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USRA Newsletter

The Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association

*Vol. 19 No. 4
July, 2002*



*Ben Croft excels
at the USRA
Regionals
....page 5*

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Typesetting by: TypaGraphics
Printing by: Tyler Press, Inc.

From The President

June 20, 2002

Have you ever heard the expression, "It takes a village to raise a child"? I'm not sure who uttered those profound words and I don't know everything about raising a child. I do know, however, that it takes a village (or maybe a nation) to put together a national juniors racquetball tournament for children.



By the time you read this, the 29th USRA Junior Olympic Championships (June 26 - June 30 at the Athletic Club of Bloomingdale) will be history. Hopefully the participants and their families will leave with fond memories of the tournament and their trip to the great state of Illinois. I'm sure they will find out what we already know - we put on great tournaments and Illinois is a great place to be.

But let's back up. How does it all happen? The tournament is a USRA event. The tournament sponsor is a major racquetball manufacturer, *Head Racquet Sports*. The USRA offers clubs across the country the opportunity to bid to be the host site. The USRA Tournament Director and a Junior Site Selection Committee decide on the site. A contract is negotiated and the fun starts...

The USRA focuses on promoting the event, accepting entries, creating the draw and running the Control Desk. The site is focused on preparing for the event, providing tournament necessities (towels, etc.) and maintaining the location throughout the week. So what else might be involved? I can think of many things that make a tournament more enjoyable. For a junior tournament they might include a goodie bag full of "stuff" that kids like, hospitality for players and their families, pleasant spots around the club for people to hang out and talk, and a special place for awards to be presented. How, might you ask, do you get those things going?

Well, we formed a Junior Nationals Host Committee to help make the tournament memorable. The committee consists of Dave Negrete, JTI (Junior Team Illinois) parents, ISRA board members, and anyone else who is willing to help and contribute. In addition, there is a National Juniors Council that includes members from around the country. That group has been offering support and will be helping at the tournament site. It's still too early to tell you how it will all work out. After all, we've still got 6 days to solidify our plans! I bet, though, that this will be a tournament that is talked about for a long time, and that we'll set the bar high for the next tournament site.

Our September newsletter will have full coverage of the event and will provide a complete list of volunteers and sponsors. In the meantime, I'd like to congratulate the newly elected (or reelected) members of the ISRA Board of Directors as well as those players who will be moving up to the next skill level for next season. Thanks for a great 2001-2002 season and enjoy the summer - it's short!

Laurel

Early News—Save These Tournament Dates!

Okay, tournament fans, mark these dates on your calendar for the upcoming 2002-2003 season:

July 26-28, 2002	Summerfest Tournament	Glass Court, Lombard
October 2-6, 2002	National Doubles	Minneapolis, MN
Nov. 20-24, 2002	U.S. Open	Memphis, TN
Jan. 31 - Feb. 2, 2003	National Women's Senior/Masters	Orlando, FL
February 6-9, 2003	Illinois State Doubles	To Be Announced
April 3-6, 2003	Illinois State Singles	To Be Announced

Look for more tournament information in the September ISRA newsletter!

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Setting a Matter to Right!

As tournament articles are written for this ISRA newsletter, care is taken to recognize those who have contributed their time, skills and resources. In the case of the recent Illinois State Singles tournament (reported in the May 2002 newsletter), two names were inadvertently omitted from the article. To Judy Young and Tom Utterback, please accept both our apologies for the omission and our appreciation for your hard work and dedication not only at the State Singles tournament, but all the year through!

— The ISRA Newsletter Staff

ISRA Officer and Board Member Election Held

The ISRA Board held its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2002, at the National City Bank office in Oak Brook. As with all ISRA meetings, this meeting was open to the membership.

Per the ISRA bylaws, if there are no opposing nominations to the original slate (published in the January newsletter), the Nominating Committee's slate is to be accepted automatically. May 1 was the deadline for notification of opposing nominations; none were received.

The Officer and Governing Board Members elected for two-year terms are as follows:

Officers and Zone VP's: Cheryl Kirk, Vice President; Rich Clay, Treasurer; Carol Bastien, South Zone VP; Doug Halverson, West Zone VP.

Governing Board Members: Patrice Calvi, Peggy Hartmann, Bill Lyman. (The

remaining board members will stand for election when their two-year terms end next year.)

In addition to the acceptance of the original slate, the Board approved the appointment of Fred Ritschard to the Governing Board.

