



From The President

The next time you're playing in a tournament and you think a referee has made a bad call, just think about that poor Canadian skating couple – Sale and Pelletier. How would you like to play a sport that depends on judges from all over the world to determine if you won? Wow!

It has occurred to me as I watch the Winter Olympics that "racquetball is to tennis" as "snowboarding is to downhill skiing". Racquetball started out as a maverick sport, played by people who wore cutoffs and talked trash to their opponents, rather than by people wearing tennis whites with line judges who spoke the Queen's English. It might not be as proper as tennis, but it sure is more fun. I bet snowboarders feel the same way about downhill skiing. Snowboarding, however, has been accepted enough to make it to the Olympics. Hopefully, racquetball will also someday join the Olympics. But I digress...

In the early days of racquetball very few people wore eyeguards. If they did, the eyeguards had open lenses – lenses that a ball flying at 100 miles an hour could actually go through. I have been told that my eyes are one of my best assets, but I never worried about playing racquetball without eyeguards until the day I was hit with a serve return right to the eye. The shot came off the racquet of a former ISRA president and scared me enough that I started wearing eyeguards *immediately* – even though the rules didn't require it at the time.

The current USRA eyeguard rule wasn't created because somebody was getting a kickback from the eyeguard manufacturers; it was implemented because people got hurt. People were hurt by racquetballs traveling at high rates of speed and suffered damaged eyes or lost vision. It can happen... and it ain't pretty. I've seen the pictures.

Things have progressed since the early days. The USRA now provides secondary insurance coverage for all participants in sanctioned tournaments and requires that eyeguards be worn during play. In order for the insurance coverage to be valid, the eyeguards have to meet the USRA guidelines for eyewear. The insurance also covers the club, the club owners, and the ISRA. All of those entities have to ensure that participants wear eyeguards in order for their coverage to be valid.

We've got a lot of racquetball left to play this season, culminating with the State Singles and USRA Regional tournaments. The Athletic Club of Bloomington is also hosting the Junior Nationals. So be a good sport and a good example — wear your eyeguards, don't put anyone in an awkward position by asking for a "special exemption" and HAVE FUN!

Laurel

Note: For detailed information on USRA requirements for eyewear, go to www.usra.org, choose Site Map/Index, select letter E, and refer to Eyeguards and USRA Protective Eyewear Policy.

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The Official Translation Guide For Racquetball Players

(Or... "I Would Have Won, but...")

by Don Grigas

Racquetball Phrase: "I've never played this guy before."

Actual Meaning: He never played me either, but somehow he figured out how to beat me 15-6, 15-9.

Racquetball Phrase: "I just couldn't seem to keep my kill shot down."

Actual Meaning: I'm too fat, tired and lazy to move my feet enough to let the ball drop to my knees anymore, so all of my kill shots usually come back waist high to center court.

Racquetball Phrase: "I didn't get enough sleep last night."

Actual Meaning: At 5:15 a.m., I woke up in the back of Doug Halverson's car on top of some Slim Jim's, beneath 30 empty White Castle cartons, reeking of bourbon in the parking lot of a gambling boat in Dubuque, with a black eye and a tattoo on my shoulder where just 12 hours earlier there was only skin.

Racquetball Phrase: "His forehand was overpowering."

Actual Meaning: Why I kept serving to his forehand I have absolutely no idea.

Racquetball Phrase: "I just had my racquet re-strung."

Actual Meaning: If I ever hit a shot in the center of my strings it might have made a difference.

Racquetball Phrase: "My ref didn't know the rules."

Actual Meaning: Normally I get away with taking a few double bounces when I play for fun with my buddies.

Racquetball Phrase: "I have never played with that kind of ball before and it threw me off."

Actual Meaning: The way I played, you would have thought I had never played with a racquet before either.

Racquetball Phrase: "I have trouble with lefties."

Actual Meaning: Righties kick my butt also.

Racquetball Phrase: "I ate something before playing that didn't agree with me."

Actual Meaning: On the way back from Dubuque we stopped at a truck plaza and I ate a three-egg mushroom and cheese omelet, a short-stack on the side, bacon, an English muffin, three Slim Jims, a biscuit with gravy, a chocolate shake, and the worm from a bottle of Mescal. And three mimosas Doug had stored in a thermos.

Racquetball Phrase: "I couldn't miss a shot in warm-ups."

Actual Meaning: Then the match started.

Get updates

on all

Illinois

Happenings.

Check out the

ISRA website

at <http://>

illinoisracquetball.com

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Women's Senior/Masters National Championship

Players Athletic Club, Warren, MI
January 17-20, 2002

Far from the sunny coast of California, the Women's Senior/Masters National Championship took place this year in the cold snowy town of Warren, Michigan (next door to Detroit). Dubbed THE MOTOWN SHOWDOWN, it drew more Illinoisans than last year and proved to be just as much fun as last year's event in Canoga Park, California.

Illinois participants were Kathy Dunham, Donna Heinzl, Margaret Hoff, Martha Huske, Pauline Kelly, Nancy Kronenfeld, Liz Molitor, Julie Vincent, Lynne Weisbart and Brenda White. (Lola Markus, who has never before missed the event, was sidelined by illness this year.) Participants came from as far as Oregon and California as well as New Mexico, Florida and Georgia.

All participants played in a round robin format on Friday and Saturday. I knew there was enough playing time for everyone when I heard Kathy Dunham say that she was "tired by the end of Saturday". Those

who were in age groups with more than one flight had playoffs for the top 8 qualifiers. Quarterfinals began early Saturday evening with the semi's and finals played Sunday morning.

The Saturday night banquet was filled with energized women who participated in a Hockey Shootout followed up by karaoke - everyone had to sing a Motown tune, which was easy after a few "shots" (meaning the hockey shootout, of course)! Illinois players made a fine showing:

40+ Liz Molitor
50+ Nancy Kronenfeld
Kathy Dunham
Donna Heinzl
55+ Margaret Hoff



Left to Right, Rear: Donna Heinzl, Martha Huske, Nancy Kronenfeld, Margaret Hoff, Kathy Dunham, Brenda White.
Front: Julie Vincent, Pauline Kelly, Lynne Weisbart, Liz Molitor

2nd Place
2nd Place
Qualifier
Qualifier
1st Place

Next year the tournament will move south to Orlando, Florida. Mike Mojer will host the event at The Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club - January 17th - 19th. For more information on the tournament or the Womens' Senior/Master Racquetball Association, call Nancy Kronenfeld at (847) 297-5511.

