

RACQUETBALL

Magazine ... July - August 1997 ... \$4.00

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National Finals
in Las Vegas*



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SUDSY MONCHIK

The Power in the Game. Sudsy Monchik #1 & Cliff Swain #2.

Suds, they call him the Tiger Woods of racquetball. In his lifetime he has achieved every major goal in the game. After dominating junior racquetball, and winning every age group, he skipped amateurs altogether. His first season in the pros he finished 13th. In his second, he became World Champion and never looked back. But as powerful as he is he also knows that if you can get more from your racquet it's a little less time in the weight room. And that's why he switched to The Catapult. More power when and where you need it. Yeah, like he needs it.

Cliff. They call it the Swain Era. Six years in which he completely dominated the game. It was rare that anyone took games from him much less matches. And remember those 180 Mph serves? Still ripin' em. His play? Well, he's the only guy who's still schoolin' Suds from time to time. But this four time World Champion isn't just a "take my trophy and go home" kind of player. His input and consultation have always been a great asset to Head and the game. Currently playing with a racquet he helped develop, The Pyramid 190 "G". Fast, powerful and a true winner. Sounds a lot like Cliff.

OC LIFE SWAIN

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If you like the look of our gloves, check out our shoes. The Head Anatom Sonic 500 Mid is hot. It's Anatom Fit System® allows your shoe to perform like the human foot. Flexing to allow your shoe to remain in contact with the floor at all times. It's integrated Anatom Midsole made with lightweight Phylon® adds crucial support. It's mesh upper, synthetic toe cap and abrasion resistant gum rubber sole add up to one very attractive shoe.



THE ANATOM CT 500 - THE ANATOM SONIC 500 MID - THE ANATOM SONIC 500

BAGS

Where would we be without them. Most of us virtually live out of one. Kind of like small mobile homes without the wheels. And what makes a great bag? Space and lots of it. Here you go. Large central chambers with plenty of pockets so that dry can be kept separate from wet and vice versa. Holders for water bottles, reinforced floorboards and comfy padded shoulder straps for easy carrying. It's in the bag.



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"XL" Design: In rushing to design extra long racquets our competitors have simply added length without considering the implications. Length = weight. With our obsession to create the lightest frames possible, we have learned how to maximize frame strength without adding weight. This means our XL racquets weigh the same as our conventional length frames. In a strategic move we have also added our length to the bottom of the frame, giving more natural leverage to your shots.

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The Power in the Game.



from the editor

Hold it right there. That's right. All you players out there who all of a sudden decided to jam up my email (and snail mail) with complaints about equipment changes in the market. And before you start up again, give some thought to the following...

Over 30,000 March/April magazines — each containing ballots to select new members to the Board of Directors and *non-binding selections* of which rule changes to adopt — were mailed to voting members and subscribers in early spring. Of that grand total, the number of ballots marked and returned was a whopping 284. Let's see ... that's roughly .94 percent. Not even a single, full percentage point. Now, I'm no statistician (or politician, for that matter), but it seems to me that you can't truly expect to direct your decision-makers through that kind of response.

Nonetheless, you'll find a policy statement responding to the racquet length controversy reprinted on page five. Then, if you want to learn more about the rule-change process, you can contact National Rules Commissioner Otto Dietrich (he'll love that). To learn more about marketing new products, you can refer to the list of manufacturers that accompanied the sponsorship article in the last issue, and speak to any one of them about why they chose to invest huge chunks of their budgets in the research and development of a larger racquet (they'll love that). And to learn more about creating demand for new product, think twice about the last time you bought something you didn't really need. Replaced something that wasn't broken. Upgraded a perfectly serviceable item — just so you could have the latest model (well ... I love that). And while you're at it, could someone find out why I can't get a computer component *out of the box* before it's obsolete?

So, how do these things differ for racquetball? Quite frankly, they don't. It's a market and we're the consumers. But the last time I checked, we *all* still operate with free will and retain the right to choose.

Now I hope this doesn't come back to haunt him, but my father is fond of remarking that a Hogan, a Monchik, a Gould, or any of a long list of favorite Florida players, could win if they used a 2x4 instead of racquet. They're that good. In other words, it just might be true that size doesn't matter after all.

So choose. If you're good ... really good ... you might not need a longer racquet. But, if you're a near-compulsive-consumer like me you just can't wait to see what those darn marketing wizards have come up with now ...



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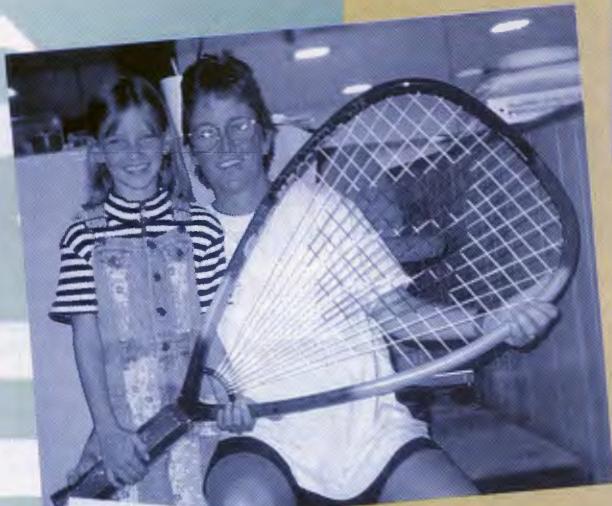
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FEATURES

Pro Nationals	8
USRA Nationals	12
Canadian Nationals	18

PROFILE: TOUR NEWS

IRT/Rochester	19
IRT/Boston	19
IRT/Pleasanton	22
IRT/San Diego	22
WIRT/Columbus	23
1997 Season Wrap-Up	24
Final Season Tour Rankings	24

DEPARTMENTS & COLUMNS

From the Editor	2
Changing Times	56
Courtside Update	50
Regional Championship Winners	51
JR! Team News	60
Portable Court Donor List	inside back cover
USRA National Rankings	62
USRA National Events Calendar	62
Corporate Sponsors & Advertisers	64

INSTRUCTIONAL

SPECIAL: 1997-98 RULEBOOK	25-40
Ektelon Performance Series	42
AmPRO Tip	43
AmPRO Club Racquet	46
What's the Call?	48
Ashaway Mains & Crosses	49

TOURNAMENT ENTRIES & INFO

Ektelon USRA National Doubles	54/55
Promus U.S. Open	Center insert

PHOTOS

Top: What is featured AmPRO contributor Mary Lyons hiding behind that big racquet? Big sister Katie knows... Center: Hall of Famers ham it up following the induction ceremony in Houston. L-R standing: Chuck Leve, Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen. Seated: Dave Peck, Lynn Adams. Bottom: Lorraine Galloway with her John Halverson award after the Awards Banquet. Banquet Photos: Kevin Vicroy.

ON THE COVER

Staff writer/photographer Kevin Vicroy rounded up the finalists of the IRT Pro Nationals in Las Vegas for this shot. To find out what happened in the finals -- and elsewhere -- read his story on page 8.

reader forum

IF YOU GIVE THEM AN INCH ...

In the May-June issue, an e-mail message from Mike Wolfe, in my opinion, hit on a sensitive issue that is bothering many racquetball enthusiasts, including me. I am a very happy person who tries not to be afraid of change. But the lawyer in me and my love for the sport makes me question any change that might occur to the sport that I have grown to love.

Make a commitment to the growth of the sport and challenge yourself to making creative rule changes, to slowing the sport down somewhat, to making it attractive to more people and especially television. Ektelon, Wilson and the others will get their money. But the way I see it, you are allowing them to generate additional revenues off of us by making the technology that we spend so much money to acquire and become efficient with, and making it obsolete.

The selfish side of me wants to tell you that last season I competed in nine tournaments, including our state championships and the U.S. Open. This wasn't cheap. And needless to say I have many other priorities in my life. However, at the next U.S. Open and state championships my three-year-old racquets will be obsolete. I don't have the \$300 - \$400 that it would cost to replace them before the next season. I am faced with the decision of whether or not to attend these tournaments, spend the funds it would

cost to attend, and use valuable vacation time from work when my equipment is obsolete.

The racquetball enthusiast in me says ... how in the world does increasing the power in the game, making the ball harder to see and hit, help to support or further your goals for getting the sport on television? I challenge the board to take a poll and see what reaction you get. Maybe I will learn that I am becoming conservative and it is me that needs to re-evaluate my direction and feelings about racquetball. However, I bet that it is the board that is the one that needs to re-consider its direction and loyalties.

Rob Trowbridge • Jefferson City, Missouri

I didn't start playing racquetball until the late 1980s, so I've really only played with midsize and oversize racquets. Unfortunately, I'm afraid the huge, high-tech racquets of today have changed the game for the worse. — When I first started playing, there were still quite a few players who used finesse and conditioning to win matches. Those factors are out the window now, as players bash away mindlessly. The game has essentially turned into a powerfest. It's no wonder so many players have moved on to squash or badminton, where thinking is still part of the game. — Now that the USRA has caved in and extended the legal racquet length again, how many more players will we lose? And for what? So that the USRA's corporate mentors can continue to move product? What idiotic idea will they think of next? — Obviously, I think this extension of the legal length is bad news for racquetball. I can't see anything positive coming from it. //Pete Dunlop/Portland,Oregon/via aol.

There's are lively discussions taking place in the field and on the news-group [alt.sport.racquetball] about this topic, and the USRA's official position addressing these questions and concerns is offered on the facing page — to provide a bit of balance.

COLOR BLIND-ED

Thought I'd drop you a line to let you know how disappointed I am with the decision to adopt the ProPenn green ball as the tournament ball for regional and national championship play. Not again! I remember the difficulty I had playing with this ball at the U.S. Open. I did not question the use of the ProPenn ball at that time. Obviously, the U.S. Open was a premiere event, focusing primarily on the pro players. The amateurs were presumably invited to play in order to provide the numbers, support and much-needed dollars. Therefore I had no argument with the use of the pro ball being used at that event. But to select the ProPenn green ball for our amateur regional and national championships as well? Now that's a horse of a different color (no pun intended).

First, I find this "decision," contradictory at best and dictatorial at worst. In an article in the January/February issue (and in the now-familiar ads for the green ball), we are told that the ProPenn green ball was developed "in conjunction with the IRT for pro tour play." It further states that the Penn ultra blue racquetball will maintain its USRA "official ball" status and remain a vital part of the competitive environment nationwide. Now come on folks,

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Another Viewpoint

We appreciate that you have taken the time to voice your concerns regarding the rule change which — effective September 1, 1997 — will increase legal racquet length from 21 to 22 inches. As you may know, there are many issues involved in instituting rule changes. However, it is important to fully understand the process before making assumptions about how and why such decisions are made.

First, please realize that "voting" on rule changes is an opportunity by the membership to share their views with the Board of Directors. In turn, the Board makes its final decisions based on the recommendation of the Rules Committee — which uses the poll results as a guide. But constitutionally, the Board of Directors is charged with the sole responsibility for instituting rule changes. The Board has not been neglectful in that duty and if you review the changes over the past 10 years, you will note that most have been more procedural than rule-specific.

However, in regard to the change in racquet length, the Board faced a dilemma. Last fall, the majority of racquet manufacturers informed the USRA that they were introducing longer racquets in the Fall of 97, regardless of the current 21" rule. You may question those marketing decisions, but the fact remains that those particular choices are not the USRA's to make.

With this industry development, the USRA was placed in a no-win situation. The frames were going to be marketed, with or without USRA approval. Compounding the situation was the USRA's constitutional restriction regarding rules enforcement. Due to the "state's rights" issue (another discussion in itself), the USRA would have found itself in a position to enforce the 21" rule only at regional and national events. Imagine the potential reaction of regional or national entrants when told that the oversized frames they invested hundreds of dollars in, and played all season with, could not be used in making their bids for championship titles.

And here are some other facts that were considered in the deliberations. Some of the longer racquet frames had already been "field tested" on the pro tour for a year, where the IRT enforces no length rule at all. All state presidents were polled on the rule change and not one objection was noted. The rules committee voted 10 to 1 in favor of the change. Then, in an attempt to keep the playing field as level as possible, the USRA was able to negotiate with all of the manufacturers to limit the increase to no more than one inch, rather than adopt the pro's unrestricted "no length" rule.

It remains to be seen what the real outcome of all this will be. However, the USRA Board, with very little resources and manpower, elected to strike a compromise with the manufacturers — and not expend time and energy in opposition and continued enforcement of the 21" rule — IF playing consumers were indeed going to choose the larger frames to compete in qualified sanctioned events. It was decided that the USRA's time would be better spent in continuing to focus on the development and promotion of the sport as a whole.

And those very development and promotion efforts are beginning to show results. According to recently released figures from the Sporting Goods Manufacturer's Association [SGMA], racquetball participation jumped one-half million in 1996, increasing from 6.3 million players to 6.8 million. A separate study by the National Sporting Goods Association [NSGA] also confirmed an 11% increase in their participation numbers. This could be the beginning of the type of growth we've been waiting over a decade for ... and we think the USRA, its' membership and the playing population worldwide is ready.

Luke St. Onge
USRA Executive Director

make up your mind! Was the green ball designed for the pro tour player or not? And why, if the Penn ultra blue is in fact the official ball of the USRA, are we not playing with it at our regional and national championships this year? I know many players, and I myself, would have been a lot happier playing with the "official" blue ball. Now, once again we are being forced to play with this heavier, unfamiliar and unquestionably "faster" green ball at our U.S. national championships? Who made this decision anyhow; and did anybody think to ask the amateur players for their concurrence and/or input?

Later, the March/April "Changing Times" column informed us that the USRA approved an increase in racquet length. The new rationale was that the extension would bring "new excitement to the sport, not unlike the introduction of oversized frames to the market in 1984." Reading on, the article ironically states: "increased ball speed may yet become a factor. If so, the USRA would consider slowing down the ball for sanctioned play." Speed it up? Slow it down? What's going on? Which is it? Is anyone else as confused as I am?

If the manufacturer of the green ball and the USRA Board of Directors truly want to know how we amateurs feel about using the green ball, just ask us!

Jo Kenyon • Tallahassee, Florida

FOLLOW-UP SPEECHES

At this point, I'd like to thank the USRA Board for nominating and awarding me with the 1997 John Halverson Award — along with my co-awardee Warren Riecke of Maryland. I cannot express in words how much this means to me. I was very surprised at the banquet, and I apologize for not expressing how I felt about receiving the award at that moment in time. I'm not very good at speaking in front of many people, but I would be doing the association, my friends, my mother and my students a grave injustice if I didn't thank them properly.

I've had quite a few challenges in my life on and off the court. I'm a very sensitive person and I always keep a lot bottled up inside me because I hate confrontations. I've always been thankful for the priceless friends I've made in and outside of racquetball who've guided me through sad, happy and times when sportsmanship and integrity needed fine-tuning.

So I'd like to thank my mother for hanging in there with me, even though she doesn't really know much about the game, but is still trying to wear every tournament shirt I've ever given her. If I told her I lost, she'd say "You win next time." When I'd tell her I won, she'd light up

readerforum

the room with a smile. And my sister Vernay, who passed away leaving me with the words "hang in there, do anything your heart desires." I'd like to thank everyone I've taught, and all the club owners for letting me. There are many, many others but finally, I'd like to thank John Halverson. I'm sorry I never met you but I'll do my best to live up to your honor. And I'm still figuring out if I'm dreaming or not...

Lorraine Galloway • Jamaica Estates, New York

A Time to Every Purpose ...

by Lynn Adams

To everything there is a season ... And a time to every purpose under heaven ... These words popped into my head as I sat at the annual banquet in Houston, where the USRA recognizes its outstanding athletes and contributors, and inducts individuals into the Hall of Fame. This year, I was honored to be in attendance as one of the first professional inductees to the Hall of Fame.

I realize that not all of you were at the banquet, so let me give you a little background. There was a sense of excitement and pride on the part of those who had worked so hard to put this banquet together. The night was historic in the sense that this was to be a formal, public merging of the amateur and pro games. The USRA (as the former AARA) had previously limited its Hall of Fame to only amateur player and contributor inductees.

In the spirit of growing the sport we all love so much, the USRA chose to embrace and promote the professional side of the sport by hosting the U.S. Open Championships last year in Memphis. I don't know all of the reasons, but it was also decided that the Hall of Fame should be opened up to pros as well — and our sport is now even more unified.

Heather McKay, Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen, Dave Peck, Chuck Leve and myself were all chosen to be inducted together, and there we all sat (with the exception of Heather, who lives in Australia) with our proud families and friends, enjoying the glow that comes with the recognition of one's accomplishments.

The next part of this commentary is somewhat hard to write, because I'm not particularly fond of controversy, but here goes. The evening had been fun and joyous. I was the first to speak, and I hope I imparted my feelings of love and gratitude at being a part of such a wonderful sport. I accepted on behalf of Heather as well, who — to this day — is the best female athlete I have every met, and one of the classiest people you could have the privilege of knowing. Dave Peck was boisterous, loud and happy in acknowledging his family, competitors, sponsors and friends who supported him through the years.

Unfortunately, this is where the fun stopped for me. Chuck Leve, who was instrumental in the initial organization of racquetball and the pro game, stood up and delivered a scathing report on the woes, problems and misguided avenues that racquetball has pursued. He criticized the Hall of Fame, the magazine, and pretty much told us all to go sit in the corner for letting the sport of racquetball go down the tube. Afterward, he offered solutions to the problems, but by then we were all too busy picking ourselves up off the floor to hear them. It felt as if someone had knocked all the wind out of me.

ONLINE

The "homepage" is really great and outstanding. I myself play a lot of racquetball here in my country, particularly every afternoon after school at the pelota court in the suburb I live in. The sport is a huge part of my life, although I wish we had a tournament for college here in our country. However, I do have plans of turning professional in the near future. Thanks so much for the fully detailed homepage you've created. It really takes the sport to new heights, and more than ready for the turn of the century. Congratulations and keep up the good work! //*Benedict V. Estipona/the.Philippines.*

I really enjoyed being able to check the daily results on the Houston championship. I have been playing for 20 years, how about some stories and bios on the old-time players? Marty Hogan for one ... Great site! //*Joe Goode/Keller.Texas*

I have enjoyed following the "real time" results of the nationals in Houston. I have also been able to keep my son up-to-date. We both appreciate the efforts made by the USRA in providing this service. It's not as good as being there, but it's certainly the next best thing! //*Ross Smith/Mary Esther.Florida*

Looking good, Linda! I don't get to surf often but I always check out the racquetball stuff. I would like to see more graphics and photos — when you find the time. //*John Cantrell/Wichita.Kansas*

From the webmistress — Sorry for the downtime in June, but Panacea experienced a major crash (on both their main system, and backup drives) right after the Nationals. It took a good while (in relative cyber-time) to correct, but we thank all of you patient surfers out there for keeping your cool. And for those of you who weren't so patient ... let's just say ... "Is it possible that you might be spending a little bit too much time on the web?" Everything should be up and running long before you read this, though ... so continue to enjoy! • LM

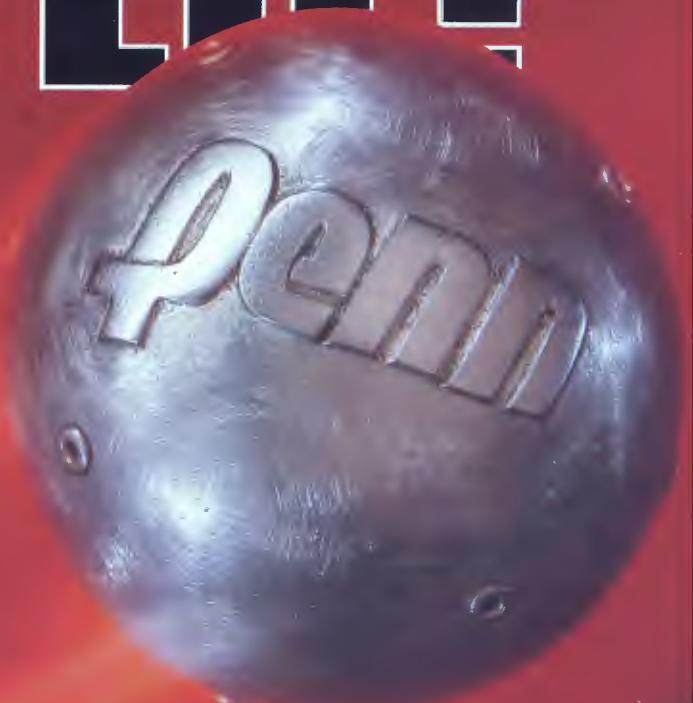
Don't get me wrong. I know we have problems in our sport. I know we have a lot of work to do to keep it current and thriving. Much of what Mr. Leve had to say was valid, but — as I started out with — there is a time and place for everything. It just didn't seem appropriate to choose this particular moment to criticize and point out flaws.

It saddened me to talk to many of the people who work so hard and feel how deflated and depressed they felt afterward. What should have been a fun and celebratory evening had turned sour and empty. Perhaps Mr. Leve thinks this will ultimately turn out to be positive; that in order to grow, you must see ugly truths. This may be so, but I can't help but think ... "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven ..."

I would like to personally thank everyone involved in honoring us "old pros" at the USRA awards banquet. The slide show, played to "the way we were" was wonderfully moving. The special touches, from the blue ribbons to the laser entrances, were appreciated — and my daughter especially liked her special cow cookie! Thank you all so much!

In separate correspondence, Mr. Leve himself noted "While I know my speech might have been a bit like fingernails on a chalkboard, please know that I will be doing everything I can through my work and contacts at IHRSA to help achieve some of the improvements I believe the sport needs."

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PRO NATIONALS FINALISTS (L-R): ANDY ROBERTS, JACKIE PARAISO, MICHELLE GOULD & SUDSY MONCHIK. ALL PHOTOS WITH THIS ARTICLE: KEVIN VICROY.

LIGHTSPEED AT PRO NATIONALS

by Kevin Vicroy

There are all kinds of luck in this world, especially in the "City of Lights." But it might have been a bit of bad luck that helped Andy Roberts edge the 1997 Foxwoods IRT Pro Nationals title from Sudsy Monchik at the Las Vegas Sporting House in late April.

Monchik, who lost to Cliff Swain in last year's finale, was challenged right off the mark by Joe Paraiso in the Round of 32. Paraiso forced the tour's No. 1 player into a deciding fifth game in their early round, in which Monchik won 11-7 to advance. From there, Suds rolled past James Mulcock (7-11), 11-2, 11-6, 11-5; Drew Kachtik 11-4, 11-3, 11-7; and John Ellis in the semifinals (12-14), 11-3, 11-4, 11-4.

The anticipated "all-Staten Island" semi-final match up between Monchik and long-time junior doubles partner Jason Mannino was foiled by #13 Tony Jelso, who upset #4 seeded Mannino (6-11), 11-9, 11-4, 11-7 in the round of sixteen. In the next round, after a pre-match game of H-O-R-S-E on the Sporting House basketball court in which most of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas basketball team plays, Jelso and Ellis put on a tremendous show for the capacity crowd in their quarterfinal.

Jelso, who lost the first game 11-2, stole games two and three by scores of 11-5, 11-9 before Ellis regrouped to finished out the match, winning the final two games 13-11 and 11-5. Later, Ellis started out strong against Monchik in their semi, taking a 14-12 first game win, but failed to hold onto his edge as he was shut out by Monchik in the remaining three, 11-3, 11-4, 11-4.

pro nationals

The bottom half of the bracket played out as seeded, where Cliff Swain, the 1995 and '96 Pro Nationals winner, cruised through his first three matches without dropping a game. The Boston native met pro tour veteran Mike Ray in the quarters and sent the #7 seed away with an 11-1, (7-11), (8-11), 11-5, 11-5 loss.

In the semis, Swain met up with the winner of the tour's "player who most resembles a linebacker" award — Andy Roberts. In actuality, Roberts was recruited by several Division I football schools to play tight end out of high school.

On the smaller field, Roberts had little trouble with his first four opponents — Oscar Macias, Jason Thoerner, Michael Bronfeld and Mike Guidry — to earn his berth in the semis of the pro nationals for the third consecutive year. There, the Swain-Roberts bout was perfection to behold, and ticket holders poured into their seats well before warm-ups and rarely moved after the first serve was driven.

Swain took games one and four by identical scores of 11-7, while the 6-foot-3, 215 lb. Roberts captured the middle games 11-7, 11-9, respectively.

Neither player would allow the other any breathing room in the fifth game, but Roberts eventually came out on top with an 11-9 win. "Cliff and I have had great matches for the past 10 years. There's no reason to expect anything but."

"He's a great player," Swain said of Roberts. "We always have great matches. It's best for the crowd that way."

Later, leaning on his car in the parking lot, a disappointed Swain explained why his tournament had come to an abrupt end. "I was missing too many easy shots, plain and simple. I missed too many free points."

Now the stage, or more aptly — the ring — was set for Roberts vs. Monchik (right).

It was a perfect setting, amidst the Vegas neon, for Monchik's brash, Muhammad Ali-type confidence to spark his Southern opponent. In Roberts, it was a crafty veteran with power, control and most of all, mental strength who posed the challenge. The match opened as a re-enactment of the 1996 Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN final — with Sudsy coming away with the first two games, 11-7 and 11-8.

In the third, Roberts caught the 22-year old New York sensation a bit sluggish, and took advantage of the slump to win 11-3. Then, down 9-8 in the fourth, Monchik jammed his ankle into the back right corner of the court ... starting his run of bad luck.

After an injury timeout, Monchik lost the next two points, along with game four 11-8. The fifth game resembled the 15th round of a heavyweight championship, as Monchik hobbled around the court, getting to what he could. At the same time, Roberts was branded by painful cross-court forehands to the back of his legs. One right after another.

Neither player was about to give any ground.



roberts vs. monchik



pro nationals

Then, with the advantage at 10-9, Sudsy was set up with a perfect backhand plum for the match.

And blew it. Side out.

"He had a match point and skipped an easy ball," Roberts said. "I knew, at that point, the match was mine."

Indeed it was, as Roberts finished off the IRT's top-ranked player 12-10, earning himself the 1997 Pro National title and a \$15,000 first prize.

the women

Despite her own rash of recent injuries, Michelle Gould captured her seventh women's pro title by defeating fellow U.S. Team member Jackie Paraiso 11-1, 11-8, 11-6 at the Foxwoods WIRT Pro Nationals in Las Vegas.

After an undefeated WIRT season, the Boise, Idaho native showed some signs of wear early on by uncharacteristically losing the first game of early matches against Kerri Stoffregen in the round of 16, and then again to Lydia Hammock in the quarters. But in both instances, Gould rebounded to win; Stoffregen fell 11-7, 11-2, 11-5, while Hammock was blown out 11-0, 11-2, 11-4.

The other side featured #2 seeded Cheryl Gudinas and #3 Jackie Paraiso. Gudinas advanced past Debbie Fiordino, Tammy Brockbank and Randi Friedman in straight games to reach the semifinals. Historically a runner-up to the top-ranked Gould at almost every pro stop, Gudinas defeated her first three opponents by an average game score of 11-3.

Coming into the tournament, Paraiso had not finished beyond the semis in any of this season's WIRT events. The El



Cajon, Calif., native reached her final four spot by downing Lorraine Feeney, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4, in the round of 32, then '95 Pro Nationals champion Marci Drexler, 11-1, 11-5, 11-7, and unseeded Kersten Hallander, 11-13, 11-3, 11-3, 11-5.

Unlike the men, the women were scheduled to play their semifinals on Saturday morning and their final that evening, making for an exhausting day for Gould and Paraiso. The fact that each semifinal match went to the maximum five games only compounded matters.

For the third consecutive round, Gould lost her first game. This time to #4 seeded Laura Fenton, 11-5.

During that first game, the defending tour champion pinched a nerve in her forearm when her racquet inadvertently took on a bit too much of the back wall.

"I couldn't feel anything from my bicep to my hand," Gould said following the match. "I was trying to swing with no feeling in my arm and that's difficult. I can usually hit the ball off of one foot and rely on my arm for power, but I felt like I had no sense of control."

From being on top of the tour for so long Gould has learned to play through difficult circumstances — and did.

Fenton fell in game two, 11-7, then clawed her way back to take the third, 11-9. But soon after starting the fourth game, Gould asked for, and was awarded, an injury timeout. A tactical move or not? Either way, it was apparent that Fenton was disturbed when a regulation timeout was not called.

"I let her get into my head," the Lincoln, Neb., native said, "then I got really upset with myself and didn't play well."

gould vs. paraiso

Gould recovered to take games four and five, 11-3, 11-4, respectively, to advance into the finals.

"It's very heartbreaking," Fenton said of her narrow loss. "I feel I can beat her, but it's my own fault. I know she felt the pressure and I really had a rhythm going. Then I got tired and lost my focus. It's really frustrating."

The other semifinal featured a Paraiso-Gudinas contest.

The two had met on three occasions this season, each time in the semifinals and



each was won by Gudinas in five games. So, after splitting games one and two, Gudinas pulled out the third, 11-7, and it came as no surprise that the Californian took game four to force a fifth and deciding game. It was how she did it that caught the capacity crowd off guard.

"She was serving really great in that fourth game," Gudinas said of her opponent. "I got beat 11-0. Her serves were literally 'cracking out.'"