The Nominating Committee (Judy Young, Chair; Pam Grace; and Geoff Peters) wishes to thank these new and returning officers and board members for their continuing service to the ISRA and to the sport of racquetball.

The Board extends a special welcome to Chuck Snyders, newest member of the ISRA Auxiliary Board. Remember, any ISRA member who wishes to help improve the quality of racquetball in Illinois is welcome to join the Auxiliary Board. Please contact any member of the ISRA Board for further information.

Signed, The Nominating Committee

2002 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

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- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- If ads are run for the entire season, **AND** payment is received with the first issue, the sixth ad is **FREE!**
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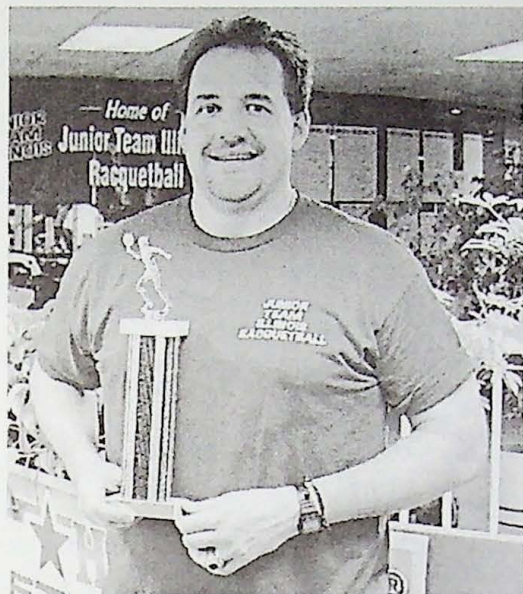
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USRA Regionals

April 19-21, 2002
Athletic Club of Bloomington



Bill Lyman, Winner, Men's 40+

It was another breakout weekend for young Ben Croft against tough competition at the Regionals. It was also nice to see Chris Evon return; Chris won Women's Open over Josie Barnett. It was great to have both of these top women playing at Regionals along with the 30 other players in the women's draws. We need many more women to come out to the big tournaments! Anyway, I asked for stories, and got two of them: a press release from the tournament describing Ben's win in the Open and a comment from Bob Croft (Ben's dad). First, the press release: "Seventeen-year-old Ben Croft staged back-to-back comebacks in the finals to win both the Men's Open and the 24 & Under divisions. In the Men's



Mrs. Pat Negrete, the
Hostess with the Mostess!

Open finals, Ben edged out Michigan's Shannon Kohl 15-12 and 15-14. Ben overcame a 7-14 deficit in the second game to clinch the title. His 24 & Under final matched him up against 21-year-old Travis Mettenbrink, current Nebraska State Champion. Ben fought back from 10-14 in the first game and edged his opponent out 15-14. After losing the second game, a convincing win in the tiebreaker gave Ben top honors in the 24's."

To add some color, I asked Bob what he could tell me of the match: "Although the Men's Open match with Ben & Shannon was very close, the 24's against Travis was quite the match to watch. Travis is quick and hits the ball a ton. Ben is also strong in both categories. They produced some unbelievable rallies. Although they have never been matched up together before, they quickly found mutual respect for each other. Many times in between rallies the two found themselves sharing a laugh, clicking racquets, acknowledging each other's performance. They shared several hard-hitting rallies that ended with one or both of them diving for that save. It was just one of those matches that was fun to watch. A spectator next to me (whom I didn't know) said to me that this match was better and more entertaining than the pro's."

—Mike Davern

Results: Division/# entries
First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (9)

Ben Croft; Shannon Kohl (MI); Ryan Griffin (IN), Craig Nichols (IN)

Men's Elite (10)

Matt Anderson (IN); Cary Slade; Russ Tatar, Ron Miller (WI)

Men's A (15)

Alex Zamudio (IN); Joe Gill; Bob Wright (IN), Tony Gonzalez

Men's B (18)

Tony Gonzalez; Dick Heithoff; Vito Rubiano, Brad Stanfield

Men's C (20)

Mike Belvedere; Brett Crawley; Mike DeGonia, Brad Promiski

Men's D (15)

Mike DeGonia; Bob Littledale; Alex Brown (MI), Wil Kazmier

Men's 24- (9)

Ben Croft; Travis Mettenbrink (NE); Tim Austin (IN), Shannon Kohl (MI)

Men's 25+ (3)

Ryan Griffin (IN); Eric Zamudio (IN); Russ Tatar

Men's 30+ (9)

