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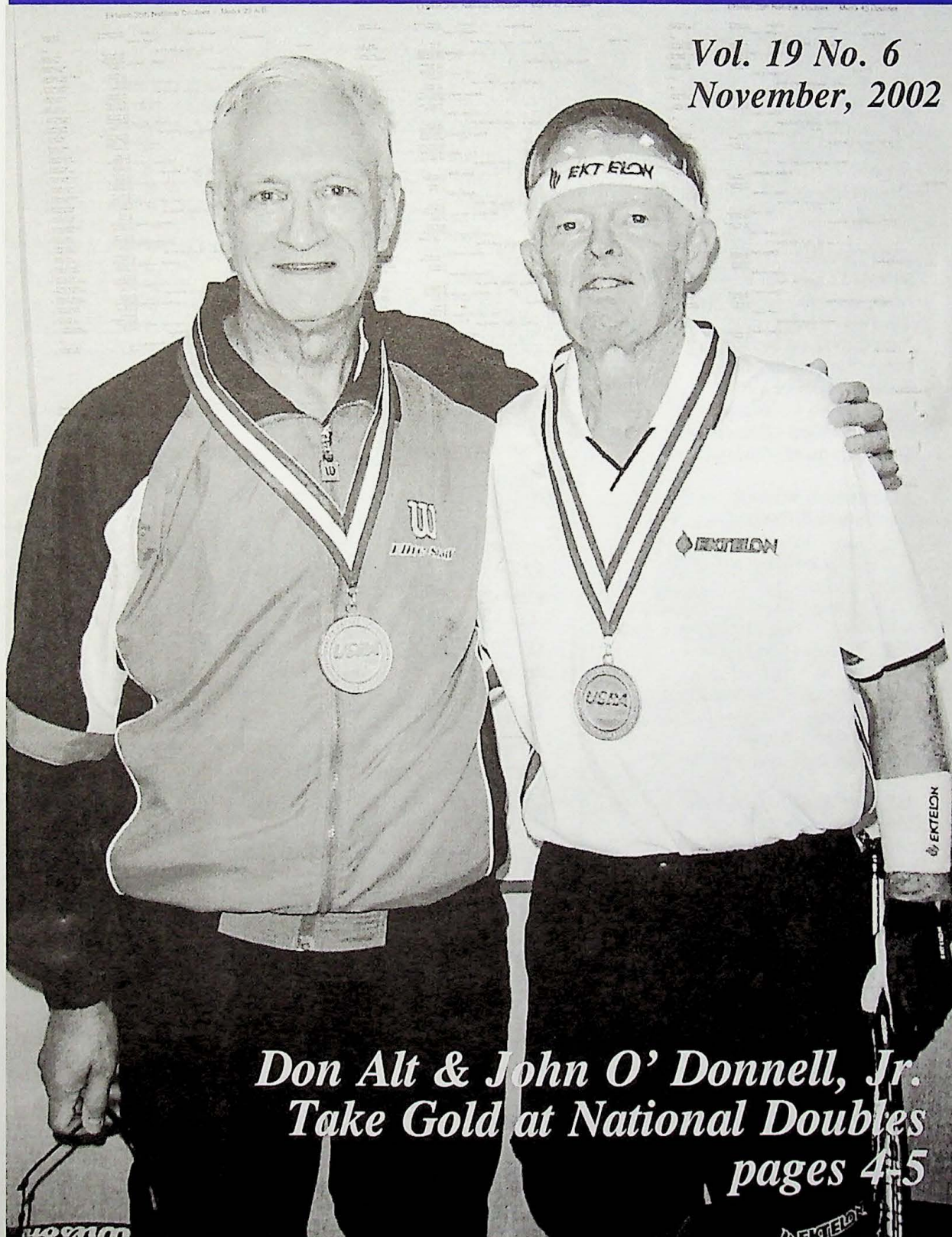
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USRA Newsletter

The Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association

Vol. 19 No. 6
November, 2002



*Don Alt & John O' Donnell, Jr.
Take Gold at National Doubles
pages 4-5*

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From The President

Our top story in the September ISRA newsletter was the USRA Junior Olympic Championships. Everyone who played in the tournament, or played a part in the tournament, was excited about its overwhelming success. I, for one, couldn't wait to see the coverage in *Racquetball Magazine* because I knew that whatever our coverage was - theirs would be better.

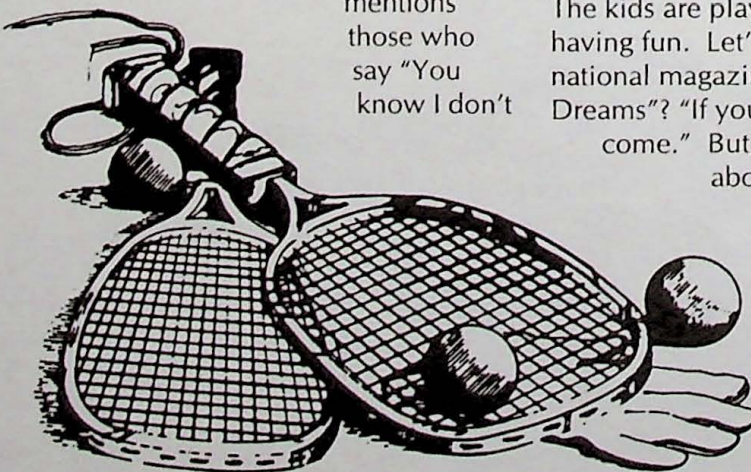
What a disappointment! There was great match coverage for the top kids in the older age brackets, but what about the other 250 kids who played in the tournament? What were they doing all week? You wouldn't know from reading the magazine.

