

A USA RACQUETBALL PUBLICATION • SUMMER 2018 • VOLUME 28 • ISSUE 2

RACQUETBALL

Rhonda
Rocks!!



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National
Singles
Intercollegiates

U.S. Racquetball Association
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PARC
Recap
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Team USA Selfie at the recent Pan American Racquetball Championships
Photo Courtesy of Janel Tisinger

ON THE COVER

Eight weeks after an impressive Gold Medal performance at the recent Pan American Racquetball Championships, Rhonda Rajsich went on to win her 11th US National Singles Title in dominating fashion.

Photo By: Gallemore Photography

Submissions

Racquetball Magazine welcomes submissions from our members and readers. If you have an idea for an article, propose it by email to: magazine@usaracquetball.com. All submissions are subject to editing.

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USA RACQUETBALL MISSION STATEMENT

USA Racquetball, recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport, is committed to our members and the growth of racquetball from recreational play to international competition.

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & TEAM QUALIFYING

All future National Championship details remain tentative until entries are published.

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFYING

In an effort to help ensure that the top American racquetball players have an equal and fair opportunity to qualify for the U.S. National Team, USA Racquetball adopted changes to the qualification process which began with the 2016-2017 U.S. National Team.

While the process for qualifying for doubles on the US Team is the same, the singles selection procedure is determined by performance on a weighted scale at three selection events:

- UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Pro Division
- U.S. Team Singles Qualifying Division at USA Racquetball National Doubles Championships
- U.S. Team Qualifying Division at USA Racquetball National Singles Championships

To learn more and for complete details, including the process to qualify for Elite Athlete Health Insurance, please visit <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/programs/team-usa>.

Board of Directors..

WORKING ON BEHALF OF RACQUETBALL AND ITS MEMBERS



This past April I had the opportunity to call three USA Racquetball members and let them know that they had been elected to the Board of Directors of USA Racquetball for three-year terms.

- Scott Fish, who is the chair of the USAR Membership Committee; a team coach for Oregon High School Racquetball; and runs his own digital marketing company; has been re-elected to the Board.
- Terry Rogers, California Nevada Association President; a member of the Military Racquetball Federation and Women's Senior Masters Boards; chair of the USAR Women's Committee; and also, a former USA Racquetball Board member; returns to the Board.
- Mike Kiedrowski was elected to serve his very first Board term. Mike comes from a fundraising and marketing background; has consulted for over 200 organizations (ranging from non-profits to presidential campaigns); and has raised over \$100 million in his past fundraising efforts.

What a great and diverse group! We are lucky to have these individuals on our team and working on behalf of USA Racquetball. All three were excited upon hearing they were elected, and each possesses a unique perspective on how they want to help strengthen our association. Thank you to everyone who voted in the March election -- you can be proud of the group that was appointed!

In addition to those three individuals, Mike Wedel was unanimously selected by the Board for a two-year appointment. Recently the Legislative Committee made a recommendation to the Board of Directors to allow for a second two-year appointed director to the Board. This came to fruition at the Annual Meeting, and Mike is the first to fill this new appointment. We are fortunate to have Mike return to the Board of Directors.

Continuing to serve on the board are our Athlete Representatives Michelle De La Rosa, Jose Diaz, and Aimee Ruiz along with Joel Barshaw, Thurman Brooks, Jonathan Clay, Cheryl Kirk, Joanne Pomodoro, and Cindy Tilbury. I'm excited to continue to work with this amazing group of people.

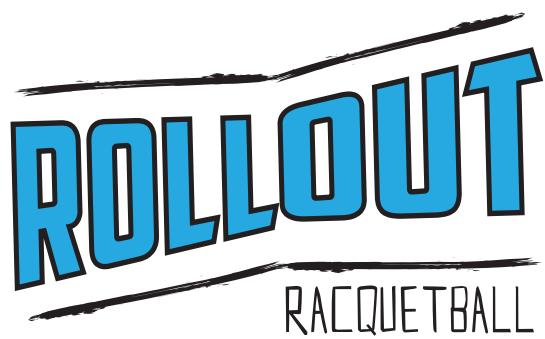
I next want to thank Leo Vasquez for his five years as a member on the USA Racquetball Board of Directors. Over the last couple of years, we were fortunate to have Leo serve as Board Vice President. He is still the Election Committee chair and continues to serve on the Legislative and Membership Committees as well. I've enjoyed working alongside him. Thanks, Leo, for all you do and continue to do for racquetball!

Our Board of Directors recently held our Annual Meeting at the National Singles Championships in Pleasanton, California. At the conclusion of the meeting, Executive Committee elections took place. I have returned as President, Mike Wedel is Vice President, Cheryl Kirk remains in the Secretary role, Jonathan Clay joins as Treasurer, and Aimee Ruiz continues as Athlete Representative.

TWO QUICK THANK YOUS

I want to include a special thanks to the Fundraising Committee for their efforts over the last few months. This committee "re-formed" back in November with Geoff Peters as the chairperson for a committee that includes Cheryl Kirk, Joanne Pomodoro, Cindy Tilbury, and Renée Gundolff as staff liaison. This group is off to a phenomenal start and has done an incredible job working to raise funds for our US Teams. This was clearly evident at the National Singles Championships with the "Team Behind the Team" t-shirts and the dunk tank providing great momentum toward achieving our annual financial goals to help our US Teams travel internationally. Thank you all for everything that this committee is doing (and "thank you" to everyone who is donating and helping support this goal!).

To conclude, three Leadership sessions were also held at the National Singles Championships. There was great feedback and participation. Lots of best practices were shared and relationships formed as the daily topics included junior program development, tournament management, Board and committee membership, and fundraising/sponsorships. This was a tremendous step in achieving traction for hosting more initiatives, like this one, that bring industry ambassadors together in one room. Thanks to everyone who participated and especially to Jonathan Clay and Mike Wedel for organizing the three sessions. I'm looking forward to attending more of these Leadership meetings in the future!



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Support the U.S. Adult and Junior National Teams with a tax-deductible contribution today. Your support is vital to the players and coaches as they prepare to represent the United States in international competition. Funds are primarily used for travel expenses, entry fees, and training.

Donations of \$100 or more, made in 2018 to the TEAM USA CHALLENGE, *will be matched* by the group of generous Team Benefactors at right, who have each pledged up to \$2,500 to support the cause. With your support, the USA Racquetball family can raise more than \$30,000 for your U.S. National Teams!

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Under the TEAM USA CHALLENGE, donations will be used to support direct travel costs of U.S. Junior and Adult National Team Members.

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USAR National Intercollegiate Championships

PRESENTED BY PENN AND EXPLORE MINNESOTA



The 2018 USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships presented by Penn and Explore Minnesota were held March 14-17 in Minneapolis. Thirty-one schools were represented by close to

200 athletes playing their hearts out to earn points for their individual schools. This event was hosted by the University of Minnesota Recreation Center, a great venue featuring 12 courts that include two sidewall glass stadium courts. Hospitality took on a family home cooking feel as Karen and Bill Bredenbeck coordinated and cooked for the players, coaches, and staff members throughout the week. Pro player Jake Bredenbeck skipped an IRT stop in Chicago to stay and coach his brother Sam in his last Intercollegiate Nationals and also took on stringing duties. The University of Minnesota Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Center provided free medical care all week that included icing, stretching, chiropractic care, and RockTape. A huge "thank you" goes to all of the University of Minnesota staff members and volunteers who went above and beyond to make this a great week for the players.

At this Championship, players are slotted into divisions based upon their school rankings in singles and doubles. In singles, each team can roster a player in #1 through #6 divisions and in doubles they can roster one team in divisions #1 through #3. The event is run in Olympic format to ensure that each player gets at least three matches in his/her respective divisions. Players start out in the Gold section of their divisions but drop down to either Red, White, or Blue based on which round they lost. Medals and team points are awarded in each of these divisions, so each successful round means a lot to the team totals. Every match mattered as play advanced towards the finals of each division. You could really hear the team support echoing through the racquetball complex as every point earned brought teams closer to a team title!

After all matches were played, the Men's, Women's and Overall Team Champions were announced in the beautiful Beacon Room that overlooks the campus. There were some surprising upsets and close races for the titles this year. One constant was Oregon State University taking home their 11th Division I Overall Team Championship title over Brigham Young University and Baldwin Wallace University.

Colorado State University – Pueblo knew going into Saturday that in order for them to take home the Division I Men's Team title they would have to beat Baldwin Wallace in the majority of their head-to-head matches that day. In a run unlike many have seen, CSU-Pueblo won every match they played on Saturday to take home the Division I Men's Team title.

The Division I Women's Team title could go down as the closest outcome in USA Racquetball history and shows why every

By Jason Thoerner
Photos By Gallemore Photography



Overall Women's Team Champions:
Brigham Young University



match is so important. The Brigham Young University women's team took home the title over Northern Arizona University by a half point! To further their excitement of being crowned the Division I Women's Team Champions, one of their teammates announced that she was going to have her first child. Tears of joy and happiness flowed through the whole team going to show once again that Racquetball is Family!

Congratulations to the Division II Overall Team Champions, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who defeated Rochester Institute of Technology to claim the title. They also claimed the Men's Team title over Rochester Institute of Technology. The Division II Women's title was also claimed by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute over Rochester Institute of Technology. The annual Intercollegiate Coach of the Year award was presented to Daniel Rodriguez from Liberty University as voted on by the Collegiate Council in advance of the Championship.

In the Men's #1 Gold division, Erik Garcia of Colorado State University - Pueblo, came into the Championship as the #1 seeded player after having finished as a finalist at the 2017 event with a loss to eventual champion Thomas Carter. Garcia met Kyle Ulliman from Baldwin Wallace University in the semifinals. Ulliman had competed in the Men's #3 Singles division last year but showed how much he had improved in the past year to push Garcia before finally succumbing 15-9, 15-12. On the bottom half of the draw, #2 seed Alejandro Almada from the University of Texas met local favorite Sam Bredenbeck from Oregon State University in the semifinals. Even with the hometown crowd supporting Sam, Alejandro advanced to the final 15-5, 15-10. In the finals, Garcia displayed raw power and shot-making ability that Almada could not match. Garcia was crowned the Men's #1 Gold Singles Champion to go along with his Men's #1 Gold Doubles title he won with teammate Justus Benson.

On the Women's side of the #1 Gold division, Carla Muñoz of Colorado State University-Pueblo arrived as the two-time defending champion. In the semifinals, Muñoz faced off against 2017 National High School Champion Hollie Scott who was playing for the University of Washington. Muñoz demonstrated why she is gaining momentum on the LPRT, keeping constant pressure on Scott as she advanced to the final 15-11, 15-5. In an unfortunate playing accident just two weeks prior to the Championship, 2017

finalist Melania Sauma of Arizona State University suffered a leg injury that forced her to withdraw from the event. With that withdrawal, the #2 seed went to Lexi York of Oregon State University and the #3 seed to Erika Manilla of Northern Arizona University. These two faced off in the semifinal before a packed house and battled into a third game tiebreaker. Neither wanted to relinquish this match to the other as they had played many times coming up through the junior ranks, but in the end, it was Manilla coming out on top 15-7, 14-15, 11-8 for a place in the finals. In the final, Muñoz was just too tough and claimed her third Women's #1 Gold Singles title, defeating Manilla, 15-9, 15-8.



