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# from the editor

Who *are* these people? I knew you'd ask ... and that I wouldn't tell you. That's the point. Our cover features two people that you may never see in the finals of a national event, but their impact on racquetball may be as far-reaching as any of the top names you're used to seeing in our pages. And you'll have to read all about what they do to figure out how and why.

Oh alright, here's a hint ... with the club initiative gaining momentum, this issue focuses on this year's IHRSA Program Award winners — court clubs committed to the principle of *working*



the sport in the corporate environment. They have an investment. They have a market. They have paid professional staff. The sport *delivers* for them, and their programs suggest that the sport delivers for their members (that's you) as well — from Wisconsin to Florida. It's large-scale.

On a smaller-scale, individuals continue to express concern over the cost of events (nationals particularly) ... relative to the possibility of

coming home with a trophy. Nothing sets this stage quicker than an argument that begins with "Who wants to spend \$65.00 to lose in the first round?" But the simple fact of the matter is that elite level competition is *designed* to provide a field that narrows exponentially. Half of the people who enter an event will be out in the first round, half the next, and half the next, until there is a winner. It doesn't matter how much you pay, those 50/50 odds won't change. Do you invest?

And time! Too many quotes from high school medalists indicated that competing in multiple divisions was too taxing, given the timeframe. But how many entrants would be willing to commit to a longer format (a full week, say) for national events, to assure adequate time to recuperate between matches that are guaranteed to get harder with each round? No? Then you may have to play back-to-back matches in two divisions, and *hope* that your opponent had to do the same. Do you train harder?

The good news is that racquetball has quietly grown so large that the court club environment has begun to recognize and develop its captive market share of recreational players. At the same time, the competitive environment continues to offer an adrenalin rush to its market share of die-hard tournament goers.

Where do you fit? What's your motivation ... do you play for fun, or to win? I'm right in the middle — it's fun to win!

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**... on the cover ...** Trish Elftman and Gary Schleinze guided the Wisconsin Athletic Club to it's best "racquetball" year ever! The pair earned the 2000 IHRSA Racquetball Programming Award for their club, and were featured in the March/April edition of Club Business International. Photo: Courtesy Trish Elftman.

**... this page ...** Fourteen year old freshman Adrienne Fisher, on the way to winning her first High School national title in St. Louis. Photo: Christine Hyde.



# reader forum

## Manners

I attended my first U.S. OPEN in December and had a great time. The players were phenomenal and the glass court is a great place to watch top competition. These were my impressions and observations.

I thought the players talked way too much. Why are the players wired?? You don't find this in tennis, golf, bowling, or any other sport I can think of. Most of the talk was criticism of the referee, and I thought this greatly detracted from the professionalism of the sport. In one match, the player (male) actually ridiculed the referee's skill as a player. Players should be cautioned and then penalized for continually arguing with the referee. In football or basketball this kind of behavior would draw an immediate penalty.

Since most players continually complain about the referee, then why not add a line judge to assist in calling foot faults, skips and bad serves? Surely another set of professional eyes would go a long way to ensure most of the calls are correct.

**D. Scott White | Hollywood, S.C.**



"homeboys." Had Callahan stuck to the USRA rules and guidelines, he would've had no problem.

As editor, you should be cautioned against narrow-mindedness and guard against material misrepresentation. Facts are facts but misdirected journalism can be costly and damaging at best. Instead of printing articles that bring out the venom in us, why not publish articles that will uplift and benefit our sport. In the future your scoop reporter, Tom Slear, would be better served to get his facts straight. It makes for bad journalism and can create a domino effect. Tournament directors need to get their priorities straight. Athletes don't want to travel great distances, give up quality family time, incur additional travel and lodging expenses (\$150-\$200) to be

mistreated at tournaments. Bring the fun, integrity and family atmosphere back to the tournament scene. You'll see a difference. If not, I'll see you at the beach!

We should keep in mind that all of us have an obligation to set high standards for racquetball, not just today, but for future generations. When we're long gone, what will they say about our legacy? Will they call us "racquet-brawlers" and "whiners" or will they say [we] are great athletes, have generous hearts and are dedicated to helping one another for various causes in society? Let's get the rules straight, stick by them and make sure everyone is on an even playing field. We need to change our attitude soon, or the sport will go by the wayside. We will be remembered as strictly a recreational sport. Tournaments will no longer exist or be few and far between.

**Edward J. Garabedian | West Chester, PA**

*[From the Editor: I'd like to re-iterate that the main purpose of the article was to present the tournament director (not the entrant) perspective on issues and concerns associated with hosting events (not playing in them). With dwindling numbers of tournament directors as its premise, the article was meant to provide some insight as to why that might be. The author did a very thorough job of illustrating a wide range of possible reasons. Any "broad-minded" approach that helps players fully understand what it takes to run a tournament is worth its weight in entry fees!]*

*[The Author Responds: The thrust of my article was summarized by a sentence in the third paragraph from the end which said, in essence, that tournament directors get nothing but aggravation and financial headaches for their efforts while the players just keep expecting more and more. Given Mr. Garabedian's criticism of volunteer tournament director Colin Callahan (at a tournament staged for charity, no less), I rest my case. As for Mr. Garabedian's suggestion that I get my facts straight — nowhere in his rebuttal does he specify a single fact that I reported inaccurately.]*

## Tournament House of Champions

While it's true that we have recently re-modeled our facility in order to remain competitive (removing a court to install fitness equipment), we have always been, are and will always be totally dedicated to our first love ... racquetball. In a couple of months we will be remembering one of our great friends who, sadly, is no longer with us — Craig McCoy. And because we often host some of the country's best tournaments; and because we are celebrating our 21st anniversary, I thought it might be nice to compliment ourselves a little.

Many national champions — professional, amateur, masters, juniors, male and female — have grown up, played and still compete at our club. Rich Wagner, Craig McCoy, Steve Lerner, Jeff Conine and Kelly Gelhaus have all been highly-ranked pros and national champions. Robin Dixon, Jack Crowther, Richard Chabolla, Vance Lerner, Len Kaiser, Larry Rankin and Cindy

(Doyle) Conine all play, or did play, at the Tournament House and have all earned national titles in singles or doubles at some point in their careers.

I would guess that this list of players (and their many accomplishments) could match that of any club in the country. Why do so many champions hang out at Tournament House? My belief is that, through the years, we have remained unique ... a "throw-back" to our sport's glory days. We've grown with the changing times of fitness, but we have remained totally committed to keeping and promoting racquetball. Most of the people mentioned here grew up in this club, and still work out there today – a nice bit of history about a pretty neat place to play racquetball – the Tournament House in Riverside.

**Vance Lerner | Murrieta, California**

## Verification

In reference to a board campaign platform statement made in the last issue [March/April, pg. 48], I'd like to clarify that there are a series of methods used to verify skill levels, including a process very clearly outlined and forwarded to each AmPRO instructor for use in identifying and certifying player levels. Although all athletes do not choose to be skill-tested in this manner, this first method of obtaining a skill level verification is widely available. In fact, a similar process is used in competitive tennis and squash.

Further, there is a second method which is based on the level of play actually competed (and verified by the state president) which I believe may actually be more valid than the first since it measures an athlete's performance against peers within their state.

And a third verification exists at the national level, in which individuals are measured against their peers once they have competed in a national event. For national event certifications, this becomes the most accurate method to establish competitive structure between states which offer differing levels of competition.



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To disagree with the process is certainly legitimate, but to infer that there is no process at all, or that the one in place has no validity, is irresponsible.

**Dr. Jim Hiser | USRA**

## Virtuality

Please stay with the magazine format! I like to take it with me to read while at lunch or while riding an exercycle at the fitness center. Also, the exposure the magazine gets when I carry it around acts as an effective advertisement. I have taken it to the office a couple of times and it gets attention, as it does at the fitness center or at a restaurant.

By putting the magazine online, I could print out the pages and read them later, but I wouldn't print out all of the pages that I actually wind up reading in the magazine. Plus, the magazine is in color with sharp photos on glossy paper. The pages would look somewhat awful on my color inkjet printer.

Thanks for producing one of my absolute favorite magazines. I especially love Sudsy's Magic Show as well as keeping up with what's happening on the tour.

**Rick Collins | via email**

I just finished reading your editorial [March/April] about reading the magazine and the Internet. Well, the bad thing is that I *am* able to read it on the Internet before I get the magazine, when I would rather be able to pick it off the table than have to sit in front of a computer screen to read it. It's faster than having to wait for your computer to boot up, then have to sign on, then find the web page and wait for that to come up. No thank you. I'd much rather pick it up or put it down whenever I want. Another good thing is you can take it to work with ya.

**Kelly Reed | North Little Rock, AR**

Please, don't even think about not printing Racquetball Magazine – charge more for it if you have to. At the current price of "free" with a USRA membership, it's a bargain! I am gladly willing to pay more to keep your magazine in print form since I use the photos of top players all the time. They are great to give new, young players as a visual aid of proper stroke technique. The instructional articles are wonderful. It's not easy to take a desktop into the court! Going exclusively online would be a big mistake. Both my sons and I constantly flip through the pages and often talk about the various articles. I'm sure we're not alone.

**Patrick Hostman | St. Louis, MO**

# readerforum

I recently came across a post in the newsgroup referring to your editorial in the March-April edition and [then] read it. Although I am a heavy user of the internet (6-8 hours per day), I would prefer to receive the paper copy as well as being able to view articles online. My primary arguments are that: Many players I know travel — there is nothing better than being able to carry the mag with you, and; my laptop won't fit on the stairmaster (no matter how hard I try to hold it up there). It's much easier to read and be inspired with the paper copy while I prepare for another tournament. Thanks and keep up the good work!

**Daniel G. Howard | Kansas City, MO**

I read the latest editorial about publishing the magazine in electronic format in order to save the cost of mailing the printed version out to all members. While this is a reasonable proposal, I really think that would be a bad idea for a couple of reasons. First, no one I know likes to read any large volume of text off a computer, which is why many newspapers and magazines *do* publish all their content on the web also (they have little worry of people reading the entire thing on the net). Reading extensively off a monitor is still very tiring on the eyes and manipulating large articles with text is choppy and cumbersome on a PC.

Secondly, I don't think nearly as many people as you think have ready access to the net. Many have access only at work where they can send a few emails but not do a lot of reading. This concept probably will work in the future, and I think it is a good principle, but I don't think we are there yet

**Steve Kowkabany | Greenwood, SC**

*From the Editor: Interestingly, those who held a "pro" opinion for abandoning the print version (primarily for re-directed cost savings) didn't actually write to the magazine to express their thoughts, but instead chose to limit their comments to the internet.*

## Clowning Around

I do a safety program with the third graders in the Central Pennsylvania area, and I promote racquetball by giving all the children an autographed racquetball with my logo on it. In 1997, I distributed 2,314 racquetballs from all over the country. I received the racquets, gloves and glasses for our junior program from the USRA, my contact with middle school and the high schools is very good, and we hope to triple our juniors in the next few months.

The junior program is the only place we can expand our knowledge and apply it to the youngsters and keep the great game of racquetball alive and thriving. I am still a youngster at the game myself, only being in my sixth full year of competing. I have befriended so many wonderful people who I have become quite fond of, including your great staff. If there is anything that I can do for the USRA in my capacity as an AmPro instructor — or as Spoony the clown — please do not hesitate to ask me. I can travel on a moment's notice!

**G. "Spoony" Morrill | Harrisburg, PA**

## Don't forget the Pro Shop

I applaud Luke and the USRA for encouraging players to purchase equipment and apparel from those companies that are involved in the promotion and advancement of this great sport. His article however, failed to mention a critical link to this issue. While it is obvious that we as a racquetball community should reward and support those companies that are assisting in the promotion and above all growth of the game, let's not forget that the court club facilities are also a very critical link to the very survival of the sport.

Therefore, I would hope that the USRA also take the stance that players should always — first and foremost — try to purchase any apparel, equipment and gear from their local court club establishment. We desperately need to convince court club owners across this country that racquetball can be, and is, a profitable venture. If the members and patrons of all racquetball facilities look towards that facility for their equipment needs it will go a long way towards reversing this unfortunate trend of clubs closing and/or tearing out their courts.

As a court club owner that has just added two courts back into service, I urge all USRA members to support your local court club facilities when it comes to purchasing any racquetball related items. If they don't carry what you're looking for, ask them and I'm sure that in most cases they will be happy to get it for you.

**Geoff Hunter | Naples, FL**

**Corrections & Additions:** Our dazzling cover shot of Ruben Gonzalez was taken by professional photographer Philip W. Smith of Bordentown, N.J. In a last-minute scramble to obtain and place the shot, the wrong photo credit was used. — The Avon Life Magazine article on the Mazur family, excerpted in the last issue, was reprinted with permission of White Publishing.

**From the Editor:** With thanks to all who took the time to express their thoughts on the Ruben Gonzalez profile [pro and con], I'd like to respond by saying that the "personality" piece was very simply meant to be an in-depth article on every facet of an interesting life and career, and that the questioned reference was intended solely to humanize our subject with a bit of comic relief. That was my own reaction on first, and subsequent, readings since the context was deliberately set within the framework of applauding Ruben's family values and marital fidelity on a pro tour that has been - and apparently can still provide - a rather "racy" environment for its athletes.

Of course, had Ruben himself been offended or embarrassed in any way by the reference, I most certainly would have edited the piece differently. But the author discussed making the nickname public with Ruben in advance, who did not object. Yes, it was colorful, and perhaps shocking to some, but — by no means — was it intended to be disrespectful to either our readers or our subject.

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## Growing The Sport, Growing The Club

*"Everyone is always looking for some key, the secret to success," notes Keith Nygren, the co-owner (along with Ray O'Connor and Ted Torcivia) of WAC. "But the truth is, there's no easy answer. You can't just put up a sign-up sheet. You've got to do the spade work ... and a lot of it."*

— Let's Get Real about Racquetball  
by John R. Halbrooks  
March 2000, Club Business International

Since 1976, the Wisconsin Athletic Club has been Southeastern Wisconsin's "racquetball connection," with more players than any other club in Wisconsin.

Of the company's five clubs throughout the Milwaukee metropolitan area, two of them are "court clubs," featuring a total of 21 courts. One location has a court with a full back glass wall and bleachers that can be set up for major events. All courts have great viewing areas from above. Some have viewing from the club's lounge, as well.

<< **Trish Elftman and Gary Schleinz (pictured)**, Karen Doyle, and Lee Kimball share responsibility for coordinating racquetball programming for both court clubs. They have a combined total of more than 50 years of racquetball programming experience. There are six pros between the

two clubs. Trish Elftman, Pat Starken, Linda Covault, and Ken Chmielewski are all AmPRO certified instructors. Joe Bechard, a former State Champion, teaches clinics. Craig Coffman handles junior lessons and leagues.

The five clubs have a total of 10,000 members. Of the 3,900 members who belong to the two court clubs, 25-30% regularly participate in racquetball, while 90% of the racquetball members play regularly. Racquetball players can purchase a special, all-inclusive "Gold" membership package. Or if they prefer, they can go with a "Fitness" membership and simply pay a \$5.00/hour/person court fee. There is also a league fee of either \$6.00 or \$9.00 per league. The club's general retention rate is 65%; for racquetball members the figure jumps to 85%.

### **Racquetball revenues**

In the two court clubs, \$800,000—30% of overall club revenues—was generated from the racquetball operations, including memberships, lessons, events, etc. That breaks down to revenues of \$38,000 per court. The two pro shops generated \$60,000, 80% of which was racquetball related.

### **Program strengths**

Racquetball programming requires 50 hours each week, including 25 hours for leagues. Each week, 1,000 court hours are dedicated to racquetball programming, with 900 devoted to leagues. Between the two court clubs, ten to twelve lessons are taught each week.

A Junior Program runs at both court clubs every Sunday between October and May. An average of 50-60 kids participates in the

programs. In addition, the clubs have hosted the State Juniors the last two years. This year, they will hold a regional juniors tournament.

More than 1,000 members participated in the leagues this past winter—close to 25% of the club's racquetball membership base. Along with the usual early morning, noon, and late evening leagues, there are some popular novelty leagues, such as a Beer and Chili League. Sometimes the players use potholders for gloves for extra points. A mixed doubles league gets risqué: men wear bras and ladies wear jock straps — over their clothing, of course. Local businesses get involved, too, by sponsoring teams for ten-week leagues. T-shirts are printed with the sponsors' company names. The sponsors' business cards are posted alongside the scores on the club's bulletin board. An after-work banquet is held at the conclusion of the ten-week period.

### ***The tournament as a promotional tool***

Wisconsin Athletic Club court clubs typically host ten to twelve tournaments each year. The President's Day Open tournament, a three-day event, is held every February, attracting 200+ players. Over the three days, 1,500 players and spectators helped generate close to \$12,000 in revenue, with a net profit in excess of \$3,000. But the racquetball staff is proudest of "The Jerry Stoltmann Memorial Summer Open," held each June. This tournament was renamed in honor of an avid league/tourney member, Jerry Stoltmann, who recently lost his battle with cancer. The tournament skimped on frills so a higher percentage of the entry fees could be donated to the American Cancer Society in Jerry's honor. The racquetball staff and members were thrilled when Jerry's widow and his two sons agreed to play in the tournament. With over 125 players, a raft of donated prizes, and numerous contributions from generous spectators, the tournament exceeded its goals, making a profit of \$600 after all expenses, plus the donation of \$800.

Other tournaments include Oktoberfest, Halloween Doubles, Candy Cane Classic, Two Club Tourneys, St. Paddy's Doubles, City Championships, April Doubles, and the State Singles Tournament. The clubs also host numerous mini-tourneys, such as Turkey Shoot, Santa Doubles, Mixed Socials, and more. They have been host to the State Doubles in the past, and will be holding State Singles this year. Over the years, they have also held Pro-stops, Handball Pro-stops, National Senior Doubles, and many others.

The two clubs have conducted tournaments for the Milwaukee Police and Fire Departments, Milwaukee Senior Olympics, and Quad Graphics. In addition, the clubs offer the courts to local high schools, which bring in students as part of the high school curriculum. The number of participants ranges from 20-40 players in racquetball and handball to the several

## **2000 IHRSA Racquetball Programming Awards**

### **WINNER**

#### **Wisconsin Athletic Club**

Club Type: Multi-purpose operation, with two court clubs, Waukesha and West Allis (21 courts total)

Location: Milwaukee Wisconsin

Racquetball Directors: Gary Schlein, Trish Elftman, Karen Doyle, and Lee Kimball

Club Members: 10,000 (five-clubs)

Racquetball Members: 3,900 (Waukesha & West Allis combined)

Club Opened: 1976

Program Strengths: Detailed in article

### **FINALIST: Racquet's Edge**

Club Type: Multi-purpose (8 courts)

Location: Essex Junction, Vermont

Racquetball Director: Derek Mitchell

Club Members: 4,400

Racquetball Members: 2,400

Club Opened: 1977

Program Strengths: The club has developed a relationship with local school systems that promotes their junior program to new kids (and their parents) on an ongoing basis. The Junior Program has roughly 15 participants each week.

