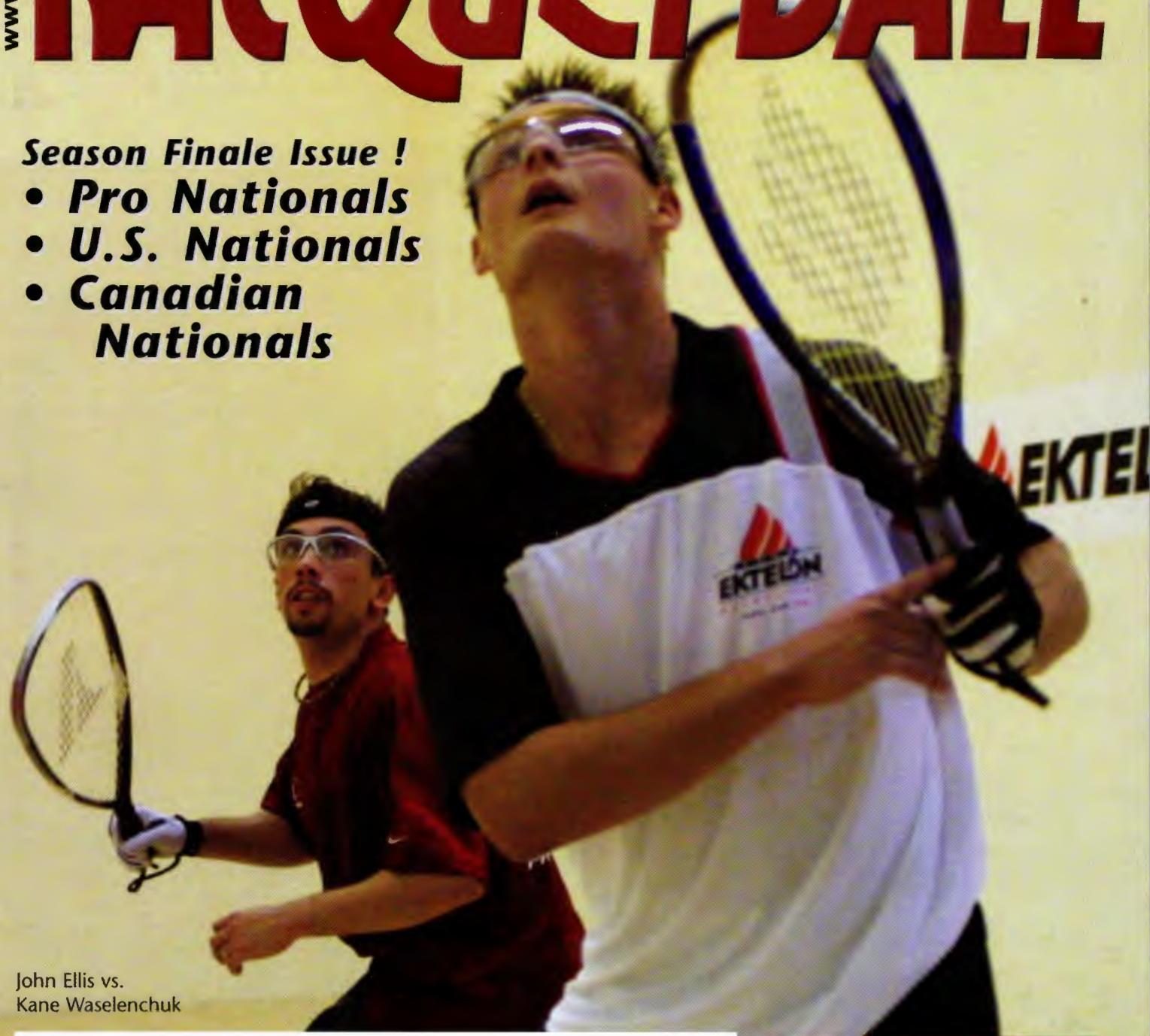


RACQUETBALL

Season Finale Issue !

- *Pro Nationals*
- *U.S. Nationals*
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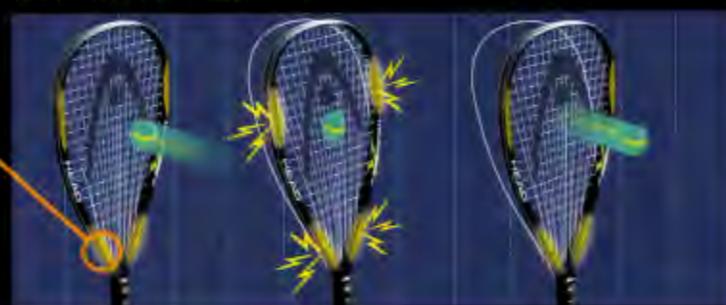
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from the >>>



I'm a big fan of the "print vehicle" (*go figure*) as a delivery method for just about every type of information I can imagine. I like getting real mail; I like to send cards for no reason. I don't use a PDA and there are chunks of time in my schedule where it seems that my entire life is held together by small scraps of paper. Everywhere. I've simply got to write things down. It's either that, or the lobotomy that I've been saving up for ...

At the same time, I'm fond of the immediacy offered by the internet (hey, it *prints*!) and the flexibility of news delivery at the speed of an

upload, rather than going through all that icky film, paper and ink ... and anthrax! Nothing makes me happier than being able to say "it's on page 52, in the magazine" or "it's on the website" in answer to just about any question. Between the two forms, I'm pretty much covered, and I'm just as likely as anyone to flip through physical pages of a back issue, or resort to surfing, to find some critical bit of information. And I know where all the bodies — um, facts and figures — are buried, too ... so if it's published, I can find it. Somewhere.

So, where is this heading? Hopefully, direct to your own laptop (where the cat sits) or to your desktop (where the PC sits). In a move designed to "lighten the load" on state organizations, the USRA board recently approved a modified "publication requirement" which will allow your neighborhood association to replace up to two quarterly newsletters per year with a dynamic, frequently-updated, knock-your-socks-off website. Both the print and internet components of the requirement will continue to be underwritten by your fees (one-third of all membership monies stay with state associations), so we think it's doable. I tried to sneak our operation into the mix, but they caught me ... I've still got to produce six print issues a year ...

So, rather than being able to simply count how many state newsletters are being printed annually, we'll be looking for virtual watchdogs to check out the cyber-environment of your racquetball community. We'll do the physical count (1-2, 1-2), but you'll have to help us track the websites. The basics? A tournament calendar, a comprehensive state club list with contact names/numbers, a board list, rankings, standard newsletter content/tournament reporting, links to USRA sites and membership sign-ups. Better? Online registrations and drawsheets, opt-in player databases ("find a player" service), archives of state championship winners, award records, historical data, tips & instructional from local players ... in short, virtually everything that's fit to print!

State websites will have to be updated at least quarterly, but it will ultimately be the users who will have the best feel for what is needed, and what's working. Compare the two methods: print and internet, and see which form you use the most to gather information that will help your game, and keep you playing. We're counting on you to give feedback to both your state association, and the national office, on your findings. Ready ... set ... surf!

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FEATURES

Ektelon National Singles	6
E-Force Intercollegiates	17
Meet Ray Schultz!	30
U.S. OPEN Tip Sheet.	33

PROfile: TOUR NEWS

IRT/Pro Nationals	21
IRT Rankings & Scorecard.....	24
LPRA/Pro Nationals.....	22
LPRA Rankings & Scorecard	28

DEPARTMENTS

From the Editor	2
Reader Forum	4
RB: Global	42
RB: People	44
USRA National Rankings	60
USRA National Calendar	62
Sponsors & Advertisers	64

INSTRUCTIONAL

Sudsy's Magic Show.....	34
Wilson Game Plan	36
Smarter Head.....	38
Ektelon Performance	39
Winning Racquetball	40
Training: Nutrition	41
Training: Muscle Imbalance	41
AmPRO Clinics	55

TOURNAMENT INFO

Ektelon National Doubles	52
U.S. OPEN Insert & Inside Back Cover	

... on the cover ... Top-ranked Canadian Kane Waselenchuk bears down on a forehand against John Ellis at the Pro Nationals. Ellis went on to win it [story, page 21]. Photo: John Foust.

... this page ... Krystal Csuk earned her first appointment to the U.S. National Team with her upset win over defending champ Kristen Walsh at the Intercollegiate Nationals in April. [story, page 17]. Photo: Mike Lawrence.

readerforum readerforum readerforum readerforum

Pulling Together

Martin and Tony Gonzalez, of Illinois, both qualified for Nationals. I congratulated them and said I was looking forward to good results since they were both nationally ranked. Martin then confided in me that he had qualified before but could never afford the trip to Houston for a full week.

Knowing Martin and Tony were too modest to ask for sponsorship on their own, the club members started a collection, but we had to work fast. Within a few days we had collected over \$600 but that wasn't near enough to send both of them to Houston. Since both Martin and Tony work at Bally's Health and Fitness Club I decided to contact Bally's corporate management to see if they could help. They were happy to hear about Martin and Tony and decided to help defray the costs as well.

Special thanks to Tom Negrete of the Bloomingdale Racquetball Club, Illinois, for housing Martin and Tony during the regional tournament.

Bottom line on all this is: Bally's won by sponsoring their own personnel at a national level and hopefully this will generate new sponsors. The Bally's Matteson club members won by being able to take part in sponsoring two of their own members at such a high athletic level. Martin and Tony won by being able to compete at a

national level — finally! Racquetball fans everywhere can also win if they follow this example and can generate their own sponsorships.

The result? Even though Tony had one of the largest brackets (64 in Men's B) he was still able to fight through to the finals. Martin apologized for not doing as well as his brother; he was only able to battle for third place in Men's 30+ A/B.

Martin also told me that his story was circulated around the tournament and many players told him they were going to go back to their own clubs and start similar sponsor programs to generate new interest in our sport. [Pictured L-R: Tony, Al & Martin]

Al Murry • New Lenox, Illinois



Getting Together

I just wanted to thank you for publishing the picture I submitted in the March-April issue of the magazine. It was titled "Separated at Birth?" and was a picture of tournament regulars Kirk Yoo and Claude Wiggins. I just learned this past weekend that because of that picture Claude has been re-united with some of his old military friends he had lost touch with. He received calls from old friends in Hawaii, Kentucky, and Georgia that saw his picture in the magazine and had no idea where he was living now. He was very grateful for the chance to connect again with these old friends and I just wanted to pass that on to you.

Lynn Stephens • North Carolina

Correction

The credit line for last issue's cover photo was inadvertently dropped from the contents page... leaving the photographer's name a mystery. The shot of 2001 champions Cheryl Gudinas and Jack Huczak was taken by Cecil Haynes (pictured at right), and the page three photo of the downtown YMCA came from USRA staffer Tyler Ohlbrecht. Sorry for losing that type (*I hate when that happens!*) — Editor.



Comeback "Kids"

There is an exclusive "club-within-a-club," non-organization in the racquetball community. They don't have meetings, do not pay dues, don't vote in new entrants, or issue membership cards. They do not ordinarily identify themselves as part of an exclusive group, nor do they seek any notoriety. The initiation fee, however, is a real doozy.

During a break in a recent doubles match I casually asked one of the other players "How are the knees doing since the operation?" "They're feeling a lot better now" chimed in all three, catching me completely off guard. At the Texas regional, all four of us had competed in our respective divisions, along with a young fellow smashing his way to the top of his division on a prosthetic leg, and a couple of other dual-knee surgical veterans. At the national "Finals" (where all eight were playing) I had the pleasure of competing against a fellow whose quick movements to all corners of the court while handing me a serious drubbing (for which I plan to even the score), never offered the barest hint that a hip replacement had been a part of his

continued on page 51

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"It's always been a goal of mine and something that I am very proud of, especially at my age." [32]

First and Four ... After a grueling week of celebrating dual anniversaries at the 2002 Ektelon USRA

National Singles Championships, it was Mike Guidry and Cheryl Gudinas who came away with the grand prizes – a first-ever national singles title for southpaw Guidry, and the fourth in a series of such victories for Gudinas. For the event itself, it was a 35th anniversary, after it all began in 1968 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For the venue, it was the 20th straight year that National Singles had returned to Houston, Texas. For the over 650 entrants to this year's Finals, it was another chance to take home a national title.

and Brett Harnett on their way to a finals appearance and U.S. National Team spots. Could Houston shape up to be Llacera's new Vegas?

"It does seem a lot like Vegas to me," he explained. "Before I serve I even imagine seeing Brian in the box."

With the win, Llacera joined three other players in the top half of the bracket to make it into the quarterfinals. Jack Huczak, Michael Bronfeld, and Adam Karp all won in straight games – not so amazing, given that they hold five national singles crowns between them. Bronfeld and Karp have each won back-to-back national titles and Huczak seemed set on accomplishing the same feat with a repeat win this year.

The other huge upset of the day came in the bottom half of the bracket at the hands of Josh Tucker, who defeated perennial semifinalist and third seeded Dan Fowler in a thriller. Tucker took the first game 15-12 only to see Fowler knot things up by winning the second game with an identical score. In a tiebreaker at a national championship, experience is usually the edge, but it was Tucker who stepped up his play in the final game to win 11-7.

Qualifying Round

The quarterfinal round in Houston is perhaps one of the biggest rounds in racquetball – win, and you are assured a spot on the U.S. National Team – lose, you have another year to think about what you could have done differently.

But there was not as much pressure on Huczak and Guidry, who had already earned their spots on the team for wins at National Intercollegiates and National Doubles, respectively. For them, it was just another step towards the championship. But Llacera, already on the team for his silver medal finish at National Doubles, felt the need to reaffirm that he belonged there, by double-

Men's Open

After two preliminary rounds in the men's open U.S. Team qualifying division, Dan Llacera kicked things off at high noon with his upset defeat of fourth seeded Chris Wright, in straight games of 15-12, 15-4, in the round of 16.

Last fall, Llacera and partner Brian Pointelin, caught everyone by surprise in Las Vegas at National Doubles when they defeated the second seeded team of Adam Karp

... it's gudinas

qualifying at National Singles. "You have to back up your play," he said. "I don't want it to seem like a fluke."

Shane Vanderson had recently lost his spot on the team in April when he was defeated at intercollegiates by Huczek in what USRA Executive Director Jim Hiser said was "one of the best matches I have seen in some time." After losing to Huczek a tiebreaker, Vanderson was quoted, "Just wait until Houston." Bronfeld and Karp were also trying to regain spots lost on the team. Both have been on the team several times; Karp last qualified in 2000 and Bronfeld in 1999.

Then there was Jason Thoerner and Josh Tucker — neither had ever qualified for the team before, so it was guaranteed that at least one rookie would be appointed at the close of their match.

The first game between them was a seesaw battle as the two exchanged several lead changes and big shots, but it was Tucker who edged out the win, 15-14. The second game was all Thoerner as he seemed to find his rhythm — and his drive serve. "I played more consistent in the second game," Thoerner explained. "I hit my passes deeper and also started drive serving better."

After Thoerner won the second game 15-7, Tucker quickly took a 3-0 lead in the tiebreaker, before Thoerner battled back to first tie the score, then take a 3-point lead himself at 6-3. At that point Tucker took a blow to the ear on the follow through of a Thoerner backhand. After an injury timeout, and treatment from Curtis "Spazz" Smith, a shaken Tucker returned to the court. Even with a series of sideouts, Thoerner only gave up one more point on the way to earning the 11-4 victory.

Although excited about his U.S. Team appointment Thoerner stated he wasn't satisfied with his performance in Houston just yet. "My goal is to win the tournament. I haven't been training for this just to make the team."

Huczek faced two-time champion Adam Karp and played nearly flawlessly in the first game, walking away with it 15-1. Karp made it a match in the second, but Huczek was just too much and won 15-12. Another two-time champion, Michael Bronfeld, ended Llacera's bid to double-qualify in straight games 15-8, 15-5. Guidry, shooting the ball at every opportunity, ended Vanderson's hopes of re-qualifying for the team, also in straight games, 15-9, 15-11. "He's a good shooter and rips the ball real well," Guidry said after the match. "I just wanted to keep the pressure on him so I went offensive every time I could."

**2002 Ektelon 35th National
Singles Championships**
Presented by Head/Penn Racquet Sports
Coverage by Ryan John • Photos by John Foust



"I just try to treat every tournament as a separate challenge ... Next year isn't going to get any easier."

LEFT: THOERNER VS. TUCKER.
BELOW: BRONFELD VS. HUCZEK.
BOTTOM: VANDERSON VS. GUIDRY



Semifinals

The top half pitted current and former champions Huczek and Bronfeld, and the bottom half had Guidry taking on Thoerner, both of them shooting for their first title.

