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ISRA Newsletter

USRA

The Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association



**WELCOME TO THE
U.S. NATIONAL
RACQUETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*Lola Markus is
having a Solid
Gold Year!
..... pages 6-8*

**Vol. 21 No.4
September 2004**

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From the President

Here I sit, waiting for summer to finally arrive...but it's already September 1st! Do you know what that means? It means that:

- the only summer we may have this year is Indian Summer, and
- it's time to dust off our racquets and head back to the racquetball courts!

The ISRA has a great season planned. By the time you read this, the Travel League Team Captains will have had their kickoff meeting and plans will be underway. The tournament calendar is packed with exciting events. The annual "Halloween Classic" will become the "Chicago Open" this year as Dave Negrete works to turn an already-great tournament into an even better one. The ISRA Singles Championships occurs earlier on the calendar than in recent years. We wanted to avoid those spring break dates that have eliminated some people from the competition the last couple of years. Check out the tournament calendar in this issue and plan your weekends now. We'll post entry forms on the ISRA web site, as well as including them with newsletters.

You'll be hearing a lot about the challenges that USA Racquetball is facing as we move into the coming season. Although we all pay membership fees to belong to the ISRA and to USA Racquetball, the bulk of the funding USA Racquetball receives has traditionally come from the USOC (United States Olympic Committee). The USOC recently cut funding to racquetball and other sports; this has caused a great strain on the finances of our national racquetball organization. USA Racquetball has had to cut several staff members, while trying to offer the same complement of programs with fewer resources.

As a result of the loss in funding, greater emphasis has been placed on growing membership and collecting membership dues. Total membership numbers have been dropping steadily over the last couple of years. I know there are kinks in the current membership process that sometimes cause memberships to extend out to 15 months, rather than 12 months. Memberships collected at tournaments sometimes float between ISRA Board Members for a few weeks following a tournament – until they reach the hands of the individual responsible for sending them to USA Racquetball. The member may miss some issues of the magazine or the ISRA newsletter, but can play tournaments because they have a copy of the

form in hand. This is not the best of situations, but a resolution is on the way. *With the help of the tournament directors*, we can guarantee that all new memberships will be active within 48 hours after the end of a tournament. That means no lapses for you, the member, and better cash flow for USA Racquetball.

What else can we do to ensure that our sport survives and thrives? We need to ensure the national organization has the funds to operate. Encourage friends to join, even if they aren't tournament players. There are many benefits – a magazine, a newsletter, a way to keep in touch with old friends and what's happening in the sport. And, \$30 is generally less than a dinner out – not a hardship for most of us. If you have the means, buy a lifetime membership. It nets out costing a little more than annual membership (over *most* of our lifetimes!), but it's a fine investment in a sport that has given us so much.

I figured I could take three immediate actions:

- 1) Buy a lifetime membership (done)
- 2) Tighten up the membership collection process for the ISRA (in process)
- 3) Solicit the help of others (armed with a list of approximately 2,000 former ISRA members, the Board plans to send a letter asking them to rejoin)

If you have additional ideas for improving membership numbers, please let me know. I'm all ears!

See you on the courts,

Laurel



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The good news about Wilson racquetballs is traveling fast. Twice as many players are using a Wilson ball this year as last year. Top players **Derek Robinson** and **Christie Van Hees** have switched. Several state governing bodies have switched. The entire **LPRA tour** has switched. Isn't it time you switched to the fastest growing racquetballs in America?



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ENDS EVERY POINT]

ISRA Family News

Three junior players from Illinois attended the prestigious Rumble Camp in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Ben Croft, returning for his third year, and Joey Limonciello and Kevin Schulz in their first year, were among the 35 junior players participating in the seven-day camp, held June 6 - 12. This annual camp, designed to prepare elite players for Junior Nationals, is by invitation only (see article this issue).

Adam James Eminger, 9 lbs.10 oz., 21" long, made his inaugural appearance on Saturday, May 29th at 6:56 a.m. Welcoming him were proud new family members Janet, Joe, Amanda and Joey. A sensitive bunch of Janet's racquetball family speculated on the day and time of Adam's arrival: the winner of the "lottery" was Donna Heinzl. She had the correct day (along with 2 others) but she pegged the closest time (7:00 a.m.) Maybe Donna will buy a round at the next tournament...

Nichole Grace, daughter of proud parents Pam and Jeff Grace, graduated on June 13, 2004 from DePaul University in Chicago with a degree in Communications & Mar-

keting. Much to the happy parents' delight, she is gainfully employed as of June 30, 2004!

Judith Anne McGuire married former ISRA President Brian Stuert in Centerport, NY on July 30th. Brian works for Adecco, the world's largest employment services firm, and his bride Judy is an educator on Long Island where they will make their home.

Cheryl Kirk and George Pappas took the opportunity to hold a small but powerful Team Ektelon meeting just prior to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Cheryl was on assignment with McDonald's Corporation...George, Linda and their two kids enjoyed a month-long vacation, visiting George's parents, basking in the sun in the Greek Islands, and attending Opening



George Pappas and Cheryl Kirk enjoying the sunshine at the Olympics

Ceremonies. The Acropolis appears in the distance behind Cheryl's left shoulder...

...and on the subject of the Olympics, Margaret Hoff was also in Athens, courtside at Peace & Friendship Stadium, to cheer on her son Tom (a key member of the USA Men's Volleyball Team) in his second Olympics! Tom began playing for the USA in his senior year of high school and continued during his college years at Ohio State and Long Beach State. He is married, the proud father of a 1-year-old daughter. Go Tom and GO USA!!



