22	25	61
24	MORENO, JAVIER	267	26	29	42
25	GRANBERG, AARON	244	23	20	116
26	SHIMIZU, HIROSHI	225	28	28	53
27	GUTIERREZ, POLO	218	29	43	19
28	GANIM, DOUG	180	31		0
29	DELOSRIOS, GIL	176	30	33	30
30	SWIFT, JAMES	150	32		0
31	SMITH, RYAN	147	33	15	147
32	ELLIS, JOHN	139	36	24	61
33	GAGNON, VINCENT	120	37	17	120
34	AMATULI, JOHN	116	25		0
35	DEROCHERES, ERIC	106	39	22	106
36	HERNANDEZ, ALLEN	102	38		0
37	PALAZZO, JOE	93	42		0
38	WACHTEL, CHRIS	92	43		0
39	FREDENBERG, BRIAN	92	44	49	13
40	DENNISON, MIKE	90	27		0
41	TORRES, JARED	86	45		0
41	HERRERA, GERMAN	86	41		0
43	POINTELIN, BRIAN	79	47		0
43	RAMIREZ, ANDRES	79	34		0
45	WOODBURY, TRAVIS	76	48	29	42
46	ODEGARD, KRIS	72	51	23	72
47	FUNATANI, SADA O	66	53		0
48	RIVAS, JUAN	62	46		0
49	GREEN, MIKE	60	55	26	60
50	JACKSON, BOB	58	56	29	42



# Rosarito Beach Excitement!



With the WPRO arriving into Rosarito, Mexico for the Rosarito Beach Open, Rosey Torres once again hosted a first class event for the women and the competition was high. 26 of the top women professional racquetball players descended upon Rosarito with high expectations of a new professional racquetball tour and the excitement of the first of many stops for the 2005-2006 season.

First rounds brought some exciting and long matches such as Lori-Jane Powell of Canada pushing Susy Acosta of Mexico to a 5 game thriller. Jo Shattuck of CO was able to fight off Hirobayashi of Japan in a match that could have gone either way on this day. With 3 out of the 4 games being decided by a 12-10, (10-12) 11-4, 12-10.

Anxiously, the top 8 seeded players waited for the challengers to move in to get their matches underway. The 16's matched #1 Van Hees of Canada defeating Samantha Salas of MX, Adrienne Fisher (OH) defeating Diane Moore (IN), Kristen Walsh (UT) defeating Jo Shattuck (CO), #4 Kerri Watchel (OH) defeating Susy Acosta (MX) in a 5 game war. #3 Rhonda Rajsich (AZ) defeating Amy Foster (CA), Angela Grisar (Chile) defeating Rachel Gellman (AZ), Tammy Brown (ID) defeating Kersten Hallander (CA) and #2 Cheryl Gudinas (IL) defeating Nancy Enriquez (MX).

With Saturday in the making, the top 8 seeds advanced, and the Rosarito Beach Open was starting to take it's shape to once again turn into a very competitive start for the new Women's Professional Racquetball Tour of 2005-2006.

First Quarter Final match paired Cheryl Gudinas and Tammy Brown. Brown squared off with Gudinas in the first round point for point only for Gudinas to get the slight edge and game 1 ended with Gudinas winning 12-10. With game 2 underway, Brown continued to fight and win the edge and the 2nd game, 12-10. In game 3, Gudinas continued with tight z serves and closed game 3. It seemed as though Brown almost disappeared from the court as Gudinas claimed game 4 to move on into the semi's.

Angela Grisar (Chile) and Rhonda Rajsich hooked it up in a see saw of a match that went 5 games, but Grisar was able to log the upset over the #3 seed to advance in to the Semi final against Gudinas.

On the top side, matching up Watchel #4 and Walsh #5 whom have played each other so much went in the way of Walsh by defeating Watchel in 3 games. Watchel seemed to have life in the 3rd, but having difficulty finishing, lost 12-10 in the 3rd. Walsh moves into one of many expected semi finals for the season.

In the top side Christie Van Hees #1 and Adrienne Fisher #8 began their match with Van Hees keeping the ball just out of reach of Fisher to win the first game. Game 2 was a little different. The hard hitting Fisher began to move and continued to keep pressure on Van Hees. Van Hees managed to pull out game 2, 13-11. Going back to the original game plan, she kept the ball away from Fisher's power and closed it out in 3 games to move on in to the semi against Walsh.

#1 Christie Van Hees, still out to prove that she is the #1 player, maintained the pressure on #5 Kristen Walsh during the entire semi final to win in 3 straight games 11-5, 11-1, 11-6 to move on into the first final of the WPRO season.

#2 Cheryl Gudinas as well, rose to the occasion against #6 Angela Grisar to win in 3 straight, 11-4, 11-7, 11-2 to once again, reach the finals in her pursuit to gain back the #1 spot that she had lost in the previous season.

With the stage set for the Final in the Rosarito Beach Open, #1 Christie Van Hees will face #2 Cheryl Gudinas in a rival on court match that will determine who will be #1. With only 17.5 points setting in the #1 spot, Van Hees knows the importance of the match and Gudinas knows just how close that #1 spot is to regain where she has been for so long. Gudinas came out relaxed and confident with a series of Z's and lobs to capture game 1, 11-8. Van Hees began game 2 moving with quickness and covering passes that should have been down for most for the win, 11-7. Game 3 looked as though Gudinas was in control moving Van Hees all over the court, but Van Hees would not go away with great gets and shots to win, 11-4. Game 4 was neck and neck, but Van Hees had begun to straighten out the down the line shots repeatedly, using a quick tempo game style and a take care of business attitude, Van Hees closed out game 4, 11-8 and became the Rosarito Beach Open Champion and continued to hold on to the precious #1 spot.

Once again, a huge thank you to Rosey for an awesome event and we all look forward to coming back in 2006!  
tson/WPRO Commissioner

RANK	NAME	HOMETOWNS	P.RANK	POINTS
1	Van Hees, Christie	Canada	1	799.5
2	Gudinas, Cheryl	Lisle, IL	2	782
3	Rajsich, Rhonda	Phoenix, AZ	3	662
4	Walsh, Kristen	Salt Lake City, UT	5	357.5
5	Grisar, Angela	Chile	6	338
6	Watchel, Kerri	Cincinnati, OH	4	327
7	Brown, Tammy	Boise, ID	7	290
8	Fisher, Adrienne	Centerville, OH	8	183.75
9	Moore, Diane	Griffith, IN	9	181.5
10	Kyzer, Brenda	Lexington, SC	10	125.5

## 2005-2006 WPRO TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Host Location
Sept 8-11, 2005	Rosarito Mexico	Rosarito Beach Hotel Resort
Oct 20-23, 2005	Albuquerque NM	Midtown Athletic Club
Nov 16-20, 2005	Memphis TN	US Open - The Racquet Club of Memphis
Jan 18-22, 2006	Greensboro NC	Pyramids Fitness Center
TBA (Feb)	Portland, OR	Multnomah Athletic Club
Feb 3-5, 2006 (Satellite Event)	Denver CO	The Denver Athletic Club / Racquet for the Cure Benefiting The Susan G. Komen Foundation
TBA (Feb)	Pennsylvania	Site TBA
Mar 18-19, 2006	Nashville TN	Nashville Downtown YMCA
Mar 23-26, 2006	Miami FL	University of Miami
April 6-9, 2006	Miami OK	The GYM
April 26-30, 2006	Chicago IL	IRT Motorola Pro Nationals
TBA	Atlanta GA	TBA
May, 2006	TBA	PRO Nationals



WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ORGANIZATION





# International Racquetball Federation

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### DATE FOR WORLDS 2006 CONFIRMED

The date for the 13th IRF World Championships 2006 has been confirmed now for August 4-13, 2006. The event will be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. More information will be published in the coming months. For questions now, contact IRF Secretary General Luke St.Onge.



## AUSTRIA

### AUSTRIAN SUCCESS AT 2005 HAMBURG OPEN

Ralf Lysakowski from Austria is the winner of the 2005 Hamburg Open in Germany. He defeated Timothy Hardison (USA) in an exciting final 15-6, 6-15, 11-7. Together with his brother Jan, Ralf lost the doubles final against Germany's Oliver Bertels and Arne Schmitz 15-11, 15-13.



### ASIA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

The 14th ARF Asia Racquetball Championships 2005 will be held in Daegu, South Korea on November 25-27. Players from Korea, Japan, Saipan, Guam and other territories are expected to compete. The event is an IRF regional competition and will be organised by the Korean Racquetball Federation and is sanctioned by the Asia Racquetball Federation (ARF). More information will follow later.



## GUATEMALA

### NEW COURTS TO BE OPENED IN GUATEMALA

Despite the dramatic devastation of hurricane Stan, the opening of the racquetball Complex at Club Casacadas in Guatemala City will take place on November 11, with national TV station GATEVISION broadcasting from the opening. Mr. Willy Paiz, former Texas A&M Open Racquetball player and owner of the TV station, will hit the first balls in the courts with Mr. Andy Burge, President of Racquetball in Guatemala.



## IRELAND

### O'CALLAGHAN AND GIBNEY WIN IN BALLINROBE, IRELAND (OCT 10, 2005)

At the first Ballinrobe Open, Irish Number 1, Noel O'Callaghan made a successful start to the season when he defeated Triston Hickey in the Mens Open Singles Final while Elma Gibney was tops in the Womens Open Singles when she defeated Helen Shanahan in the final. Other winners were Jimmy Sheridan in Mens Novice Singles, Joe Glynn in Mens Over 40 Singles and Katie Walsh in Girls Under 18 Singles.





**2005 17th  
IRF WORLD JUNIOR  
RACQUETBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Presented by  
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Official Ball:**

***Penn***

**INTERNATIONAL  
RACQUETBALL  
FEDERATION**



**December 16-21**

**Juarez Racquet Club  
Teofilo Borunda 9171 Cd.  
Juarez, Mexico  
Tel: 011-52-6561-99-07-17  
Or 011-52-6566-38-46-17**

**How to Enter**

**Entry Deadline: Friday November 25th,  
postmarked Nov. 21st.**

**Download official entry from at  
[www.internationalracquetball.com](http://www.internationalracquetball.com)  
or 719-635-5396 ext 131**

**Cost per event**

**First event - \$80.00**

**Second Event - \$35.00**

**Mixed Doubles (3rd Event only) - \$35.00**

**Phone Fee - \$10.00**

**Late Fee - \$20.00**

**Credit Card Entry - \$4.00**

**Hotel Information**

**Radisson Hotel Casa Grande Cd Juarez  
Ave Tecnologico no 3620  
Col. Partio Iglesias  
CP 32617 Cd. Juarez/Chich  
Tel: 011-52-656-629-4000/629-4008  
Fax: 011-52-656-626-4033  
Email: [eventos\\_radisson@iz.hcg.com.mx](mailto:eventos_radisson@iz.hcg.com.mx)  
Contact: Ms. Cecelia Bueno**

**MEXICO**





## THE EKTOLON PORTABLE OUTDOOR COURT

The Ektelon Portable Outdoor Court made its debut in October in California and was a hit! The court a replica of the Golden West 3-wall courts was set up in the parking lot of the Rancho Sports Club and used for exhibitions & filming all throughout the weekend. Outdoor stars Brian Hawkes, Rocky Carson, Greg Solis, Craig Lane, Kersten Hallander, & Rhonda Rajsich blasted balls off the walls and even ran into walls to test out the court. Even Georges Barrera's top juniors made the trip out to test out the court. Royster Productions was on site the entire time filming to create a promotional piece to increase the awareness and marketability of outdoor. The angles and shots available from cut outs in the front & sidewall are amazing. The court can be set up played on and torn down in 1 day creating unbelievable opportunities for outdoor & WOR. This court will allow racquetball to be seen and experienced by everyone from children at school to college kids on Spring Break! Many thanks to those who made the court a reality in only WOR's second year of existence; Chuck West whose expertise designed, tested, and built the court, and Ektelon who funded the project.

## NEW YORKERS WIN EAST COAST 1 WALL CHALLENGE

Benny Torres & Kim Soohoo didn't let a little rain bother them as they captured the first WOR event held in Connecticut beating Joey Vasquez & Clarence Davis in the Pro finals to bring the title back to New York. Raul Nieves put on a great event at Colt's Park in Hartford as WOR continues to expand it's events into new markets. As of now the guys from NY dominate the 1 wall game!

### PRO RESULTS

- 1st- Benny Torres / Kim Soohoo
- 2nd- Joey Vazquez / Clarence Davis
- 3rd- Shai Manzuri / Narvin Wilson
- 4th- Rosey Drakes / Mike Thomas

## SOSTRE & RAMIREZ WIN 2005 NYC OPEN 1-WALL SUPER SERIES EVENT

Robert "The Iceman" Sostre and Freddie Ramirez continued their amazing record of never losing a 1-Wall tournament when they captured the win in the Pro Division finals at the New York City Open at Orchard Beach in the Bronx. Will this dominating duo ever be beaten in 1-Wall competition? It's definitely getting more interesting with the mix of 1-Wall players and 3-Wall players now in on the action. They have taken down some big names in 3-Wall events and given others a run for their money, but who has yet to give them a scare in 1-Wall? One thing is for certain.....the competition is only getting tougher for the "Iceman" and Freddie but they keep winning!