Huczek came in as a heavy favorite to repeat, but the pressure is always more on the hunted than the hunter. Nobody knows that better than Bronfeld, who overcame the pressure in 1995 to win his second straight. Huczek, however, quickly erased any speculation that the pressure might be getting to him by swiftly defeating Bronfeld in the first game 15-2.

But only minutes later, it was easy to see how Bronfeld had won back-to-back titles in Houston by the way he came out for round two. Unfazed by the previous game, he took advantage of every missed opportunity by Huczek. The score stayed close until the two found themselves knotted at 8-8, and Huczek then took a timeout to re-think his strategy. It turned out to be a great call on his part; Bronfeld was only able to score one more point and Huczek earned his second straight finals appearance by winning game two 15-9. "In the first game I came out hot and with a lot of intensity. I started the second game slower and with less intensity," Huczek explained. "Tomorrow I am going to try to stay focused and play with high intensity the entire match."

Thoerner came out in the first game against Guidry just as he'd stated, showing no signs of being satisfied with just a semifinal appearance, and quickly taking a 7-2 lead on Guidry. "He was hitting well and I felt a little flat," Guidry said. Guidry quickly turned the tables and Thoerner saw his lead evaporate just as quickly as it was built. In fact, Guidry went on a tear and scored 13 unanswered points to take the first game 15-7.

Guidry didn't cool off in the second, either. He stayed focused and jumped out to an 11-3 lead, which took him to match point at 14-6. Thoerner then woke up and began to get his drive serve in. Every time Guidry would have a chance to close out the match, six times in all, Thoerner would come up with the big shot to keep himself in it.



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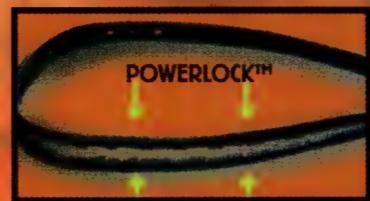


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With Thoerner taunting Guidry after every rally it suddenly became a two-point game at 14-12. Finally on his sixth match point Guidry was able to close it out. "I started to get a little tight and he started to relax and hit some shots," Guidry said after the match. "I went into the match expecting it (the taunting). His serves are what actually started bothering me."

The Final

Going in, the final was a rematch of last year's semifinal, in which Huczek easily handled Guidry in straight games 15-5, 15-6. Both of the players knew that this was a new year and Guidry seemed like a new Guidry. Known for flying around the court making great gets, he performed as expected, but also hit the ball more aggressively and with more power than before.

The first game was played at an awesome pace, one that oddly seemed to suit Guidry more so than the younger Huczek, who was uncharacteristically error-prone. Guidry jumped out to an 8-3 lead before Huczek called a timeout that didn't help much, followed by Guidry extending his lead to 14-6. Again he had trouble closing out the game as the two players exchanged seven side outs before Huczek ran four straight points to close the gap at 14-10. Guidry then appeared to win the first game, but Huczek appealed a non-hinder call and it was overturned. With both players moving well, three more hinders were called on game point before Guidry finally reached 15-10.

As fast as the pace had been in the first game, Huczek slowed it to a crawl in the second after finding himself down 6-1. Ironically it was Huczek who tried to speed

up the pace in the finals last year against the notoriously slow and controlled Rocky Carson. The slowdown began to work for Huczek as he erased Guidry's lead and took his own at 13-10. Guidry pulled within one at 13-12, but Huczek wasn't ready to give up his title just yet and forced a tiebreaker by winning the second game 15-12.

"He slowed down the game and switched up his serve, which was a good call on his part," Guidry said. "I just tried to stay aggressive, but not too aggressive to where I would make stupid mistakes."

Where the first game may have been too hot and the second too cold, the tiebreaker was just right. Would Huczek earn his spot in the records by becoming the eighth player to win back-to-back national titles or would Guidry be able to overcome the odds to take home his first? The players were tied at 1-1, 2-2, and 3-3 before Guidry built the largest lead of the game at 8-4. Huczek brought the match closer at 9-7, but Guidry quickly moved to match point. Again he had trouble closing it out and Huczek came up with big shots when he needed them to pull within one point at 10-9. On his sixth try (again) Guidry got the monkey off of his back and earned his first national title 11-9.

"It's always been a goal of mine and something that I am very proud of, especially at my age," Guidry said after the match. "I probably don't have a lot of years left." Guidry, who turned 32 the following Tuesday, should talk to his doubles partner Ruben Gonzalez, who turns 50 in July, about just how many years he has left.



Still drawing a crowd ... Marty Hogan rests between games of his Men's 30+ quarterfinal against Julio Junki. It was "standing room only" to watch one of the sport's legends.





Women's Open

Play began in earnest for the women in the second day of competition, as all of the top seeds saw action. By the end of the day two of them would narrowly escape elimination and another wouldn't be so lucky.

Wachtel, current U.S. OPEN champion and the No.6 seed, was nearly upset by Jo Shattuck after dropping the first game 15-11. Shattuck nailed shot after shot, but ran out of steam as Wachtel came back in the second and the tiebreaker to advance 15-5, 11-2.

Seventh seeded Kristen Walsh also escaped an upset by Malia Bailey. Walsh won a close first game 15-13 but then Bailey put on a show in the second by serving up a "donut" to Walsh 15-0. Walsh quickly put the second game behind her and handed back a twinkie to Bailey in the tiebreaker, defeating her 11-1.

Fifth seeded Rhonda Rajsich wasn't so lucky in the round of 16 when she lost to Elaine Albrecht in a close match that went to a tiebreaker. Albrecht had played a number of LPRA stops this past season and recorded some big wins, but none were as big as the one against Rajsich. After splitting the first two games, the match went into overtime — a plus for Albrecht, since Rajsich was nursing an ankle injury from pro nationals only a few weeks before. Rajsich gave it a shot but Albrecht's game was on and she advanced into the quarterfinals with an 11-9 win.

The Team Cut

All of the players in the quarterfinals had previously been on the national team although some, like Wachtel and Albrecht, hadn't served for nearly 10 years. Walsh just recently lost her spot to Krystal Csuk at the U.S. Intercollegiate Championships and wanted desperately to regain it in Houston. Rice, Fenton, and Hallander are long-time team veterans but needed wins to remain on the team.

Gudinas and Russell were the only two players without the added pressure of re-qualifying, since they'd won U.S. National Doubles Championships as partners. As opponents, neither had anything but a win in mind. Russell, known for her doubles play, came out hot and took the first game 15-10. Gudinas, one of the most mentally-tough players on the circuit, turned things around in the second to win 15-6. The tiebreaker began close, but Gudinas pulled away to win it 11-6.

"She has really improved her singles play over the past year," Gudinas said after the match. "She was playing well, just as she had been throughout the tournament."

One of Wachtel's goals after winning the U.S. OPEN was to compete for the U.S., and she was only one win away from earning a spot on the team and getting that chance. Fenton set a goal two years ago (after a back injury) that she would win a national and a world title in 2002. Only one of them would be able to continue toward their goal after this particular playoff. The first game was all Wachtel and it looked as though she might end the match quickly, after a 15-7 first game win. But the experienced Fenton replied with a 15-12 win, then continued to carry the momentum into the tiebreaker and to an 11-6 advance.

Wachtel's longtime friend, Albrecht, had already upset the fifth seed, now had set her sights on fourth seeded Hallander. Hallander won the first game 15-12 and Albrecht did her one point better in the second 15-11. In the end it was Hallander that overcame Albrecht's strong upset bid, and crowd support from a throng of Ohioans rooting for Albrecht, to advance into the semifinals for the second straight year.

To close out the team round, only Rice didn't need a tiebreaker to advance; she beat Walsh in straight games of 15-6, 15-8.

Semifinals

It was a repeat lineup of the same four players who'd reached the semifinals last year but the pairings were switched. This year Gudinas would face Hallander, and Rice was set to go against Fenton.

First up was second seeded Rice against third seeded Fenton. Both players were trying to capture their first national singles championship and have faced each other several times in the past trying to get there.

Fenton set the tone on the first rally of the match. After receiving an odd bounce from a Rice pass, Fenton

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FENTON VS. GUDINAS



adjusted her shot and hit a winner between her legs. From that sideout she put together a run of four straight points on her way to a commanding 9-2 lead. Rice fought to even things up, but Fenton went on to take the first game easily 15-7.

Fenton again started out fast in the second game, serving an ace to start play, and jumped out to an early 3-0 lead. This time it was Rice who's hand would get hot as she scored seven unanswered points to take a 7-3 lead. Fenton fought back and tied it up at 11-11, and after exchanging serve four more times, Fenton took the lead for good on her way to a 15-13 win that put her into the finals.

"I felt like I played with a lot of intensity and focus," Fenton said after the match. "I hit a wall (in the second game) but kept working at it until I eventually got through it."

Both Gudinas and Hallander were coming off long tiebreaker matches in the previous round, and their match was likely to come down to who was able to recover the quickest. Neither player seemed fatigued during the first game as they both went all out, giving the crowd a thriller. Each player exchanged the lead and mini-runs several times. First it was Gudinas with an early 8-4 lead. Then Hallander tied it up and pulled ahead to 11-8. After a timeout, Gudinas came back on a run to earn game point at 14-11, before Hallander tied it up again at 14-all. Gudinas, known for her focus, didn't fold but instead calmly earned a sideout and ended the game on a forehand pinch that the diving Hallander wasn't able to retrieve.

Gudinas, not a fan of tiebreakers, came out looking to end the match in two. She jumped out to a quick 11-3 lead despite great diving gets by Kersten, who pulled within three points at 11-8. But that was as close as she would get as Gudinas closed it out and positioned herself for a fourth national crown on Sunday.

Gudinas felt that winning the first game was the key to the match. "Whoever doesn't win a 15-14 game is going to come onto the court for the next game depressed. I think that is what happened to Kersten at the beginning of the second game."

One more Time

The finals were actually anti-climactic as Fenton began to experience renewed pain in her back and arms from her accident two years ago. "I felt good all week until today," Fenton said after the match. "You have to have all of your tools physically and I didn't. I am not taking anything away from Cheryl. She is a great player."

As much as Fenton was feeling bad, Gudinas was feeling just fine, which didn't make for a good combination on the court. "I think I played my best today," Gudinas said. "I was a little uptight because I felt like I hadn't been playing as well as last year, especially after watching the way Laura played all week."

Gudinas won the match 15-6, 15-5 to become only the second woman to ever win four straight national singles championships. The other person is Michelle Gould who holds the record with five in a row. At 35, Gudinas has the record in her mind but knows that it won't be a walk in the park to get there. "I just try to treat every tournament as a separate challenge," she explained. "Next year isn't going to get any easier." •



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Ektelon 35th U.S. National Singles Championships • Final Results

Downtown Houston YMCA, Houston, Texas: May 22-27, 2002

OPEN U.S. TEAM QUALIFIER

Men's Open: Mike Guidry (Carrollton, Texas) def. Jack Huczak (Rochester, Mich.) 15-10, 12-15, 11-9
 Women's Open: Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) def. Laura Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.) 15-6, 15-5

MEN

Men's Elite: Matthew Anderson (Ft. Benning, Ga.) def. Raymond Maestas (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15-7, 10-15, 11-7
 Men's A: Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) def. Kipp Atwell (Denham Springs, La.) 15-12, 15-6
 Men's B: Carlos Ramirez (Miami, Fla.) def. Tony Gonzales (Sterger, Ill.) 15-11, 15-7
 Men's C: Harold Beshaw (Lititz, Pa.) def. Richard Morris (Houston, Texas) 15-12, 15-10
 Men's D: David Aguirre (Alta Loma, Calif.) def. David Sadler (Livingston, TN) 13-15, 15-14, 11-5

AGE DIVISIONS

Men's 24+: Mitch Williams (Washington, N.C.) def. Cesar Castro (Venezuela) 15-5, 15-7
 Men's 25+: Tom Fuhrmann (Wichita Falls, Texas) def. Mike Dennison (Twinsburg, Ohio) 15-14, 10-15, 11-4
 Men's 30+: Brian Fredenberg (The Colony, Texas) def. Brian Pointelin (West Jordan, Utah) 15-2, 15-2
 Men's 35+: Jim Minkel (Houston, Texas) def. Donald Sims (APO, AE) 15-8, 15-14
 Men's 40+: Tom Travers (Westlake, Ohio) def. Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.) 15-3, 11-15, 11-10
 Men's 45+: Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. Randy Stafford (Memphis, TN) 15-10, 15-10
 Men's 50+: Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Edward Garabedian (West Chester, Pa.) Ret (inj)
 Men's 55+: Bill Wolfe (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. Sammy Robles (Victoria, Texas) 15-5, 13-15, 11-8
 Men's 60+: Roger Wehrle (Flowery Branch, Ga.) def. Leland Rients (Willmar, Minn.) 15-10, 15-9
 Men's 65+: Michael Jackson (Shelton, Conn.) def. Dave Snyder (Austin, Texas) 15-10, 4-15, 11-3
 Men's 70+: Don Alt (Ft. Myers, Fla.) def. Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) 15-2, 15-13
 Men's 75+: Duane Russell (Lansing, Mich.) def. Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 15-7, 15-5
 Men's 80+: Robert McAdam (Crowley, Texas) def. Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 15-7, 15-4

AGE + SKILL

Men's 24- A/B: Andres Ramirez (Winter Park, Fla.) def. Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.) 15-14, 10-15, 11-2
 Men's 24- C/D: Arthur J. Schmeiser (Gilbert, Ariz.) def. Jason Martucci (Houston, Texas) 15-13, 15-11

Men's 25+ A/B: Arturo Burruel (Ft. Worth, Texas) def. Enrique Loaiza (Mission Viejo, Calif.) Def
 Men's 25 + C/D: Harold Beshaw (Lititz, Pa.) def. Daniel Miller (Houston, Texas) 15-12, 6-15, 11-2

Men's 30 + A/B: Roberto Cantos (Lilburn, Ga.) def. Sean Baker (Houston, Texas) 15-5, 15-12

Men's 30 + C/D: Tim Kirk (Ft. Worth, Texas) def. Twayne Howard (Grand Rapids, Mich.) 15-4, 15-9

Men's 35+ A/B: John Dill (Keller, Texas) def. Chris Salge (Houston, Texas) Def (ns)

Men's 35+ C/D: Jeff Courtright (Houston, Texas) def. Rudy Olivares (San Antonio, Texas) Def (ns)

Men's 40+ A/B: Alfred Baca (Victoria, Texas) def. Edward Reed (Spring Valley, Calif.) 15-2, 15-6

Men's 40+ C/D: Sterling Altobell (Oxnard, Calif.) def. Jeff Johnson (Warren, Mich.) 15-9, 15-11

Men's 45+ A/B: Frank Gomila (Madeville, La.) def. John Patalano (Warwick, R.I.) 15-6, 15-6

Men's 45+ C/D: Gerald Howard (Kingwood, Texas) def. Lou Kleinman (Houston, Texas) 13-15, 15-12, 11-9

Men's 50+ A/B: Pete Chmielewski (Lancaster, Calif.) def. Garry Carter (Napa, Calif.) 15-12, 15-6

Men's 50+ C/D: Walt Charlton (Norman, Okla.) def. Charles Van Hoose (Rochester, Mich.) 15-8, 15-8

Men's 55+ A/B: Jim Baker (Houston, Texas) def. Terry Dees (Peyton, Colo.) 15-11, 15-8

Men's 55+ C/D: Mike Bennett (Houston, Texas) def. Howard Watters (Fort Worth, Texas) 15-11, 1-15, 11-5

Men's 60+ A/B: G. Kyle Smith (Houston, Texas) def. Leon F. Stanley (Hampton Cove, Ala.) 15-13, 15-14

Men's 60+ C/D: Ronald McElwee (Huntsville, Ala.) def. Larry Bizzari (Bloomingdale, Ind.) 15-7, 15-13

WOMEN

Women's Elite: Aimee Roehler (Sterling, N.J.) def. Janel Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 11-15, 15-10, 11-3

Women's A: Leah Upshaw (Evans, Ga.) def. Candi Hostovich (Arlington, Va.) 15-7, 15-12

Women's B: Elizabeth Shaia (Victoria, Texas) def. Sara Noyes (Clearwater, Fla.) 15-12, 15-13

Women's C: Ann Barnes (Canton, Miss.) def. Cheyenne Hayes (Everett, Wash.) 13-15, 15-3, 11-8

Women's D: Jean Lerch (Exeter, N.H.) def. Victoria Pickard (Orlando, Fla.) 15-7, 15-11

AGE DIVISIONS

Women's 24-: Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) def. Janel Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 15-11, 15-14

Women's 25+: Kerri Wachtel (Cinnicanti, Ohio) def. Aimee Roehler (Sterling, N.J.) 8-15, 15-7, 11-5

Women's 30+: Elaine Albrecht (Delaware, Ohio) def. Amy Foster (Fairlawn, Ohio) 15-6, 14-

