

RACQUETBALL

IRT SHOWDOWN

PLUS:

- U.S. Open Preview
- Hall of Fame



SPRING 2010 • VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 5

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MISSION STATEMENT

USA Racquetball is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the United States Olympic Committee, and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide the infrastructure and organization for racquetball. We also provide competitive opportunities for members and enthusiasts through our coordination of racquetball organizations, development and administration of rules and programs, sanctioning of events and development of teams for international competition.

VISION STATEMENT

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

Objectives:

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

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HALL OF FAME



U.S. OPEN PREVIEW



IRT

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Racquetball Magazine is a publication of USA Racquetball. Readers are encouraged to submit items of possible interest to Heather Fender at the address listed below or via email (hfender@usra.org). All items submitted are subject to editing by Racquetball Magazine.

Publisher

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By James Hiser, Ph.D.
USAR Executive Director

“The Houston banquet is racquetball’s ‘Oscars,’ providing prestige and honor to many who have contributed so much to our sport.”

A New Era *BEGINS*

A new era begins! Both Houston and Memphis, long-time sites for the sport’s most prestigious events, are moving.

The Finals must find a new venue. What began as simply a competition for the best Open players in the country (age group and others) eventually evolved into the National Championships for all levels of play as well as the one time each year when our sport unites to recognize outstanding achievements and contributions at all levels. The Houston banquet is racquetball’s “Oscars,” providing prestige and honor to many who have contributed so much to our sport.

Although the US Open began 15 years ago, the seeds for its creation were planted over 30 years ago with the Ohio and Michigan Super Seven series of tournaments. Music, elaborate player introductions, and VIP seating were all ideas Doug Ganim and his “Michigan mentor” experimented with in the ‘80’s that were eventually implemented in a more elaborate and grandiose style at the Open.

With the assistance of numerous supporters, especially Randy Stafford, Mac Winkler and the USAR Board of Directors, Doug has developed the event into what it is today.

So what happens now? Can a venue duplicate the Houston environment – great hotel, venue within walking distance, lively parties, and nightly players’ rendezvous in the lounge? Although a new site has not been selected at the time of this magazine’s printing, hopefully we’ll be able to announce the new location at The Finals in Houston.

No question, the US Open host club – The Racquet Club of Memphis – was perfect for the event. Centrally located, great space for the stadium court and players’ village, and strong staff support from the club – we enjoyed all these aspects over these many years. Although it will be difficult to duplicate, Life Time Fitness in Minnesota promises to be a compelling venue as the US Open continues its run.

With change come vision and opportunity and hard work. How can National Singles be improved? Should it be a Grand Slam? Should the portable court be there? What will further enhance the US Open – fewer player venues? Innovative approaches to social events?

Yes, there are many areas to evaluate, and changes are indeed on the way. The coming season will be challenging and incredibly exciting!

photo by Mike Boatman



Board Matters

By Cheryl Kirk,
USAR Board President

The USAR Board of Directors

This issue's space is dedicated to education...recognition...and an invitation. Are you a Board member of the future?

Our by-laws identify us in the following way... "USA Racquetball is a non-profit corporation designed to foster and promote the development of recreational and competitive racquetball in the United States. The Corporation is organized and operated exclusively to foster national and international amateur sport competition... The Corporation offers institutions and individuals, which desire to join in membership for the advancement of racquetball, an opportunity to participate and contribute to that growth."

The by-laws further go on to explain... "The formulation of policy, procedures, and operation for the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors who shall be selected without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, except that because separate male and female programs are conducted, there must be both males and females on the Board."

What are the qualifications for becoming a Board member? You bring something to the table...business experience, skills under a variety of definitions (communications, finance, marketing, non-profit, etc.). You have a passion for racquetball and want to actively work to make it better. You respect and uphold confidentiality; you wish to serve the membership of this organization. You want racquetball to thrive.

How much time is required? The Board of Directors meets twice a year at National Singles and the US Open. Numerous conference calls take place in between, and Board members also serve on at least one (usually more) committees to further racquetball initiatives. Most committees are headed by a Board member.

Who exactly are these Board members? Our current Board roster appears on the USAR website. At our annual meeting on May 25th, two members, Geoff Peters and Ed Remen, will depart and two, Peter McMillin and JoAnna Reyes, will begin three-year terms. Tom Curran begins his second three-year term. Additionally, via the Board's unanimous vote, an appointed two-year position will be occupied by Jan Stelma, club owner and state Board member from North Carolina.

Geoff and Ed have the Board's, staff's and membership's gratitude for their service to USA Racquetball. Their time and expertise have left us better than they found us, and we'll always appreciate what they've done. Peter, JoAnna, and Jan, we look forward to your energy and your willingness to give of yourselves for racquetball.

DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS



Geoff Peters
Treasurer
Executive Committee Member

"Our sport is at an important crossroads, and we have a great opportunity to increase our visibility and participation - and grow racquetball for the future. The key initiatives of your Board are now focused on growth -

working as an umbrella organization on behalf of all of the other racquetball entities (WSMRA, NMRA, IRT, WPRO, WOR, IRF, Police, Firefighters, MRF, etc.) and driving grassroots participation by Juniors, High Schools, Collegiate and Club players with expanded leagues, programming and instruction (like the new USAR Instructors Program).

"Also important in the future will be the USA Racquetball Foundation, a separate 501-C-3 organization that has been developed to solicit capital donations for the future of our sport. This endowment is being set up to utilize investment income/interest only and will maintain our capital donations for the benefit of future generations. Similar endowment funds for schools, museums and other sports such as tennis are major funding catalysts for youth programs and development. You'll be hearing more about the USA Racquetball Foundation in the coming months, and I hope that you will join me in considering a significant bequest to guarantee the future of our great sport."



Ed Remen
Board Member/USAR Hall of Fame

"It has been truly a pleasure and honor to serve on the Board of Directors for the past three years. I can assure everyone that all of the board members are true professionals and work diligently day and night to promote our great sport. It's been a privilege working with them all.

I've been involved in racquetball for almost 40 years and am very confident with our leadership and positive direction of the USAR. I will continue to work for our great sport any way needed. Thanks for this great opportunity."

INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS



Peter McMillin



JoAnna Reyes



Jan Stelma

And so we move forward. USAR members, we're in a new election period as of now. In Spring 2011, an election will take place for three Board seats. Do you have the time, the skills and the passion to serve? If so, you are invited to step forward and explore possibilities. The first step is to review Board election procedures at usaracquetball.com/AbouttheUSAR/Procedures.aspx. Then, give us a call!

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Hall of Famers



Larry Liles

Recognized as the "Father of Collegiate Racquetball," Larry's long-time commitment to collegiate racquetball is legendary. His teams at Memphis State University won 17 National Men's titles and 12 National Women's titles. Larry served as coach of the US National Team from 1998-99 and was named United States Olympic Coach of the Year in 1996.



Bret Harnett

Ranked #2 on the Men's Professional Tour from 1985 thru 1988, Bret won 16 professional events. At 16, he was the youngest player ever to win the USRA Open National Championships. Bret received the designation of Catalina Pro Tour Player of the Year in 1983.



Davey Bledsoe

Davey's career began in 1973 when he won the IRA Intercollegiate Championships in Champaign, IL. The highlight of his professional career was his 1977 upset victory over Marty Hogan. Davey was also a true racquetball ambassador, featured in over 150 television, radio and magazine interviews and articles.

Bledsoe



The Making of a CHAMPION

By Fran Davis and
Diana McNab

In the Winter 2010 issue of the Racquetball, I introduced a new series called "The Making of a Champion," authored by Diana McNab and myself. Diana and I will give you the tools, skills and strategies it takes to become a champion from the inside out.

In the last issue we mentioned four assessments for rating the key areas of your game:

Fitness, Nutrition, Racquetball Skills and Mental Toughness.

The Mental Skills Assessment was included in that article. The other three assessments – Racquetball Skills, Fitness and Nutrition -- were inadvertently omitted...our apologies!

All four assessments appear below. Your scores will help you identify the level of player you are in each area. With this information, you will now know what you need to concentrate on in order to begin the road to "Becoming the Champion" you want to be!

FITNESS ASSESSMENT

In the space next to each question, answer by writing a number from 1 to 5:

1 = ALMOST NEVER • 2 = SELDOM • 3 = SOMETIMES • 4 = OFTEN • 5 = ALMOST ALWAYS

- 1 I LOVE TO FEEL ENERGIZED THROUGHOUT MY ENTIRE MATCH, BUT SOMETIMES I AEROBICALLY RUN OUT OF STEAM AND CAN'T MAKE THE SHOTS THAT I WANT TO.
- 2 MY LEGS ARE STRONG AND POWERFUL AT THE BEGINNING OF MY MATCHES, BUT THEN THEY GET FATIGUED, AND I START TO MAKE ERRORS.
- 3 I HAVE GREAT RECOVERY TECHNIQUES FOR ALL PARTS OF MY BODY, AND I ALWAYS FEEL STRONG FOR THE NEXT DAY'S MATCH.
- 4 I HAVE IMPECCABLE PRE-GAME AND POST-GAME STRETCHING ROUTINES.
- 5 I HAVE A SPECIAL WORKOUT FOR MY ABS AND LOWER BACK SO THAT I AM ALWAYS READY FOR EACH SHOT, MATCH AND TOURNAMENT.
- 6 MY POWER AND SPEED CAN GET ME ANYWHERE ON THE COURT THAT I NEED TO BE DURING MY MATCHES.
- 7 I DO NOT HAVE TROUBLE GETTING TO BALLS IN THE FRONT COURT.
- 8 FROM TRAINING, MY FOOTWORK ALWAYS GETS ME TO WHERE I WANT TO BE TO HIT MY BEST SHOT.
- 9 I TRAIN MY WHOLE BODY FOR RACQUETBALL...MY FOOTWORK, STROKES, POWER, TECHNIQUE, SPEED, AGILITY AND FINESSE... I HAVE NO WEAK SPOTS IN MY PREPARATION AND CONDITIONING.
- 10 I AM ALWAYS SET UP IN THE RIGHT POSITION TO HIT THE PERFECT SHOT.

ADD YOUR TOTAL HERE

Score:

42-50

It looks like your conditioning program is working for you....well done.

34-41

Look for specifics in your training program where you may be lacking...is it strength, aerobic conditioning, flexibility, anaerobic quickness, or pre- or post-match flexibility and stretching?

BELOW 34

You are not in optimum condition to take your racquetball game to higher levels. Focus on a basic conditioning program.

NUTRITION ASSESSMENT

In the space next to each question, answer by writing a number from 1 to 5:

1 = ALMOST NEVER • 2 = SELDOM • 3 = SOMETIMES • 4 = OFTEN • 5 = ALMOST ALWAYS

- 1 DRINK AT LEAST 6-8 GLASSES (60 - 70 OUNCES) OF WATER EVERY DAY.
- 2 I EAT ONE FRESH GREEN SALAD EVERY DAY.
- 3 I DRINK LESS THAN 350 MG. OF CAFFEINE EACH DAY (1 CUP OF COFFEE IS 150 MG. OF CAFFEINE).
- 4 I EAT LESS THAN THREE FAST FOOD MEALS PER WEEK.
- 5 I AM CURRENTLY PLAYING AT MY IDEAL WEIGHT AND MY IDEAL PERCENTAGE OF BODY FAT.
- 6 I ALWAYS EAT A PROTEIN/CARBOHYDRATE MEAL 90 MINUTES AFTER A MATCH OR WORKOUT TO REPLENISH MY MUSCLE GLYCOGEN STORES.
- 7 I AM TOTALLY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT I EAT 24 HOURS BEFORE MY MATCH, AND I EAT MY PRE-GAME MEAL 2-4 HOURS BEFORE I PLAY.
- 8 I NEVER DRINK ALCOHOL OR EAT TOO MANY FATS OR SUGARS THE NIGHT BEFORE MY MATCH.
- 9 I NEVER GET LEG OR MUSCLE CRAMPS AS I KNOW HOW TO HYDRATE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER MATCHES.
- 10 I HAVE LEARNED HOW TO SNACK EVERY THREE HOURS AND SIT DOWN AND EAT A REAL MEAL AT LEAST EVERY FIVE HOURS.

ADD YOUR TOTAL HERE

Score:

42-50

Nutritionally Tough! You are eating well balanced meals in order to perform your best.

34-41

Your nutritional practices need some improving! You are lacking in the quality of your food and drink choices. You are not getting the nutrients you need to perform at your best.

BELOW 34

Red Alert! You are not getting what your mind and body need for peak performance.

MENTAL TOUGHNESS

In the space next to each question, answer by writing a number from 1 to 5:

1 = ALMOST NEVER • 2 = SELDOM • 3 = SOMETIMES • 4 = OFTEN • 5 = ALMOST ALWAYS

- 1 MY ON-COURT BODY IMAGE IS ALWAYS STRONG AND CONFIDENT REGARDLESS OF THE SCORE OR SITUATION.
- 2 THE "LITTLE VOICE" INSIDE MY HEAD IS ALWAYS POSITIVE AND CONFIDENT NO MATTER WHAT IS GOING ON DURING THE GAME.
- 3 I CAN STAY FOCUSED, CENTERED AND FULLY "IN THE MOMENT" DURING EACH AND EVERY POINT.
- 4 I DO NOT COMPLAIN OR MAKE EXCUSES IF I GET A BAD CALL OR IF THINGS GO POORLY DURING MY GAME.
- 5 I HAVE SPECIAL ON-COURT RITUALS THAT I DO TO GET MYSELF BACK INTO THE GAME AND BEFORE CERTAIN SERVES, SHOTS, ETC.
- 6 I AM EASILY COACHABLE, AND MY COACHES THINK THAT I LISTEN AND HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
- 7 I PRACTICE AS HARD AS I PLAY.
- 8 I ALWAYS GIVE MY BEST EFFORT REGARDLESS OF THE SCORE, AND I NEVER QUIT ON MYSELF.
- 9 WHEN I AM BEHIND, I THINK ONE POINT AT A TIME AND PLAY HIGH PERCENTAGE RACQUETBALL.
- 10 I LOVE COMPETITION....WIN OR LOSE! I LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES AND REMEMBER MY SUCCESSSES.

ADD YOUR TOTAL HERE

Score:

42-50

Mentally Tough!

34-41

Need Work!

BELOW 34

Red Alert!

RACQUETBALL SKILLS

In the space next to each question, answer by writing a number from 1 to 5:

1 = ALMOST NEVER • 2 = SELDOM • 3 = SOMETIMES • 4 = OFTEN • 5 = ALMOST ALWAYS

- 1 MY DOWN-THE-LINE PASSES ARE CLEAN WINNERS AND DO NOT TOUCH THE SIDEWALL AT ANY TIME.
- 2 MY CEILING BALL HITS THE CEILING APPROXIMATELY 5-7 FEET BACK AND BOUNCES PERFECTLY ON ITS SECOND BOUNCE IN THE CROTCH OF THE BACK WALL.
- 3 MY DRIVE SERVE ENDS UP WITH THE BALL BOUNCING ON ITS FIRST BOUNCE BETWEEN THE SHORT LINE AND THE DOTTED LINE AND ON ITS SECOND BOUNCE IN EITHER CORNER, NOT COMING OFF THE BACK WALL.
- 4 MY CENTER COURT POSITION IS BETWEEN THE DOTTED LINE AND SIX FEET BACK AND I AM IN THE DOWN AND READY POSITION WITH LEGS A LITTLE WIDER THAN SHOULDER WIDTH APART AND ON THE BALLS OF MY FEET, READY TO MOVE. I GET TO A MAJORITY OF THE BALLS AND VERY RARELY AM I PASSED BECAUSE OF MY COURT POSITION. I AM ALWAYS WATCHING THE BALL.
- 5 ON MY RETURN OF SERVE, I PREDOMINANTLY THINK "PASS AND CEILING" TO GET THE SERVER OUT OF THE MIDDLE SO I CAN GET BACK TO CENTER COURT AND REGAIN CONTROL.
- 6 MY SHOT SELECTION IS BASIC...I HIT WHERE MY OPPONENT IS NOT. I DETERMINE SHOT SELECTION BASED ON MY POSITION, THE BALL POSITION, MY OPPONENT'S POSITION AND THE SCORE, NOT ON WHAT I LIKE OR WHAT FEELS GOOD.
- 7 MY FOOTWORK GETTING TO THE BALL ON THE RETURN OF SERVE OR DURING A RALLY GENERALLY IS A PIVOT, OR A SHORT STEP, AND THEN A CROSSOVER STEP. WHEN I HAVE TIME, I DO NOT SHUFFLE TO THE BALL AND HIT OPEN STANCE.
- 8 MY BASIC LOB SERVE IS EFFECTIVE BECAUSE IT BOUNCES BETWEEN THE SHORT LINE AND THE DOTTED LINE ON ITS FIRST BOUNCE AND ENDS UP ON ITS SECOND BOUNCE IN EITHER BACK CORNER AND IS NOT PLAYABLE OFF THE BACK WALL.
- 9 WHEN I HAVE A LEAD, I AM ABLE TO FINISH GAMES QUICKLY. WHEN I AM BEHIND, I THINK ONE POINT AT A TIME AND PLAY HIGH PERCENTAGE RACQUETBALL.
- 10 I USE THE TEN-SECOND RULE EFFECTIVELY TO SLOW DOWN MY OPPONENTS WHEN THEY ARE SERVING OR WHEN I AM SERVING AND THEY GET READY TO SERVE TOO QUICKLY.

ADD YOUR TOTAL HERE

Score:

45-50

Open

40-44

A

35-39

B

30-34

C

25-29

D

20-24

beginner

BELOW 20

no experience -
raw beginner

Here are a few examples of the coming topics Diana and I will discuss that will help you in building your championship game.

- f Relaxation Skills, Affirmations, Cue Words
- g Psyching-Up or Psyching-Out

1 RACQUETBALL SKILLS

- a Percentage Shot Selection
- b Smart Court Position
- c Game Plans
- d Strategies
- e Training Schedules
- f Serve/Relocation
- g Service Return
- h Service Strategy

2 MENTAL SKILLS

- a The Art of Visualization
- b Pre-Game Psyche Plan
- c Focus, Concentration and Getting into the Zone
- d On-Court Mental Toughness Skills and Strategies
- e Choking, Slumps and Fear of Failure

3 FITNESS

- a My Personal Body Type
- b Cardiovascular Conditioning for Racquetball
- c Strength Training for Speed and Power
- d Plyometrics / Balance / Quickness
- e Sports Yoga and Flexibility
- f Warm-up and Cool-down
- g On-Court Conditioning

4 NUTRITION

- a Dehydration and Performance
- b The New Sports Nutrition Triangle
- c Sport Specific Diets
- d Pre-Game Meals and Tournament Eating
- e Road Trips and Snacking
- f Sugar / Fats / Salts ...Toxins
- g Cramping / Dizzy & Light Headed
- h The Effects of Sleep on Performance

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction. Or, buy my video if you can't attend a camp at this time. My racquetball book and on-line coaching program will be released Fall 2010. For details go to FranDavisRacquetball.com.

FRAN DAVIS coaches Jason Mannino (#4 IRT Pro Player) and Paola Longoria (#1 WPRO Pro Player). She is one of the Master Instructors of the new USA Racquetball Instructor Program.

DIANA MCNAB is a renowned sports psychologist who has worked with many Olympic and professional athletes such as two-time Olympian and X-Games Half Pipe Snowboarding Champion Gretchen Bleiler, three-time Canadian Olympic Team Skier Emily Brydon as well as NHL hockey players and other elite athletes in many sports.

by Connie Martin



Who Are Your **FIVE FAVES** Promotion

Promote your Club

Your best promoters of the club are those who are already (your happy) members. What better way to promote the club than getting a list of their friends and co-workers to join? You could offer your racquetball members' friends a chance to try the club out, take some free racquetball lessons and perhaps become members. (Yes, that is the primary goal!)

Flyer to your Racquetball Members

Give all your racquetball members a "Who are your 5 Faves" flyer (can be produced in color or in black and white). Hand out these flyers during league play, challenge court, open play or while the players are just hanging around having a beer. You can send them an eNewsletter (you do have a list of your members' email addresses, don't you?).

Hand out the Passes

Once they fill in the "5 Faves" flyer and return it to you (or your membership director) they can get their five passes to give to their friends. Include restrictions on the card such

as first-time visitor or first-time visitor within the last year, age, etc.

Once the guest member brings the

of their mini-membership...perhaps 50% off the joining fees or a free months' dues. Use your imagination...

The Racquetball Director should also follow up with upcoming lessons and programs these individuals may be interested in. If they join, they will be added to the Active Members Email List. However, if they choose not to join at this time, do be sure to keep them on the Potential Members Email List so you can keep them updated on upcoming racquetball programs.

End Result? More members, and you keep your racquetball director and your courts!

USAR Hall of Fame member Connie Martin is the Program Director at Cascade Athletic Clubs in Gresham, Oregon. She is also on staff for USA Racquetball University. Look for monthly articles and tips at <http://www.usra.org/RacquetballUniversity.aspx>. If you have any ideas you would like to share, please contact Connie at Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com.



card in, he or she can fill out a mini-membership form, receive a tour if needed and get signed up for free lessons. Provide them with any club rules and regulations they'll need to know.

Follow Up

The near-term goal is to show them what the game is all about...the ultimate long-term goal is to get them to join the club. Offer a Membership Special if they join within two weeks



by *Otto Dietrich*
USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

The STANDARDS

"... check with the tour commissioner for any more recent changes before tackling the duties of reffing their matches."

The U.S. Open always brings together the top players from various sanctioning bodies from across the racquetball world, specifically USAR, the IRT (men pro's), and the WPRO (women pro's). With so many players entering events sanctioned by more than one of these organizations, the rule differences may confuse some spectators as well as a few of the players themselves. For the most part, the aforementioned pro organizations play by the same rules set forth in the USA Racquetball Rulebook for amateurs and then merely identify their own exceptions. Here are the major ones:

Winning Games and Matches: A standard USAR match is best two of three games to 15 points with that third game, if necessary, being played to just 11. The first player to reach the designated score wins. The IRT and WPRO play best three out of five games to 11 points for the match, but, in each game, a two-point lead is needed at 11 points or else that game goes on until there is a two-point lead.

Readiness and Screen Serves: Unlike USAR and the WPRO, the IRT replays, without penalty, every screen serve and every serve made when the receiver is not ready.

Serves: USAR currently allows the server two serves to put the ball into play in all divisions except "Open." Just like USAR's Open division, both the IRT and WPRO allow their players only one serve.

Court Hinders: USAR replays any that affect the rally, but the IRT and the WPRO call for generally ignoring them as if they did not happen at all and just playing the ball no matter how it bounces. In the IRT, the court hinder exception is a wet ball hinder on the serve if it happens on the first surface that the ball touches after the front wall, e.g. it hits the floor or the side wall and then slides due to wetness. If the ball hits the floor cleanly and then the ball slides on a wet sidewall, then it is in play. The WPRO makes an exception for the ball striking any foreign object on the court such as a microphone or speaker used for production.

Appeals: Line judges may be used in both USAR and WPRO matches, but the IRT referee is on his own and his call is final except in some Grand Slam events. Furthermore, the WPRO allows only three appeals (win or lose) plus one more on the game-ending rally, whereas an appeal can be made, but not used, under USAR rules if one line judge disagrees with the referee's call.

New Balls: In the IRT and WPRO, games 1, 3, and 5 must be played with a new ball. USAR requires a new ball only if needed.

Eyeguards: Required by all three organizations, but the IRT allows players to warm-up without them.

Carries: Allowed in the IRT, but in USAR and the WPRO, a loss of rally results.

Times Allowed:

Between Rallies	USAR and WPRO – basically 10 seconds to serve IRT – basically 15 seconds to serve
Per Game	USAR – three 30-second timeouts, but two (2) in the tiebreaker IRT – one 1-minute timeout in all games WPRO – two 45-second timeouts in all games
Between Games	USAR – 2 minutes and 5 minutes (games 2 and 3) IRT – 2 minutes between all games WPRO – 1½ minutes and 2½ minutes (games 4 and 5)
Equipment Timeouts	USAR and WPRO – must first use all regular timeouts WPRO – do not have to use regular timeouts first
Injury Timeouts	USAR and WPRO – 15 minutes taken in any increment IRT – two 7½ minutes timeouts per match—use or lose
Forfeit Time	USAR and WPRO – 10 minutes IRT – 15 minutes

In addition to those I've listed above, there are a few other differences that really do not affect the game itself. Since the rules of both the IRT and the WPRO tend to evolve more rapidly than USAR's, be sure to check with the tour commissioner for any more recent changes before tackling the duties of reffing their matches.

Always "Play by the Rules" and, if you don't have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them on-line at <http://usra.org/Rulebook.aspx>.

Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org and not only will I answer it, but you just might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball.



23rd National High School Championships

Photos by Cleve Friedman

Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland, OR
February 24-28, 2010

The Stats

Number of players – 320
Number of teams – 50
Number of matches – 867
Female players – 106
Male players – 214
Players in two divisions – 153
Players in three divisions – 103

The Results

Appointed to the US Junior Team –
Amanda Lindsay and Marco Rojas.
Way to go!

See full results with this article.

The Players – Outstanding Effort

Boys – Rick Charbonneau and Dylan Reid both took Marco Rojas (the favorite and #1 seed) to tiebreakers.
Girls – Amanda Lindsay upset heavy favorite #1 seed Devon Pimentelli in two straight games.

The Volunteers and Organizers

The event couldn't have happened without:

Ariana White – “organizer” mother to all players and overall go-getter. Ariana was there at 7am and out at 12 midnight every day of the event.

Over 100 volunteers, from monitors to food distribution, the Oregon volunteers are at the top!

Hank Marcus – club pro and assisted with all club arrangements. Great efforts in making sure all tournament needs were fulfilled.

Dan Whitley (Chairperson) and the entire High School Committee worked tirelessly to make this event the highlight of the year for High School athletes.

Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Bruce Reid of Lincoln High School in Portland, Oregon!