Paraiso agreed, saying, "I think I aced her on nine out the 11 points in game four. I was really focused."

Still hot, Paraiso stormed out to a 7-1 lead in the final game, only to see the tour's #2 ranked player launch a comeback to move into an 8-7 lead.

During her timeout, brother Joe Paraiso offered some advice. "He came back here and mentally slapped me around a little bit. That helped get my adrenalin flowin', it made me more focused."

Whatever he said worked like a charm, as Jackie returned to the court to win the last three points and the tiebreaker, 11-8.

As the finals have gone all season (with all but the first event in Annapolis, Md.) Gould claimed her title in a rather anti-climactic fashion — in straight games of 11-1, 11-8, 11-6.

"I've been playing her pretty well this season, except for the last few times," Paraiso said following the finals. "I just didn't focus well today. When I focus, I play very well against her."

When asked about the difficulty of playing, and winning, with the distraction of pain, Gould responded by saying, "Sometimes you need to block everything out and focus the best you can. You're not always going to play your best and things aren't always going to turn out the way you want them to. But you have to learn to deal with every situation that comes along."

Even in defeat, a gracious Paraiso agreed.

"My arm has tendonitis, and I've got rotator cuff problems, but everybody does [have injuries], and we all play our best out there. That's what makes a champion."





High Pressure over Houston

by Kevin Vicroy

Pressure can be a delicate variable when it comes to athletics. Sometimes it helps an athlete focus more on the task at hand but, more often, it just weighs too heavily on one's shoulders.

Former pro tour veteran Dan Obremski opted for the "no-pressure" approach to win his first national singles title over former back-to-back champion Michael Bronfeld at the Ektelon 30th U.S. National Singles Championships in Houston. At the close of the six-day event, presented by Penn Racquet Sports and hosted by the Downtown YMCA, Obremski and Michelle Gould were crowned the 1997 open champions on Memorial Day.

For Obremski there had been only one other occasion that he found himself in a national singles final — in 1985, where he lost to four-time champion Ed Andrews 11-15, 15-7, 11-6. Then, the Pennsylvania native had been only 21.

Twelve years later, he returned...
This time with racquetball as a
passion, not a career...
No pressure.

Obremski began his title run by defeating Scott Grunin, 15-9, 15-14, dropping a game to Bill Parodi before winning 8-15, 15-6, 11-2, then taking on Chris Wright in the round of 16 with a straight-game advance of 15-7, 15-7.

In the quarterfinals, Obremski went up against a motivated Kelly Gelhaus, who brought his own brand of pressure. Fighting to remain on the national team, Gelhaus needed to reach the semifinals to qualify for another one-year appointment. But after a strong opening bid and game one win of 15-11 by Gelhaus, it still wasn't in the cards. Obremski took the second 15-9, and the tiebreaker 11-5 to advance into the semis.

From the #7 spot, Adam Karp also needed to reach the semis for re-appointment and had cruised by his first four opponents without losing a game. He defeated Orlando Cabana Jr, 15-2, 15-8, then Rob DeJesus 15-10, 15-9, James Lorello 15-7, 15-5, and fellow IRT journeyman Derek Robinson in the quarters 15-12, 15-9.

Karp, the highest ranking amateur on the professional tour at #11, appeared to be more than enough of a challenge for Obremski in their semi-final.

Leaping out to a quick 5-0 lead, Obremski stretched it to 13-4 before Karp even knew what happened.

The young Californian made a token comeback, but fell short, 15-10. Still in a racquetball "zone," Obremski continued his stellar play to win game two 15-7 and move into the finals for the first time in many moons.

"This is the second time [in the finals]," Obremski said with his award-winning smile. "The first time, I was young. I played against Ed Andrews. He was at the top of the pro game. It was very intimidating. I went into the finals with a lot of great matches and he just overwhelmed me. Kind of like Adam (Karp) was there today. He looked

u.s. nationals **USRA**

overwhelmed and I don't know why. He's on the pro tour and I don't play. But when I looked back at his eyes, I could see that he didn't have that killer instinct."

Seemingly caught off balance, Karp had nothing to counter Obremski's energy and precise shooting.

"He needed a weapon today, like a hard serve or a better lob," Obremski said of Karp. "I think he was pushing too much from the backcourt, he gave me a lot of points."

Obremski continued, "It's good to be in this position [in the finals]. Before, I was trying to make a career out of racquetball, now I don't really care. In fact, I didn't even expect to go past the first or second rounds. I didn't practice for this. I just came as the fitness consultant for Ektelon. Fortunately, I'm still in it."

The top half of the draw featured two players with a total of three National Singles crowns between them — top-seeded defending champion Ruben Gonzalez and '94 and '95 title-holder, #4 seeded Michael Bronfeld.

After dispensing of Nick Xynidis 15-10, 15-3, Brian Fredenberg 15-12, 15-13 and James Mulcock 15-13, 15-2, Gonzalez had re-qualified for the team by reaching the semis and was well-positioned for a title repeat.

His veteran savvy was never more apparent than in his match against former junior team member and #9 seeded Mulcock. Down 13-7 in the first game, the Staten Island, N.Y., native outscored his much younger

opponent 23-2 to finish out the match.

Coming up through the draw, Bronfeld rushed past Craig Rappaport 15-1, 15-13; current national Intercollegiate champion Brian Simpson 15-2, 15-10; and upstart Jason Thoerner 15-11, (13-15), 11-9.

The Thoerner-Bronfeld match was quite possibly the most exciting of the week.

After winning game one, Bronfeld was up 10-2 when young Thoerner came on.

Playing as if someone forgot to tell the unseeded Augusta, S.C., resident that he wasn't *supposed* to win, Thoerner matched the former champion dive for dive and forced a third game with a 15-13 game two victory.

Bronfeld's experience paid off, as the pride of Monterey, Calif., advanced into the semi-final following a narrow, drawn-out 11-9 third game win.

"It was a struggle," Bronfeld said. "Jason is a real scrappy player. He was getting to a lot of balls. I had a big lead in the second game and let that get away. But it was a good win for me."

Afterwards, the Bronfeld-Gonzalez semifinal was almost a let-down for the crowd, as the defending champion was eliminated quickly, 15-9, 15-6.

"I played great today," Bronfeld said following his victory. "The first five points were a little shaky. I changed a couple of gloves, got one that felt

ON THE SIDELINES ...

All-Army Contingent • **Jimmy Lowe**, currently stationed at Fort Wainwright in Alaska, led the All-Army team in Houston, marking a third straight weekend of high-level competition. Just two weeks prior, Lowe won the men's open qualifying title at the All-Army Racquetball Championships in San Antonio, then followed up with a win at the Armed Forces Championships.

After qualifying at the All-Army team trial in Fort Sam Houston the weekend of May 8-11, a full dozen men and five women received an all-expense-paid trip to compete in Houston. Coming out of their rounds to qualify were semi-finalists in Men's Open (Jimmy Lowe, Matthew Anderson, Scott Crepps, Clint Imholt); Men's Seniors (Wayne Gonsalves, Jim Gillhouse, Miguel Santiago, Roger Milley); Men's Masters (Gil Rodriguez, Jesus Moctezuma, Bruce Shafer, Tom Chandler); Women's Seniors (Jan Chayt, Diana Huron) and Women's Open (Rose Anderson, Gladys Leonard and Pat Phanvongsa).

Flying High • **Rob Dejesus** lead the Air Force team with a gold medal win in Men's All-Age, defeating Willie Tilton of Colorado Springs on the final day. Currently stationed in Clovis, New Mexico, Dejesus was one of six players to join the Air Force squad following its' qualifying competition in Fort Sam Houston earlier in the month. But — unlike their Army counterparts — the AF team was given only "permissive TDY" to make the trip, and had to pay all their own expenses out of pocket.

Other players wearing AF colors in Houston were: **Chris Asuncion** (Hanscom AFB, Mass.); **Angela Burth** (Pentagon); **Ken Fairchild** (McGuire AFB, N.J.); and brothers **Mark Fuhrman** (Tinker AFB, Okla.) and **Tom Fuhrman** (Altus AFB, Okla.).

More Special Teams • In the "state teams" tally, Texas held its top spot among squads with a total of 114 entrants from the lone star state, followed by California with 42, Florida with 30, Pennsylvania with 25 and New York with 23. In all, 45 states (plus the District of Columbia) were represented at the event.

More ...



obremski vs. bronfeld

good and then my serves started going in. That was the key. That got me moving and into the flow. The second game, I stayed cool, didn't make a lot of mistakes and put the pressure on him."

Finally, the stage was set for Bronfeld's third national singles title bid. After taking the first game 15-10, Bronfeld was just six points away from the crown in the second, holding a 9-8 lead.

Obremski began talking to himself. Seriously. Loudly. His self-berating commands gradually reached "Drill Sergeant" decibels.

"I had to," Obremski said of his vocals. "I wasn't playing well, so I had to utilize intensity to come through it. That's the only thing that kept me in there. I had to get vocal with myself. That's the way I used to play on the tour. It took a little bit of the old Dan, but it worked."

Game two fell Obremski's way, with a close 15-13 win.

Bronfeld came back to score the first point of the tiebreaker, then never saw a lead again.

Obremski's 11-4 victory in the final frame earned him the most coveted title in nearly every sport, that of national champion.

"He played well and moved well," a dejected Bronfeld said. "He just played better than me today and deserved to win."

Immediately following the title bout, Obremski was finally under pressure. He was hurrying to catch an afternoon flight home, which he had booked expecting an early departure from the tournament.

"At the time [his pro tour days], the Tournament of Champions was my biggest win, because that was my career," a jubilant Obremski said while packing his gear, "I've never won this tournament, didn't expect to win and didn't really prepare. Mentally I did, because I put no pressure on myself."

"When I was playing the pro tour, I had so much pressure. I had to support my family by playing. You're thinking about every point, your kids are at home and you need to make money to keep your ranking up. Here, there was no pressure."

"Everybody said that I look so much better now because I'm having fun," the new champion said. "I'm playing like I did when I first started. On the pro tour, I was miserable. When that kind of pressure's on you, it tough to play loose. Right now, it's a blast."

Not a youngster anymore, Obremski put into perspective what this tournament meant to him.

"I'm lucky to have the opportunity to do this at 33-years old. I beat four guys who are on the pro tour, for me, that's more of a victory than the actual title itself."

And on the Low Pressure Front ...

Believe it or not, top-seeded defending champion Michelle Gould won a record-setting eighth women's open title without dropping a game. Was anyone surprised? Not even her opponents.

The Boise, Idaho native reclaimed her crown with a 15-1, 15-9 final victory over a familiar opponent, her doubles partner and #2 seeded Cheryl Gudinas. It was Gould's

gould vs. gudinas

third consecutive national singles championship, after losing only one final in the past nine years.

Playing at what she claimed to be "about 70%," Gould destroyed the early competition, giving up no more than five points in any one game.

After a first round bye, Kim Allen fell victim to racquetball's "Superwoman," 15-5, 15-0. Chris Evon followed suit in the quarterfinals with a 15-3, 15-5 loss.

Due to heavy rain, the courts were extremely humid and had become rather treacherous at times.

"It was the first time that I ever played racquetball and roller skated at the same time," Gould said of her quarters match.

Meeting Gould in the semifinals was Nebraskan Laura Fenton, who earned a re-appointment to the U.S. National team with her "final four" finish.

Fenton fought through a tiebreaker against Dallas' Phyllis Morris to advance into the round of sixteen, winning 15-6, 14-15, 11-1. The Women's International Racquetball Tour's (WIRT) #4 ranked player then pounded Lydia Hammock 15-1, 15-7 and downed Malia Bailey in three games of 11-15, 15-7, 11-0 to earn the right to challenge the mighty Gould for her finals spot.

Meanwhile, Gudinas and Jackie Paraiso moved through their half of the draw to meet in the other semi-final match.

Gudinas, ranked #2 on the women's pro tour, struggled by former pro great Janell Marriott, 15-6, 15-6, in the round of sixteen and then breezed past Elaine Mardas,

15-8, 15-1. Following a first round injury default by Gladys Leonard, #4 seeded Paraiso blasted an outmatched Jen Yokota, 15-2, 15-4.

At high noon on Sunday, Paraiso and Gudinas drew their respective racquets and prepared for their semifinal battle.

Jumping out to a 5-1 lead, Gudinas couldn't hold off the former pro champion and lost her lead midway through game one. However, down 7-5, Gudinas came back to take the first game 15-9.

Game two, unfortunately for Paraiso, fell into the same mold, ending with a 15-9 loss.

"Both games, I was down," Gudinas said following the match. "Both times, I took a timeout and I felt that made a big difference. I was taught if you lose three rallies in a row, you should take a timeout. I try to go by that."

Regarding Jackie's play, Gudinas stated, "She's probably playing the best of anyone here, recently. I don't feel she played as well as she could have today."

Just one month earlier, Fenton had given Gould all she wanted at the Pro Nationals. But, in the other semifinal, what a difference a month can make. Gould crushed Fenton in straight games, giving up only four points ... total, to take her 15-1, 15-3 win.

"I felt pretty good," Gould said. "I keep trying to tell myself that I'm not playing that well, but everybody is telling me that I am. I'll compromise."

When asked about her nagging injuries, the top seed replied positively, "You know that you can't

Racquetball on the Airwaves • Friday began early, with two live spots on KHOU TV-11's daily morning show. **Derek Robinson** and **Michelle Gould** were both interviewed on air at 6:20 a.m. and 7:20 a.m., respectively. Robinson took on the KHOU sports reporter Miles after showing some of his serving technique to the viewers.

On Friday evening, **Adam Karp** and **Cheryl Gudinas** were guests on KNWS TV-51's weekly sports show hosted by **John Granato**. Karp and Gudinas capped the interview off by testing their aim — at the backside of a giant gorilla statue.

Former Houston Rocket Robert Reid was Granato's guest host and had many kind words about racquetball. "That's all my son is going to do this summer," [play racquetball] said Reid on the air.

All in the Family • Husband/wife couples on hand were: **Earl and Mary Low Acuff** (N.C.); **Jim and Malia Bailey** (Va.); **Rex and Gwen Benham** (Ark.); **Jack & Helen Dunsmoor** (Idaho); **Chris & Christina Lee** (Calif.); **Stephen & Jennifer Pinnow** (Mont.); **Al & Patti Schof** (La.); **Jerry & Rose Stoltmann** (Wis.); **Tom & Marti Thrower** (Texas); and **Tom & Missi Travers** (Ohio).

Sibling pairs (some even in the same divisions) were: **Tom** (Miss.) & **Mark** (Okla.) **Fuhrmann**; **Kerry** (N.Y.) & **Sean** (Ga.) **Graham**; **Dave & John Negrete** (Ill.) and **Dave & Gregg Peck** (Texas). Father/son: **R.O. Carson & Rocky Carson** (Calif.); Mother/daughter: **Gerri & Kerri Stoffregen** (Ohio) and Father/daughter **Terry & Sarah Wells** (Texas). Behind the tournament desk: the mother/daughter team of **Margo & Erica Daniels** (Calif.).

Surprise! It's tough to keep a secret, but last-minute award winners at the Saturday night banquet seemed to be pleasantly surprised with their respective honors. **Jack & Helen Dunsmoor** received the Presidential Award for their hard work in Idaho; **Randy Stafford** of Memphis, Tennessee won the Joe Sobek Contributor award for his work on the portable court; and **Lorraine Galloway** of New York and Maryland's **Warren Riecke** were co-winners of the John Halverson Fair Play award.

Two Much • Five players were slated to compete in two finals, but none were able to pull off a double-gold. **Mitt Layton** won the 45+ title, but lost to **Ruben Gonzalez** in the 40+; **Victor Sacco** earned a pair of silver medals in the 65+ and 70+; **Mary Bickley** won the 40s, but lost to **Debbie Tisinger** in the 35s; **Gerri Stoffregen** won the 50s, but fell to **Janet Myers** in the 45s; and **Jo Kenyon** brought home the gold in 60+, but was defeated by **Sharon Hastings-Welty** in the 55+.

Spotted • In 70+ and 75+ — the Montana antelope ... **Don Goddard**!



rely on some of the things that you normally do. So you have to put it together from the get go."

As they have for practically every tournament this season, the world's top two women took to center court for the open final.

Gould opened by dominating the first game with a string of ace serves and proceeded to win handily, 15-1.

"There was nothing I could do," Gudinas said of her near "skunking" in game one.

Of her picture-perfect serves, Gould recalled "They felt really good. I've been serving well all week, so I felt pretty confident that they would work for me again today."

But the second game opened with a bit of an unexpected twist. Gudinas' own serves started to work, leading to a quick 7-2 lead for the challenger. But, as expected, Gould bounced back.

"She adjusted to my serves and I'm just not confident in my drive," Gudinas said. "I've got to work on that still. I thought, 'If I can stay with this, maybe I can grab this game and see what happens. But she adjusted too quickly."

Down 7-2, Gould hadn't given up more than five points all week long. But her recovery was quick and complete, as she rallied to take the second game, and her title, 15-9.

"I think I went to the Bahamas for a little bit," Gould explained of her game two drought. "I stopped stepping into balls, stopped rotating and Cheryl served some effective serves that kept me off balance and off guard. Her strategy worked well."

Having been outscored 13-2 to end the match in which she only called one timeout, Gudinas was asked what happened to her "three lost rallies and call a timeout" theory.

"You only have so many timeouts," she said laughingly.

EKTELON *Propenn*

EKTELON 30TH USRA NATIONAL SINGLES — FINAL RESULTS

Men's Divisions — Open: #6 Dan Obremski (Pittsburgh, Pa.) def. #4 Michael Bronfeld (Monterey, Calif.) 10-15, 15-13, 11-4; All-Skill: Ralph Cuesta (Hialeah, Fla.) def. Steve Tillotson (El Cajon, Calif.) 15-12, 15-3; All-Age: #1 Rob Dejesus (Clovis, N.M.) def. #2 Willie Tilton (Colo. Springs, Colo.) 15-11, 15-3; 25+: #6 Rich Baer (Lake Ronkonkomo, N.Y.) def. #4 Mike Locker (St. Paul, Minn.) 15-7, 15-5; 30+: #3 Gregg Peck (Coppell, Texas) def. #8 Brad McCunniff (Cedar Falls, Iowa) 15-9, 15-6; 35+: #4 Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.) def. #2 David Watson (Miami, Okla.) 15-7, 15-8; 40+: #4 Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. #3 Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) 15-10, 15-4; 45+: #1 Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. #6 Jim Lizar (Brookfield, Wis.) 15-9, 15-12; 50+: #1 Ed Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. #10 Scott Rudoni (Monterey, Calif.) 15-8, 15-7; 55+: #1 Bobby Sanders (Cleveland, Ohio) def. #3 Roger Wehrle (Flowery Branch, Ga.) 15-9, 15-8; 60+: #9 Jerry Stoltmann (Mequon, Wis.) def. #6 Ron Maggard (Lake Tapawingo, Mo.) 15-11, 15-4; 65+: #3 Otis Chapman (Cleveland, Ohio) def. #1 Victor Sacco (Norwood, N.Y.) 2-15, 15-4, 11-9; 70+: #11 Fintan Kilbride (Toronto, Ontario) def. #1 Victor Sacco (Norwood, N.Y.) 15-6, 15-5; 75+: #1 Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. #2 Robert McAdam (Crowley, Texas) 15-13, 15-2; 80+: #1 George Spear

(Poughkeepsie, N.Y.) def. #2 Harry Steinman (Baltimore, Md.) 15-2, 15-11.

Women's Divisions — Open: #1 Michelle Gould (Boise, Idaho) def. #2 Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) 15-1, 15-9; All-Skill: #10 Yelsenia Delbusto (Miami, Fla.) def. Thelma Ruhlen (Richmond, Va.) 12-15, 15-11, 11-10; All-Age: #1 Kerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. #3 Shannon Feaster (Wash., D.C.) 15-9, 15-6; 25+: #1 Elaine Mardas (Columbus, Ohio) def. #2 Jen Yokota (Hazelwood, Mo.) 11-15, 15-11, 11-6; 30+: #1 Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) def. #2 Debra Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) 15-13, 15-13; 35+: #2 Debra Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. #1 Mary Bickley (Pittsburgh, Pa.) 15-6, 13-15, 11-1; 40+: #2 Mary Bickley (Pittsburgh, Pa.) def. #1 Janell Marriott (West Warwick, R.I.) 15-14, 6-15, 11-4; 45+: #4 Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.) def. #2 Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-11, 15-9; 50+: #1 Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. #3 Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.) 15-14, 15-7; 55+: #2 Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. #1 Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.) 15-8, 15-2; 60+: #1 Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.) def. #2 Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 15-7, 15-7. 65+: Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) unchallenged; 70: Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) unchallenged.

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canadian nationals



VAN HEES, CERESIA CAPTURE CANADIAN NATIONAL TITLES

by Mike Ceresia

Christie Van Hees dominated the women's field at the 1997 Canadian Nationals. Van Hees played serve-and-shoot racquetball in winning the women's title over fellow British Columbia native Debbie Ward by scores of 11-2, 11-4 and 11-2.

"It was one of the best matches of my life," said the elated 19-year-old champion. En route to the final Van Hees beat Amanda MacDonald and Lori-Jane Powell, each in three games. Ward, who is better-known for her doubles game, disposed of defending champion Josee Grand'Maitre in the first round and Lucie Guillemette in the semis. Ward delivered clutch play at the end of both of these five-game wars.

Meanwhile, Mike Ceresia of Ontario stunned the partisan Winnipeg throng with a straight game victory over home town defending champion and 1994 World Singles champion Sherman Greenfeld. In a rematch of last year's final Ceresia dominated this match 11-7, 11-10 and 11-2.

Ceresia said the second game was critical. "It was the key game, Sherman's in fantastic shape and if he gets the momentum he's hard to stop." Greenfeld lost leads of 7-2 and 10-7 at that point in the match.

Ceresia advanced to the final by beating Brian Istace in four games and Simon Roy in a two-hour battle 6-11, 11-4, 6-11, 11-3 and 11-2. Greenfeld did not drop a game on his trek to the final as he defeated Andrew Kane and Jacques Demers in three straight games apiece.

In doubles, Simon Roy and Mike Ceresia captured their third straight title, with a '96 rematch victory over Tom O'Brien and Mike Green in three games. For the women, Vicki Shanks and Debbie Ward edged Lucie Guillemette and Josee Grand'Maitre in five games to capture the women's crown.

Supreme Racquet Courts was the host club this year — and made the Winnipeg Nationals a huge success. The event kicked off with a racquetball manufacturers trade show and closed with a first class banquet at the Delta Winnipeg.

A special thank you to club manager Ron Brown, Brent Jervis of the Manitoba Racquetball Association, Al Lasko who designed a first-class program under extremely trying times, and the throng of volunteers who came together to make this year's event a winner.



**Racquetball
Canada**

profile: irt & wirt

IRT COVERAGE BY DARRIN SCHENCK - WIRT COVERAGE BY CHERYL GUDINAS

PEIHLER MOTORS PRO-AM

Penfield Racquet Club

Rochester, NY

East Coast here we come again!!! The tour traveled back to Mannino's old stomping ground.

Round of 16 Highlights

Fresh from an afternoon off, all of the top seeds advanced with relative ease. Mike Ray went to four games with Tony Jelso, but won 11-8 in the fourth. John Ellis dropped the first game to Dan Fowler, but took the next three in a hurry, and Kachtik beat Karp in four after dropping the first game. Continuing the trend, Jason Mannino lost the first game of his match against Kelly Gelhaus, then came on to win in four. Roberts put the skids on George Delaney with a straight game win.

Quarterfinal

After making quick work of Mike Green in the preceding round, Sudsy Monchik faced lefty Mike Guidry in the quarterfinal, where both players were put on a clinic in court coverage. Suds won the first and then lost an "extra innings" game 16-14. All that did was fire up Monchik as he went on to win the next two games easily.

Next up was Jason Mannino vs. Mike Ray. Ray has had trouble lately with guys who can get to every shot he hits, and even though he won the first, Jason took the match in four. On the bottom half, John Ellis played a very sharp match in his straight game upset of #2 seeded Cliff Swain, while Andy Roberts struggled in the first but came on to beat Drew Kachtik in four games.

Upset Semifinals

The semi's had the David and Goliath match up of Roberts and Ellis. Well, as the story goes, David wins ... I mean John wins. In fact, Andy looked shell shocked as Ellis cruised to a three game victory. Then, it happened. I don't know how long the streak ran, but Mannino broke it. Jason beat the number one player in the world

in four games of 12-10, 3-11, 11-9, 11-9. Mannino looked tough as he got every ball and hit some clutch shots against long-time junior doubles partner Monchik to earn his second trip to a final this season. Now he had one more match to win.

ELLIS VS. MANNINO

This was no match, this was a war!!! The match lasted two hours plus, and the players traded games into the fifth. Ellis won the odd games 11-7 and 11-9 and Mannino won the even games 11-9 and 11-9. This was a tight match all the way through. Ellis jumped out to an early lead in the fifth, but Mannino would not be denied as he clawed his way back into the match with some great splats and of course incredible diving gets. Jason Mannino won the fifth game tiebreaker 13-11 to win his first ever pro tour event. It's nice to see someone besides the top three get a win here and there. (No offense, guys!)

Photo above: John Ellis (foreground) vs. Andy Roberts (finishing a backhand).

FOXWOODS PRO CLASSIC

Boston Athletic Club
Boston, Massachusetts:

Oh, Boy!!! Boston in March!!! Actually the weather wasn't so bad, it's the street construction that really gets to you. The IRT traveled back to the home of Cliff Swain, and the eastern seaboard city greeted the rest of us with open arms.

Round of Sixteen Highlights

The round of sixteen held an unkind greeting for Rafael Filippini courtesy of Cliff Swain, who advanced in three quick ones. A frequent match-up on tour is Louis Vogel and John Ellis. This match always boasts



some of the hardest hitting in the world, and this time the match went to Ellis in four. The closet match this round was between Adam Karp and Mike Guidry. Both of these players are well known for the retrieving ability, and the match went the distance with Guidry winning the last two games 13-11 and 12-10.

Quarterfinal

After his win over Mike Ray in the previous round, #9 seeded Dan Fowler started strong against top-ranked Sudsy Monchik. Fowler took the first game by hitting lots of kills, but after a while Monchik dialed in and went on to win the next three 11-9, 11-2, 11-5. The next match-up was Drew Kachtik and Jason Mannino, two of the tour's big boys. Mannino dropped the first game, but prevailed in four, squeaking the fourth 14-12. Andy Roberts served up a storm to advance with a routine win over John Ellis, 11-3, 11-6, 11-4.

The last match was the crowd favorite (surprise, surprise) between hometown hero Cliff Swain and Mike Guidry. The two traded games into the fifth, Swain winning the first 11-5 and the third 11-6; and Guidry winning game two 11-4, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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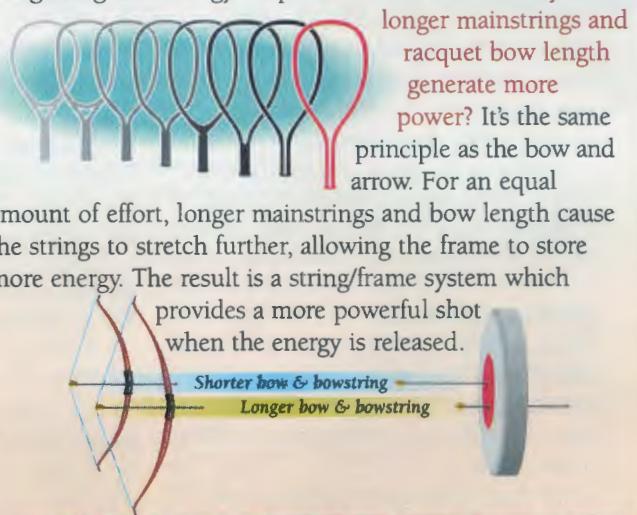
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As racquet frames evolved, longer mainstrings resulted in huge increases in power. The quadraform head shape out-powered the teardrop (and throat-pieces became obsolete). The midsize out-powered the quadraform. The oversize out-powered the midsize. 16.2", 21.0" and now 22.0" LongString Technology out-powered the oversize. Why do



Why E-Force Racquets Are More Powerful

Racquet	Bow Length*	Max Length Mainstrings	Combined Length 10 Center Mains	The E-Force Advantage
22.0" LongString Bedlam (E-Force) Anarchy (E-Force)	22.0 in. 22.0 in.	21.5 in. 21.5 in.	201.5 in. 201.5 in.	Over 39% more mainstring length. 56 extra inches.**
21.0" LongString Mayhem (E-Force)	21.0 in.	20.5 in.	193.5 in.	Over 22% more mainstring length. 48 extra inches.**
16.2" LongString Chaos (E-Force) Ignite™ (E-Force) Nunchaku™ (E-Force) Frenzy™ (E-Force)	16.2 in. 16.2 in. 16.2 in. 16.2 in.	16.0 in. 16.0 in. 16.0 in. 16.0 in.	141.3 in. 141.3 in. 141.3 in. 141.3 in.	Longer center mains than all other competitive racquets
Racquets w/o Throat Piece Maximum length avail. Typical length	15.5 in. 14.3 in.	15.4 in. 14.2 in.	145.0 in. 131.3 in.	E-Force's longer center mains deliver extra power
Racquets with Throat Piece Standard throat Wrapped throat—Ektelon	13.1 in. 13.9 in.	13.0 in. 13.8 in.	124.0 in. 136.8 in.	E-Force's mainstrings are substantially longer

* Bow Length—maximum possible distance between top and bottom mainstring connection points

** Comparison of combined length of ten center mainstrings



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four 11-6. The crowd gave the ref a rough time, and the tension mounted as the match went into the tiebreaking fifth. Cliff looked a little less than sharp as he let an early lead slip away and lost the match 11-8. Guidry made a quick exit, and the crowd expressed Cliff's frustration for him. The whole place was in shock and denial.