Above: Women's #1 Singles Champion Carla Muñoz

Below: Darrin Schenk speaking with players before the Awards Ceremony



2018 NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

University of Minnesota Recreation Center, Minneapolis, MN • March 14 - 17

TEAM COMPETITION

Overall Team Division I

1. Oregon State University
2. Brigham Young University
3. Baldwin Wallace University

Men's Team Division I

1. CSU - Pueblo
2. Oregon State University
3. Baldwin Wallace University

Women's Team Division I

1. Brigham Young University
2. Northern Arizona University
3. Oregon State University

Overall Team Division II

1. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
2. Rochester Institute of Technology

Men's Team Division II

1. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
2. Rochester Institute of Technology

Women's Team Division II

1. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
2. Rochester Institute of Technology

MEN'S SINGLES

Champion:

#1	Erik Garcia
#2	Justus Benson
#3	Lukas Le
#4	Aaron Booker
#5	Brady Yelverton
#6	Ryan Chin
InterGold	Zachary Lueders
Advanced	Luis Avila
Alumni	Gregory Heinle

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Champion:

#1	Carla Muñoz
#2	Erin Boadway
#3	Victoria Lionetti
#4	Lindsay Briglia
#5	Krystal Bowen
#6	Leena Hwang
InterGold	Samantha Ferrera

MEN'S DOUBLES

Champions:

#1	Erik Garcia/Justus Benson
#2	Aaron Booker/Lukas Le
#3	Eric Holman/Ryan Chin

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Champions:

#1	Erika Manilla/Erin Boadway
#2	Chloe Durrans/Victoria Lionetti
#3	Leena Hwang/Krystal Bowen

2018 COLLEGIATE ALL AMERICANS

Men's

Hayden Anderson
Alejandro Armada
Spencer Bankhead
Justus Benson
Aaron Booker
Sam Bredenbeck
Zachary Brown
Nick Buring
Ryan Chin
Lincoln Cluff
Alexander DeHart
Connor Dietz
Jeremy Dixon
Erik Garcia
Brian Goyda
Daniel Herrera
Jerrad Highman
Erik Holman
Lukas Le
Ethan Slutsky
Nicolas Smith
Kyle Ulliman
Jacob Workman
Brady Yelvert

Women's

Tylynn Barker
Danielle Barrett
Nicole Barrett
Krystal Bowen
Lindsey Briglia
Erin Boadway
Colleen Clancy
Chloe Durrans
Andrea Estrada
Carolina Fernandez
Courtney Fernelius
Emily Harrod
Jenna Heaton
Leena Hwang
Brooke Johnson
Victoria Lionetti
Natalie Lorati
Erika Manilla
Madison Meyers
Carla Muñoz
Emmalee Packer
Lindsey Repp
Hollie Scott
Ashley Smith
Lexi York



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US Team Takes Bronze in Temuco, Chile Pan American Racquetball Championships



The Pan American Racquetball Championships are significant for seeding for the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, in 2019. A small but mighty delegation made the lengthy trip (in both time and distance) to Temuco, Chile, to represent the United States:

David "Bobby" Horn, California: #1 Singles

Thomas Carter, Pennsylvania: #2 Singles

Rhonda Rajsich, Arizona: #1 Singles

Janel Tisinger, California: #2 Singles

Bobby Horn/Thomas Carter: Doubles

Rhonda Rajsich/Janel Tisinger: Doubles

Dave Ellis, California -- Head Coach

Brent Huff, Illinois -- Team Trainer

Tournament Format and Participation

The tournament schedule was formatted as round robin pool play Saturday-Monday to determine main round seeding. A free day for rest and sightseeing was provided on Tuesday, then the single elimination main draws began on Wednesday and ended with finals on Saturday, March 31st.

Twelve countries competed: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and the United States. This is the first time this PARC event was competed in Chile since 2012 where it was held in Temuco as well.

Americans in Chile

A number of other Americans attended this event in Temuco. Tim Baghurst (Oklahoma), Gustavo Farell (Texas), Gary Mazaroff (New Mexico), Dean Schear (Colorado), and Luke St. Onge (Colorado) all possess roles with the IRF. Laura McCormick (California) works with Pablo Fajre on streaming, and Tom Travers (Florida) and Fran Davis (Washington) coach for Guatemala and Mexico, respectively.

Finals Results -- Saturday, March 31st

Women's Singles: Rhonda Rajsich def. Paola Longoria (Mexico), 15-3, 14-15, 11-7 -- Gold medal

Men's Singles: Bobby Horn lost to Carlos Keller (Bolivia), 12-15, 15-5, 7-11 -- Silver medal

Women's Doubles: Paola Longoria/Alexandra Herrera (Mexico) def.

Ana Gabriela Martinez/Maria Renee Rodriguez (Guatemala), 9-15, 15-1, 11-8

Men's Doubles: Rodrigo Montoya/Alvaro Beltran (Mexico) vs. Conrado Moscoso/Roland Keller (Bolivia), 13-15, 15-10, 11-6

Final Division Results (Gold, Silver, two Bronze)

Women -- Rajsich (USA), Longoria (MEX), Martinez (GUA), Salas (MEX)

Men -- Keller (BOL), Horn (USA), Montoya (MEX), Parrilla (MEX)

By Cheryl Kirk | U.S. Team Leader
Photos Courtesy of Janel Tisinger



Team USA



Rhonda Rajsich on the podium



Men's Singles Finals:
David "Bobby" Horn vs. Carlos Keller

Women's Doubles -- Longoria/Herrera (MEX), Martinez/Rodriguez (GUA), Daza/Barrios (BOL), Muñoz/Parada (CHI)
Men's Doubles -- Montoya/Beltran (MEX), Moscoso/Keller (BOL), Murray/Bousquet (CAN), Ugalde/Cueva (ECU)

Overall Country Results

Women's Team - Mexico, Guatemala, USA, Argentina

Men's Team - Mexico, Bolivia, USA, Canada

Overall - Mexico, Bolivia, USA, Guatemala

Challenger -- United States tied for 4th in the team standings -- the team was Tim Baghurst!

For a full account and pictorial coverage of this event, visit: http://bit.ly/2018PARC_Draws

Thank You's

The US Team Delegation wishes to deliver compliments and much gratitude to those who made this event so memorable:

The Local Organizing Committee, headed by Patricio Gatica Tagle, for putting on this very successful event. The work behind the scenes to host a tournament of this magnitude is extensive. Congratulations for a job very well done! From the hotel, to the awards, the closing party, the coordination, this experience was first class.

Tournament Director Gary Mazaroff and the tournament staff (Francisco Kurzbard, Amanda Barletta de Kurzbard, Mauro Grandio, Pablo Berriel, and Maria De Los Angeles Sarria).

The referees, headed up by Gustavo Farell (USA), who came in from six countries (Colombia, Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Argentina, and USA) to provide a quality experience for the players.

Pablo Fajre and Laura McCormick for bringing quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals action to viewers on the IRF Network, and Gary Mazaroff, Tim Baghurst, and Gustavo Farell for providing entertaining commentary.

The staff of Hotel Dreams who were friendly, efficient, and helpful.

The shuttle drivers who worked many long hours transporting players back and forth between the club and the hotel.

The management and staff of the club Centro Deportivo G2 for providing a hospitable venue and environment for everyone.

USAR Official Apparel Sponsor Rollout Racquetball (Jonathan and Carolyn Clay) -- the US Team looked great in the Rollout 2017 Team USA apparel line. Go to <http://wearrollout.com/product/team-usa-elevate-performance-crew-3/> to order what the team wears!

USAR Staff Member Renée Gundolff who assisted with behind-the-scenes logistics for the delegation.

Last but not least, Leo Vasquez who stopped whatever else he might have been doing as soon as a blog and photos were ready for posting!

Warm Thanks for US Team Support!

USA Racquetball and Team USA extend sincere thanks to Rollout (Jonathan Clay) for the excellent uniforms he provided as Official Apparel Sponsor for the US Team. Thanks also to Reaching Your Dream Foundation (Mike Lippitt, California) and John Puccio of Arizona, both of whom made generous donations to the Team Behind The Team initiative to help fund this trip to Chile, and we appreciate everyone who participated in the Team Behind the Team fundraiser at National Doubles!

Much gratitude goes to the 2018 Team USA Challenge benefactors who have pledged significant amounts to match any donations over \$100: Usher Bar-noff, Rick Betts, Kit Lawson, Mike Lippitt, Chris Poucher, and Jason Thoerner.

Thanks to everyone and to those who have made donations through the Team USA Challenge, R2 Sports donations via events, the PARC Travel Registry, referee fees at National Doubles, states and individuals who supported the US Junior Team's trip last November, et al. -- you are all appreciated more than you will ever know!

To contribute to the US Team and US Junior Team, please go to <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/programs/team-usa/team-usa-challenge>.

Rajsich & Horn Capture Gold in NorCal

Rajsich Wins Her Eleventh Singles Title, Horn Captures His First

By Jason Thoerner
Photos By Gallemore Photography



Men's Singles runner up José Rojas and Champion David "Bobby" Horn

determined to win the National Singles Championships, and this year was no different. In the semifinals, she faced her good friend and doubles partner, #5 seed Sheryl Lotts, who had defeated #4 seed Erika Manilla. Rajsich came into the match focused and used her phenomenal drive serve to dominate the scoreboard 15-5, 15-4. Lotts remarked that when she was able to get into rallies, she felt like she could play up to Rajsich's level but that Rhonda's serve was just too tough to return consistently.

On the bottom half of the draw, #2 seed Adrienne Haynes steamrolled into the semifinals without much trouble to face off against #3 seed Kelani Bailey. Bailey had not had such an easy time making it to the semifinals as she played #6 seed Hollie Scott in the quarterfinals. Both players showed their athleticism and power as they battled through the tiebreaker. Bailey eventually claimed the victory over Scott for a semifinal spot. This semifinal would see

The 2018 USA Racquetball National Singles Championships presented by Penn Racquetball and Visit Tri-Valley were held at the beautiful ClubSport Pleasanton in Pleasanton, California. Over 200 players from across the country competed for coveted national titles in both skill and age group categories, and over 450 matches were played during the five-day competition. In the U.S. Team Qualifying divisions, the action intensified as players competed for spots on the 2018-19 U.S. Adult Racquetball Team that would be representing the United States at the 2018 IRF World Championships in San José, Costa Rica. This event represented 50% of the total points in qualifying for the 2018-19 U.S. Adult Racquetball Team with the top four point earners achieving the coveted designation.

The Women's U.S. Team Qualifying division was packed, with 17 of the top players from across the United States competing for the final points available in the Race for Team USA. Top-seeded Rhonda Rajsich was playing for not only the top spot but also in remembrance of her Uncle Rob who passed away during the Pan American Racquetball Championships in Temuco, Chile, where she logged her Gold medal performance seven weeks prior. Rajsich has always been



Haynes win a close first game, but then Bailey turned up her game a notch to defeat Haynes 11-15, 15-2, 11-0 for a spot in the final against Rajsich.

The final was highly anticipated by the large crowd as both women are known for their athleticism and shot-making abilities. No one was disappointed as each showed why they had made the final. Rajsich continued to serve well and finish points when Bailey put pressure on her with her return of serve. At the end of the day, Rajsich stood victorious for her 11th National title with scores of 15-9, 15-7 and claimed the #1 point total spot in the Race for Team USA.

The Men's U.S. Team Qualifying division saw 20 players ready to compete for not only the National Championship title but the four coveted U.S. National Team Singles spots on the 2018-19 U.S. Adult National Team. The top point earner coming into the championship, Rocky Carson, decided not to compete and instead rest his body for the IRF World Championships in August. This opened up the field to many new players vying for a spot on the Team. Local favorite, David "Bobby" Horn claimed the #1 seed position in his home club followed by U.S. Junior National Team Head Coach Charlie Pratt as the #2 seed.

In the quarterfinals, Horn defeated a tough player in Dylan Reid from Portland, Oregon, who had just defeated Robert Collins the

**Sheryl Lotts and Adrienne Haynes
in a battle for 3rd place**



**The Team Behind the Team with the
Men's and Women's Team Qualifying Finalists**



day before in a hard-fought tiebreaker. The other quarterfinal saw #4 seed Jose Diaz take on #5 seed Adam Manilla. This was a battle from the outset that saw Diaz claim victory in a very close tiebreaker, 15-5, 12-15, 11-7. He went forward to take on his close friend Horn in the semifinal. The semifinals would be one for the ages as both Horn and Diaz gave every ounce of their bodies to track down ball after ball through three exhausting games. In the end, it was Horn who had just one more shot in reserve to pull out the victory 15-12, 15-9, 11-10, with a crowd that was left standing on their feet to applaud both players as they walked off the court.

Not to be outdone, the bottom half of the draw had battles starting from the highly anticipated return of José Rojas to the National Championship scene as he matched up against #3 seed big hitter Jake Bredenbeck in the quarterfinals. Both players demonstrated that they were in top form as they ran down shot after shot but in the end, it was Rojas who claimed a narrow victory 12-15, 15-10, 11-9, and a spot in the semifinal. Next up would pit current 18 & Under World Champion Mauro Daniel Rojas against Junior National Team Head Coach Charlie Pratt. Seeming to have something to prove to his coach, Daniel battled tough before finally falling in a tiebreaker 15-8, 10-15, 11-5, to send Pratt to the semifinals against José Rojas. Many questioned whether Rojas would be fit enough to recover from the absolute war the day before with Bredenbeck to go up against one of the most fit players at the Championship in Pratt. In the end, Rojas was just a little bit better than Pratt on this day as he punched his ticket to the final, 15-13, 15-10.

The final saw two best friends take the court to settle who would be the 2018 USA Racquetball National Singles Champion. Horn was his normal upbeat self and said, "How cool is this that I get to play against my best friend in the final of National Singles?" Rojas seemed to be just as calm and cool as he got ready to step onto the

court, smiling and fist bumping fans who had packed the stands to watch. In the first game, neither player gave an inch before Horn eventually won the game 15-14. Horn pulled away late in game two to get to match point, but Rojas was not going to go away so easily. Several side-outs incurred as Rojas crept back into the game and put pressure on Horn before he could finally finish the match 15-11. The crowd erupted as the final point ended and David "Bobby" Horn was crowned the 2018 USA Racquetball National Singles Champion.

This event is more than just the U.S. Team Qualifying divisions, with many amateur players traveling from far away to compete in a number of skill and age group divisions. There were some exciting matches from all categories throughout the week as players brought

ever, which is supported by the Reaching Your Dream Foundation. Friday centered on how to promote and market sanctioned events, with experienced tournament directors Mike Wedel and Jonathan Clay leading the roundtable discussion. Saturday gave attendees a chance to interact with Board of Directors President Dan Whitley, Secretary Cheryl Kirk, other Board members, and Fundraising Committee Chair Geoff Peters to become more familiar with Board and Staff roles as well as fundraising and sponsorship strategies.

