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- US National Doubles
- Christmas Gift Special
- Geoff Thomsen
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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:

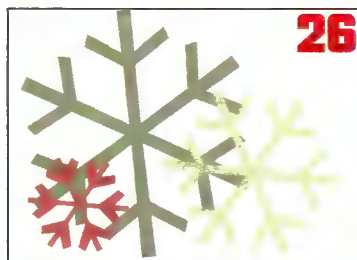
Objectives:

- **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.

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NATIONAL DOUBLES



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



RACQUETBALL'S PHOTOGRAPHER

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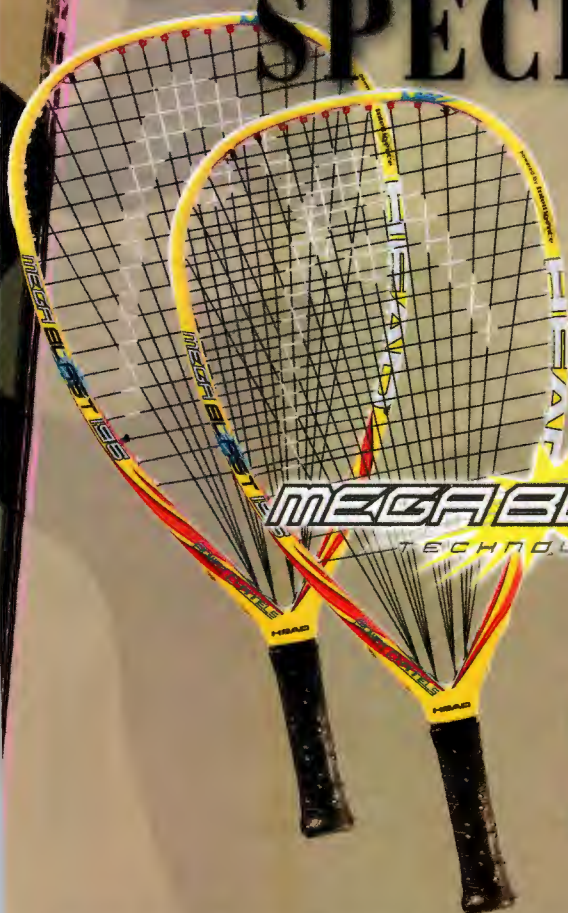
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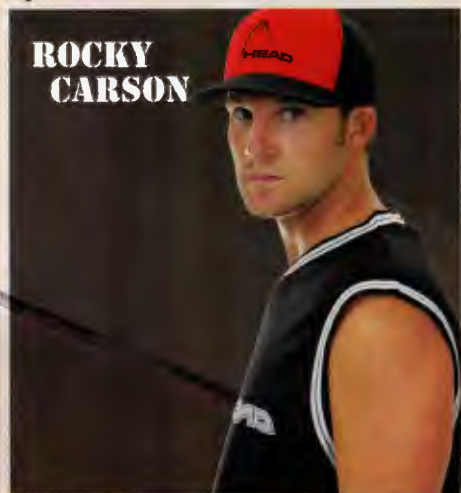
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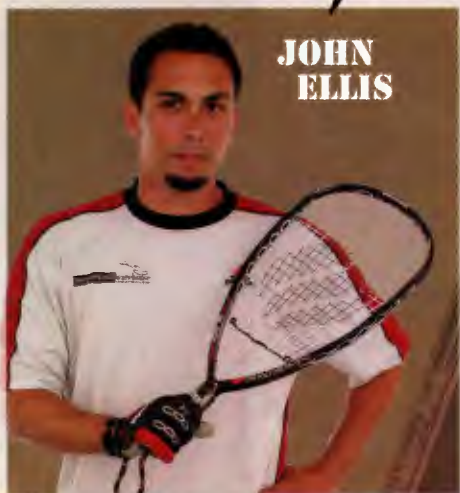
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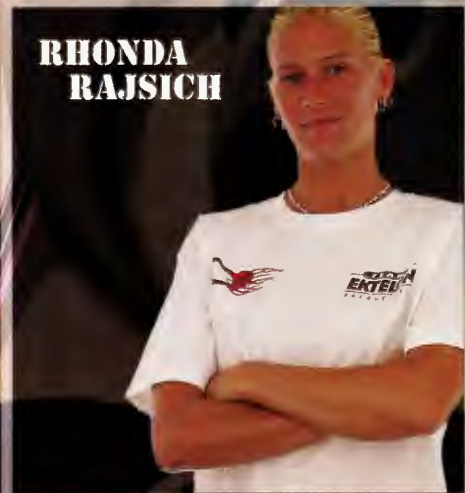
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FROM THE TOP

By James Hiser, Ph.D.
USAR Executive Director



As one year concludes and the next waits in the wings, let's reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of 2006.

- USA Racquetball Board of Directors recruits talented volunteers to assist with fundraising and marketing initiatives.
- U.S. Open and Motorola Pro Nationals continue to expand and provide flagship events for the sport.
- The prospect of new courts/clubs in Las Vegas and Reno provide potential new venues and increased exposure.
- Royster Productions continues
- International racquetball continues to expand and develop competitive athletes on a global level.

CHALLENGES

- Elimination of direct USOC funding places extreme financial pressures on association.
- Many clubs owners still refuse to acknowledge the importance of racquetball programmers and promotion.
- National non-racquetball sponsors (other than for the

U.S. NATIONAL TEAMS CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- High School racquetball continues to expand and become a dominant force in the development of junior players.
- Collegiate racquetball grows at the astounding rate of about 20% per year (30% on the east coast) with new teams and schools participating each year.
- The USAR Women's Council becomes active at recruiting new players, modifying playing formats and promoting "Racquet For The Cure."

to support racquetball and further refine the art of televising the sport.

- Geoff Thomsen and Mike Boatman elevate the art of racquetball photography, providing top notch media and promotional materials.
- U.S. National teams continue to dominate the international scene.
- State and local tournament directors promote and run over 450 events.
- The masters and senior organizations continue to expand and promote special events including funding of numerous junior scholarships.

U.S. Open and Motorola) have yet to commit to the sport.

- Professional tours still have limited funds to properly reward athletes.
- Venues for hosting events become less and less as facilities continue to age.

Each year we continue to move forward and develop new initiatives to promote our sport. The challenges (setbacks) are always familiar but racquetball players continue to respond and support both the association and the sport. The board of directors and staff warmly thank you for your involvement and support.

RACQUETBALL 4EVER

A PASSION FOR OUR SPORT! 

By Geoff Peters

Over the next few months, USA Racquetball will launch a broad-based fundraising initiative designed to ensure that our sport is vibrant and healthy for future generations of players. We have overcome our immediate fiscal crisis – and need to turn our attention to promoting and growing our sport for the future.

Randy Stafford has used this space in past issues to talk about having a passion for racquetball – and we know that many of you share his views! Our new programs will combine our “Players helping Players” efforts with our longer term “Racquetball4Ever” vision to create opportunities for both competitive and recreational players to help grow and promote our sport. At the USA Racquetball Board meeting in Memphis, we will be discussing the future of racquetball and how everyone has a stake in our future.

We can’t help but be encouraged by the resurgence of the Women’s Professional Tour (WPRO) under Shannon Feaster’s leadership,

the continued growth of the IRT by Dave Negrete and his team, and the newer initiatives such as World Outdoor Racquetball (WOR) and the Classic Racquetball Tour – all tapping into segments of the racquetball population. At the same time, participation in the National Masters events (NMRA) and the World Seniors continues to grow – and the publicity for our sport in publications such as Geezerjock Magazine and on TV (Twenty Good Years) has generated renewed interest and excitement among age group athletes.

Our Member fundraising options are listed below – and we encourage all of you – our core constituency to consider a gift to USA Racquetball before the end of the year. You’ll get the tax advantage this year – and know that you are helping to guarantee the future of a sport that you love!

MEMBER – BASED FUNDRAISING OPTIONS

LEVEL	AMOUNT	GIFTS
Gold	\$5000	Airfares and lodging at National Singles or Doubles
Silver	\$2500	Official US Olympic Team watch/VIP status at National Singles and Doubles
Bronze	\$1000	Lifetime membership – VIP status at National Singles & Doubles – USA logo Polo
Killshot	\$500	VIP Status at Singles and Doubles for one year – Business card Advertisement in one issue of Racquetball Magazine
Team	\$250	Business card advertisement in racquetball magazine, USA logo T-Shirt
Ace	\$100	Car Decal and name listed in Racquetball Magazine
Rally	\$50	Name listed in Racquetball Magazine

CLUB FEATURE

MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB ARLINGTON, TX

By Leo Vasquez

The Maverick Athletic Club located in Arlington, Texas opened its doors in June 1980 under current owner Bob Sullins, an avid racquetball player himself who plays 3-4 times per week. When asked why Mr. Sullins built the club, he says, "I must have been experiencing temporary insanity."

Now after twenty six-years, the club remains a centerpiece of the Texas racquetball community and a gathering place for regional and state tournaments, shootouts, year round leagues, professional clinics, camps and charity events. The clubs General Manager, Glenda Hatton started with the club in 1988 and works alongside her husband and Sales Manager, Wade Hatton.

The Maverick, more affectionately known as "The Mav", has 10 racquetball courts with upstairs viewing and also features backwall glass viewing on the two championship courts. The club facilities include an outdoor swimming pool with two sand volleyball courts, a women's only fitness area, nautilus machine and free weight workout area, cardio area, running track, basketball court, snack bar and locker rooms with full amenities. The Maverick has a long-standing reputation for supporting the sport of racquetball and has experienced these benefits from a variety of areas.

Sullins says, "It's important to let people know that if they love

racquetball, and they want the sport to survive and prosper, it is essential that court clubs benefit from their support."



Actual newspaper article dated June 11, 1980 about the Maverick Athletic Club opening.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Program Director

The club has always maintained a program director that manages the activities and programs to aide with membership retention. Most of these activities are free to the membership, but others can generate revenue. Current Program Director, Leo Vasquez says his job is every sports and fitness professional's dream. "I come to work everyday in athletic gear. It is my responsibility to have something different each month to keep the members active year round. As program director, I am also in charge of web-site development, e-mail communications and manage the daily business of the pro-shop."

Racquetball Leagues

The Maverick offers singles and doubles leagues for all divisions. Leagues are offered on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:00pm till 9:00pm and are open to non-members. The year begins with a 10 week singles league and then goes to an 8 week doubles league and then rotates



Sandy Long and Robin Barnhart with their 1st place MavBucks for winning the Women's League.

back around. Club members receive a discount, non-members pay a higher fee. The most recent singles league had 85 players in the Summer Sizzler League.

Racquetball Shootouts/Mixers

All of the holidays are marked with a doubles mixer, (Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot, etc.) with awards for top finishers. These are usually free and are for club members only. The first Saturday of each month, unless there is a local sanctioned tournament, the Maverick hosts a doubles event which consists of one OPEN division of doubles play. All players pay a small fee and the pool is dispersed among the winners of a round robin shoot-out. Partners are drawn out



Pat Gibson proudly shows off his frozen turkey for winning the Maverick Turkey Shootout.

of a hat with a list of lowered skill players drawing a higher skilled player.

Pro Shop/Snack-Bar

Pro shop income can generate revenue and add value to the service side of the membership.



The club carries a full line of E-Force, Ektelon, Head and Wilson equipment and accessories. There



Players can find everything they need in the club's pro-shop. Racquets, shoes, and accessories.

are specialty items such as shoes and hard to find accessories. Racquet re-stringing and private lessons also generate revenue for the racquetball program. Members are given a discount to help keep purchases in the club. The first thing you notice about the pro-shop area is all the bags and backpacks hanging from the ceiling.

Tournaments/Shootouts

With 10 courts, the Maverick can host any large size event. There are four to five regular three-day tournaments each year and four to five one day shootouts as well. Tournaments can draw 250-300 players, where one day shootouts can draw between 125-150 players. A unique award that players enjoy are the "MavBucks" that are given out for 1st and 2nd place. MavBucks are just like real money except in the form of a gift certificate and can be used in the snack-bar or the pro-shop. But what keeps them coming back is the MavBucks can also be used on the next tournament entry fee.

Other Activities

The club also promotes Wallyball and has two of their racquetball courts available for Wallyball play. Program Director, Leo Vasquez also created the first ever Extreme Dodgeball League at the Maverick. The lines on the racquetball courts are used with the short line as the center line to divide the court in half, the front service line as the attack line for one side, and the encroachment line for the attack line on the other side. The Extreme Dodgeball League had 10 teams and was a hit. "The key was to generate revenue on the racquetball courts when they



Dodgeball logo.

weren't being used on certain nights," said Vasquez. "The dodgeball league generated revenue and was a hit with all club members."

While many clubs have eliminated racquetball programs and long since removed their courts, the Maverick has shown that racquetball players are loyal and their retention can lead to success. For racquetball to have a future, the players must support the facilities that provide the opportunities to play.

For more information about the Maverick, visit their web-site at: www.themav.com



Maverick owner-Bob Sullins (l) and Program Director-Leo R Vasquez(r), two players with a passion.

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IRT

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR

By Dave Negrete

The 2006 Kentucky Pro Am *Benefiting the Prostate Cancer Foundation*

The IRT was back to Kentucky after a two-year hiatus as the Kentucky Pro Am was held in Bowling Green at Western Kentucky University. A beautiful campus and rec center with six back wall racquetball courts made WKU a great place to see the professionals battle. Event director Ron Marr worked very hard with the help of Dr. Philip Singer and Jason and Larry Hicks to make this a great event and to help raise funds for the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Jack Huczek came in early and hosted a junior clinic for the kids and Shane Vanderson helped raise some additional funds with a hard hit contest on Saturday. Jason Hicks and Alvaro Beltran took out a tough Ron Marr and Jack Huczek winning the Thursday evening Pro Am doubles event. The IRT would



Jack at Kentucky Junior Clinic

like to thank all the sponsors that enabled us to come to Kentucky and showcase our skills.

The first quarter of the event featured Cliff Swain and Jason Mannino. This was a battle of tour veterans and they did not let the crowd down. Mannino seemed to control the match with a great return of serve that kept Cliff off balance. With Mannino up 9-5 in the third the lights went out on the feature show court. Fifteen minutes would pass and the decision was made to move to another court. The delay would bring Swain alive as he battled back to 9-9. Jason however would finish on a down the line kill and take the match 8 4 9.