Semifinal Upset Bid

The semi-finals pitted an upset-minded Mike Guidry against Andy Roberts. Guidry looked surprisingly fresh after the previous days win and eliminated Roberts in four games of 8-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-7. The other match featured the familiar sights of Jason Mannino diving and Sudsy Monchik curving shots in from both sides. The two are always entertaining, and this match lived up to its billing, with Monchik winning in four 11-1, (2-11) 11-8, 11-2.

MONCHIK VS. GUIDRY

The Monday night final had a good crowd in spite of Swain's absence. Monchik had his share of trouble with the red-hot southpaw, Mike Guidry, who won the second and third games of the match. But showing his true colors, Sudsy pulled it together and came back to win games four and five. The title of Foxwoods Pro Classic went to Sudsy Monchik winning 11-7, 1-11, 11-13, 11-6, 11-7.

Photo above: Guidry (r) comes around to his forehand against Cliff Swain in their quarterfinal. Photo: John Gillooly.

VCI World Doubles Schoeber's Athletic Club Pleasanton, California

Everyone headed west for the VCI World Doubles Championships in Pleasanton. The teams were picked and the draw was set, so here we go!

Round of 16 Opener

The old glory match-up of Ray and Roberts were seeded first, and won their match over Bustos/Bianucci in three straight. From the #2 spot, Swain and Jelso had enjoyed success in the past as a team, and were hoping to continue the trend. They won their first match over Garcia/Cepada in four. The number three seeds for this event were Jason Mannino and Woody Clouse, who followed suit, with a four-game win. The #3 seeded team for this event was the hard hitting pair of Monchik and Tim Doyle, who won their match in three straight over Wright/Azuma. Also advancing was the team of Robinson/O'Neil with a win over Gelhaus/Parasio in four; Ellis and Karp over Nomura/Diodati in three; and Mike Guidry and Dave Peck (yes, Dave Peck) over Hadid/Royster. The closest match of this first round was between Mulcock/Mayorga and Kachtik/Ceresia, who went the distance before Kachtik/Ceresia finished with an 11-4 win in the fifth.

Quarterfinal Playoffs

It was youth and skill defeating old age and treachery in the match between current USRA national doubles champions Todd O'Neil & Derek Robinson over Andy Roberts & Mike Ray. This match went to four games after O'Neil/Robinson dropped

the first game 6-11 and rallied to win the next three. John Ellis and Adam Karp knocked off the fourth seeds Clouse/Mannino in three games. Mike Guidry and Dave Peck gave Monchik/Doyle a run, but the number four seeds won 14-12, 11-5, (5-11), 11-5. Swain and Jelso dropped game two to Kachtik/Ceresia but won the match in four.

The long and short of the Semifinals
Semi-final action featured fast-paced rallies between Monchik/Doyle and Swain/Jelso. Cliff and Tony won the first two games and were up in the third, but Tim and Sudsy stormed back to win games three, four and five to advance into the finals. In a much quicker match-up, John Ellis and Adam Karp looked flat and O'Neil/Robinson took full advantage to win in straight games of 11-8, 11-6, 11-3. This win earned them a spot in center court with Monchik/Doyle.

MONCHIK & DOYLE VS. O'NEIL & ROBINSON

Although Todd and Derek jumped out to a one game lead with an 11-6 win in the first, it was all Sudsy and Tim after that. Monchik and Doyle took over the match, taking the next three games 11-5, 11-9, 11-8. So in a rare appearance by Doyle he adds a world title to his career record, and the list behind Sudsy's name just gets longer and longer...

Tony Filippini Real Estate Pro-Am 2001 Sports Center San Diego, California

The end of the season rush continued as the tour shifted a little southwest of Vegas to San Diego. This event would be the second of four in a row, with the end in sight. The scramble for points and season-ending ranking positions was heating up.

Round of 16 Highlights

Joe Paraiso was at it again, this time knocking off #9 seeded Woody Clouse in three straight. Even in defeat, Michael Bronfeld looked tough in his four game match against Monchik. Dan Fowler took out Mike Guidry in four after losing the first 13-11, while Mannino dropped the first game to Gelhaus, but won the next three.

Cliff Swain beat James Mulcock in three games, and Ruben squeaked out another tiebreaker, this time against Mike Ray with an 11-9 win in the fifth. Doug Eagle contin-

ued his banner weekend with a 12-10 win over Kachtik in the fifth.

Standard Issue Quarterfinals

Joe almost did it again, only narrowly losing to Monchik 12-10, 12-10, 11-5. Sudsy was slowed by a bad ankle, but Paraiso proved he can play with the best. Jason Mannino cruised past Dan Fowler in three quick ones, and Ruben's luck ran out against Roberts and Andy looked very sharp in a three game win. Speaking of luck running out, Swain cruised in three over Doug Eagle.

By-the-Book Semifinal Round

Bartender—the usual. That's right. The semi's stacked up like clockwork: #2 Swain versus #3 Roberts and #1 Monchik versus #4 Mannino. Cliff played tough in the first, winning a close 14-12 game. This seemed to take the air out of Andy's sails, and he lost the next two 11-5, 11-7. Jason Mannino was doing his best to run Sudsy around on his bad ankle, and he did get the match to go five. But Mannino looked exhausted by the end of the fourth, and Monchik won in the fifth game 11-7, hitting some monster forehands to close it out.

SWAIN VS. MONCHIK

Cliff Swain seemed to be the healthiest of the bunch, and it came in handy after he lost the first game to Sudsy, 13-11. Cliff won the second 11-7, but lost the next one 11-6. Being injury free and not dropping a game to anyone else this weekend seemed to make all the difference as Cliff took the next two games 11-4 and 11-3 to add yet another title to his credit this season. This would close the gap in points a little for the number one ranking, but Cliff still had a lot of work ahead of him with only two events left. Tune in to see what happened.

Future Cellular SBBS WIRT Pro AM Rad Super Series

Continental Athletic Club – Columbus, Ohio

by Cheryl Gudinas

With the close of the WIRT season upon us, the Continental Athletic Club welcomed the women's pros to Columbus, where some needed to work hard to solidify their positions for the home stretch.

Round of 16 Opener

This was to be Shigemi Yasuda's final tournament here in the states for the rest of the season, but she still had to face Michelle Gould in the first round. Michelle hadn't shown any chinks in her armor all season, and didn't here as she sent Shigemi home to Japan with a straight game loss. Kersten Hallander, who could be in the running for this season's "Most Improved" award, tried her luck against #4 seeded Laura Fenton, after beating Fenton out on the west coast earlier this spring. But Fenton breezed through this time though, with straight game wins of 11-7, 11-7, 11-8.



Molly O'Brien worked hard from the start, when Randy Friedman pushed a five game tiebreak by taking the first two games, 11-5, 11-7, before Molly recovered to take the next three. Lynne Coburn was also motivated by a strong opening bid by Lydia Hammock, who won the first game of their match before Coburn won the next three. Advancing in three were: #2 Gudinas over Marci Drexler; #3 Jackie Paraiso over Shelley Ogden; #7 Marcy Lynch over Doreen Fowler; and Elaine Mardas logged an upset over #8 Janet Myers.

We're glad to see Marci Drexler make more appearances on the tour again. Still a bit streaky, she adds a lot of fire to the tour, and if she continues to come around and regain some tournament toughness, may find herself in the top four real soon. Look out for the overheads!

Quarterfinal DejaVu

In this round, it was Fenton who struggled against the scrappy Molly O'Brien, who played the best we've seen so far this year. O'Brien's fitness kept her steady, but it was Fenton who earned the last shot of the fifth game supertiebreaker that had everyone going wild, 12-10. This was the match of the tournament.

All of the seeds held true in this round, with straight game wins by Gould over Elaine Mardas; Paraiso over Lynne Coburn and Gudinas over Marcy Lynch.

Top Four Lineup

Gudinas appeared to be on a mission of her own in Columbus. After a semifinal loss at the previous stop in Roanoke, there was some urgency to get back on track and regain her confidence and groove. Against Jackie Paraiso, another player who has been consistent all season, Gudinas had her sights set on breaking through to the finals — even after dropping game one 4-11. In a match full of shifting momentum, Gudinas didn't quite find her groove until games four and five, where her fire and emotion finally kicked in. She went on to win in the fifth and find herself in yet another final with Gould. Michelle had taken a shorter route, with a straight game win over Fenton in the remaining semifinal.

GOULD VS. GUDINAS

It was just another typical day for Gould, although Gudinas pressed her a bit in the middle of the match, taking a four point lead, but was still unable to grab the game. One may wonder if Gudinas sometimes feels a certain sense of contentment in simply making it into a final with Gould, since she doesn't seem to call up the same intensity as she shows against other, earlier round opponents. Gould took the match win, and another title, in three straight games of 13-11, 11-2, 11-2.

Photo left: Michelle Gould reaches "full extension" stretching out for a backhand. Photo: Courtesy Molly O'Brien.

pro tour final season rankings

International Racquetball Tour FINAL SEASON RANKINGS

1.	Suds Monchik	3121
2.	Cliff Swain	2030
3.	Andy Roberts	2498
4.	Jason Mannino	1897
5.	John Ellis	1815
6.	Mike Guidry	1545
7.	Mike Ray	1399
8.	Drew Kachtik	1388
9.	Woody Clouse	1310
10.	Dan Fowler	1195
11.	Adam Karp	1192
12.	Louis Vogel	1131
13.	Tony Jelso	1056
14.	Kelly Gelhaus	813
15.	James Mulcock	812
16.	Michael Bronfeld	775
17.	Rafael Filippini	387
18.	Scott Reiff	363
19.	Darrin Schenck	355
20.	Mike Green	343
21.	Derek Robinson	325
22.	Kelly Kerr	319
23.	Joe Paraiso	309
24.	Doug Eagle	292
25.	Todd O'Neil	278
26.	Ruben Gonzalez	262
27.	Brian Simpson	257
28.	Grant Smith	242
29.	Brian Istace	241
30.	Sherman Greenfeld	239
31.	Mike Ceresia	191
32.	George Delaney	181
33.	Jeff Bell	172
34.	Jason Thoerner	169
35.	Tim Doyle	161
36.	Dave Sable	159
37.	Buz Sawyer	157
38.	Fabian Balmori	140
39.	Hank Minardo	121
40.	Ryan Homa	121
41.	Dan Llacer	118
42.	Sean Graham	116
43.	Rocky Carson	115
44.	Mike Glowa	113
45.	Mike Locker	111
46.	Sam Rutkowski	105
47.	Vince Kelley	91
48.	Aaron Embry	88
49.	Jeff Mayorga	85
50.	Brad McCunniff	84

1996-97 Season Wrap Up

IRT • August 1-4: Las Vegas – Foxwoods IRT Doubles — Jelso/Swain def. Doyle/Monchik 5-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-6. • August 7-11: New Orleans – Elmwood Pro-Am — Monchik def. Roberts, 11-9, 11-13, 11-5, 9-11, 11-1. • August 29-September 2: Stockton — Coors Light Pro-Am — Monchik def. Swain, 11-6, 11-8, 11-5. • September 25-29: Riverside — Ralph's Food For Less Pro-Am — Roberts def. Kachtik 11-1, 9-11, 11-4, 6-11, 11-9. • October 23-27: Schaumburg — Woodfield Classic Pro-Am — Monchik def. Swain 8-11, 12-10, 11-3, 10-12, 11-8. • October 30 - November 3: Milwaukee — Strong Funds Pro-Am — Swain def. Monchik 7-11, 11-6, 15-13, 11-6. • November 13-17: Memphis — Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN — Monchik def. Roberts 11-8, 11-9, 11-3. • December 11-15: Denver — Lakewood Holiday Pro-Am Classic — Swain def. Monchik 7-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-5. • January 15-19: Denver — Ralph Schomp Automotive Invitational — Monchik def. Swain 11-2, 9-11, 11-8, 11-2. • February 12-16: Atlanta VCI Pro-Am — Swain def. Mannino 11-6, 11-7, 11-6. • February 19-23: Columbus — Future Cellular Pro-Am — Swain def. Ellis 11-7, 11-2, 11-6. • February 26-March 2: Rochester — Piehler Motors Pro-Am — Mannino def. Ellis 7-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, 13-11. • March 21-24: Boston — Foxwoods Pro Classic — Monchik def. Guidry 11-7, 1-11, 11-13, 11-6, 11-7. • April 9-13: Pleasanton — VCI Doubles Championships — Doyle / Monchik def. O'Neil/Robinson 6-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-9. • April 23-27: Las Vegas — Foxwoods IRT Pro Nationals — Roberts def. Monchik 7-11, 8-11, 11-3, 11-8, 12-10. • April 30 - May 4: San Diego — Tony Filippini Real Estate Pro-Am — Swain def. Monchik 11-13, 11-7, 6-11, 11-4, 11-3. • May 7-11: Phoenix — IRT Phoenix Pro-Am — Swain def. Ellis 11-4, 11-5, 11-3. • May 14-18: Milpitas — Bay 101 IRT World Championships — Monchik def. Swain 12-10, 11-5, 11-4. • June 4-8: Portland — Spalding Tournament of Champions — Swain def. Monchik 11-6, 11-6, 6-11, 12-10.

WIRT • September 5-8: Annapolis — Annapolis Pro-Am — Gould def. Gudinas 11-6, 10-12, 11-9, 11-9. • October 4-6: Canoga Park — WIRT Pro-Am — Gould def. Gudinas 12-10, 11-6, 11-0. • November 1-3: Baltimore — Maryland Pro-Am — Gould def. Gudinas 11-3, 11-5, 11-0. • November 13-17: Memphis — Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN — Gould def. Gudinas 11-5, 11-4, 11-3. • December 11-15: Denver — RAD Athletics Super Series — Gould def. Gudinas 11-1, 11-2, 11-1. • January 9-12: Chalfont — AJB Auto Service/Chrysler-Plymouth Grand Slam Pro-Am — Gould def. Gudinas 11-4, 11-4, 11-2. • February 7-9: Roanoke — Berglund Automotive Pro-Am — Gould def. Fenton 11-3, 11-5, 11-2. • March 14-16: Columbus — RAD Athletics Super Series — Gould def. Gudinas 13-11, 11-2, 11-2. • April 23-27: Las Vegas — Foxwoods WIRT Pro Nationals — Gould def. Paraiso 11-1, 11-8, 11-6. • May 1-4: Arlington — Crystal City Classic Pro-Am — Gudinas def. Paraiso 12-10, 11-6, 11-7. • May 14-18: Milpitas — Bay 101 WIRT World Championships — Gould def. Paraiso 9-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9. • June 5-8: Portland — RAD Tournament of Champions — Paraiso def. Gudinas 13-11, 11-3, 9-11, 11-5.

final 96-97 bonus pool standings

WIRT

Spalding Xenon

1. Laura Fenton
2. Marcy Lynch
3. Marci Drexler
4. Michelle Wiragh
5. Diane Moore

Pro Penn Glove

1. Laura Fenton
2. Jackie Paraiso
3. Lydia Hammock
4. Randy Friedman
5. Kersten Hallander
6. Dina Moreland
7. Marci Drexler
8. Kim Machiran
9. Anita Maldonado

Ektelon NFS Shoe

1. Michelle Gould
2. Cheryl Gudinas
3. Molly O'Brien
4. Randy Friedman
5. Doreen Fowler

IRT

6. Kersten Hallander
7. Dina Moreland
8. Lorraine Galloway
9. Marci Drexler

Tacki Mac Grips

1. Jackie Paraiso
2. Lydia Hammock
3. Randy Friedman
4. Kersten Hallander
5. Marci Drexler
6. Kim Machiran
7. Anita Maldonado
8. Michelle Wiragh
9. Kristi Van Hees

Babolat String

1. Jackie Paraiso
2. Lydia Hammock
3. Randy Friedman
4. Kersten Hallander
5. Marci Drexler
6. Kim Machiran
7. Anita Maldonado
8. Michelle Wiragh
9. Kristi Van Hees

IRT

1. Jason Mannino
2. John Ellis
- 3T. Mike Ray
- 3T. Woody Clause

Pro Open Glove

1. Jason Mannino
2. Mike Ray
3. Woody Clause
4. Adam Karp

Ektelon Footwear

1. Andy Roberts
2. Mike Guidry
3. Drew Kachtik
4. Dan Fowler

Babolat String

1. Jason Mannino
- 2T. Mike Ray
- 2T. Woody Clause
4. Adam Karp

Women's International Racquetball Tour FINAL SEASON RANKINGS

1.	Michelle Gould	2215
2.	Cheryl Gudinas	1695
3.	Jackie Paraiso	1417
4.	Laura Fenton	1182
5.	Molly O'Brien	887
6.	Lynne Coburn	816
7.	Marcy Lynch	765
8.	Janet Myers	725
9.	Lydia Hammock	676
10.	Randy Friedman	543
11.	Doreen Fowler	526
12.	Kersten Hallander	491
13.	Dina Moreland	420
14.	Lorraine Galloway	394
15.	Robin Levine	387
16.	Marci Drexler	317
17.	Amy Kilbane	273
18.	Kim Machiran	265
19.	Anita Maldonado	231
20.	Shigemi Yasuda	213
21.	Michelle Wiragh	209
22.	Tammy Brockbank	197
23.	Kristi VanHees	195
24.	Caryn McKinney	191
25.	Diane Moore	148
26.	Chris Evon	143
27.	Monique Flaherty	143
28.	Kerri Stoffregen	116
29.	Elaine Mardas	94
30.	Lisa Kerr	92
31.	Joy MacKenzie	92
32.	Jen Yokota	89
33.	Mary Diaz	81
34.	Karen Key	80
35.	Beverly Supanick	70
36.	Kim Allen	65
37.	Debbie Tisinger	59
38.	Malia Bailey	54
39.	Jennifer Dering	54
40.	Cathy Nichols	53
41.	Shelley Ogden	53
42.	Lourdes Sanders	53
43.	Carrie Healy-Avergis	42
44.	Lori Jane Powell	42
45.	Yolanda Jordan	41
46.	Mary Beke	40
47.	Amanda McDonald	39
48.	Kyoko Ochiai	39
49.	Karina Odegard	39
50.	Vicki Aquilar	32

1997-1998 OFFICIAL RULES OF RACQUETBALL



COMPETITION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A — TOURNAMENTS

A.1	Draws	35
A.2	Consolation Matches	35
A.3	Scheduling	35
A.4	Notice of Matches	36
A.5	Third Place	36
A.6	Round Robin Scoring	36
A.7	Court Assignments	36
A.8	Tournament Conduct	36

B — OFFICIATING

B.1	Tournament Management	36
B.2	Tournament Rules Committee	36
B.3	Referee Appointment and Removal	36
B.4	Rules Briefing	36
B.5	Referees	36
B.6	Line Judges	37
B.7	Appeals	37
B.8	Outcome of Appeals	37
B.9	Rule Interpretations	38

C — ELIGIBILITY & NATIONAL EVENTS

C.1	Professional	38
C.2	Return to Amateur Status	38
C.3	USRA Eligibility	38
C.4	Divisions	38
C.5	Division Competition by Gender	38
C.6	USRA Regional Championships	38
C.7	National Singles & Doubles	39
C.8	National Junior Olympics	39
C.9	National High Schools	39
C.10	National Intercollegiates	39
C.11	U.S. Open	39

D — PROCEDURES

D.1	Rule Change Procedures	39
D.2	USRA National Rules Committee	39

NOTE: Changes to rules and regulations in Sections 1, 2, and 3 must adhere to published rule change procedures. Remaining sections may be altered by vote of the USRA Board of Directors.

OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1 — THE GAME

1.1	Types of Games	26
1.2	Description	26
1.3	Objective	26
1.4	Points and Outs	26
1.5	Match, Game, Tiebreaker	26

2 — COURTS AND EQUIPMENT

2.1	Court Specifications	26
2.2	Ball Specifications	27
2.3	Ball Selection	27
2.4	Racquet Specifications	27
2.5	Apparel	27

3 — PLAY REGULATIONS

3.1	Serve	27
3.2	Start	27
3.3	Manner	27
3.4	Readiness	27
3.5	Delays	27
3.6	Drive Service Zones	27
3.7	Defective Serves	28
3.8	Dead-Ball Serves	28
3.9	Fault Serves	28
3.10	Out Serves	28
3.11	Return of Serve	28
3.12	Changes of Serve	28
3.13	Rallies	29
3.14	Dead-Ball Hinders	29
3.15	Avoidable Hinders	30
3.16	Timeouts	30
3.17	Technical Fouls and Warnings	30

RULE MODIFICATIONS

4.0	Doubles	31
5.0	One Serve Game	31
6.0	Multi-bounce	31
7.0	One-wall and Three-wall play	34
8.0	Wheelchair	34
9.0	Visually Impaired	34
10.0	Deaf	35
11.0	Professional	35

ALSO

FYI: Rule Changes in '97	26
USRA National Office Information	40
USRA National Staff Directory	40
Rulebook Index	40

FYI RULE CHANGES:

Effective September 1, 1997

The racquet's maximum length has been increased to 22 inches. [See Rule 2.4(a) – on page 27]

If you hit the ball out-of-court (or just out-of-play), you lose the rally. This also includes hitting the serve out-of-court.

[See Rule 3.13 (c) 3 – on page 29]

In officiated tournament play [with line judges] ... Players may now appeal every call or "non-call" by the referee (except for technical fouls and forfeitures) whenever line judges are used. [See "Officiating" section B.7 Appeals, citation (a) – on page 37]

The referee can declare a "sideout" when their call of encroachment is overturned, AND the return of serve was considered irretrievable. For example ... You short-hop a return and roll it out. The ref says you were over the safety line and you appeal. You win your appeal and, instead of a replay, you get to keep your rollout. Side out. You serve. [See "Officiating" section B.8 Outcome of Appeals, citation (e) – on page 37]

26
Cover: Javier Moreno at the Tournament of the Americas. Photo: Alex Aguirre Terrazas.

OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1 — THE GAME

Rule 1.1 TYPES OF GAMES

Racquetball is played by two or four players. When played by two, it is called singles and when played by four, doubles. A non-tournament variation of the game that is played by three players is called cutthroat.

Rule 1.2 DESCRIPTION

Racquetball is a competitive game in which a strung racquet is used to serve and return the ball.

Rule 1.3 OBJECTIVE

The objective is to win each rally by serving or returning the ball so the opponent is unable to keep the ball in play. A rally is over when a player (or team in doubles) is unable to hit the ball before it touches the floor twice, is unable to return the ball in such a manner that it touches the front wall before it touches the floor, or when a hinder is called.

Rule 1.4 POINTS AND OUTS

Points are scored only by the serving side when it serves an irretrievable serve (an ace) or wins a rally. Losing the serve is called a sideout in singles. In doubles, when the first server loses the serve it is called a handout and when the second server loses the serve it is a sideout.

Rule 1.5 MATCH, GAME, TIEBREAKER

A match is won by the first side winning two games. The first two games of a match are played to 15 points. If each side wins one game, a tiebreaker game is played to 11 points.

2 — COURTS AND EQUIPMENT

Rule 2.1 COURT SPECIFICATIONS

The specifications for the standard four-wall racquetball court are:

(a) Dimensions. The dimensions shall be 20 feet wide, 40 feet long and 20 feet high, with a back wall at least 12 feet high. All surfaces shall be in play, with the exception of any gallery opening, surfaces designated as out-of-play for a valid reason (such as being of a very different material or not in alignment with the backwall), and designated court hinders.

(b) Markings. Racquetball courts shall be marked with lines 1 1/2 inches wide as follows:

1. Short Line. The back edge of the

short line is midway between, and is parallel with, the front and back walls.

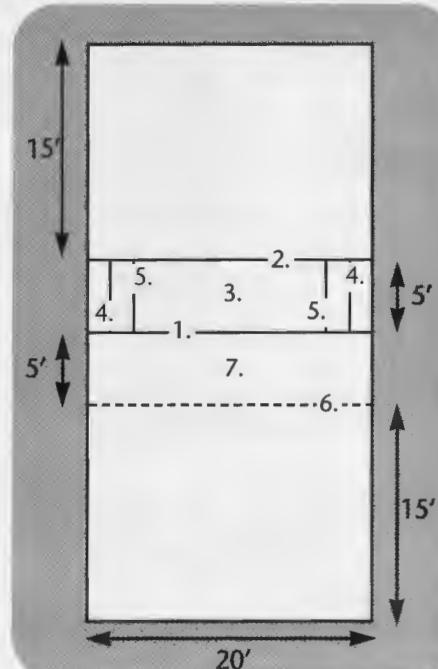
2. Service Line. The front edge of the service line is parallel with, and five feet in front of, the back edge of the short line.

3. Service Zone. The service zone is the five-foot area between the outer edges of the short line and service line.

4. Service Boxes. The service boxes are located at each end of the service zone and are designated by lines parallel with the side walls. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be 18 inches from the nearest side wall.

5. Drive Serve Lines. The drive serve lines, which form the drive serve zone, are parallel with the side wall and are within the service zone. The edge of the line nearest to the center of the court shall be three feet from the nearest side wall.

6. Receiving Line. The receiving line is a broken line parallel to the short line. The back edge of the receiving line is five feet from the back edge of the short line. The receiving line begins with a line 21 inches long that extends from each side wall. These lines are connected by an alternate series of six-inch spaces and six-inch lines. This will result in a line com-



posed of 17 six-inch spaces, 16 six-inch lines, and two 21-inch lines.

7. Safety Zone. The safety zone is the five-foot area bounded by the back edges of the short line and the receiving line. The zone is observed only during the serve. See Rules 3.10(i) and 3.11(a).

Rule 2.2 BALL SPECIFICATIONS

(a) The standard racquetball shall be 2 1/4 inches in diameter; weigh approximately 1.4 ounces; have a hardness of 55-60 inches durometer; and bounce 68-72 inches from a 100-inch drop at a temperature of 70-74 degrees Fahrenheit.

(b) Only a ball having the endorsement or approval of the USRA may be used in a USRA sanctioned tournament.

Rule 2.3 BALL SELECTION

(a) A ball shall be selected by the referee for use in each match. During the match the referee may, based on personal discretion or at the request of a player or team, replace the ball. Balls that are not round or which bounce erratically shall not be used.

(b) If possible, the referee and players should agree to an alternate ball, so that in the event of breakage, the second ball can be put into play immediately.

Rule 2.4 RACQUET SPECIFICATIONS

(a) The racquet, including bumper guard and all solid parts of the handle, may not exceed 22 inches in length.

(b) The racquet frame may be any material judged to be safe.

(c) The racquet frame must include a cord that must be securely attached to the player's wrist.

(d) The string of the racquet must be gut, monofilament, nylon, graphite, plastic, metal, or a combination thereof, and must not mark or deface the ball.

(e) Using an illegal racquet will result in forfeiture of the game in progress or, if discovered between games, forfeiture of the preceding game.

Rule 2.5 APPAREL

(a) Lensed eyewear designed for racquetball, and which meets or exceeds ASTM F803 or Canadian (CSA) impact standards, is required apparel. This rule applies to all persons, including those who must wear corrective lenses. The eyewear must be worn as designed and at all times. A player who fails to wear proper eyewear will be assessed a technical foul and a time-out to obtain proper eyewear. A second infraction in the same match will result in

immediate forfeiture of the match. [See Rule 3.17(a)9]. The current USRA Approved Eyewear list is published periodically in *RACQUETBALL Magazine*, can be found on the Internet at <http://www.racqmag.com/PUB&REF/eyeguard.html>, and is available upon request from the USRA's national office.

(b) Clothing and Shoes. The clothing may be of any color; however, a player may be required to change wet, extremely loose fitting, or otherwise distracting garments. Insignias and writing on the clothing must be considered to be in good taste by the tournament director. Shoes must have soles which do not mark or damage the floor.

(c) Equipment Requirements During Warm-up. Approved eyeguards must be worn and wrist cords must be used during any on-court warm-up period. The referee should give a technical warning to any person who fails to comply and assess a technical foul if that player continues to not comply after receiving such a warning.

3 — PLAY REGULATIONS

Rule 3.1 SERVE

The player or team winning the coin toss has the option to either serve or receive at the start of the first game. The second game will begin in reverse order of the first game. The player or team scoring the highest total of points in games 1 and 2 will have the option to serve or receive first at the start of the tiebreaker. In the event that both players or teams score an equal number of points in the first two games, another coin toss will take place and the winner of the toss will have the option to serve or receive.

Rule 3.2 START

The server may not start the service motion until the referee has called the score or "second serve." The serve is started from any place within the service zone. (Certain drive serves are an exception. See Rule 3.6.) Neither the ball nor any part of either foot may extend beyond either line of the service zone when initiating the service motion. Stepping on, but not beyond, the lines is permitted. However, when completing the service motion, the server may step beyond the service (front) line provided that some part of both feet remain on or inside the line until the served ball passes the short line. The server may not step beyond the short line until the ball passes the short line. See Rule 3.9(a) and 3.10(i) for penalties for violations.