15, 11-6

Women's 35+: Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) def. Anita Maldonado (Bronx, N.Y.) 11-15, 15-10, 11-10

Women's 40+: Malia Bailey (Norfolk, Va.) def. Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 15-12, 15-8
 Women's 45+: Susan Pfahler (Neptune Beach, Fla.) def. Marsha Berry (Louisville, Ky.) 15-1, 15-7

Women's 50+: Janet Myers (Charlotte, N.C.) def. Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-10, 15-5

Women's 55+: Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.) 15-14, 15-11

Women's 60+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Mildred Gwinn (Waxhaw, N.C.) 15-1, 15-6

Women's 65+: Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) def. Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.) 15-5, 12-15, 11-1

Women's 70+: Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) unchallenged

Women's 75+: Mary Low Acuff, unchallenged

Women's 80+: Mary Low Acuff, unchallenged

AGE + SKILL

Women's 24- A/B: Kelly Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) def. Nicole Whitney (Queens Village, N.Y.) 15-7, 15-12

Women's 24- C/D: Marci Laramee (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) def. Cheyenne Hayes (Everett, Wash.) 15-11, 15-11

Women's 25+ A/B: Candi Hostovich (Arlington, Va.) def. Claudia Ramirez (Casselberry, Fla.) 15-13, 15-10

Women's 25+ C/D: Eva Alle (Marietta, Ga.) unchallenged

Women's 30+ A/B: Esther McNany (Farmington, Conn.) def. Hilary Anderson (Shaker Heights, Ohio) 15-14, 15-6

Women's 30+ C/D: Patty Barrows (Plymouth, Mass.) def. Victoria Pickard (Orlando, Fla.) 15-9, 15-5

Women's 35+ A/B: Susan Lichtman (Brooklyn, N.Y.) def. Sheri Zappala (Westbury, N.Y.) 15-8, 15-14

Women's 35+ C/D: Barbara Christensen (Saneg, Utah) def. Gwendlin Morris 15-9, 7-15, 11-2

Women's 40+ A/B: Janice Kennedy (Forest Park, Ga.) def. Rosario Kelley (Houston, Texas) 11-15, 15-11, 11-8

Women's 40+ C/D: Sabrina Francis (Houston, Texas) def. Jean Lerch (Exeter, N.H.) 5-15, 15-9, 11-3

Women's 45+ A/B: Joan Vande Kieft (Chicago, Ill.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.) 8-15, 15-3, 11-1

Women's 45+ C/D: Diana Courtney (St. Claire Shore, Mich.) def. Ann Barnes (Canton, Miss.) 13-15, 15-9, 15-5

Women's 55+ A/B: Patti Schof (Baton Rouge, La.) unchallenged

Women's 60+ A/B: Marquita Molina (Wasco, Calif.) unchallenged

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huczek & csuk take intercollegiate crowns

The Texas A&M student recreation center in College Station, Texas hosted nearly 200 of the nation's best intercollegiate racquetball players, representing over 30 colleges and universities, at the E-Force 30th USRA Intercollegiate Championships in mid-April. One-year appointments to the U.S. National Team were up for grabs for the winners of the men's and women's No.1 singles champions, as well as national championship trophies to the best division I and division II squads.

Freshman Jack Huczek from Oakland University became the new men's intercollegiate champion by defeating defending champion Shane Vanderson of Baldwin Wallace in one of the most exciting matches of the year. Both players went all out the entire match with recurring ovations from the crowd.

Vanderson came away with a victory in the first game 12-15 but Huczek evened the match by taking the second 15-10. The tiebreaker promised to be exciting and the players didn't let the crowd down. Huczek took an early 2-0 lead but Vanderson scored two of his own to even the match. The players traded points and leads with spectacular play that had the crowd on its feet. "That is some of the best racquetball I have seen in a long time," said Jim Hiser, USRA Executive Director. After being tied at 2-2, 3-3, and 4-4, Huczek took control of the match and moved ahead 7-4. The players then traded seven side-outs before Vanderson managed to pull within one at 7-6. That was as close as he would get as Huczek closed out the match 11-6.

"I stayed composed and eventually started moving and hitting my shots," said Huczek after the match. "I was fortunate the match went my way." When asked how he felt about not earning a spot on the U.S. National team Vanderson replied with a sly smile, "I'm looking forward to Houston." Houston is where the U.S. National Singles Championships are played in May and a chance for four more players to earn spots on the U.S. National team.



Huczek vs. Vanderson



Walsh vs. Csuk



2002 champions Krystal Csuk and Jack Huczek

2002 E-Force 30th National Intercollegiate Championships

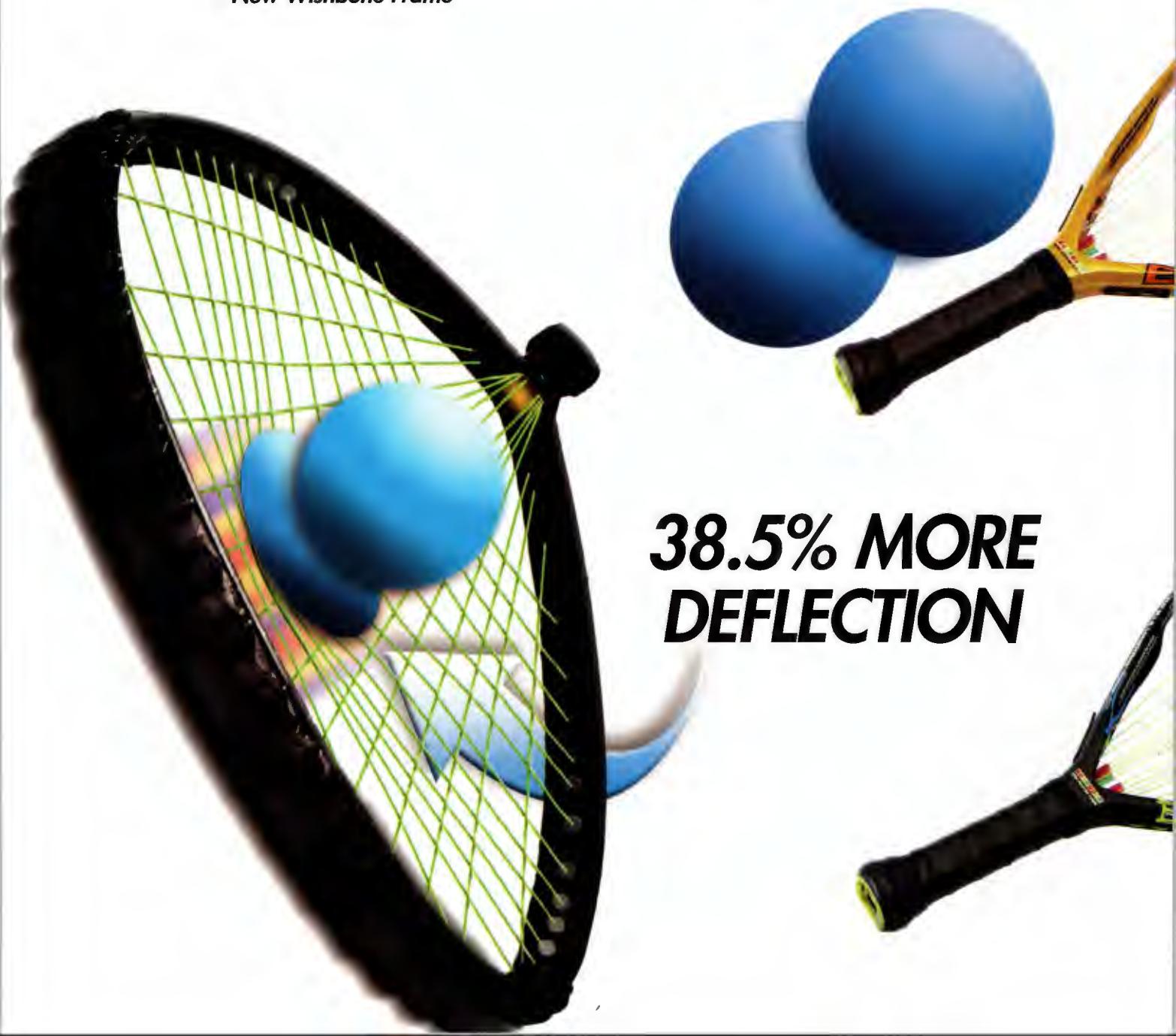
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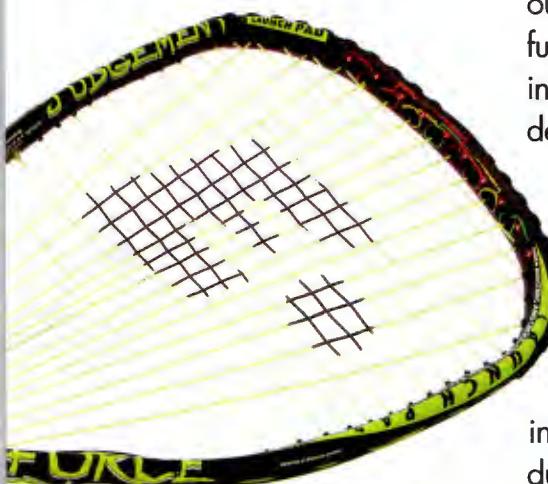
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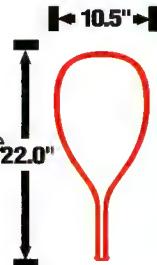
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power and control.

Another freshman, Krystal Csuk of Baldwin Wallace College won the women's No.1 singles championships over another defending champion, Kristen Walsh of the University of Utah.

Ironically, Csuk took over Baldwin Wallace's No.1 singles position after Walsh transferred to Utah to be closer to her family. Csuk shocked the crowd, and perhaps Walsh, in the first game by jumping out to a 14-0 lead. Walsh managed a point but that was all as Csuk won 15-1. The second game was almost as lopsided but it was Walsh who came out on top 15-4.

The tiebreaker looked like it was going to be another blowout when Csuk again jumped out to an early 9-3 lead. Walsh dug down deep and pulled within a point at 9-8 but it was Csuk's day and she came away with an 11-9 win that earned her a spot on the U.S. National team. "I played out of my mind in the first game but I knew that she is so mentally tough that she would come back in the second," said Csuk. "I am just really excited to be on the (U.S. National) team."

Team Titles

Although none of the singles players were able to repeat as champions in 2002, Baldwin Wallace College was able to hold onto its Division I overall team championship title. Baldwin Wallace, located in Berea, Ohio, won by a commanding 708 points over second place BYU. They also won the men's title by edging out the University of Southern Colorado and finished second by 35 points in the women's overall to BYU. •

E-Force 30th National Intercollegiate Championships College Station, Texas: April 3-7, 2002

Men's Singles

U.S. Team Qualifier/#1: Jack Huczek (Oakland University) def. Shane Vanderson (Baldwin Wallace College) 12-15; 15-10; 11-6
 #2: Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Jeffrey Garner (University of Memphis) 15-4; 15-12
 #3: Justin Arms (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Mike Lawrence (University of Memphis) 15-11; 15-9
 #4: Lee George (University of Southern Colorado) def. Jared Daniels (Brigham Young University) 15-10; 15-10
 #5: Brandon Burgess (University of Southern Colorado) def. Manab Khatio (Arizona State) 15-12; 15-4
 #6: Jason Zilveti (Arizona State) def. Tom Dolan (Bryant College) 15-7; 15-12

Women's Singles

U.S. Team Qualifier/#1: Krystal Csuk (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Kristen Walsh (University of Utah) 15-1; 4-15; 11-9
 #2: Adva Buzi (University of Texas) def. Paige Harris (Brigham Young University) 15-6; 15-14
 #3: Sarah Morrison (Penn State University) def. Laura Bryan (Brigham Young University) 15-8; 15-11
 #4: Eileen Sanchez (Brigham Young University) def. Elle Summers (Baldwin Wallace College) 15-0; 15-11
 #5: Marci Mangelson (BYU) def. Cari Weinbrennar (Penn State) 15-5; 15-14
 #6: Karin Christiansen (BYU) def. Tiff Baker (Baldwin Wallace) 15-3; 15-0

Doubles

Men's Doubles #1: Andy Hawthorne/Shane Vanderson (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Cesar Carrillo/Jeff Garner (University of Memphis) 15-4; 15-12
 Men's Doubles #2: Dan Beaudry/Lee George (University of Southern Colorado) def. Justin Arms/Joe Linnell (Baldwin Wallace College) 15-14; 3-15; 11-5
 Men's Doubles #3: Abram Pasley/Rick Warner (Arizona State) def. Brandon Burgess/Kevin Kupzyk (University of Southern Colorado) 10-15; 15-3; 11-0

Women's Doubles #1: Krystal Csuk/Elle Summers (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Adva Buzi/Keely Franks (University of Texas) 15-11; 15-10
 Women's Doubles #2: Paige Harris/Eileen Sanchez (Brigham Young University) def. Traci Cervoski/Amanda McCormick (Baldwin Wallace College) 15-4; 15-14

Women's Doubles #3: Karen Christiansen/Marci Mangelson (Brigham Young University) def. Quatia Marigny/Shannon Noonan (Bryant College) 15-4; 15-5
 Mixed Doubles #1: Krystal Csuk/Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace) def. Melissa Borgwat/Mark Salinas (Sacramento State) 15-7; 15-6

Mixed Doubles #2: Amanda McCormick/Justin Arms (Baldwin Wallace) def. Paige Harris/Jared Daniels (BYU) 15-8; 15-11
 Mixed Doubles #3: Joseph Earl Linnell/Elle Summers (Baldwin Wallace) def. Megan Henty/Mathew Moretz (Penn State) 15-1; 15-3

TEAM RESULTS

OVERALL TEAM
 Baldwin Wallace 2261
 BYU 1553
 Arizona St. 1046.5
 Penn St. 1017
 Bryant 784
 North Carolina 711.5
 Texas Austin 571.5
 Texas A&M 534.5
 Southern Missouri St. 528
 Nevada 255.5
 Sacramento St. 252.5
 Nichols College 235
 Clarkson 234
 Utah St. 146

MEN'S TEAM

Baldwin Wallace 1407
 Southern Colorado 1345
 Memphis 1194
 Arizona St. 710
 North Carolina 705.5
 BYU 664
 Bryant 454
 Penn St. 362
 Oakland 350
 Texas A&M 288
 California Berkeley 253
 Southern Missouri St. 205
 Worcester St. 140
 Sam Houston St. 140
 Nichols College 127
 Texas Austin 121.5
 Clarkson 108.5
 Texas-San Antonio 106
 RPI 83
 Sacramento St. 77.5
 Utah Valley St. 51
 Missouri Western St. 51
 Utah St. 22
 Nevada 15.5

WOMEN'S TEAM

BYU 889
 Baldwin Wallace 854
 Penn St. 655
 Texas Austin 450
 Arizona St. 336.5
 Bryant 330
 Southern Missouri St. 323
 Texas A&M 246.5
 Nevada 240
 University of Utah 210
 Sacramento St. 175
 Clarkson 125.5
 Utah St. 124
 Nichols College 108
 North Carolina 6

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2002 Pro Nationals



To end the 2001-02 season for the IRT, the men came to Los Caballeros knowing that Cliff Swain had already locked up the season championship -- but they were still ready to stake a claim on the last stop title of the season. Then, with Swain's injury withdrawal from the event, one of the main attractions became Sudsy Monchik's return to action after a seven-month stint on injured reserve while he recovered from a broken foot sustained just days before the U.S. OPEN.

In unfamiliar territory (having to advance through qualifying rounds, after losing his ranking position due to the long layoff), Sudsy squared off against Jason Mannino in the round of 16's. This time last year, a match-up of this caliber would have been, at least, a semi or a final. So why would Sudsy put himself through qualifying at the last stop of the year? "I wanted to protect my place in history and I wanted to test out my foot," he explained, perhaps referring to his desire to stop Cliff from winning an unprecedented sixth pro title before he was able to.

On paper, the Mannino-Monchik match-up looked as though it could have been one of the best round of 16 matches ever, but it didn't pan out that way. Jason advanced easily over Sudsy in straight games of 11-6, 11-2, 11-2. "My mindset was a little different and the reason I came out to play changed a little bit," Sudsy said after the match. "Besides that, Jason's great. He killed me."

Sudsy insists that although he may have felt a little rusty at this event, he'll be ready to go next season. He's been working hard to come back stronger than ever. When asked if the long layoff would make him hungrier next season he didn't hesitate with his answer, "Oh yeah, it already has."

Quarterfinals

After getting out of the gate slow, Jason kicked things into high gear against Derek Robinson, who had won the first game 11-5 before Jason took the next three 11-6, 11-4, 11-4. John Ellis didn't have any trouble getting up to speed in his match against Mike Green. He controlled the first two games, 11-3, 11-2, and held Green off in the third, 11-9, to complete the sweep. Perhaps it was a little revenge for Green's five game win over Ellis two weeks earlier in Greensboro.

