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September-October 1998

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INSIDE!

1998-99 Factbook

Junior Olympics

SPECIAL: Coverage of
the IX World
Championships

Promus U.S. OPEN Info

National Doubles Entry

World Juniors Entry

Adam Karp Onward & Upward!

With three consecutive major titles to
his credit this season, where to next?

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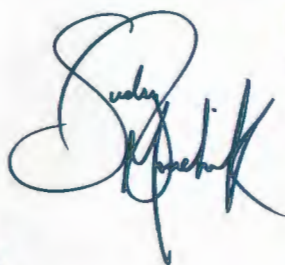
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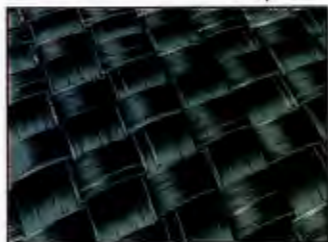
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from the editor

It's no secret ... I love to play racquetball, but I don't necessarily want to *work* at it. You know – train ... practice ... drill – that sort of thing. It irritates me just to think about it, although I *know* it would be just *great* for my game ... not to mention lowering my frustration level. But on the whole, I'm altogether convinced that my basic goodness as a person should see me through just about any situation, on the court or off. I work hard (*okay, I'll admit – it's mostly at other things*) so I expect that, if I maintain a good attitude, I *should* come out on top in most of my endeavors. Kind of an "order of the universe" type thing. I fail to see the connection between *my* losing and *other* people spending all that time trying to improve their skills.



Logically, then, what are the chances that you'll catch me doing upper body work in the weight room? Even though I desperately want to hit the ball as hard as anyone else, if it means that I have to make time in my schedule to get stronger – I just don't see it happening. So, imagine my delight at finding that my new frame hits the ball a ton, *without* any extra effort on my part! It's a miracle!

Titanium. A gimmick? I don't think so. A revelation I can keep to myself? Probably not. If it's already mainstream enough for golf and tennis, the lid's definitely off in racquetball. Yep. Too many other people have already found out about it. Before my new frame arrived, my personal experience was simply that "titanium" was just one of those metallic shades that was very difficult to match on press. Now it's my best friend.

Before I changed my mind about "grey," I had a nasty tendonitis that threatened what little power I had left from the previous season. Now that I've made a few changes and adapted to my newly designed equipment, my recovery time between games is much faster and I'm willing to speculate that I'm pretty close to "as good as it got" before the injury.

Normally I'm skeptical. I've seen a lot of bells and whistles over the years. But now I'm having trouble getting my frame back from people who "just want to hit for a minute ..."! So ladies, if you've never been accused of being a power player, but you'd like to be, the "new physics" of titanium could be your answer. Unless, of course, you're in my age group and we're destined to meet this season! If that's the case, *forget I said anything ...*

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Christie Van Hees celebrates her World singles title – the first for a Canadian woman since Heather Stupp won it in 1990. Photo: IRF.

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ON THE COVER

What's next for two-time world doubles champion Adam Karp? Can he defend both his current national doubles and singles crowns in the coming season? And what about the pro tour? He was focused in Bolivia, as he warmed up in front of photographer John Foust, and partner Bill Sell looked on. Story, page 8.

reader forum

More Tournament Input

As a tournament director of Lakewood Athletic Club in Colorado, I would like to offer my thanks to Sandy Reep for her ideas on how to improve tournaments. I have felt for a long time that these issues needed to be addressed and I would like to offer my suggestions from a club management and tournament director's point of view.

Regarding the price of the event — it is difficult to justify charging a minimal price for an event. From a management viewpoint, it's not cost effective to simply "break even" on a event. A club has to make a justifiable profit on a tournament in order to make it worthwhile. The direct costs are significant, plus the added wear and tear on a club, inconvenience to the members, and workload for the staff are enormous.

Sponsors — It is very difficult to get money from sponsors, but they are often very willing to give food or product. I usually try to give racquetball equipment to the winners and/or something useful, in place of a trophy.

Racquetball has been very good to our family — it has provided a job for me; given us friends who are the greatest; offered travel around the country that we would not otherwise have done if we'd not been involved; and provided us with a sport that we can all take part in for the rest of our lives.

Marianne Alonzi
Lakewood, Colorado

This is a follow up to my letter in the last issue of *RACQUETBALL* where I complained about the cost of tournaments, especially if you lose in the first round. I suggested that all non-cash division be double elimination so that people that just came to play always are guaranteed two matches.

I just played in another tournament in the Spectrum Club in Canoga Park. To my surprise all divisions were drop down, which meant if you lost the first round

you "drop down" to a consolation round and get at least one more match. It is not quite double elimination, but might actually be better. Everyone still gets at least two matches and if you lose the first match, you get to play in a match that actually means something and might even win a trophy.

I told the tournament director, Debbie Tisinger, that I thought this was a wonderful idea. She told me that she read my letter in *RACQUETBALL* and agreed with me and that is why she had adopted the drop-down for all divisions.

So I would like to thank Debbie and the Spectrum Club and I hope other tournament directors read this and decide to do the same thing. It makes the tournaments more fun for everyone and doesn't take glory away from the winners of the non-drop down division.

Howard Wilczynski
Canyon Country, California

Fun for All

I participated in the Low Country Racquetball Tournament held in Charleston, SC at the St. Andrews Family Rec Center recently. The tournament was a pleasure to play in. The entire tournament was well organized, the food was great, and it stayed on schedule almost the entire weekend. Even one of the air conditioner units went out, but the staff did their best to cool the courts that were affected.

Everyone at the tournament was very nice and hospitable. I have been to many tournaments and have seen the way players and referees act most of the time. 95% of the time they seem to have a chip on their shoulder and will argue everything! They usually are not honest about calls either (skips, double bounces, etc.). I would have to say that it was a breath of fresh air to see so many honest racquetball players at one place!

If all tournaments were run like this one and the players and referees had this same attitude, I believe that many more

people would attend and participate in racquetball tournaments. Thank you for an enjoyable weekend!

Steve Thompson
Statesboro, Georgia

Dream Come True

I just wanted to say a real big "thank you" to everyone who is involved with this fine organization. On March 8th of this year I had the opportunity to achieve a dream that I have had for seven years: to play at my state tournament. Considering that I work shift work with never the same two days off for more than two weeks at a time I thought that going to states was just a dream. To have become a state champion has changed my life in more ways that I could ever express. The self-confidence, the admiration of thousands of people and most importantly being able to go on to the dreams and goals that I have set for myself! The people who put on our state tournament did a most remarkable job. And I want to thank all of you at the USRA for making my dreams come true. My new dream: to bring out the best in others and help them achieve their goals. Thank you and God bless,

Sandy M. Harris
Dubois, Pennsylvania

The Finals

I wanted to share with you my pleasure with National Singles. As you know, I dislike singles, as doubles is the *real* racquetball. However, I enjoyed Houston more than any other tournament I've attended in the last 10 years. It's [something] that every player should experience at least once. In fact, it was so much fun that I will attend in 1999 if my schedule permits. Both the USRA and YMCA staffs are to be congratulated — they went out of their way to make people comfortable.

Graig Shaak
Gainesville, Florida

I missed the National Singles Championships in Houston this year ... very much! And, as of May 25, I've received a number of 'how come' calls and I, have called many others; primar-

ily about their sights and perception about this tournament. Each and every one was pleased or delighted with the format, presentation, decorations and obvious efforts made toward improvement. Congratulations! I have, in my shy and bashful way, professed complete faith in the ultimate success of racquetball. We are continuing to move forward and I, for one could not be more pleased.

*Joe W. Lambert
Dallas, Texas*

Cover Girls ...

Thanks for the cover story on Michelle Gould [May/June] ... very good reading!! And you made me the talk of my club seeing my name in **RACQUETBALL**. But please note: I know I'm old but I'm only 48 years at this time. [A typo listed Hayden as 78 ... Editor]

*D.C. Hayden
Chicago, Illinois*

Thank you for featuring me on the cover of **RACQUETBALL** [July/August]. Your support of me, as well as the other women, is appreciated! Hopefully, the increased coverage of the women will enable women racquetball players, both current and future, to have a more plentiful tour, better sponsorships, and to encourage younger women to continue their racquetball pursuits. Keep up the good work!!

*Robin Levine
Sacramento, California*

"Lined-Up"

Mary-Low and I were pleased to see that the editorial staff maintained their sense of humor (in putting together "The Finals" article) in the May-June issue of **RACQUETBALL** [giving the Acuffs long odds in the Open ...]. We would be very thankful if we could get one or two points playing against Dan and Michelle. I'm sure they both know you were joking and had a good laugh. Keep up the good work and we will see you at the next big tournament.

*Earl C. Acuff
Asheville, NC*

CORRECTIONS: On page 63 of the July/August edition, in the Santa Barbara tour note, the citation reading "Foxwoods Resort & Casino's Mike Coulter" ... should have read "Mike Holder." Apologies to both Michaels!



TOP: SHERMAN GREENFELD • MIDDLE: ARGENTINA'S GERMAN COPPOLECCHI • BOTTOM: KERSTEN HALLANDER AND DAN OBREMSKI WITH YOUNG FANS!



NEWSCLIPS ...

It's not every day that our sport's elite are treated like true celebrities. But as the third-most popular sport in much of South America (some say the fastest growing), racquetball's World Championships attracted plenty of fans. It wasn't out of the ordinary to see players such as Mexico's Luis "Nacho" Bustillos, Canada's Sherman Greenfeld and Christie Van Hees, the USA's Ruben Gonzalez and Robin Levine spending hours-on-end signing autographs and taking pictures with the thousands of Cochabambans who flocked to the exhibition courts night after night.

"It's been pretty cool," Greenfeld said of the attention. "It seems like, after the finals ... well, everyday since the individual event ... they go crazy here. Autographs, video, pictures on the court and off. It seems like even when you go in the taxis, they know who you are from the papers because of the good media coverage."

Picking up a local paper to see racquetball covering the entire front page was extremely pleasant. Taking a taxi to the Country Club of Cochabamba and hearing an on-air radio interview with Sherman Greenfeld was exciting. Pinch us!

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go ... fish!

Often the longest journeys in life begin with one simple step forward ...

Current U.S. National Singles champion Adam Karp understands this concept all too well. For years, Karp's "simple steps" have led him closer and closer to the pinnacle of U.S. racquetball.

He's upwardly mobile. A round of 16 finisher in 1995 at the U.S. National Singles Championships, Karp went another round better the following year, reaching the quarterfinals in '96. Then a semifinal in '97, and finally the championship round and national title in May of this year. But, until recently, racquetball glory and stardom seemed to cling to those nearest Karp rather than himself.

He's a quick study. At the 1991 U.S. Junior Nationals in Burnsville, Minn., Karp was busy winning the boy's 18-and-under blue division while current pro John Ellis was defeating Sameer Hadid for the gold title. Even in doubles, Karp and partner Eric Wong fell to Ellis and Eric Muller for the national crown.

He's an underdog. The racquetball world was treated to a glimpse of Karp's potential in '95 when he upset Dan Fowler to win the gold medal at the U.S. Olympic Festival in Colorado Springs. But, for the next three years, the Australian-born Californian took a lower profile while he honed his talents in doubles.

He's an MVP. Along with long-time doubles legend Bill Sell, Karp captured the '95 and '97 U.S. National Doubles titles, the '96 Tournament of the Americas crown, the '98 Pan Am Trials championship and the gold medal at the '96 and recent '98 World Championships. At each international event, Karp helped the U.S. team capture the overall team crown. However, despite his substantial contributions to the team, others always seemed to bask in the glory.

At the '96 World's in Phoenix, it was Todd O'Neil and Michelle Gould who captured the World Singles Championships and, therefore, earned most

by Kevin Vicroy

of the limelight. Karp and Sell's first world title was pushed to the background.

Adam Karp — the ultimate team player! His teammates and coaches certainly won't argue. As the current national singles champion, Karp had the option of playing singles at this year's World Championships. It was his choice. But he knew that by playing doubles, the U.S. Team would be even stronger.

He's ... under-rated? Has the "Fish" earned the respect of his peers and racquetball fans in general?

"Yea ... I mean, people *know*," Karp said of winning the national title. "On the pro tour, that kind of stuff doesn't really impress 'em. But, right now, after winning National Singles, I'm starting to get some (respect)."

He's philosophical. If Karp would have played for – and won – the world singles crown in Bolivia, might he have gained in reputation? When asked what he thought his chances would have been had he played singles, the Fish admitted, "The way I'm playing right now, I would have loved my chances. I would have loved playing singles up there in the altitude (over 8,000 feet) . . . it would have suited my game pretty well. The ball stays up and – I usually get a lot of balls anyway – but I would have gotten even more in that altitude."

He's switching gears. Without any specific plans or time frames in which to turn pro, the 26-year-old Karp is focusing on two goals this season: 1) finish the IRT in the top five, and 2) win the Pan American Games. Even if he duplicates last season's double-gold feat of winning both the National Doubles and Singles, Karp says that he *will* compete in singles at the Pan Am's.

His stock is rising. As one of the hottest young players in the world, currently ranked 10th on the pro tour, the Fish may have a Pan American Games gold medal in his future. Like his earlier march to USRA acclaim, his pro rankings are on the move. His trend thus far? He finished the 1994-95 IRT season ranked 13th, the 95-96 season at 12th, the 96-97 season at 11th and last season at 10th ...

With a few more simple steps forward — and upward — it looks like 'Fish' could be the IRT's blue-plate special, right on schedule, no later than 2007. Or perhaps sooner ...



Top: Karp and partner Bill Sell accept their most recent World Championship doubles gold medals. **Middle:** Karp warms up in Bolivia [photos above and left by John Foust]. **Below:** In 1991, Karp and partner Eric Wong reached the finals of the Boy's 18 and under doubles at National Juniors. [Photo: USRA]



>expanded special coverage of the Worlds begins on pg. 25

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carson & crawford win junior olympics

At the start of every summer vacation, a handful of juniors break away from the pack to exhibit fleeting glimpses of future excellence in racquetball.

Last year, it was Mark Bloom's Phoenix-like flight to the boy's 18-and-under singles title. Also shining brightly was Rhonda Rajsich, who proved that no girl under 18 years of age could come close to defeating her in '97.

This year's bumper crop of up-and-comers converged at the Ektelon 25th U.S. Junior Olympic National Racquetball Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports, in late June to start their own show. Held at the Multnomah Athletic Club, the "summer-tour" event attracted over 300 young athletes, including up-and-coming champions Rocky Carson and Brooke Crawford.

Can't touch This

Possibly the most promising young player to come through the junior ranks was California's Rocky Carson, who became a man among boys in the 18-and-under singles division. Top-seeded Carson hardly broke a sweat in straight-game defeats over Chuck Stivison, 15-2, 15-2, and Mark Warner, 15-1, 15-5, in the first two rounds. His next two matches were equally short and low-scoring, as he downed Nebraska's Andy Tucknott 15-4, 15-1 and Colorado's Willie Tilton 15-4, 15-4 to earn his finals spot.

His title opponent, Ryan Staten of Dodge City, Kan., had earlier put away Jeff Garner, 15-3, 15-9, and rival Josh Tucker, 15-9, 15-10, in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively. Last year, Staten had defeated Tucker, the current National High School champ, in the 16-and-under final.

But if No.3 seeded Ryan had held out any hope of coming close to Carson, it was soon put to rest as





In the Boy's 18 and under final, photographer Vicki Hughes caught Ryan Staten (above left) in prayer. "Just let me get one point," begged Staten, down 13-0 in the second game. Carson defeated Staten in straight games for the title.

he found himself at the tail end of the second game of their match — without a single point to his credit. Carson cruised past No. 3 Staten in the 18-and-under final, 15-5, 15-0, before Ryan knew what hit him.

Also winning their respective titles with Carson-ease were Ohio's Shane Vanderson (16-and-under) and Jack Huczek of Michigan (14-and-under). Vanderson downed Scott Foster 15-8, 15-5 in the 16's finale, while Huczek took the 14's with a 15-8, 15-3 victory over Oregon's Bart Crawford — Brooke's brother. For Vanderson, it was his seventh national juniors singles crown. Huczek upped his total to eight ... in a row.

Crawford keeps her Edge

On the girl's side, the competition was a bit stiffer. Brooke Crawford of Oregon was the top seed, while rival Sara Borland played second fiddle. The two battled for last year's 16-and-under crown, along with this year's National High School Championship, with Crawford winning both.

After moving past the early competition with relative ease, the two met in the finals as expected. Unfortunately for Borland, the result was the same as the past two meetings. Crawford took the title with a 15-10, 15-6 victory.

"Coming into this tournament, I felt very little

pressure on me to perform well," Crawford said. "So I felt that I could come in here with no pressure, perform my best and not feel the tension that a lot of other kids felt."

Meanwhile, there were a few young girls making marks of their own. Second-seeded Crystal Csuk of Illinois upset Utah's Kristen Walsh 15-13, 15-13 for the 16-and-under championship. Ohio's Crystal Winfrey earned the bronze medal, then went on to defeat Molly Law for the 14-and-under title, 15-6, 15-9.

FINAL RESULTS

SINGLES — BOY'S 18-: Rocky Carson [1], Santa Maria, Calif., def. Ryan Staten [3], Dodge City, Kan., 15-5, 15-0; **BOY'S 16-:** Shane Vanderson [1], Dublin, Ohio, def. Scott Foster [2], Pleasanton, Calif., 15-8, 15-5; **BOY'S 14-:** Jack Huczek [1], Rochester Hills, Mich., def. Bart Crawford [2], Klamath Falls, Ore., 15-8, 15-3; **BOY'S 12-:** Dan Sheppick, Portland, Ore., def. Charlie Pratt [2], Portland, Ore., 15-10, 15-14; **BOY'S 10-:** Andrew Grissom [1], San Jose, Calif., def. Nick Arturo [2], Anchorage, Alaska, 15-6, 15-9; **BOY'S 8-:** Ismael Aldana, Stockton, Calif., def. Trevor Smith, Pendleton, Ore., 8-15, 15-4, 11-10; **BOY'S 8- multi-bounce:** Erick Podwill [1], Portland, Ore., def. Colin Stock [2], Klamath Falls, Ore., 11-10, 11-3; **BOY'S 6- multi-bounce:** Jake Bredenbeck [4], St. Paul, Minn., def. Blake Thompson [3], Portland, Ore., 11-1, 11-7.

GIRL'S 18-: Brooke Crawford [1], Klamath Falls, Ore., def. Sara Borland [2], Bettendorf, Iowa, 15-10, 15-6; **GIRL'S 16-:** Krystal Csuk [2], Naperville, Ill., def. Kristen Walsh [1], Salt Lake City, Utah, 15-13, 15-13; **GIRL'S 14-:** Crystal Winfrey [2], Powell, Ohio, def. Molly Law [4], Denver, Colo., 15-6, 15-9; **GIRL'S 12-:** Adrienne Fisher [1], Dayton, Ohio, def. Derai Darling [4], Seaside, Ore., 15-13, 15-1; **GIRL'S 10-:** Ashley Willhite [1], Klamath Falls, Ore., def. Dannielle Pimental [6], Klamath Falls, Ore., 9-15, 15-5, 11-2; **GIRL'S 8-:** Shannon Inglesby [3], Portland, Ore., def. Brittany Legget [1], Klamath Falls, Ore., 15-4, 15-13; **GIRL'S 8- multi-bounce:** Sharon Jackson [6], Fairfield, Ind., def. Shanae Taylor [5], Shelbyville, Ind., 9-11,

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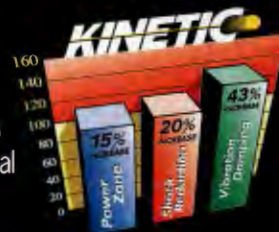
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1998-99 U.S. JUNIOR NATIONAL RACQUETBALL TEAM ROSTER SET

Following the Ektelon 25th U.S. Junior Olympic National Championships, a new qualifying procedure named the following young athletes to the 1998-99 Junior Team USA roster. Earlier in the season, two high school champions had been appointed.

1998-99 JUNIOR TEAM USA

Boy's Team **Finish/Qualifier**
 Josh Tucker (Joplin, Mo.) HS Champion
 Rocky Carson (Santa Maria, Calif.) 1st/B18-
 Ryan Staten (Dodge City, Kan.) 2nd/B18-
 Willie Tilton (Colorado Springs, Colo.) 4th/B18-
 James Ford (Riverton, Wyo.) 5th/B18-
 Shane Vanderson (Dublin, Ohio) 1st/B16-
 Scott Foster (Pleasanton, Calif.) 2nd/B16-
 Stephen Lewis (Kennewick, Wash.) 3rd/B16-
 Matthew McElhiney (Bradenton, Fla.) 4th/B16-
 Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.) 1st/B14-
 Bart Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 2nd/B14-

Girl's Team **Finish/Qualifier**
 Brooke Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.) HS Champion
 Sara Borland (Bettendorf, Iowa) 2nd/G18-
 Katie Gould (Huntington Beach, Calif.) 3rd/G18-
 Christina Lewendal (Beaverton, Ore.) 4th/G18-
 Dionna Brown (Daly City, Calif.) 5th/G18-
 Krystal Csuk (Naperville, Ill.) 1st/G16-
 Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah) 2nd/G16-
 Kristen Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.) 4th/G16-
 Lauren Duetsch (Houston, Texas) 6th/G16-
 Crystal Winfrey (Powell, Ohio) 1st/G14-
 Molly Law (Denver, Colo.) 2nd/G14-

WERE THEY HAPPY ABOUT IT? You bet! Kristen Kovar – "I accomplished my goal. I'm very happy."
Krystal Csuk – "Making the Junior Team is something that I've wanted to do for a long time. Now that I've finally made it, I feel like I've accomplished all of my goals."
Matthew McElhiney – "It feels good to make the team, because I didn't make it last year. I'm real happy and look forward to helping out."
Crystal Winfrey – "After the win that put me in the finals, I was pretty shocked. After it had sunk in, I realized what an honor and privilege it was to make the U.S. Team."
Molly Law – "I didn't realize that I'd made the Junior Team until at least an hour after I won my 14's semifinal match. As soon as it sunk in, I was extremely excited and somewhat nervous. I'm really looking forward to representing the U.S. at the (Junior) World's."
Lauren Duetsch – "I just found out that I made the team and I'm really excited. I'll work as hard as I can."