I picked up on several other items in the magazine, though. The editor's article talks about posting scores on draw sheets and websites so that people can get more information than just who won or lost a match. I agree - and that's something we consistently do in Illinois. In fact, we enter every match score into our seeding system.

Doug Ganim's preview article about the U.S. Open hits all aspects - amateur play, pro play and PARTIES! Playing racquetball should be fun. Attending tournaments should be fun. Of the 700 players at the US Open, only a few will win. Doug lets us know that there *will* be fun - win or lose.

I found Tom Rall's article, "Racquetball in America" particularly interesting. He talks about how we should all quit complaining, be part of the solution rather than the problem, work with our state organizations, etc., etc. He

mentions those who say "You know I don't



see any new young people playing", rather than *working* to get young people playing. These are all good ideas and I agree with them. But, Tom, you still won't see much about young people playing in *Racquetball Magazine*.

So what's my beef? My beef is that we have been doing all of these things in Illinois, but it's not reflected in the article about Junior Nationals. We have grown Junior Team Illinois from nothing to 80 kids in about a year. We have recognized all of the kids who participate, not just the top couple of players. They are all important to the future of the game. Club owners, the ISRA Board, JTI parents and the racquetball companies have all come together to make it happen. There are other groups in other states doing the same thing and they aren't being recognized either.

The kids are playing....and the kids are having fun. Let's reflect that in our national magazine. Remember "Field of Dreams"? "If you build it, they will come." But, if you don't tell them about it, they can't. Speaking of "fields", the courts are calling. Summer is over and it's time to play racquetball. See you all soon!

Laurel



What if the Hoop and Handle never touched?
Introducing TRIAD Technology –

The Power of Three™

Since the beginning of racquet sports, players have searched for three things in a racquet – power, comfort and control. But they've only found compromise, because every racquet ever played has been designed as a one-piece unit. The traditional one-piece design always minimizes one critical playing characteristic when attempting to maximize another.

But what if the hoop and handle never touched? Not only could you maximize power in the hoop and control in the handle, you could isolate shock and prevent it from reaching the arm. For the first time ever, you could design a racquet that didn't compromise.

Introducing TRIAD, a revolutionary tri-component design that maximizes power, control and comfort without compromising one for the other.

The hoop and the handle of a TRIAD racquet are designed as customized components. They never touch. We buffer them with Iso-Zorb™, an exclusive Wilson polymer similar to the material used in skyscraper foundations to absorb the shock of an earthquake.

This design breakthrough delivers a level of performance impossible in an ordinary one-piece racquet.

Play TRIAD.

Experience the Power of Three.

TWO: COMFORT

Iso-Zorb™ is an exclusive Wilson polymer, similar to the material used in skyscraper foundations to absorb the shock of an earthquake. We utilize Iso-Zorb as a buffer between the TRIAD hoop and handle for dramatically increased levels of comfort, which can be customized to fit your game.

ONE: POWER

Maximum power is generated in the hoop of a TRIAD™ racquet. Wilson engineers combine Hyper Carbon® – the stiffest, lightest, strongest material ever used in racquetball racquets – with our patented Hammer® design, which reduces overall weight, but maintains mass in the racquet head.

THREE: CONTROL

Because shock is trapped in the hoop, the handle of a TRIAD racquet remains completely stable in your hand at ball impact. The feeling of control is extraordinary.

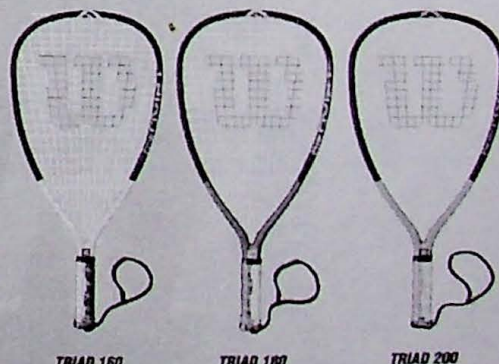


The revolutionary Vue-Tack™ grip is naturally tacky to provide a lock-tight grip no matter how hot the action gets. It's the new choice of the pros and players of all levels.



Cliff Swain
#1 Player in the World

Derek Robinson
World Champion



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Ektelon USRA 35th National Doubles

Northwest Athletic Club, Brooklyn Center, MN
October 2-6, 2002

Converging upon the beautiful Northwest Athletic Club facility in suburban Minneapolis, 566 players competed in the Ektelon 35th National Doubles. The club's 12 courts saw a lot of impressive doubles action from Wednesday morning through late Sunday afternoon.

When not refereeing (non-winners must referee or forfeit further competition), the indoor pool, cardio and weight rooms, and a great pro shop were available for the use of all participants. The club boasts tennis as well, but funny thing, I didn't see a single racquetball player taking advantage of that particular amenity.

The upside of this year's competition (although we did yearn a bit for Vegas) was that the entire tournament was played in one facility; hotels were 5-10 minutes' drive from the club; and it's only 7 hours' or so drive time from the Chicago area (I heard Bob Croft made it in under 6). You definitely do need transportation since there was no shuttle service provided. I guess that's a way to get to know more people as you're begging rides back and

forth. Next year National Doubles will again be held in Minneapolis. Perhaps the USRA will consider providing shuttles and enhancing their hospitality...

This constructive input notwithstanding, it was a fun and well-run tournament, with plenty of opportunity to watch killer racquetball, renew acquaintances and meet lots of great people.