The second match featured number one Jack Huczek and number six Shane Vanderson. Shane started a little slow in the first but pushed Jack hard in the next two games. Jack still the fittest on the tour, would withstand the charge and move on in three close games 5 9 11. Shane continues to improve and his move to Florida looks to be a good one. Jack still remains the player to beat this year, as his game remains very consistent.

The third match would pair up the comeback of former number one Sudsy Monchik and the rising star on the IRT Mitch Williams. The first game would be a tight one with Sudsy regaining his form. Game two would be all Monchik as he did not miss a shot and Mitch had trouble hitting the right shot. Sudsy would go up in the third but a Williams backhand follow thru would clip Sudsy in the left temple causing a gash just above the eye. Sudsy would get treatment and the bleeding stopped but Williams would take the momentum back and game three. It would be game four to Williams also as he began matching Sudsy shot for shot. Monchik slowly began gaining his confidence back and eventually finishing the match with a 12 shot rally and move on to his first semi-final appearance in three years to face his childhood friend Jason Mannino 8, 0, (10), (9), 7. The last quarter matched up Jason Thoerner and Rocky Carson. Rocky had a great event in Kansas City and looked to continue his top level of play. Jason came out a little flat the first two games and Rocky took full advantage of it. Carson seems to have gone away from the "rope a dope" style of play that he used last season and is shooting the ball every chance he gets. Although Thoerner did put on a late match surge Rocky would win the match in three 4, 4, 10 and meet up with his doubles partner Jack Huczek in the semi's, a rematch of Kansas City.

It was a beautiful Saturday in Bowling Green as the campus of Western Kentucky University was in the football spirit, as WKU and Illinois State would

begin battle at 6pm. The tailgating started at noon and the atmosphere was electric. It would carry over to the Preston Center where the buzz at inside was about the stellar play of Sudsy Monchik and his return to the IRT. Jason Mannino would be waiting to put an end to his run Saturday and that is what happened 9 (9) 11 5. Sudsy played his heart out for the fans at the event, as did Jason. Jason would attack Sudsy's back hand most of the match to the crowd's amazement as Monchik would hit some great backhand splats and rollouts. But in the end Mannino's strategy would prevail and his steady play would enable him to win the match. Mannino's ability to get everything would keep the pressure on Sudsy. These two had no problem talking to each other and the crowd the entire match, which brought the entertainment value up to another notch. Jason was the victor today but Sudsy is back!

The second match of the evening did not live up to the hype, as Rocky Carson just could not mustard up enough to get by his doubles partner Jack Huczek. These two had a battle in Kansas City two weeks ago but this match would be the opposite. Both players would be off their games in the first two as Rocky struggled in the first and Jack seemed to lose concentration in the second as these two split the first two games. The third would be very well played but Rocky could not hit the big shot and Jack did. It would be all Huczek in the fourth 5 (8) 9 -2 as Rocky took a two technicals at 10-0 to the humor of the fans and in his words after "I did it so I would not get a donut".

The final would start out all Huczek as Jason came out a little flat in the first game and had trouble scoring. Mannino would come back strong in the second game hitting some great sidewall splats and showing off his great diving ability taking game two. Jack eventually would settle in to a groove and win the match and his second title in a row 0, (8), 5 4

> on tour



The Kansas City Open - Ghost of Georgetown Pro Am

September 14-17, 2006

The Athletic Club of Overland Park has totally transformed into the total entertainment package with a grandstand seating for 300, a terrific player village complete with food and beverages of your choice and the music blasting to get everyone here in the mood for a great racquetball event. A full-blown trade show with the manufacturers and sponsors showing off their goods was set up in the gym and decorated the whole nine yards. What a great job the Mike Wedel and the staff at the club have did to bring a world-class event to Kansas City.

The round of sixteen went off without a hitch, as the crowds were quite large for Friday afternoon. Sudsy Monchik made his long awaited return against Rocky Carson and showed signs of the former Suds. Hitting a few monster backhands and moving fairly well after a two-year layoff he impressed the crowd in KC. Rocky would triumph in this match and spoil Sudsy's bid for an upset. Rocky stayed in control the entire match and moved on to the quarters. All



Dave, Ron Marr and Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders

the other seeds advanced fairly easily with the exception of Jason Thoerner who was taken out by Chris Crowther. Chris played some outstanding ball in this match and looks ready to turn up his game this season.

The first quarterfinal match of the evening featured Cliff Swain and Chris Crowther. The six foot six Crowther came out shooting with reckless abandon hitting everything in the first two games. He would push the veteran Swain in game one losing 10 and winning the next 8. Swain however would come back in true Swain form and cool off Crowther taking the next two games to win the match 10 (8) 1 8 and advance on to the

semis'. The next match showcased the University of Colorado at Pueblo star, Mitch Williams against top seeded Jack Huczek. Mitch played tough but Huczek was too much as he advanced to the semi's 7,5 0. Following this match was Alvaro Beltran meeting Shane Vanderson. Both players had a busy off-season playing in the World Championships in Santo Domingo and it showed. Alvaro's pinpoint pinches were right on and did frustrate Vanderson. Vandy hit the ball well but not good enough as Beltran advanced in three 8,3,7. The last match of the night saw Rocky Carson face off against Jason Mannino. Both players were ready to go and from the start. Rocky played flawlessly the first and a majority of the second until Jason found his groove mid way thru. Rocky would win the first two games but Jason had the answers in the third. Carson would find his focus again in game four and win the match 1,10, (7), 4.

A packed house filled the stadium arena at the Athletic Club of Overland Park for the semi's Saturday afternoon to witness Cliff Swain battle Alvaro Beltran. It would be all Swain in the first game as his serve put a lot of pressure on Alvaro. Beltran would settle down the three games hitting some very effective passing shots and capitalizing in any mistake Swain made. This one would go Beltran's way in the end (8), 4,5,2 and will move on to the first final of the season. The next match looked to be a great one and it was between Rocky Carson and Jack Huczek. Carson would come out "en fuego" in the words of Alvaro Beltran and hit every shot in the book flat. His serves would give Huczek trouble to both sides of the court. In the end, the fitness level of Huczek would take over as Carson "hit the wall" and Jack would cruise in the next three games and move on to meet Beltran in the Sunday final (7), (4), 5,3,4.

The finals would offer everything you would want to see in a final, great shot making, tough serves and leaving it all on the court. The players did all that and more. Jack jumped out to a sizable lead in the first only to have Beltran settle down and fight back with some great down the line shots. Huczek would take it 11-9. In game two both players traded point up to 9-9 and Jack would hit the last two big shots to take game two 11-9



Dave, Ron Marr and Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders

and a two game lead. Beltran would come out smoking in the third not missing a shot and forcing Jack into some unusual unforced errors and take the third 11-6. The fourth would be all Huczek as he stayed in control of center court and take the match and the first title of the IRT season 11-5.

The set up and presentation of the event was first class. Mike Wedel and wife Deb did a terrific job fulfilling their vision of a top event in Kansas City. Setting up grandstand seating and a professional trade booth show for sponsors and players village made the event feel like a major. The club staff was outstanding as Director of Operations Jeff Freeman manned the announcer/sound duties and Marketing Director Julie Heitkamp put all the finishing touches on the event. I cannot say enough about the event staff and club staff here in KC as they made everyone feel right at home. This facility is one of the nicest racquetball clubs in the country. There were great crowds and plenty of amateur play as over 200 players entered this event. Legend Ruben Gonzalez won the 35+ division and was on hand promoting his paintings. The event charity Children's Mercy Hospital was the benefactor of the event as players and fans donated their money at the silent auction and casino night at the club on Saturday night. The party featured the KC Chiefs cheerleaders as they stopped by to help raise money for a great cause.

The IRT looks forward to coming back next season and from all indications it should happen. Thanks again for all the support from all of those that helped with the event.

**The 2006 Canadian
Racquetball Classic**
Presented by Racquetball Canada

Racquetball Canada and Racquetball Ontario would present the biggest event of the year in Canada at the Cedar Springs Racquet, Health and Sport Complex in Burlington Ontario. The club is a beautiful old school racquet facility featuring racquetball, tennis and squash courts. Racquetball Canada has done a great job with junior racquetball as the draw was filled with juniors. The event attracted former NFL player Darrin McNally and Toronto Maple Leaf star Hal Gill to witness all the action. Tournament director Adrian Webb once again put on a great show with the help of his wife Joanne and Jason Reumme who ran the tournament desk all weekend. Sponsor Tim Davey transported players from the airport and the hospitality room was awesome as the Smith and Johnson families kept a good eye on things. Friendly volunteers and Canadian hospitality make this event one you do not want miss. On to the action.

Quarter #1

Shane Vanderson recently move to the warmer climate of Fort Myers and began training with Cliff Swain and here they would play for the first time in a year. These two faced off tonight in a two hour marathon in front of a full house which included Toronto Maple Leaf star Hal Gill and former Oakland Raider Darrin McNally. They did not let the crowd down, as these to battled it out to five games. This battle had two close games to start the match and during the next two one player took control. The fifth was a game to remember as both players hit some spectacular shots and some very close play. Vanderson would come out on top in this match (8) 10 2 (7) 7 and move into his first semi of the season.

Quarter #2

Jack Huczek ran into a fired up Chris Crowther in the second match of the evening that saw Crowther come out hitting some blistering drive serves that amazed the crowd. Crowther pounded away at the ball the first two games as Huczek waiting patiently for his opportunities to come. His patience paid off as the drive serves left Crowther and

Huczek pushed his match-winning streak this season to 10 straight. The final would be in four games (10), 6, 2, 5 and Huczek moved to the Saturday 6pm semi-finals.

Quarter #3

Jason Mannino met his second former junior national champion of the day in Mexico's and University of Alabama student Agustin Tristan. Mannino defeated University of Colorado at Pueblo student Ben Croft in the first round. Mannino did his best to stay focused throughout this match as Tristan fought off his nerves. Neither player would play their best ball but Jason would play good enough to win ugly in three games 5, 1, 10 to make his second straight semi appearance of the season in Saturday's 4pm semi against Shane Vanderson.

Quarter #4

Rocky Carson and Mitch Williams would begin the last match of the night at 10:30pm and a few diehard fans waited around to watch some tough racquetball. Rocky would come out smoking hitting his backhand to the left corner every chance he got. Mitch definitely has game as he fought back hard in the second only to watch Rocky hit an overhead rollout from thirty nine and a half feet to take game two. Rocky would close it out at 11:25 with a forehand kill and move on 5, 9, 3 to meet Jack Huczek in the 6pm semi on Saturday

Semi final #1

Fall is in full swing here in Burlington Ontario as temperatures were in the forties but inside the Cedar Springs Health and Racquet Club it was heating up with anticipation of the Shane Vanderson and Jason Mannino. A full house was on hand for this match and the first game was hot. Each player would answer each other's shots and serves. Jason was typical Jason diving and retrieving and waiting for the setup, which he would eventually kill. Mannino would take the first in a close one 11-9. The second and third games would be all Mannino as Shane experienced what the racquetball world knows as "Skipitis". Jason did not miss his shots as Shane struggled to find any rhythm. Mannino's victory 9,3,3 would put him in his

second straight final. The players were gracious enough to stay after and answer questions from the crowd. One fan in particular asked Jason "What does it feel like to be in the finals" that fan, five-time number one, Sudsy Monchik.

Semi final #2

Jack Huczek stepped on the court to defend his Canadian Classic title, meeting for the third event in a row his doubles partner Rocky Carson. Rocky looked and sounded ready to play before the match but Jack would put an end to that fast as he put constant pressure on Carson throughout the match. Rocky struggled, as did Shane in the previous match to find any rhythm at all. Huczek would dominate this match and win in three straight 1,7,3 He will meet Jason Mannino for the second event in a row in the finals at noon Sunday.

The Final

A rematch of last week's Kentucky Open final is what the fans in Toronto had in store for them, #1 Jack Huczek against #5 Jason Mannino. Game one saw Huczek executing his shots and Jason Mannino making some uncharacteristic unforced errors enabling Jack to win game one 11-3. Much of the same was in store the rest of the match as Jason struggled to find a rhythm and Huczek continued to execute. Jason switched from his patented lob serves to a drive serve a few times in this one to mix it up but Huczek seemed to have an answer for everything Mannino came at him with. Jack would take this match in three straight 3,5,5 to defend his title here in Toronto and win his third straight IRT event of the season.



Rajsich Claims First WPRO Title of the 2006-2007 Season

At Outback Steakhouse Blast It! In Fayetteville, NC

Rhonda Rajsich (Fountain Hills, AZ), #1 ranked women's pro, picked up where she left off last season with an impressive victory over Kerri Wachtel (Cincinnati, OH) at the WPRO's season opener, the Outback Steakhouse Blast It! Pro-Am Championships at The Sports Center in Fayetteville, NC. The competition was fierce, with a pro draw that boasted 23 players, including Cheryl Gudinas (#2 - Naperville, IL), Kristen Walsh (#4 - Salt Lake City, UT), Angela Grisar (#5 - Santiago, Chile), Diane Moore (#6 - Griffith, IN), Brenda Kyzer (#7 - Leesville, SC), and Jo Shattuck (#8 - Denver, CO). DJ Panama kept the energy flowing with rocking beats and booming introductions of the players before each match. There were some



Scott Winters and Shannon Feaster sign Ektelon Contract

early upsets and expected advances throughout the event that kept fans wondering who would vie for the championship on Sunday.

For the first time ever, pro matches were witnessed by fans all over the world, thanks to the WPRO's official webcaster and tour partner, Racquetball Online (www.Racquetballonline.tv), which provided exceptional live video streaming coverage of match play and interviews

throughout the championship. Racquetball Online will broadcast from all Tier I WPRO events this season so WPRO fans who cannot attend the stops can watch for free their favorite players compete live!

Friday's round of 16 pitted #1 seed Rajsich against a 17-year-old rising star from Mexico, Paola Longoria. Rajsich dispatched Longoria in four games (11-6, 11-6, 7-11, 11-6). Rajsich then faced Boise's Tammy Brown in the quarterfinals on Saturday, dropping the first game (4-11) before finding her rhythm and dominating Brown in the next three (11-2, 11-3, 11-2). Rajsich had a tougher semifinal match against another top player and fellow diver from Mexico, Samantha Salas, who fought hard to stay with Rajsich, dive for dive, in each game. It was a thrilling match and a much-anticipated match-up that did not disappoint fans as several rallies saw both ladies flinging their bodies onto the floor with wreckless abandon to try to close out a point.