Story by Ryan John • Photos by John Foust

Alvaro Beltran continued to play well this season, knocking off Rocky Carson to earn a spot in the semis. Alvaro had already made an appearance in the finals of one tournament this year, also in California, where Jason defeated him in four games. When he is on, there's no telling how far he can go.

In a match-up that is certain to be repeated in years to come (it's already occurred several times this season alone), Kane Waselenchuk went up against Jack Huczek. Two of the youngest and hottest players on the tour, each of them already has one pro stop title; but what Jack doesn't have yet this year is a win over Kane. In both previous faceoffs this season, Kane defeated Jack - and did so again, to make it three straight in Los Cab, 11-9, 5-11, 11-7, 11-6.



HUCZEK & WASELENCHUK

Semifinals

Mannino has stated publicly that he'd rather face Jack than have to play against Kane in a tournament, and he has good reason: Kane defeated Jason in three straight. "He does everything well," Jason said after their match. "He was serving very well and we were playing on concrete courts, which don't help me when he's hitting the ball so hard."

Even though the match only went to three games, it was by no means a cakewalk for Kane. The first two games were tight at 11-8 and 11-9, before Kane domi-



MANNINO TALKS WITH FRAN DAVIS

nated the third 11-1. Had Jason slumped when he realized that he wasn't playing for the No.1 spot anymore? After hearing that Cliff wasn't going to play, thus locking up the top spot, he'd said that he "couldn't put it into words" how he felt, but didn't feel like it affected his play. "I would like to think that I could play through that."

Obviously disappointed, Jason fell just short of the No.1 ranking at season's end, but he was still proud that he had finished higher than in any other year. "I am happy that I was able to reach a plateau that I didn't reach before." And how does he see next year shaping up? "I think it will be very similar to this year, but with throwing Sudsy in the mix." He went onto say, "A couple of good calls, a couple of bad calls, or a couple of ace serves could decide the champion next year."

Ellis and Beltran were matched up in the other semifinal match to see who would get to face Kane for the title. Ellis took the first two games rather easily 11-5, 11-4. Alvaro stepped it up to take one in the third, 11-8, but Ellis was just too much and closed out the match in

four, 11-4. "I think he wasn't playing as well as he could," Ellis said, "and I think it was one of my better matches of the tournament."

The Finals

For the third straight year, Ellis was in the finals at Pro Nationals — he won it two years ago, but lost it last year to Mannino in a five-game thriller. This year he would have to face one of the fastest rising stars on the tour — Kane Waselenchuk. Ellis started out hot, winning the first two games 11-8, 11-5, before Kane started to play some incredible racquetball and copied the scores with identical wins of his own 11-8, 11-5. "I felt that I really let that

third game slip away," Ellis said. "He played solid in the fourth."

Season stats, on top of the title, were up for grabs in the fifth, as Ellis attempted to earn his first finals win, on his third try, while Kane worked for a second tour victory that could possibly put him ahead of Ellis in the final rankings. The game was close and ended with another "8" to complete the full house, but it was Ellis who scored point 11. "In the fifth game I got a little tired and I think it made me focus a little more on my drive serve," Ellis said after the match. "I think being a veteran of the tour for 10 years helped me out at the end of that match."

Again working against a lock on the season's top spot for tour leader Cheryl Gudinas, the rest of the field were jockeying for ranking position that would determine their seeding for the last stop of the season in McLean, Virginia. For U.S. and Canadian athletes in the draw, the tournament could also be used as a tune-up for their respective National Championships, which were right around the corner.

One of the biggest upsets in the round of 16 was Denise Mock's comeback victory over No.6 seeded Kristen Walsh, who had won the first two games of the match 15-12, 15-10 and looked like she was on her way to a three game sweep. Somehow, Mock turned her game around and won the second and third games 15-12, 15-13, then followed-up with the longest game of the tournament. Neither player backed off, and the rally scoring system used by the LPRA made the game that much

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more intense. Mock was finally able to scrape out the victory to complete the tiebreaker upset 19-17.

Lori-Jane Powell, seeded ninth, moved closer to bumping Kim Russell out of the eighth spot in the rankings when she defeated her in four games, 15-12, 15-11, 8-15, 15-12. Tenth-seed Susy Acosta got past No. 7 Claudine Garcia after an injury forfeit. "I was running to get a ball up towards the front wall," Susy explained after the match. "I turned around and she was laying there on the ground." Garcia took the full fifteen minutes allotted for an injury timeout but it wasn't long enough. When she came back onto the court to give the match another try, her knee couldn't bear weight and she was forced to forfeit. Although at press time she is seeking a second opinion; the preliminary diagnosis was a torn ACL.

Quarters

Even though Susy advanced into the quarters by way of a forfeit, she had been playing well before it happened — tied with Claudine at a game apiece and 5-5 in the third. Susy was ready to prove that it wasn't a fluke and that she had regained some of her old form. In order to make her point, she would have to advance past U.S. OPEN champion Kerri Wachtel.

In that playoff, Kerri won the first game 15-7, before Susy began to play much better, edging out the next two 15-13, 17-15. Wachtel, who is able to stay on an even keel during her matches, didn't let the close losses bother her and tied the match up at two games apiece, with a fourth game win, 15-12. In the fifth, Acosta took advantage of mistakes to earn a berth in the semifinals by winning the decisive game 15-11. "I felt good play-

• men's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

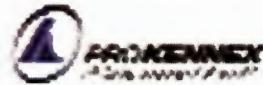
2001-2002 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCORECARD

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

2002-2003 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE

August 22-25	New Orleans, LA	Summer Cooler @ Elmwood Fitness Center, 504-553-0119
September 5-8	Stockton, CA	Pro Am @ In Shape Fitness Club, 209-472-2100
September 19-23	Denver, CO	RacquetballCatalog.com ProFest @ Family Fitness Racquet Club
September 26-30	Chihuahua, Mexico	Chihuahua Open @
October 10-13	Virginia	Virginia Open @
Oct. 31 - Nov. 3	Chicago, IL	Halloween Classic @ Athletic Club of Bloomingdale, 630-893-9577
November 20-24	Memphis, TN	Choice 7th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400
2003		
Jan. 30 - Feb. 2	Coral Springs, FL	Harold McKahand Memorial Open @
February 6-9	Austin, TX	Longhorn Open @
February 13-16	Boston, MA	Foxwoods Casino Open @
February 20-23	Portland, OR	Portland Open @
Feb. 27 - Mar. 2	San Diego, CA	San Diego Open @
April 24-27	Virginia	Virginia Beach Open @
May	Pro Nationals	TBA

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



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SEASON RANKINGS

[Season End —Through Pro Nationals, 05/2002]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 3445	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	1	2
2. 3173	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	2	4
3. 2825	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	3	3
4. 2350	Kane Waselenchuk	Alberta, Canada	10	14
5. 2006	Jack Huczak	Rochester, MI	6	17
6. 1886	Alvaro Beltran	Chihuahua, Mexico	5	6
7. 1870	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	4	5
8. 1760	Derek Robinson	Kennewick, WA	8	7
9. 1606	Tim Doyle	San Diego, CA	7	8
10. 1549	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX	9	9
11. 1511	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada	11	13
12. 1183	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	13	24
13. 1016	Brian Istace	Alberta, Canada	12	18
14. 869	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	14	21
15. 730	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	16	10
16. 716	Javier Moreno	Memphis, TN	17	20
17. 678	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	15	1
18. 556	Shai Manzuri	Manchester, NH	20	49
19. 519	Woody Clouse	Littleton, CO	18	47
20. 483	Erin Brannigan	Sagle, ID	19	12
21. 429	Adam Karp	Stockton, CA	25	15
22. 371	Dan Llaceria	Rehoboth, DE	23	26
23. 360	Dale Valentine	Riverside, CA	27	31
24. 352	Mike Locker	Minneapolis, MN	21	11
25. 321	Greg Thomas	Bend, OR	29	16
26. 284	Brian Pointelin	Salt Lake City, UT	26	29
27. 280	Mike Dennison	Twinsberg, OH	22	34
28. 193	Kris Odegard	Saskatoon, Canada	32	27
29. 191	Doug Ganim	Westerville, OH	28	39
30. 182	Jason Thoerner	Atlanta, GA	N/A	N/A
31. 181	Louis Vogel	Albuquerque, NM	30	23
32. 170	Shawn Royster	Huntington Beach, CA	40	30
33. 162	Eugene Coyle	Palatine, IL	31	46
34. 153	Shane Vanderson	Dublin, OH	38	N/A
35. 140	Jason Jansen	Fargo, ND	36	37
36. 131	Jeffrey Garner	Hoover, AL	41	60
37. 126	Chris Wright	Ballwin, MO	44	55
38. 121	Bruce Moore	Edgewater Park, NJ	24	22
39. 114	Hiroshi Shimzu	Japan	43	N/A
40. 110	Ryan Homa	Eagan, MN	33	28
41. 91	James Lockhart	Lincoln, NE	34	41
41. 91	Polo Gutierrez	Doruda, Mexico	35	N/A
43. 89	Jim Minkel	Houston, TX	45	N/A
44. 86	Brent Hansen	Hudson, IA	46	107
45. 84	Jim Frautschi	Edina, MN	49	N/A
46. 79	Kevin Graham	Oakdale, MS	49	36
47. 73	Joey Logan	Chicago, IL	56	140
48. 59	Ed Willis	Alexandria, VA	57	52
49. 56	Andres Jimenez	San Louis Potasi, Mexico	66	N/A
50. 52	Brent Walters	Raleigh, NC	61	78

RECORD BREAKER

By winning his sixth season ending title, Cliff Swain separated himself from every other pro who has ever played the game — surpassing Sudsy Monchik, Mike Yellen, and Marty Hogan who each have five. "It feels great," Cliff said in a telephone interview. "I was already satisfied with what I had done throughout my career, not content, satisfied, but this feels great."

As stated in the last issue of RACQUETBALL, Cliff didn't need to play in Pro Nationals to keep his #1 ranking and set a new record for season wins. The piece also stated that Cliff wouldn't back down from a challenge, and although he ended up *not* competing, he didn't exactly back down either. Cliff aggravated an existing abdominal tear before the tournament began and that, combined with a newly injured groin, kept him out of the season finale. "I have been battling the injury all season long but I have never said anything because that is not what I do."

For those who harbor doubts about the injury, RACQUETBALL wanted to give Cliff a chance to sound off for the skeptics. "I have mixed emotions about it.

Partially I am insulted by anyone questioning it. Three or four years ago I had the option of not coming (to the final event). If I didn't go then I would [have retained] my #1 ranking, but I went, lost to Mike Ray early, Sudsy won the tournament, and I finished #2 by just 10 points. But I was 100% then so I went and played. This time I wasn't.

The same situation occurred with Sudsy two years ago. I am just curious why it (the doubting) wasn't brought up then. I just hope that people know from watching me for 20 years what kind of player I am. I show up everyday, injured or not, and play without complaint."



ing against Kerri. It was actually the first time that I have ever beat her," Susy remarked. "I think she missed some shots that she usually doesn't, but I have to recognize that I played well against her."

Rhonda Rajsich and Kersten Hallander have been battling back and forth in the rankings all year, shifting between the No.4 and No.5 spots. At it again, they treated the crowd to another grueling five-game battle, after trading wins in the first four, until Kersten was able to close out the match in the fifth, 11-7, to advance.

Semifinals

The semifinals pitted tour star Cheryl Gudinas against Kersten and frequent finalist Jackie Rice against the renewed Acosta. Cheryl, who had won her earlier match in straight games over Lori-Jane Powell, split the first two games against Hallander, but seemed to get stronger as the match went on. She went on to win the third and fourth games 15-11, 15-8 to advance to her fourth straight finals appearance. She'd been successful in all of them, to date.

Jackie, who had also advanced in straight games over Denise Mock, would face an upset-minded Susy Acosta. Jackie won the first 15-8, but Susy again surprised the crowd by taking the second 15-13. But that was when Susy's magic ran out, and Jackie was able to overtake the match, winning the next two games easily, 15-4, 15-7. "I felt like I played OK at this tournament," Susy said. "After playing bad for so long it was about time for me to do well."

The Finals

A final between Gudinas and Rice is something that fans have grown accustomed to. In fact, it was the fourth time this season that they had faced each other for a title; only one other final hadn't featured at least one of them.

Jackie stated that she felt better than she had in some time (since breaking her ankle last summer), and she showed it in the first two games of the match with 15-6, 15-10 wins. "I was serving well and moving well," Jackie said of the first two games. "I noticed that when I was able to set my feet right, I was hitting my shots crisp and where I wanted them."

Cheryl suddenly found herself in a deep hole that didn't know how to get out of it. She knew it would be hard to win three straight against an opponent like Jackie, especially with the LPRA scoring system. That is when Chris Wachtel, on hand to support wife Kerri, offered some sideline advice and encouragement. "Chris reminded me between the second and third games, that I win three-straight games all of the time," Cheryl explained. "He also told me not to forget about the sissy serve ... " (a backhand half-lob that Kerri used effectively in her win over Jackie at the U.S. OPEN).

Cheryl used Chris's advice and took the third game 15-11. The fourth game was a different story as Jackie's



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play edged back up to where it had been in the first two games. With the advantage at 16-15, Cheryl thought she hit the game winner but the call was overturned on appeal and Jackie tied things up at 16-16. Cheryl, known for her mental toughness, came back to win the next two points to force a decisive fifth game. "I knew she had to have it in her mind that she blew a 2-0 lead and now found herself in a fifth game" Cheryl thought, going into the tiebreak.

"It was tough losing the fourth game and I was a little bummed," Jackie said. "But I knew that I had to go out there and give it a shot in the fifth even though my ankle began to get a little tired on me."

Cheryl brought momentum into the fifth and went on to win 15-10 for her fourth straight tournament title. "The more the match went on the better my serves got and the more my confidence grew," said Cheryl. "I would have to say that this is one of the best matches that I have played because of the difference in how I felt between the first two games and how I felt in the last game."



• women's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2001-2002 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCORECARD

Charlotte.....	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kristen Walsh	15-11, 15-8, 15-12
Albuquerque	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	9-15, 15-11, 16-14, 15-10
Colorado Springs	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso Rice.....	15-13, 15-10, 13-15, 9-15, 15-5
Memphis	Kerri Wachtel def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	15-13, 12-15, 15-11, 15-10
Saskatoon	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso Rice	13-15, 15-12, 15-12, 15-10
Denver.....	Jackie Paraiso Rice def. Rhonda Rajsich	15-10, 15-11, 15-8
Rosarito Beach.....	Rhonda Rajsich def. Kerri Wachtel.....	15-14, 15-5, 8-15, 14-16, 15-11
Chicago	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	15-12, 15-4, 15-10
Minneapolis.....	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	15-5, 18-16, 15-8
San Diego	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kristen Walsh	15-11, 15-8, 14-16, 9-15, 15-19
Pro Nationals.....	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice.....	6-15, 10-15, 15-11, 18-16, 15-10

2002-2003 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE

September 6-8	Rosarito Beach, Mexico	@ Rosarito Beach Resort, 800-343-8582
September 20-22	Charlotte, NC	Downtown Branch, Charlotte YMCA, 704-716-6100
October 18-20	Albuquerque, NM	Midtown Sports & Wellness, 505-266-8960
November 1-3	Colorado Springs, CO.....	Lynmar Classic @ Lynmar Racquet & Health Club, 719-598-4069
November 20-24	Memphis, TN	Choice 7th U.S. OPEN @ Racquet Club of Memphis, 901-765-4400
December 6-8	Denver, CO.....	Lakewood Athletic Club, 303-989-5545
2003		
January 17-19	Cincinnati, OH	Five Seasons Country Club, 513-469-1400
February 1-3.....	San Diego, CA.....	Sorrento Valley Racquetball & Fitnesss Center, 858-455-1551
February 14-16	Nashville, TN	TBA
Feb.28 - Mar.2.....	Minneapolis, MN	Central Courts, 763-572-0330
March 13-15	Baltimore, MD	TBA
March 28-30	Saskatoon, Canada	River Racquet Athletic Club, 306-242-0010
May 9-11	Portland, OR	TBA
May.....	Pro Nationals	TBA

Combined IRT/LPRA stops feature a Saturday final. For LPRA information, contact Jim Hiser at 719-635-5396, ext. 130, or email JHiser@usra.org, or Ed Willis at Ewillisll@aol.com, or go to www.ladiesproracquetball.com.

Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Season Rankings

[Season End — Through Pro Nationals, 05/2002]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 958.750	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1	1
2. 506.750	Jackie Paraiso Rice	San Diego, CA	3	2
3. 500.500	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	2	8
4. 336.625	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	4	3
5. 279.750	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	5	5
6. 205.625	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	7	14
7. 149.750	Claudine Garcia	Dominican Republic	6	N/A
8. 145.625	Kim Russell	Austin, TX	8	16
9. 127.875	Lori-Jane Powell	Calgary, Alberta, Canada	9	9
10. 83.625	Laura Fenton	Overland Park, KS	10	4
11. 78.000	Susana Acosta	Chihuahua, Mexico	13	6
12. 59.250	Denise Mock	Allen, TX	12	15
13. 58.575	Jennifer Saunders	Winnipeg-Manitoba, Canada	11	21
14. 48.075	Rachel Gellman	Phoenix, AZ	15	19
15. 43.450	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD	16	7
16. 39.750	Dina Moreland	Montgomery, AL	14	19
17. 35.825	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	19	24
18. 33.250	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO	17	13
19. 26.125	Janet Myers	Charlotte, NC	18	12
20. 22.375	Elaine Albrecht	Delaware, OH	22	N/A
21. 20.125	Ramona Vonondarza	Venezuela	23	34
22. 19.375	Ellen Crawford	Alexandria, VA	20	N/A
23. 17.375	Karina Odegard	Saskatoon, Sask. Canada	25	35
24. 16.875	Sara Borland	Lowell, MA	N/A	N/A
25. 16.825	Brenda Kyzer	Lexington, SC	23	N/A
26. 12.875	Amy Foster	Ohio	N/A	N/A
27. 11.375	Claudia Corpí	Chihuahua, Mexico	22	48
28. 7.750	Kim Machiran	Ballwin, MO	25	10
29. 7.375	Chris Evon	Wheeling, IL	37	17
30. 6.750	Chantal Turgeon	Quebec, Canada	25	43
30. 6.750	Amanda MacDonald	Prince Albert, Canada	25	N/A
32. 6.625	Brandi Prentice	Saskatoon, Canada	46	N/A
32. 6.625	Joy McKenzie	Santee, CA	N/A	N/A
32. 6.625	Lisa Hjelm	Carmichael, CA	N/A	40
35. 6.200	Holly Gray	Tempe, AZ	29	N/A
36. 6.000	Diane Bohling	El Paso, TX	30	N/A
37. 5.625	Gerri Stoffregen	Cincinnati, OH	31	N/A
38. 5.075	T.J. Baumbaugh	Rockville, MD	32	N/A
39. 5.000	Josee Grand'Maitre	Longueuil, Quebec Canada	31	18
40. 4.000	Krystal Csuk	Naperville, IL	37	N/A
41. 3.950	Robyn Perrin	Antioch, TN	32	N/A
41. 3.950	Stephanie Munger	Anchorage, AK	32	30
43. 2.125	Lauren Deutsch	West Hills, CA	N/A	N/A
44. 2.000	Mickey Richer	Ft. Collins, CO	35	42
44. 2.000	Lourdes Sanders	Ft. Collins, CO	35	25
46. 1.625	Vallana Perrault	Motley, MN	52	N/A
47. 1.500	Sandy Kubany	Olney, MD	39	N/A
48. 1.200	Meena Evans	Advance, NC	40	N/A
48. 1.200	Shannon Stewart	Silver Spring, MD	40	30



Official Shoe



Although there is still one stop left in the LPRA season Cheryl Gudinas has locked up the season #1 ranking for the second straight year. In fact, Cheryl has had the season title in her pocket for some time now. She would have had to *not* play in the last two pro-stops and either Kerri Wachtel or Jackie Rice would have had to win each of those to take Cheryl's spot in the rankings.

Cheryl once again dominated the LPRA tour, winning eight of eleven stops thus far. She is currently building on a streak of four straight wins. With the season #1 already hers, we asked Cheryl what motivates her as the season comes to a close.

"I just hate losing. I want to keep playing consistent," she replied. "Besides, who wants to end the season with a not-so-hot showing?" Cheryl seems to have no trouble staying focused towards the end of her championship seasons — last year she closed it out with four straight wins. This year's season could end with five ...



Racquetball's Guardian Angel ... Meet Raymond E. Schultz

by Doug Ganim

Sports like tennis and golf have flourished for years with the support of major corporate sponsors and the executives who manage them. Since so many senior level corporate executives personally play tennis and/or golf, they're often willing to listen to promoters who pitch opportunities to sponsor events in their favorite sports. But outside that comfort zone – even though sports marketing has

become a proven way for corporations to win over loyal customers – the number and variety of sport "properties" can be overwhelming.

So despite the fact that racquetball is enjoyed by millions, we've been unable to solicit and attract major corporate support. For whatever reason, we have not found those senior level executives who enjoy the game themselves and can recognize the clear benefits of involvement. One notable exception to this unfortunate rule is a very special man from Memphis, Tennessee named Raymond E. Schultz.

Ray, as his friends call him, has been quietly supporting racquetball from behind the scenes for over 15 years and has made it clear, on more than one occasion, that he does not want to be publicly recognized. For the most part, we've honored that wish, but after his most recent heroic feat of "saving" the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships from postponement in 2002, I decided that enough was enough. It was time to introduce Raymond E. Schultz!

So who is Ray Schultz and what has he done for the sport? Well let's start with the first half of that question. Ray Schultz is the retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Promus Hotel Corporation, one of the world's premier lodging companies, with well known brands such as Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn, Hampton Inn & Suites, Homewood Suites, and Doubletree Hotels. He is also a man who has enjoyed a year love affair with the sport of racquetball for over 25 years. He is a self-

proclaimed "addict" and even now, at the age of 68, tries to play two to three times per week.

Ray Schultz graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Labor Management Relations and successfully completed the ROTC Air Force pilot training program. He then flew jets for five years before taking a corporate job with IBM, where he developed the world's first computerized reservation system for Holiday Inn and later took a management post with the Holiday Inn Corporation. During his 14 years there, he led key functions in the areas of hotel development, franchising, technology, and marketing. In 1969 Holiday Inn purchased Harrah's Entertainment and became the Promus Companies.

In 1983 he introduced the country to a new lodging concept – Hampton Inns. Now one of the worlds most recognized hotels brands, Hampton Inns has become one of the crown jewels of Ray Schultz' stellar business career. In 1989 he introduced the first unconditional service guarantee in the lodging industry and then in 1995, after a Promus Companies spin-off reorganization, he became the first CEO of Promus Hotel Corporation. Under Ray Schultz's leadership Promus Hotel Corporation flourished to over 1,300 hotels and 200,000 rooms. In 1998 Ray Schultz retired and in addition to serving on several corporate and non-profit boards he now enjoys duck hunting, fly fishing, golf, and of course, racquetball!

Ray's love for the sport started back in the mid 60's during his years with IBM. Back then he would get together with some of his corporate cohorts for weekly spirited competition and a good workout. He later became more proficient at the game (reaching the Men's B skill level) with a special knack for playing doubles. Many of his regular playing partners from 15 years ago are still going at it today including racquetball friends like Larry Liles, Phil McNeil, Al Brown, Joe Mirable, Greg Meadows, Bill Vaughn, Olin Atkins, Bill Douglas, and Larry Karbain. These days the group gets together at Chickasaw Country Club in Memphis for weekly doubles play.

Ray formed a friendship with Memphis' own Andy Roberts and became one of Andy's biggest fans, following his career closely as he rose up through the amateur and professional ranks. Andy also took the time to work with Ray on the courts, helping him to become a better

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

Harrow products, starting with the Torment racquet, are distinctive in both appearance and design. The Torment racquet is a high modulus graphite power machine that features a micro stringing pattern for maximum playability and head light balance for tremendous acceleration through the ball. The Torment II is a heavier, more flexible version of Torment, weighing in at 195 grams. Coming soon . . . the Rasp. In addition, the complete product line includes Harrow string, apparel, bags, gloves, Puma indoor court shoes and Rudy Project eyewear.

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


Mike Ceresia,
Sales and Marketing Manager
Harrow Racquetball



endorsed by mike
ceresia

- 4-time IRF world champion
- 11-time Canadian national champion
- winningest player in world championship history



P r o m o t i o n

Harrow's Pro Shop Opening Package

Identify your club's top adult player and top junior player, and we'll send them each a **FREE** Torment or Torment II racquet and 2 **FREE** Harrow shirts. Your Pro Shop will receive a **FREE** Torment racquet and 6 Torment or Torment II racquets at 10% off wholesale!

also from harrow

Torment II
195 grams

Rasp
200 grams



harrow

denver • toronto

harrowsports.com

800.541.2905



Sudsy Monchik, Andy Roberts, Ray Schultz, John Ellis & Cliff Swain

player. The two have teamed up (in some freakish luck of the draw!) for five of the last six years in the Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude fundraiser to kick off each year's U.S. OPEN. They remain close friends today.

On July 2, Ray and his wife Erin celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. They have three children (Greg, Rick, and Elizabeth) and three grandchildren (Karl-13, Karin-10, and Larkin-3). Those who know Ray best describe him as a devoted family man with a heart as big as Montana (Big Sky is where he and his wife spend their summers!). The people that worked for him at Promus Hotel Corporation revered him as a compassionate and inspirational leader.

Ray's habit of giving back to the sport began over 17 years ago when he annually donated to the University of Memphis racquetball team. After Hampton Inn was up and running as a major national brand, Ray would often get the team free rooms to use while traveling to tournaments throughout the country. In 1987 Schultz stepped forward to become the title sponsor of the Hampton Inn Pro-Am, a major men's professional event on the IRT's annual circuit. The event was considered by many as one of the season's premier tourneys and Ray Schultz made sure the tournament had the financial support it needed for nine full years.

Then, in 1996, the USRA approached Ray Schultz with the news that the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships was going to be coming to Memphis and that it would be the sports first ever "Grand Slam" event. We asked Ray if he would mind shifting the date of the Hampton Inn Pro-Am so that both tournaments could be held in Memphis without conflict. He imme-

diately announced that he wanted to receive a complete sponsorship package for title sponsorship of the U.S. OPEN and that his inclination was to take the Hampton Inn Pro-Am and turn it into the Promus Hotel Corporation U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Of course, that is exactly what happened and now the U.S. OPEN has grown into the largest and most prestigious racquetball event in the world.

Although Ray Schultz has been the single largest supporter the sport has ever had (nearly \$1 million in financial support over the last 15 years) his story of support does not end there. In 1998 Hilton Hotel Corporation purchased Promus Hotel Corporation and Ray Schultz retired. Hilton supported the existing contract with the USRA for the U.S. OPEN and then in 2001 announced that they would not be renewing. In January of 2002 I went to Ray Schultz to explain our dire situation and that if a new title sponsor was not found very quickly the event would have to be canceled. We brainstormed some ideas for potential new sponsors including a possible presentation to Choice Hotels International, one of the largest hotel companies in the world. Ray Schultz knew many of the senior executives at Choice and made a couple of phone calls to get us a presentation meeting. Within 90 days, a three-year agreement was signed for the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships!

Ray Schultz remains a humble man who seeks no recognition for the incredible contributions he has made, and continues to make, to the sport he loves. However, I felt it was time for the racquetball community to learn a little bit about the man that has worked hard behind the scenes to make sure our sport has continued to move forward. If you attend this year's Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, look for Ray right behind the stadium court watching the pro's battle it out for the title. He is not only a player, but an ardent and loyal fan. Ray Schultz is truly racquetball's guardian angel!

**Here it is ... the Choice Hotels
7th U.S. OPEN entry!**

**Is yours missing? If so, call 1-800-678-5396 for a replacement
entry & ticket application, then plan to join us in Memphis, November
20-24, 2002 for the biggest and best pro tour event of the year!**

CHOICE HOTELS

US OPEN

RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

November 20-24, 2002
Memphis, Tennessee

Cliff Swain
2001 champion

Kerri Wachtel
2001 champion



Entry Form and Ticket Application

www.choicehotelsusopen.com

CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



IT'S RACQUETBALL'S. PREMIER EVENT . . . AND YOU'RE INVITED !

Witness racquetball's only "Grand Slam"- the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. See all of the top players in the world, like Sudsy Monchik, Cliff Swain, Jason Mannino, Cheryl Gudinas and Kerri Wachtel compete for the largest prize-money purse in the sport — \$45,000+. Experience the thrill of dramatic player introductions featuring booming music and laser light shows. Stroll through the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Player Village and see what's new from the world's top racquetball manufacturers. Party the nights away with your favorite pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world.

Be there to see the world's only "made-for-TV" portable stadium racquetball court. The event will be nationally televised (tape delayed) on ESPN2. In addition, over 600 USRA Division players will compete in age and skill divisions for every level. Special events include the Grand Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", an Industry Trade Show, Player Village complete with concessions, live entertainment, International/VIP Reception, Pro-Am Doubles Tourney, HOLLYWOOD Casino Night, and fan fair activities. The event will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The professional matches will be held at The Racquet Club of Memphis, a world-class health club and dining facility featuring racquetball, tennis, locker rooms with all the amenities, state-of-the-art fitness center, swimming pool, four-star restaurant, elegant banquet and meeting rooms, pub with dance floor, and much, much more. The Racquet Club is no stranger to hosting world-class sporting events, as they are the annual site for the acclaimed Kroger St. Jude Tennis Championships, a stop on the ATP Tour, which has hosted such top name players as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and Andy Roddick. Amateur divisions will be played at The University of Memphis Recreation Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club) and Wimbledon Sportsplex (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all three facilities will be provided regularly.

Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



MADE-FOR-TV PORTABLE STADIUM RACQUETBALL COURT

One of the most exciting aspects of the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is that the world's only "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court will be used for all feature matches! The unique construction of the court allows stadium seating for more than 1,000, in addition to courtside luxury boxes for sponsors and VIPs.

From the **quarterfinals on**, all men's and women's pro matches will take place on the stadium court. Dramatic player introductions complete with laser light shows and booming music will treat racquetball fans to a total entertainment experience.



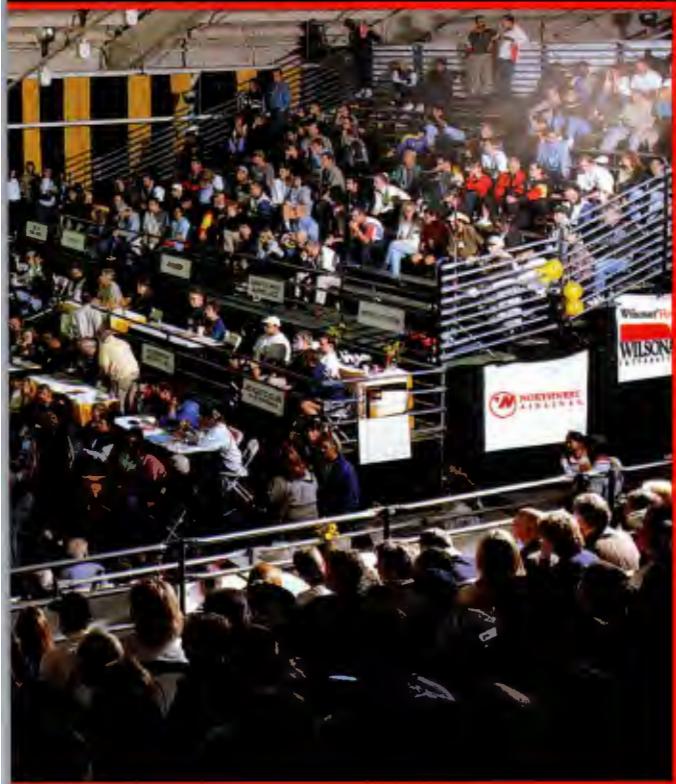
irt-tour.com



PARTIES, PARTIES AND MORE PARTIES

That's right! For those of us who like to enjoy our evenings, the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN promises a solid week of non-stop fun, kicking off with a Tuesday evening Welcome Party, Wednesday night International/VIP Reception, and Thursday HOLLYWOOD Casino Night in the Player Village at The Racquet Club. And that's only the beginning! On Friday evening, the action moves to the "Pub" nightspot at The Racquet Club of Memphis, which will feature a DJ spinning the hottest tunes for your dancing pleasure. Mingle with the pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world.