Illinois players (7 women and 7 men) paired up both with fellow Illinoisans and out-of-state players to form 20 teams in 17 divisions. Each player was allowed to enter up to three divisions (with at least one of the divisions Mixed). Although four fewer Illinois players participated this year than last, Team Illinois brought home 11 medals compared with 7 in 2001!

Included here are the Illinois players and results. (And if you'd like to take a look at the draw sheets for each division, go to the USRA website at

www.usra.org and select Events.)

— Cheryl Kirk

Illinois Divisions Played/Results

** denotes Top Finishers

Men's Open

Ben Croft/James Lockhart (NE)

Women's Open

Cheryl Gudinas/Kristen Walsh (UT): QF
Chris Evon/Terri Graham

Women's B

Cheryl Kirk/Joan Vande Kieft: 1st**

continued on next page



Lynne Weisbart & Rich Clay



Terri Graham & Chris Evon
3rd — Womens 40+



Bob Croft & Joan Vande Kieft
4th — Mixed 50+



*Men's 40+ Silver —
Bill Lyman & Bobby Haab*



*Cheryl Kirk (with partners Vande Kieft & Weisbart)
"I sure can pick 'em!"*

Men's 24-

Ben Croft/Sam Ryder (WI): QF

Women's 35+

Brenda White/Deb Stefandel (IN): QF

Men's 40+

Bill Lyman/Bobby Haab (CT): 2nd**

Rich Clay/Jay Wistoff (AK)

Women's 40+

Chris Evon/Terri Graham: 3rd**

Women's 45+ A/B

Cheryl Kirk/Lynne Weisbart: 2nd**

Women's 50+

Brenda White/Deb Chaney (IN): 1st**

Men's 55+ C/D

Kit Lawson/Mike Mahon: 1st**

Men's 70+

John O'Donnell, Jr./Don Alt (OH): 1st**

Mixed Open

Cheryl Gudinas/Jack Huczek (MI): QF

Mixed B

Lynne Weisbart/Tom Curran (OH): 2nd**

Cheryl Kirk/Mike Mahon: QF

Mixed 35+

Terri Graham/Bill Lyman: 3rd**

Mixed 40+

Chris Evon/Bill Lyman: 2nd**

Mixed 45+

Lynne Weisbart/Tom Curran (OH)

Mixed 50+

Bob Croft/Joan Vande Kieft: 4th**

Open Finals:

Men's Open

Ruben Gonzalez/Mike Guidry def Jack Huczek/Eric Muller, 15-7, 15-10

Women's Open

Jackie Rice/Kim Russell def

Laura Fenton/Rhonda Rajsich, 15-13, 15-11

Mixed Open

Aimee Roehler/Jason Thoerner def Amy Foster/Doug Ganim, 15-9, 15-11



*Kit Lawson & Mike Mahon —
1st Men's 55+ C/D*



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JTI Kicks Off Its Second Season

Celebrating the successes achieved in our first season as "the fastest growing junior racquetball team in the country", JuniorTeamIllinois held its first annual banquet on September 28th, 2002, at the Glen Ellyn Holiday Inn. Commemorating the one-year anniversary of the junior team's founding, many players, parents, coaches and team leaders gathered to reflect on a most memorable twelve months.

The giveaways, the awards, the gift store, the banners, the table settings, the pyrotechnics, the food and the presentations (has Fred Ritschard stopped talking yet?), all helped to create the atmosphere of 'we as one' and 'we have won'. The exploding awards display illuminated the season's accomplishments and startled more than one unsuspecting guest!

The dedicated and passionate players of the 2001-2002 JuniorTeamIllinois became charter members of the first-ever ISRA state junior racquetball team. Each team member received the only such award that will be ever be offered by the team, the "Distinguished Player Medal". This engraved medal recognized the team's



"Junior Team Illinois" Captains for the 2002-2003 Season (left to right): Ben Croft, Brandon Ritschard, Lauren Ritschard, Scott Ness

first 67 members as the "founding players of JuniorTeamIllinois".

Five individual trophies were awarded for excellence displayed in the first season. Each award had several nominees. The winners were:

demonstrated talents in leadership, scholarship, sportsmanship, citizenship and racquetball ability. The Team Captains are Ben Croft, Scott Ness, Brandon Ritschard and Lauren Ritschard. Congratulations!

Three of the junior program's top Advisory Board members received recognition for their leadership. Honored with the team's "Distinguished Coach Award" was TJ Ferro. Bob Croft received the "Director's Award" for innumerable contributions to the team's success. Chuck Snyders, for his leadership, enthusiasm and partnership, was presented the "Founder's Award". And the players of JuniorTeamIllinois presented a framed personalized poem, complete with player autographs, to team founder Fred Ritschard.

Many adults in Illinois have supported this junior program and were recognized for their contributions by being named the first-ever recipients of JuniorTeamIllinois "Distinguished Service Awards". They are Sean Nelson, Mike Davern, Cheryl Kirk, Laurel Davis, Liz Molitor, Bill Lyman, Geoff Peters, Lynne Weisbart, Dave Negrete, Mike Antonoff, Kevin Loy, Chris Novak, Nicki Fazio-Egan, Sue Young, Rick Petricek, Dennis Negrete, Pam Snyders, Jim Egan and Krystal Csuk.

It was a rewarding and heartwarming three hours at the banquet...it's amazing what great kids are capable of! Good Luck & Good Fun in this 2002-2003 season to all of the fabulous kids who make up Junior Team Illinois!