Matt Anderson (IN); Cary Slade; Brian Forrest (WI), Dennis Negrete

Men's 30/35+ A/B (12)

Joe Gill; Ray Shimizu; Watmora Casey, Troy Stevens (NE)

Men's 35+ (6)

Jeff Hotler (IN); Dave Negrete; Eugene Coyle, Rick Reynolds

Men's 35+ C/D (4)

Jon Soike; Nick Kelly; Mike Belvedere; Twayne

Howard (MI)

Men's 40+ (9)

Bill Lyman; Greg Hodges (MI); Tom Utterback, Dave Negrete

Men's 40+ A/B (4)

Bob Wright (IN); Watmora Casey; Jim Mills (IN); Leo Formanski

Men's 45+ (3)

Jim Luzar (WI); Dave Milazzo; Jerry Fronczak

Men's 45+ A/B (3)

John Coaker (MI); Tom Corr; Mike Worley (IN)

Men's 40/45+ C/D (3)

Royce Simpson; Dean Cline (MI); George Parobek (IN)

Men's 50+ (3)

Jim Luzar (WI); David Lorenz (IN); Horace Miller

Men's 50+ A/B (3)

John Coaker (MI); Ray Meisner; Allen Kohl (MI)

Men's 55+ (3)

Dennis McKee; Horace Miller; Joe Quirke

Men's 55+ Intermediate (4)

Barry Anders; John Urycki (IN); George Smuckel; Alex Kurczaba

Men's 60+ (6)

Pat Taylor; Ron Yonkee; Don Davis, John Talty, Sr.



John O'Donnell, Jr. takes home
some more hardware!

Men's 60+ A/B (6)

Elliot Papermaster (WI); Mike Oester; Bill Bowers, Don Davis

Men's 65/70+ (5)

David Lund; John O'Donnell, Jr.; Charles Kaiser (MI); Ed Olah; Ray O'Brien

Women's Open (7)

Chris Evon; Josie Barnett; Martha Huske, Diane Bunker

Women's B (4)

Joan Vande Kieft; Cheryl Kirk; Lynn Yeazell; Pam Hepp

Women's C/D (5)

Janet Christie; Michelle Lexow; Amy Stasny; Sue Young

Women's 25+ C/D (2)

Any Stasny; Claire Brooke (MO)

Women's 35+ (2)

Diane Bunker; Julie Vincent

Women's 45+ (10)

Deb Chaney (IN); Deb Stefendal (IN); Nancy Amaro, Laurel Davis

Women's 50+ (2)

Deb Chaney (IN); Kathy Dunham

Negrete Open

Athletic Club of Bloomingdale
May 3-5, 2002

The Negrete Open was definitely a family affair this year. Dave, Dennis and John (the latter visiting from Florida) as well as Junior members David and Julia, all played! And play was the key word for the tournament since the Negrete's had many players participating in 3 (count 'em, three) events! If you weren't in shape for the weekend, you were by the end of the tournament. There were many great matches throughout, punctuated by the not-to-be-missed Cinco de Mayo party on Saturday evening.

A great end to the ISRA tournament season – check out the results below!

— Tom Utterback

Division (Number in Draw)

First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (16)

Chris Wright (MO); Eugene Coyle; John Negrete (FL); Ben Croft

Men's AA (6)

Raul Artega; Eric Rieman; Sandy Stephens, George Pappas

Men's A (9)

Walmora Casey; Raul Artega; Pat Taylor, Scott Reiser

Men's B (13)

George Gonski; Dean Hamiti; Ray Shimizu, Mike Lyle

Men's C (18)

Mike Belvedere; Brett Crawley; Dean Hamiti, Pete Schmeichel

Men's D (14)

Brandon Ritschard; Antonio Correa; Joe DeRoche, Nick Kelly

Men's 35+ (8)

Dave Milazzo; Sandy Stephens; Jim Davis, Jeff Hotler

Women's Open (8)

Liz Molitor; Diane Bunker; Kathy Dunham, Nancy Schum

Women's AA (4)

Julie Vincent; Janet Eminger; Karen Marzano, Kathy Dunham

Women's A (8)

Tina Hernandez; Lori Good; Karen Marzano, Lynne Weisbart

Women's B (4)

Joan Vande Kieft; Lynn Yeazell; Carrie Howard; Carolyn Watkins

Women's C/D (4)