JOSE ROJAS GIVES A DEMO



JIM HISER WITH AMANDA LINDSAY



MARCO ROJAS

2010 USAR NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

TEAM (a)	BOYS	GIRLS
High School, City, Points(b)	High School, City, Points	High School, City, Points
1. Beaverton HS Beaverton, OR 5,089	1. Beaverton HS Beaverton, OR 2,445	1. Beaverton HS Beaverton, OR 2,125
2. Sprague HS Salem, OR 4,423	2. Sprague HS Salem, OR 2,016	2. Sprague HS Salem, OR 1,874
3. Oregon City HS Oregon City, OR 3,540	3. Oregon City HS Oregon City, OR 1,897	3. Southridge HS Beaverton, OR 1,620
4. Southridge HS Beaverton, OR 3,210	4. Franklin HS (CA) Stockton, CA 1,866	4. Cor Jesu Academy St. Louis, MO 1,470
5. Parkway West HS St. Louis, MO 2,836	5. Lincoln HS Portland, OR 1,573	5. Parkway West HS St. Louis, MO 1,446
6. Lincoln HS Portland, OR 2,574	6. St. Louis University HS St. Louis, MO 1,504	6. Oregon City HS Oregon City, OR 1,105
7. Kirkwood HS St. Louis, MO 1,600	7. Southridge HS Beaverton, OR 1,288	7. Marlborough HS Marlborough, MA 995
8. Central Catholic HS Portland, OR 1,526	8. Parkway West HS St. Louis, MO 1,192	8. Lincoln HS Portland, OR 628
9. Salem Academy Salem, OR 1,123	9. Salem Academy Salem, OR 1,041	9. Kirkwood HS St. Louis, MO 609
10. Sandy HS Sandy, OR 951	10. Kirkwood HS St. Louis, MO 817	10. Sunset HS Portland, OR 545
11. Sunset HS Portland, OR 787	11. Central Catholic HS Portland, OR 682	11. Central Catholic HS Portland, OR 509
12. Gresham HS Gresham, OR 538	12. Rex Putnam HS Milwaukie, OR 568	12. Capuchino HS San Bruno, CA 475
13. Centennial HS Gresham, OR 403	13. Sandy HS Sandy, OR 525	13. Gresham HS Gresham, OR 361
14. Artesia HS Artesia, NM 197	14. Saugus HS Santa Clarita, CA 275	14. Sandy HS Sandy, OR 351
15. Clackamas HS Clackamas, OR 93	15. McCluer North HS St. Louis, MO 225	15. Volcano Vista HS Albuquerque, NM 275
16. Centennial HS Gresham, OR 209		16. Cibola HS Albuquerque, NM 274
17. Catlin Gabel HS Portland, OR 167		17. Centennial HS Gresham, OR 194
18. Artesia HS Artesia, NM 147		18. Visitation Academy St. Louis, MO 175
19. Sunset HS Portland, OR 138		19. St. Joseph's Academy St. Louis, MO 125
20. Capital HS Boise, ID 125		19. Wasatch Academy Mount Pleasant, UT 125
20. Casa Grande HS Petaluma, CA 125		21. Robertson HS Las Vegas, NM 100
22. Clackamas HS Clackamas, OR 93		22. Franklin HS (OR) Portland, OR 90
23. Vallivue HS Caldwell, ID 88		23. Salem Academy Salem, OR 83
24. Gresham HS Gresham, OR 78		24. Cottonwood HS Salt Lake City, UT 50
25. Tualatin HS Tualatin, OR 63		25. Artesia HS Artesia, NM -
26. Great Falls HS Great Falls, MT 50		25. Clackamas HS Clackamas, OR -
26. Kearns HS West Jordan, UT 50		
26. Rockford Iqra School Rockford, IL 50		
26. Skyline HS Salt Lake City, UT 50		
30. Anchorage HS Anchorage, AK 40		
31. Los Alamos HS Los Alamos, NM 20		
31. Newberg HS Newberg, OR 20		
31. Waterford School Sandy, UT 20		
34. Madison HS San Diego, CA -		
34. Placitas HS Placitas, NM -		
34. St. Pius HS Albuquerque, NM -		

(a) Schools must have boy and girl entries to compete in the Team championship.

(b) Team points equal the sum of boys points, girls points and mixed doubles points.



SOUTHRIDGE GIRLS 3RD PLACE



BEAVERTON TEAM - 1ST PLACE



SPRAGUE TEAM - 2ND PLACE



ARIANA WHITE AND BRUCE REID



OREGON CITY BOYS - 3RD PLACE

Results *23rd National High School Championships*

Boy's High School Singles #1 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Marco Rojas - Franklin High School, Stockton, CA
- 2nd: Dylan Reid - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
- 3rd: Joshua Hungerford - Rex Putnam, Milwaukie, OR
- 4th: Michael Shearman - Parkway West, Manchester, MO

Boy's High School Singles #1 Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: David Bogosian - Saugus High School, Santa Clarita, CA
- 2nd: Drew Mueller - McCluer North High School, Florissant, MO
- 3rd: Mark Kissel - St. Louis University High School, Collinsville, IL
- 4th: Ryan Schoonmaker - Sprague, Salem, OR

Boy's High School Singles #1 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Coby Arff - Capital High School, Boise, ID
- 2nd: Micah Hoffman - Sandy High, Sandy, OR
- 3rd: Alex Purcell - Valleyview High School, Caldwell, ID
- 4th: Rohan Borkar - Catlin Gabel, Portland, OR

Boy's High School Singles #1 White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Peter Wrigley - Kearns High, West Jordan, UT
- 2nd: Jasper Jackson - Home Schooled, Anchorage, AK
- 3rd: Ryan Lile - Gresham, Gresham, OR
- 4th: Brian Weber - Sunset High School, Portland, OR

Boy's High School Singles #2 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Jose Diaz - Franklin High School, Stockton, CA
- 2nd: Sam Reid - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
- 3rd: Ryan Charbonneau - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR
- 4th: Joey Pryor - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR

Boy's High School Singles #2 Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Paul Nkemontoh - Southridge, Beaverton, OR
- 2nd: Logan Hershenow - Parkway West, Town and Country, MO
- 3rd: Matt Gillette - Sprague, Salem, OR
- 4th: Joshua Lebow - Salem Academy, Salem, OR

Boy's High School Singles #2 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Jacob Newberry - Sandy High, Sandy, OR
- 2nd: Brendan Giljum - St. Louis University High School, St. Louis, MO
- 3rd: Denis O'Grady - Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO
- 4th: Matthew Zimmer - Sunset High School, Portland, OR

Boy's High School Singles #2 White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Coty Sharer - Tualatin, Tigard, OR
- 2nd: Henry Rodriguez III - Artesia High School, Artesia, NM
- 3rd: Matthew Trisic - Catlin Gabel, Portland, OR
- 4th: Nathan Hatcher - Newberg High, Newberg, OR

Boy's High School Singles #3 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Alex Guzman - Franklin High School, Stockton, CA
- 2nd: Connor Laffey - Sprague, Salem, OR
- 3rd: John Lindsay - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR
- 4th: Ryan Swenson - Salem Academy, Salem, OR

Boy's High School Singles #3 Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Josh Pryor - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
- 2nd: Matt Hencken - St. Louis University High School, St. Louis, MO
- 3rd: Andrew Hess - Kirkwood, St. Louis, MO
- 4th: Tom Lounsbury - Parkway West, Chesterfield, MO

Boy's High School Singles #3 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Roman Lopez - Artesia High School, Artesia, NM
- 2nd: Kevin Funkhouser - Southridge, Beaverton, OR
- 3rd: Tim Devlin - Central Catholic, Portland, OR
- 4th: Evan Czopek - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR

Boy's High School Singles #3 White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Zachery Britt - Sandy High, Sandy, OR
- 2nd: Taylor Norris - Centennial, Portland, OR
- 3rd: Tony Twyman - Sunset High School, Portland, OR
- 4th: William Crawford - Gresham, Gresham, OR

Boy's High School Singles #4 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Ryan Erickson - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR
- 2nd: Ethan Nicholas - Sprague, Salem, OR
- 3rd: Joe Ebel - St. Louis University High School, Fenton, MO
- 4th: Jack Lawrence - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR

Boy's High School Singles #4 Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Stephen Finney - Southridge, Tigard, OR
- 2nd: Patrick Day - Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO
- 3rd: Sangjae Park - Salem Academy, Dallas, OR
- 4th: Reid Johnson - Parkway West, Chesterfield, MO

Boy's High School Singles #4 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Ollie Kunz - Central Catholic, Portland, OR
- 2nd: Benjamin Knephoff - Sandy High, Sandy, OR
- 3rd: Harris Rosendahl - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
- 4th: Jeff Ottman - Centennial, Gresham, OR

Boy's High School Singles #5 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Joshua Heater - Sprague, Salem, OR
- 2nd: Toma Matisoff - Southridge, Beaverton, OR
- 3rd: Andrew Monger - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
- 4th: Joseph Murray - St. Louis University High School, St. Louis, MO

Boy's High School Singles #5 Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Ryan Bierman - Parkway West, Chesterfield, MO
- 2nd: John Rumble - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR
- 3rd: Mike Dyer - Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO
- 4th: Chip Locke - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR

Boy's High School Singles #5 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Joe Devlin - Central Catholic, Portland, OR
- 2nd: Hideki Sato - Salem Academy, Salem, OR
- 3rd: Nick Burt - Sandy High, Boring, OR
- 4th: Tyler Eveson - Sunset High School, Portland, OR

Boy's High School Singles #6 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Andrew Pryor - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
- 2nd: Jonathan Friedman - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
- 3rd: Joe Koch - St. Louis University High School, St. Louis, MO
- 4th: Jeff Reintjes - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR

Boy's High School Singles #6 Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Austin Baker - Sprague, Salem, OR
- 2nd: Clayton Mosby - Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO
- 3rd: Aden Petersen - Sprague, Salem, OR
- 4th: Blake Ashford - Sprague, Salem, OR

Boy's High School Singles #6 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Carson Smith - Beaverton, Portland, OR
- 2nd: Nicholas Smith - Beaverton, Portland, OR
- 3rd: Erik Gregory - Southridge, Beaverton, OR
- 4th: Austin Wise - Central Catholic, Portland, OR

Boy's High School Singles #6 White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Carson Morford - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
- 2nd: Cameron Gray - Centennial, Portland, OR
- 3rd: Derek Rhodehamel - Sunset High School, Portland, OR
- 4th: Jimmy Gaitner - Sandy High, Sandy, OR

Girl's High School Singles #1 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Amanda Lindsay - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR
- 2nd: Devon Pimentelli - Capuccino High School, San Bruno, CA
- 3rd: Courtney Chisholm - Marlborough, Marlborough, MA
- 4th: Kaitlin Inglesby - Central Catholic, Portland, OR

Girl's High School Singles #1 Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Mariana Borunda - Volcano Vista, Albuquerque, NM
- 2nd: Rachel Creel - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
- 3rd: Allyson Schaefer - Sandy High, Boring, OR
- 4th: Ashleigh Connor - Visitation, St. Louis, MO

Girl's High School Singles #1 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Alexandra Duran - Cibola, Albuquerque, NM
- 2nd: Bryanna Salas - West Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NM
- 3rd: Caley Hubert - Gresham, Gresham, OR
- 4th: Lilly Hailey - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR

Girl's High School Singles #1 White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Teal Laroque - Cottonwood High, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2nd: Erika Schmidt - Franklin, Portland, OR
- 3rd: Katherine Ege - Centennial, Fairview, OR
- 4th: Hannah Naas - Salem Academy, Salem, OR

Girl's High School Singles #2 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Tanya Ulloa - Sprague, Salem, OR
- 2nd: Kristen Kenck - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
- 3rd: Augusta Herman - Southridge, Tigard, OR
- 4th: Tara Twyman - Parkway West, Creve Coeur, MO

Girl's High School Singles #2 Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Katherine Rushing - Cor Jesu, Manchester, MO
- 2nd: Katie Strickland - Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO
- 3rd: Kayla Pereira - Marlborough, Marlboro, MA
- 4th: Toni Duran - Riverpoint, Albuquerque, NM

Girl's High School Singles #2 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Alex Hailey - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
- 2nd: Courtney Ellis - Gresham, Gresham, OR
- 3rd: Sarah Hedden - Sandy High, Boring, OR
- 4th: Taylor Oster - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR

Girl's High School Singles #2 White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Courtney Inkenbrandt - Cascade Athletic Club, Unknown, OR
- 2nd: Julie Augustine - Central Catholic, Portland, OR
- 3rd: Miranda Baker - Sunset High School, Portland, OR
- 4th: Ginny Guo - Salem Academy, Salem, OR

Girl's High School Singles #3 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Sarah Lewis - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
- 2nd: Emily Bueltmann - Parkway West, Ballwin, MO
- 3rd: Patricia Billete - Southridge, Tigard, OR
- 4th: Meghan Foster - Sprague, Salem, OR

Girl's High School Singles #3 Blue - Olympic Format

- 1st: Liz Henquinet - Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO
- 2nd: Cate Lucas - Cor Jesu, St. Louis, MO
- 3rd: Erica Lipski - Sunset High School, Portland, OR
- 4th: Renee Charbonneau - Oregon City, Oregon City, OR

Girl's High School Singles #3 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Brianna Patterson - Gresham, Gresham, OR
- 2nd: Riley Wimminger - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
- 3rd: Iris Sobotke - Cascade Athletic Club, Portland, OR
- 4th: Thao Pham - Salem Academy, Salem, OR

Girl's High School Singles #3 White - Olympic Format

- 1st: Camille Hansen - Sandy High, Sandy, OR
- 2nd: Molly Jacobs - Central Catholic, Portland, OR

Girl's High School Singles #4 Gold - Olympic Format

- 1st: Ariana Guilak - Southridge, Beaverton, OR
- 2nd: Eleni Walters - Cor Jesu, St. Louis, MO
- 3rd: Stephanie Herschbach - Sprague, Salem, OR
- 4th: Angela Xi - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR

Girl's High School Singles #4 Red - Olympic Format

- 1st: Sumera Javed - Parkway West, Town and Country, MO
- 2nd: Lacey Butler - Centennial, Portland, OR
- 3rd: Hayley Gutzler - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
- 4th: Jenah Hansen - Sandy High, Sandy, OR

**Girl's High School Singles #4 White -
Olympic Format**

- 1st: Hayley Karkkainen - Gresham, Gresham, OR
2nd: Melanie Ryan - Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO

**Girl's High School Singles #5 Gold -
Olympic Format**

- 1st: Kathy Mustain - Parkway West, Manchester, MO
2nd: Sarah Kingstad - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
3rd: Amanda Ronshausen - Cor Jesu, St. Louis, MO
4th: Brittany Bunselmeyer - Sprague, Salem, OR

**Girl's High School Singles #5 Red -
Olympic Format**

- 1st: Kelsey Crouch - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
2nd: Macy Herman - Southridge, Tigard, OR

**Girl's High School Singles #6 Gold -
Olympic Format**

- 1st: Colleen Manning - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
2nd: Claire Moore - Cor Jesu, St. Louis, MO
3rd: Emily Caufield - Cor Jesu, Manchester, MO
4th: Haley Krachenfels - Parkway West, Ballwin, MO

**Girl's High School Singles #6 Blue -
Olympic Format**

- 1st: Sarah James - Sprague, Salem, OR
2nd: Emily Haupt - Parkway West, Ballwin, MO
3rd: Anastasia Tuazon - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
4th: Eva Koeller - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR

**Girl's High School Singles #6 Red -
Olympic Format**

- 1st: Mallory Davis - Sprague, Salem, OR
2nd: Paige Bosch - Beaverton, Beaverton, OR
3rd: Hailey Speck - Southridge, Beaverton, OR
4th: Giuliana Moncada - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR

**Girl's High School Singles #6 White -
Olympic Format**

- 1st: Mary Sluck - Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
2nd: Maggie Matthews - Sprague, Salem, OR
3rd: Meranda Johnson - Sprague, Dallas, OR
4th: Koryn Tsang - Sprague, Salem, OR

**Boy's High School Doubles #1 -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Jose Diaz / Marco Rojas - Franklin High S- Stockton, CA/Franklin High S- Stockton, CA
2nd: Rick Charbonneau / Ryan Charbonneau - Oregon City- Oregon City, OR/Oregon City- Oregon City, OR
3rd: Dylan Reid / Sam Reid - Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR/Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR
4th: Jacob Boyle / Joey Pryor - Beaverton- Beaverton, OR/Beaverton- Beaverton, OR

**Boy's High School Doubles #1 Consolation -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Matt Gillette / Ryan Schoonmaker - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR
2nd: Micah Hoffman / Zachery Britt - Sandy High- Sandy, OR/Sandy High- Sandy, OR
3rd: Matthew Trisic / Rohan Borkar - Catlin Gabel- Portland, OR/Catlin Gabel- Portland, OR
4th: Brennan Leers / Taylor Norris - Centennial- Gresham, OR/Centennial- Portland, OR

**Boy's High School Doubles #2 -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Andrew Pryor / Josh Pryor - Beaverton- Beaverton, OR/Beaverton- Beaverton, OR
2nd: John Lindsay / Ryan Erickson - Oregon City- Oregon City, OR/Oregon City- Oregon City, OR
3rd: Ethan Nicholas / Joshua Heater - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR
4th: Kevin Funkhouser / Stephen Finney - Southridge- Beaverton, OR/Southridge- Tigard, OR

**Boy's High School Doubles #2 Consolation -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Evan Czopek / Harris Rosendahl - Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR/Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR
2nd: Ryan Swenson / Teiwok Ahn - Salem Academy- Salem, OR/Salem Academy- Salem, OR

- 3rd: Austin Wise / Maxwell Rompa - Central Catholic- Portland, OR/Central Catholic- Portland, OR
4th: Brian Morgan / Jeff Ottman - Centennial/Centennial

**Boy's High School Doubles #3 -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Jack Lawrence / Jonathan Friedman - Beaverton, Beaverton/Beaverton, Beaverton
2nd: Connor Laffey / Trey May - Sprague, Salem/Sprague, Salem
3rd: Andrew Monger / Jacob Begis - Beaverton, Beaverton/Beaverton, Beaverton
4th: Ahmad Karout / Toma Matisoff - Southridge, Beaverton/Southridge, Beaverton

**Boy's High School Doubles #3 Consolation -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Connor Cohn / Pascal Strothhaecker - Lincoln High School, Portland/Lincoln High School, Portland
2nd: Kerry Foster / Anthony Martinez - Sprague, Salem/Sprague, Salem
3rd: Alex Meyer / Taylor Roemelt - Lincoln High School, Portland/Lincoln High School, Portland
4th: Andri Spiller / Leif Tsang - Sprague, Salem/Sprague, Salem

**Girl's High School Doubles #1 -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Courtney Chisholm / Kayla Pereira - Marlborough, Marlborough/Marlborough, Marlboro
2nd: Amanda Lindsay / Taylor Oster - Oregon City, Oregon City/Oregon City, Oregon City
3rd: Karin Foster / Tanya Ulloa - Sprague, Salem/Sprague, Salem
4th: Kristen Kenck / Rachel Creel - Beaverton, Beaverton/Beaverton, Beaverton

**Girl's High School Doubles #1 Consolation -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Miranda Baker / Sara Del Balzo - Sunset High Sch, Portland/Sunset High Sch, Portland
2nd: Augusta Herman / Patricia Billette - Southridge, Tigard/Southridge, Tigard
3rd: Alex Hailey / Lilly Hailey - Lincoln High School, Portland/Lincoln High School, Portland
4th: Colleen Coleman / Erika Schmidt - Franklin, Portland/Franklin, Portland

**Girl's High School Doubles #2 -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Sarah Kingstad / Sarah Lewis - Beaverton- Beaverton, OR/Beaverton- Beaverton, OR
2nd: Ariana Guilak / Karissa Beatty - Southridge- Beaverton, OR/Southridge- Beaverton, OR
3rd: Emily Bueltmann / Sumera Javed - Parkway West- Ballwin, MO/Parkway West- Town and Country, MO
4th: Amanda Ronshausen / Katherine Rushing - Cor Jesu- St. Louis, MO/Cor Jesu- Manchester, MO

**Girl's High School Doubles #2 Consolation -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Meghan Foster / Stephanie Herschbach - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR
2nd: Hayley Gutzler / Riley Wimminger - Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR/Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR
3rd: Renee Charbonneau / Stephany Starr - Oregon City- Oregon City, OR/Oregon City- Milwaukie, OR
4th: Liz Henquinet / Melanie Ryan - Kirkwood, Kirkwood/Kirkwood, Kirkwood

**Girl's High School Doubles #3 -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Angela Xi / Colleen Manning - Beaverton- Beaverton, OR/Beaverton- Beaverton, OR
2nd: Brittany Bunselmeyer / Kelsie Provancha - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR
3rd: Claire Moore / Emily Caufield - Cor Jesu- St. Louis, MO/Cor Jesu- Manchester, MO
4th: Haley Krachenfels / Kathy Mustain - Parkway West- Ballwin, MO/Parkway West- Manchester, MO

**Girl's High School Doubles #3 Consolation -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Mallory Davis / Sarah James - Sprague/Sprague- Salem, OR
2nd: Giuliana Moncada / Lea Freni - Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR/Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR
3rd: Jessica McVay / Katrina Miller - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR
4th: Koryn Tsang / Meranda Johnson - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Dallas, OR

**Mixed High School Doubles #1 -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Amanda Lindsay / Rick Charbonneau - Oregon City- Oregon City, OR/Oregon City- Oregon City, OR
2nd: Joel Barshaw / Kaitlin Inglesby - Central Catholic- Portland, OR/Central Catholic- Portland, OR
3rd: Jacob Boyle / Sarah Lewis - Beaverton- Beaverton, OR/Beaverton- Beaverton, OR
4th: Matt Gillette / Tanya Ulloa - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR

**Mixed High School Doubles #1 Consolation -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Caley Hubert / Ryan Lile - Gresham- Gresham, OR/Gresham- Gresham, OR
2nd: Alyson Schaefer / Zachery Britt - Sandy High- Boring, OR/Sandy High- Sandy, OR
3rd: Dylan Reid / Riley Wimminger - Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR/Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR
4th: Kenzie Rutledge / Roman Lopez - Artesia High Sc- Artesia, NM/Artesia High Sc- Artesia, NM

**Mixed High School Doubles #2 -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Lilly Hailey / Sam Reid - Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR/Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR
2nd: Joey Pryor / Rachel Creel - Beaverton- Beaverton, OR/Beaverton- Beaverton, OR
3rd: Karin Foster / Ryan Schoonmaker - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR
4th: Augusta Herman / Robbie Mills - Southridge- Tigard, OR/Southridge- Beaverton, OR

**Mixed High School Doubles #2 Consolation -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Renee Charbonneau / Ryan Charbonneau - Oregon City- Oregon City, OR/Oregon City- Oregon City, OR
2nd: Denis O'Grady / Katie Strickland - Kirkwood- Kirkwood, MO/Kirkwood- Kirkwood, MO
3rd: Logan Hershenow / Tara Twyman - Parkway West- Town and Country, MO/Parkway West- Creve Coeur, MO
4th: Julie Augustine / Ollie Kunz - Central Catholic, Portland/Central Catholic, Portland

**Mixed High School Doubles #3 -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: John Lindsay / Stephany Starr - Oregon City- Oregon City, OR/Oregon City- Milwaukie, OR
2nd: Kristen Kenck / Josh Pryor - Beaverton- Beaverton, OR/Beaverton- Beaverton, OR
3rd: Ethan Nicholas / Stephanie Herschbach - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR
4th: Alex Black / Sarah James - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR

**Mixed High School Doubles #3 Consolation -
Single Elimination**

- 1st: Macy Herman / Stephen Finney - Southridge- Tigard, OR/Southridge- Tigard, OR
2nd: Harris Rosendahl / Hayley Gutzler - Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR/Lincoln High Sc- Portland, OR
3rd: Makenzie Groves / Trey May - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR
4th: Maggie Matthews / Terrance Peterson - Sprague- Salem, OR/Sprague- Salem, OR

JUNIOR ZONE

BY DON SCHDPIERAY, USAR JUNIOR COMMITTEE

HELPING TO MAKE YOUR JUNIOR PROGRAM THE BEST IT CAN BE

BREAKING NEWS...

The International Racquetball Federation (IRF) recently announced that the Junior World Championships will be held in Canoga Park, California, November 15 – 20, 2010, at the twenty-court Spectrum Club. Good luck to our US Junior Team as they prepare to defend last year's world cup victory! This tournament is not only open to the USA Team; any junior player can compete against the best in our country and the world. Consider organizing a group from your area to travel to Canoga Park to compete in the event and support Team USA!

Speaking of the US Junior Team, Coach Kelley Beane has taken advantage of grant funding from USA Racquetball's Junior Committee to organize developmental leagues in the New Hampshire area. The 'Schools to Courts' program provides start-up clinics to assist in teaching the game to new participants. So far, this program has been very successful and is growing. Great job, Coach Kelley! There are additional funds available so if you want more info on this program or how to apply for these funds, please get in touch via the email address listed below.

The California State Racquetball Association (CSRA), also with the assistance of a grant from the USA Racquetball Junior Committee, will be implementing a plan to conduct one-day junior shootouts in Northern and Southern California. The goal is to promote and conduct over 20 one-day events for junior players of all levels.

Entry fees will be reduced and net profits will be rolled back into the CSRA Junior Fund to make this program self sustaining and to help defray some of the costs for California players participating in Junior Nationals and Junior World Championships events. This program will be guided by the CSRA Junior Committee (Brian Dixon-chair, Elaine Dexter, Aaron Embry, Tyler Lanman, Jeffrey Weiss, Larry Steiner, Jody Nance, Gil Cepeda, and Brett Elkins). For more information, or if you would like to host an event, please contact Brian Dixon at 707-766-9105 or at Bridix@gmail.com.

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT SERIES

As we all know, it is tough to get parents and kids on busy schedules to attend all of the local tournaments on your calendar. If a junior program has, say, 10-12 kids that participate, you may only see a fraction of that number on a regular basis. Small draws mean playing the same kids over and over = less fun. Here is one solution to that problem. Look at your local

tournament schedule and select four or five events with junior-friendly tournament directors that are evenly spread around your area. Give the series a name, something catchy like Junior Super Series, or Fantastic 4 (or 5) and get it on the schedule. You might want to schedule it to end with your State Singles tournament and also perhaps offer a reduced rate to enter if a player has participated in all of the series events. In other words, make a big deal out of it!

I suggest making these series events skill-based rather than age based. You might use Junior Open, Junior Advanced, Junior Intermediate and Junior Beginner for these division names. Base the draws on the Olympic format. You will have kids who are obvious Open division players...match them up with kids who are just at the next lower level, that way the lesser-skilled kids will have something to strive for. If they lose, they will drop down and become higher-seeded players in the next lower level (Advanced) where they will match up with players who are just below them (Intermediate), and so on. The only division that

will not have seeded players when the tournament starts is the Beginner division; these players will come from the drop-downs in Intermediate.

If you have "very beginner" players in your group, don't be afraid to assign them as 2- or 3-bounce players as they start to learn the game.

Don't be concerned if they are older either -- the goal is for them to feel like they fit in with the group and let them to work on their game to improve.

Once the series has been established, get a point system started. Try to make it so players who play all of the events are rewarded accordingly. Give out awards at each of the events; name an overall champion in each division at the end of the series. We have done this in Michigan for a few years now and it has been effective in getting a great many of our junior players to a majority of the events, making the most of our draws. Keep these things in mind: 1) try to make the event to one day and try to keep it down to 3-4 hours, 2) don't be afraid to shorten the format to 11-point games. Work with the tournament director to identify the best day for the junior divisions; we have had no problems with Saturday or Sunday play as long as it's one day only.