— Fred Ritschard

2002-2003 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- If ads are run for the entire season, **AND** payment is received with the first issue, the sixth ad is **FREE!**
- These rates are in effect until December 30, 2002.
- Ad deadlines are as follows:

Issue Mail Date	Articles/Releases Due	Stuffers/Inserts Due
12/23/02	12/16/02	12/13/02
3/03/03	2/10/03	2/17/03

- All stuffer/inserts are to be received by: Laura Kreiner, 2307 Arrow Street, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110.
- Ad rates:
Full page: \$300/issue. Half page: \$175/issue.
Quarter page: \$100/issue. Other sizes quoted on a case by case basis.
- For any questions or submission:

Cheryl Kirk, 1064 Sylvan Circle, Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 305-8291

Sportsmanship:

Jason Young and Julia Negrete

Citizenship:

Jeff Novak and Lauren Ritschard

Most Improved:

Scott Ness and Meaghan Reilley

Outstanding

Future:

Trevor Snyders and Izzy Vogt

Outstanding

Player:

Ben Croft and Erin Egan

Looking ahead, and kicking off the 2002-2003 Season of JTI Racquetball, Team Captains for the coming year were announced at the banquet. These four outstanding representatives of JuniorTeamIllinois were chosen on the basis of their

JuniorTeamIllinois Racquetball

An Affiliate Program of the Illinois State Racquetball Association (ISRA)

183 N. Newton Avenue
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

thejti@aol.com
(630) 235-8963 Phone
(630) 858-6975 Fax

Membership Enrollment Form

JuniorTeamIllinois invites young Illinois-resident athletes, ages 7-18, to join this premiere state junior racquetball team program. Each team member will receive individual training from experienced and AmPRO-certified coaches, scheduled monthly practices and clinics, age and skill-level competitions, and the opportunity to participate in local, regional, national & international tournaments. The requirement for eligibility to compete in the two major, nationally-known interstate tournaments, the 'Michilli Cup' and the 'Midlands Challenge', is active membership on JuniorTeamIllinois. Each member on the active roster will receive a Team Shirt for the 2002-2003 season. Many of the additional benefits to each team member may be reviewed by discussion with any team official, or by contacting JuniorTeamIllinois directly.

The annual membership fee to join the team is \$50.

To enroll, complete the information requested below and return this form with your membership fee to the address shown above.

Name: _____ Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Street Name/Number: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

D/O/B: _____ Male/Female(circle one) Email: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Shirt Size (adult): XXL XL L M S (circle one) Years Playing Racquetball: _____

WAIVER & RELEASE OF LIABILITY: *I hereby represent that I have the authority and responsibility vested in me, either by virtue of being the natural parent, custodian, guardian, or, other such patron of _____, whereas I can attest and affirm this waiver and release of liability on said minor's behalf, and, thereby duly hold harmless all of the parties, but not limited to said parties, hereinafter named. The aforementioned minor athlete intends to join JuniorTeamIllinois entirely upon his/her own initiative, risk & responsibility. I, therefore, on behalf of the aforementioned minor athlete, myself, and his/her heirs, successors, and assignees, do hereby release and forever discharge JuniorTeamIllinois, the Illinois State Racquetball Association, and/or, the United States Racquetball Association from any and all claims and liabilities. Any, and all, sponsors, directors, officers, coaches, affiliates, agents or others, associated with JuniorTeamIllinois, acting officially or otherwise, are further held harmless from any and all claims and demands and causes of action of whatsoever nature, which I, this minor, or our individual and/or collective successors and assigns may ever have against any of them for any reason. I also realize that it is imperative that the minor athlete referred to herein maintain an active membership in the United States Racquetball Association.*

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

Relationship to Minor: _____

No Frills/Fall Warm-Up Tournament

Landmark Health & Racquet Club, Peoria
October 4-6, 2002

What an interesting weekend! This year's tournament was full of surprises. Friday began with one of our tournament directors, Mike Vicary, calling to inform us that his wife, Lisa, was in labor with their second child. At 11:05 p.m. that evening, Andrew Michael Vicary was born. (*Another little racquetball player for the juniors divisions!*) Congratulations to Lisa, Mike and big sister Allie: we wish them the very best!

This season-opening tournament is gradually growing in numbers each year. Not quite as large as our March Invitational, we are still very pleased with the response we are getting from our own Landmark players and various Central Illinois and Iowa clubs. The players traveling the farthest were from Atlanta, GA and Englewood, CO! We enjoyed having many new faces (that Ottawa crowd is crazy!)

We would like to thank all of our volunteers and staff for their efforts to ensure that we had a successful weekend. And special thanks to our sponsors: RJS Reynolds, Inc., Erlichman Enterprises, Inc., Knell & Kelly, L.L.C., Pepsi/AllSport, Butternut Bread, Penn Racquet Sports, Wilson Racquet Sports, Carl Carter and Dennis Toland. We appreciate your continued support of our programs and value your involvement in helping us

promote the sport of racquetball!

We experienced a lot of good sportsmanship, hard play, and racquetball memories throughout the weekend. There were a lot of smiles, laughs, and good hospitality to make many memories. Thanks to all who participated, and we hope to see you at the **March Invitational (February 28-March 2, 2003)**. (We exceeded our limit last year, so plan on clearing your weekend now and getting your entry in early!)

Tournament Staff: You're the Best!

The following people deserve a big pat on the back for a job well done! You are why our tournaments are AWESOME!