The other half of the draw was less predictable. Cheryl Gudinas, the #2 seed, defeated Da'Monique Davis in the round of 16 (11-5, 11-4, 11-9) and Doreen Fowler in the quarterfinals (11-0, 13-11, 11-3) to reach the semifinals. In the round of 16, #3 seed Kristen Walsh was pitted against #14 seed and 2001 U.S. Open Champion Kerri Wachtel, who took the second half of last season off after the 2005 U.S. Open to focus on her pregnancy. Six months after giving birth to twin daughters, fans marveled as Wachtel moved through the draw with ease and overtook Walsh (11-0, 9-11, 11-3, 13-11) in the round of 16. Next up for Wachtel was Brenda Kyzer whom she defeated in three

straight games (11-7, 11-9, 11-3) to secure a spot in the semifinals facing Gudinas. Wachtel stunned the crowd with a convincing victory over the five-time U.S. National Singles Champion, defeating Gudinas in three games (11-3, 11-6, 11-5).

Sunday's final was set and Rajsich and Wachtel were ready to do battle. As "Bodies" by Drowning Pool blared during her intro, Rajsich bounced around the court in her warm-up as if to get ready for a prize fight. Wachtel came out to "Pump It" by the Black Eyed Peas and warmed up with a deliberate, focused intensity. The first game was vintage Wachtel as she waited for her opportunities while Rajsich forced shots and skipped too many going for the kill. Rajsich made a major service adjustment in Game 2, opting for the jam to Wachtel's forehand that proved too much for her to handle. Rajsich stayed with the jam and mixed in a hard Z to the backhand and drive serves to the forehand to keep Wachtel off balance. Once Rajsich forced a weak service return, she pounced on the next shot and kept the pressure on. After losing the first 9-11, Rajsich won the last three 11-8, 11-6, 11-2 to claim the first championship of the season.

The WPRO would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the incredible tournament staff for this championship, including Lynn Stephens (NC Racquetball Association President), Lynn Moffitt, Mike Bourgeois, Darlene Heyer, Jon Tumas, and Bobby Thore (WPRO Board Member).

The WPRO would like to thank all of the event's sponsors for making our season opener an outstanding experience. Those sponsors include Outback

Steakhouse, Carl and Marcia Wallace, Steve Loehr, RL Stephens Electric Co., The Sports Center (Lee Tart - Owner and GM), Primo Pizza and Italian Restaurant, Sammio's Italian Restaurant, Healy Wholesale (Miller Beer), Hendrick's Chrysler/Jeep, Wilson Racquetball, Syntech Signs, Eric Nobles CFP, Andreas Winston, Splathead, and Comfort Inn & Suites Cross Creek.

The WPRO would also like to recognize our national tour sponsors, including Wilson (official ball), Python (official grip), and Racquetball Online TV (official webcaster), which carried live video streaming of pro matches on their website throughout the weekend.

About the WPRO

The Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) is the governing body of a growing membership of the top female racquetball players in the world. The WPRO is currently comprised of elite athletes representing over a dozen countries, including the United States, Mexico, Chile, Canada, and Japan. The WPRO's mission is to promote health and fitness through racquetball among women and girls around the world. For more information about the WPRO, visit www.wpro-tour.com.

2005-2006 WPRO RANKINGS

as of October 15, 2006

Rank	Name	Points
1	Rajsich, Rhonda	827.5
2	Gudinas, Cheryl	553.525
3	Walsh, Kristen	396
4	Grisar, Angela	385.63
5	Van Hees, Christie	300
6	Moore, Diane	248.5
7	Kyzer, Brenda	236
8	Shattuck, Jo	186.88
9	Brown, Tammy	175.5
10	Wachtel, Kerri	154.5
11	Salas, Samantha	131.5
12	Fowler, Doreen	129.75
13	Acosta, Susy	113.25
14	Fenton, Laura	112.5
15	Powell, Lori-Jane	75.13
16	Gomez, Vivian	73.75
17	Hallander, Kersten	71.5
18	Morton, Karen	69.25
19	Fisher, Adrienne	59.25
20	GrandMaitre, Josee	47.51

PRO TOUR SCHEDULES

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR



December 1-3	T4	Phoenix, Az
January 11-14	T1	Orange County, Ca
January 18-21	T1	Long Island, Ny
January 26-28	T4	Phoenix, Az
February 8-11	T2	Sioux Falls, Sd
February 15-18	T1	Seattle Wa
February 22-25	T1	San Diego, Ca
March 2-4	T4	Schereville, In
March 8-11	T1	Colorado Springs, Co
March 15-18	T1	Greensboro Nc
March 22-25	T1	Boston, Ma
April 12-15	T1	Allentown, Pa
April 25-29	T1	Motorola Pro Nationals Chicago, Il

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL



Dec 7-10, '06	Arlington, VA	Entry Christmas Classic Pro-Am	1
Jan 4-7, '07	Seattle, WA	Emerald City Open	1
Jan 18-21, '07	Stockton, CA	Superbowl Open	1
Feb 8-11, '07	Denver, CO	Racquet for the Cure	1
Feb 16-18, '07	Rawlins, WY	Pepsi Premier	3
Feb 22-25, '07	Toronto, Ontario	The Great Canadian Challenge	GS
Mar 8-11, '07	Miami, FL	Great Balls of Fire Pro-Am	1
May 3-6, '07	New Orleans, LA	WPRO Pro Nationals	PN

NMRA International Racquetball Hall of Fame Inducts Sharon Hastings Welty and Ron Adams

Sharon Hastings Welty and Ron Adams were inducted into the National Masters Racquetball Association International Hall of Fame at the organization's summer tournament banquet held this summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Sharon Hastings Welty is the 31st inductee to the prestigious Hall of Fame since its first tournament in 1971. Ms. Welty is a racquetball instructor and fitness consultant on diet and training at the Timberhill Athletic Club. It was at Oregon State University that she began her racquetball participation on a recreational basis.

When her husband Jim Welty accepted a position in the Washington D.C. area, it was then that Sharon, after the age of fifty, began to play on a more competitive basis. She received training and advanced instruction while living on the east coast and began to compete in tournaments. Upon returning to Corvallis and joining the Timberhill Athletic Club staff in the early 1990's, she found national competition well to her liking. She then joined the Team Ektelon Racquetball program as a

sponsored player. In National Masters Racquetball Association competition, Sharon has earned sixteen medals (thirteen of which are Gold medals for first place!). Sharon has additionally won medals in USA Racquetball tournaments and the World Seniors Albuquerque tournament as well as

"RON ADAMS HAS ESTABLISHED A TREMENDOUS PRESENCE ON THE RACQUETBALL COURT..." – ROBY PARTOVICH

others at the state and regional level.

Andy Roberts, former top professional racquetball player and Director of Promotions for Ektelon Racquetball says, "Sharon's willingness to give back to racquetball, as evidenced by her countless hours of teaching all levels and ages, is an outstanding example of her zest for life and love of people. She is a true torch bearer for all things that are good in our sport. All of Team Ektelon salutes her for a job well done and for everything she has done for racquetball."

Ron Adams is the 32nd inductee to the NMRA Hall of Fame. Ron began playing racquetball in 1975 in a small two-court recreational facility. He loved the game immediately, even though he was winded and felt he wasn't fast enough to retrieve the ball in the twenty-foot by forty-foot court area. He entered a tournament at thirty-five years of age and played a fifteen-year-

BY LEE K. GRAFF,
NMRA Hall of Fame Executive Director

old player in the finals, winning his first tournament championship medal. Since that early competition, Adams has played in over 600 tournaments. In 1996 he joined the National Masters Racquetball Association. It was also at that time that he joined the Team E-FORCE Racquetball program as a sponsored player. In National Masters Racquetball Association competition Ron has earned twenty-four medals of which ten are Gold. He has claimed Gold medals in Men's Singles (5), Men's Doubles (2), and Mixed Doubles (3). Ron has won many other medals in the other National tournaments sponsored by USA Racquetball, the World Seniors in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Huntsman Senior Games in St. George, Utah. At the Huntsman Games, he placed first in singles eight times out of the nine times he entered, as well as seven doubles championships. In addition, he has won numerous local and regional tournaments and Senior Olympics National titles with partner Peter Luffred of San Diego.

Roby Partovich, Marketing and Promotions Director for E-FORCE Racquetball says,

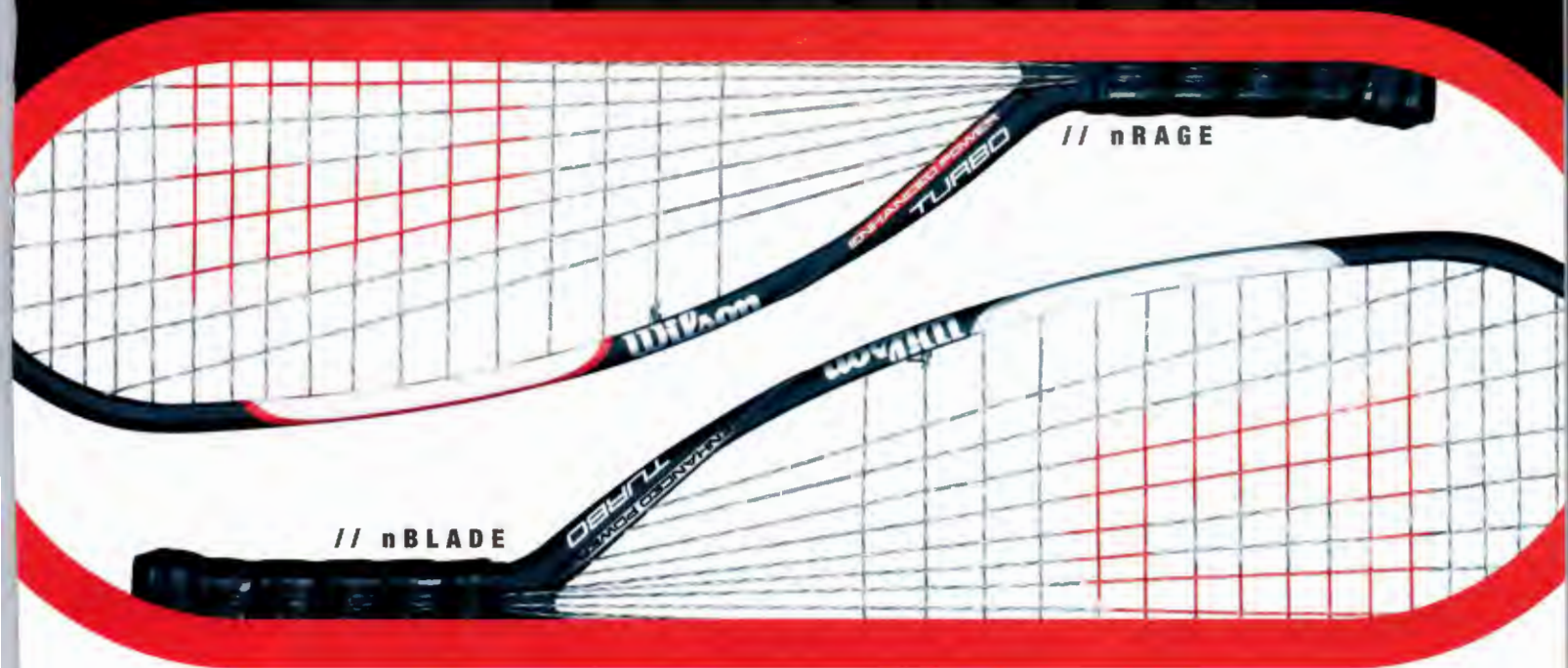
"Ron Adams has established a tremendous presence on the racquetball court for his excellent back hand, court positioning and precise shot execution. He is a person who contributes tremendously to making the game improve and grow. We at Team E-Force are proud to have Ron as a key leader."

Over 240 players from forty-five to eighty-five years of age competed in this year's Minneapolis NMRA tournament. Events in singles, mixed doubles and men's and women's doubles were conducted over the five-day tournament. Two tournaments are held annually by the NMRA. Further information may be obtained on the organization's website at www.NMRA.info.



Ron Adams, Lee Graff, Paul Banales, and Sharon Hastings Welty

encode



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ask the **PROS** **jack HUCZEK**



ASHAWAY
RACKET STRINGS

HEAD



1. What do you think is the key to your success?

I was blessed with two great parents who instilled fundamentals of work ethic, respect, and education. Without them I would not be where I'm at today. I believe if you're driven and have a foundation of work ethic, respect, and education, you'll succeed in anything.

2. For aspiring young players, what is one tip would you give them that may help improve their game?

The first piece of advice is to stay in school to earn an undergraduate and graduate degree. The competitive work environment is constantly evolving and the only way to gain a competitive advantage over the workforce is to have continued education. Education should never stop!

A young player should have a constant thirst for knowledge towards racquetball and life. There is not one way to play, one way to win, nor one way to succeed in sport or life. A professional athlete understands this and uses this to his advantage. Above all, an athlete respects his sport, his fans, his opponents and himself. Because of this, he should be an upstanding citizen and role model. And always remember where you came from and be gracious in passing your knowledge on to other people.

3. What do you enjoy most about international competitions?

There is no greater honor for an athlete then to represent his country. Having the opportunity to play for my country is a distinct privilege. Competing with Team USA provides the opportunity to meet and interact with people from

many different countries, who otherwise might not have the opportunity. Competing internationally also provides my sponsors the ability to enhance product knowledge to new markets.

4. What one thing would you like changes about each—amateur and professional racquetball?

I would like each organization to earn a major corporate sponsor, which would provide racquetball the opportunity to become a popular sport and would allow its players and leaders to earn a better living. I would like some rules modernized in the amateur Open division, so that they are more current with the professional game. I would like a modernized officiating system implicated to the pro game to alleviate pressure on one referee.

5. What is your favorite —

Food: Thanksgiving Feast

Movie: A Few Good Men, Friday Trilogy, Bad Boys, and Bad Boys II

Book: The Art of War

City: (other than Metro-Detroit) San Diego

Country: (other than USA) Venezuela

Pro team: All Detroit teams (Red Wings, Tigers, Lions, and Pistons)

Pro athlete and why: Steve Yzerman and Barry Sanders. These guys were great players and role models, who lead by example, not by their mouth or end-zone celebration.

6. Where do you hope you are in 10 years?

I would like to continue competing on a professional level, however, realistically I see myself pursuing a career utilizing my education and racquetball experience in sports management, marketing, or entrepreneurship.

ask the PROS

christie VAN HEES



1. What is the main key to your success?

Goal setting has become one of the most important keys to my success especially since my life has changed significantly this year. Establishing a career while trying to remain successful in the sport that I love and balancing a personal life is not an easy task, but it can be done. In each area of my life I have determined what is most important to me and have allotted my time and efforts accordingly - and so far so good! A positive attitude, a good support system and the understanding that you cannot plan for everything also helps.