Junior Olympic RESULTS ... continued from page 14

11-2, 11-5; GIRL'S 6- multi-bounce: Kaitlin Inglesby, Portland, Ore., def. Amy Willhite, Klamath Falls, Ore., 11-5, 11-9.

DOUBLES — BOY'S 18-: [1] Rocky Carson, Santa Maria, Calif./Josh Tucker, Joplin, Mo., def. [3] Matt Gehling, Annapolis, Md./Willie Tilton, Colorado Springs, Colo., 15-13, 11-15, 11-5; **BOY'S 16-:** [1] Jack Huczek, Rochester Hills, Mich./Shane Vanderson, Dublin, Ohio, def. [3] Matthew McElhiney, Bradenton, Fla./Zack Miller, Alta Loma, Calif., 15-9, 15-10; **BOY'S 14-:** [1] Tervor Crowe, Portland, Ore./Cory Martin, Kenosha, Wis., def. [2] Ryan Lindell, Booneville, Ore./Chris Meyer, McMinnville, Ore., 15-4, 15-2; **BOY'S 12-:** [1] Tyler Hollingsworth, Salem, Ore./Dan Sheppick, Portland, Ore., def. David Key, Baton Rouge, La./Drew Toland, Parkin, Ark., 15-9, 15-5; **BOY'S 10-:** #2 Chris Coy, Elk City, Okla./David Lewis, Aurora, Colo., def. #1 Nick Arturo, Anchorage, Alaska/Andrew Grissom, San Jose, Calif., 8-15, 15-12, 11-10.

GIRL'S 18-: #1 Sara Borland, Bettendorf, Iowa/Katie Gould, Huntington Beach, Calif., def. #3 Brooke Crawford, Klamath Falls, Ore./Kristen Walsh, Salt Lake City, Utah, 15-12; 5-15; 11-3; **GIRL'S 16-:** Adva Buzi/Lauren Deutsch, Houston, Texas, def. Amy Hollingsworth, Salem, Ore./Tiffany Sheppick, Portland, Ore., 15-11, 11-15, 11-3; **GIRL'S 14-:** Jeni Fuller, Albuquerque, N.M./Kimberly Irons, Dublin, Ohio, def. Amy Hollingsworth, Salem, Ore./Juliana Mayor, Flushing, N.Y., 15-11; 15-7; **GIRL'S 12-:** #2 Derae Darling, Seaside, Ore./Jesi Fuller, Albuquerque, N.M., def. #1 Kelley Fisher, Dayton, Ohio/Cari Mitlitsky, Flushing, N.Y., 15-12, 15-7; **GIRL'S 10-:** #3 Shannon Inglesby, Portland, Ore./Brittany Legget, Klamath Falls, def. #1 Rebeka Kopf, Babylon, N.Y./Kara Mazur, Avon, Conn., 15-6, 15-10

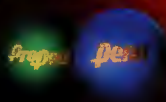
MIXED 18-: #3 Sara Borland, Bettendorf, Iowa/Stephen Lewis, Kennewick, Wash., def. #1 Liana Kerwood, Beaverton, Ore./Josh Tucker, Joplin, Mo., 15-9, 15-11; **MIXED 16-:** #2 Krystal Csuk, Naperville, Ill./Adam Taylor, Shelbyville, Ind., def. #1 Kristen Walsh, Salt Lake City, Utah/Jason Kerwood, Beaverton, Ore., 15-10, 15-9; **MIXED 14-:** #1 Crystal Winfrey, Powell, Ohio/Jack Huczek, Rochester Hills, Mich., def. #2 Kimberly Irons, Dublin, Ohio/Cory Martin, Kenosha, Wis., 15-10, 13-15, 11-7; **MIXED 12-:** #1 Derae Darling, Seaside, Ore./Dan Sheppick, Portland, Ore., def. #3 Jesi Fuller, Albuquerque, N.M./Nicholas Rowley, Mesa, Ariz., 15-7, 15-12; **MIXED 10-:** #1 Ashley Willhite/Cody Drago, Klamath Falls, Ore., def. #3 Sarah Moyle/Scott Rieders, Beaverton, Ore., 15-5, 15-11

TEAM RESULTS — 1. Oregon [1,520 pts]; 2. California [674]; 3. Ohio [447]; 4. Colorado [307]; 5. Florida [231]; 6. Texas [219]; 7. Nebraska [215]; 8. New York [212]; 9. Indiana [201]; 10. Alaska [192]; 11. Minnesota [166]; 12. Missouri [162]; 13. Wisconsin [157]; 14. Utah [149]; 15. Massachusetts [138]; 16. New Mexico [136]; 17. Michigan [117]; 18. Kansas [108]; 19. Illinois [96] & Louisiana [96]; 21. Arizona [87]; 22. North Carolina [84] & Wyoming [84]; 24. Alabama [82]; 25. New Hampshire [81]; 26. Washington [79]; 27. Idaho [75]; 28. Iowa [68]; 29. Arkansas [60]; 30. Georgia [44]; 31. Connecticut [38]; 32. Maryland [37]; 33. Pennsylvania [32]; 34. Oklahoma [21]; 35. Kentucky [20]; 36. Montana [18]; 37. Maine [9].

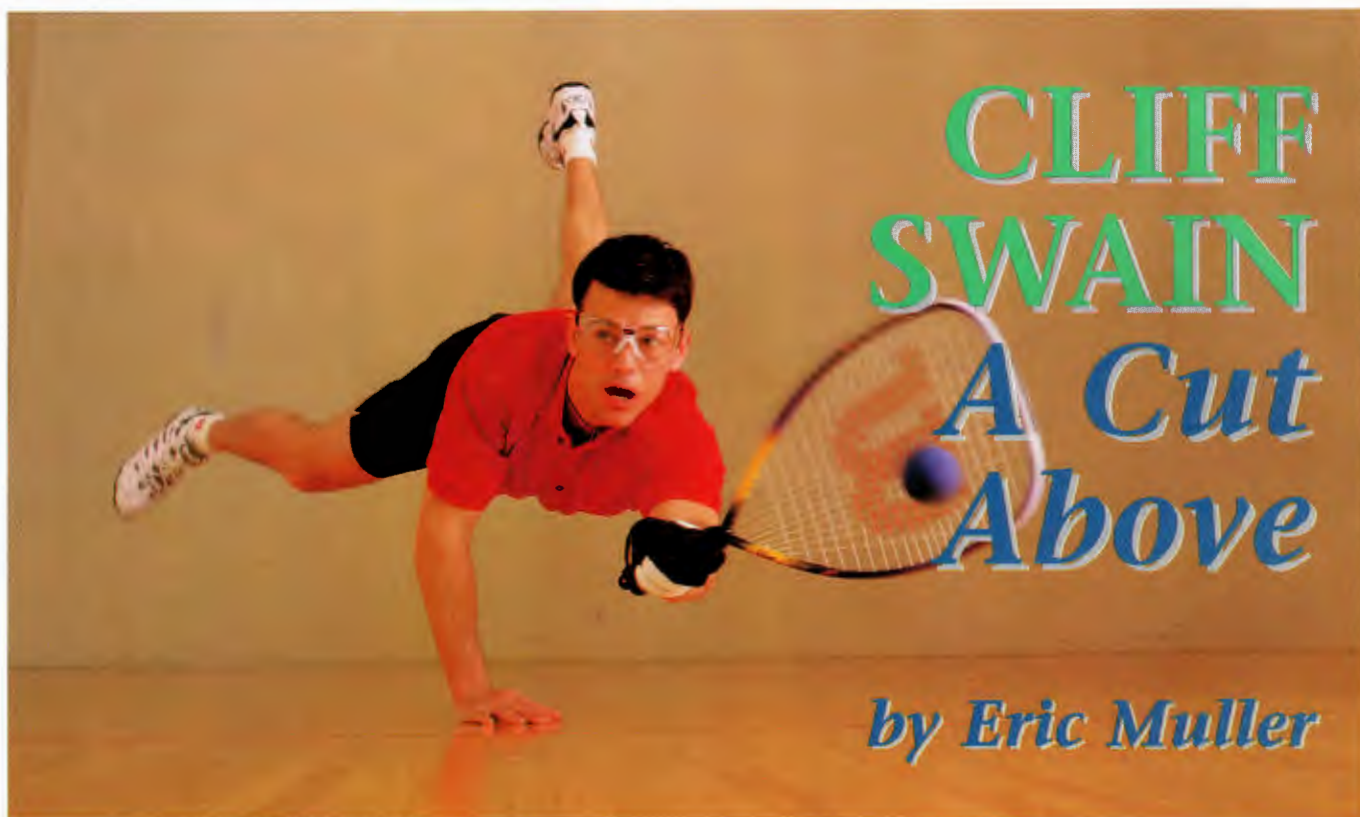
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For those who follow such things, the story is familiar. A lanky, 18 year old qualifier caused a stir by winning a pro stop in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Later that same season, he shook the sport by defeating Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen in succession to win the Ektelon Nationals. Over the next decade and a half, this Boston southpaw finished atop the pro rankings, left the sport to pursue professional tennis, returned to collect dozens more pro titles and capture the number one ranking four more times. His game style, a lethal combination of speed and power, set the standard for future generations of young players.

Yes, Cliff Swain's visage earned a spot in the lineup of racquetball's Mount Rushmore long ago. Some, in fact, have proclaimed Swain the "greatest of all time" — a distinction that bears some weight given his accomplishments in racquetball's short history. In what other sport have so many legends had the opportunity to compete against each other?

In the mid-90's, it was difficult to dispute that Swain was the best of the best. He ruled the IRT by crushing a talented group of contemporaries ... players who, in another time, may have attained greatness, but in the Swain era merely played supporting roles. Challengers

could neither handle his offensive attack nor match his intensity. By 1995, Swain's reign seemed secure and few doubted that he would tie and surpass Yellen's record of five number one finishes. Then came Sudsy Monchik.

Monchik, much like Swain in the 80's, exploded onto the scene. In just his fifth professional event, Monchik unnerved seasoned pros by winning the 1994 Pro Nationals. Still, despite Monchik's alarming rise in the rankings and the trail of top ten players he left in his wake, Swain seemed comfortable with an heir-apparent. After all, even with Monchik's irreverent, smash-mouth style and big time talent, Swain handled him with ease for most of the 1995 season. Yet, Monchik had no interest in biding his time as just another Swain bag-carrier.

Toward the end of the 1995 season, Monchik broke through with consecutive wins over Swain in Phoenix and Las Vegas. Although 1996 saw a three-horse race, with Andy Roberts and Monchik offering strong challenges, Swain was poised to finish number one for the fifth time. With his destiny in his own hands, Swain only needed to reach the finals to lock up the number one ranking. But Mike Ray bounced Swain out of the pivotal tournament in the semi-finals! Monchik went

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profile: irt & wirt

on to win, snatch the number one ranking and abruptly end Swain's run.

When Monchik easily retained the number one ranking in 1997, Swain's legend was tainted. Was he still one of the greatest ever? Without question. Even without a fifth title, Swain's credentials put him on par with Hogan and Yellen. But in a league of his own? Did he rank ahead of Hogan, who had left an indelible footprint on the sport — unmatched by any player before or after? Had he risen above Yellen, who had five consecutive number one finishes and been retired by apathy rather than by defeat? The answer is unclear, but one consideration would have to be the fact that Swain had been upended by the first legitimate challenger from the "next generation." Had he never recovered the number one ranking and faded away in complacency, like Hogan and Yellen before him, Swain's place in history would be tarnished.

So, rather than leaving it to the commentators, Swain made his own history. With the rumors of his demise greatly exaggerated, Swain embarked on a mission in 1998 to dethrone Monchik. He delicately tweaked his game — improved his court positioning, cut off the lob serve with greater confidence and effectiveness, and added a few lobs of his own to his service repertoire. While the changes might seem mundane to the average observer, they required maturity and a leap of faith for a top professional with years of success using a proven formula. After early skirmishes with Monchik, Swain overtook the number one ranking with a convincing victory before hundreds of fans at the '97 U.S. Open and never looked back. Now with his fifth title in hand, Swain simply stands a cut above the rest.

The gravity of Swain's accomplishment cannot be understated. He is the only player in history to lose his number one ranking to a rival and recapture it — and in Monchik, Swain found a rival of a caliber he had never faced in a decade of competition. Other player's styles had occasionally divined game plans to mute and frustrate Swain's attack, but none of these were sustainable over the long haul. Monchik was the first (and to date, only) player to challenge Swain on his own terms. Finally, there was a player with the athleticism and court skills to go stroke for stroke, dive for dive, and toe-to-toe with Swain. Without Monchik in the picture, Swain might have enjoyed an eight or ten year streak atop the rankings. Yet, if not for a challenger with Monchik's talents, Swain would never have had the opportunity to demonstrate the depths of his talent or the magnitude of his greatness.



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MONCHIK & VAN HEES WIN SPALDING TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Hosting the tour's eight finest male and female players promises a season-ending event at which you can expect to see professional tour veterans in the prime of their careers as champions. And that is exactly what the Multnomah Athletic Club delivered at the Rose Festival Racquetball Championships, presented by National Fibromyalgia Research Association and U S West Communications in June. Young stars of the sport emerged in front of sold-out crowds the entire week. A tour veteran at all of 23, Sudsy Monchik cruised through the IRT's top-eight field to win his first Spalding Tournament of Champions. The WIRT draw featured the most upsets, as well as a coming-out party for 19-year-old Canadian Christie Van Hees, who won her first pro event as a kick-off to becoming a world champion.

In what has become a 27-year tradition, the Rose Festival Racquetball Championships offer something for every level of interested fan. Over 350 amateurs vied for titles in the Oregon State Racquetball Championships, while the pros battled for over \$15,000 in prize money at the Spalding Tournament of Champions. As the finale of the pro tour season, the event is "exclusive" in that players must earn their berths on the basis of their finishes at over 20 stops throughout the year.

Over the years the fans have come to know the players and pick their favorites. This was especially true of Monchik, who burst onto the pro scene four years ago by winning this event in his rookie season. Monchik is a crowd favorite with his exciting power game and diving ability. He also has a loyal following among all the junior players who sit right by the backwall and scream throughout all his matches. Monchik thrilled fans, cruised through the draw, and entertained the crowd at every turn. In the finals against fourth-ranked Andy Roberts, Monchik won the first game, 11-9, then proceeded to make up a 7-point deficit to take the second game 12-10, and close with a big finish at 11-1 in the third.

In the WIRT event, with #1 ranked Michelle Gould out with an injury, the field appeared to be wide open for the remaining top four. But that was before Canada's Christie Van Hees started her run. Invited as



one of the top amateur players in the Northwest, Van Hees opened with a straight game win over #4 Lydia Hammock. Later Van Hees admitted that the first win gave her the confidence that she could win every match. Next up for Christie was #1 Jackie Parasio, who she beat in four tough games by making every big shot. Van Hees then found herself in the finals against #2 seeded defending champion Cheryl Gudinas. Over 600 spectators were packed in for the finals and they saw a great match. The two battled for over two hours as the momentum shifted back and forth until Van Hees finally claimed her first tour victory with a five-game match win, 9-11, 11-5, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9.

TOURNAMENT NOTES: Saturday night was highlighted by the pro finals and awards banquet. But the real highlight was the casino night that followed the banquet which raised money for National Fibromyalgia Research Association and the Oregon Junior Racquetball Association. With the great prizes and the pros as celebrity blackjack dealers everyone was a winner. The pros put on a number of junior clinics on Saturday helping each player get ready for the up-coming Junior Nationals also hosted this year by the MAC.

Grand prize winners!
Terry Bisbee and his son Luke, of Littleton, Colorado, won the U S West "racquetball's better here™" sweepstakes, which included airfare, lodging and VIP tickets to the IRT/WIRT Tournament of Champions in Portland. They are shown here being congratulated by U.S. West's Robin Anderson.



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Sudsy Monchik

#1 ranked professional
racquetball player in the world



Cliff Swain

#2 ranked professional
racquetball player in the world

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TOUR UPDATE

IRT PLAYER AWARDS: The following awards are presented each season. These awards are voted on by the top 16 ranked IRT professionals for the 1997-98 season just completed;

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: CLIFF SWAIN

MOST IMPROVED: DEREK ROBINSON

SPORTSMANSHIP:

MIKE RAY & JAMES MULCOCK

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: DOUG EAGLE

IRT NAMES NEW OFFICIALS: The IRT named its refereeing staff for the 1998-99 season when it announced that Kelly Kerr and Dan Llacera will be handling the officiating on the tour for the coming season. Kerr is a veteran of 2 years refereeing the pros and Llacera trained last season and has proven himself to the players in the toughest of situations.

1998-99 IRT & WIRT OFFICIAL PRODUCTS: following are the official products of professional racquetball for the upcoming season:

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Official Magazine: Killshot
Official Product Guide: Courtesy Sports
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Official Credit Card: IRT Visa

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Official Footwear: Ektelon
Official Grip: Tacki-Mac
Official Racquetball Bag: HEAD
Official String: Babolat
Official Stringing Machine: Babolat
Official Magazine: Killshot
Official Product Guide: Courtesy Sports
Official Eyeguard: RAD
Official Internet Site: www.irt-tour.com
Official Credit Card: WIRT Visa

1998 IRT SEASON SCORECARD & SCHEDULE

Las Vegas	Monchik/Doyle def. Swain/Ellis	(6), 5, 7, 8
New Orleans	Monchik def. Swain	1, (10), 11, 9
September 3-7	Stockton, CA	In Shape Sports Club at Westlane
September 9-13	San Diego, CA	University of California/San Diego
October 1-4	Birmingham, AL	Prime Fitness
October 7-11	Riverside, CA	Tournament House
Oct. 28- Nov. 1	Chicago, IL	Athletic Club of Bloomingdale
November 4-7	New York, NY	Sportset at Syosset
November 11-15	Memphis, TN	Racquet Club of Memphis
December 9-13	Denver, CO	Lakewood Athletic Club

1998-99 WIRT SEASON SCHEDULE

September 25-28	Annapolis, MD	Merritt Athletic Club
September 9-13	San Diego, CA	University of California/San Diego
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1	Baltimore, MD	Merritt Athletic Club
November 11-15	Memphis, TN	Racquet Club of Memphis
December 9-13	Denver, CO	Lakewood Athletic Club
January 8-10	Philadelphia, PA	TBA
February 5-7	Roanoke, VA	TBA
March	Long Island, NY	TBA
April 23-25	Las Vegas, NV	TBA
June	Portland, OR	Multnomah Athletic Club

Player Notebook

- **THE [FORMERLY] DISABLED LIST:** The off-season provided a much-needed six weeks of rest and recovery for a number of the pros including most of the top guns. Going into the summer, five of the top eight players were trying to recover from nagging injuries or rehabbing from surgery. Here's a quick update •• **Cliff Swain** had his knee scoped immediately following the U S WEST Pro-Am in Phoenix last May, missing the Tournament of Champions. Swain will be 100% for the start of the season. •• **Sudsy Monchik** separated his right shoulder in a collision with Swain in the March finals of the Goleta Valley Pro-Am in Santa Barbara. Monchik used the off-season to rest it and will be back at 100%. •• **John Ellis** has battled a sore shoulder for most of the second half of the season and used the summer to rest and get healthy. •• **Andy Roberts** rested his bad knees and is looking forward to the coming season •• **Mike Guidry** had his shoulder scoped prior to the Tournament of Champions. His recovery has been quick and he expects top be 80-90% at the start of the season. •• **Michelle Gould**, who missed both the WIRT Tournament of Champions and the International Racquetball Federation World Championships, is expected to return to the tour after several months of rest and re-hab from a series of injuries and complications suffered last season.
- **KACHTIK BACK:** Dallas' **Drew Kachtik** – one of the IRT's toughest competitors and a former National Champion – is back after over a year's absence from the tour. Kachtik has already committed to the IRT Pro Doubles in Las Vegas, playing with Rookie of the Year Doug Eagle, and plans to be at the New Orleans stop.

'98-99 racquetball factbook

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1998-99 annual factbook

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Results for all USRA National Singles, Doubles, Intercollegiates, Junior Olympics, High Schools, and U.S. OPEN events now appear in the annual Recordbook, published in the March/April edition of RACQUETBALL.

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On the Cover

Florida's Robert Morgan and Janet Myers of North Carolina mix it up on the portable glass court in Memphis. The two took part in the Benefit Pro-Am Doubles event which preceded the 1997 Promus U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Photo: Vicki Hughes

where **there** **here** **where**

1975 Tom McKie named IRA
Executive Director IRA
offices move to Memphis, Tennessee
.... Official IRA patch issued
Muehleisen, Porco and Sellers leave
IRA board after five years
Canadian Wayne Bowes wins Men's
International Open Singles.

1977 Racquetball becomes an American fitness rage
Tom McKie resigns as IRA Executive Director IRA headquarters move back to Memphis, Tennessee
National Singles held in Southfield, Michigan.

1979 Open ball policy
adopted International
Amateur Racquetball Federation

basic rankings

Event Level & Description	Finish & Point Awards				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8
1 = Closed State Tournament	30	20	15	10	5
2 = Open Tournament	50	30	20	15	10
3 = State Championship	150	100	75	50	25
4 = Regional Championship	250	150	100	75	50
5 = National Invitational	300	200	150	100	75
6 = National Championship	600	400	300	200	100*

trailing twelve month period. Points accumulate for one year, and are automatically deleted in the thirteenth month. For example, points earned in September of 1998 will drop from your record in October of 1999.

If you compete in sanctioned events regularly, you can quickly accumulate points that will steadily move you up in the state and national rankings. On the other hand, you can compete less often but still earn big points by finishing well in higher level regional and national events. Refer to the chart above to see the value of your wins at different event levels.

So you've done well — now what happens? It's the responsibility of the tournament director to document your win before points can be credited to your season record. This is done when official results are received in the national office containing the full, correct name of each quarterfinalist. At the moment, no registered psychics are on staff in the national office, so only official written results are accepted.

Mis-spelled or abbreviated names often end up splitting a season record instead of adding up to a high ranking position. For example, it's possible to have 250 points divided into five open tournaments wins (at 50 points apiece) for Allan, Allen, Alan, Alain and A. Player!

If you think your season record is short some points, first check with the tournament director to confirm that the official results have been sent in to the national office. Then cross-check your own records, list your recent wins, and call the national office at 719/635-5396 to find out your position and point total.

While ranking points and seeding positions are interrelated, they are *not* one and the same. Seeding is done *using* ranking information, and is meant to insure the best draw possible.