Email me at usarjuniorzone@gmail.com, and I'll be happy to send you some pre-formatted Excel draw sheets to use for this type of event. As always, if you have any issues related to junior play, feel free to contact the Junior Zone!





AWARD WINNERS JUSTIN LABELLE AND DANNY LAVELY

OVERALL D-1 TEAM WINNER OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY



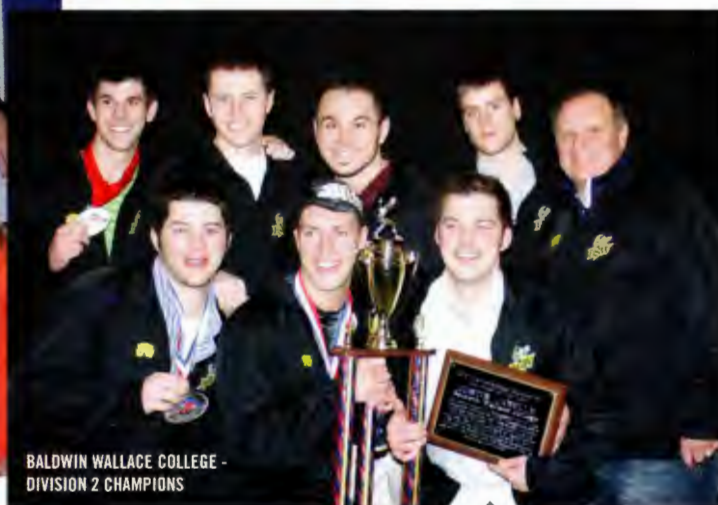
23rd National Intercollegiate Championships



ARIZONA WOMEN - 3RD PLACE



ALABAMA TEAM - 2ND OVERALL



BALDWIN WALLACE COLLEGE -
DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONS

2010 USAR Intercollegiate National Championships

Photos by Michael Williams



Overall D-2 Team Winner Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Overall D-1 Men's Winner Colorado State University

A great week at Missouri State University wrapped up April 10th with Oregon State University bringing home a third consecutive Team title. Oregon State also captured the Women's Team title, while Colorado State-Pueblo with a decisive victory regained its position as the top Collegiate Men's Team in the country.

The Division II National Title was won by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) out of New York. The Men's title went to Baldwin Wallace College and the Clarkson University Women's Team walked away with that victory.

Securing positions on the US Adult National Racquetball Team are Jose Rojas (Delta College) and Sharon Jackson (University of Alabama). Jose and Sharon captured the Men's #1 and Women's #1 divisions respectively, both with impressive runs through extremely tough and competitive draws. They actually brought home double gold medals as a result of their victories in the doubles divisions -- Rojas with teammate David Horn and Jackson with Kara Mazur. A complete listing of all the team and individual winners are included with this article.

In addition to awarding the Team titles at the annual banquet and awards ceremony Saturday night, several Intercollegiate Racquetball Annual Awards were presented.

Those winners were:

- **2010 Larry Liles Coach of the Year Award** – Rob Durbin, Oregon State University
- **2010 Volunteer of the Year Award (co-winners)** – Danny Lavelly, University of Akron and Justin Labelle, Baldwin Wallace College. Both were instrumental in the success of the Mid-East Racquetball Conference (MERC) Season, taking the lead in supporting Commissioner Tim Miller in setting up the draws, running the events, and performing many other duties throughout the year.
- **2010 Norman Wilensky Scholarship Winner** – Danny Lavelly, University of Akron
- **2010 Intercollegiate Racquetball All-American Awards** – presented to student athletes who finish in the Top 4 of all Singles divisions in the Gold bracket.

This truly special week of intense play, incredible sportsmanship and team spirit continues to get stronger and stronger every year. We learned there is just not enough pizza that can feed 349 college athletes. We found out that Steak N' Shake can be just as good as the Four Seasons if you keep your mind open. We'll never see a glass back wall on a racquetball court again and think that it's safe to run into it. Yes, Andrew Northcutt of BYU tested the strength of that glass, and Andrew unfortunately won. Late in a tight tie-breaker, Andrew sprinted full speed to retrieve a ball in the back court and dove to the back, shattering the glass as he hit it. Unfortunately Andrew couldn't finish the match, but we were all relieved to see him in good spirits around the club several stitches later.

Sincere thanks to all the parents, coaches and team leaders who make all this possible for your programs and your teammates. Keep those programs growing, and let's get ready for the challenge at next year's Intercollegiate National Championships at Arizona State University in Tempe.

 **EKTELON**

Penn

Wilson

2010 USAR Intercollegiate National Championships

Team Standings - Division I

Mens Team Standings	Points	Womens Team Standings	Points	Combined Team Standings	Points
Colorado State University-Pueblo	2040.0	Oregon State University	1420.0	Oregon State University	2907.0
Oregon State University	1487.0	University of Alabama	1072.0	University of Alabama	2366.0
University of Alabama	1294.0	Arizona State University	1020.0	University of Missouri Columbia	2185.0
University of Missouri Columbia	1190.0	University of Missouri Columbia	995.0	Colorado State University-Pueblo	2180.0
University of Oregon	1100.0	Baldwin Wallace College	952.0	University of Oregon	1893.0
Brigham Young University	1070.0	University of Oregon	793.0	Baldwin Wallace College	1824.0
Delta College	980.0	Brigham Young University	665.0	Brigham Young University	1735.0
Missouri State University	607.0	Penn State University	531.0	Arizona State University	1402.0
University of Arkansas	600.0	United States Military Academy	387.0	Utah Valley State College	894.0
University of Akron	562.0	University of Cincinnati	385.0	Penn State University	796.0
Utah Valley State College	548.0	Utah Valley State College	346.0	University of Cincinnati	778.0
University of Florida	529.0	University of Utah	342.0	Missouri State University	761.0
Montana State University	526.0	Utah State University	339.0	United States Military Academy	631.0
University of Cincinnati	393.0	University of Texas	175.0	University of Utah	570.0
Ohio State University	385.0	Missouri State University	154.0	Utah State University	427.0
Arizona State University	382.0	Colorado State University-Pueblo	140.0	University of Texas	420.0
University of Connecticut	381.0	University of Colorado	128.0	University of Connecticut	404.0
Iowa State University	379.0	Purdue University	124.0	University of Colorado	274.0
Louisiana State University	339.0	University of Illinois	68.0	Texas Tech	263.0
Air Force	338.0	Texas Tech	52.0	Purdue University	194.0
Penn State University	265.0	University of Denver	34.0	University of Illinois	178.0
University of Texas	245.0	University of Connecticut	23.0	University of Denver	109.0
United States Military Academy	244.0	Slippery Rock University	12.0		
University of Utah	228.0				
Texas Tech	211.0				
Eastern New Mexico	210.0				
Texas A&M University	187.0				
University of Colorado	146.0				
Lane Tech	140.0				
University of South Florida	140.0				
Cornell University	124.0				
University of New Mexico	115.0				
Umass-Lowell	114.0				
University of Illinois	110.0				
Florida State	88.0				
Utah State University	88.0				
University of Denver	75.0				
Purdue University	70.0				
University of Louisville	66.0				
Northern Arizona	39.0				



2010 USAR Intercollegiate National Championships

Team Standings - Division II

Mens Team Standings	Points	Womens Team Standings	Points	Combined Team Standings	Points
Baldwin Wallace College	872.0	Clarkson University	176.0	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	306.0
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	289.0	Simpson College	140.0	Simpson College	246.0
Umass-Lowell	114.0	Bryant University	22.0	Clarkson University	203.0
Simpson College	106.0	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	17.0	Bryant University	63.0
Bryant College	41.0				
Clarkson University	27.0				
University of St. Thomas	21.0				

Results 2010 USAR Intercollegiate National Championships

Men's Collegiate Singles #1 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Jose Rojas - Delta College, Stockton, CA
 2nd: Taylor Knoth - University Of Oregon, Milwaukie, OR
 3rd: Joey Lakowske - Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, OR
 4th: Allan Crockett - University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Birmingham, Alabama

Men's Collegiate Singles #1 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Devan Van Valkenburg - Utah Valley University, Bluffdale, UT
 2nd: John Behm - Cornell University, Northfield, MN
 3rd: Sampson Shurman - University Of Illinois - Champaign-Urbana, IL
 4th: Thomas Bassett - University Of Illinois - Champaign-Urbana, IL

Men's Collegiate Singles #1 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Eric Atchison - Air Force Academy, USAF Academy, CO
 2nd: Spencer Cuiper - University Of Colorado, Lafayette, CA U
 3rd: Paul Burningham - University Of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
 4th: Christopher Sanders - University Of Louisville, Nicholasville, KY

Men's Collegiate Singles #1 White - Olympic Format

1st: Mike Blakesley - Utah State University, Logan, UT
 2nd: David Lorenz - Northern Arizona University Recreation Center, Flagstaff, AZ
 4th: Juan Barbosa - Clarkson University, Walworth, NY

Men's Collegiate Singles #2 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Jansen Allen - Colorado State Univ, Rice, TX
 2nd: Jonathan Doyle - University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Cincinnati, OH
 3rd: David Horn - Delta College, Stockton, CA
 4th: Josh Pearl - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, Chesterfield, MO

Men's Collegiate Singles #2 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Justin Labelle - Baldwin Wallace College, Mayfield Hts, OH
 2nd: Elliott Saunders - University Of Oregon, Eugene, OR
 3rd: Matthew Jennings - University Of Connecticut, Wolcott, CT
 4th: Anthony Berry - University Of Connecticut, Wolcott, CT

Men's Collegiate Singles #2 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Kaleb Dale - Montana State University, Helena, MT
 2nd: Justin Jones - University Of Cincinnati Racquetball Organization, Cincinnati, OH
 3rd: Eric Nissley - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Middlefield, CT
 4th: Jonathan White - Penn State Un, Trafford, PA

Men's Collegiate Singles #2 White - Olympic Format

1st: William Bessette - Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ
 2nd: Matthew Bond - Northern Arizona University Recreation Center, Flagstaff, AZ
 3rd: Mason Hays - Utah State University, Logan, UT
 4th: Shawn Wagner - University Of Denver, Denver, CO

Men's Collegiate Singles #3 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Tyler Otto - Colorado State Univ, Pueblo, CO
 2nd: Brandon Mitchener - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, St. Louis, MO
 3rd: Grant Stalley - Oregon State Univ., Beaverton, OR
 4th: Jordan Powers - University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Tuscaloosa, AL

Men's Collegiate Singles #3 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Phil Woodland - Ohio State University, Reynoldsburg, OH
 2nd: Scott Addy - Air Force Academy, USAF, CO
 3rd: Chris Perry - University Of Cincinnati Racquetball Organization, Strongsville, OH
 4th: Aaron King - University Of Cincinnati Racquetball Organization, Strongsville, OH

Men's Collegiate Singles #3 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Nate Beck - Montana State University, Unknown, MT
 2nd: Ty Stolp - Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
 3rd: Robert Mumme - University Of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
 4th: Tim Meyer - TX

Men's Collegiate Singles #3 White - Olympic Format

1st: Rick Stammer - Iowa State Un., Ames, IA
 2nd: Jarom Brown - Utah Valley University, Orem, UT
 3rd: Brian Griffiths - Penn State Un, Uniontown, PA
 4th: Ian Brooks - University Of Utah, Sandy, UT

Men's Collegiate Singles #4 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Jake Bredenbeck - Colorado State Univ, Marine On St. Croix, MN
 2nd: Scott Rieders - University Of Oregon, Eugene, OR
 3rd: Andrew Kemlage - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, St. Louis, MO
 4th: Michael Carrington - Oregon State Univ., Beaverton, OR

Men's Collegiate Singles #4 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Nevin Johnson - University Of Akron, Hudson, OH
 2nd: Dan Matosian - University Of Connecticut, Shelton, CT
 3rd: Dan Coleman - Penn State Un, Wayne, PA
 4th: Stephen Weber - Missouri State Univ., St. Louis, MO

Men's Collegiate Singles #4 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Brett Cline - Montana State University, Cut Bank, MT
 2nd: Andrew Roberts - US Military Academy, West Point, NY
 3rd: Eric Ely - Iowa State Un., Ames, IA
 4th: Jeremy Robben - Air Force Academy, USAF, CO

Men's Collegiate Singles #4 White - Olympic Format

1st: Conrad Johnson - University Of Utah, Midvale, UT
 2nd: Tim Costello - Texas Tech University, Flower Mound, TX
 3rd: Tony Kusbach - Utah State University, Logan, UT
 4th: Vitali Azouz - Univ. Of Texas, Dallas, TX

Men's Collegiate Singles #5 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Jose Ramos - Colorado State Univ, Tustin, CA
 2nd: Brendan Reid - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, St. Louis, MO
 3rd: Eric Smith - Brigham Young Un, Provo, UT
 4th: Ryan Higgins - University Of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Men's Collegiate Singles #5 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Dan Arnold - Oregon State Univ., Salem, OR
 2nd: Alex Arguelles - University Of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
 3rd: Robert Shearman - Missouri State Univ., Springfield, MO
 4th: Barrett Gutter - University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Tuscaloosa, AL

Men's Collegiate Singles #5 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Jason Heffner - Montana State University, Unknown, MT
 2nd: Prasant Venimadhavan - University Of Connecticut, Norwalk, CT
 3rd: Thomas Crockett - Texas A&M University, College Station, TX U
 4th: Steve Dexter - US Military Academy, West Point, NY U

Men's Collegiate Singles #5 White - Olympic Format

1st: Brian Hires - University Of Colorado, Unknown, CO
 2nd: Jeff Wielage - Iowa State Un., Ames, IA
 3rd: Steven Deyo - Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY
 4th: Daniel Siedsma - Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

Men's Collegiate Singles #6 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Jeremy McGlothlin - Colorado State Univ, Pueblo, CO
 2nd: Dale Fonken - Oregon State Univ., Salem, OR U
 3rd: Joseph Blank - Brigham Young Un, Provo, UT
 4th: Rishi Ghosh - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, Unknown, MO

Men's Collegiate Singles #6 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: James Roeder - University Of Akron, North Olmsted, OH
 2nd: Alejandro Saulea - Un Of Florida, Gainesville, FL
 3rd: Peter Fournier - Baldwin Wallace College, Montvale, NJ
 4th: Peter Steadman - Baldwin Wallace College, Montvale, NJ

Men's Collegiate Singles #6 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Justin Talarizadeh - University Of Oregon, Eugene, OR
 2nd: Kolten Wenckus - Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
 3rd: Daniel Weatherall - Air Force Academy, USAF, CO
 4th: Ethan Hunter - Air Force Academy, USAF, CO

Men's Collegiate Singles #6 White - Olympic Format

1st: Scott Warner - Utah State University, Logan, UT
 2nd: Darren Atkins - University Of Colorado, CO
 3rd: Jeremy Lacerte - Bryant University, Bedford, NH
 4th: Matthew Friedman - Iowa State Un., IA

Men's Collegiate Singles Advanced - Round Robin

1st: David Lyvers - Purdue University, Lafayette, IN
 2nd: Alex Petak - Univ. Of Texas, Austin, TX
 3rd: Steven Mobley - Arizona State University, Gilbert, AZ
 4th: John Camarena - Univ. Of Texas, Austin, TX

Men's Collegiate Singles Intermediate - Single Elimination

1st: Scott Yourstone - Brigham Young Un, Provo, UT
 2nd: Carl Carman - University Of Illinois - Champaign-Urbana, IL
 3rd: Anthony Mann - University Of Denver, Colorado Springs, CO
 4th: Klane Pedrie - American Fork, UT

Men's Collegiate Singles Intermediate Consolation - Single Elimination

1st: Kevin Steinbach - University Of Akron, Canton, OH
 2nd: Michael Fishburn - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Smithfield, RI
 3rd: Michael Knudsen - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Team 2, Bedford, MA
 4th: Peter Russo - Un Of Florida, Jacksonville, FL

Women's Collegiate Singles #1 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Sharon Jackson - University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Birmingham, AL
 2nd: Michelle Key - Arizona State University, Gilbert, AZ
 3rd: Sheryl Lotts - Baldwin Wallace College, Bedford, OH
 4th: Ashley Willhite - Oregon State Univ., Unknown, OR

Women's Collegiate Singles #1 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Kelly Gremley - Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
 2nd: Candace Tomczak - Penn State Un, Erie, PA
 3rd: Charlotte Macfarlane - Brigham Young Un, Provo, UT
 4th: Rachel Weiss - Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

Women's Collegiate Singles #1 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Sandra Filipp - University Of Illinois - Champaign-Urbana/ Arlington Heights, IL
 2nd: Krista Allen - Utah State University, Unknown, UT
 3rd: Jessie Benson - Missouri State Univ., Chesterfield, MO
 4th: Ashley Siemers - Missouri State Univ., Chesterfield, MO

Women's Collegiate Singles #1 White - Olympic Format

1st: Kara Beevers - Slippery Rock University, Grove City, PA
 2nd: Kierstan Lurcott - University Of Connecticut, Sherman, CT
 3rd: Kierney Waldron - Bryant University, Guilford, CT

Women's Collegiate Singles #2 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Kara Mazur - University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Avon, CT
 2nd: Megan Mathes - Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, OR
 3rd: Tracy Hawthorne - Baldwin Wallace College, Seven Hills, OH
 4th: Hailey Miller - University Of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Women's Collegiate Singles #2 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Izayadeth Aguayo - Arizona State University, Gilbert, AZ
 2nd: Ashley Hrivnak - Penn State Un, State College, PA
 3rd: Rebecca Lin - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, Chesterfield, MO
 4th: Samantha Schram - US Military Academy, West Point, NY

Women's Collegiate Singles #2 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Kiew Williams - University Of Colorado, Unknown, CO
 2nd: Adrienne Schneider - American Fork, UT
 3rd: Adrienne Griffiths - Univ. Of Texas, Austin, TX
 4th: Melissa Schulze - Univ. Of Texas, Austin, TX

Women's Collegiate Singles #2 White - Olympic Format

1st: Megan Cap - Texas Tech University, Unknown, TX
 2nd: Nicole Brinck - Utah State University, South Jordan, UT
 3rd: Atton Thompson - Colorado State Univ, Pueblo, CO
 4th: Haley Strom - Colorado State Univ, Pueblo, CO

Women's Collegiate Singles #3 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Alyssa Asay - Oregon State Univ., Beaverton, OR
 2nd: Monica Frank - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, St. Louis, MO
 3rd: Hannah Bloombaum - University Of Oregon, Eugene, OR
 4th: Brittany Travers - University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, Tuscaloosa, AL

Women's Collegiate Singles #3 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Britney Draney - Brigham Young Un, Provo, UT
 2nd: Annelise Tripp - Penn State Un, University Park, PA
 3rd: Cezarina Viqueira - US Military Academy, Germantown, MD
 4th: Ashley Jimenez - Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Women's Collegiate Singles #3 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Chelsea Cardon - Utah Valley University, Drem, UT
 2nd: Becky Drebin - Utah State University, Logan, UT
 3rd: Rebecca Pittenger - University Of Utah, Holladay, UT
 4th: Alicia Christensen - Baldwin Wallace College, Alliance, OH

Women's Collegiate Singles #3 White - Olympic Format

1st: Brea Worsley - Missouri State Univ., Unknown, MO
 2nd: Alyse Kelly - Univ. Of Texas, Richmond, TX
 3rd: Andrea Ruotolo - Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
 4th: Kimberly Harvey - Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

Women's Collegiate Singles #4 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Teresa Wright - Oregon State Univ., Milwaukie, OR
 2nd: Staci Wood - University Of Oregon, Salem, OR
 3rd: Amy Desaulniers - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, Pacific, MO
 4th: Haydee Cruz - Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

Women's Collegiate Singles #4 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Maddi Stevens - Utah Valley University, Lindon, UT
 2nd: Maren Wilkerson - Utah State University, Logan, UT
 3rd: Staci Gibbons - University Of Utah, Sandy, UT
 4th: Meredith Carroway - University Of Utah, Sandy, UT

Women's Collegiate Singles #4 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Alison Spencer - Brigham Young Un, UT
 2nd: Nicole Haupt - Univ. Of Texas, Austin, TX
 3rd: Chelsea Hunkler - Penn State Un, Landisville, PA
 4th: Hayley Morgan - US Military Academy, West Point, NY

Women's Collegiate Singles #4 White - Olympic Format

1st: Sarah Korsmeyer - Missouri State Univ., Springfield, MO
 2nd: Danelle Morrill - Texas Tech University, Carlsbad, NM
 3rd: Janine Amell - , Smithfield, RI
 4th: Kristen Overson - Clarkson University, Rotterdam, NY

Women's Collegiate Singles #5 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Leah Stanko - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, High Ridge, MO
 2nd: Kristen Frisk - Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
 3rd: Molly Haragan - Baldwin Wallace College, Louisville, KY
 4th: Chelsea Donnithorne - Oregon State Univ., Salem, OR

Women's Collegiate Singles #5 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Danielle Nason - University Of Oregon, Eugene, OR
 2nd: Sara Moulton - Brigham Young Un, Provo, UT
 3rd: Maureen Kumar - Univ. Of Texas, Austin, TX
 4th: Evany Pace - University Of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Women's Collegiate Singles #5 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Jennifer Goodrich - Utah State University, Logan, UT
 2nd: Abbie Lovato - Missouri State Univ., Chesterfield, MO
 3rd: Jessica Seeley - US Military Academy, West Point, NY
 4th: Teal Smail - Penn State Un, University Park, PA

Women's Collegiate Singles #5 White - Olympic Format

1st: Emily Grau - , Provo, UT United States
 2nd: Courtney Dragiff - University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, , AL

Women's Collegiate Singles #6 Gold - Olympic Format

1st: Stevanie Medearis - Oregon State Univ., Boring, OR
 2nd: Sydney Prescott - University Of Oregon, Milwaukie, OR
 3rd: Erin Winters - Univ. Of Missouri - Columbia, St Louis, MO
 4th: Tyler Fridley - Baldwin Wallace College, Niles, OH U

Women's Collegiate Singles #6 Blue - Olympic Format

1st: Chelsea Rupert - Brigham Young Un, Provo, UT
 2nd: Jessica Gonzales - US Military Academy, West Point, NY
 3rd: Renee Fiedderman - Penn State Un, State College, PA
 4th: Katie Christiansen - Penn State Un, State College, PA

Women's Collegiate Singles #6 Red - Olympic Format

1st: Talisha Riggs - University Of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
 2nd: Mallory Deese - University Of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, , AL
 3rd: Vian Gerwargis - Arizona State University, Surprise, AZ

Men's Collegiate Doubles #1 - Single Elimination

1st: David Horn / Jose Rojas - Delta College, Stockton/Delta College, Stockton
 2nd: Jansen Allen / Tyler Otto - Colorado State , Rice/Colorado State , Pueblo
 3rd: Allan Crockett / Jonathan Doyle - University Of A, Birmingham/University Of A, Cincinnati
 4th: David Laforest / Joey Lakowski - Oregon State Un, Corvallis/Oregon State Un, Corvallis

Men's Collegiate Doubles #1 Consolation - Single Elimination

1st: Devan Van Valkenburg / Scott Burr - Utah Valley Univ, Bluffdale/Utah Valley Univ, Orem
 2nd: Jamin Godwin / Juan Ruiz - University Of A, Fayetteville/University Of A, Fayetteville
 3rd: Kamran Masood / William Bessette - Arizona State U, Portland/Arizona State U, Phoenix
 4th: Robert Mumme / Sam Hojat - /Texas A&M Univ, Austin

Men's Collegiate Doubles #2 - Single Elimination

1st: Jose Ramos / Felipe Camacho - Colorado State , Tustin/Colorado State , Pueblo
 2nd: Grant Stalley / Michael Carrington - Oregon State Un, Beaverton/Oregon State Un, Beaverton
 3rd: Jordan Powers / Rudolph Rodriguez - University Of A, Tuscaloosa/University Of A, Tuscaloosa
 4th: Galen Reding / Justin Levine - Baldwin Wallace, Wilmington/Baldwin Wallace, Mentor

Men's Collegiate Doubles #2 Consolation - Single Elimination

1st: Jonny Cheney / Matthew Barcellos - Arizona State U, Pinedale/Arizona State U, Glendale
 2nd: Allan Springer / Nevin Johnson - University Of A, Wadsworth/University Of A, Hudson
 3rd: Christopher Beavan / Michael Kowalczyk - Rensselaer Polytechnic, East Lyme/Rensselaer Polytechnic, Unionville
 4th: Bryan Sandy / Matthew Jennings - Rensselaer Polytechnic, East Lyme/Rensselaer Polytechnic, Unionville

Men's Collegiate Doubles #3 - Single Elimination

1st: Jake Bredenbeck / Jeremy McGlothlin - Colorado State , Marine On St. C/Colorado State , Canby
 2nd: Andrew Kemlage / Rishi Ghosh - Univ. Of Missouri, St. Louis/Univ. Of Missouri
 3rd: Eric Smith / Joseph Blank - Brigham Young U, Provo/Brigham Young U, Provo
 4th: Dale Fonken / Dan Arnold - Oregon State Un, Clackamas/Oregon State Un, Salem

Men's Collegiate Doubles #3 Consolation - Single Elimination

1st: Jarom Brown / Peter Steadman - Utah Valley Uni, Orem/Utah Valley Uni, Provo
 2nd: Jonathan Bailey / Prasant Venimadhavan - University Of C, Norwalk/University Of C, Norwalk
 3rd: Josh Malmkog / Matt Nahlik - Baldwin Wallace, Berea/Baldwin Wallace, Rocky River
 4th: Andrew Danford / Robert Jarus - Arizona State U, Gilbert/Arizona State U, St. Louis

Men's Collegiate Doubles Intermediate - Round Robin

1st: Kevin Steinbach / Peter Fournier - University Of A, Canton/Baldwin Wallace, Montvale
 2nd: John Camarena / Scott Langer - Univ. Of Texas, Austin/Univ. Of Texas, Leander
 3rd: Benjamin Sangster / Timothy Griggs - West Point/US Military Academy, West Point
 4th: Michael Fishburn / Peter Russo - Rensselaer Polytechnic, Smithfield/Rensselaer Polytechnic, Bedford

Women's Collegiate Doubles #1 - Single Elimination

1st: Kara Mazur / Sharon Jackson - University of AL, Avon/University of AL, Birmingham
 2nd: Sheryl Lotts / Tracy Hawthorne - Baldwin Wallace, Bedford/Baldwin Wallace, Seven Hills
 3rd: Haley Strom / Holly Hettesheimer - University Of C, Cincinnati/University Of C, Cincinnati
 4th: Izayadeth Aguayo / Michelle Key - Arizona State U, Gilbert/Arizona State U, Gilbert

Women's Collegiate Doubles #1 Consolation - Single Elimination

1st: Connie Vargas / Klev Williams - University of C, Unknown/University Of C
 2nd: Kara Beevers / Molly Miracle - Slippery Rock U, Grove City/Ohio State Univ, Columbus
 3rd: Alyssa Jimenez / Kierstan Lurcott - University of C, New Milford/University Of C, Sherman
 4th: Krista Allen / Nicole Brinck - University Of C, New Milford/University Of C, Sherman

Women's Collegiate Doubles #2 - Single Elimination

1st: Alyssa Asay / Teresa Wright - Oregon State Un, Beaverton/Oregon State Un, Milwaukie
 2nd: Amy Desaulniers / Monica Frank - Univ. Of Missouri, Pacific/Univ. Of Missouri, St. Louis
 3rd: Becky Drebin / Maren Wilkerson - Utah State Univ, Logan/Utah State Univ, Logan
 4th: Ashley Jimenez / Haydee Cruz - Arizona State U, Tempe/Arizona State U, Phoenix

Women's Collegiate Doubles #2 Consolation - Single Elimination

1st: Alison Spencer / Hilary Munger - Brigham Young U, Unknown/Brigham Young U, Provo
 2nd: Adrienne Griffiths / Evany Pace - University Of U, Salt Lake City/University Of U, Salt Lake City
 3rd: Danelle Morrill / Angelica Arratia - University Of A, Tuscaloosa/University Of A, Tuscaloosa
 4th: Brittany Travers / Meagan Vaughn - Texas Tech Univ, Lubbock/Texas Tech Univ, Lubbock

Women's Collegiate Doubles #3 - Single Elimination

1st: Chelsea Rupert / Sara Moulton - Brigham Young U, Provo/Brigham Young U, Provo
 2nd: Chelsea Donnithorne / Amber Shaw - Oregon State Un, Salem/Oregon State Un, Corvallis
 3rd: Erin Winters / Leah Stanko - Univ. Of Missouri, St Louis/Univ. Of Missouri, High Ridge
 4th: Vian Gerwargis / Danielle Snelling - Arizona State U/Arizona State U, Phoenix

Women's Collegiate Doubles #3 Consolation - Single Elimination

1st: Amy Belaus / Jessica Gonzales - US Military Academy, West Point/US Military Academy, West Point
 2nd: Courtney Dragiff / Mallory Deese - University Of A/University Of A

Women's Collegiate Singles Advanced - Round Robin

1st: Kelly Gremley - Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
 2nd: Ashley Siemers - University Of Denver, Manchester, MO
 3rd: Molly Miracle - Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Women's Collegiate Singles Intermediate - Round Robin

1st: Sandra Filipp - University Of Illinois - Champaign-Urbana, Arlington Heights, IL
 2nd: Courtney Hentosz - Baldwin Wallace College, Akron, OH
 3rd: Amy Belaus - US Military Academy, West Point, NY





WOMEN'S SENIOR/ MASTERS RACQUETBALL UPDATE



WOMEN'S SENIOR/MASTERS RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION 22nd ANNUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

JANUARY 14 - JANUARY 16, 2011
(Fun Doubles Jan 13)

Round-Robin Play for Ages 35 and Older
Open/A and B/C Divisions Available



Host Site: Littleton Colorado

Highlands Ranch Rec Center at Northridge

8801 South Broadway, Littleton, CO 80126 303-791-2500

One-half mile from host hotels

<http://www.hrcaonline.org/GeneralInfo/FacilitiesandLocations/Northridge.aspx>

Host Hotels: Breakfast Included every Morning

Hilton Garden Inn
1050 Plaza Drive
Highlands Ranch (Littleton), CO 80129
303-683-4100
Banquet Site

Residence Inn by Marriott
93 Centennial Boulevard
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
303-683-5500
Kitchens & Suites

Fun, Friendship and Great Competition !!!