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ISRA Officer and Board Member Election Held

The ISRA Board held its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at the National City Bank office in Oak Brook. As with all ISRA meetings, this meeting was open to the membership.

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

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

Governing Board Members: Patrice Calvi, Chuck Snyders. Additionally, Rich Clay and Joe Silius were elected to the Governing Board. (The remaining board members will stand for election when their two-year terms expire next year).

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

Remember, any ISRA member who wishes to help improve the quality of racquetball in Illinois is welcome to join the Auxiliary Board. Please contact any member of the ISRA Board for further information.

Signed, The Nominating Committee

Hawthorne Sizzles at Summerfest!

Once again, the Summerfest tournament at the Glass Court went off without a hitch. The 11th edition of this summertime pool party was great, and even the weather for the pool party, BBQ and sand volleyball matches cooperated. A special thanks goes out to Diane and Joe DeArmas for their dedication to racquetball and the tournaments at the Glass Court. It is their work behind the scenes that really makes this tournament a success.

The competition was extremely fierce this year — the draws weren't necessarily big, but the quality was excellent. The Men's Open draw saw four of the area's best players, with the number one seed eliminated by a new young (16-year-old) player, Josh Hutkins from Nebraska. The open draw was truly a sight for the racquetball enthusiast as Andy Hawthorne and Ben Croft met in the finals this year. These are two of the top young players in the country, and based on their play at Summerfest, both of them are about ready to pull some upsets on the IRT Tour this season. Competition was fierce all weekend in the other divisions and there were many more tie-breaker matches than normal...

Oh, the competition, the food, the pool party! Sign up next year and get in on the action!

- Michelle Halverson

Results:

*Divisions (# entered)
1st, 2nd; Semifinals*

MO (10)

A. Hawthorne, B. Croft; J. Hutkins (NE), K. Minor

MAA (4)

J. Ortiz, R. Naylor

MA (9)

J. Hutkins (NE), R. Lillis; E. Battaglia, U. Melo

MB (15)

D. Wolford, R. Meisner; B. Carrier, J. Anaya

MC (16)

R. DeArmas T. Snyders; E. Owens, B. Doyle

MD (14)

T. Burris, M. Alias; G. Parobek (IN), H. Troppe

MN (4)

L. Ruzyski, V. Carvalla

M35/40 (9)

T. Marquez, L. Rowans; T. Utterback,

K. Hadraba

M45(6)

B. Lillis, T. Dern; L. Restaino, J. Matarrese

M50/55 (8)

W. Fomek, R. Meisner; W. Gingold, M. Hernandez

W O/A (6)

K. Ruzyski, P. Grace; L. Davis, S. Hoffman (IN)

W B/C (4)

E. Egan S. Stewart

W D/N (4)

M. Ortiz, J. Satorius

MOD (12)

B. Croft/B. Lyman, R. Naylor/B. Simpson (IN)

MAD (5)

T. Dern/J. Martinez, D. Wolford/J. Hutkins

MBD (5)

D. Jaskier/ M. Malcheski,

J. Massard/P. Schmeichel

MCD (3)

T. Levis/B. Woycheese,

T. Atwood/ G. Parobek (IN)

W O/A D (3)

C. Lissou/B. Schoonover, P. Grace/L. Davis

MX O/A D (10)

A. Hawthorne/T. Cervoski,

T. Utterback/J. Eminger; T. Marquez/S. Stewart,

K. Mecklenburg/K. Welker

MX B/C D (5)

D. Bethune/ T. Lamberson,

P. Snyders/T. Snyders

Second Annual Dog Days Open

The Southlake Club; August 14, 2004

Tournament Director: Bob Croft

Divisions (# entered)

1st, 2nd; Semifinals

Men's Open (8)

Daryl Miller, Ron Miller; Brian Berkelhamer, Dave Milazzo

Men's AA

Lockridge, Halverson; Minor, Kenney

Men's A (12)

Dave Schoonover, Geoff Goldblatt; John

Puccio, Al Rubiano

Men's B (8)

Mike Hammel, Mark Stevenson; Charley Naber,

Geoff Goldblatt

Men's C (5)

Kevin Schulz, Alberto Palacios; Gerry Kudanian,

Jason Young,

Men's 45+ (4)

Dave Milazzo, Jerry Fronczak; Jim Cramer,

Charley Naber

Women's A/B (4)

Lori Good, Beth Weiler; Donna Albert, Pam Grace

Men's Open Doubles (3)

Steve Jungmann/John Puccio, Brian

Berkelhamer/Doug Halverson; Dave

Schoonover/Jeff Grace

Men's B/C (3)

Mike Hammel/Mark Stevenson, Kevin Schulz/

Joey Limonciello; Tony Perez/Efren Perez

Mixed A/B (3)

Joan Vande Kieft/Jerry Fronczak, Jeff Grace/Pam

Grace; Donna Albert/Chris Flint

ISRA Movin' on Up 2004-2005

SINGLES

Men's Open

Adrian Beltramino (FL)

Angel Khamis

Juan Niaves (WI)

Vito Rubiano

Larry Vena

Men's A

Mike DeGonia

Corey Engel

Ben Fraga

Chris Liljestrand

Oscar Renfroe (MI)

Desmond Slusher

Joe Waller

Men's B

Geoff Goldblatt

Martin Joyce

Juan Martinez

Ruben Muruato

Brad Promisel

Pete Schmeichel

Mike Steinhaus

Mark Stevenson

Blair Wagner

Men's C

Mike Antonoff, Jr.