It's just not fair to have the two best players in a division play each other in the first round. (In a round of 16, the first match should be #1 vs. #16, as shown below). Once it is determined who the top two players are, they should be placed far enough apart in the draw (top & bottom) to guarantee that, barring any upsets, they will face each other in the finals, and not before. After all, the final is meant to be the most exciting match of the tournament ... between the best players.

basic seeding

In preparing a draw, it is important to consider as much background information about the players

as possible. Most events are seeded according to a set of criteria that include a player's results in the previous year's event (if it is ongoing), any recent results, state and national ranking points and "common sense."

Common sense includes — what to do when a player changes age brackets during the year; players who compete on the pro tour while maintaining their amateur status; former pros; personal knowledge of the players (do they play lots of tournaments to earn points, but rarely win them?) — plus many other variables.

For example, the top ranked player in your area may not automatically retain the #1 seed position when you consider the last-minute entry of a four-time national champion from out of town. It's all relative.

While tournament directors and seeding committees rarely manage to please all of the people all of the time, many use these widely-accepted, standard guidelines to establish a fair draw.

(IARF) is founded with 13 member countries IRA changes name to the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) AARA applies for U.S. Olympic Committee membership Graphite frames introduced National Singles held in Las Vegas.

1980 Keith Calkins becomes Board President Han van der Hiejen of Holland becomes IARF President Boron and graphite frames introduced Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) and pro tour founded National Singles held in Miami, Florida.

1981 World Games I and First Racquetball World Championships held in Santa Clara, California U.S.A. wins first World Cup title over six other countries Penn introduces the "Ultra Blue" racquetball.

1982 AARA accepted as member of the U.S. Olympic Committee USRA organization folds RACQUETBALL Magazine sold AARA signs racquet sponsorship with Diversified Products Penn named official ball Paul Henrickson elected Board President National Singles held in Buffalo, New York.

1983 AARA headquarters relocate to Colorado Springs U.S.A. dominates first IARF Regional Games Downtown YMCA in Houston, Texas established as long-term National Singles site.

1984 First National Elite Training Camp held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs U.S.A. wins World Championships over 13 countries in Sacramento, California Ektelon introduces and test markets the oversize racquet frame Match rules changed from 21 points to 15 per game, with 11 point tiebreaker.

1985 Racquetball is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) World Junior Racquetball Championships added to Junior Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida.

1986 Mandatory eyeguard rule passed Twenty countries compete at III World Championships in Orlando, Florida U.S.A. ties with Canada to share World Cup Pan American Racquetball Confederation (PARC) formed AARA membership dues increase to \$10.00 per year Van Dubolsky named Board President.

1987 U.S.A. wins Pan American Championships at U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs
.... First AARA National Leadership Conference held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

1988 U.S. National Team wins IV World Cup over 22 countries AARA televises its National Championships for the first time IARF drops the word "amateur" from its title and logo SGMA releases study setting the number of U.S. amateur players at 10 million.

1989 Racquetball granted full member status within USOC As 38th sport, racquetball makes premiere U.S. Olympic Festival appearance in Oklahoma City Random drug-testing of athletes instituted First World Seniors/Masters Championships held in Albuquerque, New Mexico First AARA instructional video produced AARA membership fees increase to \$15.00 per year.

1990 U.S.A. wins V World Cup in Caracas, Venezuela, over 28 countries AARA produces and telecasts five national championships on cable television Keith Calkins named Board President AARA resumes publication of RACQUETBALL Magazine after 12 years.

1991 AARA telecasts ten national events on cable sports channels U.S. Team Alumni Association is formed Junior Team USA takes its first international title at the Junior World Championships Racquetball placed on the schedule for the Pan American Games in 1995.

Ratings reflect skill levels, and differ from rankings and

seedings. The following, recognized player classifications have been developed by the certified instructors and clinicians of the American Professional Racquetball Organization (AmPRO).

F-6 facts

The United States Racquetball Association and **RACQUETBALL** magazine are pleased to offer the following, abridged "Everyday Racquetball Rules" for your use in learning some of the finer points of the game. This summarized, basic version is designed for the everyday, recreational player. In competition, many additional rules would be enforced by your referee. Where sections have been omitted, their contents have been noted so that you can refer to them in the official rulebook, which is published annually in the July/August issue of **RACQUETBALL**. But for day-to-day spirited competition, the following gives you the basic information you'll need to enjoy safe, fair matches.

wide, 40 feet long and 20 feet high, with a back wall at least 12 feet high. Courts are marked with 1 1/2 inch wide lines (short line, service line, drive serve lines, and receiving line) that indicate the service zone, service boxes, and receiving zone.

• RACQUET SPECIFICATIONS

The racquet, including bumper guard and handle, may not exceed 21 inches in length. The frame may be any material judged to be safe, with a thong that securely attaches it to the player's wrist, and string that does not mark the ball.

• APPAREL

In sanctioned tournament play, lensed eyewear designed for racquetball (which meets or exceeds ASTM F803 or Canadian [CSA] impact standards) is

basic everyday rules

I. THE GAME

• TYPES OF GAMES

When two play, it's called singles and when four play, it's doubles. A non-tournament game played by three players is called cut-throat.

• POINTS AND OUTS

Points are scored only by the serving side. Losing the serve is called a sideout in singles. In doubles, when the first server loses the serve it is called a handout and when the second server loses the serve it is a sideout.

• MATCH, GAME & TIEBREAKER

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

II. COURTS & EQUIPMENT

• COURT SPECIFICATIONS

The four-wall racquetball court is 20 feet

REQUIRED. Players who require corrective eyewear also must also adhere to this rule. Protective eyewear must be worn as designed and may not be altered. Shoes must not mark or damage the floor. Approved eyewear must be worn and wrist thongs must be used during warm-up.

III. PLAY REGULATIONS

• SERVE

The server has two opportunities to put the ball into play. In tournament play, the player or team winning the coin toss has the option to either serve or receive at the start of the first game. The second game will begin in reverse order of the first game. The player or team scoring the highest total of points in games one and two will have the option to serve or receive first at the start of the tiebreaker. In the event that both players or teams score an equal number of points in the first two games, another coin toss will take place and the winner of the toss will have the option to serve or receive. In everyday play, the "lag" or courtesy "you serve" will determine the first server.

1992 U.S.A. wins VI World Cup in Montreal over 33 countries National Singles celebrates 10th year at the Downtown YMCA in Houston

1993 AARA celebrates its 25th Silver Anniversary National offices move to new building in Colorado Springs.

1994 U.S.A. wins VII World Cup in San Luis Potosi over 27 countries New Skill Level National Championship introduced Competitive license fees increase to \$20.00 per year IRF adopts "one serve" rule in international competition ... Van Dubolsky elected Board President.

1995 Racquetball makes its debut in the Pan American Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina - U.S. National Team "sweeps" medal count Instructor certification program renamed the American Professional Racquetball Organization [AmPRO].

1996 Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships debut in Memphis with pros and amateurs in a single event, played on a specially-constructed "made for TV" glass court First live coverage of racquetball finals broadcast at World Championships in Phoenix U.S. wins VIII World Cup team title Nationwide regional weekend established AARA debuts two websites on the internet

1997 The AARA changes its name to the United States Racquetball Association, adopts new logo National Singles and Doubles Championships celebrate 30th anniversaries USRA rule change allows oversized frames 22" in length.

1998 U.S. wins IX World Cup team title, over 32 opponent countries in Bolivia Otto Dietrich elected Board President Skill Level competition added to National Singles & Doubles Championships

USRA and USA Racquetball

United States Racquetball Association

Manufactured by
Art Wears, Inc.
the official supplier of USRA and
Team USA racquetball apparel.
Omaha, NE



TS-1 \$15.00

WHITE
ASH
RED



TS-2 \$15.00

WHITE
ASH



TS-4 \$15.00

WHITE
ASH



TS-5 \$16.00

NAVY



TS-3 \$18.00

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Extra heavyweight
preshrunk 100%
cotton short sleeve
henley. Embroidered
with your choice of
USRA or USA logo.
Adult sizes M-XXL.

NAVY ASH
RED ASH

HE-USRA \$24.00
HE-USA \$24.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.

100% cotton
heavyweight
T-shirts.
Available with
designs and
colors shown.
Adult sizes M-
XXL.

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.



100% extra
heavyweight 7 oz.
cotton mock turtleneck.
Embroidered with your
choice of USRA or USA
logo. Adult sizes M-
XXL.

WHITE

MT-USRA \$26.00
MT-USA \$26.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.



100% cotton pique knit
Stars 'n Stripes golf shirt.
Embroidered with your
choice of USRA or USA
logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

WHITE
NAVY

SS-USRA \$49.00
SS-USA \$49.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.



100% heavy-weight cotton
pique golf shirt. Embroidered
with your choice of USRA or
USA logo. Adult sizes M-XXL.

RED

WHITE
NAVY

GS-USRA \$30.00
GS-USA \$30.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.



RED
HEATHER
NAVY

SW-USRA \$32.00
SW-USA \$32.00

*Add \$2.00 for XXL sizes.

90/10 Cotton/Poly 9 oz.
sweatshirt. Available
with USRA or USA
embroidered
logo. Adult
sizes M-XXL.

standing room only ...



Celebrating its IX World Championships, racquetball recently drew teams from 32 countries — on five continents — to compete in Cochabamba, Bolivia. From modest beginnings in 1979 with only 13 charter countries, the International Racquetball Federation has grown to over 91 member federations worldwide — of which 40 are officially recognized by their respective National Olympic Committees.

Racquetball is also a full medal sport in these IOC approved multi-sport competitions: the Pan American Games, Central American Games, Central American/Caribbean Games, the World Games, World Masters Games, Fire and Police Games, and the Maccabiah Games. The U.S. Open utilizes a state-of-the-art portable court and is featured on ESPN. Over 10,000,000 players practice the sport worldwide. Few sports have gained such recognition in such a short period of time. Come celebrate with us — the IX World Championships in Cochabamba!

The more things change ...

... the more they stay the same. The adage held true at the 1998 Ektelon IX IRF World Championships where, for the first time, Canadians swept the men's and women's individual singles world titles with wins by Sherman Greenfeld and Christie Van Hees. Also unprecedented was Mexico's appearance in the men's doubles finals, along with a follow-up, second-place finish in the men's team competition, thanks to outstanding "double-duty" by Luis Bustillos in both singles and doubles. As event hosts in Cochabamba in mid-July, "Team Bolivia" attained its highest overall team finish in history with a fourth-place spot.

It may have been an entirely different squad of U.S. Team athletes, but they held their own in defending the World Cup team title against all challengers. Despite improved performances by several European, Asian and Central and South American countries, the United States remained steady to capture its ninth consecutive team crown in as many tries.



team bolivia



team argentina

MEN'S SINGLES

Earlier in the "international" season, Canada's No.1 player and '94 world champion Sherman Greenfeld defeated USA's top player Dan Obremski at the Pan Am Trials in Winnipeg. For that, he earned the draw's top seeding, and cruised past his first three opponents: Honduras' Roberto Nassar, Miguel Santiago of Puerto Rico and Gerardo Gil of Bolivia in straight games. All without showing any sign of being affected by Cochabamba's altitude (at 8,430 feet).

From the No.2 spot, Dan Obremski handed two-game losses to Kenny Adebidi of Nigeria and Colombia's Juan Manuel Gutierrez in early round play, before slugging his way through a tiebreaker against Colombia's top hitter, Felipe Gomez, 15-7, 14-15, 11-3.

Greenfeld opened the quarterfinal action with a 15-7, 15-14 win over a late-surging Fabian Balmori. Then, Canadian teammate Mike Ceresia, seeded fifth, upset USA's Ruben Gonzalez in a quirky tiebreaker. It wasn't poor shotmaking that stalled Gonzalez, but a small towel that fell from the back of his shorts at 8-9 in the tiebreaker. During the rally, the fourth-seeded Gonzalez was trying to tie it up at 9-9 when one of his ever-present handtowels fell to the floor — resulting in an avoidable hinder and side-out. Ceresia, whose thumb was cramping, took advantage of the mishap and eventually came out on top, 11-8.

The next match-up pitted 19-year-old Rocky Carson of the U.S., against 20-year-old Luis Bustillos. Carson, the current 18-and-under world and U.S. national champion, performed with great poise in front a crowd of close to 600 and defeated Bustillos 15-6, 15-12. "Any win at this tournament is big," said Carson, who replaced an injured Michael Bronfeld just days before the team left for Bolivia. "I'm just thrilled. I played about good as I could play against Luis."

Carson's semifinal opponent would be teammate and former pro tour veteran Obremski, who had advanced past Argentine Shai Manzuri, who couldn't play through an injured knee and had retired. Against Carson, Obremski's drive serve was almost invisible in the thin Bolivian air as he took the first game 15-8. The young Californian rebounded in the second, but couldn't hold on and fell 15-13.

"Dan started getting his drive serves in consistently," Carson said of the match's deciding factor. "When the ball is traveling at 160 (m.p.h) at this altitude, it never seems to stop."

After splitting the first two games of their all-Canada semi, Greenfeld raced out to a quick 9-3 lead in the third. Suddenly, a fiery Ceresia earned a sideout, ignited his offense, and cut the lead to 9-4 ... 9-5. After releasing emotional outbursts into the left corner of the front wall, Ceresia closed the margin further to 9-8 ... 9-9 ... then took the lead at 10-9. But Greenfeld managed a sideout, then tied the match at 10-10, forcing a timeout by Ceresia.

Re-entering the two-wall glass exhibition court, Greenfeld searched out Obremski on the sidelines and winked as if he knew it was over and that the two rivals would meet again later that afternoon. Back on the receiving end of a trademark back-hand cut-serve for the match, Ceresia bravely shot the return and skipped it.

"Well, that's racquetball," Ceresia said when asked why he shot the final return. "When it's close, you've got to go for your shot and I went for it. I missed it and that's the way it goes. I did my best and that's all there is to that."

1. greenfeld 2. obremski 3. carson





team australia



team chile



team germany

Nothing came easy in the finals . . . particularly a seat. An estimated crowd of over 700 hung from the balconies, bleachers and covered the floor surrounding the court. Obremski opened with two quick aces, only to be answered by a Greenfeld version. And in spite of three consecutive short-serve calls, the '97 U.S. national champion held the largest lead of game one at 12-9. But Greenfeld clawed his way back to a slim 14-13 advantage before Obremski gained a sideout and aced the Canadian once again to knot the match at 14 all.

Serving for the game, a patented "Dan O' Missile" was launched into the left corner for an apparent ace. Unfortunately for Obremski, the serve was called short and line judges failed to overturn the call on appeal. Two non-U.S. players seated near the service line stated that the serve was good by "six inches to a foot." Nonetheless, the call stood and Obremski skipped his next return of serve to give game one to Greenfeld.

A 4-0 second-game lead by Greenfeld motivated Obremski, who answered by going up 7-6 and finishing out the second stanza 15-9. As the two players entered the court for the tiebreaker, it was apparent that the Bolivian fans had chosen a favorite. To their delight, Greenfeld built a 5-1 lead on a backhand crack ace. The lead grew to 8-1 before Obremski closed the gap to 8-4. But Greenfeld fought back to reach match point at 10-4,

where a skipped return by Obremski allowed Greenfeld to claim his second World Championship ring.

The capacity crowd rose to its feet to deliver a heartfelt ovation while Greenfeld, overtaken by emotion, crouched in the front-left corner. The two-time champ returned to his feet and saluted the gracious crowd which, in turn, roared with appreciation.

When asked why he thought the Bolivians favored him, Greenfeld jokingly said, "I'm just a nice guy . . . No, I think they watch me play and they see that you can play a game at a high level and still be fair and not get upset about situations. I had a better match today than any other in the tournament. I played well to the crowd... I get pumped up because I don't want to upset them. I want them to see a quality match whether I win or lose and I think they did."

Disappointed at losing his chance to be world champ, Obremski was a little less than pleased with the outcome.

"He's (Greenfeld) a crafty player and puts away the setups. If I have my serve taken away from me by whomever — whether it's him returning or other entities — what can I do? That's my strength. I live or die by the drive serve. In my mind, I won the second game and should have won the first. I just didn't capitalize. He capitalized and I didn't. He just played better."

1. vanhees 2. hallander 3. levine



WOMEN'S SINGLES

When Michelle Gould won her first world singles championship in 1992 she was a mere 21 years old. As Canada's reigning national champion and the tournament's #2 seed, 20-year-old Christie Van Hees had, early-on, set her sights on becoming the youngest world singles champ in history.

In that spotlight, Van Hees opened play with straight-game thumpings of Argentina's Veronica Rivero and Chile's Angela Grisar. The bracket's top seed, Robin Levine of the USA did the same against 16-year-old Elma Gibney of Ireland and Bolivia's Maria Femanda. The only seeded player absent from the quarterfinals was Canada's Lucie Guillemette, who was upset by Japan's Hiromi Maeda in a round of 16 tiebreaker.

Levine opened the quarterfinal action with a convincing 15-4, 15-8 win over Mexico's No.1, Lupita Torres. Fifth-



team guatemala



team korea



team venezuela

seeded Kersten Hallander, who was a last-minute replacement on the USA roster, upset fourth-seeded Lori-Jane Powell of Canada 13-15, 15-8, 11-4 in her quarters contest.

"It feels really good – that's the No. 2 Canadian," Hallander said of her first international victory. "I've seen her (Powell) play before and thought it would be a good match . . . and it was."

The bottom half of the women's bracket featured almost-identical North American wins. Third seed Cheryl Gudinas of the USA put away Maeda 15-4, 15-4, while Van Hees pointed Japan's remaining team hopeful, Naomi Wakimoto, to the exit with a similar 15-4, 15-5 win.

Monday morning's semifinal matches were, well ... unpredictable. Levine, the current U.S. National Champion, played sluggishly and never seemed to get on track. Hallander's stellar play toppled Levine fell from the top spot with a 15-7, 15-10 defeat.

"She (Hallander) took advantage of the opportunities and put them away," Levine said. "I, on the other hand, even when I had opportunities, either skipped them or screwed them up. I really didn't do anything with anything. I wasn't there mentally and she took advantage of every opportunity she had."

In the other semifinal, the Vegas odds might have favored Gudinas – slightly. Van Hees had beaten the tour veteran only once ... a few weeks earlier at the WIRT Tournament of Champions. Would that single victory provide enough confidence for the Canadian to repeat – or motivate Gudinas?

Well, Van Hees took control early and never fell into jeopardy as she stayed focused and captured a 15-8, 15-10 victory and — like Hallander — earned her first-ever world finals appearance. "I was just keeping aggressive and mixing up my serves," the young Canadian said. "I know Cheryl has a great will to win and I just had to follow along and keep up the pace."

When asked whether the Portland win over Gudinas was a factor, Van Hees said, "It was like a milestone. I've played Cheryl many times and she's always beaten me. Beating her in Portland gave me so much more confidence coming into this tournament."

The final match opened with Van Hees jumping out to a 6-1 lead, then Hallander cut the deficit to one – down 9-8. Again, Van Hees stretched the lead. This time to game point at 14-9.

Hallander kept plugging away, fighting off three game points and eventually tying the contest at 14-14. After a sideout and a Hallander timeout, Van Hees took game one on a crushing forehand down the line.

Game two was equally tight with Van Hees going up 6-2 before Hallander reeled off seven-consecutive points on her backhand serve to take a 9-6 advantage. Van Hees tied the match at 11-11, then nosed ahead to 13-12. Following a timeout, Hallander botched a ceiling ball ... 14-12. After a sideout and a Hallander skip, Van Hees returned to the service box for the match. With Gould-like power, the youngster from Kelowna, British Columbia exploded an ace into the back left corner for the match. She then fell to her knees. World Singles Champion at 20-years-old and only the fifth woman in history to earn the coveted title.

"After the (WIRT) Tournament of Champions, I was feeling very confident, relaxed and just really wanted to play the game," Van Hees said after signing dozens of autographs for the racquetball-crazed Bolivian fans. "She (Hallander) was serving really, really well and I give her that. I haven't seen any other women – here or on the tour – use that serve and it's great. I just seemed to have that extra 'oomph' today."

DOUBLES - MEN & WOMEN

In doubles action, the men's and women's U.S. Teams pummeled a defenseless group of challengers. Reigning World Champions Adam Karp and Bill Sell rolled their way past teams from Honduras 15-5, 15-9, Argentina 15-4, 15-0 and Venezuela 15-3, 15-1 to earn their finals spot. Meanwhile, twin sisters and defending world champions Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso took out Argentina 15-2, 15-0, then handled Mexico 15-8, 15-11 in the semifinals.

The bottom half of each draw, full of tandems fighting for second place, was expected to produce two Canadian duos to challenge Karp, Sell and the twins. However, the second-seeded Canadian men's team of Mike Green and 16-year-old Kane Waslenchuk sputtered against a fired-up Mexican pair of Javier Moreno and Luis Bustillos and eventually lost 15-12, 15-14. For Mexico, the win resulted in a debut appearance in a world finals.

Twice as nice ...

Josee Grand'Maitre and Debbie Ward, the Canadian women's duo, were close to an early exit during their quarterfinal match

COVERAGE CONTINUES ON W-5 FOLLOWING FACTBOOK INSERT >>

<<CONTINUED FROM W-4, PRECEDING FACTBOOK INSERT

against the Bolivian squad of Maria Fernanda and Paola Nunez. The young Bolivians abused Ward in the first game with a barrage of "wall-paper" lob serves against the right glass. Nunez never seemed to let up against her right-side opponent and the Bolivian crowd was delighted by an 15-4 first-game win. Although still appearing a bit off-kilter, the Canadians fought back to take the second stanza 15-13. In the tiebreaker, the Bolivians ran out of steam and eventually fell 11-4.

An upset tiebreaker win over third-seeded Japan 14-15, 15-14, 11-4 in the quarters put the Chilean team of Loreto Barriga and Angela Grisar in position to give the Canadians a strong test. Unfortunately for Chile, the exam was a little too tough as Ward and Grand'Maitre entered the finals with a 15-9, 15-11 victory.

The twins opened Monday's finals with a quick and painless 15-7, 15-4 thumping of Canada. Especially difficult for the Canadian team were MacKenzie's and Paraiso's service games.

"I was drive serving really well – nice and hard," Paraiso said after winning her fourth world doubles crown (the second with her sister). "Joy was jam-serving and they couldn't see it – neither of them could get to it."