2002 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

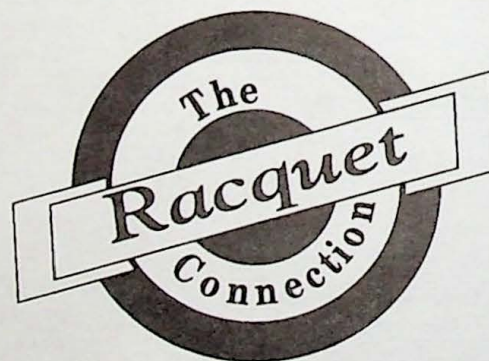
GUIDELINES:

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

Issue Mail Date	Article/Releases Due	Stuffers/Inserts Due
05/01/02	04/12/02	04/19/02
07/01/02	06/14/02	06/21/02

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

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Geoff Peters Seeks Re-election to the USRA Board



It's the time of year to start thinking about the upcoming USRA Board election - and once again I am seeking the support of all ISRA members as I seek a second term. The election takes place based on the ballots appearing in the next issue of Racquetball Magazine, with final ballots mailed in with entries to the USRA National Singles Championships held Memorial Day Weekend in Houston, Texas.

I'm looking forward to representing racquetball players around the country - and particularly those from Illinois, for two more years.

The USRA has gone through some interesting times over the past couple of years - we've hired a new Executive Director, made a number of staff changes, and most importantly, made a strategic decision to focus on our core group of competitive racquetball players as a means of growing the organization. I've been privileged to serve on the USRA Board of Directors, and I feel that it takes some time to work within the large Board and staff to be effective on behalf of the players. I've gone through that learning cycle - and look forward to really making a contribution in the future. In the past couple of years, racquetball has turned the corner and is growing again. The USRA has funded the Ladies Pro Tour (LPRA) for another year, Illinois' own Dave Negrete has revitalized the Men's Tour (IRT) and the manufacturers are working together to promote the game. Everyone is on the same page for the first time and the future looks bright!

To put it simply, I really need your help. If everyone in Illinois who is a current member will simply complete their ballot and vote, I will be re-elected easily and ensure that Illinois retains a presence at the USRA Board level. I currently serve on the Finance, Membership and Hall of Fame Committees and look forward

ward to continuing my work.

Illinois is fortunate that, in addition to myself, we also have Rich Clay serving as the National Rules Commissioner, and Nancy Kronenfeld and Lola Markus serving on the Women's Committee. Of course Dave Negrete, as the IRT Commissioner, is also actively working with the USRA Staff. We're a prominent factor at the National level, and we want to stay that way!

To vote, you must use the ballot in the March/April issue of the Racquetball Magazine, affix your mailing label, stamp it and mail it back. Doesn't sound like much - 30 seconds, right? Well, last year fewer than 5% of the ballots were returned this way! This means that EVERY vote counts!

When your next Racquetball magazine arrives, please take a minute and cast your vote. I look forward to representing you for another two years! —Geoff Peters

Editor's Note: The ISRA endorses Geoff's candidacy and joins him in asking everyone to vote this spring. Please help by reminding each other to vote!



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ISRA Travel LEAGUE Doubles Round Robin & Awards Banquet



Friday, April 12, 2002

All skill levels invited!

Wind up this travel team season with an evening of great racquetball competition, food, fun and prizes. USRA rules apply.

- ❖ Organized Round Robin play 6:30pm – 8:30pm (check in by 6:15pm)
- ❖ Banquet starts at 8:45pm
- ❖ Awards and Raffle 9:30pm
- ❖ \$12.00 per person
- ❖ Banquet/Raffle/Awards Only — \$7.00 per person

Fill out the entry form below and mail with payment to:

Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club

830 E. Roosevelt Road, Lombard, IL 60148

You may phone in your registration with a credit card: (630) 629-3390
(\$2.00 phone registration fee)

Registration is required for the round robin and awards banquet. Sign up early for round robin play, since space is limited! Please sign up with your doubles partner.

Name _____
Phone H _____ W _____
Partner's Name _____
Phone H _____ W _____

Travel Team Skill Level (Circle Two):

Women's

Men's

Open/A

B/C

Round Robin including awards banquet (\$12.00)	\$ _____
Partner's fee round robin including awards banquet (\$12.00)	\$ _____
Awards Banquet Only/Guest (\$7.00) (Total # for dinner _____)	\$ _____
Phone-in charge (\$2.00)	\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Payment:

Check _____ Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Illinois Well-Represented in the 'Junior Worlds'

The ProKennex 13th IRF Junior World Racquetball Championships were held December 16th-20th, 2001, in Orlando, Florida. Four fine players from Junior Team Illinois represented their team, state and country in admirable fashion! In all, nearly 250 elite junior racquetball players from Canada to Bolivia competed for Individual & National honors.

Showing up on the 'Worlds' stage from Junior Team Illinois were **Ben Croft, Brandon Ritschard, Angel Khamis & Justin Fleck**. Honorary JTI Members (and current college students) **Krystal Csuk and Andy Hawthorne** brought the total number of Illinois' 'Worlds' players to six!