Carrie Howard; Janet Christie; Sue Young; Amy Stasny

Men's Open Doubles (9)

Chris Wright (MO)/Ben Croft; Dennis Negrete/Eugene Coyle; Ryan Griffin/Jim Davis, John Negrete (FL)/Tom Utterback

Men's AA Doubles (5)

Eric Rieman/Joey Brownlee; Eric Battaglia/Rich Wells; Dean Hollowell/Rich Lux, George Nonas/Bob Cence

Men's B/C Doubles (7)

George Nonas/Bob Cence; George Gonski/Pete Schmeichel; Mike DeGonia/Jerry DeGonia, Mike Belvedere/Eddie Ruffin

Men's C Doubles (2)

Dean Hollowell/Rich Lux; Grant Macuba/Jesus Garcia

Mixed Open Doubles (8)

John Negrete (FL)/Liz Molitor; Dave Negrete/Julie Vincent; Dennis Negrete/Janet Eminger, Tom Utterback/Diane Bunker

Mixed AA Doubles (4)

Ryan Griffin/Lynne Weisbart; Jeff Hotler/Lynn Yeazell; Raul Artega/Karen Marzano, Scott Reiser/Kathy Dunham

Girls 14 & Under

Jamie Vincent, Stephanie Young, Jessica Young, Joanna Vincent, Julia Negrete

Boys 8 & Under

David Negrete, Erich Schubert, Peter Young

Boys 10 & Under

Trevor Snyders, Nick Loy, Matt Loy, Johnny Belvedere, Joey Eminger, David Negrete

Boys 12 & Under

Trevor Snyders, Zac Antonoff, Joey Limonciello, Nick Loy, Matt Loy

Boys 14 & Under

Brandon Ritschard, Mike Antonoff, Mark Elliott, Chris Schubert, Michael Davern, Erik Young

Boys 16 & Under

Mike DeGonia, Brandon Ritschard, Jeff Novak, Jason Young, Tad Dallas



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2002 Ektelon USRA 35th National Singles Championships

May 22-27, 2002
Houston, Texas



National Singles players Alberto Palacios, Wil Rounsaville, Cheryl Kirk, Joan Vande Kieft, Michelle Lekow, Lynn Yeazell, Dennis Negrete and Janet Christie

Once again, a hardy contingent of Illinois racquetball players made their way to (a surprisingly temperate) Houston, Texas over Memorial Day weekend to compete in National Singles, hosted by the Downtown Houston YMCA for a 20th consecutive year. This tournament boasted a fine turnout once again, with 662 players

totaling 1,122 entries in 66 divisions. By divisions entered, Illinois ranked 4th with 56, behind Texas (223), California (84) and Florida (63). Team Illinois' 31 players earned a total of 15 medals and qualified as top finishers in 30 divisions. Special congratulations to Lola Markus and Joan Vande Kieft who came home with double gold (see results below)!

Let us not forget those Illinoisans who did not play, but fell under the much-appreciated category of "They Also Serve Who Stand and Cheer": Rich Clay (also doing some "light duty" as USRA National Rules Commissioner), Ashley Bennett, Terri Graham, Kit Lawson, Joey Logan, Al Rubiano, Tina Young, and Zachary Yeazell (Team Illinois Mascot and youngest attendee at 7 months).

In Thursday night's "Olympics" competition, Janet Christie won a pair of roller blades in the trivia contest – exhibiting once again that brains as well as athletic prowess definitely come under her repertoire!

Awards At Saturday Evening Banquet

Here are some of the particulars of the honors bestowed at the Saturday evening banquet:

- Female Player of the Year (2001) Cheryl Gudinas recognized friend and practice partner Chris Evon; Eugene Coyle as "the best trainer in the world"; and Dave and

Dennis Negrete for their support (not to mention their expert racquet stringing).