Ward couldn't help but agree, saying, "Their serves have always been very good and well-executed. They're just a very strong team and they play very, very well together. They know each other, obviously because they are twins. They've got something genetic over us."

One more time ...

Karp and Sell took to the court to defend their world championship belt and raced out to a 7-0 lead on the youthful Mexicans. The two California natives then stretched to leads of 9-2, 11-3, 14-4 and finally closed out the game 15-9. Game two ventured down the same path ... turning a 4-3 lead into 12-3.

At 13-6, with Bustillos serving, Karp (a.k.a. The Flying Fish) took to the air and continued the rally with a terrific get near the front wall.

Unfortunately for the Fish, he then became the front wall. As the crowd shrieked, shot after shot rocketed toward and past Karp. The current U.S. National Singles Champion dodged and dipped and finally made his way back to mid-court ... where his reflexes continued the rally with another amazing shoestring save. Three shots later, the Fish hit a winner down the line and the crowd gave the 26-year-old a standing ovation.

"The crowd loved it," Karp said of the crowd-pleasing rally. "I don't know if I actually loved it. I could just see myself getting a big welt somewhere. It's just part of the game. If it was them up there, I'd have been aiming too ... I knew they were aiming at me."

The Mexicans could only manage one more point as Karp and Sell captured game two 15-7, thus retaining their world champion status. For Karp, the win was a satisfying one.

"We pulled out the first game and were way up in the second," Karp said. "If we're playing well, with the kind of games we have, it's tough to beat us. People are just going to have to flat-roll the ball. I'm going to get a lot of balls and Bill's not going to make too many mistakes. We don't beat ourselves."

For partner Sell, the difference in the match was streaks, saying, "The ball's moving a million miles an hour and you're going to have your shots. It's just whoever settles down and gets on a nice streak."

According to Moreno, "Against Canada (in the semifinals), we played our game and with these guys, we couldn't do it. With the speed of the ball, I couldn't get setup for a good shot."

Even with the loss, Moreno and Bustillos made Mexican racquetball history with the first-ever finals appearance. "I feel bad that we lost, but also very happy at the same time," Moreno said after the match. "I thought I was going to be World Champion with Nacho (Luis Bustillos)."

on the sidelines...



Top: Early in the week, IRF Executive Vice-President Keith Calkins conducted a junior clinic for young Bolivian team hopefuls. **Middle:** A fully-stocked pro shop kept all 32 teams well-equipped throughout the event. **Bottom:** Guatemala's Ximena Gonzalez and Elissa Beltranena get some coaching from USA's Rocky Carson. Photos: IRF.



WORLD CUP TEAM PLAYOFF

Following a relaxing Tuesday in which most of the athletes could be found in and around the pools of Cochabamba's five-star Hotel Portales, the team event shifted into high gear. In a whole new format (head-to-head competition between countries with full teams) the pressure now switched to the defending world champion Canadian men's and USA women's squads. Both had appeared less-than-bulletproof during the first-half of the tourney.

MEN'S TEAM COMPETITION

In the men's draw, the USA blanked Belgium and Germany in the first two rounds with identical 4-0 match scores – sweeping all three singles positions and the doubles contest. The Canadian men's squad took out Korea and Australia in the same manner. Third-seeded Mexico also swept through the competition, defeating Guatemala and Bolivia with identical 4-0 marks.

It was fifth seed Venezuela, led by top player Fabian Balmori, who registered the lone upset of the quarterfinals by disposing of No. 4 seeded Japan 4-0. Balmori accounted for two of Venezuela's match wins as he defeated Soichi Sakai at

the No. 1 spot 15-3, 15-12 and then teamed with Jorge Hirsekorn to down the Japanese doubles team 15-8, 15-6.

Next, Mexico and Canada squared off in what began to take shape as a knock-down, drag-out semifinal. Newly-crowned world champ Sherman Greenfeld held off Alvaro Beltran 15-9, 15-12 for the No.1 singles match win. Mexico rebounded with Alvaro Maldonado defeating Brian Istace 15-10, 15-12 at the second spot. Then "Nacho" Bustillos took over.

After splitting the first two games versus Canada's No. 3 Mike Ceresia, 15-10, 9-15, Bustillos charged past the fiery Canuck to take the tiebreaker 11-6 and give Mexico a 2-1 advantage going into the doubles match.

The win, plus the current tiebreaking system, provided this scenario for the final match: A win in doubles and Mexico would advance into Saturday's finals. If the Canadian team of Mike Green and Kane Waslenchuk won in two-straight games, the Canadian men's team would advance via the first tiebreaking factor, which is games won throughout the head-to-head competition. A tie-breaking third game would mean the competition would boil down to the total points scored by each team in the head-to-head match.

The Green-Waslenchuk duo came out of the gates strong and took game one, 15-6. However, Nacho and partner Javier Moreno, who had beaten the Canadian tandem earlier in the tournament, finished the second game victorious, at 15-11. With the U.S., Mexican and Canadian coaches frantically tallying each team's points on the sidelines, it was concluded that whichever team won the tiebreaker would earn the right to play in the finals.

Nacho, who fought off leg cramps early in the match, couldn't miss and Moreno was as confident as ever. The result was another victory over Canada, 11-6, and Mexico's first-ever appearance in the world team finals. "I feel great," Bustillos said. "I'm really happy and my parents are going to be happy too."

On the top-half of the bracket, the U.S. team found itself in an awkward position, with an unexpected loss in the lead-up match. Top player Dan Obremski was crushed by Venezuela's No.1 Balmori, 15-2, 15-1. Fortunately for U.S. Team coach Jim Winterton and his staff, the USA rebounded and won the final three matches and advanced into the finals with a 3-1 win.

In the final head-to-head men's team competition between the U.S. and Mexico, Rocky

TEAM USA BRINGS HOME THE CUP – (L-R) Back row: Jackie Paraiso, Joy MacKenzie, Robin Levine, Rocky Carson, Dan Obremski. Front Row: Kersten Hallander, Cheryl Gudinas, Ruben Gonzalez, Adam Karp, Bill Sell. Photo: John Foust.



Carson opened with a 15-14, 15-7 win over Bustillos on the main exhibition court.

"Nacho played well and my serves weren't really clicking in that first game," Carson said. "I came out in the second game and hit a couple of good lob serves then went to my drive serve. That's when it started to feel routine."

Next up was 47-year-old Ruben Gonzalez against Mexico No. 2 Alvaro Maldonado. Meanwhile, Obremski and Beltran were squaring off on the main court. Gonzalez outlasted the younger Maldonado 15-11, 15-11 to give the USA a 2-0 advantage.

Obremski's 15-6 first-game win clinched the men's team title — but Beltran eventually won the match with wins in the second and third games, 15-11, 11-6. But it was too little, too late. The doubles match was forfeited to the USA and the Americans officially won the title with a 3-1 match-play victory.

WOMEN'S TEAM

The USA women's team made short work of its successful crown defense. Following 4-0 wins over Chile and Bolivia, the U.S. women were faced with familiar Canadian rivals in the finals. The women of the Great White North had defeated Puerto Rico and Japan by identical 4-0 scores to reach the playoff.

Before entering the finals, the match-up was closer than expected, considering the uncharacteristically poor play of USA's Robin Levine (No. 1) and Cheryl Gudinas (No. 2) in the earlier individual competition and the stellar play of Canadian star Christie Van Hees (No. 1).

Before the match began, Canadian coach Carol Mulholland stated, "Christie's (match versus Levine) is a must win — Christie over Robin and L-J (Lori-Jane Powell) over Cheryl (Gudinas). Those are the two keys. If we can get those, and Lucie (Guillemette) plays as well as she has against Kersten, I think it will be a good match. I don't think we're going in as the underdog."

That optimism spilled over into the first match as Guillemette stormed

back to defeat Hallander in a tiebreaker, 7-15, 15-10, 11-5.

"I feel like I helped a lot," Guillemette said of her win. "Since I was the first to play today, this has given us a lot of confidence and a big advantage."

But that's when the Canadian party ended and the U.S. Team began its mop-up. To say that Gudinas defeated Powell in the No. 2 singles contest would be a grave understatement. Dismantled would be more accurate, with final scores of 15-3, 15-2 and a match point ace.

"I watched Kersten and she played well, but unfortunately it didn't turn out the way she wanted it to," a rejuvenated Gudinas said after the match. "I wanted to play every point so I just put the No. 23 (Michael Jordan) socks on and went . . . I told everybody in our team meeting the other day that I wasn't leaving here without the gold medal."

The U.S. singles players continued to flex their muscles as Levine took the recently crowned World Champion, Van Hees, to the cleaners. Levine stormed out to a 9-0 lead in the first game. Van Hees called a timeout. Levine then pushed the advantage to 10-1, 13-4 and eventually 15-4.

Somewhat stunned, Van Hees regrouped nicely to grab a 4-0 lead in the second set. Van Hees held leads of 7-4 and 9-7 before coming down with an ankle injury. Following a 15-minute injury timeout, Van Hees came back and took the 10-9 lead that would turn out to be her last. Levine garnered six of the last eight points to win the game 15-12.

"This was definitely the best I've played the whole time I've been here," a relieved Levine said while gathering her equipment. "Before, I felt like I was making a fool out of myself."

The two-game win clinched the women's team and overall titles. Still, the Twins wasted little time in defeating the Canadian duo 15-2, 15-12, just as they had only days earlier in the individual title round.



on the sidelines...



Top: Bolivian team coach Jeff Leon talks over strategy with #2 player Gerardo Gil [photo: IRF]. **Middle:** The Mexican doubles team of Javier Moreno and Luis Bustillos get some encouragement from coach Martin Padilla. **Bottom:** U.S. assistant coach Tom Travers (left) and head coach Jim Winterton make some observations. Photos: John Foust.



INDIVIDUAL WORLD TITLES

Men's Gold Singles: Sherman Greenfeld, Canada, def. Dan Obremski, United States, 15-14, 9-15, 11-4.

Women's Gold Singles: Christie Van Hees, Canada, def. Kersten Hallander, United States, 15-14, 15-12.

Men's Gold Doubles: Adam Karp/Bill Sell, United States def. Luis Bustillos/Javier Moreno, Mexico, 15-9, 15-7.

Women's Gold Doubles: Joy MacKenzie/Jackie Paraiso, United States, def. [2] Josee Grand'Maitre/Debbie Ward, Canada, 15-7, 15-4.

TOP FINISHERS

Men's Singles

1. Sherman Greenfeld, Canada
 2. Dan Obremski, United States
 3. Rocky Carson, United States
 4. Mike Ceresia, Canada
- Quarterfinalists:* Fabian Balmori, Venezuela
Ruben Gonzalez, United States
Luis Bustillos, Mexico
Shai Manzuri, Argentina

Women's Singles

1. Christie Van Hees, Canada
 2. Kersten Hallander, United States
 3. Robin Levine, United States
 4. Cheryl Gudinas, United States
- Quarterfinalists:* Lupita Torres, Mexico
Lori-Jane Powell, Canada
Hiromi Maeda, Japan
Naomi Wakimoto, Japan

Men's Doubles

1. Adam Karp/Bill Sell, United States
 2. Luis Bustillos/Javier Moreno, Mexico
 3. Mike Green/Kane Waslenchuk, Canada
 4. Fabian Balmori/Jorge Hirsekorn, Venezuela
- Quarterfinalists*
Daniel Maggi/Shai Manzuri, Argentina
Bunya Hasegawa/Hiroshi Shimizu, Japan
Pablo Fajre/Andres Vilches, Chile
Trevor Hayter/Achim Loof, Germany

Women's Doubles

1. Joy MacKenzie/Jackie Paraiso, United States
 2. Josee Grand'Maitre/Debbie Ward, Canada
 3. Loreto Barriga/Angela Grisar, Chile
 4. Susy Acosta/Lupita Torres, Mexico
- Quarterfinalists*
Virginia Pacheco/Veronica Rivero, Argentina
Elma Gibney/Karen Grumbridge, Ireland
Hiromi Miyamoto/Ayumi Uchiyama, Japan
Maria Fernanda/Paola Nunez, Bolivia

WORLD CUP TEAM TITLES

MEN'S TEAM COMPETITION FINAL

United States-3, Mexico-1

Men's No. 1 - Alvaro Beltran, Mexico, def. Dan Obremski, United States, 9-15, 15-12, 11-8

Men's No. 2 - Ruben Gonzalez, United States, def. Alvaro Maldonado, Mexico, 15-11, 15-11

Men's No. 3 - Rocky Carson, United States, def. Luis Bustillos, Mexico, 15-14, 15-7

Men's Doubles - Adam Karp/Bill Sell, United States, def. Luis Bustillos/Javier Moreno, Mexico, by injury forfeit

WOMEN'S TEAM COMPETITION FINAL

United States-3, Canada-1

Women's No. 1 - Robin Levine, United States, def. Christie Van Hees, Canada, 15-4, 15-12

Women's No. 2 - Cheryl Gudinas, United States, def. Lori-Jane Powell, Canada, 15-3, 15-2

Women's No. 3 - Lucie Guillemette, Canada, def. Kersten Hallander, United States, 7-15, 15-10, 11-3

Women's Doubles - Joy MacKenzie/Jackie Paraiso, United States, def. Josee Grand'Maitre/Debbie Ward, Canada, 15-2, 15-12

TOP TEAM FINISHERS

MEN

1. USA
2. Mexico
3. Canada
4. Venezuela
5. Bolivia
6. Japan
7. England
8. Australia
9. Colombia
10. Chile
11. Argentina
12. Korea
13. Guatemala
14. Belgium
15. Ireland
16. Holland
17. Honduras
18. Guam
19. Ecuador
20. Nigeria
21. Greece
22. Belize
23. Puerto Rico
24. Vietnam
25. Peru
26. Costa Rica
27. Jamaica
28. El Salvador
29. India
30. Tonga

WOMEN

1. USA
2. Canada
3. Japan
4. Bolivia
5. Mexico
6. Venezuela
7. Chile
8. Puerto Rico
9. Argentina
10. Guatemala
11. Ireland
12. Guam
13. India
14. Jamaica
15. Holland
16. Laos

OVERALL

1. USA
2. Canada
3. Mexico
4. Bolivia
5. Japan
6. Venezuela
7. Chile
8. Argentina
9. Guatemala
10. Ireland
11. Guam
12. Puerto Rico
13. Holland
14. Germany
15. Australia
16. Colombia
17. Korea
18. Belgium
19. Honduras
20. Ecuador
21. Nigeria
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27. Jamaica
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30. Tonga
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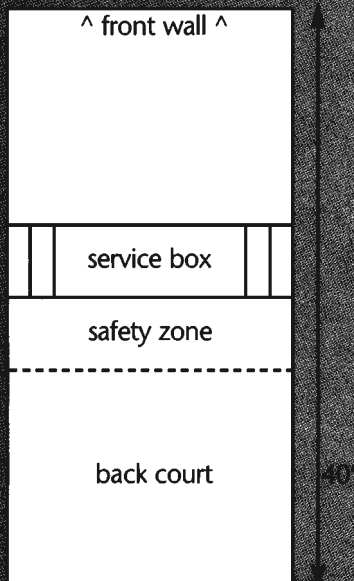
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basic everyday rules



• START

The serve is started from any place within the **service zone**, with the exception of certain drive serves. (See "Drive Service Zones") Stepping on, but not over, the lines is permitted. The server may not step over the short line until the ball passes the short line.

• MANNER

The player begins the service motion with any continuous movement which results in the ball being served. The ball must be bounced and hit before it bounces a second time.

• DRIVE SERVICE ZONES

The drive serve lines are three feet from each side wall in the service box. The player may drive serve between the body and the nearest side wall only if the player starts and remains outside of the 3-foot drive service zone, and the racquet does not break the plane of the zone while making contact with the ball. The drive serve zones aren't observed for crosscourt drive serves, the hard-Z, soft-Z, lob or half-lob serves.

• SERVE IN DOUBLES

At the beginning of each doubles game, when the first server is out, the team is out. Thereafter, both players on each team serve until the team receives a handout and a sideout. On each serve, the server's partner must stand erect with their back to the side wall and both feet on the floor within the service box until the served ball passes the short line.

• DEFECTIVE SERVES

There are three types of defective serves: 1) a dead-ball serve which results in no penalty and the server is given another serve (like a wet spot or broken ball), 2) any fault serve (foot fault, short, long, screen, three-wall, etc.), and 3) an out serve which results in an out (double fault, server hits self with serve, etc.)

• RETURNS

Once a "good serve" puts the ball into play, the receiver may not enter the marked **safety zone** until the ball bounces or crosses the plane of the dashed receiving line – particularly in making an on-the-fly return attempt. After "legal" contact with the ball (after the bounce, or behind the line), the receiver's follow-through may carry the racquet or the body past the receiving line. Failure to return a serve results in a point for the server.

• SIDEOUT

A server continues to serve until an out serve, OR two consecutive fault serves, OR one player hits partner with an attempted return (in doubles), OR a player or team loses a rally, OR a player or team commits an avoidable hinder. In singles, retiring the server is a sideout. In doubles, the side is retired when both partners have lost service.

• RALLIES

Play initiated after the successful return of serve is called the rally. Play stops when: the ball is carried (resting on the racquet long enough that the

effect is more of a sling or throw than a hit); the ball caroms off a player's racquet into a gallery or wall opening without first hitting the front wall; a ball obviously doesn't have the velocity or direction to hit the front wall and strikes another player; an avoidable hinder occurs.

The ball remains in play until it touches the floor a second time regardless of how many walls it makes contact with—including the front wall. In singles, if a player swings at the ball and misses it, the player may continue to attempt to return the ball until it touches the floor for the second time. In doubles, if one player swings at the ball and misses it, both partners may make further attempts to return the ball until it touches the floor the second time. Both partners on a side are entitled to return the ball.

• HINDERS

There are two types of hinders, 1) a dead-ball hinder which is replayed without penalty (court hinders, body contact, safety holdup, screens, etc.) and 2) avoidable which result in the loss of rally by the offender (these are not necessarily intentional, but clearly take away an offensive shot from your opponent, like blocking, making distracting noise, or playing so close as to be hit by the backswing, etc.). If your court position or manner takes away an offensive shot from your opponent, the right thing to do is call an avoidable hinder on yourself.

Remaining sections of the official rules which aren't presented here cover the following modifications to standard play • DOUBLES • ONE SERVE • MULTI-BOUNCE • ONE WALL & THREE WALL • WHEELCHAIR • VISUALLY IMPAIRED • DEAF • PROFESSIONAL

In the Official Rulebook, COMPETITION POLICIES & PROCEDURES covers the function and duties of tournament directors in conducting tournament play.

At no time should the physical safety of the participants be compromised. Players are entitled – and expected, to hold up their swing – without penalty, any time they believe there might be a risk of physical contact. Any time a player claims to have held up to avoid contact – *even if being overly-cautious* – they are entitled to a hinder (the rally is replayed with penalty).

not have clear view of the ball the screen should be called immediately. Receivers may not call a screen after attempting to hit the ball or after taking themselves out of proper court position by starting the wrong way. The server may not call a screen under any circumstances and must expect to play the rally unless a call is made by the receiver.

Other Situations. Foot faults, 10-second violations, receiving zone violations, and other calls may require a referee. However, if either player believes an opponent is abusing any of the rules, be sure there is agreement on what the rule is, and a clear understanding that the rules should be followed.

basic self-officiating

First and foremost in fair play without a referee:

SAFETY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY PLAYER WHO ENTERS THE COURT!

• SCORE

Since there is no referee or scorekeeper, it is important for the server to announce both the server's and receiver's score before each first serve.

• DURING RALLIES

During rallies, it is the hitter's responsibility to make the call. If there is a possibility that a skip ball, double-bounce, or illegal hit occurred, play should continue until the hitter makes the call against their own shot. If the

hitter does not make the call and goes on to win the rally, and the opponent thought that one of the hitter's shots was not good, they may appeal to the hitter by pointing out which shot was thought to be bad and request that the hitter reconsider. If the hitter is sure of the call, and the opponent is still sure the hitter is wrong, the rally should be replayed. As a matter of etiquette, players are expected to make calls against themselves any time they are not sure. Unless the hitter is certain the shot was good, it should be replayed.

• SERVICE

Fault Serves. The receiver has the primary responsibility to make these calls, though either player may make the call. The receiver must make the call immediately, and not wait until the ball has been hit to gain the benefit of seeing how good a return they have made. It is not an option play. The receiver does not have the right to play a short serve just because it could be a set-up.

Screen Serves. When there is no referee, the screen serve call is the sole responsibility of the receiver. If the receiver has taken the proper court position, near center court, does

play by calling a hinder, and must do so immediately – not wait to see how good a shot they can hit. If the hindered party believes they can make an effective return in spite of some physical contact or screen that has occurred, they may continue to play.

• AVOIDABLE HINDERS

Since avoidable hinders are usually unintentional, they can occur even in the friendliest matches. A player who realizes that they have caused such a hinder should simply declare the opponent to be the winner of the rally. If a player feels that the opponent caused such a hinder, but the opponent does not make the call, the offended player should point out that an avoidable hinder occurred. However, unless the opponent agrees that an avoidable hinder occurred, it should not be called. Often just pointing out what appears to have been an avoidable hinder will prevent the opponent from such actions on future rallies.

• DISPUTES

If either player, for any reason desires to have a referee, it is considered common courtesy for the other player to go along with the request, and a referee suitable to both sides should be found. If there is no referee, and a question about a rule or rule interpretation comes up, seek out the club pro or a more experienced player. Then, after the match, contact your state racquetball association for an interpretation.

To purchase a complete, unabridged copy of the official rules, contact the USRA at 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921. Tel: 719/635-5396, Fax: 719/635-0685, or access them online at www.usra.org.

hall of fame

1997	Lynn Adams (Illinois)	1992	Jim Austin (Texas)
	Marty Hogan (Missouri)	1991	Cindy Baxter (Pennsylvania)
	Chuck Leve (Illinois)		Ed Remen (Virginia)
	Heather McKay (Australia)	1989	Charlie Garfinkle (New York)
	Dave Peck (Texas)		William Schmidtke (Minnesota)
	Mike Yellen (Michigan)		Luzell Wilde (Utah)
1996	Mary Low Acuff (North Carolina)	1988	Robert J. Kendler (Illinois)
	Keith Calkins (California)	1982	Gene Grapes (Pennsylvania)
	Johnny Hennen (Tennessee)		I.R. Gumer (Kentucky)
	Gary Mazaroff (New Mexico)	1974	Charlie Brumfield (California)
1994	Jo Kenyon (Florida)		Joseph Sobek (Connecticut)
			Peggy Steding (Texas)
			Bud Muehleisen (California)
		1973	Larry Lederman (Wisconsin)

contributors

JOE SOBEK OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR AWARD

Named for racquetball's founder, the Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award is for athletes, coaches, officials and administrators who have demonstrated, over the course of the preceding year, an outstanding commitment to the sport of racquetball.