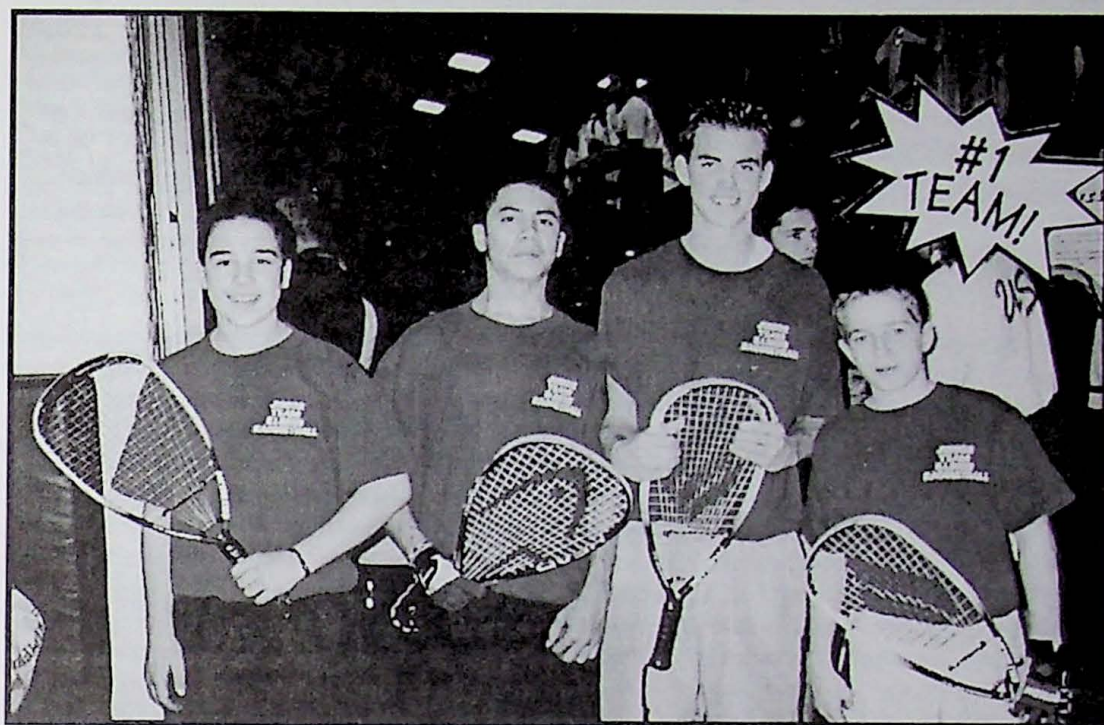
We watched Krystal and Andy competing in their final 'Worlds' events; appreciated the guidance of 'Worlds' veteran Ben Croft mentoring newcomers Brandon, Angel and Justin; and cheered as all fought valiantly against some of the world's finest junior racquetball players!

The early schedule found Ben Croft and Brandon Ritschard (both wearing their Junior Team Illinois colors) dueling with their Latin American foes on adjacent glass courts. Later, it was Ben Croft exacting revenge against a Canadian foe (did you know Ben is of Canadian descent, himself?), reversing last year's heart-breaking 'Worlds' loss (11-10 in the tie breaker) in a U.S. vs. Canada screamfest, 15-7, 15-14! Angel Khamis and Brandon both tried their best to topple Luis Baeza (Mexico) in the 14 & Unders. Justin Fleck is tough as nails and showed it in every match against some of the best the IRF could find for him to play in 12 & Unders!

The United States team finished 1st with 1,710 total points, followed by Mexico with 1,202 points and Canada, rounding out the top three, tallying 361 team points. Cheryl Gudinas, JTI Fitness Trainer & Clinician, was there in her capacity as USA Team Assistant Coach to guide the way to victory.

Individually, the 13th IRF Junior Worlds went like this:

Ben Croft — In 16 & Under Singles, Ben beat the previously mentioned Canadian, Eric Desrochers, to advance to the Quarterfinals, where he was bested by one of the USA Team's very own players, Travis Woodbury. In 18 & Under Singles, Croft waltzed to the Gold Medal in the Blue



"Junior Team Illinois" players at the Pro Kennex IRF Junior World Championships in Orlando, FL. Left to Right: Brandon Ritschard, Angel Khamis, Ben Croft & Justin Fleck.

Division, beating John Fly (USA), in two games, 15-1, 15-5!

Brandon Ritschard — In 12 & Under Singles, Brandon opened his first ever 'Worlds' tournament with a resounding 15-9, 15-2 victory over Tim Tilton (USA). He lost his second round match to the eventual World Champion, David Ortega (Mexico), in a gutsy performance. In 14 & Under Singles, the end came in the Quarterfinals of the Red Division, when Brandon played Luis Baeza (Mexico), losing 15-8, 15-10.

Angel Khamis — In 14 & Under Singles, Angel found out how unfair draws can be in your first 'Worlds' tournament! He was matched up against one of the USA's finest, Mike Keddle! This proved to be a 'silver opportunity' for Angel, however! After a loss to Luis Baeza (Mexico) in the Red Division, Angel moved on to the White Division, where he earned the 'Silver Medal'!

Justin Fleck — In 12 & Under Singles, Justin found himself matched against Brad Starken (USA) and Edgardo Longoria (Bolivia). If there is a 'higher power of racquetball', that deity must've been resting on the day the 12 & Under matches were drawn. But toughness and grit are two of the many fine ingredients that make up

Justin Fleck. He played these guys hard and they said as much later. Justin gave us some of our proudest moments!

From the college crowd, **Andy Hawthorne** lost to **Ben Croft**, 15-11, 15-11, in a "civil war" 18 & Under Blue Division semi-finals match. Andy flexed his muscles and teamed up with Cory Martin in 18 & Under Doubles to advance to the semi-final round. In 18 & Under Mixed Doubles, Andy and partner Jeni Fuller moved on to the quarterfinals.

Krystal Csuk was her usual dominant self! She and doubles partner Kristen Walsh earned the Silver Medal in 18 & Unders. Krystal also grabbed the Silver Medal in 18 & Under singles. It's been a beautiful junior career for Krystal! We hate to see her move on.

Good-bye and good luck, Krystal and Andy...we'll miss you both!

With an eager eye toward the 29th Junior Olympic National Racquetball Championships in Chicago this June, the heartened warriors of "the fastest growing junior racquetball team in the country" departed Orlando and headed home to tackle the rest of the tournament season!

—Fred Ritschard

20th Annual Revie Sorey Celebrity Racquetball Classic

World Gym

January 11-13, 2002

You might not recognize the club's name, but long-time Illinois racquetball players will remember the Charlie Club and the excellent tournaments held there over the years. A great location, right off of I-355 and Dundee Road, with plenty of space, a championship court with stadium-type seating and a hotel attached right to the club. All in all a great place to have a tournament. The club is under new ownership and restarting its racquetball program.

Friday night did have some bugs to work out. Due to a miscommunication, the club had to close with matches in progress or still waiting to start. Revie Sorey stepped up to the plate, explained the situation and gave a great speech. (For a moment there I thought I was in the Bears locker room.) "We are all athletes," he said, "and sometimes in sports things happen that you have to overcome. This is one of those situations. The club has to close and we are going to restart tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m., right where we left off." To the credit of the tournament players, not one person complained. I attribute that response to the power of Revie Sorey's personality. It was something to see. Thanks to the tournament staff (with special kudos to Jeff Grace and Tom Griffith), the tournament ran on time the rest of the way through. By the end of the weekend, player after player expressed the hope that we would be coming back to the World Gym again. They have *my* vote.

