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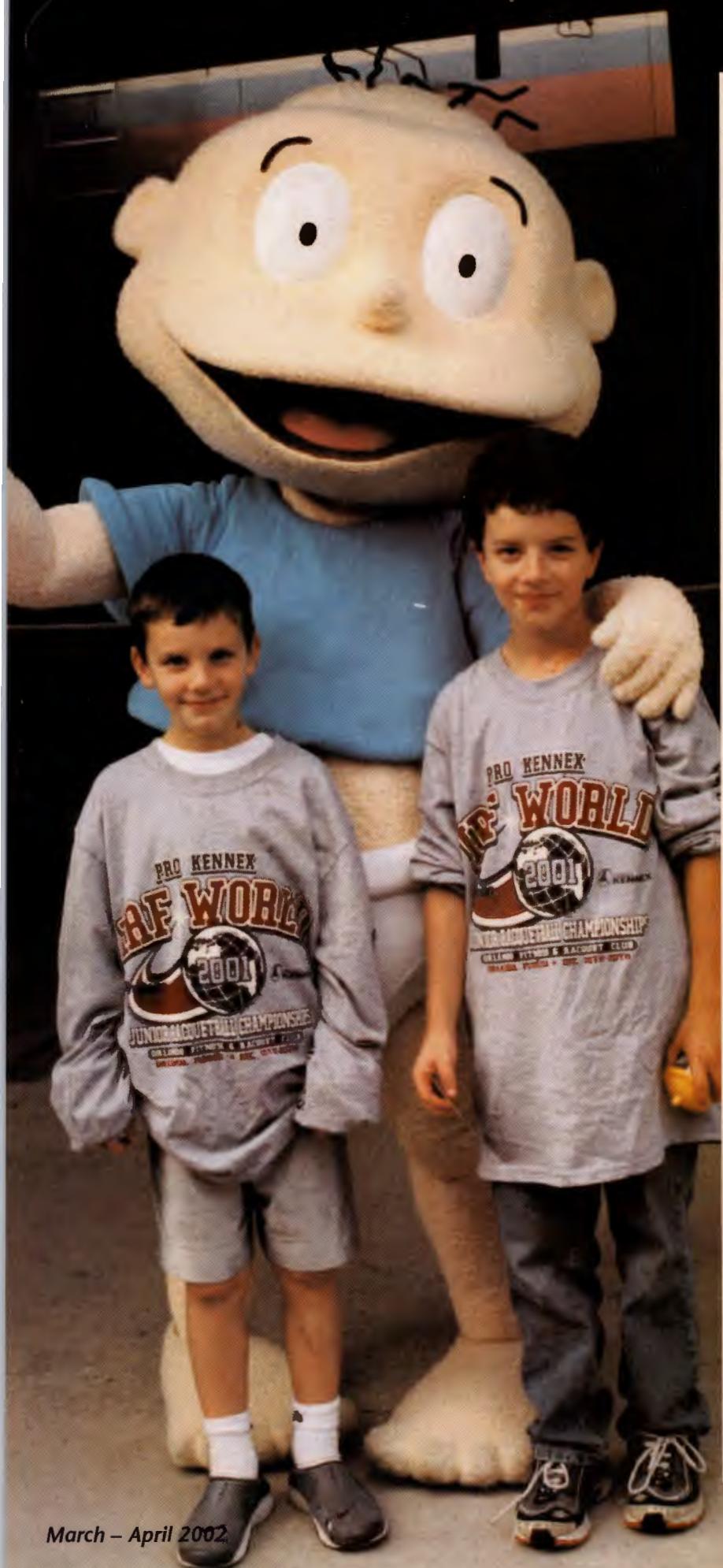


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RACQUETBALL

Volume 13, Number 2
March - April 2002

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... on the cover ... Kerri Wachtel wins her first pro title in Memphis. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

... this page ... Sam and Dylan Reid enjoy a side trip at Junior Worlds in Orlando. Photo: Bruce Reid.



Did your email melt down recently? Ours did, when the company we'd been using for quite some time lost a "backbone" in the Springs and decided not to re-establish service in our area. Darn. Like so many with home.com, we scrambled and got back online (with help from Excel.net) ... but until we did, it was all I could do to keep everyone calm. "File" I said ... "It will be fixed when it's fixed, and not a moment before" I said ... "stop following me" I said ...

In our (comparatively) itty-bitty little sport, it's remarkable to see just how much we've come to

depend on our internet connections to keep everyone informed. Even more so than this physical publication (gasp!), our websites and online services have become the "tool of choice" in getting the word out about racquetball, with an immediacy that we never had before. Just after the last issue had gone to press, Jim Hiser was named Executive Director by the board [see page 31]. I tore my hair out, since I'd just "editorialized" about the new working structure here in the office ... but we were able to make a timely announcement anyway, via our websites. We were thrilled to have been able to announce the U.S. OPEN airdate on the cover of the last issue ... but when issues arrived late, it was our many website call-outs that provided viewers with the heads-up.

But we've had our disappointments, too. Aside from occasional down-time, we contracted with an internet services company that promised more than it could deliver and now we're in litigation. We hoped for a national "access standard" against which we could develop interactive community tools — from club programming to better communications with all sanctioned events. We still think that standard is the internet, now where's the club computer? Is it online? Can the racquetball people be allowed to use it? Please?

So where are we? A bit irritated and behind schedule, but not mortally wounded. We still have our own, house-managed websites and last fall we re-opened the USRA storefront to process online event registrations, membership sign-ups, subscriptions and merchandising [see inside back cover]. Online tournament reporting services from tennisinformation.com still work beautifully for our national events, so that's a plus. We're even releasing some specialty items out of inventory that wouldn't have "gone public" anywhere but at a national event. You can still find the latest news, between issues, at usra.org and racquetballmagazine.com.

The next level of internet services — needed to develop new administrative tools for the sport — is within reach. A brand, spanking new business venture is expected to "go public" in the next few weeks, and racquetball will be a part of it. We'll probably have a nice, juicy print announcement in the next issue. In fact, I'll bet good money that press release arrives tomorrow (there goes my hair!). Ah, who cares ... you know where to look.

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1. the launch

Introducing Harrow Racquetball

Harrow Racquetball, a division of Harrow Sports, is a dynamic organization with a mandate to grow racquetball through Pro Shops across North America. Harrow products will be available in **PRO SHOPS ONLY**. The goal is to re-enforce the strength of the Pro Shop in the clubs and offer clubs an additional revenue stream. Furthermore, we have designed a unique Harrow Racquetball Credit Program as an added benefit to Pro Shops.

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We are very excited to be involved in the resurgence of racquetball. Players will enjoy our products because they are both innovative and effective. Also, Pro Shops and Clubs will find Harrow eager to create and strengthen the relationship by taking an active role in the future of the Clubs and subsequently the game.


Mike Ceresia,
Sales and Marketing Manager
Harrow Racquetball

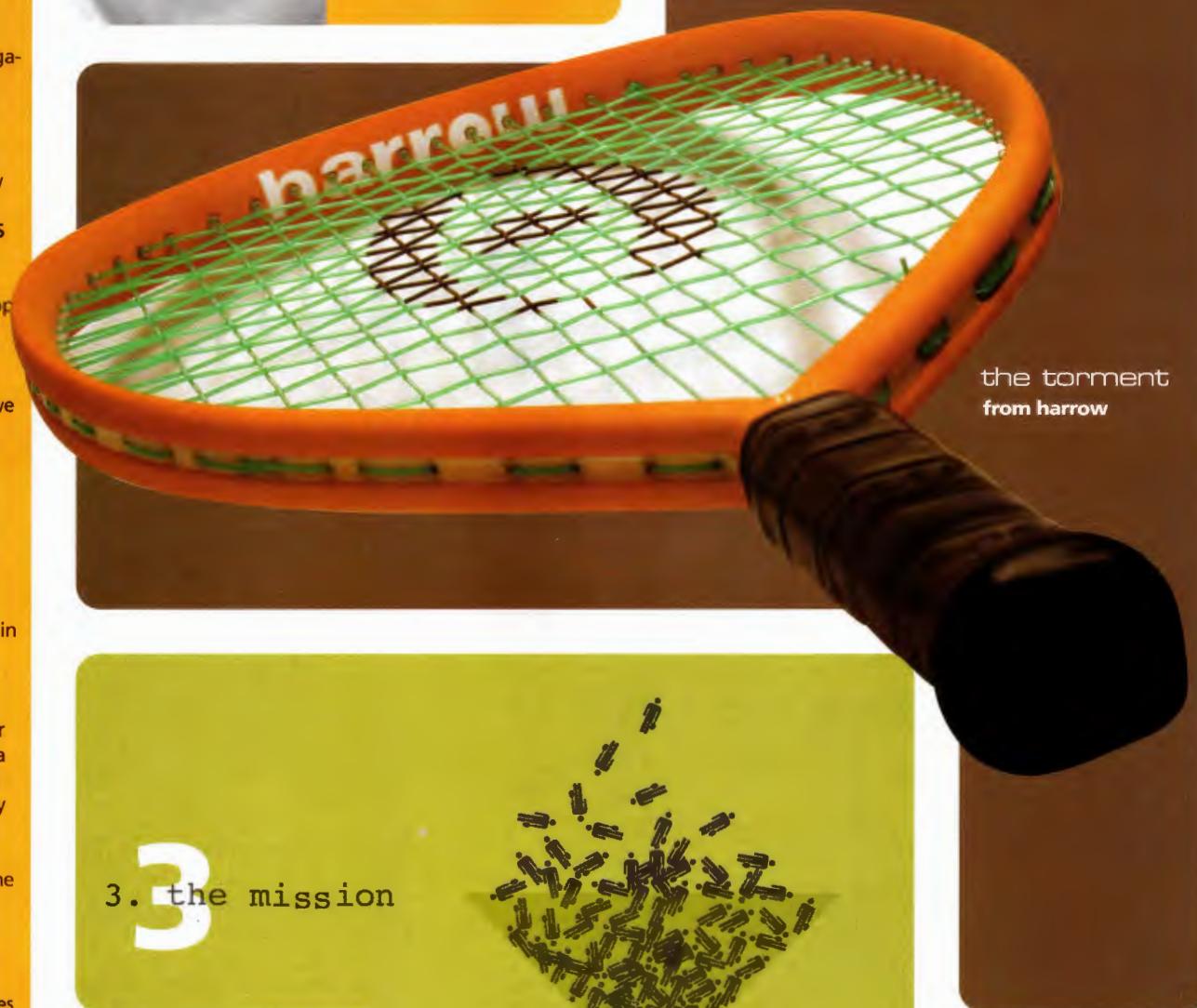


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reader forum

Just Shoot Me

I wanted to take a moment and say thank you for the great coverage of the US Open. Everyone knows that you and Ryan John go above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to presenting a professional publication for our sport. In this case a special thank you should go to the contributing writers, and in particular, the photographers, Mike Boatman and Vicki Hughes for their hard work at the US Open. Having shot a couple of racquetball pictures myself somewhere through the years I appreciate good work when I see it. All of you deserve a pat on the back. *John Foust • Aurora, Colorado*

Reunion

I recently had the pleasure of attending the men's pro stop in Coral Springs, Florida and wanted everyone there to know how glad I was to see them and hang with them for a full weekend. Dori Zeiman, Michele Dodson, Oscar Alvarez, Walter Hess, Jerry Rand, Armando Alonzo, Ken Grandy and Norman McNutt to name a few. I lived in Florida for eleven years and I owe much of my racquetball success to the friends I made while playing tournaments there.

What better way to catch up with old friends than to return to your previous state and play a tournament where you can see them all weekend long? Thanks for your friendship,

Kersten Hallander • San Diego, CA

FLORIDIANS GOT TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE NEW COURTS OPENING IN HALLANDER'S FORMER HOMETOWN OF JACKSONVILLE, L-R: MARY LYONS, GLENN WARREN, ROSS GREENBERG, SUSAN PFAHLER, CURTIS WINTER, KERSTEN HALLANDER, AARON METCALF.



Off-Court Ellis

Recently, I played in a tournament at the In-shape Club in Stockton, California. The tournament attracted many top-ranked amateur players in the state, including Mike Bronfeld and Adam Karp in the men's open division. Overall it was a very well run event directed by a top professional player, John Ellis, and his In-shape Club colleagues. Mr. Ellis sat at the reception desk to greet the arriving players, informed them of their

schedule, and handed out tournament souvenirs. When the tournament became busier, Mr. Ellis would go around the club calling out names of participants to alert them of their impending matches.

In these days of waning interest in racquetball, when many club owners are converting some of their existing racquetball courts into weight rooms, aerobics parlors, child play centers, etc., it is inspirational to see a top professional player so intimately and willingly involved with the organization of our sport. John Ellis is more than a great athlete; he is also a true ambassador for racquetball.

Tsze H. Tsang • El Cerrito, CA

Three Wall Search

Three-wall racquetball is usually the only form of racquetball that is available to the general public. This could really make racquetball available to the general public. As most New Yorkers know, one of the most popular sports in the area is 1-wall paddleball.

I am asking that all those players who are interested in expanding and growing this great sport of ours to please email me if you know of any 3-wall courts in your state or anywhere else. Please send me a complete description of the court, including length of sidewalls to long line or beyond and the presence or absence of a ceiling.

*Jack Goldberg • jactre@bigplanet.com
goldbac1@home.com*

Where's Everybody?

I was encouraged and excited after the Junior World Championships in Orlando this past December. There are some really talented kids out there and some adults all over the world who seem committed to keeping these kids on the courts!

I was very surprised to see only the title sponsor, Pro Kennex, with a display booth set up at the event. What a missed opportunity to promote our sport and all of its products and stars to players from all over the world.

It then occurred to me that at each national championship I have attended, only the title sponsor was able to set up a display booth. What a shame!! While I certainly feel the title sponsor of each event deserves some very special exposure and consideration, I think it is terrible for racquetball for only one manufacturer to be able to display at the most prestigious events of our sport.

Our national events should showcase not only the best players and talent in this sport, but all of the technology, equipment and most of all "hype" that is so much a part of racquetball!!

Here were hundreds of young players from all over the world. Many of them only know Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain, Cheryl Gudinas or Jackie Paraiso by their name or a picture in a magazine. Many have never seen all of the technology and equipment available today. Wouldn't it have been great to have had a big Head display booth with an appearance by Sudsy? And a big Wilson display booth with an appearance by Cliff? And all of the new colorful equipment and technology on display for players to see?

What a golden opportunity it would have been for some great exposure! I would encourage the USRA to negotiate its sponsorships in the future to allow all of the manufacturers the opportunity to set up and "show off" at all of the major events!

Lori Lepow • Altamonte Springs, FL

Editor's Note: Ideally, a good idea, but the USRA only recently achieved "equal opportunity" by having each of the major manufacturers involved with a national or international event through contracted title sponsorship. To re-configure this scheme and maintain this level of involvement (by committee?) would require a very close look at the revenue generated by the title sponsorship program as a whole, to make certain that events would not suffer by instituting a change of this sort. We contacted the title sponsors of USRA events for their thoughts on this issue, and received the following response from Head just prior to presstime:

"When we sponsor an event we expect to have exclusive rights to promote our brands and market our products. It would not make sense for us to sponsor an event and have competitor activity on site. However, another way the USRA could go would be to not sell sponsorship inside the industry for the major events and sell trade show booth space to all manufacturers (like the U.S. OPEN). This would probably be better for all the players and fans but would most likely not raise as much money as the exclusive sponsorship model." • Doug Ganim, HEAD/Penn Racquetball Promotions.

Visuals?

Probably one of the biggest negatives associated with racquetball and tournaments is the refereeing; most players don't want to referee (probably because they don't know/understand the rules), and there have been times when the outcome of a match has been more the result of an improper or non-call than the play on the court.

I suspect that most tournament players would agree that they should take the time to learn the rules. With the exception of the more experienced/higher level players however, few do. And, even those that do often have a difference in interpretation. I'd like to see a section of Racquetball magazine dedicated to better understanding and interpretation of the rules and showing examples. I've read the rulebook many times, and still see situations on the court that I'm not sure what rule would apply.

Dick Lowell • aredel@mediaone.net

Training: Attitude is Everything!

by Guy Meadows
Orlando, Florida

How many of you have gone to a tournament, looked at your draw and – even before the first serve — already decided the outcome of all your matches? How many times have your predictions come true? Your mindset when you go into a match has a lot to do with its outcome.

Many of us have gone into a match thinking, "I should win this one pretty easily," then gone on to *lose* pretty easily. We know that we are "better" than the other player, so we don't put 100 % into our game. Why? Because we think that our "A" game isn't needed for that match.

I have fallen into this trap myself, so I did a little research on mental training for sports. I found out that even great athletes have the same problem from time to time. How do they fix it? They believe in themselves **all** the time. On **every** point in **every** match. So, the next tournament I walked onto the court and believed. I still lost. What had I done wrong? I found that great athletes don't just try to feel that way when they are playing a tournament match, they feel that way all the time! Now that helped! Every time I played after that I believed that I could beat anyone I walked onto the court with. And it worked! Did I win every game or match I played? No. But I sure started beating a lot more people. The more I won the more I believed in my game and so did my opponents! I was training my mind to win!

The other side of this attitude thing is "Oh no! I have to play the number one seed in the first round!" The same mindset applies here. Go in there and believe that you **can** win and do it because it is true! Do your absolute best on every point. Do not let yourself give up no matter what. Maybe you will not win that match, but you may do a lot better than what you thought was possible before you walked onto that court. You and your opponent will come away with more respect for your game.

Another strategy to improve your overall court performance: have a goal. If you know where you are going, it's a lot easier to get there. As an example, "I want to win my division at State Singles." Great goal! Now set some smaller goals along the way such as, "improve my lob serve, improve my return of serve, improve my mental toughness." The long term goal (win your division) is a lot easier to achieve by taking smaller steps. Try it. You will be surprised.

So go out there believe in yourself and have fun! Everything else will follow.



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<i>Kerri Wachtel</i> Champion	\$ 5,500.00 thousand, five hundred ⁰⁰ Dollars	
	<i>Rebecca D'Hall</i>	

Up & Coming Kerri Wachtel

Introducing the 2001 Hilton U.S. OPEN finalists in Memphis, tournament director Doug Ganim dubbed Kerri Wachtel "the fastest rising star on the LPRa tour." She went on to back up his claim by winning the season's largest event for her first professional victory. Newly-wed, with an incredibly supportive family, adoring husband, new house, great job, and a career high No.3 spot in the LPRa rankings, it seems like everything is coming up roses for the tour rookie.

As good as she is now, at 27, it's hard to believe that Kerri didn't begin to play racquetball seriously until she was 16 years old. "I used to go to the club with my mom (Gerri Stoffregen)," she recalls. "But my brother and I would just bat it around." She decided to give the sport a try after tagging along to one of her mother's tournaments. "I just kind of got hooked."

Then it was straight to the racquet club, everyday after school, to work out with mom. After her first full year of playing, Kerri moved from playing C's to competing in A's. The following year she made her debut as an Open level player. "I remember each time that I won I was so excited to move up another division."

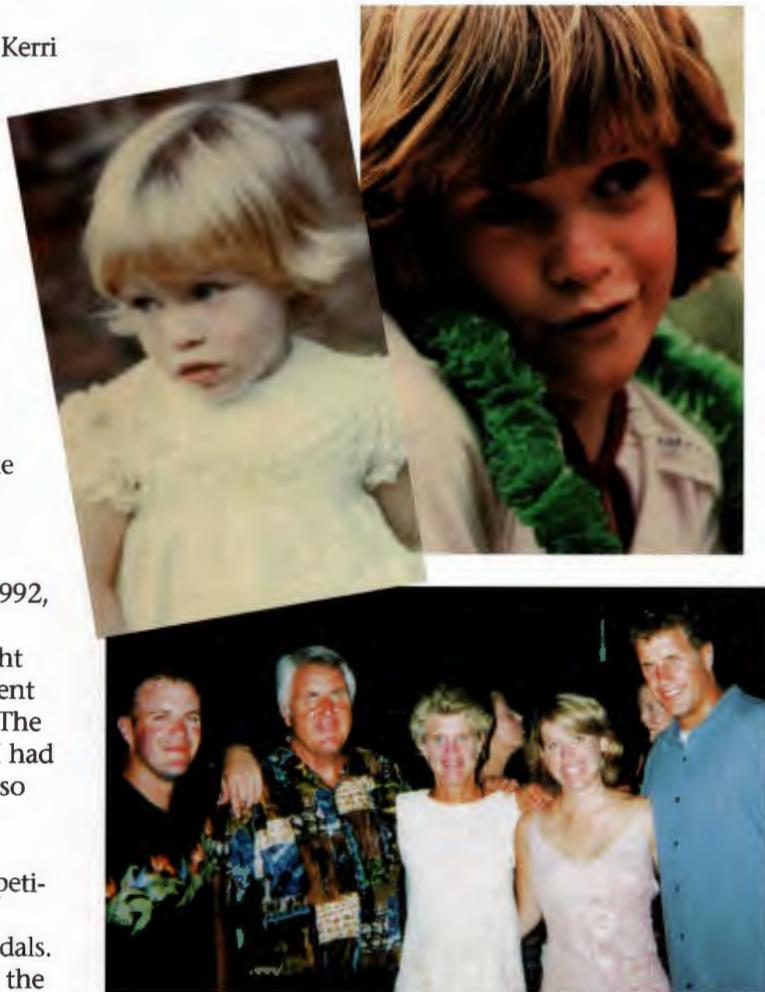
She played her first Junior National tournament in 1992, just for something to do. "It wasn't really a big deal whether I won or not," she explains. "We just thought that it would be a fun mother/daughter trip so we went out." Kerri finished fourth that year in the girl's 18-. The next year she earned a gold medal in the girl's 18-. "I had so much fun in juniors," Kerri recalls. "I got to meet so many friends from across the country. It was great."