Richard DeArmas

Chris Kudrna

Jeff Novak

Mike Ryan

Chris Schubert

Kevin Schulz

Trevor Snyders

Women's Open

Joan Vande Kieft

Women's A

Char Borre

Jennifer Jaskier

DOUBLES

Men's Open

Jeff Grace & Desmond Slusher

Men's A

Ken Baker & Ray Shimizu

Men's B

Walter Fornek & Frank Valentino

Jim Gillette & Paul Nicotra

Juan Martinez & Juan Martinez III

USA Racquetball National Singles Championships

(Sponsored by ProPenn and Ektelon)

May 26-31, 2004

Houston, TX:



Joe Waller's "girls" Caroline, Carolee and Josephine are proud of their guy!

Thirty-four gladiators (22 men, 12 women) from Team Illinois once again descended upon Houston and came back victorious! Hot and humid per usual, it's a given over Memorial Day in southern Texas. We added to that heat, bringing home 2 gold medals, 7 silver, 5 bronze, 5 pewter, and 4 consolation first places with a total of 35 top finishers. Congratula-



Desmond Slusher completes a great year!

tions to our gold medalists Lola Markus and Janet Christie!!

Open Finals

Could they have been closer than this?

Jack Huczek d. Rocky Carson (15-9, 13-15, 11-9)

Rhonda Rajsich d. Cheryl Gudinas (15-13, 12-15, 11-10)

Banquet & Awards

Presidential Award — Dan Davis (Colorado)

USOC/USAR Female Player of the Year — Cheryl Gudinas

USOC/USAR Male Player of the Year — Rocky Carson

Hall of Fame — Fran Davis, Shannon

Wright

Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor — Shane Wood

Peggy Steding Age Group — Terry Rogers
Bud Muehleisen Age Group — Gene Pare

John Halverson Fair Play Award — Chris Evon

And one additional award (writer's prerogative):
Most Matches Played by an

Illinois Player — Alberto Palacios — eight in all — who arrived in Houston to find not one but both of his divisions were round robins! (Seemed like he was always getting ready to play...)

Cheerleaders

Those who cheer, also serve (well, in a different way...) — Jeremy Mandell, Susan Klimaitis, Jazmier Miller, Justin Yeazell, Carolee Waller, Josephine Waller, Caroline Waller, Carol Milne, Dave Negrete, Kit Lawson, Eugene Coyle, Kim Seaberg, Kunjal Harshavat, and last but not least, Cheryl Gudinas's mom and dad!



Laurel Davis, Joe Gill, Don Davis and Carlos Delgado at the Annual Awards Banquet

Déjà vu...

A situation Lynn Yeazell and I thought particularly amusing was when I was assigned a match on Court 21. Upon arriving there, I found a foosball game and other miscellaneous pieces of furniture and storage boxes on the court. Over the years, Lynn and I (perhaps more of you?) have had dreams (nightmares!) of being compelled to play on courts that contain furniture, bleachers with spectators, no



Kim and Rick Seaberg hit the Houston scene

continued on next page



Clockwise from top left: Team Illinois members Kleber, Miller, Minor, Simpson, Kirk, Peters, and Gray



John Mason, Liz Molitor, Watmora Casey, Dennis Negrete, Janet Christie



Janet Christie accepts her first national gold medal!

walls in the middle of a huge room, etc. Would have made for an interesting match...

— Cheryl Kirk

Team Illinois Results

Watmora Casey: 40 + A, 45 + A
 Janet Christie: D (1st), 40/55 + C (QF; 1st Consolation)
 Krystal Csuk: Open
 Don Davis: 65+ (QF)
 Laurel Davis: 45+ (QF)
 Carlos Delgado: Elite, 30+
 Chris Evon: 45+ (2nd)
 Jerry Fronczak: 45+ A (QF), 50+ A (QF)
 Joe Gill: Elite, 35+ (1st Consolation)
 Leila Gray: D (2nd), 35+ C
 Cheryl Gudinas: Open (2nd)
 Sid Harshavat: B, 25+ B (4th)
 Edward Johnston: 50+, 50+ A
 Cheryl Kirk: B (4th), 40/55+ B (QF)
 George Kleber: 55+ A (QF), 55+ B (QF)
 Leo Klimaitis: 55+, 55+ A (2nd)
 Gregg Mandell: 45+, 50+
 Lola Markus: 70+ (1st)
 John Mason: 40+ A, 45+ A
 Horace Miller: 50+, 55+ (4th)
 Keith Minor: 30+ (QF), 35+ (4th)
 Liz Molitor: 40+ (QF), 45+ (QF)
 Dennis Negrete: 35+, 35+ A



Team Ektelon players Lynn Yeazell, Alberto Palacios and Joan Vande Kieft

Alberto Palacios: 55+ C (3rd), 60+ C (3rd)
 Geoff Peters: 40+ A, 45+ A
 Andy Romano: Elite, 40+
 Rick Seaberg: C (2nd), 40+ C (3rd)
 Royce Simpson: C, 45+ C
 Desmond Slusher: B (3rd), 35+ B (4th)
 Pat Taylor: 60+ (QF)
 Joan Vande Kieft: 35+ A; 40+ A (QF; 1st Consolation)
 Joe Waller: B (QF), 35+ B (2nd)
 Carolyn Watkins: C (3rd), 24/35+ B (QF)
 Lynn Yeazell: B (QF), 24/35+ B (QF; 2nd 35+ B; 1st Consolation)



Laurel Davis, Connie Arvia, Kim Gregoire and Barb Utterback took the Ladies honors