Tournament Directors – Kurt Mankle and Mike Vicary

Control/Check-in Staff – Teresa Plymale, Julie Webber, Sue Malone, Jeff and Sandy Camp, Karen Carter, JoAnn Wickwire, Greta Reynolds, Scott Sutton, Jan Fritsch, and the RB Boys-Scott Moore, R.J. Mercer, Jake and Kyle Sutton

Hospitality/Banquet Services – Beth Hagemann, Melissa Kraft, Teresa Plymale, Jennifer Burke, Kathy Dixon, Liz Williams, Mike Holmes, Monica Jordan, and Lisa Baynard

Bracket Setting – Greg Hasty, Greg Hasty II, Don Gall, Scott Sutton, Pam Schubach

Re-Stringing Services – Brad Goeppinger

All Landmark Staff on duty...maintenance, front desk, kitchen,

babysitting, etc.
& our heroes...the refs!

—Terry Sutton

Results: 1st, 2nd

Men's Open

Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace College); Greg Hasty II (Landmark)

Men's A

Darryl Smith (Dubuque YMCA); Mike Millizer (2 Rivers YMCA-E. Moline)

Men's B

Carlos Rivera (Davenport Athletic Club); Clete Kinsey (Landmark)

Men's C

Brian Lager (Rock Island Fitness Center); Matt Mazza (Bradley University)

Men's 40+ Open/A

Rick Reynolds (Landmark); Greg Hasty, Sr. (Landmark)

Men's 40+ B/C

Stu Kinkade (Landmark); Chris Martin (Landmark)

Men's 50+

Greg Hasty (Landmark); Jim Elliott (Rock Island Fitness Center)

Men's 60+

Don Davis (Landmark); Jon Burnham (Landmark); Al Murry (Bally's-Matteson)

Women's A

Jennifer Bryce (Springfield Racquet & Fitness); Amanda McCormick (Baldwin Wallace College); Vicki Taylor (Landmark)

Women's B

Amanda McCormick (Baldwin Wallace College); Jennifer Bryce (Springfield Racquet & Fitness)

Women's C

Paula Zimmerman (Ottawa YMCA); Kristin Coulter (Ottawa YMCA); Jenni Morgan (Landmark)

Juniors (17 & under)

Travis Hartman (Burlington, IA); Alex Baile (The Edge-Peoria); Scott Moore (Landmark)

Junior (13 & under)

Michael McDowell (Bloomington YMCA); Spencer Graves (Landmark); Dylan Shoemaker (Davenport Athletic); Kyle Sutton (Landmark)

Men's Open Doubles

Andy Hawthorne (OH)/Kurt Mankle (Landmark); Mike Vicary/Bill Gray (Landmark)

Men's A Doubles

Steve Clark/Steve Schroll (Springfield Racquet & Fitness); Mike Schrey/Jeff Rogers (LRS Springfield)

Men's B/C Doubles

Jim Bernal (Landmark)/Larry Boyer (Decatur); Ken Springer/Mike Flaherty (Plum Hollow)

Mixed Doubles

Brad Goeppinger/Pam Schubach (Landmark); Kurt Mankle / Terry Sutton (Landmark)

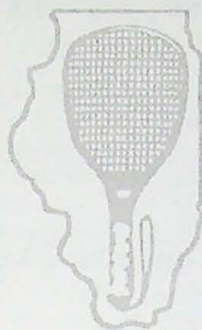
Items of Interest...

❖ **Pam Grace reports that the ISRA Travel League** is up and running! Teams from all over the Chicagoland area began competing the week of October 7. The roster totals 32, with 10 Men's Open teams, 6 Women's Open/A teams, 5 Men's A/B teams and 11 Men's B/C teams participating.

❖ **Congrats to our Illinois players** who excelled at the 2002 IRF 14th World Senior Championships, held in Albuquerque in late August:
Lola Markus, 1st in Women's 70+

Nancy Kronenfeld, 2nd in Women's 50+
Eugene Coyle, 2nd in Men's 35+
Joe Quirke (representing Ireland), 1st in Men's 55+

❖ **Overheard: "Who is that kid?"**
Depicting the spirit of Junior racquetball, the adorable little boy who graced the cover of the ISRA September newsletter is Dylan Reed of Junior Team Oregon. Thanks once again to all who helped bring smiles to the faces of so many kids from all over the US at Junior Nationals!



2002-2003 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar,
please contact Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413
or at Petersgeoff@Hotmail.com

November 9 - 10

The Southlake Fall Open
The Southlake Club, Mundelein
Kathy Logic (847) 949-8180

SANCTIONED + (JTI)

November 14 - 17

The Glass Court Turkey Shoot
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness,
Lombard
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

SANCTIONED

November 20 - 24

The Choice Hotels 7th U.S. Open
The Racquet Club, Memphis, TN
Doug Ganim ((719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

December 18 - 22

IRF 14th World Juniors
Orlando, FL
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED + (JTI)

December 29th

2nd Annual Wilson JTI Holiday Classic
Oak Park Athletic Club
Bill Lyman (708) 848-5200

(JTI) EVENT

January 4 - 5

Juniors New Year's Open
Glass Court Swim and Fitness, Lombard
Char Borre (630) 629-3390

(JTI) EVENT

January 16 - 19

Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic
Chalet City Club, Willow Springs
Anita Efron (708) 474-2440

SANCTIONED + (JTI)

January 24 - 25th

Super Bowl Two Day
B. R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn
Sean Nelson (630) 858-0100

SANCTIONED + (JTI)

February 1st

One Day Doubles Tune-up
The Southlake Club, Mundelein
Kathy Logic (847) 949-8180

SANCTIONED

Jan 31st - Feb 2nd

WSMA 14th Seniors Masters
Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club
Kendra Tutsch (608) 592-2497

SANCTIONED

February 7 - 9th

ISRA State Doubles Championships
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