From juniors, Kerri moved on to intercollegiate competition, where she played in three U.S. Intercollegiate Championships, earning two gold and two silver medals. Her 1994 win earned her a premiere appointment to the U.S. National team.

After graduation Kerri moved to Chicago to work in advertising and her training suffered. "I still worked out everyday," she tells. "But I didn't have the time to dedicate towards hitting." She played in local tournaments, larger USRA state and regional events, and a pro stop here and there. She remained a threat, but without the proper training regimen she would never be a force.

Then she met future husband Chris Wachtel at the Sweetheart Doubles Tournament in Columbus, Ohio. But it wasn't mixed doubles that they were playing; it was Open doubles *against* each other. Kerri was paired with another intercollegiate champ, Elaine Albrecht, and a distracted Chris with Mike Dennison.

"I remember that Chris was playing horrible," said Mike. "All he kept saying was 'I am going to date that girl'. I just said 'Good, Chris, now stop skipping!'" The guys won the 11-9 tiebreaker, and Chris and Kerri began a long distance phone relationship between Chicago and Massillon, Ohio.



Top: Kerri at three, and six. Middle L-R: brother Beau, dad Bill, mom Gerri, Kerri, brother Darren. Below: At the reception with mom and groom Chris Wachtel.



Interview by Ryan John • U.S. OPEN Photos by Mike Boatman & Vicki Hughes

In January of 2000, the two decided that they wanted to be closer to each other and moved to Kerri's hometown of Cincinnati. And since one of their common interests was racquetball, the two often played together. "It's nice to have a practice partner," says Kerri. "When I really want to practice he's available!"

By the following March, they were engaged and Kerri had traveled back to Chicago to play in a pro stop and visit with old friends. She placed second in the tournament and knew that, with a little more dedication, she had what it would take to make it on the tour. She committed to play full-time through the 2001-2002 LPRA season.

With a new job at the Five Seasons Country Club in Cincinnati, Kerri had the luxury of a flexible schedule that allowed her to train for the rigorous tour lineup. "My boss, Craig Boynton, is so generous to give me the time that I need to train, and the time that I need to travel." She added, "He has been incredible, not only to work for, but he also has helped me when I am preparing for a tough match." Boynton also coached tennis great Jim Courier on the mental part of his game.

Set up with four racquetball courts only 20 feet away from her office, the time needed to practice, and the support of those close to her, all Kerri needed was dedication and determination – of which she has plenty. She began to train harder and focus more during her workouts, running up to five miles a day and using the stairmaster for conditioning. Often Chris practices with her. "If I want to go at 7:00 am before work, we get up and go. Or if I want to play at lunch."

Kerri's hard work in the summer began to show results early in the LPRA season. She made the quarterfinals in the first LPRA stop of the year, then the semis in the second and third stops. All of her losses came at the hands of friend Cheryl Gudinas, the top ranked player on the tour.

Less than a year ago Kerri had been ranked No.28, but heading into the U.S. OPEN she had played well



enough to earn the No. 4 seed. And although this did give her a favorable draw, it also meant that — in order to reach the finals — she would have to go through Cheryl, who had beaten her "a gazillion times."

But in this semifinal, it was Kerri's turn to win, as she put an end to Cheryl's seven-win streak by defeating her in four games. Afterwards Cheryl was upset but still genuinely pleased for the rookie (left). "I am so happy for Kerri," Cheryl said, "she's a good friend and deserves this." Kerri returned the compliment, "She had a lot of pressure on her. I think she handled it so graciously and I think that shows what a true champion she really is."

In Memphis, Kerri's mom flew in to watch the final against Jackie Rice as a surprise. "She does that a lot," Kerri said of her mom's pop-in. "I kind of had a feeling that she would do that." With both her mom and Chris in her corner, Kerri went on to defeat Rice to earn her first pro victory on the sport's grandest stage. After the win, Kerri celebrated with family and friends – the people she credits with helping her achieve her goals.

What does the future hold for Kerri? She would like to win at least two more stops this season to maintain her top-three ranking, and position herself to capture the top spot next season. She'd also like to finish strong in Houston and earn a spot on the U.S. National team. "I was on the team in '94 after I won intercollegiates, but I really didn't get to do a lot," she says. "I would love to represent the United States; especially at a time like this."

So how does Kerri feel about Ganim dubbing her the fastest rising star on the LPRA tour? "I guess you could say that I am the fastest rising star because I moved from, like, 28 to 3. It just goes to show me that hard work and dedication pays off. I think that if I keep doing what I'm doing, the sky's the limit."



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

Mom Gerri Stoffregen has quite an impressive racquetball resume in her own right – claiming 22 national singles and doubles gold medals (11 each) in age group competition ... all since 1991. Prior to that, Gerri hadn't wanted to compete at national events because she didn't want to leave her three children to travel to tournaments. "When Kerri was of age to travel with me, my friend Shelley Ogden said that I might as well give it a try [competing in national events]," recalled Gerri. So off they went.

In recognition of her fast ascent in the senior circuit, Gerri received the USRA's Peggy Steding Female Age Group Athlete of the year award in 1994, and was inducted into the Ohio Racquetball Hall of Fame in 1995. She plays racquetball 5-6 days a week for two hours at a clip and, according to Kerri, "could probably

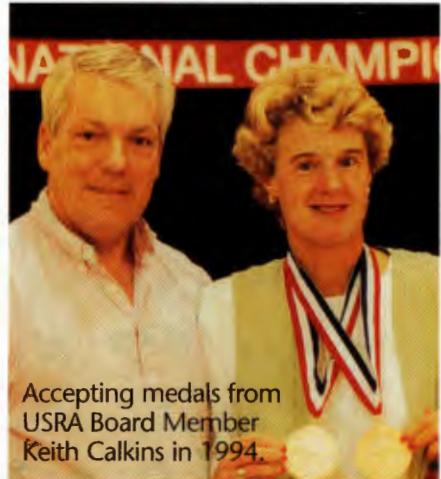
beat some of the top 10 pros on the [LPRA] tour. She could still give them a very competitive game." Gerri is the current U.S. National Singles 55+ champion and teamed up with longtime friend Shelley Ogden to win the 2001 U.S. National Doubles 50+ title last fall.

Asked if she shares her daughter's opinion that it's beneficial to have close family members to train with and discuss the sport, Gerri replied, "I definitely do. We're able to talk racquetball, we can go to tournaments together, we get the racquetball magazines. And, with my ability, Kerri was able to play against people that were better than her and that helped to improve her game."

Gerri proudly describes Kerri as having been an athletic child growing up. "She was on the swim team at the country club. She played high school tennis and racquetball at the same time. She also played basketball, so she is quite athletic." It runs in the family. Aside from competing in racquetball, Gerri still finds the time to play tennis and holds a 7 handicap in golf.

Gerri also agrees with her daughter's theory about why she's having such a successful year on the LPRA tour. "I think she has really trained well, conditioning-wise, she works out everyday. Does stairmaster and runs 4 or 5 miles a day. I think she is very satisfied in her life right now – being married. I also think she has a great job which enables her to have a lot of flexibility. This is her prime time right now. This is a good age for her and she has a lot of self confidence."

Kerri agrees, and is quick to thank the people who supported her efforts to achieve her goals: boss Craig Boynton, the Five Seasons Country Club, and Ektelon who "has been more supportive than I ever could have imagined. At home, she credits parents Bill and Gerri Stoffregen, brothers Beau and Darren, husband Chris and a close circle of friends "if it weren't for them I wouldn't have met my husband. "The support I have from all aspects of my life is incredible. I don't think I could have more things in my corner than I do right now."



Accepting medals from USRA Board Member Keith Calkins in 1994.



Béau, Kerri, Gerri & Bill after receiving the 1994 Peggy Steding Award.



The U.S. Junior Team and coaching staff poses in front of the Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club, after capturing another World Junior team title. Led by 18-winners Jack Huczek and Kristen Walsh, the U.S. contingent outscored their competition by a healthy margin, but were still put on notice in early rounds by a fast-rising Team Mexico.

We're Going to Disney World ...

The world's top junior racquetball players migrated to sunny Florida for the Pro Kennex 13th World Junior Racquetball Championships at the Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club. It was just before Christmas, but it felt closer to the 4th of July, with temperatures near 90 degrees. The heat wave subsided before the tournament was over, but the action on the courts kept temperatures on the high side.

Tournament Returns Home

This year marked a return to Florida, where the tournament originated in 1989 as the World Junior Orange Bowl. Miami hosted that year and again in 1990 before the event moved north to Jacksonville, where it stayed from 1991-94. In 1995 the tournament moved west to Fountain Valley, California where it remained until this year.

Designed to determine the best junior racquetball squad in the world, as well as reward individual winners with the title of world champion, this year's event drew over 230 players representing seven countries. The United States again led the way with 128 entrants, followed by Mexico with 74 players and sizable squads from Canada, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Puerto Rico.

USA Juniors Win Again

Although U.S. Juniors have earned the overall team title every year since the tournament's inception in 1989, Mexico made a big move at the beginning of this year's tournament, winning many early round matches over their U.S. opponents to move within striking

2001 ProKennex 13th World Junior Championships

• Coverage by Ryan John • Photos by Robert J. Baker

Super Jack Huczek Racks up Another Milestone with Ashaway SuperKill®II

18-year-old Jack Huczek is the youngest National Racquetball Champion we've ever had. The young phenom is quick to acknowledge the big supporting role Ashaway SuperKill II racquetball string played in his success.

"SuperKill II gives me the power, feel and control I need to play consistently game after game. Because of Ashaway's constant dedication to superior quality I'm able to focus 100% on my game with complete confidence in my string."

Jack Huczek, 2001 US Racquetball Champion
9-Time Jr. World Racquetball Champion



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Slimed ...

On the second day of the tournament, some juniors were able to take a break from competition and enjoy a trip to Nickelodeon Studios. Two groups were scheduled for morning and afternoon trips and were treated to a tour of the facilities where some of their favorite shows are taped. At the end of the tour the players and parents were invited to sit in on a taping of the show "Slimed Time."

The first group to tour the studios had a chance to take part in the show with some of them actually getting "slimed." Although no one in the second group was chosen to be "slimed" (is that a bad thing?), they did receive another special treat – a live performance by Aaron Carter. Aaron is the brother of Back Street Boy, Nick Carter, and a recording artist in his own right. He performed two songs, complete with a dance routine, and even took the time to pose for a photo with some of the swooning juniors.

With thanks to all the parents that helped car pool the players to the studios, an extra special thanks goes to Jennifer Hallstrom, who made the whole trip possible. Jennifer is a segment producer with Nickelodeon and the Games & Sports Network. She has worked to help promote racquetball by putting USRA events in their "In Play Today" segments. Watch for upcoming racquetball events to be publicized on the network, thanks to Jennifer!

Pictured L-R: Shannon Inglesby, Kara Mazur, Elizabeth Brenner, Doug Brenner, Britney Legget, Kaitlin Inglesby, Jansen Allen, Jonathan Doyle. Photo: Tom Inglesby.

distance with only a few days of competition left. Veteran junior team member Jack Huczek remained calm, however. "I'm not worried yet," said Jack. "It always seems like we are down at the beginning, but the U.S. team has always pulled through when the pressure is on."

Lucky 7's?

The pressure was definitely on in the quarterfinals as the U.S. was forced to come through with several key wins in order to stay ahead of the competition. Oddly enough, four of the quarterfinal wins that helped the U.S. hold their lead came at the expense of a No.2 seed upset by a No.7 seed from the U.S.

Seeded seventh, Cory Martin faced No.2 Abraham Pena of Mexico in the 18- quarterfinals. Martin lost the first game 15-10 but evened things out by taking game two 15-8. Then both the players and the crowd turned it up a notch in the tiebreaker. With every point there was a roar, in either Spanish or English, depending on the who-did-what. Martin pulled ahead toward the end of the tiebreaker to secure the upset and move into the semifinals with an 11-7 win.

Then it was déjà vu in the boys' 16- when No.7 Brandon Shoemaker battled No.2 Agustin Tristan of Mexico. Shoemaker dropped the first game 15-9 and was down match point several times in the second game before narrowly escaping with a 15-14 win to force a tiebreaker. Shoemaker and Tristan were again locked in a tight battle throughout the tiebreaker and Shoemaker again found himself down match point. The Ohio youngster dug deep and was able to turn things around to close the match out with the narrow 11-10 victory.

The boys weren't the only ones to supply the crowd with exciting matches and key upset victories for the U.S. In the girls' 18- another U.S. No.7 seed, Krystal Csuk, faced off against No. 2 Karina Odegard of Canada. Csuk started the match hot and took the first game 15-10. Odegard stepped up her game in the second and did Csuk one point better, 15-9, to force a decisive third game. Both played exceptionally in the tiebreaker as they battled down to the wire, until several clutch shots by Csuk made the difference as she edged by Odegard 11-10.

U.S. No.7 Elise Wilson squared off against Odegard's doubles partner, No.2 Brandi Jacobson Prentice of Canada. Wilson quickly found herself down in the first game and lost it 15-8. But with the help of her coaches she regrouped and took a close game two, 15-11. The tiebreaker, much like the others of the day, came down to who could execute in the end. Wilson pulled off a few more shots than Jacobson Prentice and earned the upset 11-9.



Karina Odegard
vs. Krystal Czuk



Brandon Shoemaker vs. Steven Klaiman

The level of crowd excitement at international events is intense. Players, knowing that every advance held a growing level of importance each day, all pulled together to cheer for their teammates. It's not possible to credit the crowd for actually winning a match, but each player's skill level seemed to go up a notch with every ovation they received.

The U.S. juniors cheered themselves on to win 27 gold and 22 silver medals to clinch their 13th straight World junior Team title. Although they pulled out the victory, Jim Hiser, the USRA Executive Director, had some words of warning for future U.S. junior squads. "In 2-3 years, Mexico and Canada should be at a point where they can win a Junior World team title." Hiser continued, "We have the advantage because the event has been held in the U.S., which makes it easier to bring twice as many participants as anybody else." Hiser also noted that the enthusiasm for junior racquetball in Mexico is "where it was in the U.S. in the early 80's."

Up and Comers

There were some outstanding matches between young competitors that are going to become forces to be reckoned with, making the World Junior Championships a great barometer of things to come. Sudsy Monchik, Jason Mannino, Rhonda Rajsich, and Claudine Garcia are just a few of the top pros who began their careers with World Junior titles.

One of the most anticipated matches of the tournament featured David Ortega of Mexico and Jose Rojas from the U.S. in the boys' 12- finals. Rojas is the reigning U.S. boy's 10- and 12- champion. In 2001 he captured the boy's 10- World Junior title, which he successfully defended this year. Ortega is the top ranked 12- player in Mexico and already owns five World Junior singles titles. Both youngsters played well



Nancy Enriquez
vs. Jessie Fuller



Gilberto de los Rios
vs. Chris Coy

but it was the slightly elder Ortega who came out on top in straight games, 15-10, 15-9. "They are both ahead of most players I have seen at that age," said Hiser, who would know after seeing the top pros in the game compete as juniors.

Jose's brother, Marco, is no slouch on the court either. He was competing in the boy's 8- and 8- multi-bounce divisions. He won the 6- multi-bounce division at last year's tournament and squeaked out a win in this year's 8- multi-bounce over Mexico's Daniel Baeza, 11-6, 7-11, 11-10. In the boy's 8- he would face Joseph Lee who also has a 6- multi-bounce World Junior title under his belt (1999). The two faced off earlier this year at the U.S. Junior Championships and Lee came out on top 15-10, 15-0. Again it was Lee, who plays with as much enthusiasm as anyone (shown at right), coming out on top 15-9, 15-7.

Adrienne Fisher, with her triple gold medal performance this year, tied Canada's Karina Odegard for the most overall girl's World Junior titles. In the girls' 16- final she downed another up-and-comer, Ashley Legget, 15-2, 15-3, in a rematch of the U.S. National 16- final. Legget was also in the girl's 14- final against Mexico's Nancy Enriquez. Like Fisher, Enriquez has already played on the Lpra tour, and recently very nearly defeated No.16 Johanna Shattuck at the Lpra Rosarito Beach tournament stop. The much anticipated final between these two top juniors did not let anyone in attendance down as they went the distance with Enriquez earning the come-from-behind victory 5-15, 15-4, 11-4.

Big Brother/Big Sister Mentor Program

This year the U.S. Junior National team coaches initiated a program in which a member of the junior team pairs up as a "big brother/big sister" for one of the younger players competing for points for the U.S. The program has been a success and gives the younger juniors a chance to meet and bond with some of the older players that they look up to.

"It's really a great program," Junior Team coach Gregg Peck explains. "The kids really respond well to the program and it's a lot of fun not only for the younger kids but the older ones really enjoy [it] too."

Each team member gives a t-shirt to their "little brother or sister" and spends time with them throughout the tournament. During matches they often help to coach their partner and several times the younger juniors could even be seen "coaching" their mentors.

"It creates an exciting atmosphere," Peck says. "It makes the younger kids feel more like they are a part of the team and it is great how they bond and become close during the tournament."

The program seemed to work extremely well for "sisters" Adrienne Fisher and Wesley Toland (shown at right). The two were paired together and were the only two players to each earn three gold medals.

"It was fun getting to know Wesley better and I'm sure that she will be on the team soon," Fisher said of the program. "It was really cool that she was my little sister and we each won three."

**Raul Parra vs.
Joseph Lee**





Mannino and the Mob ...
Top-ranked IRT pro Jason Mannino was on hand in Orlando to represent ProKennex and — during a series of exhibitions against junior challengers — took time to "work the crowd" with equipment and prize giveaways. Fans loved it!

ProKennex 13th World Junior Racquetball Championships The Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club, Florida: December 16-20, 2001

SINGLES DIVISIONS

BOYS 18-: Jack Huczak (Rochester, Mich.) def. Zack Miller (Alta Loma, Calif.) 15-2; 15-3
Boys 16-: Steven Klaiman (Bellaire, Texas) def. Brandon Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio) 15-12; 15-6
Boys 14-: Joey Lakowske (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Gilberto De Los Rios (Chihuahua, Mexico) 15-7; 15-3
Boys 12-: David Ortega (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. Jose Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) 15-10; 15-9
Boys 10-: Jose Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) def. Jorge Rivera, (Chihuahua, Mexico) 15-4; 15-0
Boys 8-: Joseph Lee (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Marco Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) 15-9; 15-7
B8-MB: Marco Rojas (Stockton, Calif) def. Daniel Baeza (Chihuahua, Mexico) 11-6; 7-11; 11-10
B6-MB: Sam Reid (Portland, Ore.) def. Doug Brenner (Portland, Ore.) 11-3; 11-9

GIRLS 18-: Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah) def. Krystal Csuk (Berea, Ohio) 15-11; 15-2
Girls 16-: Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) def. Ashley Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 15-2; 15-3
Girls 14-: Nancy Enriquez (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. Ashley Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 5-15; 15-4; 11-4
Girls 12-: Paola Longoria (San Luis Potosi, Mexico) def. Eleni Guzman (Chihuahua, Mexico) 15-4; 7-15; 11-2
Girls 10-: Wesley Toland (Parkin, Ark.) def. Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) 15-14; 15-13
Girls 8-: Kaitlin Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) def. Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.) 15-3; 15-3
G8-MB: Elizabeth Brenner (Portland, Ore.) def. Ana V. Ramos (Chihuahua, Mexico) 15-1; 15-3
G6-MB: Monserratt Rodriguez (Nuevo Leon, Mexico) def. Brenda Martinez (Nuevo Leon, Mexico) 11-7; 9-11; 11-9

DOUBLES DIVISIONS

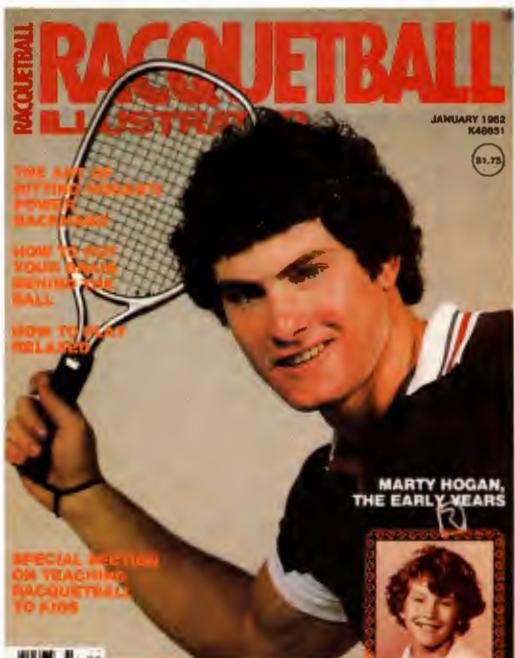
BOYS 18-: Jack Huczak (Rochester, Mich.)/Zack Miller (Alta Loma, Calif.) def. Carlos Bacmeister/Abraham Pena (San Luis Potosi, Mexico) 10-15; 15-9; 11-7
Boys 16-: Dan Sheppick (Milwaukie, Ore.)/Brandon Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio) def. Steven Klaiman (Bellaire, Texas)/Travis Woodbury (Arlington, Va.) 15-9; 15-10
Boys 14-: Gilbert De Los Rios/Cesar Guzman (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.)/Mike Keddie (Manchester, N.H.) 15-6; 15-7
Boys 12-: Ruben Estrada/David Ortega (Chihuahua, Mexico)

def. Jose Ramos/Ivan Sanchez (Chihuahua, Mexico) 15-7; 15-7
Boys 10-: Oscar Arroyo/Emmanuel Rocha (San Luis Potosi, Mexico) def. Raul Parra/Jorge Rivera (Chihuahua, Mexico) 15-6; 15-7
GIRLS 18-: Brandi Jacobson Prentice/Karina Odegard (Saskatchewan, Canada) def. Krystal Csuk (Berea, Ohio)/Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah) 15-11; 15-7
Girls 16-: Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio)/Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.) def. Tiara Johnson/Alison Schlichemeyer (Saskatchewan, Canada) 15-2; 15-10
Girls 14-: Kelley Fisher (Dayton, Ohio)/Elise Wilson (Bristol, Conn.) def. Nancy Enriquez/Samantha Salas (Chihuahua, Mexico) 10-15; 15-7; 11-7
Girls 12-: Eleni Guzman (Chihuahua, Mexico)/Paola Longoria (San Luis Potosi, Mexico) def. Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Brittany Leggett (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 15-12; 15-9
Girls 10-: Wesley Toland (Parkin, Ark.)/Stephanie Enriquez (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. Karen De Luna/Yesenia Malvaez (Nuevo Leon, Mexico) 15-7; 15-7
MIXED 18-: Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio)/Mike Lawrence (Memphis, Tenn.) def. Carola Loma/Santiago Canedo (Mexico) 15-11; 15-11
Mixed 16-: Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.)/Dan Sheppick (Milwaukie, Ore.) def. Da'monique Davis (San Antonio, Texas)/Shane Karmelin (Dacula, Ga.) 13-15; 15-1; 11-5
Mixed 14-: Nancy Enriquez/Gilberto De Los Rios (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. Samantha Anguiano/Edson Martinez (San Luis Potosi, Mexico) by forfeit
Mixed 12-: Paola Longoria (San Luis Potosi, Mexico)/Ivan Sanchez (Chihuahua, Mexico) def. Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.)/Jansen Allen (Rice, Texas) 15-11; 15-4
Mixed 10-: Wesley Toland (Parkin, Ark.)/Jose Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) def. Stephanie Enriquez/Raul Parra (Chihuahua, Mexico) 15-10; 15-8

TEAM RESULTS

Country	Boys Team	Girls Team	Overall
United States	1034	676	1710
Mexico	832	370	1202
Canada	163	198	361
Venezuela	79	15	94
Bolivia	25	6	31
Colombia	23	0	23
Puerto Rico	8	0	8

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Legends go on Tour in 2002

By Dick Barton

Over the past 20+ years, nearly anyone who picked up a racquet also came to know the name of Marty Hogan and learn his connection with the early glory days of racquetball. As one of the most recognized and successful pro players of all time, Marty is now breaking new ground with his vision of a "Legends Tour."