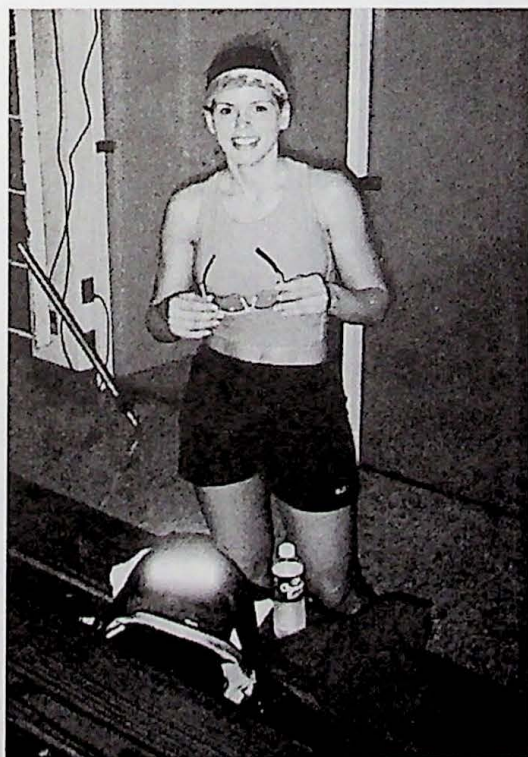
- Male Athlete of the Year (2001) Jack Huczek cited his parents for their discipline and support of his racquetball career "virtually out of the womb".

- The Peggy Steding Age Group Award (Women 35+) went to California's Debra Tisinger.

- The Bud Muehleisen Age Group Award (Men 35+) winner, Ruben Gonzalez, delivered a Bob Dylan-like acceptance speech for his award, then in turn poignantly recognized Russ Mannino whom he credited with turning his life around, taking him from an existence on the streets of Spanish Harlem and giving him a purpose and a place to go, in sports and in life.

- USRA Hall of Fame 2002 inductee Andy Roberts was inducted by his brother Quinn, who introduced him to the game. Andy's message – in life and in racquetball, it's not the tournaments that matter in the end, it's the friends you make along the way who are truly important.

continued on next page



Cathy Bertucci takes a quick break before taking the tie-breaker!



Mike Belvedere dominated in this Men's C match



*Martin & Sid, you don't need your phones —
you're sitting right next to each other!*



*Horace Miller and Tina Young
enjoy the Saturday night banquet*

continued from previous page

Men's and Women's Open Finals

On Sunday afternoon in the Women's Open final match, Cheryl Gudinas, #1 ranked women's pro, defeated Laura Fenton (Overland Park, KS) 15-6, 15-5. Then in the Men's Open, Mike Guidry (Carrollton, TX) took the title by besting Jack Huczek (Rochester, MI) 15-10, 12-15, 11-9.

To play in Houston, one needs only to compete in the USRA Regionals next spring! Mark your calendar for next Memorial Day weekend, May 21-26, 2003. Congratulations and thanks to all of the players who represented Illinois this

year! Let's take a look at their results:
—Cheryl Kirk

Team Illinois Results

(11 Illinois players earned 15 medals)

Mike Belvedere - 3rd Men's C; 3rd Men's 25+ C/D

Janet Christie - 4th Women's D; 4th Women's 45+ C/D

Chris Evon - 3rd Women's 40+

Tony Gonzalez - 2nd Men's B

Martin Gonzalez - 3rd Men's 30+ A/B

Cheryl Gudinas - 1st Women's Open

Cheryl Kirk - 2nd Women's 45+ A/B

Lola Markus - 1st Women's 65+; 1st Women's 70+

Horace Miller - 4th Men's 55+

Joan Vande Kieft - 1st Women's 45+ A/B; 1st Women's 50+ A/B

Kathy Welker - 4th Women's 35+ A/B

Team Illinois

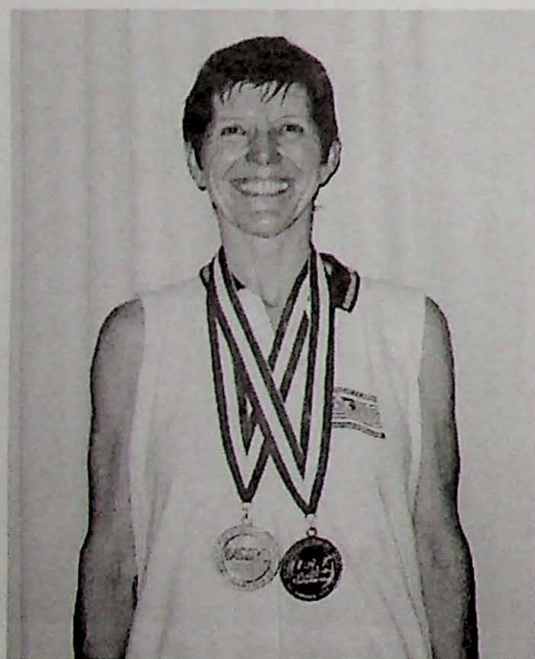
*Denotes Top Finisher
(Quarterfinals or Higher)