2. For aspiring young players, what one training tip would you give that may help improve their game?

Become a sponge for knowledge! While the fundamentals of the game remain pretty much the same across the board, pro players have their own secrets they use beyond executing proper shot selection, court positioning, etc.

There is always more than meets the eye. Our sport is unique in that the pros are approachable and easily accessible and I would recommend that any young player use this to their advantage. Michelle Gould taught me a lot coming up as a junior, above and beyond proper stroke mechanics. I would love to do the same for aspiring young players coming up as well.

3. What do you enjoy most about international competitions?

Returning to the World Championships this summer after six years of being away from amateur international competition was a bittersweet experience for me. I definitely had my reasons for not playing in 2002 and 2004, but I had forgotten how many fun times I missed by not playing. I have a big smile on my face just thinking about the times I've had at international events. Whether I won or lost the championship, in the end they produced so many unique experiences, so many stories and so many good memories. I can't say I enjoy just one thing, because it has all been great.

4. What one thing would you like to change about amateur and professional racquetball?

In amateur racquetball I would love to see more juniors coming up and challenging the older established players. I can see this shift occurring in South America but in Canada and the U.S. there still seems to be a domination of players who have been around for years. I am waiting for that one junior girl to start touring me around the court like nobody's

business and I hope that day comes long before I decide to hang up my racquet. This change will only come about as we strengthen our junior programs.

In professional racquetball I believe pro events need to be showcased in front of larger, more diverse crowds. We need more U.S. Opens and more Motorola Pro Nationals at venues that expose the sport to people who haven't played before. More TV time would be great for our sport, but I don't think it is the key to getting people excited about playing who haven't played before. The public needs to see the pros play live to understand how dynamic this sport is.

5. What is your favorite —

Food: Anything healthy and mint chocolate chip ice cream

Movie: Walk the Line, Legends of the Fall, and any stupid humor comedy

Book: 'A Prayer for Owen Meany' and 'The World According to Garp' by John Irving

City: Kelowna, BC, Canada - specifically my parents' farm in the mountains

Countries: Islands of the Eastern Caribbean

Professional Team: Calgary Flames

Athletes: Roger Federer, Martina Hingis and Tiger Woods

6. Where do you hope to be in 10 years?

Healthy, doing what I love and surrounded by those I love.

Breast cancer interrupted my life,
but not my racquetball career.

I played racquetball nearly every
day during my six months of
Cancer treatments. The sport I
have loved for the past 25 years
kept me strong, both physically
and mentally.

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fight this terrible disease. I am
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EKTELON JUNIOR ELITESTYLE

By John Ellis



Aubrey O'Brien



Adam Manilla



Sharon Jackson



Paola Longoria
with Rhonda
Rajsich



Key Sisters



Veronica
Sotomayor

With the IRF Junior World Championship in Tempe quickly approaching, there's no better time than this issue to show off our cream of the crop when it comes to junior racquetball. Ektelon's Junior Elite Team is made up of the top junior sponsored players representing Ektelon Racquetball at the USAR Junior Nationals and these World Championships. We're very proud to sponsor these players not only for their on court achievements but also their off court personalities and involvement in promoting the sport. I am personally looking forward to watching the play in Tempe as the emotions run high when it's country versus country with upsets bound to happen.

Junior players from the US make up the majority of the Ektelon Junior Elite Team, although there have been a few recent key signings in Latin America and the promise of more to come. As most readers probably know, Mexico has taken over as the World Champions at the junior level and Latin America as a whole is very competitive with the United States and Canada. So it would be crazy of me not to highlight our international junior players that happen to be current World Champions alongside the US junior players. We wish them all the best in Tempe!!! Ellistyle

GIRL'S TEAM

Player: Paola Longoria

Division: 16 & Under

Country: Mexico

Titles: 2005 Junior Worlds Champion Girl's 16 & Under, 2006 Pan American Ladies Singles Champion, 2006 Central American Games Ladies Singles Champion, 2006 Mexican National Champion Ladies Singles

WPRO Ranking: #22

IRF Ranking: #3

Player: Michelle Key

Division: 18 & Under

Country: USA (Arizona)

Titles: 2006 US Junior National Champion

College: Arizona State University

Player: Sharon Jackson

Division: 16 & Under

Country: USA (Indiana)

Titles: 2006 US Junior National Champion

Player: Veronica Sotomayor

Division: 14 & Under (1st year)

Country: Ecuador

Titles: 2005 Junior Worlds Champion Girl's 12 & Under, 2006 Ecuadorian National Champion Ladies Singles

IRF Ranking: #1 Girl's 12 & Under

Player: Aubrey O'Brien

Division: 14 & Under (1st year)

Country: USA (California)

Titles: 2006 US Junior National Champion

IRF Ranking: #3 Girl's 12 & Under

Player: Sherrika Darnell

Division: 16 & Under

Country: USA (California)

Player: Danielle Key

Division: 16 & Under

Country: USA (Arizona)

Player: Teresa Diaz

Division: 16 & Under (California)

Country: USA (California)

BOY'S TEAM

Player: Felipe Camacho

Division: 18 & Under (1st year)

Country: Costa Rica

Titles: 2006 Costa Rican National Junior Champion

IRF Ranking: #9 Boy's 16 & Under

Player: Adam Manilla

Division: 10 & Under

Country: USA (Colorado)

Titles: 2006 US Junior National Champion

Boy's 10 & Under

Player: Jerome Jackson

Division: 16 & Under

Country: USA (Mass)

Player: Dylan Reid

Division: 14 & Under (1st year)

Country: USA (Oregon)

Player: Sam Reid

Division: 12 & Under

Country: USA (Oregon)

Player: Jake Brendenbeck

Division: 14 & Under

Country: USA (Minnesota)



39th USA RACQUETBALL

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By James Hiser, Ph.D.
Tournament Director

US Team Qualifying Divisions

In both the Men's and Women's Open divisions, #1 seeds defended their national titles and re-qualified for the U.S. National Team. Laura Fenton and Aimee Ruiz cruised through the draw, winning all matches in two straight games. After the match, Laura gave all the credit to Aimee who is ecstatically fulfilling her lifetime dream of representing her country as a member of the U.S. team.



Jack Huczek/Rocky Carson "Three times a Charm"

Prior to the event, most people expected the returning Jackie Paraiso Rice and Kim Russell Waselenchuk to meet Aimee and Laura in the finals. Jackie and Kim lost in the semifinals to Janel Tisinger and Rhonda Rajsich. An injury endured by Jackie at the end of Game 1 seemed to doom the former world championship team. Although Jackie's movement was definitely limited, Kim's aggressive play combined

with Jackie's experience and shot-making ability nearly allowed them to survive the match, but it would have been doubtful whether Jackie could have continued.

In the Men's division, Rocky Carson and Jack Huczek also defended their national titles. Except for one match, Huczek and Carson's road to the finals was uneventful. The one exception was their controversial match with Shawn Royster and John Ellis. Although Shawn Royster is normally recognized for his outstanding television and video productions, he proved in this match that he could hold his own with the "Big Boys." The controversy erupted in Game 1 at 14-12 Rocky and Jack when John Ellis protested his opponents' racquet length. Upon measurement, the grip was found to extend beyond the allotted 22 inch length, resulting in Rocky and Jack forfeiting the game. Although the incident did result in obvious court tension and crowd astonishment, Jack and Rocky seemed motivated and easily won game two and the tiebreaker.

The finals featured the new



Diane Moore - "Another ace serve?"



Jason Thoerner "Covering Mitch's side again!"

team of Jeff Stark and Andy Hawthorne. It was obvious that this team deserved a U.S. Team appointment, but in the finals Jack and Rocky dominated, winning their 3rd straight National Doubles championship.

Age Divisions

This year the women earned the spotlight with both Elaine Dexter and Malia Bailey winning three gold medals apiece. Elaine took 1st place in Women's 40 (with Jody Nance), Mixed 40 (with David Azuma), and Women's 50 (with Diane Moore). Malia took home the Gold in Mixed 40 (with Jimmy Lowe), Mixed 45 (with Glenn Bell), and Women's 45 (with Debbie Tisinger). Janet Myers also medaled in three events, winning the Gold in Mixed 55 (with Denny Vincent), Women's 50 (with Karen Key), and Women's 55 (with Nancy Kronenfeld). Not only did Aimee Ruiz win the Women's Open division, she also set a new record by winning her fourth consecutive Mixed Open doubles victory (with Jason Thoerner).

In the Men's Age division Jimmy Lowe again won double Gold medals in Men's 40 (with Tim



Dave Azuma/Elaine Dexter "Double Golds"

Hansen) and Mixed 40 (with Malia Bailey). Although exhausted and swearing never to play three division's again, Tim Hansen medaled in three divisions: Men's 40 (with Jimmy Lowe), Men's 45 (with Gordon Kirkland) and second in Mixed 40 (with Brenda Kyzer). John Amatulli enjoyed his best ever National Doubles taking home two Gold's – Men's 35 (with Keith Minor), Mixed 35 (with Diane Moore) and a Silver in Men's 40 (again with Keith Minor). David Azuma again medaled in three divisions – Gold in Men's 50 (with Tom Travers), Bronze in Men's 45 (with Tom Travers) and Gold in Mixed 50 (with Elaine Dexter).

Skill Divisions

Perhaps the major story in the Skills was the usage of the Olympic format in most of the women's divisions. Although the women were receptive to the



Rhonda Rajsich "Perhaps I should hit a Pinch!"

opportunity to compete with different players, it seemed the consensus was to have skill division play within their own divisions and then play off each level within the Olympic format. A review of the event and a proposal for change will be presented to the National Board in November. The USAR Women's Council is working diligently to attract new women to tournaments and also to improve formats. Anyone interesting in assisting with or participating on the Women's Council should contact Lorraine Galloway at Lorraine@sunrisehealthclub.com, Linda Mojer at Linda@lindamojer.com, or Cheryl Kirk at cherylkirk@aol.com.

Men's Doubles 30+ - Single Elimination Finals

1st: Brian Fredenberg / Jeff Stark - TX/WA DEF. Greg Solis / Jon Dunn - CA/CA 14,13
3rd: Mark Nomura / Tim Annear - CA/CA DEF. Bradford Davis / Eddie Alberty - NC/NC WBF - No Show

Men's Doubles 35+ - Single Elimination Finals

1st: John Amatulli / Keith Minor - IN/IL DEF. Doug Ganim / Jeff Bell - OH/AZ (11),10,1
3rd: Darin Randles / Tommy Medina - AZ/AZ DEF. Hart Johnson / Todd Stead - MN/MN (14),10,9

Men's Doubles 35+ A - Single Elimination Finals

1st: David Croom / Wade Reuther - WA/WA DEF. Bruce Bryant / Eric New - NC/NC 4,7
3rd: Randy Long / Ron Miramontes - CA/CA DEF. Gustavo Lopez / Martin Page - AZ/AZ WBF - Injury

Men's Doubles 40+ - Single Elimination Finals

1st: Jimmy Lowe / Tim Hansen - HI/FL DEF. John Amatulli / Keith Minor - IN/IL 9,(8),8
3rd: Darin Randles / Mike Lubbers - AZ/AZ DEF. John Peterson / Russ Bonanno - NY/NY 13,(7),7

Men's Doubles 45+ - Single Elimination Finals

1st: Gordon Kirkland / Tim Hansen - FL/FL DEF. Bill Hartwell / Mark Baron - VA/VA 9,3
3rd: David Azuma / Tom Travers - OR/FL DEF. Dave Peck / Evan Terry - TX/AZ WBF - No Show

Men's Doubles 45+ A - Single Elimination Finals

1st: Brian Showers / John Schroeder - /AZ DEF. John Patalano / Russ Palazzo - RI/CT 4,6
3rd: John Bulinski / Phil Cohen - NM/NM DEF. Joseph Baresi / Richard Wells - CT/CT

Men's Doubles 50+ - Single Elimination Finals

1st: David Azuma / Tom Travers - OR/FL DEF. Gene Pare / Troy Stallings - CA/SD 11,3
3rd: Bill Hartwell / Mark Baron - VA/VA DEF. Bert Castelanelli / David Ortega - CA/CA WBF - No Show

Men's Doubles 55+ - Single Elimination Finals

1st: Eric Barkey / Jim Bailey - CA/VA DEF. Denny Vincent / Joe Lee - OH/HI 14,2
3rd: Bert Castelanelli / David Ortega - CA/CA DEF. Ed Remen / Jim Hiser - NC/CO WBF - No Show

Men's Doubles 60+ - Single Elimination Finals

1st: Ed Remen / Mike Pawka - NC/CA DEF. Craig Olsen / Tom McKie - NE/TX 11,8



Shannon Inglesby "Keep your eye on the Ball"

3rd: Fred Letter / Jerry Davis - NJ/OH DEF. Robert Lattanzio / Scott Rudoni - CA/CA WBF - Injury

Men's Doubles A - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Ben Mendoza / David Barnes - RI/RI DEF. Jonathan Clay / Mike Patalano - NJ/RI

3rd: Marc Pollack / Ricardo Soto - CA/CA DEF. Joseph Villarreal / Lawrence Desorbo - NV/NV WBF - No Show

Men's Doubles B - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Dave Peckinpaugh / Michael Peckinpaugh - CA/CA DEF. Richard Aal / Tom Lonardo - CA/CA (11),6,1

3rd: Jon Wheeler / Roberto Tijerino - AZ/AZ DEF. David De Cicco / Fred Lantigua - AZ/AZ 13,11

Men's Doubles C - Single Elimination

1st: Raphael Carrillo/Basimo DEF Bennett/Krawl

3rd: Jackie Eaton/Peterson DEF Hubrich/Evans

Men's Doubles D - Single Elimination

1st: Ferran/Maestas DEF Parobek/Starr

Men's Doubles Elite - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Daniel Pflaster / Kevin Buehler - KS/KS DEF. Marc Pollack / Ricardo Soto - CA/CA 4,7

3rd: Josh Doniak / Matthew Majxner - MT/MT DEF. Bronc

Hughes / Clinton Nixon - CA/CA WBF - No Show

Men's Doubles M24/25 - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Brent Walters / Mitch Williams - NC/ DEF. Devin Rogers / Micah Rich - CA/CA

3rd: Ben Croft / Charlie Pratt - IL/OR DEF. Jason Geis / Rafael Filippini - CA/CA WBF - No Show

Men's Doubles 24A - Single Elimination

1st: Justin Martin/KameronMasood DEF Bisom/Dale

Men's Doubles M25A - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Alex Ma / Fabian Mendieta - TX/TX DEF. Ro Blackwood / Thomas Baker - CA/CA 14,9

3rd: Andrew Kulback / Eric Jubin - OH/TX DEF. Bill George / Bronc Hughes - CA/CA WBF - No Show



Jeff Stark "The other front wall Jeff!"