### RESULTS

- 1 Robert Sostre & Freddie Ramirez
- 2 Eric Faro & Xavier Luna
- 3 Glen Winoker & Keith Jackson
- 4 Kim Soohoo & Joe Zeller



## BELLE ISLE OUTDOOR TRADITION CONTINUES

The Belle Isle Racquetball Championships is one of the longest running events in outdoor and the Michigan site hosted over 150 players! The traditional late summer event was highlighted by great play, hospitality, and even some rain! Special thanks to Ron Barton, Thelma Howard, Greg Lewerenz, Joe Romeo, and Stephanie Winfrey for all their time and effort in making sure the tradition of Belle Isle continues and grows. Congratulations to all the finalists!

### OPEN SINGLES

- 1st: Greg Lewerenz
- 2nd: Ron Barton

### A SINGLES

- 1st: Ron Griggs
- 1st: Jim Wink

### B SINGLES

- 1st: Dan Mullins
- 1st: Len Smith

### C SINGLES

- 1st: Howell Johnson
- 2nd: Matt Barbasack Sr

### CENTURIONS

- 1st: Delmer Reed/Frank Ball
- 1st: Marcos Rivera/Dave Smolinski

### OPEN DOUBLES

- 1st: Greg Hodges/Carl Evans
- 1st: Greg Lewerenz/John Torres

### A DOUBLES

- 1st: Ron Griggs/ Dave Chirio
- 2nd: Twayne Howard/ Bob Surlow

### B DOUBLES

- 1st: Ted Richardson/ Howell Johnson
- 2nd: Art Medlin/ Dave Thompson

### C DOUBLES

- 1st: Darryl Hunter/ Eric Jarmons
- 2nd: Matt Barbasack Sr/ Matt Barbasack Jr.

### WOMENS DOUBLES

- 1st: Margit Schmecko/Lynn Kuczajda
- 2nd: Marlo Jenkins/Terry Fields

### MIXED DOUBLES OPEN / A

- 1st: Ron Barton/Terry Fields
- 2nd: Dan Mullins/Ruth Beir

### MIXED DOUBLES B & C

- 1st: Marlo Jenkins/ Dwayne Saunders
- 2nd: Anita Lark/Cleo Biles

### MASTERS 45+

- 1st: Carlos Jones
- 2nd: Lewis Forrest

### GOLDEN MASTERS 55+

- 1st: Jim Panasiewicz
- 2nd: Delmer Reed

### SENIOR MASTERS 65+

- 1st: James Shaw
- 2nd: Willie Mason



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## IGS

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Shane Vanderson  
2004 World  
Doubles Champion

Kristen Walsh  
2005 Pan American Champion  
3-Time National  
Intercollegiate Champion

Rocky Carson  
2-Time US National Champion  
2004 US National Doubles Champion

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With Liquidmetal technology now in seven key locations and the addition of our revolutionary new Inner Grommet System (IGS) the new Liquidmetal IGS Series of racquets offer up to 21%\* more power with every swing. Check out the new Liquidmetal IGS 165, 175 and 185.



\*compared to other HEAD racquets





## Utah Racquetball Association PRESIDENT: RANDY MARTIN

**Q.**What would you say the key is to having a successful organization?

**A.**One of the main ingredients is to have good people on your board with time to give and that offer a variety of expertise. But having said that a board can not do everything on their own, we try to use every resource we have, from the National Office, executive board, or anyone who is willing to help out. We have great people all over the state, from Jim Elliot in southern Utah, running the World Huntsman Senior Games, to Dennis Fisher who is the BYU coach and whose team took 2nd in 2005 Intercollegiate Champions and Ruth McGovern who runs our summer junior program and adult travel league. These people and many others do a lot for Utah Racquetball and are not necessarily on the current board. Dedicated people like these are what comprise Utah Racquetball and what make this organization successful!

**Q.**What is the number one complaint you hear as president?

**A.**Cost of tournaments with the USAR fees is still the main complaint. We have tried several things to address this issue. We host about 16 sanctioned tournaments a year, with about half costing under \$25 to enter. These tournaments usually don't have the fancy of "food and awards." This year we started the season off with a board run tournament. This tournament was designed to pay for the USAR membership for all who played with the only exception being lifetime members. All we had to pay for was court costs, and food. If you played one event or two the cost was the same, \$38 for adults and \$28 for juniors. This worked out to be a great success, and we plan to run it for many years and move it to different locations around the state.

**Q.**What are your most successful programs?

**A.**We have a lot of great programs from our travel leagues to our Junior Programs. But I would have to say our most successful program in recent years is our state High School Program. About 3 years ago we started an independent High School Board, headed up by former URA President Rico Dubach. We started out with five teams, with kids from different schools making up each team. This year we have 9 teams with 3 individual schools represented. Last year, 23 kids representing 6 schools attended the US High School Nationals. With Copper Hills H.S. boys taking 2nd, and Viewmont H.S. boys taking 6th. Pam Martin (yes that's my wife) was in charge of fundraising, and with the help of some great friends, Jerry and Heather Montanez and Mike VanValkenburg, we raised over \$10,000 to help send the kids to St Louis.

**Q.**What would you consider your state's greatest accomplishment during your tenure?

**A.**Staying in contact with our membership has become a priority to us. We send out newsletters during the season, email updates & reminders and we try to keep our website fresh with all the latest information. This last one can be tough because it is time consuming and then you have to find people with the knowledge to manage a website. A year ago we tried to save money by not printing newsletters and only used email and the website as our main communication tool. Our membership dropped significantly. Since mailing the newsletter was the biggest expense, we now mail two issues out and have two others printed to have at the tournaments. We try to have board members at the tournaments, not so much to help run them, but to help out if problems arise, but more importantly to interact and listen to the membership for ideas that we can use in the future. We have found that the best tournaments are the ones that cater to everyone not just the elite player.

**Q.**What makes Utah racquetball special?

**A.**Sportsmanship is the thing I have always loved the most about playing in Utah. We have great competition on the court and remain friends off the court. I'm not sure if this is an accomplishment or me just bragging about a great group of people.

**Q.**Anything else you would like to add?

**A.**Over the past year we have changed the way we do business and have taken full advantage of the online services offered by USA Racquetball. Mike Van Valkenburg serves as our treasurer and renews our new memberships immediately online after each event. Val Shewfelt has spearheaded the effort to enter all the match results from last season into the new ranking program. I wouldn't get any sleep without either one of them. I am grateful that we have such a dedicated board that is willing to put in the extra time and effort.

**Members of the Board:** Val Shewfelt, Pam Martin, Mike Val Valkenburg, Janette Olsen, Jerry Montanez, Ray Griffiths, Julian Gomez, Brian Pointelin and David Timmons

**Membership Strength:** 367 of which 105 are juniors

**State Population:** 2,333,169

**Major Universities:** University of Utah, Utah State University and Brigham Young University

**Lifetime Members:** 1

Utah is a Ute Indian word meaning "home on mountain top"

### Randy's Dossier

Married to Pam with three children:  
Anthony, Cody, JoEll

Currently serving second term as president

Tournament player for 18 years

Profession: Artist/illustrator

Other Sport Interest: Skiing on snow and water



## Update

by KVJ



### National Rankings

The new national ranking program has been active since May. A current list of events included in the ranking database can be found on the USAR homepage by selecting: Rankings > Events Included. A list of states with each event noted below indicates that the events have been entered into the new ranking system. If your state does not have any events listed as entered then we have not received "completed draw sheets". It is not too late to submit those results (especially your state championships) to be entered. If you cannot enter them yourself then mail the draw sheets to the national office for input into the national ranking program. More importantly, we have extended the deadline to enter past match data (results) to Jan 1, 2006 without membership validation. What does that mean? You can continue to enter, and us too, as many events as possible without membership validation. Meaning, current or lapsed members will not be flagged and can be ranked. Why? To enter as many events into the ranking program as possible to make it a viable for seeding purposes.

### Sanctioning Fee

The \$100 sanction fee is in place and only events sanctioned in advance with payment will receive all the sanctioning benefits including: online listing, magazine listing, insurance coverage, result integration, tournament shipment, certificates of insurance, mailing data, magazines, member roster, etc. Refunds (\$50) are being sent routinely to the states in compliance with the reporting of the results and memberships.

### Tournament Software Update

The R2Sports tournament program and online registration was unveiled for national doubles. Aside from a few hitches and computer bugs the program worked great. Although, national doubles was probably one of the most complex and logistical events to begin with it was necessary to tackle the issues with a live event. The bugs with non-members signing up to play, players switching partners, events being refunded, time avoidances being check, report features being fine tuned, etc have been ironed out.

The R2Sports software will also be used for the Choice Hotels US OPEN and then made available to all state associations and event directors after the second and final live test event. For those of you planning to attend the

Memphis event and celebrate the 10th anniversary there will be two meetings for state presidents, state board members and event directors to attend. A thorough review of the systems – ranking and tournament – will be reviewed along with some other critical issues.

Event directors will have the option of using the R2Sports tournament software but it is not required.

### Membership Cards

Since January 2005, we have been issuing the new style membership card and have received positive response from members as compared to 2004 when we were under the guidelines of the OXL card program. The cards are being printed and mailed about every three weeks and the turn around time is about 10 days from we submit data and receive a card in the mail. We are close to exhausting the supply of current cards in stock and will be doing a slight re-design for the next print run updating the Hertz, United Airline and other coded member benefits information. The card design and provider will remain Sport Graphics.

### National Board Elections

An election will be held next year to fill vacancies on the national board when terms expire for several board members. Those interested in nominating a potential board candidate or applying may contact Linda Mojer, USAR board member, [Linda@LindaMojer.com](mailto:Linda@LindaMojer.com).

### State Rebate Funding tops \$1.5 million

The 2005 third quarter rebate reports have been announced and all states were notified of their quarterly earnings. All recognized state associations receive rebate funding to offset the cost of running the state office and grass roots development. Current rebate funding is based on tournament compliance only. All states are required to submit the event results, alpha list of players within 30 days after the event has concluded and membership applications and fees within 15 days.

Rebate qualifications have changed over the years. In the past, the requirement of the state association was to produce a quarterly newsletter or maintain an active website to receive funding.

Rebate funding was established to assist the state associations with carrying out a mission of grass roots development and programming. Over the last 13 years, \$1.5 million has been retained by the state affiliates

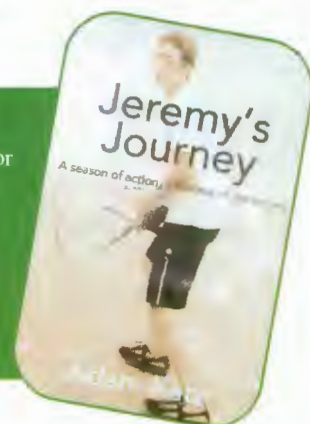


# Christmas Gift Ideas from



Jeremy's Journey was compiled during the 2004-2005 Racquetball season as former USA Racquetball Board member Adam Katz from Colorado kept a diary of his experiences in honor of Jeremy Lanosga, a talented junior racquetball player who suffered a tragic fall in Colorado leaving him paralyzed from the chest down. This book is simply about Adam's tournament season in an effort to make Jeremy feel as though he were actually taking part.

It is available at most major online retailers such as Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. With your local distributor for prices and availability or visit [www.ektelon.com](http://www.ektelon.com)



Pictured is the Dynaflex "Pro" that offers fun, while it strengthens your wrist, arm and shoulder. Excellent for both prevention and rehab. \$25.00. Visit [www.PythonRacquetball.com](http://www.PythonRacquetball.com) or call Doug @ 800-456-4305



A great holiday gift is a can of the Titanium Tour racquetballs from Wilson. The official ball of the Ladies Pro Tour. Our Titanium Tour Racquetball is high-speed performance with a consistent bounce match after match. A great gift for under \$3.99.



The perfect gift for that racquetball player in your life. Choose from a variety of styles from necklaces, ear rings to cuff links in gold, silver or both. Please contact Cameron Eimer at USA Racquetball 719-635-5396 ext 132 or [ceimer@usra.org](mailto:ceimer@usra.org) mention this issue and receive a discounted rate.



This Holiday Season, experience O3 technology from Ektelon. Engineered for Speed and Power! Find out more at [ektelon.com](http://ektelon.com)





HEAD's new top of the line flagship racquet, the Liquidmetal IGS 165 is the perfect gift for the racquetball player in your life. He/she will experience power like never before compliments of the most revolutionary racquet technologies ever produced. To learn more visit [www.HEADRacquetball.com](http://www.HEADRacquetball.com)



PENN does it again! The revolutionary new Pro Penn High Definition (HD) racquetball has arrived and is currently being used at all IRT events. Designed by the pro's, the Pro Penn HD offers increased visibility and a lightweight design for today's modern lighter weight racquets. Feel the effortless power and enjoy the comfort of striking the most advanced racquetball on the market. The official ball of the US OPEN, the Pro Penn HD is already the talk of the racquetball world and the attractive three-ball can makes for the perfect stocking stuffer!

Ruben Gonzalez is offering a special on his 9" X 12" piece called "splatshot". Each original is different for a limited holiday special of \$99. Contact Ruben Gonzalez at 917-733-5942.



Ashaway's new 500i racquetball shoes make a great XMAS gift for the serious racquetball player on your shopping list. Featuring Ashaway's ASTTM design technology, the 500i model is worn exclusively by World Champion and IRT Superstar Jack Huczek. Give a pair to a friend this Christmas and watch their game take off!