Jack Huczek, winner of last year's Revie Sorey, decided to do it again in 2002. Last year he had to take on Canadian Mike Green to defend the honor of our US players. This time around, it was a classic Midwest showdown with Michigan against Missouri. Third seed Chris Wright (MO) was unable to get past the future IRT star. Jack continues to get better and better. On the women's side, Cheryl Gudinas continues to prove that there is no one in Illinois who can stop her, which makes sense since there are few in the world who can.

Check out the rest of the winners below!

—Mike Davern

Event

First Place; Second Place; Semifinals

Men's Open (16)

Jack Huczek (MI); Chris Wright (MO); Eugene Coyle, Brian Simpson (IN)

Men's AA (8)

Cary Slade; Matt Hickenbotham (MO); Brandon Cortese (MI); Augie Pasko (MI)

Men's A (12)

Bob Wright (IN); Joe Gill; Dick Heithoff, Chris Cotton

Men's B (23)

Ubaldo Melo; John Beaulieu; Alan Kohl (MI); Randy Ransom (MI)

Men's C (17)

Mark Mazza; Jim Miller; Mike Conforti (WI); Daniel Whiston (MI)

Men's D (15)

Rick Falcone; Antonio Correa; Phil Mangiaracina, Dan Doretti

Men's 30/35+ (10)

Eugene Coyle; Tom Utterback; Cheryl Gudinas, Rick Reynolds

Men's 40+ (10)

Greg Hodges (MI); Rick Reynolds; Robert Ellis, Tom Griffith

Men's 45+ (4)

Horace Miller; Jim Hillman; Glynn Williams; Wil Rounsaville

Men's 50+ (10)

David Olson; Horace Miller; Delmer Reed, Joe Silius

Men's 55+ (4)

Pat Taylor; Elliott Papermaster (WI); Willie McGee; John Uryck (IN)

Women's Open (7)

Cheryl Gudinas; Krystal Csuk; Sara Borland (IA); Adrienne Fisher (OH)

Women's AA (3)

Kathy Dunham, Patrice Calvi; Cathy Bertucci

Women's A (9)

Stephanie Cobb (MI); Kathy Welker; Pam Grace, Sharon Huczek (MI)

Women's B (4)

Terry Truvillion (MI); Lynn Yeazell; Dorothy McDavid, Maria Niaves

Women's C (6)

Carrie Howard; Carolyn Watkins; Cynthia Flores, Judy Porter (MI)

Women's 35+ (3)

Felicia Mann (MI); Karen Green (MI); Lynne Weisbart

Men's Open Doubles (6)

Matt Anderson (IN)/Brian Simpson (IN); Matt Hickenbotham (MO)/Brett Parker (MO); Tim Austin (IN)/Jason Retzlaff (IN), Ben Croft/Joey Logan

Men's A Doubles (11)

Jose Martinez/Diane Moore; Keith Avery/Wil Rounsaville; Dan Flood/Ron Calloway, Delmer Reed/Keith Mecklenburg

continued on next page

A Message from Revie: "The Best is Yet to Come!"

Big plans are underway for the 21st Annual Revie Sorey Celebrity Racquetball Classic! This tournament, which will be held Thursday, January 16 through Sunday, January 19, 2003, will prove to be the best one yet. As usual, we will be hosting the tournament over the Martin Luther King birthday weekend so that the players will have an extra day of rest. And the families will have an extra day of fun!

Our efforts are truly encouraged by the Hammond Boys & Girls Club who wrote the following to us:

Dear Anita and Revie,

Thank you very much for your donation to the Hammond Boys & Girls Club. We are so excited to be able to use this donation toward purchasing much-needed TV's and VCR's. Your consistent support has been a tremendous help in efforts to make our club a special place for the children of our community. This letter is to let you know that we do recognize all of the hard work and great support you put forth each year for our benefit. Every day, youth come to our club for guidance, direction, and positive experiences. Your contributions and commitment help to make this possible. Your continued support is appreciated. Thank you for helping us to be "The Positive Place for Kids."

Sincerely,
Robin Freeland
Club Director

We hope to continue our support to the Boys & Girls Club and to the racquetball community for many years to come! And for all of you who participated in the 2002 Celebrity Classic, we thank you. It is your outstanding loyalty that has kept us going for all these years. Thanks a million!

Yours in racquetball,
Revie

Tournament Results

2001 Wilson Holiday Classic

Oak Park Athletic Club
December 7-9, 2001

Another great Wilson tournament... Players are going to have to get used to signing up early; those who did received an early-bird bonus of a great Wilson bag. Those who didn't will no doubt be the first to enter next year! Nice to see those out-of-state players coming in (Indiana, Michigan, Missouri)! Plenty of sustenance — pizza, soda and beer to keep those energy levels up. The refurbished courts played well — it's really nice to see a club owner putting money back into racquetball. Diane Moore (IN) took the win in Women's Open with Ellen Somberg a close second. Bryan Shaw (MO) returned once again to Illinois, winning a full draw Men's B. Eugene Coyle and Ben Croft battled it out for first place in Men's Open. And Tom Griffith (ISRA Vice President and soon-to-be Wisconsin Cheesehead), took Men's 30+. Even the Juniors showed up in droves. So many tried to sign up that Bill scheduled a separate tournament just for them on December 30th. Thanks to tournament director Bill Lyman and his excellent staff at the Oak Park Athletic Club for closing out the 2001 tournament schedule—twice over!

—Cheryl Kirk

Event

First Place; Second Place; Semifinals

Men's Open (9)

Eugene Coyle; Ben Croft; Bill Lyman, Keith Minor

Men's AA (4)

Steve Horve; Mike Burns; Cary Slade, Mike Bryce

Men's A (8)

Keith Kareiva; Jim Mills; Dave Royster, Tony Mangiaracina

Men's B (14)

Bryan Shaw; Ray Shimizu; John Beaulieu, Joe DeMarco

Men's C (13)

Tom Lamberson; Humberto Sosa; Dan Whiston, Royce Simpson

Men's D (17)

Dan Whiston; Thomas Reed; Alberto Palacios, Corey Lewison

Men's 30+ (14)

Tom Griffith; Tom Connelly; Tom Utterback, Mike Davern

Men's 50+ (6)

Dennis Healy; Joe Silius; Delmer Reed, TJ Ferro

Womens Open (10)

Diane Moore; Ellen Somberg; Karin McCauley, Deb Stefandel

Womens AA (4)

Gloria Lang; Pam Grace; Mary Herron, Deb Chaney

Womens D (3)

Joan Vandekieft; Beth Weiler; Carolyn Watkins

Mens Open Doubles (6)