Men's Doubles 25B - Single Elimination

Tanaka/Kelly - unchallenged

Men's Doubles M35B - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Fred Lantigua / Mike Mitchell - AZ/AZ DEF. Carlos Aguirre / Scott Parchem - AZ/AZ (6),14,6

3rd: Mike Tanaka / Nick Kelly - AZ/AZ DEF. Keith Turley / Neal Heggen - WA/WA 4,5

Men's Doubles 35C - Single Elimination

1st: Frank Mahoney / John Giglia - NY/NY

2nd: French/Mathews

Men's Doubles 25C

1st: Raphael Carrillo / Rob Balsimo - CA/



Ben Croft "Spread out for my perfect kill!"

Men's Doubles 45C - Single Elimination

1st: Jackie Eaton / Sam Krawl - /AZ

2nd: George Parobek / Joe Star - IN/IN

Men's Doubles 55B - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Jon Christ / Steve Cohen

2nd: Horrow/Roche

3rd: Farrell/Dinerman

Men's Doubles 55C - Single Elimination

1st: Ferran/Maestas

2nd: Cooper/Peter Kochis

3rd: Cromwell/Mahon

Men's Doubles M65 - Round Robin

1st: Fred Letter / Jerry Davis - NJ/OH

2nd: Carmen Felicetti / Lee Graff - IN/OR



Doug Ganim "Get you derrier out of the way!"

Men's Doubles 70 – Round Robin

1st: Dick Mackey / Paul Banales

Men's Doubles MC/D - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Raphael Carrillo / Rob Balsimo - CA/ DEF. Alan Bennett / Sam Krawl - AZ/AZ 12,5

3rd: Jackie Eaton / Roger Peterson - /AZ DEF. Bruce Hubrich / Chuck Evans - KY/KY (5),14,10

Men's Doubles Open - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Jack Huczek / Rocky Carson - MI/CA DEF. Andy Hawthorne / Jeff Stark - OH/WA 7,9

3rd: Dan Darling / Jason Samora - OR/CA DEF. Doug Ganim / Jeff Bell - OH/AZ WBF - No Show



Jeff Stark "A half-dive?"

Mixed Doubles 30+ - Round Robin

1st: Amy Foster / Jeff Stark - CA/WA

2nd: Ben Simons / Rachel Gellman - AZ/AZ

3rd: Brian Klee / Jody Nance

Mixed Doubles 35+ - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Diane Moore / John Amatulli - IN/IN DEF. Kevin Buehler / Laura Fenton - KS/KS 8,11

3rd: Lisa Hjelm / Mark Nomura - CA/CA DEF. Liz Alvarado / Mark Malowitz - TX/TX WBF - No Show



Jackie Rice/Kim Russel- Waselenchuck "Can I jump or What?"

Mixed Doubles 40+ - Round Robin

1st: Jimmy Lowe / Malia Bailey - HI/VA

2nd: Brenda Kyzer / Tim Hansen - SC/FL

3rd: Celia Vigil / Tom Lonardo

Mixed Doubles 45+ - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Glenn Bell / Malia Bailey - TX/VA DEF. Ken Stone / Linda Moore - CA/NE 6,7

3rd: Debra Tisinger / Troy Stallings - CA/SD DEF. Connie Martin / Paul Reed - OR/OR WBF - No Show

Mixed Doubles 50+ - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: David Azuma / Elaine Dexter - OR/CA DEF. Matt Roth / Vicki Panzeri - /WA 4,7

3rd: Kim Cameron / Rick Ramirez - CA/CA DEF. Susan Pfahler / Bill Hartwell - FL/VA WBF - No Show

Mixed Doubles 55+ - Round Robin

1st: Janet Myers / Denny Vincent - NC/OH

2nd: Nancy Kronenfeld / Russell Mannino - IL/CA

3rd: Mike Pawka / Terry Ann Rogers

Mixed Doubles A - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Dan Malsack / Lori Soares - /CA DEF. Melissa Bentley / Mike Murphy - OH/TX 12,8

3rd: David Barnes / Kim Skerry - RI/RI DEF. Andrew Kulback / Barb Skusa - OH/OH 13,(4),10

Mixed Doubles B - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Lori Turley / Neal Heggen - WA/WA DEF. Bruce Adams / Tanya Northcutt - OK/OK 7,6

3rd: Frank Vail / Linda White - PA/PA DEF. Lynn Stephens / Mimi Greene - NC/HI 9,(8),8

Mixed Doubles Elite - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Jason Geis / Lori Soares - CA/CA DEF. Cindy Gilbert / Gil Cepeda - CA/CA 14,9

3rd: Marc Pollack / Roxanne Davis - CA/CA DEF. Debra Bryant / Eddie Alberty - NC/NC WBF - No Show

Mixed Doubles Mix24/25 - Round Robin

1st: James Swift / Kari Gardner - CA/CA

2nd: Anita King / Jeremy Hammond - TX/AZ

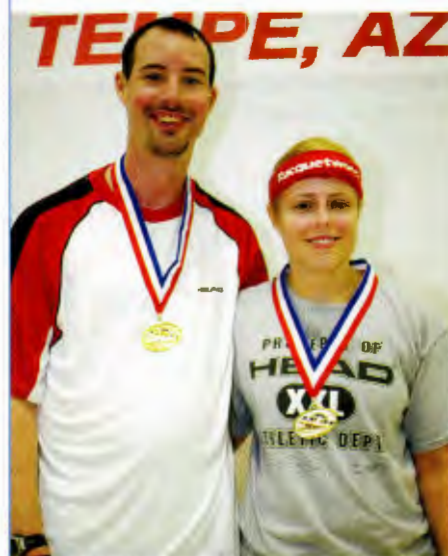
3rd: Debra Nathan / Rudy Chavez

Mixed Doubles MX60/65 - Single Elimination

Finals

1st: Dan Jones / Nidia Funes - GA/CA DEF. Ben Smith / Marquita Molina - FL/CA 8,2

3rd: Sharon Hastings Welty / William Baker - OR/CA DEF. Cece Palaski / Fred Roe - NM/CA WBF - No Show



Jason Thoerner/Aimee Ruiz "Another record win!"



Laura Fenton/Aimee Ruiz "Isn't this fun!"

Mixed Doubles MXC/D - Single Elimination Finals

1st: Barbara Ahearn / Brian Clark -
/AZ DEF. Heather Brady / Jon
Tumas - NC/NC 13,14
3rd: Pearl Torres / Ralph Torres -
CA/CA DEF. Colleen Keating /
Jeffrey Sligar - CA/CA 7,(11),1

Mixed Doubles Open - Single Elimination Finals

1st: Aimee Ruiz / Jason Thoerner -
NJ/IL DEF. Elaine Albrecht / Shane
Vanderson - OH/OH 10,11
3rd: Shawn Royster / Rhonda
Rajsich - /AZ DEF. John Ellis / Kristen
Walsh - CA/UT

Women's Doubles 50+ Gold - Olympic Format Finals

1st: Elaine Dexter / Linda Moore -
CA/NE DEF. Leslie Pawka / Vicki
Panzeri - CA/WA (4),13,4
3rd: Marcia Richards / Sue
Goodwin - CO/CA DEF. Karen Key
/ Janet Myers - AK/NC WBF - No
Show

Women's Doubles 50+ Red - Olympic Format Finals

1st: Barb Skusa / Jean Trimble -
OH/FL DEF. Brenda White / Debbie
Chaney - /IL WBF - No Show

3rd: Kathleen Trotter / Nancy
Large - FL/CA DEF. Cheryl Kirk /
Linda Mojer - IL/CO WBF - No
Show

Women's Doubles A Blue - Olympic Format Finals

1st: Mimi Greene / Stephanie
Winfrey - HI/NC DEF. Carla Francis /
Renee Fish - CA/FL 14,10
3rd: Kelly Werner / Laura Carlson -
NV/NV DEF. Jessica Samios / Kim
Skerry - CT/RI WBF - No Show

Women's Doubles A Gold - Olympic Format Finals

1st: Gladys Leonard / Judith Flis -
VA/PA DEF. Katy Wood / Melody
Gorno - AK/MI (7),12,4
3rd: Lori Turley / Rowena Birnel -
WA/WA DEF. Jean Gallagher /
Maylen Gaspar - CO/CO (12),14,4



Charlie Pratt "Help!"

Women's Doubles A Red - Olympic Format Finals

1st: Marie Eatough / Melissa
Bentley - OH/OH DEF. Marni
Wagner / Paula Likens - OR/CA
6,2

Women's Doubles B - Round Robin

1st: Ester Lozano / Louise Doran -
CA/CA
2nd: Leslie Messmer / Meredith
Wilkes - OH/OH
3rd: Debbie Wilson / Diana
Easthope

Women's Doubles C - Round Robin

1st: Arleen Jimenez / Carolina Cruz



Sal Perconti/Janet Myers "Another Myers
victory"

- CA/CA
2nd: Heather Brady / Jan Stelma -
NC/NC
3rd: Julia Mouser / Pearl Torres

Women's Doubles Elite - Round Robin

1st: Lori Soares / Roxanne Davis -
CA/CA
2nd: Marsha Berry / Peggy
Stephens - KY/KY
3rd: Marcia Richards / Sue
Goodwin

Women's Doubles Open - Single Elimination Finals

1st: Aimee Ruiz / Laura Fenton -
NJ/KS DEF. Janel Tisinger / Rhonda
Rajsich - CA/AZ 10,11
3rd: Cheryl Gudinas Holmes /
Shannon Inglesby - IL/OR DEF.
Jacqueline Paraiso / Kim Russell-
Waselenchuck - CA/TX

Women's Doubles 24 - Round Robin

1st: Janel Tisinger / Michelle Key -
CA/AZ
2nd: Kara Mazur / Samantha
Mcguffey - CT/OH

Women's Doubles 25 - Round Robin

1st: Jeanine Ove / Marilyn Ross

Women's Doubles 25A - Round Robin

1st: Katy Wood/ Thao Le DEF. L.
Messmer/M. Wiles

Women's Doubles W30/40 Gold - Olympic Format Finals

1st: Elaine Dexter / Jody Nance -

CA/CA DEF. Debra Tisinger / Solanna Taragan - CA/CA 5,(11),5
3rd: Beth Neff / Wanda Collins - WA/WA DEF. Karin Sobotta / Lorraine Galloway - WA/NY 9,10

Women's Doubles 35A - Olympic Format

Finals

1st: Melody Gorno / Stephanie Winfrey - MI/NC DEF. Lori Turley / Rowena Birnel - WA/WA 7,11
3rd: Jessica Samios / Kim Skerry - CT/RI DEF. Cheryl Kirk / Thao Le - IL/VA (2),5,10

Women's Doubles 35 Gold - Olympic Format

Finals

1st: Brenda Kyzer / Debra Bryant - SC/NC DEF. Beth Neff / Kim Wilkerson - WA/OR 10,9
3rd: Karin Sobotta / Lorraine Galloway - WA/NY DEF. Tammarran Rogers / Vivian Rodriguez - WA/WA 5,5

Women's Doubles 35B - Olympic Format

Finals

1st: Dorcy Norton / Tanya Northcutt - CA/OK DEF. Jean Gallagher / Maylen Gaspar - CO/CO 13,3
3rd: Arleen Jimenez / Carolina Cruz - CA/CA DEF. Debbie Wilson / Diana Easthope - MI/MI 12,3

Women's Doubles 35C - Olympic Format

Finals

1st: Colleen Keating / Pearl Torres - CA/CA DEF. Dina Rufo / Tina Thomas - RI/WA 4,3



Aimee Ruiz/Laura Fenton "Look out partner!"

Women's Doubles 45A - Olympic Format

Finals

1st: Brenda Lee / Cindy Gilbert - CA/CA DEF. Barb Skusa / Jean Trimble - OH/FL (3),9,3
3rd: Marni Wagner / Paula Likens - OR/CA DEF. Connie Martin / Linda Moore - OR/NE WBF - No Show

Women's Doubles W45 - Olympic Format

Finals

1st: Debra Tisinger / Malia Bailey - CA/VA DEF. Mary Lyons / Susan Pfahler - FL/FL (5),7,7
3rd: Marsha Berry / Peggy Stephens - KY/KY DEF. Leslie Pawka / Vicki Panzeri - CA/WA WBF - No Show



John Ellis/ Rocky Carson/Shawn Royster "Please hit it low!"

Women's Doubles 45B - Olympic Format

Finals

1st: Gladys Leonard / Isabel Nagelin - VA/VA DEF. Debbie Chaney / Debra Stefandel - IN/IN (13),5,5
3rd: Judith Flis / Susan Hendricks - PA/AZ DEF. Kathleen Trotter / Nancy Large - FL/CA 4,5

Women's Doubles 45C - Olympic Format

Finals

1st: Janice Libke / Laura Carlson - NV/NV DEF. Karen Weins / Renee Fish - FL/FL 5,10

Women's Doubles 50 - Olympic Format

1st: Elaine Dexter/ Diane Moore CA/NE Def Leslie Pawka/ Julie Panzeri CA/WA



Dan Darling, Andy Hawthorne, Jeff Stark "Look Out!"

Women's Doubles 50 A - Olympic Format

1st: Barb Skusa/ Jean Trimble DEF Sandy White/Debbie Chaney
3rd: Kathy Trotter/ Nancy Large DEF Cheryl Kirk/Linda Mojer

Women's Doubles 55 - Round Robin

1st: Janet Myers / Nancy Kronenfeld - NC/IL
2nd: Carla Francis / Terry Ann Rogers - CA/CA

Women's Doubles 55A - Round Robin

3rd: Joy Desantis / Marylou Furaus

Women's Doubles 55B - Round Robin

1st: Cece Palaski / Marquita Molina



Laura Fenton/ Rhonda Rajsich "Is that really the way you jump?"