### **FINALIST: The Alaska Club**

Club Type: Multi-purpose (14 courts)

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Racquetball Director: Renee Arturo

Club Members: 10,600

Racquetball Members: 875

Club Opened: 1986

Program Strengths: Two free clinics are offered per month between October and May. Group lessons for two or more are offered, as well as seminars covering racquetball instruction and injury prevention.

**by kathy alpert**

Reprinted by permission, from "Racquetball Best Practices" Case Studies of the Winners & Finalists, 2000 IHRSA Awards International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association



L-R: KEITH NYGREN (WAC), JOHN MCCARTHY (IHSA), RAY O'CONNOR (WAC), GARY MAZAROFF (USRA), DEREK MITCHELL (RACQUET'S EDGE), JOHN MARCHETTI (ALASKA CLUB). PHOTOGRAPHY: THE PHOTO GROUP.

hundred they expect for the upcoming Canadian-American Police and Fire Games.

Free clinics are given Monday evenings at both locations. Clinics are taught by longtime racquetball player Joe Bechard and by instructors Pat Starken and Ken Chmielewski.

Group lessons are taught on Tuesday evenings by Linda Covault. These lessons are open to all new members. Prizes, complimentary racquet, beverage and more are offered to participants. A special Women's Beginner Lesson is taught by Trish Elftman on Wednesday nights.

Over the last year, the clubs have attracted some of the top names in racquetball. These pros have been guests at informal club events, where they spent time talking with members, answering their questions, and even playing with them. This is a big treat for members.

### **Racquetball promotion**

The clubs' spectacular tournaments and leagues are, arguably, their most powerful promotional tools. However, there are other aspects to promotion, note Elftman and Schlein.

There is an extraordinary commitment to servicing both members and prospects, for example. The Wisconsin

Clubs' advertising offers "free" introductions. The racquetball coordinators will gladly arrange lessons, clinics, or other assistance upon a prospect's request. Once the prospect becomes a member, the focus shifts to encouragement and follow-up. This may include complimentary free court time for practice sessions, a free startup racquet, and/or discounts on shoes. These perks reduce financial hardships encountered by new players.

### **New programs**

Since late 1998, the clubs have added a number of new programs. Racquetball for Seniors, held each Tuesday morning, allows members 65 and over to get a good workout while having fun. "The rules are modified slightly, so they can have a better time," notes Gary Schlein.

The free lesson program on Monday and Wednesday evenings has been expanded. An average of 4-8 players, both seasoned and inexperienced, takes part in the lessons. Corporate leagues have been established during non-prime time hours. Wednesday afternoons between 4:00 and 4:15 p.m., eight to ten players gather to play.

After the game, the group often adjourns to the club bar to enjoy liquid refreshment. It's a great opportunity to expose the club to non-members, who often join the fun.

### **Formula for success**

A successful racquetball program takes more than efficient programming, says Trish Elftman. "It's more of a social thing. People like to get away from work and have fun, play, and meet other people. They cap it off with a drink at the bar," she says. "The social aspect is more important these days. It's tough to even get people to keep score. People just want to have fun and get a good workout. There's much less competitiveness."

The Wisconsin Athletic Club has what it takes to make it work; a

*"What's the biggest problem any business faces today?" Schlein asks rhetorically. "People are so damn busy ... both parents work, the kids are over-scheduled, everyone's running every which way ... Given this rat race, the key to succeeding - at anything - is to get people to put you on their calendars."*  
CBI, March 2000

commitment from the owner, enthusiastic racquetball coordinators, and lots of exciting, well-promoted programs, and enough fun to go around. Gary Schleinz and Trish Elftman reveal their clubs' formula for success:

**Make a Commitment.** The Wisconsin Athletic Club is fortunate to have owners who are committed to the continued growth of the sport. They realize what it takes to be a force in the racquetball community. A club's owners need to understand that they have to make an investment in quality programming and staff to create it. The owners of the Wisconsin Athletic Club recognize that racquetball players stay with the club and are willing to spend money on the sport on an ongoing basis.

**Create new programming; keep things fun.** The club's owners have made a commitment to grow the racquetball program by allocating the funds to hire a topflight staff. The two full-time and two part-time racquetball coordinators really believe in the game. This provides a solid foundation for creating innovative programming. "We are constantly creating programs using new and different ideas to create social fun," say Schleinz and Elftman. "We listen to what our members want." The idea is to keep things fresh and a little bit silly, so the clubs play host to a Beer & Chili League and a Little Weenie Tourney, which uses racquets from the old days when they were much smaller. Another novelty program features players wearing clothing inside out. "The competitiveness is still there," notes Schleinz, "However, we believe racquetball is becoming more of a social, get-away-from-the-world game. That's fine with us; members who have fun tend to stick around awhile."

**Promote your programs.** Word of mouth is the key here. Planning new and exciting programs will keep people buzzing. Make sure to organize leagues year-round to keep people active. Offer holiday programs. Make the programs fun: offer comical prizes, such as a turkey around Thanksgiving. Forego the usual plaques and trophies for more useful or silly prizes. People are getting a good workout, but, in the end, the most important thing is for them to have fun.



Julee Nicolia (1999 IHRSA Program Award winner) shared some photos from one of her holiday programs called "Monkey Madness." She rounded up 30 club members, then selected the 10 best players from the lot to be the "monkeys" who had to play in monkey boxer shorts, and wear reindeer antlers when drawing their partners from a hat.

The special event raised over \$400 for the Shriner's Hospital and everyone — monkeys included — were treated to food, drinks and prizes. And don't they look like they're having some laughs?



## At your Leisure!

By Steve Aiken, with Lorraine Cressman

Don't you just love those articles that start something like this: "I've been playing racquetball for 20 odd years, I won this title, that title, blah, blah blah, yadda yadda yadda"?

Well, I guess that could certainly apply to me. Recently I read an article that asked for my vote to try to get racquetball accepted as an "Olympic sport" [it was an online Harris poll. -Ed.] Admirable as it may be, sometimes it seems this "goal" has been around for as long as the Olympics itself. The article later reported that of all the potential Olympic candidates, racquetball drew an amazing one percent.

Somebody once said, *never worry about the rebuke from a friend; it's the kisses of your enemy you have to watch out for.* This article is a rebuke from a friend. With all my heart, I believe that it's time we look in the mirror and stop fooling ourselves. The ship is sinking, and we act like the orchestra that keeps on playing!

It seems to me that the "movement" to get racquetball accepted at the Olympics is nothing more than our best, most sincere, effort to help the sport grow. I think many believe that making racquetball an Olympic sport would magically add to our dwindling numbers, and somehow breathe new life into this sport we love so very much. Although it's been whispered for years, it's time to start shouting, wake up and smell the coffee!!!! It ain't gonna happen.

As sincere as those "Olympic" efforts are, I believe, that same zeal and energy needs to be re-channeled in a different direction.

Don't get me wrong, we all have to be seriously impressed with the youth movement in racquetball today. Every month we see teenagers in this magazine. These teens, by and large, are at their most competitive ages in life. Some of them gravitate to our sport purely out of curiosity. Others remain because of the competitive nature of the game. I would love to see a three-year study that followed the newest youth players to see if these teens are staying with us.

With that said, we are still faced with a "numbers crunch" working against us.

How many of you have lost a court or two at your club in the last five to ten years? Better yet, how many of you have had racquetball pulled out from under you altogether? I rest my case.

Well, one of the nicest parts about being a columnist is you don't necessarily have to come up with the answers, just pose the questions. Sometimes identifying the problem is the first step in correcting things.

I think until somebody out there with a vision, an idea, or some old-fashioned creativity, approaches a racquetball club with a program, a league ... *Tae Bo for Racquetball* ... something ... anything, that appeals to the "leisure crowd," racquetball will (as it long has) remain in the one percent range.

What, you might ask, is the "leisure crowd"? They are the ones who would like nothing better than to enjoy themselves within some type of structure. Play racquetball, enjoy the health benefits, and *socialize!* Think about it, by virtue of the fact that this magazine is in your hands means, in all probability, you joined your state association. And why did you join? Not just to have this magazine sent to your house. More than likely, you compete in tournaments; you're a competitor! A lot of people don't like competition these days. We are competitive monsters who love to win! There's nothing wrong with that, except I fear it turns many people away. It's that simple.

We don't talk about it much, but I'm convinced that somehow, some way, creating an alternate racquetball entity that appeals specifically to the "leisure crowd" is our only hope of watching our numbers grow. I wish I knew exactly how to make that happen.

Like Ruben Gonzalez, I hope to be able to compete well past my "prime," but in the meantime, somebody has to step up to the plate and reach out to that greater market share, the "leisure crowd." That's where you come in. Racquetball anxiously awaits your new and improved ideas to nurture our sport. Go for it!



Steve Aiken is the CEO of Cutting Edge Publishing in the Philadelphia area. He has written two nationally published educational books. He is a member of the Highpoint Racquet club in Chalfont, Pa. Currently Steve is the '99 Pennsylvania State Mixed "B" Doubles Champion. At this writing his two daughters, Sarah and Stephanie, are ranked #1 in Pennsylvania in Girls 14- and Girls 12-.

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## **LOB-bying for Court #5**

**By the Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club**

In an environment where participation, interest, and membership has been in decline nationwide, here's one encouraging story of an "old master" of the game and a retro-fit, re-re-conversion of at least one court in Orlando, Florida. This program director is "serving up" the racquetball-playing community, and The Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club, with everything they need to stay in the game and win!

Mike Mojer is known to many as a teacher, promoter, and great player in his own right. For almost three decades, many of Florida's best have competed against him, and have traveled to participate in his well-organized and popular tournaments.

In fact, things have been rolling-out so smoothly at OFRC that he's been able to successfully LOB-by to reclaim a regulation court – which had been converted for squash use – with an enthusiastic "go ahead" by club owner Merrill Brick.

So racquetball is definitely not dead! It's thriving in Orlando, where the players, directors, and more importantly, owners, are supporting its resurgence 100%!

But it wasn't always that way. The sport had its ups-and-downs in this club just as it did practically anywhere else over the years. In 1974 the Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club was a tennis-only facility with 14 outdoor and 4 indoor courts. In 1980 the club was sold and converted into a full health-and-fitness facility by replacing the indoor tennis courts with 10 racquet-

ball courts over half the square footage, and a state-of-the-art fitness facility in the remainder.

In its mid-80s heyday, the club grew from 375 tennis players to more than 2500 members. But as fitness trends shifted in the late 80's and early 90's, racquetball and fitness enthusiasts exercised at home and migrated to outdoor activities. The Club lost much of its member base, the bank eventually foreclosed on the property and considered closing it altogether. At this point, recognizing key components of the club's former success, the bank convinced Mike to come out of retirement to manage the racquetball programs until new buyers could be found.

In 1992 Brick Bodies, Inc. purchased the facility and over the past eight years the club has managed to retain its long-time members while increasing total membership to over 3,000. The cornerstone of this re-stabilized fitness facility is most certainly racquetball, due in large part to its very motivated and enthusiastic program director.

Mike's understanding of the game propelled the racquetball program into one of the top producers at the club. Any serious racquetball player – or just anyone who enjoys the game or wants to improve – knows that the Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club is the place to play. On any day of the week there is a league that fits: Women's, Men's, Noontime, Doubles, the Saturday "Liniment League" and a soon to be implemented "Squall League." And when the play stops there are banquets, trophies, pizza parties and plenty of socializing with all the special people who make up this vibrant racquetball community!

On the tournament front, every trophy-hunter in the southeast is familiar with OTRC events. Mike's tournament committee, desk staff and local organizers are so well-known that the club successfully bid on three major tournaments this past year, and is seeking a fourth. The Club hosted the FRA State Singles, USRA Regional Singles, and National Transplant Games, and is currently bidding on the FRA State Doubles. On top of this very busy slate of state and regional events, Mike insists on scheduling at least four open club events per year. The resurgence in both recreational play and competition combined to create the demand for "LOB-bying for Court #5."

When two of the original ten racquetball courts were converted to squash in 1994, participation did not match expectations. But racquetball continued to bring

**OTRC's Court Five after being converted to squash use in 1994.**





in growing numbers and the subsequent demands for court time required that at least one of those squash courts be re-converted to its original use.

General Manager, Merrill Brick stated, "Racquetball in this club is one of the most successful and enthusiastic programs we offer to our members. People seek us out, and whenever a potential member is introduced to Mike and his core player group, they join within a week. In this respect, sales are one major reason we converted the squash court back to racquetball."

Adding this court back into the lineup will enable the club to offer Corporate and Junior leagues, and more importantly, make it far easier to bid on larger, major tournaments. Not to mention the fact that hardcore racquetball members are elated at having more court time to "kill"!

Although racquetball statistics aren't rosy across the board in the larger picture, the Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club has experienced a racquetball explosion. Many of the "new" enthusiasts are the "young urban professionals" who stopped playing several years ago, got married, had children, and now realize that they miss the fun and challenge the sport has to offer.

And even though he'll decline to take all the credit, Mike's ability to corral these players, keep interest high and satisfy their eagerness for play is one of the primary reasons for the success of the club's racquetball program.

Racquetball is alive and growing at the Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club. Drop in and hit a few – there's always someone there!

## AmPRO Instructor Certification Clinic Schedule

Date .....	Host Club .....	City/State .....	Clinician .....	Contact .....
May 11-12.....	Family YMCA.....	Garden City, KS	David Watson.....	918-540-3503
May 19-21.....	Body Works.....	Lubbock, TX	Gary Mazaroff .....	505-266-8960
May 19-21.....	Northwest Athletic Club .....	Springdale, AR	David Watson.....	918-540-3503
May 22-23.....	Downtown YMCA.....	Houston, TX	Ken Woodfin .....	281-483-7549
June 2-4.....	98th Street Northwest Club .....	Minneapolis, MN	Jo Shattuck .....	318-512-6040
June 2-4.....	North Valley Athletic Club.....	Chico, CA	Dave George.....	650-589-6904
June 9-11.....	Allentown Racquetball & Fitness.....	Allentown, PA	Lorraine Galloway .....	718-739-4629
June 23-25.....	Pro Sports Club.....	Bellevue, WA	Paul Reynolds.....	425-861-6285
June 23-25.....	Sport Center.....	Concord, NC	Ed Remen.....	919-363-4439
June 23-25.....	Midtown Sports & Wellness.....	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff .....	505-266-8960
July 28-30.....	Racquetball & Fitness Northwest.....	San Antonio, TX	Dan Davis.....	713-895-8688
August 25-27 .....	The Alaska Club .....	Anchorage, AK	Jim Winterton.....	315-426-9204

For more information about conducting an AmPRO Instructor Certification clinic, or about becoming certified, please contact Gary Mazaroff [Director of AmPRO Instructor Certification] at 505/266-8960, email GMazaroff@usra.org.

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# Wilson 13th U.S. National High School Championships



Silver medalist Mitch Williams    Champion Adrienne Fisher

Champion Jack Huczek

Silver medalist Kristen Walsh

The Wilson 13th U.S. National High School Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports, returned to its roots this year by coming back to St. Louis after a one-year stint in Portland. But the return to Missouri didn't deter a strong contingent of 52 of Oregon's high school athletes from making the Midwest trek in search of gold. At the same time, participants in the St. Louis High School Racquetball League hoped that the return to the Concord Athletic Club would give them a home-court advantage.

## ***A Grueling Boys' Singles Draw***

One of two U.S. Junior National Team qualifiers, the high school event offers team appointments to winners of the boys and girls' gold singles divisions, and the graduation of '99 champion Stephen Lewis left the boys' division wide open. Several of the top juniors came looking for their first high school title, including current team members Jack Huczek, Mitch Williams, Bart Crawford and Matthew McElhiney, who picked up the top-four seeds, respectively.

Coming out of a grueling draw of 133 athletes, the winner of the boys' gold division would not only become the event's best player, but also have the most endurance, since they were faced with seven rounds of singles play in three days. Due to the size of the draw, play kicked off Thursday evening with no upsets among the top seeds. Williams and McElhiney made quick work of hometown favorites Andy Habben and Chris Meyers, respectively, while Crawford topped Beaverton's Eric Platt.

After a travel nightmare that almost cost him a forfeit in the first round of last year's event, top-seeded Huczek did not begin play until Friday morning. And after playing his three singles matches that day, Huczek established himself as the dominant player in the draw by allowing only one point to be scored against him, which occurred when he was hit with his own ball.

"I don't mind playing three matches back-to-back. That's how I would rather play them," Huczek

**photos & story by christie hyde**

commented while waiting for a court to become available so that he could play his third match of the day. "I would rather play 12 or 15 matches in a row, because I can go all day long. Most of these kids can't do that, so it's definitely in my favor."

All the top-16 seeded players advanced easily, with the exception of 15th-seed Justin Nordine, who was upset in the round of 128 by St. Louis University High's (SLUH's) Tom Wyrwich in a tiebreaker match, 9-15, 15-0, 11-5.

In Saturday's Sweet Sixteen, the top-four seeds continued to advance, but with a bit more trouble. McElhiney snuck past Philip Hammond in a tiebreaker, 15-0, 13-15, 11-4, while both Crawford and Williams topped their opponents in two games. Even top-seeded Huczek's opponent, Ben Croft, was able to put up more points than all of Huczek's previous opponents combined, with a 15-1, 15-3 match. Eleventh-seed Hal Rutherford scored the only upset in the 16s when he knocked off sixth-seeded Rey Garcia, 14-15, 15-8, 11-7.

Saturday evening's quarterfinals pitted doubles partners against each other when McElhiney took on doubles partner Zack Miller. Miller won the first game, 15-12, but McElhiney battled back to take the second, 15-10, forcing a tiebreaker. McElhiney was unable to carry his momentum from the second game into the tiebreaker, dropping the match to Miller, 11-9. Huczek, Williams and Crawford continued to roll through the draw into the semifinals, setting up another match between partners: Williams vs. Crawford.