Similar to what has been done successfully in golf and tennis, the Legends Tour will be bringing new people into the spectator stands and "new money" into the game. The five-time national champion and Hall of Famer (USRA and international) remembers the days when non-racquetball companies sponsored the pro tours in the late 70's and early 80's.

"Obviously, it takes funding to get something like this going," Marty tells Racquetball Magazine in an exclusive interview. "But, rather than go for the traditional sources, such as racquet manufacturers, we are talking with companies outside of the game. A similar approach worked for Jimmy Connors and his legends tennis tour sponsored by Nuveen, a financial institution."

He adds that his goal is to promote the sport of racquetball and not take away from anything already in place with other tours. "We need to be financially sound and will seek to do that with funding from sources not now being tapped," he says.

After a few years of planning, the Legends Tour begins its rollout with four exhibitions stops in early 2002. The tour will actually start with next season, beginning this fall and into 2003.

Marty got things going with some expert help from his longtime friend and fellow Juniors player, Hank Marcus. In 2001, Hank signed on as Executive Director. Some may remember him from when he owned the IRT (1993-2001) so he obviously knows something about tours.

The Legends Go Coast to Coast

To get things started, the Legends Tour will have stops at the Harold McKahand Memorial Pro Am in Coral Springs, Florida (Jan. 31-Feb. 3); Title Town Pro-Am in Green Bay, Wisconsin (March 1-3), the Las Vegas Nationals in Las Vegas (April 25-28), and the NFRA Tournament of Champions in Portland, Oregon (June 6-9).

These stops will be more "show than go" with the emphasis on showcasing names such as Ruben Gonzalez, Dave Peck, Bret Harnett, Gregg Peck, and, of course, Marty Hogan.

These are all top names from the early days of the game. For example, Gregg was 1981 Rookie of the Year, 1985 DP National Champion, and 1985 Player of the Year. More recently, Gregg has coached the U.S. Junior national team through the 2000 and 2001 seasons of international competition.

"I can't wait to see the matches when the 'retro guys' Marty and Bret step on the court together," Gregg exclaims. "They will be going at it again, just like before."

Harnett was 1986 and 1987 Pro Player of the Year, finished #2 on the pro tour 3 years in a row (1986-88), and was 1986 DP Nationals Champion among other honors.

Gregg admits he has started playing more since the Legends Tour was announced. And, he wonders if Marty will be wearing his famous short-shorts this time around. Who knows? Just wait and see.

"The 2002 events will be exhibition/promotional stops with singles and doubles play," Marty says. "We hope to expose our longtime fans and some younger pro players to the legends of the game – the great names who made the sport very popular in the 70's and 80's."

This year will be a warm-up for late 2002- early 2003 season when the Legends Tour rolls out more stops across the country. "I feel the sport has been looking for something to promote the game and energize the fans, pro players, and sponsors," Marty says.

"In my era there were great players who launched the sport," he adds. "Many pro players became household names," he adds. "These are the guys who can return some of the original glory to the game with this tour. In addition, I foresee that the next generation of 19-year-old pro players like Kane will bring new life and excitement to the game at many levels."



This will be a tour "with a heart" as well. A portion of the proceeds will go to the National Fibromyalgia Research Association (NFMA) based in Salem, Oregon. Formed in 1992, NFMA helps raise public, medical and government awareness of a debilitating disease called fibromyalgia. Marty selected this charity for personal reasons based on a close relationship with NFMA's founder. For more information on that organization, email nfra@teleport.com.

What's Coming?

The tour will gear up for 6-8 events next year. "The interest is very high," Marty exclaims. "I have had 15 calls to do events next year. We could do as many as 10 quality stops."

In future years, Marty and Hank envision the tour making it to the "small screen" with exposure on ESPN. The pair knows they will need to purchase a portable glass court so that fans can really enjoy watching some of the greatest players to ever step onto a court. The glass court is mandatory for television coverage as well.

For those that know Marty and his famous zeal for life and strong determination to succeed, there is no doubt the Legends Tour will be a winner for years to come.

For more information about the Legends Tour, contact Hank Marcus at phone/fax 503-639-3410 or Email LegendsrbTour@aol.com.



LADIES LEGENDS

Originally scheduled for the weekend of September 14-16, the "Gathering of the Greatest" reunion event had to be postponed following the World Trade Center bombings. Then, in mid-October, this group of women's pro legends from the 1980s & 90s did brave air travel, delays and heightened airport security to re-convene and celebrate with organizer Julee Nicolia at the Nautilus Fitness & Racquet Club in Erie, Pennsylvania.

And while they don't see much LPRA action, most still "tour" on the USRA national event circuit! How many can you name?



Deep in discussion with former pro Doug Eagle (left) at an early U.S. OPEN, St. Onge feels strongly that the pros are crucial to the development of the sport.

has been looked on as extremely important. The USOC has also looked at it and agreed to allocate some of the funding that comes to us to go towards a women's pro-tour, just to maintain the ability of women to stay in sport.

Why is there resistance to the USRA being involved with the pro tours?

I don't know anyone who has been involved long-term that has an objection once they know what the facts are concerning this. There

is great misconception that membership dues are going toward the pros – but this is just not the case. The board made it very clear that no membership dues go toward that end. Monies coming from USOC – [to support] agreed-upon goals within the USOC – along with sponsorship monies going back in and monies from pros going back in, make up the prize money.

What is the USRA's level of involvement?

The USRA has made a commitment, in the case of women's pro tour, to bring it back to respectability and to operate it for a three-year period. Currently, we are one and one-half years into that and have seen dramatic change in attitude by manufacturers towards women's racquetball, by the media towards women's racquetball and by women towards women's racquetball. That draws of eight one and one-half years ago now are seeing draws of 32, [creates] excitement among junior girls that there is a place for them to go if they excel. They don't have to go into soccer, or basketball, or volleyball. There's a home for them in racquetball and they have a future to be able to not only win money and sponsorship on the pro-tour which keeps them in the sport but also represent their country in international competition. The men ... that's another story.

What's that Story?

From my standpoint, I think that we have to be very careful – speaking from a sports standpoint now – that the leadership of the IRT has a vision – not just going from tournament to tournament – but developing the men's pro-tour into something that's viable, something that's fun to come and see and that is orchestrated on a very strong commercial basis. One of the things I think the IRT is missing completely is the opportunity to have their athletes represent the United States in international competition.

It's a philosophical boondoggle [which is] contrary to the future of almost any sport. Look at the professionals in any

Why are the pros important to racquetball and to the USRA?

The U.S. is a pro-sport society – you have the final four, the NCAA, the bowl thing in football — but outside of that, there's little recognition for NCAA sports or [any sports at] that level. We look for the very best, and you will not attract good athletes to the sport if they can't make money. Take any of the top pros – men and women – they all could do well in other sports. Andy Roberts could have been a wide receiver on any NCAA football team, and could have gone on to pro-football. John Ellis to Sudsy [Monchik] – they're overall great athletes – why do they stay on in the sport? They can excel and there is possibility of making money.

Also — the pro-end of it – allows people to stay in a sport much longer on a competitive level. People will come to see the best, and be inspired to keep playing. Doug Ganim has proven that people ... our own people ... will pay to come and see the pros. But seven years ago if you said we'd have 1200 people pay to see the pros play – they'd have called you nuts. It's not the case now, you have a good product and they'll come — but you have to get the word out, outside our own market. And that's what Doug is trying to do with the U.S. Open – expand the sport – but it's hard to do with one television broadcast. So, hopefully, with Doug's ability to showcase and sell the pros, we'll get recognition.

Even more important right now is the women's end of it – if there weren't a women's pro tour, you wouldn't have elite athletes playing women's racquetball – that's just a reality. How many professional sports [are there] for women? Basketball, and volleyball aren't going anywhere for women. Golf is doing fine; softball is trying, with good athletes, but can't get outside the box. Racquetball is one of the few that has maintained a competitive, professional level —whatever that might be at this point in time — since 1976. That's a pretty nice run – 25 years — that we've had a women's tour, at one level or another. And the USRA's involvement in that

st. onge speaks out ...

sport right now – be it the National Hockey League, the NBA, baseball – all representing their country. Those pro organizations are using the red, white and blue to promote their athletes and to promote their sport. But ours is going in the opposite direction. I think it's flawed from the IRT standpoint in thinking that their athletes will somehow be watering down their professionalism if they compete in USRA national events. Now that might be valid if these same professionals were playing to 10,000 people and all of a sudden going and playing quote-unquote "USRA" events.

How would you change that mindset?

Being able to play off of the red-white-and-blue and the American flag and represent their country is huge. It's beyond my comprehension at times that manufacturers don't trade off of it. They actually have world champions and they don't recognize it. I just don't understand the thinking that goes on – because it's certainly important to our members as to who's a world champion and who's representing us. Our people buy the product. Anyway, I think they [IRT] are making a terrible mistake and if they continue that type of thinking, and that kind of promotion, they will remain one of the best-kept secrets of the sport. Only a very few people will ever hear of them or know where they are competing; they've got to break out of that mode.

It will help to just stop using the term "amateur." The word "amateur" doesn't exist [in this context] and hasn't existed since 1985 even though that's still part of our culture and I don't think we'll ever get rid of it. We are not an amateur organization, and anyone can compete in an Open and earn money – those are the facts of life of this country. If people want to turn the clocks back, that's fine – you can try to, but they'll get run over by a big train doing it.

How do you deal with the "us" versus "them" mentality, in terms of strictly-pro, and strictly USRA competitions?
I think there is a place for both. Look at the U.S. Open – that integrates both types of competition. It's the same in the Doubles – aside from calling it a "U.S. team qualifier" the people playing are certainly elite athletes. They might not make the big money in the sport but they are elite athletes. It's kind of interesting, sometimes you go to a master's event and, aside from saying "it's good to see you again" and all of that – there's a wide range of conversation concerning the pros. The pros are an integral part – you see their athletic ability and you're able to translate that into your own game.

I think the "we" and "they" is a lot less than it was a short time ago. The U.S. Open has made a big difference in that area, by allowing us all to work together for a common cause. Certainly our own members – we and they – are coming to see the pros. You go back 15-16 years ago, that was against the "bible of racquetball" – that

if you paid your entry, you got to see the pros. Well, that's all changed and it certainly makes the sport much more respectable and certainly much more desirable if you're willing to pay to see someone play. It makes a big, big difference.

We've done this on the international level as well. In Bolivia of all places, the promotion within that country – and it's only a country of 4 million people – built an eight-court facility, with seating for 1300. Every person who came in there (for the World Championships) paid to see this event – screaming and yelling and excited about watching their international team. That's what it's all about and we have to create that excitement for the sport. I don't mind paying to go and see John Ellis or Sudsy or Cliff Swain play. They've made a commitment to the sport and they will put on a heck of a show and I'm real proud to see it – and those who don't want to pay don't have to. That's the way the sport is going if we want to be competitive with other sports.

What would you like to see for the future of the sport?

I'd like to see us take our rightful place in the sporting market – it's a tremendous overall sport and I also believe that it has a very important part in our society from a standpoint that we deal with the physical and mental well-being of our population. That's the bottom line as I see it. I'd like to expose as many people [as possible] to our sport. It's not for everybody – because it takes effort to play it and fun and all that – but it is an aggressive sport, no question about it, and it does fit our society, our culture, and certainly it fits the American mentality.

That's the way I see it and I think that this is all dependent upon our leadership. It's absolutely critical that board members have a vision for the future and see this vision for the sport – and that we have to be very careful not to fall under the trap that many sports, and many corporations, fall into ... all bottom line. If that becomes the case, then we'll become a shadow in a shell of what we could be. •

part II



2001 Denver Pro Am by Woody Clouse

On December 5, at about 2:00pm, I received a phone call on my cell, complete with windy static in the background. It was Kane Waselenchuk calling for directions to the Lakewood Athletic Club. After our hello's he brought my attention to the blowing sound that was, in fact, the wind coming from his (all of them) rolled down windows. Being from Canada, he was sweating from the balmy 65 degree weather. My only response was "welcome to Denver!" Denver ... "The Mile High City" ... the power player's paradise? Or the retriever's retreat? The ball travels faster, but it also stays up longer, so the only way to find out who will have the advantage is to play ball!

The round of 32 had two mini-upsets with semi-retired Louis Vogel getting by Mike Green who was having an uncharacteristically bad day, and Dan Llacera taking advantage of the inconsistent play of another semi-retired tour regular, Woody Clouse.

The round of 16 had two key match ups that seemed to have "greatness"



Jason Mannino vs. Cliff Swain. Photos: John Foust



written all over them. The first, Rocky Carson vs. Kane Waselenchuk, may have looked good on paper, yet it was anything but. Kane walked through like he was late for P.E., beating Rocky 6,5,2, who, for the record, has not done well in Denver in the past. The second pairing between Mike Guidry and Jack Huczak promised to be a spectators delight, and lived up to its billing. After splitting the first two at 12-10 each, Jack hit a zone in the third for the 11-2 win. Battling back and fourth, Jack closed the match out 11-9. The only upset of the 16's came at the expense of John Ellis. The dangerous Chris Crowther feasted on an under-the-weather Ellis who always seems to have his annual cold/flu fall on this tournament weekend.

The quarterfinals began with the much-anticipated match up between southpaws Cliff Swain and Kane Waselenchuk. To keep this brief, like the match, Cliff dominated by outscoring Kane 33 to 9. The match between Alvaro Beltran and Huczak started out as good as it gets with Jack coming up big on the key points, winning 14-12. After that Alvaro seemed to lose his sharpness, dropping the next two 4, and 7. To break into the top four, Alvaro needs to find a way to win these kinds of match ups.

Against Chris Crowther viewers witnessed the Tim Doyle of old — big serves, bigger serves, and biggest serves, toss in a lot of flat rolls and that's about it. Chris couldn't do much about it, as the scores of 5, 1, 5 indicated. The Derek

Robinson, Jason Mannino match featured Jason at his best, who retrieves better than anyone, and demands a perfect performance by challengers. Jason escaped a close second game 12-10, but rolled 11-3 in the first and third, for the straight game win.

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March – April 2002

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The semi's began with a classic battle between Jason Mannino and Tim Doyle. After losing a close 11-8 game, Jason applied constant pressure to Tim by forcing him to shoot on the run. This see-saw battle went back and fourth with Tim hitting blistering serves and Jason making unbeatable gets until Jason squeaked out each of the next three games 11-9, 11-9, 11-9. The next semi was another much-anticipated pairing, between the old guard and the new kid on the block. This was Huczek's first appearance in a semi final and he was obviously not satisfied with "just a semi." Cliff, with a new sense of purpose and vigor, reminded the youngster that there is still a lot of work ahead of him. Swain once again dominated, and Jack played catch-up; the match was not as close as the 11-8, 11-1, 11-8 scores indicated.

The final was a perfect contrast in styles. Would Jason take advantage of how much more the ball stays up at this altitude, or would Cliff utilize the added pace that comes with playing in Denver? Either way, it promised to be a treat to watch. Jason started out playing solid ball, but Cliff looked tired and seemed to be having a difficult time getting into the match. Jason closed out the first game 11-3. No stranger to winning ugly, Cliff hung around in the second game long enough to get the opportunities he was waiting for from Jason, then made a run late in the game to win 11-7. The third game went back and forth until Jason once again gave

Cliff some breaks allowing the game to slip away to another close 11-8 finish. The fourth and final game saw Jason give his best imitation of Santa Claus, handing Cliff four unanswered points via skipped balls. Cliff proved that, by hustle and a commitment to stay in every game, good things will happen. With the win, Cliff further distanced himself from Jason and the rest of the field in

the rankings, while Jason did everything he could just to keep pace.

Suds' much anticipated return to the tour in 2002 will be sure to make things a lot more interesting. The new blood of Kane and Jack will also continue to add new dynamics to the already "anyone can win" environment.

Changes at the Top: IRT

by Tom Rall

The number one seed at the U.S. OPEN, former champion of too many professional tournaments to mention, and racquetball's top player, Sudsy Monchik broke a bone in his foot in November. When I spoke with him then he seemed to have accepted his injury and was dealing with it in a positive way, despite how very disappointing his accident was. I must admit it was hard for me to see him sitting immobile in a leg cast in a wheel chair. It would be eight weeks. For the average competitive racquetball player that's a long time. For a racquetball player of Sudsy's pro caliber it's an eternity!

He's missed several tournaments to date, lost thousands in prize money and must deal emotionally with watching his fellow competitors play while he sits idle. Once the cast is removed he'll have to deal with the strength loss and atrophy in his leg. And if this isn't enough

what if the hoop & the handle never touched ?



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he'll have to work very hard, probably harder than ever before to get back into tournament shape again. It will certainly be an uphill battle. And for a player who is accustomed to moving at the speed of sound and pounding a ball into oblivion, being inactive may eventually drive him nuts! Unfortunately he'll just have to learn to do something he's most likely never had to do before — be patient and slow down. Fellow player and mentor, Ruben Gonzalez, overcame an achilles tendon tear that most humans, athlete or not, seldom conquer. I'm certain Ruben has words of encouragement for Sudsy.

Something else to consider is that, with Sudsy out for a bit, there is room at the top for other premier players to show their stuff. Rankings will no doubt be affected. Time will tell just which players will emerge and how much the rankings will change. Cliff Swain's US Open win, for example, has secured him a World #1 ranking — again! And the incredible thirty-five year old shows no signs of age, and it goes without saying that he isn't going anywhere, any time soon. No place but #1 that is!

It's clear we can all count on outstanding, high level performance from the men's pros! And there is new talent in the wings. Kane Waselenchuk, the young, new and simply amazing player from Canada, beat' em all in Chicago making him an immediate stand out. Jack Huczak, who has simply won everything in the juniors, and holds the national singles title as well, has made it to the finals of the two most recent pro stops in his rookie season, even taking his first tour win over Cliff in Boston.

By the way, am I the only one whose noticed the 'youth' in the Men's Pro Division? I mean Kane is nineteen and Jack is eighteen and still in high school! That's a young age to be going up against the best players in the world! If we do the numbers — just to put things in perspective — Kane and Jack's combined age (37) is only two years more than Cliff Swain at 35, and twelve years younger than Ruben Gonzalez at 49. This makes the IRT age span thirty-one years, from eighteen to forty-nine! Go figure.

Continued ... for the women ... on page 30

The Passion *by Mike Ceresia*

You wake up in the morning and it is the first thing you think of. You go to sleep at night and it's still on your mind. Shots, form, mental training, rehearsal, execution, competition, court conditions, serving options, competitors, grip, equipment ... Shots, form, mental training, rehearsal, execution, competition, court conditions, serving options, competitors, grip, equipment ...