Rule 3.3 MANNER

After taking a set position inside the service zone, a player may begin the service motion—any continuous movement which results in the ball being served. Once the

service motion begins, the ball must be bounced on the floor in the zone and be struck by the racquet before it bounces a second time. After being struck, the ball must hit the front wall first and on the rebound hit the floor beyond the back edge of the short line, either with or without touching one of the side walls.

Rule 3.4 READINESS

The service motion shall not begin until the referee has called the score or the second serve and the server has visually checked the receiver. The referee shall call the score as both server and receiver prepare to return to their respective positions, shortly after the previous rally has ended.

Rule 3.5 DELAYS

Except as noted in Rule 3.5 (b), the referee may call a technical foul for delays exceeding 10 seconds.

(a) The 10 second rule applies to the server and receiver simultaneously. Collectively, they are allowed up to 10 seconds after the score is called to serve or be ready to receive. It is the server's responsibility to look and be certain the receiver is ready. If a receiver is not ready, they must signal by raising the racquet above the head or completely turning the back to the server. (These are the only two acceptable signals.)

(b) Serving while the receiving player/team is signalling "not ready" is a fault serve.

(c) After the score is called, if the server looks at the receiver and the receiver is not signalling "not ready", the server may then serve. If the receiver attempts to signal "not ready" after that point, the signal shall not be acknowledged and the serve becomes legal.

Rule 3.6 DRIVE SERVICE ZONES

The drive serve lines will be 3 feet from each side wall in the service zone, dividing the service area into two 17-foot service zones for drive serves only. The player may drive serve between the body and the side wall nearest to where the service motion began only if the player starts and remains outside of the 3-foot drive service zone. In the event that the service motion begins in one drive service zone and continues into the other drive service zone, the player may not hit a drive serve at all.

(a) The drive serve zones are not observed for cross-court drive serves, the hard-Z, soft-Z, lob or half-lob serves.

(b) The racquet may not break the plane of the 17-foot zone while making contact with the ball.

(c) The drive serve line is not part of the 17-foot zone. Dropping the ball on the

line or standing on the line while serving to the same side is an infraction.

Rule 3.7 DEFECTIVE SERVES

Defective serves are of three types resulting in penalties as follows:

- (a) Dead-Ball Serve. A dead-ball serve results in no penalty and the server is given another serve (without canceling a prior fault serve).
- (b) Fault Serve. Two fault serves result in an out (either a sideout or a handout).
- (c) Out Serve. An out serve results in an out (either a sideout or a handout).

Rule 3.8 DEAD-BALL SERVES

Dead-ball serves do not cancel any previous fault serve. The following are dead-ball serves:

- (a) Court Hinders. A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve. Also, any serve that hits any surface designated by local rules as an obstruction rather than being out-of-play.
- (b) Broken Ball. If the ball is determined to have broken on the serve, a new ball shall be substituted and the serve shall be replayed, not cancelling any prior fault serve.

Rule 3.9 FAULT SERVES

The following serves are faults and any two in succession result in an out:

- (a) Foot Faults. A foot fault results when:
 - 1. The server does not begin the service motion with both feet in the service zone.
 - 2. The server steps completely over the service line (no part of the foot on or inside the service zone) before the served ball crosses the short line.
- (b) Short Service. A short serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, hits the floor on or in front of the short line either with or without touching a side wall.
- (c) Three Wall Serve. A three-wall serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, strikes both side walls before touching the floor.
- (d) Ceiling Serve. A ceiling serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and then touches the ceiling (with or without touching a side wall).
- (e) Long Serve. A long serve is a served ball that first hits the front wall and rebounds to the back wall before touching the floor (with or without touching a side wall).
- (f) Bouncing Ball Outside Service Zone. Bouncing the ball outside the service zone

as a part of the service motion is a fault serve.

(g) Illegal Drive Serve. A drive serve in which the player fails to observe the 17-foot drive service zone outlined in Rule 3.6.

(h) Screen Serve. A served ball that first hits the front wall and on the rebound passes so closely to the server, or server's partner in doubles, that it prevents the receiver from having a clear view of the ball. (The receiver is obligated to take up good court position, near center court, to obtain that view.)

(i) Serving before the Receiver is Ready. A serve is made while the receiver is not ready as described in Rule 3.5(b).

Rule 3.10 OUT SERVES

Any of the following results in an out:

- (a) Two Consecutive Fault Serves. See Rule 3.9.
- (b) Missed Serve Attempt. Any attempt to strike the ball that results in a total miss or in the ball touching any part of the server's body. Also, allowing the ball to bounce more than once during the service motion.
- (c) Touched Serve. Any served ball that on the rebound from the front wall touches the server or server's racquet, or any ball intentionally stopped or caught by the server or server's partner.
- (d) Fake or Balk Serve. Any movement of the racquet toward the ball during the serve which is non-continuous and done for the purpose of deceiving the receiver. If a balk serve occurs, but the referee believes that no deceit was involved, the option of declaring "no serve" and having the serve replayed without penalty can be exercised.
- (e) Illegal Hit. An illegal hit includes contacting the ball twice, carrying the ball, or hitting the ball with the handle of the racquet or part of the body or uniform.
- (f) Non-Front Wall Serve. Any served ball that does not strike the front wall first.
- (g) Crotch Serve. Any served ball that hits the crotch of the front wall and floor, front wall and side wall, or front wall and ceiling is an out serve (because it did not hit the front wall first). A serve into the crotch of the back wall and floor is a good serve and in play. A served ball that hits the crotch of the side wall and floor beyond the short line is in play.
- (h) Out-of-Court Serve. An out-of-court serve is any served ball that first hits the

front wall and, before striking the floor, either goes out of the court or hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play for a valid reason [See Rule 2.1(a)].

(i) Safety Zone Violation. If the server, or doubles partner, enters into the safety zone before the served ball passes the short line, it shall result in the loss of serve.

Rule 3.11 RETURN OF SERVE

(a) Receiving Position

- 1. The receiver may not enter the safety zone until the ball bounces or crosses the receiving line.
- 2. On the fly return attempt, the receiver may not strike the ball until the ball breaks the plane of the receiving line. However, the receiver's follow-through may carry the receiver or the racquet past the receiving line.
- 3. Neither the receiver nor the racquet may break the plane of the short line, except if the ball is struck after rebounding off the back wall.
- 4. Any violation by the receiver results in a point for the server.

(b) Defective Serve. A player on the receiving side may not intentionally catch or touch a served ball (such as an apparently long or short serve) until the referee has made a call or the ball has touched the floor for a second time. Violation results in a point.

(c) Legal Return. After a legal serve, a player receiving the serve must strike the ball on the fly or after the first bounce, and before the ball touches the floor the second time; and return the ball to the front wall, either directly or after touching one or both side walls, the back wall or the ceiling, or any combination of those surfaces. A returned ball must touch the front wall before touching the floor.

(d) Failure to Return. The failure to return a serve results in a point for the server.

(e) Other Provisions. Except as noted in this rule (3.11), the return of serve is subject to all provisions of Rules 3.13 through 3.15.

Rule 3.12 CHANGES OF SERVE

(a) Outs. A server is entitled to continue serving until one of the following occurs:

- 1. Out Serve. See Rule 3.10.
- 2. Two Consecutive Fault Serves. See Rule 3.9.
- 3. Failure to Return Ball. Player or team fails to keep the ball in play as required by Rule 3.11 (c).

4. Avoidable Hinder. Player or team commits an avoidable hinder which results in an out. See Rule 3.15.

(b) Sideout. Retiring the server in singles is called a sideout.

(c) Effect of Sideout. When the server (or serving team) receives a sideout, the server becomes the receiver and the receiver becomes the server.

Rule 3.13 RALLIES

All of the play which occurs after the successful return of serve is called the rally. Play shall be conducted according to the following rules:

(a) Legal Hits. Only the head of the racquet may be used at any time to return the ball. The racquet may be held in one or both hands. Switching hands to hit a ball, touching the ball with any part of the body or uniform, or removing the wrist safety cord during a rally results in a loss of the rally.

(b) One Touch. The player or team trying to return the ball may touch or strike the ball only once or else the rally is lost. The ball may not be carried. (A carried ball is one which rests on the racquet long enough that the effect is more of a sling or throw than a hit.)

(c) Failure to Return. Any of the following constitutes a failure to make a legal return during a rally:

1. The ball bounces on the floor more than once before being hit.

2. The ball does not reach the front wall on the fly.

3. The ball is hit such that it goes into the gallery or wall opening or else hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play. See Rule 2.1(a).

4. A ball which obviously does not have the velocity or direction to hit the front wall strikes another player.

5. A ball struck by one player on a team hits that player or that player's partner.

6. Committing an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.

7. Switching hands during a rally.

8. Failure to use a racquet wrist safety cord.

9. Touching the ball with the body or uniform.

10. Carrying or slinging the ball with the racquet.

(d) Effect of Failure to Return. Violations of Rules 3.13 (a) through (c) result in a loss of rally. If the serving player or team loses the rally, it is an out. If the receiver loses the rally, it results in a point for the server.

(e) Return Attempts. The ball remains in play until it touches the floor a second time, regardless of how many walls it makes contact with — including the front wall. If a player swings at the ball and misses it, the player may continue to attempt to return the ball until it touches the floor for the second time.

(f) Broken Ball. If there is any suspicion that a ball has broken during a rally, play shall continue until the end of the rally. The referee or any player may request the ball be examined. If the referee decides the ball is broken the ball will be replaced and the rally replayed. The server will get two serves. The only proper way to check for a broken ball is to squeeze it by hand. (Checking the ball by striking it with a racquet will not be considered a valid check and shall work to the disadvantage of the player or team which struck the ball after the rally.)

(g) Play Stoppage

1. If a foreign object enters the court, or any other outside interference occurs, the referee shall stop the play immediately and declare a dead-ball hinder.

2. If a player loses any apparel, equipment, or other article, the referee shall stop play immediately and declare an avoidable hinder or dead-ball hinder as described in Rule 3.15 (i).

(h) Replays. Whenever a rally is replayed for any reason, the server is awarded two serves. A previous fault serve is not considered.

Rule 3.14 DEAD-BALL HINDERS

A rally is replayed without penalty and the server receives two serves whenever a dead-ball hinder occurs. Also, see Rule 3.15 which describes conditions under which a hinder might be declared avoidable and result in loss of the rally.

(a) Situations

1. Court Hinders. The referee should stop play immediately whenever the ball hits any part of the court that was designated in advance as a court hinder (such as a vent grate). The referee should also stop play (i) when the ball takes an irregular bounce as a result of contacting a rough surface (such as court light or vent) or after striking a wet spot on the floor or wall and (ii) when, in the referee's opinion, the irregular bounce affected the rally.

2. Ball Hits Opponent. When an opponent is hit by a return shot in flight, it is a dead-ball hinder. If the opponent is struck by a ball which obviously did not have the velocity or direction to reach the front wall, it is not a hinder, and the player who hit the ball will lose the rally. A player who has been hit by the ball can stop play and make the call though the call must be made immediately and acknowledged by the referee. Note this interference may, under certain conditions, be declared an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.

3. Body Contact. If body contact occurs which the referee believes was sufficient to stop the rally, either for the purpose of preventing injury by further contact or because the contact prevented a player from being able to make a reasonable return, the referee shall call a hinder. Incidental body contact in which the offensive player clearly will have the advantage should not be called a hinder, unless the offensive player obviously stops play. Contact with the racquet on the follow-through normally is not considered a hinder.

4. Screen Ball. Any ball rebounding from the front wall so close to the body of the defensive player that it prevents the offensive player from having a clear view of the ball. (The referee should be careful not to make the screen call so quickly that it takes away a good offensive opportunity.) A ball that passes between the legs of a player who has just returned the ball is not automatically a screen. It depends on whether the other player is impaired as a result. Generally, the call should work to the advantage of the offensive player.

5. Backswing Hinder. Any body or racquet contact, on the backswing or on the way to or just prior to returning the ball, which impairs the hitter's ability to take a reasonable swing. This call can be made by the player attempting the return, though the call must be made immediately and is subject to the referee's approval. Note the interference may be considered an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15.

6. Safety Holdup. Any player about to execute a return who believes that striking the opponent with the ball or racquet is likely, may immediately stop play and request a dead-ball hinder. This call must be made immediately and is subject to acceptance and approval of the referee. (The referee will grant a dead-ball hinder if it is believed the holdup was reasonable and the player would have been able to return the shot. The referee may also call an avoidable hinder if warranted.)

7. Other Interference. Any other unintentional interference which prevents an opponent from having a fair chance to see or return the ball. Example: When a ball from another court enters the court during a rally or when a referee's call on an adjacent court obviously distracts a player.

(b) Effect of Hinders. The referee's call of hinder stops play and voids any situation which follows, such as the ball hitting the player. The only hinders that may be called by a player are described in rules (2), (5), and (6) above, and all of these are subject to the approval of the referee. A dead-ball hinder stops play and the rally is replayed. The server receives two serves.

(c) Responsibility. While making an attempt to return the ball, a player is entitled to a fair chance to see and return the ball. It is the responsibility of the side that has just hit the ball to move so the receiving side may go straight to the ball and have an unobstructed view of and swing at the ball. However, the receiver is responsible for making a reasonable effort to move towards the ball and must have a reasonable chance to return the ball for any type of hinder to be called.

Rule 3.15 AVOIDABLE HINDERS

An avoidable hinder results in the loss of the rally. An avoidable hinder does not necessarily have to be an intentional act. Dead-ball hinders are described in Rule 3.14. Any of the following results in an avoidable hinder:

(a) Failure to Move. A player does not move sufficiently to allow an opponent a shot straight to the front wall as well as a cross-court shot which is a shot directly to the front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the rear corner farthest from the player hitting the ball. Also when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents an opponent from taking either of these shots.

(b) Stroke Interference. This occurs when a player moves, or fails to move, so that the opponent returning the ball does not have a free, unimpeded swing. This includes unintentionally moving in a direction which prevents the opponent from making an open, offensive shot.

(c) Blocking. Moves into a position which blocks the opponent from getting to, or returning, the ball; or in doubles, a player moves in front of an opponent as the player's partner is returning the ball.

(d) Moving into the Ball. Moves in the way and is struck by the ball just played by the opponent.

(e) Pushing. Deliberately pushes or shoves opponent during a rally.

(f) Intentional Distractions. Deliberate shouting, stamping of feet, waving of racquet, or any other manner of disrupting one's opponent.

(g) View Obstruction. A player moves across an opponent's line of vision just before the opponent strikes the ball.

(h) Wetting the Ball. The players, particularly the server, should insure that the ball is dry prior to the serve. Any wet ball that is not corrected prior to the serve shall result in an avoidable hinder against the server.

(i) Apparel or Equipment Loss. If a player loses any apparel, equipment, or other article, play shall be immediately stopped and that player shall be called for an avoidable hinder, unless the player has just hit a shot that could not be retrieved. If the loss of equipment is caused by a player's opponent, then a dead-ball hinder should be called. If the opponent's action is judged to have been avoidable, then the opponent should be called for an avoidable hinder.

Rule 3.16 TIMEOUTS

(a) Rest Periods. Each player or team is entitled to three 30-second timeouts in games to 15 and two 30-second timeouts in games to 11. Timeouts may not be called by either side after service motion has begun. Calling for a timeout when none remain or after service motion has begun, or taking more than 30 seconds in a timeout, will result in the assessment of a technical foul for delay of game.

(b) Injury. If a player is injured during the course of a match as a result of contact, such as with the ball, racquet, wall or floor, an injury timeout will be awarded. While a player may call more than one timeout for the same injury or for additional injuries which occur during the match, a player is not allowed more than a total of 15 minutes of rest for injury during the entire match. If the injured player is not able to resume play after total rest of 15 minutes, the match shall be awarded to the opponent.

1. Should any external bleeding occur, the referee must halt play as soon as the rally is over, charge an injury timeout to the person who is bleeding, and not allow the match to continue until the bleeding has stopped.

2. Muscle cramps and pulls, fatigue, and other ailments that are not caused by direct contact on the court will not be considered an injury. Injury time is also not allowed for pre-existing conditions.

(c) Equipment Timeouts. Players are expected to keep all clothing and equipment in good, playable condition and are expected to use regular timeouts and time between games for adjustment and replacement of equipment. If a player or team is out of timeouts and the referee determines that an equipment change or adjustment is necessary for fair and safe continuation of the match, the referee may grant an equipment timeout not to exceed 2 minutes. The referee may allow additional time under unusual circumstances.

(d) Between Games. The rest period between the first two games of a match is 2 minutes. If a tiebreaker is necessary, the rest period between the second and third game is 5 minutes.

(e) Postponed Games. Any games postponed by referees shall be resumed with the same score as when postponed.

Rule 3.17 TECHNICAL FOULS AND WARNINGS

(a) Technical Fouls. The referee is empowered to deduct one point from a player's or team's score when, in the referee's sole judgment, the player is being overtly and deliberately abusive. If the player or team against whom the technical foul was assessed does not resume play immediately, the referee is empowered to forfeit the match in favor of the opponent. Some examples of actions which can result in technical fouls are:

1. Profanity.
2. Excessive arguing.
3. Threat of any nature to opponent or referee.
4. Excessive or hard striking of the ball between rallies.
5. Slamming of the racquet against walls or floor, slamming the door, or any action which might result in damage to the court or injury to other players.
6. Delay of game. Examples include (i) taking too much time to dry the court, (ii) excessive questioning of the referee about the rules, (iii) exceeding the time allotted for timeouts or between games, (iv) calling a timeout when none remain, or after the service motion begins, or (v) taking more than ten seconds to serve or be ready to receive serve.
7. Intentional front line foot fault to negate a bad lob serve.
8. Anything the referee considers to be unsportsmanlike behavior.
9. Failure to wear lensed eyewear designed for racquet sports [See Rule

2.5(a)] is an automatic technical foul on the first infraction, plus a mandatory timeout (to acquire the proper eyewear) will be charged against the offending player. A second infraction by that player during the match will result in automatic forfeiture of the match.

(b) Technical Warnings. If a player's behavior is not so severe as to warrant a technical foul, a technical warning may be issued without the deduction of a point.

(c) Effect of Technical Foul or Warning. If a referee issues a technical foul, one point shall be removed from the offender's score. No point will be deducted if a referee issues a technical warning. In either case, a technical foul or warning should be accompanied by a brief explanation. Issuing a technical foul or warning has no effect on who will be serving when play resumes. If a technical foul occurs when the offender has no points or between games, the result will be that the offender's score becomes minus one (-1).

RULE MODIFICATIONS

The following sections (4.0 through 11.0) detail the additional or modified rules that apply to variations of the singles game described in Sections 1 through 3.

4.0 — DOUBLES

The USRA's rules for singles also apply in doubles with the following additions and modifications:

Rule 4.1 DOUBLES TEAM

(a) A doubles team shall consist of two players who meet either the age requirements or player classification requirements to participate in a particular division of play. A team with different skill levels must play in the division of the player with the higher level of ability. When playing in an adult age division, the team must play in the division of the younger player. When playing in a junior age division, the team must play in the division of the older player.

(b) A change in playing partners may be made so long as the first match of the posted team has not begun. For this purpose only, the match will be considered started once the teams have been called to the court. The team must notify the tournament director of the change prior to the beginning of the match.

Rule 4.2 SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) Order of Serve. Each team shall inform the referee of the order of service which shall be followed throughout that game. The order of serve may be changed between games. At the beginning of each game, when the first server of the first team

to serve is out, the team is out. Thereafter, both players on each team shall serve until the team receives a handout and a sideout.

(b) Partner's Position. On each serve, the server's partner shall stand erect with back to the side wall and with both feet on the floor within the service box from the moment the server begins the service motion until the served ball passes the short line. Violations are called foot faults. However, if the server's partner enters the safety zone before the ball passes the short line, the server loses service.

(c) Changes of Serve. In doubles, the side is retired when both partners have lost service, except that the team which serves first at the beginning of each game loses the serve when the first server is retired.

Rule 4.3 FAULT SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) The server's partner is not in the service box with both feet on the floor and back to the side wall from the time the server begins the service motion until the ball passes the short line.

(b) A served ball that hits the doubles partner while in the doubles box results in a fault serve.

Rule 4.4 OUT SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) Out-of-Order Serve. In doubles, when either partner serves out of order, the points scored by that server will be subtracted and an out serve will be called: if the second server serves out of order, the out serve will be applied to the first server and the second server will resume serving. If the player designated as the first server serves out of order, a sideout will be called. The referee should call "no serve" as soon as an out-of-order serve occurs. If no points are scored while the team is out of order, only the out penalty will have to be assessed. However, if points are scored before the out of order condition is noticed and the referee cannot recall the number, the referee may enlist the aid of the line judges (but not the crowd) to recall the number of points to be deducted.

(b) Ball Hits Partner. A served ball that hits the doubles partner while outside the doubles box results in loss of serve.

Rule 4.5 RETURN IN DOUBLES

(a) The rally is lost if one player hits that same player's partner with an attempted return.

(b) If one player swings at the ball and misses it, both partners may make further attempts to return the ball until it touches the floor the second time. Both partners on a side are entitled to return the ball.

5.0 — MODIFICATIONS FOR THE "ONE SERVE" GAME

The USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the following:

Rule 5.1 ONE SERVE

Only one serve is allowed. Therefore, any fault serve is an out serve, with a few exceptions.

Rule 5.2 SCREEN SERVE

If a serve is called a screen, the server will be allowed one more opportunity to hit a legal serve. Two consecutive screen serves results in an out.

Rule 5.3 SERVE HITS PARTNER

In doubles, if a serve hits the non-serving partner while standing in the box, the server will be allowed one more opportunity to hit a legal serve. Hitting the non-serving partner twice, results in an out.

Rule 5.4 CONSECUTIVE FAULTS

In doubles, either (i) a screen serve followed by hitting the non-serving partner or (ii) hitting the non-serving partner followed by a screen serve, results in an out.

6.0 — MULTI-BOUNCE MODIFICATIONS

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 6.1 BASIC RETURN RULE

In general, the ball remains in play as long as it is bouncing. However, the player may swing only once at the ball and the ball is considered dead at the point it stops bouncing and begins to roll. Also, anytime the ball rebounds off the back wall, it must be struck before it crosses the short line on the way to the front wall, except as explained in Rule 6.2.

Rule 6.2 BLAST RULE

If the ball caroms from the front wall to the back wall on the fly, the player may hit the ball from any place on the court—including past the short line—so long as the ball is still bouncing.

Rule 6.3 FRONT WALL LINES

Two parallel lines (tape may be used) should be placed across the front wall such that the bottom edge of one line is 3 feet above the floor and the bottom edge of the other line is 1 foot above the floor. During the rally, any ball that hits the front wall (i) below the 3-foot line and (ii) either on or above the 1-foot line must be returned before it bounces a third

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1997 PROMUS HOTEL CORPORATION

U.S. OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Promus Hotel Corporation



THE RACQUET CLUB
OF MEMPHIS
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
Nov. 11 - 16, 1997

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ENTRY FORM & TICKET APPLICATION

Promus Hotel Corporation



USRA



NOVEMBER 11-16, 1997
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BE A PART OF RACQUETBALL HISTORY

★★★ \$53,000+ ★★★

Witness racquetball's only "Grand Slam," the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships presented by Samsung and American Express. See all of the top pro players in the world, like Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain and Michelle Gould, compete for the largest prize money purse in the history of the sport. Experience the thrill of dramatic player introductions featuring booming music and laser light shows. Be there to see the world's first truly "made-for-TV" portable stadium racquetball court. Stroll through the U.S. OPEN Hospitality Village and see what's new from the world's top racquetball manufacturers in the Industry Trade Show. Party the nights away with your favorite pros and racquetball fans from throughout the country.

Welcome to the Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships—

featuring the top male and female professionals in the world competing for the largest prize money purse in the history of the sport—\$53,000+. The event will be nationally televised and will feature the "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court. In addition, over 550 amateur players will compete in age and skill divisions for every level. Special events include the "PARTY WITH THE PROS," an industry trade show, Hospitality Village complete with concessions, live entertainment, and fan fair activities. The event will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The professional matches will be held at The Racquet Club of Memphis. The Racquet Club is a world-class health club and dining facility featuring indoor and outdoor tennis courts, racquetball courts, elegant banquet and meeting rooms, locker rooms with all the amenities, state-of-the-art fitness center, executive health club, four-star restaurant, pub with dance floor, outdoor swimming pool, and much, much more. The Racquet Club is no stranger to hosting world class sporting events as they are the annual site for the acclaimed Kroger St. Jude Championships, an annual stop on the ATP Tour, which has hosted such top name players as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Todd Martin and many more of the world's top men's tennis players.

Amateur divisions will be played at The University of Memphis Recreation Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club) and Wimbleton Sportsplex (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all three facilities will be provided on a regular basis.



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2

Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships - (800) 284-5396

PRIZE MONEY \$53,000+

Men's Pro-\$35,000

1st	\$10,000
2nd	\$4,800
Semi's	\$2,400
Quarters	\$1,200
16's	\$625
32's	\$350

Women's Pro-\$17,500

1st	\$4,000
2nd	\$2,500
Semi's	\$1,500
Quarter's	\$1,000
16's	\$500

Men's & Women's Open

1st	\$350
2nd	\$175
Semi's	\$85

PARTIES, PARTIES AND MORE PARTIES

That's right! For those of us who like to enjoy our evenings, the U.S. OPEN promises a solid week of non-stop fun, kicking off with a Tuesday evening Reception Party and Wednesday night Pro Autograph Party in the Hospitality Village at The Racquet Club. And that's only the beginning! On Thursday and Friday evenings, the action moves to the "Pub" nightspot at the The Racquet Club of Memphis, which will feature a DJ spinning the hottest tunes for your dancing pleasure. Free munchies will be served each night. Mingle with the Pros and racquetball fans from throughout the country.

Saturday evening will top off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year—the second Annual U.S. OPEN "PARTY WITH THE PROS." Over 1,500 racquetball fans are expected to turn out at The Racquet Club Party Center for an evening of live entertainment featuring one of Tennessee's hottest dance bands. Elegant ice carvings, extravagant hors 'deouerves, huge dance floor, live auction for St. Jude, a cash bar, a multi-media slide show, and all the top racquetball pros in the world will make the evening one to remember. The cost for guests and tournament spectators is \$25 per person. Players participating in the U.S. OPEN will be admitted free.

HOSPITALITY VILLAGE

The nerve center of the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships will be the U.S. OPEN Hospitality Village. Many activities are scheduled to take place in the Hospitality Village including an extensive industry trade show, hard-hitting contests, pro autograph signing sessions, live stage with entertainment, concessions, cash bars, and restaurant style seating. Admission is free for all spectators and players.

MADE-FOR-TV PORTABLE RACQUETBALL COURT

One of the most exciting aspects of the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is that the first truly "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court will be used for all feature matches! The unique construction of the court allows stadium seating for 800+ in addition to court-side luxury boxes for sponsors and VIPs. From the quarterfinals on, all men's and women's pro matches will take place on the stadium court. Dramatic player introductions, complete with laser light shows and booming music, will treat racquetball fans to a total entertainment experience.



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PRO MATCH SCHEDULE

Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude	Tuesday, 5pm-10pm	Men's quarters	Friday 4pm-9pm
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying	Wednesday, 8am-3pm	Women's quarters	Saturday 10am-noon
Men's round of 64	Wednesday, 4pm-11pm	Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1	Saturday 2pm-4:30pm
Men's round of 32	Thursday, 11am-3pm	Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2	Saturday 5pm-7:30pm
Women's round of 32	Thursday, 2pm-6pm	Women's finals/Men's finals	Sunday 12:30pm-3pm
Men's round of 16	Thursday, 6pm-10pm		
Women's round of 16	Friday, 11am-3pm		

PLAY BEGINS/STARTING TIMES

Players must be prepared to play as early as 8 a.m. on the following dates. Requests for special starting times must be indicated on the entry form. Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests, however no guarantees can be made. Starting times are available after 5p.m. on Monday, November 10th by calling The Racquet Club at (901) 765-4428.

Wednesday Nov. 12 th	All Pro's, Men's Open, A,B,C,D, under 25, under 25 A/B, under 25 C/D, 25+, 25+A/B, 25+C/D, 30+, 35+, 35+A/B, 35+C/D, 40+, 45+, 45+A/B, 45+C/D, 55+A/B, 55+C/D
Thursday Nov. 13 th	Men's 50+, 55+, Women's Open, A, B, C, D, under 25, under 25 A/B, under 25 C/D, 25+, 25+A/B, 25+C/D, 30+, 35+, 35+A/B, 35+C/D, 40+, 45+, 45+A/B, 45+C/D
Friday Nov. 14 th	Men's 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, Women's 50+, 55+, 55+A/B, 55+C/D, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+

MEMBERSHIP

All players must be current members of the USRA. If you are not, a membership can be purchased at the event (\$20 per year). In addition, all players entering the pro draws must be current members of the IRT/WIRT Players Association or join at the event.