A USAR Sanctioned Tournament and National Singles Qualifier

Wilson.

Tournament Directors:

CRA Women's Committee

Lori Inskeep luduju@hotmail.com

Marcia Richards iamacoach@msn.com

303-738-9797

Cindy Tilbury cindy.tilbury@att.net

303-888-4461



SPECIAL SKI WEEK
Breckenridge, CO
January 16-21, 2011
Space is limited!
Contact Cindy Tilbury
for info and reservations.
Free Lesson!

Entry form available this fall:

At the WSMRA website at <http://www.wsmra.com>

The USA Racquetball website <http://usra.org>

Or enter online at <http://R2Sports.com>



The WSMRA is an organization dedicated to promoting racquetball as a lifetime sport. Our members are women 35 and over who want to compete at a high level and have fun at the same time. We host an annual national tournament of self-refereed, round robin play within age groups. All matches in our tournament count in the current USAR ranking system. In this tournament you will not only find yourself competing against some of the best women players in the country, but you will have a great time! We stress fun, friends and good sportsmanship. The WSMRA is continuing its long-time partnership with National Sponsor Wilson Racquetball.

The WSMRA recently embarked upon its third decade of tournament action with the 21st Annual Women's Senior/Masters National Racquetball Championships in Gaithersburg, Maryland at the Sport and Health Club. In addition to the round-robin singles competition for age groups 35 and over, the tournament featured a fun doubles, silent auction and of course the famous Saturday night banquet. A new highlight this year was a clinic conducted by WPRO Kerri Wachtel and sponsored by Wilson. You'll find results and pictures at www.wsmra.com.

Next year the WSMRA will hold its tournament in Colorado for the first time and we plan to be "Rockin' the Rockies"! The 22nd annual tournament will be held in the Denver area at the Highlands Ranch Rec Center at Northridge, Littleton, CO the weekend of January 14-16, 2011 (with fun doubles on January 13). Plan now to come and bring your friends! You will have fun as well as great competition, because you are never out of the draw at this round-robin tournament. We have Open/A and B/C divisions for all age groups. For more information on WSMRA, pictures, results, information and a flyer for next year's tournament, please check our web site: www.wsmra.com or contact Kendra Tutsch at kdtutsch@wisc.edu.

NATIONAL MASTERS RACQUETBALL

by Bruce Adams,
NMRA Secretary

The National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) held its National Championships in Tucson, Arizona from March 17th to 20th at the Tucson Racquet and Fitness Club and the University of Arizona Student Recreational Center. There were 191 players participating in the event and 43 players were either first-time players in an NMRA event and/or a new member. We thank you all for joining us, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

This event was dedicated to the memory of NMRA and Illinois State Racquetball Association Board member Thomas "TJ" Ferro who passed away in December 2009. TJ was a loyal supporter of the NMRA, ISRA, USAR, and Ektelon.

The banquet opened with the Army National Guard of Arizona serving as the Color Guard. The National Anthem was sung as part of the ceremony. Awards were given to John Prigmore (Support and Friendship) and Cindy Tilbury and Paul Banales, both retiring Board members. Len Sonnenberg was announced as the new executive director of the International Hall of Fame, and Colonel Ben Marshall was named the Sportsman of the Year.

There were two RacquetSkins racquets auctioned for Junior Racquetball. Curtis Alatorre-Martin (a tournament racquet) and Rick Betts (a University of Arizona racquet that was to be converted to a University of Southern California racquet) combined for a \$525.00 donation. A brief Town Hall meeting preceded the memorial and finale slideshow presentations. Another special guest at the event was Elaine Panush of Los Angeles. She is 83 years young and has been playing about one year. She got word about the NMRA and came to "check us out." While there, she got in a few quick games in between other matches and joined the NMRA at the banquet. We look forward to seeing Elaine in Allentown.

As for racquetball play, Mike Grisz beat out doubles partner and long-time friend Steve Wattz in a tough Men's 50 singles finals match. Eleven other players earned double gold medals: Meri Jean Kelley, Dave Azuma, Frank Taddonio, Carole Taylor, Steve Ivers, Donald Gunderson, Mike Martin, Mark Baron, Gladys Leonard, Margaret Hoff and Lola Markus. All participants received a commemorative t-shirt that was worn on Saturday in TJ Ferro's memory.

The next event will be in Allentown and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, at the 24-7 Fitness Clubs. This is a round robin age division format, so be ready to play everyday. You may enter a maximum of two divisions: two doubles events, or one singles event and one doubles event. Matches are two games to 15 points. Registration will be held on Tuesday, July 13th at the Allentown 24-7 Fitness Club (not at the hotel).

We are also planning a Doubles-only event, for the third year in a row, likely to be held in Fullerton, California (22 courts) on December 2-4, 2010. We are working on other future venues, specifically Portland for March 2011 and Minneapolis for July 2011. Please feel free to contact any board member with location possibilities and other questions.

For more information, please visit our website at www.NMRA.info; for tournament registration, visit www.R2Sports.com. We also encourage our members and readers to visit the USA Racquetball website at www.usaracquetball.com.

Come try one of our events – you will be hooked like so many others after their first event! The NMRA is dedicated to the mature racquetball player, 45 years old and older. Singles, doubles and mixed doubles divisions are offered in age groups (five-year increments). All matches are self-officiated and round-robin format, "No More One Round and Out!" Your first event does not require membership to the association, but we hope you will join. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.



WORLD OUTDOOR RACQUETBALL Kicks Off in 2010



While the rest of the country was still frozen or thawing out, players in California, Hawaii and Florida were enjoying the sunshine with 7 WOR events in the first quarter of 2010. Enjoy this sampling of photos from some of the hottest events of the year!

Sign up early for the 2010 Racquetball Warehouse WOR Championships and be eligible for the monthly raffle!

Here's a birds-eye view of the spiffed up Historic Courts on Garfield Street - location of the annual Beach Bash for Cash in Hollywood, FL. No wonder so many New Englanders make the trek each year in March!



Beach Bash Finalists - Freddie Ramirez, Richie Miller, Ernesto "Fish" Myrie and Robert "Iceman" Sostre. Freddie and Robert continue their dominance on Hollywood Beach.



Intense action from California's *Queen of the Beach!* Congrats to new Queen Janel Tisinger, along with her "court" in the final 4: Rhonda Rajsich, Kris Kaskawal, and Jackie Paraiso.



Maykel Rodriguez dives to return serve at 10-10 in a semifinal tiebreaker at the 4th Annual Memorial Shootout at Holiday Park in Ft Lauderdale. That return carried Maykel and partner Vinny Carvallo past veterans Ken Grandy/Dave Smith to their eventual victory over Mark Maupin/Rob Mijares.



The Edison "Old School" tourney in SoCal was a blast! Only small racquets allowed - short shorts and tube socks were optional. Rocky Carson teamed with Mike Peters to win what is sure to become an annual event.

King of the Beach 2010 - Final 4 KOB Champion - Greg Solis



The King of the Beach in California is off the chain! All Hail King Greg Solis!

Marina Park
Huntington Beach
March 13, 2010



A Conversation With... **WOODY CLOUSE**

Your best rivalry on the CPRT seems to be with Ruben Gonzalez... what's that like?

It's a love/hate relationship. I love beating him and hate losing to him! Ruben is an amazing athlete and competitor. He inspires me a lot. It's a lot like Cliff Swain as well. When you have beaten either one of those guys, you have not only earned it but you have beaten a legend. It's not something to take for granted, and it's a reminder that hard work and persistence pay off.

How long do you think you'll hold the #1 ranking? Who may end up knocking you off the throne?

I really don't know how to answer that. I try not to think about holding on but rather the opportunity to continue attacking every event with a vengeance. The ranking will take care of itself. I'm not sure who will knock me off. Cliff, Ruben and a lot of other guys come to mind. I like to think that the next person I play has the intentions to. All of the guys are too good to take lightly. I know there is a bull's eye on my back, and that's right where I want it. Keep in mind that it's taken me 26 years to be ranked #1 among my peers. I'm not giving it back after just two or three or four!

Who do you see joining CPRT over the next couple of years that will be the toughest competitors for you and the other guys on the tour?

Mike Guidry and John Ellis come to mind, Clubber (Craig Lane) is going to be a bear to play as well. There are a lot of players out there who have the ability to step onto the tour and realize success. I think we are all our own worst enemy at times. My priority is to stay humble and work my tail off to be in a position to bring out my best at each event and let the rest take care of itself.

Woody took the opportunity to add:

I think two of the biggest competitive factors are father time and lifestyle. My business, Effective Presentations (www.effectivepresentations.com) is demanding and I like to spend time with my family, too. My wife Valerie and I are expecting in September, and my two kids Keegan and Ireland are involved with theater and sports. These things take precedence over practice. But then again, that's why I have a gym in the house and visualize a lot. That's one of the things that I love about the CPRT the most. It allows me to have balance in my life. I can pursue being the best father, husband, businessman and person I can be. Without the CPRT, there would not be a platform for me to compete on. I'm blessed to be a part of it and to be able to share my passion for racquetball and competition.

Compare your careers and thoughts on the CPRT compared to the IRT? Wow! That's a tough question. I think my career on the IRT was simply unrealized potential. Not to get into all of the reasons, I just did not accomplish what I have been able to do on the CPRT. Maturity, discipline, priorities and faith in myself are all contributing factors.

What is it like traveling as a group with the CPRT pros compared to the IRT pros when you were competing with them for a living?

It's similar in some aspects but a lot different in many others. The fact that all the guys are really good people that I have a ton of respect for has not changed at all. I also think that it's a lot easier for me to maintain a high level of hunger to succeed than the other guys because they have all accomplished a lot more on the IRT than I ever did. I still feel like I have a lot of ground to make up for. They don't. The CPRT is all about sharing our love for racquetball. The IRT is all about who is #1 in the world. So it's a lot more relaxed on the CPRT.

What was it like to win the US OPEN? How does that compare with other titles you have won?

It was huge! It's the largest stage in the sport, and it's an honor to hold the title. It was a big relief on many levels because of losing the two prior years. I would rank it as one of the biggest, it's right up there with my two year-end National Championships. At this point in my career every win is a big one.

Waselenchuk Overcomes Injury to Win 2010 Florida Spring Break Tournament

by Evan Pritchard

Kane Waselenchuk overcame injury and a tough opponent in the final to keep his International Racquetball Tour (IRT) tournament winning streak alive, as he won the 2010 Florida Spring Break Pro-Am in Sarasota, defeating Rocky Carson in the final, 3-11, 11-5, 12-10, 11-5, for his sixth victory of the season.

Afterwards, Carson said he "tried to put pressure on" Waselenchuk in the same way Waselenchuk puts pressure on his opponents. Thus, Carson was focused on playing one point at a time. "I didn't make many mistakes," Carson said, but this pressure style did lead him to fault serve several times.

Asked about his injury, Waselenchuk said he felt "a pull and a pop and a pull." He didn't know what to expect when he went back on court, and he did seem affected by it in some of his movements. But Kane found a way to victory and was happy with how "I kept my composure" throughout the match.

Injury affected another player early in the tournament, as Jack Huczek had to forfeit his match against Jose Rojas in the middle of game three with the match at one game each. Huczek injured his right quadricep muscle in February, and it kept him out of the US National Doubles Championship. He still was not 100% here in Florida.

There was a dramatic match in the quarterfinals as Jason Mannino defeated Chris Crowther, 4-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-1, 11-9. Crowther was up two games to one and then three points away from the win in the fifth game when they were tied at 8-8. Crowther was hurt during his Round of 16 win over Alejandro Landa, and it showed against Mannino as he looked awkward when he lunged for the ball. Nonetheless Crowther's performance was superb. He hit half lob and lob serves from the far right of the service box to the back left corner, often hitting the half lobs at 2/3 speed. It was an effective strategy that almost got him to the semis for the first time in his career.

The IRT thanks all the sponsors of the 2010 Florida Spring Break Pro Am, including Core Engineering, Perconti Data Systems, Natural Med Therapies, DTOSI, and the Florida Racquetball Association.

Thanks also to tournament director Kim Roy and all the tournament volunteers, especially Bob Kulscar, Yvonne Buffington and Vanessa Smith, as well as all the staff at host facility Sarasota Bath and Racquet Club. There was record participation with over 260 players across all divisions from seven countries and 17 states.

Matches from the 2010 Florida Spring Break Pro-Am can be viewed at the IRT Network website: www.irtnetwork.com, your home for live web-casting of all the Tier 1 IRT events this season.

2010 FLORIDA SPRING BREAK PRO-AM Sarasota, Florida • March 11-14, 2010

Final

Kane Waselenchuk d. Rocky Carson, 13-11, 4-11, 11-2, 11-1

Semifinals

Kane Waselenchuk d. Jason Mannino, 11-3, 11-2, 11-3

Rocky Carson d. Shane Vanderson, 11-5, 11-2, 11-1

Quarterfinals

Kane Waselenchuk d. Chris Crowther, 11-7, 11-1, 11-9

Jason Mannino d. Mitch Williams, 4-11, 11-5, 11-2, 11-1

Rocky Carson d. Ben Croft, 11-9, 0-11, 11-2, 11-3

Shane Vanderson d. Jack Huczek, 11-4, 10-12, 11-8, 11-6

Round of 16

Kane Waselenchuk d. Luis Felipe Munoz, 11-0, 11-2, 11-2

Chris Crowther d. Andy Hawthorne, 11-8, 11-5, 11-0

Mitch Williams d. Travis Woodbury, 11-2, 11-7, 11-6

Jason Mannino d. Cliff Swain, 11-1, 11-6, 6-11, 11-3

Rocky Carson d. Brian Simpson, 11-2, 11-3, 11-1

Ben Croft d. Jose Rojas, 11-9, 11-6, 12-10

Shane Vanderson d. Eric Desrochers, 11-3, 11-1, 11-8

Jack Huczek d. Woody Clouse, 12-10, 11-7, 11-1

WASELENCHUK Don't Got No St. Louis Blues

Kane Waselenchuk continued his unbeaten season in St. Louis at the IRT Network.com Open, March 25-28. He defeated Rocky Carson in the final, 13-11, 4-11, 11-2, 11-1, in their second consecutive finals meeting. The IRT Network.com was the penultimate Tier 1 event of the 2009-2010 International Racquetball Tour (IRT) season, which ended with the Mexico Open in Tijuana, April 15-18.

Waselenchuk's win confirmed his dominance of the IRT this season, but Carson's second strong performance against Waselenchuk suggests that he - not Jack Huczek - may be Waselenchuk's strongest rival.

That is especially so as Huczek lost in the quarterfinals in St. Louis to Shane Vanderson, 11-4, 10-12, 11-8, 11-6. It was Vanderson's first win over Huczek in 19 matches in Tier 1 IRT events. In fact, they had only gone five games twice before.

Huczek's loss was the second consecutive tournament where he failed to make the semifinals. The last time it happened was February 2003. Since then Huczek had occasionally failed to reach the semis but never twice in a row.

The IRT thanks all the sponsors of the 2010 IRT Network.com Open, including Quality Stainless Products and Gershenson Construction Company, as well as Starbeam Lighting Solutions, Hoffmann Heating and Cooling, Engelmeier & Pezzani, LLC, Aurora Technologies Incorporated, Zach Archer and Jeff Otto.

Thanks also to tournament director Shari Coplen and all the tournament volunteers, as well as all the staff at host facility Missouri Athletic Club West Campus.

Matches from the 2010 Florida Spring Break Pro-Am can be viewed at the IRT Network website (www.irtnetwork.com), your home for live web-casting of all the Tier 1 IRT events this season.

BEN CROFT AND ROCKY CARSON



IRT NETWORK.COM OPEN St. Louis, Missouri • March 25-28, 2010

Final

Kane Waselenchuk d. Rocky Carson, 13-11, 4-11, 11-2, 11-1

Semifinals

Kane Waselenchuk d. Jason Mannino, 11-3, 11-2, 11-3

Rocky Carson d. Shane Vanderson, 11-5, 11-2, 11-1

Quarterfinals

Kane Waselenchuk d. Chris Crowther, 11-7, 11-1, 11-9

Jason Mannino d. Mitch Williams, 4-11, 11-5, 11-2, 11-1

Rocky Carson d. Ben Croft, 11-9, 0-11, 11-2, 11-3

Shane Vanderson d. Jack Huczek, 11-4, 10-12, 11-8, 11-6

Round of 16

Kane Waselenchuk d. Luis Felipe Munoz, 11-0, 11-2, 11-2

Chris Crowther d. Andy Hawthorne, 11-8, 11-5, 11-0

Mitch Williams d. Travis Woodbury, 11-2, 11-7, 11-6

Jason Mannino d. Cliff Swain, 11-1, 11-6, 6-11, 11-3

Rocky Carson d. Brian Simpson, 11-2, 11-3, 11-1

Ben Croft d. Jose Rojas, 11-9, 11-6, 12-10

Shane Vanderson d. Eric Desrochers, 11-3, 11-1, 11-8

Jack Huczek d. Woody Clouse, 12-10, 11-7, 11-1



WFRA Posts a Banner Year

The World Firefighter Racquetball Association, an association dedicated to promoting health and wellness for Firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics, was created in 2008 by two South Florida Firefighters, Peter S. Berger and Jeff Weinstein. The reason this association was formed is that every year more and more firefighters die of heart disease than anything else. There is no better way to get firefighters healthier than through a sport that not only will help them physically but will also help them mentally. Racquetball encompasses all of this.

With that said, the WFRA has had a successful year in 2009. Last year started off strong with the 2009 Florida State Fire Games Racquetball tournament where 35 firefighters from Florida participated. Throughout the year, the WFRA held local shootouts to get firefighters involved in the game of racquetball. The WFRA hosted four separate events in the State of Florida. The WFRA also was the sponsor of the 2009 California State Fire Games Racquetball Tournament in San Diego and has been asked to sponsor the 2010 California State Fire Games Racquetball Tournament in Santa Clara. The WFRA also was a sponsor for the WOR Team Florida and helped them get to Huntington Beach, California for the WOR Championships.

research and the discussion with the Chief that saved the racquetball program for that department.

But that's not all... During the recent 2010 USAR National Doubles Championships in Arizona, Jeff and Peter received an invitation from the Town of Queen Creek Fire Department to come and meet with the Assistant Chief in person. This meeting led to a donation of racquets and equipment so that they can continue to play safely. Not only was there an invitation to meet with the Town of Queen Creek, Jeff and Peter were invited to visit with the Phoenix Fire Department as well as the Tempe Fire Department. Those two meetings led to numerous contacts as well as opened the door to future tournaments in Arizona. The Deputy Fire Chief we spoke with in Tempe stated that he had been playing racquetball for about 20 years, and that, "It was about time that there was a racquetball association for firefighters."

The upcoming schedule for 2010 is packed and exciting. The WFRA kicked off their season with a shootout in South Florida in February and will be hosting a firefighter shootout every three months. We'll also be sponsoring shootouts in the Northeast, Midwest, South, and the West. California is scheduling their first shootout for firefighters in April.



Deputy Chief John Valenzuela and Fire Chief Cliff Jones • Tempe Fire Department



Chief Ron Knight
Town of Queen Creek Fire Department



Chief Frank Salomon
Phoenix Fire Department

The 2009 National Firefighter Games were held in Palm Beach County, Florida, and it attracted quality talent from California, New York, and Florida. A total of 45 firefighters attended. After their great experience, the firefighters went home thrilled and committed to coming back next year with more players.

As for grassroots projects and getting the name of the WFRA out there, we were able to help save racquetball for a fire department in Arizona in 2009. It was brought to the attention of founders Peter and Jeff that there was a fire department in the Town of Queen Creek, Arizona that plays racquetball every day while on shift. One day, one of the firefighters got hurt, and the Assistant Chief was planning to remove the program. The firefighters contacted us, and we used our research to explain to the Chief how important Racquetball was to firefighter health and safety. It was that

The WFRA will be sponsoring the 2010 Florida State Firefighter Games Racquetball Tournament in Hillsborough County (Tampa) Florida and we've been asked to sponsor the 2010 California State Fire Games Racquetball Tournament in Santa Clara, California. In April, the CPRT will have the first Uniform division added to their tournament to allow Firefighters, Police Officers and the Military to compete against each other.

The WFRA will sponsor the 2010 National Firefighter Games in Jacksonville, Florida this year. We'll also host, along with the NPRA, the Canadian American Police and Fire Games Racquetball Tournament being held in Ohio in August. Looking forward to 2011, the WFRA and the NPRA have been asked to be the hosts for the 2011 World Police and Fire Games in New York. This event will mark the ten-year anniversary of September 11th.



PAOLA LONGORIA AND RHONDA RAJSICH

WPRO MARCH MADNESS

by Sarah Warhaftig

The Washington metropolitan area once again played host to a marquee WPRO championship event, the Terrapin Shootout benefiting the American Breast Cancer Foundation, at the Sport Fit Racquet Club from March 12-14 in Laurel, MD. The illustrious Karen "The Voice" Denu was at the helm and did a marvelous job with Bill Milbach's assistance in handling the event. The WPRO singles draw was stacked featuring players from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Colombia as well as two local pros: #8 T.J. Baumbaugh from Reston, VA and #20 Doreen Fowler from Silver Spring, MD.

Many of the top local amateurs call the club home, and of course, the crowd at Sport Fit was electric and made sure the ladies of the WPRO felt the L-O-V-E. The club is laid out for optimal viewing with four glass back wall courts facing each other, making the center of the club a mosh pit of racquetball players, fans and hecklers. Sport Fit also happens to be the home club of WPRO Commissioner Shannon Feaster, WPRO Player Liaison Janice Ryan-Arnold and tournament committee members Tamika Holman, Danni Emerson, Yolanda Jordan and Sharon McNeill.

WPRO CURRENT RANKINGS

Rank	Name	Residence	Points
1	Paola Longoria	Tijuana, Mexico	1180.00
2	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	1067.90
3	Cheryl Gudinas	Naperville, IL	613.20
4	Kristen Bellows	Pleasant Grove, UT	510.00
5	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	445.50
6	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	318.90
7	Jo Shattuck	Denver, CO	269.80
8	T.J. Baumbaugh	Reston, VA	228.20
9	Krystal Csuk	Chicago, IL	212.00
10	Angela Grisar	Santiago, Chile	199.00
11	Keely Franks	Eufless, TX	184.25
12	Jennifer Saunders	Winnipeg, MB, Canada	171.25
13	Vivian Gomez	Miami, FL	153.50
14	Samantha Salas	Leon, Mexico	149.05
15	Aubrey O'Brien	Auburn, CA	138.25
16	Jackie Paraiso	California	120.00
17	Cristina Amaya	Colombia	117.50
18	Susy Acosta-Mendoza	Chihuahua, Mexico	113.70
19	Diane Moore	Griffith, IN	102.25
20	Doreen Fowler	Silver Spring, MD	94.75

Besides the "burn your mouth so good" Caribbean feast on Saturday night (an homage to Janice's Island roots, courtesy of Denny Samuels from Weakness 4 Sweetness of Greenbelt, MD), players and guests chowed down on Hooters wings, Chic-Fil-A nuggets and sandwiches, and Olive Garden pasta and salad throughout the weekend. Special thanks to our local event sponsors Ektelon Fireball, Holiday Inn-Laurel, Mike Violette, Sharon McNeill, Ryan Wilson/C&G Tax and Accounting Services, Theo "Mr. Fix It" Arnold, Nigel "The Elitist" Maynard, Kim "The Muffin Lady" Jenkins, Tirrell "Top Spin" Green and Roz "Foxy Lady" Evans.