Women's Doubles W60 - Round Robin

1st: Joy Desantis / Marylou Furaus - AZ/AZ
2nd: Nidia Funes / Sharon Hastings Welty - CA/OR
3rd: Cece Palaski / Marquita Molina

Women's Doubles 65 - Round Robin

1st: Gail Schaefer/ Mildred Gwinn

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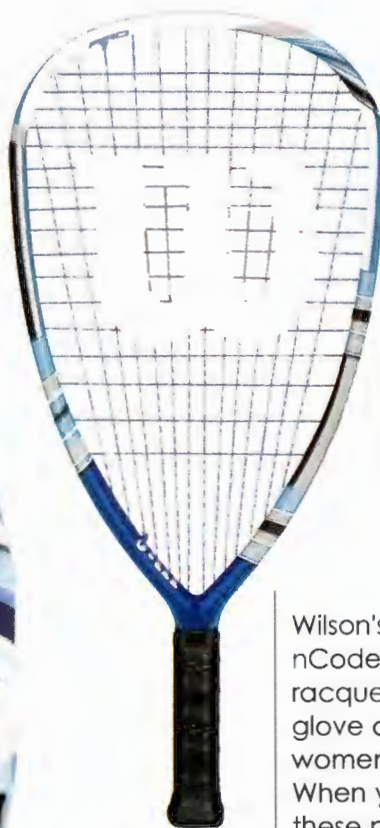


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Geoff Thomsen: Racquetball's Photographer!

In all of athletics, racquetball has been one of the toughest sports to capture through the art of photography.



With the speed of the game, low lighting and barriers of glass in front of the lens, photographs of racquetball being played were more likely to be compared to madness of Picasso's paintings rather than the crisp spreads that grace the pages of Sports Illustrated.

But two things have changed racquetball photography for the better. First being modern times and the advancements in digital photo technology and the other being Geoff Thomsen. Geoff has become racquetball's premier photographer and can be seen clicking away at the sport's top events. His work regularly appears here in "Racquetball Magazine" and can also be found in the galleries of his racquetball blog, www.doubledonut.com.

We all know Geoff's work, but it's now time to get to know the man behind the lens...

Full Name: Geoff Thomsen

Year Started Taking Racquetball Photos: 2004

Hometown & Residence: Portland, OR

First Camera: My first serious camera was the original Canon Digital Rebel. After I realized how much better it was at taking action shots than a digital point and shoot, I immediately took it down to the club to see what it could do for racquetball photos. I'd say my first good pictures were taken about 6 months later at the Northwest Regionals, after shooting 40,000 or so "duds" as part of my trial and error learning process.

Family: Wife and two sons.

Years Playing Racquetball:
7 years on and off

Home Club: Sunset Athletic Club, in Beaverton, Ore. I'm actually really excited as Sunset A.C. has started breaking ground on two new stadium courts with photo windows in the front walls. The racquetball director there, Paul Maduell, got approved for a Tier 4 IRT event this year. He's hoping for a Tier 1 next season when the courts are completed; it'll be great to do some shooting at my home club.

Current Camera: After quickly realizing the limitations of the Digital Rebel for sports, I bought a used Canon 1D off the internet. It's only 4 megapixels (most new cameras are at least 8 megapixels), but the Canon 1D has the most advanced focusing technology of any digital camera ever made. There is now a 1D MKII, and 1D MKIII, but it's hard to justify \$4000 for camera gear for my "hobby"!

Current Skill Level: Open/A

When you're not taking photos, you are:
Spending time with the family, working at my day job, studying for my masters degree, and writing content for www.doubledonut.com.

Annual racquetball events you photograph:
My regular events are USAR National Singles, USAR National Doubles, and the US Open.

I've also shot the IRT Pro Nationals, USAR Junior Nationals, and several local events. I'd love to head down to Tempe for Junior Worlds this year, but photography budgets for racquetball events are usually pretty tight.

Favorite Event: No doubt here; the US Open. The venue is amazing! A thousand fans, full video production, top-notch lighting on the stadium court, and the best racquetball players in the world.

Favorite racquetball photo you've taken: There is simply no way I can answer that. I'd say I have about 15 best-of-the-best shots, and most of them are included in the next few pages.

Favorite player to take pictures of: Another REALLY tough question as there are so many good players. If you go by how many top-notch mid-air dives caught on film, the list would include: Jason Mannino, Jack Huczek, Andy Hawthorne, Rhonda Rajsich, Kane Waselenchuk, Mitch Williams, Kristen Walsh, Shane Vanderson, Chad Westwood, Jeff Stark ... I could go on and on. I have so many other great pictures of non-dives, and those could be of any one of the great players whose 110% effort is clearly visible.

Favorite court or club to take pictures at: Easy – The portable court at the US Open / IRT Pro Nationals. There are many good spots around the court to shoot from, GREAT lights (as far as racquetball is concerned), and of course, the best players in the world.

Best Match you've photographed: This is a really tough question, but I'll have to go with the Kane Waselenchuk / Rocky Carson semifinal at the 2005 US Open. Both of these guys were playing out of their minds, and all thousand fans in the house were going crazy.

Average number of photos taken at an event: I usually average about 1,000 – 1,500 photos per day shooting. For a five day event like the US Open, that equates to about 7,000 photos (hooray for digital!).

Top Tips for "Amateur" Racquetball

Photographers: Get a digital SLR camera (like the Canon Digital Rebel XT or Nikon D50). Get a lens that is capable of apertures between F/1.8 and F/2.8 (like the Canon 50mm F/1.8 for \$70). Crank your ISO up to 1600. With your aperture set at the highest value (lowest number; like F/2.8) and your ISO at 1600, set your shutter speed at the highest value possible so that the images aren't dark. Depending on the light in the court, this will range from 1/250 – 1/500. Most sports shooters will say you need a shutter speed of 1/500 or faster, but that is a huge challenge with the low available light on most racquetball courts.

Other sports or events you photograph:

One of my sons is 12 and a huge sports fan. I'm the "team dad photographer" for his football, basketball, baseball, wakeboarding, and snowboarding.

"Dream" place you would like to see one of your pictures: It doesn't get any better than Sports Illustrated as far as sports photography goes. I think it would also be GREAT exposure for the sport of racquetball to have some presence in such a huge publication. (Editor's Note: One of Geoff's pictures from the 2005 US Open was a "finalist" for publication in Sports Illustrated for an issue last fall.)

What helps produce better pictures? Red Bull or Dr. Pepper? First of all, there is no substitute for Red Bull. I wouldn't say it actually helps take better pictures, but it does help you keep some "pep" in your step when spending 15 hours at the club per day on 4-5 hours of sleep during the events.





Geoff's
Photos



WHA'S THE CALL

...THERE ARE THREE BASIC RULES FOR PLAYING RACQUETBALL

By Otto Dietrich

USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner



Back in the early 70's, I retired my handball gloves, picked up a brand new \$10 WOODEN racquet, and began playing this great sport.

Within months I entered my first tournament -- a regional singles event held in the aquatics center at Indiana University. The Seamco Company used this event to introduce their new pressurized ball. That lively ball, coupled with the heat and humidity of the center, caused the balls to really fly. All of the courts were lined up side-by-side and as you looked down the length of the upstairs viewing area one would see balls flying out of courts up and down the hall. It was nearly impossible to keep a ceiling shot from leaving the court if you hit it as hard as you were use to with the formerly non-pressurized ball.

So, what's the point? Well, at that event, my opponent hit one shot so hard that it traveled from the front wall to the backwall on the fly, bounced once on the floor, and then hit the front wall a second time before I could get to it. I was dumbfounded. Was that legal? Whose turn was it to hit the ball? Did I automatically win the rally once the ball hit the front wall a second time? Well, a nationally-ranked masters player was reffing that match and he advised me that I lost the rally but only because I failed to hit the ball before it bounced on the floor a second time. After the match, over a cold beer, I got a chance to ask more about that call. I'll never forget what he told me. He said that there are three basic rules for playing racquetball: (1) when Player

A hits the ball, it must go all the way to the front wall without touching the floor, (2) if Player A hit that ball, then it is Player B's turn to hit the ball, and (3) Player B must hit the ball before it touches the floor twice. After that, rule (1) applies once again. Unfortunately, I did not have that basic understanding BEFORE the match began.

I have been answering rules questions for the national office since 1982 and that is still the most commonly asked rules question. Check out for yourself what Rule 3.13(e) says.

I asked that masters referee how I could get a better view of the important matches. There was only balcony viewing at the university courts and they were always packed. He suggested that I either get to the court very early or, better yet, volunteer to referee. As the ref I could wait until the match begins, ask everyone at the court to please step aside, and then take the very best position in the house to watch the match. In fact, I learned that the players could not start playing until the referee got there!

Being nobody's fool, I became a referee. The rest is history!

Last month Jude Kiah of Macomb, IL, asked:

It seems odd to me that switching hands should be against the rules. Why is this the case? What is behind this rule? I have recently taken up the game, and after playing a while (I was playing with both hands), someone told me I couldn't do that. I thought that was odd, since safety hadn't entered the equation. I figured if I was able to hit right handed (I'm left handed), more power to me. I do it in tennis.

OTTO SAYS: "Switching hands" is only against the rules while the ball is in play. Once the ball is dead and until the next serve is initiated, you may switch hands.

The logic behind this rule IS safety! Rule 2.4 requires that the racquet be firmly attached to your wrist via a wrist cord/thong while play is going on! To allow otherwise would greatly increase the possibility of injury to your opponents due to a loose racquet flying around the court.

Sorry, but I do NOT remember seeing a tennis racquet fly free from its swinger's grasp, except perhaps to the side of the court in an attempt to reach an otherwise unreachable ball.

In racquetball, however, there are some added factors -- the players are usually very close to one another increasing the probably of being hit were a racquet to fly loose, but also, a swing interrupted unexpectedly by contact with a sidewall can easily jerk the racquet out of one's hand and unless it is firmly attached to the wrist, that racquet will FLY!

Years ago, I saw one do just that during a warm-up and nearly contact one the country's best players. That incident eventually caused further mandate that both eyeguards and wrist thongs also be used (as intended) during any pre-match warm-up on the court or else be penalized. See Rule 2.5(c).

Always "Play by the Rules!" If you don't have a copy, you can 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 and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball Magazine.

TRAINING WITH JACK

POWER TRAINING

By Jack Huczek



Science defines power as "the rate at which work is done, or the amount of work done per unit

time." Since work equals force times distance, the formula for power can be written, $P = (F \times d)/t$.

Most racquetball players train extensively for endurance, with weight and/or aerobic training. Endurance training should certainly be incorporated into a training program; however, a balanced and versatile program will produce better results. The training zone focused in this article will be power. For purposes of this article, power training will focus on power weight training.

Racquetball is a demanding sport that requires an athlete to have a well-developed body. As a junior aspiring to play professional racquetball, I knew I would have to develop a hard drive serve and be able to strike the ball with more authority during the rally as needed. I was only able to develop these assets when I incorporated power training to my program. Power training is a key for success for any level of player. As people age, muscles tend to shrink, tendons and ligaments weaken, thus

being more susceptible to injury and loss of strength.

The purpose of power training is to make the muscles denser and to toughen the tendons and ligaments, which will reduce muscle shrinking and increase strength.

Including some power sets in your program will make you stronger for the rest of your training. You will be much less likely to strain your muscles while doing higher-repetition training. As Arnold Schwarzenegger says, "With high-rep training only, much of the growth is the result of transient factors such as fluid retention and glycogen storage, but muscle made as hard as a granite wall through power training comes as a result of an actual increase in muscle fiber size." Racquetball players shouldn't strive to have a bulky physique. However, the principles of power training are necessary to be a successful player and to reduce the risk of injury.

Power training is a technique in which you drive a weight up (accelerate), or explode it (but in a smooth and controlled manner), rather than lifting it at a constant speed. This is done with relatively heavy poundage so that the weight doesn't really move that fast. Choose poundage with which you can complete a maximum of seven repetitions, the last two repetitions being exhausted to

failure. Power training should be done primarily with exercises that use a lot of big muscles, e.g., bench press, shoulder press, and squats. Remember to lift the weight in a controlled manner and to use a spotter

Use variety in your program. Avoid doing the same exercises each time you work out and constantly change your workout program. Feeling sore is a good thing, which means that muscle fibers have been broken down and are beginning to grow. If you have never attempted power training, start slowly! The last thing you need to be doing is slinging weights around the gym for hours on end; the results could very well be injury. Start by choosing two exercises (e.g., bench press and squats) for your power training. Do one exercise on Monday and the other exercise on Wednesday. Once you are warmed up, execute four sets of the given power exercise, then proceed with your normal routine for the day. Do the same thing on Wednesday. Once you are familiar with the technique and become stronger, only then should you increase sets and/or perform multiple power exercises in the same day. Remember to use proper technique and to allow yourself about two minutes between sets. Good luck!

FRAN'S HOUSE

PRESENTED BY

HEAD *Penn*

By Fran Davis

> departments



QUESTION: Fran, I have lost many matches because of my Shot Selection. Can you please give me your "pearls of wisdom" on this topic?

ANSWER: Shot selection is one of the most critical parts of racquetball because it can win or lose you a match. Proper shot selection is defined as "taking the right shot at

the right time." It is the shot the offensive player (the one hitting the ball) is about to take. Many of us get into the heat of the battle and we don't think, we just bang away. We are often guilty of hitting the "shot we like" or "feel most comfortable with" rather than the most "effective shot" that has the highest percentage chance of ending the rally. This is a common problem which I encounter all over the country at my camps, and experience time and time again at tournaments, both on the professional as well as amateur level...so you are definitely not alone in this area.

I have spent MANY, MANY years studying the best professional players in the game... Jason, Sudsy, Cliff, Kane, Rhonda, Cheryl and Christie...and have developed a system that would assist players like yourself. If you ask any of the professional players mentioned above, they would agree that shot selection as a whole is worth probably over 25% of your scoring. It is one area of the game that you would want to spend time perfecting...and they do.

Here are three crucial elements of shot selection that will undoubtedly HELP your game:

1. Shot Selection Formula

$$A + B + C + D = E$$

A = you / your court position and ability level

B = ball / height, speed and angle

C = opponent's position and their skill level

D = score of the game / match

E = shot selection / which shot to take?

2. Shot Selection Chart (Basic, see chart)

3. Good Rules of Thumb...a Summary

- Hit where your opponent is not.
- Make your opponent run the furthest distance to the ball. More mistakes occur when hitting on the run rather than having their feet planted and set.
- When your opponent is in front court, hit the ball deep in the back court with a ceiling ball, Z or pass shot.
- When your opponent is in the backcourt, hit the ball to the front court with a kill, pinch or reverse pinch.
- When your opponent is on the right side of the court, shoot to

the left side.