CHECK-IN

All player registration will take place at The Racquet Club of Memphis, Check-in is required prior to participating in the event. Hours for registration are: Tuesday Nov. 11th 3pm-10pm, Wednesday Nov. 12th 8am-10pm, Thursday Nov. 13th 8am-9pm, Friday Nov. 14th 8am-9pm, Saturday Nov. 15th 8am-3pm.

SKILL LEVEL VERIFICATION

All players entering skill divisions (i.e. A, B, 35 C/D, etc.) must either have their skill level verified by an AMPRO clinician prior to the event (have certification card) or submit the enclosed verification form with entry. All information submitted will be subject to verification by the state association president in your home state. Players must compete in the same skill divisions as they have played in during the three-month period prior to the U.S. OPEN.

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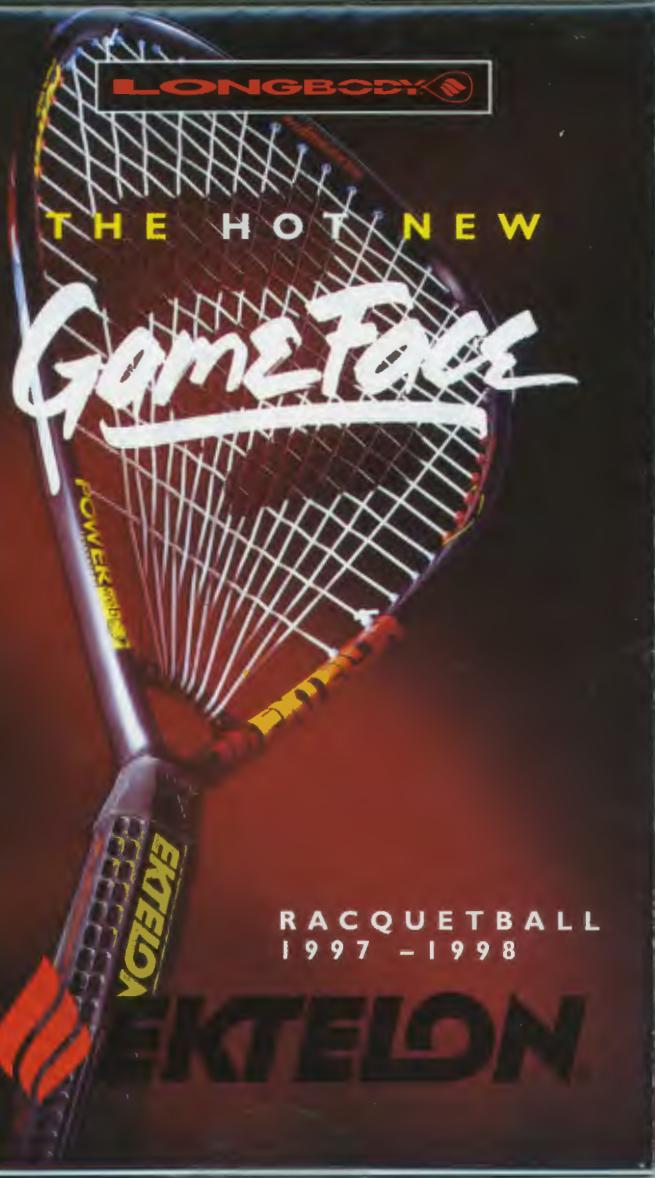
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The Ektelon Pros (left to right): Ruben González, Dan Fowler, Andy Roberts, Kelly Gelhaus, Michelle Gould, Drew Kachtik, Mike Guidry and Cheryl Gudinas.



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TICKETS FOR PRO MATCHES

Everyone will be required to purchase tickets for pro matches (see ticket application). All non-players must purchase a ticket to be admitted to the Saturday evening "PARTY WITH THE PROS". Seats are limited, therefore it is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets in advance. **ABSOLUTELY NO VIEWING WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT A TICKET.** Last year's event sold out 8 weeks in advance, so don't delay!

TRAVEL AND LODGING

The United States Olympic Travel Desk and United Airlines join the USRA in offering you the lowest possible airfares to the U.S. OPEN. For reservations, call UNITED AIRLINES Olympic Travel Desk at (800) 841-0460 between 8:30am and 8pm EST, weekdays. Be sure to reference the special USRA account number - 511TD. For rental cars, use Alamo by calling 1-800-327-9633 and receive a FREE souvenir U.S. OPEN poster.

When making hotel reservations, you must mention the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Rates are good for up to 4 people per room. Make reservations by Oct. 10, 1997 for these special rates.

- 1. EMBASSY SUITES
1022 S. Shady Grove Road
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(901) 684-1777
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5679 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 766-4000
Rate: \$92
- 7. UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
630 Echles St.
Memphis, TN 38117
(901) 678-2816

- 2. HOMEWOOD SUITES
5811 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 763-0500
Rate: \$114-\$159
- 5. EAST MEMPHIS HILTON
5069 Sanderlin Ave.
Memphis, TN 38117
(901) 767-6666
Rate: \$92
- 8. WIMBLEDON SPORTSPLEX
6161 Shelby Oaks Dr.
(901) 388-6580

- 3. HAMPTON INN-Poplar
5320 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 683-8500
Rate: \$78
- 6. THE RACQUET CLUB
OF MEMPHIS
5111 Sanderlin Ave.
Memphis, TN 38117
(901) 765-4400

Regular shuttle service will be available between all three clubs throughout the event. In addition, transportation will be provided from each host hotel to The Racquet Club during select morning and evening hours. No parking is available at the University of Memphis, so players must use the shuttle.



HOSPITALITY

Limited hospitality for amateur players will be available at University of Memphis and the Wimbleton Sportsplex only. However, The Racquet Club of Memphis features a four-star restaurant for your dining pleasure, as well as an extensive Hospitality Village with limited concessions offered throughout the tournament.

ST. JUDE HOSPITAL

The Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is proud to name St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as its designated charity. Founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude is dedicated to the successful treatment of diseases that afflict children. Having treated more than 13,000 patients from 47 states and 53 countries, the hospital has been established as a world leader in the treatment of catastrophic childhood illnesses.

SILENT AUCTION & PRO/AM DOUBLES CHALLENGE

For the benefit of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the U.S. National Racquetball Team, a silent auction will be held during the event featuring Olympic Memorabilia and racquetball equipment from the industry's best manufacturers. Checks, cash, American Express, VISA, and MasterCard are welcome. In addition, Tuesday evening November 11th, 32 lucky amateurs will have the opportunity to play in a single elimination (1 game to 15) doubles challenge with a top professional player as their partner. All proceeds will be donated to St. Jude, and each amateur player will receive a pro autographed racquet from their partner. Call (614) 890-6073 for more information as spots are limited. Cost - \$250.

RULES

All amateur divisions will be played according to official USRA rules, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. Pro divisions will use IRT/WIRT rules. For all age divisions, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of the tournament (Nov. 12th). All divisions (pro and amateur) will use the ProPenn (green) ball.

RANKING POINTS

Skill Divisions: The A,B,C,& D divisions represent official divisions of the USRA National Skill Level Championships. Winners of this Level 6 event will be recognized as national champions in their respective skill levels. All modified/combined age and skill divisions (35 A/B, 45 C/D, etc.) do not offer ranking points.

Open and Age Divisions: Open and age division competitors will receive Level 5 ranking points.

Professionals: On the IRT/WIRT tours, prize money determines the level of ranking points associated with a given event. The U.S. OPEN is the largest prize money event of the season for both the Women and the Men and will therefore be worth more ranking points than any other professional tournament this season.

OFFICIATING

All players will receive \$5 for each amateur match they referee.

PROMUS HOTEL CORPORATION

The U.S. OPEN is very pleased to have the Promus Hotel Corporation as its title sponsor. Promus is the parent company of Hampton Inn, Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn & Suites, and Homewood Suites. Recognized around the world as a premier developer and management firm of hotel properties, Promus Hotel Corporation has experienced incredible growth. With well over 700 hotels worldwide and opening new properties every month, Promus is a jewel in the hotel industry. As a publicly traded company, Promus Hotel Corporation's stock has consistently outperformed the hotel industry indexes. Lead by C.E.O. Ray Schultz, a long-time racquetball fan and player, Promus is poised to continue its explosive growth rate well into the next century.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Director: Doug Ganim

Executive Committee: Margo Daniels, Jim Hiser, Marty Austin, Kay McCarthy, Martha Butler

Professionals: Hank Marcus, Molly O'Brien

For More Information Call the Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN
Racquetball Championships Headquarters at (800) 284-5396.

PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

7

	Price	Quantity	Total(\$)
SESSION #1:.....	\$7		
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying Wednesday, 10am-3pm			
Men's round of 64 Wednesday, 4pm-11pm			
SESSION #2:.....	\$7		
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 11am-3pm			
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 2pm-6pm			
SESSION #3:.....	\$7		
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 6pm-10pm			
SESSION #4:	\$10		
Women's round of 16 Friday, 11am-3pm			
Men's quarters #1,#2 Friday, 4pm-6:30pm			
SESSION #5:	\$10		
Men's quarters #3, #4 Friday, 6:30pm-9pm			
SESSION #6:.....	\$7		
Women's quarters(all) Saturday, 10 am-noon			
SESSION #7:	\$12		
Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1 Saturday, 2pm-4:30pm			
SESSION #8:	\$12		
Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2 Saturday, 5pm-7:30pm			
SESSION #9:.....	\$18		
Women's finals/Men's finals Sunday, 12:30pm-3pm			

BEST VALUE (\$25 savings)

TICKET PACKAGE (includes all sessions listed above) \$65

Ticket for PARTY WITH THE PROS \$25

(free for all player participants) Saturday, 8pm-1:00am

Processing fee (must be paid to process your order) \$3

Make check payable or use credit card and mail to:

U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921
- OR -

To order your tickets by phone call:
(800) 284-5396

TOTAL

Tickets will not be mailed in advance. They can be picked up at the U.S. 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 4 person court-side box seats (with table service) are available starting at \$1,500. Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.

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Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

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Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

*Use your American Express Card and receive a free souvenir U.S. OPEN Poster.

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ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____
 Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (day) _____ Phone (night) _____
 Seeding Information (i.e. National Ranking, State Ranking, Recent Results, etc.) _____

Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events:

Check one: Men's _____ or Women's _____

Skill Divisions (a.k.a. The Skill Level Nationals)*

Can only
enter
ONE
from this
group

		Other Divisions	
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	under 25 A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	under 25 C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	25+ A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	25+ C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>
		35+ A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>
		35+ C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>

Open & Age Divisions

OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	40+	<input type="checkbox"/>	65+	<input type="checkbox"/>
under 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+	<input type="checkbox"/>	70+	<input type="checkbox"/>
25+	<input type="checkbox"/>	50+	<input type="checkbox"/>	75+	<input type="checkbox"/>
30+	<input type="checkbox"/>	55+	<input type="checkbox"/>	80+	<input type="checkbox"/>
35+	<input type="checkbox"/>	60+	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheelchair	<input type="checkbox"/>

Skill Level Verification Form

(complete if you enter any Skill Divisions and do not have an AMPRO certification card)

Recent Tournament Record

Event	Division	Result
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

I hereby certify that the skill level division(s) I have entered in the U.S. OPEN is the level at which I have competed in my state during the 3 months prior to this event. Further, I understand that the division(s) I have entered and the tournament record submitted above will be verified by my State Association President and that reclassification may take place if deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director.

Participant Signature _____

Date _____

Men's (IRT)** _____ Women's (WIRT)** _____

** The Men's Pro draw will begin in the round of 64 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 OPEN division must enter it directly as a second event.

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release and all rights and claims that I may have against the USRA, IRT, WIRT, Ganim Enterprises, Inc., Promus Hotel Corporation, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Wimbleton Sportsplex, The University of Memphis, all other U.S. 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 in this event, I release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature _____

Date _____

(parent if under 18)

* All players entering skill divisions (i.e. A, B, 35 C/D, etc.) must either have their skill level verified by an AMPRO clinician prior to the event (have certification card) or submit the enclosed verification form with entry. All information submitted will be subject to verification by the State Association President in your home state. Players must compete in the same skill divisions as they have played in during the three month period prior to the U.S. OPEN.

ENTRY FEES

Players may enter a maximum of two events. Only singles divisions are offered. Single elimination format will be used in all divisions and consolation will be offered only if court time is available. Players in two divisions may play back to back matches. Returned checks will be assessed a \$20 service charge. Phone entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with an \$8 service charge and a major credit card by calling the U.S.

OPEN headquarters at (800) 284-5396. Maximum amateur draw is 550 players. Once filled, all additional entries received will be returned with refund.

Amount Pd. Division

First Event (Amateurs)	(\$70)	
First Event (Pros)	(\$85)	
Second Event	(\$35)	
Late Fee/Phone Entry	(\$15/\$8)	
TOTAL		

AmEx*/Visa/MC _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

ENTRY DEADLINE: All entries must be received by Sat. Nov. 1st. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a \$15 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES: Limited hospitality, free access to Hospitality Village and fan fair activities of The Racquet Club, souvenir PROMUS HOTELS U.S. OPEN shirt, U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Sat. 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 to be guaranteed a seat. One check can be written for entry fees and tickets. Last year's event sold out 8 weeks in advance!

Make check payable and mail to:
 U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
 1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921

*Use your American Express Card
and receive a free souvenir U.S.
OPEN Poster.

To enter by phone call: (800) 284-5396

100% Cotton denim jacket with two front flap pockets and two side welt pockets. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

DJ-USRA \$69.00
DJ-USA \$69.00

*Add \$4.00 for XXL sizes.

80/20 heavyweight pique fleece half-zip pullover with two inseam pockets. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

FP-USRA \$66.00
FP-USA \$66.00

*Add \$4.00 for XXL sizes.

Denier polyester sport bag with three outside pockets. Detachable shoulder strap. USRA or USA embroidered logo. 20"X10"X10"

RED

SB-USRA \$40.00
SB-USA \$40.00

Six panel adjustable cap available in colors and embroidered designs shown.

CP-USRA \$17.00
CP-USA \$17.00



CHECK ENCLOSED
 VISA
 MASTERCARD

CARD # EXP DATE

SIGNATURE



Denier polyester sport bag with three outside pockets. Detachable shoulder strap. USRA or USA embroidered logo. 20"X10"X10"

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BLACK/BLUE
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CNS-USRA \$60.00
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100% cotton seed stitch crew neck sweater. Embroidered with your choice of USRA or USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

CNS-USRA \$60.00
CNS-USA \$60.00
*Add \$4.00 for XXL sizes.

100% nylon fully lined warm up suit with matching pants. Embroidered with USA or USRA front logo. Adult sizes S-XXL.

WU-USRA \$99.00
WU-USA \$99.00
*Add \$4.00 for XXL sizes.

NAME
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CITY STATE ZIP

MAIL TO:
USRA
 United States Racquetball Association

1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921

ITEM	COLOR	S	M	L	XL	XXL	TOTAL PIECES	UNIT PRICE	SUBTOTAL

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Questions? Call (719) 635-5396

FAX your order to: (719) 635-0685

SUBTOTAL

Add \$6.95 Shipping and Handling for first three pieces. Add \$1.00 per piece additional for orders more than three pieces.

TOTAL

time. However, if the ball hits below the 1-foot line, it must be returned before it bounces twice. If the ball hits on or above the 3-foot line, the ball must be returned as described in the basic return rule.

Rule 6.4 GAMES AND MATCHES

All games are played to 11 points and the first side to win two games, wins the match.

7.0 — ONE-WALL AND THREE-WALL MODIFICATIONS

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 7.1 ONE-WALL

There are two playing surfaces—the front wall and the floor. The wall is 20 feet wide and 16 feet high. The floor is 20 feet wide and 34 feet to the back edge of the long line. To permit movement by players, there should be a minimum of three feet (six feet is recommended) beyond the long line and six feet outside each side line.

(a) Short Line. The back edge of the short line is 16 feet from the wall.

(b) Service Markers. Lines at least six inches long which are parallel with, and midway between, the long and short lines. The extension of the service markers form the imaginary boundary of the service line.

(c) Service Zone. The entire floor area inside and including the short line, side lines and service line.

(d) Receiving Zone. The entire floor area in back of the short line, including the side lines and the long line.

Rule 7.2 THREE-WALL WITH SHORT SIDE WALL

The front wall is 20 feet wide and 20 feet high. The side walls are 20 feet long and 20 feet high, with the side walls tapering to 12 feet high. The floor length and court markings are the same as a four wall court.

Rule 7.3 THREE-WALL WITH LONG SIDE WALL

The court is 20 feet wide, 20 feet high and 40 feet long. The side walls may taper from 20 feet high at the front wall down to 12 feet high at the end of the court. All court markings are the same as a four wall court.

Rule 7.4 SERVICE IN THREE-WALL COURTS

A serve that goes beyond the side walls on the fly is an out. A serve that goes beyond the long line on a fly, but within the side walls, is a fault.

8.0 — WHEELCHAIR MODIFICATIONS

Rule 8.1 CHANGES TO STANDARD RULES

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed, except for the modifications which follow.

(a) Where USRA rules refer to server, person, body, or other similar variations, for wheelchair play such reference shall include all parts of the wheelchair in addition to the person sitting on it.

(b) Where the rules refer to feet, standing or other similar descriptions, for wheelchair play it means only where the rear wheels actually touch the floor.

(c) Where the rules mention body contact, for wheelchair play it shall mean any part of the wheelchair in addition to the player.

(d) Where the rules refer to double bounce or after the first bounce, it shall mean three bounces. All variations of the same phrases shall be revised accordingly.

Rule 8.2 DIVISIONS

(a) Novice Division. The novice division is for the beginning player who is just learning to play.

(b) Intermediate Division. The Intermediate Division is for the player who has played tournaments before and has a skill level to be competitive in the division.

(c) Open Division. The Open Division is the highest level of play and is for the advanced player.

(d) Multi-Bounce Division. The Multi-Bounce Division is for the individuals (men or women) whose mobility is such that wheelchair racquetball would be impossible if not for the Multi-Bounce Division.

(e) Junior Division. The junior divisions are for players who are under the age of 19. The tournament director will determine if the divisions will be played as two bounce or multi-bounce. Age divisions are: 8-11, 12-15, and 16-18.

Rule 8.3 RULES

(a) Two Bounce Rule. Two bounces are used in wheelchair racquetball in all divisions except the Multi-Bounce Division. The ball may hit the floor twice before being returned.

(b) Out-of-Chair Rule. The player can neither intentionally jump out of the chair to hit a ball nor stand up in the chair to serve the ball. If the referee determines that the

chair was left intentionally it will result in loss of the rally for the offender. If a player unintentionally leaves the chair, no penalty will be assessed. Repeat offenders will be warned by the referee.

(c) Equipment Standards. To protect playing surfaces, the tournament officials will not allow a person to participate with black tires or anything which will mark or damage the court.

(d) Start. The serve may be started from any place within the service zone. Although the front casters may extend beyond the lines of the service zone, at no time shall the rear wheels cross either the service or short line before the served ball crosses the short line. Penalties for violation are the same as those for the standard game.

(e) Maintenance Delay. A maintenance delay is a delay in the progress of a match due to a malfunction of a wheelchair, prosthesis, or assistive device. Such delay must be requested by the player, granted by the referee during the match, and shall not exceed 5 minutes. Only two such delays may be granted for each player for each match. After using both maintenance delays, the player has the following options: (i) continue play with the defective equipment, (ii) immediately substitute replacement equipment, or (iii) postpone the game, with the approval of the referee and opponent.

Rule 8.4 MULTI-BOUNCE RULES

(a) The ball may bounce as many times as the receiver wants though the player may swing only once to return the ball to the front wall.

(b) The ball must be hit before it crosses the short line on its way back to the front wall.

(c) The receiver cannot cross the short line after the ball contacts the back wall.

9.0 — VISUALLY IMPAIRED MODIFICATIONS

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the modifications which follow.

Rule 9.1 ELIGIBILITY

A player's visual acuity must not be better than 20/200 with the best practical eye correction or else the player's field of vision must not be better than 20 degrees. The three classifications of blindness are B1 (totally blind to light perception), B2 (able to see hand movement up to 20/600 corrected), and B3 (from 20/600 to 20/200 corrected).

Rule 9.2 RETURN OF SERVE AND RALLIES

On the return of serve and on every return thereafter, the player may make multiple attempts to strike the ball until (i) the ball has been touched, (ii) the ball has stopped bouncing, or (iii) the ball has passed the short line after touching the back wall. The only exception is described in Rule 9.3.

Rule 9.3 BLAST RULE

If the ball (other than on the serve) caroms from the front wall to the back wall on the fly, the player may retrieve the ball from any place on the court—including in front of the short line—so long as the ball has not been touched and is still bouncing.

Rule 9.4 HINDERS

A dead-ball hinder will result in the rally being replayed without penalty unless the hinder was intentional. If a hinder is clearly intentional, an avoidable hinder should be called and the rally awarded to the non-offending player or team.

10.0 — DEAF [NRAD] MODIFICATIONS

In general, the USRA's standard rules governing racquetball play will be followed except for the National Racquetball Association of the Deaf [NRAD] modifications which follow.

Rule 10.1 ELIGIBILITY

An athlete shall have a hearing loss of 55 db or more in the better ear to be eligible for any NRAD tournament.

11.0 — PROFESSIONAL MODIFICATIONS

International Racquetball Tour [IRT] & Women's International Racquetball Tour [WIRT]

In general, competition on both the International Racquetball Tour [IRT] and Women's International Racquetball Tour [WIRT] will follow the standard rules governing racquetball established by the USRA, except for the modifications which follow. Modifications for both professional tours are consistent, with one exception as noted in Rule 11.4.

Rule 11.1 GAME, MATCH

All games are played to 11 points, and are won by the player who scores to that level, with a 2-point lead. If necessary, the game will continue beyond 11 points, until such time as one player has a 2-point lead. Matches are played the best three out of a possible five games to 11.

Rule 11.2 APPEALS

The referee's call is final. There are no line judges, and no appeals may be made.

Rule 11.3 SERVE

Players are allowed only one serve to put the ball into play.

Rule 11.4 SCREEN SERVE

In IRT matches, screen serves are replayed. In WIRT matches, two consecutive screen serves will result in a sideout.

Rule 11.5 COURT HINDERS

No court hinders are allowed or called.

Rule 11.6 OUT-OF-COURT BALL

Any ball leaving the court results in a loss of rally.

Rule 11.7 BALL

All matches are played with the Penn Pro ball. The first, third, and fifth (if necessary) games of the match are started with a new ball.

Rule 11.8 TIMEOUTS

Each player is entitled to one 1-minute timeout per game.

Rule 11.9 TIME BETWEEN GAMES

The rest period between games is 2 minutes, with the exception of the break between game four and a fifth game tiebreaker, which is 5 minutes.

Rule 11.10 EQUIPMENT TIMEOUTS

A player does not have to use regular timeouts to correct or adjust equipment, provided that the need for the change or adjustment is acknowledged by the referee as being necessary for fair and safe continuation of the match.

COMPETITION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Sections A through D which follow contain mostly policies and procedures concerning competition, rather than "rules of play" which are subject to the formal rule change procedures. However, some of the topics that follow are still subject to the formal rule change procedures. In the next edition of the rulebook, they will be highlighted for ease of location.

A — TOURNAMENTS

A.1 DRAWS

- (a) If possible, all draws shall be made at least 2 days before the tournament commences. The seeding method of drawing shall be approved by the USRA.
- (b) At USRA National events, the draw and seeding committee shall be chaired by the USRA's Executive Director, National Tournament Director, and the host tournament director. No other persons shall participate in the draw or seeding unless at the invitation of the draw and seeding committee.
- (c) In local and regional tournaments the draw shall be the responsibility of the tournament director.

A.2 CONSOLATION MATCHES

- (a) Each entrant shall be entitled to participate in a minimum of two matches. Therefore, losers of their first match shall have the opportunity to compete in a consolation bracket of their own division. In draws of less than seven players, a round robin may be offered. See A.6 about how to determine the winner of a round robin event.
- (b) Consolation matches may be waived at the discretion of the tournament director, but this waiver must be in writing on the tournament application.
- (c) Preliminary consolation matches will be two of three games to 11 points. Semifinal and final matches will follow the regular scoring format.

A.3 SCHEDULING

- (a) Preliminary Matches. If one or more contestants are entered in both singles and doubles, they may be required to play both singles and doubles on the same day with little rest between matches. This is a risk assumed on entering two singles events or a singles and doubles event. If possible, the schedule should provide at least 1 hour of rest between matches.

(b) Final Matches. Where one or more players has reached the finals in both singles and doubles, it is recommended that the doubles match be played on the day preceding the singles. This would assure more rest between the final matches. If both final matches must be played on the same day or night, the following procedure is recommended:

- (1) The singles match be played first, and;
- (2) A rest period of not less than 1 hour be allowed between the finals in singles and doubles.

A.4 NOTICE OF MATCHES

After the first round of matches, it is the responsibility of each player to check the posted schedules to determine the time and place of each subsequent match. If any change is made in the schedule after posting, it shall be the duty of the tournament director to notify the players of the change.

A.5 THIRD PLACE

Players are not required to play off for 3rd place. However, for point standings, if one semifinalist wants to play off for third and the other semifinalist does not, the one willing to play shall be awarded third place. If neither semifinalist wishes to play off for 3rd then the points shall be totaled, divided by 2, and awarded evenly to both players.

A.6 ROUND ROBIN SCORING

The final positions of players or teams in round robin competition is determined by the following sequence:

- a. Winner of the most matches;
- b. In a two way tie, winner of the head-to-head match;
- c. In a tie of three or more, the player who lost the fewest games is awarded the highest position.

1. If a two way tie remains, the winner of the head-to-head match is awarded the higher position.

2. If a multiple tie remains, the total "points scored against" each player in all matches will be tabulated and the player who had the least "points scored against" them is awarded the highest position. Note: Forfeits will count as a match won in two games. In cases where "points scored against" is the tiebreaker, the points scored by the forfeiting team will be discounted from consideration of "points scored against" all teams.

A.7 COURT ASSIGNMENTS

In all USRA sanctioned tournaments, the tournament director and/or USRA official in attendance may decide on a change of court after the completion of any tournament game, if such a change will accommodate better spectator conditions.

A.8 TOURNAMENT CONDUCT

In all USRA sanctioned tournaments, the referee is empowered to forfeit a match, if the conduct of a player or team is considered detrimental to the tournament and the game. See B.5(d) and (e).

B — OFFICIATING

B.1 TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

All USRA sanctioned tournaments shall be managed by a tournament director, who shall designate the officials.

B.2 TOURNAMENT RULES COMMITTEE

The tournament director should appoint a tournament rules committee to resolve any disputes that the referee, tournament desk, or tournament director cannot resolve. The committee, composed of an odd number of persons, may include state or national officials, or other qualified individuals in attendance who are prepared to meet on short notice. The tournament director should not be a member of this committee.

B.3 REFEREE APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL

The principal official for every match shall be the referee who has been designated by the tournament director, or a designated representative, and who has been agreed upon by all participants in the match. The referee's authority regarding a match begins once the players are called to the court. The referee may be removed from a match upon the agreement of all participants (teams in doubles) or at the discretion of the tournament director or the designated representative. In the event that a referee's removal is requested by one player or team and not agreed to by the other, the tournament director or the designated representative may accept or reject the request. It is suggested that the match be observed before determining what, if any, action is to be taken. In addition, two line judges and a scorekeeper may also be designated to assist the referee in officiating the match.

B.4 RULES BRIEFING

Before all tournaments, all officials and players shall be briefed on rules as well as local court hinders, regulations, and modifications the tournament director wishes to impose. The briefing should be reduced to writing. The current USRA rules will apply and be made available. Any modifications the tournament director wishes to impose must be stated on the entry form and be available to all players at registration.

B.5 REFEREES

(a) Pre-Match Duties. Before each match begins, it shall be the duty of the referee to:

1. Check on adequacy of preparation of court with respect to cleanliness, lighting and temperature.
2. Check on availability and suitability of materials to include balls, towels, scorecards, pencils and timepiece necessary for the match.
3. Check the readiness and qualifications of the line judges and scorekeeper. Review appeal procedures and instruct them of their duties, rules and local regulations.
4. Go onto the court to make introductions; brief the players on court hinders (both designated and undesignated); identify any out-of-play areas (see rule 2.1(a)); discuss local regulations and rule modifications for this tournament; and explain often misinterpreted rules.
5. Inspect players' equipment; identify the line judges; verify selection of a primary and alternate ball.
6. Toss coin and offer the winner the choice of serving or receiving.

(b) Decisions. During the match, the referee shall make all decisions with regard to the rules. Where line judges are used, the referee shall announce all final judgments. If both players in singles and three out of four in a doubles match disagree with a call made by the referee, the referee is overruled, with the exception of technical fouls and forfeitures.

(c) Protests. Any decision not involving the judgment of the referee will, on protest, be accorded due process as set forth in the constitution of the USRA. For the purposes of rendering a prompt decision regarding protests filed during the course of an ongoing tournament, the stages of due process will be: first to the tournament desk, then to the tournament director, and finally to the tournament rules committee. In those instances when time permits, the protest may be elevated to the state association or, when appropriate, to the national level as called for in the USRA constitution.

(d) **Forfeitures.** A match may be forfeited by the referee when:

1. Any player refuses to abide by the referee's decision or engages in unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Any player or team who fails to report to play 10 minutes after the match has been scheduled to play. (The tournament director may permit a longer delay if circumstances warrant such a decision.)