You dream of the big match in the ultimate setting: the portable court, state of the art, set up in Madison Square Garden or Carnegie Hall or Caesar's Palace. Broadcast live on one of the major networks, of course.

How do you get there?

Practice ... in underground parking against a wall when you can't get to the club, in the basement of your house, against the curb. When you feel great, anywhere there is a flat wall.

You practice until you can't lift your arm ... at night when it's just you and the cleaning crew, in the morning before school. You practice until your glove is soaked with blood. Why? The shot has to be hit properly and then repeated thousands, then millions, of times. Not any particular shot — every shot.

You hitchhike to tournaments in the dead of winter — through Buffalo, because that's the best place to hike in the winter. You sleep in airports, you stay in less-than-great accommodations, you scrape the entry fees together. You meet a group of young crazy people across North America doing a lot of the same things.

After losses it's the end of the world; it's nirvana after victories.

Your first pro tournament (circa?)?

You try to get into Open and A, but you call two days before the tournament starts. The Michigan tournament director (one with the passion himself, now the USRA ED) tells you A is full. Fine, put me in the pros. He wants to know how are you getting here and where are you staying? "Hitchhiking" and "your place" — if it's not too much to ask. It was, but the response is "you sleep in the basement" and a chuckle.

You qualify, you draw Bret Harnett, winner of the last pro tournament and a lean, hungry athletic specimen. The excitement is ridiculous! You win the first game by a score of 11-3 — that was kind of easy. The specimen is not amused, and he answers back 11-3. Then it's 10-10 in the third ... This is just the beginning!

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• men's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule



Sudsy Update

"Hey all ... I just wanted to say hi and let everyone know the latest. My doctors have said that I am healing strong and it looks like March 5th will be the "go" date. We are hoping that my foot will be healed 110% and I will be able to begin training at full speed. I have been on the court dropping and hitting and lifting weights and been swimming and riding my lifecycle with little resistance. I am really missing not being at the events but I am looking forward to returning stronger than ever!" SM

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SEASON RANKINGS

[Rankings dated 02/04/02 following Coral Springs]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 3699	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	1	1
2. 3680	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	2	4
3. 3341	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	3	3
4. 2334	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	6	7
5. 2163	Alvaro Beltran	Chihuahua, Mexico	5	12
6. 2060	Tim Doyle	San Diego, CA	7	5
7. 2048	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	4	2
8. 2019	Derek Robinson	Kennewick, WA	9	8
9. 1940	Mike Guidry	Carrolton, TX	8	6
10. 1914	Jack Huczak	Rochester Hills, MI	11	18
11. 1610	Kane Waselenchuk	Alberta, Canada	10	13
12. 1440	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada	12	19
13. 1342	Brian Istace	Alberta, Canada	14	36
14. 1098	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	13	11
15. 1006	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	18	21
16. 953	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	16	26
17. 794	Erin Brannigan	Sagle, ID	15	15
18. 698	Mike Locker	Minneapolis, MN	17	9
19. 690	Javier Moreno	Memphis, TN	19	44
20. 582	Woody Clouse	Littleton, CO	20	80

2001-2002 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

New Orleans	Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino.....	3-11, 11-9, 11-7, 12-10
Stockton	Jason Mannino def. Alvaro Beltran	11-2, 10-12, 11-6, 11-5
Chicago	Kane Waselenchuk def. John Ellis.....	11-4, 11-4, 8-11, 8-11, 11-8
Memphis	Cliff Swain def. John Ellis.....	11-5, 7-11, 12-10, 11-4
Denver	Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino.....	3-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-6
Boston	Jack Huczak def. Cliff Swain.....	11-4, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10
Coral Springs	Jason Mannino def. Jack Huczak	11-5, 11-8, 11-6

Feb. 28 - Mar. 3	San Diego, California.....	San Diego Open @ American Athletic Club, 619-477-2123
April 11-14	Greensboro, NC	NC Open Championships @ Pyramids Wellness Center, 336-275-1391
April 25-28	Las Vegas, Nevada	Pro Nationals @ Las Vegas Sporting House, 702-733-8999

For information concerning any IRT events, contact Dave Negrete at 630-430-1IRT [1478] or send e-mail to negretz@mindspring.com



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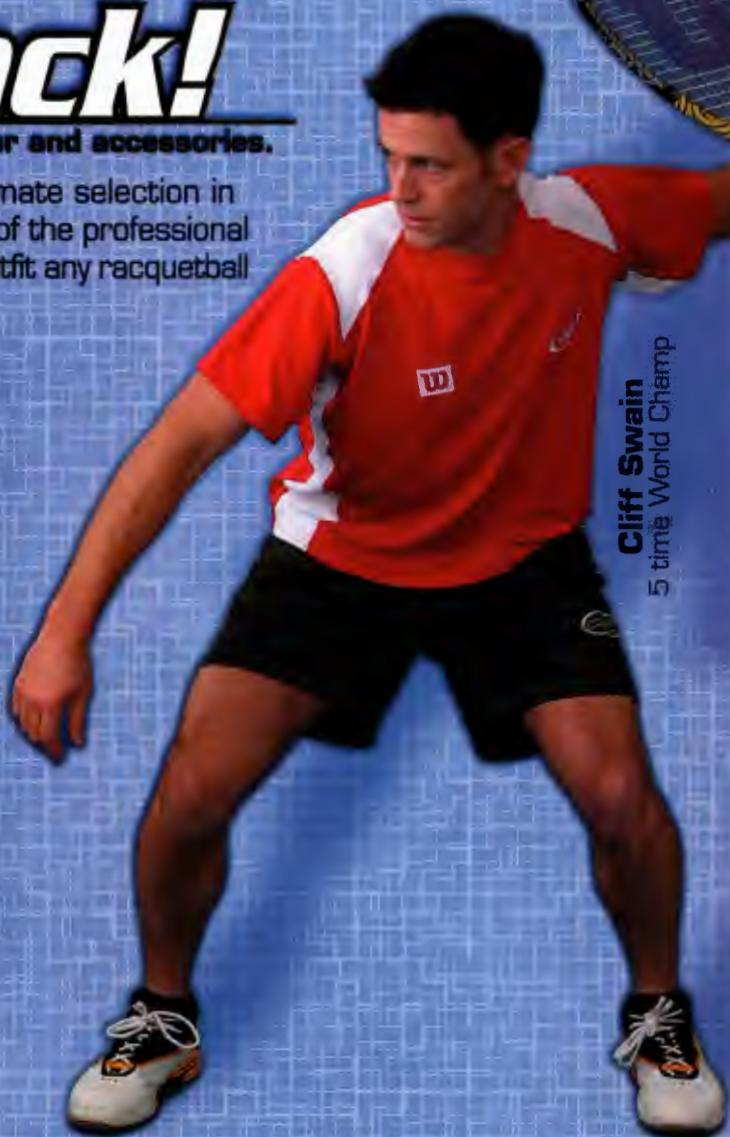
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Rice wins in Denver

by Ryan John

The top women pros traveled to the mile-high city to compete in the Lakewood Athletic Club Coca-Cola Classic – an annual event that features tour stops for both the LPRA and IRT. With the second half of the season underway, players began to kick their games into high gear to jockey for final position in the season ending rankings.

There weren't many surprises in the round of 32, which set up exciting matches in the 16's. No.6 Lori-Jane Powell and No.11 Dina Moreland battled it out for five games. It was Moreland's second straight match to go the distance after Mexico's Claudia Corpi had tested her in the first round. Although Moreland had been successful in her first five-gamer, it was Powell who took the second, 14-16, 15-9, 13-15, 15-9, 15-8.

Another exciting five game match in the 16s featured LPRA calendar girls from south of the border. Tour rookie, No.5 Claudine Garcia of the Dominican Republic, faced off against Mexico's No.12 Susy Acosta. Garcia impressed onlookers in winning the first two games 15-11, 15-7 but Acosta, looking as if she had regained her old form, fought back to even the match with 15-13, 15-6 wins. An exciting fifth game was close, but Garcia earned the victory 15-12.

Playing her best since rejoining the tour, No.23 Elaine Albrecht upset No.7 Kristen Walsh 16-14, 15-13, 15-9, and a match between U.S. National Team members No.8 Rhonda Rajsich and No.9 Kim Russell ended in a forfeit when Russell was forced to retire with flu-like symptoms.

The quarterfinals matched up No.1 Cheryl Gudinas and No.8 Rajsich. Following disappointing finishes at the Hilton U.S. OPEN and Saskatoon events, Rajsich had decided to change her game

style. "I just decided to start having fun again," Rajsich said. "After playing so bad in Canada I just decided to loosen up and have fun on the court." It became a good strategy for her as she upset the world's top-ranked player in a grueling five game match 15-8, 12-15, 13-15, 15-11, 15-12, and moved into the semifinals. Also advancing were No.2 Jackie Paraiso Rice, No.4 Kersten Hallander, and defending U.S. OPEN champion No.3 Kerri Wachtel.

In a rematch of the 2001 U.S OPEN, Wachtel and Rice faced off in the semifinals, marking Wachtel's first chance to repeat that victory. But Rice had other plans and it was evident in her play that she had not forgotten the loss in Memphis, as she dominated the first two games 15-5, 15-8. Wachtel stepped up her game to take the third game 15-13 before Rice closed out the match in the fourth 16-14.

The remaining semifinal featured Hallander and Rajsich, who opened the match with a lengthy 18-16 first game that went to Hallander. But Rajsich's new attitude brought her back to win the next three, including another 18-16 marathon, to advance to her first final in over a year.



Rajsich had defeated Paraiso-Rice in the semi's of the 2000 U.S. OPEN, but hasn't been able to repeat the win since. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

With two upsets already under her belt, many were comparing her performance to Rajsich's great run on the 2000 U.S. OPEN where she had gotten to the finals before falling to the now retired Christie Van Hees. During that run Rajsich had defeated Rice in one of the event's most memorable matches, but Rice quickly squashed any chance of a repeat by coming hot out of the box and never cooling off. She defeated Rajsich in three straight, 15-10, 15-11, 15-8, to capture the pro stop and move closer to Gudinas in the LPRA rankings.

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LPRA PROFILE

There's another fast-rising star on the LPRA tour...**Claudine Garcia** burst onto the circuit this year and has catapulted in the rankings. In her first year as a professional, she's advanced from being unranked to the No.6 spot. She started off in Charlotte by making the semifinals and has been a consistent quarterfinalist throughout the season.

Claudine is a former Junior World Champion and somewhat of an icon in her home country of the Dominican Republic. She has been named the Dominican Republic's Atleta del Año (Athlete of the Year) for 10 years running! She also competes as a member of the Dominican Republic's National Racquetball Team.

Claudine's style of play is all-out, full speed ahead. She once had to take an injury timeout at a pro stop because she dove headfirst into the wall. Claudine wouldn't stop the match, however, choosing to continue even with a good-sized knot on her noggin.

Despite her small build, she possesses power unmatched by anyone else on the tour right now and is able to whiz balls past her opponents. That, combined with her athleticism, will make Claudine a force to be reckoned with on the tour for a long time to come. "She will be able to move into the top four," Jim Hiser predicts. "Once she learns to harness her power."

PROFESSIONAL RECORD & STATS:

Year	Event/Site & Finish
2002	LPRA Rosarito Beach, Mexico, Quarters
2001	LPRA Saskatoon, Canada, Quarters
2001	LPRA Lakewood, Colo., Quarters
2001	Hilton U.S. OPEN, Memphis, Tenn., Quarters
2001	LPRA Colorado Springs, Colo., Quarters
2001	LPRA Albuquerque, N.M., Quarters
2001	LPRA Charlotte, N.C., Semis

Sponsor: Ektelon — Racquet: Warrior

Year Started Racquetball: 1990

Height: 5'8" — Weight: 118 — Age: 26

Date of Birth: July 14, 1975

Place of Birth: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Parents: Rafael & Alba Garcia

Residence: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Marital Status: Married

Hobbies: Golf, Four Wheeling, Water-skiing

Continued from page 26 ...

Changes at the Top II: LPRA

by Tom Rall

On the women's side there are changes at the top, but like the IRT, it appears that injuries abound. Jackie Paraiso-Rice, a unique champion and winner of an incredible number of pro tournaments, broke her ankle at the end of last season and has been nursing it while trying to remain tournament tough. Signs of caution remain and her ankle is wrapped securely before stepping on to the court. Even injured she is a notch above the rest, and despite her injury, she managed to make it all the way to the final at the U.S. Open!

Unquestionably the fastest-rising woman on tour today has to be Kerri Wachtel. The tour has witnessed an intense rivalry between Jackie Paraiso-Rice and Cheryl Gudinas for nearly two years now. In recent times it's been one or the other of them in the winners circle at the end of any tournament. But Kerri made it to finals in Chicago before losing to Gudinas, and in Colorado Springs lost to Gudinas in a tight semi-final. But the crowd saw how close Kerri was to winning each time, and only a few crucial points decided how each match played out. At the U.S. Open Kerri seemed to have figured out how to play key points better, how to control her shots, and how to play more effectively during those 'crucial points.' The result? She beat Gudinas in the semi's and then went on to beat Paraiso-Rice in the final. This new women's U.S. Open Champion is now a force to be reckoned with.

Two others worth watching are Lori Jane Powell and Kristen Walsh, who both create challenges for the top-ranked pros. Lori won the open division and reached the pro quarters at the U.S. Open, clearly marking her as one of the game's up and coming players. Kristen is the current Juniors and Intercollegiate Singles Champion and recently won the mixed open national doubles title in Las Vegas. Her loss to Kim Russell in the sixteen's at the U.S. Open was the only five-game match in the entire round. Both Lori and Kristen are knocking on the door and we'll surely be seeing quite a bit from these two new stars in the ladies ranks.

As we can see, there are definite shifts going on at the top. As new players make their way into the pro ranks, veterans must deal with these new upstarts and recognize their talent, or run the risk of losing early. On the other hand those trying to break into the pro's must also learn how to deal with veteran players who have a great deal of experience and playing skills that more than rival their own. For the players during this process there is, of course, an added challenge. For those of us watching it is very exciting! And for the sport of racquetball, it's very healthy.



BIG WINNERS ...

Personal appearances by top LPRA tour players Rhonda Rajsich and Kersten Hallander helped Denver's "Racquet for the Cure" event raise over \$3,000.000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation in February [see program details in the Jan/Feb issue].

Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Season Rankings

[Dated 01/22/02, following Rosarito Beach]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 521.250	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1	3
2. 389.250	Jackie Paraiso Rice	San Diego, CA	2	2
3. 339.250	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	3	24
4. 237.250	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	5	4
5. 210.375	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	4	6
6. 139.125	Claudine Garcia	Dominican Republic	6	n/a
7. 110.625	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	8	15
8. 107.250	Lori-Jane Powell	Calgary, Alberta, Canada	7	11
9. 73.125	Kim Russell	Austin, TX	9	n/a
10. 49.875	Laura Fenton	Overland Park, KS	10	5
11. 42.375	Susana Acosta	Chihuahua, Mexico	12	7
12. 39.750	Dina Moreland	Montgomery, AL	11	22
13. 36.375	Denise Mock	Allen, TX	14	18
14. 34.950	Jennifer Saunders	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	13	25
15. 30.575	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD	15	9
16. 25.375	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO	16	14
17. 19.575	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	20	24
18. 19.375	Janet Myers	Charlotte, NC	21	12
19. 16.875	Ramona Vonondarza	Venezuela	18	38
20. 16.750	Elaine Albrecht	Delaware, OH	17	n/a

• women's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2001-2002 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

Charlotte	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kristen Walsh	15-11, 15-8, 15-12
Albuquerque	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	9-15, 15-11, 16-14, 15-10
Colorado Springs	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	15-13, 15-10, 13-15, 9-15, 15-5
Memphis	Kerri Wachtel def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	15-13, 12-15, 15-11, 15-10
Saskatoon	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	13-15, 15-12, 15-12, 15-10
Denver	Jackie Paraiso Rice def. Rhonda Rajsich	15-10, 15-11, 15-8
Rosarito Beach	Rhonda Rajsich def. Kerri Wachtel	15-14, 15-5, 8-15, 14-16, 15-11
Chicago	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	15-12, 15-4, 15-10

March 1-3	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Central Courts, 763-572-0330
April 12-14	San Diego, California	Sorrento Valley Racquetball & Fitness Center
May 2-4	Site TBA	Site TBA
June 21-23	McLean, Virginia	Tyson Sports & Health, 703-527-7785

*Combined LPRA/IRT stops feature a Saturday final.

For more event details and complete tournament draw sheets online, go to www.ladiesproracquetball.com > "Events"



Hiser & St. Onge at Pan American Games opening ceremonies in Argentina in 1995.

"I left my educational background to work in racquetball because of Luke St. Onge," said Hiser. "I don't think that anyone could have done as much to expand the sport. He has great vision and his passion is unquestionable."

Hiser's accomplishments within the sport are impressive, both administratively and as an elite level competitor. As an athlete, he is a top competitor in his age division, and earned a silver medal finish at the 2001 National Doubles and a championship title in doubles at the U.S. OPEN Championships last fall. As an administrator, he has served as commissioner for both the men's and women's pro tours, was elected to the RAM Hall of Fame in 1985, has coached over 2,500 players privately, through clinics, and at the annual USRA Elite Camp, plus directed over 300 tournaments locally, nationally, and internationally.

Hiser named USRA Executive Director

Former Associate Executive Director James L. Hiser was recently named Executive Director of the U.S. Racquetball Association by its board of directors. Swift deliberations at the USRA's 18th annual Leadership Conference in Colorado Springs in early January led to the board publicly issuing its unanimous decision to conference attendees. Hiser took over the senior position — left vacant by long-time exec Luke St. Onge, who recently stepped aside to accept a directorship of USOC and International Relations for the USRA — in conjunction with the announcement.

Before making the career move to the national governing body for racquetball in 1989, Hiser had earned a Master's degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1972 and a PhD in Medical Mycology from Michigan State University in 1976. Over the course of those studies, Hiser worked on NASA's Apollo 16 Lunar mission, where he was a member of the first group of scientists to send microorganisms into space. He incorporated the results of that project into his doctoral thesis.

In 1979, Hiser took up the sport and soon thereafter started the successful Michigan "Super 7" racquetball tour. He is also credited with founding the Racquetball Association of Michigan [RAM], the first organization in Michigan affiliated with the then-AARA [American Amateur Racquetball Association]. That became the juncture at which Hiser met Luke St. Onge and the two began a long-term collaboration to develop the sport. In 1988, Hiser accepted an offer to become the Association's Director of Programming and relocated to Colorado Springs in 1989, where he currently resides.

"It's an honor, an exciting challenge, and I look forward to it," Hiser said of taking on his new duties. "I think that I have some new ideas, some different ideas. For the first time we have the racquetball community and industry all working together. I think that it is a good time for us to try and secure an outside sponsorship."



Introducing ...
Harrow Racquetball

Harrow Racquetball, a division of Harrow Sports, has a dynamic mandate to grow racquetball — exclusively through pro shops across North America and worldwide [see display ad on page 5]. The company goal is to re-enforce the strength of the pro shop and offer the clubs an additional revenue stream. Long-time Canadian national team member and world champion Mike

Ceresia has taken the position of Sales and Marketing Manager with the company and recently offered to answer a few questions about the new racquetball venture.

Where does the name Harrow come from? The dictionary definition of Harrow is “to torment.” We think the name is accurate for our racquetball line.

How did you become involved? Gary Waite, a long time friend and the No.1 player on the ISDA squash doubles tour is the president of Harrow Sports. He told me that Harrow was very interested in getting involved in racquetball and that he saw huge untapped potential with the game. After a few spirited conversations and a trip to the head office in Denver, [I found] their optimism, vision and excitement was something I wanted to be a part of.

What is the company's vision? We want to be a key part of the re-growth of the game. We think the game has a huge upside, with the proper approach. One such approach centers on the club pro shop business. We feel that the decline of the pro shop business has hurt racquetball badly. In the racquetball heyday players purchased their product through the pro shop and subsequently had a relationship with the pro, the club owner and/or the individual that controlled the pro shop. In recent years, much of that business has disappeared with the influx of online retail and the continuation of retail outside of the clubs. We feel that we can give the pro shop owner the retail power it once had by making our products available in pro shops only and on the HarrowSports.com website. Also, to confirm our commitment to the pro shop we will further support these businesses by offering to share a strong percentage of online purchases that HarrowSports.com generates.

How does the consumer benefit? We will produce a full line of high quality racquetball products including racquets, Puma shoes, apparel, bags, gloves, eyewear, string and grips. Our premier racquet is the Torment and it has been very well received.

It's been quite a while since a new racquetball company has surfaced; where do you see Harrow in five years? We will be involved in racquetball for the long haul. I see us as a major influence in the market with a unique approach to everything we do. We will focus on all aspects of the game with an emphasis on the clubs themselves. Also, we have had conversations with a number of professionals both male and female and have met with the USRA [and the RMA] to discuss some of their initiatives and our involvement.

How will Harrow differ from the other manufacturers? For starters, our products and apparel will have a very distinctive look. Also, our approach to the game will be passionate and different. As time progresses you will see exactly what I mean by this. •



Ektelon signs

Boudman

Ektelon recently announced the signing of John Boudman as Product Consultant for Prince/Ektelon. John and his wife Linda have been recognized as premier racquet stringers and accessory experts since the mid 1980's, attending all the major national events and pioneering the concept of providing racquet stringing services and

product sales on site. John and Linda are USRSA Master Racquet Technicians and continue to attend over 20 events per year. John was one of the original 16 chosen (out of 350) to develop and participate in the USRSA Stringer Certification Program in 1986.