Mike Belvedere - *Men's C, *Men's 25+ C/D

Cathy Bertucci - Women's A, *Women's 30+ A/B

Diane Bunker - Women's 35+, Women's 40+

continued on next page



*Joan Vande Kieft
Double Gold!*



*Lynne Weisbart, Diane Bunker,
Watmora Casey & Janet Christie*

Racquetball Supports Its Own

Gonzalez Brothers Represent Illinois at National Singles

I am passing on this story to you for two reasons. First, it is a great human interest story on how racquetball players support their own, and second, I hope that this story it will inspire others to make similar attempts to help talented players compete at the highest amateur levels of our sport. I want to thank Martin and Tony for letting me tell their story and for being such great representatives of Illinois racquetball –
Al Murry

Martin and Tony Gonzalez of the Bally's Matteson Club both qualified for the National Singles, held this past May in Houston. Not only did they play in the regional qualifier at the Bloomingdale Athletic Club, but they both were able to compete at a high level. After hearing of their success at the Regionals, I congratulated them and wished them good luck at the Nationals. Martin thanked me for my support, but mentioned that he was not going to Nationals due to the high cost of attending a weeklong, out-of-town tournament.

Knowing that Martin and Tony were too modest to ask for sponsorship on their own, several of us, in cooperation with the Bally's club in Matteson, started a collection. It was close to the cut-off date for getting into the tournament, so we had to work fast. Within a few days, we had collected over \$600!!! While that was an amazing amount for local racquetball players and members of Bally's to donate, it wasn't enough to get both of them to Houston. Since both Martin and Tony had worked for Bally's in the past, I decided to contact Bally's corporate headquarters to see if they

were willing to cover the rest of the cost. To my surprise, they were happy not only to hear of the Gonzalez brothers' success, but they also agreed to help defray some of the costs. Dave Negrete of the Bloomingdale Athletic Club also contributed by hosting the Gonzalez' during the tournament week. The bottom line on this story is:



*Martin & Tony Gonzalez
in Houston*

- Bally's won by sponsoring their own members at the National level and getting some great PR in return;
- The Matteson Club members won by being able to take part in sponsoring two of their own at such a high level of athletic achievement;

- Martin and Tony won by being able to participate in one of our sport's finest events. As a result of these efforts, Tony was able to fight through a tough 64-person draw to get to the finals of the Men's B. Martin apologized for not doing as well as his brother—he only was able to get to battle for a *third place* finish!!! Not bad for two local boys playing out of a Bally's in Matteson, Illinois!

By the way, Martin told me that his story was circulated around the tournament and several other players told him that they would try to hold similar sponsorship events at their home clubs. What a great way to generate interest in our sport!

Editor's Note: In a recent conversation with Martin, he asked that we convey his and Tony's great appreciation to everyone who supported them—not only in their trip to the Nationals, but every step along the way!