1997	Randy Stafford (Tennessee)
1996	Otto Dietrich (Georgia)
1995	Margo Daniels (California)
1994	Mary Lyons (Florida)
1993	Bill & Mary Walker (California)
1992	Alfredo Lamont (Colorado)
1991	Fran Davis (New Jersey)
1990	Jo Kenyon (Florida)
1989	Gary Mazaroff (New Mexico)
1988	Linda Mojer (Florida)
1987	Connie Peterson-Martin (Oregon)
1986	Ivan Bruner (Wisconsin)
1985	Ed Martin (California)
1984	Mike Arnolt (Indiana)
1983	Al Seitelman (New York)
1982	Maureen Henrickson (Massachusetts)
1981	Paul Henrickson (Massachusetts) &
1981	Ed Martin (California)
1977	Sam Caizza (Pennsylvania)
1974	Marilyn Rankin (Canada)
1973	DeWitt Shy (Tennessee)

fair play

JOHN HALVERSON FAIR PLAY AWARD

In the early 70s, John Halverson inspired a lifetime award in his name. A national masters champion,

Halverson embodied the highest level of integrity, sportsmanship and dedication to racquetball. In his memory, the John Halverson Fair Play Award has since been awarded only when the the occasion calls for the highest recognition of fair play and enthusiasm for the sport.

1998	Andy Tucknott (Nebraska)
1997	Lorraine Galloway (New Jersey) &
1997	Warren Riecke (Maryland)
1995	Chris Cole (Texas)
1994	Annie Muniz (Texas)
1993	Ralph Reeb (Ohio)
1992	David Hunter (Tennessee)

presidential

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

The annual Presidential Award honors outstanding commitment and achievement by a State Association President in the preceding year, including membership growth, tournament administration and reporting, special development projects, fundraising, successful administrative ventures, publication projects or other exceptional program achievements.

1997	Charlie Munroe (Massachusetts)
1996	Geoff Peters (Illinois)
1995	Jen Yokota (Missouri)
1994	Tammy Fromel (Washington)
1993	Julee Nicolai (Pennsylvania)
1992	Annie Muniz (Texas)
1991	Doug Ganim (Ohio)
1990	Penny Missirlan (Nebraska)
1988	Sherri Armstrong (Colorado)
1987	Les Dittrich (Minnesota)
1986	George & Toni Deaver (Utah)
1985	Lance Bloom (New Hampshire)

athlete awards

athletes of the year

1997 Dan ObremskiMichelle Gould
 1996 Todd O'NeilMichelle Gould
 1995 Michael BronfeldMichelle Gould
 1994 Michael BronfeldRobin Levine
 1993 John Ellis.....Michelle Gould
 1992 Chris ColeMichelle Gilman Gould
 1991 Tim SweeneyMichelle Gilman
 1990 Andy RobertsMichelle Gilman
 1989 Tim DoyleMichelle Gilman
 1988 Andy Roberts.....Toni Bevelock
 1987 Jim CascioDiane Green
 1986 Egan InoueCindy Baxter

1985 Ed RemenCindy Baxter
 1984 Jay SchwartzMary Dee
 1983 Larry Fox.....Cindy Baxter
 1982 Ed AndrewsCindy Baxter
 1981 Bud MuehlheisenCarol French
 1980 Bud MuehlheisenCarol French
 1979 Bob McNamaraJan Pasternak
 1978
 1977 Bob McNamaraSara Green
 1976
 1975Janell Marriott
 1974 Bill SchmidtkeJan Pasternak

age group athletes of the year

Bud Muehleisen Award.....Peggy Steding Award

1997 Mitt Layton (Fla.).....Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
 1996 Victor Sacco (N.Y.).....Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)
 1995 Bobby Sanders (Ohio)Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
 1994 Ron Galbreath (Pa.)Gerri Stoffregen (Ohio)
 1993 Johnny Hennen (Tenn.)Susan Pfahler (Fla.)
 & Ron Galbreath (Pa.)
 1992 Dave Peck (Texas)Janet Myers (S.C.)
 1991 Paul Banales (Ariz.)Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
 1990 Dave Kovanda (Ohio)

junior athletes of the year

MaleFemale

1998 Josh Tucker (Mo.).....Brooke Crawford (Ore.)
 1997 Rocky Carson (Calif.).....Sara Borland (Idaho)
 1996 Rocky Carson (Calif.).....Sadie Gross (N.D.)
 1995 Shane Wood (Mass.)Vanessa Tulao (Tenn.)
 1994 Shane Wood (Mass.)Shannon Feaster (D.C.)
 1993 Shane Wood (Mass.)Tammy Brockbank (Idaho)
 1992 James Mulcock (N.M.).....Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)
 1991 Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)



usra media services

Tournament Results: The USRA issues advance, on-site and follow-up press releases on major national and international tournaments to national media by fax and mail – plus reports to its websites (see below). Advance and follow-up hometown media releases on top finishers are also provided. To request specific results, or to receive either noted service, please call the USRA Media/PR Department at 719/635-5396, ext. 26.

Athlete Profiles & Photos: The USRA can provide up-to-date biographical information on national team members, top level national champions, selected international athletes and administrators on request. Photos of national team members can also be requested, and provided free of charge in most cases.

Electronic Information: USRA press materials are regularly filed on the U.S. Olympic Committee website press box. For more information on this service, contact the USOC Public Information and Media Relations office at 719/578-4529.

Websites: Official USRA internet sites can be found at the following domain names:
<http://www.usra.org> • <http://www.racquetball.org> • <http://www.racqmag.com>
 Email can be directed to staff members by using: first initial,last name @ usra.org

international recordbook



all-time world champions

WORLD CUP TEAM CHAMPIONS & Top Finishers				
1998	United States	2. Canada; 3. Mexico; 4. Bolivia		
1996	United States	2. Canada; 3. Mexico; 4. Japan		
1994	United States	2. Canada; 3. Mexico; 4. Japan		
1992	United States	2. Canada; 3. Mexico; 4. Japan		
1990	United States	2. Canada; 3. Mexico; 4. Japan		
1988	United States	2. Canada; 3. Mexico; 4. Japan		
1986	Canada & United States	3. Japan; 4. Mexico		
1984	United States	2. Canada; 3. Holland; 4t. Mexico & Japan		
1981	United States	2. Mexico; 3. Japan; 4. Germany		

WORLD SINGLES CHAMPIONS

MEN		WOMEN	
1998	Sherman Greenfeld (Canada) . . .	Christie VanHees (Canada)	
1996	Todd O'Neil (USA/Texas) . . .	Michelle Gould (USA/Idaho)	
1994	Sherman Greenfeld (Canada) .	Michelle Gould (USA/Idaho)	
1992	Chris Cole (USA/Mich.)	Michelle Gould (USA/Idaho)	
1990	Egan Inoue (USA/Hawaii)	Heather Stupp (Canada)	
1988	Andy Roberts (USA/Tenn.)	Heather Stupp (Canada)	
1986	Egan Inoue (USA/Hawaii)	Cindy Baxter (USA/Pa.)	
1984	Ross Harvey (Canada)	Mary Dee (USA/N.C.)	
1981	Ed Andrews (USA/)	Cindy Baxter (USA/Pa.)	

MEN'S WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

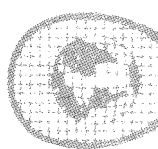
1998	USA Adam Karp (Calif.) &	Bill Sell (Calif.)
1996	USA Adam Karp (Calif.) &	Bill Sell (Calif.)
1994	USA John Ellis (Calif.) &	Eric Muller (Kan.)
1992	USA Doug Ganim (Ohio) &	Eric Muller (Kan.)
1990	USA Doug Ganim (Ohio) &	Dan Obremski (Pa.)
1988	USA Doug Ganim (Ohio) &	Dan Obremski (Pa.)
1986	USA Jack Nolan (Ariz.) &	Todd O'Neil (Vt.)
1984	USA Stan Wright (Calif.) &	Steve Trent
1981	USA Mark Malowitz &	Jeff Kwartler

WOMEN'S WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

1998	USA Joy MacKenzie (Calif.) &	Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1996	USA Joy MacKenzie (Calif.) &	Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1994	USA Laura Fenton (Neb.) &	Jackie Gibson (Calif.)
1992	USA Malia Bailey (Va.) &	Robin Levine (Calif.)
1990	USA Malia Bailey (Va.) &	Jackie Paraiso (Calif.)
1988	USA Diane Green (Fla.) &	Trina Rasmussen (Calif.)
1986	CAN Carol McFetridge &	Marion Sicotte
1984	USA Carol French &	Malia Kamahoahoa (Va.)
1982	USA Mary Ann Cluess &	Karen Borga

WORLD WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONS

1996	Rick Slaughter (USA/Tenn.)
1994	Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)
1992	Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)
1990	Chip Parmelly (USA/Calif.)



all-time world junior champions

BOYS 18- SINGLES GIRLS 18- SINGLES

1997	Rocky Carson (Calif.)	Lisa Kerr (Canada)
1996	Rocky Carson (Calif.)	Rhonda Rajsich (Ariz.)
1995	Shane Wood (Mass.)	Christine Van Hees (Canada)
1994	Jason Mannino (Calif.)	Claudine Garcia (Dom. Rep.)
1993	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)	Tammy Brockbank (Idaho)
1992	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)	Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)
1991	Sudsy Monchik (N.Y.)	Heather Dunn (Mass.)
1990	Doug Eagle (Texas)	Heather Dunn (Mass.)
1989	Brian Rankin (Fla.)	Michelle Gilman (Ore.)

BOYS 16- SINGLES GIRLS 16- SINGLES

1997	Kris Odegard (Canada)	Lisa Kerr (Canada)
1996	Willie Tilton (Colo.)	Brooke Crawford (Ore.)
1995	Rocky Carson (Calif.)	Amanda MacDonald (Canada)
1994	Bucky Freeman (Texas)	Sadie Gross (S.D.)
1993	Shane Wood (Mass.)	Shannon Feaster (D.C.)
1992	Shane Wood (Mass.)	Claudine Garcia (Dom. Rep.)
1991	Luis Munoz (Mexico)	Britt Engel (Fla.)
1990	Alan Engel (Fla.)	Rhonda Holt (Canada)
1989	Fabian Balmori (Venezuela)	Elkova Icenogle (Calif.)

BOYS 14- SINGLES GIRLS 14- SINGLES

1997	Jack Huczek (Mich.)	Karina Odegard (Canada)
1996	Shane Vanderson (Ohio)	Kristen Walsh (Utah)
1995	Ryan Staten (Kan.)	Lisa Kerr (Canada)
1994	Willie Tilton (Colo.)	Lisa Kerr (Canada)
1993	Bucky Freeman (Texas)	Vanessa Tulao (Tenn.)
1992	Mark Hurst (Fla.)	Sadie Gross (Minn.)
1991	Shane Wood (Mass.)	Shannon Feaster (D.C.)
1990	Paul Apilado (Texas)	Andrea Beugen (Minn.)
1989	Andy Thompson (Wis.)	Aimee Roehler (Penn.)

BOYS 12- SINGLES GIRLS 12- SINGLES

1997	Steven Klaiman (Texas)	Lindsay Deutsch (Texas)
1996	Jack Huczek (Mich.)	Grace Leutele (Ariz.)
1995	Jack Huczek (Mich.)	Karina Odegard (Canada)
1994	Shane Vanderson (Ohio)	Karina Odegard (Canada)
1993	Kris Odegard (Canada)	Lisa Kerr (Canada)
1992	Willie Tilton (Colo.)	Riva Wig (Canada)
1991	Jed Bhuta (Ala.)	Colleen Maginn (Wis.)
1990	Eric Storey (Utah)	Dawn Gates (Ill.)
1989	Jaron Icenogle (Calif.)	Shannon Feaster (Va.)

BOYS 10- SINGLES GIRLS 10- SINGLES

1997	Jamie Landeryou	Brandi Jacobson-Prentice (Can.)
1996	Jeremy Robbins (Texas)	Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
1995	Steven Klaiman (Texas)	Kimberly Irons (Ohio)
1994	Jack Huczek (Mich.)	Crystal Winfrey (Ohio)
1993	Jack Huczek (Mich.)	Karina Odegard (Canada)
1992	Shane Vanderson (Ohio)	Karina Odegard (Canada)
1991	Gabe Gose (N.M.)	Riva Wig (Canada)
1990	Kane Waselenchak (Canada)	Riva Wig (Canada)
1989	Hal Spangenberg (Calif.)	Dawn Gates (Ill.)

BOYS 8- SINGLES GIRLS 8- SINGLES

1997	David Ortega (Mexico)	Eleni Guzman (Mexico)
1996	David Ortega (Mexico)	Marcela Moreno (Mexico)

1995 Matthew Hammond (Ohio) Marcela Moreno (Mexico)
 1994 Jeremy Robbins (Texas) Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
 1993 Steven Klaiman (Texas) Kimberly Irons (Ohio)
 1992 Jack Huczek (Mich.) Molly Law (Colo.)
 1991 Matthew McElhaney (Fla.) . . . Karina Odegard (Canada)
 1990 Dan Thompson (Wis.) No division
 1989 Gabe Gose (N.M.) Riva Wig (Canada)

BOYS 8- MB SINGLES GIRLS 8- MB SINGLES
 1997 Juan Sanchez (Mexico) No division
 1996 David Ortega (Mexico) Eleni Guzman (Mexico)

1995 Matthew Hammond (Ohio) Kelley Fisher (Ohio)
 1994 Jeremy Robbins (Texas) Adrienne Fisher (Ohio)
 1993 Brandon Shoemaker (Ohio) . . . Kimberly Irons (Ohio)
 1992 Evan Honingsfeld (Texas) Kimberly Irons (Ohio)
 1991 John White (Fla.) No division
 1990 Shane Vanderson (Ohio) Alexys Feaster (D.C.)
 1989 Shane Vanderson (Ohio) Lynn Hansen (Iowa)

BOYS 6- MB SINGLES GIRLS 6- MB SINGLES
 1997 Ryan Noble (N.C.) Alejandra Licon (Mexico)

all-time world senior champions

Men's 35+ Women's 35+
 1997 Gary Sanchez (N.M.) Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
 1996 Steve Lerner (Calif.) Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
 1995 Mike Martinez (Calif.) Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
 1994 Mike Martinez (Calif.) Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
 1993 Bobby Corcoran (Ariz.) Debra Tisinger (Calif.)
 1992 Bobby Corcoran (Ariz.) Gail Woods (La.)
 1991 Bobby Corcoran (Ariz.) Terry Latham (N.M.)
 1990 Gary Mazaroff (N.M.) Janet Myers (N.C.)
 1989 Gary Mazaroff (N.M.) Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)

Men's 40+ Women's 40+
 1997 Dave Peck (Texas) Susan Hendricks (Ariz.)
 1996 Gene Couch (Fla.) Taffy Wood (Canada)
 1995 Gary Mazaroff (N.M.) Joanne Pomodoro (Mass.)
 1994 Gary Mazaroff (N.M.) Susan Hendricks (Ariz.)
 1993 Jose Carlos Flores (Mexico) Gail Woods (La.)
 1992 Dave George (Calif.) Nancy Kronenfeld (Ill.)
 1991 Darrell Warren (Calif.) Janet Myers (N.C.)
 1990 Fielding Snow (Wash.) Carole Dattisman (Pa.)
 1989 Dave Kovanda (Ohio) Agatha Falso (Fla.)

Men's 45+ Women's 45+
 1997 Dave Kovanda (Ohio) Judy Sands (N.J.)
 1996 Dave Kovanda (Ohio) Eileen Tuckman (Fla.)
 1995 Mike Murphy (Calif.) Shelley Ogden (Ohio)
 1994 Jack Crowther (Calif.) Agatha Falso (Fla.)
 1993 Skip Deal (Calif.) Agatha Falso (Fla.)
 1992 Jack Crowther (Calif.) Merjean Kelley (Calif.)
 1991 Bill Wolfe (N.Y.) Agatha Falso (Fla.)
 1990 Jeff Leon (Panama) Agatha Falso (Fla.)
 1989 Ed Remen (Va.) Linda Siau (Ariz.)

Men's 50+ Women's 50+
 1997 Dennis O'Brien (Idaho) Merjean Kelley (Calif.)
 1996 Dennis O'Brien (Idaho) Agatha Falso (Fla.)
 1995 Mike Aubrey (Ariz.) Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
 1994 Mike Aubrey (Ariz.) Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
 1993 Jerry Davis (Ohio) Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
 1992 Fred Letter (N.J.) Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
 1991 Len Corte (Ariz.) Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
 1990 Jerry Davis (Ohio) Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
 1989 Dario Mas (De.) Kathy Mueller (Minn.)

Men's 55+ Women's 55+
 1997 Mike Aubrey (Ariz.) Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
 1996 Fred Letter (N.J.) Sharon Hastings-Welty (Ore.)
 1995 Gordon Kelly (Mich.) Marion Johnson (Texas)
 1994 Gordon Kelly (Mich.) Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
 1993 Art Johnson (Colo.) Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
 1992 Paul Banales (Ariz.) Kathy Mueller (Minn.)
 1991 Paul Banales (Ariz.) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 1990 Art Johnson (Colo.) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 1989 Paul Banales (Ariz.) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)

Men's 60+ Women's 60+
 1997 Paul Banales (Ariz.) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 1996 Paul Banales (Ariz.) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 1995 Paul Banales (Ariz.) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 1994 Paul Banales (Ariz.) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 1993 Paul Banales (Ariz.) Jo Kenyon (Fla.)
 1992 Don Alt (Ohio) Lola Markos (Ill.)
 1991 Harvey Clar (Calif.) Lola Markos (Ill.)
 1990 Harvey Clar (Calif.) Bridin Vi Mhaolagain (Ireland)
 1989 Phillip Dzvick (Ill.) Mary Lou Acuff (Va.)

Men's 65+ Women's 65+
 1997 Don Alt (Ohio) Lola Markos (Ill.)
 1996 Joe Lambert (Texas) Lola Markos (Ill.)
 1995 Joe Lambert (Texas) Reta Harring (Wis.)
 1994 John Bogasky (Va.) Reta Harring (Wis.)
 1993 Joe Lambert (Texas) Phyllis Melvey (N.D.)
 1992 Fintan Kilbride (Canada) Joann Jones (Conn.)
 1991 Tony Duarte (Calif.) Dorothy Vezetinski (Wash.)
 1990 Art Goss (Colo.) Betty Mowery (N.M.)
 1989 Art Goss (Colo.) Eleanor Quackenbush (Ore.)

Men's 70+ Women's 70+
 1997 Joe Lambert (Texas) Dorothy Vezetinski (Wash.)
 1996 Dick Kincade (Colo.) no division
 1995 Tony Duarte (Calif.) Marion Russell (Calif.)
 1994 Glenn Melvey (N.D.) Eleanor Quackenbush (Ore.)
 1993 Nick Sans (Calif.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1992 Nick Sans (Calif.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1991 Earl Acuff (N.C.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1990 Luzell Wilde (Utah) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1989 Luzell Wilde (Utah) Mary Low Acuff (Va.)

Men's 75+ Women's 75+
 1997 Nick Sans (Calif.) Eleanor Quackenbush (Ore.)
 1996 Nick Sans (Calif.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1995 Charley Russell (Calif.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1994 Earl Acuff (N.C.) Mary Low Acuff (N.C.)
 1993 Earl Acuff (N.C.) no division
 1992 Fred Felton (Texas) no division
 1991 Allen Shepherd (Md.) no division
 1990 Harmon Minor (Colo.) no division
 1989 John Pearce (Texas) no division

Men's 80+ Women's 80+
 1997 George Spear (N.Y.) Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
 1996 Harry Steinman (Md.) no division
 1995 John Pearce (Texas) no division
 1994 John Pearce (Texas) no division
 1993 John Pearce (Texas) Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
 1992 Jack Daly (Va.) Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
 1991 no division Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
 1990 no division Zelda Friedland (N.M.)
 1989 Howard Cole (N.M.) Zelda Friedland (N.M.)



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1992 • National Doubles • High School Championships • **National Singles:** Chris Cole vs. John Ellis • **Junior Olympics:** Jason Mannino vs. Javad Aghaloo & Elkova Icenogle vs. Letisha Bussell • **World's Best Racquetball:** Highlights from five of the past season broadcasts (including portions of 1991).

1991 • World Intercollegiates: Elaine Hooghe vs. Cindy Doyle & Tim Sweeney vs. Jim Floyd • **National Singles [Women's Open]:** Michelle Gilman vs. Toni Bevelock • **National Singles [Men's Open]:** Tim Sweeney vs. Egan Inoue & Charlie Garrido vs. Brian Rankin (M19+) • **Junior Olympics:** Elkova Icenogle vs. Jenny Spangenberg & John Ellis vs. Sameer Hadid • **Pacific Rim Championships:** Michelle Gilman vs. Heather Stupp &

Tim Hansen/Jim Floyd vs. Mike Ceresia/Ross Harvey • **National Outdoors:** Lauren Sheproh/Robin McBride vs. Mary Lyons/Susan Morgan Pfahler & Brian Hawkes/Greg Freeze vs. Tim Hansen/Jason Waggoner • **World Challenge:** Robin Levine vs. Sue Mactaggart & Sherman Greenfeld vs. Brian Hawkes • **World Challenge:** Roger Hampersad (Canada) vs. Raul Torres (Mexico) • **National Doubles:** John Ellis/Eric Muller vs. Jeff Evans/Doug Ganim & Malia Bailey/Toni Bevelock vs. Michelle Gilman/Jackie Gibson

1990 • Tournament of the Americas: Michelle Gilman vs. Kay Kuhfeld & Sherman Greenfeld vs. Andy Roberts • **National Singles:** Toni Bevelock vs. Michelle Gilman & Tim Doyle vs. Egan Inoue • **Junior Olympics:** Joel Bonnett vs. John Ellis & Elkova Icenogle vs. Renee Lockey • **National Doubles:** Michelle Gilman/Jackie Paraiso vs. Malia Bailey/Toni Bevelock

1989 • National Singles: Cindy Doyle vs. Michelle Gilman & Tim Doyle vs. Andy Roberts • **Junior Olympics:** Cindy Doyle vs. Michelle Gilman & Mike Guidry vs. Joe Paraiso • **National Doubles:** Malia Bailey/Toni Bevelock vs. Cindy Doyle/Michelle Gilman

1988 • National Singles • National Doubles

competition – \$24.95 each

instruction

Returning the Serve

By Andy Roberts

To offer a good return of serve, you often must have more instinct than skill. These days the serve is usually traveling at such a high rate of speed that pure reaction – coupled with instinct – are necessities.