July 17 – a beautiful day for the annual ISRA Golf Outing! Sixty racquetball and non-racquetball players attended our summer event. Many thanks go to Janet Christie and Dennis Negrete for assisting with the coordination at the course. This year the outing was held at Fox Run Golf Links in Elk Grove Village.

nas took the prize for closest to the pin for men, Nancy Laser won the women's longest drive, and Barb Utterback took the women's closest to the pin. The mixed couples division winners were Janet &

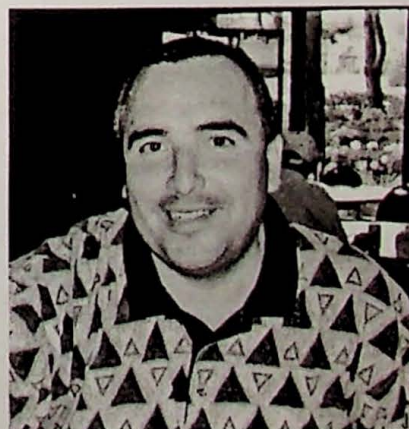
The course was in excellent condition and a catered dinner was held afterwards in the clubhouse, followed by a raffle that included over 40 prizes. Donations were generously made from Wilson, Ektelon, Ron Calloway, Milord Company, BTSI, and Chicago Automobile Trade Association. John Negrete made a trip to Chicago for this outing and it was great to see him again!

Tom Utterback's foursome finished with the low score of 13 under par. Longest drive for men went to Eric Rieman. Chris Mari-



Eric Rieman and Joey Brownlee compare notes from the links

Randy Christie and Nancy Laser & Dale Fowler.



John Negrete made a rare trip to Chicago to compete

Thanks to Tom Utterback for running a smooth outing (on time, of course). Be sure to remember to sign up next year and bring your friends... maybe Tiger will be free that weekend as well!

—Barb Utterback

Good Times & Ice Cream in Wisconsin: The NMRA Racquetball Championships in West Allis

Beginning Wednesday, July 21st and ending Saturday July 24th, over 250 seniors (that is, 45+) competed in hundreds of racquetball matches. This round robin event included Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. AND, no one played less than 180 points of racquetball – that happens to be the magic number the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) has devised to be sure everyone goes home worn out!!! Of course if you signed up for two events (as 75% of the participants do) you can play 360 points worth of racquetball in 4 days.

Illinois had over 25 entrants and many ended up with medals. Those medalists



Margaret Hoff, Pauline Kelly and Lola Markus medaled at the NMRA International Championships

45+, Gold
Kathleen Ruzycki: 50+, Silver
Brenda White: 50+, Bronze
Margaret Hoff: 55+, Silver
Pauline Kelly: 60+, Bronze
Lola Markus: 70+, Gold

Speaking of Lola, she did take

were:

Men's Divisions

Bill Lyman:
45+, Gold
Dave Milazzo:
45+, Silver
Dave Olson:
50+, Silver
Greg Mandell:
50+, 4th Place
Greg Hasty:
55+, Silver
Dennis Healy:
55+, Bronze
Dennis McKee:
55+, 4th Place

Women's Divisions

Liz Molitor:



Kendra Tutsch, Pauline Kelly, Nancy Kronenfeld and Margaret Hoff congratulate NMRA Hall of Fame Inductee Lola Markus



Lola with proud husband Ray

home a gold medal, but that wasn't all! At the NMRA Banquet Friday evening, Lola was inducted into the NMRA Hall of Fame. Lola is only the second woman to be inducted in the NMRA Hall of Fame since women's divisions were added to this tournament. Way to go Lola!

Congratulations to everyone who won, played or just ate a lot of ice cream! Next year this event will be held in Canton, Ohio from July 13th to July 16th. The club has 25 racquetball courts and when you are not playing those 180+ points, you can stop by the Football Hall of Fame...

Nancy Kronenfeld



Lee Graff, Nominating Committee Chairman and Ron Puddock, President of the NMRA with Lola Markus



Illinois ladies were out in force at the NMRA International Championships in Wisconsin. (L to R) White, Markus, Molitor, Hoff & Kelly

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- ▶ Sponsor ONE NEW player to the sport of racquetball this year. Any age.
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- ▶ Just think how good you'll feel when each of us sponsors the players of tomorrow!



www.illinoisracquetball.com

Junior Nationals: What A Week!!!!

The "grand finale" of the 2003-2004 tournament season has come and gone. At the 2004 Junior Olympic Nationals, hosted by the Eau Claire Athletic Club in Eau Claire, WI, fourteen of Illinois finest racquetball players kicked off the week's activities with a pizza party hosted by Junior Team Illinois at the Plaza Hotel. The players received their personalized national shirts, exchanged stories and strategies, and posed for some photos. Then they sat back and enjoyed words of encouragement from parents and Board Members. Our junior players from Illinois included Zac Antonoff, Ben Croft, Erin Egan, Geoff Goldblatt, Angel

Khamis, Joey Limonciello, Phil Matthews, Brandon Ritschard, Chris Schubert, Kevin Schulz, Trevor Snyders, Kelly Woycheese, Gino Wuttke and Michael Wuttke.

Competition started early Wednesday morning and continued through Sunday afternoon. Parents will remember the

non-stop action, the great sportsmanship and the support the Illinois players gave each other. A big thank you goes out to Pam Snyders from all the parents because she recorded all of the start times for all of the juniors in Illinois for the next day's competition and gave copies to the parents so everyone knew who was playing, when



Junior Team Illinois — big smiles and loads of talent!

and where. It was a big help.