- When your opponent is on the left side of the court, shoot to the right side.
- Pass first, kill second...if you can win a rally with a pass, why kill...the percentages will be in your favor.
- Keep your body between the ball and your opponent when possible (use your body as a "pick", like in basketball).
- Minimize your skips, take advantage of your opponent's mistakes.
- Don't skip away the game, or more importantly, the match.
- If you are skipping a lot, it means you are going for "bottom board" too much. Raise your contact point and go for the pass-kill or pass, not the kill.

Believe me when I tell you that the best professional players swear by this simple, but smart philosophy. I am amazed every time I do a camp with Jason Manino, that he reinforces this very simple concept over and over again. He cannot stress it enough. Often players like you think that the pros have tons of secrets and do very complicated things, but the contrary is true. Their games are actually very simple and dominated by being fundamentally sound both physically and mentally. They know it all begins and ends with smart shot selection...they are truly living proof.

Please give it a try yourself...it works. I would also encourage you to carefully observe the shot selection the next time you have the opportunity to see the pros or top ranked amateurs play, ...it will be nothing fancy...they will just follow this formula to a "T."

Good Luck!

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction, or for the next best thing if you can't make a camp at this time - buy our video! Go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details on both the video and upcoming camps.

Your Position (offensive player)			
Opponent's Position (defensive player)	Front Court	Center Court	Back Court
Front Court	Pass, ceiling or Z shot Do not kill	Cross-court pass, down-the-line pass, wide-angle pass, ceiling shot or Z shot Do not kill	Down-the-line pass, cross-court pass or ceiling shot. Do not kill
Center Court	Kill, pinch kill, reverse pinch, down-the-line pass or wide-angle pass.	Pinch kill, down-the-line pass, wide-angle pass, ceiling shot or Z shot.	Down-the-line pass, cross-court pass or ceiling shot.
Back Court	Kill, pinch kill, down-the-line pass-kill or kill or reverse pinch.	Pinch kill, down-the-line pass-kill or kill, reverse pinch or ceiling shot. Do not pass	Kill, pinch kill, pass kill, reverse pinch or down-the-line kill occasionally. Do not pass

The Art of Racquetball

By Ruben Gonzalez

www.TheArtofRacquetball.com

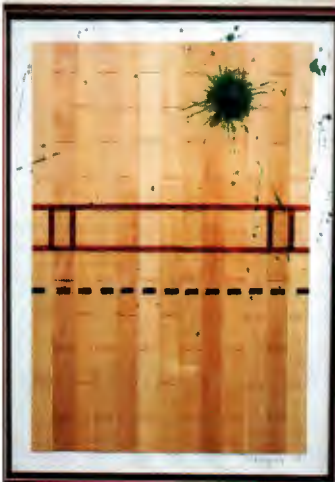


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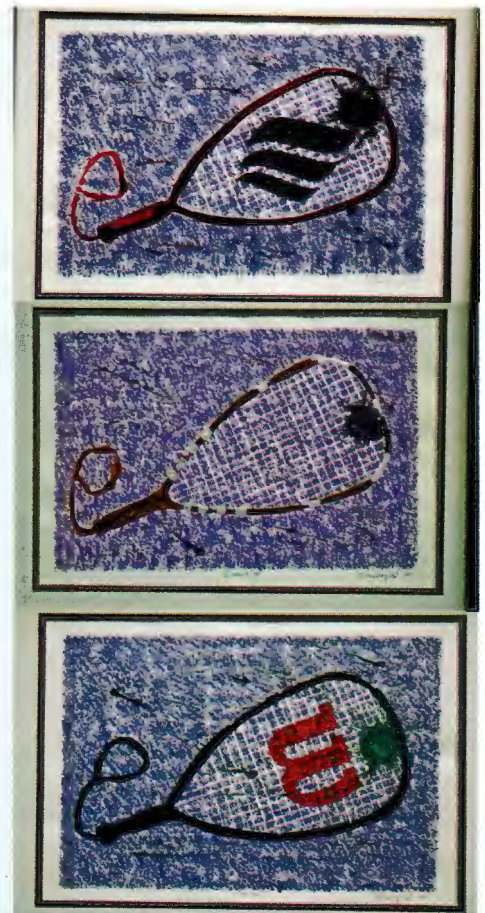
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SUDSY'S MAGIC SHOW

POWER FOREHAND

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BY SUDSY MONCHIK

Hi everybody....I am back from retirement and psyched to share with you some of the key weapons I used to capture my titles and become the #1 Professional Player in the World FIVE times, and the US Open Champion FOUR times. These are the same VERY SOUND fundamentals that I am drilling on and will be using this season to go for my

sixth Professional Tour Championship and fifth US Open title!

I CANNOT stress enough that there is no substitute for having very consistent, powerful and explosive strokes that you have confidence in and can rely on at crunch time ...like mine. Today I am going to share with you my magical "Power Forehand"

and help make you stronger from the forehand side of the court. I am going to use a visual aid - electrical tape on the floor, that will make it easier for you follow and understand so your forehand can be a force to be reckoned with....like Sudsy's. Let's take a closer look:



1 READY POSITION

- Square to the side wall
- Knees bent, not waist
- Hitting arm up...elbow in line with the shoulder
- Non-hitting arm used for balance
- Feet lined up on the 2 back pieces of electrical tape
- Eyes on the ball



2 STEP AND SWING

- Front foot steps toward front wall...to the front electrical tape line...feet lined up
- Hips begin to open
- Drive off back leg
- Hitting arm starts to drop leading with the elbow
- Non-hitting arm begins to move
- Eyes on the ball



3 CONTACT POINT

- Back foot pivots
- Back knee bent at a 90 degree angle
- Hips completely open
- Hitting arm fully extended and contact is made at that 4th piece of electrical tape
- Non-hitting arm moves out of the way and around body
- Eyes on the ball



4 FOLLOW THROUGH

- Chest facing the front wall
- Belly button facing front wall
- Hitting arm all the way around
- Racquet pointing to back wall
- Non-hitting arm completely through
- Upper body erect
- Back foot pivots completely
- Back knee bent at a 90 degree angle

Now you have my magical "Power Forehand" ...they say a picture is worth a thousand words. Remember the forehand stroke is part of building a solid foundation. In this issue I decided to discuss my magical forehand, but have no fear, in the next issue I will discuss my magical backhand using the same visual aid of electrical tape on the floor as well. This will round out your solid

foundation and make you a strong player from both sides...a must in order to move your game up to the next level. Start with the forehand this month and practice to make it as consistent, powerful and as explosive as mine - and you will be on your way to that next level you've always dreamed of.

Hope to see you at one of our "Building Your Racquetball Dream

House" Camps for live personal instruction or for the next best thing - buy our "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" Video if you can't make a camp at this time.

Go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details on both.

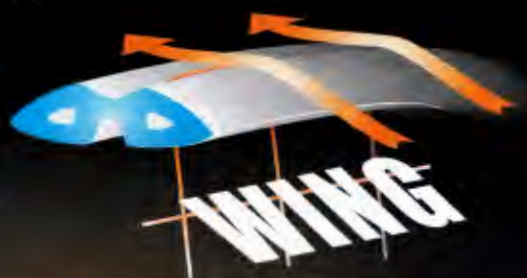
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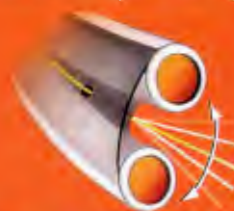
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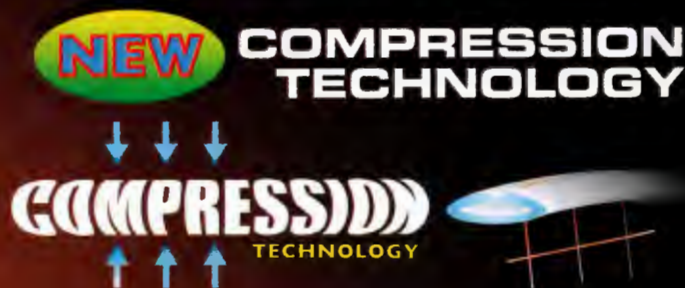
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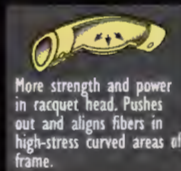
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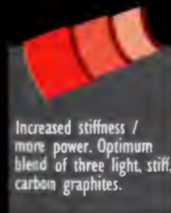
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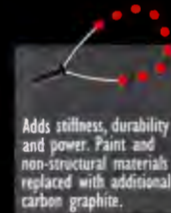
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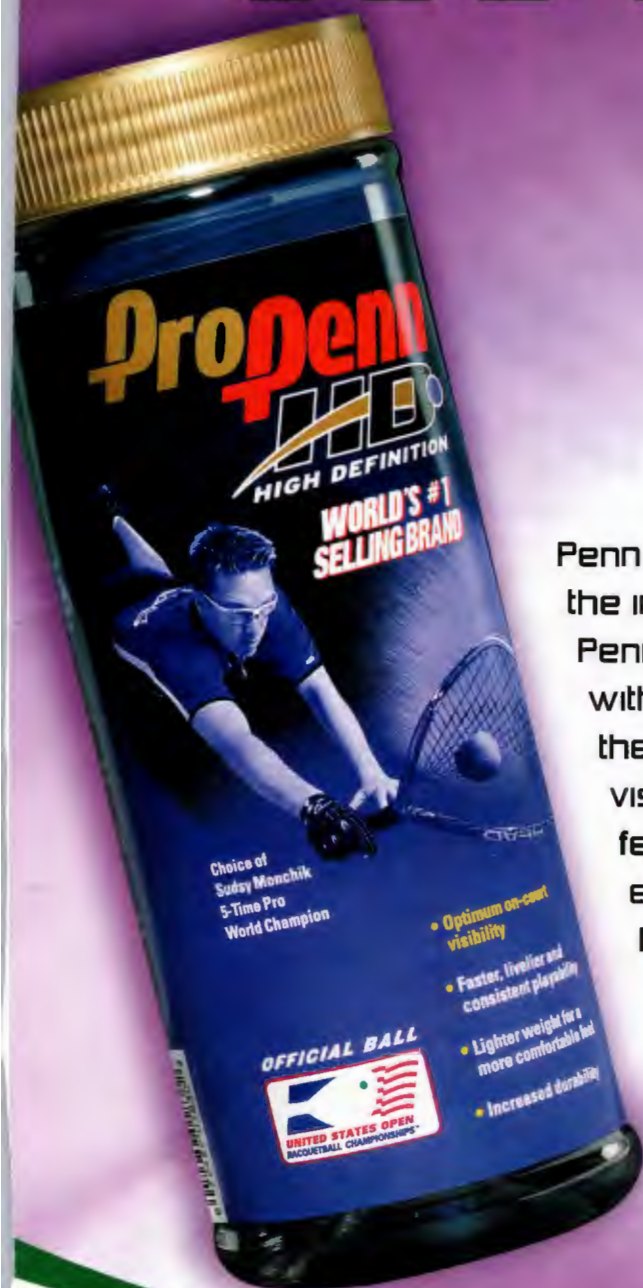
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BOY'S SINGLES

#1 _____
#2 _____
#3 _____
#4 _____
#5 _____
#6 _____
#6 _____
#6 _____
#6 _____
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BOY'S DOUBLES

#1 _____ & _____
#2 _____ & _____
#3 _____ & _____
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#3 _____ & _____

GIRL'S SINGLES

#1 _____
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#6 _____

GIRL'S DOUBLES

#1 _____ & _____
#2 _____ & _____
#3 _____ & _____
#3 _____ & _____
#3 _____ & _____

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#1 _____ & _____
#2 _____ & _____
#3 _____ & _____
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USA RACQUETBALL

TRAINING TIPS

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN – DON'T LET YOUR MIND MAKE YOU QUIT!

Your brain tries to shut down your workout because it thinks you might hurt yourself. It doesn't know that you to push your body to get stronger and faster. Jim Fanner, a sports performance consultant who has helped professional athletes such as Alex Rodriguez, suggests the following mind tricks:

1

Focus on the present – Forget about what lies ahead in your workout or game and what has already taken place. Fanner motto is "I have no future, I have no past. My goal is to make the present last. I am in the now!"

2

Keep your head up – Keeping your head elevated helps you stay in a positive frame of mind. Try this exercise: Close your eyes now think a negative thought – like a skipped fore hand shot – drop your chin to shoulder level. Hold the thought and close your eyes. Still concentrating on that thought; raise your head so you're looking toward the ceiling. Then lower it again. Do this two or three time. When you drop your head to your chest, the negative thought will be very vivid and real. When you then bring it above parallel, the negatives will become less vivid and often go away.

3

Relax your Jaw – You can't be totally relaxed, or in the game, unless your jaw is unhinged. If you watch certain athletes just before they hit the golf ball or go to the plate, they look like they're yawning but actually they are relaxing their jaw. Most recreational athletes do not breathe normally. When your jaw is tense, it can transfer tension to your hands and change your grip on your racquet and result in tight shoulders etc.

Have fun - Sounds like a little league saying, but enjoying the challenge and competition can help you perform. "Champions look at adversity as an opportunity." Keep down-they enjoy it and so should you.

RACQUETBALL PLAYERS NEED CALORIES

RACQUETBALL PLAYERS NEED CALORIES – approximately 2800 for active men and women and teenagers

Fast Food Tournament Menus

BREAKFAST

BOB EVANS

Fruit & Yogurt Plate
2 Light Sausage Links

DENNY'S

Pancakes w/ Margarine
Egg Beaters (4 oz)
Grilled Honey Smoked Ham
Hash Browns (4 oz)

MCDONALD'S

Egg McMuffin
English Muffin (plain)
Hash Browns
1% Milk (8 oz)
Coffee w/ Creamer

LUNCH

DENNY'S

Grilled Chicken Sandwich
Veg. Beef Soup (8 oz)
Seasoned Fries
Battered Corn
Applesauce

PIZZA HUT

Ham Thin n Crispy Pizza (3 slices)
Buffalo Wings (5 piece)
Side Salad with Dressing
1 Breadstick

KFC

Tender Roast Chicken Sandwich w/ Sauce
BBQ Baked Beans
Cole Slaw
Lunch Bucket Parfait Strawberry Shortcake

SAVE YOUR KNEES

Knee injuries are common with racquetball players. A study published in the Journal of Orthopedic & Sports Physical Therapy found that balance training might be effective in reducing the risk of anterior cruciate ligament injury in the knee. Participants improved their balance by 20 % after 6 weeks of balance core workouts.