#### Racquetball Camp or Coaching Session

Send someone to a racquetball camp or treat them to a coaching session. Fran Davis and Johanna Shattuck run two of the best, but many others are available. Help someone to improve their stroke mechanics, shot selection, strategy, court positioning and much more! Look for ads throughout RACQUETBALL for more information regarding camps and coaching sessions or visit one of these websites: [www.frandavisracquetball.com](http://www.frandavisracquetball.com) or [www.racquetballacademy.com](http://www.racquetballacademy.com)

**Selling Video / # 1 Camp in the World (25 years in the business)**

**Fran Davis Racquetball**

presents

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RACQUETBALL  
Dream House**



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Use On-Line Discount Code...USARacquetball-V (for \$5 off of video) & USARacquetball-C (for \$25 off of camps)





# NEW E-FO

## TWO NEW PERFOR

## LONGEST STRING

**ALL STRINGS—  
MAINS AND CROSSES—  
ARE THE LONGEST  
POSSIBLE**

### LONGSTRING SUPER 30

ALL 30 STRINGS ARE  
THE LONGEST POSSIBLE

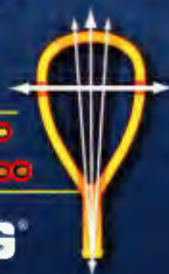
#### D.C.

DUAL CYLINDER FRAME—EXCLUSIVE  
E-FORCE PATENT-PENDING TECHNOLOGY



STARTING  
AT \$200

**NEW  
SUPER 30 D.C.**  
**LONGSTRING**



### LONGSTRING<sup>®</sup> TECHNOLOGY

Every String is MAXIMUM Possible Length



ALL MAINS RUN FROM TIP THROUGH HANDLE  
**MORE POWER**



ALL CROSSES EXTEND UNRESTRICTED  
TO OUTSIDE OF FRAME  
**MORE POWER**

PATENT #5,919,104/OTHER PATENTS PENDING

### DUAL CYLINDER (D.C.) FRAME

Patent-Pending Technology — 2 Graphite Tubes/Bridge System



INCREASES STRING LENGTH AND DEFLECTION  
**MORE POWER**



INCREASES STRENGTH DECREASES TWIST  
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PATENT PENDING



# FORCE POWER PERFORMANCE RACQUETS. S. MORE POWER.

**ALL MAINSTRINGS  
ARE THE  
LONGEST POSSIBLE**

## **SUPER-MAINS**

ALL MAINSTRINGS—14 TOTAL—  
EXTEND FROM RACQUET TIP  
THROUGH ENTIRE HANDLE



STARTING  
AT \$160

## **NEW BEDLAM SUPER-MAINS**



**PATENTED, PATENT-PENDING AND  
EXCLUSIVE E-FORCE POWER TECHNOLOGIES:**



**POWER TRAC FRAME**  
EXCLUSIVE



**LAUNCHPAD TECHNOLOGY**  
PATENT 6,796,916



**ZERO RICHTER TUBES**  
PATENT 6,852,048



**MONSTER STRING HOLES**  
EXCLUSIVE



**LONGSTRING POWER CORNERS**  
EXCLUSIVE



**BY-PASS STRINGING SYSTEM**  
EXCLUSIVE



**TRI-CARBON FRAME**  
EXCLUSIVE



**TOTAL CARBON HEAD**  
EXCLUSIVE



**(FAT) ZONES**  
EXCLUSIVE



**ZERO RICHTER TUBES**  
EXCLUSIVE

**www.e-force.com**



# GET WITH THE PROGRAM



by Connie Martin

## Holiday Ideas to Promote Racquetball

People are always looking for great ideas to give their friends during the Holidays. Why not treat them to something you love to do **PLAY RACQUETBALL!!!**

### Group Lessons...

Better yet - offer group lessons with a racquet!!! Call your Racquetball Company reps and find out if they have an inexpensive racquet you can offer with the lessons package. Many times at the end of the prior year you can get last year's models for a substantially reduced rate so you can offer a better racquet with the package which makes the perceived value of the package more inviting.

### Pro Shop Specials...

If you have a pro shop, do a Pro Shop Special such as buy 2 gloves get the 3rd one free; percent discounts off a bag, t-shirt combination; or buy any racquet, get a free glove. There are so many possibilities.

Promote these special in your Club Newsletter, on your Racquetball Bulletin Boards, on each of the Court Racquetball Doors, over your PSA or in Group Fitness Classes. Make sure your Front Desk Staff knows how to promote the Gift Coupons and how to write up and give out the product or coupons.

Always make sure you know (and they know) the who, what, where, when, why and how of everything you do in your department.



## Holiday Gift Coupons

**Racquetball Lesson/  
Racquet Special**  
Only \$39  
Includes 3 Group Lessons,  
Racquet & Can of Balls  
(Value \$64)

We will give you the Racquet, Balls and Coupon for Lessons to put under the Tree. Not valid with any other coupons, specials, promotions or offers. (Code: RB003)  
Staff: Please attach this coupon to invoice upon purchase  
Coupon expires December 24th, 2005

**Racquetball  
Private Lessons**  
Only \$78 (Value \$96)

We will give you a certificate to put under the tree. Not valid with any other coupons, specials, promotions or offers. (Code: RB003)  
Staff: Please attach this coupon to invoice upon purchase  
Coupon expires December 24th, 2005

Great gift to give to your Family,  
Friends & Co-Workers

### Membership Specials..

Allow Members to purchase 30 day Memberships for their friends, relatives or co-workers as Christmas presents. This could be 30 days for \$30. It is a great way for members to introduce their friends to the club. Once they are in for their 30 days, you have the opportunity to show the potential member what your club is all about. This is your time to shine!

You can advertise these Certificates in your monthly newsletter on your racquetball bulletin board or in a separate mailer to your members. Print up nice certificates with matching envelope to put under the tree or hand to their employees. You can include a special Racquetball Newsletter which details out what is included in their membership. Again, this is your time to shine!



**CASCADE  
ATHLETIC  
CLUBS**

**CAC-Gresham**  
19201 SE Division St  
Gresham, OR 97030  
1-503-665-4142

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

## 30 Day Racquetball Membership

*Includes: Intro Lesson, Round Robin Play;  
Use of all Racquetball & Fitness Facilities*

*Please Call Racquetball Director Brian Ancheta at 503.665.4142 to start your 30 days*

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

*must begin your 30 days by Feb. 15th, 2006*



Get with the Program



## Promote Racquetball in General...

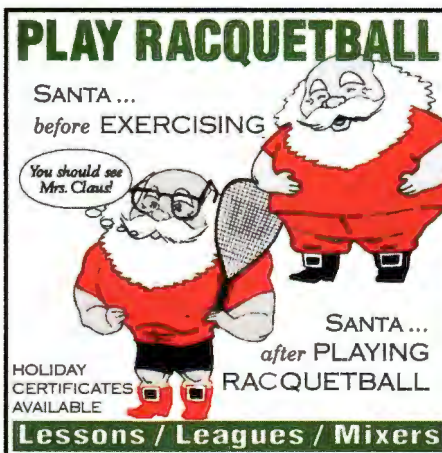
During all Holiday Seasons or to promote all your programs or say for instance just racquetball. Make sure to have nice quality signs to put out at your club. With the current inexpensive Color Printer Technology and the quality of inexpensive photo paper, and low cost graphic programs, you can produce some excellent signage at your club. If you laminate them, and do not 'year' date them, you can save them for future years.

*Connie Martin has been playing, programming and teaching at racquetball clubs for almost 30 years. She developed the Racquetball Teaching Association which is now known as AmPRO, has written two Racquetball Program Manuals, was the recipient of the Joe Halverson Award and the first IHRSA International Racquetball Programming Award. She is currently working on a project with the Racquetball Manufacturers Council, still programming at Cascade Athletic Clubs (20th year!) and coaching her sons High School Racquetball Team.*

*Connie can be reached at: [Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com](mailto:Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com)*



Get with the Program



## The Art of Racquetball by Ruben Gonzalez

[www.rubenracquetball.com](http://www.rubenracquetball.com)

Ruben's art shows the kind of creativity and imagination that has kept him at the top of his sport for so many years

Most of Ruben's work has a distinctive racquetball theme, but many pieces will appeal to a broad range of modern art lovers.

An original Ruben makes an exciting gift for your racquetball enthusiast or for any art lover. Perfect for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, or every special occasion.

To acquire a valuable piece of unique original art, contact Ruben at 917-733-5942 or email him at [ruben@rgrball.com](mailto:ruben@rgrball.com). Collect your own piece of the Legend.

*Check our website for more designs and colors.*







# Intercollegiate Racquetball Team Spotlight

By Shane Wood

## The University of Alabama

The University of Alabama team was created just a few years ago, but in its short existence has emerged as one of the dominant programs in college racquetball today. Coach Jeff Garner leads the team, but it's the support of so many parents, friends and supporters of not only the University of Alabama, but also racquetball in general, that make Alabama stand out in the pack. Jeff was very quick to point that out when asked about the program. "The best thing about the team is the support we receive from people. There would be no team if not for Bud and Natalie Crockett who have done so much for all the players. Because of them, everyone on the team is committed to improving their game and having some fun at the same time."

At the University of Alabama, team members practice four days a week for two hours. The staff works hard to schedule practice times around everyone's class schedules, often a difficult task. The schedule remains dynamic and changes depending on tournaments and school. College racquetball is a demanding sport in school because of the season length. For most schools, practices begin in September and continue without a break right up to Intercollegiate Nationals, held every year around the end of March. Because of this, Jeff works hard to keep the practices enjoyable as well as productive. "It's a pretty relaxed atmosphere at Alabama, so if someone wants to drill by themselves during practice to work on particular parts of their game, they can, or they can play the other team members. Off-court conditioning and training is accomplished in the players' free time because of concerns with class and practice schedules. I feel that requiring them to play for two hours and then work out for another one to two hours is asking too much. But as major tournaments move closer, we tend to focus more on conditioning and getting ready to compete. And we are fortunate to have great facilities -- eight courts and a brand new student recreation center."

At Alabama, there are no predetermined rankings for the positions that each athlete will play at Nationals. Instead, all of the players get together with Jeff and vote on the best team they think they can field. This is an unusual approach, since most schools around the country use year-long challenge ladders as the means to determine each team member's final playing position...but nobody can question the University of Alabama's results at Intercollegiate Nationals.

The key to successful Collegiate Racquetball programs is certainly recruiting.

Jeff explains, "We have players from across the country and Mexico and we are always looking for new players to join the team. We're a new team and have been fortunate to have some success because of the great players who have come here. Just one of the many benefits you get at Alabama is that some of the players can choose to live in a "racquetball" house, while others live in apartments on campus. But the whole team is a close group that studies together, practices together and spends some free time together. That's what makes coaching and playing at Alabama so enjoyable."

If you are interested in attending the University of Alabama or want further information on the team, e-mail Jeff Garner directly at [Racquetballuofa@gmail.com](mailto:Racquetballuofa@gmail.com). Questions about other college racquetball programs around the country can be directed to Shane Wood, Intercollegiate Racquetball Council Chairman, at [racquetballchamp@hotmail.com](mailto:racquetballchamp@hotmail.com).



# 2005/2006

## USA Racquetball Team

### WOMEN'S TEAM



**Cheryl  
Gudinas -  
Lisle, IL**



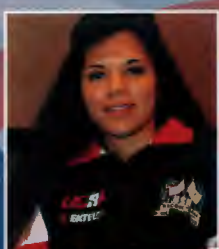
**Adrienne  
Fisher -  
Tuscaloosa, AL**



**Mitch  
Williams -  
Pueblo, CO**



**Laura  
Fenton -  
Overland  
Park, KS**



**Jackie  
Rice -  
Ramona, Ca**



**Ben  
Croft -  
Lake Bluff, IL**



**Aimee  
Ruiz -  
Stirling, NJ**



**Kim  
Russell -  
Waukegan, TX**



**Andy  
Hawthorne -  
Tallmadge, OH**



**Kristen  
Walsh -  
Salt Lake  
City, UT**



### MEN'S TEAM

**Jack  
Huczek -  
Rochester, MI**



### COACHES

**Coach  
Dave  
Ellis -  
Stockton, CA**



**Tammy  
Brown -  
Boise, ID**



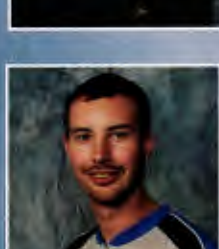
**Rocky  
Carlson -  
Ladera  
Ranch, CA**



**Coach  
John  
Ellis -  
Stockton, CA**



**Kerri  
Wachtel -  
Cincinnati,  
OH**



**Jason  
Thoenner -  
Canton, GA**



# 2005/06

# Junior

# Team

# USA

# Prepares

# for

# World

# Championships

During the summer, Junior Team USA held a training camp for all qualified team participants as well as alternates. The coaches, Kelly Beane, Cheryl Gudinas, Shane Wood, Jack Huczek, and Andy Pitock spent five days working on all facets of the sport. A great deal of individual time was spent with each athlete, creating a training program for the next four months to help prepare each athlete for the big event.

The team will also meet in November for a mini camp in Chicago at the Glass Court Racquet Club. This camp will determine if the athletes have worked on their program, eliminated weakness and are ready for the next six weeks for of final preparation.

Special thanks to the Glass Court Racquet Club, the Illinois Racquetball Association, Cheryl Kirk, Laurel Davis and Geoff Peters for helping with this November camp.