Players will remember the competitive matches, the new friends they made, the endless supply of candy at the racquetball facility, as well as the nightly beanbag com-

petitions. Following are the results of all the Illinois players. Congratulations to all of the Illinois players are in order, as they all played their hearts out and had a lot of fun.

Girls 14 - Kelly Woycheese took 3rd place in the White division

Girls 16 - Erin Egan took 1st place in the White division

Boys 12 - Michael Wuttke took 2nd in the white division; Trevor Snyders took 1st in the Blue division

Boys 14 - Joey Limonciello took 1st in the Red division; Kevin Schulz took 4th in the Red division; Geoff Goldblatt and Zac Antonoff both made it into the third round of the Red division

Boys 16 - Angel Khamis made it into the 3rd round of the Gold division; Chris Schubert and Brandon Ritschard both made it into the third round of the Blue division

Boys 18 - Ben Croft won the Gold division; Phil Matthews (from downstate Illinois) won the Red division

Boys 14 - Doubles - Geoff Goldblatt and Trevor Snyders won 1st place in Red



Kelly Woycheese serves!

petition. (Phil Matthews, from downstate Illinois, along with his partner Tom were the undefeated beanbag champions for the week.)

With the two facilities in use, the tournament was always running on time. The Eau Claire committee provided food for the players each night, which was fantastic.

Congratulations go out to Ben Croft, who not only captured the gold medal for Boys 18/under doubles with Dan Sheppick, but highlighted the week when he took the gold in Boys 18/under singles in his victory over Charlie Pratt (15-7, 8-15, 11-0).



Trevor Snyders prepares to dominate



Geoff Goldblatt between rallies



Kelly's most dedicated fan — her mom!

Junior Players RUMBLE on down to Alabama

Editors Note: Three Illinois Junior Players attended the elite "Rumble" junior skills camp hosted by Coach Jim Garner and an elite staff in Alabama. They have each submitted their impressions of the week of intense training...

This was my third and final participation in the Rumble Camp. It's been a great opportunity to play the best Juniors in the country and learn from some of the best coaches in the Nation. The conditioning is intense, and I was particularly challenged since neither of my two pieces of luggage arrived in Birmingham! The Rumble Camp is a great tune-up for Junior Nationals. In the week that we spend at the University of Alabama, the coaches cover both mental and physical aspects of the game including individual "talks" with the coaches. To any junior who's serious about taking their game to the next level, the Rumble Camp would be an experience that you'll take a lot from.

- Submitted by Ben Croft, World Junior Champion from Lake Bluff

My first year at Rumble was a blast!!! For a week, I joined about 35 excellent junior players in intense racquetball training at the University of Alabama. It was really hard. The coaches pushed us just about as far as we could go. After the first day though, it seemed like all the things we did got easier. Every morning we would run from our dorm rooms to the recreation-center about 1.5 miles. After this we'd play racquetball. Sometimes we'd run stadium stairs at a softball stadium that was near-by or do a simulation run which is jog for 10 seconds followed by a sprint for 10 seconds - for ten long minutes. When we did this we'd get a minute to rest then we'd do another 10 minutes of sprinting and jogging. At the end of the day we would also run the 1.5 miles back to the dormitory. By the end of the second day, through to the end of the week I was sore all over. When I got back to the Southlake Club and began playing again; I found that my game improved tremendously. It was a great experience playing racquetball and conditioning for a whole week with the coaches and top junior players from around the country.

- Submitted by Kevin Schulz, Winner of the Dvorak Junior Award for 2004

the Rumble families and they let all 35 of the rumblers crash at their house for the first day and on the last day. The next day everyone packed up their luggage and food to go to the dorms where we would be staying for the next week. There were about 30 gallons of milk and countless loaves of bread and fruit. The Crockets live in Birmingham and the University of Alabama where the camp was held was about an hour drive away. When we got to the dorms we were assigned rooms, room-mates and room leaders. Once every one got settled we met in the dorm parking lot for our first run. The run that we did was about a mile and a half; but in the blazing Alabama sun and 90 degree heat, it seemed like three miles. What made me feel a little bit better about the run was that some of the coaches were doing it with us. The run on the first day was the hardest because I had no idea what it was going to be like. The rec center was still in construction during our stay so we weren't allowed to use all the facilities, but we were honored to be the only camp that they let use it while under construction. The first thing we did when we got to the rec. center was put down our bags and go to the meeting room to have a meeting. We had about 2 meetings a day where Coach Garner would discuss what we are going to be doing for the day and motivate us for the challenges that were coming. Every day around 1pm was lunch, which was by far the best part of the day. We went to the food court for the college which had an all you can eat buffet and there were about 500 cheerleaders eating with us! After lunch we would go back to the rec center and have another meeting. Then we would usually play some more racquetball, do speed drills, and finally core strength exercises. At the end of the day, which usually ended around 9pm, we ran back to the dorms and did it all over again the next day.

The camp did help me prepare for nationals a lot, I had better endurance, felt like I was quicker and it prepared me mentally for the people I was going to be playing.

The best part of the camp was the food and the waterpark that we visited. The worst part of the camp was the cheerleaders and not getting enough sleep. The reason the cheerleaders were a bad part of the camp was because they would get to the cafeteria before us so there would be huge lines of cheerleaders who ate like elephants. I'm looking forward to doing the camp again next year and being a little bit more prepared for it.