Eugene Coyle/Ben Croft; Jim Hillman/Keith Minor; Dave Bachar/Don Grigas, Bill Lyman/Boris Carvallo

Men's AA Doubles (5)

Martin Gonzalez/Tony Gonzalez; Jim Bono/Dan Kolodziej; Korey Engle/Dave Kerr, Ken Fleck/Jeff Grace

Men's B Doubles (6)

Joe DeMarco/Calvin Branch; John Anaya/Joe Wilhelm; Bob Randazzo/Rick Rinella, Willie McGee/Lee Cherry

Men's C Doubles (8)

Jim Camasto/Tom Lamberson; Willie McGee/Lee Cherry; Tom Reed/Bill Apostolos, Will Liaguno/Rodrigo Solano

Mixed Open (9)

Diane Moore/Jose Martinez; Patrice Calvi/Joe Silius; Mary Herron/Don Kolodziej, Deb Chaney/Kent Hadraba

Mixed AA (4)

Gloria Lang/Jim Bono; Deb Stefandel/Jim Mills; Ellen Somberg/Jim Hillman, Pam Grace/Jeff Grace

Juniors Divisions—December 30, 2001

Junior 16 and under

Jeff Novak; Jeff Albert; Lauren Ritschard, Mario Limonciello

Junior 14 and under

Jason Young; Michael Davern, Jr.

Girl's 12 and under

Erin Egan

Boy's 12 and Under

Brandon Ritschard; Geoffrey Goldblatt; Trevor Snyders, Joey Limonciello

Boy's 10 and under

Nick Loy; Zac Antonoff; Adan Ivetia, Matt Loy

For Kids Only—The Oak Park Junior Holiday Classic

Oak Park Athletic Club
December 30, 2001

Claiming the honor for holding the last tournament of 2001, the Oak Park Athletic Club hosted the first Illinois "Juniors Only" Racquetball Tournament in recent memory. Since there were a large number of juniors not able to get in the Wilson Holiday Classic due to constraints on court time, Tournament Director Bill Lyman and the staff at the Oak Park Athletic Club offered this tournament as a replacement. Thirty competitors took advantage of the opportunity and sought titles in Advanced, Intermediate, Beginner and Multi-Bounce divisions. The players had a great time and gained valuable experience for use in future tournaments. Junior Team Illinois and the Oak Park Athletic Club thank the following sponsors for their continued support of the team members: ISRA/USRA, Wilson Racquet Sports, RC Cola and Anthony's Pizza. Many thanks also to the following individuals for volunteering their valuable time, free of charge, to support JTI: Fred Ritschard, Chuck Snyders, Char Borre, Sean Nelson, T.J. Ferro, Liz Molitor, Jeff Grace, Bill Lyman and Bob Croft. If you would like to spend a rewarding day volunteering to teach a clinic or hosting a junior tournament, or if you'd like to make a donation to the Junior Team, please contact Fred Ritschard at TheJTI@aol.com. Check out the tournament results below!

—Mike Davern

Event

First Place; Second Place; Semifinals; Quarterfinals

Junior Advanced

Ben Croft; Mike DeGonia; Mike Steinhaus, Brandon Ritschard; David Thomas, Jeff Albert, Justin Fleck, Jason Young

Junior Advanced Consolation

Jeff Albert; Justin Fleck; David Thomas; Jason Young

Junior Intermediate

Trevor Snyders; Lauren Ritschard; Justin Beal

Junior Beginner

Wesley Lynch; Nick Loy; Adam Ivetic, Tony Falcone; Zac Antonoff, Nick Cyr, Kyle Cyr, Ryan Lynch

Revie Sorey

continued from previous page

Men's B Doubles (8)

Calvin Branch/Joe DeMarco; Frank Ball/Afonso Pugh; Ray Willis/David Willis, Lee Cherry/Willie McGee

Men's C Doubles (4)

Frank Ball/Alphonso Pugh; Dan Doretti/Rick Falcone; Greg McClellan/Stam Johns, George Parobek/Dan Whiston

Men's 35+ Doubles (9)

Rich Lopez/Jose Martinez; Rich Clay/Greg Hodges; Cliff Bensen/Revie Sorey, Ken Fleck/Rick Cavaliere

Mixed Open Doubles (4)

Shannon Kohl (MI)/Krystal Csuk; Rich Lopez/Diane Moore; Joe Silius/Patrice Calvi, Jim Bond/Gloria Lang

Mixed A Doubles (11)

Pat Jennings/Ken Cook; Pam Grace/Jeff Grace; Maria Nieves/Juan Nieves, Marcia Tilley/Rick Cavaliere

Juniors 12 and under (4)

Justin Fleck; Trevor Snyders; Nick Loy; Zac Antonoff

Juniors 14 and under (3)

Erin Egan; Erik Tomek; Michael Antonoff

continued on next page

For Kids Only

continued from previous page

Junior Beginner Consolation

Brett Petricek; Matt Loy; Erik Young, Ryan Lynch; Chris Reinrick, Meagan Reilley, Stephanie Young, Partick Reilley

Junior Multi-Bounce

Peter Young; Justin Snyders

2002 Doubles Tune-up

The Southlake Club

January 19, 2002

Pat Armstrong and Mike Vicary traveled north to snowy Mundelein to take the One Day Doubles at The Southlake Club on January 19! Armstrong and Vicary hail from Peoria and advised that the rest of the field should be watching for the Peoria gang at State Doubles. "We're ready to play," said Vicary, while watching the Bears lose early in the first half and rehydrating at the Southlake bar for the long drive home. "And there are a lot of other guys down south who are looking forward to State Doubles, too!" Armstrong and Vicary rode balanced play (lefty/righty combo) to straight game victories over Laurel Davis/Geoff Peters and Gary Yetman/Rick Mundrane. In the finals, they faced an equally impressive Steve Zeitlin and Terry Vandermeersch who had won three straight matches to get to the finals. In the end, Pat and Mike stayed on a roll as they marched to a (relatively) easy 15-3, 15-4 victory. In other divisions, Waylon Adams and Manny Paez came back to take the Men's A final over Doug Dvorak and Rob Ellis; Carl Jaeschke and Scott (Iron Man) Alberts took the B final in a tie breaker over Dean Hollowell and Rich Lux; Brett Crawley and Rob Littledale took Paul Kohrs and Doug Stein in the C Final and Alberto Palacios and Joanne Vandekieft took the Mixed Title over Scott and Donna Alberts (who survived the married partner jinx and left the club — together!)