Athletes after  
simulation run



Team and Coaches



Shane Wood  
instructing





# Junior Matters

by Jennifer Cook

## Team Courts Plus

Courts Plus of New Bern, North Carolina has had a juniors racquetball program for the better part of ten years. During that time the program has evolved from a few volunteers teaching basic skills to the wonderfully structured program it is today. In the first few years of the program, the class had five to ten juniors. All the students were taught the same skills at the same time. Today's program maintains an attendance of between 20 and 30 juniors divided among six different levels of instruction.

Juniors at Courts Plus interested in learning to play racquetball can start as soon as they turn six years old. The beginner's level is generally for our 6 and 7-year-olds. We teach them very basic skills, begin showing them some fun drills to improve their hand-eye coordination and teach them the basic rules of multi-bounce racquetball. At this young age, hand-eye coordination takes a while to develop, so most repeat this level several times before graduating to the intermediate levels.

There are two intermediate levels. In each of these levels, we show the juniors the rest of the basic skills and a few more drills. We also teach them about tournament etiquette and refereeing skills. We start bringing them from multi-bounce down to three-bounce then to two-bounce games. By the time the juniors graduate from the second intermediate level, they are ready to play single-bounce racquetball and are ready for tournament play.

Next the juniors go on to the advanced levels. There are three advanced levels. Here we teach them the more complex aspects of racquetball. We introduce them to doubles and begin the slow arduous process of refining their game. This usually involves lot of drills and electrical tape so that the students have a visual line to begin dropping their shots below. By the time they graduate from the last of the advanced levels, they are fine racquetball players and good athletes.

At all the levels, even the beginners, we teach the juniors the importance of exercising and stretching to

maintain good physical health and to improve their game. We stress good sportsmanship in each class and we remind them that racquetball is a game and should be fun, regardless of whether they win or lose.

The success of the program has been a strong selling point for Courts Plus. Clients are given a brochure detailing the juniors program when they tour the club. Many families have joined the club because of the juniors program as well as the other programs the club offers to children. A strong juniors program is a must for any racquet club. The future of our great sport lies with our youth. The more children we teach to play racquetball, the quicker our sport will grow.



For the past five years, I have been teaching the juniors program at Courts Plus. And for the last two or three years I have had two great assistants – Jenny Wood and Ray White.

Occasionally several of our advanced students will also assist with teaching the lower levels. We run three nine-week sessions from September through May with a two-week break between each session and an occasional break for holidays and tournaments. Each session ends with a graduation

ceremony and a pizza party, compliments of the club. The three of us love the sport and love to encourage the juniors of our club. Watching them grow and develop in the sport is a priceless reward. The kids seem to love the classes as well. Several of our students have been in the program for as long as I have been teaching. They eat, drink and sleep racquetball. Many have begun to play in tournaments and this added competition has only strengthened their love of the sport.

The program is fully supported by the club management, the parents, the instructors and even the juniors. As our juniors branch out and begin playing in more tournaments, they are representatives of our club and ambassadors for the sport. They never fail to do us proud!





# "BUILDING YOUR PERFECT GAME"

## Fran's HOUSE



**Q: FRAN, I FIND I AM INCONSISTENT AND I AM LOSING MATCHES I SHOULDN'T BE... ANY SUGGESTIONS???**

**A:** Well, there is no secret to being **CONSISTENT** in racquetball or in any sport for that matter. Consistency comes from practice and hard work...rehearsing the same thing over and over again. In order to experience some level of consistency one **MUST** practice or drill on a regular basis their strokes, their serves, their shots (passes, ceilings, pinches and, and, and...), their return of serve and their **EVERYTHING**.

If you look at any sport like baseball, football, basketball, soccer, tennis, track or whatever sport you are involved in **PRACTICE** is the **MOST IMPORTANT** component in achieving consistency. Just look at the following few examples:

### a. PROFESSIONAL SPORTS:

**Baseball**...there is spring training where they practice running double plays, pitching, catching, fielding, etc. to work out the bugs and become more consistent.

**Football**...there is summer camps where they practice their passing, tackling, running plays, quarterback sacks, quick huddle offense, etc. to work out the bugs and become more consistent.

**Basketball**...there is pre-season training where they practice foul shoots, lay ups, three pointers, zone defense, passing plays, fast breaks, etc. to work out the bugs and become more consistent.

### b. ORGANIZED SPORTS FOR CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL:

If you have children you know there is practice after school or on weekends 3-5X per week depending on the sport. This is above and beyond the actual game or meet...there are no ands, ifs or buts about it as the coaches know what it takes to be consistent and have the kids perform at their **VERY** best.

By practicing and drilling these teams or individuals are working out the bugs and mistakes and developing correct muscle memory so they can call upon it when they are in a game situation and in the heat of the battle. If all they did was just play and **NEVER** took the time to correct their mistakes and work on them in practice then their consistency level would be very erratic leading to poor performances.

Racquetball is **NOT** exempt from this line of thinking. The best players in the game today Jason, Kane, Cliff, Christie, Cheryl or Rhonda, just to name a few, believe wholeheartedly in practice and drilling because the results speak for themselves. These pros are some the **MOST CONSISTENT** professionals around and know they would **NOT** be at the top of their games if the didn't take the time and make the effort to be on the court working out the bugs and inconsistencies they experience.

I have a few phrases I use at my camps when talking about becoming more consistent in your game:

*"Practice to improve, play to win"*

*"Practice makes perfect, no perfect practice makes perfect"*

*"Practice in racquetball is like a dress rehearsal for a Broadway play"*

The key here is the more you practice, drill and rehearse the more consistent you will become, thusly the better player you will be. Unfortunately, there are **NO** shortcuts, **NO** pills or **NO** magic just hard work to "become the best you can be".

In order to help you develop your **CONSISTENCY LEVEL** you can use the following 2 approaches that I encourage everyone to do:

a. "The Five Step Approach to Drilling"...see my video "Building Your Racquetball Dream House"...Chapter 4 for the details.

b. Play Games with an Objective in Mind...

1. Serve an entire game, score on every rally (works on your serving game)

a. Do an entire game with the same serve and then eventually mix up your serves.

2. Receive serve an entire game, score on every rally (works on your receiving game).

3. Receive a bonus point for making the specific shot you are working on. For example if you are working on a pinch shot then do as follows:

a. If you end the rally on a pinch shot and you are serving you receive 1 point for ending the rally and 1 bonus point, so a total of 2 points are scored for you.

b. If you end the rally on a pinch shot and you are not serving, it's side out plus 1 bonus point, so you add a total of 1 point to your score.

4. Start the game out with a specific shot you are working on, like a ceiling shot or off the back wall (as if it was the serve) and then play out the rally.

5. Play games with no score, just an allotted period of time therefore there is no pressure to win.

6. Play games with winning in mind when you are getting close to a tournament so you can begin to assimilate a tournament situation. If you need to add an incentive then play for a soda, or lunch, or dinner, do whatever it takes to motivate yourself to play like you are in a tournament.

Just remember, if you want to Win those matches that you are Losing **CONSISTENCY** is the main ingredient to accomplish just that. The more you believe in this concept the more often you will reach your goals. Good luck!

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction or the next best thing buy our video if you can't make a camp at this time. Go to [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details on both the video and camps.



# WHAT'S THE CALL?

By OTTO DIETRICH • USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL RULES COMMISSIONER



At National Doubles, one of the local reporters at the event, who was apparently watching racquetball for the first time, had two questions about the match he was observing -- how can you tell when the rally is over and why are the players questioning the referee so much? Both were, in my judgment, very valid observations.

Just as the referee must signal the start of each rally by calling the score (or second serve), he should also signal the end of each rally by declaring a "skip," "two bounces," or a "hinder" of some type. Technically, every rally ends in one of those ways.

However, I hasten to add that there are some other perfectly acceptable, and perhaps even preferable, things to say instead at the end of a rally. For example, I prefer to say "Good Shot" as a substitute for calling out "two bounces" which is really occurs when one player hits the ball so good that the other player cannot get to the ball before then. Another term that I've inserted into my racquetball verbiage is the word "STOP!" (I got this from boxing, by the way.) I've found that yelling out this term always produces the desired effect (immediate play stoppage) and is far easier to say in a loud, demonstrative way than any other word I can think of. After you've stopped play using that all-purpose term, then you can tell the players, usually in a much calmer voice, exactly why you stopped the play -- for example, there was a hinder or the ball skipped.

So, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind -- not the ref's, not the players', and not the spectators' -- as to exactly when the referee thinks the rally is over. I have encountered a few top players who will continue playing the ball until they hear the ref declare the rally over. It is not acceptable for the referee to assume that the players realize the rally is over because one of them hit an obvious skip ball. At National Doubles, one referee who was not doing this said that the reason was that he didn't want to

**"... there should be no doubt in anyone's mind -- not the ref's, not the players', and not the spectators' -- as to when the referee thinks the rally is over."**

embarrass the players by calling every skip. I told him he should avoid that by merely saying the word "skip" in a rather matter-of-fact manner when the call is obvious, but then yelling it out whenever there could be some doubt on the part of the players.

There is one last housekeeping step to properly ending a rally. The referee must declare out loud how he actually scored that rally. He does this simply by either saying "point" as he marks the scorecard or else "sideout" as he turns the scorecard over without marking a point. Of course, the ref might also say "replay" when that type of hinder occurs or, in doubles, "handout" when it becomes the second server's turn to serve. Players can expect that the referee say these things so they know he has marked the scorecard correctly. If he doesn't do this, then the players can't be sure of how he treated the last rally until he calls out the score to begin the next rally. And, if an error was made, then that rally may be disrupted.

Finally, about the questioning the referee, I agree that there was too much going on in the match that the reporter observed. Admittedly, the situation was not ideal since the court was totally enclosed, causing the players to have to open the court door to speak with the referee. But the players appeared to take advantage of the situation by often presenting

their case before making an appeal since the line judges were sitting where the players' comments could be heard.

Sometimes the nature of the appeal was so obvious that the referee didn't even need to hear what the player had to say. A few of the appeals were a bit complex and the referee may have needed some clarification. But such "player presentations" should have been limited to only what the referee needed to address the appeal. In the opinion of several knowledgeable persons, cases could have been made (1) assessing a technical foul for "excessive arguing" or (2) even disallowing a player's appeal because of an excessive demonstration or complaint. There is very rarely a need for the referee to explain why he called what he did and I've found that when such an attempt is made, a discussion often ensues about some fine point of what the referee just said. Such discussions are not useful, merely delay the game, and can result in observations such as those made by that reporter.

Always "Play by the Rules" and, if you don't have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them on-line at: <http://www.usaracquetball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=839>. Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at [ODietrich@usra.org](mailto:ODietrich@usra.org) and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball.





Instructional

# WATCHING THE

# BALL

BY SUDSY MONCHIK



Presented By:



“Watching the Ball” is a critical part of the game that is often not stressed enough. Watch the Ball at all times..... when you are returning the serve(Trick #1), during the rally(Trick #2 & 3), when you are serving (Trick #4), when you are stroking the ball(Trick #5) and when diving (Trick #6). I have played sports all my life from basketball to baseball to stick ball to football to etc. and you never take your eye off the ball or moving object. Racquetball is NO different.....you want to Watch the Ball ,as well as your opponents body position and footwork, as often as you can and as intently as you can , whether they are in front of you or behind you. This information will give you a more educated guess as to what they are going to do with the ball.....

if the ball is up and above their shoulders then they are probably going to hit a ceiling ball.

if the ball is knee high or lower they are probably going to hit a pass or pass-kill or kill.

if the ball is knee high and lower, but way out in front of them, they are probably going to go cross court.

if the ball is knee high and lower, but way behind them, then they will probably pinch the ball into the corner.

By watching the ball and your opponent you have doubled your reaction time.....you see the ball come off their racquet, into the front wall and then out again. If you do not watch the ball and your opponent you have decreased your reaction by half.....you only see it come off the front wall, you don't see it leave your opponents racquet and go into the front wall.

With today's game the ball travels at too fast a pace because of the oversized racquets, the faster ball and for me the new HEAD “LM 165 IGS”...so increased reaction time is a must.



## TRICK 1

### RETURNING THE SERVE

Eyes are on the ball the ENTIRE time...when your opponent is bouncing the ball getting ready to serve, when the racquet strikes the ball, when the ball leaves your opponents racquet and travels toward the front wall as well as coming off the front wall.

## TRICK 2

### DURING THE RALLY- YOU ARE IN FRONT OF YOUR OPPONENT

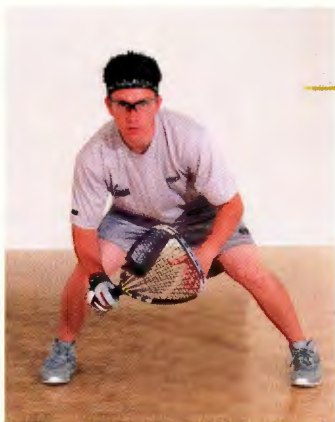


Eyes are on the ball ...your body is square to the front wall and then your upper body is slightly rotated and your head is turned.



## TRICK 3 DURING THE RALLY YOU ARE BEHIND YOUR OPPONENT

Eyes are on the ball...your body is square to the front wall and your head is forward looking at the ball.



## TRICK 4 WHEN SERVING

Eyes are on the ball...when setting up to serve as well as when the racquet strikes the ball.