- Submitted by Joey Limonciello of Mundelein

2004 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- If ads are run for the entire season, **AND** payment is received with the first issue, the sixth ad is **FREE!**
- These rates are in effect until December 30, 2004.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Issue Mail Date:** 1/4/05
- **Articles/Releases Due:** 12/3/04
- **Stuffers/Inserts Due:** 12/10/04

- All stuffers/inserts are to be received by: Laura Kreiner, 2307 Arrow Street, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110.
- Ad rates:
Full page: \$250/issue. Half page: \$150/issue.
Quarter page: \$75/issue. Other sizes quoted on a case by case basis.
- For any questions or submission:

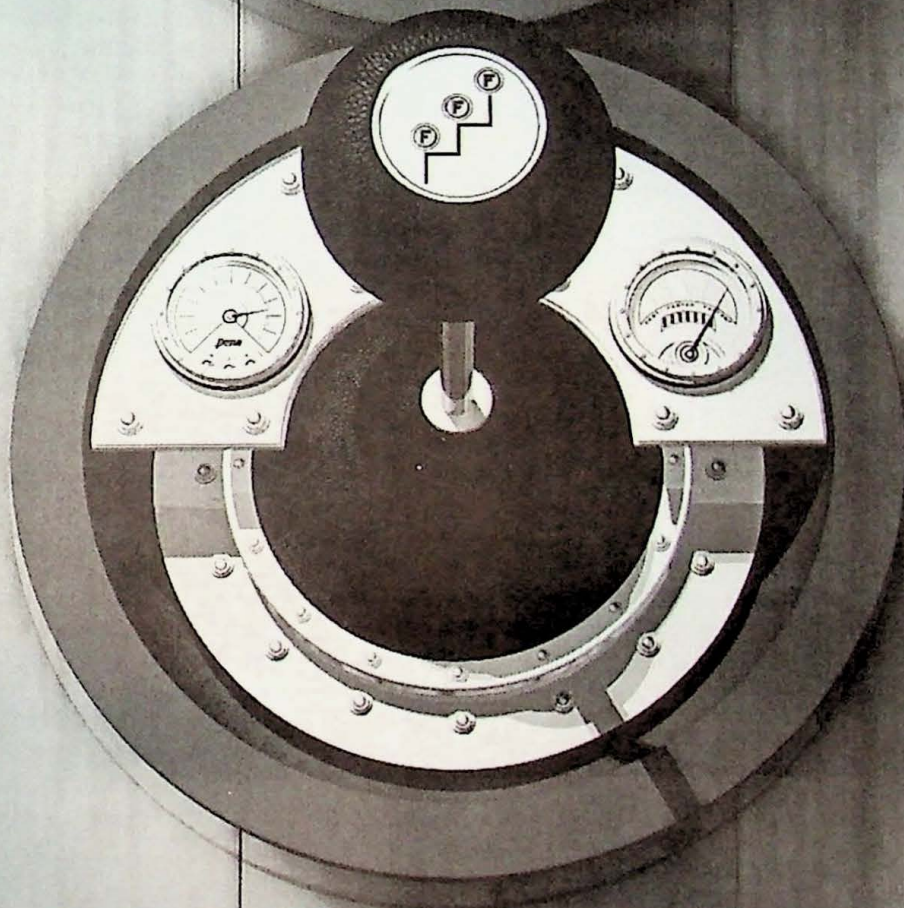
Cheryl Kirk, 1064 Sylvan Circle, Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 305-8291

The Rumble Camp is an elite racquetball camp geared towards preparing juniors for Nationals. The camp is usually held in June for eight days and around 30 or so kids get invited to the camp. The kids at the camp come from all over the United States and there are even some kids that come from Mexico. The head coach of the camp is Jim Garner who coordinates all the activities. The other coaches are Kelly Bean (US Jr. National Team Coach, John Davis, Kristen Walsh (#4 on the LPRA Tour), and Bo Champagne.

The first place we went when we got to the airport was the Crocket's house. The Crockets are one of

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2004-2005 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

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

September 29-October 3
Ektelon 37th USAR National Doubles
Tempe, AZ
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

October 8-10
Fall Classic
Edens Athletic Club, Chicago
Joe Gill (773) 286-6700
SANCTIONED *

October 15-17
Four Wall Brawl
B.R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn
Sean Nelson (630) 858-0100
SANCTIONED *

October 15-17
Saluki Fall Open
SIU Carbondale
Andrew Benko, (618) 457-0999
SANCTIONED

October 20-24
Chicago Open IRT Pro Stop
World Gym, Palatine
Schaumburg Tennis Plus
Dave Negrete (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

November 6-7
The Southlake Fall Open
The Southlake Club, Mundelein
Bob Croft (847) 949-8180
SANCTIONED *

November 11-14
The Glass Court Turkey Shoot
The Glass Court Swim & Fitness,
Lombard
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

November 16-21
The Choice Hotels 9th U.S. Open
The Racquet Club, Memphis, TN
Doug Ganim (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

December 11
Wilson One Day Ladies Tournament
Schaumburg Tennis Plus
Dave Negrete (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED *

December 17-21
IRF 16th World Juniors
San Luis Potosi, MX
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED *

January 7-9
Junior State Championships
Location TBD
Chuck Snyders (630) 362-3313
SANCTIONED *

January 14-16
Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic
The Chalet, Willow Springs
Anita Efron (708) 474-2440
SANCTIONED

January 14-16
WSMRA 16th Seniors Masters
Greenbriar Athletic Club, Indianapolis
Deb Chaney (317) 897-5481
SANCTIONED

January 22
One Day Doubles Tune-up
The Southlake Club, Mundelein
Bob Croft (847) 949-8180
SANCTIONED

January 28-30
ISRA State Doubles Championships
Location TBD
Laurel Davis (630) 325-6410
SANCTIONED

February 4-6
Chuck Galkin Memorial Tournament
B. R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn
Sean Nelson (630) 858-0100
SANCTIONED