On Saturday night, the Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet celebrated those who achieved and contributed in 2017 both on and off the court plus three very special Hall of Fame inductees.



their best to win one of the coveted USA Racquetball National Championship medals. Congratulations to all on well-played matches all week!

Players had opportunities to socialize with others from around the country at several events throughout the week. On Thursday night, the traditional Ladies Night Out event at the DoubleTree Hotel Bar helped raise money to support the U.S. Teams and brought together many of the ladies for a fun night of laughs and raffle prizes. Thank you to all who attended and helped raise over \$200 for the U.S. National Teams.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings saw the kickoff of a newly created Leadership Meeting Series to educate attendees on how they could grow the game in their local areas, promote tournaments and other sanctioned events, plus gain an understanding the roles of the USA Racquetball Board and Staff. Thursday featured Dave and John Ellis speaking about how to start a junior program locally. They laid out a plan for others to follow that they call Fitness For-

The 2018 Annual Award Winners are:

Debra Bryant/Eric New – Presidential Award
Janet Tyler – Peggy Steding Female Age Group Award
Mike Grisz – Bud Muehleisen Male Age Group Award
Mauro Daniel Rojas – John Halverson Fair Play Award
Rafael Filippini – Joe Sobek Outstanding Contribution Award
Rhonda Rajsich – Female Athlete of the Year Award
Rocky Carson – Male Athlete of the Year Award

Leo and Sue Klimaitis were inducted as Contributors for their years of support to not only USA Racquetball but local events around the country, the Men's and Women's Pro Tours, and the building of the all-Lucite portable court that is showcased each year at the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN. Without the generous support of Leo and Sue, USA Racquetball would not be what it is today. Racquetball has been a lifelong passion of the Klimaitis family. Congratulations to Sue and Leo for their well-deserved induction into the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame!

Dr. Jim Hiser was inducted as a Contributor as well for his long history of directing the sport and his many groundbreaking ideas such as the Junior National Team. Dr. Hiser not only created some of the most important rules in our sport but has also helped co-author several books on racquetball as well. Jim wrote a poem that was a very moving part of the night in which he encouraged others to passionately enjoy the sport that has been a big part of his life. Jim had a few special guests travel from afar to be there on his special night, including former students Jimmy Floyd and Jack Huczek along with his right hand for many years at USA Racquetball, Margo Daniels. However, it was his wife Angie and son Tag who made his night so emotional as he talked about their sacrifices to allow him follow his passion. Congratulations to Dr. Jim Hiser on his induction into the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame!



USA Racquetball could not have made this event happen without the generous support of our sponsors such as HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports, KWM Guterman, and Gearbox Racquetball. Much gratitude goes to the wonderful volunteers who helped our players enjoy their experience and supported the staff in so many ways. USA Racquetball also sends a big “thank you” to Visit Tri Valley and ClubSport Pleasanton for being wonderful hosts of the event.

Left: 2018 Annual Award Winners - Back Row: Erik New, Janet Tyler, Mike Grisz, Rhonda Rajsich, President Dan Whitley, Front Row: Mauro Daniel Rojas, Anthony Herrera (accepting on behalf of Rafael Filippini), Debra Bryant

Photo Courtesy of Janet Tyler

Above: Hall of Fame Inductees Jim Hiser, Sue and Leo Klimaitis

Photo by Gallemore Photography

My First National Singles Racquetball Tournament

By Bandy Canham | 2018 John LoMonaco Grant Recipient

This year I had the great fortune to be able to attend the 2018 National Singles Championships in Pleasanton, California. I must admit that I was somewhat nervous about this adventure. Would the trip be worth the time and effort? For me, the answer is most definitely.

Some of the experiences, I expected. I expected to see great competition. I was able to observe the match between Charlie Pratt and Mauro Rojas, a qualifying match for the US Men’s Singles Team. It was an absolute delight to watch these players compete. So many times, I “knew” one player had placed the ball out of the reach of his opponent, only to see the ball returned to the front wall in a spectacular diving get.



Another expectation is that my matches would be challenging. I knew going into the tournament my opponents would likely be better players than me. I was not surprised by the camaraderie I felt with each of my opponents. I was, however, impressed by how much my opponents taught me. Their game-play forced me to be more analytical about my style and how I play. This, in turn, caused my game adjustments to be more aggressive. Therefore, I owe debt to my opponents. They have helped me significantly improve my game. In fact, since returning home, several of the members at my home club have remarked on the improvement.

One of the primary reasons I wanted to attend the National Singles Championships this year was the Leadership Sessions. As President of the Kentucky Racquetball Association, I know I have a lot to learn. I was able to attend the meetings and found them very helpful. In one session, we discussed how to improve tournaments. I came away with several helpful ideas. At the end of this 90-minute session, almost everyone expressed being exposed to a new idea that they planned to implement in their next tournament. I am hopeful that the practice of having these meetings at national events will continue. Being able to share information and ideas is invaluable.

The most valuable part of my experience in attending the National Singles Championships was the opportunity to talk to the leaders in the racquetball world. So many of the movers and shakers in our sport were at this event. Maybe it should not surprise me, but everyone was easy to talk with and was very helpful. This includes the most modest of players to those who are in the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame.

The biggest takeaway for me from my experience at the National Singles Championships is a sense that this community is a family. Family supports and encourages each other. The opportunity to compete and have fun is priceless.

Thank you to everyone who made this event an unforgettable experience.

2018 NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS | RESULTS

ClubSport Pleasanton, Pleasanton, California • May 23 - 27

Photos By Gallemore Photography

WOMEN'S

Division	Champion	Runner-Up
Team Qualifying	Rhonda Rajsich	Kelani Bailey
Open	Annie Roberts	Heather Mahoney
25+	Kamini Boopathy	Erica Williams
35+	Rebecca Bowman	Unchallenged
40+	Jennifer Dering	Unchallenged
45+	Vera Allen	Unchallenged
55+	Janet Tyler	Laura Brandt
60+	Cindy Tilbury	Unchallenged
65+	Joanne Pomodoro	Unchallenged
70+	Mildred Gwinn	Unchallenged
75+	Mildred Gwinn	Marquita Molina
A	Annie Furr	Nicole Martinez
B	Erica Williams	Marquita Molina
C	Alondra Canchola	Julie Tolentino
30 Elite	Rebecca Bowman	Kamini Boopathy
50 Elite	Debra Bryant	Unchallenged

JUNIORS

Division	Champion	Runner-Up
Girls 14	Tess La Rue	Unchallenged
Girls 18	Julie Tolentino	Unchallenged



David "Bobby" Horn and José Rojas



Ryan Rodgers and Joanne Pomodoro at the dunk tank. Guess who got dunked?

MEN'S

Division	Champion	Runner-Up
Team Qualifying	David Horn	José Rojas
Open	Dylan Reid	Victor Camacho
24-	Ryan King	AJ Bennett
25+	Alex Kosakowski	Unchallenged
30+	Derek Izzi	Unchallenged
35+	Brent Walters	John Churchwell
40+	Jeff Stark	Raymond Maestas
45+	Keith Minor	Jeff Stark
50+	Doug Ganim	Keith Minor
55+	Stephen Wattz	Brian Phillips
60+	Stephen Wattz	Mike Grisz
65+	Frank Taddonio	Mark Baron
70+	Michael Stephens	Gary Jones
Heroes 40/50	Eric New	Devon Sando
Heroes A	Paul Julbes	Devon Sando
Classic Racquet	David Spektor	Ramon Mendoza
Elite	Nikhil Prasad	Devon Sando
A	AJ Bennett	Whitney Lowe
B	Dominic Maestas	Thurman Brooks
C	David Hermann	Jeffrey Morse
D	Robert Capaldo	Dan Horner
24+ Elite	Ryan King	Aj Bennett
40+ Elite	Ramon Mendoza	Unchallenged
50 Elite / 60 Elite	Armando Villa	Mike Grisz
24A/25A/40A	Jorge Valencia, Jr	Dominic Maestas
24+ B	Benjamin Horner	S. Kumar Ananda Kumar
25+ B	David Hermann	Unchallenged
30+ B	Scott Fish	Ro-El Cordero
40+ B	Brian Ancheta	Keoni Tengan
50B/60B	Brian Ancheta	Steve Brown
40C/50C	Jim Douglas	Clayton Nishikawa
24- C/D	Kiran Freeman	Cole Adams
60+ C/D	Bruce Hollander	Ruben Eliana

The Race for the 2018-2019 U.S. National Team Has Concluded!

The last qualification event for the 2018-19 U.S. National Team has concluded at the 2018 U.S. National Singles Championships. Team Qualification points were awarded based on finishing position as follows:



Champion	100 Points
Runner-Up	80 Points
Semifinalist	60 Points
Quarterfinalist	30 Points
Round of 16	10 Points
Round of 32	5 Points



The UnitedHealthcare US OPEN comprises 20 percent of the Team Qualification process, with a Team Qualifying Singles Division held at National Doubles contributing 30 percent and the National Singles Team Qualifying Division comprising the remaining 50 percent.

Congratulations to those who placed in the Top 4 and received invitations to join Team USA.

Final U.S. National Team Singles Qualification Standings Top 4 Men

STANDING	PLAYER	US OPEN IRT DIVISION POINTS	WEIGHTED POINTS 20%	SINGLES DIVISION AT NATIONAL DOUBLES POINTS	WEIGHTED POINTS 30%	NATIONAL SINGLES DIVISION POINTS	WEIGHTED POINTS 50%	TOTAL POINTS
1	David Horn	5	1	60	18	100	50	69
2	Charlie Pratt	10	2	80	24	60	30	56
3	Rocky Carson	80	16	100	30	0	0	46
4	José Rojas	0	0	0	0	80	40	40

Final U.S. National Team Singles Qualification Standings Top 4 Women

STANDING	PLAYER	US OPEN LPRT DIVISION POINTS	WEIGHTED POINTS 20%	SINGLES DIVISION AT NATIONAL DOUBLES POINTS	WEIGHTED POINTS 30%	NATIONAL SINGLES DIVISION POINTS	WEIGHTED POINTS 50%	TOTAL POINTS
1	Rhonda Rajsich	60	12	100	30	100	50	92
2	Kelani Bailey	0	0	80	24	80	40	64
3	Sheryl Lotts	10	2	60	18	60	30	50
4	Erika Manilla	5	1	60	18	30	15	46

The qualification process for doubles teams continues to be based on the Team Qualifying Doubles Division at National Doubles.



23RD ANNIVERSARY PREVIEW

By Doug Ganim

Photos By Restrung Magazine & Roby Partovich

It's hard to believe it has been 23 years, but the 2018 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Racquetball Championships is approaching! UnitedHealthcare is back as our Title Sponsor as we make plans to celebrate our 23rd Anniversary. This means the event is going to be bigger and better than ever! The purpose of this special preview is to give you an idea of what to expect at this year's tourney.

Amateur Draws. Amateur matches will be played at three venues: Life Time Fitness Target Center, Life Time Fitness Fridley, and Life Time Minneapolis Athletic Club. In the event the draw grows again in 2018, a fourth club, the University of Minnesota Rec. Center, will be used on Thursday, October 4th, only. No consolation divisions will be offered (except in the HEROES Divisions) due to the huge draw and lack of available court time. The competition will be excellent in all of the divisions offered as we welcome competitors from all over the world. The top four finishers in each division will receive oversized US OPEN medals that weigh about one pound each! Divisions are offered for every age and skill level in both singles and doubles. Back for 2018 is the addition of five Centurion Doubles divisions (you and your partner's ages must add up to at least 100)!

Pro Match Tickets. There is no better place in the world to watch pro racquetball than at the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Racquetball Championships. First of all, every top player in the world on the IRT and LPRT will be in Minneapolis. For the true racquetball enthusiast, this means incredible matches to watch right from the Round of 32. Second, ALL pro match courts are professionally wired for sound so spectators can hear every grunt, groan, and under-the-breath comment throughout every match of the tournament. The ball sounds like a missile being shot off, so be sure to bring your earplugs if you have sensitive "flappers." Third, all of the featured pro

matches take place on the breathtaking made-for-TV portable stadium racquetball court. This engineering marvel has four walls made of crystal clear Lucite acrylic that is optically correct (no tinting, blurring, or bending of light) and beautiful to behold. The Lucite materials are butted up against each other with Lucite "fins" providing the support. Even the "L" brackets are made of Lucite, so the result is a seamless visual experience that makes you feel like you are right in the court with the players. The stadium seats about 1,400 fans, and ticket sales are always brisk. Your best bet is to purchase a Preferred Ticket Package that includes all sessions. This is by far the best value (\$139 for spectators, \$99 for players). For those who want the full VIP treatment, consider purchasing a courtside Gold Box. Cost is \$2,800 and includes four seats with All-Access credentials. Individual seats can be purchased for \$800 if inventory is available. Call (614) 890-6073 to check availability.