"We are very excited to have John back on board with Ektelon," stated Scott Winters, Senior Director of Indoor Court Sports for Benetton Sportsystem, "John is going to be a large asset to Ektelon's product development as well as to our Team Ektelon players at tournaments."

John's role with Prince/Ektelon will be to conduct play-tests and consulting on stringing machines, accessories and racquet design development. John assisted the Prince Research and Development team in designing the swivel clamp and power ring racquets and field-testing the Wise tension tead and Neos stringing machine. John will also attend tournaments to string racquets on site for Ektelon's sponsored players.

Russell Signs with Ashaway

Recent Olympic Torchbearer and 2001 U.S. National Doubles champion Kim Russell recently signed a three year sponsorship agreement with Ashaway Racket Strings. Russell, 33, is a current member of the U.S. National Racquetball Team, and earned her first team appointment in 1990 by winning the National Intercollegiate Championships representing the University of Kentucky.

Russell is looking forward to heading into the 2002 racquetball season with Ashaway racquetball string in her racquet. [industry news continues on page 4](#)

industry news continues on page 51

THE ROAD TO THE



accumulate high-level ranking points plus earn seeding consideration at "The Finals." **WAIVERS:** All legitimate waivers of qualifying competition at any of these events must be approved **prior** to the scheduled regional weekend. All waivers must be directed to — and approved by — the USRA Headquarters. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.

April 4-7	Concord Athletic Club	St. Louis, Missouri . . . Jim Murphy	314-842-3111
April 11-14	Central Courts	Columbia Heights, Minnesota . . . Dennis Ring	952-883-2148
April 17-21	Spectrum Club	Canoga Park, California . . . Deb Tisinger	818-884-5034
	Lakewood Athletic Club	Denver, Colorado . . . Marianne Alonzi	303-989-5545
	Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club	Orlando, Florida . . . Bill Herr	407-880-7790 x552
	Southern Athletic Club	Atlanta, Georgia . . . Ric Crosby	770-923-5400
	Athletic Club of Bloomingdale	Bloomingdale, Illinois . . . Dave Negrete	630-893-9577
	Executive Health & Sports Center	Manchester, New Hampshire . . . Kelley Beane	603-759-2729
	Cascade Athletic Club	Gresham, Oregon . . . Connie Martin	503-665-4142
	Strongsville Recreation Center	Cleveland, Ohio . . . Doug Ganim	614-890-6073
	Racquetball & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio	San Antonio, Texas . . . Lance Gilliam	210-344-8596
	Tyson Sport & Health Club	McLean, Virginia . . . Ed Willis	703-684-4146
	Club Energize	Gillette, Wyoming . . . Everett Shilling	307-686-7627
April 25-28	Sportime of Syosset	Jackson Heights, New York . . . Tom Keogh	718-429-8489
May 2-5	Southern Athletic Club	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma . . . Dave Watson	918-541-0722

other recognized qualifiers ... for seniors 45 & up

Jan. 18-20	Women's Senior/Master Championships	Warren, Michigan . . . Diana Courtney	810-774-6900
March 13-16	NMRA Masters Championships	Canoga Park, California . . . Ron Pudduck	734-426-8952

[These qualify 45+ entrants ONLY! ... 35+ & 40+ players in the preceding events must still take part in a regional qualifier — from the first group shown above — in order to compete at National Singles].

2002 junior qualifying

To become eligible for play in the HEAD 29th U.S. Junior Olympics [June 22-26, 2002], entrants must first compete in any Level 3 State Championship, OR in a recognized junior regional event (not offered in all areas), OR in the National High School Championships. All players must compete in (not merely enter) the qualifying state, regional or national event, plus meet all age requirements and other entry stipulations.

Questions? Call 719-635-5396, or go to: www.usra.org

••• qualifying tipsheet •••

This Sanctioned Event	Qualifies players for:
State Singles Championships	Junior Olympics
Recognized Junior Regional	Junior Olympics
National High Schools	Junior Olympics
National Intercollegiates	National Singles
Regional Qualifiers	National Singles
WSMRA Championship	National Singles [45 & up]
NMRA Championship	National Singles [45 & up]
U.S. Military Championships	National Singles
Alaska/Hawaii residents	exempt from qualifying
Active duty overseas military	exempt from qualifying

2002 ektelon adult regional qualifiers [level 4] ... nationwide

Qualifying competition is REQUIRED to participate in the 2002 Ektelon 35th U.S. National Singles in Houston, Texas — no exceptions (regardless of age)! Whether or not you plan to go on to Houston, you'll want to take part in the largest nationwide event of the year! By doing so, you'll

Today I am going to share a weapon that is widely used at the pro level and is now becoming more and more common ... it's called "cutting-off the ball."

In other words, taking the ball out of the air before it bounces — which is probably contradictory to what you've been taught and what you've seen, heard and experienced. In the past, I've even told you to be patient and let the ball bounce, wait until it drops below your knees and then hit it.

What I want to do now is introduce to you a new way to look at taking our offensive shots, which opens up a whole new way of being more aggressive. The very shots I talked about in recent issues of the magazine — the kill, pass-kill and pass (July/August 2001) as well as the pinch and reverse-pinch (Sept./Oct. 2001) — can *all* be hit on *one* bounce, as you learned in the past, but also on "no-bounces," which is new.

Learning how to "cut off the ball" increases the number of shots in your arsenal. In essence you are actually doubling the shots you have, which makes you less predictable, a very important factor to consider. Other reasons for taking the ball out of the air, or cutting the ball off are very plain and simple:

- *it reduces your opponent's reaction time*
- *it catches your opponent off balance*



- *it keeps your opponent guessing*
- *it puts an enormous amount of pressure on your opponent*

Let's take a closer look at my Magical "Cut Off" Shot so you too can expand your shot selection ...



1.

• TRICK #1

The Ready Position

Same exact mechanics as the basic power backhand and forehand learned in March/April 1999 and May/June 1999, respectively. Refer to these back issues for the remainder of the tips ...



2.

TRICK #2 • The Swing

Same exact mechanics as the basic power backhand and forehand.

• TRICK #3

The Contact Point

Same exact mechanics as the power backhand and forehand, see trick #1 for back issues, except you see how **I do not** let the ball bounce and take it right out of the air, instead.



3.

TRICK #4 •

The Follow-Through

Same exact mechanics as the power backhand and forehand.

There you have it ... not only can you hit a kill, pass-kill, pass, pinch and reverse-pinch, but you now can hit *all these* on the fly, as well as on one bounce. That is exciting to me because you now have your opponent right where you want them ... which is that they have no clue what's coming and a lot less time to react to that unknown. If I can catch Cliff, Jason, John or any other pro in this position of having less time to react to the ball, off-balance and guessing, then you too can use this very concept of "the cut-off" on your opponent successfully.



4.

Finally, there are some *very* key elements you want to remember when "cutting the ball off" — **only** cut off high lofting balls that give you time to decide ... **commit** early; he who hesitates is lost ... Hit it **exactly** the same as a basic backhand and forehand, just don't let the ball bounce.

Absolutely nothing changes; that's what makes it so effective and deceptive. Give it a try because I can only speak from my experience at being the 5-time #1 pro player in the world, and it works for me. See you at one of my camps with Fran Davis to show it to you firsthand!



Winning Racquetball: Foundation Work by Marcy Lynch

The series of articles I wrote last season included a lot of information on what to eat, how to practice, types of cross-training, and how to create a focused mental game. My goal now is to 'coach' you to take the information and make it work for you.

Improving your racquetball game is about building a solid foundation. In the same way that a house needs a good foundation, so do you when it comes to developing a plan for actualizing your racquetball potential.

Three features comprise this important base:
1) vision ... 2) purpose ... 3) goals

The first of these features is what I call creating a 'vision'. A vision is an overall picture of how you see yourself. Grab your racquetball journal and put aside 15 – 30 minutes to think about and write answers to the following questions; What do you really want both on and off the court? What does success mean to you? Who and what are the five most important people/things in your life? What does racquetball mean to you and where does it fit in relation to the other aspects of your life?

Next is purpose. Purpose is a direct result of your vision. For example, your vision might be about participating in a sport activity that you enjoy. The effect or result of that vision may be many things; a method of de-stressing from work, a competitive outlet, an opportunity to connect with others, a form of exercise. This is the purpose your vision serves.

Goals are the concrete things you want to attain based on your vision and purpose. For example, a goal might be to be the best player in your club, or to move up in the league, or to take a game from someone you've never beaten. That goal is attached to a vision of being a competitor in a sport you

enjoy. The purpose served by your vision is to challenge yourself to play at a higher level.

Sometimes a goal and the vision are the same thing. You may see yourself being #1 and that may also be your goal. However, if you set the goal of being #1 without having created a vision or purpose, it's possible for the goal to be something that you impose on yourself as an expectation rather than a reflection of an inner desire.

More than likely, you have taken some of these steps naturally without thinking about it. You know racquetball is important, that's why you play it. What I'm suggesting is to bring this process into your conscious awareness through the above inventory. When your vision, purpose, and goals are in alignment, two benefits occur.

The first benefit is that you are more likely to make time for what is important. Once you've consciously claimed your priorities, it's a lot harder to set them aside when something else comes up. Life always presents challenges to your goals, but when vision and purpose are clear, motivation is present. Motivation is what makes you do the things you say you want to do despite the challenges.

The second benefit to being in alignment is that it is easier to be 'present' at any given moment. You are present because you are in touch with why you are playing and less apt to be thinking about how you 'should' be somewhere else. Being present or 'in the moment' is at the heart of excellence in performance, whether it's on the racquetball court or spending time with the people you care about.

No extra workouts or practice time are required to gain this powerful 'edge'. All that's needed is a willingness to consciously build your foundation upon vision, purpose, and goals. Your time, whether spent on or off the court, will be more meaningful.

Marcy Lynch was recently named the Nutrition and Mental Training Coach for the U.S. National Team.

To subscribe to Marcy's free e-newsletter, or to schedule a "Winning Racquetball" workshop at your club, send an e-mail to marcy@marcylynch.com, or visit www.marcylynch.com. ©Marcy Lynch, the Fitness Coach 2002.



1.



2.



3.



CROSSOVER LUNGE DRILL

by Kersten Hallander

When reaching for a hard-to-get ball, do you take a sidestep or crossover step? I know some of you *dive* ... but I do see a lot of players sidestep to reach for a ball and, if they do get to it, they just barely manage a return. A crossover step allows you to actually reach farther than a sidestep, and then hit the ball with more control.

Charlie Brumfield taught me this crossover lunge drill to help ingrain the proper way to reach for "hard to get balls" using the crossover step. This drill trains your body to use a crossover step, take a full swing, maintain good balance and get back up quickly to defend your opponent's next shot.

1. Start with your feet shoulder width apart and racquet in ready position. See Photo #1.
2. Cross left foot over right and lunge as far as you can while getting your racquet back and elbow up. It is important to have good balance and not put too much pressure on your knees, so make sure your thigh is parallel with the floor and your knee is directly above your heel. See Photo #2.
3. Imagine you are hitting a ball, so take a full swing and watch your racquet hit an imaginary ball at the proper contact point. See Photo #3.

performance series

4. Follow through and watch your ball hit the front wall. Your shoulders should be square to the front wall at the end of your follow through. See Photo #4.
5. After your follow through, jump back up to ready position by applying pressure through your left leg and left heel. Return to position shown in Photo #1.
6. Next, cross your right foot over your left and lunge as far as you can while getting your racquet back and elbow up. Remember, make sure your thigh is parallel with the floor and your knee is directly above your heel. See Photo #5.
7. Again, imagine you are hitting a ball so take a full swing and watch racquet hit an imaginary ball at the proper contact point. See Photo #6.
8. Follow through and watch your ball hit the front wall. Your shoulders should be square to the front wall at the end of your follow through. See Photo #7.
9. After your follow through, jump back up to ready position by applying pressure through your left leg and left heel. Return to position shown in Photo #1.
10. Repeat steps 1 through 9 continuously 20, 30 or 50 times depending on your fitness level. Start with one set 2-3 times a week for a couple of weeks. As you make progress in the coming weeks and months, increase the number of times you continuously lunge in each set as well as the number of sets to keep it challenging.

Charlie tells me he used to do 10 sets of 100 crossover lunges every day and I'll tell you what: I have never seen anyone reach for a "hard to get ball" and make such incredible shots like he did during his legendary racquetball career. In fact, he still amazes me today when we play paddleball. I like to do five sets of 30 crossover lunges with a 30 second break between sets, 2-3 times a week. Whatever your playing level, this drill will surely help you get to more balls and hit more offensive shots. If you have any questions please feel free to e-mail me at kersten@kersten.com.





Photos: John Foust

The Travers Slice Serve

The serve is a player's best weapon. It's also the highest percentage shot, since the ball is stationary before contact. A good serve involves angles and changes of speeds that result in an ace or weak return. Unless someone fears your serve you are doomed to mediocrity! The Travers' slice to the right side is Tom's best weapon.

The objective is to create an angle on the so the ball travels in a "V" direction off the front wall into the sidewall back toward the right corner. The ball should bounce twice before hitting the back wall (or hugging the side wall).

PHOTO #1: The player should begin by addressing center court in the service box, and then move one step toward the right sidewall to set up. This is a two-step service approach. Start by placing the left foot forward and right foot back with a slight space between both feet. Knees should be slightly bent.

PHOTO #2: As the server moves the right foot toward the front wall they should drop the ball and raise their racquet in a ready position. The drop of the ball is critical to force an accurate angle on the serve. The normal drop for a traditional drive serve (see Tim Doyle's Monster drive, Jan/Feb 2002) is further in front. Dropping the ball further back and slightly in toward your body creates the slice angle.

PHOTO #3: Racquet Contact — This drop insures the racquet striking the ball slightly back in the server's stance and at an angle. After contact is made it is important to follow through as this motion is similar to all power drive serves. Keeping the swing the same all the time will and it will always keep your opponent guessing.

The ball should hit the front wall half the distance between the server and the side wall. It will hit slightly higher on the front wall than a regular drive serve because the slice creates the ball to float over the service line. It will then slide back to the corner while bouncing twice creating an ace or a weak return from your opponent. Your opponent should be completely outstretched to return the serve. Varying speeds will keep your opponent off balance. To do this you must keep your swing mechanics the same while varying swing speed. Remember, use the Travers slice as an offensive weapon to create an ace or weak return from your opponent. Good luck with your serve and don't forget — the Travers slice is nice!



Q: When you have a really tough doubles match coming up how do you develop a "game plan" to guide the match?

A: It really is no different than for a singles match. Developing a "game plan," strategy, or plan of action, encompasses finding out your opponent's strengths and weaknesses (as a team and individually) as well as becoming aware of your own. Here are eight areas that you can zero in on to gather as much information as possible:

- 1. Stroke Mechanics:** Do your opponents have stronger forehands or backhands? Which side are they stronger from?
- 2. Court Position:** What court coverage do they use — side by side (vulnerable to passes if up too far or to pinches if back too far), modified side by side (toughest to beat because of the staggered positioning, but hit where they are not) or "I" formation (vulnerable to passing down-the-line)?
- 3. Shot Selection:** Do they go crosscourt too much or kill more than pass? Are they pinch- or splat-happy? What are their tendencies?
- 4. Serves:** (for you) Are they predictable or do they have a good variety? Can they return an effective Z serve? (for them) Can they handle your power, your junk or your variety of angles? Can they return a lob to their backhand or a high-Z to their forehand?
- 5. Return of Serve:** Are they aggressive on the return of serve and attack? Does one partner hog the return? Do they have an effective ceiling return? Do they try and kill off the back wall or pass or pinch?
- 6. Footwork:** Do they square up to the sidewall or hit open stance a lot? Do they have quick feet? Which opponent has better footwork?
- 7. Emotional State:** Are they calm or do they get upset easily? Are they easily distracted? Do they get rattled or uncomfortable when you slow them down with the 10-second rule?
- 8. Type of Player:** Two righties? Righty/Lefty team? Two Lefties? Power or control? Rabbit or turtle? Tall or short?

Basically you want to see yourselves as racquetball detectives gathering clues in these eight areas. Then you take that valuable information of your opponent's strengths and weaknesses — coupled with your own — and develop a winning "game plan." That is a quick and simple synopsis on how you come up with a successful strategy to beat your opponents.



Smarter Head, Better Game — by Fran Davis • "Game Strategies"
email your questions to: fran@frandavisracquetball.com



Warm Up

by Tim Scheett, Ph.D.

Proper warm-up ... what's that and why would I want to sweat more?
Warm-up. We all know we need to do it, so why don't we? And more importantly – why don't we do it correctly?

The simple answers are: many of us look for shortcuts and are sometimes willing to take unnecessary risks, thinking "I'll just hit around and get warmed up to play" or "Oh, I'll be ok – it won't matter this time" (*Which is exactly what I thought 10 minutes before I tore cartilage in my left knee "just hitting around"*). I believe that we all do, in fact, know better, but sadly enough most of us are guilty of not properly warming up before starting a game or practice. And yes, it is just as important to warm-up before practice as it is before the finals of the U.S. Open!

Ok, so what exactly is a "proper warm-up"? Well, it does *not* mean to take a ball into the court and try your hardest to break it. In fact, a proper warm-up should start long before you ever enter the court. Racquetball involves the whole body and thus you need to warm-up the whole body — not just your hitting arm! A proper warm-up should include moderately intense exercise for 8-10 minutes, followed by light stretching and finally hitting/chasing the ball around the court. The 8-10 minutes of exercise can be on a stationary bike, treadmill, or any exercise equipment; however, you can achieve the same goal by jumping rope, running in place or chasing your kids around the facility (haha).

The easiest way to know if you have exercised enough is that you really should "break a sweat" before you stop. The goal is simple: you need to make the muscles work to produce heat as well as increase heart rate and circulation. The body circulates the blood to move the heat produced by the active muscles to the skin and thus causes you to sweat. You should *not* try to warm-up in a sauna or steam bath; this simply increases your body temperature and, although it does make you sweat, it does not increase the temperature of your muscles nor get them ready for play. Exercising in a sauna or steam bath is *not* advised and is actually *very dangerous* as it can lead to a variety of heat injuries such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Now that you know *why* you should do what you already *knew* you should do – please, please, please – practice it! If you do, maybe — just maybe — we can send one less person to the orthopedic surgeon! timscheett@hotmail.com

Soft Shoulder

by Aaron Haydu, D.C.

Racquetball can be a very demanding sport on the shoulder due to the hundreds of repetitive motions which can cause overuse injury and pain that will either decrease your performance, or put you out of the action altogether. The shoulder blade (scapula) is an important, and often overlooked location where the competitive player needs to focus to both avoid injury and enhance performance.



The scapula is the flat, triangular shaped bone that lies on your upper back. It acts as the main connection between your shoulder and torso, and is the primary origin for all muscles that control movements of the upper arm. The scapula has many important functions and needs to work properly in order to provide the most efficient motion of the arm.

There are four major roles the scapula must perform during athletic events. The primary role is to act as a stable base for the ball and socket joint of the upper arm. The muscles of the scapula need to be strong to prevent excessive strain on the shoulder ligaments. The second role the scapula must perform is to slide around the rib cage to allow greater flexibility and range of motion. A mobile and efficient scapular motion will allow the arm to achieve more speed and power when you swing. The third role is to act as a base for the rotator cuff (a group of four muscles responsible for shoulder rotation and ball and socket stability). Your rotator cuff will be weak, inefficient, and prone to injury without strong scapular muscles. Finally, the scapula acts as the crucial link for the energy that is developed in the lower body and transferred to the arm. Studies have shown that half of the force generated in the arm during a swing arises from the legs and torso.

Ultimately, a strong shoulder blade will help you win by allowing your arm to swing more efficiently and at its full range of motion. It will also help prevent muscle and ligament injury to the shoulder by acting as a stable base for rotator cuff function. Muscles that should be strengthened are the trapezius (particularly the middle and lower portions), the rhomboids, latissimus dorsi, deltoid, rotator cuff, and serratus posterior. Work with a qualified personal trainer to help you develop a program that focuses on these muscle groups and you will hit the ball harder — guaranteed.

rb:people & places

2002 Women's Senior/Master "Motown Showdown"

by Kendra Tutsch

The weather was cold but the competition was red hot as ninety women from all over the U.S. braved Michigan in January to play in the 13th Annual Women's Senior/Master Racquetball Championships hosted by the Players Athletic Club of Warren, Michigan. Club owners Jim Matthews and Dennis Backos and tournament directors Diana Courtney and Felicia Mann had everything organized to a "t." As players arrived at check-in they were given beautiful "goodie" bags prepared by Karen Morehead of Players Club, including items donated by local sponsors and a fantastic Motown CD (more to come on this). A great new feature of check-in was a raffle of many great items donated by tournament sponsors, with the proceeds going to support women's racquetball. Along with a weekend-long silent auction of a Detroit Lions football, about \$400 was raised and split between the USRA women's scholarship fund and the Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association.