February 10-13
St. Valentines Day Classic (IRT Satellite)
Schaumburg Tennis Plus
Dave Negrete (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

February 18-20
10th Annual Palos Olympic Open
Palos Olympic Health and Fitness
Larry Vena (708) 974-1900
SANCTIONED *

February 25-27
ISRA State Singles Championships
Location TBD
Laurel Davis (630) 325-6410
SANCTIONED

March 4-6
Wilson 18th U.S. High School Championships
St. Louis, MO
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

March 11-13
March Madness
Edens Athletic Club, Chicago
Joe Gill (773) 286-6700
SANCTIONED *

March 18-20
Shamrock Shootout
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

March 30-April 3
E-Force 33rd Intercollegiate Championships
Location TBD
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

April 15-17
Ektelon USAR Regional Championships
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness
Geoff Peters (773) 251-4413
SANCTIONED

May 25-30
38th Ektelon USAR National Championships
Downtown YMCA, Houston, TX
Heather Fender (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

*** = Junior Divisions Offered**



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Halloween Classic is now Chicago Open!

October 21-24 2004

The IRT professionals will invade Chicago again this year October 21-24. We've changed the event name from the Halloween Classic to the Chicago Open. We had hoped to bring the portable court to the event this year but due to some construction issues, it will not be possible. The event will be held at two facilities: the World Gym in Palatine and the Schaumburg Tennis Plus. Both clubs have been preparing their courts for the events by painting, refinishing floors and (at STP) adding a court.

We expect a large turnout from Illinois players and those in surrounding states. Scheduling the event a weekend earlier should avoid conflict with Halloween

weekend activities. No excuses this year! Every effort will be made to accommodate time conflicts and playing issues. This year also you must have your current USAR membership number to enter the event. If you do not have the number you can sign up online and receive your number right away. We need to support the governing body of amateur racquetball here in Illinois and bring those membership numbers up. Tickets will be available for non-players. A discounted rate will be available at the Holiday Inn Express for those of you who wish to stay near the tournament site.

The event will be a Grand Slam event on the IRT tour featuring the likes of last year's number one and defending champion Kane

Waselenchuk. Kane's current rival, Jack Huczek, will be here to challenge him for the title, as will Jason Mannino, Rocky Carson, Alvaro Beltran, Shane Vanderson, Mike Guidry and Mike Green. Last year's event drew a record number of professionals from around the world and this year's event promises to top that record.

We look forward to a great event and would like to say a special thank you to the Klimaitis family, Pat Taylor of Dartmoor Homes, and Howard Miller for their continued support of this event.

See you all in October!

Dave Negrete
Tournament Director/IRT Commissioner

Junior Nationals continued from page 9

Division; Kevin Schulz and Joey Limonciello won 2nd place in Red Division

Boys 16 Doubles – Brandon Ritschard and Angel Khamis took 2nd place in the Red Division; Zac Antonoff and Chris Schubert made it to the quarterfinals in Red

Mixed Doubles 14 – Geoff Goldblatt and Kelly Woycheese made it to the quarterfinals in Gold

Mixed Doubles 16 – Erin Egan and Angel Khamis made it to the semifinals in Red

We are beginning to plan our junior activities for next season. Enjoy the early days of fall and we will see you courtside!!!!

- Chuck Snyder



"If it weren't for us, JTI wouldn't be here!!"
Parents had a great time, too...



Send to:

ISRA
630 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148

Member Sport,
U.S. Olympic
Committee



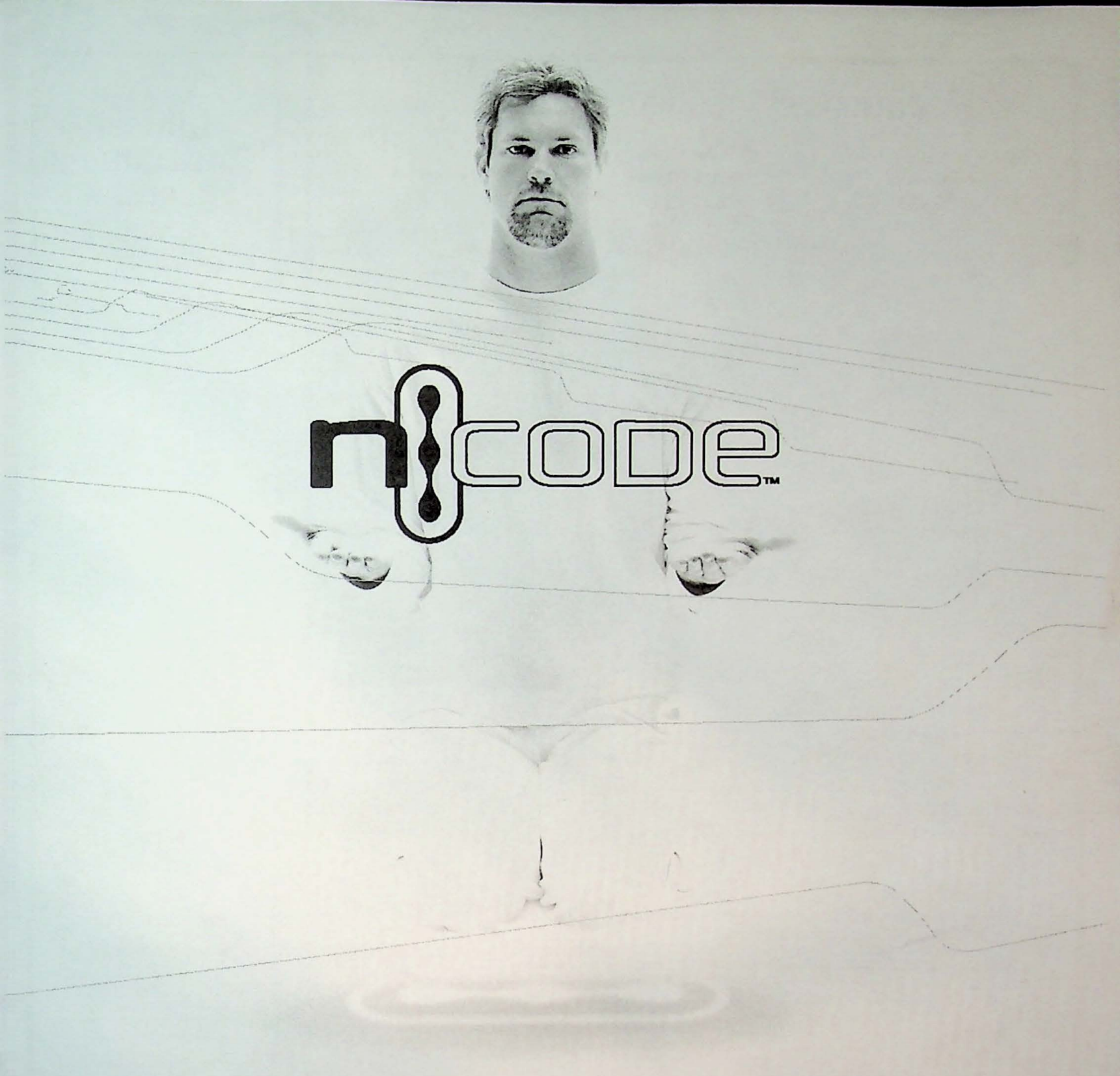
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Tournament _____ Representative _____