SANCTIONED

February 14 - 16th

St. Valentine's Day Classic
Athletic Club of Bloomingdale
Dave Negrete (630) 893-9577

SANCTIONED

February 21 - 23rd

8th Annual Palos Olympic Open
Palos Olympic Health and Fitness
Tom Utterback (708) 974-1900

SANCTIONED + (JTI)

Feb 28th - March 2nd

**Wilson 16th U.S. High School
Championships**
St. Louis, MO
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396

(JTI) EVENT

March 7 - 9th

Negrete Open
Athletic Club of Bloomingdale
Dave Negrete (630) 893-9577

SANCTIONED

March 12 - 15th

NMRA Masters National Championships
The Spectrum Club, Canoga Park, CA
Debbie Tisinger (818) 884-5034

SANCTIONED

March 13 - 16th

Shamrock Shootout
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

SANCTIONED

March 21 - 23rd

March Madness
Edens Athletic Club, Chicago
Joe Gill (773) 286-6700

SANCTIONED + (JTI)

March 29-30th

ISRA Junior State Singles & Doubles
Location TBD
check the website:
www.illinoisracquetball.com

(JTI) EVENT

April 3 - 6

ISRA State Singles
Location TBD
Check the website:
www.illinoisracquetball.com

SANCTIONED

April 3 - 6th

**E-Force 31st Intercollegiate
Championships**
Location TBD
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

April 10 - 13th

Ektelon USRA Regional Championships
Location TBD
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

April 19th

USRA Junior Regional Championships
Shelby County Athletic Club, Shelby IN
Cathy McGrath (317) 879-8100

(JTI) EVENT

May 3rd

**The 2nd Annual "Michilli Cup"
Challenge**
Location TBD
Check the website:
www.illinoisracquetball.com

(JTI) EVENT

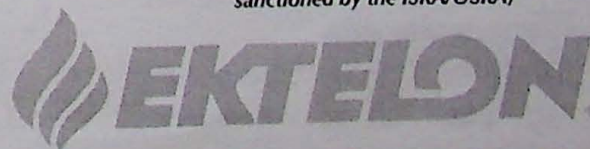
May 21 - 26th

**36th Ektelon USRA National
Championships**
Downtown YMCA, Houston, TX
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

**(JTI) denotes JuniorTeamIllinois
Tour Event (All JTI events are
sanctioned by the ISRA/USRA)**

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Eden's Athletic Club Fall Classic

October 11-13, 2002

Nice weather lingering and summer activities still hanging on, a full tournament draw wasn't expected. But last minute entries and solid participation provided larger-than-normal numbers for this year's Fall Classic, a good sign for our sport.

Ben Croft squeaked out this year's first open singles title with Tom Utterback giving him all he could handle in a tie-breaker final. Ben and his dad Bob also took the open doubles title. All divisions reflected top notch racquetball throughout the weekend.

Players from Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin competed heavily and then enjoyed the excellent hospitality, compliments of tournament sponsors. Assistance from the desk staff, Nicki

Fazio-Egan and Jim Egan, Dan Pepin, and numerous volunteers helped run the tournament smoothly and on time.

Full draws and multi-divisional play kept our JuniorTeamIllinois very busy on Sunday of the tournament. Mike Steinhaus, Angel Khamis, and Trevor Snyders all walked away with first place honors. JTI kids played well over 125 games, many going several matches in a row before refueling at the hospitality tables. (Bet there was no problem getting those kids to sleep that night!) Many parents and volunteers helped things run smoothly. All of our continued support to the Juniors will assure the re-growth of our incredible sport. Check out the results below. See ya on the courts!

— Joe Gill

Results

First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (7)

Ben Croft; Tom Utterback; Jorge Ortiz, Dave Milazzo

Men's A (10)

John Panchisin; John Beaulieu; Joe Gill, Wil Rounsaville

Men's B (9)

Tony Rosselli; John Beaulieu; C.J. Khamis, Will Kazmier

Men's C (12)

Angel Khamis; Rick Falcone; Ed Niemic, Joan Vande Kieft

D Division (6)

Blair Wagner; Chris Snyders; Ken Yahiro, Karen Thurlow

Men's 45+ (4)

Dave Milazzo; Fred Barbara; Marshall Waldo; Bob Webber

Men's Open Doubles (5)

Ben Croft/Bob Croft; Joe Gill/Bob Webber; Wil Rounsaville/Delmer Reed, Fred Barbara/Jim Valenti

Men's B/C Doubles (3)

Greg Tomek/Rick Falcone; Alberto Palacios/Nick Kelly; Geoff Goldblatt/Dick Goldblatt

Junior Boys 10- (6)

Trevor Snyders; Matt Loy; Nick Loy

Junior Boys 12- (5)

Trevor Snyders; Nick Loy; Joey Limonciello

Junior Boys 14- (6)

Angel Khamis; Jeff Novak; Brandon Ritschard

Junior Girls 14- (2)

Lauren Ritschard; Erin Egan

Junior Boys 18- (4)

Mike Steinhaus; Jason Young; Chris Snyders; Michael Davern



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Tournament _____ Representative _____

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



The Avoidable Hinder

By Kurt Mankle – Ampro Certified Instructor

What exactly is an avoidable hinder? Many players don't have an understanding of the avoidable hinder rule. Other players feel that since most of these things are not intentional, they will just play the rally over. Most of the time, at the club on a Saturday morning, the call will be a "hinder and let's play it over"; there's usually mutual agreement between individuals on how the game will be played during pick-up games. But tournament play is a different story. The avoidable hinder call should be enforced and the ref has the ultimate decision on the call. There are 9 possible avoidable hinder calls that are listed in the Racquetball Rulebook:

Failure to Move - A player cannot take away the offensive player's shot straight to the front wall (1) or a cross court shot (2) that would end up in the far back corner, farthest away from the player hitting the ball.