After renewing old friendships and perhaps sharing a story or two over drinks, we remembered why we had come to Detroit — to play some great competitive, but fun, racquetball. Round-robin play in all age groups started on Friday morning. The tournament directors, all the volunteers and the staff of the club kept everything going smoothly throughout the weekend. In the larger divisions with flights, seeding for the quarterfinals was determined by flight position and the first round was played late on Saturday afternoon. Semis and finals were played on Sunday morning, so everyone would have time to play and/or watch before head-

ing home. As usual the highlight of the weekend was the Saturday night banquet. Diana and Trish had some special "Motown" events lined up. First we had a contest shooting the puck past a life-size goalie replica, with Red Wings t-shirts as prizes. This was followed by a Karaoke contest ... now we knew the reason for the CD! Most everyone was in a Motown frame of mind by the time the evening was over, and joined Mildred Gwinn in an enthusiastic rendition of "God Bless America."

Many interesting match-ups occurred on Sunday, starting with the 35+. Last year Kelly Whalen of Wisconsin took first and the year before, her twin sister Kim Whalen had won it. This year, as luck would have it, they both advanced into the final and after each won a game, they decided to call it a draw, peace in the family taking precedence over declaring a winner. In the 40+ bracket, Debbie Tisinger took first as she has each year since 1999, defeating Liz Molitor of Illinois. In the 45+ group Linda Moore of Nebraska, moving up from the 40's, defeated Susan Pfahler of Florida.

Gerri Stoffregen of Ohio, playing in the 50+ division for the first time, defeated last year's champion Nancy Kronenfeld of Illinois. In 55+ Margaret Hoff of Illinois defeated Merijean Kelley of California. Newcomer to the 60+ division Sharon Hastings-Welty of Oregon took first over last year's champion Mildred Gwinn of North Carolina. Other winners were Reta Harring of Wisconsin in 70+ and Helen Deysher of Pennsylvania in 80+. In a show of perseverance, Helen had traveled for more than 15 hours by bus and train to reach Detroit for the tournament! All winners received a fantastic trophy in the shape of a gold, silver, or bronze record and a certificate for a pair of Ektelon shoes.



Next year this Level Five tournament (and regional qualifier for 45+) will be held at the Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club in Orlando, Florida on January 17-19. If you want fun, friendship and the best racquetball competition, plan to attend! For more information or to join the Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association, contact Kendra Tutsch, 7562 Fellows Road, Lodi, WI 53555, (608/592-2497) or send e-mail to kdtutsch@facstaff.wisc.edu.

2002 Women's Senior/Master Final Results

35+: Kelly Whalen (WI) & Kim Whalen (WI)
40+: Debra Tisinger (CA) def. Liz Molitor (IL)
45+: Linda Moore (NE) def. Susan Pfahler (FL)
50+: Gerri Stoffregen (OH) def. Nancy Kronenfeld (IL)
55+: Margaret Hoff (IL) def. Merijean Kelley (IL)
60+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (OR) def. Mildred Gwinn (NC)
70+: Reta Harring (WI)
80+: Helen Dysher (PA)

Chicago Area Racquetball Players Battle Local Park District

By Dick Barton

Some of the biggest battles in racquetball didn't take place *on* the courts but rather *over* the courts in Park Ridge, Illinois. For this community of 40,000 located west of Chicago, the battle lines were drawn recently over the ever-decreasing availability of court space.

The Park Ridge Community Center was built about 10 years ago with only three racquetball courts. Over the years, the courts started being used for Wallyball – a version of volleyball played in a court. This was generally okay with the local racquetball players. Share and share alike.

Then, last summer the Park District that owns and manages the Center started scheduling regular classes in the courts. These classes were mostly for various low impact types of workouts such as stretching. But, as time went on, additional non-racquetball activities were scheduled in the courts. These activities included blood drives, photo sessions for youth basketball and softball, and heaven knows what else.

The local racquetball players didn't like it but still no one complained. No one wanted to "make waves."

Making Matters Worse

The insult-to-injury came this past fall when one court was suddenly and without warning taken away permanently for use by a new spinning class. Spinning is a trendy form of group exercise done on stationary bikes with an instructor. Upbeat music is played loudly as the instructor barks commands on how everyone should be "riding" their bikes in unison.

Well, the little sign on the court door that said "spinning class" might as well been a red cape waved in front of an angry bull. The racquetball players had had enough. It was time to take action.

With some planning and strategy meetings over the Christmas holidays, a group decided the best approach



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER: Following the USRA-sanctioned Christy Foundation, Inc. racquetball scholarship fundraiser, Valerie Willis, CFI President, presented a check to NCCU representative, Coach Samuel Vaughn in the amount of \$1,400.00. An academic scholarship will be presented next year to a NCCU racquetball student in the amount of \$600.00. A total of \$2,300.00 was distributed to open players and referees, and a follow-up event is planned for next fall. Photo: courtesy Valerie Willis.



NMRA HALL OF FAME: Lee Graff of Bend, Oregon became the 26th member to be inducted into the National Masters Racquetball Association Hall of Fame. He was honored at the NMRA International Championships in July at the Wisconsin Athletic Club in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Graff began playing racquetball in 1985 and earned his first medal in NMRA competition in 1993 – a pewter medal in men's 55+ singles. Since then he has totaled 37 medals, including 13 gold and 10 silver, in both singles and doubles competition. In 1999 Graff was also featured in Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" for what he calls "winning the 'Big Three' in a row." That is the U.S. OPEN, NMRA Singles, and the USRA National Singles championships – all in the 60+ division.

The NMRA is an organization of men and women racquetball players and supporters over the age of 45. Over 1,000 members worldwide are active members of the NMRA. It was started in 1971, when ten players gathered in New Castle, Pennsylvania and held what is believed to be the first tournament solely for age group participants.

rb:people & places

ACTIVISM! Here are a few tips on what you can do:

1. Read the material on the USRA website, at <http://www.usra.org/usra/programs/01clubprofit.html>. This will give you a good perspective on the problem and give you some information to share with your local club owner, park district, or other facility management. Show them that racquetball courts are profitable when used properly.

2. Organize the players in your area. Do this by collecting names from leagues, lists from tournaments, or from your state racquetball association. Contact fellow players to discuss the problem in your area and ask for their support and assistance.

3. Organize a formal meeting between the club owner/manager and a small group of players. Voice your complaints and offer solutions such as ways to increase the use of the courts with youth instructional classes or tournaments. Volunteer to help organize these new events and generate interest in the facility and its racquetball courts.

4. If you are dealing with a tax-supported entity such as a city, park district, county or whatever, don't be afraid to take your case to the news media. Call or visit your local newspaper editor to explain the problem. Show them as many relevant facts that make sense and ask that the newspaper run a story or do an editorial. Elected officials HATE bad publicity.

5. And, if all else fails to get action then take a clue from the famous 1960's and protest, baby, protest! Stage a sit-in. March in front of the facility with signs. Make angry phone calls and send letters to all the elected officials involved, the news media, and anyone who can help change things. Make something happen!

was to work with the news media to draw attention to the problem and to also voice concerns directed to the elected park district officials.

Taking Action

So, just prior to the January meeting of the Park Ridge Park District, we contacted the two local newspapers about the story. They jumped on it.

After speaking with us, the news reporters contacted the Park District offices for official reaction and comment. The reporters told the district staff that the racquetball players were planning on appearing at the Park Board meeting later that week.

In an effort to head off a showdown at the Park Board meeting, the staff contacted us and asked for an immediate meeting. We met with three senior staff members and voiced our complaints. We were assured that one of the courts that was being used for exercise glasses and other purposes would be cleared of all conflicts and made available very soon for just racquetball.

However, the staff said that the spinning class was put into a court because there was no other apparent place to put it. It was a new activity that needed a place. We felt that if there was no place for something then why add it?

So, we were not completely satisfied even though real progress was made. We were getting one court back. We made our case to the Park Board and received a polite response that they would "look into it." Don't you love that kind of response from elected officials? What does that mean?

The Battle Enters New Phase

Well, as of this writing the battle goes into Phase 2. We are calling the officials at their homes/offices and organizing a letter-writing campaign. We are also getting more racquetball players involved to create a stronger and louder voice for change. The change we want is to free up the last of three courts for racquetball. Even though it might take a building addition to free up the court, we will not be deterred from our fight and our cause.

If anything similar is happening in your community, then it is time for you to act. It doesn't have to be a public facility. It could be a membership club that you belong to. No matter. The fight must be taken to anywhere where racquetball courts are being taken away on a part-time or fulltime basis.

Have a tournament and they will come

by Bill Dunn

So ... the Victoria Family YMCA hosted their first invitational tournament in twelve years. Did they come? Yes, indeed! Did they have fun and a good time? You bet, from the first kill shot until the last bite of fajita.





Victoria Racquetball: Facing page (L-R): Sammy Robles and Bill Dunn. Above left: Juniors line up to bring home the hardware at tournaments! Above right: First timers Elizabeth Shaia & Fidel Medrano. Photos: courtesy Bill Dunn.

Racquetball was down and just about out in Victoria, Texas. The YMCA had converted three courts to a children's gym, vandals had ruined two state-of-the-art outdoor racquetball courts, and there were not that many players.

Enter Sammy Robles and Bill Dunn, who love the sport of racquetball. They have conducted the YMCA program on an unpaid volunteer basis for the past five years. In those five years the number of players in Victoria has skyrocketed from 20 to 130. Their "Into the Courts" program has resulted in 64 juniors learning the basics of safety, rules, and skills of racquetball.

The first tournament held at the Victoria YMCA in over a decade was a smashing success. Because of limited court space, divisions were limited to six players per event. The spots filled up quick with over 50 players and 70 entries. This made it necessary for all three courts to be used from 7a.m. until 8 p.m. No one seemed to mind as the camaraderie and competition were the focus of the tournament.

Nasir Malik wrote in a letter to the Victoria Advocate, "As a racquetball player and a fan of the game, it was very heartening to see the LULAC Inaugural Racquetball

Shootout at the Victoria YMCA turn out to be such a magnificent success under the guidance and leadership of Carol Willis, Sammy Robles, and Bill Dunn." Plans are already in the works to host more sanctioned tournaments. Yes, racquetball is not only alive and well in Victoria, Texas; racquetball is good and getting better!

It All Starts With A K.I.S.S.

By Christy Cramer and Sharon Dunn

Want to improve your racquetball game quickly and have fun doing it? Put a racquetball camp on your calendar now! We both love the game but had hit a plateau and didn't have a good plan for breaking through. We play singles, doubles and mixed doubles and were frustrated by the minimal progress we were making...we had tried all the usual things; different racquets, gloves, vitamins etc. And of course our playing friends all gave us advice (often contradictory). Then one day after a particularly frustrating match we agreed that we needed HELP!

We had both read Marcy Lynch's article The Comfort Zone in the January-February 2001 issue of Racquetball magazine. Marcy wrote that many of us feel that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

If you're a USRA member in good standing, this issue will contain a postcard ballot for casting a vote for the USRA Board of Directors. Only USRA members may vote!

Questions? Call 719-635-5396, or see information online at www.usra.org > Index > "Board Elections"

usra board of directors election 2002

There are eight (8) candidates for four (4) vacancies on the USRA Board of Directors. Candidate information is published on the following pages. For your ballot to be valid, the following is required:

- **Ballot must bear a legible signature, plus the mailing label from this publication [March/April 2002], attached/pre-printed where indicated.**
- **Voter must be a current USRA member in good standing.**
- **Only one ballot per member may be cast (either with a national singles entry or this postcard ballot delivered via RACQUETBALL, not both).**
- **Any number of candidates, up to the maximum of four (4) may be chosen.**
- **Ballot must be received by Wednesday, MAY 8.**

**Garry Carter ******Napa, California**

Racquetball, more than ever before, needs directors that are dedicated and insightful. They must be forthright and courageous when making the decisions that fashion racquetball's future. For example, I would like nothing more than to see racquetball in the Olympics but caution that we must first find ways to maintain our courts and attract new players, especially young players. We can have no Olympic dream without courts and players. We must also have directors with unwavering integrity. This means standing up for and doing what's right - even if it's not popular.

I have proven that I am results oriented. I can make a difference. When California needed a web site, I started one. I kept it current, profitable and provided services like downloadable entry forms, event calendars, and links to current events. I became Rules Commissioner to help standardize the interpretation and enforcement of the rules. I conduct Referee Certifications, am an Advanced AmPRO Instructor and a certified racquetball coach. I would like to see junior programs expanded, skill level ratings standardized and more equitable skill level competition.

You can email me at Crater1@aol.com or search



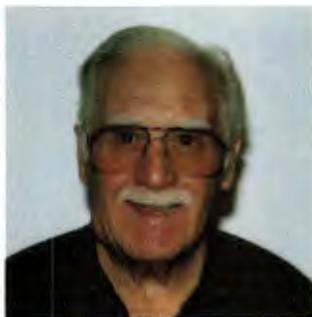
the web for my web site. Please vote. Your vote is important.

Jim Garner *
Hoover, Alabama

The USRA is at a crossroads in its development and I would like to be a part of the exciting changes that I expect in the coming years. I am current member of the USRA Board and know this experience will aid in moving our sport forward. Having been a player, a state president for six years, a tournament director and a club owner, gives me a unique prospective on growing racquetball.

I saw my son grow up in junior racquetball and would like to pay back, in a small way, by being on the Board again. I am and always will be a junior advocate. We need a pipeline of court rats to keep courts open and racquetball alive. I have helped with the revitalization of the Junior Council and see this as a vehicle for reenergizing junior programs. As Director of the RUMBLE, an elite junior camp, for years I have seen the wealth of talent we have in our juniors. I also believe women's racquetball is in a critical state and this needs to be addressed by the USRA. I respectfully ask for your vote and promise to work hard for our members and racquetball.

Gamer17@aol.com

**Joe Lambert *****Plano, Texas**

I believe in "Racquetball." I am in full support of the long-term goals published by the USRA. The Executive Director, Board of Director members and others have done extensive and creative work to place the game at the threshhold of Olympic play. Additionally, tournaments are growing in size and number. There is still much to be done; *I want to be part of it as a board member.* I've participated in an uncounted number of tournaments and I have a solid grasp of the directions and procedures wanted by the players. This is not to mean that I have all the answers. It means I have the skills to listen when addressed. There's a vast underworld of potential members in urban/rural areas needing our attention and invitation to join us (i.e.; schools, recreation centers, housing complexes, private clubs, etc.). Let's do it together!

joewlamb@yahoo.com

Peter McMillin *
San Rafael, California

I started playing in 1976, played my first tournament 1979, played my first national tournament in 1998. I have been sponsored by ProKennex since 1996. I was active in the Washington Racquetball Association,



1997-2000. Currently, I am CARA Juniors Coordinator, tournament QC director, Board Member of CARA, active in USRA, participating at the last 2 Leadership conferences. I am an AmPRO Certified Advanced Instructor, Level 1 Referee, working on level 2, working on Coaches Certification. I also shoot Professional racquetball videos, partner with Ed Arias, US Open Webmaster.

I love racquetball. I get things done. I get juniors involved in California. My goal is for CARA to have 3000 members by 2005 by going after grassroots involvement. I have been dealing with owners to encourage them to keep or add courts rather than remove them. I am working with John Ferguson on the USRA Juniors council. Being originally from Washington State, I saw first hand what Oregon was able to do. It is my goal to make California and USRA juniors programs as successful. Our sport will never die. When you vote for me, you know you will be getting someone who will devote themselves to making racquetball stronger.

Pgmcmillin@aol.com

Stephanie Munger **
Anchorage, Alaska
Racquetball, the sport we all love. Whether you are

usra board of directors

If this boxed area is NOT pre-printed with your name & address, you must securely affix the mailing label from this issue - with tape - to validate this ballot before mailing.

*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 686
GEOFFREY B. PETERS
3259 N CLIFTON AVE
CHICAGO IL 60657-3318

There are eight (8) candidates for four (4) vacancies on the USRA Board of Directors. Candidate information is published on pages 48-49 of the March/April 2002 issue of RACQUETBALL. For this ballot to be valid, the following is required:

- Ballot must bear a legible signature, plus the pre-printed OR physical mailing label from this publication [March/April 2002], where indicated above.
- Voter must be a current USRA member in good standing.
- Only one ballot per member may be cast (either with a national singles entry or this postcard ballot delivered via RACQUETBALL, not both).
- Any number of candidates, up to the maximum of four (4) may be chosen.
- Ballot must be received by **Wednesday, MAY 8**.

usra board of directors election 2002 official ballot

Vote for UP TO FOUR (4) persons by placing an X on the line before their name.

- Garry Carter (CA)**
- Jim Garner (AL)*
- Joe Lambert (TX)*
- Peter McMillin (CA)*
- Stephanie Munger (AK)**
- Geoff Peters (IL)*
- Randy Stafford (TN)*
- Ed Willis (VA)**

* candidate nominated by USRA Board

** candidate by petition

Members *legible signature required*

PLACE .34
STAMP HERE
*Post Office will
not deliver
without
postage affixed*

USRA Board Elections 2002
United States Racquetball Association
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906



involved at a recreational level or as a tournament player, we'd all like to see growth in our awesome sport. Over the last 20 years I have seen racquetball peak in its popularity, and then begin to dwindle. So I ask, what is being done at the grassroots level? What is being done to keep members involved and excited? This is one of my key interests. During the last few years I have chosen to follow my passion and devote my time to racquetball. I have done a number of junior clinics locally in Alaska, and around the US, including helping with the Junior US Team. I am currently a member of the LPRA. My desire in competing on the tour is to do everything possible for racquetball to explode in numbers and excitement. I have a burning desire to be an encouragement to the youth and to other players. I believe that as a member of the USRA Board I will be able to do these things more effectively.

If handled correctly the best days of racquetball are yet to come! Please feel free to contact me at stephanie_munger@yahoo.com.

Geoff Peters *
Chicago, Illinois
I am completing my first

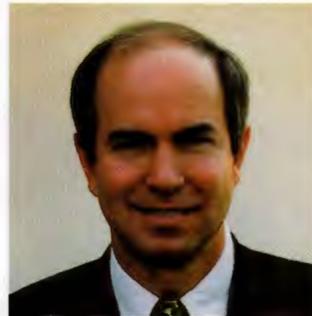


two year term as a representative of you, the grassroots competitive, racquetball player, and hope you'll re-elect me. Racquetball is on a positive trend for the first time in more than a decade and I'm excited to be a part of our sport's management team!

I've been involved in racquetball for almost 30 years, as a collegiate player, State Board member (in two states), adult competitor, and now as a club owner. My two children have been competitors, and I have a keen interest in promoting play throughout all age groups. I believe that I bring broad and deep experience to the board, as well as a pragmatic perspective as to what will be effective in the marketplace.

By day, I am a Director in the Consulting Practice of PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP, and travel frequently throughout the country. I'm still hoping to lose 15 lbs. by National Singles and hit my backhand with confidence. I know that many of you share my goal!

Please do not hesitate to email me with questions about the USRA. I serve on the Hall of Fame, Finance and Membership Committees, and would be happy to answer any questions: geoff.peters@us.pwcglobal.com.



Randy Stafford *
Memphis, TN
I have been involved with racquetball for 33 years as a player, and 26 years running my own business building racquetball courts. Major skills I can bring to the board are finance, management, contracts and negotiations, as well as developing new ideas and goals. Twenty-six years running a racquetball and consulting business has given me a unique ability to be involved in our sport on a daily basis. I would like to take these skills and use them as a board member.

My involvement and service to racquetball includes starting high school and college racquetball teams, writing and publishing the most widely used textbook for college classes. Co-started first state tournament and association in Tennessee, as well as conducted many clinics and fund raising events. Most recently, I have started and maintained the History booth at the U.S. Open and developed and built the portable court used at the tournament.

I have laid the groundwork for racquetball to have a "Trust Fund." On the board, I will work to complete this project. I feel this combination of business skills and experience could be of great benefit to the board.
TheCourtCo@aol.com



Ed Willis **
Alexandria, Virginia
This is a great time to be a racquetballer. So many things are changing in our sport, from our Executive Director to our Pro Tour Commissioners, our status as an international sport, even our dues! I very much want to be involved with setting the direction and focus of the sport I love as we deal with these and other changes.

I do have my pet projects. As a tournament director (and a single male) I am worried about the lack of participation by women in our sport. Since over 50% of our population is female I believe this is one of the quickest areas in which we could make serious membership gains. This is one of the reasons I believe in the USRA's continued support of the LPRA and why I agreed to help with the WIRT/LPRA in the first place.

I also believe that racquetball in general, and the USRA in particular has been under-sold. I would like to help attract new sponsors and advertisers to our organization, and to our sport. Thank you for taking the time to read this, please take the time to put a check mark by my name and mail in your ballot! Ewillis11@aol.com.

* Nominated by Board
Election Committee
** Nominated by Petition

election 2002

rb:people & places



"Campers" Sharon Dunn (left) and Christy Cramer.