## TRICK 5 FOLLOW THROUGH

- The racquet head is pointing to the back wall
- Chest and belly button is facing the front wall
- Eyes are looking up at the ball



## TRICK 6 WHEN DIVING

Eyes are on the ball the ENTIRE time especially when the racquet strikes the ball.

Once again, I want to reiterate just how important, no imperative, it is to WATCH the BALL. The pictures in this article of me, the 5X #1 professional player in the world, as well as those in the magazine of Jason, Kane, Cliff, Christie and Rhonda clearly shows us watching the ball intently the entire match. I can attest that by watching the ball and my opponent I get a much better jump on the ball and even appear faster than I really am.

Anyway, my advice as the 5X #1 professional player in the world is to WATCH the BALL morning, noon and night, anytime that is, and your reaction to the ball will improve

drastically. Fran Davis taught me a clever trick which I use on my students all the time.....use typewriter white out and paint two lines around the ball.....this helps you learn how to track the ball a little bit better and longer so you can react to the ball quicker.

Please, I invite you to attend one of the camps with Fran Davis to learn this first hand or in the meantime pick up one of our videos, "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" with Fran, Jason and myself. Go to [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details.



# Ellistyle



## The Rally Cutoff

Let me paint a racquetball picture for you!! You just hit a great passing shot and you have your opponent on the run towards the back wall hoping to make a saving shot into the back wall. As you watch this happen from your great center court position you begin to think to yourself, I've got this rally. Your opponent makes the get into the back wall. The ball is floating towards the front wall and your mind is telling you to back up for the setup.....Hold it. Most of the time there is a better option than backing up to take a 30-40 foot offensive shot. It's called cutting the ball off.

This situation explained above happens at all levels, maybe a little more at the D-A levels. But still 99% of the time a player will choose to back up and hit the offensive shot from deep in the court. My question is why shoot from 35' when you have an opportunity from 5-10'? Cutting shots off during the rally takes practice both mentally and physically. You have to change your natural instincts from waiting for the ball after the first bounce to attacking the ball before it bounces in the frontcourt. Check out the photo series to help you incorporate this shot into your game.

**PHOTO 1:** Ball Recognition is important. Keep your eyes on your opponent as they make the get into the back wall. See the ball early as it's heading towards the front wall so you can recognize where your contact area will be.



**PHOTOS 2 & 3:** Now that you've established where your contact area will be, it's time to hustle to that location. Don't get lazy here. Get to the area of the frontcourt quickly so that you have time to adjust to any funny bounces. As you near contact point make sure to turn your body and face up to the sidewall for either a backhand or forehand cut off. This will allow you to maximize your control and power of the cut off by shuffling into the shot.





**PHOTOS 4:** Once you've gotten yourself into good position than it's all about timing. Timing comes with practice, especially when dealing with cutting balls off before they bounce. Remember that you are 5-10' feet from the front wall and power really isn't that important. Hitting the right shot at the correct angle is what's important. Your number one option should be the down the line. This will give your opponent the least amount of time to react to your shot. Going crosscourt will allow your opponent to have an extra second to see the ball. Whichever shot you do choose, focus on staying low and not pulling out of the shot to early.



**PHOTOS 5-8:** The only way to incorporate this shot into your game is by practicing. This is easy to do by yourself. Stand in deep center court, turn towards the back wall and hit the ball high and hard. Immediately turn around, begin tracking the ball and moving forward to take your shot. With practice you'll realize the rally cut off is the high percentage shot in this situation. Once you've become an expert at cutting the ball off down the line, its time to try the reverse pinch. I've renamed this shot the New York Reverse after Ruben, Suds and Jason. All three are experts at the cut off reverse. The value of this shot is that when hit properly the ball will literally bounce twice in front of you even though you may be just 5' from the front wall. Stay with the basic down the line for starters.





# 37 Secrets from the Pro Tour

The "37 Secrets" is a collection of tips, techniques and strategies that both men and women pros use on the professional tours. Here are a few of them. You can see more at [www.racquetballacademy.com](http://www.racquetballacademy.com)

## Strategy

### Opponent's warm-up

How to stop a Splat Happy Player? Give them ceiling balls down the middle. Makes the angle difficult to hit to get the 'splat effect' and often sends their splat attempts into mid court.

On speed game  
Ceiling ball down middle

What serves get wh

Quick serve

How to score?

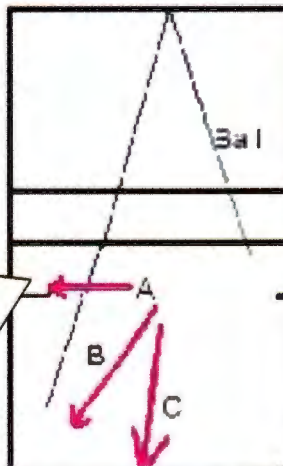
Opponent's reaction to serves

What to expect of lousy serve

Wide vs. Tight pinch

There are three paths to get to a passing shot from center court. I call them the A, B and C paths. If you watch Jason Mannino, he often dives towards the back wall and makes some unbelievable gets. He is speeding up, on a path almost parallel to the path of the ball, but the ball is slowing down (simple physics). The path he often takes is the B path.

Pros use the A path only when the ball they are retrieving will bounce twice before the encroachment line. Taking the B path allows you to get behind the ball. Remember, the ball is slowing down while you are speeding up, so hopefully with your efficient footwork you won't have to dive. The C path is mostly used when returning ceiling balls.



## Mechanical

### Long Ceiling Ball rallies

Okay, so you pull out your best jam serve to the backhand and before you know it, your opponent has rolled the ball out for a quick sideout. "Damn," you think. Now what? Not so fast... If you can train yourself to study *how* your opponent hits it, you may not want to discard the serve too quickly. For example, let's say I serve that jam. I notice my opponent has raised her shoulders to get her body away from the ball and steps backward to give herself room. But, she is off balance, flails at it, and manages to hit a kill shot return. Is that a bad serve choice? Not necessarily. In that instance, she obviously had trouble reading the ball and was not overly prepared - she just happened upon a good, lucky return. I would try that serve again (after a few other different serves) and study her reaction. If she responds poorly, she may have a weakness there. Don't just look at the quality of the return, look for patterns and trends each player has returning each different serve you deliver.

Desperation swing

A, B, C Path

## Mental

### Unlimited timeouts

Intimate knowledge of the court

Do something different

Mantra

Right now, think of your home court...how many lights are on the ceiling? Six? Eight? How high up does the back wall go before there is a balcony or a rail? Is the front wall a different surface than the side walls? Are there stripes on the glass? How high up? Since we pros travel to compete on many different courts, we try to get comfortable by familiarizing ourselves with all walls, colors, surfaces and oddities of each court. For example, often there's a storage box, usually on the left side wall (for players to keep balls, keys, etc.) Unfortunately, it is placed right where a high z-serve will hit. During my warm-up, I'll purposely toss a few off of the door of the box and then hit my shot. By doing that, when the ball hits it during a match, I won't be surprised or distracted by the different sound or bounce.



# Fast and Furious or Form and Finesse Part 2

## How Stringing Choice Affects the Personality of Your Game

By Steve Crandall

Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Ashaway Racket Strings

Last time we talked about the "personality" of different racket sports, in particular, how racquetball thrives on fast, "furious" and fitness, while squash relies on form, finesse and fitness. Now let's look at how these distinctions affect stringing choices.

### Stringing For **Fast** vs **Form**

In racquetball, speed is the name of the game. With typical drive serves clocked at 100 to 130 mph, it makes sense that racquetball players want to increase power. Looser string tensions will achieve this by increasing the trampoline effect--that rapid stretch and rebound of the string bed as it contacts the ball. The more resilient the string bed, the more power it generates.

With squash, on the other hand, form is essential to good play. Because the squash ball is soft and slow, players must move to the ball, rather than wait for the ball to come to them. Good form improves shot control, keeping your opponent on his or her toes.

A more tightly strung racket will increase control. With a stiff string bed, the ball bounces off the racket face at a single instant. The player is better able to anticipate the moment of impact, and adjust the racket angle to optimize control over the placement of the shot.

### Stringing For **Furious** vs **Finesse**

Racquetball rallies are based on power, with the best shot being the "kill shot," which is hit fast and low to the ground. The game is furious. Thicker strings provide maximum durability, and reduce the chance of a string breaking midpoint--and interrupting your momentum. That's why players like World Champion Jack Huczek choose Ashaway's SuperKill(r) II for their frames.

Conversely, squash is a cat-and-mouse game where hitting drop shots up front, solid "rails" along the wall, and well placed lobbs in the back corners give you the competitive edge. Squash requires finesse. Again, the name of the game is control. Thin strings penetrate the surface of the squash ball a bit deeper on impact, giving players better command over ball placement. Textured string surfaces also enhance spins and slices for optimum ball control.

### Stringing for **Success**

Does this mean that racquetball players can't pinpoint where their shots land? Or that a squash player has to sacrifice power to gain control?

Absolutely not. New, modern materials and string manufacturing techniques offer racket sport players a wide range of playing characteristics, all in a single string.

Zyex(r) fiber racket strings, for instance, increase power and playability at the same time, and offer better feel. Some nylon



polymer strings now have an abrasion resistant wear layer that protects against notching--a notorious string killer in the fast and furious game of racquetball.

Zyex fibers also offer superior tension-holding properties in racquetball strings--ideal for players who string tightly--and they add tremendous power. For example, strings like Ashaway's PowerKill(r) Pro are available in gauges as thin as 17, or just 1.25 mm, and really bite into the ball, for added control.

Nylon multifilament strings like SuperKill XL have also come a long way. Textured surfaces enhance spins and slices, while the multifilament construction offers gut-like performance and playability. While you might sacrifice a bit in terms of durability, they offer a good combination of ball control and optimum resiliency.



"Hybrid stringing," or using two distinctly different types of string--one for the mains and another for the crosses--is very popular in racquetball. It lets players take advantage of the best properties each of the strings has to offer. For example, a racket strung with 16-gauge DuPont(tm) Kevlar(r) mains and nylon polymer crosses provides a firm string bed, good bite on the ball and exceptional durability. Dropping the gauge of either or both strings to 17 will increase playability. Players can achieve these traits with prepackaged hybrid strings, or by customizing their own combination--some even substituting squash string for maximum resiliency and feel.

Both racquetball and squash players will have more and more choices as string materials and manufacturing techniques continue to advance. The key to choosing the right string for your game is to know your sports personality, and then pick a string that maximizes your performance.

*Photo Caption: 1- Zyex fibers offer superior tension-holding properties in racquetball strings--ideal for players who string tightly--and they add tremendous power. Strings like Ashaway's PowerKill(r) Pro are available in gauges as thin as 17, and really bite into the ball, for optimum control. 2- Nylon multifilament strings like SuperKill XL offer a good combination of ball control and optimum resiliency. Textured surfaces enhance spins and slices, while multifilament construction offers gut-like performance and playability.*



# SOUND OFF!

## ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE

**Joe Sobek Outstanding Contribution Award:** This award is based on an outstanding commitment to the sport of Racquetball.

**Presidential Award:** This award is given to the State President who has exhibited outstanding organizational performance in their state.

**John Halverson Fair Play Award:** This award is for anyone who had an exceptional gesture of fair play carried out during the year or for anyone who has sports career which has consistently shown a spirit of fair play.

**Peggy Steding Female Age Group Award:** Any outstanding female athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of their performance record for the preceding year.

**Bud Muchleisen Male Age Group Award:** Any outstanding

male athlete, age 35 and over, is chosen on the basis of their performance record for the preceding year.

If you know someone who falls into one of the categories please nominate them for one of the awards. All nominations must be submitted before the end of February.

You can email your nomination to: [djeasterling@earthlink.net](mailto:djeasterling@earthlink.net) or mail your nomination to:

Annual Awards  
321 Village Drive  
Lansing, MI 48911

Along with your nomination please list your name and phone number (s) in case we need to contact you.

## FRA Supports Victims of Hurricane Katrina

*by Andy Pawlowski and Karen Bouchard, Florida Racquetball Association*

On behalf of all Florida Racquetball Association members, \$3,500 was donated in September to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. The contribution came from entry fee proceeds at the Regional Doubles Championships held at The Body Mill 24-Hour Fitness, Inc. in Clearwater. The American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund was the recipient of the donation.

Tournament organizer Karen Bouchard asked fellow members of the FRA Board of Directors to approve the contribution.

"This marks the first time in history that the FRA has made a charitable donation to a cause. All board members were in complete agreement that this was certainly the time to step up," said Bouchard. "And the response from the 156 tournament players was also overwhelmingly positive." Bouchard said Florida residents are well aware of the disastrous effects of hurricanes.

An additional \$200 was raised due to the generosity of tournament participants who donated their \$5 referee fees. Bouchard said, "This is definitely the most ref money ever collected for various causes since I have been on the FRA board, demonstrating the charity and compassion of our players."

## MIXED DOUBLES DIVISIONS OFFERED AT WORLD SENIOR RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

*by Andy Pawlowski and Karen Bouchard, Florida Racquetball Association*

The new Mixed Doubles divisions added to The World Senior Racquetball Championships in Albuquerque this year were met with great success. Thirty teams entered starting at age 35+ and ending with two entries in the 70+. Greeted with enthusiasm, the competition was tough, fun, and gave players the opportunity to meet new people.

An unusual entry in Mixed Doubles was a mother-and-son team. Joy DeSantis, a 60+ competitor, played with her son Kevin Watson (aged 41), so of course they played Mixed 40+. They took the Gold!