Club Manager Kathy Logic and her staff (Lynne, Mary, and Tina) ran a friendly tournament with plenty of food and fifty-cent beers all day! They promise more one-day events later in the season to accommodate players' busy schedules. Get on up to Mundelein and try one of these fun events!

—Geoff Peters

Event:

1st Place; 2nd Place; Semi-finals

Men's Open

Pat Armstrong/Mike Vicary; Steve Zeitlin/Terry Vandermeersch; TG Venkateshwaran/Mitch Becker, Gary Yetman/Rick Mundrane

Men's A

Waylon Adams/Manny Paez; Doug Dvorak/Rob Ellis; Rich Clay/Mike Ardito, Laurel Davis/Geoff Peters

Men's B

Carl Jaeschke/Steve Alberts; Dean Hollowell/Rich Lux; Ron Allen/Ramesh Kanapareddy, Paul Kohrs/Doug Stein

Men's C

Brett Crawley/Rob Littledale; Paul Kohrs/Doug Stein; Nick Kelly/Bill Butterworth, Dave Seltzer/Bo Song

Mixed Doubles

Alberto Palacios/Joan Vandekieft; Scott Alberts/Donna Alberts; Doug Stein/Tina Hernandez, Henry Broman/Cathy Mysliwiec

Palos 7th Annual Olympic Open

Palos Olympic

February 8-10, 2002



Tom Utterback, Child Prodigy/
Tournament Director

Unbelievable — a 10-year old kid acts as tournament director, provides hospitality, on-time matches, color-coordinated red, white & blue shirts and trophies...no, no wait...this is so confusing...okay, this individual was the tournament director, but the picture is, shall we say, not current. The picture is 30 years old (a blessing, considering the tie), and the tournament director celebrated his last weekend in his thirties. Happy Birthday to Tom Utterback, who turned 40 on February 11! So this was the usual fun tournament with all the above amenities, but it was also Tom's entire-weekend-birthday-celebration, culminating on Saturday night with a delicious birthday

cake and a party at Joe Daniel's Neighborhood Pub. A nice crowd showed up, comprised of tournament players, racquetball buddies who weren't competing, and people we've never seen before. Fun party! Okay, back to the tournament: This year's Olympic Open drew 123 players from Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. Amidst the family atmosphere, competition was intense and fair in equal measure; the tournament coordinators had practically no trouble getting people to referee. In a departure from traditional ISRA play, the Men's Open division was replaced by Men's Pro, playing by International Racquetball Tour (IRT) Rules — best of 5 games to 11 points each, must win by 2 points. Competitors in the Men's Pro division earned IRT Pro ranking points. Congratulations to first place winner Bill Lyman, who won in three games against Eugene Coyle. Eugene, however, didn't go away win-less — he took the Men's 30/35+, defeating Lem Rowans in a tiebreaker. In winning Men's D, up-and-coming Angel Khamis (who normally competes in Juniors 14 and under!) is emerging as someone to watch. It was great to see a Women's C full draw of 9 — for some, their very first tournament. And Jerry DeGonia provided a great Juniors experience on Sunday afternoon (see results next issue). "I want to thank my wife Barb for her partnership in the tournament's success, Rich Clay for donating his time and energy, and everyone who supported the tournament by playing and/or helping out this weekend," said Tom "Baby Face" Utterback. The one remaining unanswered question: Will he ever live down this picture?

—Cheryl Kirk

Division;

1st Place; 2nd Place; Semifinals

Men's Pro - IRT Rules (12)

Bill Lyman; Eugene Coyle; Joey Logan,

John Amatulli

Men's AA - IRT Rules (4)

Kent Hadraba; Mike Davern; Mike Bogue, Sandy Stephens

Men's A (11)

Keith Kareiva; Tony Sambo; Eric Battaglia, Ryan Kessler

Men's B (20)

Tony Gonzalez; Ray Meisner; Joe DeMarco, George Kleber

Men's C (17)

Jason DeSanto; Jim Wehrli; Bill Hawkins, Royce Simpson

Men's D (18)

Angel Khamis; Bob Cecich; George Parobek, Mike DeGonia

Men's 30/35+ (12)

Eugene Coyle; Lem Rowans; Horace Miller, Tom Utterback

Men's 45/50+ (12)

Joe Silius; Horace Miller; Brian Castillo, Len Restaino

continued on next page

Notice of Election of ISRA Officers and Board Members

The ISRA Board will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2002, 7:00 p.m., at the National City Bank office in Oak Brook at 2021 Spring Road, Suite 600 (use the elevator in the southwest corner of the building). As with all ISRA meetings, this meeting is open to the membership; however, this session is particularly important since all members attending have a vote in the election of the ISRA Board of Directors. Officer and Board positions are for staggered two-year terms. This year, the open positions include Vice President, Treasurer, two of the four Zone Vice Presidents and 5 of the 10 Governing Board members.

The Officer slate is:

Cheryl Kirk for Vice President
Rich Clay for Treasurer
Carol Bastien for South Zone VP
Doug Halverson for West Zone VP

The following three individuals are being re-nominated to the Governing Board:

Patrice Calvi
Peggy Hartmann
Bill Lyman

Per the ISRA bylaws, opposing slates and individuals must be nominated in writing and received by the President prior to May 1. If there are no opposing nominations, the Nominating Committee's slate will be accepted automatically. Anyone interested in running for office or a Board position

should contact Laurel Davis at
laurel.davis@nationalcity.com.

The ISRA Board would also like to welcome four new members to the Auxiliary Board:

Gloria Lang (Lansing)
Kurt Mankle (Peoria)
Terry Sutton (Peoria)
Mike Vicary (Metamora)

Any ISRA member who wishes to help improve the quality of racquetball in Illinois is welcome to join the Auxiliary Board. Come out and support Illinois Racquetball!