Washington High School senior Mitch Williams was determined to advance to the finals, although junior Crawford gave him a fierce battle. After winning the first game, 15-9, Williams ran out to a 6-1 lead in the second before Crawford fought back to take a three-point lead at 12-9. Williams regained the lead and looked to put away the match at 14-12 when errors began to plague his game again. Crawford tied the game at 14-14 with a rollout, and was

hoping to force a tiebreaker when Williams regained the serve and hit a pass down the right sidewall just out of Crawford's reach for the win and a shot at the national title.

In their semi, Miller offered Huczek his toughest competition thus far in the tournament. Huczek took the first



game with ease, 15-3, and looked as though he would do the same in the second when he took an 8-0 lead, but Miller quickly jumped back into the game, rattling off five straight points. But it wasn't enough to trip up Huczek, who won 15-6.

The finals pitted *Huczek (above)*, a two-time bronze medalist finally seeking gold, against *Williams (left)*, a senior hoping for a title in his final year at the championships. To a packed gallery, the two took the court and dished up far more excitement than anticipated. Despite Huczek's previous dominance in the tournament, Williams managed to keep pace. With Huczek at game point, Williams pulled to within three at 14-11, but lost the serve on an avoidable hinder. Taking advantage of the avoidable call, Huczek quickly put away the game, before his opponent could

regain his focus. Williams dove for the game's final pass down the right sidewall, but was unable to get there in time to return the shot.

The second game proved to be far less dramatic, as Huczek jumped to an 8-0 lead before Williams managed to hit a rollout to score his one and only point of the game. Huczek, whose shots to the front right corner were Williams' downfall, captured the match and boys' singles title, 15-1.

"I was really tired in the second game," Williams said following the match. "I played that tight semifinal match this morning against Bart (Crawford), and then we played our doubles match before this one. I think I could have forced a tiebreaker if I could have just kept my energy against him in the second game. It just wasn't there."

Huczek extended his appointment to the U.S. Junior National Team by a year, in addition to becoming the third player from Michigan to win a U.S. National High School Championships singles title, the only state to claim more than one high school singles titleholder.



### **Freshman Bests Senior Defending Champ**

With its 66 players, the girls' singles gold division was not as large as the boys', but its final did hold just as much excitement. Defending-champion Kristen Walsh came into the championships seeking not only to defend her own singles title in her senior year, but also hoping to aid Skyline High School in its bid for the overall team title. In doing so she entered three divisions — girls' singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Unlike the boy's division, the girls team qualifier featured only two U.S. Junior National Team members: top-seeded Walsh and 14-year-old Adrienne Fisher (left), who despite her number-two seeding was discounted by several due to her young age.

Fourth-seed Jane Rombach of Nenrix Hall High School was the local favorite, while third-seed Jenny Cary of Aloha High School drew many of the Oregon fans.

The round of 64 held little excitement for the girls' singles division as all but one of the top-eight seeds captured easy wins, each allowing their opponents less than five points per match. Cary was the only top-seed who struggled slightly in her match against Nenrix Hall's Emily Schumert, before winning in straight games of 15-8, 15-9.

The top seeds continued to advance with ease into the round of sixteen. It was there that fifth-seed Mary Martin was forced into a tiebreaker against St. Joseph High's Molly Keegan. After winning the first game 15-3, Martin dropped the second game to Keegan 10-15, but quickly rebounded to take the match in an 11-0 tiebreaker. Both Walsh and Fisher continued their dominance through the draw, both allowing their opponents to total three points or less in the first three rounds.

Rombach met her first major challenge in the quarterfinals against Martin. Rombach took the first game 15-7, but Martin overpowered her opponent to win the second game, 15-13. Despite a strong Oregon contingent backing Martin, Rombach was the hometown favorite and her teammates cheered her through the 11-4 tiebreaker victory.

Fisher's dominance began to waver a bit in the quarterfinals when she met Wakefield High's Kris Alatorre-Martin. Fisher pulled out the 15-9, 15-10 win, but made many wonder how she would match up against her semifinal opponent Cary, who had breezed past quarterfinal-opponent Amy Hollingsworth, 15-1, 15-1. Walsh also continued to roll, knocking off Colorado's Erica Beaudry, 15-1, 15-4.

The semifinals continued to prove easy for Walsh, who made quick work of Rombach, 15-0, 15-4, while Fisher's struggles continued. Although she did advance to the finals, 15-9, 15-9 over Cary, it was not by as large a margin as her finals opponent had done.

Many spectators had their doubts concerning the freshman's ability to take on Walsh confirmed when Fisher dropped the first game of the finals, 15-4. But with the coaching of her father Rex, Adrienne came back to turn the tables on Kristen, taking the second game with an answered score of 15-4.

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Suddenly the crowd chatter shifted from Fisher's talent being able to earn her a title in her sophomore year to the possibility of an upset over the defending champion and setting a record by becoming the first-ever freshman to win the national high school title.

The two girls battled back and forth for the lead in the tiebreaker, and tied at 6-6 before Fisher began to pull ahead. With a 9-6 lead, Fisher took a blow to the side of her face from Walsh's racquet. In extreme pain from the hit, she took an injury timeout. Some fans thought this would be Walsh's chance to jump back into the match, but Fisher returned to the court following the timeout and rattled off two additional points to win the national high school title in her first attempt.



"I sacrificed for my team today, and it ended up really coming back to bite me in that match," Walsh (shown left) said after losing her title. "I played five matches today, and I was just worn out. Adrienne played great, and I just couldn't keep up."

### Interesting Doubles

The doubles divisions proved to be among the most interesting stories of the tournament. From the North Salem High Cinderella teams to players traveling from Germany in search of gold, the doubles rounds had it all.

The top-seeds in the boys' doubles division definitely earned the award for traveling the farthest to the championships [see below]. But the main story of the boys' doubles division was the Cinderella duo of Blake Bower and Tyler Hollingsworth. The pair from North Salem High came into the draw of 32 teams seeded 11th and powered their way through the draw to the finals where they topped Rey and Marco Garcia, 15-8, 15-9.



Marco Garcia, KAHS Athletic Director Clinton Robinson and Rey Garcia

Kaiserslautern American High School.

The Garcia's father is on active duty with the U.S. Air Force and relocated the family to Germany two years ago when he was stationed there.

Despite the move, the brothers continued to pursue their interest in racquetball, which was sparked by their father four years ago.

"We travel back to the states for the major tournaments," 15-year-old Marco said. "Last year we competed at junior nationals and junior worlds. We came to this event because our father felt we had a really good shot

of winning the doubles division." Tournament officials agreed, awarding the brothers the top-seed in the boys' doubles division. But their quest for gold fell short in the finals, where they lost to North Salem's Blake Bower and Tyler Hollingsworth, and returned to Germany with silver medals around their necks.

Both brothers agree that training in Germany has its disadvantages. The base has a facility with only four racquetball courts and only a handful of players to practice with, causing the brothers to mainly practice by themselves. The two travel to tournaments throughout Germany and Europe, and have earned the fifth-place ranking in the adult men's open division in Germany.

This year's High School Nationals drew many of the best prep athletes from all across the United States, including teams from Oregon, Alaska and Utah. But, it was the top-seeded boys' doubles team who traveled the farthest in search of a gold medal. Brothers Marco and Rey Garcia made a marathon transatlantic trek to the championships from Germany to represent

North Salem produced another Cinderella pair in mixed doubles, where unseeded Bower and Amy Hollingsworth dominated the draw from day one. The pair topped fifth-seeds Lynne Berg and Stuart Doyle in the first round, 15-3, 15-3, before moving on to shut out 12th-seed Charity Barnes and Eric Hanson the 16s. Fourth-seeds Dan Costello and Laurie Fisk proved to be no competition for the North Salem pair, which breezed into the semifinals with a 15-4, 15-2 win. It was in the semifinals that Bower and Hollingsworth met their first major challenge on the court against Skyline High's top-seeds Pete Jass and Kristen Walsh. The pairs battled back and forth for the lead, but the underdogs continued to advance with the 15-12, 15-13 upset. They met the Colorado brother-sister pair of Dan and Erica Beaudry in the finals, and finished out their run with a gold medal, winning 15-4, 15-11.

Defending girls' doubles champions Lynne Berg and Mary Martin almost had their quest for back-to-back titles tripped up in the first round, when they went into a tiebreaker against Kirkwood High's Laurie Fisk and Sarah Ulmer. The defending champs managed to pull out the 15-5, 14-15, 11-7 win to advance. In the semifinals, Berg and Martin met yet another North Salem duo, Amy Hollingsworth and Kaylee Pfennig, but the Cinderella story would end for the high school in the girls' doubles division, as Berg and Martin won 15-3, 15-5 to advance to the finals against second-seeds April Watson and Kristen Walsh. It was in the finals that the Skyline High duo put an end to Berg and Martin's quest for a repeat title by winning the gold, 15-8, 15-7.

The victorious partnership of Watson and Walsh defied all the rules of successful doubles play. Although Walsh is known for her talent on the court, Watson had not picked up a racquet in years. She played several years ago for brief time, but gave up the sport to pursue other interests. But Walsh was the only female from Skyline High planning to attend the championships. In an effort to help her school's chances of capturing the overall team title, she looked to her friend for help.

"I asked her if she had plans for the weekend, and she said no. So I asked if she wanted to go to St. Louis with me," Walsh said.

Despite Watson's lack of racquetball experience and being flustered during the finals match, the pair overcame the odds to bring home the gold.

Bart Crawford and Mitch Williams captured the boys' non-championship doubles title over Matt McElhiney and Zack Miller, 15-7, 15-7, while Ryan Maher and Emily Schumert took the mixed non-championship doubles gold medal over Todd Barrett and Heather Backes, 15-12, 15-9.



## 2000 WILSON 13TH U.S. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL RESULTS

**Boys' Gold Singles:** [1] Jack Huczek (Adams H.S., Rochester Hills, Mich.) def. [2] Mitch Williams (Washington H.S., Washington, N.C.) 15-11, 15-1

**Girls' Gold Singles:** [2] Adrienne Fisher (Centerville H.S., Centerville, Ohio) def. [1] Kristen Walsh (Skyline H.S., Salt Lake City, Utah) 4-15, 15-4, 11-6

**Boys' Gold Doubles:** [11] Blake Bower/Tyler Hollingsworth (North Salem H.S., Salem, Ore.) def. [1] Marco Garcia/Rey Garcia (Kaiserslautern American H.S., Germany) 15-8, 15-9

**Girls' Gold Doubles:** [2] Kristen Walsh/April Watson (Skyline H.S., Salt Lake City, Utah) def. [1] Lynne Berg/Mary Martin (Sprague H.S., Salem, Ore.) 15-8, 15-7

**Mixed Gold Doubles:** Blake Bower/Amy Hollingsworth (North Salem H.S., Salem, Ore.) def. [3] Dan Beaudry/Erica Beaudry (Centennial H.S., Pueblo, Colo.) 15-4, 15-11

### OVERALL TEAM RESULTS

School	Total
1. North Salem H.S., Salem, Ore.	266
2. Skyline H.S., Salt Lake City, Utah	219
3. Sprague H.S., Salem, Ore.	213
4. Kirkwood H.S., Kirkwood, Mo.	201
5. Beaverton H.S., Beaverton, Ore.	196
6. Centennial H.S., Pueblo, Colo.	120
7. Dimond H.S., Anchorage, Alaska	71
8. McMinnville H.S., Oregon	63
9. Parkway West H.S., St. Louis, Mo.	11

### BOYS TEAM RESULTS

School	Total
1. North Salem H.S., Salem, Ore.	122
2. Vianney H.S., St. Louis, Mo.	111
3t. Kaiserslautern American H.S., Germany	108
3t. Beaverton H.S., Beaverton, Ore.	108
3t. St. Louis University H.S., St. Louis, Mo.	108
6t. Kirkwood H.S., Kirkwood, Mo.	99
6t. Parkway Central H.S., St. Louis, Mo.	99
8t. Adams H.S., Rochester Hills, Mo.	90
8t. Hamilton H.S., Wisconsin	
10. Skyline H.S., Salt Lake City, Utah	75

### GIRLS' TEAM RESULTS

School	Total
1. Nerinx Hall H.S., St. Louis, Mo.	132
2. Sprague H.S., Salem, Ore.	126
3. Skyline H.S., Salt Lake City, Utah	108
4t. Centerville H.S., Centerville, Ohio	72
4t. North Salem H.S., Salem, Ore.	72
6. Kirkwood H.S., Kirkwood, Mo.	69
7. Aloha H.S., Oregon	48
8. Beaverton H.S., Portland, Ore.	40
9t. Centennial H.S., Pueblo, Colo.	36
9t. Wakefield H.S., Virginia	36



# HEAD 27th U.S. Junior Olympics

## June 24-28: Minneapolis, Minn.

### Northwest Athletic Club, Hiway 100

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

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Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

State Championship Competed In \_\_\_\_\_  
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Participant Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

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- ☐ 6- multi-bounce

##### GIRLS SINGLES

- ☐ 18 and under
- ☐ 16 and under
- ☐ 14 and under
- ☐ 12 and under
- ☐ 10 and under
- ☐ 8 and under
- ☐ 8- multi-bounce
- ☐ 6- multi-bounce

##### BOYS DOUBLES

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- ☐ 14 & under
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- ☐ 10 & under

##### GIRLS DOUBLES

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# ProFILE Tour News



## MANNINO ON A MISSION

By Tony Lovitt

A 1993 auto accident that broke his back, pelvis and several ribs couldn't stop him, nor could the doctors who said he would never walk again. In fact, to the irresistible force known as defending U.S. Open racquetball champion Jason Mannino, there is no such thing as an immovable object.

Considering his remarkable resilience and determination in the face of the near-fatal injuries he suffered in the accident, it's hardly surprising that Mannino had more than enough grit in Memphis last December to become history's first fourth-seed to win the U.S. Open title. To do so, he defeated none less than Sudsy Monchik and Cliff Swain, respectively.

But, the appeal and the potential of the 25-year-old Mannino go well beyond his game, which refreshingly blends the in-your-face brashness of Marty Hogan, the pinpoint control of Mike Yellen, and the all-out, relentless pursuit of Ruben Gonzalez. Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Mannino is street-smart, confident and articulate...qualities which attracted the attention of many would-be sponsors following his impressive Open triumph. Before Mannino signed on anyone's dotted line, however, there was more than money to be considered. He was looking for a

home, not just a house. ProKENNEX, he determined, suited him perfectly.

"The money was there from other companies. I had agreements on the table from other companies," said Mannino. "But once I sat down with [representatives of] ProKENNEX, the feeling was that I belonged there. I wanted to be with the company that I felt was going in the same direction that I was."

That direction, by the way, is "up."

Under the direction of Mike Martinez, consistently one of California's top open-division players of the '90s and well-known nationally as a teaching pro and tourna-

ment organizer, ProKENNEX's resurgent racquetball division is matching Mannino's on-court aggressiveness with its national advisory staff and national marketing program. The San Diego-based company has long, deep roots in racquetball, dating back to the sport's hey-days of the late '70s and early '80s. The legendary Hogan was for many years the standard-bearer of ProKENNEX racquetball.

"Mike Martinez has put us back in the game," said Kevin Gilbert, president of ProKENNEX, noting the growth of the company's Racquetball Division, as well as its unparalleled presence at premier events nationwide. "To a very large extent the origin of our existence was racquetball. But, not since the heady days of Leach,



when we owned the tour, have we been in such a great position in the sport."

Mannino's signing greatly enhances ProKENNEX's already prominent position in racquetball. As the newest member of the ProKENNEX Racquetball national advisory staff, he joins the IRT's third-ranked John Ellis and 11th-ranked Mike Locker, as well as defending Junior World champion Jack Huczek, and the world's top female player, Jackie Paraiso.

"Now, with Jason on board, it gives us a presence at the professional level that is as strong as that of any other company. We have the number-three (John Ellis) and the number-four (Mannino) and they're always on opposite sides of the draw in the semis, so they're pounding one and two to get to the finals," said Martinez. "Jason found a great way to kick off the relationship. We gave him racquets and he went to the next tour stop and defeated the number-one ranked player in the world (Monchik)."

"The representation of ProKENNEX at pro events is huge. Having one player (in the top four) is good. Having two players is great," said Mannino. "No company has had this much penetration in the last ten years. The reason is that this company has come way farther than any other company, in terms of where they were to where they are now...from the technology standpoint, from the marketing standpoint, and to their connection to the game. And from the standpoint of their connection to the players, ProKENNEX is better than anyone else. In turn, their players care about the products and care about the company. ProKENNEX is like a family."

Appropriately enough, Mannino recently relocated to an area just north of ProKENNEX's corporate headquarters in San Diego. Prior to being officially adopted into



the ProKENNEX family, though, Jason had to meet the stringent standards of its "patriarch."

"We spend our money on quality, not quantity. Everyone we have on staff is a notable player. Each of them brings something important to the game, the industry and this company. No one is anonymous here," said Gilbert.

"We wanted Jason on our team because he wanted to be a part of something, not just a financial appendage or a human billboard. Jason is one of the only players who has the charisma and the

ability to articulate a message. He understands his obligation to the sport, wants to be involved in the company, and wants to understand the technology and help make it better. Like John McEnroe in tennis, Jason is interesting and emotional. He's brought a dynamic to [the company] that we didn't previously have."

In terms of racquetball accomplishments, there's not much that Mannino doesn't have. He was the 14-, 16- and 18-under national junior singles champion, teamed with lifelong pal Monchik to win the 10-, 12-, 14-, 16-, and 18-under national doubles titles, and claimed the World Junior Championship in the 10-, 12-, 14-, 16-, and 18-under divisions. Now in his fifth year as an IRT pro, Mannino was named IRT Rookie of the Year in 1995 and earned Most Improved honors the following season.

So what's next? Fueled by the synergy of a mutually beneficial relationship with ProKENNEX, Mannino can be expected to launch an explosive assault on the sport's pinnacle.

Don't bet against him. Because, if the "irresistible force" known as Jason Mannino attains pro racquetball's coveted number-one status ... it won't be an accident.



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# ProFILE Tour News



Above: Locker, Ellis, Monchik, Swain and Mannino join Michael and Pamela Lanning between semifinal matches. Below: The first Michael Lanning Benefit Pro-Am helped to raise funds to purchase this conversion van for Michael Lanning, front, and his wife, Pamela. IRT Commissioner Hank Marcus joins Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain and Mike Locker, tournament director, in presenting the Lannings with their new van.

## Michael Lanning Benefit Pro-Am By Cameron Potts

Jason Mannino sat in the back of the court, a smile across his face, unable to believe in his good fortune. Sudsy Monchik shook his head as he stuck it out of the court. Looking to the tournament's host, Monchik said: "I guarantee you Michael, you could have made that shot."