Joy said, "It was my most thrilling moment in racquetball when my dream of winning a national or world championship with my son came true. The only thing that could beat it would be winning

a national event with my grandson (currently 7 years old). He was at the tournament and so excited that his grandmother and father received gold medals. As soon as he returned home, he started practicing and told me he was getting ready to win a medal with me!"

This was Kevin Watson's first gold medal at a World Championship and he commented, "It was special to win with my mother." But, we don't imagine this will be his one and only gold in Albuquerque...he is going to concentrate on singles now. Watch out, Men's 40!





# Reno Group to Build 18-Court Public Facility

By Mike Neeser, President, Nevada Racquetball Association

The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association recently released data indicating an increase in racquetball participation. I have personally witnessed this growth at our club here in Reno. It seems that a lot of those 15 million baby boomers who played racquetball in the 60's and 70's are returning to the sport they once enjoyed to get fit and have fun. Playing several competitive games of racquetball with friends and colleagues is once again proving a lot more appealing and fun than boring workouts and fad diets!

However, this increase in participation may be short-lived due to a complete industry transformation over the last forty years that has had a major impact on court availability and where to play racquetball. The pure public racquetball club that created the popularity of the sport is almost nonexistent today. What evolved is the private health club facility that focuses on electronic cardio machines, fitness apparatus and a host of other amenities geared to sell expensive adult memberships and long-term contracts. The 800 square foot court containing two players proved expendable in favor of fitness equipment and classes (more people per square foot).

After anticipating and researching industry trends for quite some time, we recently formed Court Sports Development Group, LLC and collaborated with notable industry professionals Joe Garcia, John Ellis, Jay Mathis, Scott Winters, Shawn Royster and others. Our goal was to develop, build and market a state-of-the-art public social facility for the recreational and competitive players, offering racquetball and other court sports. This facility is also intended to provide entrepreneurial league/tournament directors and teaching professionals the opportunity to create successful and profitable local, regional and national programs.

Located on five acres of prime commercial property, the facility will feature 18 glass back wall courts, an exercise area, full service restaurant, large screen TVs, wireless internet, a meeting/classroom and a pro shop. Above the atrium on the third floor will be 8,500 square feet of prime executive office space with club accessibility. Tenants will include court sports aficionados and several court sports associations who have expressed interest in relocating their operations to the facility.

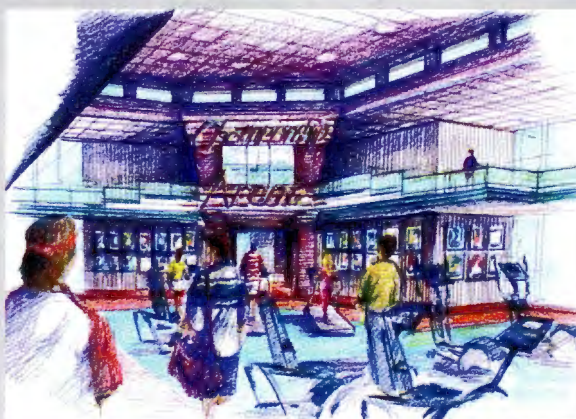
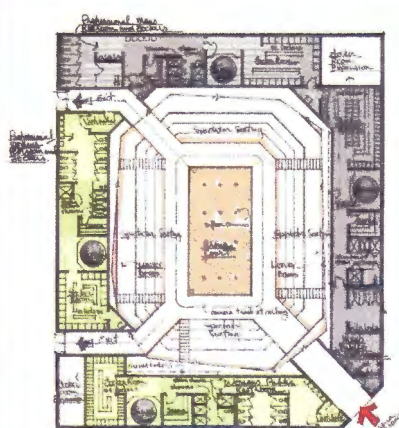
One of many facilities that will be developed in key U.S. markets, The RCSC will be completely electronic and will function profitably and efficiently without the mandatory membership dues and fees found in private clubs. Patent-pending software, hardware and stored value/debit card technology developed by the managing partner will allow the consumer to pre-pay and purchase court time; gain entry into the facility; turn on lights in their prepaid court; register for leagues and tournaments; and find playing

partners from any computer connected to the internet and at the kiosk in the facility.

The most outstanding feature of the facility is the four-wall glass arena court with seating for 1,000, built specifically for television coverage. Complete with luxury boxes, a media production center, professional player and executive locker rooms, the arena court is unlike any facility in the world. It will be the perfect venue to host regional and national tournaments.

The new "Court Sports Portable Court" is being constructed by the managing partner as a marketing vehicle to be placed in selected high traffic venues in Reno prior to opening. Celebrity exhibitions, professional demonstrations, spectator participation and free passes will generate a significant customer database and mailing list prior to opening. The portable court will also serve as the primary marketing vehicle for subsequent facilities and potential investors around the country.

If you would like more information regarding this exciting project please contact Mike Neeser at [neeserball@aol.com](mailto:neeserball@aol.com), at (775) 348-9791, or at our web site [www.allcourtsports.com](http://www.allcourtsports.com).





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# NATIONAL RANKING UPDATE



At first glance you will notice how different the rankings look, and many players may questions their placement within the current list. Please remember the current list is only an initial starting point, and is only as accurate as the amount of information included. As we include more information the rankings will of course achieve greater accuracy. You may also notice the difference in age group listings. The new system is based upon skill levels of the players involved, thus making the division they compete in irrelevant except for comparison purposes. Each division includes everyone that qualifies for that division and thus will be much more accurate for seeding purposes. As example,

although Ruben Gonzales does not play any 50 plus events he may still be seeded one in 50 plus because of his victories against higher ranked open players.

States can still extract all state players from the national list to review the rankings of there own players. In the future, when more data is entered we will also create Open, A, B, etc. division breaks within the current list and include juniors.

For further clarification of typical ranking questions please go to ranking information under rankings at [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)

## NATIONAL RANKINGS

**Female Over 25 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Van Hees Christie	Kelowna
2	Gudinas Cheryl	Lisle
3	Rajsch Rhonda	Fountain Hills
4	Wachtel Kerri	Cincinnati
5	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
6	Brown Tammy	Boise
7	Grisar Angela	Santiago, Rm
8	Powell Lori-Jane	Chula Vista
9	Moore Diane	Griffith
10	Garcia Claudine	Gun Barrel City
11	Gellman Rachel	El Mirage
12	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
13	Shattuck Jo	Denver
14	Hallander Kersten	San Diego
15	Rice Jacqueline	Ramona
16	Russell-wa Kim	Austin
17	Acosta Susana	Chula Vista
18	Bessent Stephanie	Lawrence
19	Foster Amy	Riverside
20	Bailey Mallia	Norfolk
21	Albrecht Elaine	Delaware
22	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
23	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring
24	Feaster Shannon	Silver Spring
25	Moore Linda	Madison

**Female Over 30 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Gudinas Cheryl	Lisle
2	Wachtel Kerri	Cincinnati
3	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
4	Brown Tammy	Boise
5	Grisar Angela	Santiago, Rm
6	Powell Lori-Jane	Chula Vista
7	Moore Diane	Griffith
8	Garcia Claudine	Gun Barrel City
9	Gellman Rachel	El Mirage
10	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
11	Shattuck Jo	Denver
12	Hallander Kersten	San Diego
13	Rice Jacqueline	Ramona
14	Russell-wa Kim	Austin
15	Bessent Stephanie	Lawrence
16	Foster Amy	Riverside
17	Bailey Mallia	Norfolk
18	Albrecht Elaine	Delaware
19	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
20	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring
21	Moore Linda	Madison
22	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
23	Myers Janet	Charlotte
24	Morton Karen	Harrisburg
25	Dunn Heather	Prides Crossing

**Female Over 35 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Gudinas Cheryl	Lisle
2	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
3	Moore Diane	Griffith
4	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
5	Shattuck Jo	Denver
6	Hallander Kersten	San Diego
7	Rice Jacqueline	Ramona
8	Russell-wa Kim	Austin
9	Bailey Mallia	Norfolk
10	Albrecht Elaine	Delaware
11	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
12	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring
13	Moore Linda	Madison
14	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
15	Myers Janet	Charlotte
16	Morton Karen	Harrisburg
17	Willyard Patty	Amarillo
18	Kanyon Sylinda	Houston
19	Beresford Teresa	Fort Washington
20	Key Karen	Gilbert
21	Taragan Solanna	Redondo Beach
22	Maldonado Anita	Bronx
23	Remen Holly	Apex
24	Galloway Lorraine	Hempstead
25	Bryant Debra	Sneads Ferry

**Female Over 40 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
2	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
3	Hallander Kersten	San Diego
4	Bailey Mallia	Norfolk

Rank	Name	City
5	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
6	Moore Linda	Madison
7	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
8	Myers Janet	Charlotte
9	Willyard Patty	Amarillo
10	Kanyon Sylinda	Houston
11	Key Karen	Gilbert
12	Taragan Solanna	Redondo Beach
13	Maldonado Anita	Bronx
14	Remen Holly	Apex
15	Galloway Lorraine	Hempstead
16	Bryant Debra	Sneads Ferry
17	Evans Meena	Advance
18	Mosi Cheryl	Clarence
19	Evon Chris	Wheeling
20	Washington Genevieve	Cincinnati
21	Coplen Sheri	St. Louis
22	Gopie Jacqueline	Coral Gables
23	Hjelm Lisa	Carmichael
24	Molitor Liz	Glen Ellyn
25	Lynch Marcy	Lansdale

**Female Over 45 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Bailey Mallia	Norfolk
2	Moore Linda	Madison
3	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
4	Myers Janet	Charlotte
5	Kanyon Sylinda	Houston
6	Key Karen	Gilbert
7	Maldonado Anita	Bronx
8	Evans Meena	Advance
9	Evon Chris	Wheeling
10	Gopie Jacqueline	Coral Gables
11	Molitor Liz	Glen Ellyn
12	Lynch Marcy	Lansdale
13	Stoffregen Gerri	Cincinnati
14	McKinney Mary	Springdale
15	Mickel Karen	Tucker
16	Kubany Sandy	Olney
17	Stephens Peggy	Louisville
18	Goodwin Sue	Tuljunga
19	Richards Marcia	Littletton
20	Petronelli Roz	N. Easton
21	Tilbury Cindy	Waterford
22	Green Karen	Shoreline
23	Moekel Alice	Haverhill
24	Bennett Mary	
25	Kazarosian Marsha	

**Female Over 50 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Myers Janet	Charlotte
2	Key Karen	Gilbert
3	Evans Meena	Advance
4	Lynch Marcy	Lansdale
5	Stoffregen Gerri	Cincinnati
6	Kubany Sandy	Olney
7	Goodwin Sue	Tuljunga
8	Richards Marcia	Littletton
9	Petronelli Roz	N. Easton
10	Green Karen	Waterford
11	Pomodoro Joanne	East Boston
12	Pratt-doer Dianne	Renton
13	Dexter Elaine	Pleasanton
14	Praher Susan	Neptune Beach
15	Cooper Donna	Hurst
16	Berry Marsha	Louisville
17	Luttrell Jere	Arlington
18	Hernandez Tina	Miami
19	Rogers Terry Ann	San Mateo
20	Modlung Phd Jane	Concord
21	Kronenfeld Nancy	Park Ridge
22	Mehegan Barbara	Colorado Springs
23	Lee Susan	Dover
24	Hastings-w Sharon	Conavills
25	Rogers Terry	Madera

**Female Over 55 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Stoffregen Gerri	Cincinnati
2	Rogers Terry Ann	San Mateo
3	Modlung Phd Jane	Concord
4	Lee Susan	Dover
5	Hastings-w Sharon	Conavills
6	Kong Pat	Mukiteo
7	Vande Kieft Joan	Chicago
8	Ruzicky Kathleen	Lombard
9	Kieffer Susan	Nisswa

Rank	Name	City
10	Falso Agatha	Boca Raton
11	Parsons Shirley	Rangely
12	Huczek Sharon	Rochester
13	Markis Loretta	Aurora
14	Molina Marquita	Wasco
15	Johnson Joann	Bellingham
16	Lemon Paula	Broken Arrow
17	Brockbank Sharon	Boise
18	Sperling Paula	Albuquerque
19	Huneycutt Judy	Hot Springs
20	Nieves Maria	Waukegan
21	Kovar Annabelle	Lincoln
22	Gwinn Mildred	Waxhaw
23	Kanyon Joanna	Tallahassee
24	Funes Nidia	Novato
25	Fisher Barbara	Masonville

**Female Over 60 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Stoffregen Gerri	Cincinnati
2	Hastings-w Sharon	Conavills
3	Falso Agatha	Boca Raton
4	Markis Loretta	Aurora
5	Molina Marquita	Wasco
6	Kovar Annabelle	Lincoln
7	Gwinn Mildred	Waxhaw
8	Kanyon Joanna	Tallahassee
9	Funes Nidia	Novato
10	Schaefer Gail	Randallstown
11	Palaski Ceco	Ranches De Taos
12	Markus Lola	Park Ridge
13	Henry Ann	Woods Cross
14	Piscoran Gloria	Newberg
15	Fish Mary	Tuscaloosa
16	Puleo Rita	Ranches De Taos
17	Rogers Mae	Fresno
18	Kelly Pauline	Park Ridge
19	Parra Clarita	Cibola
20	Barber May	Colonial Heights
21	Desantis Joy	Sunland