Oh...let's not forget that there were some great matches going on over the weekend, too! Through Saturday's semifinals, the seeds primarily held (with the exception of Jo Shattuck breaking through to appear in the first semifinal match of her career). The championship round featured the familiar but always exciting headline: "Paola Longoria vs. Rhonda Rajsich." The tour's #1 and #2 pros for the last two seasons were set to battle once again. After a hard-fought four games, in the end it was Paola Longoria reping Tijuana, Mexico, who pulled it out before a huge crowd on Sunday afternoon.

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MRF OUTDOOR RACQUETBALL DEMONSTRATION



The 70 degree weather on March 20th couldn't have been more perfect to hold an exhibition for the citizens of Clayton, NC to experience the new thrill of outdoor racquetball. Months of planning leading up the event, with special thanks to Lynn Stephens of Southern Pines, brought the court to life. The opening ceremony commenced with Col Chet Beverly (USAF Ret) and MSgt Leonard "Hawk" Hunter (USAF Ret) of the TUSKEGEE AIRMEN leading those in the crowd to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. They then gave their personal war stories of what they endured during WWII and the Viet Nam era.

This event would not have been possible without the support of WOR, Racquet World, Ektelon, E-Force, and Mike Augustin of 40by20.com web-site. Many special thanks go to The Church of Clayton Crossings, the city of Clayton, Penske Rental Truck Company, and to our local sponsors Starbucks, Outback Steakhouse, and Wal-mart for their community support in this event. CONGRATULATIONS and THANKS to all those who supported this event.

JOINT FORCES NORTH EAST REGIONAL TOURNAMENT • MARCH 12-14



Another great quality tournament sanctioned by MRF took place at Joint Force McGuire Dix on March 15 with the help of Craig Casucci and staff. Players from California (LCDR Chhem Young-pen) competed and won the Open Men's Division, and Scott Winters from Ektelon made a guest appearance to support this first time event. All the players had a great time and look forward to continued events at Joint Base McGuire Dix.

AL UDEID, QATAR MARCH MADNESS TOURNAMENT



With growing support, another successful tournament sanctioned by the MRF took place at the BPC Gym at Al Udeid Qatar on March 26th with the help of Libby McCrainey, Andrew Taylor and MSgt "Rabbit" Rogers and staff. Players even made it down from Camp Arijan Kuwait. SFC "Piper" Murray competed in and took second in the Advanced Men's Division. With a total of 21 players, the events are growing slowly but surely. All the players had a great time and look forward to additional events at Al Udeid, Qatar.

MRF DEVELOPS WOUNDED WARRIOR RACQUETBALL PROGRAM

The Military Racquetball Federation (MRF) has joined forces with the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) on a newly developed racquetball program for wounded warriors – those service members injured in combat.

Steven Harper, MRF Executive Director, commented; "The Wounded Warrior Project is an invaluable organization supporting wounded warriors and their families who have made great sacrifices for their country. It is one of our priorities at the MRF to provide a portion of our rehabilitative services to these wounded warriors and offer them the opportunity to learn and ultimately compete in the sport of the racquetball."



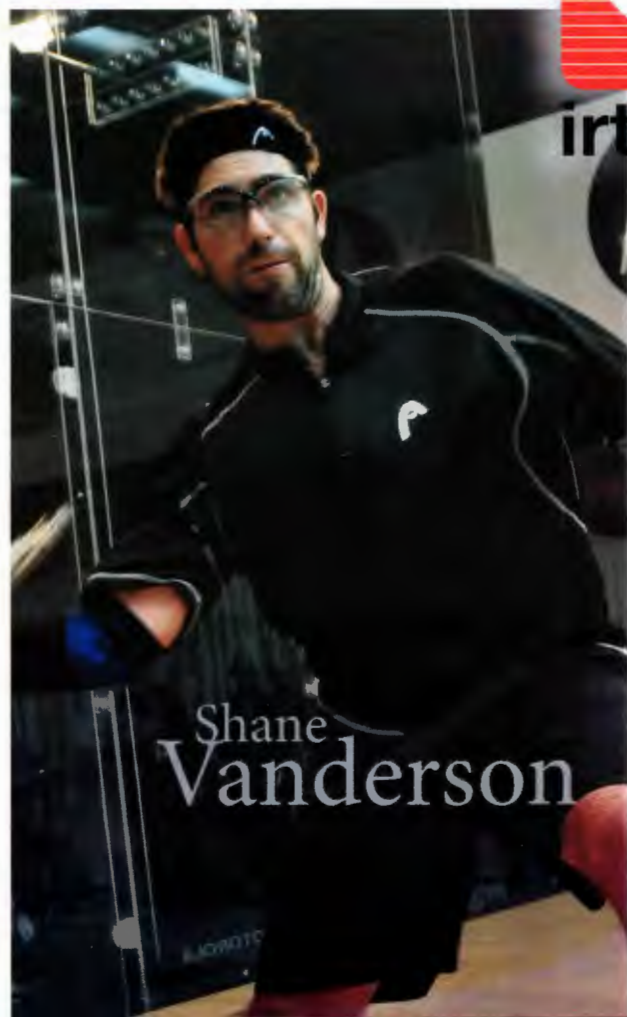
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Vanderson



Rocky
Carson



Kane Waselenchuk

by Mark Cotterman, IRT Board
Member and Director of Marketing

Kane Waselenchuk, the current #1 professional racquetball player, took racquetball by storm, narrowly losing his first Pro tournament when he was 17 to legend Cliff Swain. Despite a two-year absence, Kane has come back with the same ferocity to dominate the International Racquetball Tour. Kane is on pace to break multiple records, taking his place among racquetball's greats and setting a new high bar mark for accomplishment. We caught up with Kane to learn a bit more about what makes this incredible talent tick.

What year did you start playing racquetball?

In 1983, I was two years old. My father introduced me to the game. He was a 20-year player and ranked in the top 20 in Canada. I used to hit balls with a cut-up 2-liter 7UP bottle against the garage wall. Then my parents cut down an old Voit racquet and that became my first "official" racquet. Dad loved seeing me playing the game, but my mom would have preferred me to hit the books.

How old were you the first time you played in the Open division?

I entered (well, more like my dad entered me) my first Open division tournament when I was 8 years old. It was a great experience – the competition, the players, everything about it. I also have some fun memories of playing in Men's Open Doubles with my Dad at age 9. All the opponents loved it — they liked to pick on the little kid. But I showed them.

How old were you when you started to realize you could or wanted to play professionally? And how old were you when you played in your first pro event?

It wasn't until I was 17. I'd stopped playing in my early teens to focus on hockey and then decided to pick the game back up. In Canada it's all about hockey, and racquetball was just a great way to spend some time with my dad. Then some buddies told me about a pro stop in Las Vegas and said I should enter. At the time I'd just won the Canadian Nationals. I was kind of iffy, but they pooled some money and got me there. I made it to the 4th round and lost to Cliff 11-8 in a tiebreaker. He was the #1 player. I just remember thinking how awesome it was to be standing on the court with Cliff Swain. It was inspiring, and it was an honor. It was a great experience for me, where I got to know our current Commissioner Jason Mannino (who gave me some sage advice at the event, not to be repeated here!). After that, I thought, "Maybe I should see how far I can take this." I was really happy with the result, and it got me charged back up to play the game. I played a few more stops, and the rest is history.

Tell me your thoughts about your 2-year absence. Has it affected you? It seems like you came back stronger.

Well, the emotions were strong. I went from mad, to sad, to frustrated and a whole lot of other emotions. It was a tough pill to swallow, and it held a lot of uncertainty. I take tremendous pride in telling the truth and facing up to what led to my suspension. I continued to focus on the outcome – being the greatest player ever to play the game. And in my mind even though there was a gap in the time I played, that mental vision kept me going. I did set the racquet down for eight months and sat down and really thought it through. Then I

decided I was going to take the necessary steps to come back in superior fashion. That meant physically and mentally. My family was greatly affected too, and I had to deal with that impact as well. My bad decision had a lot of consequences. But my wife is a tough and amazing person, and she was and always will be there for me. It made a huge difference in the comeback. The bottom line is, I don't blame anyone. I told the truth, faced the music, and moved on. And I'm thrilled to be back playing the game.

What was your training like while you were away?

It was a long process. When I put my mind to something I give it 100%. I want to be the best at anything I do. The first step was putting my mind in the right frame – telling myself “you're a winner,” visualizing success. I worked with a trainer who got me on a disciplined regimen. Nothing fancy, just solid hard work. I trained really hard, especially on the mental aspects of the game.

Who is your toughest competition? Can anyone currently compete with you?

Kane: Anyone who steps on the court is my competition. I don't look at rankings. We're all professionals. Any one of us can beat anyone else on any given Sunday. I don't take anyone lightly, and I view every opponent as a #1. My match with Rocky in Kim Roy's tournament was a great test. It was a nice feeling – the urgency. When I hurt my knee, I knew I had to step it up. I wasn't playing my normal roll out, bang bang game. I had to adjust. And I believe it is that kind of urgency and flexibility that gives one an edge – the ability to keep winning.

Do you see anyone coming up who can test you?

Sure. There is some potential out there. But I want to be clear: it will be a long time before someone knocks me off my throne! I also know that just like me coming out of nowhere, that person might be lurking right around the corner. I have to be prepared for that. Kids today are so strong and talented. But the maturity that players get as they grow older and experienced is hard to replace. The guys coming up have to believe in themselves. But they also have to pass the test before they can claim their place at the top. And they'll have to come through me. My goal is not just to break records; it's to shatter them. Once I

decided to be the best, I set out to make it happen. I would love to be listed in the same book among the best to ever play the game. I have great respect for them. And ultimately I want to be recognized as the greatest ever. I love this game, and I want to be known as the person most associated with it.

Can you be considered the best ever, especially since you don't have a Sudsy or a Yellen to push you?

My dad always said no matter how good you are on the court, you are no better than anyone once you walk off the court. That was fantastic advice. He also said if you want to succeed in racquetball, be nice. And that was so profound to me, and you know, he's right. But I'm also confident. You *have* to be confident to be at the top of a sport professionally. And sometimes that can be interpreted wrong. But everyone should know that I care for everyone in the sport – players, fans, and the people behind the scenes who support them. There is also a difference between believing and knowing. To succeed, you have to move beyond simple belief. You have to *know*. How will I push myself? I haven't yet reached my goals. The big picture is I have to perform regardless of who steps onto the court. I'm my own biggest critic. And when you win consistently, you have to push yourself to keep your edge – focus on the end goal. I'm in a very blessed position to play this game and be good at it.

Fans are asking for rule changes – do you think having two serves would be good or bad for your game?

I think I hit my serve pretty solid, so if you want to give me two cracks at it, okay! Think about if we'd given Cliff two serves. I'm not a fan of changing it. I think it's good and fair to keep the way it is. One serve adds a level of excitement and a level of urgency. You have to focus in when one serve is in play.

How do you use coaches? Also do you consult sports scientists - e.g., nutritionists, biomechanics people - for training? If so, how so?

I work closely with Coach Winterton. Before that, I coached myself, and before that it was my dad. Once I hit #1, I hired a full-time coach. Why? I was moving into a new phase of my career, and I knew that everyone would be gunning for me. So I was going to do whatever it took to stay #1. Coach

Winterton has been around the game a long time, and I have tremendous respect for him. He was getting ready to retire, but I pulled him back into the sport a little longer! At one tournament, he came up and gave me some free advice, and that really stuck out in my mind that he would do that. Not many people take the time to do that sort of thing. That's when I decided to make him part of Team Kane. It was too soon for him to step out of the sport. I do my own training on the side, too. But when I go onto the court, he is there watching and thinking. Having that extra pair of eyes and brains makes a difference. His old school and my new school mentality blend really well. Sometimes he sees “ceiling ball” and I see “overhead splat roll out.” I see opportunities to be aggressive. But he's tempering some of my aggressiveness and that makes a lot of sense so that I can play this game for a long time. That happens as you get older...it's like life – you pick and choose the battles on your body!

You and your wife Kim met through racquetball. When and where did you meet? How does your racquetball-playing wife impact your game?

We got married in 2004. We met in a tournament in Mexico, became friends, and the rest is history. We have two daughters, Kennedy, 18 months, and Kendall, who is four months old. And we know they have the competitive spirit because Kennedy is already talking back to us. We also have two rescue dogs, Shiloh and Shakur, who are a big part of our family. Being married to a former professional player and world champion has been awesome. Kim totally supports me and understands what it takes to be able to play at a top level. It can also be intimidating because she does know the game. It's like having another coach there to support me. A spouse complements you, and Kim has sure done that.

Tell me what retirement will look like for you.

Spend time with my family. My daughters really changed my life. And I want to be a part of theirs. Grandkids would be great, too!

Any final thoughts, Kane?

Success is what you make of it. And right now I'm focused on what I love to do – I'm very fortunate to play the game I love for a living.



Jack Huczek

by John Scott
IRT Network

At what age did you start playing racquetball?

I started playing when I was 2 years old. My mom would take me to the club in Michigan and let me get on the court. I loved it.

How old were you the first time you played in the Open division?

I was 13 years old. It was a big jump from A's. The first tournament I won was in Ft. Wayne when I was 14. I remember it was me and Brian Simpson in the finals.

How old were you when you started to realize you could or wanted to play professionally?

Really from the start. Once I realized that there was professional racquetball, I just set my goals on that. It just seemed a natural fit for me.

How old were you when you played in your first pro event?

I was about 15 or 16. It was in Chicago at a tournament Dave Negrete put on. I think it was called the Halloween Classic. It was a great tourney.

Having arguably the best junior career in the history of the sport, was it difficult to make the transition to the IRT?

The junior career helped with everything but the grind of the tour. The hardest thing to transition was the fact that you didn't pick which tournaments you wanted to go to. You had to go to a specific number, and at times that was tough. I had to be committed to play on week-ends that I didn't really feel like it, but then again, everyone was in that boat.

You're currently the #2 ranked player in the world, and you've been in every finals so far this year - what an accomplishment! It seems you've had Rocky's number this season - although he seemed to have the upper hand last season. What have you done differently to turn the tide?

I took the off season to regain a focus and work on some things. This has been a very successful season and up until January I was in contention for the #1 spot. Anytime you have that kind of run, it's a success. I've been successful against Rocky because of the off season approach I took. I don't want to give too many things away, but I worked very hard and it really helped.

You have had numerous Tier One and Grand Slam wins. Which was your most memorable?

The most memorable was the first one that I won. It was in Boston. I had Guidry in the 16's, then John Ellis. Then I had to beat Jason Mannino in the semi's and then met Cliff in the finals. I was 19 years old.

Why do you think the most coveted title, the US Open, has eluded you?

The stars just haven't lined up...yet. I'd love to win it because it's a very prestigious event. It's something that I just have fallen short on, but I strive to win it every year.

You have played Kane in just about every final this season and have not been able to register a win. What makes him so difficult to beat?

He makes you work hard and play as close to perfect as possible. Kane brings out the best in you. If you make a mistake, he will put it away. You have to play an overall great game. I love those match-ups the most. It will swing my way. I just need to keep working hard and focusing.

You are known to be one of the (if not *the*) fittest players on tour. How much do you train per day, per week? What is a typical training session like? How many hours, routines, weights, plyometrics, cross-fit, speed, agility, etc?

I do it all, weights, plyometrics, cardio, etc. During the regular season I usually work out about 15 hours a week, even in weeks when there's a tourney. During the off season I usually put the racquet down for a few weeks and just work out. I love doing the outdoor workouts because it's nice that time of year in Dallas. I do a lot of running. After a few weeks, I get some sparring partners at local clubs to drill against and play. That's the great thing about Texas. There are a lot of great players where I am located, and it allows me to focus. I also like to study videos of me playing. I use them to analyze and gain a mental edge.

Are you able to work out like that with the injury?

No, it's mostly rest now. I'm trying to rehab it.

How did the injury happen? It seems like it was a terrible time for it.

It started in December, and I thought it was more of a cramp. It started getting sore, so I would try to keep it loose and do a lot of stretching. When we came into January, we had a couple tourneys back to back and I didn't have a lot of time to rest it. I still didn't think it was major, but decided to go see a doctor. The MRI showed that I had a torn quad.

REALLY? You've been playing with a torn quadricep muscle? What are the doctors saying?

I have a great team of doctors and therapists working on it. They have assured me that it will be okay, I just need to get it rested and get good rehab going.

Fans are calling for rule changes (speeding up the game, two serves, etc.) How do you think they will affect your game?

It doesn't really matter to me, one serve or two serves. I played with both rules. For me, I really don't care either way.

To whom do you attribute your success?

First, my parents. They put me in those courts in the early days and have had the most influence on me. Also my wife. Christie is great to have in my corner. It has been very, very rewarding in every way to be married to her. It's a very unique and rewarding thing to have her there.

Jack you're a member of the USAR Board—do you feel that helps you understand the politics of the game any better, and how can that position help you promote the sport?

It's my way of giving back to the sport. Being involved with USAR helps me stay focused on the big picture of promoting the sport and having a positive impact on people across the sport. It's another chapter for me to be involved in. It also helps me meet and get local people involved in learning about the tour. Being involved with USAR is all positive, and it's a great way to give back to the young people.

**When did you start playing racquetball?**

For as long as I can remember I've been playing racquetball. My father played. He brought me down to the club and gave me a racquet. I never could get enough of sports in general, but racquetball was one of my greatest loves growing up.

What other sports did you play as a kid?

I played basketball, baseball and tennis. I played basketball on the high school team and was All CIF. In baseball, I hit over .400 as a junior in high school and over .500 as a senior. I didn't play tennis in high school because I was playing the other sports, but it also comes naturally to me because I developed good strokes and a good serve when I was younger.

Did those other sports help you with racquetball?

Yes, a lot of sports you can relate together. Having strong foundations from the feet up is important. Now I surf a lot. It's one of my biggest passions. Once you get up on a board you really need to be balanced to be able to execute anything on a wave. And it's the same for any other sport.

How old were you when you first played in the Open division?

I was 14 or 15. It's a pretty tough draw here in southern California because there are former pros here. I remember playing Bret Harnett in one of my first tournaments and just getting waxed. It was a big eye opener to see the difference from an Open player and to play one of the top players to ever play the game.

You had an excellent junior career, one of only two players to win 18 & Under at World Juniors three years in a row (Sudsy Monchik is the other). Did you find it hard to go from playing juniors to playing pro?

Yes, it was. Not just playing pro, but being successful at the pro level. It's a big jump. In the pros it's a whole different game. In juniors I could get on a court and win by having guys beat themselves even if I wasn't playing well. But I had to play well just to be in the game with top pros. So there's a big difference in the style of game, level of the game, and focus. It's like going from C's to Open in one big jump. It forced me to really mature as an athlete. You knew it wasn't just physical but a mental game, too.

How did you decide to become a pro racquetball player?

After high school I had opportunities to play other sports, but when you're making a bit of money from a sport at 18, it seems like a lot. And I love being on the court and competing, playing racquetball in general. At 18, it was hard for me to not run after this little bit of money, and I've been very fortunate. It's been a lot of hard work, a lot of lumps, but a lot of rewards to go with it. It all started just out of high school — I saw the possibility of playing sport and making a living doing it.

Your first wins on the IRT were in 2003 and 2004 and then you didn't win again until 2007, so you went through a dry spell. Was that a difficult time to go through, having tasted victory but not having it lead to more victories?

You know, any time you're not finishing a tournament #1 it's always frustrating, so I try not to look just at my results. I try go out there and focus and leave it all on the court. I know if I do those things, I should be relatively happy with the outcome. When you're a professional racquetball player, you've got to remember that only one person in the draw is going to be coming out as the winner. And it can be tough because going into it all we want is to win that tournament. So anytime I'm going through a dry spell, it's not the most fun, but I try to prepare my best, leave it all on the court, and I believe things will fall into place through that.

The 2007-08 season was your best year on tour. You'd won three events before that, but that year you won seven events and finished #1. How did you do that? Was there anything different that you did that led to that great success?

I changed my training in about '06, '07, and that's when I started peaking, and I think I'm still right there in a lot of my performances, playing at about that level.

What changes did you make?

A lot of it was just confidence in what you're doing, what to execute. Rather than having to think about what to do, I was just doing it. I remember being on a court and whatever I did it was just gold. I still have a lot of moments when it's like that. When I'm playing that way, it makes it easy to get on the court and believe that no matter who I'm playing I have a good chance of winning.

Were there people you consulted, sport science people say, like trainers or sport psychologists, who helped you make that breakthrough?

No, I just started training harder. I incorporated surfing more into my training, which allowed me to relax more when I wasn't playing. Racquetball is my job and as much as I love my job, it can beat you down mentally. We always have to perform to our best, and surfing gave me an opportunity to get away from racquetball but still benefit physically. Surfing gives me an escape from racquetball and allows me to enjoy it that much more.

Who's your coach?

My dad's my main coach. I don't have a coach who travels with me to tournaments, but my dad knows my game. He was also an Open player. He's the best resource I have for advice.

When you're serving, you always look to the front wall before serving. Are you doing visualization or aiming for where to hit the ball?

Exactly. I think we get focused on what our opponents are doing, and we forget what we need to do and execute. Don't worry about what your opponent is doing, just focus and execute. So when I'm serving I'm just focused on executing the serve that I want to serve.

There's talk about changing to two serves on the IRT. What do you think of that?

Two serves might bring more interest into the game. The problem I would have is you don't want to slow the game down between rallies, and we definitely want to have rallies. The ball we're using now is slower than the green ball that was used in the past, and it forces you to be more precise in your shots. You can't just pound the ball in six inches high every time and expect it to be good. It's not moving the way the old ball used to, which I think is great for the sport.

You've played internationally for Team USA several times. How important are those international competitions to the growth of the game?

I think it's great to play in those competitions. For people to be able to see the top players in their own country brings a different level of excitement. For a player, it's great to compete against the best in the world. You want to see where you rank with the best. For us to reach other communities is a great opportunity for racquetball. The IRT Network.com is helping do that now.

In your career, you've won all the prizes, from Junior Worlds through IRT events, the US Open, World Championships. How long do you envision continuing to play racquetball and what motivates you, given that you've won all these prizes?

The love of the game. The fact that I hate losing. To see how hard I can push myself. I don't think there's one general motivation other than that I love what I am doing. I feel honored to play a sport that I love at the highest level and be successful at it, make a living doing it. This is my job. I feel very fortunate to have racquetball as my job, and I plan to make racquetball my career for as long as I can. I love it.

Here's the \$10,000 question: What does it take to beat Kane Waselenchuk?

Just consistency at the highest level. That's what he's doing, and he's forcing us to do the same thing. Some of us are pretty close to being able to knock him off, but he's playing better than anyone's ever played before. I don't mind saying that. When I was #1, I remember what it was like to only drop a game or no games for one, two, three tournaments in a row. But he's doing it at such a high consistent level with the difficulty of the shots he's hitting. But once we can break his confidence a little bit, figure out his game a little bit, he'll have to double think some things. Just give it time. I know for myself and some others that we look forward to making that happen. We're not afraid of challenges.

You played very well against Waselenchuk in Florida. How much confidence does that give you moving forward?

It gives me confidence in knowing where my game is. I know with my game when I'm playing at my best I'll be right there with him. But it's playing at my best. He gets me out of my game sometimes. I need to keep pressure on him and keep my game from dropping, keeping it at a high level. When any of the top pros, me or Jack or Kane, are playing a match, our job is to keep the pressure on our opponent. We understand that. That's what we do best, and that's why it's hard to break into the top 10, because it's not just playing racquetball. The pressure is much more intense. It's not just hitting shots. Now you have to hit shots from the most difficult positions. Setting your feet that much quicker. That's our job. Kane's doing that better than anyone else right now.



Shane Vanderson

by Evan Pritchard

When did you start to play racquetball?
My family first got me on the court when I was three years old.

So your parents played racquetball?
Yes, my whole family did. Brother, sister, mom, dad. My dad actually played outdoors in Columbus, Ohio, so my first experience with racquetball was on an outdoor court in the West Gate Park area about 20 minutes from downtown Columbus.

And you had a very good career as a junior, yes?
Yes, I played my first Junior Nationals at six years old, and I won every age division at Junior Worlds.

How old were you when you first played in the Open division?
I think I started playing Open in tournaments at 13.

What was the transition from playing juniors to playing on the IRT?
It's totally different. It took me awhile to get adjusted because in juniors there's only two tournaments that I had to pre-

pare for - Junior Nationals and Junior Worlds. I would play other sports in between, so I never played racquetball year 'round. So one of the toughest transitions to the pro tour was that there wasn't one tournament that you have to prepare for. It's more of a marathon than just having to prepare for a couple of events.

What other sports did you play?
I played baseball through high school. Soccer when I was really young. I ran track for two years after baseball, and I played golf into college. These days there's a lot of focus on playing one

sport, but one of the things I liked was playing different sports. There are a lot of things that intertwine between different sports.

How did the other sports help you with racquetball?

The mental aspects of golf - being able to focus on every shot, taking the good with the bad - was helpful. The footwork and conditioning from soccer and track was great. The swing in baseball is pretty similar to racquetball, so I learned a lot of swing mechanics from that. My swing developed mainly from baseball, I think. I was a switch hitter and actually I'm left-handed and kick left, but I play racquetball right-handed.

When did you decide to play racquetball professionally?

When I graduated college in 2003, I went on a couple of interviews. I got some good offers, but it had always been my dream to play racquetball. It was pretty tough the first two years on tour, because I was pretty much self-financed without any support from any of the racquet companies until I proved myself. But I didn't want to be 40 and wonder how good I could have been. So I sucked it up and I followed my dream. I felt I had the talent to do it, and I wasn't going to let money get in the way.

How are you training these days for racquetball?

It's dependent on where I am in the season and when the tournaments are coming up. Having played on tour for 6-7 years, most of my training focuses on off-court stuff - strength and conditioning. The on-court stuff comes pretty easily to me now.

Do you work with a coach on your game?

Not really, but the last couple of years Mitch Williams and I have worked together on strategy and things, especially as we're doing camps together now. So we coach each other a little bit. I have a trainer here in Tampa that I work with for off-court conditioning.