When I talk about instinct I mean that *the server has all the advantages, so the receiver has to have a strong desire to win.* You cannot sit in the back court and hope for a short or long serve, or a back wall set-up. You must attack! You must create indecision in your opponent – what can they serve you?

Beyond the basics, one way to attack is to learn to cut off lob serves. Without question, mastering the “short-hop” return is very difficult, but if you start practicing and incorporating this into games now, it can really improve your matches. Remember, keep it simple. Don’t try to kill the ball off the cutoffs ... the goal is to put your opponent in the deep court. Make the shot hard on your opponent, not yourself!

I think the following tips will help improve your overall performance.



performance series

PHOTOS: MIKE BOATMAN

return of serve

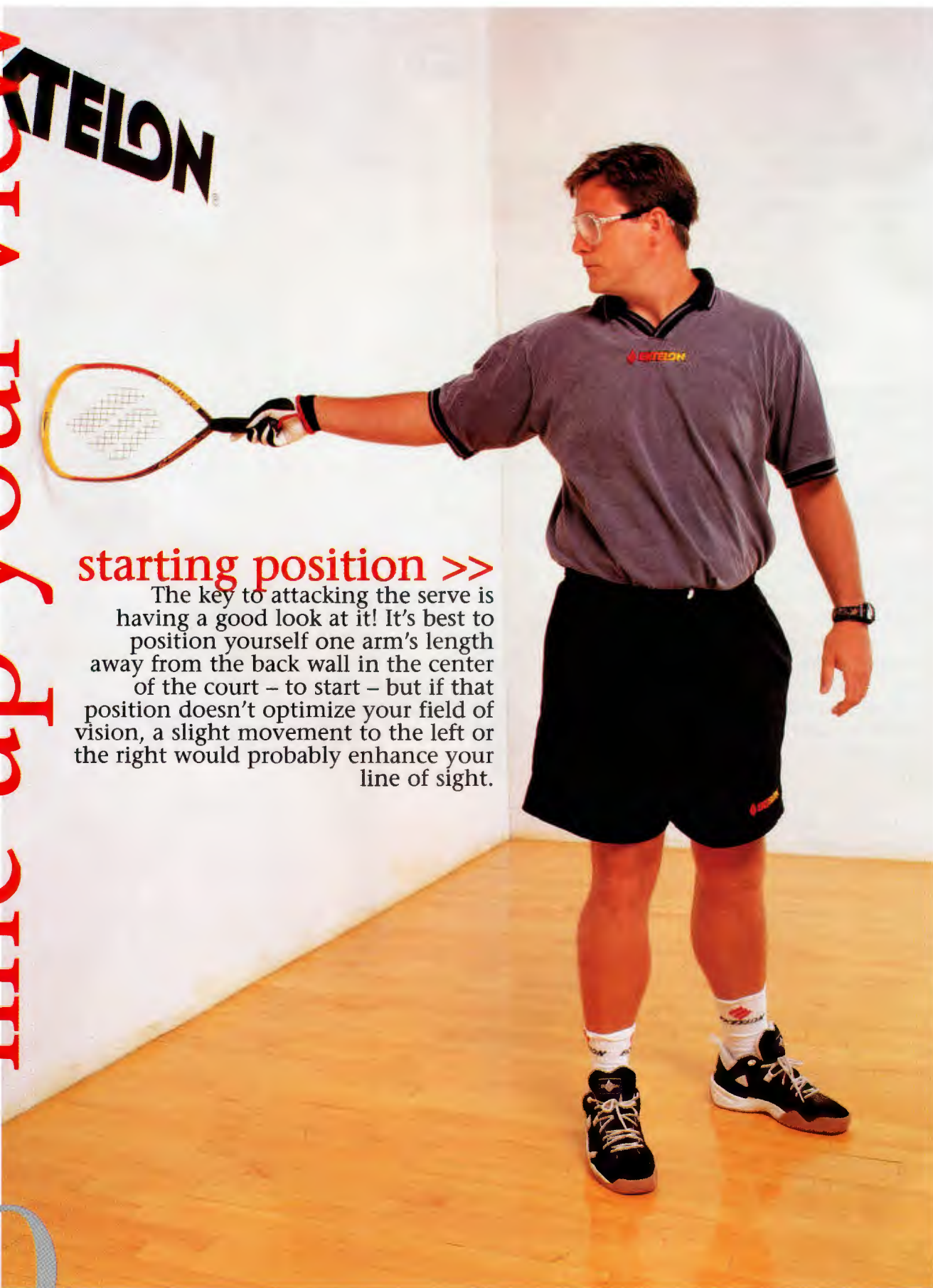
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RACQUETBALL

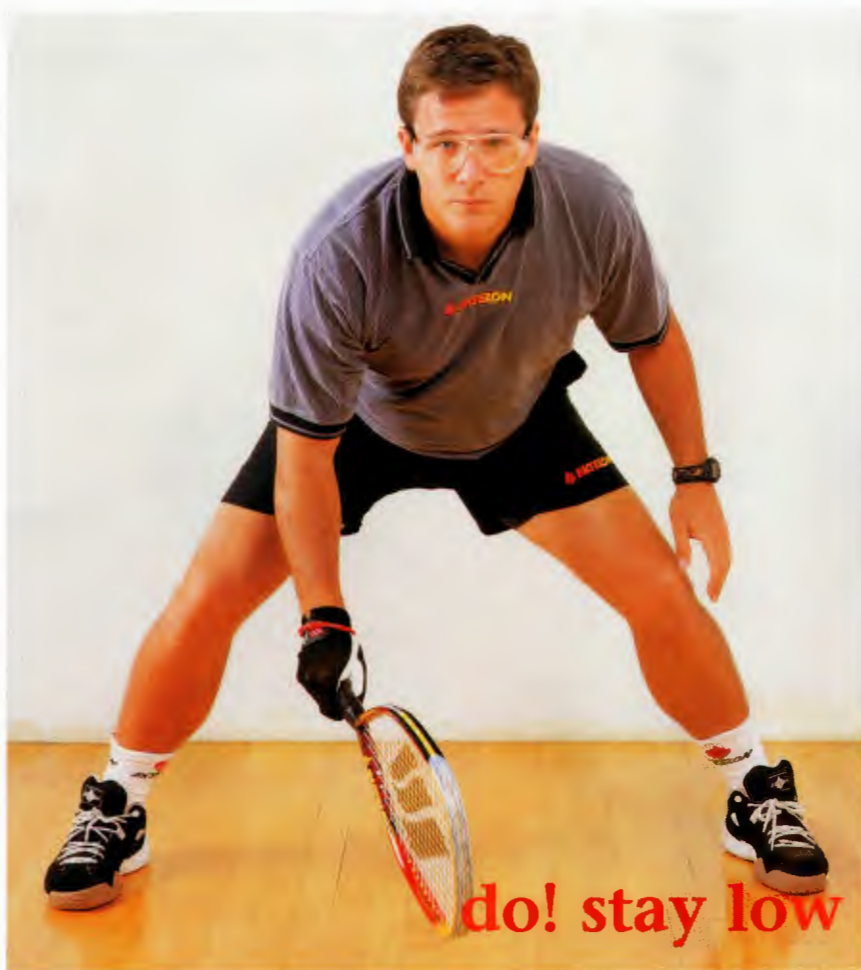
line up your view

starting position >>

The key to attacking the serve is having a good look at it! It's best to position yourself one arm's length away from the back wall in the center of the court – to start – but if that position doesn't optimize your field of vision, a slight movement to the left or the right would probably enhance your line of sight.



low profile stance



^^posture

The correct posture to return serve should be a position which is going to allow you to move the quickest. A common problem is that the starting position is too vertical, which inhibits both quick movement side-to-side – as well as getting low on the ball. That is too much to think about and many times you don't have enough time to establish good return posture. The best returners get a comfortable low position so they are ready to make one decision once they track the ball: forehand or backhand.

Another common mistake is chasing a sidewall-to-backwall serve into the corner. Give yourself plenty of room to swing at the ball when it comes off the backwall!



down-the-line return



cross-court return



What makes these positions different? Notice Andy's right foot (and the shadow that he casts). His stance for the cross-court return is slightly more open –toward the front wall– allowing an easier cross-court angle on his backhand return.

^^ keep 'em guessing

After you have correct posture and a good view of the ball comes rule #1. Punish your opponent for hitting weak serves! A weak serve normally comes in the form of a back wall set-up. If you are unable to capitalize on weak serves you will never be able to create pressure for the server.

Rule #2. Don't hit the ball back to the server. It sounds simple, but very often this seems to become a big factor in the match. We know the server is going to be near the service box – therefore the return should be either down-the-line or cross-court. A down-the-line or cross-court will force the server to run backwards to hit the ball – and running backwards while trying to hit an offensive shot is very difficult at any level. But don't be afraid to hit a pinch off the return every once in a while to keep the server guessing. If you decide to go defensive, a ceiling ball is fine. Just remember to keep the return simple, and whatever you do, don't skip a return of serve!

Q&A...Q&A...

It's the start of a new season, but I hate to practice! What can I do to improve my service game, dress up my training routines and still have fun?

If you look at the game of racquetball in very simple terms, you realize that when you are in the service box, you have a chance to win a point. If you are receiving serve, you have a chance to lose a point. Your next realization is, "Gosh, the serve and serve return are pretty important skills to master if I want to be an effective player."

Back in the old days, my favorite drill was the "serve & serve return drill." It requires two people and is a simple, two-shot drill; a serve and a return. That's it! No rallies, just a serve and a return.

The goal of this drill is simple: If you are the server, hit a serve that prevents your opponent from hitting a good return. If you are the receiver, hit a good kill, pass, or ceiling shot.

The drill is played to eleven points. If you are the server and your serve keeps the receiver from hitting a good return, you score the point. If you are the receiver and you hit a good kill, pass, or ceiling shot, you score the point.

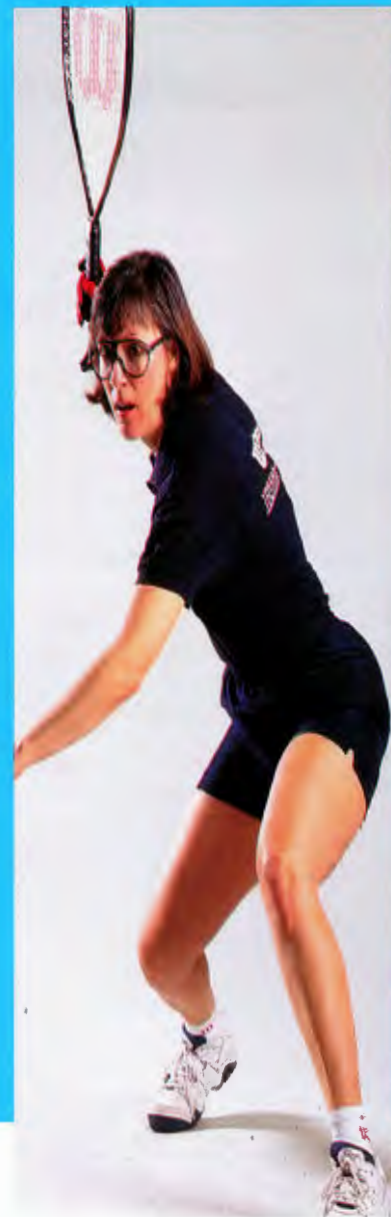
One player will serve the entire eleven point game, while their opponent will be the receiver throughout the eleven points. When the game is over the players switch places.

The beauty of this drill is that it allows each person to focus totally on one skill. 100% of the server's focus is on hitting an excellent serve while the receiver only concentrates on hitting an effective return.

As with any drill, be picky and aim for perfection. For instance, you are the server and you leave a big, high setup off the back wall. The receiver skips the big, high setup. Play the point over. The server shouldn't score a point with a crummy serve!

As the receiver, define a good pass, kill and ceiling shot. If your return does not qualify, you lose a point.

I love this drill! My practice partner and I would do three sets of this drill (I serve 3 games, she serves 3 games) at least three times a week. It made a huge difference in my game and I felt a lot more confident, especially receiving serve. Put it to the test and you will see the difference in your game!



Game Plan
Featuring Lynn Adams

Wilson
RACQUETBALL

MAINS & CROSSES

By Steve Crandall
Vice President, Sales & Marketing

ASHAWAY
RACQUET STRINGING

Those Big, New Racquets with their Long, Long Strings

Unless you were recently rescued from a desert island, you've probably noticed a bunch of new racquet designs on the market. Spurred by a rule change that allows racquets up to 22" long, manufacturers have not been slow to introduce a whole crop of new, ultra-big models, many of them with unusual features that have ramifications for string selection and performance.

The basic idea is simple: larger racquet faces have longer main strings, which means more power. The manufacturers achieve that in different ways, but one common design trick is to extend the length of the racquet's throat, and concentrate the bottom ends of most or all of the main strings at or near the throat. This imposes a fan-like pattern to the stringbed, and has the effect of lengthening the mains — particularly the outermost ones, as compared to a racquet with a traditional square-grid string pattern. Racquets that utilize this design include: Wilson Air Hammer® 9.9 Stretch; Head Ti.175 XL; Ektelon Power Ring Pro LongBody™; and the whole E-Force line.

Jonah Bishop, owner of Racquet Sports Unlimited in Pittsburg, KS, and a professional stringer, reports that many skilled players prefer to use relatively stiff strings in these racquets. Otherwise, the ultra-long mains seem a bit too stretchy. But simultaneously, he's seen average stringing tensions drop from 35-40 lb. down to 30-35 lb. These two factors work against each other: the stiffer strings boost control and reduce power, while the lower tensions do the opposite. "In terms of racquet performance, I don't see an entirely logical explanation for this," says Bishop. "We're getting into a subjective area of what feels best to the player."

In terms of durability, however, this setup makes sense. The larger racquets have very "open" string patterns (i.e., a lot of space between the strings), which means less support for each string. Stiffer strings tend to be more notch-resistant, and strings at lower tension are obviously less prone to break from over-stretching.

Jonah likes a hybrid string setup in these larger racquets, which is one way to combine durability and stiffness with good power. Stiff Kevlar® for the longer main strings, and more resilient nylon for the shorter crosses seem to provide good consistent response.

Here are a few more points of interest from Jonah: E-Force's Omen™ and Torrent™ models feature a new Control Wrap™ design, in which the strings wrap around the head of the frame rather than passing through holes

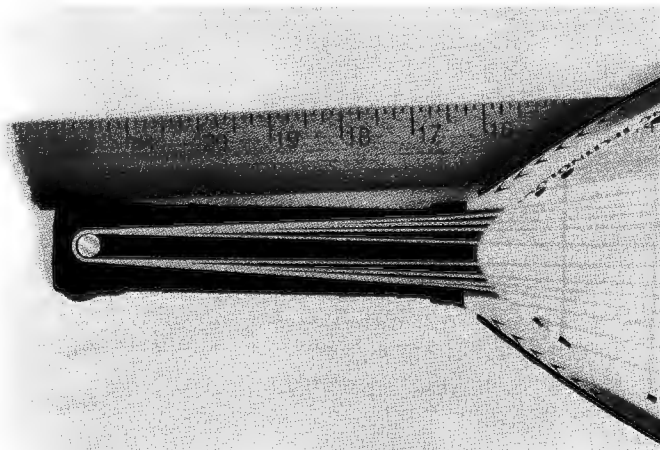
and grommets. This reduces the tightness of the bend the string must take, which may promote longer string life.

Ektelon's "Power Ring" design seems to produce main strings that are most nearly equal in length. This should promote consistent response across the face of the racquet.

In E-Force's LongString™ design, on the other hand, there is great disparity between the length of the eight centermost mains, and the remaining outer ones. This doesn't seem to produce inconsistent response across the racquet face, however, so there's probably no need to set string tensions independently. Individual string tensioning is possible but difficult, and it adds cost to the stringing job.

Players who do their own stringing will find that the standard 36' coil of string may not be long enough for the new oversize frames. Some manufacturers have increased their sets to 40' to make up the difference.

You may find that your "old" stringing setup doesn't generate the best results on the new racquets. As always, it's a good idea to discuss your needs with your stringer, and experiment with different setups until you find the one that brings out your best.



Ashaway, RI — Most of the new racquets feature very long mainstrings to maximize power. Here's E-Force's approach: passing the eight centermost mains all the way through the handle. (Photo: courtesy E-Force)

AmPRO CLUB RACQUET

American Professional Racquetball Organization

News for Professionals in the Business of Racquetball • Special to RACQUETBALL

The Fitness Coaching Corner by March Lynch

As you may have noticed, the last two articles I have written have been a departure from the usual nutrition topics that I used to address. Instead, we're now going to focus on a different aspect of fitness/nutrition/performance. That aspect is about putting information into practice. Once you know what to eat, how to work out, and how to practice, the question becomes how do you take what you know and turn that into a lifestyle – something that produces results and stays with you. Some of my clients are absolute experts in nutrition and fitness. They have read all the books, tried all the diets, and have a tremendous amount of information at their fingertips. The struggle for them is doing what they know is 'right' to get the results they want. What I eventually hear from those most frustrated is, "I'll never be fit (lose weight, be a winner, etc.) because I'm weak, I don't have any willpower."

So let's address the topic of willpower. First of all, understand that *willpower doesn't work*. Willpower is a short term source of energy. You can say to yourself, "I will eat only vegetables and fruit and I know I will lose weight." How long can you continue this regimen? A day, a week, a month, longer? Ultimately



you will fail because your body cannot survive on fruits and vegetables alone. Your body's innate survival mechanism will cause you to 'fail' and eat something else. Your brain was able to override your body for a limited period only. You cannot force yourself to do anything long-term which is not in agreement with your body's innate intelligence. The whole concept of willpower assumes you can forever override your true nature.

Your true nature, intuition, inner knowing ... these are names for a very powerful, more subtle form of energy that is naturally within you and therefore sustainable. Tapping into this source of energy drives your goals rather than using willpower to force them. The way to access this energy requires first of all acknowledging that it exists and then making the room for it to work for you. Making room may involve things that don't seem remotely related to your goals. Relaxing, for example. Taking time to do nothing at all, or read a book, or take a bath. These may seem to contradict the supposed 'effort' it 'should' take to achieve a goal, yet may be the most important thing you can do toward achieving it.

For the next week or so make an effort to just notice when you are pushing (using willpower) to get things done and when you are 'going with the flow' (using your intuitive self) to accomplish something. Once you know and feel the difference, you will start to choose 'flow' over 'push' in many areas of your life.

As always, I welcome your comments and feedback. You can reach me at Coach2u812@aol.com or send a letter to the magazine, care of Marcy Lynch. See you next issue!

Scheduled AmPRO Instructor Clinics

Date	Club & City
September 18 - 20	Laguna Creek Racquet Club – Elk Grove, CA
September 18 - 20	Tinker YMCA – Oklahoma City, OK
October 2 - 4	TBA – Albany, NY
October 9 - 11	Forty-Six Fitness & Racquetball – Fairfield, NJ
January 15 - 17, 1999	Southern Athletic Club – Atlanta, GA

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

rb:people & places



Rumble Participants (L-R): Shane Karmelin (Ga.), Allan Crockett (Ala.), Drew Toland (Ark.) and Daniel Fowler (Ga.). Photo: Vicki Hughes.

'98 RUMBLE

Reported by Jim Garner

The RUMBLE is a camp we have hosted for 10 years for kids going to nationals. It is an intense week of preparation for the Junior Nationals, and is limited to 15 invitees. We have had kids from all over the country attend, as well as the Odegards (Chris and Karina) from Canada, who are both current world champions in their age groups. This year the RUMBLE was held at Prime Fitness in Birmingham.

We have had numerous national and world champions attend the camp over the years. One year we had five of the kids from the camp make the Junior National team. This year Jack Sorenson (a veteran junior coach and founder of the "RUMBLE"), Jason Thoerner (current #1 ranked open player), and myself helped run the camp. We stayed at the club, ate at the club, and practiced at the club. Besides a water and shaving cream "controlled riot," everything went well. The "RUMBLE MOMS" who helped feed and doctor for the week were Vicki Hughes and Natalie Crockett.

In addition to those pictured above, others attending were Andrew Coon (KY), Erik Leetch (Ark), Jacob Karmelin (Ga), Marcus Hughes (Ga), Clay Burris (Fl.), Brad Slocum (Fl.), Chris Crockett (Al), Michael Lawrence (Al), Stephen Densmore (Al), and Jeff Garner (Al.).

1998 ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Reported by John R. Fuhrmann

Armed Forces racquetball was at its very best at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas! Reigning 1997 U.S. National 'All Age' Champion, Air Force Airman Rob DeJesus and U.S. National 35+ Champion, Army SSGT Jimmy Lowe led 70 of the military's top racquetball players into the Armed Forces' strongest-ever field of competitors to name champions in Open, 30+, and 40+, and Women's Open and Seniors Divisions.

Amazing athleticism, eyepopping power, precision finesse racquetball and a week of grueling 95-degree court temperatures gave players and fans plenty to contend with, enjoy – and sweat about – throughout the spirited competition.

Round robin play in all divisions set initial seedings and pairings for the three day championship double elimination tournament.

The Winners

Open Division: Jimmy Lowe - Army

Army SSGT Jimmy Lowe and Air Force A1C Rob DeJesus battled in three spectacular matches. DeJesus' 170 mph rocket serves and Lowe's impressive court control and shot-making were tournament highpoints. DeJesus won match one in a two-hour 6-15, 15-6, 11-3 marathon. Lowe advanced to the showdown match by upending AF 1LT Tom Fuhrmann 15-10, 15-9 to win the losers' bracket.