A game will be forfeited by the referee for using an illegal racquet as specified in Rule 2.4(e).

(e) **Defaults.** A player or team may be forfeited by the tournament director or official for failure to comply with the tournament or host facility's rules while on the premises between matches, or for abuse of hospitality, locker room, or other rules and procedures.

(f) **Spectators.** The referee shall have jurisdiction over the spectators, as well as the players, while the match is in progress.

(g) **Other Rulings.** The referee may rule on all matters not covered in the USRA Official Rules. However, the referee's ruling is subject to protest as described in B.5 (c).

B.6 LINE JUDGES

(a) **When Utilized.** Two line judges should be used for semifinal and final matches, when requested by a player or team, or when the referee or tournament director so desires. However, the use of line judges is subject to availability and the discretion of the tournament director.

(b) **Replacing Line Judges.** If any player objects to a person serving as a line judge before the match begins, all reasonable effort shall be made to find a replacement acceptable to the officials and players. If a player objects after the match begins, any replacement shall be at the discretion of the referee and/or tournament director.

(c) **Position of Line Judges.** The players and referee shall designate the court location of the line judges. Any dispute shall be settled by the tournament director.

(d) **Duties and Responsibilities.** Line judges are designated to help decide appeals. In the event of an appeal, and after a very brief explanation of the appeal by the referee, the line judges must indicate their opinion of the referee's call.

(e) **Signals.** Line judges should extend their arm and signal as follows: (i) thumb up to show agreement with the referee's call, (ii) thumb down to show disagreement, and (iii) hand open with palm facing down to indicate "no opinion" or that the play in question wasn't seen.

(f) **Manner of Response.** Line judges should be careful not to signal until the referee announces the appeal and asks for a ruling. In responding to the referee's request, line judges should not look at each other, but indicate their opinions simultaneously in clear view of the players and referee. If at any time a line judge is unsure of which call is being appealed or what the referee's call was, the line judge should ask the referee to repeat the call and the appeal.

(g) **Result of Response.** If both line judges signal no opinion, the referee's call stands. If both line judges disagree with the referee, the referee must reverse the ruling. If one line judge agrees with the call and one disagrees, the referee's call stands. If one line judge agrees with the call and one has no opinion, the call stands. If one line judge disagrees with the referee's call and the

other signals no opinion, the rally is replayed. Any replays, with the exception of appeals on the second serve itself, will result in two serves.

B.7 APPEALS

(a) **Appealable Calls and Non-Calls.** In any match using line judges, a player may appeal any call or non-call by the referee, except for a technical foul or forfeiture.

(b) **How to Appeal.** A verbal appeal by a player must be made directly to the referee immediately after the rally has ended. A player who believes there is an infraction to appeal, should bring it to the attention of the referee and line judges by raising the non-racquet hand at the time the perceived infraction occurs. The player is obligated to continue to play until the rally has ended or the referee stops play. The referee will recognize a player's appeal only if it is made before that player leaves the court for any reason including timeouts and game-ending rallies or, if that player doesn't leave the court, before the next serve begins.

(c) **Loss of Appeal.** A player or team forfeits its right of appeal for that rally if the appeal is made directly to the line judges or, if the appeal is made after an excessive demonstration or complaint.

(d) **Limit on Appeals.** A player or team can make three appeals per game. However, if either line judge disagrees (thumb down) with the referee's call, that appeal will not count against the three-appeal limit. In addition, a potential game-ending rally may be appealed without charge against the limit—even if the three-appeal limit has been reached.

B.8 OUTCOME OF APPEALS

Everything except technical fouls and forfeitures can be appealed. The following outcomes cover several of the most common types of appeal, but not all possible appeals could be addressed. Therefore, referee's discretion and common sense should govern the outcomes of those appeals that are not covered herein:

(a) **Skip Ball.** If the referee makes a call of "skip ball," and the call is reversed, the referee then must decide if the shot in question could have been returned had play continued. If, in the opinion of the referee, the shot could have been returned, the rally shall be replayed. However, if the shot was not retrievable, the side which hit the shot in question is declared the winner of the rally. If the referee makes no call on a shot (thereby indicating that the shot did not skip), an appeal may be made that the shot skipped. If the "no call" is reversed, the side which hit the shot in question loses the rally.

(b) **Fault Serve.** If the referee makes a call of fault serve and the call is reversed, the serve is replayed, unless if the referee considered the serve to be not retrievable, in which case a point is awarded to the server. If an appeal is made because the referee makes no call on a serve—thereby indicating that the serve was good—and the "no call" is reversed, it will result in second serve if the infraction occurred on the first serve or loss of serve if the infraction occurred on the second serve.

(c) **Out Serve.** If the referee calls an "out serve", and the call is reversed, the serve will be replayed, unless the serve was obviously a fault too, in which case the call becomes fault serve. However, if the call is reversed and the serve was considered an ace, a point will be awarded. Also, if the referee makes no call on a serve—thereby indicating that the serve was good—but the "no call" is reversed, it results in an immediate loss of serve.

(d) **Double Bounce Pickup.** If the referee makes a call of two bounces, and the call is reversed, the rally is replayed, except if the player against whom the call was made hit a shot that could not have been retrieved, then that player wins the rally. (Before

awarding a rally in this situation, the referee must be certain that the shot would not have been retrieved even if play had not been halted.) If an appeal is made because the referee makes no call thereby indicating that the get was not two bounces, and the "no call" is reversed, the player who made the two bounce pickup is declared the loser of the rally.

(e) Receiving Line Violation (Encroachment). If the referee makes a call of encroachment, but the call is overturned, the serve shall be replayed unless the return was deemed irretrievable in which case a sideout (or possibly a handout in doubles) should be called. When an appeal is made because the referee made no call, and the appeal is successful, the server is awarded a point.

(f) Court Hinder. If the referee makes a call of court hinder, the rally is replayed. If the referee makes no call and a player feels that a court hinder occurred, that player may appeal. If the appeal is successful, the rally will be replayed.

B.9 RULE INTERPRETATIONS

If a player feels the referee has interpreted the rules incorrectly, the player may require the referee or tournament director to cite the applicable rule in the rulebook. Having discovered a misapplication or misinterpretation, the official must correct the error by replaying the rally, awarding the point, calling sideout, or taking other corrective measures.

C — ELIGIBILITY & NATIONAL EVENTS

C.1 PROFESSIONAL

A professional is defined as any player who has accepted prize money regardless of the amount in any professional sanctioned (including IRT/WIRT) tournament or in any other tournament so deemed by the USRA Board of Directors. (Note: Any player concerned about the adverse effect of losing amateur status should contact the USRA National Office at the earliest opportunity to ensure a clear understanding of this rule and that no action is taken that could jeopardize that status.)

(a) An amateur player may participate in a professional sanctioned tournament but will not be considered a professional (i) if no prize money is accepted or (ii) if the prize money received remains intact and placed in trust under USRA guidelines.

(b) The acceptance of merchandise or travel expenses shall not be considered prize money, and thus does not jeopardize a player's amateur status.

C.2 RETURN TO AMATEUR STATUS

Any player who has been classified as a professional can re-establish amateur status by requesting, in writing, this desire to be reclassified as an amateur. This application shall be tendered to the Executive Director of the USRA or a designated representative, and shall become effective immediately as long as the player making application for reinstatement of amateur status has received no money in any tournament, as defined in C.1, for the past 12 months.

C.3 USRA ELIGIBILITY

(a) Any current USRA member who has not been classified as a professional (See C.1) may compete in any USRA sanctioned tournament.

(b) Any current USRA member who has been classified as a professional may compete in any event at a USRA sanctioned tournament that offers prize money or merchandise.

C.4 DIVISIONS

(a) Open Division. Any player with amateur status.

(b) Adult Age Divisions. Eligibility is determined by the player's age on the first day of the tournament. Divisions are:

"All-Age" (unrestricted, including juniors)

25+ - Junior Veterans

30+ - Veterans

35+ - Seniors

40+ - Veteran Seniors

45+ - Masters

50+ - Veteran Masters

55+ - Golden Masters

60+ - Veteran Golden Masters

65+ - Senior Golden Masters

70+ - Advanced Golden Masters

75+ - Super Golden Masters

80+ - Grand Masters

85+ - Super Grand Masters

(c) Junior Age Divisions. Player eligibility is determined by the player's age on January 1st of the current calendar year. Divisions are:

18 & Under

16 & Under

14 & Under

12 & Under

10 & Under

8 & Under (regular rules)

8 & Under (multi-bounce rules)

6 & Under (regular rules)

6 & Under (multi-bounce rules)

C.5 DIVISION COMPETITION BY GENDER

Men and women may compete only in events and divisions for their respective gender during regional and national tournaments. If there is not sufficient number of players to warrant play in a specific division, the tournament director may place the entrants in a comparably competitive division. Note: For the purpose of encouraging the development of women's racquetball, the governing bodies of numerous states permit women to play in men's divisions when a comparable skill level is not available in the women's divisions.

C.6 USRA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) Adult Regional Tournaments

1. Regional tournaments will be conducted at various metropolitan sites designated annually by the USRA and players may compete at any site they choose.

2. A person may compete in any number of adult regional tournaments, but may not enter a championship division (as listed in C.4) after having won that division at a previous adult regional tournament that same year.

3. A person cannot participate in more than two championship events at a regional tournament.

4. Any awards or remuneration to a USRA National Championship will be posted on the entry blank.

5. One-serve rules (see Rule 5.0) will be used in all open divisions at USRA National and Regional Championships. Their use is optional at other tournaments.

(b) Junior Regional Tournaments. All provisions of C.6(a) also apply to juniors, except:

1. Regional tournaments will be conducted within the following regions which are identified for the purposes of junior competition:

Region 1 — Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut

Region 2 — New York, New Jersey

Region 3 — Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware,

District of Columbia
 Region 4 — Florida, Georgia
 Region 5 — Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee
 Region 6 — Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma
 Region 7 — Texas, Louisiana
 Region 8 — Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois
 Region 9 — West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan
 Region 10 — Indiana, Kentucky
 Region 11 — North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska
 Region 12 — Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado
 Region 13 — Montana, Wyoming
 Region 14 — California, Hawaii, Nevada
 Region 15 — Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Alaska
 Region 16 — North Carolina, South Carolina

2. A person may compete in only one junior regional singles and one junior regional doubles tournament each year.
3. The provisions of C.6(a)3 may not apply if tournaments (singles/doubles or adults/juniors) are combined.

C.7 U.S. NATIONAL SINGLES AND DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U.S. National Singles and Doubles Tournaments are separate tournaments and are played on different dates. Consolation events will be offered for all divisions. One serve rules (see Rule 5.0) will apply in all Open divisions.

- (a) Competition in an Adult Regional singles tournament is required to qualify for the National Singles Championship.
 1. Exception: Men of the age of 55 and over (55+), and women age 45 and over (45+), are not required to qualify for the National Singles Championship.
 2. Exception: Any player who competes in either a junior or intercollegiate regional preceding the National Singles, will not be required to compete in an Adult Regional event.
- (b) The National Tournament Director may handle the rating of each region and determine how many players shall qualify from each regional tournament.
- (c) If a region is oversubscribed, a playoff to qualify players in a division may be conducted the day prior to the start of a National Championship.

C.8 U.S. NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships and generally subject to the provisions of C.7.

C.9 U.S. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS
 It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships. Consolation events will be offered for all divisions.

C.10 U.S. NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships. Consolation events will be offered for all divisions.

C.11 U.S. OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

It will be conducted on a different date than all other National Championships, and include both pro and amateur competitive divisions.

D — PROCEDURES

D.1 RULE CHANGE PROCEDURES

To ensure the orderly growth of racquetball, the USRA has established specific procedures that are followed before a major change is made to the rules of the game. Those procedures are:

1. Rule change proposals must be submitted in writing to the USRA National Office by June 1st.
2. The USRA Board of Directors will review all proposals at its October board meeting and determine which will be considered.
3. Selected proposals will appear in RACQUETBALL Magazine — the official USRA publication — as soon as possible after the October meeting for comment by the general membership.
4. After reviewing membership input and the recommendations of the National Rules Committee and National Rules Commissioner, the proposals are discussed and voted upon at the annual Board of Directors meeting in May.
5. Changes approved in May become effective on September 1st. Exception: changes in racquet specifications become effective 2 years later on September 1st.
6. Proposed rules that are considered for adoption in one year, but are not approved by the Board of Directors in May of that year, will not be considered for adoption the following year.



D.2 USRA NATIONAL RULES COMMITTEE

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RULEBOOK INDEX

Apparel	2.5	Legal/Illegal Hits	3.10(e); 3.13(a); and 3.13(b)
Appeals		Line Judges	B.6
Appeal Limit, Loss	B.7	Loss of Apparel/	
Outcome of Appeals	B.8	Equipment	3.15(i) and 3.13(g)2
What May beAppealed	B.7(a)	Multi-Bounce Modifications	6.0
Blocking	3.15(c)	Out-Of-Court Ball	
Body Contact	3.14(a)3 & 5	3.10(h) and 3.13(c)3	
Broken Ball		Postponed Games	3.16(e)
On the Serve	3.8(b)	Profanity	3.17(a)1
On Return of Serve	3.11(e)	Professional Modifications	11.0
and 3.13(f)		Protests	B.5(c)
During the Rally	3.13(f)	Racquet Specifications	2.4
Carries		Return of Serve	3.11
On the Serve	3.10(e)	Referees	
During the Rally	3.13(b)	Appointment and Removal	B.3
Delays	3.5	Duties and Responsibilities	B.5
and 3.17(a)6		Overturning the Referee's Call	B.5(b)
Doubles		Return of Serve	3.11
Generally	4.0	Rule Interpretations	B.9
Blocking	3.15(c)	Safety Holdup	3.14(a)6
Change in Partners	4.1(b)	Safety Zone Violation	
Order of Serve	4.2(a)	by Server	3.10(i)
Out-of-Order Serve	4.4(a)	Serves	
Partner's Position		Changes of Serve	3.12 and 4.2(c)
During Serve	4.2(b) and 4.3(a)	Dead-Ball Serves	3.8
Return Attempts	4.5(b)	Drive Serves	3.6
Team Classification	4.1(a)	Doubles	4.2
Drive Serve Rule	3.6	Fault Serves	3.9
Due Process (Player's Rights)	B.5(c)	Order (Who Serves First)	3.1
Eyeguards	2.5(a); 2.5(c); and 3.17(a)9	Out Serves	3.10
Five-Foot Rule	3.11(a)	Screen Serves	3.9(h)
Foot Faults	3.9(a) and 4.2(b)	Spectators, Control of	B.5(f)
Forfeits	B.5(d)	Technical Fouls and Warnings	3.17
Hinders—Avoidable	3.15	Ten-Second Rule	3.4 and 3.5
Hinders—Dead-ball		Timeouts	
Generally	3.14	Regular	3.16(a)
Court Hinders	3.14(a)1	Injuries	3.16(b)
Safety Holdup	3.14(a)6	Equipment	3.16(c)
Screen	3.14(a)4	Tournaments	A
Issues Not Covered			
by the Rulebook	B.5(g)		

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PERFORMANCE SERIES: NO EXCUSES RACQUETBALL

By Dave Peck

To be or not be ... a couch potato. That is the question!

Racquetball is a game that anyone can play and enjoy. You say *enjoy*?! You mean having fun? But working out can't be *fun* ... !

The great part about having fun playing racquetball is that the by-product is that you will get a great workout, relieve stress, and burn up a significant amount of calories. So, what are your excuses for not playing?

I don't know where to play ...

Last years article — Racquetball 101 will let you know where you can play. Also, let your fingers do the walking. Look in your local phone book and call to check the facilities that have racquetball courts. Also, you can call the USRA at (719) 635-5396 and get their listing of clubs that offer racquetball along with the IHRSA's list as well.

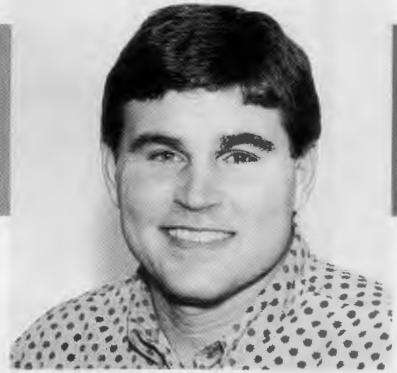
I don't belong to a health club because they're too expensive to join ...

The business climate today is very competitive and the health club business is no different. What this means to you is that you can find very good prices on memberships and be able to pick a club that will fit your budget. If for some reason you still can't find a club at the right price, there are the numerous universities, recreation centers, churches, as well as outdoor courts that are very inexpensive or free.

I don't know how to play ...

When checking on which club to join, ask if they have a teaching pro who offers free introductory racquetball clinics. The majority of the clubs with racquetball courts will have this type of program. The Pro will teach you the rules, strokes, positioning, and many other techniques that will get you started. From there, you just have to get into the court and play. Your attitude should be to have fun and get a great workout. Please remember that you are just beginning to learn how to play the game. Don't be too hard on yourself if you don't hit the ball where you want. Racquetball is an easy game to learn, however it's a very difficult game to perfect. Also, read the different instructional articles

available. This is one of the fastest ways to learn and get different ideas on how to play.



I don't have the equipment ...

No problem. Most clubs will have rental equipment or demo frames. You can also purchase a racquet, eyewear and racquetballs for around \$25-30.

I don't have a partner ...

Again, when checking on which club to join, ask if they have a teaching pro that not only conducts free introductory racquetball clinics, but also runs leagues, round-robbins or shuttles.

I can hear the excuses coming already, "I'm just beginning to play racquetball, why would I play in leagues or any of these other programs"?

Or, "I want to have fun, isn't this too intense for me"? The answer is "no" to both of those excuses because there are different levels of play. The program director or Pro will evaluate your current skill level and place you in the appropriate league. This will give you the opportunity to meet new people to play, improve your game, learn new shots, burn calories ... a whole new beginning!

Only men play ...

It's true that a large percentage of racquetball players are men but that doesn't mean that women can't compete and win with men as their opponents.

Racquetball is an equalizer. You don't have to be a certain height or weight to be able to compete. I have had many women players say to me that they love beating men in racquetball. Why not make it you?

Racquetball is the sport that allows you the opportunity to burn calories, relieve stress, and get a wonderful workout in while having *fun*!

So, enough excuses ... get up off that couch and get started!!!

AMPRO TIP: Choking, Slumps & Burnout

By Fran Davis & Diana McNab

Whether you are an amateur recreational player playing in leagues and pick-up games, or an amateur competitive player playing in tournaments, or even an elite/pro athlete playing on the U.S. Team or Pro Tour ... you have all, one way or another, experienced choking, slumps and burnout. No one is exempt.

But look — you're in good company:

- Michele Kwan, the 1996 National and World Champion Figure skater choked at the 1997 U.S. National Championships and lost the title to Tara Lipinski.
- Robin Levine, a former U.S. National Team Member choked at the 1995 Pan Am Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina and lost to Cheryl Gudinas in the semi's. Robin had never lost to Cheryl before.
- In professional baseball you hear about "batting slumps" all the time, season after season.
- Jason Mannino, the #4 ranked player on the IRT, was mentally burned out after four back-to-back pro stops — from Vegas to San Diego to Phoenix to Milpitas — with no breaks.
- Michael Bronfeld, '94 & '95 U.S. National Champion, was mentally burned out after playing four pro stops in a row, then choosing Houston as the fifth in the series.

At this point let's now define choking, slumps and burnout and then later we'll share with you how to prevent and cure these unwanted feelings.

Choking is when an athlete is mentally, physically or emotionally out of the "NOW!" It is when "fear" takes over and making a mistake leads to failure or an injury. Choking usually comes from trying too hard; pressing or pushing too much mentally (too much psychic energy); or physically (too much arousal); or emotionally (not grounded) — and you get out of the moment of the game. The ideal performance state is to be "one" with yourself, the ball and the game — with no thoughts or distractions. Choking is when one's timing and coordination is off. The mind overtakes the body and mis-shots occur.

Slumps mean that an athlete is out of "sync" with their body and mind. Their heads are saying one thing and their bodies are doing another. Either there is a technical flaw in their skills that needs to be corrected or their



strategies need to be analyzed. It is often fatigue, over-competition, travel, lack of practice time, a hidden stress in their lives that is bubbling to the surface, negative self-talk, lack of team harmony/communication or coach/athlete relationship problems.

Burnout is caused by putting too much pressure on yourself for too long under too many high intensity competitions, in essence, your "wiring is fatigued" and your motivation is gone. You, your training, and your sport needs a break.

Prevention and Cures

Each individual athlete is unique and different. Due to their personality, body and sport type all will handle the situations differently...let's take a look:

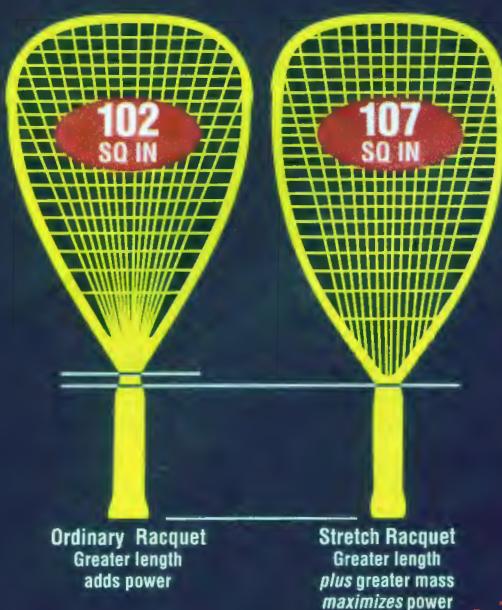
A "Vata" personality is a thinker, worrier and constantly analyzes the situation. Their problem is that they push too hard and eventually crash and burn. They need to relax — have days off and recovery cycles.

A "Pitta" personality is the most competitive and can burn out mentally and physically if allowed to get too hot, over-train or get angry and hostile. All "pittas" care about is winning. As a result of this, they must keep training and competitions fun and learn to enjoy the process. They need to get creative in their training and always keep a balanced life. They must drink a lot of water and keep their bodies from overheating. Often "pittas" quit their sport because they get so disillusioned and burn out, only to return after they cool off.

The "Kapha" personality is laid back and often a procrastinator. If they are pushed too hard by their coach or too many competitions, they fatigue and withdraw. A "kapha" needs to eat good, low-fat nutritious foods, exercise and train daily and see the comradery and enjoyment in the sport.

Relax! Have fun! Stay in the Now! Go with the Flow! Smile! Life is your school and everyday is your curriculum. It is "how" you approach the game that will make all the difference in the world. Right Attitude=Success!!! Good luck!

BU
ALL
ARE

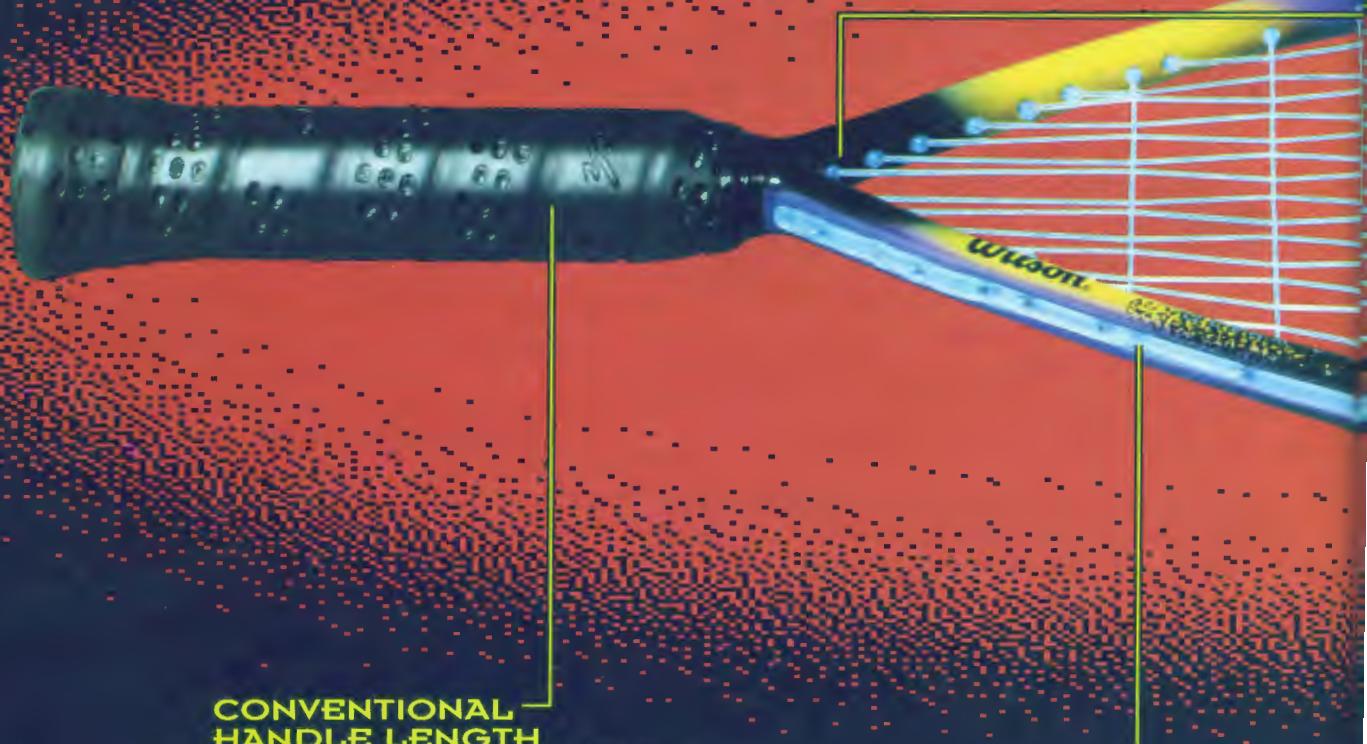


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NEWS FOR PROFESSIONALS IN THE BUSINESS OF RACQUETBALL • Special to RACQUETBALL Magazine

Program Your Members for Success

by Mary Lyons
Certified Professional Instructor

Within every club or racquetball facility, there are two distinct groups of members – new members and existing members.

By programming specifically for these two groups you will not only insure the success of your racquetball program but you will increase the overall membership return rate in member referrals, plus increase participation in other club programs — both critical to the overall long-term success and profitability of your club.

Studies have proven that the cost of bringing new members into a club is much higher than the cost of keeping existing members.

Programming the New Member

It is very important that every new member is serviced to the best of the club's ability. This includes, first and foremost, that each new member feel welcome to the club and secondly that they get involved in club programs and meet other members so that they gain a sense of belonging. Every new member should receive the following three "services" upon joining your club.

1. A welcome letter from the Racquetball Director

This letter should be sent within the first two weeks of the new member joining your club and should include:

- a listing of the racquetball staff including program directors and instructors
- a listing of the programs offered at your club and how the new member can get involved in them
- an outline of the instructional programs offered - group and private and the costs involved

- a member profile to be filled in and returned to you
- a list of the many benefits of playing racquetball along with some encouraging words about getting started right away

This letter may also contain a coupon for a discount on lessons or upcoming programs, a pro-shop or racquet repair discount coupon or a guest pass to bring a friend.

2. A call from the Racquetball Director

This call is best made 7-10 days after the welcome letter is sent and gives you the opportunity to personally introduce yourself to the new member and answer any questions they might have about the club or about the racquetball programs offered.

3. An Introductory Lesson

This will depend upon the playing experience of the new member and may be a one hour "never-ever" orientation to the sport for first time players or may be a series of group lessons that include a half hour lesson with a half hour of play.

The more experienced player may only need to speak with, or be observed by, an instructor so that their skill level can be evaluated. New members at all skill levels should be given a list of potential playing partners as soon as possible so that they can begin to take part in the programs you offer and become involved, active racquetball members of your club.

Programming Existing Members

Studies have proven that the financial – as well as personnel – costs of bringing new members into a club is much higher than the cost of keeping existing members. Therefore, it is critical to the success of your club and your program that you do not let existing members drop out due to boredom or inactivity.

It is important to keep these members active, happy and involved. Though it is true that these members

need less "hand holding" than the new member, we still cannot forget about them. We need to maintain their membership through leagues, group and private lessons, clinics, round-robin and social activities.

In addition, satisfied members are the best source of referrals for your club and your programs and are very likely to introduce their friends and neighbors to the club.

For some members, weekly activities such as league play and scheduled round-robin provide regular, organized play with guaranteed competition. Others prefer to schedule their own games but may like to play on a challenge court for variety.

In addition to these "regular" programs, a series of monthly or bi-monthly drill classes or clinics will give your members an opportunity to learn something new and, in turn, improve their racquetball skills. Socials

1997 AmPRO Instructor Clinics

DATE	CLUB	CITY
July/August	What A Racquet Athletic Club	San Francisco, CA
July/August	TBA	Minneapolis, MN
August/Sept	Canoga Park Athletic Club	Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 19-21	Burley Athletic Club	Burley, ID
Sept. 19-21	Pro Sports Club	Bellevue, WA

1997 AmPRO Programmer Clinics

DATE	CLUB	CITY
September	Jacksonville Athletic Club	Jacksonville, FL

For additional information, or to schedule your own clinic, please call Michelle Gould, AmPRO Executive Director at (208) 362-3844

and Mixers are another excellent way to add a bit of spice to the member's regular diet of racquetball. These can involve singles, doubles or mixed doubles play and may include snacks, dinner and drinks and/or dancing, games or karaoke for fun.