Parties, Parties, and More Parties! One of the things the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN is best known for is the evening social functions. For those who have attended in previous years, you can expect more of the same this year starting with the free admission Pro-Am Doubles for Charity on Wednesday evening, the fun "Late Night Players Gathering" at the Marriott City Center Lobby Bar on Thursday evening, the Players "Meet and Greet" Party on Friday evening at CityWorks, and the largest bash of the year, the Saturday evening Party With the Pro's at the hot downtown nightclub The Pourhouse (21 and over only admitted).

Back for 2018! To celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN, many event upgrades will be back for this year. First, the main host facility and nerve center for the US OPEN is Life Time Fitness Target Center. They have completed an amazing \$17 million renovation of the club featuring all new five-star locker rooms, new restaurant and bar, new four-star spa/salon, new swimming pool, and complete high end facelift to



all other areas of the club. In short, the main club is now one of the finest athletic clubs in the entire world! Second, we will again feature an 8,000 square foot carpeted US OPEN Players Village complete with the Industry Trade Show, silent auction for St. Jude and Rapha House, cash bar/concessions, US OPEN Souvenir Booth featuring logo items you can only buy at the US OPEN, and free table tennis where it is not uncommon to see the top pro's battling for US OPEN Ping-Pong bragging rights. Third, to commemorate this historic occasion, a limited edition 23rd Anniversary micro-fiber tournament shirt and four-color Souvenir Program will be included in the registration package along with an embroidered golf hat from UnitedHealthcare. Lastly, to honor our brave service members, we will again feature singles HEROES Divisions for both men and women. Current and retired military, police, fire, and EMT professionals will be eligible to participate.

Can't play in the event? If there is no way you can play in the tournament, consider coming in just for the weekend to be an enthusiastic spectator. The pro singles quarterfinals are Friday afternoon, pro doubles semifinals Friday evening, Players "Meet and Greet" Party at CityWorks Friday evening, the pro singles semifinals/pro doubles finals Saturday, the Grand Gala "Party with the Pro's" Saturday evening, and the pro singles finals are on Sunday. Just those three days will be an incredible experience and should not be missed. Buy your tickets NOW and book your hotel!

No way to attend the event this year? If you absolutely can't make it to this year's tournament, even as a weekend spectator, then the last resort is to follow the action from home. To help make this easier, we will transform our website -- www.UnitedHealthcareUSOPEN.com -- into a computer "window" to look in on the action at the tournament. Plans include offering live amateur division results posting, up-to-the-minute pro match results, digital photography from throughout the event, streaming video of select pro matches via the IRTNetwork, and web-radio voice interviews with top pro's as well as play-by-play voice streaming of the quarters, semis, and finals. Special thanks to our computer guru and webmaster Steve Kowalski for spearheading this ambitious project.

TIPS FOR ATTENDING

Tip #1: ENTER EARLY! The event is expected to completely sell out this year. At 760 players, we cap the draw and start turning people away. Don't get shut out! Enter today at www.UnitedHealthcareUSOPEN.com

Tip #2: ORDER TICKETS NOW! You must have a ticket to view any of the pro matches, and although the Stadium Court seats over 1,400, the event is always a sell-out from the quarterfinals on. No-shows can free up some session tickets at the door, but it's risky to wait. By far, the best deal is to purchase a Preferred Ticket Package for unlimited viewing for ALL pro matches for the entire week. This guarantees you a back wall bleacher seat, but remember, ticket packages are sold ONLY in advance! Cost is \$139 for non-players and just \$99 for players for the ENTIRE WEEK!

Tip #3: ENTER TWO OR THREE EVENTS. Court time restrictions (and the large draw) do not allow us to offer consolation divisions, so we strongly recommend that you enter two divisions so that you are guaranteed at least two matches. Although players are limited to just two divisions, there are a couple of exceptions. First, if you would like to play "up" into the Men's or Women's Pro draw (perhaps just for the experience), you can still play in two amateur divisions, for a total of three events. Second, if at least one of your divisions is doubles, you can play in any third event you choose. For these two exceptions only, a third event is permitted.

Tip #4: STAY AT THE HOST HOTELS. Check the entry form for the official list of host hotels. With the event in a downtown setting, area hotels are quite expensive. However, we have negotiated some great deals with our three downtown host hotels (Marriott City Center, Hampton Inn & Suites, and the Normandy Inn), and we have a large number of rooms blocked for our group. All three hotels are walking distance to the Life Time Fitness Target Center. These hotels will fill up VERY fast, so call to book your room immediately. In addition, we have two suburban hotels with free parking (SpringHill Suites and Country Inn & Suites). These hotels are ideal for players driving in for the event.

Tip #5: BRING NICE CLOTHES AND YOUR DANCING SHOES! One of the really fun parts of attending the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN is experiencing the many evening social activities offered, especially the Grand Gala – The Party with the Pro's. Racquetball or casual attire is not allowed at this bash, so "dress to impress" will be the rule!

Tip #6: LAST FLIGHT OUT ON SUNDAY. Make sure you book the very latest flight you can to head home on Sunday. The Men's Pro final is the last match of the tournament and you won't want to miss it! A packed house, booming music, laser light show introductions, and television cameras make this an experience like no other in the sport. The match usually ends around 2:30 pm, so any evening flight will do. Can't get a late flight out? Consider going home Monday morning. It will be worth it!

Tip #7: FLYING IN -- NO RENTAL CAR NEEDED! From the Minneapolis airport you can take the city's clean light rail directly into downtown Minneapolis and right to the Target Center (only 22 minutes). Cost is just \$1.75! Two of the three clubs we are using (including the main club where all the pro matches are played) are downtown and so are the three host hotels. All downtown hotels and clubs are walking distance apart. For the Life Time Fitness Moore Lake club, we will offer a free shuttle every 20 minutes from the Target Center (club is only 17 minutes away). If you are driving in for the event, parking is going to cost you daily in downtown Minneapolis. Check out the Normandy Inn that is offering daily parking for just \$14 per day or try the SpringHill Suites in St. Louis Park or Country Inn & Suites near Fridley for free parking.

Tip #8: CONSIDER BUYING A GOLD BOX SEAT FOR THE WEEK (\$800) and treat yourself to the ultimate US OPEN experience. Rubbing elbows with all the top pro's in the Pro/Gold Lounge and having the most comfortable seat/best view seat in the house is worth the price alone. Throw in the all-you-can-eat food and drink for the week and it becomes a no-brainer! Visit www.UnitedHealthcareUSOPENtickets.com to reserve your spot today.

2018 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN IRT PREVIEW

By Doug Ganim



Always the highlight of the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN, the IRT draw in both singles and doubles will undoubtedly deliver another memorable year for racquetball fans throughout the world. More than ever, young stars and wily tour veterans will be gunning for the coveted US OPEN title.

Kane Waselenchuk (1:3 odds) – The chances of Kane not winning the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN are slimmer than slim. Every time he steps foot on the portable court, his game rises to ridiculous levels. Not only does he win all his matches each year, but he often breezes through rounds with barely a sweat. Of course, an upset is always possible but highly unlikely with Kane. If you want to see the game played at a level never before seen, pull up a seat for any of Kane's matches and enjoy the show. What he does on a racquetball court is truly incredible!

Rocky Carson (6:1 odds) – Rocky Carson will have to get through both De La Rosa (who beat him at the 2015 US OPEN) or Beltran and Kane to win the title, a tall order for sure (not to mention all the other young stars on tour that have announced they are ready during the past 12 months). He usually plays well at the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN, however, he has taken some major league beatings from Kane throughout the past few years and the scar tissue on his brain is at epic levels. He has a good chance to reach the finals, but it would take a Herculean effort for him to upset Kane and win the tournament. A bigger issue is avoiding an upset in earlier rounds as the tour is deeper with talent than it has been in many years.

Daniel De La Rosa (8:1 odds) – De La Rosa is a top ranked star on the IRT. He is the first young player to come along with the kind of racquet skills that would allow him to compete with Kane on a regular basis. His pure athleticism and willingness to "dive like Croft" after every ball makes him extremely dangerous, and I give him a strong chance to reach the finals in 2018. To be honest, the past year has been a bit underwhelming for Daniel. With Kane out due to injury for a number of events, Daniel should have been winning a good chunk of them. Instead, he was mainly upset by lower-ranked players.



Photo By Restring Magazine

Alvaro Beltran (10:1 odds) – Beltran is always a tough out for anyone, including the top-ranked players. He has reached the Champion's Circle four times in Tier 1 events, but this is really an amazingly low total for a player ranked so high for so many years. Beltran has been upset by lower-ranked players more times than he would like over the last 12 months. It will take a lot of effort for Alvaro to win the title, and I wonder how much he will have left in the tank for the weekend if he succeeds, especially since he will be playing pro doubles as well. His "ace in the hole" will be the hundreds of Mexican, Central American, and South American fans who will be pulling for him every step of the way. Listen for the "Vamos Beltran!" chants and the Davis Cup-like atmosphere every time he takes to the court.

Alejandro Landa (10:1 odds) – No player on tour has risen up faster than Landa during the past 12 months. At this time of this writing he had captured two Tier 1 events and risen to the ranking of #5 in the world! His secret weapon is he "fears nobody" when he steps on the racquetball court. He competes for one reason and one reason only—TO WIN. He is fast, strong, and can catch fire at any moment. Recent success has given him even more confidence, so I would not be surprised to see Landa in the semifinals or finals at this year's US OPEN.



Photo By Restring Magazine

PLAYERS TO WATCH:

Samuel Murray – The latest prodigy from the country of Canada, Sam Murray has suddenly become an extremely solid player on tour. He gives the top players trouble, but even more impressive is that he rarely loses to players ranked below him. Just charting his steep performance curve, you must extrapolate that his next stop is in the winner's circle at an IRT Tier 1 event. Perhaps it could be the US OPEN!

Sudsy Monchik – One of the greatest of all time. If he decides to play singles in 2018, nobody (except Kane) will want to see him in their part of the draw. Sudsy will certainly be dangerous for a few rounds until his arm starts to throb. It sucks getting old. I know this first-hand!

Charlie Pratt – After years as the IRT ref and a somewhat middling level pro player, Pratt has recently found the fountain of youth and taken a major leap forward with his game. Coupled with his years of experience and newfound confidence, Pratt is a threat to beat anyone not named Kane on tour. I wouldn't be shocked to see Pratt in the semifinals at the US OPEN.

Alex Cardona/Bobby Horn/Mario Mercado/Jose Diaz/Jake Bredenbeck/Sebastian Franco/Andre Parrilla/Rodrigo Montoya/Conrrado Moscoso/Javier Mar – There are an incredibly large number of young and tough players in the pipeline on the IRT. The players in this group (in particular) have each upset higher-ranked players in the last 12 months. This shows me they are each capable and ready for the top ranks.

Adam Manilla/Nicholas Riffel/Taylor Knoth/Mauro Daniel Rojas – As of this writing, these young guns have yet to knock off a top-ranked player, but they have come close. I suspect at least one of these guys will have a breakthrough upset at this year's US OPEN.

IRT Pro Doubles – It is difficult to write an accurate preview for this division since we often don't know who is playing with whom until a week or two prior to the tourney. The million-dollar question is "Who will Kane play with?" Kane with nearly anybody will be the odds-on favorite to win. However, last year's semifinals and finals were absolute WARS with the outcomes in doubt until the very last shots were hit. I am guessing Kane and Croft will try to defend and Beltran/De La Rosa will lace them up for revenge from last year's finals. I won't be surprised to see Carson/Monchik (reigning National Doubles Champs) compete. After that, there are at least 10 other teams that could easily win the whole thing (remember the Rojas brothers in 2016!). I predict the IRT Doubles at the 2018 US OPEN will be epic!

The men of the IRT are ready to let it fly at the 2018 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN. Get your seat early for the greatest show in sports and ENJOY!



Photo By Restring Magazine



Photo By Restring Magazine



Photo By Doug Gamm

Attending the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN as a VIP!

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury GOLD BOX-ES/SEATS still remain for the 2018 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN. The cost is \$2,800 and includes four GOLD All-Access Credentials to the event. Single seats can be purchased for \$800 while supplies last. In addition to enjoying the pro matches from your private and comfortable courtside GOLD BOX/SEAT, All-Access Gold Credential holders have unlimited access to the exclusive Pro/GOLD Lounge throughout the event featuring 5-star catering (continental breakfast, lunch, and dinner), all day fruit and snacks, desserts, and beverages (beer, soda, juices, water, champagne, and wine) during all hours. Event sponsors, top-ranked men and women pro players, and GOLD BOX holders are the only VIPs permitted in the lounge. Treat yourself to the ultimate racquetball experience and reserve your GOLD BOX/SEAT today!

If you are interested, please call (614) 890-6073 to check for current availability right away or visit: www.UnitedHealthcareUSOPENTickets.com now to reserve your spot.



2018 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN LPRT PREVIEW

By Doug Ganim

The 2018 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Racquetball Championships are upon us, and once again the women's pro singles and doubles competition will crown another champion. The odds-on favorite in singles will be World No.1 Paola Longoria from Mexico who will attempt to win her ninth US OPEN championship. However, there has been some major movement in the Top 8 rankings with lots of young new faces lining up to challenge Paola, as well as the re-emergence of a couple of veteran champions.