PLANNING STRATEGIES
OVER LUNCH WITH
HELP OF CAMP WORK



PLAY THE PROS AND ON-COURT INSTRUCTION ARE
MIXED THROUGHOUT THE



FRAN AND JASON LEAD A DISCUSSION, TOPICS INCLUDE: DISCIPLINE, PREPARATION, MENTAL TOUGHNESS AND STRATEGY

CAMPERS ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

"improvement is not only exciting, it is what keeps us interested in the game. There is no limit to learning. As long as we are willing to question, there will be ANSWERS and ways to improve". The opposite page featured a Fran Davis Q&A session and a flyer promoting an upcoming three day racquetball camp in Houston. Our husbands were very supportive and off we went to racquetball camp. *[Off the record, Sharon's husband Brian says he doesn't mind her racquetball travels now and then because he then "can have the TV remote."]*

"Even when you're on top of your strokes, maintain the quality of your game with lessons." — Jimmy Connors

About The Camp

The camp started on Friday evening at six sharp. Jason Mannino accompanied Fran as the camp pro. There were twelve students, all with very different levels of skill and experience. Fran used a lot of videotape. Early on she asked a lot of questions about what we thought our strengths and weaknesses were. We were short on good answers because we had no measuring stick to help us evaluate our games. However, by Sunday we had developed a sense of correctness about form, shot selection, court position and strategy. In order to develop the big picture, Fran uses two acronyms to develop an understanding about all phases of the game: K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple and Smart) and play S.M.A.R.T. (Skills Mental Aerobic Relaxation Training). Each area has many subtopics that are fully developed during the camp.

A workbook is provided to guide the student, with illustrations to underscore the lecture. On the last day each student gets to play Jason and Fran, on videotape, so you can have a record showing how you lost (and how you scored your only point). All phases of the training were useful but we found that a better understanding of the mental game and playing the percentage shots were especially valuable. We were now ready to leave our "comfort zones" and enter the "combat zone."

"The game has a hold on my soul" — Billie Jean King

Fast Forward Ten Months: January 2002

Our interest in racquetball is higher than ever — we think mainly because we now have the tools to evaluate our games, make changes and see results. It takes about six months to see fundamental changes and this is predicated on doing the drills and practicing using the disciplines learned in class. The pros can rest easy, we're not planning to go there, but we have had a lot of fun and success in the USRA singles and doubles tournaments that we've entered. So far we've played in about a dozen local, state and national events winning or placing well in half of them.

Jason gave a pop-quiz. One of the questions was: who said, "Baseball is 90% mental and the other half is physical?" The answer is, of course, Yogi Berra. This Yogi-ism was used to

underscore the importance of the mental game. Afterwards, Jason shared a first-hand experience of being in a serious auto accident. To walk normally again was a big question and to play professional racquetball again, an impossibility. But he did recover, citing "mental visualization was the main reason why" and that "each day I played complete matches in my head." Fran emphasizes the mental game throughout the camp. She also notes that the camp isn't an end in itself, but part of the journey to better racquetball and a greater appreciation of the sport. We're enjoying the sport more than ever and looking forward to the trip.

SEPARATED AT BIRTH?

North Carolina tournament regulars Kirk Yoo (left) and Claude Wiggins don't have to dress alike to play doubles. NC state association president Lynn Stephens claims that the pair are often ribbed about being twins ... *Photo submitted by Lynn Stephens.*



TINA WESSON CHALLENGE

Last year's Outback Survivor champ Tina Wesson took time out of her busy schedule to attend a promotional event for the University of Tennessee racquetball club in September. At right, she's pictured in the center of the group of UTK students who ran her around for a couple of hours! *Photo submitted by Adam Sikora.*



NEW MEXICO JUNIORS

In October the Riverpoint Sports & Wellness Club began a Junior racquetball clinic that met on Friday nights for four weeks. The first clinic had 12 students; the second (group shown at right) had 19 and the current one has 29. Art Hurley and Joe Wittenbrink are the primary instructors, and the club now will have no trouble fielding a team at the upcoming Junior racquetball festival in March and the NM State Junior Racquetball Championships in mid-April! *Photo submitted by Mike Duran.*



industrynews...frompage 33

"Using Ashaway string is definitely going to give me a competitive advantage," she said. "It is great to play with, producing smooth shots with increased power."

Among numerous state and regional championships, some of Russell's most significant championship titles include 2000 World Doubles, 1999 U.S. National Singles 30+, 1999 U.S. National Doubles, 1995 U.S. National Singles 25+, and 1991 Olympic Festival Doubles. She is currently ranked No. 9 on the LPRA tour.

In addition to being a world ranked competitor, Russell has also gained recognition as coach of the University of Texas women's racquetball team, which won the 2001 women's team title at the national collegiate championships in Russell's first year as coach. It was her team that nominated her to become an Olympic Torchbearer [see complete story, Jan/Feb, pg. 50].

Patriotic Rads and Wristlacers

The popular Rad Turbo eyeguards are now available in a new Red/White/Blue frame. And Red/White/Blue Wristlacers are also available.

Both of these great new patriotic products can be found at Python Racquetball (800-456-4305). See display ad on page 56 to order ...

2002 Memorial Day Weekend: May 22 - 27

"The Players Event"
The "Finals" is the only national championship for singles competition in open, skill, age group and combined divisions. In addition to a full week's worth of competition in this Level Six event, you'll enjoy special activities like these all week long ...

WEDNESDAY • VIP and National Champions Reception — Hyatt Regency. An invitation-only reception to honor those who have won a National Championship in the past year.

THURSDAY • "Sponsor Trials" — Hyatt Regency. Test your skills in an "Olympic-style" line-up of physical and mental challenges! Enjoy a fun-filled night of games and dancing, along with munchies and drinks, sponsored by Ektelon and the USRA.

FRIDAY • Casino Night — Hyatt Regency. Each player will receive a small "bank" to spend on Blackjack, Craps, Roulette and the One-armed Bandits! At the close of the evening, you'll be able to bid your winnings on a selection of grand prizes. Sponsored by Penn.

SATURDAY • ANNIVERSARY GALA — The Hyatt Grand Ballroom will host an elegant evening of celebration, entertainment and awards. Semi-formal dress is required — no jeans or racquetball attire will be permitted!

SUNDAY OPEN FINALS
Keep your afternoon and early evening free to watch the Men's and Women's Open Finals.

SUNDAY • Later on, try 'Singing in Houston' — with your best karaoke tunes at the Hyatt's Back Room Bar.

AND ALL WEEK LONG ...
Enjoy downtown nightlife, at over 100 new restaurants and nightclubs — all within walking distance of the Hyatt.

Need an expanded entry form? Call 719-635-5396 to request a fax/mail version, pick one up at your regional qualifier, or follow links from www.usra.org > "Sitemap/Index" > "Forms" for a .pdf download.

**FAX ENTRY TO: 719-635-0685
STARTING TIMES: 713-659-8501**

MEMBERS ONLY: This National Event is hosted for USRA members only. A USRA membership is required of all participants, and entrants may join online at www.usra.org, include fees with entry, or must be able to present a current membership card, receipt, or cancelled check indicating recent enrollment as proof of membership.

ENTRY DEADLINE:

Wednesday, MAY 8, postmarked no later than Friday, MAY 3. Only pre-paid entries are placed into the draw; any withdrawals will be subject to a \$10.00 service charge; no refunds will be issued after the deadline date, regardless of cause (including unforeseen injury or illness).



HOUSTON, TEXAS

TRAVEL & LODGING

THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TRAVEL DESK AND UNITED AIRLINES JOIN THE USRA TO OFFER THE LOWEST POSSIBLE UNITED AIRFARES TO NATIONAL EVENTS!

For reservations, phone United's U.S. Olympic Travel Desk, toll-free, at **800/841-0460** between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm EST weekdays. Reference the USRA account number **550 OH** for an added 10% off United's lowest fare!

Ground Transportation: Bus, shuttle, taxi and limousine services are available from both Houston airports (you must make your own arrangements on arrival). Pricing varies by airport and service (between \$15.00 - \$40.00). Hertz is the event's official car rental sponsor — make your reservations by calling 800-654-2240 and referencing meeting #02RD 0001 for your special rate.

Hyatt Regency Houston, 1200 Louisiana (1 block from YMCA). Rate: \$87.00 per night for up to four guests per room. For reservations, call 713/654-1234 and mention National Singles.

QUALIFIERS & CERTIFICATIONS

Regionals: All players must have competed — in any division — at a recognized Regional Qualifier to be eligible to compete in "The Finals". Any legitimate waivers of qualifying competition must have been directed to — and approved by — the USRA Headquarters prior to the scheduled regional weekend. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.

Skill Division Certification: Skill level entrants (to A, B, C, D divisions) must • be AmPRO certified at that level, OR • have played in the same division at the mandatory regional qualifier, OR • be approved by the state director or representative as being legitimately competitive in the entered skill division at the national level. Tournament directors will use these benchmarks to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify or disqualify players when/if they are improperly placed.

NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria for corresponding skill levels in "Age+A/B" & "Age+C/D" divisions.

Eligibility: To be eligible to compete in any USRA sanctioned event, a player may not have earned in excess of \$50,000 in cumulative, total prize monies per season [as of August 1, annually], as a direct result of competing in any professional tournament(s) so deemed by the USRA Board of Directors.

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO: "THE FINALS"
1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO • 80904-2906
Entries must be received by WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
(Postmarked no later than May 3)

ENTRY FORM & FEES — Please PRINT

Name _____ Gender: M / F

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eves) _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Regional (required) _____ Division(s) _____

FOR SEEDING — Please indicate your finish in these events:

2001 National Singles Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

2002 Regional Qualifier Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

2001 U.S. OPEN Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

2001-02 NMRA / WSMRA Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

2002 State Championship Div _____ Finish _____ Div _____ Finish _____

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

Participant Signature & Date _____

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

I competed in my regional at this level, as shown above.

I have been AmPRO certified at this level by:

AmPRO Certified Instructor (name required) _____

I have been approved for participation at this level by the state director or designated representative shown below:

(name required) _____

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

MC/Visa _____ Exp. _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

ALL players must have pre-qualified by competing in any division at a regional event. See "Qualifiers & Certifications."

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFIER

OPEN Division (unrestricted)

AGE	SKILL (one only)**
<input type="checkbox"/> 24-	<input type="checkbox"/> Elite (state open)
<input type="checkbox"/> 25+	<input type="checkbox"/> A
<input type="checkbox"/> 30+	<input type="checkbox"/> B
<input type="checkbox"/> 35+	<input type="checkbox"/> C
<input type="checkbox"/> 40+	<input type="checkbox"/> D
<input type="checkbox"/> 45+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 50+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 55+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 60+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 65+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 70+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 75+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 80+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 85+	

AGE + SKILL**
24- <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
25+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
30+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
35+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
40+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
45+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
50+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
55+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
60+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
65+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
70+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
75+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
80+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D
85+ <input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or <input type="checkbox"/> C/D

* Player may enter only one of the divisions shown in RED, and must be approved to compete at that skill level (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

** Players must be approved at the skill level chosen along with their age (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

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For Juniors, two events serve as qualifiers for the U.S. Junior National Team. The National High School champions (1 each, male & female = 2) will be appointed to the team for a term of one year, along with the top three finishers at the Junior Olympic Championships in the 18-, 16- and 14- divisions (3 each, male & female, from each division = 18). Like its adult counterpart, the 20-member U.S. Junior Team competes internationally and conducts annual goodwill tours.

...usra notes...

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DATE	HOST CLUB	CITY/STATE	CLINICIAN	CONTACT
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March 13-14	Tyson's Sport & Health	McLean, VA	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960
March 23-24	Peachtree Athletic Club	Atlanta, GA	Remen & Goegele	919-363-4439
April 3/4, 5/6	Site TBA	Charleston, SC	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960
April 10-11	Southwest Racquetball & Fitness	Odessa, TX	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960
April 27-28	Central Penn Fitness Center	Harrisburg, PA	David Watson	918-541-0722
April 27-28	LA Fitness	Chandler, AZ	Karen Key	602-315-5919
May 20-21	Downtown YMCA	Houston, TX	Ken Woodfin	281-434-4775
July 16-17	University of Illinois	Champaign, IL	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960

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• Traditional Weekend: Fri. 7-9PM; Sat. 9AM-6PM; Sun. 9AM-5PM.

• Pre-event (two consecutive weekdays): 9AM-6PM preceding a national event, for example.

• Two weeknights: 3PM-10PM (Mon/Tue, Tue/Wed).

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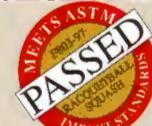
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Men's Open

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- 2 Chris Wright, MO
- 3 Ruben Gonzalez, NY
- 4 Mitch Williams, NC
- 5 Dan Fowler, MD
- 6 Jim Minkel, TX
- 7 Matt Gehling, MD
- 8 Mike Locker, MN
- 9 Rocky Carson, CA
- 10 Mike Dennison, OH

Men's Elite

- 1 Jonah Bishop, KS
- 2 Zach Pope, TX
- 3 Mark Fuhrmann, WA
- 4 Dave Bartscher, TX
- 5T Larry DeSorbo, AZ
- 5T Jeff Tipton, AZ
- 7T Raymond Maestas, NM
- 7T Matthew Majxner, MT
- 7T Jonathan Munger, AK
- 7T William Smith, AE

Men's A

- 1 Filip Vesely, NV
- 2 Dave Bartscher, TX
- 3 Eric Zamudio, IN
- 4T Rob Bultink, MN
- 4T Fran Mifsd, PA
- 6 Bob Wright, IN
- 7 Dan Sublett, AR
- 8 Ralph Grillone, MA
- 9T David Paolazzi, NJ
- 9T Angelo Perilli, PA

Men's B

- 1 Drew Toland, AR
- 2 Chris Coy, OK
- 3 Alex Zamudio, IN
- 4 Myron Brough, OH
- 5T Brady Hernandez, LA
- 5T Mike Wiseman, WI
- 7 Mark Powers, CA
- 8 David LaForest, NY
- 9 Steven Droski, MD
- 10 Mike Gaffney, PA

Men's C

- 1 Myron Brough, OH
- 2 Bryan Shaw, MO
- 3 Philip Suarez, TX
- 4 Enrique Loaiza, CA
- 5 Alex Morelos, OK
- 6 Garry Carter, CA
- 7 Jason Ganahl, MO
- 8 Jeff Merritt, VA
- 9 Patrick Knox, DC
- 10 Chuck Myers, GA

Men's D

- 1 Kyle Shawger, OH
- 2 Dan Whiston, MI
- 3 Michael Grosse, CO
- 4T Rudy Olivares, TX
- 4T John Schwinger, AR
- 4T James Thomas, SC
- 7 Brian Keteltas, NY

- 8 Pablo Castillo, CA
- 9T David Cohen, MA
- 9T Ubaldo Melo, IL

Men's Novice

- 1 Stephen Terry, TX
- 2T Matthew Bracken, OH
- 2T Nick Knudsen, FL
- 2T Nick Lovett, NY
- 2T Sonny Rodriguez, CA
- 6 Garret Painter, ID
- 7 Marco Rojas, CA
- 8T Zach Apperson, OH
- 8T Matt Balok, NY
- 8T Jim Baxter, SC

Men's 24-

- 1 Mitch Williams, NC
- 2 Matt Gehling, MD
- 3 Willie Tilton, CO
- 4 Shane Vanderson, OH
- 5 Alejandro Herrera, FL
- 6 Brent Walters, NC
- 7T Jason Jansen, ND
- 7T Josh Tucker, MO
- 7T Ben Williams, NY
- 10 Brian Gomez, OH

Men's 25+

- 1 Brian Fredenberg, TX
- 2 Dale Valentine, CA
- 3 Corey Fritz, VA
- 4T Rob Dejesus, AZ
- 4T Andy Gross, MN
- 4T Brian Pointelin, UT
- 4T Tony Shawver, GA
- 4T Chris Zalegowski, NH
- 9 Matthew Majxner, MT
- 10 Mike Dennison, OH

Men's 30+

- 1 Kevin Graham, WI
- 2 Jeff Bell, AZ
- 3T Pedro Aranda, TX
- 3T Jim Frautschi, MN
- 5 Pete Ulliman, OH
- 6 Rob Cook, VA
- 7 Travis Aldinger, PA
- 8 Russ Bruns, VA
- 9 Scott Krouse, ME
- 10 Matt McKinnis, AR

Men's 35+

- 1 Dave Watson, OK
- 2 Jim Minkel, TX
- 3 Andy Roberts, TN
- 4 Brad McCunniff, IA
- 5 Gary Tanko, WI
- 6 Scot Consoli, FL
- 7 John Barrett, PA
- 8 Steve Simpson, MD
- 9 David Barnes, RI
- 10 Bill Lyman, IL

Men's 40+

- 1 Tim Hansen, FL
- 2 Dave Eagle, OH
- 3 Bill Lyman, IL
- 4 Bobby Haab, CT

- 5 Scott Cullins, GA
- 6 Noel De La Rosa, TX
- 7 Tom Neill, NM
- 8T Greg Hodges, MI
- 10 Glenn Leib, PA

Men's 45+

- 1 Ruben Gonzalez, NY
- 2 Mark Baron, VA
- 3 James Jones, CA
- 4 Mitt Layton, FL
- 5 Howard Walker, TX
- 6T Rex Ledbetter, TN
- 6T Tom Travers, OH
- 8 Patrick Gibson, TX
- 9T Dennis Aceto, MA
- 9T Steve Williams, VA

Men's 50+

- 1 Mitt Layton, FL
- 2 Denny Vincent, OH
- 3 David Dennis, AR
- 4 Frank Taddio, AZ
- 5 Russ Mannino, CA
- 6 Jim Bailey, VA
- 7 Jim Luzar, WI
- 8 Gary Mazaroff, NM
- 9T Thomas Rall, CO
- 9T Dave Warner, MN

Men's 55+

- 1 Ed Remen, NC
- 2 Terry Albright, MO
- 3 Joe Gellman, NM
- 4T Steve Meltsner, CT
- 4T Horace Miller, IL
- 4T Bill Wolfe, NY
- 7 Ray Huss, OH
- 8 Joe Quirke, IL
- 9T Wayne Thornton, AR
- 9T Ken VanZandt, TX

Men's 60+

- 1 Leland Rients, MN
- 2 Warren Reuther, LA
- 3 Ron Hutcherson, IN
- 4 Ed Sword, KY
- 5 Jim Trammell, MO
- 6 Jim McPherson, TX
- 7 Ron Galbreath, PA
- 8 Grant Morrill, PA
- 9 Ray Testasecca, NJ
- 10 Lee Graff, OR

Men's 65+

- 1 Jerry Holly, CA
- 2 Rex Benham, AR
- 3 Don Alt, OH
- 4 Dave Lund, MI
- 5 Dave Snyder, TX
- 6 Art Hurley, NM
- 7 Ken Karmel, NM
- 8 Roy Rudichuk, OK
- 9 Paul Banales, AZ
- 10 Terry Lauritsen, NM

- Men's 70+
- 1 Joe Lambert, TX
- 2 Frank Trask, ME
- 3 Pearce Grove, VA
- 4 John O'Donnell, IL
- 5 Robert Miller, SC
- 6 Ralph Waddington, NM
- 7T Vance Lerner, CA
- 10 Wendell Hall, NM

Men's 75+

- 1 Victor Sacco, NY
- 2 Earl Acuff, NC
- 3 Bill Matotan, NM
- 4 J.W. Studak, TX
- 5 Mal Roberts, FL
- 6 Al Romero, NM
- 7 Cam Snowberger, SC
- 8 Duane Russell, MI
- 9 John Leech, OH
- 10 John O'Donnell, IL

Men's 80+

- 1 Robert Mcadam, TX
- 2 Earl Acuff, NC
- 3 Cam Snowberger, SC
- 4 Hank Richard, NC
- 5 Ben Marshall, TX
- 6 George Spear, FL
- 7 Charlie Russell, CA
- 8 Don Goddard, MT
- 9 William Gillio, CA
- 10 Ralph Davis, OR

WOMEN

Women's Open

- 1 Cheryl Gudinas, IL
- 2 Laura Fenton, KS
- 3 Kim Russell, TX
- 4 Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 5 Liz Alvarado, TX

Women's Novice

- 1 Jamie Shaw, TX
- 2T Ginger Buttke, TX
- 2T Nancy Gager, NJ
- 3 Elaine Albrecht, OH
- 5T Julie Avidson, ME
- 5T Theresa Brodzik, MI
- 5T Michelle Key, AZ
- 8 Donna Margwarth, NM
- 9 Natalie Mody, NM
- 10 Kimberly Archer, OK

Women's Elite

- 1 Aimee Roehler, NJ
- 2 Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 3 Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 4 Lauren Deutsch, CA
- 5 Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
- 6T J.T. Baumbaugh, MD
- 6T Marie Birmingham, AZ
- 6T Vivian Gomez, FL
- 6T Linda Moore, NE
- 6T Janel Tisinger, CA

Women's A

- 1 Christine McAlpine, VA
- 2 Tammarrian Rogers, WA
- 3T Candi Hostovich, VA
- 3T Karen Morton, PA
- 5 Leah Upshaw, GA
- 6 Pat Sims, ME
- 7 Jennifer Ward, OK

- 8T Judy Flis, PA
- 8T Laura Hasler, UT
- 8T Andrea Scott, IL

Women's B

- 1 Thao Le, VA
- 2 Rosario Kelley, KY
- 3 Cheryl Kirk, IL
- 4 Ashley Darmer, VA
- 5 Rhonda Kochis, OK
- 6 Aimee Perry, VA
- 7 Kimberly Krause, OH
- 8T Kelly Bruns, VA
- 8T Joanna Reyes, TX
- 10 Vivian Rodriguez, WA

Women's C

- 1 Sue Hunt, MS
- 2 Karen Marzano, IL
- 3 Petra Allen, CO
- 4 Karen Seidl, MN
- 5 Cicely Samuel, NC
- 6 Vanessa Morrison, GA
- 7 Liz Welsch, LA
- 8 Aline Jackson, AR
- 9T Selma Cuadros, MD
- 9T Shannon Inglesby, OR