(1) An example of taking away a straight on shot to the wall is when a player dives and hits the ball back at himself. The opponent is standing waiting for the shot, but holds up due to the fact that contacting the ball will inevitably hit the player lying on the ground. In doubles, when the server hits the serve to the side wall his partner is standing against, an avoidable hinder can be called if the partner does not move off the wall. This must be an offensive shot that is being taken away. When the returner has to go to the ceiling instead of driving the ball and hitting his opponent, an avoidable hinder can be called.

(2) An example of taking away the crosscourt pass is when a server puts the ball into a corner and backs up into that particular line. If in judgment, the ref believes the ball would have been a good pass if not hitting the server, an avoidable hinder can be called. Another failure to move avoidable hinder is when the ball is rebounding off the back wall. The offensive player runs into the opponent who has taken up center court. An offensive shot has been taken away from that player. This constitutes an avoidable hinder.

Stroke interference - This occurs when a player moves or fails to move, so his opponent does not have a free swing at the ball. Taking away a player's offensive shot or getting hit on the backswing (or swing before contact), either intentionally or unintentionally, are two examples of stroke interference.

Blocking - Players are not allowed to block other players from getting to or returning balls. In doubles, a player may not move himself in front of an opponent while his partner is taking his shot. This takes away that player's chance to return a ball.

Moving Into The Ball - A player is not allowed to move himself into the flight of the ball and be hit by that ball. First of all, it takes away from the possibility of the opponent scoring on a good shot. Second, it hurts...these are two good reasons why you should not move into the flight of the ball.

Pushing - It is against the rules to deliberately push or shove your opponent during a rally. This usually occurs during a doubles match where two individuals are trying to keep center court position. Remember that planting yourself in center court can be dangerous. In doubles, it is very important to keep your body moving, so you can get the best possible positioning without getting in the way of others. This should not be a sumo match.

Intentional distractions - You may not deliberately shout, stamp your feet, wave your racquet, or in any other manner disrupt your opponent while it is her turn to hit the ball. You may talk to your partner in doubles when it is your turn to take the shot.

View obstruction - When your opponent is about ready to take the shot, you may not run in their line of vision. This is deemed a distraction and can be called an avoidable hinder.

Wetting the Ball - It is the job of the server to insure that the ball is not wet when serving the ball. If they serve the ball when the ball is wet, and it is to the server's advantage (sliding drive serve), an avoidable hinder may be called.

Apparel or Equipment Loss - How many times do you see a player lose his glasses, a shock absorber, or a hat during play? Once a player loses apparel or equipment, play should be stopped and an avoidable hinder should be called. There is an exception to this rule: if the player hits an unretreivable shot, and he then

loses something, the shot will be considered good. If the loss of equipment is caused by an opponent, a dead ball hinder may be called unless the act is considered avoidable.

Many matches are fast paced, and in most instances, the avoidable hinder call is the toughest call to make. It's in your best interest as a player and a ref to have an understanding of what can be called an avoidable hinder. *Remember, it doesn't have to be intentional to be called.*

The National Rules Committee defines its interpretation as follows: "If the shot that was taken away most likely would have ended the rally, then an avoidable hinder should be called." Consider all the elements of the situation (e.g., skill level, players' abilities, singles, doubles, etc.) when deciding if a shot "most likely" would have ended the rally.

A couple of final thoughts:

Having good court sense (where to be on the court) will help everybody in the long run.

And don't whine if you don't get the avoidable call you wanted...make your case quickly and politely, then get back to the game!

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Here's a challenge to all ISRA Members:

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



www.illinoisracquetball.com

Central Illinois Racquetball Tournament Calendar 2002 - 2003 Season

November 8-10, 2002
Fall Open Tournament
Image Health & Fitness, Decatur
Larry Boyer (217) 424-9925

November 15-16, 2002
Bloomington Doubles
Bloomington YMCA
Jeff McDowell
(309) 827-6233

January 4, 2003
One-Day Doubles
Forum Fitness, Rantoul
David Litman

January 10-12, 2003
Springfield Invitational
Springfield Racquet & Fitness
Karin Flowers
(217) 787-2460

January 17-18, 2003
Quad Cities Singles
North Scott Fitness
Dave Herzog (309) 787-7462

January 24-26, 2003
4 Seasons
4 Seasons, Bloomington
Kelly Carter (309) 663-2022

February 1, 2003
Tournament at the Club
Fitness Club, Springfield
Tony Marquez (217) 787-1111

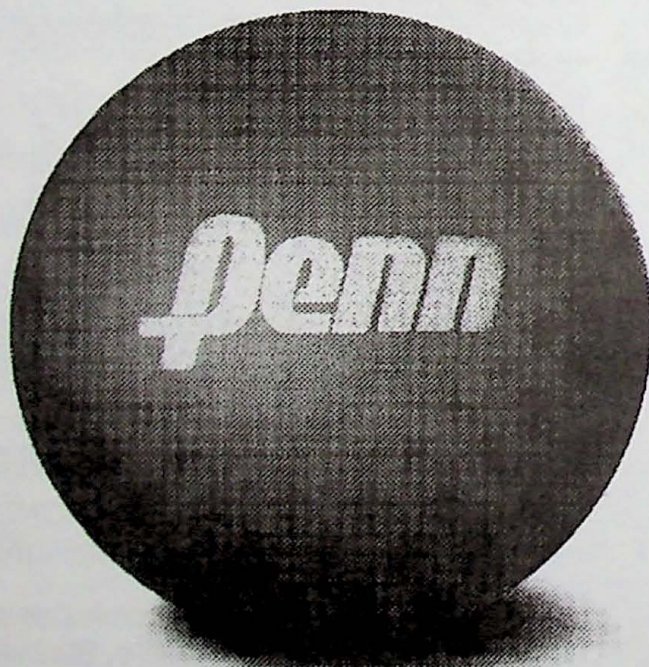
Central Illinois Tournament
Calendar Contact:
LARRY BOYER
(217) 864-4862