It's hard to believe that Longoria could actually get better, but that is exactly what has happened in the last year. She not only wins nearly every match she plays on tour, but many matches are an absolute beat-down. Much like Kane, her chances of NOT winning the US OPEN are slim.

Paola Longoria (1:4 odds) – Longoria, the No. 1 player in the world, is the defending US OPEN Champion as well as the 2011-2016 and 2008 Champion. She had another sensational performance during the LPRT 2017-18 tour, finishing at the top by a wide margin. She also captured the #1 year-end ranking for the ninth time and was named the UNIVISION Athlete of the Year for all of Mexico (any sport!). Unless someone has elevated their game during the off-season and is prepared for a career-defining performance, look for Paola to take another step towards racquetball immortality and raise another US OPEN Championship trophy. *La Princesa no le será negado otro triunfo.*

Frédérique Lambert (7:1 odds) – Frédérique has been on tour for several years and has been an incredibly consistent performer. At the time of this writing she is the #2 ranked player in the world and does have an outside shot at pulling the upset of Longoria. The reason I say this is, she HAS NO FEAR! She plays with both intensity and joy and possesses the athletic skills to win any event she enters. Canada has not had a Top 2 ranked women's player since Christie Van Hees back in the early '90's. Frédérique is the new Canadian wonder! And even more amazing, she is doing all this while attending medical school FULL TIME! Smart and talented, a combination you can never count out!

Rhonda Rajsich (5:1 odds) – Despite her slide in the rankings to #4, this former #1 has one thing that nobody else in the current field does (other than Longoria): the title of US OPEN Champion. A former four-time US OPEN Champion (2003, 2007, 2009, 2010), Rajsich continues to amaze fans with spectacular dives and shots that are jaw dropping. When it comes to the US OPEN, experience on the stadium court and under the bright lights matters, so much so that in the last 22 years, only seven women players have been crowned Champion. Rhonda has the championship pedigree and the desire to win. Further, she recently beat Longoria in an international PARC competition, and for this reason alone I give her the second-best odds to win the crown. Having personally known Rhonda for all of her career, I have come to learn that "this cat truly has nine lives." Every time I think she is sliding away, she shows back up with an amazing performance. No more "Doubting Thomas" for me! I BELIEVE.

Jessica Parrilla (7:1 odds) – Jessica, the latest superstar from Mexico, has risen faster up the rankings than any other player on tour. At the time of this writing, she is the #3 ranked player in the world. She has a powerful game and represents the top of the class of up-and-coming new young players on tour. At some point, there is going to be a new US OPEN Champion, and I would put Jessica on the short list of players who have a shot to take over the mantle. Upsets happen. Maybe 2018 will be the year Jessica shocks the world and wins it all! There is no question she has the game.

Alexandra Herrera (13:1) – Another skyrocketing young player from Mexico, Alexandra has burst in to the top rankings in just the last two years. She is the only left-hander in the Top 8 and therefore has a potential edge over the competition. Even Longoria has very little experience against lefties. At the time of this writing, Herrera's ranking is #5 in the world. It is pretty clear that Mexico is in a great position to dominate professional women's racquetball for years to come!

Cristina Amaya (15:1) – Although her ranking has fallen in the last year (#9 at the time of this writing), I still give Amaya less than long-shot odds to win the US OPEN. The reason is her experience. She has beaten just about every top player on tour and has been competitive with Longoria in games from time to time. Amaya has some serious skills!



Photo By Restrung Magazine

Samantha Salas (14:1) – Having had a historic US OPEN performance in 2016, i.e., finishing second in singles and first in doubles, you have to consider Samantha for an outside shot at winning her first US OPEN. The problem is that her game does not match up well against Longoria. She plays everyone else on tour very tough, but for whatever reason, she has rarely been able to give a top-level performance when playing Paola. This past season has shown a bit more consistency on tour, and nobody has more passion on the court when it comes with desire to win. It is possible.

Maria Jose Vargas (6:1) – SHE IS BACK! One of the most exciting women's players to watch on tour, Maria has been largely off tour for most of the past two years. However, in the middle of this past season she started showing up at select events again and amazingly WON a LPRT Tier 1 event (Longoria did not attend). The fact that she has recently been in the winner's circle, has a monster drive serve, has competed well against Longoria in the past, and has the power to hurt everyone in the field, I am giving her an excellent chance to make the finals and even win it all. Her ranking will be artificially low at the US OPEN because she has not played every event. If the draw works out that she is on the opposite side of the bracket from Paola, these two could possibly meet up for an epic final!

PLAYERS TO WATCH:

Carla Muñoz – A fearless young rock star from Chile, I really like her game. She goes about her business with supreme focus and has the skills to beat just about anybody. She is a TIGER!

Natalia Mendez – This latest superstar, playing for Argentina, Natalia has a HUGE game and in the past year has risen into the Top 8 ranked players in the world. I strongly suggest watching her matches and, other than Vargas, she is my #1 pick for players ranked outside the top 4 to achieve the unthinkable and win the whole event. Perhaps 2018 will go down in history as the year Mendez won her first US OPEN on route to becoming the next #1 ranked player in the world. And, no, I am not crazy -- just watch her play!

Nancy Enriquez – Yet another Mexican wonder, this young player is statistically the fastest rising star on tour. At the time of this writing she has risen all the way up to #8 in the world from virtually nowhere the year prior. With the depth in women's pro racquetball right now, this is truly an amazing accomplishment. Her chances of winning the US OPEN are lower than low, but I give her an excellent chance to upset a player ranked above her. I would not be surprised at all to see her in the semifinals.

LPRT Pro Doubles -- It is nearly impossible to predict who will play with whom for this division and therefore difficult to preview. However, it is fair to assume whomever Longoria plays with will make them the odds-on favorite to win. Anytime Longoria is on the court, she is the favorite. However, the chance for upset is higher in doubles than in singles. Therefore, expect close matches throughout the pro doubles draw.

The LPRT is deeper and more exciting than at any time in the last 20 years. It is truly an international affair with six different countries represented in the Top 8 rankings (at the time of this writing). These ladies are incredible athletes and playing racquetball at an extremely high level. Make sure you catch as many LPRT matches as you can at the 2018 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN!



Photo By Restrung Magazine

PRO-AM DOUBLES FOR CHARITY



Photo By Restrung Magazine

Want to treat yourself to an incredible racquetball experience while at the same time supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital? On Wednesday evening, October 3rd, at the 2018 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN, 32 lucky amateurs will team up with the top stars on the IRT and LPRT for a special Pro-Am Doubles event. A \$325 donation gets you into the draw until 32 commitments are received. The evening features free food and beverages, an autographed racquet from your pro partner, and a complimentary photo as well. All of the proceeds will be donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Although this event has sold out each of the last 22 years, at the time of this writing there are still a handful of spots left. If you are interested in participating, call (719) 635-5396 ext. 0 to register, or visit www.UnitedHealthcareUSOPEN.com to download a registration form.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? -- CHRIS EVON

By Aimee Ruiz



Where Are They Now? is a column in *Racquetball* magazine that features past pros from both the men's and women's tours throughout the years. What have they been up to since they stepped away from playing professionally? What do they think of today's game and the players who are currently competing?

Let's check in with Chris Evon, former pro player and former President of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association:

Your last year on tour was 1993. What have you been up to since then?

After I retired from the pro tour, I continued playing at the national amateur level until 2015. I lived in San Diego from 1990-1997 and received my Masters Degree from San Diego State University in Physical Education/Sports Psychology. In 1997, we moved to Chicago where I grew up, and I started working for Wilson Sporting Goods in 1998. In 2009, I was working part time for Wilson and started another career as a Personal Trainer. I was also part of a group that formed an LGBT ministry in our church called One In Love. The ministry offers emotional and spiritual support to the LGBT community, family, and friends.

In 2015, I ended my career at Wilson, and in 2016 we held the very first US OPEN Pickleball Championships in Naples, Florida!

You worked at Wilson for 17 years. What was your role?

I was the Promotions and Marketing Manager for Indoor Racquet Sports. I mainly worked with all the sponsored players in racquetball, squash, and badminton. I also worked with the product development team.



You were president of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) from 1986-89. What was most rewarding to you about that position?

It was very rewarding for me to be a part of the efforts to continue to make women's professional racquetball a viable tour and a viable place for women to compete at a high level. I always appreciated the women who pioneered the tour and were really the heroes in this story. Through their vision and the perseverance of our group and those after us, the pro tour has continued to be the place for so many great athletes to fulfill their dreams. That's rewarding!

What players did you look up to when making your start on the tour?

I always looked up to Lynn Adams and Caryn McKinney. They were the top two players on the tour at that time. From Lynn, I learned the art of competitiveness. I didn't come close to having her determination and intense focus, but it was amazing to watch her in action and to try to soak in whatever I could. Caryn was the ultimate strategist. She taught me how to analyze my opponents and develop a game plan based on their strengths and weaknesses. But what was the most impactful about both of these women was their willingness to give of their time, money, and resources to help the tour. They never looked at what was best for them personally but instead what was good for the overall growth and success of the tour. To this day I try to implement that philosophy in life and in business. I am thankful to both of them for so much.

Was there one win that sticks out the most to you in your career?

One of the players on the tour I battled with every time we walked on the court was Molly O'Brien. We had similar game styles and always had long drawn-out matches. Molly usually had the upper hand, however, at an Olympic Festival in Colorado Springs one year, I pulled out a win that put me into the finals against my long-time friend Cheryl Gudinas. Cheryl took home the gold that night, but it was one of the most memorable tournaments of my career.

What would you say was one of your biggest strengths on the court?

My biggest strength was definitely my speed and mobility. I could cover the court! I also trained hard and wanted to make sure I never lost a match because of my fitness level. I also looked at the



game from a strategic view, keeping notes on each player and trying to outsmart them if I couldn't outplay them.

Your racquetball career is so very impressive. What was one of your accomplishments that meant the most to you?

I was awarded the WPRA Steding Cup award (named after Peggy Steding) that recognized a player on the tour for their accomplishments on and off the court. I was also awarded the USA Racquetball John Halverson Fair Play Award. Both awards meant a lot as they were about how I approached the game and the sport instead of how often I won. Don't get me wrong, I loved to compete and I loved to win, but I was glad I was able to see beyond that.



What would you say to someone who wants to break into that next level and begin playing the pro tour full time?

I have always believed a player should have a good level of accomplishment at the amateur level before going pro. It's important to gain confidence and to learn how to win. It's also important to take each aspect of the game seriously and not depend on just one or two strengths that worked at the amateur level to pull you through on the pro tour. Being in great shape, having a good resource to avoid or manage injuries, developing a sound mental approach to the game, understanding the strategy and how to analyze your opponents, and most of all putting the sport and competition in a healthy

place in your life. Stay balanced and don't take it all too seriously.

In your opinion, what does USA Racquetball need to do to grow the sport?

The people now running USA Racquetball understand the sport better than I do! They have been around a long time and have a good sense for what the sport needs.

What made you make the transition to pickleball, and do you play racquetball these days?

When we were at Wilson we started hearing about pickleball and how fast it was growing. After much research, Terri (Graham) had the idea that pickleball could use a big event. She researched trademarking the name, we put together a business plan, and in 2015 we made the decision to move out of Wilson and start our own business called Spirit Promotions, with the purpose of running the US OPEN Pickleball Championships. That's when I started playing and learning more about the sport. I play pickleball whenever I get the chance, but at this point I don't have plans to play as seriously as I played racquetball. My last racquetball tournament was 2015 National Doubles. Terri and I took home the gold, outlasting legends and Hall of Famers Susan Pfahler and Mary Lyons for the first time in our career. It was a great way to say good bye to competitive racquetball. I play rarely these days but often look at my racquet, promising myself I will get back on the courts one of these days soon!



Terri Graham & Chris Evon



Above: Chris Evon at the 2011 US National Doubles

Photo By Lynn Stephens

Center: Terri Graham & Chris Evon

Photo By Terri Pree

Left: Jimmy Lowe & Chris Evon

Right: Terri Graham & Chris Evon

Photos Courtesy of Chris Evon

“. . . players erroneously think that dropping the ball is the start of the service motion.”

By Otto Dietrich, USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

In preparation for its upcoming State Championships, one state conducted an online rules poll (complete with illustrations) that revealed only 37 percent of those participating knew the specific shots that a player who is in front of the person hitting the ball had to “leave clear” or else lose the rally if hit by the shot or causing a safety holdup. While I could give you the answer, I would rather have everyone – especially those who THINK they know it – look it up for themselves. It’s Rule 3.15(a), and you can view or download the entire rulebook using the URL cited below. FYI, that rule hasn’t changed in many years and will be the same in the next version.