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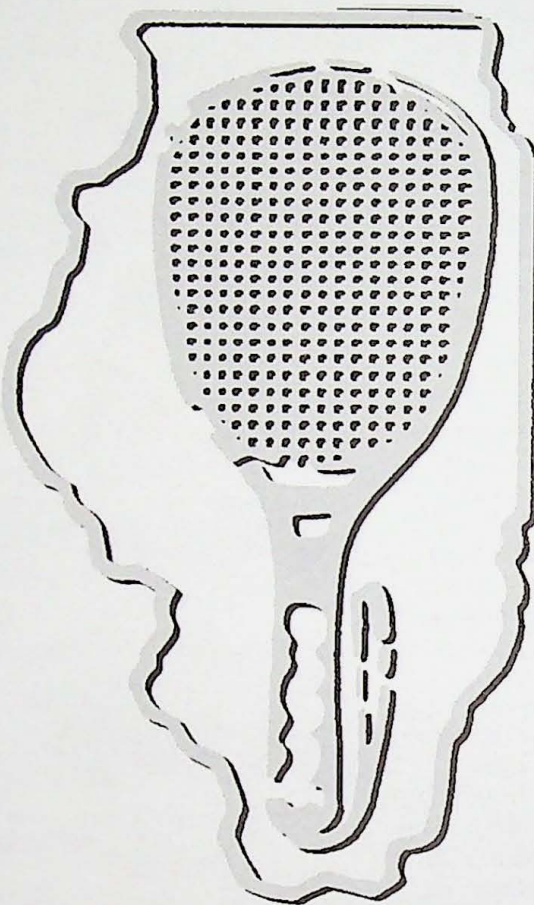
Watmora Casey - Men's 35 + A/B,
Men's 40 + A/B
Janet Christie - *Women's D,
*Women's 45 + C/D
Fred Conforti - Men's C, Men's
35 + C/D
Eugene Coyle - Men's 30 +, Men's
35 +
Krystal Csuk - Women's Open,
*Women's Elite
Chris Evon - *Women's 40 +
Jerry Fronczak - Men's 45 + A/B
Tony Gonzalez - *Men's B,
*Men's 25 + A/B
Martin Gonzalez - Men's Elite,
*Men's 30 + A/B
Cheryl Gudinas - *Women's Open
Sid Harshavat - *Men's C, Men's
25 + A/B
Cheryl Kirk - *Women's B,
*Women's 45 + A/B
Michelle Lexow - Women's C,
*Women's 24-/25 + C/D
Lola Markus - *Women's 65 +,
*Women's 70 +
Horace Miller - Men's 50 +,
*Men's 55 +
Dave Negrete - Men's 40 +
Dennis Negrete - Men's 30 +,
*Men's 30 + A/B
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*Men's 55 + C/D
Geoff Peters - Men's A, Men's
45 + A/B
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24-A/B
Royce Simpson - Men's C, *Men's
40 + C/D
Pat Taylor - Men's A, Men's 60 +
Joan Vande Kieft - *Women's
45 + A/B, *Women's 50 + A/B
Lynne Weisbart - Women's 40 + A/
B, *Women's 45 + A/B
Kathy Welker - Women's A,
*Women's 35 + A/B
Lynn Yeazell - *Women's B,
*Women's 30 + A/B

**USRA
National
Singles
2002**



Dennis Negrete, Vito Rubiano, Tony Gonzalez, Martin Gonzalez & Al Rubiano show Zach Yeazell "the ropes"

Team Illinois at the 2002 USRA National Singles



Board Member Geoff Peters congratulates Mike Belvedere on a fine showing at Nationals



Bunker's Cheerleaders: Kathy Welker, Lola Markus & Lynne Weisbart

It's All in Your COURT! Be A SPONSOR!

Here's a challenge to all ISRA Members:

- ▷ Sponsor ONE NEW player to the sport of racquetball this year. Any age.
- ▷ Take him/her to your court... and teach the game. Stay with them until they can join a league on their own.
- ▷ Just think how good you'll feel when each of us sponsors the players of tomorrow!



www.illinoisracquetball.com

2002/2003 Travel League Captain's Meeting

August 27th, 2002

7:00 p.m.

GLASS COURT

SWIM & FITNESS

830 E. ROOSEVELT RD.

LOMBARD, ILLINOIS

630-629-3390



The Travel League captain's meeting for next year's season will be held at the Glass Court in Lombard on Tuesday, August 27th at 7:00 p.m. Captains, if you can't be there, please have at least one player from your team attend. This is your time to make suggestions for changes and improvements for the coming year! Special note to the Clubs and Women Players: Let's "step up to the plate" and create an impressive turnout for women's teams next year! Go, Ladies!!!!

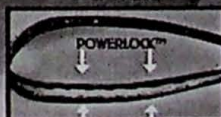
— Pam Grace, Travel League Coordinator

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MORE ATTITUDE™ delivers MORE Power with PowerLock™ construction. Traditional racquets have grommets, which take away string resiliency and energy. Ektelon's Direct Contact™ string channels eliminate the need for grommets, providing the liveliest string bed ever, to deliver pure, unprecedented POWER!

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With PowerLock™ construction, Ektelon's racquet heads combine to create a constant, superior STRENGTH. Conventional string beds are drilled, which weakens them, and reduce frame stiffness. Ektelon's Direct Contact™ PowerLock™ racquet head construction provides the strength and stiffness of a solid frame.

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Ektelon's racquet handle is designed for maximum comfort. The handle is made of a soft, cushioned material that conforms to the shape of your hand, providing a comfortable grip during every shot.

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Back by popular demand, Don now brings us excerpts from his...

Racquetball Dictionary

by Don "Buddha" Grigas

Avoidable Hinder

A call never made in friendly club games that almost certainly comes back to haunt you in clutch situations of tournaments.

Combining Two Divisions

What usually occurs at a tournament when you are almost assured of winning the lower division you have entered and have been awarded a high seed, but now must play opponents from a higher division due to a lack of players entered in your own bracket.