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



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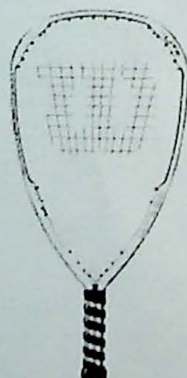
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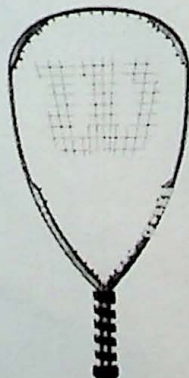
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(847) 359-5098
Palatine, IL
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8-10 p.m.
Saturdays 8 a.m. - Noon
\$15 One-Day
Guest Pass

Courts Plus
(Elmhurst Park District)
(630) 833-5064
Saturdays
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Members \$3,
non-members \$10

Edens Athletic Club
(773) 286-6700
Saturdays 12-3 p.m.
\$8 for ISRA members
(with membership card)

**The Glass Court
Swim & Fitness**
(630) 629-3390
Wednesdays
4:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays 7 a.m. - Noon
\$7.00

**Landmark Health
& Racquetball**
(309) 685-8200
Peoria, IL
First & Third
Fridays of Month
6-8 p.m.
\$5.00

Oak Park YMCA
(708) 383-5200
Wed. 7-8 p.m.,
Thurs. 2-4 p.m.,
Sat 8-10 a.m.
Free to Y members,
\$9 for non-members

**Palos Olympic Health
& Racquet Club**
(708) 974-1900
Thursdays 6 - 8:30 p.m.
\$5.00

**Schaumburg
Park District**
(847) 884-0678
Saturdays & Sundays
9 a.m. - Noon
\$8 for non-members

The Southlake Club
(847) 949-8180
Saturdays
10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
\$10.00 for
ISRA members
(with membership card)

**Lakeshore Athletic Club -
Downtown**
(312) 644-4880
Chicago, IL
Mondays & Wednesdays
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Members free,
Non-Members \$12

**Tinley Park Park District
Fitness Center**
(708) 532-8899
Thursdays 5-8 p.m.
Saturdays Noon - 3 p.m.
Members free
Residents \$8
Non-Residents \$12

To add your club to this list, contact:
Lynne Weisbart (847) 732-7245

Central Illinois Tournament Calendar

September 17
"Head Night"
Landmark Racquet
Terry, Steve, Kelly (309) 685-8200

October 1-3
Landmark No Frills
Landmark Racquet
Terry, Kurt, Mike (309) 685-8200

October 15-17
SIU Racquetball
Carbondale, SIU
Andrew Benko

November 12-14
Fall Open Tournament
Image Health and Fitness, Decatur
Larry Boyer (217) 424-9925

December 4
Springfield Invitational One Day Trn
Springfield Racquet & Fitness
Karin, Bob, Steve (217) 787-2460

January 8
One Day Doubles Trn
Forum Fitness (Rantoul)
David Litman

January 21-23
4 Seasons, Bloomington
Kelly, Kelley (309) 663-2022

February 11-13
President's Day
Image Health and Fitness, Decatur
Larry Boyer (217) 424-9925

March 4-6
Landmark Invitational
Landmark Racquet
Terry, Kurt, Mike (309) 685-8200

March 18-20
St. Patty's Open
Springfield Racquet & Fitness
Karin, Bob, Steve (217) 787-2460

March 26
Quad Cities Open Doubles
North Scott Fitness
Brad Flack, Dave Herzog
Eldridge, IA

*Any Questions, Corrections or
Additions? Please Call Larry Boyer
(217) 864-4862 (217) 864-6635 Fax
Boyins@Insightbb.com or
Geoff Peters (773) 251-4413;
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Illinois State Racquetball Association

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