It looks like you'll finish ranked #4 this year. Do you think you're well positioned to challenge for the top three spots or even the #1 spot?

I try not to think too far ahead. There are still a couple of tournaments left this year. It looks like we're only going to drop one tournament. I don't think

Chris, Ben and Mitch are too far behind me, so I need to finish the season well to make sure I get in the four spot. There are definitely benefits to being #4 that can help me compete for the top three.

Who do you see outside the top four that have the most potential to get to the top four?

Really anyone five through eight. All those guys can be as good as the two, three, four guys on any given day. It's difficult for them to move up because a lot of the time they're playing the top guys more often. Any one of those guys is tough. I don't really look forward to playing any of those guys next year.

Do you see any rule changes that would help the game?

There's talk of going to two serves. I don't think it's going to change who wins and loses. But things go in phases. When I started playing the tour, the majority of guys drive served. Then a couple of guys changed that, and there was a wave of lob serves, playing more percentages and a little safer. Now I think you're going to see a switch back to drive serve mentality whether we go to two serves or not. So I don't think two serves is going to affect the outcomes of matches a great deal, but hopefully it would make the game more exciting for people to watch, especially at the end of games when a crack serve or an ace can swing the game one way or the other. If we do go to two serves, hopefully it makes it more exciting. But really I think the game is fine. I don't think there's a whole lot that needs to be changed.

Do you think any technology enhancements, like the Cyclops technology they have in tennis, could help racquetball be more media and fan friendly?

It'd be nice, but I'm not sure if it's possible, because there are challenges with the speed of racquetball and how the courts work. If it can be done, I'm sure Jason and the Board will look at it. But there are cost challenges as well. I think we need to get back to our core and grass roots.

Do you think the IRT is going the right way with its change in leadership from Dave Negrete to Jason Mannino?

Yeah, I think so. Jason's got some ideas. Negrete did some great things. He definitely got us in the right direction with building the portable court and proving events can be done outside athletic clubs, which is big when you start talking major sponsorship dollars. I think Jason's ideas will expand on that. They have different styles and ways of doing things, but at the end of the day, they both have the same goal: promoting racquetball and for the IRT to be the face of the sport with the players and the tour making more money.

You've played on the US Team four times. How do you see the importance of international competitions in promoting the game and helping the game grow bigger?

It's hugely important. I think Jason recognizes that, and I think he's planning on making the trip to Korea for the World Championships this summer to talk to the organizations there to see how the IRT can help them and work together with them. More exposure and more people can only be better for the sport.

Here's the \$10,000 question: how do you beat Kane Waselenchuk?

We're getting asked that a lot. Right now you have to hope he has an off day and you're playing well. I think people don't understand how much time it's going to take for the players to adjust to his game style and find a chink in the armor somewhere. It's not going to happen overnight. You're seeing players try different things. It's going to take a lot of work, but I think we're all trying to get there.

Does Rocky Carson's performance in Florida against Waselenchuk give hope to the other players?

I'm not sure the players look at it that way, because we know each day is different and our playing styles are different. I'm sure guys will look at it. But in Florida the courts were a little wet, too, so I'm not sure a whole lot can be taken away from those matches. Any time someone takes a game off Kane, it's going to be looked at, but at the same time I don't think you can really take much until someone actually wins a match from him.



Eric Muller,
IRT Chairman of the Board

What is your history of involvement with the IRT?

My first exposure to the IRT was as a player. I was a sophomore at Boston University, recently had qualified for the US National Team and was attending my first pro event in Pittsburgh. More notable than my first round beat-down at the hands of then #1 ranked Andy Roberts was that Pittsburgh was Cliff Swain's first tournament back after his tennis hiatus, and I believe it was the last win of Mike Yellen's career. I met Commissioner Hank Marcus at that event and developed a good relationship with him over the next couple of years. When I graduated in 1994, I already had been accepted to law school but had racquetball on my brain and wanted to test myself on the IRT. Being long on student loans and short on cash, I was looking for a way to defray my travel expenses, and Hank agreed to hire me on a part-time basis selling sponsorships and to launch the IRT Satellite Tour. Though I only worked for Hank for about 18 months, I continued to play on the IRT part-time for the next four years while I was pursuing graduate degrees in law and business.

The period between 1999 and 2001 was a time of unrest and volatility for the IRT. The VCI sponsorship had run its course and in the wake of the dot.com bubble bursting and the onset of the ensuing recession, the IRT struggled to maintain a full schedule and many Tier 1 events failed to meet minimum prize money requirements. By 2001, the relationship between Hank and the players had soured, and several of the top-ranked professionals broke away to form a rival tour. Our sport simply was not large enough to support two separate professional tours, and as a result, many industry leaders expressed a strong desire for a solution that would reunite the top players with the IRT. Given my relationships with both Hank and the players, I was asked, along with Aaron Katz, to mediate a resolution. Ultimately we reformed the IRT as non-profit run by a Board of Directors, hired Dave Negrete as Commissioner and agreed to buy out Hank. I joined the Board at that time and have remained an independ-

ent director ever since, though my level of involvement has varied greatly in that time.

What led to the IRT's change in leadership, and why have you become more involved?

About a year ago, we began to see that the global recession's impact

on the IRT was reaching a crescendo. Many event directors faced increasing difficulty raising the funds necessary to host Tier 1 events, leading to several cancellations. By the summer, it was evident that 2009 would be the last year of the Motorola / Verizon sponsorship. Our racquetball equipment manufacturing partners all were dealing with declining sales. Our players were struggling to make ends meet and viably justify continuing to pursue their dreams. Though the 2008 – 2009 season began with a lot of momentum, it ended with a sense of foreboding that 2009 – 2010 was going to be a much more difficult year.

In light of these challenges, the players and Dave requested that I lead an effort to conduct a thorough business review of the IRT and set strategic priorities for the coming year. Around the same time, Dave was approached with an attractive opportunity that would take his career in a different direction. As a result, we attempted to develop a construct that would enable Dave to pursue this new opportunity while still running the IRT. These efforts were the genesis of appointing Jason Mannino as Deputy Commissioner last summer. Ultimately, for a variety of reasons, by October Dave had concluded that it was impossible to do justice to both the IRT and his new career, and as such, he made the decision to step down at the end of 2009. Given the circumstances, it became necessary for me to drive the IRT's leadership transition, including hiring a new commissioner.

How would you define your role with the IRT today?

Today I am more involved with the IRT than I ever have been before. At its most basic level, the Board is tasked with setting the strategic direction of the IRT, and as Chairman, my role is to work closely with the Commissioner to ensure that we remain laser focused on achieving our most important objectives. In the early going, we have invested time in establishing some basic operating processes that will ensure we are consistent, thoughtful in our decision-making and fully collaborating with our partners. I am a big believer in transparency and as such have begun to build a proper infrastructure for gov-

ernance and financial reporting and control.

Why Jason Mannino?

The IRT is fortunate that Jason was interested in taking on the commissioner role. Jason is intellectually curious, a clear thinker and a quick study. He communicates in a straightforward manner. He has good instincts and business acumen. He is highly organized and relentless in driving tasks to completion. He was uniquely qualified to run the IRT given his credibility with the players and his vast set of relationships throughout the sport. I have a high degree of confidence in Jason's ability to be successful in this role.

Tell us about your career. What do you actually do for a living? Aren't you a lawyer?

Ha! There seems to be a common misperception is that I practice law. I did in fact attend law school and even passed the New York Bar on my first attempt, but I never practiced. After graduate school, I joined Goldman, Sachs & Co. as an investment banker providing debt and equity underwriting and mergers and acquisition advisory services to companies in the telecom, media and entertainment industries. In 2003, I left Goldman to join a boutique private equity firm where I was responsible for making investments in the general industrials and business services industries. In 2006, I returned to Goldman to join the Firm's Merchant Banking Division where we manage some \$90 billion of private equity capital. I tend to spend approximately 70% of my time making debt investments to support leveraged buyouts. This is a long-winded way of saying that I'm a private equity investor.

What else is on your mind?

I want to thank all of the IRT's partners, event directors, local tournament sponsors and players. Your unwavering support and tireless efforts provide the IRT with stability and enable us to pursue our vision that racquetball be recognized as the fastest, most athletic and exciting racquet sport in the world.

You were on the first US Junior Team and the Adult National Team. How did those experiences help you in life?

Competing for the US Teams was one of the true formative experiences of my life. If I had to boil it down to one defining moment, I would choose the 1992 National Singles in Houston. Eight months prior to Houston, John Ellis and I won the 1991 National Doubles which qualified us to compete on the US Team at the 1992 World Championships in Montreal, Canada. In Houston in 1992, I lost in the first round, yet John won the silver medal and qualified for Montreal in singles. Toward the end of the event, US Team Coach Jim Winterton informed me that I wasn't going to Montreal; he had decided to play Elli in singles, Doug Ganim and Michael Bronfeld in doubles. He said that I had two options; either walk away

defeated with my tail between my legs, or train harder and try to qualify for the US Team again in the future. I chose a third option – after about an hour, I approached Coach to discuss his decision and suggest an alternative. He changed his mind and took me to Montreal to play doubles with Ganim. I trained harder that summer than I ever had in my entire life, and we were rewarded with gold at the Worlds.

That experience had a powerful impact on my life – it was so meaningful that I even wrote about it in my Harvard application essay. I learned about perseverance and believing in the courage of my convictions. I learned to stand up for myself. I learned that great rewards come through hard work and tenacity. I learned that you never know until you try.



John Scott

What is your current role on the tour?

I am currently the Director of Media Relations. I have been placed on the Board of Advisors, and I have a professional relationship as the announcer for the events on the IRT Network.

How did you get started in announcing?

In high school I had just taken one of those aptitude tests. It said I should be a teacher or a farmer! Well my mother was a teacher, and I had enough of that at home. I had worked on a farm in Kentucky, so that was out, too. That night I laid in bed and prayed about what it was that I should do...and broadcasting just jumped in. The next day I had applications filled out for local radio stations and didn't look back.

Why racquetball?

Really it was an accident. My career had moved me into management, and I was at a tournament a year ago. At the last minute, the ESPN announcer couldn't make it and Dave Negrete asked if I still had the announcing ability (he knew I had done football, basketball, etc.). I figured it couldn't be too hard...right! So with less

than a few hours, I had the headset on and Mitch and I were off and running. It was great. I didn't have time to get nervous...it was just a seat of the pants experience. To make it worse, my mother was running around taking pictures, waving every time I looked up, writing little signs, it was like I was at a kindergarten play...she was a proud parent. I think she was more nervous than I was! It just occurred to me that after all the years of broadcasting, that was the first time she had seen me announce live.

Why is streaming production important?

Well, all the ingredients have been here, but it takes the right cook to put them into a pot and cook them. With the new portable court, the great venues in New York, LA, Portland, St. Louis, just to name a few; the fan base, the desire, and a great commissioner, we now have the right people in the right places. We need two things...outside money and fan support. Sure, the equipment and racquetball companies need to be involved, but we have been beating on them for years now. We need people to subscribe to the IRT Network; it's only \$9.99 a month! We also need to attract the large corporations. The network now has over 21,000 members. Most of those are non-paying members, but imagine having a concert with over 21,000 people watching. That's a great number for advertisers, and that's what we have. Also with our deal with the tour, we could give a great deal of money back into the sport with those advertisers...and imagine if those free people became subscribers! Then the sport would be taken to a level never seen before...network television, major scholarship funds, the pros getting paid what they deserve. Getting on major television takes only a few things...the biggest of which is *money*!

It's where the future of broadcasting is going! It's a very low cost, highly effective way to reach a large group of people. It's also cool technology that will allow us to get on iTunes, Amazon, etc.

What is the network's future and how are you going to bring more people and money in the sport? Is streaming the future of broadcasting?

The network is only starting. We have grown to over 21,000 members in less than a year. We need as many of those members as possible to move over to the subscription service. We are going to have great summer programming — pro shootouts, a week in the life of Rocky, Jack, Kane, Jose, etc. That is something I'm looking forward to. Imagine getting a behind-the-scenes look at someone like Rocky. What he does in the off season to stay in shape, what drills he does, what he eats, etc. Kind of like a 24/7 idea. We are also planning weekly

sports updates like "This Week on Tour." We want to have monthly web casts with players' spotlights and chat sessions. I think it's also important to get the other organizations involved. USAR, Classic Pro, Women's Pro, Military, etc. My goal is for each of them to have their own network.

Do you plan to stream/broadcast on local networks in the near future (PBS, local sports net's, etc)?

Yes, I think that's the bigger picture for everyone involved. We need our product out to as many people as possible, not just current fans. We must do better with the junior programs. If we could surround ourselves with some of the people doing things right...and listen to them...Dan Whitley in St. Louis, Kim Roy in Florida, Jason with the International Racquetball Tour, Dr. Hiser (just to name a few)...then we will succeed. I think it's time for us to put business in racquetball...not try to put racquetball in business. The tour is a major league sport, just like MLB, NFL, NBA, and it's being run that way. As fans we need to give it that support.

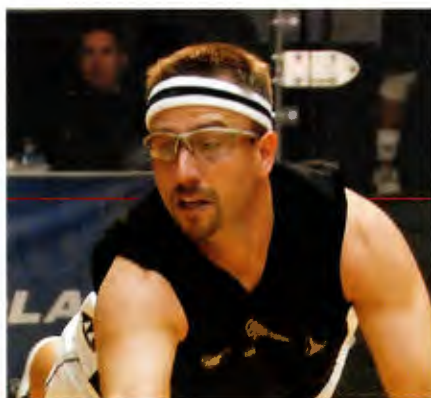
Detail new transition from announcer to owner?

Ha...that's a whole different interview! The Cliff notes are that none of this would be possible without Peter Nitschke and Pablo Fajre of Racquetballonline.tv. Peter gave me the opportunity to purchase the program, and Pablo is the gas in the engine. It would be nearly impossible without Pabs! My goal as the owner/announcer is to bring racquetball the best in broadcasting and grow the sport. If I can do those two things, then we will all be successful. If racquetball is successful then I will be successful...again the biggest needs for us are more and more subscribers and companies purchasing advertising. We have quickly become the outlet to the fans. If you own a company and want to reach the people...for the first time there's a way to make that happen instantly.

Who is/are your biggest supporters?

First off, God. I pray every day when I wake up, first for my family, then for the network. At night the same thing. Also my best friend and wife, Sarah. She is everything to me. We've been together since high school. I would not be doing this without her. She taught me that the right thing and the convenient thing aren't always the same thing. I live for her. Others include my mom and dad, (Dad is the one who started calling me the Mouth of the IRT...he has a weird sense of humor), my brother Gene, Jason Mannino, and Dave Negrete, and those old-time Open players who would take me on the court when I was a kid...Steve...Wayne...thanks!

Racquetball Magazine had a chance to sit down with lifelong racquetball player, 15-year professional, and Commissioner of the International Racquetball Tour Jason Mannino to discuss details related to the tour. Here is what he had to say.



FROM THE COMMISSIONER JASON MANNINO:

What made you decide to retire?

I have been thinking of retiring for the past year or so. I always thought I would continue on within the sport but didn't really know how. Camps, clinics, etc. My plan was to quit playing when I could no longer compete, take a few years to myself, spend time with my family, and figure out what I wanted to do. Then, with Dave Negrete stepping down and moving into a different field, the opportunity to take the reins presented itself. Taking into consideration my love for the game, relationships within the industry and relationship with the players, it seemed like the obvious thing to do. My only regret is that it happened so quickly, as I feel I could compete at this level for years to come.

Why take on the commissioner job?

I took on the commissioner job because I felt like I was the best man for it. The vision I have for professional racquetball is grand, and I plan on realizing this vision in the future. This is an exciting time for professional racquetball. The level of play is solid, Kane is making history as we speak, the players behind him are starting to narrow the gap, we have great matches in the round of 32, and our fan base is growing. With the introduction of IRT Network, streaming live to tens of thousands of people worldwide, we have a lot to be thankful for.

How do you see the business of professional racquetball?

I would like for prospective sponsors to be able to utilize professional racquetball as a true marketing vehicle, just like other sports. Our business for now is to strengthen our base (event directors, industry relationships, fans), creating the proper foundation for us to build on as we grow the sport.

Raising money in this economy has to be tough. How do you plan to secure funding for the Tier One events, and how do you plan to create the value proposition to solicit interest from major companies to utilize racquetball as a marketing vehicle?

Yes, this economy is difficult for everyone. The way I plan on securing funding is by communicating with tournament directors, and offering them a high level of support. I also plan on making events more valuable as the IRT has now added local media support for all Tier One event directors, as well as tools for all IRT event directors to use to solicit sponsors, reach out to the media, and run their event.

What are your plans for the immediate future?

I feel we need to improve our governance, strengthen our relationships with all of our constituents, and brand our identity. Our foundation is important, and it's time to concentrate on just that – then we can focus on building on top of our strong base.

Fans are asking about rule changes – is the IRT considering rule changes? If so, why, and what are some potential changes being considered?

The fans are asking for several rule changes. Like in any sport, those that are looking to change the rules do so in order to improve the game. The two I find most interesting are the "shot clock" – which would impose a 10-second count down from the time the last rally ended. This will help with dead time during matches, which is helpful in many ways. Not only would it move the matches along for live fans, but it would also shorten the production length and allow matches to be televised more efficiently.

The other is going back to two serves. This will add the excitement of an "ace" serve. Most fans want to see players hit bomb drive serves with the ability to ace. Over the past ten years, pro players have gone away from the hard serves due to playing more "percentage" racquetball. Given this fact, pro players have become extremely effective in returning lob serves – which is why there are fewer ral-

lies. To bring in more rallies, the excitement of the ace, and the fact that fans seem to want to see the hardest hitters in the world pound the drive serve, we're considering the two-serve option. I don't know if the Board will pass these changes, but I am excited to see what they say.

What does it take to put on a Satellite and Tier One event?

IRT events are hosted by promoters and event directors around the country. Events are organized into six "tiers," with the higher tier events offering more prize money and ranking points. The IRT limits the number of Top 8 ranked players who can compete in lower tier events. The lowest tier events ("Tier 5") require minimum prize money of \$500 and enable local players to earn IRT points and have an opportunity to play by IRT rules. All of the Top 8 players are allowed to play in the Grand Slam (\$30,000 minimum prize money if held in North America; \$35,000 in Latin America) and Tier 1 events (\$17,500 minimum prize money if held in North America; \$20,000 in Latin America). All IRT sanctioned events follow the IRT's "Host Guidelines." In short, the Pro Penn ball is used, IRT rules are followed in the Pro Division (3 out of 5 games to 11, win by two, no court hinders, no wet balls, etc.). The IRT offers support to event directors, including marketing materials, promotional help, and media help to name a few. For detailed information on hosting an IRT event, I can be reached at Jason@irt-tour.com for full details.

What makes an event a Grand Slam?

Grand Slam events are an opportunity for the IRT showcase the best players in the world competing for the most prize money at the best venues. The US OPEN is the epitome of an IRT Grand Slam, boasting close to 800 entrants and utilizing the made for TV all-Lucite stadium court. It is more of a racquetball experience rather than a tournament. If you haven't been to the US OPEN, you don't know what you're missing. If you have been to the US OPEN, a whole new experience awaits you as the event has moved to Downtown Minneapolis. The city is beautiful, and the venue is one of the nicest in the country. I expect the 2010 US OPEN to be one of the most fun and exciting events in the history of our sport.

IRT Partners – who are they, any new partners, have they been supportive through transition, how do you see relationship with them in the future?

I'm very happy that the IRT's partners have been so supportive through this transition. E-Force, Ektelon, Gearbox, Head/Penn, and Pro Kennex have made my transition from player to Commissioner seamless, and our event directors have been extremely easy to work with in my new role. I believe this is a sign of professional racquetball's value to the industry, and I am honored by their support. I am also pleased that Racquetball Warehouse (www.racquetballwarehouse.com) has been named the "Official Retailer of the International Racquetball Tour." Racquetball Warehouse is a cutting edge online retailer, specializing in the sale of racquetball-related products, and it is among the largest companies of its kind. The IRT also recently signed a long term agreement with IRT Network (www.IRTNetwork.com) enabling anyone with an internet connection the ability to watch live and archived professional racquetball matches online. OneShot Sports also has been very supportive.

I am extremely excited to focus full time on the International Racquetball Tour, bring professional racquetball into more homes than ever, and show players and fans alike why racquetball is the fastest, most athletic and exciting sport in the world.



irt-tour.com

Ones to Watch

the up-and-coming
IRT stars



Taylor Knoth



Jose Rojas

Former IRT Commissioners



JIM HISER
1986 – 1988 WPRT
(World Professional Racquetball Tour)

What was your greatest challenge as commissioner?

For every IRT Commissioner, one of the many challenges is convincing event directors to raise the necessary funds to host an event. Beyond that, during my tenure the main problem was creating a professional players' association. Sponsors wanted to see a unified committed player organization but certain players were resistant to creating such an organization. Without a consensus among the players themselves, it was difficult to attract and maintain sponsors.

What do you feel was your greatest accomplishment?

Although only temporary because of political infighting, among my accomplishments was the attraction of an outside sponsor who committed to televising every pro event during the season. The sponsor had hired a PR firm and had negotiated with ESPN to broadcast the season's final event. Also, the implementation of the three-foot service rule started with the WPRT.

If you could make one change in the tour, what would it be?

Of course, everyone hopes a major sponsor will be attracted so all events can use the all-Lucite stadium court in high-traffic areas and venues.



HANK MARCUS
1988 – 2001

What was your greatest challenge as commissioner?

Working to brand the IRT and the pros as professional athletes separate and distinct from amateur play. Having a pro ball, different rules, scoring system, and television that was spectator friendly. In addition,

having the top pros give up their amateur status and open up national team and national amateur opportunities for younger up-and-coming players.

What do you feel was your greatest accomplishment?

Introduction of the first serve rule, televising with ESPN, development and introduction of the Pro Penn ball, and working with Doug Ganim and the USRA on the US Open.

If you could make one change in the tour what would it be?

More international events outside the U.S. and Canada.



DAVE NEGRETE
2001 – 2009

What was your greatest challenge as commissioner?

One of the biggest challenges was deciding what exactly the IRT's responsibility was in the racquetball arena. I was always faced with questions and concerns on how the game should be promoted through the IRT for juniors, collegiate and adults which included promoting and growing the game. I always felt it was somewhat the IRT's responsibility to help drive the sport, but it was a difficult task. During my tenure, I believe we grew the tour to a level where we were looked upon as the leader in the sport. The obvious challenge was and always will be attracting sponsors. It was always a challenge to show a great ROI for Motorola and Verizon Wireless. We did, however, do very well and showed good numbers for the events we aired on ESPN Classic. The Motorola and Verizon Wireless sponsorship came about because I happened to give a lesson to Dan Aderhold of Motorola and began a dialogue with him. Bottom line is, the sponsorship materialized due to the relationships and networking within the Chicago racquetball community. Had I not fostered those relationships, we would have had no Motorola or Verizon Wireless and certainly no Lucite court.

What do you feel was your greatest accomplishment?

Staying the course with my vision of where I wanted to take the IRT. The new portable court was another great contribution to the sport. The Klimaitis and Taylor families of Chicago funded the glass court that we were able to set up in public places like downtown Denver and Navy Pier in Chicago. We were able to expose the sport to thousands of non-racquetball players and promote our top players to the masses. It also attracted a major sponsor in Motorola and Verizon Wireless. Broadcasting a few events on the ESPN network brought us some great exposure. The pro tour has opened the door for Jim Hiser and USA Racquetball to secure a deal for a video game that should make a big impact on promotion of the sport. We were able to do a lot of exciting things for the IRT during the past eight years.

If you could make one change in the tour, what would it be?

The most rewarding aspect was the relationships that I built over the years. This sport has so many passionate people who truly love the game. I believe racquetball is still a ways off from becoming a well known sport in the public eye, but without the ability to network with my friends in Chicago, across the country and even around the world, the IRT would not be where it was when I stepped down as commissioner. Networking with tournament directors and friends of the game enables a stage to be built for the top players in the game. How they choose to continue to leverage that is up to the new regime. I hope they all realize the sacrifice that many "friends of the game" have given to help them display their talents and earn a living.

What I would change? Nothing. I have no regrets and left the tour with my head held high knowing I gave 100% in leading the IRT for eight years.

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Camps

Camp Schedule

Weekend Racquetball Fantasy Camps

2010	
April 30-May 2	North Carolina
June 4-6	San Diego, CA
July 23-25	Woodbridge, NJ
August 6-8	San Francisco, CA
August 27-29	Sarasota, FL
September	TBD
October 1-3	San Antonio, TX
October 15-17	Atlanta, GA
November 5-7	Chicago, IL
Fall/Winter	Ohio
2011	
January 21-23	Los Angeles, CA
January 29-31	Las Vegas, NV
February 4-6	Seattle, WA

Week Long Racquetball Fantasy Camps

December 2-9, 2010 Aruba
(Caribbean Island...Advanced Camp)
Possible Future Cities...AZ, NM, MD/VA, New England + more
The above dates are subject to the IRT schedule

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US OPEN PREVIEW

by Doug Ganim

Well it's hard to believe it's been 15 years, but the 2010 US OPEN Racquetball Championships is approaching once again! Obviously, the BIG NEWS is that the US OPEN is moving to Minneapolis. This year's event promises to be the best ever with a record turnout expected of both players and spectators. The purpose of this special Preview is to give you an idea of what to expect at this year's tourney.

Amateur Draws

The amateur matches will be played at all three venues—Life Time Fitness Target Center, Life Time Fitness St. Louis Park, and Life Time Minneapolis Athletic Club. No consolation divisions will be offered due to the expected huge draw and lack of available court time. The competition will be excellent in all of the divisions offered as we always host competitors from all over the world. The top four finishers in each division will receive oversized US OPEN medals that weigh about a pound apiece!

Pro Match Tickets

There is no better place in the world to watch pro racquetball than at the US OPEN Racquetball Championships. First of all, every top player in the world on the IRT, WPRO, and CPRT will be in Minneapolis. For the true racquetball enthusiast, this means incredible matches to watch right from the Round of 32. Second, all pro match courts are professionally wired for sound so spectators can hear every grunt, groan, and under-the-breath comment throughout every match of the tournament. The ball sounds like a missile being shot off, so be sure to bring your earplugs if you have sensitive "flappers." Third, all the feature matches take place on the new breathtaking made-for-TV portable stadium racquetball court. This engineering marvel has four walls made of crystal clear Lucite acrylic that is not only optically correct (no tinting, blurring, or bending of light) but is beautiful to behold. All the Lucite material is butted up against each other with Lucite "fins" providing the support. Even the "L" brackets are made of Lucite, so the result is a seamless visual experience that makes you feel like you're right in the court with the players. The stadium seats about 1,100 fans, and ticket sales are always brisk. Your best bet is to purchase one of the Ticket Packages, which includes all sessions. This is by far the best value. If you like to view the pro's from the back wall, purchase the upgraded Preferred Ticket Package for a guaranteed back-wall seat. Side wall seating this year will

be located above the court on a mezzanine level. This less-expensive option still offers a good view but you'll be further away from the court if you choose the preferred back-wall seating.