Signed, The Nominating Committee:
Judy Young (Chair)
Pam Grace
Geoff Peters

Palos Olympic continued from previous page

Men's 55/60/65+ (4)

John Talty, Sr.; Ed Olah; Joe Quirke, John Ramsay

Women's Open (4)

Ellen Somberg; Diane Bunker; Cathy Bertucci;
Karin McCauley

Women's A/B (8)

Janet Eminger; Cathy Bertucci; Barb Utterback,
Julie Carter

Women's C (9)

Maureen McKay; Sue Wojnowski; Amy Stasnal,
Carrie Howard

Men's Open Doubles (9)

Bill Lyman/Ben Croft; John Amatulli/Mark Thorn;
Joey Logan/Lem Rowans, Dave Bachar/Don Grigas

Men's A Doubles (4)

Bob Weber/Joe Gill; Keith Kareiva/Larry Vena;
David Royster/Calvin Branch; Jeff Grace/John
Matarrese

Men's B Doubles (6)

George Kleber/Joe Keane; Eddie Ruffin/Grant
Macuba; Joe Quirke/John Talty, Sr., Gene
Cromwell/Phil Strieter

Men's C Doubles (6)

Frank Smalarz/Brad Jordan; Royce Simpson/Darryl
Earl; Ed Olah/Kit Lawson, Mike Belvedere/Eddie
Ruffin

Women's Open/A Doubles (3)

Nancy Amaro/Julie Carter; Patrice Calvi/Pam
Jacobsen; Maria Johnson/Cheryl Kirk

Mixed Open/A Doubles (9)

Nancy Amaro/Tom Utterback; Patrice Calvi/Joe
Silius; Jeff Baumgartner/Maria Johnson, Frank
Bunker/Diane Bunker



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Tournament _____ Representative _____

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





*Don, your birthday again... already?
How much for the hats?*

Illinois State Doubles

Glass Court Swim & Fitness
January 25-27, 2002

With the temperatures outside in the mid-60's, the sign at the front door should have read: "Welcome to the Glass Court Summerfest!" instead of "Welcome to Illinois State Doubles". However, unseasonably warm weather did not lead to unseasonably poor play. Tournament players, 225 in all, from 94 Illinois towns, formed 178 teams (14 more than last year!). There is just something a little more relaxing about doubles play (okay, with the exception that you don't want to let your partner down). With all that as a backdrop, Illinois players got plenty of action; even first round non-winners got their money's worth. For example, Don Klopke and Jeff Grace played both of their Men's A Consolation matches on Saturday night beginning at 11:00 p.m. and didn't get off the courts (after two tie-breakers) until 1:15 a.m. Sunday morning. As Don says, at least he got to play a finals match on a Sunday! Other finals matches were repeats of tough matches from last year. For example, Men's Open winners Dale Johnson and Eugene Coyle had to get by Keith Minor and Rick Ricksecker for the second year in a row. It was a real joy watching a

tough but clean match.

Tournament stringer Ralph Kusche said it best, "It's nice to finish a tournament watching the Open players. It helps to keep in mind how the game is supposed to be played."

Watching Dale,

Eugene, Keith and Rick really illustrated that point. Actually, by all appearances, lots of Illinois players look like they play the game the way it's supposed to be played. Check out the finishers below. One thing is for sure, you won't see any losers on this list!



*Tournament Director Laurel Davis congratulates
Barry Siegel and Marshall Waldo (Men's 55+)*



*Jim Freaner and Kurt Mankle
Men's 30+ Champs*

One last thing, I can't leave the weekend behind without saying thanks to the Glass Court and its staff (always a great job), the Illinois board members and other players who gave up their time beginning on Monday night (much earlier than that for tournament director Laurel Davis). Thanks also to TJ Ferro for bringing in RC Cola as a tournament sponsor as well as the great Nabisco products to keep up our energy all weekend. Last but not least, a special thanks to departing ISRA Vice President Tom Griffith who will be leaving the state as he takes on a new job in Wisconsin. Tom has devoted countless hours to making racquetball better in Illinois. He will be sorely missed.

—Mike Davern



*"Dad, I'll hold your trophy for you!"
Riley and Madison Armstrong and Allie Vicary pose with
Pat and Mike, Men's AA Winners*



Rich Clay fields a rules query...

Results - Illinois State Doubles

Event

First Place; Second Place; Semifinals

Men's Open (11)

Dale Johnson/Eugene Coyle; Keith Minor/Rick Ricksecker; Ben Croft/Joey Logan, TJ Ferro/Bill Lyman

Men's AA (4)

Pat Armstrong/Mike Vicary; Mike Bryce/Steve Horve; Dennis Negrete/Watmora Casey, Mike Bogue/Mike Ardito

Men's A (22)

Joey Brownlee/Russ Tatar; Ron Calloway/Keith Mecklenburg; Tim Brown/Rajesh Sondhi, Chris Cotton/Joey Gill

Men's A Consolation: Don Klopke/Jeff Grace

Men's B (14)

Joe DeMarco/Calvin Branch; Steve Condon/Dave Schoonover; Don Cipriani/George Kleber, Bob Brennan/Vito Rubiano

Men's B Consolation: Grant Macuba/Mike Belvedere

Men's C (13)

Mark Bricker/John Puccio; Brett Crawley/Rob

Littledale; Fred Conforti/Mike Conforti, Josh Hanford/Gary Walters

Men's D (6)

Thomas Reed/Bill Apostolos; Ray Almaraz/Jesus Garcia; Fred Conforti/Brian Bagan, Bill Butterworth/Fred Ritschard

Men's 30+ (4)

Jim Freamer/Kurt Mankle; Pat Armstrong/Mike Vicary; Tom Griffith/TG Venkateshwaran; Russ Tatar/Dave Negrete

Mens 35+ (11)

Jim Hillman/Keith Minor; Dave Bachar/Don Grigas; Bob Weber/Joey Gill, Steve Horve/Mike Bryce

Men's 35+ INT (3)

Phil Mangiaracina/Ray Shimizu; Mark Bricker/John Puccio; Trent Wilfinger/Ken Woodbind,

Men's 40+ (12)

Bill Lyman/Mike Burns; Kevin Yeazell/Jeff Baumgartner; Angelo Moca/Mike Bogue, Winston Cole/Wil Rounsaville

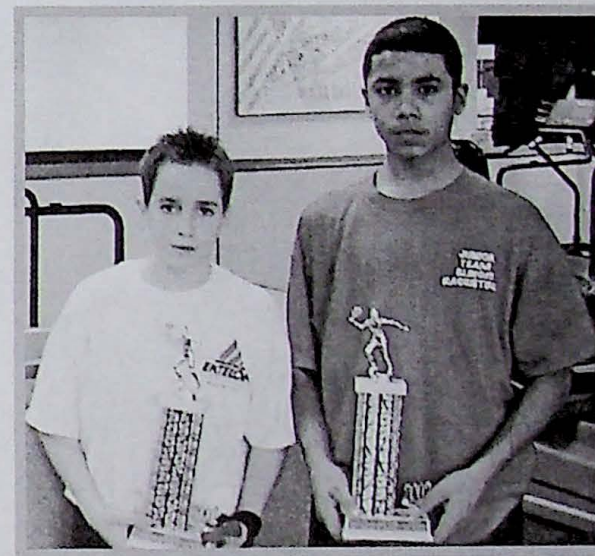


Mixed B Winners Joe Quiske and Dorothy McDavid

continued on next page



Laurel Davis (ISRA President & State Doubles Tournament Director) with Men's Open Champs Dale Johnson and Eugene Coyle