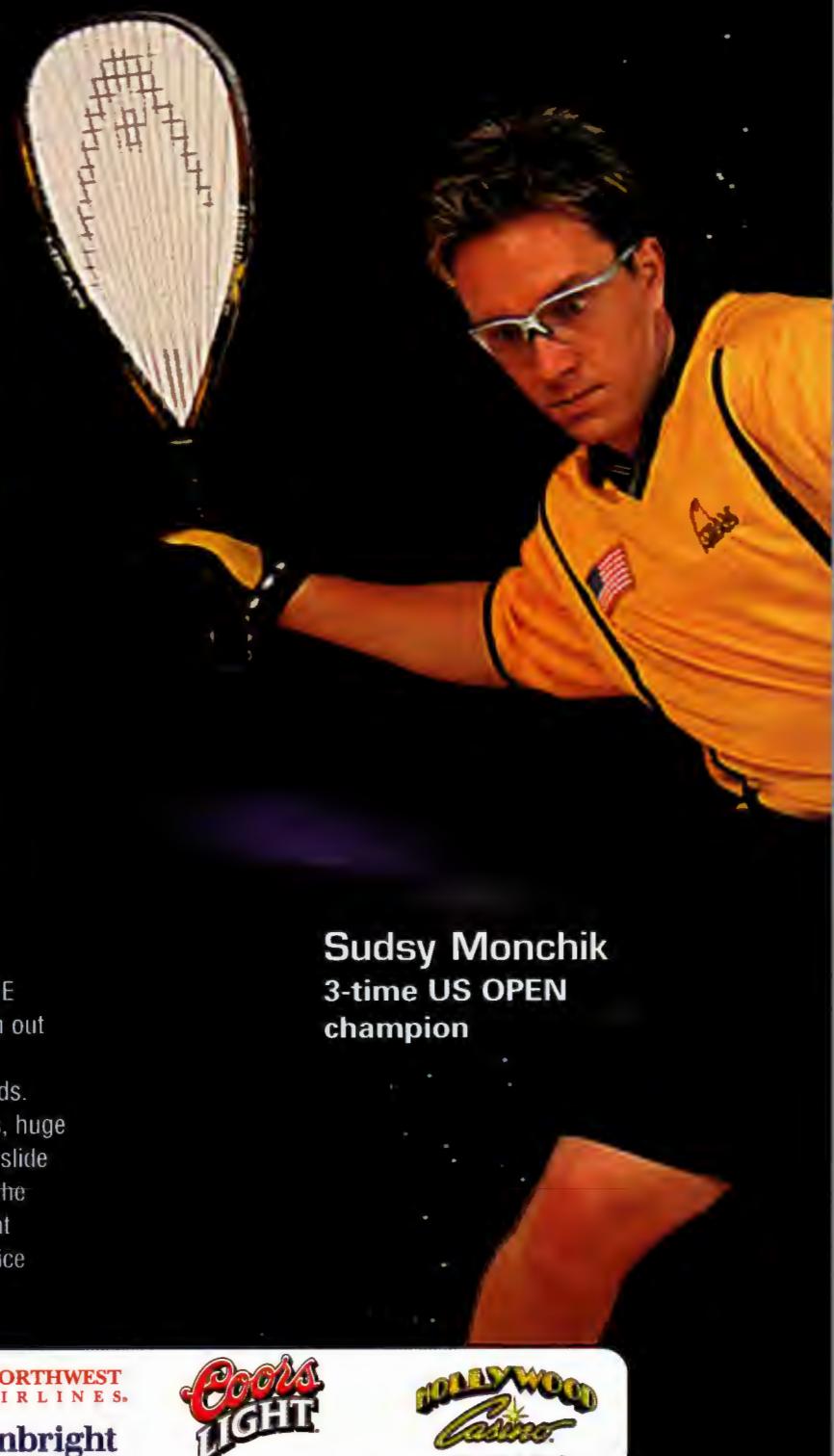
Saturday evening will top off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year – the seventh Annual



Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Grand Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS". More than 1,000 racquetball fans are expected to turn out at The Racquet Club Party Center for an evening of live entertainment featuring one of Tennessee's hottest dance bands. Elegant ice carvings, extravagant hors d'ouerves and desserts, huge dance floor, silent auction for St. Jude, cash bar, multi-media slide show, and all the top racquetball pros in the world will make the evening one to remember. The cost for guests and tournament spectators is \$30 per person. Players participating in the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN will be admitted free!

CHOICE HOTELS PLAYER VILLAGE

The nerve center of the event will be the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Player Village. Many activities are scheduled to take place in the Village, including an extensive Industry Trade Show, pro autograph signing sessions, live stage with entertainment, concessions, cash bar, informational seminars, and plenty of seating to kick back and relax. Admission is free for all spectators and players.



PRO MATCH SCHEDULE

Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude	Tuesday	5 p.m.- 10 p.m.
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying	Wednesday	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Men's round of 64	Wednesday	4 p.m.- 11 p.m.
Men's round of 32	Thursday	10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Women's round of 32	Thursday	1 p.m.- 7 p.m.
Men's round of 16	Thursday	5 p.m.- 9 p.m.
Women's round of 16	Friday	10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Men's quarters	Friday	3 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Women's quarters/Legend's semi's	Saturday	9 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1	Saturday	12:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.
Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2	Saturday	3:30 p.m.-6:30 pm
Legend's finals/Women's finals/		
Men's finals	Sunday	11:00 a.m.- 3 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP

All players must be current members of the USRA. If you're not, a membership can be purchased at the event (\$30 per year). In addition, all players entering the pro draws must be current members of the IRT/LPRA Players Association or join at the event (\$10).

PLAY BEGINS/STARTING TIMES/ CONFIRMATION/ENTRY DEADLINE

Players must be prepared to play as early as 8 a.m. on the dates indicated in the chart below. Requests for special starting times must be indicated on the entry form. Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests, however no guarantees can be made. Starting times will be available after 5 p.m. on Monday, November 18th by calling The Racquet Club at (901) 765-4428. Entries and ticket orders can be confirmed online after October 29, 2002 at www.choicehotelsusopen.com. Please immediately call the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 120 if any errors or omissions are found. All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 6th and/or postmarked by Friday Nov. 1st.

OPENING ROUNDS SCHEDULE

Wednesday Nov. 20th

Singles – All Pros, Men's Open, A, B, C, D, 24 & under, 24 & under A/B, 24 & under C/D, 25+, 25+ A/B, 25+ C/D, 30+, 35+, 35+A/B, 35+C/D, 40+, 45+, 45+A/B, 45+C/D, 55+A/B, 55+C/D.

Doubles – Men's Open, A, B, C, 35+

Thursday Nov. 21st

Singles – Men's 50+, 55+, Women's Open, A, B, C, D, 24 & under, 24 & under A/B, 24 & under C/D, 25+, 25+A/B, 25+C/D, 30+, 35+, 35+A/B, 35+C/D, 40+, 45+, 45+A/B, 45+C/D

Doubles – Men's 19+, All Women's and Mixed except 50+

Friday Nov. 22nd

Singles – Men's 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, Women's 50+, 55+, 55+A/B, 55+C/D, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+,

Doubles – Men's and Women's 50+

CHECK-IN

All player registration will take place at The Racquet Club of Memphis. Check-in is required prior to participating in the event. Hours for registration are: Tuesday, November 19th 3 p.m.- 10 p.m., Wednesday, November 20th 8 a.m.- 10 p.m., Thursday, November 21st 8 a.m.- 9 p.m., and Friday, November 22nd 8 a.m.- 9 p.m.

SKILL LEVEL CERTIFICATION

Skill-level entrants (to A, B, C, D divisions.) must be AMPRO certified at that level or be approved by the state director or representative as being legitimately competitive in the entered skill division at a level for the event. Tournament directors will use these benchmarks to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify or disqualify players when/if they are improperly placed. *NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria for corresponding skill levels in "Age+A/B" & "Age+C/D" divisions.*

TICKETS FOR PRO MATCHES

Everyone will be required to purchase tickets for pro matches — see ticket application or call (800) 234-5396 ext. 120. All non-players must purchase a ticket to be admitted to the Saturday evening Grand Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS". Seating is limited, therefore it is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets in advance.

ABSOLUTELY NO VIEWING WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT A TICKET
Last year's ticket packages sold out four weeks in advance, so don't delay! A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury box seats (with table service) are available starting at \$2,200.

Call 614-890-6073 for availability. Last year's event sold out four weeks in advance, so don't delay!

HOSPITALITY

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

SILENT AUCTION & PRO/AM DOUBLES CHALLENGE

For the benefit of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital a silent auction will be held during the event featuring Olympic Memorabilia and sporting goods equipment from the industry's best manufacturers. Checks, cash, VISA and MasterCard are welcome. In addition, Tuesday evening, November 19th, 32 lucky amateurs will have the opportunity to play in a single elimination (one game to 15) doubles challenge with a top professional player as their partner. All proceeds will be donated to St. Jude, and each amateur player will receive an autographed racquet from their pro partner. **Call (614) 890-6073 if you are interested in participating as spots are limited.** Pro/Am Doubles for St. Jude – \$250 donation.

ST. JUDE HOSPITAL

The Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is once again proud to name St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as its designated charity. Founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude is dedicated to the successful treatment of diseases that afflict children. Having treated more than 13,000 patients from 47 states and 53 countries, the hospital is a world leader in the treatment of catastrophic childhood illnesses. During the past five years the Choice Hotels U.S. Open has raised over \$80,000 for St. Jude!

TRAVEL AND LODGING

Travelennium and Northwest Airlines join the USRA in offering you the lowest possible airfares/rental car rates to the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN. For reservations, call Travelennium at (800) 844-4924. Be sure to reference the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. When making hotel reservations, you must mention the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Rates are good for up to four people per room. You must make reservations by October 29, 2002 for these special rates. Regular shuttle service will be available between all three clubs throughout the event. In addition, transportation will be provided from the main host hotel (Comfort Inn-East) to The Racquet Club every half hour. No parking is available at The University of Memphis, so players must use the shuttle.

1. COMFORT INN-EAST*

(main host hotel)
5877 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 767-6300
Rate: \$69

2. COMFORT INN-

Sycamore View
1335 McRee St.
Memphis, TN 38134
(901) 372-2700
Rate: \$69 - \$79

3. THE RACQUET CLUB

OF MEMPHIS
5111 Sanderlin Ave.
(901) 765-4400

4. WIMBLEDON SPORTSPLEX

6161 Shelby Oaks Dr.
(901) 388-6580

5. UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

630 Echles St.
(901) 678-2816

For additional nearby hotels
(with special event rates) please
contact the US OPEN headquarters at
800-234-5396 ext 0 or e-mail us at
hfender@usra.org

* Only the COMFORT INN-EAST will have regular shuttle service to
The Racquet Club (every half hour)

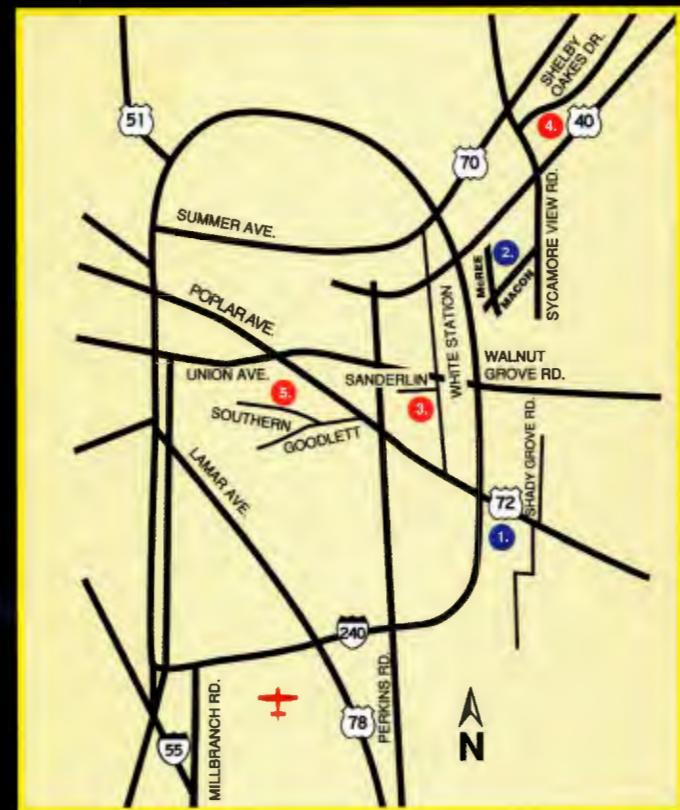
CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS

Men's Pro

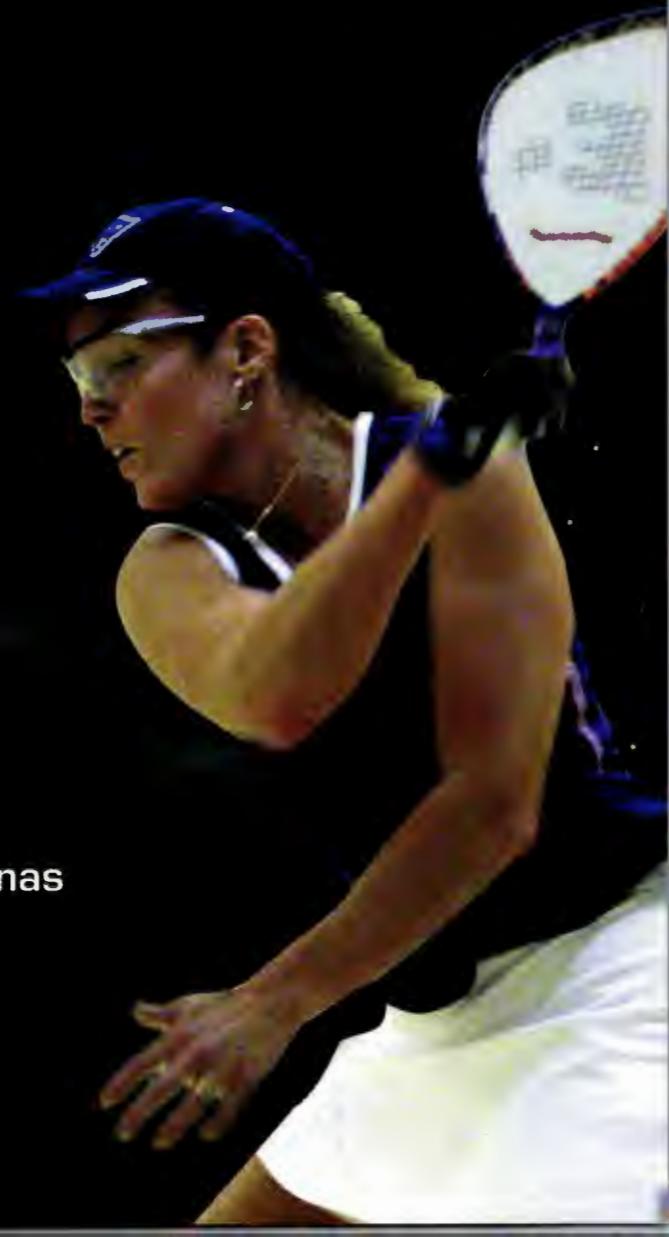
2001 Cliff Swain
2000 Sudsy Monchik
1999 Jason Mannino
1998 Sudsy Monchik
1997 Cliff Swain
1996 Sudsy Monchik

Women's Pro

Kerri Wachtel
Christie Vanhees
Jackie Paraiso
Jackie Paraiso
Michelle Gould
Michelle Gould



Cheryl Gudinas
LGRA #1



PRIZE MONEY

over \$45,000!

RULES/FORMAT

All USRA divisions will be played according to official USRA rules, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. Pro divisions will use IRT/LPRA rules. For all age divisions, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of the tournament (November 20th). All divisions (pro and USRA) will use the ProPenn (green) ball. Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions.

RANKING POINTS

USRA : The top-eight finishers in all divisions will receive USRA ranking points. This is a Level 5 event.

Professionals: On the IRT/LPRA tours, prize money determines the level of ranking points associated with a given event. The Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN is the largest prize money event of the season.

OFFICIATING

All players will receive \$5 for each USRA division match they referee. Players losing a match in the pro divisions are required to referee with no fee paid.

CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

We are very pleased to have Choice Hotels International as our title sponsor for the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Choice Hotels International (NYSE: CHH) is one of the world's largest lodging franchisors, franchising more than 5,000 hotels in 46 countries under the Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality, Clarion, Sleep Inn, Econo Lodge, MainStay Suites, and Rodeway Inn brand names. For more information on Choice, visit the company's Internet site at www.choicehotels.com.