Women's D

- 1 Marci Laramee, TN
- 2 Karissa Sparks, DC
- 3 Michelle Lexow, IL
- 4T Aline Jackson, AR
- 4T Wesley Toland, AR
- 6 Eva Alle, GA
- 7 Gretchen Gobart, NH
- 8 Patty Barrows, MA
- 9T Anne Billingham, VA
- 9T Gina Cendoya, FL

Women's Novice

- 1 Jamie Shaw, TX
- 2T Ginger Buttke, TX
- 2T Nancy Gager, NJ
- 3 Elaine Albrecht, OH
- 5T Julie Avidson, ME
- 5T Theresa Brodzik, MI
- 5T Michelle Key, AZ
- 8 Donna Margwarth, NM
- 9 Natalie Mody, NM
- 10 Kimberly Archer, OK

Women's 24-

- 1 Kristen Walsh, UT
- 2 Janel Tisinger, CA
- 3 Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
- 4T Brooke Crawford, CA
- 4T Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 6T Brenna Bilbrough, OR
- 6T Lauren Deutsch, CA
- 6T Melissa Harmon, FL
- 6T Olivia Martinez, TX
- 6T Rachel Mimms, KY

Women's 25+

- 1T Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 1T Aimee Roehler, NJ
- 1T Kerri Wachtel, OH
- 4 T.J. Baumbaugh, MD

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5 Claudine Garcia, FL
 6T Debra Bryant, NC
 6T Heather Dunn, MA
 8 Kim Herrold, SC
 9T Kelley Beane, NH
 9T Brenna Bilbrough, OR

Women's 30+

1 Lorraine Galloway, NY
 2 Elaine Albrecht, OH
 3T Kelley Beane, NH
 3T B.J. Ehriggott, CT
 5 Kim Russell, TX
 6 Lori Lepow, FL
 7 Christine McAlpine, VA
 8T Michelle Lucas, VA
 8T Kim Wapola, MN
 10 Debra Bryant, NC

Women's 35+

1 Debra Tisinger, CA
 2T B.J. Ehriggott, CT
 2T Lorraine Galloway, NY
 4 Felicia Mann, MI
 5 Solanna Taragan, CA
 6 Anita Maldonado, NY
 7 Leah Upshaw, GA
 8 Diane Mueller, CA
 9 Cindy Wittenbrink, NM
 10 Stephanie Johnson, TX

Women's 40+

1 Debra Tisinger, CA
 2 Shari Coplen, MO
 3 Peggy Stephens, KY
 4T Cyd Evans, NM
 4T Linda Moore, NE
 6T Therese Lewis, OK
 6T Liz Molitor, IL
 8 Marianne Walsh, UT
 9 Malia Bailey, VA
 10 Sheri Anderson, AZ

Women's 45+

1 Joanne Pomodoro, MA
 2T Marcy Lynch, PA
 2T Susan Pfahler, FL
 4 Meena Evans, NC
 5 Lesley Kishigian, MI
 6T Marsha Berry, KY
 6T Nan Higgins, NH
 6T Linda Moore, NE
 9 Jere Luttnar, TX
 10 Laura Patterson, MI

Women's 50+

1 Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
 2 Susan Kieffer, MN
 3 Terry Ann Rogers, CA
 4T Agatha Falso, FL
 4T Sharon Huczak, MI
 6 Linda Neel, OR
 7T Paula Sperling, NM
 7T Karen Weins, FL
 9T Paula Lemon, OK
 9T Pattie Schof, LA

Women's 55+

1 Mary Lou Furas, NM
 2 Cece Palaski, CA

3 Agatha Falso, FL
 4 Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 5 Nidia Funes, CA
 6 Merijean Kelley, CA
 7 Joy DeSantis, CA
 8 Suzanne Storey, TX
 9T Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 9T Margaret Hoff, IL

Women's 60+
 1T Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 1T Marquita Molina, CA
 3 Mildred Gwinn, NC
 4T Jo Kenyon, FL
 4T Gail Schaefer, MD
 6 Annabelle Kovar, NE
 7T Lola Markus, IL
 7T Sylvia Sawyer, UT
 9 Gloria Piscoran, OR
 10 Nancy Butts, WI

Women's 65+
 1 Jo Kenyon, FL
 2T Marilyn Hoagland, MN
 2T Lola Markus, IL
 4 Naomi Eads, MO
 5 Carol Brown, AZ
 6 Jeanne Leben, AZ

Women's 70+
 1 Lola Markus, IL
 2T Tillie Davies, AZ
 2T Marilyn Hoagland, MN
 4 Reta Harring, WI
 5 Betty Railey, KY
 6 Louise Kiss, NM
 7 Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+
 1 Christine Stephens, TX
 2 Beth Keene, TX
 3 Mary-Low Acuff, NC

Women's 80+
 1 Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 2 Helen Deysher, PA

BOYS

Boy's 6 and under
 1 Kamal Lachmansingh, VA
 2 Kevin Fenton, VA

B6- Multi-Bounce
 1 Doug Brenner, OR
 2 Jackson Rogers, NM

Boy's 8-
 1 Joseph Lee, LA
 2 Marco Rojas, CA
 3 Taylor Regier, OR
 4 Dylan Reid, OR

5T Brad Falvey, WI
 5T Logan North, KY
 7 Sam Reid, OR
 8 Keith McElhany, SD
 9T Keegan North, KY
 9T Chase Stanley, LA

B8- Multi-Bounce
 1 Marco Rojas, CA
 2 Gavin Seadlers, OR
 3 Chase Stanley, LA
 4 Daniel Ring, MN
 5 Sam Reid, OR
 6 Marcos Rojas, CA
 7 Logan North, KY
 8 Marty Andrie, CO
 9 Bennett Goff, WI
 10 Tyler Forbus, LA

Boy's 10-
 1 Jake Bredenbeck, MN
 2 Jose Rojas, CA
 3 John Sanderson, UT
 4 Danny Lavelly, OH
 5 Andrew Carter, OH
 6T Taylor Knoth, OR
 6T Joseph Lee, LA
 8 Brad Falvey, WI
 9 Michael Watson, OK
 10 Todd Elias Jr., AZ

Boy's 12-
 1 Jose Rojas, CA
 2 Jonathan Doyle, OH
 3 Nick Arturo, AK
 4 Brad Starken, WI
 5 Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
 6T Drew Brannigan, AZ
 6T Justin Watson, OK
 8 Sean McGrath, IN
 9 Brandon Ritschard, IL
 10 William Lee, LA

Boy's 14-
 1 Matt Johnson, NM
 2 Charles Pratt, OR
 3 Joey Lakowske, OR
 4 Chris Coy, OK
 5 David LaForest, NY
 6 Brad Starken, WI
 7T Andrew Gale, UT
 7T Graham Seadlers, OR
 9 Daniel Stewart, KY
 10 Jonathan Doyle, OH

Boy's 16-
 1 Steven Klaiman, TX
 2 Travis Woodbury, VA

EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION

		FINISH/POINTS					
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8	9-16
1	= Closed Club Event	30	20	15	10	5	0
2	= Open Tournament	50	30	20	15	10	0
3	= State Championship	150	100	75	50	25	0
4	= Regional Championship	250	150	100	75	50	0
5	= National Invitational	300	200	150	100	75	25*
6	= National Championship	600	400	300	200	100	50*

*In draws of 48 or more at Level Five or Level Six events, 9-16th place finishes earn points.

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march...

March 08-09	March Madness @ Suburban Racquet Club	St. Cloud, MN	320-251-3965
	March Madness Open @ Shelby County Athletic Club	Shelbyville, IN	317-861-3687
March 08-10	Annual Spring Rock n' Rollout @ Idaho Athletic Club	Caldwell, ID	208-345-7599
	Big Dogs Classic @ Club One/Royal Courts	San Jose, CA	408-296-1676
	Hot Springs Open @ Hot Springs Health & Fitness	Hot Springs, AR	501-525-4900
	Merced Spring Open @ Millennium Sports Club	Merced, CA	209-722-3988
	Arizona State Singles @ LA Fitness [3]	Chandler, AZ	480-830-2041
	Maine State Doubles @ Central Maine Athletic Center [3]	Lewiston, ME	207-786-4730
	New York State Singles @ Colonie Court Club [3]	Albany, NY	607-843-6854
	New Hampshire State Singles @ Executive Health & Sports [3]	Manchester, NH	603-641-6116
	Ohio State Singles @ Hall Of Fame Fitness Center [3]	Westerville, OH	614-890-6073
	West Virginia State Singles @ Charleston YMCA [3]	Charleston, WV	304-757-0888
March 10	23rd Annual Dr Pepper Classic @ YMCA Birmingham	Birmingham, AL	205-988-3819
	OJRA One Day Shoot Out @ Sunset Athletic Club	Portland, OR	503-246-5664
March 12-16	Luck Of The Heights @ Cottonwood Heights	Salt Lake City, UT	801-943-3190
March 13-16	NMRA Masters Championships @ Spectrum Club [5]	Canoga Park, CA	
March 13-17	Racquet Attack @ The Alaska Club East	Anchorage, AK	907-696-8017
March 14-17	Spring Fever Doubles @ East Side Athletic Club	Milwaukee, OR	503-659-3845
March 15-17	Blizzard Bash @ Goodson Recreation Center	Littleton, CO	303-798-2476
	Pirate Country Blast @ Pulse Athletic Club	Greenville, NC	252-756-9175
	Shamrock Shootout @ Cutbank Civic Center	Cutbank, MT	406-873-5581
	Spring Fling @ Crystal Gateway Sport & Health	Arlington, VA	703-416-0469
	Spring Swing @ Sport & Health Club	Myrtle Beach, SC	843-497-1410
	St Paddy's Day Open @ Club Ultimate	Eastlake, OH	330-677-6608
	St Patrick's Festival @ Clovis Community College	Clovis, NM	505-769-4153
	St. Patty's Day Cash Turney @ Omega 40	Ormond Beach, FL	904-672-4044
	Super Six #5 @ Southview Athletic Club	W. St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	The Luck O' The Irish Open @ Springfield Athletic Club	Springfield, OH	937-399-2360
	Towson Open @ Merritt Towson	Towson, MD	443-394-8884
	Wyoming State Singles @ Casper YMCA [3]	Casper, WY	307-237-9187
March 16-17	31st Annual Northwest Open @ Bellingham Athletic Club	Bellingham, WA	360-676-1800
March 22-24	Spring Kick Off IV @ Central Penn Fitness Center	Harrisburg, PA	717-564-4171
	Baywinds Spring Open @ Baywinds Spring	Huron, OH	419-433-2750
	Kill Shot For Cancer @ Waverly Oaks Athletic Club	Waltham, MA	781-894-7010
	Mathison Tire/Kischer Transprt @ Supreme Court	Virginia, MN	218-749-8318
	Regional Warm-up @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt, NY	315-449-0400
	Spring Classic @ Vision Sports	Asheville, NC	828-252-0222
	Texas State Singles @ Maverick Athletic Club [3]	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
	Arkansas State Singles/Juniors @ Ozark Sports Club [3]	Ft. Smith, AR	501-646-4022
	Delaware State Singles @ Kirkwood Fitness [3]	Wilmington, DE	302-677-6108
	Idaho State Doubles @ Racqueteers [3]	Burley, ID	208-678-5011
	Indiana State Singles @ Greenbriar Athletic Club [3]	Indianapolis, IN	317-897-5481
	Montana State Doubles @ Broadwater Athletic Club [3]	Helena, MT	406-443-5777
	Nebraska State Singles @ Sports Courts [3]	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
	New Jersey State Singles @ Classic Athletic Club [3]	Fairfield, NJ	973-742-8806
March 23	Shootout #3 @ Courts Plus Fitness Center	Fargo, ND	701-237-4805
March 26-30	Spring Splat @ Sports Forum	Woods Cross, UT	801-298-3232
March 27-31	New Mexico State Championships @ Highpoint Sports & Wellness [3]	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
March 29-31	Spring Rally @ Olympus Racquet & Fitness	Sterling, VA	703-430-0666
March 29 - April 1	Maine State Singles @ Racket & Fitness Center [3]	Portland, ME	207-775-6128
	Minnesota State Singles @ Highway 100 Club [3]	Brooklyn Center, MN	612-920-6652

april...

April 3-7	Alaska State Singles @ The Alaska Club Midtown [3]	Anchorage, AK	907-696-8017
April 4-7	Ektelon Regional/Missouri @ Concord Athletic Club [4]	St Louis, MO	314-842-3111
	Colorado State Singles @ The Family Fitness & Racquet Club [3]	Broomfield, CO	303-680-5569
	North Dakota State Singles @ Center Court Fitness Center [3]	Grand Forks, ND	701-746-2790
	Wisconsin State Singles/Juniors @ Eau Claire Athletic Club [3]	Eau Claire, WI	715-833-2201
	Aspen Hill Invitational @ Aspen Hill Club	Silver Spring, MD	301-598-5200
	BQE Spring Break Racquetball Tournament @ BQE	Woodside, NY	718-429-8489
April 5-6	Fiberlink Technologies @ Results	Tucson, AZ	480-730-8156
April 5-7	Johnston Willis Cheppenham Open @ Robious Sport & Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-330-2222

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April 6-5	New England Masters @ Metro South Athletic Club	Brockton, MA	508-588-3444
April 9-13	Quad West Spring Classic @ Quad West	Clearwater, FL	727-535-4901
April 12-14	Raq-Attack @ Dan Gamel's Athletic Club	Fresno, CA	559-227-8405
	Spring Crusher @ Courts Plus Jacksonville	Jacksonville, NC	910-346-3446
	Spring Open @ NWFC	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
	Super Six #6 @ Southview Athletic Club	W. St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	The Head Intelligence Tour @ Waycross Sports Club	Westerville, OH	614-890-6073
	Idaho State Singles @ 24 Hour Fitness [3]	Boise, ID	208-368-9737
	Montana State Singles @ The Courthouse [3]	Missoula, MT	406-721-3940
	Greenbriar Junior Tourney @ Greenbriar Athletic Club	Indianapolis, IN	317-879-8100
	Utah State Singles @ Sportsmall [3]	Murray, UT	801-261-3426
	Silver State Games Series II @ TBA	TBA, NV	775-747-1844
April 13	2nd Annual Women's Classic @ Gold River Racquet Club	Gold River, CA	916-638-7001
April 17-21	Five Seasons Singles Shootout @ Five Seasons Country Club	Westlake, OH	440-871-2811
April 20	EKTELON REGIONALS — NATIONWIDE [4] . . . SEE PAGE 34 FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS		719-635-5396
April 25-28	Shootout #4 @ Courts Plus Fitness Center	Fargo, ND	701-237-4805
April 26-28	Ektelon Regional/New York @ Sportime Of Syosset [4]	Syosset, NY	718-429-8489
	Hawaiian Open @ American River Athletic Club	Sacramento, CA	916-920-1933
	Motor City Rollout @ Courtland Racquetball Center	Utica, MI	810-247-5386
	Pojoaque Warm-up @ Pojoaque Wellness Center	Santa Fe, NM	505-455-9355
	Rick Weaver Open @ Nautilus Fitness & Racquet Club	Erie, PA	814-459-3033
	Sports Courts Open @ Sports Courts	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
	WNYRA Championship @ University Of Buffalo	Buffalo, NY	716-639-0621
April 27	Indiana Junior Regional @ Shelby County Athletic Club	Shelbyville, IN	317-879-8100
April 27-28	Women Only Invitational @ Mt. Vernon Health & Racquet Club	Alexandria, VA	703-360-7300

may...

May 2-5	Ektelon Regional/Oklahoma @ Southern Athletic Club [4]	Oklahoma City, OK	918-541-0722
May 3-5	Cinco De Mayo @ Pueblo Athletic Club	Pueblo, CO	757-366-9622
	All Military Championships @ Greenbriar North YMCA	Chesapeake, VA	410-269-1976
	Cancer Tourney @ Annapolis-Merritt	Annapolis, MD	941-957-0770
	Harmon Memorial @ Berlin Branch YMCA	Sarasota, FL	616-956-0944
	The Mac Open @ Michigan Athletic Club	Grand Rapids, MI	910-864-3303
	The Schultz Classic @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	513-742-1700
	Waycross Spring Tourney @ Waycross Sports Club	Loveland, OH	208-345-7599
	1st Racquet For The Cure @ Idaho Athletic Club	Boise, ID	973-742-8806
May 4-5	Spring Fling @ Classic Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	360-653-5956
May 4	Womens Sat At Stillaguamish @ Stillaguamish Athletic Club	Arlington, WA	317-879-8100
May 10	Shelbyville Junior Tourney @ Shelbyville Athletic Club	Shelbyville, IN	713-895-8688
May 11	NWFC Shoot Out @ NWFC	Houston, TX	503-287-4594
May 15-19	Untalan Open @ Lloyd Athletic Club	Portland, OR	252-726-7070
May 17-19	Crystal Coast Classic @ Sports Center	Morehead City, NC	480-730-8156
	Fiberlink Technologies #6 @ Arizona Athletic Club	Tempe, AZ	803-781-0462
	Tournament Of Aces @ Tri City Leisure Center	Wes Columbia, SC	206-361-8853
	Washington Seniors @ Pro Sports Club	Bellevue, WA	

• For all sanctioned events [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2)

• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 04/02, you must renew your membership in the month of April in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

For expanded calendar listings, refer to the online edition of RACQUETBALL at www.racqmag.com.

For online entries, go to www.usra.org > "Events & Records" follow links to entry forms & online registration.

2002 national calendar

April 3-7	E-Force 30th U.S. National Intercollegiate Championships [6] .	College Station, TX	719-635-5396
April 17-21	Ektelon USRA Regional Championships [4]	Nationwide	719-635-5396
May 22-27	Ektelon USRA 35th National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, Texas	719-635-5396
June 22-26	Head 29th U.S. JuniorOlympic Championships [6]	Chicago, Illinois	719-635-5396
July 17-20	NMRA International Masters [5]	Champaign, Illinois	734-426-8952
August 2-10	IRF 11th World Championships	San Juan, Puerto Rico	719-635-5396
August 28-31	IRF 14th World Senior Championships [5]	Albuquerque, New Mexico	719-635-5396

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Crew West Athletics	800-526-4030	27
Daniel's Wood Floor.....	302-521-5562	59
Ektelon Racquets.....	800-435-8356	25
Ektelon Player.....	800-435-8356	21
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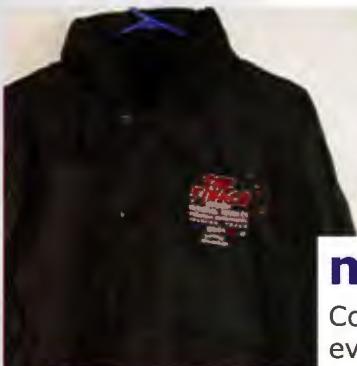
This is what the storefront entrance looks like — until you start shopping with a purpose. Then you'll find ...



Welcome to the USRA Store -- your source for everything from online event registrations to RACQUETBALL back issues; memberships to workout wear. Need to know more about your favorite sport? Check out the [USRA website](#).

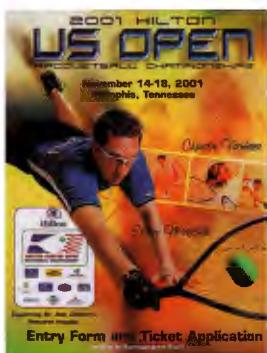
memberships

Do you compete in tournaments? Use the online storefront to process domestic and international memberships that allow you to play in USRA sanctioned events. Your emailed receipt is instant confirmation of your membership — you can start playing right away!



merchandise

Couldn't make it to an event in person? While supplies last, national event souvenir inventory is "clearance priced" at the USRA storefront. You'll also find exclusive Olympic apparel, racquetball art, posters and other miscellaneous memorabilia for the "collector."



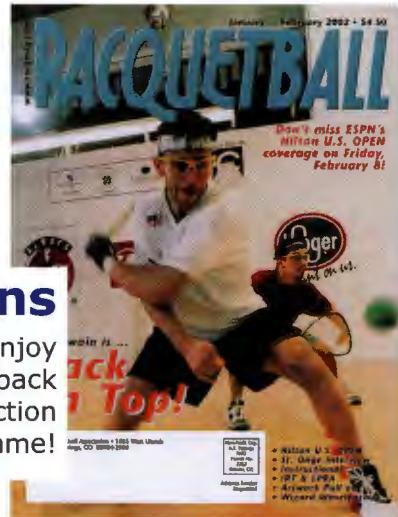
online entries

Don't trust the mail? No fax machine? Process your national event entries at the USRA storefront. It's fast, convenient and you receive an instant confirmation and receipt when you sign up online.

www.usra.org > "shopping"

subscriptions

Don't do tournaments? You can still enjoy RACQUETBALL magazine, plus order back issues containing playing tips and instruction from the top players in the game!

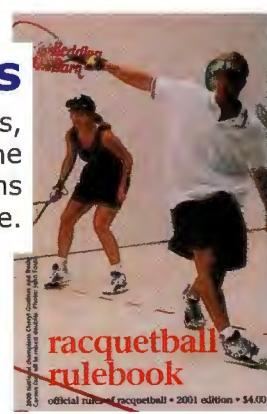


videotapes

Need instruction, or just inspiration? You'll find package pricing on learning tools and competition tapes — including all the U.S. OPEN broadcasts. Coming soon: DVD!

publications

Looking for rulebooks, texts, program manuals? All of the USRA's official publications are available online.



auctions

Prefer online auctions? Go to EBay for one-of-a-kind USRA items (including equipment), offered to the highest bidder.



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