Justin Fleck and Angel Khamis Juniors 14 and Under



Phil Mangiaracina and Ray Shimizu Men's 35+ Intermediate



Peoria's Own: Terry Sutton and Pam Schubach, Women's A Champions

Illinois State Doubles Results

continued from previous page

Men's 45+ (12)

Gregg Mandell/Dave Olson; Mike Burns/Gary Frumkin; Steve Lloyd/Angelo Moca, Keith Avery/Wil Rounsaville

Men's 50+ (4)

Frank Rusch/Joe Silius; Dennis Healy/Randy Puebla; Horace Miller/Delmer Reed; Don Cipriani/George Kleber

Men's 55+ (6)

Barry Siegel/Marshall Waldo; David Crouse/John O'Donnell, Jr.; Dennis McKee/Ron Yonkee, Tom Fehsel/Joe Quirke

Men's 55+ Int (2)

Kit Lawson/Ed Olah; Mike Oester/George Smuckel

Women's Open (5)

Nancy Amaro/Diane Bunker; Patrice Calvi/Ellen Somberg; Laurel Davis/Liz Molitor; Kathy Dunham/Mary White

Women's A (7)

Terry Sutton/Pam Schubach; Barb Utterback/Janet Eminger; Lynne Weisbart/Kathy Welker, Terri Kozubik/Julie Carter

Women's B/C (3)

Dorothy Che-Menju/Carrie Howard; Carolyn Watkins/Deb Dallas; Dorothy McDavid/Marsha Enright

Women's 45+ (3)

Donna Heinzl/Martha Huske; Marian Bala/Char Borre; Lynne Weisbart/Cheryl Kirk

Mixed Open (2)

Patrice Calvi/Mike Davern; Ellen Somberg/Rich Clay

Mixed A (9)

Kathy Welker/Scott Reiser; Terry Sutton/Jim Frenner; Marcia Tilley/Rick Cavaliere, Pat Jennings/Ken Cook

Mixed B (3)

Dorothy McDavid/Joe Quirke; Mike Mahon/Cheryl Kirk; Deb Dallas/Tad Dallas

Mixed 30+/35+ (4)

Tom Utterback/Nancy Amaro; Kurt Mankle/Pam Schubach; Julie Carter/Dale Carter; Kevin Yeazell/Lynn Yeazell



Matt Malcheski -- A man of many talents!

Mixed 40+ (6)

Patrice Calvi/Len Restaino; Frank Bunker/Diane Bunker; Patti Drendel/Don Grigas, Maria Johnson/Jeff Baumgartner

Mixed 50+ (3)

Kathy Dunham/Joe Silius; David Olson/Nancy Kronenfeld; Donna Heinzl/John Heinzl

Juniors 12 & Under (3)

Justin Fleck/Trevor Snyders; Kyle Cyr/Nick Loy; Brett Petrecik/Chris Heinrich

Juniors 14 & Under (2)

Justin Fleck/Angel Khamis; Erin Egan/Justin Beal

Juniors 16 & Under (4)

Ben Croft/Brandon Ritschard; Mike DeGonia/Angel Khamis; David Thomas/Erin Egan, Jason Young/Scott Ness (also winners of 16 & under Consolation)

Juniors 18 & Under (2)

Chris Snyders/Mike Steinhaus; Jeff Albert/Lauren Ritschard



*Women's Open Champions
Diane Bunker and Nancy Amaro*



*Calvin Branch and Joe DeMarco
emerged victorious in Men's B*



*Chris Snyders and Mike Steinhaus
First Place, Juniors 18 & Under*

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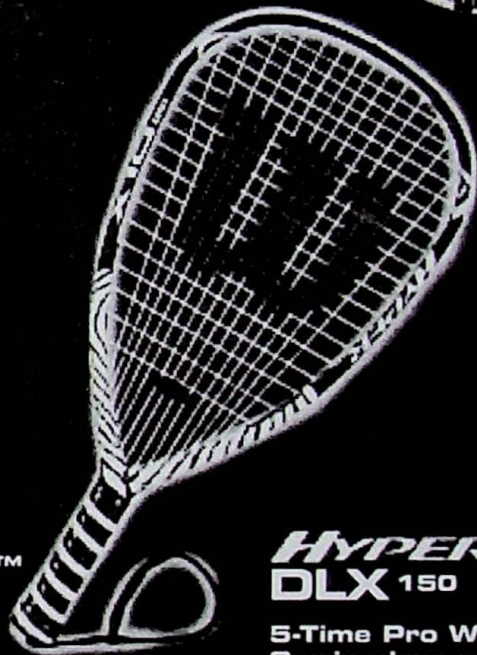


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2002 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

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March 14-17, 2002
Shamrock Shootout
Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

March 22-24, 2002
Edens March Madness
Edens Athletic Club
Joe Gill (773) 286-6700
SANCTIONED

April 5-7, 2002
**ISRA STATE SINGLES
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Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
Laurel Davis/Dave Negrete
(630) 893-9577
SANCTIONED

April 19-21, 2002
**Ektelon/USRA REGIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
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SANCTIONED

April 26-28, 2002
Illini Classic
The Fitness Center, Champaign
(217) 356-1616
SANCTIONED

May 3-5, 2002
Negrete Open
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
Dave Negrete (630) 893-9577
SANCTIONED

May 23-27, 2002
**Ektelon/USRA NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Houston, Texas, Downtown YMCA
Jim Hiser (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

June 22-26, 2002
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708-848-5200
Wednesdays 4-7 and
Saturday 12-3 p.m. \$8.00

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

Southlake Challenge Court
847-949-8180
Saturday 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
\$10.00 for ISRA Members
(with membership card)

Landmark Health & Racquetball
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6 p.m. - 8 p.m. \$5.00

World Gym, Palatine
(formerly Charlie Club)
847-991-9300
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\$5.00

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Center, Geneva
630-232-7867

Saturday 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
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To add your club to this list, contact:
Mike Davern 630-579-8611



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