In his semifinal clash with Mannino, Monchik had the chance to end a 12-shot rally by taking an easy set up no less than three feet from the front wall. After his fourth dive to save the point, Mannino could only watch helplessly as the ball floated to front court. Monchik casually made his move, only to chunk the ball into the floor, emitting a groan and a cheer from the crowd of 300 enthralled by the acrobatic match. It was the kind of action that defined the first ever Michael Lanning Benefit Pro-Am Racquetball Tournament at the Northwest Athletic Club in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

Back when Lanning was a B-level player in White Bear Lake, Minn., he would more than likely have made the shot that the No. 1 ranked player in the world had just missed. But Monchik's comment still made Lanning chuckle from his wheelchair situated near the court. He hadn't missed a match of the February 17-20 pro stop as he befriended the players and enjoyed the high level of play.



Paralyzed from the chest down since he fell from the roof of his house in November of 1997, Lanning had been putting up Christmas lights, only eight-feet off the ground when he slipped, hooking his foot on the top rung of the ladder, landing directly on his head.

"It was just a freak accident," his wife, Pamela Lanning said.

Although he can no longer enjoy the sport he played with his father and doubles partner Michael Lanning, Sr., the younger Lanning never lost the close friendships he made in the game. Mark Bierle and touring pro Mike Locker wanted to bring the professional tour back to Minnesota, and at the same time, help their friend raise

some money to cover various expenses associated with the accident.

Monchik recovered from that missed shot to knock off Mannino and set up a dream final for tournament organizers. After seven years without a pro stop in the state, Locker and Dennis Ring could not have hoped for a better clash than Monchik versus Cliff Swain. Well, maybe a final that included local hero Locker would have been a stellar ending, but the fans didn't seem to mind the outcome.

"It is great to have this type of event here, and it is a unique event too because the money we raise goes to a good cause," Locker said.

When Bierle and Locker approached the Lannings, the idea of holding a tournament intrigued them. "We were totally excited about the tournament," Pamela Lanning said.

"I thought it would just be a local tournament. I never thought it would be a pro stop," Michael said.

The Minnesota climes seemed to appeal to Swain as he swept his way to the title match without dropping a single game, dominating his opponents from the first serve. Following a first round bye, he dispatched qualifier Brian Pointelin 4, 4 and 8 before taking out Dan Fowler 4, 7 and 1 in the quarterfinals. This set up a semifinal match with third ranked John Ellis.

Swain kept the speedy Ellis moving throughout the match with pinpoint passes and timely kill shots. But Ellis made Swain work for the win. Down 10-5 in the first game, Ellis saved game-point five times, but struggled to score points, eventually falling 11-6.

Ellis took his time in the second game, wiping sweat from his glasses and the court in an attempt to slow down the match. He built a quick 5-1 lead before Swain reeled him in. Swain attacked with passing shots and a killer backhand that often went unanswered as he took the second game 11-8.

It was Ellis' turn to come back in the third game. Finding himself down 8-1, Ellis dove for every ball, forcing Swain to make the extra shot on each rally. His all-out efforts led him to a 9-8 advantage, but Swain once again had an answer, using his drive serve to Ellis' backhand for an 11-9 win.

Monchik stumbled a couple of times in the earlier rounds, but was never in any serious danger. He blasted



**ACTION DURING THE WEEKEND WAS FAST AND FURIOUS, BUT SUDSY MONCHIK HAD A BEAD ON THE BALL AT ALL TIMES. HERE HE TRACKS DOWN A CLIFF SWAIN PASSING SHOT IN THE FINAL.**



**JASON MANNINO GAVE HIS ALL IN A HIGHLY ENTERTAINING SEMIFINAL LOSS TO SUDSY MONCHIK.**

Ryan Homa in the second round and took out Derek Robinson 6, (5), 4 and 7 in the quarters. He then exchanged dives with Mannino in a highly entertaining semifinal that had the crowd on its feet several times. Monchik was able to wear down Mannino in the second game, after the fourth ranked player saved game point six times and actually served for the game four other times. Mannino didn't have much left in the tank in the third game, falling 6, 11 and 5.

### **The Final**

Monchik and Swain engaged in a high-intensity final. Neither player held more than a two-point lead in the first game, eventually finding themselves knotted at nine. Swain scored a crucial point for a 10-9 lead on a serve Monchik thought was a screen, seizing the momentum and dropping an easy side-front pinch to take the first game 11-9.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

# usra official merchandise



## workout



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**POLO SHIRT.** White/Navy, White/Black. 100% Cotton. \$39.00 M-XL [\$41.00 XXL] Item #BP-32

**CREWNECK SHERPA FLEECE.** Heather, Charcoal. 65% Cotton, 35% poly. \$49.00 M-XL [\$53.00 XXL] Item #FL-33

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The second game belonged to the world's No. 1 player. Following two diving kill shots for a 6-2 lead, Monchik found his groove with his drive serve to the lefty's backhand. Monchik's powerful serve continually hugged the wall, causing missed shots by Swain and a relatively easy 11-2 second game win.

Swain took advantage of some timely skips and setups by Monchik to build a quick 4-0 lead in the third game. But the world's top ranked player was not rattled, eventually using an avoidable call against Swain to rebound to an 8-6 advantage. Monchik built the lead to 10-6 off two backhand skips by Swain and a strong serve to his opponent's backhand, before Swain was able to regain the serve and wrestle momentum from Monchik. Leading 10-8, Monchik made the shot of the match to regain his serve, diving backward to save a Swain passing shot, slamming the ball off the sidewall back to the front, where it pinched the left corner and rolled for a winner. That shot seemed to deflate Swain, as Monchik pulled in front 11-9.

The two exchanged the lead several times in the fourth game until a few calls went Monchik's way, causing Swain to lose his focus. Swain couldn't believe two of his shots were called skips — questioning the referee — giving Monchik all of the advantage he needed to close out the match 11-7 in the fourth game.

"The calls were bad both ways, but what hurt me was the way I handled it in the final," Swain said after the match. "My serve was decent and I played okay this weekend, but I didn't handle the calls."

"Sometimes you can get frustrated (with the calls) and take yourself out of the game," Monchik said, who also had some words with the referee during the match. "But I felt I was serving well and keeping the pressure on him. As long as I could get him to make a weak return, I knew I could win enough points."

Overall, Monchik was happy with his play, saying he played well enough to win but lost some lazy games on the weekend. Michael Lanning was thrilled with the final and thanked both players after the match. As the players addressed the fans, Swain donated 10 percent of his winnings to the benefit, while Monchik had the honor of delivering an extra gift.

Before the tournament began, Locker and Bierle planned to purchase a conversion van for the Lannings with the money donated from two or three tournaments over

several years time. So when Monchik explained to the fans that maybe next year, "or maybe now" they could get a van, Lanning was shocked to see Monchik and Swain hand him the keys to his new wheels.

"The van was a total surprise," Michael said after viewing his new ride.



"Now we can travel and do all the things we want to do," said Pamela. The Lanning's existing 1988-model van, with more than 200,000 miles on it has seen better days, she said.

"You really learn how wonderful people are when you have an event like this," she said. Michael relayed a story of one player he met from California who told him he didn't know of anyone who would put on such an event for a friend. "This has truly been a great thing," he said.

Locker, who was eliminated in the round of 16 by Mike Guidry (3), 8, 2, 8 – hopes to make this a yearly event, thanks in part to sponsors like Business Integration Services Inc., and Northwest Athletic Clubs, which donated the court time for the tournament.

*Cameron Potts works in communications and is a freelance writer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. An open level player, he hails from Winnipeg, Canada, and has been playing racquetball for 16 years. He is currently teaching clinics and playing tournaments out of Dakota Sport and Fitness in Prior Lake, Minn.*



### IRT Rankings

[Through 03/22/00]

Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1. Sudsy Monchik	1	1	4529
2. Cliff Swain	2	2	4030
3. John Ellis	3	3	2953
4. Jason Mannino	4	4	2816
5. Tim Doyle	5	7	2275
6. Mike Guidry	7	5	2093
7. Adam Karp	6	9	1986
8. Derek Robinson	8	6	1925
9. Rocky Carson	9	14	1771
10. Dan Fowler	10	10	1576
11. Mike Locker	12	15	1165
12. Andy Roberts	11	8	945
13. Louis Vogel	14	13	893
14. Luis Bustillos	17	24	815
15. Doug Eagle	13	11	739
16. Scott Reiff	14	39	623
17. Ruben Gonzalez	18	23	604
18. Alvaro Maldonado	22	27	547
19. Jeff Bell	16	49	537
20. James Mulcock	21	20	466

### WIRT Rankings

[Through 03/22/00]

Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1. Jackie Paraiso	1	1	697
2. Cheryl Gudinas	2	2	482
3. Christie Van Hees	3	3	459
4. Kersten Hallander	4	4	368
5. Susana Acosta	5	17	349
6. Lisa Hjelm	6	25	283
7. Phyllis Morris	7	12	250
8. Kim Machiran	8	30	231
9. Janet Myers	9	7	223
10. Doreen Fowler	10	10	220
11. Michelle Lucas	11	9	203
12. Lori-Jane Powell	12	16	153
13. Jennifer Dering	13	34	152
14. Jo Shattuck	14	29	138
15. Angela Burth	15	20	135
16. Lourdes Sanders	16	na	133
17. Josee Grand'Maitre	17	25	129
18. Angela Grisar	18	na	86
19. Laura Fenton	19t	18	81
Sadie Hall	19t	37	81
Robin Levine	19t	8	81

### 1999-2000 IRT SCORECARD & CALENDAR

New Orleans.....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain.....6, 1, 6  
 Stockton.....Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis.....(7), 5, 8, 5  
 Albuquerque.....Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik.....7, 11, 8-2 (inj.)  
 Chicago.....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain.....8, 3, 5  
 Memphis.....Jason Mannino def. Cliff Swain.....8, (4), 8, 8  
 Lakewood.....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain.....(9), 7, 6, 2  
 Boston.....Sudsy Monchik def. Tim Doyle.....12, (5), 9, 15  
 Fairfield.....Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino.....3, 7, 3  
 Minneapolis.....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain.....(9), 2, 9, 7  
 Modesto.....Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik.....3, (7), (8), 8, 10

March 23-26.....Santa Barbara, CA.....Goleta Valley Athletic Club  
 April 26-30.....Las Vegas, NV.....Las Vegas Sporting House  
 May 11-14.....Seattle, WA.....TBA  
 May 18-21.....San Diego, CA.....Sorrento Valley Fitness Club  
 June 1-4.....Portland, OR.....Multnomah Athletic Club

### 1999-2000 WIRT SCORECARD & CALENDAR

Albuquerque.....Jackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas.....9, 9, 8  
 Memphis.....Jackie Paraiso def. Christie Van Hees (8), 11, 1, (5), 2  
 Lakewood.....Jackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas.....(7), 3, 5, (10), 1

April 27-30.....Las Vegas, NV.....Las Vegas Sporting House  
 June 2-4.....Portland, OR.....Multnomah Athletic Club



We promised an update, and photo, and here it is. In case anyone was wondering what the former top women's touring pro has been up to, this should give you your answer! Proud parents Rod and Michelle Gould are staying on their toes keeping up with new son Ryan Charles [born January 7].



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I know that in the last issue I mentioned I would be showing you some of my more advanced shots, but I decided I needed to cover some more basics before we moved on. With that in mind, we will break down my magical ceiling ball and begin to understand why it is one of the most consistent in the game today.

The ceiling ball is a basic shot, but a critical one that I feel you should learn — and learn well. It is the most widely used defensive shot in the game because it brings your opponent back beyond 35 feet — or, the most difficult position from which to score.

During play, if you are unsure of what shot to take, or you are off balance, or you want to draw your opponent out of center court, or you need some time to get back to position ... use the ceiling ball.

Too many players just want to keep on shooting because they think the ceiling ball is for lower level players and the pros don't use it. That statement couldn't be the further from the truth. Yes, the pros are definitely more aggressive and we shoot the ball much more than the average player, but I know for a fact if I didn't have

## ***Sudsy's Magic Show Featuring ... Ceiling Balls!***

one of the best and most consistent ceiling balls on the pro tour I wouldn't be the #1 pro player in the world.

You must have a healthy combination of not only offensive shots, but defensive shots as well, to be on top, just like in any other sport.

Remember, the good all-around players, which definitely includes the pros, use this basic defensive shot... the ceiling ball ... continually. You should too. Don't get caught up in those slams-bang-mindless survival rallies with your opponent. Use your head as well as our body and play the ceiling when it is to your advantage ... I do. Keep in mind there is a time and place for everything.

I encourage you to try my magical tricks when you are practicing your ceiling ball because they will help you to develop consistency and confidence in your ceiling game. Once you have that, the sky is the limit.

Next time we'll tackle my magical off-the-backwall shots, but now I think we're ready to perform a little magic on your ceiling game.

### **TRICK #1: Ready Position**

#### **Forehand (top right)**

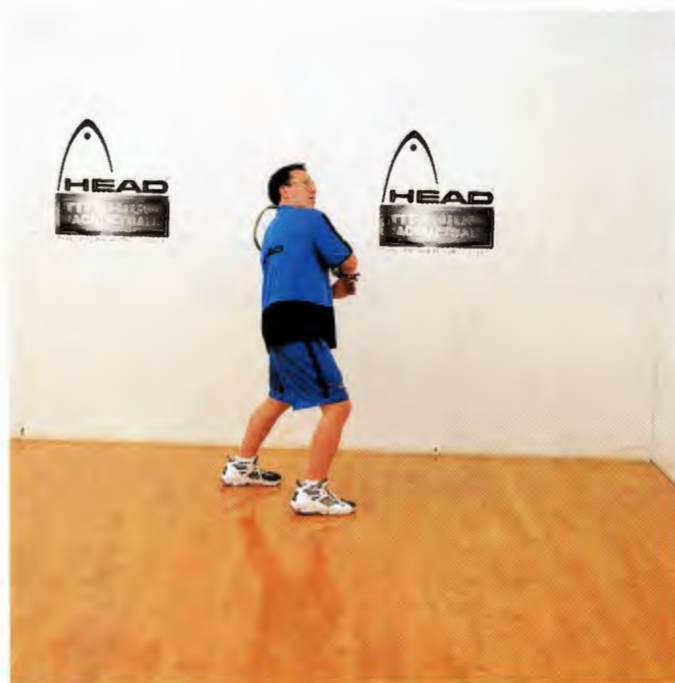
- Square to side wall (just like the regular forehand)
  - Racquet up above the shoulder
  - Feet a little wider than shoulder width apart
  - Eyes on ball

#### **Backhand (bottom right)**

- Square to side wall (just like the regular backhand)
  - Upper body rotated
  - Racquet up above the shoulder
  - Eyes on the ball



\*Note - Throughout this ceiling series, you'll see that all the basic mechanics are the same as my forehand lesson that appeared in the May/June 1999 issue, and the same as my backhand [see March/April 1999 issue].



Photos by Kurt Silvershield



### **TRICK #2: The Step**

#### **Forehand (above)**

- Step straight ahead (just like the regular forehand)
- Racquet begins to move forward and up
- Hips begin to open

#### **Backhand (below)**

- Step at a 45 degree angle (just like the regular backhand)
- Racquet begins to move forward
- Hips begin to open



### **TRICK #3: The Swing**

#### **Forehand (above)**

- Racquet continues to move through your hitting zone forward and up
- Hips open completely
- Arm is almost at full extension

#### **Backhand (below)**

- Racquet continues to move through your hitting zone forward and across shoulder
- Hips open completely
- Arm is almost at full extension





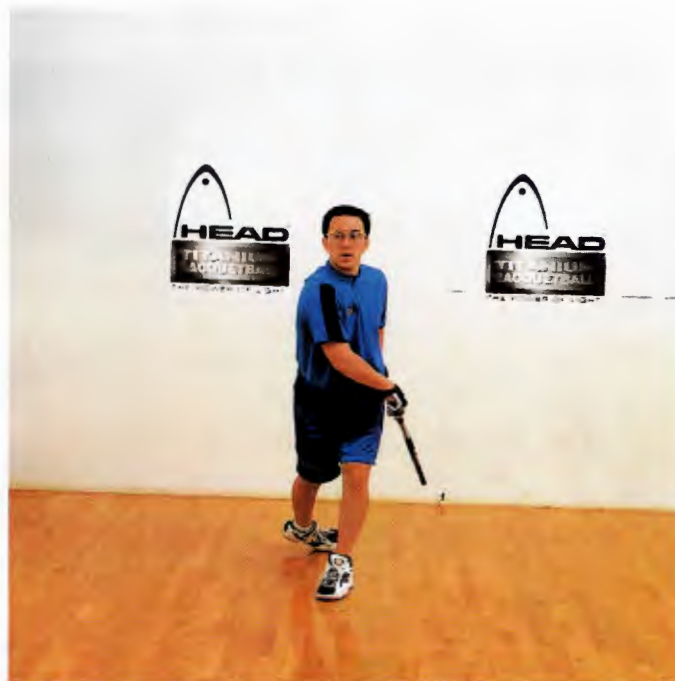
### **TRICK #4: The Contact Point**

#### **Forehand (above)**

- Arm is at full extension above your head
- Wrist is cocked back at a 45 degree angle
- Ball is hit off lead shoulder
- Hips completely open

#### **Backhand (below)**

- Arm is at full extension shoulder high
- Racquet is at a 45 degree angle toward ceiling
- Ball is hit off lead shoulder
  - Hips completely open



### **TRICK #5: The Follow Through**

#### **Forehand (above)**

- Arm comes completely down across the body
- The ball should hit the ceiling before the front wall about five feet back so on its second bounce it hits as close to the back wall as possible

#### **Backhand (below)**

- Arm comes completely through and racquet is pointing to the back wall.
- The ball should hit the ceiling in the same spot as the forehand ceiling ball.





## Game Plan by Lynn Adams

### Return of Serve

In my opinion, the return of serve is one of the toughest shots to effectively hit in racquetball. The receiver is at the mercy of the server and it's tough to get set up when you're not sure where the ball is going.

Footwork is the key component to an effective return of serve. Anyone can get to more serves and hit better shots once they get there, if their bodies and feet are in proper coordination.

I want to focus strictly on the footwork of moving from a set, ready position, to the final step into the ball.

Please note that there are *four* steps to master, not three. If we leave out a step, then there will be in a struggle to get to the corner, and you will end up reaching for the ball and pushing our shots, instead of stepping into the ball with power behind your shot.