The cat-quick Lowe forced the double elimination "IF" match with a decisive 15-13, 15-3 win over DeJesus. Both DeJesus' and Lowe dazzled the more than 200 spectators with bottom board rollouts, unbelievable dive gets and amazing splats. Lowe took the championship in a hard fought tiebreaker 15-13, 12-15, 11-8. DeJesus' photon power serves and passes came up short against Lowe's consistent forehand piches and frustrating around-the-wall defensive returns with both finalists fighting extreme heat and fatigue in the two hour finale.

Men's Seniors Division: Miguel Santiago - Army

Army SFC Miguel Santiago rolled undefeated to the Seniors title. AF MSGT Duane Stevens took second

place with a come back 7-15, 15-14, 11-7 win over U.S. Regional Champion, Army Major Roger Miller.

Men's Masters Division: Gil Rodriguez - Army
Army Lt Col Gil Rodriguez (Virginia Open Champion) won his third consecutive Masters' title. Showing the tournament's strongest backhand splats and near flawless shot-making, Rodriguez crushed a talented field. Rodriguez cruised to the finals before losing a game, where Army teammate SFC Jesus Moctezuma challenged Rodriguez in the finals by forcing a tiebreaker. Rodriguez rode backhand splat winners and cross court passes to a 15-11, 14-15, 11-15, 11-3 tiebreaker Masters' title.

Womens' Open - Tina Bragdon

Women's Senior - Gladys Leonard

AF Capt Tina Bragdon moved through a six player field undefeated to earn her second straight Armed Forces and AF Womens' Open titles. Army AFC Gladys Leonard showed consistency, power, and excellent conditioning in winning the Womens' Army and Seniors round robin event.

EXCELL.NET Named Official Website Provider for USRA Sites

Excell.Net - an Internet Service Provider located in Longmeadow, Massachusetts - was recently named as the official website provider for the USRA websites (including the **RACQUETBALL** magazine site). Excell.Net is owned/operated by Stan and Patty Shaw of East Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

Excell.Net has been in business since April of 1996. Patty Shaw manages the day-to-day activities of the business, performing most of Excell.Net's customer service functions. Patty also performs accounts payable and accounts receivable functions. Stan Shaw performs the technical tasks and assists Patty with customer service. Stan and Patty's two children, Melinda and Stan IV, also help out with the business, Melinda assists with customer service, and Stan IV assist Stan with website support.

Stan, Patty and Stan IV are all racquetball players who participate in most Connecticut tournaments, New England Regional tournaments - as well as some recent national tournaments. Excell.Net has the goal of being the #1 ISP in the racquetball world!

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Netherlands Racquetball Recognized

Reported by Mike Mesecke
German Racquetball Federation

It was recently announced that the Netherlands Racquetball Association (NRA) officially has been recognized by its National Olympic Committee and the Netherlands Sports Federation. The NRA was founded in May 1978. After more than 20 years of hard work and efforts, Dutch Racquetball is taking a very important step in the development of Racquetball in the Netherlands.

"I hope that this will give racquetball in the Netherlands some kind of boost and that it makes a name for our sport in the Netherlands," said René Hehemann, General Secretary of the European Racquetball Federation (ERF). "I sincerely hope that other ERF members will establish this status shortly, as well."

Intercontinental ...

Reported by Kevin Vicroy
International Racquetball Federation

Siblings Arwa and Eric Meijer of the Netherlands are half Dutch and half Bolivian. The Meijer's mother, Giardenia Giacomani, is full-blooded Cochabambina, while their father is from the Netherlands. The two met in Cochabamba and the rest is a cross-hemisphere love story.



"We were here last year and I desperately wanted to come back," Eric said of his last trip to Cochabamba. "Now, with this tournament, it's even better. I've played the best I can, but it's been pretty tough."

Arwa was equally as happy to be back in their mother's home city. "I love it here... I want to live here," she said. "I've got all my family here in one city. In the Netherlands, my family is in different cities so I don't see them a lot."

Eric and Arwa, both fluent in several languages including Dutch, Spanish and English, arrived in Bolivia two weeks prior to the start of the World Championships.

Athletes Receive \$22,000.00 from the Canadian Olympic Association

Reported by David Hinton
Racquetball Canada

In documentation recently received from the Canadian Olympic Association it was revealed that Racquetball Canada athletes will receive a total of \$22,000.00 in the 1998-99 fiscal year through two of their programs.

Vicki Shanks (North Vancouver, BC), Lucie Guillemette (Lac Beauport, PQ), Michael Green (Hannon, ON) and Mike Ceresia (Burlington, ON) will each receive \$4,000.00 through the COA Athlete Fund. These contributions represent four of the two hundred and seven (207) awards made by the Canadian Olympic Association through the program this fiscal year.

Paul Albert (Moncton, NB) and Amanda MacDonald will each receive \$3,000.00 through the Canadian Olympic Association's Petro-Canada Olympic Torch Scholarship Program. A total of one hundred and thirty-one (131) athletes are funded this fiscal year under this program

1998 Canadian Junior National Championships: June 30 - July 4

Reported by David Hinton
Racquetball Canada

GIRLS DIVISIONS — SINGLES: Girl's 18 and Under — 1. Karina Odegard (SK); 2. Julie Neubauer (AB); 3. Carolyn Peddle (NFLD). Red: Veronique Tetreault (QC); White: Janine Kelly (SK). Girl's 16 and Under — 1. Karina Odegard (SK); 2. Veronique Guillemette (QC); 3. Genevieve Brodeur (QC); Red: Leah Mortensen (SK); White: Kelly Shaw (SK). Girl's 14 and Under — 1. Cathleen Wachs (MB); 2. Stephanie Oteyza (MB); 3. Tiara Johnson (SK); Red: Alison Schlichemeyer (SK); White: Megan Daciuk (MB). Girl's 12 and Under — 1. Brandi Jacobson Prentice (SK); 2. Tiara Johnson (SK); 3. Alison Schlichemeyer (SK); Red: Kaela Putaro (MB); White: Angela Denbow (MB). Girl's 10 and Under — 1. Angela Denbow (MB); 2. Alicia Reid (MB); 3. Lysa-Ann Landerville (QC). Girl's 8 and Under — Alicia Reid (MB); 2. Lysa-Ann Landerville (QC); 3. Ceilidh Beveridge (NB). **DOUBLES:** Girl's 18 and Under — 1. Genevieve Brodeur (QC) / Veronique Guillemette (QC); 2. Leah Mortensen (SK) / Erin Shaw (SK); 3. Carolyn Peddle (NFLD) / Kathryn Hills (NB).

BOYS DIVISIONS — SINGLES: Boys 18 and Under — 1. Kam Barteski (SK); 2. Simon Rainville (QC); 3. Jean Philippe Morin (QC). Red: Alexander Soucy (QC); White: Scott Johansson (SK). Boys 16 and Under — 1. Vincent Gagnon (QC); 2. Warren Chow (BC); 3. Pier-Alexandre Jean (QC). Red: Terence Li (SK); White: David Serra (ON); Blue: Cameron Wachs (MB). Boys 14 and Under — 1. Micheal McLean (MB); 2. Remi Perras (QC); 3. Damien Reilly (AB); Red: Eric Desrochers (ON); White: Eric Langelier (QC); Blue: Charles Chouinard (QC). Boys 12 and Under — 1. Eric Desrochers (ON); 2. James Landeryou (SK); 3. Micheal Vera (SK); Red: Stephan Crane (NB); White: Micheal Burgess (MB); Blue: Vincent Richard (QC). Boys 10 and Under — 1. Douglas Wong (BC); 2. Micheal Burgess (MB); 3. Dylan Hoemsen (SK); Red: Scott Campbell (MB); White: Sheldon Semrick (MB). Boys 10 and Under Multi Bounce — 1. Scott Campbell (MB); 2. Sheldon Semrick (MB); 3. Mathieu Grand'Maitre (QC). Multi Bounce — 1. Barret Huslak (SK); 2. Tommy Wedgewood (QC). **DOUBLES:** Boys 18 and Under — 1. Terence Li (SK) / Kam Barteski (SK); 2. Jean Philippe Morin

31st USRA National Doubles Championships

Merritt Athletic Club/Security • Baltimore, Maryland: Oct. 14-18

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eves) _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Partner _____ Division _____

Partner _____ Division _____

Partner _____ Mixed _____ *

*A third division is offered for Mixed Division play only. Players in three divisions will be allowed to compete in only ONE consolation round.

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, Merritt Athletic Club/Security, Penn Racquet Sports, 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 _____

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

MC/Visa _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

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First event (\$70.00) \$ _____

Second event (\$35.00) \$ _____

Third event (\$15.00) \$ _____

USRA Competitive License Membership (\$20.00) \$ _____

Late Fee (payment on site is surcharged) (\$15.00) \$ _____

Telephone Entry Processing Fee (\$8.00) \$ _____

Tax deductible donation to Olympic Dream \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Entry form is not complete – nor is entry accepted – without check for correct amount enclosed, required signatures affixed and all information provided. If any fees are pre-authorized for payment at tournament check-in, they will be processed as a late entry – and surcharged a \$15.00 late fee. • Official Ball: ProPenn •

MEN	•Divisions•	WOMEN
_____	Open	_____
_____	24- *	_____
_____	25+	_____
_____	30+	_____
_____	35+	_____
_____	40+	_____
_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____

*both players must be 24 years of age, or under, to compete in this division.

• Skill Levels & Age/Skill •

Both players on a team must be certified to compete in skill levels, either by AmPRO rating, or via written verification from their state president (indicating competition at the entered level in the preceding four months). Players may choose only ONE division shown in red.

MEN	•Divisions•	WOMEN
_____	A	_____
_____	B	_____
_____	C	_____
_____	D	_____
_____	24- A/B	_____
_____	24- C/D	_____
_____	25+ A/B	_____
_____	25+ C/D	_____
_____	35+ A/B	_____
_____	35+ C/D	_____
_____	45+ A/B	_____
_____	45+ C/D	_____
_____	55+ A/B	_____
_____	55+ C/D	_____

• Mixed Doubles Divisions •

_____	MX Open	_____	MX 45+
_____	MX A	_____	MX 50+
_____	MX B	_____	MX 55+
_____	MX C	_____	MX 60+
_____	MX D	_____	MX 65+
_____	MX 24-	_____	MX 70+
_____	MX 25+	_____	MX 75+
_____	MX 30+	_____	MX 80+
_____	MX 35+	_____	MX 85+
_____	MX 40+	_____	

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(QC) / Alexander Soucy (QC); 3. Vincent Gagnon (QC) / Simon Rainville (QC); Consolation: Warren Chow (BC) / Rudy Chow (BC). Boys 14 and Under — 1. Remi Ferras (QC) / Charles Chouinard (QC); 2. Simon Jobin (QC) / Eric Langelier (QC); 3. Patrick Charron (QC) / Hugo Laprise (QC); Consolation: James Landeryou (SK) / Tim Landeryou (SK).

TEAM / PROVINCIAL STANDINGS: 1. Saskatchewan; 2. Manitoba; 3. Quebec; 4. British Columbia; 5. Ontario; 6. Alberta; 7. New Brunswick; 8. Newfoundland.

French National Championships 1998: May 30-June 1 in Anglet, France

Reported by Mike Mesecke
German Racquetball Federation
 Men's Open — 1. Bruno Bouillac; 2. Pierre Groleau; 3. Jeff Dachary; 4. Francois Baros.
 Women's Open — 1. Sandy Deplanque; 2. Christiane Teulon; 3. Cathy Menwille; 4. Annick Casterlain. Men's B — 1. Ambroise Antolinee. Men's C — 1. Tony Heudes; 2. Cyrill Lasbacas; 3. Jean Montaudy.
 Veterans 45+ — 1. Jean-Marie Mancel; 2. Jean-Pierre Boudart; 3. Guy Beaumont.
 Doubles — 1. B. Bouillac/F. Baros; 2. B. Elizagaray/J. Dachary.

Heidelberg Summer Slam 1998

Reported by Mike Mesecke
German Racquetball Federation
 On the last weekend in July, the 6th Summer Slam in Heidelberg opened the 1998-99 European Racquetball season. With players from the USA, Germany, France and Spain, this annual event made a good beginning of a new RB season in Europe. Thanks to tournament director Bob Vogt and his crew.

Final results: Men's Open — 1. Michael Bowers (USA); 2. Antonio Bebia (Spain); 3. Eric Curtis (USA). Women's Open — 1. Ynez Slaymaker (USA); 2. Yvonne Kortess (Germany); 3. Judy LeFlore (USA). Men's Seniors — 1. Otto Carrizo (USA); 2. Bjorn Jensen (Germany); 3. Antonio Bebia (Spain). Men's Masters — 1. Donnie Crowe (USA); 2. James Johnson (USA); 3. Allen Snyder (USA). Men's Open B — 1. Russ Maziaka (USA); 2. Jeff Mackey (USA); 3. Julian Torres (USA). Men's Open C — 1. Hermann Bachmaier (Germany); 2. Howie Brewster (USA); 3. Tobi Paulsen (Germany).



changingtimes by Luke St. Onge

Racquetball lost a great friend, supporter and benefactor when Scott Winters recently left Ektelon to advance his career in marketing. Scott started out in racquetball as a teaching professional, then later headed the USRA Junior Council in the mid

eighties, and hosted the 1985 Junior Nationals in Newport Beach, California. His marketing career moves landed him at several racquet manufacturers across the country before he was selected to take charge of the Ektelon division of Prince. Throughout his career, Scott has been a dedicated supporter of the sport and its growth worldwide — who managed many developmental projects by taking a personal and hands-on approach. We wish Scott every success and happiness in his new endeavor.

The IX World Championships are now history. The Bolivian Worlds were very special in every sense. The crowds at Opening Ceremonies; the Parade of Nations; the support of the Bolivian government through Mr. Juan Antonio Tehran of the Ministry of Sport; the LOC and their hundreds of volunteers, and the ever-present press corps coverage. All this, plus the competitive break-

throughs by the Bolivian, Venezuelan, and Mexican teams in the team competition; the visit by Bolivian President Gral. Hugo Banzer Suarez, who opened the Games; and the exhibition doubles match between IRF Executives and the Bolivian Vice President and the Sports Minister; the gorgeous venue at the Country Club Of Cochabamba with four new courts and an exceptional staff who worked 24 hours a day to be ready. And last, but certainly not least, President of the Bolivia Racquetball Federation, Jose Virreira who saw his dream and vision come to life — after working tirelessly for a full decade to make the '98 Worlds become a reality. To all, a well-deserved round of applause in gratitude!



BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT GRAL. HUGO BANZER SUAREZ PRESENTS THE BOLIVIAN FLAG AT OPENING CEREMONIES. TO HIS LEFT: JUAN ANTONIO TEHRAN OF THE BOLIVIAN SPORTS MINISTRY.



irf world juniors



International Racquetball Federation
Pro Kennex IX World Junior Championships
Los Caballeros Sports Village
Fountain Valley, California
December 18-22, 1998

ENTRY FORM - Please Print . . .

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Participant Signature & Date _____

LIABILITY: I agree to be liable for all costs for damages for which my child is responsible and to pay for all costs arising from any disciplinary action imposed as stated in the Junior Code of Conduct, as adopted by the IRF.

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date _____

To receive an expanded, official entry form, call the International Racquetball Federation at 719/635-5396.

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_____	18 and under	_____
_____	16 and under	_____
_____	14 and under	_____
_____	12 and under	_____
_____	10 and under	_____
_____	8- regulation rules	_____
_____	8- multi-bounce	_____
_____	6- multi-bounce	_____

Boys • DOUBLES • Girls

_____	18 and under	_____
_____	16 and under	_____
_____	14 and under	_____
_____	12 and under	_____
_____	10 and under	_____

• MIXED DOUBLES •

_____	18 and under
_____	16 and under
_____	14 and under
_____	12 and under
_____	10 and under

Mail completed entry and fees to: IRF World Junior Championships, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 4 (Postmarked by 12/01/98)

ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENT

First event	(\$60.00)	_____
First event (for additional entrants from the same family) . . .	(\$35.00)	_____
Second event	(\$35.00)	_____
Mixed Doubles	(\$15.00)	_____
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Late Fee*	(\$15.00)	_____
Telephone Entry Fee . . .	(\$8.00)	_____
TOTAL DUE:	\$	_____

Make checks payable to IRF. Entry form is not complete, nor is entry accepted, unless check for correct amount is enclosed and all information is provided. *Payment at check-in will be processed as a late entry and surcharged.

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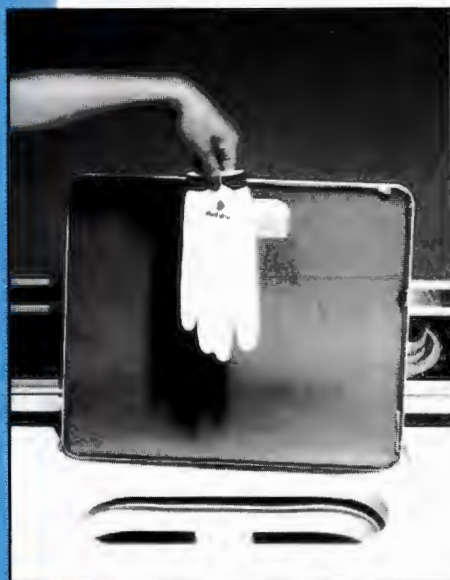


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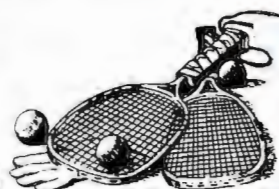
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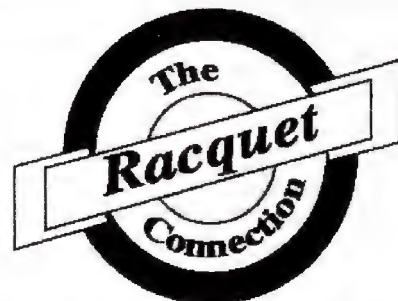
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MEN

Men's Open

1. Jason Thoerner, SC
2. Mike Locker, MN
3. Dan Llacera, DE
4. Adam Karp, CA
5. Todd O'Neil, TX
6. Chris Cole, MI
7. David Hamilton, OH
8. John Davis, LA
9. Chris Wright, MO
10. Not a Member, IL

Men's A

1. Dave Bartscher, TX
2. Jason Samora, OR
- 3T. David Guentert, KS
- 3T. Terry Kisling, MN
- 3T. Rob Teren, OH
6. Erik Leetch, AR
7. Brent Walters, NC
8. Al Schof, LA
- 9T. Joey Delfino, MA
- 9T. Mitch Williams, NC

Men's B

1. George Anthon Jr., LA
2. Darryl Thompson, TX
3. Ryan Rodgers, TX
4. Jeff Gillquist, MN
5. Anthony Borden, TX
6. Kent Wagner, SC
7. Eric Zamudio, IN
8. Mike Zeigler, TN
9. Charles Lee, LA
10. Not a Member, FL

Men's C

1. Lorne Burry, NC
2. Marc Claybon, OH
3. Hector Tenorio, TX
4. Ray Meisner, IL
- 5T. Armando Cabrera, NJ
- 5T. Paul Carroll, ID
- 5T. Twayne Howard, MI
8. Rob Bultinck, MN
- 9T. Not a Member, AR
- 9T. Larry Weene, MA

Men's D

1. Joe Schmitz, AR
2. Mukesh Wadhawan, TX
3. Roberto Tinajero, TX
4. Doug Sanders, TX
- 5T. Brandon McGhee, LA
- 5T. Vince Session, MI
7. Melvin Todd, TX
8. Dan Prieto, WA
- 9T. Grant Macuba, IL
- 9T. Bobby Quintana, CA

Men's Novice

- 1T. Not a Member, NY
- 1T. J.R. Rule, NM
3. Andrew Kopf, NY
- 4T. Brian Covarrubia, NM

- 4T. Sam Doria, OH
- 4T. Audi Gutasukas, IL
- 4T. James McDonald, FL
8. Lue Marchese, NM
9. Timmy Parrish, FL
10. Not a Member, AR

Men's 24-

1. Willie Tilton, CO
2. Mike Dennison, OH
3. Rocky Carson, CA
- 4T. Cristian Guerra, CO
- 4T. Andrew Kane, CO
- 4T. Sammy Menache, CO
- 4T. Don Petrella, FL
8. Jack Long, TX
9. Erin Brannigan, ID
10. Jonah Bishop, KS

Men's 25+

1. Mike Locker, MN
- 2T. Anthony DeFusto, NY
- 2T. Kevin Graham, ND
4. Brian Pointelin, CO
5. Matt Fontana, FL
6. Al Schof, LA
7. Chris Baker, MS
8. Steve Gloss, NY
9. Steve Frazer, GA
10. Pedro Aranda, TX

Men's 30+

- 1T. Brad McCuniff, IA
- 1T. Alan Sheppard, NC
- 3T. Dan Llacera, DE
- 3T. Dave Watson, OK
5. John Davis, LA
6. John Barrett, PA
- 7T. George Bustos, TX
- 7T. Donald Sims, TX
9. Hector Capo, FL
10. Rick Ferrin, CA

Men's 35+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Bobby Haab, CT
3. Jimmy Lowe, AK
4. Don Ott, IN
5. Dave Eagle, OH
6. Jim Gillhouse, CO
7. Steve Lerner, OH
8. Bill Serafin, NJ
- 9T. Not a Member, NH
- 9T. Danny Shelton, ID

Men's 40+

1. Terry Fluharty, FL
2. Gil Rodriguez, VA
3. Jesus Moctezuma, TX
- 4T. Jim Luzar, WI
- 4T. Russ Palazzo, CT
- 4T. Dave Peck, TX
- 7T. Mitt Layton, FL
- 7T. Jamie Velasco, MD
9. Gary Gloeggler, GA
10. Ron Burris, FL

Men's 45+

1. Gary Mazaroff, NM
2. Mitt Layton, FL
3. Jim Luzar, WI
4. Jerry Dye, TX
- 5T. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
- 5T. Rick Sorenson, MO
- 7T. Greg Hasty, IL
- 7T. Mike Robinson, TX
- 9T. Ed Garabedian, PA
- 9T. Russ Palazzo, CT

Men's 50+

- 1T. Rick Fusari, FL
- 1T. Bill Welaj, NJ
3. Dennis O'Brien, ID
4. Tom McKie, TX
5. Greg Hasty, IL
- 6T. Ray Huss, OH
- 6T. Ed Remen, NC
- 8T. Barry Hendricks, AZ
- 8T. Dave Warner, MN
10. Stan Lemon, TX