Following are several issues that players have asked about lately:

Robert S. asked: I (a left-hander) approached the ball on right side of the court about 2 feet from right side wall and inside the service zone. I hit a low backhand down-the-line shot that bounced before the service zone. My opponent called “screen.” He was behind me to my left. We played it over, but I stated that it couldn’t be a screen since I hit it beyond a racquet’s length away from my body. Interesting part was that I told him after the game that it wasn’t a screen, but possibly I hindered his ability to get to the ball. My back was to him as I hit the ball. His response was that it was not a hinder since he was too far back. So, my thinking is that he called a hinder since he was out of position and couldn’t see the ball. It appeared that he couldn’t have reached the ball even with a clear view from his perspective.

I answered: As I have learned over the years, there are usually at least two descriptions of most nearly every situation in dispute. But based on what you said in your email, I think the best call is probably NO HINDER AT ALL -- PLAY ON since he realized (?) that he could not have gotten to the ball EVEN if you had

become totally invisible right after you hit that shot. Remember that the hinder call requires that the hindered person be physically capable of getting to the ball to hit it or else there is NO impairment at all. Please see the last sentence of Rule 3.14(c).

Leonard P. wrote: A call was questioned because both players on Team B missed their attempts and could not have possibly hit the ball before it hit the foot

shot before the ball bounces twice or is returned by Team B, then Team B wins that rally.

So, in your instance, it seems that Team A should lose that rally because one of the team members, in effect, touched his own team’s shot while it was still “in play.” See Rule 3.13(c)5 in the rulebook. This rule is in place to remove any referee judgement as to if whether the other team might have been able to



of a player on Team A. At that point it seemed like a gentlemen’s rule that it was a good return and out of play after both players missed. What’s the right call?

I replied: Once the ball shot by Team A hits the front wall, it then becomes Team B’s turn to hit it. Of course, if Team B does not hit the ball before it touches the floor a second time, then Team A wins the rally. But if either player on Team A happens to touch their own

2018 US National Intercollegiate Championships
Photo By Gallemore Photography

return the ball. It’s much cleaner this way. So, just don’t touch the ball while it is still in play, i.e. before it bounces on the floor a second time.

Ed S. said: During doubles play, we ran into a perplexing situation. Team A was serving. Player A1 served, but then

DO YOU HAVE A RULES/REFEREEING QUESTION?

Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usaracquetball.com and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of *Racquetball Magazine*. I will personally answer every question I get, no matter how simple or complex it may be!

Always Play by the Rules

... I encourage you to go online where you can find, review, and/or download them at:
teamusa.org/USA-Racquetball/How-To-Play/Rules.

stayed in the service zone as his partner, Player A2, stayed in the partner's box. One of the Team B players returned the serve. Then Player A1 went to the backcourt and was setting up to take the shot. Player B1 was defending the backcourt, in good position to defend the ball that Player A1 was about to hit and not at all in the way of Player A1. At that moment, Player A2 ran in between Player A1 and Player B1 and then into Player B1, and the rally was over as it became a tangle of bodies between Players A2 and B1. Did Team A block Team B? Did Team B hinder Team A?

I responded: I'll give this a try. As soon as Team A has hit the serve, they are instantly on defense and Team B is on offense. Both players on the offense (Team B) are equally entitled to try to return that serve regardless of how far away or out of position one of them may be and even if the ball is obviously on the other partner's side of the court. Of course, this can create hinder problems when a player encroaches on his "partner's side of the court" or takes what could be described as his partner's obvious shot. While it's not the preferred way of playing doubles, it is legal. Hinders can result that the referee (or the players if there is no ref), will have to sort out as being either forgivable (replay) or as punishable (penalty hinder).

Once it is obvious which player on Team B is returning the serve, his partner becomes the "odd man out" and thus he must relinquish his court position if Team A wants it to defend the soon-to-be upcoming shot by Team A. After Team A hits the ball, then the roles and priorities shift based on the circumstances. And so on and so on until the rally is over!

Based on your statement, here is what I think you said in my words with a few necessary assumptions added. Team A (Player A1) served the ball (I assume from about in the center of the service zone) and remained in the service zone. Meanwhile, his partner (Player A2) elected to remain in the doubles service box (I am assuming he was in the box on the right side of the court). Team B (I also assume it was Player B1 receiving on the left side of the rear court) returned the serve with no difficulty, i.e. Team A did not interfere with the return.

So, the problem occurred as Team A tried to "return" Team B's "return of serve." As Player A1 moved to the rear court and prepared to set up to return Team B's return of serve, Player B1 remained in the backcourt but was not in Player A1's way. So far, so good.

Then, Player A2 (inexplicably) ran between players A1 and B1 and then runs into Player B1 -- why, I don't know. But at that point, Player A1 was hitting the ball and Team B was on defense, so Player A2 was the "odd man out" and he should have NOT interfered at all with Team B and their attempt to get into good defensive position. Thus, his action cannot be justified and certainly would be a textbook version of what is called "blocking" in Rule 3.15(c). As soon as that happened, a penalty hinder should have been called on Team A and thus Team B should have won that rally.

Dave M. wondered: I'm having trouble envisioning this type of fault serve: It's part of Rule 3.6 - A drive serve involving "any continuous movement" (see Rule 3.3 Manner), beginning in one 3-foot drive service zone and continuing into the opposite 3-foot drive service zone, is a fault serve. Does this mean the player (right-handed) starts with his butt (or foot) in the left side drive zone, throws the ball forward, and chases it across the court and hits it after one bounce and his racquet breaks the plane of the right-side drive zone. Kind of a weird serve, but it's the only scenario I can come up with that fits the wording. Am I correct or is there a better description that I'm missing?

I told Dave: The answer to your question lies in the (admittedly remote) possibility should the server grab the ball and start walking in one continuous motion (sort of like you described), but before he drops the ball, he has reached the one on the other (far) side of the court. So, he started his motion in one drive serve zone and finished it in the other drive serve zone and without stopping his walk (a continuous motion), he then drops the ball and serves it. Thus, if the serve he hits is a drive serve anywhere, he has technically violated the rule. I know it's sort of a remote possibility, but it could happen. By the way, I applaud your knowing that the service motion begins with any continuous motion that results

in the ball being served. Many experienced players don't know that fine point. They erroneously think that dropping the ball is the start of the service motion.

I'll conclude this issue's What's the Call article with a comment on terminology. There are only two categories of hindrances – Replay and Penalty. All significant types of interference with the rally are basically one or the other. Note that I did not use the very nebulous term "hinder" or the rather archaic term "avoidable." That term (but not the condition itself) was revised in the rulebook many years ago. Yet many players as well as some experienced commentators and even coaches still "show their age" by using that old term. The way I see it, if a referee were to stop the rally by calling out "hinder," I would (and you also should too) consider saying something like, "Okay, but what kind of hinder?" Then, if the ref says "avoidable," you might reply, "Do you mean a penalty hinder?" I'm not trying to shake things up, but I would like to see the sport governed using more correct terms!

Always "Play by the Rules" and, if you don't have a copy of them, I encourage you to go online where you can find, review, and/or download them (update pending). Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at odietrich@usaracquetball.com and you might find your question featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball magazine. I always answer every question I get -- no matter how simple or complex it may be!

CONTINUING THE Making of a Champion



By Fran Davis (The Coach) • Diana McNab (Sports Psychologist) • Dan Obremski (Fitness Expert)

Let's continue "Making You a Champion" using the core principles of "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" as you build your championship racquetball game one assessment at a time.

In this issue I am going to discuss “**Mental Toughness**” in detail, an often-overlooked key element in developing your championship game.

MENTAL TOUGHNESS = DETERMINATION + PREPARATION

(Internal)

(External)

1. **Paola Longoria** – 8X #1 LPRT, 5X World Champion, 4X Pan American Champion, 8X US Open Champion, and Mexican National Team Member since 2006...she has to be mentally tough to hold these records.
2. **Rocky Carson** – (#2 IRT, 5X World Champion, 2X Pan American Champion, US Open Champion, and US National Team Member for 20 years...that is mentally tough.
3. **Jordan Cooperrider, Wayne Antone, and Mitchell Turner** – All my Junior Champions won back-to-back Junior National Championships in their age groups 2016 and 2017. It takes a VERY Mentally Tough player to achieve what they accomplished.

With these Mentally Tough athletes as prime examples, let's take a closer look at that formula and really see what makes them so tough:

Determination, the internal segment of the formula:

1. Setting a goal(s) for yourself and not letting anything get in your way of achieving it.
2. Looking at things that get in your way as challenges that can and will be overcome, not as obstacles you can't conquer.
3. Self-commitment to achieving that goal.
4. A burning desire, an inner drive inside you to make it happen. You have heart and you are a fighter.
5. Creating a firmness of purpose and a fixed intention.
6. Dedication to your goal.
7. Willing to invest the time and are disciplined enough to do what it takes to get the job done.



Mitchell Turner, Fran Davis, and Wayne Antone at the 2018 National Singles Championships
Photo Courtesy of: Fran Davis

Preparation, the external segment of the formula:

"The will to win means nothing without the will to prepare." - Unknown

1. Physical preparation, both in the areas of skills/techniques and conditioning (aerobic, anaerobic, weight training, and stretching) is a must. "Perfect practice makes perfect, not practice makes perfect."
2. Nutrition is important so you don't run out of gas or become dehydrated. You want to be able to go the distance at 100%.
3. Develop a plan of action not only for your match (a game plan), but also for your training schedule (including workouts) and your vision.
4. Mental preparation -- pre-game psyche plan: rituals, routines, visualization, focus, concentration, positive thinking, and strategies.
5. Have fun and enjoy yourself just for the simple pleasures racquetball provides.
6. Challenge yourself to go beyond your limits.

These are the inner secrets of what makes Paola, Rocky, and my juniors so mentally tough. You can apply the same to yourself and your lifestyle if you want to. Remember: how mentally tough you are depends upon how determined you are and how prepared you choose to be.

Fran Davis coaches Paola Longoria (8X #1 LPRT, 5X World Champion, 4X Pan American Champion, 8X US Open Champion), Rocky Carson (#2 IRT, 5X World Champion, 2X Pan American Champion, US Open Champion), and juniors Jordan Cooperrider (9X Junior National Champion and USA Junior National Team), Wayne Antone (4X Junior National Champion and USA Junior National Team), and Mitchell Turner (3X Junior National Championship and USA Junior National Team), Fran's other credentials include Hall of Fame 2004, Woman of the Year 2009, former US Team National Coach, and Master Professional (USAR-IP).

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Jason Mannino
#1 Pro Player 2003

Rocky Carson
#1 Pro Player 2008 & 2018

Fran's Credentials

- 30+ Years Camp Experience
- 2004 Hall of Fame
- U. S. National Team Coach 1989-1996, 2002
- Coaches Rocky Carson & Paola Longoria.
- USAR-IP Master Professional

Jason's Credentials

- #1 IRT Professional Player 2003
- 2X U.S. Open Champion
- IRT Most Improved Player 1998
- IRT Rookie of the Year 1996

2018 / 2019 Camp Schedule: Weekend Training Camps

TBD	Dallas, TX
TBD	Portland, OR
TBD	Chicago, IL
TBD	PA
TBD	New England
TBD	So. CA
TBD	St. Louis, MO
TBD	Seattle, WA
TBD	FL
TBD	Las Vegas, NV
TBD	Long Island, NY
TBD	No. CA

Week Long Training Camps

TBD SOUTHERN, CA CAMP (w/Rocky Carson...Intermediate to Advanced Camp)
TBD MEXICO (w/Paola Longoria . . .Intermediate to Advanced Camp)

Contact me for Dates/Locations as well as bring a camp to YOUR City/State

www.FranDavisRacquetball.com



HEAD

penn



Presented by
featuring Fran Davis and Jason Mannino

GOALS ARE GREAT, BUT...

Goal setting is always a great tool to achieve the outcome you desire. Some examples of goals would include, “*losing weight*,” “*hitting a home run*,” “*shooting 3 under par*,” or “*winning the tournament*.” Do any of these goals sound familiar? They are all great goals, but setting the goal is just the first step.

If you have ever gone on a vacation, there is a certain amount of planning that has to happen in order for you to get to your destination and have a great time. Let’s say you wanted to go to Hawaii on July 4th. Your bag is packed with swimsuits and suntan lotion! You even went and got a spray tan! Well, it’s July 3rd, and you don’t have airline tickets or a hotel. Oh no! You were so prepared. It was all planned out except for how you were going to get there and where you were going to stay. So, you see where I am going with this...

If your goal is to hit consistent drive serves and you go to practice all week and have your favorite Pro Kennex racquet and new glove, it should happen, right? Well, not really! In order to achieve your goal, there has to be a specific plan in place. Let’s walk through the same goal with a *more specific* plan.

Goal: Hit consistent drive serves

1. **Work on where I drop the ball**
2. **Keep my head down**
3. **Drive through my hips**
4. **Visualize hitting the serve**

The next goal you set, make sure you have the directions to reach your destination and remember this quote by Larry Elder:

“A Goal Without A Goal Is Just A Wish.”