**On this page ...  
THE READY POSITION**



### Do !

Stand fairly tall, up on your toes, with your feet spread slightly wider than your shoulders. This allows you to immediately move in the direction of the serve.



### Don't !

Don't get too spread out. While you might look intimidating, you are going to waste time and incur more muscle fatigue getting back up, before you can move toward the serve.



## FIRST STEP

<< Do !

The key to moving quickly is having a pivot foot to push off from. Your first step is a little hot/pivot. Get your shoulders turned and facing the sidewall, and get your pivot foot ready to do a crossover step.

Don't !

Don't take a big step that spreads you out. From this stance you can't take a crossover step and your shoulders will still be facing the front wall.





## SECOND STEP

<< Do !

This is your crossover step. It prepare you to step into the ball and swing. It. Also gets you closer to the sidewall.

Don't !

Notice there is *no* crossover step. If your first step only widened your stance, you'll only end up dragging your right foot closer to your left foot, which leaves you unable to step into the ball.





## THIRD STEP

### << Do !

This is called the stutter step. You tuck your left foot in behind your right foot, enabling you to push and step into your swing.

### Don't !

Using poor form, there is *no* third step if you've spread your stance out at the beginning of the sequence. You're stuck.



## FOURTH STEP

### << Do !

As you can see, your fourth step is to step into the ball. You are close enough to the sidewall with your swing and your body is coming in behind the ball.

### Don't !

Because you have no push off foot, you can't really step into the ball. Instead you are goofy-footed and you can only use your arm to push at the ball. You are also pretty far away from the side wall, which means you won't even get your racquet on a lot of serves.



# Q:&A...Q&A

*I am just starting to play racquetball. I think I will wait a while, and play a little, before I take lessons. What do you think?*

Boy-oh-boy! I hear that question way too often. Unfortunately, what happens when you begin to play racquetball and you just “bat the ball” around a little, you are developing what is called “muscle memory.” This occurs as your muscles begin memorizing repetitive motions during play. And if you don’t opt for lessons early, your muscles can begin to memorize the wrong motions, bad habits form and most people will end up hitting the ball incorrectly. Bad habits die hard, as they say.

My professional opinion is: before you even pick up a racquet, seek out a teaching pro and start out on the right foot with the right equipment, good warm up, correct form and proper technique.

Take it from experience. In Brooklyn, New York in 1978, I was like most of you ... no lessons. I was self-taught. Little did I know I was teaching myself in the wrong way. I was athletic enough and had a paddleball background, so I improved rapidly, but then I hit a plateau and couldn’t get any better. Thank goodness I met Jim Pruitt and Jim Winterton, my two mentors, who truly taught me everything I needed to know about the game and then some. Even today I can’t thank them enough for all they have done for me.

But basically, I had to start over to change my swing, my court position, my serves and my return of serves. I literally tore down to rebuild and I am glad I did, but I wish I had started with lessons and avoided all that. Too much time wasted.

Think about it ... look at golf and tennis players ... they wouldn’t dream of stepping on the golf course or tennis courts without lessons. Racquetball is no different.

Here are a few of my favorite suggested resources to get you started:

- HEAD Titanium Tour - Fran Davis Camps with the pros
- Seek out an AmPRO certified teacher for private lessons
- Videotape – Cliff Swain... “The Winning Edge”
- Books — “Racquetball Today” by Lynn Adams

My philosophy is ... **don’t “just do it,” do it right!**

Good luck in your quest of good instruction. If you have any questions, just check out my website [www.frandavisracquetball.com](http://www.frandavisracquetball.com) and e-mail me.

*[Nudge, nudge ... All the reference sources, and some of materials Fran cited, can be found online at [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org). Use the index to find a directory of AmPRO certified instructors in your area, a full reading list, and the USRA’s videotape instruction series. You’ll need to attend a camp in person, though! — Editor]*



## **Head Rules by Fran Davis**

**Get your Lessons  
Started Early!**



## changingtimes by Luke St. Onge

It's been some time since I last brought you up to date on what is happening with our sport on the international level. But before I do, I'd like to address those who feel that we should not be involved in this larger field of endeavor, and that all efforts should be focused on the sport's development here in the United States. For some initial perspective on this debate, it's important to note that international

projects draw a very small percentage of staff resources (under 10%) and that no funds from USRA membership dues are allocated to their use. In fact, for the purpose of evaluating efforts to develop the sport worldwide, perhaps we should take the USRA out of the picture altogether for just a moment.

The International Racquetball Federation has no paid staff and is run by volunteers worldwide. The IRF has 92 member countries (*of which the U.S. is only one*) and generates its operating monies through a variety of sources, including Olympic Dream auctions, World Senior Championship fundraisers, the Worldsport.com internet sponsorship, member country dues, and stipends from the International Olympic Committee. Efforts by the IRF have resulted in racquetball being included in a series of IOC approved multi-sport competitions, while it recognizes the IRF World Championships, World Senior Championships, Regional/Nationals Championships held in Europe, Asia, and the Americas and the World Junior Championships. The IRF has applied for inclusion on future programs of the Mediterranean, and Asian Games which, along with the Pan American Games, are second only to the Olympics in participation and prestige. Currently, the National Olympic Committees of 30 countries (*of which the U.S. is only one*) officially recognize the sport of racquetball, plus support the development of their national athletes in the sport through training, competition, and career positions. Why all this effort?

Now we can return to the United States as an example. By virtue of our full member status in the IRF, the USRA (as an association) and its athletes (as a group, and individually) are eligible for direct USOC funding support.

This support comes in the form of grassroots development funds to strengthen the sport in the U.S., plus direct monetary support for our U.S. Team competitors in the form of grants, career opportunities, training stipends, performance bonuses, plus travel and competition expenses when they represent the U.S. at international events. Nowhere in this equation are USRA membership dollars used in support of these types of activities. In fact, it's quite the opposite.

As a recognized National Governing Body [NGB] under the congressional Amateur Sports Act, the USRA receives support from the USOC for many of its programs and the development of its athletes. Each and every other major sport — other than American Football — have NGB's that take part in these funding opportunities. They'd be foolish not to. When racquetball actually becomes a medal sport on an Olympic Program, this type of support could triple — in both program and athlete support — for the benefit of everyone who enjoys racquetball.

When might we be on the program? Not before 2008. Sports are selected seven years in advance of the Games and our next real chance will be in 2002. What are our chances? A great deal depends on new leadership within the IOC and how it will deal with the very serious problem of the Olympics becoming so large that no city or country can afford to host them [gigantism].

To sum up in the simplest terms: international development of racquetball does not re-direct resources (like your membership dues) from the sport domestically. If we chose not to pursue international development in general — or the Olympics in particular — funds used in those pursuits would *not* magically become available for re-allocation into domestic programs, *they would simply disappear altogether*. That's right. Gone. Along with a host of value-in-kind services, sponsorships and other outside funds that provide operating revenues for USRA programs that benefit members like you.

So it's a good thing for racquetball to spread worldwide, to expand its market, to remain active in the U.S. Olympic movement, and become an important component of so many National Olympic Committee's developmental programs abroad. By doing so, it has gone a long way in building an excellent future. If you disregard actual player populations, it's far easier to see that the "larger" global environment supports the "smaller" single-country goals quite well.



## 22nd Dutch Open

The 22nd Dutch Open was played with great success in Zoetermeer, March 18-19. More than 50 players from Belgium, Germany, France, Austria, Ireland, the United States and the Netherlands competed at the tournament, attracting local radio and newspaper coverage throughout the event. Germany's Martin Klippel captured the men's open division by defeating the Netherlands' Pascal Matla in the finals. Klippel's victory allowed him to regain the top-spot on the European tour. The Netherlands' Daphne Wannée repeated as the women's open champion, after winning two close games over Belgium's Kathy Tritsman in the finals. Tournament Directors Karel and Pascal Matla extended their deep appreciation to all the competitors for their participation and patience at the tournament, which saw doubles action on the courts as late as 3 a.m.!

**RESULTS — Men's Open:** 1. Martin Klippel (GER) def. 2. Pascal Matla (NED) 15-3, 15-10, 3. Ralf Lysakowski (AUS), 4. Philippe Lecomte (FRA), Cons: Peter de Jong (NED). **Women's Open:** Daphne Wannée (NED) def. Kathy Tritsmans (BEL) 15-12, 15-14, 3. Jennifer Blanton (USA), 4. Renate Hönig (GER), Cons: Carmen Carstens (GER). **Men's B:** Charlie Hamon (USA) def. Glenn Martineau (USA) 15-11, 4-15, 11-10, 3. Ron Ruiz (USA), 4. Eric McGuire (USA), Cons: Tobi Paulsen (GER). **Men's C:** Daniel Siedel (GER) def. Kurt Haesendonck (BEL) 15-9, 14-15, 11-10, 3. Sacha Schoss (GER), 4. Jörg Sattler (GER), Cons: Michael Krueger (GER). **Men's 35+:** Philippe Lecomte (FR) def. Glenn Martineau (USA), 3. Mack Blanton (USA), 4. Charlie Hamon (USA), Cons: Ron Ruiz (USA). **Men's Doubles:** Pascal Matla/Michiel van der Holst (Ned) def. Martin Klippel (GER)/ Pat Hanley (IRL) 15-8, 15-8, 3. Smith/Blanton (USA), 4. Lecomte/ Lysakowski (FRA/AUS).

## State of Emergency Cancels Tournament of the Americas

Just one day prior to departing for Bolivia, Pan American Racquetball Confederation Secretary General Luke St. Onge announced the cancellation of the confederation's Tournament of the Americas, which was scheduled to be held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, April 14-23. The cancellation was the result of the Bolivian government declaring a state of emergency within its borders.

"We regret that we must cancel this year's Tournament of the Americas," St. Onge said. "However after consulting with the Bolivian Racquetball Association, we both agree that the recent political unrest in the country has caused the environment in Cochabamba to become unsafe for our athletes."

The Tournament of the Americas is an annual tournament held by the Pan American Racquetball Confederation, which is open to the elite national teams of North and South American countries.

More than 280 representatives from 18 countries were expected to participate at this year's Tournament of the Americas. Many anticipated the Tournament of the Americas to be a preview of the international competition expected at the 2000 World Championships, which will be held in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, August 4-12.

## Vacation in Mexico, with your Team!

If you've got vacation days piled up, the 10th IRF World Championships are scheduled to be held in San Luis Potosi, Mexico August 4-12. Take the following details to your nearest travel agent and join the U.S. Team as it seeks its first world championship crown in the new millennium!

IRF Host Hotel rates (all include tax) for the PLAZA REAL: Single room—\$44.00; Double room—\$48.00; Triple room—\$52.00; Quad room—\$56.00. Travel to San Luis Potosi (from the U.S.) can be arranged with Continental Airlines, which offers daily flights to San Luis Potosi at approximately 2:00pm. The newly constructed, 90 million dollar La Loma facility will be celebrating its grand opening with this event, with lots of gala special events.

check out [www.worldsport.com](http://www.worldsport.com) for international news and updates online



# rb:people & places

## Hall of Fame Inductees

Three candidates have been selected for induction into the USRA Hall of Fame, at ceremonies to be held at the USRA annual Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 27. They are ...



DUBOLSKY



GONZALEZ



WINTERTON

**Van Dubolsky** — Van Dubolsky has served as a long-standing guide and advisor to racquetball for over a quarter of a century, first through his involvement at the local level in his home state of Florida, then later as he branched out to earn the first of several terms on the then-AARA Board of Directors in 1983. Founder of the Florida Racquetball Association, which held the #2 spot among all USRA state affiliates for many years, Dubolsky played a key role in the development of racquetball in the Southeast as both a state and regional administrator, while remaining competitive in the sport at the national level and earning a series of titles in his own right. Recognized as the primary architect of the USRA's Long Range Planning and Vision Statement, which was adopted as the USRA's organizational blueprint over 12 years ago (and remains in effect today), Dubolsky's insights and guidance have contributed to the overall steady growth of the sport through what many have termed its "lean years." His service – from manning the tournament desks of national championships across the country through several terms as USRA Board President, Secretary and Treasurer – plus his unquestioned devotion to racquetball at every conceivable level, have earned him a place in the sport's history and its Hall of Fame.

**Ruben Gonzalez** — Ruben Gonzalez has excelled in the sport of racquetball by maintaining the most consistent level of excellence by a single player over the course of a 20-year career on both the amateur and professional circuits. Even now, at 48 years of age, he shows no sign of slowing down – going so far as to regain a spot on the U.S. National Team when he and partner Mike Guidry captured the U.S. National Doubles Championship last October. The pair will compete as part of Team USA at the World Championships this summer. An undisputed "team leader" due to his competitive edge coupled with a wealth of experience, Gonzalez is the oldest athlete to ever earn an appointment to the U.S. National Team.

On the professional circuit, Gonzalez captured his first tour title more than 10 years ago, which – at the time – earned him the distinction of becoming the oldest pro tour athlete to win such an event. Throughout his tour career, he has been recognized for his outstanding sportsmanship and dedication to fair play, while consistently finding himself – at each season's end – with ranking positions among the top 10 through 1995. At the 1999 Promus U.S. OPEN Championships, the sport's premier grand slam event, Gonzalez shocked many by upsetting several of the current top-ranked pros, many years his junior, before being knocked out in the quarterfinals by his own protégé Sudsy Monchik.

**Jim Winterton** — Jim Winterton has gained renown as one of the best racquetball coaches in the world, after service to the U.S. National Team for a full decade, during which time his squads brought home the World Cup from every International Racquetball Federation World Championship played in the period. He also led national teams to five Tournament of the Americas team crowns and a clean sweep of the 1995 Pan Am Games, where the USA brought home six gold and two silver medals. For his last hurrah as U.S. National Team Head Coach at the 1999 Pan Am Games, Winterton's team nearly repeated that clean sweep of the medals, claiming six gold, a silver and a bronze medal. After resigning from



KARP



GUDINAS



KENYON



LOWE

the U.S. National Team Head Coach position last fall, he served a brief term as coach of the U.S. Junior National Team before stepping down to accept the position of Head Coach of the Mexican National Team.

### 1999 Athletes of the Year

In the Open division category, Adam Karp and Cheryl Gudinas have been selected as the USRA Male and Female Athletes of the Year, while Joanna Kenyon and Jimmy Lowe were chosen to receive the Peggy Steding and Bud Muehleisen Awards, in recognition of their age-group performances in senior division competition.

#### USRA Male Athlete of the Year: Adam Karp

After another successful year, the "Flying Fish" adds a second-consecutive USRA Male Athlete of the Year award to his list of 1999 accolades. Karp continued to build on his string of successes from the 1998 season by repeating as the men's open champion, with a win over Michael Bronfeld, at the Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles Championships. His luck stretched into the summer at the 13th Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada, where he once again met Bronfeld, his teammate on the U.S. National Team, in the gold-medal round. Once again Karp got the best of Bronfeld to bring home the gold medal. In the fall his luck changed when a broken ball at the Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Doubles Championships, turned an apparent victory into defeat. A celebration by he and partner Andy Roberts – at what had appeared to be match point in the men's open finals – was cut short with the discovery a broken ball on the play. Following the replay, Karp and Roberts lost the second game, and the subsequent tiebreaker, to Mike Guidry and Hall of Famer Ruben Gonzalez.

#### USRA Female Athlete of the Year: Cheryl Gudinas

After years of amassing a vast collection of silver and bronze medals – Gudinas struck a vein of gold in 1999, which began in Houston and ran all the way up to Canada. At the U.S. National Singles Championships, Gudinas upset top-pro Jackie Paraiso in the semifinals, and later bested Laura Fenton in the final for her first

singles crown. The win made her Team USA's top women's singles player at the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, where she blew past a field of international players to the gold medal round, where local favorite Christie Van Hees was waiting for her. The two battled their way into a tiebreaker, where Gudinas rallied through a 9-10 deficit to top her Canadian rival, 11-10, for the gold medal. Cheryl's winning streak came to an end at the U.S. National Doubles Championships, where she earned a bronze medal in the women's open with Malia Bailey and a silver in mixed open with Jimmy Lowe.

#### Peggy Steding Award Recipient: Jo Kenyon

USRA Hall of Famer Jo Kenyon will add her first Peggy Steding Award to her long list of racquetball honors after a successful year in the women's 60+ and 65+ divisions. At both the U.S. National Singles Championships and the U.S. OPEN, Kenyon brought home gold medals in both age divisions. At National Doubles, she and partner Lola Markus were awarded the gold medal in the women's 65-and-older division. The duo also tested their skills against some younger competitors, finishing fourth in the women's 45-and-older A/B division. At the international level, Kenyon took the women's 65+ silver medal at the IRF World Senior Championships, in Albuquerque, N.M. At age 66, Kenyon becomes the oldest recipient of the Peggy Steding Award.

#### Bud Muehleisen Award Recipient: Jimmy Lowe

From the battlefield to the racquetball court, 37-year-old Lowe aims for victory. The 37-year-old, who is on active duty in the U.S. Army, captured the men's 35-and-over division gold medal at National Singles last May. At the same time, he tried his hand at the elite level, and advanced into the round of 32 in the men's open division. At the U.S. National Doubles Championships, Lowe partnered with national team-member Cheryl Gudinas to win the silver medal in the mixed doubles open division. He picked up a second silver medal in the mixed 35+ division with partner Malia Bailey, and also took a shot at an appointment to the U.S. National Team by competing in the men's open division with fellow-U.S. Armed Forces

# rb:people & places

Team member Tom Fuhrmann, where the duo lost a tiebreaker in the round of 16.



## **Maggard Passing**

USRA Board of Directors-member Ronald James Maggard, 65, of Blue Springs, Mo., passed away on March 27 at his home after a courageous battle with cancer. Ron was born December 13, 1934, in Kansas City, Missouri. Ron was the co-owner of All-American Fitness Center, and was on the both the USRA and National Masters Racquetball Association Board of Directors.

As a competitor, he captured six national doubles titles in 55+ and 60+ mixed doubles since 1993, in addition to several silver and bronze medals. Besides racquetball, he enjoyed golfing, flying and wintering in Texas. Ron is survived by his wife, Joyce; two sons, Rusty and Richard; three daughters, Carolyn Ogran, Ronda Brew and Nola Presnell; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandson.