Parties, Parties, and More Parties!

One of the things the US OPEN is best known for is the evening social functions. For those planning to attend, you can expect more of the same this year beginning with the "free admission" Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude on Wednesday evening, the fun "Players Gathering" (site TBD) on Thursday evening, the Players Dance Party (site TBD) Friday evening and the largest bash of the year, the Saturday evening PARTY WITH THE PRO'S. Other activities include a special Thursday evening Internationals Reception for all our guests from outside the U.S. and a weeklong industry trade

show in the Player's Hospitality Village featuring all the top racquetball manufacturers displaying the latest and greatest gear available in the sport. Look for returning special events this year, including the IRT Champions Clinic and the IRT/WPRO Play the Pro for St. Jude Challenge.

No way to attend the event this year?

If you absolutely can't make it to this year's tournament, then your last resort is to follow the action from home. To help make this easier, we

will transform our website, www.usopenracquetball.com, into a computer "window" to look in on the action at the tournament. Plans include offering live amateur division results posting, up-to-the-minute pro match results, digital photography from throughout the event, streaming video of select pro matches, and web-radio voice interviews with top pro's as well as play-by-play voice streaming of the quarters, semis, and finals (pay per view package required—sign up at www.usopenracquetball.com). Special thanks to our computer guru and webmaster Steve Kowalski for spearheading this ambitious project for the US OPEN.

THE PRO'S!

As always, the focal point of the US OPEN are the pro players and the incredible entertainment they provide as each player quests for the coveted US OPEN title. Anyone on tour will tell you that at the U.S. OPEN intensity is at its highest so every match showcases both players at 120% effort. Check out the IRT, CPRT, and WPRO preview articles in this special *Racquetball* magazine US OPEN Preview Section for more info!



THE LINEUP & THE LOWDOWN



irt-tour.com

Kane Waselenchuk
Jack Huczek
Rocky Carson
Alvaro Beltran
Shane Vanderson
Jason Mannino
Ben Croft
Jose Rojas
Mitch Williams
Cliff Swain

Line

1-3
3-1
4-1
12-1
14-1
15-1
15-1
17-1
18-1
25-1

Performance Factors/Burning Questions

Is it possible for him to lose?
Can he finally win his first US OPEN?
Can he get past all the Kane beatings and step up his game?
Can he come back from his torn ACL? Is he in shape?
Will he match his backhand with forehand prowess in Minneapolis?
Will he play in the US OPEN?
Has proven he can pull upsets...can he string them together?
Hottest young player in the sport is going to break through soon.
Didn't do much last season...could be his breakout year on tour.
Back at the US OPEN at 43. Can he do it one more time?
Nicklaus did it at 46!



Rhonda Rajsich
Paola Longoria
Cheryl Gudinas
Christie Huczek
Kerri Wachtel
Angela Grisar
Kristen Bellows
Adrienne Fisher

Line

3-1
3-1
5-1
5-1
6-1
9-1
10-1
15-1

Performance Factors/Burning Questions

Defending champion. Still the best athlete on tour.
Can she win her second US OPEN title? It's a good bet!
Does she have one more left in her?
Can she join Sudsy and win her 4th US OPEN? (Kane has 5!)
Champ in 2001! Will the magic return?
The South American wonder will need to step it up to win in Minneapolis.
Will need her best performance to pull off a US OPEN victory.
Has the power and her shot selection is getting better...will her fitness level be there?
Young up-and-comer has some serious game! She will upset someone!
Another young gun who has a knack for finding a way to win.
Semifinal finishes in '06 and '08. Can she win it all this year?



Woody Clouse
Cliff Swain
Jimmy Lowe
Tim Doyle
Ruben Gonzalez
Bret Harnett
Mike Ceresia
Doug Ganim

Line

2-1
3-1
4-1
4-1
5-1
6-1
7-1
100-1

Performance Factors/Burning Questions

Sharpest player with modern game style. Dominating CPRT.
He is tired of losing to Clouse. Look for fireworks in the finals!
Drives them crazy with the "wagging tongue!"
Now 40 years old. Could be trouble for Clouse and Company!
The "freak of nature" will be diving everywhere!
Former #1 in the world and still in great shape.
Gritty competitor. Always entertaining to watch!
No shot to win.

PRO-AM DOUBLES FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Want to treat yourself to an incredible racquetball experience while at the same time supporting a world-renowned charity devoted to caring for children with catastrophic illnesses? Well, here is your chance! On Wednesday evening, October 20th at the 2010 US OPEN, 32 lucky amateurs will team up with the top stars on the IRT and WPRO for a special Pro-Am Doubles tournament. A \$325 donation gets you into the draw (until 32 commitments have been received). The evening features free food and beverages, an autographed racquet from your pro partner, and a complimentary photograph with your pro partner.

Although this event has sold out each of the last fourteen years, at the time of this writing there are still a handful of spots left. If you are interested in participating, call (800) 234-5396, ext.129 to register.

ATTENDING THE US OPEN AS A VIP!

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury Gold Boxes still remain for the 2010 US OPEN. The cost is \$2,800 and includes four Gold All-Access Credentials to the event. In addition to enjoying the pro matches from your private and comfortable courtside Gold Box, All-Access Credential holders will enjoy the exclusive Pro/Gold Lounge throughout the event, featuring complimentary catering (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and beverages (beer, soda, water, and wine) during all hours. Event sponsors, top ranked men and women pro players, Board members and Gold Box holders are the only VIPs permitted in the lounge.

If you are interested, please call (614) 890-6073 to check for current availability.



THE ROAD TO **NUMBER ONE** GOES THROUGH **MINNEAPOLIS**

by Leo R. Vasquez

The "Grandest Stage" in professional racquetball makes its new home in Minneapolis and the Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) will feature some of the biggest names in professional racquetball from across the world. The women will be playing on the four-wall Lucite portable racquetball court to crown another US OPEN champion. The Road to Number One makes a brief but action-packed stop here, and the dream of winning a major championship becomes reality. This is a player's best chance for a major breakthrough at racquetball's most prestigious event, a "Grand Slam" event every pro player dreams of winning...this is the **2010 US OPEN Racquetball Championships** and you won't want to miss any of the action when the ladies take the court!

Defending champion Rhonda Rajsich will have her work cut out for her, and she will be joined by four other former US OPEN women's singles champions — Cheryl Gudinas, Paola Longoria, Christie (Van Hees) Huczek and Kerri Wachtel — in the women's singles field along with a strong supporting cast of the world's best players. Each of the former winners have a legitimate chance to add another US OPEN title and have her name etched on the elegant silver championship trophy. Of course, any one of the women players who compete in the US OPEN can win, but the previous champions have a better chance than most. Here is a preview of the tour's top ladies looking to capture the sports most coveted championship.

Rhonda Rajsich (3:1 odds)

Rhonda won her third ('03, '07, '09) US OPEN WPRO title last year by defeating '08 champion Paola Longoria in five grueling games. She tied Christie (Van Hees) Huczek for most US OPEN WPRO titles at three and can make history by winning an unprecedented fourth championship. Rhonda has been the world's No. 1 player multiple times in her career, so any questions about the state of her game and her ability to dominate against the top players in the world have been answered. Rhonda is known for her creative shot making, speed and especially her spectacular diving ability. She will bring her best anytime she steps on the court, so plan on watching her in the finals on Sunday.

Paola Longoria (3:1 odds)

This Mexican's rise has been meteoric. Only a few years ago at the beginning of her WPRO career, few had even heard of Paola Longoria, but that all changed last year when she



MIKE BOATMAN

became the first Mexican player to finish #1 on the WPRO and also in 2008 became the youngest woman to win a US OPEN Championship. Paola won more than half of the tour events last season, and she has a game style that matches up well against the other top players. Her loss to Rajsich in the finals still lingers, and she will use that to motivate herself back to the championship match on Sunday. Longoria has an unorthodox swing style that works for her, and she has improved each year. She may be coming into the prime of her career at just the right time, so expect Longoria to be playing for a US OPEN title to reclaim her spot at the top.

Cheryl Gudinas (5:1 odds)

This tour veteran has two US OPEN championships ('02, '04) and is somewhere recharging her soul that fuels the desire to compete. Finally faced with this inevitability, she has responded in a most surprising manner. She's grinding away, playing more than ever. She has no time to get nostalgic, and her game seems to be revitalized on the big stage. Cheryl continues to bring a high level of intensity, emotions and a fierce competitive attitude unmatched by her opponents. But as sentimental as this annual journey has become, Cheryl won't allow herself to settle for anything less than another US OPEN championship. A win here would solidify her place in US OPEN history and add to her legacy.

Christie (Van Hees) Huczek (5:1 odds)

Because of her lack of playing time, Christie does not have an official WPRO Tour ranking. Consequently, she is a threat in any part of the US OPEN draw. She became the first unranked player to go from being a qualifier to a finalist in the 2003 US OPEN and she has the weapons and confidence to do it again in 2010. Huczek is the holder of three US OPEN championships ('00, '05, '06) and can make history by adding another singles title and becoming the only female player with four championships. Her marriage to men's pro Jack Huczek and the news of her pregnancy earlier this year may not have her in top form when the bell sounds.

Kerri Wachtel (6:1 odds)

Last year, Kerri had a tough draw as she lost a five-game battle against Paola in the semifinals. Winning the first two games, Kerri had the 2008 defending champion on the ropes and facing elimination. The loss left Kerri shaking her head at the chance of making the finals and ended her dream of adding a second US OPEN championship. She won this event in 2001 and anyone who has seen Kerri in action knows she seems to raise her level of play in grand slam events. This mother of twins who also gave birth to a son in March of this year will have her hands full as she launches her quest for a second US OPEN title. Can she be the first mother of three young children to hoist the silver championship trophy?

Kristen Bellows (10:1 odds)

The player formerly known as Kristen Walsh has also been busy making babies. Kristen took time away from the WPRO Tour and gave birth to a son in March. She lost a five-game war last year at the US OPEN to Kerri Wachtel in the quarterfinals, and her best finish was a semifinal appearance in 2008. She will have a lot of work to do to get her game back on track. She won the 2009 Ektelon WPRO World

Championships, stealing the spotlight that was supposed to be on Longoria and Rajsich. Could this be the year that two moms battle it out while the daddies take care of the kids?

Angela Grisar (9:1 odds)

This Chilean superstar has made her home here in the U.S., residing in California to play more on the WPRO Tour. She has earned the respect of her competitors with her supreme conditioning and superior backhand. Her best showing was a semifinal appearance at the 2007 US OPEN, and she continues to improve each year. Can she become the first player from Chile to win the US OPEN? She will have to play with confidence and not force the big shots. Angela can match her opponents shot for shot, but she will have to control her emotions and minimize the pressure that comes with winning her first US OPEN.

Adrienne Fisher (15:1 odds)

Pursuing a college degree while enrolled in the honors program in business school has prevented Adrienne from training to compete at a high level. In spite of this heavy workload, she has an incredible amount of raw talent that helped her win numerous junior and high school titles. Adrienne is smart, articulate and has potential, but she will have to come to the US OPEN with more than her school work to make a run at glory. Her best finish was a quarterfinal appearance in 2008. She lost a five-game match to Jackie Paraiso last year, and she will not go away quietly against anyone she faces.

Sharon Jackson (16:1 odds)

A future superstar of women's racquetball, Sharon brings more than just a pretty face to the sport. Her recent win at the USAR Intercollegiate Championships in singles and doubles is proof that Sharon can win big matches at a high level. In her junior career, she has amassed 14 National Titles and one World Title. Sharon is a member of the U.S. Adult National Team, and her poise and confidence on the court will help her cross over into the WPRO. She should not be taken lightly. Competition be forewarned, Sharon could cause the first upset at the US OPEN.

Sheryl Lotts (16:1 odds)

Sheryl is also considered a young gun in the stable of new players who are quickly rising through the ranks. Her aggressive game style will help her play big points, but her lack of experience on the big stage may keep her from winning. She has a tremendous amount of talent and is gaining experience every time she steps onto the court. She won a gold medal at the 2009 Junior Olympics and a silver medal at the 2009 Junior World Championships in Santo Domingo. A few years from now, Sheryl will be competing for a US OPEN championship.

Brenda Kyzer (17:1 odds)

Brenda's semifinal appearances in 2006 and 2008 are her best finishes to date, and she has the experience to reach the championship match. She has played many tour events on the WPRO and has been a fan favorite for many years. Brenda will have to bring a high level of confidence and come to the US OPEN prepared and ready to go the distance. Can she re-live the magic and take that ultimate step into the winner's circle?

THE **GREATEST SHOW** ON EARTH

by Doug Ganim

Always the highlight of the US OPEN, the IRT draw will undoubtedly deliver another memorable year for racquetball fans throughout the world. More than ever, young stars and wily tour veterans will be gunning for the coveted US OPEN title. For those of you who like to lay a little side wager on the action, allow me to give some insights that may help you make some cash.

Kane Waselenchuk (1:3 odds)

The chances of Kane not winning the US OPEN are slimmer than slim. Every time he steps foot on the portable court, his game rises to ridiculous levels. Not only does he win all his matches at the US OPEN each year, but he often makes the other top players look downright silly. Of course, an upset is always possible but highly unlikely with Kane. If you want to see the game played at a level never before seen, pull up a seat for any of Kane's matches and enjoy the show!

Jack Huczek (3:1 odds)

Despite never winning the US OPEN, Huczek still is a good bet to reach the finals and battle Kane for the title. A Huczek vs. Carson semifinal will make for one heck of a match. If Jack gets by Carson, he has the best chance of anyone on the IRT to pull the upset. He is one of the only players in the world who has beaten Kane in IRT pro events. Further, he has the fitness level to stand tall late in the match should he find a way to push it to the wire.

Rocky Carson (4:1 odds)

Rocky Carson will have to get through both Jack and Kane to win the title, a tall order for sure. He usually plays well at the US OPEN; however, he has taken some major league beatings from Kane over the past year and the scar tissue is starting to build up. He has a strong chance to reach the finals, but it would take a Herculean effort for him to upset Kane and win the tournament.

Jason Mannino (15:1 odds)

As of this writing, Jason has officially retired from pro racquetball and is putting his full time efforts into serving as the IRT's new commissioner. However, my goal is to coax him out of retirement for at least this one event! Winning the US OPEN is about guts, stamina, and the willpower to



MIKE BOATMAN

dig down deep. Being the most skilled player on the court does not even come close to guaranteeing a win. Nobody on the IRT has more guts than Jason Maninno. His chances of winning the tournament are slim, especially because he will be rusty from not playing regular IRT events, but depending on his draw, making the finals is not out of the question.

Alvaro Beltran (12:1 odds)

Beltran continues to be a big underperformer at the US OPEN and on tour in general. For a guy with his enormous talent to have never won a pro stop (despite seven finals appearances) is shocking. Everyone on tour knows how dangerous this player can be, as he has all the tools. The question is, will he break through on the biggest stage and really show the fans what he has under the hood? As I said in my review of Mannino, winning the US OPEN is more about guts than skill. Would love to see Beltran finally show some real fire on the court and put forth the effort necessary to claim victory. Last year he missed nearly the entire season with a torn ACL. A lot will depend on how he has recovered from his surgery. However, he is the only player in the draw that Kane really hates to see on the court. For some reason, Beltran usually gives him a bit of trouble.

Shane Vanderson (14:1 odds)

Vanderson has experienced success at the US OPEN, making the semifinals five times, including 2009. Of all the players who have never won a pro stop, Shane has about the best chance of pulling off the impossible by making the US OPEN his first victory. The reason is, he tends to get "hot" from time to time. When he is rolling the ball from the back of the court, nobody on tour can beat him. He becomes impossible to score against. All you can do is "weather the storm" and wait for him to cool off, which he usually does. To win the US OPEN he would have to stay hot for multiple matches. Time is starting to run out on this veteran but...never say never!

Ben Croft (15:1 odds)

Ben is the most improved player on the IRT and has stepped up his game to the highest level. He is regularly reaching the semis of events and giving the very top guys fits. Kane is the only player he has not beaten. The thing I like about Ben is he is never afraid to go for the win. He's never intimidated, not even by Kane. He always plays hard and has the attitude and swagger of a champion. Don't be surprised if he pulls an upset and ends up in the finals.

Mitch Williams (18:1 odds)

Mitch has never made the finals of a pro stop, so the chances of him winning the US OPEN are a bit remote. However, with the weapons he has on the court, you never know when he is going to break loose with a life-changing performance. He did it a few years ago at the Nationals in Houston, knocking off two players in the Top 5 to win the tourney. Mitch remains one of my favorite players to watch on tour with his big-time power and fearless shot selection.

Cliff Swain (25:1 odds)

"The greatest player to ever play the game," at age 43 he probably does not have another US OPEN title in him (especially with the return of Kane). However, the thing about Swain is he always played his best racquetball of the season at the US OPEN. I fully expect to see him playing at a high level and would not be surprised to see him pull an upset of a Top 5 ranked player. To win the tournament, he would have to string together multiple upsets which would be quite the tall order. Still probably worth a small bet with the odds offering a strong return on your money.

Jose Rojas (17:1 odds)

Jose has also improved significantly and has the big-time game to beat anyone, including Kane, if he gets hot enough. His "go for broke" game style is thrilling to watch. He is not afraid of anyone on tour and likes to bring the heat. There is no question that Jose is the best young player in the country and probably the heir to the IRT throne down the road. Is he ready for a career breakthrough at the 2010 US OPEN? We'll see!

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Andy Hawthorne

Last season was a bit disappointing for Hawthorne; however, he remains a determined competitor. Perhaps the hardest-working player on tour, look for Andy to go down swinging (and diving) at this year's US OPEN.

Chris Crowther

Also known as "the crippler," Chris is another dark horse who has incredible talent on the court. Nearly impossible to pass, he proves that players of all heights (he's 6'5") can play at the elite level. Always fired up on the court, look for Crowther to give someone fits in the Round of 16.

Tony Carson

Never heard of him? Well, he won the 2008 Intercollegiate Championships and is one of the best new young players on the IRT. He has a BIG game, a BIG heart, and an entertaining personality. Not much chance of winning the tournament this year, but a great chance to upset a top-ranked player in the 16's.

Kris Odegard

A talented Canadian, Odegard has been quietly climbing up the rankings in the past year and is now in the top ten! He rarely beats the top players but also rarely loses to lower-ranked guys. He has the power to pull an upset.

Javier Moreno

Wow, is he fun to watch! Never afraid to win, even against the very top ranked players, he has a dangerous game. Always a fan favorite, he puts as much effort into entertaining the fans as he does into winning the match!

The Men of the IRT are ready to let it fly at the 2010 US OPEN. Get your seat early for the greatest show in sports and ENJOY!

GREATEST PLAYERS OF THE PAST SET TO PUT ON A SHOW

by Doug Ganim

Back for the 4th consecutive year, the Classic Pro Racquetball Tour (CPRT) will be in full force at the US OPEN in 2010. Rather than just having the four top players square off for the title, we have again decided to bring the entire Men's 40+ division in on the fun. Therefore, the Men's 40+ (open to anyone age 40 and over) will be a ranking event on the CPRT. Significant prize money is being offered for the top four places and many former legends of the sport have already committed to compete. Players currently ranked in the Top 8 on the CPRT will start in the Round of 16 while all other entries will work through a qualifying draw to reach the elite Round of 16. The finals will be played on Sunday morning on the stunning portable all-Lucite stadium court.

I predict that the 2010 US OPEN will feature the strongest Men's 40+ draw in the history of racquetball. It represents a bookmaker's nightmare — there are literally ten guys who can win the tournament. Here is the line *on just some* of the living legends you can expect to see compete at the US OPEN.

Woody Clouse (odds 2-1)

Never made it to the top on the pro tour but is the most dangerous 40+ player in the world today. Woody is in incredible shape and has the most modern game-style of any CPRT player. He won the US OPEN in 2009 and has dominated the CPRT during the last year. Smart money would always place a bet on Clouse!

Cliff Swain (odds 3-1)

"The greatest player of all time" is now a full-time member of the CPRT. He will certainly play in the IRT division at the US OPEN but will probably also play in the CPRT division. He has struggled to beat Woody Clouse at these events during the past year, but nobody in the history of the sport rises to the occasion better than Swain. Expect to see him gunning for the title!

Jimmy Lowe (odds 4-1)

"The fittest player on the CPRT," Jimmy's unorthodox game style and endless energy give these guys fits. He has beaten all the top players on the CPRT and won the US OPEN in 2008, beating Woody Clouse in a thrilling match. Don't be surprised to see Jimmy in the finals again in 2010.

Tim Doyle (odds 4-1)

It's hard to believe, but Doyle is now 40 and will be a handful on the CPRT. He plays squash three days a week to train and is in excellent shape. Still possessing one of the best forehands in the world and a devastating serve, Doyle may well end up in the finals with a real shot to win.

Ruben Gonzalez (odds 5-1)

Former #1 ranked player in the world, the living legend is now 56 years old and is still a physical "freak of nature." Although he is giving up quite a few years to many of his opponents in this draw, Ruben still has as good a chance as any to win the title. Nobody has ever re-killed the ball better than he does in rallies, and his "never say die" attitude often wears opponents out. He won the event in 2007 and made it to the finals in 2009. Ruben has a great chance of capturing his second title in 2010.

Bret Harnett (odds 6-1)

Former #1 ranked pro player in the world, Bret Harnett still possesses devastating power and a modern game-style. He has kept himself in tiptop shape and is used to dominating his competition. This left-hander will dazzle everyone with his thunderous splat shots and raw power. Look for Harnett to be a force to win the title.

Mike Ceresia (odds 7-1)

A true competitor, this Canadian bag of energy is always entertaining to watch. He is never happy on the court unless he is winning by 12 (which is rare), so fans can enjoy a true "gamer" in action. Don't be fooled by his sour face on the court. Nobody loves to compete more than Mike Ceresia! Regardless of whom he is playing, Ceresia will find a way to be competitive and win points, maybe even matches.

Doug Ganim (odds 100-1): Finished in the semis of the 2009 CPRT Nationals, beating Jimmy Lowe before being throttled by Woody Clouse for the third time in a row! Fat, slow, and tired. No chance to win, but may knock out one player before he bows out!

Other hopeful attendees: At the time of this writing, other CPRT regulars considering entering include former top-ranked professionals Mike Ray, Dan Obremski, Tim Sweeney, and Jerry Price. If any or all of these guys show up, the pool of possible winners expands.

The Perennials: Perhaps the most active and sharp players of all are the amateurs who compete in the Men's 40+ division at all the national tournaments each year. Guys like John Amatulli, Tim Hansen, Brad McCunniff, Keith Minor, Tom Travers, and others are all capable of beating anyone in the draw and winning the title. As I said earlier in this article, the 2010 US OPEN will feature the strongest draw of Men's 40+ players ever assembled in the sport. For true racquetball fans, this division will offer yet another spectacle to enjoy at the US OPEN!

ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____
 Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (day) _____ (night) _____ Fax _____
 USA Racquetball Membership Number _____ Exp. Date _____ E-Mail _____
 Seeding Information (2009 U.S. OPEN, 2010 States, Regionals, National[s]) _____
 Home Club _____

Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events: (3 events permitted if at least 1 is a doubles division):

Check one: Men's ☐ or Women's ☐

USAR DIVISIONS

Skill Divisions*

Elite ☐
 Can only A ☐
 enter B ☐
 ONE from C ☐
 this group D ☐

Skill + Age Divisions*

24 & under A ☐ 35+ C ☐
 24 & under B ☐ 45+ A ☐
 24 & under C ☐ 45+ B ☐
 25+ A ☐ 45+ C ☐
 25+ B ☐ 55+ A ☐
 25+ C ☐ 55+ B ☐
 35+ A ☐ 55+ C ☐
 35+ B ☐

Open & Age Divisions

OPEN ☐ W40+ ☐ 60+ ☐
 24 & under ☐ M40+--see CPRT below 65+ ☐
 25+ ☐ 45+ ☐ 70+ ☐
 30+ ☐ 50+ ☐ 75+ ☐
 35+ ☐ 55+ ☐ 80+ ☐

Doubles & Mixed Doubles Divisions*

Open ☐ C ☐ 45+ ☐ MX Open ☐ MX C ☐
 A ☐ 19+ ☐ 55+ ☐ MX A ☐ MX 30+ ☐
 B ☐ 35+ ☐ MX B ☐ MX 40+ ☐

Partner's Name _____ Division _____
 Partner's Name _____ Division _____

*REQUIRED Skill Verification Form

Please indicate below your eligibility for competition in the skill level you have selected. This information will be verified and re-classification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director.

I have been AMPRO certified at this level by:

AMPRO Certified Instructor (name required) _____

I have recently competed in this skill category in my state, and have been approved for participation in this category at a Level Five event by the state director or designated representative shown below: _____ (name required)

I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the: _____
 2009 U.S. OPEN, or the 2010 USAR National Singles

PRO

Men's (IRT)** ☐

Women's (WPRO)** ☐

Men's 40+ (CPRT)** ☐

** The Men's Pro draw will begin in the round of 32 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. The Women's Pro draw will begin in the round of 32 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. Players wishing to enter the amateur Men's OPEN division must enter it directly as a second event. CPRT (Men's 40+) is open to all Men over 40 years of age. CPRT draw will begin in the round of 16 with qualifying rounds as needed.

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release and all rights and claims that I may have against the USA Racquetball, IRT, WPRO, Ganim Enterprises, Life Time Fitness, CPRT, and all other US OPEN sponsors, or their respective agents for any and all injuries I may suffer as a result of participation in this event. By registering to participate, I release all rights to the use of event photographs/videos in which my image appears.

Participant Signature _____ (parent if under 18) Date _____

ENTRY FEES

Players may enter a maximum of two events (3 events permitted if at least 1 is a doubles division). Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions. Players in multiple divisions may play back-to-back matches. Returned checks will be assessed a \$23 service charge (\$10 for declined credit cards). Phone entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with a \$15 service charge and a major credit card by calling the US OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 129. Maximum amateur draw is 700 players. Once filled, all additional entries received will be returned with refund.