To ensure the success of your racquetball program and the profitability of your club, remember to target your programs toward these two distinct groups of members.

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Cities to be Visited: 1997-1998 Season

MAY 9-11,97 Los Angeles, CA.

MAY 30-June 1,97 Portland, OR.(Juniors Only)

JUNE 27-29,97 New Jersey

AUGUST 22-24,97 San Francisco, CA.

SEPTEMBER TBA Boston, MA.

OCTOBER TBA Chicago, IL.

DECEMBER 4-11,97 Aruba, Caribbean Island

JANUARY 98 TBA Denver, CO.



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GRAPHICS DONE
BY TONY JAMES
OF COURTWEAR



FRAN DAVIS

One of the USA's top
coaches and clinicians,
former USA National
Racquetball Team Coach,
Team Head for 14 years.



CLIFF SWAIN

NUMBER TWO PRO PLAYER IN THE WORLD

WHAT'S THE CALL?

By Otto Dietrich
USRA National Rules Commissioner

As the new racquetball season begins, I'm very happy to announce the publication of a revised rulebook for the sport. It's certainly changed enough from previous editions that I highly recommend that you take a few minutes to read it.

The new rules — effective September 1

As you probably know by now, the racquet's maximum length has been increased to 22 inches. In addition to the longer racquets, the appeal process now allows for every call or "non-call" by the referee (except for technical fouls and forfeitures) to be appealed if there are line judges. If you hit the ball out-of-court (or just out-of-play), you lose the rally immediately. This also includes hitting the serve out-of-court.

Another, less apparent change now allows the referee to declare a "sideout" in those instances where the receiver is called for encroachment, but that call is overturned on appeal and the referee considers the return of serve to have been an irretrievable shot.

Rules & Modifications vs. Policies & Procedures

But if you've already looked at the revised rulebook, I'm sure that you'll notice that we have also completely reorganized it too. You'll find that all of the basic singles rules for actually playing the game are now in the first three sections of the book. While there is still some mention of doubles teams and partners in these three sections where appropriate, nearly all of the special rules affecting doubles play are now contained in a separate follow-up section devoted solely to doubles.

Following the doubles section is a series of special sections which describe the various rule modifications designed to accommodate special playing circumstances, such as one-serve, multi-bounce, wheelchair games and the pro tours. Then, totally separate from the rules for playing racquetball, you'll find all of the policies and procedures governing competition, such as tournament policies and referee procedures.

The primary reason for separating playing rules from competition policies and procedures (aside from it being logical) was to more clearly distinguish those matters covered by the normal rule change procedures (the playing rules), from those that can be changed merely

by a vote of the National Board of Directors (the competition policies and procedures.)



While the separation in this edition of the rulebook comes close to achieving that goal, what still remains to be done is to identify those issues in the policy and procedure section that clearly should also be covered by the normal rule change procedures, like the number of appeals, etc. In future editions of the rulebook, we plan to highlight these items so they are evident to all.

I sincerely hope that you'll find this revised rulebook an improvement over past editions and that it helps make your game more enjoyable! But if there are any questions that remain, remember you can always ask Otto: "What's the Call?"

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ADG-Q-3

ADG-7-18-96

ADG-QABM-7/96



MAINS & CROSSES

By Steve Crandall

SKILL LEVEL AND GAME STYLE INFLUENCE STRING CHOICES

Power or control? Novice, intermediate, or advanced?

The type of player you are, and your level of skill, should influence your choice of racquet string. Try this methodology to select the right string for your game.

Novice – Analysis: You mis-hit the ball frequently, so you need a string that delivers power even when you're way outside the sweet spot. Finesse is out of the question. You may also feel your game doesn't justify spending a lot on equipment.

Recommendation: Use the most common type of string: a multi-stranded monofilament, often called "tournament nylon." Nylon has good resiliency, so it delivers a lot of power. It's also very economical.

Use a thinner gauge (around 17) if you need maximum power; go thicker (16) if durability is more of an issue.

Intermediate – Analysis: Your swing is more "grooved," and you've started to develop a style as a power or a control player. Either way, both power and control are improving. It's time to think carefully about the right string to maximize your potential, and spend a bit more, if necessary, to get there.

Recommendation: If you're a power player, the power now comes mainly from your swing, not your string. String breakage is beginning to be a problem, so you should give up a little power to gain durability. You could stick with heavier-gauge nylon, or step up to a

17-gauge
nylon/18-gauge
Kevlar® hybrid.

The nylon crosses

will provide enough power for your game, while the Kevlar mains add strength and durability.

If you're a control player, you still rely mainly on the racquet for power, but you also want a stiffer stringbed to enhance ball control. You could go with a thin nylon and string it up tight. Or, if you're willing to pay a little more to improve your skills faster, consider a Zyex®-cored string for its superior "dynamic response" — in other words, power and stiffness combined.

Advanced – Analysis: Players at this level are more powerful and have better control than intermediates — period. At the risk of sounding confusing: An advanced control player is more powerful than most intermediate power players; and an advanced power player has better control than any intermediate control player. But even so, within the field of advanced competitors, younger players tend to be more oriented toward power, while older players tend to emphasize control and strategy.

Recommendation: String breakage is a real problem for advanced power players. The incredible tensile strength of Kevlar is a necessity, but Kevlar alone is too stiff for any player. It must be combined with other materials for some playability. You've got two choices: a Kevlar-cored string with a more resilient overwrap; or a 17-gauge nylon/17-gauge Kevlar hybrid. The first is the strongest option, the second offers better playability.

Advanced control players can rely on the same choices as intermediate control players: a thin-gauge tournament nylon, or a Zyex-cored model. But now you can increase tension further, both because you're more powerful, and because your increased skill lets you place shots with great precision.

See the table at left for a summary. First find yourself in the left column. Then check the second column for the kind of performance that's most important to you, and read to the right for a description of the type of string you should look for.



STRING CHOICES—BASED ON SKILL LEVEL AND STYLE OF PLAY

SKILL LEVEL AND STYLE	STRING PERFORMANCE NEEDED	RECOMMENDED STRING CONSTRUCTION	RECOMMENDED STRING GAUGE	EXAMPLE
Novice	max. durability, plus power max. power, plus durability	nylon monofilament nylon monofilament	16 17	SuperKill™ II SuperKill™ 17
Intermediate				
Power Player	durability	nylon/Kevlar hybrid	17/18	KillFire™
	power	nylon monofilament	16	SuperKill™ II
Control Player	power	Zyex-cored	16	PowerKill™ PRO
	stiffness/control	nylon monofilament	17	SuperKill™ 17
Advanced				
Power Player	durability	Kevlar-cored	15	DuraKill™
	power	nylon/Kevlar hybrid	17/17	KillFire™ XL
Control Player	power	Zyex-cored	16	PowerKill™ PRO
	stiffness/control	nylon monofilament	17	SuperKill™ 17

courtside update



Top: Honoree Estie Moss and husband Howard. Bottom left: Larry Pristo always dreamed of getting in the magazine. Here he is...resplendent in his Dr. Denton's and Lavender sport coat. He's hitting with an iktelon dust pan. Bottom right: Bill Schwarz makes his fashion statement in an up-to-the-minute house coat. The sunglasses, briefcase, shoebox on his arm & stuffed animal did not hamper his performance.

players were handicapping each other and selecting outrageous costumes for their own opponents to wear. For many, it became a challenge to overcome the myriad handicaps and continue to play well.

The event was inspired by Ms. Estie Moss, a friend of the local racquetball community, who recently contracted cancer. The winners were all those who participated and enjoyed themselves so that Camp Sunrise can continue to give hope and love to the kids stricken with cancer and to their families who support them.

On the Court for Kids

by Sue & Barry Hendricks -Scottsdale, Arizona

In one of the most unusual racquetball tournaments ever held, the "On the Court For Kids" first annual racquetball fundraiser was a "smashing" success. Local, state and national champions routinely lost to Novice and Class D, C, and B level players. And the beneficiary of this mayhem was Camp Sunrise, a camp for kids with cancer. Over \$8,000 was raised, primarily through entry fees, donations and a spirited auction of sports memorabilia, travel packages, dinners at local restaurants, and a variety of other goods and services.

Each player was given a nickname on the draw sheets. Top players were subjectively handicapped by the tournament directors to create an even playing field against less skilled players. These handicaps included playing with frying pans, swim fins, and tennis and squash racquets instead of regulation racquetball racquets. Other handicaps were imposed when necessary and included the wearing of handcuffs or an eye patch, hitting with the off-hand, wearing one size 16 shoe to reduce court coverage, and carrying a huge stuffed animal which impeded backhand shots and exhausted all players burdened with it. As an additional twist, players were dressed (often cross-dressed) in sport coats, outdated dresses and hats that further hindered their effectiveness and added a generous dose of slapstick to the proceedings.

Perhaps the most unusual feature of the tournament involved the discretionary powers of the referees who instituted their own set of rules (in no understandable format) for each match. Points were deducted for an array of violations, such as having a middle name, jumping, hitting a good shot, or poor color coordination of clothing. And this tournament actually featured participants *volunteering* to referee without payment!

Laughter was the prevailing element all weekend as good

1997 REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Listed alphabetically by city ...

• **Allentown, Pennsylvania** — Men's Open: Ruben Gonzalez; A: Ken Fairchild; B: Ruben Vargas; C: Andrew Rich; Novice: Lou Lappen; All-Age: 8-multi (co-ed): Kara Mazur; 10: Jeff Eastman; 12: Jeff Eastman; 14: Joe Roth; 16: Elan Yadan; 18: Dustin Baker; Rich Baer; 25: Jeff Gal; 30: John Barrett; 35: Bobby Haab; 40: Tom Nicholas; 45: Bill Wolfe; 50: Bill Wolfe; 55: Les Barbanell; 60: Mike Jackson; 65: Harold Schaeffer; 70: Charles Brong. Women's Open: Lorraine Galloway; A: Michelle Zellers; B: Bonnie Morell; Novice: Linda Gubitosi; All-Age: Aimee Roehler; 8-multi: Kara Mazur; 14: Kristen Woodruff; 16: Jennifer Swallow; 30: Lorraine Galloway; 35: Jodi Paul; 40: Judy Sands; 45: Judy Sands.

• **Baltimore, Maryland** — Men's Open: Dan Llacer; A: Rusty Jones; B: Mike O'Donoghue; C: Robert Merriam; Novice: Josh Chronister; All-Age: Jeff Bloom; 8: Ben Hoake; 10: Anthony Renaldis; 12: Seth Parker; 14: Seth Parker; 16: Matt Gehling; 18: Stephen Mykalcio; 25: Dick Reck; 30: Armando Alonso; 35: Roger Miller; 40: Mark Baron; 45: Jim Bailey; 50: Ed Remen; 55: Glenn Allen; 60: Ron Rainey; 65: Pearce Grove. Women's Open: Shannon Feaster; A: Deborah Mustone; B: Kelly Goddard; C: Debbi Misanin; Novice: Judy Sokolowski; All-Age: Erika Juhl; 8-multi: Jenny Epstein; 8: Jenny Epstein; 10: Jenny Hough; 12: Cari Miltitsky; 14: Juliana Mayor; 18: Vanessa Tulao; 25: Michelle Wiragh; 30: Holly Desportes; 35: Tracy Ingram; 40: Janice Chay; 45: Veronica Yorski; 50: May Barber; 55: Gail Schaeffer.

• **Baton Rouge, Louisiana** — Men's Open: Tom Fuhrmann; A: Kip Atwell; B: George Anthon; C: Joseph Austin Jr.; D: Jay Dever; All-Age: Bucky Freeman; 25: John Davis; 30: Danny Bondelon; 35: Byron Williams; 40: Glen Huey; 45: Jerry Dye; 50: Jerry Winsberg; 55: Jerry Winsberg; 60: Fritz Owens; 65: Gene Ferris. Women's Open: Kim Allen; A: Leanne Flowers; B: Sarah Wells; C: Clara Simien; D: Cheryl Rabalais; 30: Stacy Sour; 35: Tammy Thompson; 40: Marcia Richards; 45: Neyda Leslie; 50: Pattie Schof.

• **Bloomingdale, Illinois [Junior Region 8]** — Boy's 18: Eric Lackscheide; 16: Brad Jantz; 14: Robert Gates Jr.; 12: Andy Klibowitz; 10: Bradley Starken; 8: Bradley Starken. Girl's 16: Krystal Csuk; 14: Krystal Csuk; 12: Natalie Starken; 10: Natalie Starken.

• **Broomfield, Colorado** — Men's Open: Mike Johnston; A: Brook Spindler; B: Brian Bolig; C: Marc DeHart; D: Jay Hoinville; All-Age: Craig Spencer; 6-multi: John Sanderson; 8-multi: Stephen Brandt; 8: Mark Beaudry; 10: Matt Johnson; 12: Patrick DeBord; 14: Joel Worthington; 16: David Liakos; 18: Willie Tilton; 25: Brian Pointelin; 30: Lee Beckwith; 35: Mark Helton; 40: Tom Rall; 45: Gary Mazaroff; 50: Mark Morse; 55: Terry Dees; 60: Dick Manson; 65: Michael Martin. Women's Open: Jo Shattuck; A: Anita Hammond; B: Connie Wong; C: Shelly Stetler; D: Erica Beaudry; All-Age: Kristen Walsh; 8-multi: Melissa Garcia; 10: Kimberly Walsh; 12: Jesi Fuller; 14: Melanie Mueller; 16: Megan Bals; 25: Jo Shattuck; 30: Haley Wahongi; 35: Marianne Walsh; 40: Martha Bailey; 45: Madelon Eichhorn.

• **Canton, Ohio** — Men's Open: Dan Obremski; A: Billy Barker; B: Brandon Shoemaker; C: Marc Clayborn; D: Jeff Massoni; Novice: Eric Fritchley; 10: Anthony Arms; 12: Brandon Shoemaker; 14: Jack Huczek; 16: Jack Huczek; 18: Paul Strike; 19: Matt Adesso; 25: Tim Stanton; 30: Frank Poletta; 35: Ralph Molet; 40: Clee Melvin; 45: Denny Vincent; 50: Ray Huss; 55: Ron Hutcherson; 60: Harrold Forrey; 65: John O'Donnell. Women's Open: Elaine Mardas; A: Deb McCament; B: Terry Truvillion; C: Julie Knapp; D: Mary Joe Hodgkinson; Novice: Nikki Winfrey; 10: Nikki Winfrey; 12: Kimberly Irons; 14: Crystal Winfrey; 25: Susan Drye; 30: Mary Bickley.

• **Fayetteville, New York** — Men's Open: Anthony DeFusto; A: Charles Emmel; B: Matt Malowski; C: James Coles; D: Matt McDonald; 10: Matthew Emmel; 12: Dan Klemperer; 14: Bobby Tantalo; 16: Fred Tantalo III; 24: Scott Grunin; 25: Anthony DeFusto; 30: Pat Bernardo; 35: Steve Hatchey; 40: Mike Bull; 45: Bruce Shafer; 50: Neil Shapiro; 55: Herman Neumeier; 60: Ron Crawford. Women's Open: Marcia Hartz; D: Jessica Wood; 14: Jen Ersek.

• **Ft. Lauderdale, Florida** — Men's Open: James Lorello; A: Silvio Rostran; B: Jason Bledsoe; C: Matthew Leibowitz; D: Jesus Ingo; All-Age: Alain Pujolar; 25: James Lorello; 30: Curtis Winter; 35: Tim

Hansen; 40: Mitt Layton; 45: Rick Rusari; 50: Russ Deegan; 55: Jack Ross; 60: Don Alt; 65: Don Alt; 75: Carlos Sena. Women's Open: Teri Lawrence; A: Yesenia Delbusto; B: Belinda Dettman; C: Vivian Gomez; D: Annette Schneider; 25: Yesenia Delbusto; 30: Teri Lawrence; 35: Melanie Britton; 40: Cari Kresa; 50: Agatha Falso.

• **Ft. Smith, Arkansas** — Men's Open: Josh Tucker; A: Ed Ericson; B: Steve Terry; C: Bruce Gruszcza; D: Jon Hardy; Novice: Chris Paole; All-Age: Adam Clapper; 8-multi: Matthew Machiran; 8: Matthew Machiran; 10: Chris Coy; 12: E.J. Basta; 14: Erik Leetch; 16: Josh Tucker; 18: Jason Von Kaenel; 25: John Cantrell; 30: Ed Ericson; 35: Dave Watson; 40: Ed Basta; 45: David Dennis; 50: Terry Albright; 55: John Gleaton; 60: Roy Rudichuk; 65: Ken Karmel. Women's Open: Linda Moore; A: Kristen Kovar; B: Grace Jaworsky; C: Rose Malden; D: Dianne Elmore; All-Age: Kim Machiran; 8-multi: Alicin Schmelong; 12: Brittany Lawson; 14: Kristen Kovar; 16: Natasha Elmore; 18: Katie Gould; 25: Stephanie Bird; 35: Kim Machiran; 40: Linda Moore; 45: Patricia Weaver; 55: Annabelle Kovar.

• **Las Vegas, Nevada** — Men's Open: Michael Bronfeld; A: Jose Medina; B: Gabriel Medina; C: Arturo de Pablo; D: Arturo de Pablo; All-Age: Mike McPhee; 24: Scott Foster; 25: Dave Genevay; 30: John Ivers; 35: Joe Hassey; 40: Dave Schwent; 45: Paul Lee; 50: John Aldape; 55: Luis Guerrero; 60: Jerry Holly; 65: Vance Lemer; 70: Ossie Schulz; 75: Ossie Schulz. Women's Open: Kersten Hallander; A: Debbie Fiordilino; B: Debbie Chen; C: Beverly Austin; D: Jennifer Quon; 30: Mindy Hartstein; 35: Debbie Tisinger; 40: Dena Rassenti-Dizgun.

• **Lilburn, Georgia** — Men's Open: Dave Sable; A: Mike Ginn; B: Scott Panyi; C: Kevin Brand; D: Jerry Gibson; All-Age: Mark Hurst; 25: David Smith; 30: Doug Dicks; 35: David Lockridge; 40: Gary Gloeggler; 45: Jim Harvey; 50: Wayne Vincent; 55: Warren Reuther; 60: Gene Fox; 65: Clement McIntosh; 70: Hank Richard; 75: Hank Richard; 80: George Spear. Women's Open: Kim Russell; A: Victoria Carpenter; B: Barbara Bowd; C: Nathania Stewart; D: Kathleen Noal; All-Age: Kim Herrold; 25: Kim Herrold; 35: Sheila Collins; 40: Vicki Luque; 45: Debbie Chaney; 50: Kathleen Noal; 60: Jane Graham.

• **Manchester, New Hampshire** — Men's Open: Eric Muller; AA: Jack Sondras; A: Dick Holt; B: Sam Serrano; C: John Fera; D: Dave Aldrich; All-Age: Mike Patalano; Jr.: Matt Moccia; Jr.+: Andy Teixeira; 25: Josh Messina; 30: David Barnes; 35: Chuck Gates; 40: Chuck Gates; 45: Isaac Laughinghouse; 50: Bill Flannery; 55: Don Harrington; 60: Frank Trask; 65: Frank Trask; 70: Mike Friedman; 75: Mike Friedman. Women's Open: Janell Marriott; AA: Karen Denu; A: Elaine Ransom; B: Karen Roykouff; C: Karen Roykouff; D: Sharon Stevens; 30: B.J. Ehrgott; 35: Roz Petronelli; 40: Debbie Brown.

• **Portland, Oregon [Junior Region 15]** — Boy's 18: Erin Brannigan; 16: Stephen Lewis; 14: Bart Crawford; 12: Chris Meyer; 10: Joey Lakowske; 8: Nick Arturo; 8-multi: Brandon Callihan; 6-multi: Erick Podwill. Girl's 18: Brooke Crawford; 16: Brooke Crawford; 14: Amy Hollingsworth; 12: Derai Darling; 10: Ashley Legget; 8: Brittany Legget; 8-multi: Brittany Legget; 6-multi: Nicole Robinson.

• **Stockton, California** — Men's Open: Rocky Carson; A: Dan Gong; B: C.J. Shaffer; C: Jake Larios; D: Raymond Gong; All-Age: Franco Palmer; 10: Andrew Grissom; 12: Timmy Marshall; 14: Bart Crawford; 16: Scott Foster; 18: Rocky Carson; 25: John Boswell; 30: Ron Freeman; 35: Steve Wattz; 40: Steve Wattz; 45: Gene Pare; 50: Hal Price; 60: Ken Moore; 65: John Reid. Women's Open: Kersten Hallander; A: Karen Schmidt; B: Esther McNany; C: Keri Palko; 12: Trinity Garcia; 14: Annie Hammons; 16: Annie Hammons; 25: Peggie Callahan; 30: Lydia Hammock; 35: Jody Nance; 40: Terry Ann Rogers; 45: Terry Ann Rogers; 50: Nidia Funes; 55: Nidia Funes.

• **Tacoma, Washington** — Men's Open: Jimmy Lowe; A: Jim Julich; B: Greg Theer; C: Art High; D: Rob Day; Novice: Rob Day; 25: Rich Carver; 30: Jimmy Lowe; 35: Dan Hardan; 40: Rick Howick; 45: C.J. Flores; 50: John Aldape; 55: Dick Melhart; 60: Sid Williams; 65: Ron Myers. Women's Open: Charlotte Loyola; A: Nicole Schultz; B: Pat Bentz; C: Stephanie Lynch; D: Barb Platt; Novice: Kastle Arturo; All-Age: Nicole Schultz; 25: Nicole Schultz; 30: Carol Bastien; 35: Kim Wilkerson; 40: Carol Davis; 45: Charlotte Loyola; 50: Donna Johnson; 60: Susan Embry.

team news

by Craig Rappaport • U.S. Junior Team Assistant Coach

Junior Team Profile: Rocky Carson

Rocky Carson is the name of the future for racquetball. His amazing racquet skills, strong court presence, and competitive spirit have moved him to the top of junior racquetball. Watch for this senior basketball and baseball star at Valley Christian Academy in Santa Maria, California to be one of the names of the future in racquetball.

At the age of 17, Rocky's racquetball resume is packed with numerous national and world titles. Beginning in 1990, Rocky scored his first junior national title in the 10 and under singles. Rocky returned to championship form in the 1992 Junior Nationals winning the 12 and under singles and placing second in doubles with partner Tyler Siggins. Rocky won his third national title at the 1993 Junior Nationals playing in the 14 and under singles, and placed third in doubles with Siggins. The next year was a carbon copy repeat, with Rocky winning the 14 singles and third in doubles.

Rocky had an excellent year in 1995. In May, he earned his first title at the adult National Singles in Houston by winning the Men's A division. In June, Rocky won his fifth junior national singles title in the



16 and under and placed third in the 18- doubles with Richie Wagner. After being named to the 1995-96 Junior Team USA, Rocky won two junior world titles (16 singles and doubles).

Continuing his solid improvement in 1996, Rocky reached new heights. After placing second at the National High School Championships, Rocky proceeded to win his sixth junior national title in the 16's and placed second in the 18- doubles. Also at the Junior Nationals, Rocky was awarded the male Junior Athlete of the Year award. Competing in the U.S. Open Championships in Memphis, Rocky won the men's 24 and under division for his eighth national title. In December 1996, Rocky concluded the year competing for Junior Team USA at the Junior World Championships where he won the 18 and under world singles title.

This year, Rocky hopes to add to this already lengthy list of accomplishments at the National Singles, the Junior Nationals, the U.S. Open, and the Junior World Championships.

Rocky's tremendous ability and winning attitude has resulted in an already amazing eight national titles and three junior world titles. Look for Rocky Carson to continue his improvement and rise to the top of the racquetball world.

Summer Vacation – Team Style

Members of Junior Team USA will split up into three squads to travel abroad for goodwill tours to promote junior racquetball in Canada and Puerto Rico in mid-July. Sara Borland, Brooke Crawford, James Ford, Lianna Kerwood and chaperone Jen Yokota will take off for Montreal; Maggie DeBord, Rhonda Rajsich, Tyler Siggins, Willie Tilton, Shane Vanderson and chaperone Carol Pellowski will visit Saskatoon; and Erin Brannigan, Kori Grasha, Sadie Gross, Melissa Harmon, Ryan Staten and "team mom" Gina Staten will tour Puerto Rico.

On August 15-21, Junior Team Trials will be held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. At this camp, 44 juniors who qualified through the initial junior team application process will be trying out for the team. Sixteen athletes will be selected and will represent the U.S. at the Junior World Championships in December.



CAROL PELLOWSKI RECENTLY JOINED THE COACHING STAFF OF THE U.S. JUNIOR TEAM, AS AN ASSISTANT COACH. PHOTO: JOHN FOUST.



The Right Way For Seniors To Cross The Bar

Study after study shows that active seniors live happier, healthier, longer lives – or does it just seem that way?

If you are interested in finding out what 3,500 senior athletes (50 and above) from all over the United States and a dozen foreign countries think about it, join them at the eleventh annual Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, Utah, October 13-24, 1997.

Competition includes cycling, softball, swimming, tennis, bowling, racquetball, track and field, basketball, golf, horseshoes, table tennis, triathlon (individual and team), basketball free throw and 3-point shoot, mountain biking, bridge, volleyball and roadracing events.

Huntsman World Senior Games Eleventh Anniversary

St. George, Utah – October 13-24, 1997

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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82 West 700 South, St. George, UT 84770



1997 30th U.S. NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION ...

• **ENTRY DEADLINE:** Entry must be received by Wednesday, OCTOBER 1, (postmarked no later than Sept. 29). All entries are final, with absolutely no refunds after the deadline date. • **ENTRY FEE:** \$65.00 First Event (includes referee fee), \$35.00 Second Event. A third event is allowed ONLY in the MIXED 55+ through 85+ divisions, for a \$15.00 fee. • **LATE FEES:** If any entries are accepted after the deadline, an additional \$15.00 late fee will be assessed (payment made at tournament check-in will be processed as a late entry and surcharged).

• **STARTING TIMES:** Starting times will be available on-site after 5:00 pm on Monday, October 13. Please do not call the national office for starting times! ... Call 602/285-2929.

• **OFFICIATING:** \$5.00 of each entry fee will be paid back to you for every match you referee. Director of Referees: Otto Dietrich.

Be prepared to start play on:		
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10/15	10/16	10/17
MO	M55	M70
M All-Skill	M60	M75
M All-Age	M65	M80
M25	WO	W50
M30	W All-Skill	W55
M35	W All-Age	W60
M40	W25	W65
M45	W30	W70
M50	W35	W75
	W40	W80
	W45	
All Mixed Divisions		

including full cook-to-order breakfast and two hours of complimentary cocktails each evening for \$149.00/night. You must make your reservations by September 20 AND mention National Doubles to receive these tournament rates. • **TRANSPORTATION:** The airport is 20 miles from the club/hotel and transporta-

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October 15-21
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• **LODGING:** The Lexington Hotel [602/279-9811] is located in the same building as the tournament facility. Rate: \$78.00/night for up to four persons per room. Quality Hotel & Resort [602/248-0222] is located two blocks from the club. Rate: \$78.00/night. Hilton Suites [602/222-1111] offers two-room suites,

tion must be arranged prior to arrival. Call Super Shuttle @ 602/253-6300 and ask for the USRA special rate. • **HOSPITALITY:** At least one meal per day will be provided for entrants. • **TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS:** Margo Daniels, National Tournament Director @ 408/372-7224; Jim Hiser, USRA Associate Executive Director @ 719/635-5396, ext. 30.

NEED TO KNOW ...

Rules: USRA Official Rules will govern competition, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards.

In open divisions, only U.S. citizens may compete, and only one serve is allowed. **Age Requirement:** For age division competition, players must meet the age requirement as of the first day of the tournament.

Amateur Status: Only amateurs may participate. A professional is defined as anyone who has accepted prize money in the preceding 12 months, regardless of

amount, in any IRT/WIRT pro-sanctioned tournament or any other events so deemed as professional events by the USRA Board of Directors. **Membership:** A USRA competitive license membership is required of all participants. At registration, entrants must present a current membership card, a receipt, or a cancelled check indicating recent enrollment as proof of membership, or purchase a competitive license membership on site.

Drug Testing: The U.S. Olympic Committee's Drug Testing Program will be used at this event. A positive result for an IOC banned substance will be cause for disqualification from this event, and for loss of eligibility for a minimum of six (6) months by the USRA. Only OPEN players will be tested. By registering to compete, you are consenting to the drug test on a sample of your urine, and subject to its penalties if found positive for a banned substance. Testing is mandatory; non-compliance will result in the same penalty as a positive drug test. For more information about specific medications call the Drug Hotline at 1-800-233-0393.

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national•doubles•

ENTRY FORM (Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Partner _____ Division _____

Partner _____ Division _____

*Third division for MIXED competition in 55+ through 85+ ONLY

Partner _____ Division _____

NOTE: Regional doubles competition is not required for competition at national doubles. However, for seeding purposes, you may cite any regional doubles titles or accomplishments below.