## **Tied at one Apiece**

In the Fall of 1992, Jean Cade and Eduard Zell met at a racquetball tournament in West Des Moines, Iowa. In the years that followed, that common interest kept them together, right up to their marriage on September 11, 1999. In planning the wedding, the couple met with their photographer, who asked if there was some special place they would like to have some pictures taken, to which they both replied "racquetball!" Pam Burns, Director at Oakmoor Racquetball-Health Center in Des Moines, arranged to open

a court for them after the service, so they re-directed their limo to the club for a few pictures with the wedding party – and racquets – in tow! The newlyweds ended up hitting the ball around a bit (just to see what it was like in a wedding dress and tux!), then headed to the reception, where the table decorations were ... you guessed it – little racquets, balls, and a scorecard bearing their names and the inscription "nice match." [Photo: Davitt Photo Alliance]

## **Inspirational Racquetball**

by Fran Katcek (a.k.a. Rudy) | Annapolis, Maryland  
I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy RACQUETBALL magazine. Thanks for all your efforts. I am a club C level player, and I'm extremely passionate about the game. I play at Merritt Athletic Club in Annapolis, and didn't start the sport until the age of 37 (I'm 41 now). I played tennis in high school and college, but comparing the two sports — racquetball is so much more for fun and high spirited to me! I love it! I will never go back to tennis.

Anyway, I've played in several tournaments locally — mostly in singles, but I've dabbled a bit with mixed doubles. I have yet to win a Women's C event, but I truly feel it's within my grasp. It's only a matter of time, my husband keeps telling me.

But I've had to put my game on hold for a while. In August, the results of my annual mammogram showed an early stage cancer in my right breast. I did not feel a lump, so I am grateful to American Radiology Associates for the accuracy of their testing. Every woman must get regular mammograms after age 35!

After the biopsy in August, I played in one last tournament at the Merritt in Security. Knowing I would be facing some type of surgery in the coming months, this tournament held extra special significance for me. I played my heart out. I think it was the best tournament I had to date — even though I wasn't even first, second or third in Women's C — but because I was really in every game and every point. I scored more points against opponents that normally pummel me. It was absolutely awesome! I felt so strong and confident, and

# USRA All-Time Award Winners

## HALL OF FAME

Inducted in 2000:	Van Dubolsky (Florida)
	Ruben Gonzalez (New York)
	Jim Winterton (New York)
Inducted in 1999:	Earl Acuff (North Carolina)
Inducted in 1997:	Lynn Adams Clay (Illinois)
	Marty Hogan (Missouri)
	Chuck Leve (Illinois)
	Heather McKay (Australia)
	Dave Peck (Texas)
	Mike Yellen (Michigan)
Inducted in 1996:	Mary Low Acuff (North Carolina)
	Keith Calkins (California)
	Johnny Hennen (Tennessee)
	Gary Mazaroff (New Mexico)
Inducted in 1994:	Jo Kenyon (Florida)
Inducted in 1992:	Jim Austin (Texas)
Inducted in 1991:	Cindy Baxter (Pennsylvania)
	Ed Remen (Virginia)
Inducted in 1989:	Charlie Garfinkel (New York)
	William Schmidtke (Minn.)
	Luzell Wilde (Utah)
Inducted in 1988:	Robert J. Kendler (Illinois)
Inducted in 1982:	Gene Grapes (Pennsylvania)
	I.R. Gumer (Kentucky)
Inducted in 1974:	Charlie Brumfield (California)
	Joseph Sobek (Connecticut)
	Peggy Steding (Texas)
	Bud Muehleisen (California)
Inducted in 1973:	Larry Lederman (Wisconsin)

1987	Jim Cascio	Diane Green (Fla.)
1986	Egan Inoue (Hawaii)	Cindy Baxter
1985	Ed Remen (Va.)	Cindy Baxter
1984	Jay Schwartz (Fla.)	Mary Dee
1983	Larry Fox	Cindy Baxter
1982	Ed Andrews	Cindy Baxter
1981	Bud Muehlheisen	Carol Frenck
1980	Bud Muehlheisen	Carol Frenck
1979	Bob McNamara	Jan Pasternak
1978		
1977	Bob McNamara	Sara Green
1976		
1975		Janell Marriott
1974	Bill Schmidtke	Jan Pasternak

## USRA AGE GROUP ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Bud Muehleisen Award	Peggy Steding Award
1999 Jimmy Lowe (Wash.)	Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
1998 Dave Watson (Okla.)	Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
1997 Mitt Layton (Fla.)	Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
1996 Victor Sacco (N.Y.)	Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)
1995 Bobby Sanders (Ohio)	Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
1994 Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
1993 Johnny Hennen (Tenn.) & Ron Galbreath (Pa.)	Susan Morgan Pfahler (Fla.)
1992 Dave Peck (Texas)	Janet Myers (S.C.)
1991 Paul Banales (Ariz.)	Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
1990 Dave Kovanda (Ohio)	

## USRA JUNIOR ATHLETES OF THE YEAR\*

1999 Shane Vanderson (Ohio)	Brooke Crawford (Ore.)
1998 Josh Tucker (Mo.)	Brooke Crawford (Ore.)
1997 Rocky Carson (Calif.)	Sara Borland (Iowa)
1996 Rocky Carson (Calif.)	Sadie Gross (N.D.)
1995 Shane Wood (Mass.)	Vanessa Tulao (Tenn.)
1994 Shane Wood (Mass.)	Shannon Feaster (D.C.)
1993 Shane Wood (Mass.)	Tammy Brockbank (Idaho)
1992 James Mulcock (N.M.)	Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)
1991 Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)	Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)

\* Junior athletes "of the year" are listed as of the date of the award (which is given without pre-notification), for achievements which span a "season" instead of a calendar year. All other awards are based on a calendar year record, and cited according to that calendar year (not the date of induction/recognition).

## USRA ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

1999 Adam Karp (Calif.)	Cheryl Gudinas (Illinois)
1998 Adam Karp (Calif.)	Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1997 Dan Obremski (Pa.)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)
1996 Todd O'Neil (Texas)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)
1995 Michael Bronfeld (Calif.)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)
1994 Michael Bronfeld (Calif.)	Robin Levine (Calif.)
1993 John Ellis (Calif.)	Michelle Gould (Idaho)
1992 Chris Cole (Mich.)	Michelle Gilman Gould (Id.)
1991 Tim Sweeney (Ill.)	Michelle Gilman (Ore.)
1990 Andy Roberts (Tenn.)	Michelle Gilman (Ore.)
1989 Tim Doyle (N.Y.)	Michelle Gilman (Ore.)
1988 Andy Roberts (Tenn.)	Toni Bevelock (Calif.)

# rb:people & places



Above: Fran (Rudy) with her game face on in 1998. Below: She traveled to Memphis as a spectator where she cheered on husband Jerry Philips and stepson Jeff Philips at the U.S. OPEN.



I had an added bonus. My two best friends, Susan and Val, paid me a surprise visiting during the tournament. They came to cheer me on and offer their support. It overwhelmed me! It made me dig down deeper than I ever had, and the shots were there! I'll never forget how proud I felt. Winning would have been great, but I felt highs I'd never felt before! It was extraordinary, as you can imagine.

Well, after extensive research and a lot of praying, I decided to have a bilateral mastectomy. My decision was based on family history and some other factors. I am very confident I made the right decision.

On October 22, I had the surgery. After five weeks, I was at the gym doing light treadmill. Weeks six and seven, I increased it to medium, with lots of stretching. The doctor said racquetball is out for now, but eventually he sees no reason why I wouldn't be able to play again someday.

Because I had temporary implants put in at the time of my mastectomy, I needed to have them removed and permanent ones put into place. This was just done in January, and I was allowed to exercise in two weeks. Other than a few minor cosmetic touch-ups, I'm basically done with the plastic surgery.

I am planning to work with a physical trainer at the hospital to help increase my range of motion. I still have stiffness in both shoulders, and unfortunately my right side is not quite as flexible as my left, YET! Being that this is my weapon arm (and a deadly one it is, of course!) I still have some work to do on it. But, I'm determined to play again, and I plan to play better than I did back in August! Anything is possible, right?

My current goal is to start back sometime in mid-March. I'm really looking forward to it, and I feel very fortunate. I just wanted you to know that I am very grateful to the sport of racquetball, and all those that support it. Thank you for listening, and keep writing. I plan to keep playing till I can't walk.

## **Racquet For The Cure**

**By Cindy Tilbury**

On February 12 the Colorado Athletic Club at Inverness hosted the first-ever (that we've heard about) Racquet For The Cure tournament in Denver. What was so special about this one-day tournament? Aside from being for women only, it was also designed to increase awareness of women's health issues. Organizers Melissa Zantop and Cindy Middlekauf had several goals for the day: get ladies together for a full day of racquetball, share great food, give away fun prizes, provide education on women's health issues, and raise some money for breast cancer charities.

Metro area Denver news stations dropped by to cover this unusual fundraiser, where fifty women turned out to participate in the individual and team compe-

tition, including six novice players! At a banquet that ended the day, guest speaker Dr. Susan Ryan opened the evening by talking about women's health risks and myths. Then, to spotlight the all-important "letter" divisions, prizes were awarded, beginning with the novice playoffs (a Wilson racquet for first prize) and working back to Open. And as you'd expect with this type of program, the sponsors really made all the difference in making the event special. Wilson, IRT Commissioner Hank Marcus, AmeriSuites, the Inverness Club, Williams Restaurant and the USRA were only some of the contributors.

Since this was the first year for this event, Missy and Cindy got some great ideas from surveys filled out by the participants. They also have some ideas for future "Racquets For The Cure" events, like bringing in the WIRTs top women pros to play, get more and more women to participate, and eventually have many cities across the country all host a "Racquet For The Cure" tournament on the same day.

If you are interested in getting a Racquet For The Cure tournament started in your city, feel free to give Melissa Zantop a call at 303-730-8316 or email her at [mlpot-naz@aol.com](mailto:mlpot-naz@aol.com) to get some answers or talk over your ideas with her.



reflects her energetic attitude ... and this one seems to do the trick!

### Grand Dame

Drusilla (Rettela) Schwarz posed for this picture at the Las Vegas Sporting House just after her 85th birthday, two years ago. Recently adopted as "event mom" for the National Masters Tournament in Daly City, she is the mother of Jerry (Dago Red) Rettela of Corona, California, who has played on the Senior/Master circuit since 1976. Although she doesn't compete, Jerry wanted a photo of his mom that

### New Vice-President?

The Kentucky State Racquetball Association got a new member on January 20 when Jim and Christine Wright, the association's co-president and secretary, delivered William Statler, who weighed in a 9 lb. 1 oz.



### NMRA Singles Championships

by Ron Pudduck

For four wonderful mid-February days in usually sunny southern California, 134 masters age racquetball players competed for NMRA titles in their respective age groups. While the weather outside the court club was not always sunny, the level of competition inside the club was almost always bright and shining. The large draw included 63 from California, and this contingent reaffirmed that it is still the "gold rush" state. As a result of the fine play exhibited by locals, many of the gold medals remained in the host state.

Los Caballeros Racquet and Sports Club and the Marriott Courtyard hotel provided excellent host facilities for this NMRA event. Plenty of courts and a well-run tournament desk kept matches right on schedule. Thanks to the talents of Carole Stoll, Paul Banales and Les Dittrich, who managed the entire event, this was another efficiently-run and enjoyable high-level championships.

After a hard day of play, the Friday evening banquet, program and auction provided a fitting conclusion to the first three days of round-robin competition. On Saturday, the final day of play, most of the medal winners were determined by the results of the last few matches. Competition was intense, but sportsmanship and fair play ruled the day. As competitors left the tournament site, almost all of them left wearing a big smile, and more than a few were wearing "hardware" as well.

**NMRA Singles Championships: February 16-19, 2000**

**LOS CABALLEROS RACQUET & SPORTS CLUB — FINAL RESULTS**  
Men's 45+: 1. John Vohland-CO, 2. Jim Luzar-WI, 3. Randy Stafford-TN, 4. Gary Mazaroff-NM; 50+: 1. Darryl Keene-CA, 2. Thomas Rall-CA, 3. Barry Hendricks-AZ, 4. Frank Taddonio-AZ; 55+: 1. Ron Combs-CA, 2. Warren Reuther-LA; 3. Tom McKie-TX, 4. Glenn Allen-VA; 60+: 1. Rex Lawler-IN, 2. Ron Pudduck-MI, 3. Charlie Garfinkel-NY, 4. Hal Price-CA;

# rb:people & places



ABOVE: RON PUDDUCK & PAUL BANALES  
BELOW: CHARLIE RUSSELL & HARRY STEINMAN



65+: 1. Jerry Holly-CA, 2. Ken Moore-CA, 3. Jim Dunn-CA, 4. Vance Lerner-CA; 70+: 1. Len Kaiser-CA, 2. Duane Russell-MI, 3. Ed Cremmins-MD, 4. Harold (Cap) Hiles-FL; 75+: 1. Nick Sans-CA, 2. Bill Gencarella-CA, 3. Pete Farina-AZ, 4. Don Gooddard-MT; 80+: 1. Earl Acuff-NC, 2. George Spear Jr.-FL, 3. Harvey Greenfield-CA. Women's 45+: 1. Susan Hendricks-AZ, 2. Karen Key-AZ, 3. Deborah Holley-BC, Canada; 50+: Meri Jean Kelley-CA; 55+: 1. Sharon Hastings Welty-OR, 2. Nidia Funes-CA, 3. Mildred Gwinn-NC, 4. Cece, Polaski-CA; 65+: Jo Kenyon-FL; 80+: Mary Low Acuff-NC.

## Rumble '99 >>

By Charles & Marcia Lee

Last summer's Rumble Racquetball Camp was held at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, drawing 26 young men between 6-18 who wanted to play better racquetball. They came from as far away as Winnipeg, Canada, and from eight different states. They came to play, watch and learn, and they got just that, as Jim Garner took over for the late, great Jack Sorenson as Camp Director. Reigning world champion Sherman Greenfeld headed up the coaching staff with assistance from Jason Thoerner, John Davis, Jeff Garner and Bo Champagne.

Camp participants learned footwork drills from Sherman, shot selection from Jason, return of serve from John, proper backhand form from Jeff and mental preparation from Bo. Timed shuttle matches made sure that each participant got to play opponents of varying skill levels and ages. Sessions were held in aerobics, weight training, running and racquetball conditioning, while the Rumble Moms tried to make sure the guys ate well. It was five days of early mornings, late nights and lots of racquetball. Thursday night the Rumlbers were treated to a match between Sherman Greenfeld and Jason Thoerner. Sherman prevailed in a fast-paced tiebreaker, but Jason made him work for it. What a show!

The Rumble is a camp for players who intend to go to Junior Nationals and is held immediately before the tournament. Fifteen Rumlbers attended the '99 Nationals in Phoenix and made their presence known by bringing home a total of 14 medals, including two national titles. Joseph Lee, the youngest Rumbler, won the gold medal in the 6-and-under and the 8- multi-bounce divisions. Other Rumlbers who medaled in gold divisions (and thus made the U.S. Junior National Team) were Jeff Garner with a bronze in 18-, and Erik Leetch with a fourth place finish in 16-. In gold divisions of doubles, Clay Burris/Shane Karmelin took the silver in 14-, Brad Slocum/ Jacob Karmelin earned bronze in 14-, and William Lee/Jansen Allen placed fourth in 10-. There were also a host of gold, silver, bronze and pewter medals in the red, white and blue divisions of various age groups.

The highlight of the camp (in the author's opinion) was that these 26 young men also shared the campus with over 600 cheerleaders. They stayed in the same dorm, ate in the same cafeteria and 200 at a time were scheduled to practice in the same facility. The penalty for watching cheerleaders instead of your coach was twenty push-ups, and some guys had greatly improved their upper body strength by the end of the week!

The staff of the Rumble anticipate great things for 2000. The University of Alabama will again be our base of operations, the coaching staff is coming together and we should have our first female Rumlbers in 2000. And, oh yeah ... the cheerleaders will be back!



## BIG TIME RACQUETBALL RETURNS TO WEST MICHIGAN

By Twayne M. Howard

The 1st Annual West Michigan Open was held March 17-18, 2000 at the Michigan Athletic Club in Grand Rapids. Friday night started with fourteen juniors taking to the courts. Quite a crowd came out to watch the next generation of players show their stuff and let me just say, the future looks bright. The juniors were split into two divisions, where competition was fierce but fun as J.D. Brown edged out rival Graham Howard in the 14-division. The 12-division went to Scott Lyons as he held off Germaine Brock. Trophies went to each finalist, plus each junior received a bandana donated by E-Force, a trophy, and a tournament shirt.

Saturday play kicked off early as MAC welcomed players from all over the state. Participants received an embroidered golf shirt that will be all the rage this season. Over \$750 in door prizes were given out, and a raffle was held that brought in \$175 to support local juniors programs.

Mike Anderson was the big winner in the Open/A division, and the best match of the day may have been his early-round challenge from Chuck White. Mike survived 15-14, 15-13, holding off a determined Chuck who looked in fine form after several years away from the tournament circuit. Imagine if our local law enforcement officer hadn't had to work a full shift on St. Patrick's Day the night before! Mike's next opponent was young Brandon Cortese who had unceremoniously dumped long-time rival Shannon Kohl in the quarters – a victory that was further evidence of Brandon's impressive progress this season.

Unfortunately for Brandon, he didn't quite have enough for Mike and was ushered out of the tournament by the crafty veteran. The bottom half of the draw was no cakewalk for finalist Glenn Williams as he drew Dale "Flying" Flaska in the quarters. As difficult to beat as ever, the lefty pushed Glenn right to the finish. Hard-hitting Craig Dennings was next in the semis. Glenn had his sights set on Anderson, and would not be denied. As they say, "be careful what you ask for..." Glenn met Mike in the final. Glenn Williams was pleased with his overall play but he simply did not have enough for Mike, who clearly could not be stopped.

If Brandon Cortese was unsatisfied with his finish in Open/A, he must have been thrilled at capturing his first B division crown. The good news for the rest of us is that we probably won't have to play Brandon again. Welcome to the A division, kid! Hope you enjoy your brief stay on the way to the Open. After defeating "newcomer" Glenn Harr, Brandon won the final over Art Murphy, who had earlier defeated John Coaker.

Kris Devarasetty's steady play defeated Tony Connell in the C division Finals. In another example of experience besting youth, Tony's speed and power could not contain Kris's excellent shot-making. My advice: watch out for Tony in the future. As the youngest player in Saturday's draw, he acquitted himself quite well, and will certainly be a threat. Semi-finalist Don Sepanski worked all night as a firefighter and then drove from Detroit for his match, but unfortunately, Tony proved too much for hi. Roger Kamps was one of the "iron men" still playing in three divisions on Saturday. Fortunately, he and his partner still had doubles to look forward to after Roger fell to Kris in the semis.