Wilson Sporting Goods Co. Appoints Derek Robinson Rocky Mountain Territory Manager of Golf Division "Big D" to Trade in Wilson Racquet for Clubs



[CHICAGO]— Wilson Sporting Goods Co. announces the promotion of Professional Racquetball Player Derek Robinson to Territory Manager of its Golf Division. Effective immediately, Robinson will report to Cris Rusin, Director of US Golf Sales, and will oversee Wilson's golf sales for the Rocky Mountain Territory.

Robinson first joined Wilson in 1994 to lead the promotion of Wilson's new performance racquetball racquets. In this capacity, Robinson not only played a key role in taking Wilson's racquetball business to another level, but he also took his game to another level, rising to the #8 ranked pro player in the world and reaching the finals of the US Open. Robinson has consistently been ranked in the top 10 on the pro tour for over 10 years.

"It is a bittersweet feeling for me, as even though I am sad to leave racquetball on a fulltime basis, I am excited to stay with Wilson in this new position in the Golf Division," said Robinson. "The opportunity was too good to pass up, however, just for the record, my first love will always be racquetball."

Robinson has also been extremely active in maintaining a strong focus on Wilson's grassroots growth. In 1997, Robinson developed the Big D Roadshows, conducting 75 events per year at different clubs throughout the country and reaching thousands of grassroots players. His knowledge of the game combined with his charismatic personality makes him an ideal representative of the Wilson brand.

Ruben Gonzalez Signs Legendary Agreement with Ektelon®

Most lucrative contract ever signed by the true legend of racquetball

Bordentown, NJ – Ektelon announced today that Ruben Gonzalez, former #1 player in the world and Hall of Fame inductee, has signed a legendary, multi-year endorsement deal on his 30th anniversary with the company. The agreement includes a signature racquet called the O3 RG that will be launched at the 2006 US Open in Memphis, TN.

Gonzalez, who signed with Ektelon originally in 1976, will continue with Ektelon into the next decade. No other racquetball endorsement deal has ever been signed at this level with a legendary player like Gonzalez. Gonzalez and his new signature frame, the O3 RG, will be part of a unique, multifaceted marketing program that includes print advertising, online marketing, grassroots efforts and more.

"I'm extremely happy to continue with Ektelon," said Gonzalez. "Ektelon has been part of my family for the past 30 years and I can't imagine playing racquetball without them in my corner. Signing this deal with Ektelon is the icing on the cake for my career. I have always dreamed of a



high performance racquet designed around my game, and I want to thank Ektelon for making this a reality. I'm excited to launch this frame at the US Open, the largest event in the sport of racquetball."

Gonzalez will launch his national Super Ruben Demo Tour in 2007 where he will travel to over 10 cities promoting racquetball and his new signature frame. Gonzalez will provide exhibitions to attendees and offer lessons to participants as well. He will also take on challenges from local players who think they have what it takes to take down the legend! A full tour schedule will be available in January 2007.

Ektelon® Signs Agreement to Become the Official Ball of the WPRO

Bordentown, NJ – Ektelon and the Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) have recently

announced a multi-year agreement that establishes the Ektelon Fireball as the 'Official Ball' of the WPRO. This agreement is not limited to the Ektelon Fireball being used in all WPRO sanctioned events. Ektelon will be taking a very



active partnership role in promoting the WPRO through a variety of marketing efforts.

"The WPRO is excited about our new agreement with Prince Sports/Ektelon to use the Fireball as the Tour's official ball through 2009," said Shannon Feaster, WPRO Commissioner. "The Fireball will enable the WPRO and its players to command a distinct

presence by having a ball that is unique to the Tour. The Fireball is ideal for the fast action play fans can expect from the tour and its bright red hue enhances visibility making the game more visible and fun to watch.

When asked about the new 'Official Ball' status with the WPRO, Scott Winters, General Manager Indoor Court Sports for Prince said, "The women's organization is as strong as I can ever remember with Shannon Feaster now as Commissioner. We're excited to be able to develop a partnership to help grow the women's game and promote the WPRO.

Ektelon has also announced the signing of Brenda Kyzer to Team Ektelon. Kyzer, a veteran player on the WPRO tour, will be the face of Ektelon at all WPRO events. She will be leading Ektelon's marketing exposure at WPRO events and will also take on a leadership role on Ektelon's Women's Council.

"Brenda is a fantastic clinician and will be a great resource for us at Ektelon," stated Andy Roberts, Ektelon Promotions Manager. "Her exposure on tour is icing on the cake for us. Since Brenda signed with Ektelon, her has jumped to # 6 on the WPRO tour and she has won 2 National amateur titles this year as well."

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USA RACQUETBALL SANCTIONED EVENTS



EventStart	EventEnd	EventTitle	Facility Name	FacilityCity	EventPhone
11/10/06	11/12/06	The 15th Annual Turkey Shootout Racquetball Classic	RIVERSIDE WELLNESS & FIT CTR	NEWPORT NEWS	VA 757-875-7525
11/10/2006	11/12/2006	CO NOVEMBER MADNESS	North Jeffco Racquet & Fitness	Arvada	CO 303-431-9004
11/10/2006	11/13/2006	2006 NM STATE DOUBLES	MIDTOWN SPORTS & WELLNESS	ALBUQUERQUE	NM 505-321-1110
11/10/2006	11/12/2006	SPARTAN SPLAT	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING	MI 517-881-8584
11/10/2006	11/12/2006	CROSS COURT OPEN	CROSS COURT ATHLETIC CLUB	WOODLAND	CA 530-666-1319
11/10/2006	11/12/2006	OHIO TURKEY SHOOTOUT	SPRINGFIELD ATHLETIC CLUB	SPRINGFIELD	OH 937-399-2360
11/11/2006	11/11/2006	LEHIGH VALLEY OPEN	ALLENTOWN RACQUETBALL CLUB	ALLENTOWN	PA 610-821-1300
11/11/06	11/11/06	Dallas Doubles Series V	LANDMARK FITNESS FACTORY	DALLAS	TX 972-233-6774
11/15/06	11/19/06	2006 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS	TN 719/635-5396
11/17/2006	11/19/2006	HARBOUR ISLAND FALL CLASSIC	HARBOUR ISLAND ATHLETIC CLUB	TAMPA	FL 813-765-5120
11/17/06	11/19/06	Club Fit Turkey Shoot	CLUB FIT BRIARCLIFF	BRIARCLIFF MANOR	NY 914-762-3444 x128
11/17/2006	11/19/2006	PUGET SOUND CHALLENGE	BALLY'S TOTAL FITNESS - OLYMPIA	OLYMPIA	WA 360-491-0849
11/25/2006	11/25/2006	IRT ONE DAY SHOOTOUT	WILLOW RACQUET CLUB	HOFFMAN ESTATES	IL 630-483-6829
12/1/06	12/3/06	Hollicay Classic	Idaho Athletic Club - Boise	Boise	ID 208-888-7046
12/1/06	12/3/06	Mistletoe Matchup Tournament	YMCA - Greenbrier North	Chesapeake	VA 757-642-5460
12/1/2006	12/3/2006	2006 MI STATE DOUBLES	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING	MI 310-217-8668
12/1/06	12/3/06	St. Nick Splat	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB	MILLERSVILLE	MD 410-987-0980
12/1/06	12/3/2006	Head Metallix IRT Series 3	The Sports Club at City Square	PHOENIX	AZ 480-730-8156
12/1/2006	12/3/2006	PENNSYLVANIA TRI STATE OPEN	CHALFONT ATHLETIC CLUB	CHALFONT	PA 610-583-4004
12/1/2006	12/3/2006	HOLIDAY MAGIC	WESTERVILLE ATHLETIC CLUB	WESTERVILLE	OH 614-882-7331
12/1/2006	12/3/2006	2006 CO STATE DOUBLES	YMCA - LITTLETON FAMILY/HIGHLINE	LITTLETON	CO 720-560-1484
12/1/06	12/3/06	2006 Wood Valley Snowflake Classic-Topeka, KS	WOOD VALLEY RACQUET	TOPEKA	KS 785-267-5613
12/1/2006	12/3/2006	Minnesota State Doubles	Central Courts	Columbia Heights	MN 320-252-5377
12/1/06	12/3/06	Happy Joe's Open	CENTER COURT FITNESS CLUB	Grand Forks	ND 701-772-7188
12/2/2006	12/3/2006	2nd ANNUAL GRAND SLAM ST NICK'S SHOOTOUT	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON	TX 281-812-4502
12/2/2006	12/2/2006	JUNIOR BC/WA CHALLENGE 2	BELLINGHAM ATHLETIC CLUB	BELLINGHAM	WA 360-676-1800
12/2/06	12/3/06	Long Island Holiday Classic	AMRITRAJ RACQUET & HLTH SPA	BAY SHORE	NY 718-429-8489
12/3/2006	12/3/2006	PRO KENNETX WOMEN'S CLASSIC	Schaumburg Tennis Plus	Schaumburg	IL 630-483-6829
12/8/2006	12/10/2006	KENT OPEN	BALLY'S TOTAL FITNESS - KENT	KENT	WA 360-820-3224
12/8/06	12/10/06	Christmas Classic	SPORT & HEALTH, CRYSTAL GATEWAY	ARLINGTON	VA 703-597-9985
12/8/2006	12/10/2006	MOUNTAIN MADNESS TOURNAMENT	GATLINBURG COMMUNITY CENTER	GATLINBURG	TN 865-436-4990
12/8/2006	12/10/2006	RACQUETBALL ADDICTS ANONYMOUS	DENVER ATHLETIC CLUB	DENVER	CO 303-738-9797
12/9/06	12/9/06	HOLIDAY SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON	TX 817-275-3348
1/4/2007	1/7/2007	EMERALD CITY OPEN	BALLY'S TOTAL FITNESS - KENT	KENT	WA 206-725-9173
1/5/2007	1/7/2007	STUCK IN THE SNOW	Moorhead Racquetball & Fitness Center	Moorhead	MN 218-233-0230
1/5/2007	1/7/2007	CRA BENEFIT	YMCA - LITTLETON FAMILY/HIGHLINE	LITTLETON	CO 720-560-1484
1/5/2007	1/7/2007	WINTER FREEZE	SPRINGFIELD ATHLETIC CLUB	SPRINGFIELD	OH 937-399-2360
1/6/07	1/7/07	Fishkill Winter Festival	ALLSPORT FITNESS CLUB-FISHKILL	FISHKILL	NY 845-896-6578
1/7/2007	1/7/2007	MEN'S ONE DAY SHOOTOUT	FOREST VIEW RACQUET CLUB	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	IL 630-483-6829
1/12/07	1/14/07	6th Annual YMCA Spirit Tourney	YMCA - OF GREATER LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE	KY 270-945-9695
1/12/07	1/12/07	Gold's New Year's Classic	GOLD'S GYM - DEWITT	SYRACUSE	NY 315-246-3695
1/12/2007	1/14/2007	OH WINTER OPEN	BAYWINDS RACQUET CLUB	SANDUSKY	OH 419-433-0056
1/13/2007	1/14/2007	NEW YEAR'S OPEN DE	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUET CL	WILMINGTON	DE 302-668-6871
1/18/07 0:00	1/21/07	NY City Pro Am IRT Event	SPORTSET - SYOSSET CLUB	SYOSSET	NY 718-429-8489
1/19/2007	1/21/2007	WA WINTER BLAST	Lynnwood Bally's Total Fitness	Lynnwood	WA 425-347-1856
1/19/2007	1/21/2007	SOUTHERN OHIO CHAMPIONSHIP	THE HEIGHTS HEALTH & RAC CLUB	DAYTON	OH 614-890-6073
1/19/2007	1/21/2007	TIEBREAKER OPEN	DAVISON RACQUET & FITNESS CLUB	DAVISON	MI 810-287-9394
1/19/07	1/21/07	Boise City Championships	Idaho Athletic Club - Boise	Boise	ID 208-888-7046
1/25/2007	1/28/2007	BLIZZARD BASH	GOODSON RECREATION CENTER	CENTENNIAL	CO 303-483-7070
1/26/2007	1/28/2007	2007 WOMEN SENIOR MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS	Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club	ORLANDO	FL 407-645-3550
1/26/07	1/28/07	Head Metallix IRT Series 4	The Sports Club at City Square	PHOENIX	AZ 480-730-8156
1/26/2007	1/28/2007	ROCHESTER RAC N ROLLOUT	Rochester Athletic Club	Rochester	MN 507-287-9308
2/2/07	2/4/07	Wintergreen Classic	SPORT FIT LAUREL RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB	LAUREL	MD 301-362-1300

OTHER NEWS

CHERRY CREEK ATHLETIC CLUB HOSTS FIRST "UNIVERSITY MEET"



The University Touring Squad League kicked off Saturday Nov 14th at the Cherry Creek Athletic Club in Denver, CO. Four Universities sent their squads to compete in the first of

six scheduled meets this season. The league is part of the Colorado Racquetball Association's "Bridging the Gap" Program. Jo Shattuck, the director of the University League, was pleased with the turnout. "This is the second year of the University League.

We had 20 college age players from Denver University, University of Colorado, the Air Force Academy and Johnson and Wales University come to the first event."

Winners at the Meet were:

1's div: Adam Gray (AFA) 1st, Jeff Jungk (UC) 2nd

2's div: David Chambers (AFA) 1st, Adam Stooke (AFA) 2nd

3-4's div: Alex Ducas (UC) 1st, Gordon Randall(AFA) 2nd

5-6's div: Scott Welshingher (AFA) 1st, Garrett Schaper (J&W)2nd

The University Meets are held at athletic clubs with racquetball courts around the state. They are usually on Saturday and last 4-5 hours. No experience is necessary to play. All skill levels are represented at the competitions. For a league schedule or for more information, go to www.racquetballacademy.com or www.coloradoracquetball.com, or call Jo Shattuck at 303-949-7785.

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INSIDE SCOOP

THE U.S. OPEN

By Mike Ceresia

> departments

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.

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

Last year, the Rhonda Rajsich-Cheryl Gudinas matchup 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

MICHELE GOULD, THE "POUNDER", WON A COUPLE OF U.S. OPENS BEFORE STEPPING AWAY FROM THE GAME.

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

both sides and a bottom board mentality. The difference was, she was a shel

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.

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 threepeat? 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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