Men's Pro-\$28,800

1st	\$8,000	16's	\$ 500
2nd	\$4,000	32's	\$ 300
Semis	\$2,000		
Qrtrs	\$1,000		

Women's Pro-\$15,000

1st	\$4,000	Qrtrs	\$ 750
2nd	\$2,200	16's	\$ 400
Semis	\$1,300		

Men's & Women's Open Singles

1st	\$ 350	Semis	\$ 85
2nd	\$ 175		

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Executive Event Director:

Doug Ganim

Floor Manager:

Pete Ulliman

Executive Committee:

Jim Hiser, Dave Negrete, Kay McCarthy, Martha Butler, Ed Arias, Heather Fender

Pro Commissioners:

Dave Negrete (IRT), Ed Willis (LPRA)

For More Information, Call the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championship Headquarters at (800) 234-5396, ext. 120



Jason Mannino
IRT #2

PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

	Price	Quantity	Total(\$)
SESSION #1:.....	\$14	_____	_____
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.			
Men's round of 64 Wednesday, 4 p.m.- 11 p.m.			
SESSION #2:.....	\$14	_____	_____
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.			
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.			
SESSION #3:.....	\$14	_____	_____
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 5 p.m.- 9 p.m.			
SESSION #4:.....	\$15	_____	_____
Women's round of 16 Friday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.			
Men's quarters #1,#2 Friday, 3 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.			
SESSION #5:.....	\$15	_____	_____
Men's quarters #3,#4 Friday, 5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.			
SESSION #6:.....	\$12	_____	_____
Women's quarters (all), Legend's semi's Saturday, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.			
SESSION #7:.....	\$16	_____	_____
Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1 Saturday, 12:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.			
SESSION #8:.....	\$16	_____	_____
Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2 Saturday, 3:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.			
SESSION #9:.....	\$28	_____	_____
Legend's finals/Women's finals/Men's finals Sunday, 11:00 a.m.- 3 p.m.			

BEST VALUE (\$66 savings)

TICKET PACKAGE (includes all sessions listed above – only available in advance!).	\$76	_____	_____
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Ticket for Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS"	\$30	_____	_____
(free for all player participants) Saturday, 8 p.m.- 12:30 a.m.			
Processing fee (must be paid to process your order)	\$4	_____	\$4

Make check payable or use credit card and mail to:

Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906
- OR -

TOTAL

To order your tickets by phone call: (800) 234-5396 ext. 120
or fax this completed form to : (719) 635-0685

Visa/MC # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Name to hold tickets under _____

Street Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____

Tickets will not be mailed in advance. They can be picked up at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Will Call Desk, located at The Racquet Club (I.D. is required). Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets in advance to be guaranteed a seat.

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury box seats (with table service) are available starting at \$2,200. Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____
 Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (day) _____ (night) _____ Fax _____
 USRA Membership Number _____ Expiration Date _____ E-Mail _____
 Seeding Information (2001 U.S. OPEN, 2002 States, Regionals, Nationals) _____
 Home Club _____

USRA DIVISIONS

Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events: (3 events permitted if at least 2 are doubles divisions):

Check one: Men's or Women's

Skill Divisions*

Can only enter ONE from this group

A B C D

Skill + Age Divisions*

24 & under A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>	35+ C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 & under C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+ A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>
25+ A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>	45+ C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>
25+ C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>	55+ A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>
35+ A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>	55+ C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>

Doubles & Mixed Doubles Divisions*

Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	50+	<input type="checkbox"/>	MX A/B	<input type="checkbox"/>	MX 30+	<input type="checkbox"/>
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	19+	<input type="checkbox"/>			MX C/D	<input type="checkbox"/>	MX 40+	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	35+	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Partner's Name _____ Division _____
 Partner's Name _____ Division _____

***REQUIRED Skill Verification Form**

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

I have been AMPRO certified at this level by:

AMPRO Certified Instructor (name required) _____

I have recently competed in this skill category in my state, and have been approved for participation in this category at a Level Five event by the state director or designated representative shown below:

(name required)

I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the:

_____ 2001 U.S. OPEN, or the _____ 2002 USRA National Singles

PRO

Men's (IRT)** Women's (LPRO)**

** The Men's Pro draw will begin in the round of 64 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. The Women's Pro draw will begin in the round of 32 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. Players wishing to enter the amateur OPEN division must enter it directly as a second event.

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release and all rights and claims that I may have against the USRA, IRT, LPRO, Ganim Enterprises, Choice Hotel Corporation, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Wimbledon Sportsplex, The University of Memphis, and all other Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN sponsors, or their respective agents for any and all injuries I may suffer as a result of participation in this event. By registering to participate in this event, I release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature _____ (parent if under 18) _____ Date _____

ENTRY FEES

Players may enter a maximum of two events (3 events permitted if at least 2 are doubles divisions). Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions. Players in multiple divisions may play back-to-back matches. **Returned checks will be assessed a \$23 service charge (\$10 for declined credit cards).** Phone entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with a **\$10 service charge** and a major credit card by calling the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 120. Maximum amateur draw is 600 players. Once filled, all additional entries received will be returned with refund.

		Amount Pd.	Division
First Event (USRA Divisions)	(\$93)	_____	_____
First Event (Pros)	(\$105)	_____	_____
Second Event	(\$45)	_____	_____
USRA Membership	(\$30)	_____	
Late Fee/Phone Entry	(\$20/\$10)	_____	
PARTY WITH THE PROS	(\$30 each)	_____	Quant. _____
		TOTAL	_____

Visa/MC _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Name (print) _____

Signature _____

ENTRY DEADLINE:

All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 6th and/or postmarked by Friday, Nov. 1st. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a \$20 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

Limited hospitality, free access to Player Village and fan fair activities at The Racquet Club, souvenir Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN shirt, Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Saturday evening Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", plus much, much more!



Have you enclosed your Pro Match Ticket Application and payment for tickets? Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets to be guaranteed a seat. One check can be written for entry fees and tickets. Last year's event sold out four weeks in advance!

Make check payable and mail to:
Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships
1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906
 or FAX this completed form to (719) 635-0685

To enter by phone call:
(800) 234-5396 ext. 120

2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships TIP SHEET!

It's that time again! The 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships official Entry Form and Ticket Application is located in the center of this issue ... be sure to pull it out and read about all the exciting things planned for this years' event.

If you've never attended the U.S. OPEN, make plans now to treat yourself to the ultimate experience our sport has to offer. Can't commit to competition? You can still make weekend plans (we recommend Thursday evening) and catch the majority of the marquee pro matches and the two largest parties. Whether you play or not, here are a few tips to you may want to keep in mind.

Tip #1: ENTER EARLY! The event has completely sold out in each of the last three years. We cap the draw at 700 total entries and last year we had to turn away nearly 50 people. Don't get shut out. Send in your entry today.

Tip #2: ORDER TICKETS NOW! You must have a ticket to view any of the pro matches, and although the Stadium Court seats over 1,000 the event is a sell-out from the quarters on. No-shows can free up some session tickets "at the door" but it's risky to wait. By far, the best deal is to purchase the ticket package for unlimited viewing for all pro matches for the entire week — this guarantees you a seat — but ticket packages are sold only in advance!

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

Tip #4: STAY AT THE HOST HOTEL. The official host hotel is the Comfort Inn East located just two miles from The Racquet Club of Memphis. In addition to supporting our title sponsor, you'll have the convenience of the complimentary shuttle, running every half hour from the hotel to The Racquet Club and back. We've also reserved **every room** in the hotel for this event, so everywhere you turn will be fellow players and fans from around the globe!

This hotel will fill up **very** fast so call to book your room immediately. Contact information for the hotel is located in the Entry Form and be sure to mention Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN for the special rate. If the hotel becomes booked before you have a chance to get a room, call the U.S.

OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 for list of overflow hotels available in the area.

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

Tip #6: LAST FLIGHT OUT ON SUNDAY. Make sure you book the very latest flight you can get home on Sunday. The Men's Pro final is the last match of the tournament and you won't want to miss it. A packed house, booming music, laser light show introductions and the ESPN camera's make this an experience like no other in the sport. The match usually ends around 3:30 pm so any evening flight will do. Can't get a late flight out? Consider going home Monday morning. It will be worth it!

Keep these tips in mind when making plans to attend the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN and you'll have the inside track. Lastly, if you really want to experience everything the event has to offer and you have a few bucks laying around earmarked for "presents for myself" here are a couple of ideas to treat yourself to the ultimate VIP weekend.

PRO-AM DOUBLES FOR ST. JUDE: On the Tuesday night before the U.S. OPEN begins, a special fundraiser is held for the event's designated charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Have you ever dreamed of playing doubles with one of the best pro players in the world as *your* partner? Well, here's your chance. For a \$250 donation to St. Jude you'll be one of 32 lucky amateurs to be paired up with top ranked men and women pros. The evening will be fully catered and each amateur player will receive an auto-graphed racquet from their pro partner. This popular event has sold out each of the last six years, so call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to request a Pro-Am Doubles Entry. The first 32 paid entrants will get the spots.

VIP LUXURY BOX SEATING. If you really want to go first class, consider purchasing a four-person, courtside VIP Luxury Box. Most are already reserved for event sponsors, but a very limited number are available for individual purchase. The cost is \$2,200 for the week and includes four "gold" All-Access credentials, a four-person stadium courtside Luxury Box with your name on it (table service included), and unlimited access throughout the week to the fully catered PRO/VIP Hospitality Room (only top 16 ranked pro's, event sponsors, and VIP's allowed). If you are interested, please call (614) 890-6073 to check Luxury Box availability for the 2002 U.S. OPEN.

Don't delay! Send in you Entry Form and Ticket Application for the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN TODAY!

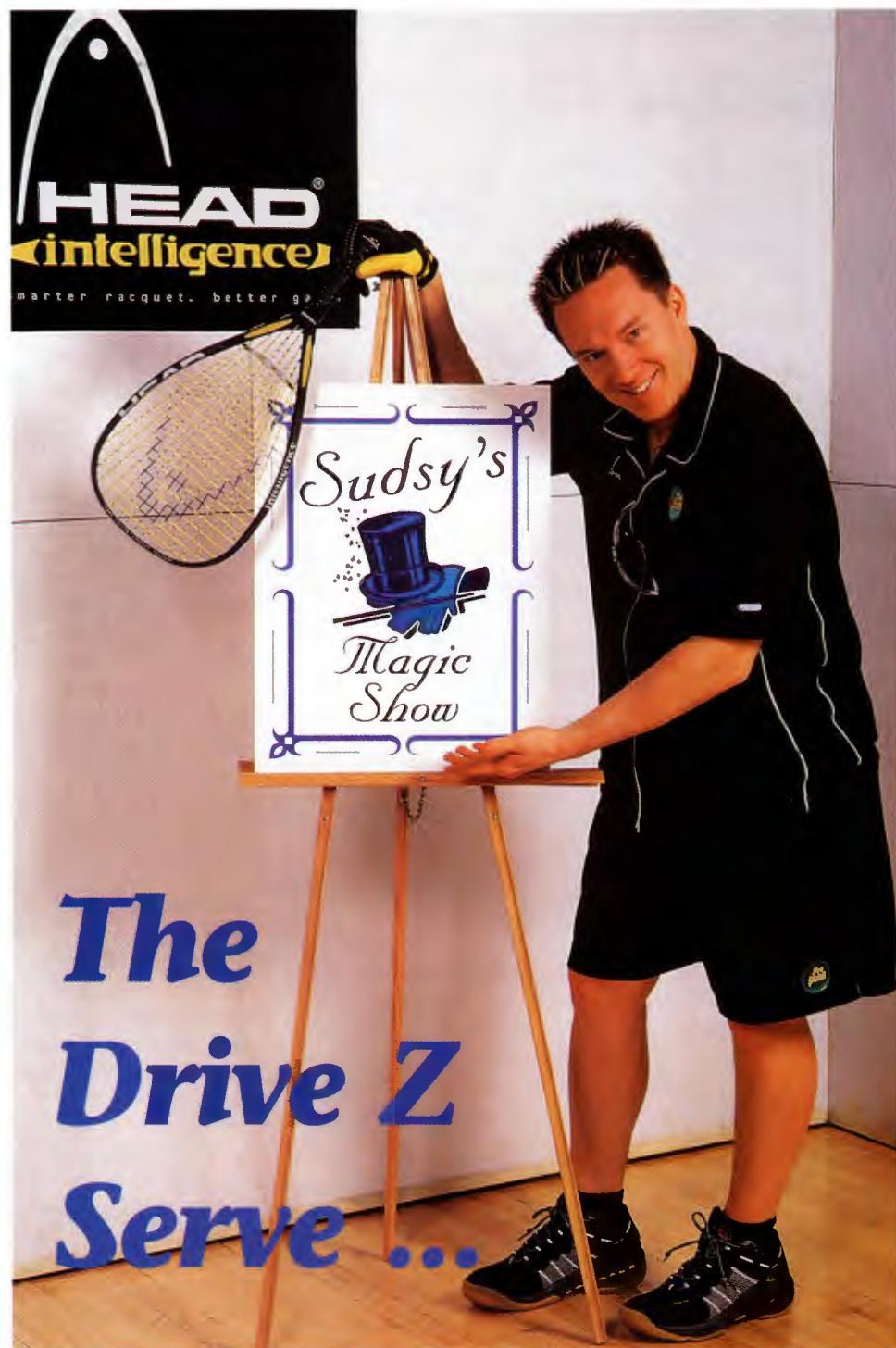
In the July/August 1999 installment of this series, I introduced my "Power Drive Serve." The key word in the title still says it all — "Power." Power is translated to reaction time ... the harder someone hits the ball, the less time their opponent has to react. The problem is that power alone will not work forever, because once someone is dialed in to the speed of the ball and where it is going they can eventually adjust.

It's like a power hitter in baseball. If the pitcher only threw fast balls, the batter would soon adjust. So a good pitcher has to learn variety: a change up, slider, knuckleball, etc. to keep the batter guessing. By creating variety the pitcher makes his fastball more effective. The same is true for my "Power Drive Serve." If that's the only serve I had ... even though I hit it at 180+ mph ... Jason, Cliff and John would adjust.

As a result, I had to create variety in my service game. By creating this variety of serves I have made my "Power Drive Serve" more effective. So today I am going to teach you my "Drive Z Serve" — a new serve in some ways, but just a variation of the basic power drive serve in others.

The Drive Z Serve is hit exactly like the Power Drive Serve except for the contact point. The ready position, the step, the swing and the follow through are **all** the same. What that does is creates *deception* — a key ingredient in a great service

game. This deception is created by one major element: the ball toss. The two-step motion I taught you earlier should be exactly the same no matter whether you are drive serving to the right or left, z-serving or jam-serving; the ball toss is what will change ever so slightly, by a matter of inches. It will appear in the same spot, off the front foot, but the server will drop it off the big toe for the drive to the right, off the little toe for the drive to the left, off the heel for a z-serve, etc. The element of surprise and keeping your opponent off balance is the key to forcing a weak return or an un-returnable, ace

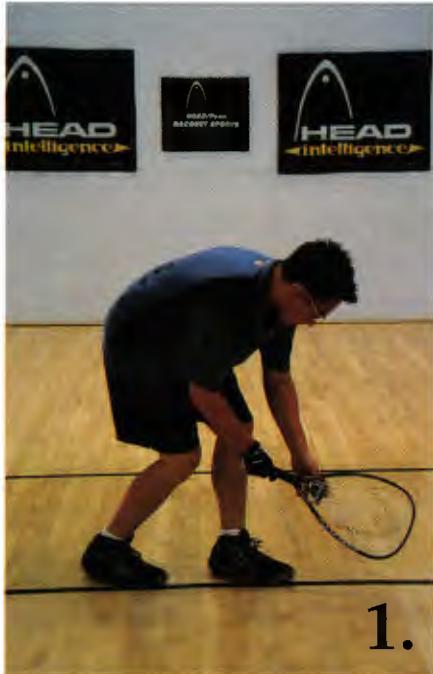


Photos: Rodney Boyd

serve. If they have no idea where the ball is going or which serve is coming you have got them where you want them ... guessing!

With the one-two punch of *power* and *deception* you are on your way, but now add *variety* (height, speed, angle, and type of serve) and you are there ... right where I am. I have terrorized the IRT over the last five years with this exact same service philosophy. If it works for me at my level, it's going to work for you at your level — no questions asked.

Let's dissect how I hit my magical "Drive Z Serve" ...



1.



2.



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Trick #1: The Ready Position — Feet aligned on the back (short) line, one behind the other. • Left foot in front of right foot (for righties) and right foot in front of left foot (for lefties) to create a two-step approach into the ball for more power. • Start low – knees bent and slightly bent at the waist. • Weight evenly distributed (50/50). • Racquet down. • Concentrate - eyes on ball.

Trick # 2: The Step — Back foot moves first, by taking a short step. • Racquet comes up. • Hold the ball at full extension from your body to get ready to drop the ball off front leg after second step. • Stay low - knees and waist slightly bent. • Weight slightly on front foot (60/40), but pretty even.