February 14-16, 2003
President's Day
Image Health & Fitness, Decatur
Larry Boyer (217) 424-9925

February 28-March 2, 2003
Landmark Invitational
Landmark, Peoria
Terry Sutton
(309) 685-8200

March 16-18, 2003
St. Patty's Open
Springfield Racquet & Fitness
Karin Flowers
(217) 787-2460

March 28-29, 2003
Quad Cities Doubles
North Scott Fitness
Dave Herzog (309) 787-7462



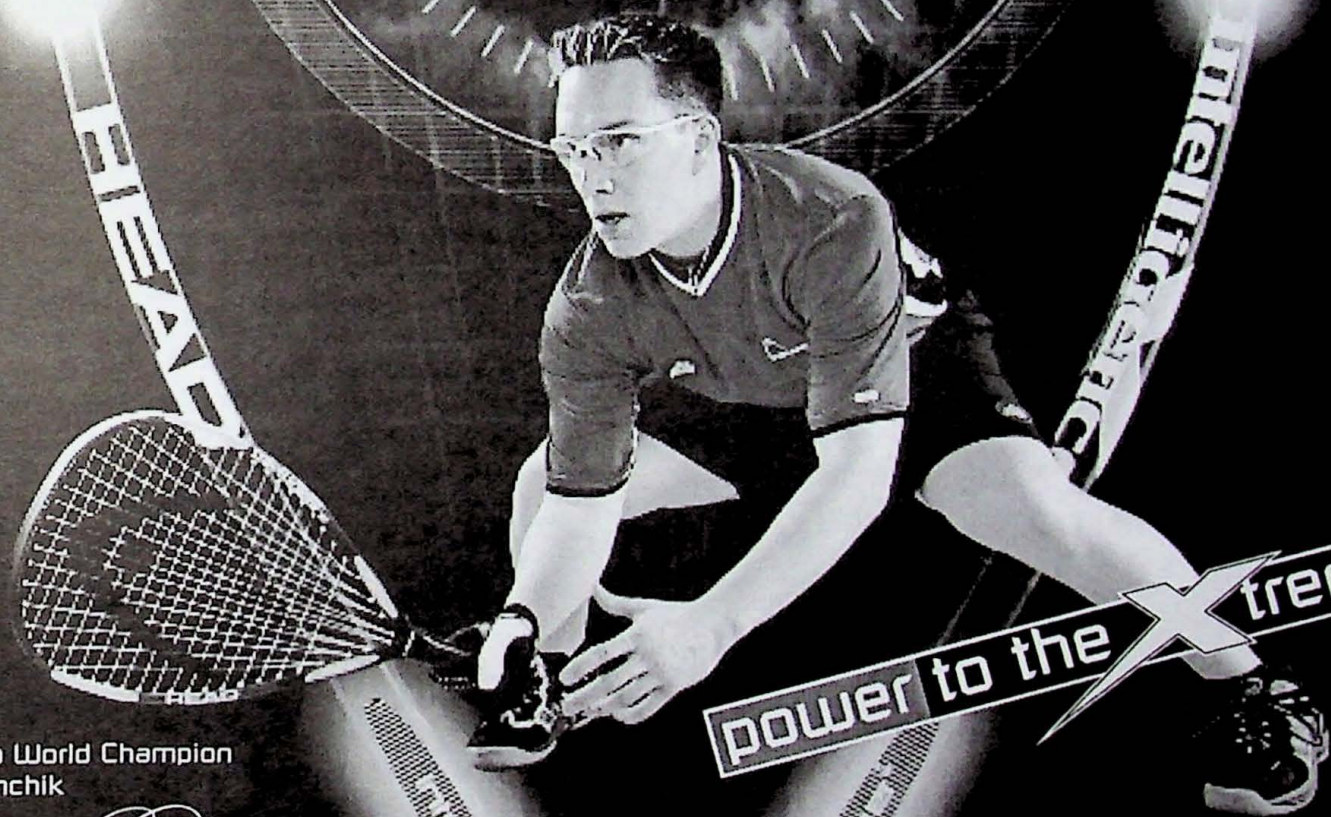
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**Bloomington
Challenge Court**
630-893-9577

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9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
\$6.00

Edens Athletic Club
773-286-6700

Saturday 12-3 p.m.
\$8 for ISRA members
(with membership card)

**Glass Court
Challenge Court**
630-629-3390

Saturday 7 a.m. - Noon
\$6.00

**Landmark Health
& Racquetball**
309-685-8200

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

Oak Park Athletic Club
708-848-5200

Wednesday 4-7
and
Saturday 12-3 p.m.
\$8.00

**Palos Olympic Health
& Racquet Club**

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

Southlake Challenge Court
847-949-8180

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

**Sunset Racquetball
& Fitness Center**
630-232-7867

Geneva, IL
Saturday 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Members: \$2
Non-Members: \$5



To add
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