Regional _____ Div. & Finish _____

EQUIPMENT SURVEY

Racquet _____ Glove _____

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WAIVER

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the USRA, Ektelon, Penn Racquet Sports, the City Square Sports Club, or their respective agents for any and all injuries. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can certify in writing that my protective eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USRA Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the USRA/USOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature & Date

(Parent/Guardian if entrant is under 18)

Entry form is not complete – nor is entry accepted – without check for correct amount enclosed, required signatures affixed and all information provided. Any payment made at tournament check-in will be processed as a late entry – and surcharged a \$15.00 late fee.

MEN	•Divisions•	WOMEN
_____	Open	_____
_____	All-Skill	_____
_____	All-Age	_____
_____	25+	_____
_____	30+	_____
_____	35+	_____
_____	40+	_____
_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____

MIXED DOUBLES DIVISIONS

_____	MX Open	_____	MX 50+
_____	MX All-Skill	_____	MX 55+
_____	MX All-Age	_____	MX 60+
_____	MX 25+	_____	MX 65+
_____	MX 30+	_____	MX 70+
_____	MX 35+	_____	MX 75+
_____	MX 40+	_____	MX 80+
_____	MX 45+	_____	MX 85+

ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENT

First event (\$65.00) _____

Second event (\$35.00) _____

*Third event (in MIXED 55+ through 85+ ONLY) (\$15.00) _____

USRA Competitive License

Membership fee (\$20.00) _____

Late fee (\$15.00) _____

Tax deductible donation

to U.S. Team \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Use your USRA MBNA credit card to charge your entry, and receive an additional 10% off your fees. Only MBNA charges receive this discount!

MC/Visa _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

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1685 West Uintah

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1997

(Postmarked no later than September 29)



changingtimes • by Luke St. Onge

Board Report — A three-day meeting of the USRA Board of Directors was held in Houston during Nation Singles, where newly-elected board members Otto Dietrich - Ga. (elected with 48% of the votes); Annie Muniz - Tx. (36%); and Carlton Vass - S.C. (38%) were

welcomed. Other highlights of that meeting follow.

Financial • Approved, in concept, an action plan which stipulates that the USRA maintain a 10% financial reserve, based upon budget, to be in place within three years. • Voted unanimously to discontinue the practice of offering any/all complementary entries into national events, effective June 1, 1997. • Approved the 1997-1998 USRA budget with noted revisions.

Competitions & Programs • *U.S. Open* — Approved a resolution stating that amateur events will remain a part of the U.S. Open; Approved a resolution that, for the men and women pros, all non-prize-money benefits will be distributed equally; Approved an additional

\$2,500 toward the women's prize purse and approved the concept that, in future U.S. Open's, the women's prize money will not be allocated at less than 50% of the men's. • Approved support and sanction for the *Tournament of the Americas* to be held Easter Week in Houston 1999. • Approved the following locations for selected national events: *High Schools* — 1998-St. Louis; 1999-Oregon; 2000-St. Louis; *Intercollegiates* — 1998-Phoenix; *Singles* — 1998-Houston, Texas.

• *Intercollegiate Nationals* — A thorough review of the intercollegiate program was undertaken, with the following recommendations accepted: 1) Regional qualifiers will remain mandatory for 1998, with the added possibility of conducting them in conjunction with established, existing tournaments; 2) Charged the national staff with revamping the current program to make it viable, enabling the sport and the USRA to access the college market. The first phase will concentrate on the competitive program plan to be implemented within the current USRA fiscal year (May 97 - June 98). • Adapted unanimously the *USRA/Ektelon Boys and Girls Club* program of recirculating used racquetball racquets to a one-wall developmental program to promote racquetball to disadvantaged and inter-city children. • Approved April as *Racquetball Month*.

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59

MEN

Men's Open

1. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
2. Dan Obremski, PA
3. Michael Bronfeld, CA
4. Dan Llacer, DE
5. Todd O'Neil, TX
6. Not a Member
7. Jimmy Lowe, AK
8. Mike Locker, MN
9. Brian Fredenberg, TX
10. Tim Hansen, FL

Men's A

- 1T. Ralph Cuesta, FL
- 1T. Dan Pischke, WA
3. Jeff Gal, NY
4. Dan Gong, CA
5. Mike Harmon, FL
6. Silvio Rostran, FL
7. Ken Fairchild, NJ
- 8T. Scott Foster, CA
- 8T. Steve Tillotson, CA
10. Billy Barker, OH

Men's B

1. Sam Ryder, WI
2. Craig Citti, IL
3. Not a Member
4. George Anthon, LA
5. Mike O'Donoghue, DE
6. Fabrizio Avelar, FL
7. Hector Martinez, AR
8. Mark Bianchi, OK
9. Sam Serrano, MA
10. Cory Martin, WI

Men's C

1. Kevin Brand, SC
2. John Garcia, NM
3. Joseph Austin Jr., LA
- 4T. Not a Member
- 4T. Preston Gaster, NC
6. Marc Dehart, CO
7. Lynn Stephens, NC
8. Not a Member
9. Chris Underwood, GA
10. Scott Remsen, MA

Men's D

1. Leonard Toth, TX
2. Jerry Gibson, TN
3. Jon Hardy, AR
4. Ray Meisner, IL
5. Bryan Jacoby, SC
6. Ryan Kinnaman, AR
7. Raymond Gong, CA
8. Nick Kritzer, IL
9. Joe Sherrill, LA
10. Jason Smith, GA

Men's Novice

- 1T. Josh Chronister, PA
- 1T. Chris Poole Jr., AR
- 3T. Rob Day, WA
- 3T. Dan Fowler, GA
- 3T. Eric Fritchley, OH
- 3T. Lou Lappan, PA
- 3T. Scott Lubbers, MI
- 3T. Jesse Wells, TX
9. Not a Member, AR
10. Steve Cerezo, DE

Men's All Age

1. Scott Grunin, NY
2. Mike Dennison, OH
- 3T. Rob Dejesus, NM
- 3T. Brian Simpson, IN
- 5T. Nick Xynidis, FL
- 5T. Willie Tilton, CO
7. Ryan Homa, WI
- 8T. Matt Adesso, OH
- 8T. Aaron Metcalf, FL
10. Jeffrey Garner, AL

Men's 25+

1. Mike Locker, MN
- 2T. Rich Baer, NY
- 2T. James Lorello, FL
4. Anthony Defusto, NY
5. Brian Pointelin, CO
6. Adam Kemp, FL
- 7T. Not a Member
- 7T. John Cantrell, KS
- 7T. Brian Fredenberg, TX
- 7T. Aaron Metcalf, FL

Men's 30+

1. Brad McCunniff, IA
2. Gregg Peck, TX
3. Dan Llacer, DE
- 4T. John Barrett, PA
- 4T. Lance Gilliam, TX
- 4T. John Negrete, IL
- 4T. John Scargle, FL
- 8T. Not a Member
- 8T. Pat Bernardo, NY
- 8T. Not a Member

Men's 35+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Tim Hansen, FL
4. Dave Eagle, OH
5. Gil Rodriguez, VA
6. John Scargle, FL
7. Joe Hassey, AZ
8. Jeff Hanno, NY
- 9T. Not a Member
- 9T. Not a Member

Men's 40+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Terry Fluharty, FL
3. Ruben Gonzalez, NY

4. Gene Couch, FL
5. Mark Baron, VA
6. Steve Neighbors, ID
7. Ron Burris, FL
8. Clee Melvin, MI
9. Glen Huey, TX
10. Chuck Gates, NH

Men's 45+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Gary Mazaroff, NM
3. Darryl Warren, CA
4. Jim Luzar, WI
5. Jerry Dye, TX
6. Not a Member
7. Rick Fusari, FL
8. Don Scales, TX
9. Greg Hasty, IL
10. Not a Member

Men's 50+

1. Ed Remen, VA
2. John Aldape, ID
3. Stan Lemon, TX
4. Tom McKie, TX
5. Ray Huss, OH
6. Dennis O'Brien, ID
7. Not a Member
8. Russ Deegan, FL
9. Scott Rudoni, CA
10. R.O. Carson, CA

Men's 55+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Les Barbanell, NJ
3. Warren Reuther, LA
- 4T. Ron Hutcherson, IN
- 4T. Roger Wehrle, GA
6. Bobby Sanders, OH
7. Luis Guerrero, CA
8. Rex Lawler, IN
9. Fred Letter, NJ
10. Charlie Garfinkel, NY

Men's 60+

1. Paul Banales, AZ
2. Jerry Holly, CA
3. Jerry Stoltmann, WI
4. Jack Dunsmoor, ID
- 5T. David Jordan, NJ
- 5T. Ron Maggard, MO
7. Joe Lambert, TX
- 8T. Don Alt, FL
- 8T. Mike Jackson, CT
- 8T. Hugh Morrison, IL

Men's 65+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Vance Lerner, CA
3. John Reid, CA
4. Verlyn Dunn, ID
- 5T. Don Alt, FL
- 5T. Otis Chapman, OH
- 5T. Charles Kaiser, MI

8. Pearce Grove, VA
9. Jack Bogasky, VA
10. Ken Karmel, AR

Men's 70+

1. Mal Roberts, FL
- 2T. Dick Kincade, CO
- 2T. Victor Sacco, NY
4. Hank Richard, GA
5. Earl Acuff, NC
- 6T. Marvin Rosenberg, NJ
- 6T. Ken Yahiro, IL
8. Nick Sans, CA
- 9T. Not a Member
- 9T. Not a Member

Men's 75+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Robert McAdam, TX
3. Nick Sans, CA
4. Hank Richard, GA
- 5T. George Spear, FL
- 5T. Luzell Wilde, UT
- 7T. Don Goddard, MT
- 7T. Bill Matotan, NM
- 7T. Carlos Sena, FL
10. Al Romero, NM

Men's 80+

1. George Spear, FL
2. Harry Steinman, MD
3. Harmon Minor, CO
4. C. Allen Shepherd, MD
- 5T. John Pearce, TX
- 5T. Andy Trozzi, MA
7. Walt Mosenthal, MA
8. Hank Richard, TX

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Michelle Gould, ID
2. Kersten Hallander, CA
3. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
4. Lydia Hammock, CA
5. Denise Mock, TX
6. Kori Grasha, NY
7. Robin Rodriguez, AK
8. Roz Petronelli, MA
9. Elaine Mardas, OH
10. Marcia Hartz, NY

Women's A

1. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
2. Michele Kinaan, CA
3. Dianne Weissbach, MA
4. Karen Schmidt, CA
5. Megan Bals, NE
6. Jeanette Coury, TX
- 7T. Deborah Mustone, VA
- 7T. Carol Zimlinghaus, CO
- 9T. Joanna Boyte, NC
- 9T. Debbie Fiordilino, NJ

Women's B

1. Bonnie Mobley, TX
2. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
3. Belinda Dettman, FL
4. Kelly Goddard, VA
5. Alina Polak, FL
- 6T. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 6T. Grace Jaworsky, KS
- 8T. Angie Davis, AK
- 8T. Leslie Miller, IL
- 8T. Bonnie Morrell, PA

Women's C

1. Heather Elliott, FL
2. Not a Member
3. Nathania Stewart, GA
4. Kassi Herr, FL
5. Sheri Kinnaman, AK
- 6T. Jesi Fuller, NM
- 6T. Susan Huntsman, TX
8. Laurie Gordon, CT
9. Juliana Mayor, NY
10. Becky Bostick, KY

Women's D

1. Terry Truvillion, MI
2. Kathleen Neal, GA
- 3T. Erica Beaudry, CO
- 3T. Gail Gabrysh, TX
- 3T. Judy Mancuso, VA
6. Sharon Stevens, MA
- 7T. Terri Hench, FL
- 7T. Cheryl Stamps, AR
9. Tricia Antoine, LA
10. Alicia Matza, CA

Women's Novice

1. Lourdes Rivera, FL
2. Kastle Arturo, AK
- 3T. Lisa Barrett, PA
- 3T. Not a Member
- 3T. Linda Gubitose, PA
- 3T. Not a Member
- 3T. Nikki Winfrey, OH
8. Kelly Bruns, VA
9. Not a Member
10. Chris Parks, IN

Women's Age

- 1T. Shannon Feaster, DC
- 1T. Sadie Gross, SD
3. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
4. Vanessa Tulao, NC
- 5T. Erika Juhl, DE
- 5T. Aimee Roehler, PA
- 7T. Kim Machiran, MO
- 7T. Nicole Schultz, OR
9. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
10. Linda Moore, NE

Women's 25+

1. Michelle Wiragh, MD
- 2T. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
- 2T. Elaine Mardas, OH
4. Jen Yokota, MO

rankings...rankings

5. Thelma Ruhlen, VA
 6T. Peggene Callahan, CA
 6T. Jo Shattuck, CO
 8T. Tina Bragdon, CO
 8T. Sue Cox, FL
 8T. Isabel Delgado, FL

Women's 30+

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 2. Lydia Hammock, CA
 3. Not a Member
 4T. Bridget Barron, TX
 4T. Debbie Tisinger, CA
 6. Teri Lawrence, FL
 7. Lisa Papp, GA
 8. Sheri Viscount, DE
 9T. Holly Desportes, NC
 9T. Stacy Sour, CO

Women's 35+

1. Debbie Tisinger, CA
 2. Denise Mock, TX
 3. Kim Machiran, MO
 4T. Mary Beke, AZ
 4T. Mary Bickley, PA
 6. Roz Petronelli, MA
 7T. Not a Member
 7T. Janet Tyler, FL
 7T. Kim Wilkerson, OR
 10. Carol Bastien, IL

Women's 40+

1. Linda Moore, NE
 2. Not a Member
 3. Val Shewfelt, UT
 4. Susan Pfahler, FL
 5T. Mary Bickley, PA
 5T. Janice Chayt, VA
 5T. Janell Marriott, RI
 8. Karen Bouchard, FL
 9. Brenda White, IL
 10. Martha Bailey, CO

Women's 45+

1. Janet Myers, NC
 2. Eileen Tuckman, FL
 3. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
 4. Shelley Ogden, OH
 5. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 6. Debbie Chaney, IN
 7T. Renee Fish, FL
 7T. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
 9. Karen Weins, FL
 10. Judy Sands, NJ

Women's 50+

1. Agatha Falso, FL
 2. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 3. Merjean Kelley, CA
 4. Pattie Schof, LA
 5T. Nidia Funes, CA
 5T. Margaret Hoff, IL
 5T. Donna Johnson, ID
 8T. Not a Member
 8T. Carol Pellowski, SI
 10. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR

Women's 55+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 2. Marquita Molina, CA
 3. Jo Kenyon, FL
 4. Rose Stoltmann, WI
 5. Nancy Butts, WI
 6. Annabelle Kovar, NE
 7. Mildred Gwinn, NC
 8. Pauline Kelly, IL
 9. Not a Member
 10. Nidia Funes, CA

Women's 60+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
 2. Helen Dunsmoor, ID
 3. Susan Embry, CA
 4. Kathy Mueller, MI
 5. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 6. Jane Graham, GA
 7T. Norma Carlisle, US
 7T. Lola Markus, IL
 9T. Naomi Eads, MO
 9T. Not a Member

Women's 65+

1. Lola Markus, IL
 2. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 3. Reta Harring, WI
 4T. Paula McNeish, FL
 4T. Not a Member
 6. Not a Member
 7T. Louise Kiss, NM
 7T. B.G. Railey, TX
 7T. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA

Women's 70+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 2. Not a Member
 3T. Beth Keene, TX
 3T. Roberta Schoenfeld, NM
 5. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 2. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR
 3. Christine Stephens, TX

BOYS

Boy's 8 & Under

1T. Mark Beaudry, CO
 1T. Alan Crockett, AL
 1T. Jamin Godwin, FL
 1T. Conner Reynolds, GA
 5. Harrison Slocum, FL
 6T. Jansen Allen, TX
 6T. Nick Arturo, AR
 8T. Bryce Milakovich, CA
 8T. Not a Member
 10. Colin Stock, OR

B8- Multi-Bounce

1T. Justin Asuncion, MA
 1T. Matthew Machiran, MO

3T. Andy Bertagnoli, WI

3T. Stephen Brandt, NM
 3T. Kenneth Green, GA
 3T. Colin Stock, OR
 7. Tim Tilton, CO
 8. Not a Member
 9. Korey Walsh, UT
 10. Brandon Callihan, AK

Boy's 10-

1. Eddie Mazur, CT
 2. Drew Toland, AR
 3. Charlie Pratt, OR
 4. Matthew Emmel, NY
 5. Joey Lakowske, OR
 6. Matt Johnson, NM
 7. Jamin Godwin, FL
 8T. Not a Member
 8T. David Lewis, CO
 10. Chris Coy, OK

Boy's 12-

1. Clay Burris, FL
 2. Patrick Debord, NE
 3. Seth Parker, PA
 4. Andrew Kopf, NY
 5T. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
 5T. Brad Slocum, FL
 7. Adrian Anulewicz, CT
 8. Chris Meyer, OR
 9. Dan Sheppick, OR
 10. Omri Buzi, TX

Boy's 14-

1. Bart Crawford, OR
 2. Bobby Tantalo, NY
 3. Erik Leetch, AR
 4. Matt Lobene, NY
 5. Michael Lawrence, AL
 6. Joel Worthington, KS
 7. Trevor Crowe, OR
 8. Matthew McElhiney, FL
 9. Patric Mascorro, TX
 10. Jack Huczak, MI

Boy's 16-

1. Jeffrey Garner, AL
 2. Fred Tantalo III, NY
 3T. Marcus Hughes, GA
 3T. Stephen Mykalcio, NY
 5. Mike Harmon, FL
 6. Nick Giunta, OR
 7T. Not a Member
 7T. Brad Jantz, WI
 7T. David Liakos, NE
 7T. Adam Tueller, UT

Boy's 18-

1. Erin Brannigan, ID
 2. Jeffrey Garner, AL
 3. Brandon Henline, GA
 4. Rocky Carson, CA
 5. Larry Peek, FL
 6. Willie Tilton, CO
 7T. Dustin Baker, PA
 7T. Stephen Mykalcio, NY

7T. Ryan Staten, KS

10. Bucky Freeman, TX

GIRLS

Girl's 8 & Under

1. Brittany Legget, OR
 2. Jenny Epstein, NY
 3. Rebeka Kopf, NY
 4T. Sarah Moyle, OR
 4T. Ashley Willhite, OR
 6T. Brandi Alexander, LA
 6T. Shannon Inglesby, OR
 7T. Sharon Jackson, IN
 7T. Not a Member
 10. Brihanna Elder, MD

G8- Multi-Bounce

1. Brittany Leggett, OR
 2. Kara Mazur, CT
 3. Sarah Moyle, OR
 4. Melissa Garcia, NM
 5. Rebeka Kopf, NY
 6T. Jenny Epstein, NY
 6T. Shannon Inglesby, OR
 6T. Alicia Schmeling, OK
 8. Christine McCracken, NM
 10. Nicole Robinson, OR

Girl's 10

1. Jenny Hough, MD
 2. Ashley Legget, OR
 3T. Katie Lyons, FL
 3T. Natalie Starken, WI
 5. Brandie Hanson, OR
 6. Nikki Winfrey, OH
 7. Kimberly Walsh, UT
 8T. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 8T. Kelley Fisher, OH
 10. Jessie Ballard, UT

Girl's 12-

1. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
 2. Kimberly Irons, OH
 3. Mary Sweeney, NY
 4. Katherine Stock, OR
 5. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
 6T. Erica Beaudry, CO
 6T. Jesi Fuller, NM
 6T. Grace Leutele, AZ
 9. Brittany Larson, OK
 10. Brandie Hanson, OR

Girl's 14-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
 2. Juliana Mayor, NY
 3. Jen Ersek, NY
 4. Melanie Mueller, CO
 5. Mary Sweeney, NY
 6. Kristen Kovar, NE
 7T. Krystal Csuk, IL
 7T. Crystal Winfrey, OH
 9. Adva Buzi, TX
 10. Amanda Labelle, ME

Girl's 16-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR
 2. Megan Bals, NE
 3. Meghan Guardiani, MA
 4. Jennifer Swallow, PA
 5. Krystal Csuk, IL
 6. Jennifer Bennett, UT
 7T. Davina Bloom, TX
 7T. Maggie Debord, NE
 7T. Natasha Elmore, AR
 7T. Annie Hammons, CA

Girl's 18-

1. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
 2. Brooke Crawford, OR
 3. Katie Gould, MO
 4. Liana Kerwood, OR
 5. Christina Lewendal, OR
 6. Melissa Harmon, FL
 7. Sara Borland, IA
 8. Kori Grasha, NY
 9. Erin Frost, OR
 10. Sadie Gross, SD

WHO'S "NOT A MEMBER"?

Since ranking services are a benefit of USRA membership, it is the policy of RACQUETBALL to publish the "Top-Ten" national rankings of members only.

Ranking lists are reviewed prior to each publication to ensure that all named "top-ten" athletes in their respective divisions are current members of the USRA. This means that — in order to maintain a position in the published top-ten — it is the ranked athlete's responsibility to make sure that his/her membership is in good standing year-round.

If you suspect that you might be among the "not a member" group — you'll want to call the national office at 719/635-5396 to confirm your status before the next issue goes to press (no later than Aug. 1st).

••••• **JULY** •••••

July 16
Georgia Games for
Racquetball
Georgia Tech
Student Athletic Ctr
Atlanta, GA
404-636-7575

July 18
July Jam
Courthouse
Racquet & Fitness
Vestavia Hills, AL
205-823-2120

The Way It
Wuz ... Again
Schoeber's
Athletic Club
Fremont, CA
510-794-9495

July 19
Summer Shoot-Out
Northwest
Fitness Center
Houston, TX
713-895-8688

Bluegrass State
Games @ University
of Kentucky
Seaton Center
Lexington, KY
606-288-6011

I Love Racquetball
Series
Aspen Hill Club
Silver Springs, MD
301-598-4200

4th Annual
Summerfest
Glass Court Swim
& Fitness
Lombard, IL
630-629-3390

••••• **AUGUST** •••••

August 1
Nutmeg State
Games
Downtown Health
& Racquet
New Haven, CT
203-248-1869

Ektelon Summer
Sizzler @ Hall of
Fame Racquetball
Club – Columbia
Heights, MN
612-572-0330

August 9
Friendly's
Racquetballathon
Nautilus Fitness
Center – Erie, PA
814-868-0072

One-Day State
Doubles Warm-up
Quad West AC
Clearwater, FL
813-535-4901

August 15
Doubles Warm-up
Miami Racquet &
Fitness – Miami, FL
305-225-2582

Summer Sizzler
Open @ Twin
Arbors Athletic Club
Lodi, CA
209-334-4897

August 22
Beach Party Open
Nehr @ Newington
Newington, CT
203-248-1869

I Love Racquetball
Aspen Hill Club
Silver Spring, MD
301-598-4200

Florida State
Doubles
South Florida
Racquetball Club
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
904-270-2224

August 26-30
IRF 9th

**World Senior
Racquetball
Championships**
• Tom Young's
Athletic Club
Albuquerque,
New Mexico
505-266-8960

August 29
Killshot Classic
Robious Sports
& Fitness
Richmond, VA
804-330-2222

••••• **SEPTEMBER** •••••

September 12
American Family
Open @ American
Family Fitness
Richmond, VA
804-330-3400

Fall Racquetball
Classic @ Maverick
Athletic Club
Arlington, TX
817-275-3348

Peter Peterson
Classic IX @ Hall of
Fame Racquetball
Club – Columbia
Heights, MN
612-572-0330

September 18
Crystal City Pro-Am
Skyline Clubs @
Crystal Gateway
Arlington, VA
703-527-7785

September 19
Jesse James Shootout
Olympus Ath. Club
Northfield, MN
645-8007

Connecticut State
Doubles @
Downtown Health
& Racquet
New Haven, CT
203-248-1869

July 25
Ballard Open
Olympic Athletic
Club – Seattle, WA
206-783-0427

August 8
Beltways
Championships
Bally Total Fitness-
Greenbelt
Greenbelt, MD
703-527-7785

August 21
Utah State Junior
Championships
Redwood Multi-
Purpose Center
West Valley City, UT
801-974-6923

August 28
Stockton Pro-Am
West Lane
Racquet Club
Stockton, CA
209-472-2100

calendar...calendar

BOLDED listings are State Championships (Level 3) or higher.

September 26

1st Annual KRA
Women's
Invitational
Downtown YMCA
Louisville, KY
502-231-3576

Regional Doubles
Racquetpower
Jacksonville, FL
904-270-2224

OCTOBER

October 3
Magic City Classic
Courtsouth
Racquet & Fitness
Vestavia Hills, AL
205-823-2120

October 15-19
Ektelon USRA
30th
National
Doubles
Championships
•City Square•
Sports Club
Phoenix, AZ
602-285-2929
[Entry on Pg.55]

1997 USRA NATIONAL EVENTS

JULY 16-19	NMRA International Masters Invitational Singles/Doubles: Las Vegas
AUGUST 26-30	IRF 9th World Senior Championships: Albuquerque
OCTOBER 15-19	Ektelon USRA 30th U.S. National Doubles Championships: Phoenix
NOVEMBER 12-16	Promus Hotel Corporation 2nd U.S. OPEN Championships: Memphis
DECEMBER 19-23	IRF 9th World Junior Championships: Fountain Valley, CA

1998 USRA NATIONAL EVENTS

JANUARY 15-17	USRA 14th Annual Leadership Conference: Colorado Springs, CO
JAN. 30 - FEB. 1	Women's Senior/Master National Championships: Canoga Park, CA
February	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational: Site TBA
March 06-08	Pro Kennex USRA 11th National High Schools: St. Louis, MO
NEW DATE! ...	for Intercollegiates!
March 25-29	E-Force USRA 29th National Intercollegiates: Phoenix, AZ
April 3-11	PARC 12th Tournament of the Americas PAN AM Qualifier: Winnipeg, CAN
NEW DATE! ...	for Regionals!
April 16-19	Ektelon USRA Regional Qualifier Championships: Nationwide

October 15
Halloween Open
Healthworks
Wallingford, CT
203-248-1869

October 17
Atlanta Classic
Cars Challenge
Concourse
Athletic Club
Atlanta, GA
770-698-2000

Kentucky State
Doubles
Downtown YMCA
Louisville, KY
502-231-3576

October 24
Tournament of
Terror @ Sequoia
Athletic Club &
Racquetball World
Canoga Park, CA
818-884-5034

October 26
Texas State
Doubles
Chancellors
Racquet & Fitness
Houston, TX
713-772-9955

NOVEMBER
November 1
ORA Intercollegiate
Singles @ Hall of
Fame Fitness Center
Canton, OH
614-890-6073

18th Annual
Kiwanis Club
Sarasota Family
YMCA
Sarasota, FL
941-952-9533

November
12-16
Promus Hotels
2nd U.S. OPEN
Racquetball
Championships
The Racquet
Club of
Memphis
Memphis,
Tennessee
800-284-5396
[See entry
brochure in center
of magazine]

Event Level & Description

Finish & Point Awards

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

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

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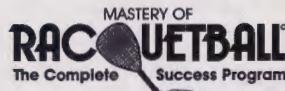
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COURT DONORS approach \$20,000 mark

Donations through June 9 total \$19,756.00 — which still leaves us quite a way to go before we reach the home stretch (the goal is \$75,000). Only then will we be able to have the permanent, traveling plaque made up to accompany the court on its journeys. So, if you've already given and would like to increase your gift (and perhaps jump into a higher category), it looks like you have plenty of time before the final list is memorialized in its permanent form. Make your contribution to the cause in the gold, silver, bronze or patron donor category, and become one of our very special portable court "builders." Call the USRA at 719/635-5396 to make your donation!

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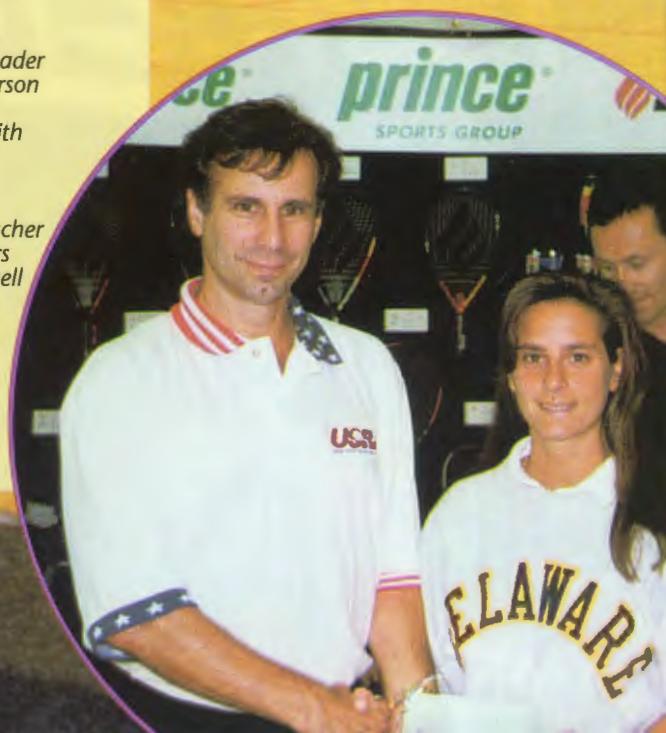
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