**Female Over 65 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Molina Marquita	Wasco
2	Kovar Annabelle	Lincoln
3	Gwinn Mildred	Waxhaw
4	Kanyon Joanna	Tallahassee
5	Markus Lola	Park Ridge
6	Piscoran Gloria	Newberg
7	Fish Mary	Tuscaloosa
8	Rogers Mae	Fresno
9	Kelly Pauline	Park Ridge

**Female Over 70 Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Kanyon Joanna	Tallahassee
2	Markus Lola	Park Ridge
3	Fish Mary	Tuscaloosa
4	Rogers Mae	Fresno

**Female Ranking November 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Van Hees Christie	Kelowna
2	Gudinas Cheryl	Lisle
3	Rajsch Rhonda	Fountain Hills
4	Walsh Kristen	Salt Lake City
5	Wachtel Kerri	Cincinnati
6	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
7	Brown Tammy	Boise
8	Grisar Angela	Santiago, Rm
9	Powell Lori-Jane	Chula Vista
10	Moore Diane	Griffith
11	Fisher Adrienne	Tuscaloosa
12	Garcia Claudine	Gun Barrel City
13	Gellman Rachel	El Mirage
14	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
15	Tisinger Janel	Simi Valley
16	Davis Da'monique	Tuscaloosa
17	Shattuck Jo	Denver
18	Hallander Kersten	San Diego
19	Fisher Kelley	Tuscaloosa
20	Rice Jacqueline	Ramona
21	Russell-wa Kim	Austin
22	Longoria L Paola Mich	El Paso
23	Acosta Susana	Chula Vista
24	Sales Samantha	Leon
25	Enriquez Nancy	Chihuahua



### Male Over 25 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Swain Cliff	Braintree
2	Mannino Jason	San Diego
3	Carson li Rocky	Ladera Ranch
4	Beltran Alvaro	San Ysidro
5	Guldry Mike	Carrollton
6	Thoenner Jason	Canton
7	Robinson Derek	Littleton
8	Tucker Josh	Ladera Ranch
9	Veenstra Kyle	Wausau
10	Crowther Chris	Riverside
11	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
12	Liacera Dan	Dewey Beach
13	Monchik Sudsy	Lake Worth
14	Ellis John	Stockton
15	Green Mike	Burlington
16	Hamilton David	Twinsburg
17	Dennison Mike	Westerville
18	Ganim Doug	Westerville
19	Rivas Juan	East Boston
20	Moreno Javier	Lakeland
21	Hogan Marty	Chesterfield
22	Fuertes Tino	Stockton
23	Gutierrez Juan	Miami
24	Fredenberg Brian	Dallas
25	Martinez Julio	Brownsville

### Male Over 30 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Swain Cliff	Braintree
2	Mannino Jason	San Diego
3	Guldry Mike	Carrollton
4	Thoenner Jason	Canton
5	Robinson Derek	Littleton
6	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
7	Liacera Dan	Dewey Beach
8	Monchik Sudsy	Lake Worth
9	Ellis John	Stockton
10	Green Mike	Burlington
11	Dennison Mike	Twinsburg
12	Ganim Doug	Westerville
13	Hogan Marty	Chesterfield
14	Fredenberg Brian	Dallas
15	Bronfeld Michael	Seaside
16	Ceresia Mike	Burlington
17	Shimizu Hiroshi	Nerima Tokyo
18	Metzalf Aaron	Jacksonville
19	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch
20	Pointelin Brian	Midvale
21	Anderson Adam	Orem
22	Boscia Tony	Lakewood
23	Karp Adam	Stockton
24	Lowe Jimmy	Wahiawa
25	Zalegowski Christophe	Manchester

### Male Over 35 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Swain Cliff	Braintree
2	Guldry Mike	Carrollton
3	Robinson Derek	Littleton
4	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
5	Liacera Dan	Dewey Beach
6	Ganim Doug	Westerville
7	Hogan Marty	Chesterfield
8	Bronfeld Michael	Seaside
9	Ceresia Mike	Burlington
10	Shimizu Hiroshi	Nerima Tokyo
11	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch
12	Boscia Tony	Lakewood
13	Lowe Jimmy	Wahiawa
14	Harrett Bret	Henderson
15	Peck Gregg	Coppell
16	Sable (sab David)	Alpharetta
17	Gilliam Lance	San Antonio
18	Valentine Dale	Riverside
19	Foley Eric	Port Saint Lucie
20	Minor Keith	Channahon
21	Eisemann Richard	Frisco
22	Norblade Jeff	Flower Mound
23	Sims Donald	Cedar Hill
24	Stark Jeff	Olympia
25	Fruttschi Jim	Edina

### Male Over 40 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
2	Ganim Doug	Westerville
3	Hogan Marty	Chesterfield
4	Ceresia Mike	Burlington
5	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch
6	Lowe Jimmy	Wahiawa
7	Harrett Bret	Henderson
8	Peck Gregg	Coppell
9	Sable (sab David)	Alpharetta
10	Gilliam Lance	San Antonio
11	Foley Eric	Port Saint Lucie
12	Minor Keith	Channahon
13	Eisemann Richard	Frisco
14	Norblade Jeff	Flower Mound
15	Sims Donald	Cedar Hill
16	Leone James	Canfield
17	Barrett John	Shavertown
18	Carson R O	San Antonio
19	Hansen Tim	Greenacres
20	Haab Bobby	Clinton
21	Watson David	Miami
22	Cullins Scott	Woodstock
23	Travers Thomas	Delray Beach
24	Hassey Joseph	Las Vegas
25	Garcia Osvaldo	San Juan

### Male Over 45 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
2	Hogan Marty	Chesterfield

Rank	Name	City
3	Foley Eric	Port Saint Lucie
4	Carson R O	San Antonio
5	Hansen Tim	Greenacres
6	Haab Bobby	Clinton
7	Travers Thomas	Delray Beach
8	Hassey Joseph	Las Vegas
9	Sanchez Ivan	San Antonio
10	Mervin Leonard	Orlando
11	Bell Glenn	Nederland
12	Baron Mark	Hemdon
13	Forrest Randy	Orlando
14	Stallings Troy	Sioux Falls
15	Layton Mitt	Jacksonville
16	Rowlands Ryan	Fort Worth
17	De Simone Ruben	Bedford
18	Hodges Gregory	Troy
19	Peck Dave	Austin
20	Hanno Jeffrey	Watertown
21	Luzar Jim	Brookfield
22	Greer John	Enola
23	Kirkland Gordon	Orlando
24	Canley Vinnie	Orlando
25	Garabedian Edward	West Chester

### Male Over 50 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
2	Carson R O	San Antonio
3	Travers Thomas	Delray Beach
4	Baron Mark	Hemdon
5	Stallings Troy	Sioux Falls
6	Layton Mitt	Jacksonville
7	Luzar Jim	Brookfield
8	Garabedian Edward	West Chester
9	Walker Howard	Bedford
10	Jennings Michael	Arlington
11	Sanchez Gus	Killeen
12	Clinton Joe	Killeen
13	Warren Darryl	Harbor City
14	Stafford Randy	Germantown
15	Vohlend John	Colorado Springs
16	Rollins Scott	Martinez
17	Mcclade Walter	Smyrna
18	Low Charles	Charlotte
19	Vincent Denny	Blacklick
20	Cole Mike	Thornton
21	Gates Chuck	Nashua
22	Wallace Paul	Nashua
23	Lee John	Bealeton
24	Meredith I Charles (e	Colorado Springs
25	Taddonio Frank	Gilbert

### Male Over 55 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Carson R O	San Antonio
2	Layton Mitt	Jacksonville
3	Jennings Michael	Arlington
4	Low Charles	Charlotte
5	Vincent Denny	Blacklick
6	Lee John	Bealeton
7	Taddonio Frank	Gilbert
8	Mazaroff Gary	Albuquerque
9	Vanzandt Ken	The Woodlands
10	Remen Ed	Apex
11	Montague R.e.	Jenkintown
12	Lee Joe	Honolulu
13	Miller Horace	Chicago
14	Mannino Russell	Poway
15	Dennis David	Conway
16	Hiser Jim	Colorado Springs
17	Mckie Thomas	Garland
18	Wielaj William	Hillsborough
19	Wolfe Bill	Staten Island
20	Dalgie Mark	Newburgh
21	Shafer Bruce	New Carrollton
22	Bailey Jim	Norfolk
23	Bellah Mickey	Laguna Hills
24	Gallman Joe	Albuquerque
25	Dickman Doug	Sedalia

### Male Over 60 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Vanzandt Ken	The Woodlands
2	Miller Horace	Chicago
3	Mckie Thomas	Garland
4	Wolfe Bill	Staten Island
5	Bellah Mickey	Laguna Hills
6	Gallman Joe	Albuquerque
7	Leon Jeffrey	Tpo
8	Jones Dan	Atlanta
9	O'Brien Dennis	Riverton
10	Reuther Jr. Warren	New Orleans
11	Wehrle Roger	Flowery Branch
12	Allen Glenn	Virginia Beach
13	Jackson Michael	Shelton
14	Taylor Patrick	Barrington Hills
15	Albright Terry	Kansas City
16	Stanley Leon	Hampton Cove
17	Bryant John	The Woodlands
18	Blakeslee Peter	Hot Springs
19	Kaiser Peter	Mansfield
20	Milewski Mitch	Nashua
21	Drouin Robert	Somersworth
22	Lowell Richard	Dover
23	Graff Lee	Bend
24	Snyder Dave	Austin
25	Lawler Rex	Terre Haute

### Male Over 65 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Jackson Michael	Shelton
2	Stanley Leon	Hampton Cove
3	Drouin Robert	Somersworth
4	Lowell Richard	Dover
5	Graff Lee	Bend

Rank	Name	City
6	Snyder Dave	Austin
7	Lawler Rex	Terre Haute
8	Miller Al	Wooster
9	Vercauteren Robert	Rollinsford
10	Lacomble Norbert	Dover
11	Harman Joe	Atlanta
12	Rients Leland	Wilmar
13	Lazarow Michael	League City
14	Buschner Carl	Holyoke
15	Hardman Ken	Rye
16	Sword Ed	Louisville
17	Harrington Donald	Westerly
18	Towle Parker	Franconia
19	Mpherson Jim	Hot Springs Village
20	Hughes Jim	Prosper
21	Hutcherson Ronald	Warsaw
22	Baudry Bob	Baton Rouge
23	Roever William	Dallas
24	Howard Jack	Torrance
25	Hoffpaul John	Houston

### Male Over 70 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Snyder Dave	Austin
2	Lacomble Norbert	Dover
3	Buschner Carl	Holyoke
4	Hardman Ken	Rye
5	Towle Parker	Franconia
6	Hughes Jim	Prosper
7	Baudry Bob	Baton Rouge
8	Howard Jack	Torrance
9	Holly Jerry	Fair Oaks Ranch
10	Schoepppy Jack	Mena
11	Sullins Robert	Arlington
12	Martin Mike	Golden
13	Banales Paul	Tonopah
14	Alt Donald	Dublin
15	Kaiser Charles	Pickerington
16	Miller Joseph	Miami
17	Maitland David	Winsted
18	Smith G. Duane	Arlington
19	Stahl Jim	Commerce
20	Mcclwee Ronald	Huntsville
21	Dunn Bill	Victoria
22	Siegel Frank	Edinburg
23	Frey Jack	Magnolia
24	Karmel Ken	Unknown
25	Bouchard Ronald	Bedford

### Male Over 75 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Buschner Carl	Holyoke
2	Hardman Ken	Rye
3	Martin Mike	Golden
4	Kaiser Charles	Pickerington
5	Miller Joseph	Miami
6	Smith G. Duane	Arlington
7	O'donnell John	Champaign
8	Lambert Joseph	Piano
9	Russell Duane	Lansing
10	Mcclade Robert	Crowley
11	Miller Robert	North Augusta
12	Acuff Earl	Asheville
13	Harry Sam	Harrisburg
14	Richard Hank	Asheville
15	Studak J.w.	Austin
16	Snowberger Campbell &	Myrtle Beach
17	Doyle Christophe	Waymouth
18	Harris Oral	Dayton
19	Mattotan William	Albuquerque
20	Hall Wendell	Albuquerque
21	Pineros Antonio	Altamonte Springs
22	Myers Fred	Harrisburg
23	Segal William	Atlanta
24	Trask Frank	Hallowell
25	Harvel Dean	Albuquerque

### Male Over 80 Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Mcclade Robert	Crowley
2	Acuff Earl	Asheville
3	Harry Sam	Harrisburg
4	Richard Hank	Asheville
5	Studak J.w.	Austin
6	Snowberger Campbell &	Myrtle Beach
7	Mattotan William	Albuquerque
8	Segal William	Atlanta
9	Trepastier Jeff	West Bend
10	Marshall Col. Ben	San Antonio

### Male Ranking November 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Wasselenchuk Kane	Austin
2	Huczek Jack	Rochester
3	Swain Cliff	Braintree
4	Mannino Jason	San Diego
5	Carson li Rocky	Ladera Ranch
6	Beltran Alvaro	San Ysidro
7	Vanderson Shane	Dublin
8	Guldry Mike	Carrollton
9	Williams Mitch	Canton
10	Thoenner Jason	Littleton
11	Robinson Derek	Canton
12	Tucker Josh	Ladera Ranch
13	Veenstra Kyle	Wausau
14	Crowther Chris	Riverside
15	Hawthorne Andy	Tallmadge
16	Tristan Augustin	Tuscaloosa
17	Croft Ben	Lake Bluff
18	Herrera Alejandro	Miami
19	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
20	Herrera Juan	Laguna Niguel
21	Liacera Dan	Dewey Beach
22	Monchik Sudsy	Lake Worth
23	Ellis John	Stockton
24	Green Mike	Burlington
25	Hamilton David	Powell