Crack Shot

Any seam or junction of the floor and any side wall that — when a ball strikes it after rebounding legally from the front wall — results in an unreturnable shot. Also, the same place that your opponent swears his shot hits every time he/she blocks your view, as in "that was no screen, it cracked out".

High Seed

The player you are most likely to draw in the first round of an expensive, out-of-town tournament.

Doubles

A format that allows one player to utilize the word "we" when accepting responsibility for a loss.

"Icky Splat"

An unintentional shot by the offensive

player—which strikes only the frame of the racquet, contacts the nearest side wall, and then takes on strange, unpredictable, and almost mystical physical properties (as well as a wicked side spin) resulting in an unreturnable shot for an opponent after it hits the front wall about two inches above the floor. Usually not the result of any planned or practiced effort, this shot almost always is accompanied by a sheepish grin and an apology from the offensive player and an expletive by the defensive player.

Rollout

A shot, almost always struck by your opponent and never by you or your own team mate, which seems most likely to occur late in a tie-breaker during the most critical rally in the match.

Round Robin

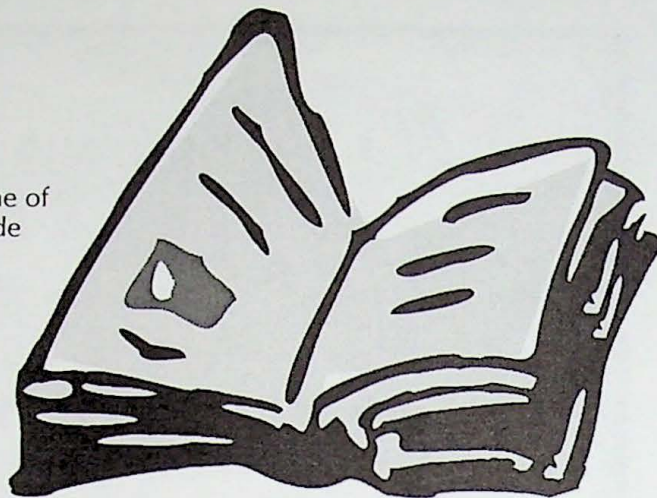
A specialized tournament format that allows you to embarrass yourself four or five times instead of just once.

Short Serve

The only proper call to make when you—as a referee—are unable to actually see the drive serve struck by a player because your beer glass was blocking your view.

Short Server

Tom Utterback.



(The) Warm-up

The five-minute period just prior to your match in which you go onto the court and terrorize your opponent and amaze the assembled crowd watching in the gallery with rollout after rollout, shortly followed by start of the match, in which you inexplicably enter the "Spaz Zone".

(The) Spaz Zone

The time period immediately following your warm up, at which time you vaguely hear the referee call "Zero serving zero" and your left foot suddenly pretends to know nothing of what your right foot is attempting to do, so that you can hit no shot lower than head high, all of your shots rebound off the back wall to the service line, and close friends, relatives and peers watching from the gallery ask "who the heck is that on the court?"

\$5

The going rate for being verbally abused by players and fans who almost certainly are better at refereeing than you.

USRA
United States Racquetball Association

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Tournament _____ Representative _____

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine (six times/year) and the Illinois Newsletter (six times/year).



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Racquetball Challenge Courts

Buehler YMCA

Palatine, IL
Thursday 7-10 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon
\$15 One-Day Guest Pass

Bloomington Challenge Court

630-893-9577
Saturday and Sunday
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$6.00

Glass Court Challenge Court

630-629-3390
Saturday 9-11 a.m.
\$6.00

Landmark Health & Racquetball

Peoria, IL
First & Third Fridays of Month
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. \$5.00

Oak Park Athletic Club

708-848-5200
Wednesdays 4-7 and
Saturday 12-3 p.m. \$8.00

Palos Olympic Health & Racquet Club

708-974-1900
Thursday 6 - 8:30 p.m. \$5.00

Southlake Challenge Court

847-949-8180
Saturday 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
\$10.00 for ISRA Members
(with membership card)

Sunset Racquetball & Fitness Center, Geneva

630-232-7867
Saturday 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Members: \$2, Non-Members: \$5

World Gym, Palatine (formerly Charlie Club)

847-991-9300
Tuesday 7 - 10 p.m. and
Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon
\$5.00

To add your club to this list, contact: **Mike Davern 630-579-8611**



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