About Toni: Toni Bevelock Delos Santos, former National Racquetball Champion, has an extensive background in sports and fitness. Toni has a unique gift of relating to athletes of all ages and skill levels. Toni partners with teams, coaches, and facilities across the nation, including Athletic Republic, Matchpoint Tennis Academy, Tony Zuniga Baseball, Winterton Racquetball, Elite Pitching Performance, Tustin Western Little League, and Orange County Nutrition Coaching. Toni is available for coaching thru FaceTime or in-office appointments. For more information on 90% Mental: <http://www.tonidelossantos.com/services/> or contact Toni at tonimentalgame@gmail.com.



Extreme 175

Markie Rojas

Markie Rojas
US Open Doubles Champion
US National Intercollegiate Champion



Extreme 155



Extreme 165



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BUSY TIME FOR THE MILITARY RACQUETBALL FEDERATION (MRF) AND RACQUETBALL REHABILITATION CLINICS (RRCs)

Over the last couple of months, the MRF has conducted competitions, demos, and clinics in Tempe, Arizona; Bowling Green, Kentucky; Temple, Texas; and Richmond, Virginia. In the coming months more are planned in a number of other cities and states.

ASU in Tempe was the site, and the Prescott and Phoenix VAs brought the competitors! Coaches Jerry Northwood, Cory Sanders, Ray Bierner, and Johanna Avilez have been involved in the RRC Program for 7+ years introducing wounded service members to the sport of racquetball. The RRC Challenge provides the players with friendly competition to determine a team winner. This year, it was Prescott VA! Players were treated to two hours of doubles competition followed by an awards presentation, lunch, and then watching National Doubles matches. The MRF thanks the coaches and players as well as sponsors RacquetWorld, HEADPenn, and USA Racquetball for supporting this program. Every one of these players was a winner!



The Bowling Green Parks and Recreation hosted the MRF's first RRC demo in Kentucky. Ten participants, including three wheelchair participants, were treated to a demo/clinic with instructors Bryan and Sarah Dornon along with Marsha Berry. Several of the participants have already made arrangements to continue playing! The Bowling Green organization plans to continue the outreach to disabled veterans including a league for anyone interested. A great time was had by all, and the MRF will continue to support efforts with the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation.

The MRF was back in Texas at the Temple VA Medical Center, hosting another RRC demo followed by an 8-week clinic. Thank you to the Summit Recreation Fitness Center for hosting this event. Special thanks go to instructors Herman Brooks, Mustafa Ab-Salaam, and Joe Clinton. In addition, this could not have happened without our special adaptive recreational therapist, Mr. Ennis Charleston, who coordinated the veterans' participation in the two-day clinic.

MRF also hosted an RRC demo and eight-week clinic at the MAC (Midlothian Athletic Club) in Richmond with veterans from the Richmond VAMC. This demo/clinic was made possible through the support of our instructor Cary Stancil and VA Recreational Therapist Whitney Kallenbach. It is anticipated with this clinic and others scheduled in the near future that the MRF will be able to host a regional tournament in the Mid-Atlantic area.

MILITARY RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE BACK!

The Military Racquetball Championships are back, to be held at Ft. Hood Army Base, Killeen, Texas, August 17-19, 2018. With plans to make this event bigger and better than ever, Tournament Director JoAnna Reyes has a number of unique ideas and surprises up her sleeve. Plan on joining this event -- you will not be disappointed!



The MRF In Temple, Texas

Top: Photo By Steven Harper
Above: Photo By Herman Brooks



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ROCKY CARSON

UNDERDOGS Welcome!

By Kelly R. Diesel
Photos Courtesy of IRT

There always seems to be something special about the month of March and its correlation with sports. The International Racquetball Tour (IRT) is no different when it comes to this phenomenon, as it too has recently had a taste of "March Madness." But it hasn't been just the month of March providing the tour with some upsets; even before the start of 2018, the IRT began hosting this welcome party for the upcoming underdogs in professional racquetball.

Back in early December 2017, Charlie Pratt (Gainesville, Florida) kicked off this party in his hometown of Portland, Oregon, at the John Pelham Memorial Pro Kennex Tournament of Champions. Pratt battled his way past Rocky Carson (Ladera Ranch, California) in a five-game semifinal by scores of 6-11, 11-6, 11-4, 8-11, 11-5. Mario Mercado (Cali, Colombia) awaited Pratt in the finals in Portland and lost by scores of 11-4, 11-1, 12-10,

giving Pratt his first Tier 1 championship of the 2017-2018 season.

Winning in Portland felt "surreal" to Pratt, almost like a dream. "I was proud to do it for Portland in front of my best friends, parents, and old coaches. I always knew I was capable of winning and it was very humbling. The greatest part was to do it for the Pelham family and their son John who sacrificed his life for our freedom. That's bigger than racquetball will ever be."

Pratt started a new trend in the IRT after his victory in Portland: an "anybody's game" trend. The Tour has had five different Tier 1 winners in the last five events (counting Pratt). In last year's season, the Tour had a total of eight Tier 1 events with Kane Waselenchuk (Austin, Texas) winning six of those. In this year's season, the IRT has seen eight Tier 1 events so far, with at least two more events scheduled. Waselenchuk won the first three of the season and hasn't competed in a final since the St. Louis Winter Rollout.

Although Waselenchuk has been sidelined with a knee injury since mid-January, Pratt believes it is more than just Waselenchuk sitting out that is leading to these new champions. "The next generation of players are now at the top level," Pratt said. "We're all so competitive, so it gets harder and harder to predict the outcome of these tournaments. It's anyone's ballgame now."

Tier 1 Champions Since Portland:

1. Daniel De La Rosa - 2018 L.A. Open
2. Alex Landa - 2018 Lewis Drug Pro/Am
3. Sebastian Franco - 2018 March Madness
4. Andree Parrilla - 2018 Shamrock Shootout

De La Rosa (residing in Gilbert, Arizona) won his first Tier 1 championship of the season at the 2018 L.A. Open when he won the finals by default due to Waselenchuk's knee injury. De La Rosa did cruise past Carson in their semifinal by scores of 15-5, 15-7, before making it to the finals. Alex Landa (residing in El Paso, Texas) won his first-ever Tier 1 Championship in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at the 40th Annual Lewis Drug Pro/Am. Landa faced De La Rosa in the final and defeated him in a nail-biter by scores of 15-6, 7-15, 11-10.

Landa described the moment as "the best feeling in my career" when he defeated De La Rosa for the championship. "I've won many tournaments around the world but nothing tasted like that one," Landa said. "That will always be something special for me."

Waselenchuk being sidelined is some-



thing Landa admitted to helping his chances, but he also looks forward to the opportunity to play Kane. "I like to play Kane. It's the best challenge I can have, of course," Landa said. "But with Kane not in the draw it shows the rest of the talent we have on tour and shows anyone can get the title." Stepping up to play on the IRT and setting a goal and training hard for it is the best advice Landa can give to upcoming racquetball athletes. Sebastian Franco (Cali, Colombia) took home his first championship of the season at the 2018 Racquetball March Madness event in San Antonio, Texas. Franco faced Landa in the finals and by scores of 15-9, 15-13, prevented Landa from winning back-to-back tournaments.

Andree Parrilla (San Luis Potosí, Mexico) hosted the latest underdog party at the 2018 Shamrock Shootout in Lombard, Illinois. Parrilla defeated Rocky Carson in their semifinal match by scores of 15-12, 14-15, 11-8, then faced off and beat David "Bobby" Horn (Stockton, California) by scores of 15-1, 15-9.

With more professionals starting to win these Tier 1 racquetball events, which is more impressive -- Waselenchuk's dominance when he's healthy, or how fair the field is when he's injured?

IRT Commissioner Andy Kulback believes that when you look at both sides of the question, they're equally impressive. "Looking at what Tiger Woods or Usain Bolt did in their sports, Kane is right up there for racquetball," Kulback said. "What Kane has accomplished in this sport (13 US Open Championships, 100+ singles championships, multiple doubles championships) may never be equaled."

On the other hand, Kulback thinks younger players are improving their games and top players have to work harder to maintain their top positions, which is also impressive. "We're starting to see the younger players step up their game and take full advantage of the opportunities in their draws," Kulback said.

"The IRT has had many 'faces' for the sport over the years, players like Marty Hogan, Cliff Swain, Sudsy Monchik, etc.," Kulback said. "We have been

blessed for the last decade to watch the dominance of Kane, but these five different winners in five events have given us a glimpse into the future of the IRT, and it's going to be very exciting."

IRT CEO John Scott believes there are positives that come out of both Kane's dominance and the effects on the draw with his absence. "There is certainly an upside in dealing with the unknown outcome," Scott said. "With Kane out of an event, players know they have a better chance. We've seen the results of that on the court these past five events."

Scott also recognizes that seeing greatness is hardly boring. "Greatness is greatness. Kane not being on the court detracts from the experience from the fans' point of view," Scott said. "That being said, not knowing the outcome of an event has sparked interest in a lot of people."



Left: Charlie Pratt celebrates victory in Portland, Oregon
 Left Center: Alex Landa victorious in South Dakota
 Above: Andree Parrilla wins in Lombard, Illinois
 Below: Rocky Carson and John Scott



LPRT Starts 2018 In the Southeast

By LPRT and Restrung Magazine
Photos By Restrung Magazine

Frédérique Lambert & Maria Jose Vargas
at the Peachtree Open



A Grand Slam in Greenville, South Carolina, was the LPRT opening event of 2018. This city, with all its southern charm and hospitality, was a perfect spot for the pros to show off their talents.

The 2018 Sweet Caroline Open was an amazingly healthy professional women's racquetball pro stop. With over \$20,000 in prize money, Sweet Caroline provided an optimum environment for racquetball to be played at a high level while raising awareness of heart health and knowledge about the use of AEDs in emergencies. Thank you to OB Hospitalist Group, SCRBall.com, Lynette Froehlich, David and Mary Swain, Sportsclub, and Jerry J. Josey Jr. for putting on a stellar event!

The event was kicked off with a banquet, "Dinner in the Vineyards." David and Mary Swain hosted an extraordinary sponsored dinner at their beautiful winery. Money and pledges were raised for AEDs to be gifted to local law enforcement.

David Swain commented, "Every life is priceless. It is with this in mind that we wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour Sweet Caroline Open. Not only will we be able to enjoy watching and interacting with world class athletes, we will do so knowing that the funds raised at this event in Greenville will provide AEDs to police officers who are often first responders for medical emergencies including cardiac arrest. These brave men and women frequently arrive on the scene well ahead of emergency medical services. AEDs in police cruisers will give the officers an opportunity to administer aid more quickly, thus saving lives. We are truly honored to be a part of such a worthy cause and this outstanding event."

By winning the Sweet Caroline Open, World #1 Paola Longoria won her 87th pro tour title. Congratulations to Longoria and to runner-up Nancy Enriquez for making her first-ever pro final. The winning doubles team, for their fourth win this season, were Paola Longoria and Alexandra Herrera. Second place in doubles went to the power duo of Frédérique Lambert and Samantha Salas Solis.

For more pictures and information about the Sweet Caroline Open, visit LPRTour.com/sweet-caroline-2018.

Appropriately named the Peachtree Open, stop #2 in 2018 was in the Peach State. The legendary Recreation ATL in Lilburn, Georgia, was the host facility and tournament hosts were Jason Chan and the Chan Family. Thank you to Jason and his family for their generous hospitality (and delicious food)!

For the first time this season, Paola Longoria, who had won every tour event since August 2017, was not in the draw. The absent #1 player caused an energy rush among the remaining women who all had their eyes on the Peachtree title.

Former World #2 Maria Jose Vargas (Argentina) and former World #2 Frédérique Lambert (Canada) battled their way through higher seeds to make it to the finals. Vargas walked into Recreation ATL ranked #30 on the LPRT and as the #16 seed in the draw. She had stepped away from the LPRT two seasons ago to start a family. Unfortunately, Lambert had to leave early due to a family emergency, giving Vargas the LPRT Tier 1 Pro Stop win. This was Vargas' fourth LPRT Tier 1 victory. For Lambert, her trip to the final put her back in the #2 World Ranking.

LPRT Pro Doubles was not offered at the Peachtree, so we spotlighted the Pro Mixed division. Ten intense and talented teams entered the draw. The final was a battle, but the team of Rhonda Rajsich and Ben Croft edged out Sharon Jackson and Allan Crockett for the win.

For more pictures and information about the Peachtree Open, visit LPRTour.com/peachtree-2018.



Above: Peachtree Open Tournament Director Jason Chan & family

Below: Sweet Caroline Open Tournament Directors & Players
T. J. Baumbaugh, Mary Swain, Samantha Salas, Frédérique Lambert, Paola Longoria, Alexandra Herrera, Lynette Froehlich, Jerry Josey, Jr., and David Swain



NEW ERA FOR RACQUETBALL

By Laura McCormick
Photos By Pablo Fajre



The World Racquetball Tour featured a new style of competition in April, the WRT Challenge Cup. This event is one of the first in a series in a format similar to the traditional Davis Cup in tennis. Teams compete in both singles and doubles, representing their country of origin. In this competition the first country to score three victories is declared the winner of the Challenge Cup. The WRT Challenge Cup is split into a two-day event and this first edition was hosted by ClubSport Fremont in Northern California featuring Team WRT-USA and Team WRT-Mexico. Jake Bredenbeck (WRT #1) and David Horn (WRT #2) represented Team USA while Team Mexico consisted of Rodrigo Montoya (WRT #4) and Alex Cardona (WRT #5).