## USA RACQUETBALL SANCTIONED EVENTS

EventStart	EventEnd	EventTitle	FacilityName FacilityCity	FacilityState	EventPhone
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
11/4/05	11/12/05	Mullett Hoover Open	OREM FITNESS CENTER	OREM,UT	801-502-9526
11/9/05	11/13/05	NEW MEXICO STATE DOUBLES	DOWNTOWN SPORTS & WELLNESS	ALBUQUERQUE,NM	505-321-1110
11/10/05	11/13/05	GLASS COURT TURKEY SHOOT	GLASS COURT SWIM and FITNESS	LOMBARD,IL	630-629-3390
11/11/05	11/13/05	NOVEMBER MADNESS	North Jeffco Racquet & Fitness	Arvada,CO	303-431-9004
11/11/05	11/12/05	RACQUETS FOR HABITAT	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING, MI	517-881-8584
11/11/05	11/13/05	CROSS COURT OPEN	CROSS COURT ATHLETIC CLUB	WOODLAND CA	530-666-1319
11/11/05	11/13/05	ALL VALLEY OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS	MID VALLEY ATHLETIC CLUB	RESEDA CA	818-705-8500
11/11/05	11/13/05	2005 Rocket City Turkey Shoot	FAMILY FITNESS CENTER	HUNTSVILLE AL	256- 82-90471
11/12/05	11/12/05	TURKEY SHOOTOUT	Spectrum Health Club	SAN ANTONIO,TX	210-344-9596
11/12/05	11/12/05	DALLAS DOUBLES SERIES 5	LANDMARK FITNESS FACTORY	DALLAS TX	972-233-6774
11/12/05	11/12/05	LEHIGH VALLEY OPEN	ALLENTOWN RACQUETBALL CLUB	ALLENTOWN PA	610-821-1300
11/12/05	11/12/05	DARA FALL OPEN	UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE	Newark DE	302-323-5706
11/16/05	11/20/05	10th CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS, TN	719-635-5396
11/19/05	11/19/05	TURKEY SHOOTOUT	CLASSIC ATHLETIC CLUB	FAIRFIELD, NJ	973-389-9978
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
12/1/05	12/4/05	SNOWBALL	HIGHPOINT RACQUET & SWIM CLUB	ALBUQUERQUE NM	505-350-2809
12/1/05	12/4/05	2005 CO STATE DOUBLES	COLORADO ATHLETIC CLUB-AURORA	AURORA, CO	
12/2/05	12/4/05	RAM STATE DOUBLES	TOTAL SPORTS	HARRISON TOWNSHIP,MI	586-468-2787
12/2/05	12/4/05	PLC	PRAIRIE LIFE CENTER	OMAHA NE	402-691-8546
12/2/05	12/4/05	Happy Joe's Open	CENTER COURT FITNESS CLUB	Grand Forks ND	701-746-2790
12/2/05	12/4/05	Mistletoe Matchup	YMCA - Greenbrier North	Chesapeake VA	757-366-9622
12/3/05	12/3/05	9th Annual Cowboy Santa Doubles	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-988-6439
12/3/05	12/4/05	CT CUP/BLIZZARD OPEN	HEALTHWORKS	WALLINGFORD CT	860-678-7806
12/4/05	12/4/05	WILSON WOMEN'S CLASSIC	SCHAUMBURG TENNIS PLUS	Schaumburg IL	63-430-1478
12/7/05	12/11/05	BEAVERTON CLASSIC	YMCA - GRIFFITH PARK	BEAVERTON OR	503-645-3900
12/8/05	12/11/05	RACQUETBALL ADDICTS ANONYMOUS TNMT	DENVER ATHLETIC CLUB	DENVER CO	303-949-7785
12/8/05	12/17/05	Rocky Mountain Masters	REDWOOD MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER	WEST VALLEY UT	801-502-9526
12/9/05	12/11/05	OTRA VEZ II	TAOS SPA	TAOS NM	505-321-1110
12/9/05	12/11/05	MOUNTAIN MADNESS TOURNAMENT	GATLINBURG COMMUNITY CENTER	GATLINBURG TN	865-436-4990
12/10/05	12/10/05	MAVERICK ONE DAY SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348
12/17/2005	12/17/2005	WINTER ROLLOUT	Spectrum Health Club	SAN ANTONIO,TX	210-344-8596



EventStart	EventEnd	EventTitle	FacilityName	FacilityCity	EventPhone
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## JANUARY

1/5/06	1/8/06	BRIDGING THE GAP FUNDRAISER	YMCA - LITTLETON FAMILY/HIGHLINE	LITTLETON, CO	303-797-9629
1/6/06	1/8/06	PRAIRIE LIFE WEST OPEN	Praire Life Center (West)	LINCOLN, NE	402-454-2765
1/12/06	1/15/06	Review Sorey Celebrity Classic	Silver Lake Country Club	ORLAND PARK, IL	708-474-2440
1/12/06	1/15/06	BLIZZARD BASH	GOODSON RECREATION CENTER	CENTENNIAL, CO	303-798-2476
1/14/06	1/14/06	2006 NEW YEAR'S OPEN	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUET CL.	WILMINGTON, DE	302-323-5706
1/18/06	1/22/06	GRIFFITH MEMORIAL	COURTSPO RTS ATHLETIC CLUB	EUGENE, OR	503-687-2255
1/20/06	1/22/06	LONGHORN OPEN	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS	AUSTIN, TX	512-826-8394
1/20/06	1/22/06	DOUBLES DUEL	CONDITIONING SPA	GREELEY, CO	970-352-0974
1/20/06	1/22/06	5th Annual YMCA Spirit Campaign Tournament	YMCA - OF GREATER LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE, KY	270-945-9695
1/22/06	1/22/06	ONE DAY DOUBLES TUNE UP	The Southlake Club	MUNDELEIN, IL	847-949-8180
1/26/06	1/29/06	2006 IL STATE DOUBLES CHAMPS	GLASS COURT SWIM and FITNESS	LOMBARD, IL	630-325-6410
1/27/06	1/29/06	WOMEN'S SR / MASTRS RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX	817-935-4723

## FEBRUARY

2/3/06	2/4/06	RACQUET FOR THE CURE	DENVER ATHLETIC CLUB	DENVER, CO	720-244-7654
2/3/06	2/5/06	MAVERICK METROPLEX CHAMPIONSHIPS	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348
2/9/06	2/12/06	ST VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE	SCHAUMBURG TENNIS PLUS	Schaumburg, IL	630-430-1478
2/17/06	2/19/06	Royal Fork Classic	CENTER COURT FITNESS CLUB	Grand Forks, ND	701- 746-2790
2/17/06	2/19/06	13th Annual American Family Winter Classic	AMERICAN FAMILY FITNESS (West End)	RICHMOND, VA	804-330-3400
2/18/06	6/19/06	CAPITAL CHALLENGE	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING, MI	517-881-8584
2/18/06	2/19/06	2006 DE STATE SINGLES	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUET CL.	WILMINGTON DE	302-323-5706

## MARCH

3/3/06	3/5/06	US NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS	COURTHOUSE ATHLETIC CLUB NORTH	SALEM, OR	719/635-5396
3/8/06	3/11/06	NMRA MASTERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	SPECTRUM CLUB	CANOGA PARK, CA	818-884-5034
3/10/06	3/12/06	LYNMAR CLASSIC	LYNMAR RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO	719-591-8756
3/18/06	3/19/06	2006 DE STATE DOUBLES	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUET CL.	WILMINGTON DE	302-323-5706
3/23/06	3/26/06	GREAT BALLS OF FIRE PRO-AM	University of Miami	Coral Gables FL	305-446-5714
3/24/06	3/26/06	2006 NE STATE SINGLES	SPORTS COURTS OF LINCOLN	LINCOLN, NE	402-454-2765
3/29/06	4/1/06	US NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	TEMPE, AZ	719/635-5396
3/30/06	4/2/06	CAC CHAMPIONSHIPS	COLORADO ATHLETIC CLUB-AURORA	AURORACO	303-690-0369
3/31/06	4/2/06	2006 MN STATE SINGLES	Northwest Athletic Club - Hiway 100	Brooklyn CenterMN	763-535-3571

## APRIL

4/20/06	4/23/06	2005 CO STATE SINGLES	Highlands Ranch Recreation Center	Highlands RanchCO	303-738-9797
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## MAY

5/4/06	5/7/06	CINCO DE MAYO	PUEBLO ATHLETIC CLUB	PUEBLO, CO	719-561-3488
5/18/06	5/20/06	MEMBERS AND FRIENDS	YMCA - PIKES PEAK REGION	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO	719-473-9622
5/24/06	5/29/06	US NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON, TX	719-635-5396

## JUNE

6/10/06	6/10/06	TRIPLE CROWN SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX	817-275-3348
6/21/06	6/25/06	US NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING, MI	719-635-5396





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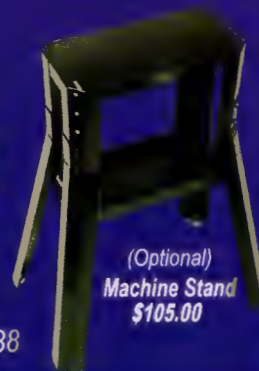


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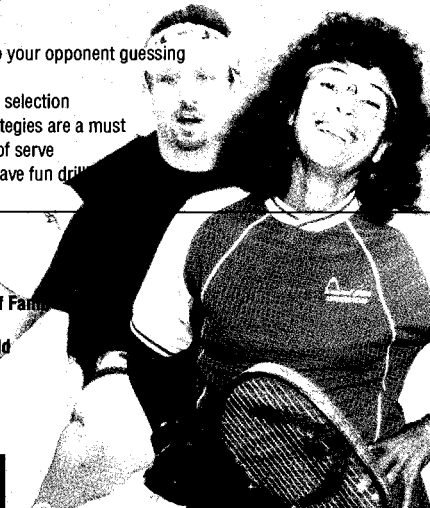
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Nov. 11-13 Greensboro, N.C.  
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<b>2006</b>	
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February 10-12	Seattle, WA
February 17-19	Laurel, MD
March 3-5	Minneapolis, MN
March 17-19	Atlanta, GA
March 24-26	Las Vegas, NV
April 21-23	TBA
May 19-21	Lansing, MI
June 2-4	San Diego, CA
June 9-11	New Orleans, LA
July 21-23	Boston, MA
July 28-30	Woodbridge, NJ
August 4-6	San Francisco, CA

Above dates are subject to the IRT schedule.

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# The Inside Scoop

By Mike Ceresia

- 5 Time IRF World Champion
- 11 Time Canadian National Champion

## The U.S. Open

It's the biggest, most prestigious racquetball event of the year. The esteemed Racquet Club of Memphis has played host to the U.S. Open since its inception. In its 10th anniversary year, the event continues to deliver exactly what the true sports and racquetball enthusiast demands: high drama in a professionally delivered package.

The USRA, Doug Ganim (Event Quarterback) and a huge team of volunteers work arduously behind the scenes to organize this special week of activities. The top professionals provide the "Wow" factor on the portable court -- one is treated to a true eye-popping experience.

Who can forget some of the unbelievable matches over the past 10 years? There was Eric Muller: the boy-next-door brainiac's journey to the semifinals was truly legendary stuff. Muller was an effective pro and an accomplished doubles player but never made a true impression on the singles court -- except at the U.S. Open! He upset a string of excellent players before finally bowing out in the semifinals to Cliff Swain. Michele Gould, the "Pounder", won a couple of U.S. Opens before stepping away from the game. She was the prototypical power player -- extreme power on both sides and a bottom board mentality. The difference was, she was a she!

What about The King, Andy Roberts? He threatened the #1 ranking a few years in a row and beat the best at their best. His status in Memphis helped add some much-needed credibility to the event. Remember, this was a regular tour stop before being transitioned into the U.S. Open. Andy had enough left in his ailing knee to make the final year. He beat Swain in the semis but was bested by Monchik in the final.

Last year, the Rhonda Rajsich-Cheryl Gudinas match-up had each player ready to close the deal about five times. What about the Monchik-Mannino quarterfinal when Sudsy extricated victory from the gaping mouth of defeat by flat rolling about 1,000 backhand splats in a row. And the Swain-Huczek dropdown was an absolute classic. Most people were laying sod over Swain's career until he righted the ship.

There are small changes to the venue every year but for the most part the event remains the same. So, why fix it? Perhaps at some point the U.S. Open should be moved around the country, but for now it has a great home.

Can Waselenchuk three-peat? Will Huczek stand in his way? Will Gudinas win again? Can Van Hees take her second? The U.S. Open team is ready and you should have your seat -- live!





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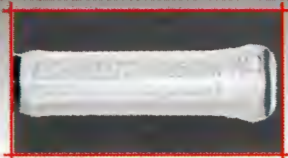
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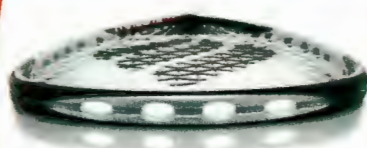


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