Gordon Gallagher came back from a long layoff to capture the 25+ Open division by beating Craig

# rb:people & places

Dennings. After seeing him Saturday, I'm not sure I'd want to know how Gordon played "in his prime." Nonetheless, we hope to see more of him in the future.

George Goudi won the 50+ Open division by beating Art Murphy in the Finals. George was as steady as ever and gave Art all he could handle. The irrepressible Art was one of the big winners on the day, placing second in two divisions, plus winning the biggest door prize. Art walked away with a \$350 computer keyboard tray donated by Knappe & Vogt. In the semis, George defeated Dick Tedford, and Art took out Bill Malcolm.

In doubles there were as many laughs as rollouts and a great time was had by all. The only exception was in the Men's Open championships where John Coaker and Chuck White put on their best game faces as they steam-rolled an ad hoc partnership of Glenn Williams and Twayne Howard. Glenn and Twayne were all smiles, but Chuck and John were all rollout, 15-2, 15-2. Nice job. Ouch!

Another last-minute pairing fared much better in the Mixed Doubles. Mike Mohr, Dean's partner for Mens B had to retire after his last singles match due to a bad back. We hope Mike has a speedy return to the courts. Lucky for Dean, Paula Saad was still looking for a partner. Apparently it was a good decision as they held off Jan Insko and Roger Kamps in the finals. The only Father/Daughter combo of the weekend featured Mike Anderson with newcomer, Lindsey Anderson. They put up a brave fight but were not enough for Jan and Roger.

In the Men's B Doubles, Detroiters Mike Semanco and Don Demetrakeas took on the only Father/Son doubles team. Locals Bill and Mike Malcolm couldn't fend off the invaders from the East as they fell in the final.

For many reasons, the biggest winner of the weekend had to be racquetball itself. Tournament Directors Dale Brown, Dean Cline, John Coaker, Twayne Howard, and Paula Spagnuolo took up the challenge issued by Luke St. Onge, USRA Executive Director to increase USRA membership in Michigan. The West Michigan Open welcomed seventeen new and returning members to the USRA. This is the biggest one-tournament new membership signup in Michigan this year.

This was truly a first-class event with lots of outstanding play, great shirts, beautiful trophies and over \$1,500 in door prizes and raffles donated by Knappe & Vogt, E-Force, ProKennex, Ektelon, The Tennis Racquet, Mike Anderson, Jim Hamilton, Mike Stephens, and A Balanced Life.

Thanks to all the players who helped make this first tournament a great success, and congratulations to the winners, both on and off the court. Welcome to all of our new members. We hope that you find it as rewarding as we have. Thanks to everyone who encouraged them to join. Thanks to the Michigan Athletic Club and all the other sponsors for their generosity. Look for us next season. You ain't seen nothing, yet.

## Players Battle in Cortland

by John Edwards

The Second Annual Graphics Plus Tournament in Cortland, New York featured heated matches and close challenges. Held at the State University College at Cortland on February 19, the tournament attracted over forty players from central and upstate New York.

"We consider this an excellent turnout," said Jeff Hanno, Tournament Director. "We expected many Cortland and Auburn players to return to defend their victories from last year, but we also drew a good contingency of challengers from Fort Drum, Messena and Syracuse."

Many of the Cortland players did better this year, as Dave Polanco, seeded #2, defeated recent SUNY Cortland graduate, Matt Widrick in the semis of the Men's C. Polanco, who had increased his training schedule since last year's tournament, dominated the match in two games with scores of 15-0 and 15-1. Polanco would then meet #1 seeded Chuck Moore from Unidilla, who fell prey to the forehand of Polanco in the finals, 15-8, 15-8.

There were more upsets in the Men's B Division as the top two seeds, Tim Hayes and Roger Timian, each lost in the semi-finals. Timian, in his trademark style, lead his opponent into a tiebreaker, but fell, 15-9, 14-15, 11-9. Hayes, seeded on top at the beginning of the day,

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succumbed to Genest in two games 15-9, 15-4. Tim Peets eventually defeated Ron Genest in a three game final 15-11, 14-15 and 11-5.

The final matches for the other divisions came down to the wire as players tested their endurance. In Men's 45+, #2 seeded Frank Malowski, from Herkimer narrowly escaped with a win over Auburn's Ray Traver with a score of 15-11, 12-15, 11-8. Malowski earn a spot in the final by defeating local favorite Bob Roos 15-5, 15-10.

Roos still had a way to go to reach the finals in the Men's A Doubles with partner John Edwards, who plays on the Jamaican National Team. Seeded #1, Roos and Edwards met the #2 seeded team of Edwin Dominguez and Dave Rainer, who were among the top players from Fort Drum. It would be the first time the teams had faced each other. It was a very close and heated contest, but marked with patience and sportsmanship by all. Edwards and Roos won a close first game, 15-13 before Dominguez and Rainer dug in to win the second even closer at 15-14. With fatigue setting in, Roos stepped up his offense while Edwards worked defense and they pulled out the tiebreaker, 11-7.

Heated matches continued as the top two seeds also met in the Mixed Open. With players from Watertown and Herkimer, the team of Jeff Hanno and Mary Sweeney faced the top seeded team of Rickhi Seemungal and wife Brigitte Schulz. As the last match of the day, both teams searched for the energy they would need to claim the win. Schulz, who plays for the German National Racquetball team, tapped into her international experience to see their team emerge with a victory in three games, 9-15, 15-7 and 11-8.

The most heated match of the day would be between Mike Italiano and Sam Vasile as they battled against Walt Lowe and Terry Dautrich in Men's Open Doubles. With both teams hailing from the same club in Auburn, N.Y., each player was already intimately familiar with his opponent's style of play. That familiarity lead to two close games in the finals. At any point during the match, the momentum could swing. Both teams had already experienced close matches as Dautrich and Lowe, seeded #2, defeated #3 seeded team of Hanno and Traver 15-13, 15-14 to get to the finals.



On the other side of the draw, Italiano and Vasile were seeded #4 and won a surprise upset match against #1 seed Seemungal and Richard Davis 15-14, 15-12. In the Men's A Division, Seemungal had defeated fourth ranked Italiano 15-9, 15-2 in the semi's while Davis edged out a close win against third ranked Edwards 10-15, 15-8, 11-7. The two doubles partners would then face off against each other in the finals. First seeded Seemungal would secure the win over his second seeded opponent in two games 15-10 and 15-13.

"The caliber of competition was excellent this year, and fun to watch" said Hanno. "We had international players as well as alumni from Cortland College coming here to play." Hanno continued, "we had new players compete in their first tournament ever and a significant amount of our matches went to a third tiebreaker game."

The tournament was sponsored by Graphic Plus Printing, Cinquanti Real Estate, Accurate Appraisal, Alliance Bank, Jrecks Subs, Wal-Mart, ProKENNEX, Capstone Video Productions and made possible with the cooperation of SUNY Cortland. Hanno explained that proceeds from the tournament will be donated to Kidsport, a not for profit organization dedicated to helping kids in the area of sports.

"As close as the matches were this year," Hanno concluded, "I know there are players already strategizing for how they will adjust their game for next year's tournament."



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## may ...

May 12-14	What A Racquet Tournament @ What A Racquet	Daly City, CA	650-994-9080
May 13	Gulf Coast Spring Classic @ Tamuk Steinke Physical Center	Kingsville, TX	361-595-1710
	NWFC Shoot Out Series @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-432-0881
May 13-14	Junior Open Championships @ Colorado Athletic Club	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
May 17-21	LAC Open @ Lloyd Athletic Club	Portland, OR	503-287-4594
May 19-21	Craig McCoy Memorial @ The Tournament House	Riverside, CA	909-682-7511
	Merced Spring Open @ Merced Sports Club	Merced, CA	209-722-3988
	Super 6 @ Arizona Athletic Club	Tempe, AZ	480-730-8156
	Tournament Of Aces @ Tri City Leisure Center	West Columbia, SC	803-772-0672
May 20	Club Championship @ Gold's Gym	DeWitt, NY	315-446-0376
May 24-29	Ektelon 33rd USRA National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, TX	719-635-5396
May 29	Women's Saturday #2 @ Stillaquamish Athletic Club	Arlington, WA	360-435-9408
May 31-June 4	Oregon State Singles @ Multnomah Athletic Club [3]	Portland, OR	503-223-8740

## june ...

June 4-9	Rumble 2000 @ University Of Alabama	Tuscaloosa, AL	205-988-3819
June 8-11	Annual Pepsi Cup @ Colorado Athletic Club	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
	New Mexico Games @ Midtown Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
June 9-11	Crystal Coast Classic @ The Sport Center	Morehead City, NC	910-726-7070
	Gold Country Open @ Courthouse Athletic Club	Auburn, CA	530-885-1964
	Louisiana Games/June Classic @ Elmwood Fitness Center	Harahan, LA	504-468-2813
	Summer Scorchers @ The Spectrum Club	Canoga Park, CA	818-884-5034
June 10	One Day Shoot Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
June 16-18	Summer Splat 2000 @ Modesto Court Room	Modesto, CA	209-577-1060
June 17	NWFC Shoot Out Series @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-432-0881
	Pan-Mass Challenge @ Gold's Gym	DeWitt, NY	315-446-0376
June 22-24	Summer Bash @ Sports Club Of Asheville	Asheville, NC	828-252-0222
June 23-25	9th Steve Powers Memorial @ Tyson's Sport & Health	McLean, VA	703-527-7785
June 24-28	Head 27th USRA Junior Olympic Championships [6]	Minneapolis, MN	719-635-5396

## july ...

July 7-9	Redwood Empire Open @ Petaluma Valley Athletic Club	Petaluma, CA	707-789-9898
July 8	One Day Shoot Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
July 12-15	NMRA International Masters Championships [5]	Colorado Springs, CO	816-229-1300
July 14-16	Big Brother/Big Sister @ Courts Plus Of New Bern	New Bern, NC	252-633-2221
	Orlando Doubles Event @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Powerhouse Open @ Powerhouse Gym	Bend, OR	541-389-2009
July 15	NWFC Shoot Out Series @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-432-0881
	Summer Pick Of The Pairs @ Allentown Racquet Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
July 21-23	Georgia Games Championships @ Georgia Tech Student Athlete Complex	Atlanta, GA	404-370-0881
July 22	Hot Tamale Shoot Out @ Racquetball & Fitness Of San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
July 28-30	Ballard Open @ Olympic Athletic Club	Seattle, WA	206-789-5010
	Quad West Summer Classic @ Quad West	Clearwater, FL	813-535-4901

## august ...

August 4-5	Only Doubles @ Nautilus Fitness Center	Erie, PA	814-868-0072
August 4-12	IRF 10th World Championships	San Luis Potosi, Mexico	719-635-5396
August 5	One Day Shoot Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
August 11-13	Summer Sizzler Open @ Twin Arbors Athletic Club	Lodi, CA	209-334-4897
August 12	NWFC Shoot Out Series @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-432-0881
August 25-27	25th Annual Best Of Texas @ Racquetball & Fitness Of San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
August 26	Women's Saturday #3 @ Valley Athletic Club	Tumwater, WA	360-352-3400
Aug. 29-Sept. 2	IRF 12th World Senior Racquetball Championships [5]	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960

## upcoming 2000 national & international events ...

May 24-29	Ektelon 33rd USRA National Singles Championships [6] . . . . .	Houston, Texas	719-635-5396
June 1-4	World Senior Doubles. . . . .	Paris, France	505-266-8960
June 24-28	Head 27th USRA Junior Olympic Championships [6] . . . . .	Minneapolis, Minnesota	719-635-5396
July 12-15	NMRA International Masters Championships [5] . . . . .	Colorado Springs, Colorado	816-229-1300
August 4-12	IRF 10th World Championships . . . . .	San Luis Potosi, Mexico	719-635-5396
Aug.29-Sept.2	IRF 12th World Senior Racquetball Championships [5] . . . . .	Albuquerque, New Mexico	505-266-8960
October 4-8	Ektelon 33rd USRA National Doubles Championships [6] . . . . .	Baltimore, Maryland	719-635-5396
November 15-19	5th U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships [5] . . . . .	Memphis, Tennessee	719-635-5396
December 16-20	ProKennex 12th IRF World Junior Championships [5] . . . . .	TBA	719-635-5396

• For all sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)

• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 06/00, you must renew your membership in the month of June in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

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### It's Official ... U.S. OPEN picks up New Title Sponsor!

The former Promus U.S. OPEN is now the HILTON U.S. OPEN, beginning with the 5th annual playing of the event in 2000. Hilton Hotels, Corp., owner of the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, acquired the Promus Hotel Corp. for \$4 billion in cash and stock last September and, in the process, picked up the option for continued sponsorship support of the U.S. OPEN. The deal shifted a large stake of the extended-stay lodging market to Hilton, and made it one of the largest lodging companies, with nearly 1,700 hotels and 85,000 employees. The Hilton U.S. OPEN will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, in the week just prior to Thanksgiving (November 15-19, 2000). Look for an entry in the next issue!

### Place your Bets!

Hollywood Casino, located in Tunica, Miss., recently inked a three-year agreement to become a major co-sponsor of the Hilton U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships, beginning with the 2000 tournament, scheduled for November 15-29 in Memphis, Tenn.

"We are thrilled to add Hollywood Casino to our list of quality sponsors that have stepped up to support the sport of racquetball and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital," Hilton U.S. OPEN Director Doug Ganim said. "Hollywood Casino is a first-class organization with a wonderful cast of employees who truly care about the local community."

In addition to Hollywood Casinos' national sponsorship of the event, it will become the title sponsor of a special fundraising evening for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at the Hilton U.S. OPEN — The Hollywood Casino Night. Players and fans will be able to make a donation to St. Jude and play live table games, with more than \$10,000 in prizes up for grabs to the winners.

The Hollywood Casino resort property in Tunica features more than 54,000 square feet of gaming space, a 506-room luxury hotel, a golf course and Hollywood memorabilia displays. The resort is located approximately 35 miles from Memphis, the host city of the Hilton U.S. OPEN, and is owned and operated by Hollywood Casino Cooperation of Dallas, Texas.

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## men

### Men's Open

1. Mike Locker, MN
2. Michael Bronfeld, CA
3. Adam Karp, CA
4. Jack Huczek, MI
5. Dan Llacera, DE
6. Mike Johnston, CO
7. Chris Zalegowski, NH
8. Fabian Balmori, FL
9. Brian Fredenberg, TX
10. Matt Gehling, MD

### Men's A

1. David Ghio, CA
2. Barney Revuelta, TX
3. Ryan Lindell, OR
4. David Leon, CA
5. Sunny Osagie, AR
6. Cary Slade, IL
7. Joe Clinton, TX
8. Andy Babinchak, ND
8. Mike Cole, NH
8. Bob Nelson, WI

### Men's B

1. Ryan Lindell, OR
2. Tony Garcia, TX
2. Eddie Pavloski, TX
4. Angelo Perilli, PA
5. Steve Simpson, OH
6. Felix Marrero, LA
6. Dan Shupsky, FL
8. Tom Paolazzi, NJ
9. Rick Harkness, CO
9. Brian Shwer, TN

### Men's C

1. Peter Michael, TX
2. Paul Dolan, CA
3. Bruce Schaff, CO
3. Andy Silva, FL
5. Garry Carter, CA
6. Donnie Crowe, LA
7. Don Mayberry, IL
8. Roger Dial, SC
8. Wes McDonald, LA
8. Gilbert Sais, CA

### Men's D

1. Ryan Kinnaman, AR
2. Garry Carter, CA
3. Jerry Buchanan, LA
4. Sid Harshavat, IL
5. Kris Robinson, KY
6. David Eaton, OH
7. Drew Toland, AR
8. Bradley Vaughan, NC
9. Scott Cortese, VA
10. David Carter, TX

### Men's Novice

1. Chad Chaloux, NH
1. Carlos Guzman, TX
1. Bobby Lavelle, OH
1. Tavares Patton, NY
5. Dan Larochelle, NH

6. Chris Bryan, AR
7. Dan Odierno, NH
8. Tod Borleske, IL
8. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
8. Patrick Dawson, AK

### Men's 24-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Kyle Veenstra, WI
3. Ryan Homa, WI
4. Jeffrey Garner, AL
5. Jack Long, TX
6. Josh Tucker, MO
6. Dan Whitley, MO
8. Mike Patalano, RI
9. Bart Crawford, OR
10. Joey Delfino, MA

### Men's 25+

1. Sameer Hadid, CA
2. Rob DeJesus, AZ
3. Jeff Arnett, MO
3. Fabian Balmori, FL
3. Mike Locker, MN
6. Chris Zalegowski, NH
7. Steve Hayden, ME
7. Brad McCuniff, IA
7. Brian Pointelin, CO
7. Barney Revuelta, TX

### Men's 30+

1. Jeff Bell, AZ
1. John Davis, LA
1. Jim Frautschi, MN
4. John Collison, DE
5. Eugene Coyle, IL
6. Brad McCuniff, IA
7. David Watson, OK
8. David Smith, GA
9. Alan Sheppard, NC
10. Rob Hartmann, OH

### Men's 35+

1. Jimmy Lowe, WA
2. Dave Negrete, IL
3. Scot Consoli, FL
4. David Lockridge, GA
4. David Watson, OK
6. Gary Tanko, WI
7. Salvador Acosta, TX
7. Carl Evers, WI
9. Lance Gilliam, TX
10. Greg Hayenga, MN

### Men's 40+

1. Roger Miller, VA
2. Tom Travers, OH
3. Walter Schramm, NY
4. Michael Anderson, MI
5. Gary Tanko, WI
6. Don Ott, IN
7. Patrick Gibson, TX
8. Dan Hardan, WA
8. Dave Peck, TX
8. Joe Thomas, MA

### Men's 45+

1. Gary Mazaroff, NM
2. Jim Luzar, WI
3. Ed Garabedian, PA
3. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
3. Denny Vincent, OH
6. Jesus Moctezuma, TX
6. Dominic Palmieri, OH
6. Randy Stafford, TN
9. Russ Palazzo, CT
10. Steve Silverman, SC

### Men's 50+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Greg Hasty, IL
2. Ed Remen, NC
4. Jim Bailey, VA
5. Gary Peterson, MN
6. Dan Davis, TX
7. Dave Arnold, NM
8. Horace Miller, IL
9. Russ Dorr, MD
10. Gene Ezell, TN

### Men's 55+

1. Ray Huss, OH
2. Glenn Allen, VA
3. Dennis O'Brien, ID
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. Ron Galbreath, PA
6. Len Wilson, PA
7. Mickey Bellah, CA
8. Bob Coe, TX
9. Mitch Milewski, NH
9. Roger Wehrle, GA