	Amount	Fee	Discount
First Event	(\$99)	_____	_____
Second Event	(\$51)	_____	_____
Third Event	(\$51)	_____	_____
USAR Membership	(\$50)	_____	_____
Late Fee/Phone Entry	(\$20/\$15)	_____	_____
Extra Party with the Pro's ticket	(\$20 each)	_____	Quant. _____
-Players admitted free		_____	
TOTAL		_____	

Visa/MC _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

ENTRY DEADLINE:

All entries must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 6th and/or postmarked by Friday, Oct. 1st. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a \$20 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

Limited hospitality, free access to Player Village and fan fair activities, souvenir US OPEN shirt, US OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Saturday evening "PARTY WITH THE PROS", plus much, much more!



Have you enclosed your Pro Match Ticket Application and payment for tickets? Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets in advance to be guaranteed a seat. One check can be written for entry fees and tickets.

Make check payable and mail to:
 U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
 1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2969
 or FAX this completed form to (719) 635-0685

To enter by phone call: (800) 234-5396 ext. 129
 outside US: (719) 635-5396 ext. 129
 To enter online: www.usopenracquetball.com

PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

	Price	Quantity	Total(\$)
SESSION #1 (Mezzanine side wall viewing only):	\$20	_____	_____
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 11 p.m.			
SESSION #2:(Mezzanine side wall viewing only)	\$20	_____	_____
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.			
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 1 p.m.- 6 p.m.			
SESSION #3(Mezzanine side wall viewing only):	\$24	_____	_____
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 3 p.m.- 9 p.m.			
SESSION #4:(Mezzanine side wall viewing only)	\$26	_____	_____
Women's round of 16 Friday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.			
Men's quarters #1,#2 Friday, 1 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. (IRT Champions Clinic 4p.m.)			
SESSION #5:(Mezzanine side wall viewing only)	\$28	_____	_____
Men's quarters #3, #4 Friday, 5:00 p.m.- 9 p.m.			
Women's quarters Friday 5 p.m.- 8 p.m.			
SESSION #6:(Mezzanine side wall viewing only)	\$30	_____	_____
Women's Semi #1/Men's semi #1 Saturday, 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.			
(Play the Pro Challenge - 1pm)			
SESSION #7:(Mezzanine side wall viewing only)	\$30	_____	_____
Women's Semi #2/Men's semi #2 Saturday, 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.			
SESSION #8:(Mezzanine side wall viewing only)	\$40	_____	_____
CPRT finals/Women's finals/Men's finals Sunday, 9:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.			

BEST VALUES!

- only available in advance!

PREFERRED TICKET PACKAGE (BACK WALL or SIDE WALL viewing for all sessions).....\$125

STANDARD TICKET PACKAGE (Mezzanine SIDE WALL only viewing for all sessions).....\$99

Guest Ticket for "PARTY WITH THE PROS" \$20
(free for all player participants) Saturday, 8 p.m.- 12:30 a.m.

Processing fee (must be paid to process your order) \$4

Make check payable or use credit card and mail to:

US OPEN Racquetball Championships

1685 West Uintah

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2969

To order your tickets by phone call: (800) 234-5396 ext. 129

outside US: (719) 653-5396 ext. 129 or fax this completed form to : (719) 635-0685

To order on-line: WWW.USOPENRACQUETBALL.COM

TOTAL _____

Tickets will not be mailed in advance. They can be picked up at the US OPEN Will Call Desk, located at The Racquet Club (I.D. is required). Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets in advance to be guaranteed a seat.

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury box seats (with table service) may be available. Cost is \$2,800. Includes access to Pro/Gold Lounge with food and drink for the week. Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.

Visa/MC # _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Name to hold tickets under _____

Credit Card Billing Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Night Phone _____



Minimize **STRING BREAKAGE**

by **Steve Crandall**
Vice President, Sales & Marketing
Ashaway Racket Strings

"Thin is in" for racquetball strings these days. Players of all stripes like the added control and playability thinner strings afford, and manufacturers are busy combining the latest high-tech materials and ingenious construction techniques to offer the thinnest, strongest, best playing string ever. But while these new thin strings can be made stronger than before—and some are even stronger than thicker competitors—at some point there is always a compromise in durability.

So how can players enjoy these new thinner strings and extend their longevity? If anyone knows, it's long-time stringer and senior champion Tom Travers. Tom was one of the original play-testers for an 18-gauge Zyex® string we're developing for racquetball. He recently won the National Senior Doubles championship (beating none other than Ruben Gonzalez along the way), and has also been selected as one of three master instructors for USA Racquetball's Instructor's Program (go to www.usaracquetball.com/USARInstructorsProgram.aspx).

We asked Tom first how he likes the new thinner string, and second, what he recommends for players who want the benefits of thinner string but also want to minimize breakage and increase longevity.

"I think the best testimonial for the new 18-gauge Zyex string is that I won the National Senior Doubles with it!" he exclaimed. "But more interestingly, I took three racquets to the tournament and only used one of them. And I was still using that same racquet a month after the tournament."

He likes the playability, the control and the power of the thinner string. However, as a senior player, he finds the Zyex a bit stiff. "The composition of the Zyex string bites the ball very well, which is good for control, and it's very lively so it generates a lot of power. But it doesn't give that much. I like a softer playing string."

What Tom does—and he says he would not recommend this for younger players—is use the Zyex 18-gauge for his mains and a softer nylon multifilament for his crosses. This gives him the power and control he needs and also provides better touch and less impact.

To minimize breakage, says Tom, you need to understand breakage. Most players break strings because they mis-hit the ball. "Better players tend to hit with the sweet spot in the center of the racquet where there is less chance of breaking strings. But that's not true with most

players. Most players hit all over the racquet—top, bottom, sides, the edge of the frame—and that's one of the things that breaks string. Most people break their mains at the top of the racquet. If they break the crosses, they've really mis-hit the ball."

To avoid this, Tom recommends a very simple solution: add an additional cross string at the top of the racquet. It may look a bit funny because the grommet spacing is different, but it will help protect the mains at the top and won't affect your play at all. "Any stringer can do it," said Tom, "and it's an easy way to increase the life of your strings."

The other common cause of breakage, of course, is how hard you hit the ball. Tom divides chronic string breakers into three categories. The first are good players who hit the ball hard—140 mph+. They're going to need that extra cross string and possibly even a heavier gauge string. The second category is regular or novice players who don't hit that hard but tend to mis-hit a lot. They, too, can use the extra cross but can definitely benefit from thinner string. Third are those who are beginning recreational players but who hit very hard just the same. These guys are going to need a lot of help...and a lot of string.

Tom's rule of thumb is that if you hit below 120 mph (and this includes most senior players), go for the thinnest string you can find. If you hit in the 120–140 mph range, you can try an 18-gauge, but you'll probably find a 17-gauge lasts longer. And if you're over 140 mph, you might be better off with a 16-gauge string.

Recreational players should expect to get 4-6 months' good play out of a set of strings. Tournament players in the 120 mph and under category can expect 3-4 months. Tournament players in the 120-130 mph range, 2-3 months, and hard hitters, 1-2 months.

However, Tom stresses, even if your string doesn't break, you should still restring at these intervals if you want to maintain and improve your game. You need to keep the elasticity of the string fresh and get fresh new tension. Tournament players especially will want that extra edge. "And it's not just physical," counsels Tom. "It's also mental. Just like your car might seem like it drives more nicely when you wash it, you will play better with new string. You want any edge you can get as a competitive player. And new string might just be that edge you need to win your game."

EVENT TITLE	EVENT START	EVENT END	EVENT PHONE
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EVENTTITLE	EVENTSTART	EVENTEND	FACILITYNAME
2010 ROLLOUT OPEN SERIES 1	5/15/2010	5/15/2010	THE CLUB AT WOODBRIDGE
2010 CA TRACY IN SHAPE SHOOTOUT	5/15/2010	5/16/2010	IN SHAPE SPORT - TRACY
2010 KY 1ST ANNUAL DERBY DAZE TOURNAMENT	5/15/2010	5/16/2010	CENTRE COLLEGE
2010 TX DALLAS SERIES V INVITATIONAL RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	5/15/2010	5/15/2010	THE TEXAS CLUB
2010 SC OPEN	5/21/2010	5/23/2010	GREENVILLE RACQUET & FITNESS
2010 MI JUNIOR NATIONAL WARMUP	5/22/2010	5/23/2010	DAVISON RACQUET & FITNESS CLUB
2010 ROLLOUT AND JIM WINTERTON RACQUETBALL CAMP	5/22/2010	5/23/2010	THE CLUB AT WOODBRIDGE
2010 USAR 43RD NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	5/26/2010	5/31/2010	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON
2010 VA AMERICAN DOOR & GLASS WINTER CLASSIC	6/3/2010	6/6/2010	ROANOKE ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 CO PEPSI CUP TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS	6/3/2010	6/6/2010	HIGHLANDS RANCH RECREATION CENTER
2010 WOR EKTELON WARM UPS	6/4/2010	6/6/2010	MARINA PARK
2010 FRAN DAVIS BUILDING YOUR RACQUETBALL DREAM HOUSE CAMP	6/4/2010	6/6/2010	SORRENTO VALLEY FITNESS
2010 TX JUNIOR STATE RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	6/4/2010	6/6/2010	TRITON SPORTS CENTER
2010 TX DALLAS OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	6/4/2010	6/6/2010	YMCA - DOWNTOWN DALLAS
2010 FL JUNIOR REGIONALS	6/5/2010	6/6/2010	HARBOUR ISLAND ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 OH THE RACQUETBALLU CAMP	6/5/2010	6/6/2010	PREMIER AT SAWMILL
2010 AZ GRAND CANYON STATE GAMES	6/10/2010	6/13/2010	SPORTS CLUB AT CITY SQUARE
2010 FL SUNSHINE STATE GAMES	6/11/2010	6/13/2010	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
2010 TX MAVERICK JUNE TRIPLE CROWN RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	6/12/2010	6/13/2010	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 NC ALOHA OPEN	6/18/2010	6/20/2010	WINSTON SALEM ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 IL 6TH ANNUAL RACQUET FOR THE CURE	6/25/2010	6/26/2010	LANDMARK RACQUET
2010 ROLLOUT OPEN SERIES 2	6/26/2010	6/26/2010	THE CLUB AT WOODBRIDGE
2010 OH EKTELON QUARTERLY SKILL HANDICAP SERIES 4	6/26/2010	6/26/2010	BALLY TOTAL FITNESS
2010 USAR 37TH NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS	6/26/2010	6/30/2010	U OF M REC SPORTS
2010 STATE GAMES OF MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP	6/26/2010	6/27/2010	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 IN HOT SUMMER NIGHTS SHOOTOUT	6/26/2010	6/27/2010	YMCA - FT WAYNE CENTRAL
2010 WOR RACQUETBALL WAREHOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS	7/8/2010	7/11/2010	MARINA PARK
2010 MS COURTHOUSE OF BLUES OPEN RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT	7/8/2010	7/11/2010	COURTHOUSE RACQUET & FITNESS
2010 VA COVENTRY COMMONWEALTH GAMES	7/9/2010	7/11/2010	ROANOKE ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 TX MAVERICK JULY TRIPLE CROWN RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	7/10/2010	7/11/2010	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 NMRA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	7/14/2010	7/17/2010	24/7 LEHIGH VALLEY FITNESS - ALLENTOWN
2010 FL LAKE LAND YMCA SUMMER CLASSIC	7/16/2010	7/18/2010	YMCA - LAKE LAND
2010 NC BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS TOURNAMENT	7/16/2010	7/18/2010	COURTS PLUS OF NEW BERN
2010 KS SUNFLOWER STATE GAMES	7/16/2010	7/17/2010	YMCA - TOPEKA
2010 MD COME IN FROM THE SUN	7/17/2010	7/18/2010	SEVERNA PARK RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CLUB
2010 ELITE CAMP LITE	7/19/2010	7/22/2010	DENVER ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 IL 17TH ANNUAL SUMMERFEST OPEN	7/23/2010	7/25/2010	GLASS COURT SWIM & FITNESS
2010 ROLLOUT OPEN SERIES 3	7/31/2010	7/31/2010	THE CLUB AT WOODBRIDGE
2010 FL SUMMER SHOT FEST	8/6/2010	8/8/2010	YMCA - BOB SIERRA TAMPA
2010 IN STATE GAMES SHOOTOUT	8/7/2010	8/7/2010	OMNI 41 SPORTS COMPLEX
2010 TX MAVERICK AUGUST TRIPLE CROWN RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	8/14/2010	8/15/2010	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 ROLLOUT OPEN SERIES 4	8/28/2010	8/28/2010	THE CLUB AT WOODBRIDGE
2010 TX MAVERICK TRIPLE CROWN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	9/11/2010	9/12/2010	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 FL CELEBRATE THE WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE TOURNAMENT	9/17/2010	9/19/2010	SARASOTA BATH & RACQUET CLUB
2010 WOR 3WALLBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	9/23/2010	9/26/2010	STRATOSPHERE HOTEL
2010 TX TEXAS STATE DOUBLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10/8/2010	10/10/2010	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 TX TEXAS STATE SENIORS RACQUETBALL & GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS	11/13/2010	11/13/2010	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB
2010 IL TURKEY SHOOT OPEN	11/18/2010	11/21/2010	GLASS COURT SWIM & FITNESS
2010 TX MAVERICK HOLIDAY RACQUETBALL SHOOTOUT	12/11/2010	12/11/2010	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB

2010 RACQUETBALL CALENDAR

CONTACT NAME CONTACT PHONE VENUE CITY STATE

EVENTPHONE	CITY	STATE	CONTACT NAME		CONTACT EMAIL
908-309-1829	WOODBIDGE	NJ	JONATHAN	CLAY	JONATHAN.M.CLAY@GMAIL.COM
209-836-2504	TRACY	CA	JOHN	ELLIS	ELLISTYLE@COMCAST.NET
859-583-1001	DANVILLE	KY	JOSEPH	MOORE	SMOORE@MERCERKY.COM
214-827-9994	DALLAS	TX	MARTIN	MCDERMOTT	PROZONE1@ATT.NET
803-446-8168	GREENVILLE	SC	ANGEL	MIRANDA	ANGELM24@GMAIL.COM
810-287-9394	DAVISON	MI	DON	SCHOPIERAY	DON113X@COMCAST.NET
	WOODBIDGE	NJ	JONATHAN	CLAY	JONATHAN.M.CLAY@GMAIL.COM
719-635-5396 X132	HOUSTON	TX	EDDIE	MEREDITH	EDDIEMEREDITH@EARTHLINK.NET
540-721-9035	ROANOKE	VA	PHIL	WHEELER	DRIVESERVE@EMAIL.COM
	HIGHLANDS RANCH	CO	MARCIA	RICHARDS	IAMACOACH@MSN.COM
	HUNTINGTON BEACH	CA	VICTOR	LEIBOFKY	VICHEATFAN@YAHOO.COM
	SAN DIEGO	CA	FRANCINE	DAVIS	FRAN@FRANDAVISRACQUETBALL.COM
210-573-2324	SAN ANTONIO	TX	LANCE	GILLIAM	LANCE@GILLIAMCPAPC.COM
214-827-9994	DALLAS	TX	MARTIN	MCDERMOTT	PROZONE1@ATT.NET
603-491-1494	TAMPA	FL	KIM	ROY	KIMBERLY_ROY@HOTMAIL.COM
	COLUMBUS	OH	SHANE	VANDERSON	SHANEVANDERSON@MAC.COM
206-713-6129	PHOENIX	AZ	DIANNE	DOERSCHEL	DPRATTSKI@COX.NET
407-352-6589	GAINESVILLE	FL	JEAN	TRIMBLE	TRIMBLEW@AOL.COM
817-275-3348	ARLINGTON	TX	LEO	VASQUEZ	LEO@THEMAV.COM
910-638-8008	WINSTON SALEM	NC	LYNN	STEPHENS	TMT@BROADLINK.BIZ
309-685-8360	PEORIA	IL	JIM	MAROON	JIM_MAROON@HOTMAIL.COM
908-309-1829	WOODBIDGE	NJ	JONATHAN	CLAY	JONATHAN.M.CLAY@GMAIL.COM
216-262-2134	BEACHWOOD	OH	JUSTIN	LABELLE	LNKON2@YAHOO.COM
719-635-5396 X132	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	EDDIE	MEREDITH	EDDIEMEREDITH@EARTHLINK.NET
616-540-7925	GRAND RAPIDS	MI	TWAYNE	HOWARD	HOWARDT@RIGHTPLACE.ORG
	FORT WAYNE	IN	RYAN	GRIFFIN	RYAN.CONSULTING@GMAIL.COM
	HUNTINGTON BEACH	CA	VICTOR	LEIBOFKY	VICHEATFAN@YAHOO.COM
601-941-1841	JACKSON	MS	CHRIS	BAKER	CHRISB@MSCOURTHOUSE.COM
540-721-9035	ROANOKE	VA	PHIL	WHEELER	DRIVESERVE@EMAIL.COM
817-275-3348	ARLINGTON	TX	LEO	VASQUEZ	LEO@THEMAV.COM
714-767-4622	ALLENTOWN	PA	STEVE	COHEN	SCOHEN5832@YAHOO.COM
863-875-1220	LAKELAND	FL	JUDD	MARTIN	JUDD.MARTIN@D2DSOLUTIONS.COM
252-633-2221	NEW BERN	NC	JAN	STELMA	COURTSPLUS@SUDDENLINKMAIL.COM
	TOPEKA	KS	SCOTT	WOLFORD	YOSCOOTERW@YAHOO.COM
410-365-6144	MILLERSVILLE	MD	SUSAN	FLAESCH	ARSFLAESCH1997@AOL.COM
303-949-7785	DENVER	CO	JO	SHATTUCK	JOSHATTUCK@HOTMAIL.COM
630-629-3390	LOMBARD	IL	DOUG	HALVERSON	DHHAL@AOL.COM
908-309-1829	WOODBIDGE	NJ	JONATHAN	CLAY	JONATHAN.M.CLAY@GMAIL.COM
813-230-7525	TAMPA	FL	YVONNE	BUFFINGTON	YVONNEB@BUFFINGTON.COM
	SCHERERVILLE	IN	RYAN	GRIFFIN	RYAN.CONSULTING@GMAIL.COM
817-275-3348	ARLINGTON	TX	LEO	VASQUEZ	LEO@THEMAV.COM
908-309-1829	WOODBIDGE	NJ	JONATHAN	CLAY	JONATHAN.M.CLAY@GMAIL.COM
817-275-3348	ARLINGTON	TX	LEO	VASQUEZ	LEO@THEMAV.COM
603-491-1494	SARASOTA	FL	KIM	ROY	KIMBERLY_ROY@HOTMAIL.COM
	SOUTH LAS VEGAS	NV	STEVE	LERNER	STEVE@CLASSICPRORACQUETBALL.COM
817-275-3348	ARLINGTON	TX	LEO	VASQUEZ	LEO@THEMAV.COM
817-275-3348	ARLINGTON	TX	LEO	VASQUEZ	LEO@THEMAV.COM
630-629-3390	LOMBARD	IL	DOUG	HALVERSON	DHHAL@AOL.COM
817-275-3348	ARLINGTON	TX	LEO	VASQUEZ	LEO@THEMAV.COM

LIFE FORCE AIR MEDICAL AND SPORTS BARN HOST FUNDRAISER FOR CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION



To provide the best in children's healthcare requires not just special equipment or training, it takes viewing the world from the unique perspective of children and understanding what they need. Providing this special environment of healing for all children, regardless of their ability to pay, is the ultimate and daily goal of everyone at T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital. It takes funding through donations and various fund raising events to make it happen.

Life Force Air Medical along with the SportsBarn of Chattanooga recently held a two-day racquetball tournament to raise money for the Children's Foundation. Over 65 participants attended this event on March 6th and 7th. The tournament was held at the downtown SportsBarn at 301 Market Street. During the event, Leesha Wright, a member of the Foundation, and her son Jude dropped by to visit the players. Jude is an adorable, active 2-1/2 year old who was born with hemophilia. His treatments run \$1,600 dollars every other day. Jude seemed to be a little wary of the noise of the balls being hit, but as he was held in his mother's arms, they mingled and spoke with several of the participants. He held his first racquetball racquet and may be a future player when he gets a little older. "This is when I was informed that Jude loved balls of all types," said David McAfee, Life Force Flight Nurse. David handed him a racquetball and he accepted it with a smile.

Excited that the entry fees went to raising money for the Children's Foundation, the players gladly took time out to listen to Leesha and Jude's story. This tournament raised over \$2,600 dollars for the Foundation. A special thank you goes to the SportsBarn for donating the facility and courts. Tournament Directors Scott Rimmel, David McAfee, and Ethan Carver are looking forward to having the tournament again next year and hope that it will be just as successful.

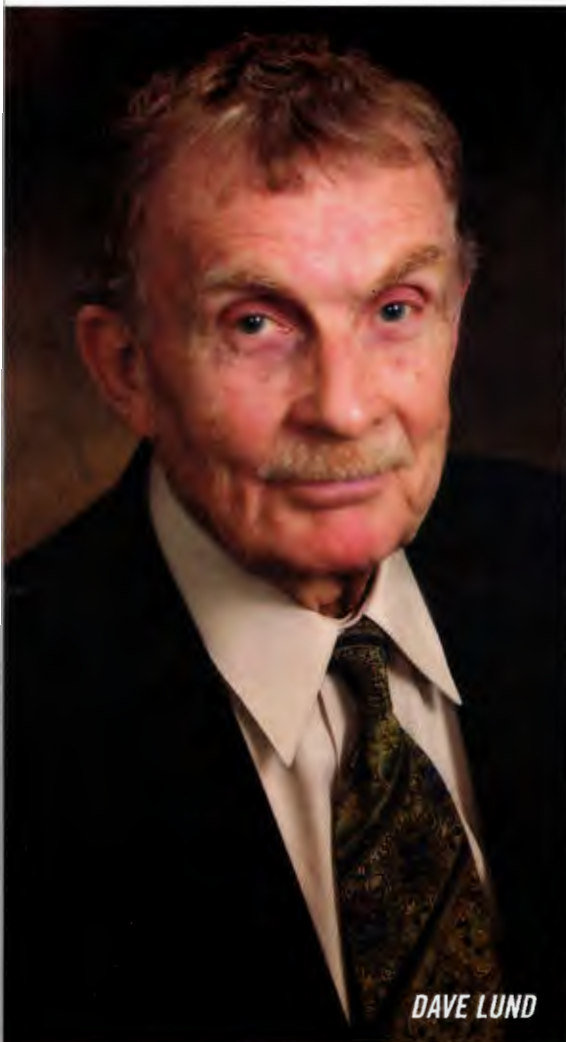
MRF & USAR FORMALIZE RELATIONSHIP



The MRF is excited to announce that an agreement has been reached with USAR to work together to promote and grow military racquetball. The announcement, recently made on the USAR monthly call including all state directors, was trumpeted as a great step forward by USAR President Cheryl Kirk and USAR Board Military Representative Mark Fuhrmann.

USAR Junior Committee

The California State Racquetball Association (CSRA) with the help of a grant from the USA Racquetball Junior Council will be implementing a plan to have regular one-day junior shootouts in NorCal and SoCal. The goal is to promote and run 20+ one-day events per year with junior players of all levels participating. Entry fees will be kept low and net profits will be rolled back into the CSRA Junior Fund to help with future events and to assist with some player costs to Junior Nationals and Junior Worlds events. This will be guided by the CSRA Junior Committee (Brian Dixon-chair, Elaine Dexter, Aaron Embry, Tyler Lanman, Jeffrey Weiss, Larry Steiner, Jody Nance, Gil Cepeda, and Brett Elkins). For more information, or if you would like to host an event, please contact Brian Dixon at 707-766-9105 or at Bridix@gmail.com.



DAVE LUND

Michigan Racquetball

Hall of Fame Inducts
Two Bright Stars

Close to 100 racquetball players from all corners of Michigan gathered on March 10, 2010 to witness Dave Lund and Joel Bonnett being inducted to the Michigan Racquetball Hall of Fame.

Dave is a high level national age group player in the 65 and 70 divisions. Joel played for Memphis State in 1991 and also was a member of the US National Team in 1992.



JOEL BONNETT

Aimee Ruiz Joins Ektelon

as New Promotions Manager and Product Development Coordinator



Ektelon is proud to announce that six-time consecutive Women's National Doubles champion Aimee Ruiz has officially joined the company as its new Promotions Manager and Product Development Coordinator. In her new role, Aimee will focus her expertise and attention primarily on promotions, working with the vast network of Ektelon player advocates and industry leaders to further elevate the brand around the world.

"It is no secret, my love for this sport and this brand," said Aimee. "I have been fortunate to be a member of the Ektelon Pro team, and I am ecstatic about becoming a part of the organization from a corporate standpoint as well."

The team at Ektelon is tremendous, a close-knit family of passionate, professional and extremely knowledgeable racquetball leaders who are totally involved in the sport both on and off the court. I look forward to using the knowledge and experience I have obtained from playing and being a part of the racquetball community for over 20 years and applying it at Ektelon."



INSTRUCTORS PROGRAM

USA RACQUETBALL 2010 INSTRUCTORS PROGRAM CLINICS

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These clinics are taught by one of the most respected and successful professional racquetball instructors in the country.



**Master Professional
Jim (Coach)**

Winterton has over 35 years of instructional coaching experience. He is a Hall of Fame member with an

undefeated record as a US Team and US Junior Team Coach. Coach Winterton is the current Director of the USOC/USAR High Performance Camp.



Master Professional Fran Davis

brings 30 years of teaching and coaching experience in her clinics. Coach Davis has taught 1,200 camps and clinics. Her credentials include being an undefeated US Team Coach in 1989-96, and again in 2002. She is a Hall of Fame member.



Master Professional Tom Travers is a former US Team Coach and a 20-time National Singles and Doubles Age Group Champion. Tom has more than 30 years of experience as a professional instructor and is a US Elite Training Camp Instructor.

Register now at www.usaracquetball.com then click on the "Enroll Now" link.

Clinic Instructor and Dates:

All USA Racquetball National Championships - Instructors to be announced

Coach Fran Davis: June 18 - June 19

The Washington Athletic Club - Seattle, WA

Additional Clinics - Fall 2010:

San Francisco, CA • San Diego or Los Angeles, CA • Portland, OR • Chicago, IL

Coach Tom Travers: Summer 2010

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Fall 2010

Baltimore, MD • Naples, FL • Philadelphia, PA

Fall 2010: Coach Jim Winterton

Michigan • New Jersey

\$295 for Membership and Certification Clinic
\$150 for Current AmPRO Members Recertification Clinic
\$75 for AmPRO Lifetime Members Recertification Clinic

Fees do not include transportation, meals or lodging; however, tournament hotel rates are in effect for clinics at USA Racquetball National Championships.

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UltraKill 17



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- Zyex multifilament core prevents tension loss
- Braided surface maximizes control and increases spin
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