Men's 55+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Tom Rearden, IL
3. Ron Galbreath, PA
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. Luis Guerrero, CA
6. Don Harrington, RI
7. Pete Keiser, OH
8. Jim Trammell, MO
9. Bob Webster, AL
10. Les Barbanell, NJ

Men's 60+

1. Rex Lawler, IN
2. Jerry Stoltmann, WI
3. Paul Banales, AZ
4. David Stiles, TX
5. Lee Graff, OR
6. Jerry Holly, CA
7. Ron Pudduck, MI
8. Jerry Northwood, AZ
- 9T. Art Hotchkiss, RI
- 9T. Michael Jackson, CT

Men's 65+

1. Charles Kaiser, MI
2. Don Alt, FL
3. John O'Donnell, IL
4. Otis Chapman, OH
5. Skip Kiphart, TX
6. Don Maxey, MO
7. John Reid, CA
8. Paul Banales, AZ
9. Frank Trask, ME
10. Clement McIntosh, GA

Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Richard Davis, TX
3. Windell Hildebrandt, AZ
4. Earl Acuff, NC
5. Philip Dziuk, IL
6. Ken Yahiro, IL

7. Dick Kincade, CO
- 8T. Hank Richard, GA
- 8T. Duane Russell, MI
10. Don Grieve, IL

Men's 75+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Robert McAdam, TX
3. Nick Sans, CA
4. Bill Matotan, NM
5. Al Romero, NM
6. Hank Richard, GA
- 7T. George Spear, FL
- 7T. Lake Westphal, AZ
9. Luzell Wilde, UT
10. Andy Trozzi, MA

Men's 80+

1. George Spear, FL
2. Luzell Wilde, UT
3. Andy Trozzi, MA
4. Charles Russell, CA
5. Harry Steinman, MD
6. Ben Marshall, TX

Men's 85+

1. Ralph Hoyle, NY

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Robin Levine, CA
2. Aimee Roehler, PA
3. Kersten Hallander, CA
4. Janell Marriott, RI
- 5T. Not a Member, CA
- 5T. Kim Machiran, MO
- 5T. Ines Queiros, CT
- 8T. Denise Mock, TX
- 8T. Jackie Paraiso, CA
10. Kelly Kirk, MN

Women's A

1. Mary Crawford, IL
2. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
- 3T. Megan Bals, NE
- 3T. Debbie Fiordilino, NY
5. Sherri Feldman, NY
6. April Settell, CO
7. Susan Williams, UT
8. Deb Ulliman, OH
- 9T. Judy McCole, NH
- 9T. Keri Palko, CA

Women's B

1. Janel Tisinger, CA
2. Esther McNany, CA
- 3T. Vivian Gomez, FL
- 3T. Kristen Kovar, NE
5. Debbi Misanin, VA
6. Kelly Strachan, CO
7. Not a Member, MA
8. Sheri Kinnaman, AR
- 9T. Barbara Allen, NY
- 9T. Kassi Herr, FL

Women's C

1. Christine Fenton, FL
2. Terry Truvillion, MI
3. Rosario Bauer, CA
4. B.J. Calloway, GA
5. Christa Davis, TX
6. Melissa Young, TX
7. Sharon Stevens, MA
8. Diana Castillo, TX
9. Rhonda Lindenman, OK
10. Not a Member, MD

Women's D

1. Rhonda Lindenman, OK
2. Candy Arquiett, LA
- 3T. Cherie Hale, NC
- 3T. Alicia Matza, CA
5. Kerry Lyn O'Meara, NM
- 6T. Christa Davis, TX
- 6T. Candace Griffin, SC
8. Suzanne Hammons, CA
9. Carla Thompson, CO
10. Maik Marsh, TX

Women's Novice

1. Penny Madanick, NM
2. Carrie Peppler, SC
3. Helen Armijo, NM
4. Lisa Barrett, PA
5. Gena Reilly, NM
6. Sabieta Dass, NY
- 7T. Pam Duran, AK
- 7T. Rita Espinoza, NM
- 7T. Janice Heinemann, MO
- 7T. Debbie Pinto, KY

Women's 24-

1. Aimee Roehler, PA
2. Shannon Feaster, DC
- 3T. Jennifer Birchenough, UT
- 3T. Kim Blake, UT
- 3T. Liana Kerwood, OR
- 3T. Janette Olsen, UT
- 3T. Nicole Passage, UT
- 3T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
9. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
10. Samantha Gibbs, FL

Women's 25+

1. Jennifer Dering, NY
2. Holly Remen, NC
3. Jo Shattuck, CO
4. Heather Dunn, VT
5. Jen Yokota, MO
- 6T. Tina Bragdon, CO
- 6T. Stacy Sour, CO
- 8T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 8T. Cara Pellowski, WI
10. Kim Herrold, SC

Women's 30+

1. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
2. Lydia Hammock, CA
3. Kersten Hallander, CA
4. Lori Lepow, FL
5. Stacy Sour, CO
6. Mindy Hartstein, NY

rankings...rankings

Rankings are based on
results processed by the
national office as of:
JULY 15, 1998

7. Grace Hastings, TX
- 8T. Holly Remen, NC
- 8T. Debbie Tisinger, CA
10. Annette Williams, CO

Women's 35+

1. Debbie Tisinger, CA
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Denise Mock, TX
4. Kim Machiran, MO
5. B.J. Ehrigott, CT
6. Mary Crawford, IL
- 7T. Jodi Paul, PA
- 7T. Paula Saad, MI
- 9T. Melanie Britton, FL
- 9T. Andrea Gordon, GA

Women's 40+

1. Linda Moore, NE
2. Chris Evon, IL
3. Susan Pfahler, FL
- 4T. Susan Hendricks, AZ
- 4T. Jean Trimble, FL
- 6T. Jere Luttner, TX
- 6T. Val Shewfelt, UT
- 8T. Paula Carter, GA
- 8T. Sherri Feldman, NY
- 8T. Liz Molitor, IL

Women's 45+

1. Shelley Ogden, OH
2. Judy Sands, NJ
3. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
4. Janet Myers, NC
5. Brenda White, IL
- 6T. Karen Kattengell, LA
- 6T. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
- 8T. Debbie Chaney, IN
- 9T. Renee Fish, FL
- 9T. Janell Marriott, RI

Women's 50+

1. Merijean Kelley, CA
2. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
3. Pattie Schof, LA
4. Donna Ebner, MO
5. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
7. Jean Heckman, NY
8. Mary Jane Weldin, DE
- 9T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
- 9T. Kendra Tutsch, WI

Women's 55+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Rose Stoltmann, WI
3. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
4. Mildred Gwinn, NC
5. Nidia Funes, CA
6. Joy DeSantis, CA
7. Gail Schaefer, MD
8. Pauline Kelly, IL
9. Catherine Stewart-Roache, NM
10. Jo Kenyon, FL

Women's 60+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Annabelle Kovar, NE
3. Susan Embry, WA
- 4T. Jane Graham, GA
- 4T. Eleanor Higgins, NM
- 6T. Lola Markus, IL
- 6T. Kathy Mueller, MN
- 8T. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- 8T. Naomi Eads, MO
10. Norma Carlisle, UT

Women's 65+

1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Reta Harring, WI
- 3T. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
- 3T. Louise Kiss, NM
- 3T. Audrey Thixton, OK
6. B.G. Railey, KY

Women's 70+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
3. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
4. Roberta Schoenfeld, NM
5. Beth Keene, TX
6. Tillie Davies, AZ

Women's 75+

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

Women's 80+

1. Zelda Friedland, NM

BOYS

Boy's 6 & Under

1. Not a Member, WI
2. Brad Falvey, WI
3. Not a Member, WI
4. Ben Mabson, WI

B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
2. Blake Thompson, OR
3. Austin Zuck, OR
4. Joseph Lee, LA
- 5T. Jordan Faith, CO
- 5T. Ryan Noble, NC
7. Benjamin Long, NM
8. Erick Podwill, OR
9. Andres Garcia, CA
10. Rutger Jackson, CO

Boy's 8 & Under

1. Trevor Smith, OR
2. Matt Keddie, NH
3. Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
4. Colin Stock, OR
5. John Sanderson, UT
6. Tim Tilton, CO
7. Matthew Pacinelli, NM

8. Jansen Allen, TX
9. Sean McGrath, IN
10. Avery Zuck, OR

B8- Multi-Bounce

1. Erick Podwill, OR
2. Matt Keddie, NH
3. John Sanderson, UT
4. Sean McGrath, IN
5. Tim Tilton, CO
- 6T. William Lee, LA
- 6T. Matthew Machiran, MO
8. Colin Stock, OR
9. Cameron Pfahler, FL
10. Joseph Lee, LA

Boy's 10-

1. David Lewis, CO
2. Nick Arturo, AK
3. Mike Keddie, NH
4. Chris Coy, OK
5. Andrew Grissom, CA
6. Allan Crockett, AL
7. Brady Prince, MN
8. Joey Leggett, NY
9. Nathaniel Dyer, MA
10. Cody Drago, OR

Boy's 12-

1. Dan Sheppick, OR
2. Eddie Mazur, CT
3. Nicholas Rowley, AZ
4. Charlie Pratt, OR
5. Ben Croft, IL
- 6T. Chris Coy, OK
- 6T. David Key, LA
8. Shane Karmelin, GA
9. Tyler Hollingsworth, OR
10. Matt Johnson, NM

Boy's 14-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Adrian Anulewicz, CT
3. Josh Epstein, NY
4. Rusty Powell, LA
5. Bart Crawford, OR
6. Cory Martin, WI
7. Michael Lawrence, AL
8. Trevor Crowe, OR
9. Justin Meadows, FL
10. Erik Leetch, AR

Boy's 16-

1. Shane Vanderson, OH
2. Matthew McElhiney, FL
3. Scott Foster, CA
4. Joey Delfino, MA
5. Stephen Lewis, WA
6. Mike Harmon, FL
7. Danny Beaudry, CO
8. Scott Fisher, NY
9. Nick Giunta, OR
10. Tim Wilson, CT

Boy's 18-

- 1T. Rocky Carson, CA
- 1T. Josh Tucker, MO

3. Ryan Staten, KS
- 4T. Jeffrey Garner, AL
- 4T. Stephen Mykalcio, NY
6. Willie Tilton, CO
7. James Ford, WY
8. Kyle Harris, MA
9. David Liakos, NE
10. James Marchetti, AK

GIRLS

G6- Multi-Bounce

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
2. Amy Willhite, OR
3. Becca Machiran, MO
4. Tia Smith, OR
5. Kaitlyn Pacinelli, NM
6. Stephanie Rojas, OR
7. Brittany Legget, OR
- 8T. Amber Hanson, OR
- 8T. Sondra Payne, NM
10. Kara Mazur, CT

Girl's 8-

1. Shannon Inglesby, OR
2. Brittany Legget, OR
3. Jennifer Fenton, NE
4. Sharon Jackson, IN
5. Shanae Taylor, IN
6. Danielle Spolowicz, WI
- 7T. Sarah Parrish, FL
- 7T. Laura Van Der Veer, OR
9. Dannielle Pimental, OR
10. Kara Mazur, CT

G8- Multi-Bounce

1. Sharon Jackson, IN
2. Laura Van Der Veer, OR
3. Shanae Taylor, IN
4. Carol Payne, NM
5. Nikki Robinson, OR
6. Samantha Pimental, OR
- 7T. Heather Collins, TN
- 7T. Emily Melgaard, ID
9. Sarah Parrish, FL
10. Courtney Hill, NM

Girl's 10-

1. Ashley Willhite, OR
2. Kara Mazur, CT
3. Rebeka Kopf, NY
4. Dannielle Pimental, OR
5. Sarah Moyle, OR

6. Jenny Epstein, NY
7. Not a Member, OR
8. Kimberly Walsh, UT
9. Not a Member, CA
10. Brooke Schulenberg, MN

Girl's 12-

1. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
2. Adrienne Fisher, OH
3. Jesi Fuller, NM
4. Deraí Darling, OR
5. Kara Mazur, CT
6. Ashley Legget, OR
7. Elise Wilson, CT
8. Brandie Hanson, OR
9. Nikki Winfrey, OH
10. Natalie Starken, WI

Girl's 14-

1. Molly Law, CO
2. Crystal Winfrey, OH
3. Juliana Mayor, NY
4. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
5. Kimberly Irons, OH
6. Jenny Cary, OR
7. Jeni Fuller, NM
8. Erica Beaudry, CO
9. Amy Jo Hollingsworth, OR
10. Kristen Walsh, UT

Girl's 16-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
2. Krystal Csuk, IL
3. Kristen Kovar, NE
4. Melanie Mueller, CO
5. Crystal Winfrey, OH
6. Nickii Whitney, VT
7. Lauren Deutsch, TX
8. Molly Law, CO
9. Anna Tsavidis, MA
10. Michelle Gonzalez, OR

Girl's 18-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR
2. Sara Borland, IA
3. Megan Bals, NE
4. Katie Gould, CA
5. Christina Lewendal, OR
6. Elizabeth Posey, AK
- 7T. Chris Herrmann, MO
- 7T. Kristen Walsh, UT
9. Dionna Brown, CA
10. Liana Kerwood, OR

Event Level & Description

Finish & Point Awards

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

*In draws of 48 or more at a national championship,
the 9-16th place finishers receive 50 points.

september ...

September 18-20	American Family Open @ American Family Fitness Center	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400
	Blast It @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3303
	F.A.C. Fall Premier Classic @ Fayetteville Athletic Club	Fayetteville, AR	501-587-0500
	Fall Valley Championships @ Merced Sports Club	Merced, CA	209-722-3988
	Connecticut State Doubles @ Downtown Health & Racquet [3]	New Haven, CT	203-248-1869
	The City Championships @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376
September 23-27	Season Opener @ The Alaska Club East	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
September 25-27	Alpha Fall Kick Off @ Alpha Athletic Club	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
	Apple One	Watsonville, CA	408-722-3895
	NE Regional Doubles Championship @ Cedardale A.C.	Haverhill, MA	978-663-8640
	Season Kickoff @ King George Racquetball Club	Greenbrook, NJ	732-356-6900
	Western Cookout Open @ Claremont Club	Claremont, CA	909-625-6791
	Texas State Doubles @ Northwest Fitness Center [3]	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
Sept.30-Oct.4	Magic City Classic Pro-Am IRT @ Prime Fitness	Birmingham, AL	205-324-4563

october ...

October 2-4	Solano Open @ Solano Athletic Club	Fairfield, CA	707-429-4363
	Thunderbolt Open @ Dan Gamel's Health & Racquet	Fresno, CA	209-227-8405
	Kentucky State Doubles @ Downtown YMCA [3]	Louisville, KY	502-231-3576
	8th Annual Miller Lite Massacre @ Ozark Sports Club	Ft. Smith, AR	501-646-4022
October 7-11	Fall Swing @ The Alaska Club Midtown	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
October 8-11	Splat Shot Pro-Am @ The Tournament House	Riverside, CA	909-682-7511
October 9-11	Hurricane - Doubles Only @ Courts Plus of Jacksonville	Jacksonville, NC	910-346-3446
	Wild West Shootout @ Downtown YMCA	Ft. Worth, TX	817-332-3281
	Louisiana State Doubles @ Heritage Sports Center [3]	Metairie, LA	504-468-2813
	3rd Steve Chapman Memorial @ Quadrangle East A.C.	Coral Springs, FL	954-753-8900
October 14-18	Ektelon USRA 31st National Doubles @ Merritt Athletic Club [6]	Baltimore, MD	719-635-5396
	! ENTRY ON PAGE 59 !		
October 16-18	Fall Classic @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376
	Sleepy Hollow Open @ Twin Arbors Athletic Club	Lodi, CA	209-334-4897
October 21-25	Junior Jam @ The Alaska Club East	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
October 23-25	Cocoa Halloween Open @ Cocoa Club	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
	Great Pumpkin Open @ Midtown Athletic Club	Sacramento, CA	916-441-2977
	Halloween Open @ Healthworks	Wallingford, CT	203-248-1869
	Paul Gorman Tournament @ Interbay-Glover YMCA	Tampa, FL	813-839-0210
	Tournament of Terror @ Spectrum Club	Canoga Park, CA	818-884-5035
Oct.30-Nov.1	Gold's Gym Olympics @ Gold's Gym	Dewitt, NY	315-446-0376

november ...

November 4-8	Wildest Turkey @ The Alaska Club Midtown	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
November 6-8	Baystar Open @ Racquetball Plus	Burlingame, CA	415-697-9162
	Central Penn Charity Weekend @ Central Penn Fitness	Harrisburg, PA	717-564-4171
	Florida State Outdoor 4-Wall Champ @ Auburndale R/B	Auburndale, FL	941-965-5544
	Froggy Open @ Nautilus Fitness Center	Erie, PA	814-868-0072
	NFC Tournament @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
	Palm Desert Snowbird Open @ Palm Desert Wise Sports Club	Palm Desert, CA	760-430-3060
November 11-15	Promus Hotels 3rd US Open @ Racquet Club of Memphis [5]	Memphis, TN	800-756-5396
	! ENTRY INFORMATION ON INSIDE BACK COVER !		
	Turkey Open @ Norwalk YMCA	Norwalk, CT	203-248-1869
November 13-15	WNY Kick-Off Classic @ Bally Total Fitness	Buffalo, NY	716-639-0621
November 14-15	Lehigh Valley Open @ Allentown Racquet Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
November 15-16	14th Annual Club Invitational @ Rollingwood Racquet Club	Fair Oaks, CA	916-988-1727
November 19-21	Pro Kennex Grand Prix @ Courtesy Sports	Los Altos, CA	650-968-7970
November 20-22	Alpha Turkey Gobbler @ Alpha Club	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
	Holiday Cash Classic @ The Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Texas Turkey Shoot @ Racquetball & Fitness	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
	Turkey Shoot @ Sports Club of Asheville	Asheville, NC	704-252-0222

calendar...calendar...

december ...

December 2-6	Christmas Classic @ The Alaska Club East	Anchorage, AK	907-275-0349
December 4-6	Connecticut Cup @ Downtown Health & Racquet	New Haven, CT	203-248-1869
	Quad West Winter Cash Classic @ Quad West Athletic Club	Clearwater, FL	813-535-4901
	Saturn of Gwinnett Classic @ Southern Athletic Club	Lilburn, GA	770-923-5400
	Snowball Classic @ Lover's Lane YMCA	Bowling Green, KY	502-842-6156
December 5-6	Shoot-Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
December 11-13	Winter Classic @ Gold River Racquet Club	Gold River, CA	916-638-7001
Dec. 18-22	IRF ProKennex 10th World Juniors @ Los Caballeros [5]	Fountain Valley, CA	719-635-5396
	! ENTRY ON PAGE 61 !		

upcoming national & international events

December 18-22	IRF Pro Kennex 10th World Juniors @ Los Caballeros [5]	Fountain Valley, CA	719-635-5396
	1999		
January 14-17	USRA Annual Leadership Conference @ USOTC	Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396
January 29-31	Women's Senior/Master Championships @ Lattoff YMCA [5]	Des Plaines, IL	847-696-0796
February 17-20	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles Invitational [5]	Phoenix, AZ	734-426-8952
March 05-07	Wilson USRA 12th U.S. National High School Championships [6]	Portland, OR	719-635-5396
Mar. 26- Apr. 4	PARC Tournament of the Americas & Pan Am Preview	Houston, TX	719-635-5396
April 7-11	E-Force 27th U.S. National Intercollegiates [6]	Phoenix, AZ (tentative)	719-635-5396
April 7-10	NMRA U.S. Masters Singles/Doubles [5]	Indianapolis, IN	734-426-8952
April 15-18	Ektelon Regional Qualifiers (see below) [4]	Nationwide	719-635-5396
May 26-31	Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, TX	719-635-5396
June 26-30	26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6]	TBA	719-635-5396

1999 ektelon regional qualifiers [4] ... nationwide, april 15-18

April 8-10	Chicago, Illinois	Geoff Peters	773-935-9685
April 15-18	Lakewood Athletic Club - Denver, Colorado	Marianne Alonzi	303-422-5703
	RacquetPower - Jacksonville, Florida	Van Dubolsky	352-395-5356
	Southern Athletic Club - Atlanta, Georgia	Liz Lyon	770-923-5400
	Merritt Athletic Club - Baltimore, Maryland	Molly O'Brien	410-315-7900
	Cedardale Health & Fitness Club - Haverhill, Massachusetts	Bill Gargan	603-367-8533
	Missouri Athletic Club West - St. Louis, Missouri	Bill Crist	314-539-4428
	Hall of Fame Fitness Center - Canton, Ohio	Doug Ganim	614-890-6073
	Cascade Athletic Club - Portland, Oregon	Connie Martin	503-665-4142
	Northwest Athletic Club - Houston, Texas	Annie Muniz	713-432-0881
	Eau Claire Athletic Club - Eau Claire, Wisconsin	Ryan Graham	715-552-5382
April 23-25	Las Vegas Sporting Club - Las Vegas, Nevada	Mike Coulter	702-733-8999
April 30-May 2	Prime Fitness - Birmingham, Alabama	Jim Garner	205-988-3819

1999 ektelon junior regional qualifiers [4] ... nationwide

	Confirmed to date ... more pending!		
February 19-21	Junior Region 7 - Houston, Texas	Annie Muniz	713-432-0881
March 19-21	Junior Region 14 - California Athletic Club - Monterey, California	Margo Daniels	831-372-7224
April 30-May 1	Junior Region 8 - Chicago, Illinois	Rich Clay	847-918-7407
May 7-9	Junior Region 15 - Anchorage, Alaska	Steve Arturo	907-275-0449

Qualifying Competition is REQUIRED to participate in the 1999 Ektelon 32nd U.S. National Singles in Houston, Texas and the 1999 Ektelon 26th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships! However, women age 45 and over, and men age 55 and over (as of May 26, 1999) are NOT required to pre-qualify for competition at a regional qualifier. You probably still want to, however, since it's the only to accumulate ranking points and earn seeding consideration! AND Junior/Intercollegiate athletes who have already played in a junior or intercollegiate regional to qualify for their associated championship events don't have to re-qualify for national singles at an adult regional championship.

- **Bolded listings are USRA National Championships or International Racquetball Federation Events**
- **For remaining sanctioned events, [brackets] indicate event level (unmarked = Level 2) •**

Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... meaning that when expiration is shown as 09/98, you must renew your membership in the month of September in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

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