The event started on Saturday morning with two singles matches. Players #1 and #2 from each team played against each other. Horn and Montoya faced each other first. Montoya defeated Horn 15-3, 15-7 to give Mexico its first victory. Next, Bredenbeck defeated Cardona in a tiebreaker, 12-15, 15-1, 11-3 to give USA its first victory and even out the series 1-1. Saturday afternoon USA and Mexico faced off in doubles where USA narrowly defeated Mexico in an electrifying tiebreaker, ending on a thirty-shot rally with scores of 15-9, 4-15, 11-9. That closed out the first day of competition with Team WRT-USA leading the series 2-1.

On Sunday morning, the #2 players of their respective teams, Horn and Cardona, started off the day with a competitive match that resulted in Cardona squeaking out the win, 15-13, 11-15, 11-10, and tying up the series 2-2. This meant that the last match between the #1's would determine the champion of this first version of the Challenge Cup. Bredenbeck and Montoya had the cup on the line in the final singles match of the event. Montoya sealed the cup for Mexico by defeating Bredenbeck, 15-8, 15-12.

This style of event is one that promises high intense competition and a variety of exciting match-ups in a format that we haven't seen before on the WRT. WRT Founder and CEO Pablo Fajre said, "Racquetball is in the new era of the sports where there is not just one kind of competition. For example, our big brother, tennis, has many different ways to compete: regular professional tour stops, team competition like Davis Cup and Federation Cup, continent competition like Rod Laver Cup, etc. This gives our sport the opportunity to be presented in different ways and be attractive for different niche markets, especially now that there are more opportunities for racquetball with our incorporation into The Olympic Channel and The World Games website."

Looking ahead to the second half of the season, WRT-featured tour events include the West Coast Open in Pleasanton, California in September; Canada Open in Calgary in October; Utah Open in Salt Lake City in November; and the Alamo City Open in San Antonio, Texas, in December. And for sure we will feature another Challenge Cup in our schedule. Who will be among the next participants? Bolivia, Colombia, Canada...? Stay tuned!

The World Racquetball Tour, also known as the WRT, is a professional racquetball tour. The tour provides a live free broadcast of every event that can be found on the website www.worldracquetballtour.com and the WRT Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WorldRballTour). Events going back as far as 2013 are archived on the WRT YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/WorldRballTour).



Above: Team WRT - Mexico - Rodrigo Montoya and Alex Cardona
Bottom Left: Team WRT - USA - David "Bobby" Horn and Jake Bredenbeck



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2018 Beach Bash

Presented by Splathead

By Vic Leibofsky
Photos By Belinda Dettman



Clear blue skies with a warm breeze off the beach was the backdrop for the 2018 Beach Bash presented by Splathead. Over 200 players from around the country descended on the Historic Courts at Garfield Street in Hollywood, Florida, for the annual extravaganza!

The dynamic duo of Michelle Herbert and newcomer Hollie Scott were a force to be reckoned with. They won a tough finals battle against seasoned one-wall veterans Isabel Ruiz and Susan Stephen. This was one of the most exciting matches of the entire event, with Susan showing tremendous grit and determination pushing past the pain of a nagging injury. In the end, Michelle and Hollie closed the match with big plays when it counted.

Hollie and Michelle also met in the Women's Singles final, with Hollie taking down her doubles partner in an exciting championship match. Michelle was also crowned Mixed Doubles Champion with partner Robert Sostre. Hollie Scott – Women's Pro Singles and Doubles Champ. Michelle Herbert – Women's Pro Doubles and Mixed Doubles Champ, finalist in Women's Pro Singles. DOMINATION.

On the men's side, the talk of the tournament was the breakout performance of Will "The Warrior" Rolon and David "Hulkamaniac" Blatt. They took down perennial Beach Bash Champs and WOR Hall of Famers Robert "Iceman" Sostre and Freddy Ramirez in a stunning upset. This was the first big win for The Warrior and Hulkamaniac, but all indications are that it certainly won't be their last! Dave also made it to the finals of the Mixed Pro Doubles with Isabel Ruiz. CLUTCH. HUGE.

The Iceman continued his annual domination in the Men's Singles with an exciting win over Nick Montalbano. As mentioned before, Robert also won the Mixed Pro with Michelle Herbert, joining Michelle and Hollie as Champions in two Pro divisions and a finals appearance in his third division. RELENTLESS.

CPRT Men's 40+ Doubles saw Hall of Famers Freddy Ramirez and Marty Hogan dominate the field again in 2018. Marty also won the Men's Combined 100+ with Richie Miller. Marty's dominance of the age groups would have been complete except for the standout performances of Bruce Hollander and Paul Nixon whose experience was more than Marty could overcome in the Combined 120's. EXPERIENCE.

Anita Maldonado and Kari Morales were dominant in the Womens 40+ as well, displaying their excellent shot selection, court sense, and athletic ability all weekend. DETERMINATION.

In the Men's A Singles final, Leo Retamar was able to take down Dan Kurzawski in a hard-fought battle.

Congrats to all the winners in every division!



Top: Men's Pro Doubles Finalists - David Blatt, Will Rolon, Freddy Ramirez, and Robert Sostre
Top Right: Hollie Scott - Women's Pro Singles and Doubles Champion
Center: Freddy Ramirez, Cliff Swain, Vic Leibofsky, Marty Hogan, Scott Hirsch, and Robert Sostre
Right: Michelle Herbert - Women's Pro Doubles and Mixed Doubles Champion and Women's Pro Singles Runner Up
Above: Jason Geis and Nick Montalbano in Men's Pro Doubles action





Vegas... Through the Years

Photos & Article By Randy Lam



The ninth iteration of the 3WallBall World Championships in Las Vegas is scheduled for September 27-30, 2018. The event is hosted by the Stratosphere Hotel & Casino and combines the best racquetball, handball, and paddleball players in the world into a single venue of world-class competition. In the shadow of the Stratosphere Tower, competitors representing nearly every state in the union and many international countries have made the event the largest event of its kind in the world. "Bigger and Better Every Year."





CALENDAR of EVENTS

For the latest in USA Racquetball Sanctioned Events, visit USARacquetball.com

*Denotes WOR Sanctioned Event

Date	Event	City	State	Location	Email
July 7	Norman Borden Belle Isle Fun Doubles	Detroit	MI	Belle Isle Park	dhunter431@aol.com
July 7 - 8	Modesto "MO MONEY" Shootout	Modesto	CA	In-Shape Sport: Modesto	ellistyle@comcast.net
July 14	2nd Annual Court Sport Diva IT'S A GIRL THING!	Round Rock	TX	Clay Madsen Recreation Center	prostopracquetsports@gmail.com
July 12 - 15	WOR Championships Presented by Pro Kennex	Huntington Beach	CA	Marina Park	geoff25@icloud.com
July 14 - 15	Maverick July Triple Crown Shootout	Arlington	TX	Maverick Athletic Club	leo@themav.com
July 14 - 15	IRT Georgia Games	Atlanta	GA	Recreation ATL	info@recreationatl.com
July 20 - 21	Winterton Academy Camp	Lombard	IL	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	thomas_f_carter@yahoo.com
July 21	4th Annual ETCASA Shootout	Longview	TX	Parkway Fitness	mccoymitchell11@yahoo.com
July 21	Belle Isle Summer Classic	Detroit	MI	Belle Isle Park	rbaker1911@gmail.com
July 20 - 22	Rocky Mountain State Games	Colorado Springs	CO	YMCA Downtown Colorado Springs	hiserj@me.com
July 20 - 22	Summer Open	Columbia	SC	Muv Fitness	scrball@hotmail.com
July 22	Military Outreach Fundraiser	Walnut Creek	CA	Renaissance Clubsport	rballchick@gmail.com
July 25 - 28	NMRA International Championships Denver	Highlands Ranch	CO	Highlands Ranch Rec Center	cindy.tilbury@att.net
July 28	Can You Stand the Heat	St. Clair Shores	MI	Saint Clair Shores Outdoor Courts	racketboat1@gmail.com
July 27 - 29	The 25th Annual Summerfest Shootout	Lombard	IL	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	dhhall@aol.com
July 27 - 29	Aloha Shootout	Fairfield	CA	In-Shape Sport: Holiday	ellistyle@comcast.net
August 2 - 6	Elite Racquetball Camp 2018	Centennial	CO	Life Time	dennis@drdracquetball.com
August 3 - 5	2018 Soda Man 3WB Shootout	Las Vegas	NV	Stratosphere Hotel & Casino	rjlam@hotmail.com
August 3 - 5	Windy City 3 Wall Brawl	Chicago	IL	Rainbow Beach	joeyjfl7@aol.com
August 3 - 5	2018 LODI Summer Sizzler	Lodi	CA	Twin Arbors Athletic Club	rollitout@sbcglobal.net
August 3 - 5	University Of South Alabama Tournament	Mobile	AL	University Of South Alabama Rec Center	jason.utesch@williams.com
August 4 - 5	Beast of the Beach - Killshot for Cancer	South Boston	MA	L Street Bath House	bove.jim@gmail.com
August 11	Rally in the Region - 2018	Schererville	IN	Omni	ryan.consulting@gmail.com
August 11	Michigan Senior Olympics Summer 2018	Warren	MI	Warren Racquet Club	ccvanhoose@comcast.net
August 11 - 12	2018 Maverick August Triple Crown Shootout	Arlington	TX	Maverick Athletic Club	leo@themav.com
August 16 - 19	WOR Belle Isle Long Wall Championship	Detroit	MI	Belle Isle Park	rbaker1911@gmail.com
August 17 - 19	2018 MRF Military National Championships	Fort Hood	TX	Abrams Physical Fitness Center	prostopracquetsports@gmail.com
August 18 - 19	2018 New Smyrna Beach CPRT Shootout	New Smyrna Beach	FL	27th Ave Park	scott@appsbar.com
August 24 - 26	2018 Florida State Doubles Championships	Davie	FL	David Posnick Jewish CC	jburns@gmail.com
August 28 - Sept. 1	34th IRF World Senior Racquetball Champs.	Albuquerque	NM	Midtown Sports & Wellness	gmampro@gmail.com
September 7 - 8	2nd Annual SPLATember Shootout	Alexandria	LA	Courtyard Health & Racquet Club	tmizzo2005@hotmail.com
September 8 - 9	2018 Maverick September Triple Crown Champ.	Arlington	TX	Maverick Athletic Club	leo@themav.com

CALENDAR of EVENTS



Date	Event	City	State	Location	Email
September 13 - 16	West Coast Open	Pleasanton	CA	ClubSport Pleasanton	pablofajre@racquetballonline.tv
September 21 - 23	Team Ocala Classic	Ocala	FL	Ocala Ymca - Frank DeLuca YMCA	teamocala@gmail.com
September 22	2018 Bremerton Shootout	Bremerton	WA	Kitsap Tennis & Athletic Center	rocco@kitsapsplat.com
September 27 - 30	2018 3WallBall World Championships	Las Vegas	NV	Stratosphere Hotel & Casino	peggine.tellez@gmail.com



Photos By Gallemore Photography



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CPRT Nationals in Florida Hosts Marty Hogan's 60th Birthday Party

South County Regional Park in Boca Raton, Florida, was the site of the 2018 CPRT National Championships. The resurging CPRT journeyed to Florida for the second year and hosted almost 100 players in 40+ singles and doubles divisions.

Living legend Marty Hogan led the charge by beating Robert Sostre in the CPRT (40+) singles and teaming up with Corey Brysman to defeat Ruben Gonzalez and Robert Sostre in the CPRT 100+ combined doubles. Cliff Swain and Richie Miller beat Rick "Soda Man" Koll and Rob Mijares in the finals of the 50+ doubles, and Augustin Carvallo and Larry Aft defeated Cesar Allen and Joyce Norris to win the 60+ doubles. Yoanis Garcia and Bridgette (Bree) Paganetto won the Women's 40+ doubles title when they bested Maria Laguer and Maddie Melendez in the finals, and then Paganetto won the mixed doubles with Tommy Medina, defeating Valeria Clemmensen and Yelandi Rivero in the finals.

With Splathead providing the tournament shirts and Harvey "The Grillmaster" Bernstein preparing the tournament fare, players from 13 different states plus Canada celebrated the 60th birthday of the ageless wonder, Marty Hogan. Mike Coulter, founder and owner of the CPRT, said, "The future is bright for the CPRT as sanctioned divisions are appearing in tournaments across the country. Scott Hirsch has re-energized the tour with his enthusiasm and support."



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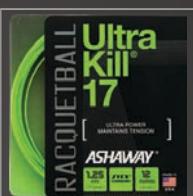
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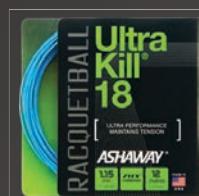
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Paola Longoria

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Rocky Carson