### Men's 60+

1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Rex Lawler, IN
3. Charlie Garfinkel, NY
4. Jim Wilking, NY
5. Bob Webster, AL
6. Ron Adams, CA
6. Jerry Holly, CA
8. Grant Morrill, PA
9. John Ramsay, TX
10. Ron Hutcherson, IN

### Men's 65+

1. Don Alt, FL
2. Ken Moore, CA
3. Otis Chapman, OH
4. Don Maxey, TX
5. Jerry Holly, CA
6. Ron McElwee, AL
6. John O'Donnell, IL
8. Paul Banales, AZ
9. Jim Dunn, CA
10. Bob Kleinschmidt, MN

### Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Barney Friesth, SD
3. Victor Sacco, NY
4. Carl Buschner, MA
4. Len Kaiser, CA
4. John O'Donnell, IL
7. Chuck Martarano, IL

8. Stan Fugate, FL
9. Philip Dziuk, IL
9. Chuck Lake, VA

### Men's 75+

1. Nick Sans, CA
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Cam Snowberger, SC
4. Robert McAdam, TX
5. Al Romero, NM
6. Bill Matotan, NM
6. Bernard Sand, IA
6. J.W. Studak, TX
9. George Spear, FL
9. Lake Westphal, AZ

### Men's 80+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. George Spear, FL
3. Charlie Russell, CA
4. Ben Marshall, TX
5. Harvey Greenfield, CA
5. C. Allen Shepherd, MD
5. Cam Snowberger, SC
8. Harry Steinman, MD
8. Bill Sherman, TX
10. Walter Gardner, UT

### Men's 85+

1. Harry Steinman, MD

## women

### Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Laura Fenton, KS
3. Sadie Hall, TN
3. Robin Levine, CA
5. Lisa Hjelm, CA
6. Denise Mock, TX
7. Phyllis Morris, NC
8. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
9. Carol Kriegler, MN
10. Kim Machiran, MO

### Women's A

1. Esther McNany, CT
2. Janel Tisinger, CA
3. Kelly Goddard, VA
4. Sharon Steele, SC
5. Brenna Bilbrough, OR
6. Lori Edmonds, NE
7. Patrice Calvi, IL
8. Diane Nellis, PA
9. Ann Doucette, ME
10. Brenda Trotter, AL

### Women's B

1. Michelle Poage, AK
2. Diane Taylor Whitman, MA
3. Renee Kemp, MD
4. Pam Grace, IL
5. Nathania Stewart, GA
6. Charlotte Kochersperger, PA
7. LaVonne Kohlhepp, WI
8. Christine Davis, TN
9. Angela Deltito-Cook, PA
9. Kelley Fisher, OH

### Women's C

1. Cheryl Kirk, IL
2. Beth Rist, LA
2. Sharon Wilks, NC
4. Lynn Hiorns, IL
5. Janice Kennedy, GA
6. Anne Debose, TX
7. Alice Avchen, FL
8. Joanna Reyes, TX
8. Charla Thomas, TN
10. Suzanne DeNeal, OK

### Women's D

1. Ramona Vonondarza, FL
2. Pamela Trent, MD
3. Samaria Bennett, TX
4. Danielle Mathieu, MO
5. Gretchen Gobar, NH
6. Gennie Salinas, TX
7. Sandy Jenkins, WI
8. Jamie Johnson, OH
9. Rita Derr, NE
9. Sunshine Dryer, OK

### Women's Novice

1. Gretchen Gobar, NH
2. Nancy Bennett, PA
3. Gena Reilly, NM
4. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
5. Kristen Kinaman, VT
5. Bonnie Molton, TN
7. Melissa Cunningham, TN
7. Stephanie Garcia, NM
7. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
7. Jodie O'Driscoll, FL

### Women's 24-

1. Shannon Feaster, MD
1. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
3. Aimee Roehler, NJ
4. Sara Borland, IA
5. Megan Bals, NE
6. Brooke Crawford, OR
7. Christina Lewendal, OR
7. Kristen Sutek, AL
9. Sadie Hall, TN
10. Wendy Abbott, KY

### Women's 25+

1. Heather Dunn, CA
2. Jo Shattuck, CO
3. Jen Yokota, MO
4. Lori Lepow, FL
5. Jennifer Dering, NY
5. Holly Remen, NC
7. Lisa Marie Papp, GA
8. Lisa Koolman, PA
8. Cara Pellowski, WI
10. Stephanie Munger, AK

### Women's 30+

1. Kim Russell, TN
2. Kelley Beane, NH
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. Lori Lepow, FL
5. Micky Richer, CO
6. Michelle Lucas, VA

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- 7T. Cheryl Conrad, IA  
 7T. Terri Straka, MN  
 9T. Jennifer Dering, NY  
 9T. B.J. Ehr Gott, CT

**Women's 35+**

1. Denise Mock, TX  
 2. Holly Remen, NC  
 3. Lorraine Galloway, NY  
 4. Debra Tisinger, CA  
 5. Phyllis Morris, NC  
 6. Karin Sobotta, WA  
 7. Laura Fenton, KS  
 8. B.J. Ehr Gott, CT  
 9. Jean Trimble, FL  
 10. Katherine Grill, IL

**Women's 40+**

1. Debra Tisinger, CA  
 2. Linda Moore, NE  
 3. Jarrell Marriott, RI  
 4. Chris Evon, IL  
 5. Jill Mitchell, AK  
 6. Val Shewfelt, UT  
 7. Mary Beke, AZ  
 8. Peggy Stephens, KY  
 9T. Sallie Benedict, VA  
 9T. Susan Pfahler, FL

**Women's 45+**

1. Karen Key, AZ  
 2. Raymie Roland, CA  
 3T. Marsha Berry, KY  
 3T. Janell Marriott, RI  
 5. Debbie Chaney, IN  
 6. Lesley Kishigian, MI  
 7T. Meena Evans, NC  
 7T. Brenda White, IL  
 9. Nan Higgins, NH  
 10. Wanda Collins, WA

**Women's 50+**

1. Merjean Kelley, CA  
 2. Terry Ann Rogers, CA  
 3. Gerri Stoffregen, OH  
 4. Shelley Ogden, OH  
 5T. Agatha Falso, FL  
 5T. Sharon Huczek, MI  
 7. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR  
 8. Mary Jane Weldin, DE  
 9. Mary Lou Furaus, NM  
 10. Donna Ebner, MO

**Women's 55+**

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR  
 2. Mildred Gwinn, NC  
 3. Nidia Funes, CA  
 4. Gerri Stoffregen, OH  
 5. Marquita Molina, CA  
 6. Gail Schaefer, MD  
 7. CeCe Palaski, CA  
 8T. Nancy Kay Butts, WI  
 8T. Louise Graham, WI  
 10. Shirley Crouse, IL

**Women's 60+**

1. Jo Kenyon, FL  
 2. Annabelle Kovar, NE

3. LaVonne Kohlhepp, WI  
 4. Susan Embry, WA  
 5T. Naomi Eads, MO  
 5T. Gloria Piscoran, OR  
 7. Audrey Lenroot, WI  
 8. Jeanne Lebene, AZ  
 9T. Lola Markus, IL  
 9T. Jean Tull, VA

**Women's 65+**

1. Jo Kenyon, FL  
 2. Lola Markus, IL  
 3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
 4. Marilyn Hoagland, MN  
 5. Louise Kiss, NM

**Women's 70+**

1. Reta Harring, WI  
 2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA  
 3. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

**Women's 75+**

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC  
 2. Christine Stephens, TX  
 3T. Helen Deysher, PA  
 3T. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR  
 5. Beth Keene, TX

**Women's 80+**

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

**boys**

**Boy's 6 & Under**

1. Kyle Rynard, IN  
 2. Dan Ring, MN

**B6- Multi-Bounce**

1. Joseph Lee, LA  
 2. Calvin Godwin, FL  
 3. Andres Garcia, CA  
 4T. Matthew Hunter, FL  
 4T. Ryan Kutner, TX  
 6. Taylor Regier, OR  
 7T. Erik Formo, MN  
 7T. Dan Ring, MN  
 9. Brad Falvey, WI  
 10. James Hardy, OR

**Boy's 8 & Under**

1. Jose Rojas, CA  
 2. Jake Bredenbeck, MN  
 3. Erick Podwill, OR  
 4. John Sanderson, UT  
 5. Joseph Lee, LA  
 6. Billy Wainwright, OR  
 7. Sean Wichers, CO  
 8. Jordan Faith, CO  
 9. Casey Sauter, WI  
 10. Tyler Davis, MN

**B8- Multi-Bounce**

1. Joseph Lee, LA  
 2. Miguel Martinez, AK  
 3. Billy Wainwright, OR  
 4T. Calvin Godwin, FL  
 4T. Chris Rynard, IN  
 4T. Casey Sauter, WI

7. Sean Wichers, CO  
 8T. Isaac Mitchell, AK  
 8T. Erick Podwill, OR  
 10. Andrew Peterson, OR

**Boy's 10-**

1. Nick Arturo, AK  
 2. Connor Reynolds, GA  
 3. Mark Beaudry, CO  
 4. Brad Starken, WI  
 5. Allan Crockett, AL  
 6. Jose Rojas, CA  
 7. Cam Grundman, MN  
 8. Matt Keddie, NH  
 9. Brandon Callihan, AK  
 10. William Lee, LA

**Boy's 12-**

1. Joey Lakowske, OR  
 2. Matt Johnson, NM  
 3. Charles Pratt, OR  
 4. Drew Toland, AR  
 5. Andrew Grissom, CA  
 6. Garrett Stone, MN  
 7T. Brady Prince, MN  
 7T. Brad Starken, WI  
 9. Chris Coy, OK  
 10. David Lewis, CO

**Boy's 14-**

1. Steven Klaiman, TX  
 2. Brandon Shoemaker, OH  
 3. Ben Croft, IL  
 4. Ryan Lindell, OR  
 5. Drew Toland, AR  
 6. Jacob Karmelin, GA  
 7T. Clay Burris, FL  
 7T. Dan Sheppick, OR  
 9. Nicholas Rowley, AZ  
 10. Garrett Olson, ME

**Boy's 16-**

1. Jack Huczek, MI  
 2. Erik Leetch, AR  
 3. Matthew McElhiney, FL  
 4. Bart Crawford, OR  
 5. Andy Hawthorne, IL  
 6. Darrin Prince, MN  
 7T. Dan Beaudry, CO  
 7T. Marcos Howell, AK  
 9T. Joey Delfino, MA  
 9T. Matt Everding, MN

**Boy's 18-**

1. Josh Tucker, MO  
 2. Mitch Williams, NC  
 3. Jack Huczek, MI

4. Jeffrey Garner, AL  
 5. Shane Vanderson, OH  
 6. Andy Hawthorne, IL  
 7. Darrin Prince, MN  
 8. Jason Kerwood, OR  
 9. Matt Everding, MN  
 10. Matt Gehling, MD

**girls**

**G6- Multi-Bounce**

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR  
 2. Stephanie Rojas, OR  
 3T. Sierra Adam, CO  
 3T. Tristyn Trelease, OR  
 5. Elizabeth Brenner, OR  
 6. Katie Faith, CO  
 7T. Ashley Bechard, WI  
 7T. Kaitlynn Pacinelli, NM  
 9T. Nicole Grundman, MN  
 9T. Katie Nelson, WA

**Girl's 8 & Under**

1. Wesley Toland, AR  
 2. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR  
 3. Stephanie Moyle, OR  
 4. Samantha Pimental, OR  
 5. Brianna Elder, MD  
 6. Nicole Grundman, MN  
 7. Ashley Wetherell, NJ  
 8. Tia Smith, OR  
 9. Danielle Key, AZ  
 10. Paige Hunter, FL

**G8- Multi-Bounce**

1. Wesley Toland, AR  
 2. Stephanie Moyle, OR  
 3. Nicole Grundman, MN  
 4T. Cory Laurita, CO  
 4T. Julia Negrete, IL  
 6. Stephanie Rojas, OR  
 7. Ceara Odell, NM  
 8. Courtney Hill, NM  
 9. Tia Smith, OR  
 10. Sierra Adam, CO

**Girl's 10-**

1. Shannon Inglesby, OR  
 2. Liz Taylor, OR  
 3. Kara Mazur, CT  
 4. Michelle Key, AZ  
 5T. Rebeka Kopf, NY  
 5T. Brittany Legget, OR  
 7. Sarah Parrish, FL  
 8. Katie Wafer, CO  
 9. Dannielle Pimental, OR

10. Amanda Grill, IL

**Girl's 12-**

- 1T. Kelley Fisher, OH  
 1T. Ashley Legget, OR  
 3. Kastle Arturo, AK  
 4. Kynzie Dalton, OR  
 5T. Natalie Starken, WI  
 5T. Kimberly Walsh, UT  
 7. Elise Wilson, CT  
 8. Ashley Willhite, OR  
 9T. Katie Ferguson, OR  
 9T. Michelle Key, AZ

**Girl's 14-**

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH  
 2. Jesi Fuller, NM  
 3. Cari Mitlitsky, NY  
 4T. Jenny Cary, OR  
 4T. Lindsay Deutsch, CA  
 6. Erica Beaudry, CO  
 7. Selma Cuadros, MD  
 8T. Tiana Boyd, SC  
 8T. Mary Sweeney, NY  
 10. Kastle Arturo, AK

**Girl's 16-**

1. Kristen Walsh, UT  
 2. Krystal Csuk, IL  
 3. Nickii Whitney, VT  
 4. Kristen Kovar, NE  
 5. Cari Mitlitsky, NY  
 6. Crystal Winfrey, OH  
 7T. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA  
 7T. Amanda Labelle, ME  
 9. Erica Beaudry, CO  
 10. Brie Benton, NH

**Girl's 18-**

1. Brooke Crawford, OR  
 2. Sara Borland, IA  
 3. Megan Bals, NE  
 4T. Adrienne Fisher, OH  
 4T. Kristen Walsh, UT  
 6. Michelle Gonzalez, OR  
 7. Jenny Cary, OR  
 8. Crystal Winfrey, OH  
 9. Meghan Guardiani, MA  
 10. Jane Rombach, MO

**GRACE ...** Since so many players will renew during Regional Qualifiers, no "not a member" designations are cited in this issue — but you know who you are! Renew!

**EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION**

**FINISH/POINTS**

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

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

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SANCTIONING

IRF (International Racquetball Federation)  
USRA (United States Racquetball Association)  
NMRA (New Mexico Racquetball Association)

MEMBERSHIP

Players must present proof of current membership with their respective International Racquetball Association; otherwise, a current USRA competitive license is required of all participants. Entrants may purchase this membership at registration or must be able to present proof of current USRA membership.

GREAT HOSPITALITY!

**AT THE ALBUQUERQUE MARRIOTT...**

MONDAY - Registration, reception and players meeting  
...TUESDAY thru SATURDAY - Lunch provided ...

SATURDAY - Tournament banquet ...

THROUGHOUT THE TOURNEY - Continental Breakfast for guests registered at the Albuquerque Marriott. Shuttle between clubs and hotel. Player Hospitality Room at the Albuquerque Marriott. Silent auction through Friday. Auction items displayed in the Hospitality Room.

WSRC AIRLINE & CAR RENTAL

**DELTA AIR LINES** - Official WSRC Airline, File #159680A, Call 1-800-241-6760 for reservations.  
**DOLLAR RENT A CAR** - Official WSRC Car Rental, Call 1-800-800-4000, mention World Senior Racquetball.

ENTRIES, FEES & DEADLINES

**ENTRY FORMS:** Entries will be mailed to persons on the WSRC mailing list and available in late April 2000. • **FEES:** \$110.00 per player, \$170.00 total for Husband/Wife team. \$45.00 per non-playing spectator (includes lunches and banquet). • **ENTRY DEADLINE:** All registration forms and fees must be postmarked by AUGUST 1, 2000. Late entries will be assessed at \$15 charge. All entries are final. Enter early to guarantee a space.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE ADDED TO OUR ENTRY MAILING LIST, CONTACT: EVENT DIRECTOR GARY MAZAROFF**

505/266-8960 (PHONE), 505/256-1380 (FAX).

**OR CONTACT THE USRA • 719/635-5396.**

**SEND INTERNET EMAIL INQUIRIES TO: [joel.gellman@gte.net](mailto:joel.gellman@gte.net).**

TOURNAMENT RULES & FORMAT

IRF Official Rules will govern competition unless otherwise specified. Round-robin format for qualifying rounds Tuesday through Friday. Matches consist of 3 games to 11 points. Matches are self-officiated. One tourney point earned for each game point scored, 3 points earned for each game won, and 7 points earned for each match won. At a minimum, the top 8 qualifiers within each age group earn berths in the Saturday Championship Medal Rounds. Flight winners are guaranteed a berth. Saturday playoff matches consist of 2 out of 3 games to 11 points with finals 2 out of 3 games to 15 and an 11-point tiebreaker (single elimination). No consolation matches will be scheduled.

**TOURNAMENT RULES REQUIRE ALL COMPETITORS TO USE PROTECTIVE LENSED EYEWEAR TESTED TO ASTM F803 OR CSA IMPACT STANDARDS.**

REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN

**ALL PLAYERS MUST CHECK IN AT REGISTRATION PRIOR TO PLAYING FIRST SCHEDULED MATCH. REGISTRATION on MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2:00 PM TO 7:00 PM at the Albuquerque Marriott.** Tournament play begins TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, at 7:00 AM. First match time information will be available at registration and at the clubs on Monday, August 28. Late registration will be held TUESDAY - 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Albuquerque Marriott.

ABOUT THE TOURNEY

In 1985, this event was first established as the North American 40+. Since then, the tournament has grown to attract participants from all over the world and has become a premier tournament for Senior Women and Men in the world. In 1989, the tournament was designated as the IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships. Throughout the history of this tournament, a major goal of the organizing committee has been to support the continued growth and development of our sport. To this end, the WSRC is an official fund-raising event to support THE OLYMPIC DREAM for our sport. Through the contributions of players, sponsors, and advertisers, the WSRC Council has raised over \$200,000.

This event has achieved the success that it has because of the continued support of the senior racquetball community, numerous volunteers, sponsors, and advertisers. The Albuquerque and New Mexico community, too, have supported this event with their unique brand of hospitality. We welcome and encourage your participation, and we are delighted to showcase our country, state, and city. When you're not playing racquetball, our host city and state offer many other sites and attractions. Come early, stay late, and have FUN!



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