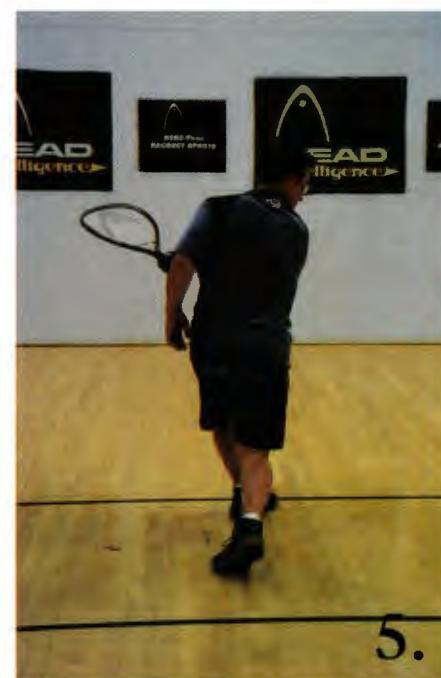
Trick # 3: The Swing — Front leg takes second step, straight ahead or at a slight angle. • Ball dropped off the heel of the front leg at full extension. • Racquet begins its downward motion (leading with elbow and wrist cocked back – just like the forehand – no different). • Hips begin to open (just like the forehand – no different). • Stay low - knees and waist slightly bent. • Weight slightly on front foot, but beginning to pull back (55/45). • Eyes on ball.

Trick #4: Contact Point — Legs are in line with each other, weight back to even (50/50). • Ball is hit off the heel of my front foot, closer to my body to get a good angle on the racquet, rather than at full extension off the big toe of my front foot. • Racquet comes through flat and level with tremendous wrist snap. • Hips continue to open. • Stay low – knees and waist still slightly bent. • Contact point is ankle high. • Shoot the ball flat, no spin. • Eyes on ball.

Trick# 5: Follow Through — Legs are in line with each other, front toe pointed to right corner and back toe rotated around – completed balanced. • Racquet completely around, pointing to back wall. • Hips



4.



5.

completely open and rotated through. • End low – knees still bent, but upper body more erect. • Eyes on the front wall, tracking the ball, then head will rotate around to follow the ball as it passes behind your back.

The magic of the serve speaks for itself, it sets the tone to the match, so please give it all you've got. I do and look where it's taken me — right to the top. You too can be on the top of your service game by trying this very philosophy and then coming to see me at one of my camps with Fran Davis and I can show you firsthand how it's done. Good Luck!



Wilson Game Plan: Practice with a Purpose II

by Derek Robinson & Chris Evon



1.

In the last issue we went over how to make the most out of your drilling sessions. If you don't have that issue, be sure to get one so your practice times are efficient and effective!

Now we're ready to give you specific hints as to how to improve your sidewall-front-wall game. Pay attention, take the time to mark the court, and pinch, pinch, pinch!

STEP 1: MARKING THE COURT

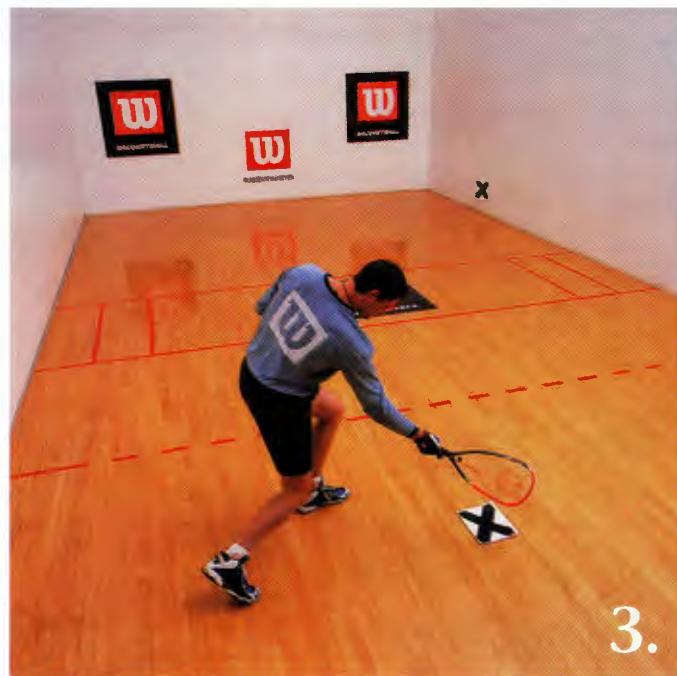
This can be done with any type of tape that stands out and is easy to remove. [Photo #1.]

STEP 2: DROP AND HIT

Stand so you will contact the ball near the X closest to the sidewall. Since the ball will be so close to the sidewall, this is a perfect opportunity for a splat. Aim for the X on the sidewall closest to you. Drop and hit 10 shots and be aware of the path of the ball.



2.



3.

Progress to all of the X's on the floor, aiming for the corresponding X on the sidewall. The further you move from the sidewall, the closer to the corner you aim. [See photo #2, #3, #4 with Derek at different marks].

STEP 3: PINCH POINTERS

As we mentioned in the previous article, it is important to set goals and strive for hitting the perfect shot as many times as possible (refer to the 10, 10, 10 drill). After you get the feel for the shots by dropping and hitting, you can set yourself up off the front wall, off the back wall or from the ceiling.

The perfect pinch: Your goal is to hit shots that hit the side wall first, and hit the front wall low enough so the ball bounces twice before it hits the opposite side wall. Proper preparation: As you are setting up for the pinch, always turn sideways and raise your racquet. You want your elbow to be at about the height of your shoulder. Step into the ball by stepping on a diagonal towards the side wall. This allows for good trunk rotation with maximum control. [See photo #5: Derek's racquet preparation].

Contact: Good execution depends on good **extension**. As you drive your arm down, lead with your elbow, and straighten (extend) your arm away from your body as you make contact. If you contact the ball too close to

your body with a bent arm, the ball will "float" to the sidewall, causing the shot to be high and ineffective. Snap your wrist at contact to allow for a flat, solid shot. Contact the ball slightly behind the midline of your body. Do not allow the racquet head to drop below your wrist. Swing flat and level for more consistent shots. Keep your head down and allow for a natural follow through.

STEP 4: WHEN TO PINCH

- Pinch when your opponent is behind the 5' line (hash marks).
- Pinch when your opponent is positioned close to a sidewall (pinch to the wall your opponent is close to, so the ball travels away from them).
- Pinch on return of serve, if you notice your opponent is off balance and/or moving backwards without stopping to get set.
- In the front court, remember the rule of thumb: "Never re-pinches a pinch."

Want to learn more? Coming soon ... The Wilson Road Show with Big D! Derek's Traveling Road Show will hit over 50 cities this year, and will include a pro exhibition, clinic, tips on how to choose the best racquet for your playing style, and product demos. For information on events in your area go to: www.bigdracquetball.com



Q: How do you develop a service game strategy? I know it's crucial ...



A game plan strategy for your service game is no different than developing a game plan for your overall match, either singles or doubles. Remember, a game plan is "a plan of action" determined by your strengths and weaknesses coupled with your opponent's strengths and weaknesses [see March/April 2002]. You do this by looking at, and analyzing, the eight areas listed in that previous article.

For our purposes, I'm going to focus in on #4 Serves, which assesses your strengths and weaknesses on your serves, as well as your opponent's strengths and weaknesses on their serves. With that information I can teach you how to develop a winning service game strategy that works.

What you need to do first and foremost is analyze your opponent ...

- Are they a power or control player?
- Are they a tall or short player?
- Do they have a weak backhand or forehand?
- Do they have any injuries...knee problems?
- How's their footwork?
- Are they in or out of shape?
- Are they a righty or lefty?

With this information gathered you could come up with a precise service game strategy. Then refer to the chart at right for more tips.

Keep in mind that – as a rule – most of your opponents will not fit neatly into only one of these categories, but will be a combination of types. Using the information from the chart, you can come up with a more detailed game plan, as needed.

I would recommend spending quite a bit of time on this area because the serve is the most

important part of the game. In sanctioned USRA competition, it's the only time you can score a point. It's the only time you can hit the ball out of your hand, whereas during a rally the ball is coming at you from different angles, with different speeds, and possibly with spin. The serve sets the tone of the match and you are in total control. Take advantage of the time you are serving and come up with a winning "game service strategy."

I invite you to attend one of my camps where we cover this in detail.



Type of Player	Service Strategy
Power	Change the pace – all off speed drive and Z serves High out of hitting zone...lobs, 1/2 lobs, soft high Z's
Control	Hit hard serves – drive Z's, jams, wrap around
Tall	Hit right at them – drive Z's, jams, right at their feet
Short	Hit hard and away from them into the corners, make them reach
Knee Problems (injury)	Hit hard and make them move and change direction abruptly – hard drives and hard Z's (all kinds depending on your level)
Unconditioned	Hit low and hard away from them – hard drives into corners, make them move
Weak Backhand	Pound their backhand – with low hard serves or lob their backhand
Weak Forehand	Same as above, but to forehand side
Poor Reaction Time/Footwork	Hit low and hard away from them – hard drives into corners, make them move
Righty or Lefty	Make sure while they are warming up you notice and pick on the weaker side, usually the backhand

Smarter Head, Better Game — by Fran Davis • "Service Strategy"

email your questions to: fran@frandavisracquetball.com

performance series: early racquet prep

by Kersten Hallander

There are so many important things to remember when playing racquetball: watch the ball, move your feet, watch your opponent, use the proper grip, follow through on your swing ... but one important thing I see a lot of people neglect is early racquet preparation.

When I am setting up a student's forehand or backhand off the back wall, I literally yell "racquet back! racquet back! racquet back!" to ingrain it into their minds. It's magic when they actually start to prepare their racquets early and then hit the ball with more power and more control.

The key to early racquet preparation is getting your racquet back as soon as you know whether it's going to be a forehand or a backhand shot. You should be able to determine this as soon as your opponent's ball hits the front wall. So, if you know it is going to be a forehand or backhand and you have to run to the ball, get your racquet back first and *then* run to the ball. This is especially true for those wrap-around balls off the back wall. With early racquet prep, once you have the ball in your hitting zone, all you have to do is step into the ball and swing.

Another great reason to get your racquet back and ready early is when a lob serve or ceiling ball barely comes off the back wall or a ball takes a funny bounce. If a ball barely comes off the back or side wall and the player doesn't have their racquet back, then they won't get their racquet around soon enough and the ball will either hit



1.

Here I'd like to correlate early racquet preparation to a batter's stance in baseball and softball. The only difference between a batter and a racquetball player is a batter has two hands on the bat and we have one hand on the racquet. See photos 1 and 2 for forehand, 3 and 4 for backhand.



2.



3.



4.

the side wall uncontrollably or maybe even skip because the swing is so late. Having your racquet back will also prepare you for any unexpected bounces of the ball.

A batter is squared up to home plate just like we are squared up to the sidewall [see photos on previous page]. A batter has the elbow of their dominant arm as high as their shoulder and notice how the wrist of the dominant hand is cocked.



These are key to hitting more powerful shots with the momentum from the swing and the snap of the wrist. In addition, a batter has the majority of their weight on the their back foot and they step into the ball in much the same way that we step into a racquetball shot. Lastly, see how a batter looks over their shoulder at the oncoming pitch. This is very similar to how we look at an oncoming ball.

In the next couple of weeks, look at yourself in a mirror with proper forehand and backhand racquet preparation several times. Doing this allows you to visualize a picture of yourself when you are on the court.

E-mail me at kersten@kersten.com if you have any questions or would like to share some of the successes you have experienced because of early racquet preparation.

Winning Racquetball: Ready, Set, Action!

by Marcy Lynch

Now that you've set your goals (May/June 2002) and aligned them with your vision and purpose (March/April 2002), the next part of the plan is to decide which 'action steps' need to be taken and to create the time necessary for taking the steps. Action steps are the 'to do' list.

How many times a week will you practice and/or play? What kind of crosstraining will you do and when will you do it? What dietary changes must you make? Who will be your training/practice partners? What changes do you need to make in your schedule to make room for the time it will take to put into your game?

It's tempting to think that once you have set the goal, action will naturally follow. I think the biggest challenge most people face when attempting to work toward a goal is the amount of time it actually takes to do the work. There is no way to add more tasks onto a list that is already full without also adding stress.

Once you have determined which actions you want to take, you must first let go of the activities you do that are less of a priority or that don't contribute in any way to your goal. A lot of us fill up our lives with so many plans and activities, that we no longer remember why we decided to do them in the first place. Or, we agree to take on responsibilities for fear of what others will say if we say 'no'.

What currently takes up your time that does not directly lead to the achievement of your goal? What can you eliminate or say 'no' to? Do not underestimate

that fact that working toward a goal takes time. Time is a commodity. We all are given the exact same amount of it and it is up to us how we 'spend' it. It is not always easy to make decisions about where to put our time, which is why we set goals. We must ask ourselves the question, "does this detract from or contribute to my goals?" by way of evaluating whether something is worth doing or not. Then we must have the courage to include what contributes and let go of what does not.

Make a list of all the things you currently are doing with your time and ask yourself what you can eliminate or delegate to someone else. In addition, make a list of all the backlogged 'stuff' that needs attention. Spend the next month checking off the items on the list by either doing them or asking/hiring someone to do them for you.

Now you've made some time and space to 'take action'. Be very careful with what you add back in, as it is easy to fill up the time again.

In conclusion, in order to achieve your goals, you must be taking action steps toward them. If you are unable to take any action because you are already 'too busy', then you must learn to clean up and clear out your mental and physical space before there can be any room to take new action.

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



Training: Nutrition for Optimal Performance

by Tim Scheett, Ph.D

If you listen to the news, for any length of time, you'll sooner or later hear that we need to be health conscious with our diet choices. This, of course, is a true statement! However, what we all must remember is that there are extremists out there who will tell you that eating certain foods is unhealthy – so before you decide to take their opinion as gospel – it's a good idea to get a second opinion from a qualified person in the field.

Now lets talk about nutrition and racquetball — are there any special foods that have to be consumed in order to play well? The answer is a simple: **no, no and no!** A simple, well balanced diet including protein, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals and water is all that is required to provide all the adequate nutrients for a healthy person. And no – a double burger with fries does not qualify! However, if you are engaging in a fitness program designed to increase muscle mass, strength or power it would be advantageous to increase the amount of protein and anti-oxidants consumed. Additional protein will aid in muscle growth and the anti-oxidants help protect the body from damage occurred during exercise.

A few important things to remember about eating for performance include: 1) choose foods which will not

cause gastrointestinal (stomach) upset, such as acidic foods or juices and spicy foods as these types of foods increases the amount of stomach acid that is released; 2) avoid large meals since they require considerably more time to digest and, more importantly, will cause an increase in insulin released into the bloodstream. Insulin is used by the body to remove glucose (sugar) from the blood, and a large spike in insulin, which occurs following a large meal, will actually lower your blood sugar and cause you to feel tired and sluggish. 3) To optimize performance, it's advisable to eat your pre-game meal 3-5 hours prior to competition, which will give your stomach time to empty before game time; 4) if you have to play first thing in the morning, it's advisable to eat a small amount of bland food which will quiet morning stomach pains (and, well, what's better than a bagel in the morning?); 5) it is advisable to avoid high glycemic index foods (i.e. sugar, candy, potatoes, white bread) as these foods will induce a large insulin spike and will actually lower your blood sugar levels.

Finally, even with these tips about optimizing game day nutrition for performance, you should remember that — no matter what you eat the day of your game – it is what you ate the day before that will have had sufficient time to be digested and absorbed and thus available for use as energy during competition.

As always, if you have questions you would like to have addressed in future columns, just send me an email at timscheet@hotmail.com.



Training: Muscular Imbalance

by Aaron Haydu, D.C.

Humans are amazingly adaptive to the stresses of daily life. When our activities require repetitive or sustained postures or motions, then the muscular system can develop imbalances that can affect pain and certainly alter athletic performance. It is important to understand that certain muscles or groups of muscles are more prone to become overactive (the postural muscles) and others tend toward underactivity (the phasic muscles). Identification of these muscles and their altered patterns are important to your athletic endeavors, by maximizing the effectiveness of the muscular system.

Individuals involved in a sport that requires repetitive motions (like racquetball) or have professions that require a prolonged activity (sitting at a desk) are more prone to these patterns. Muscles that tend toward overactivity are; the calf, hamstrings, groin, hip flexors, low back, pectorals, and upper trapezius (shoulders). These muscles respond well to stretching and relaxation techniques. Muscles that tend toward underactivity are; the gluteals, abdominal, lower trapezius, and the muscles in front of the shins and neck. These groups can be treated with strengthening or muscle facilitation exercise designed to keep them active and strong. Your doctor or athletic trainer can recommend exercises that best isolate these muscles.

There are many consequences of muscular imbalance, all of which will certainly affect our athletic performance. Muscle imbalance causes uneven distribution of pressures on the joints, leading to premature wear and possible arthritis. It will limit range of motion in some joints, and make others too mobile. It will alter the correct movement patterns that we were born with, making our motions ineffective and potentially painful. Finally, it can change the ability of the body to respond to balance, coordination, and stability; all important factors in sports.

The patterns can affect the upper and/or lower body, and symptoms can range from pain and stiffness to muscle spasms and weakness. The good news is that the problem can be corrected with careful attention to your daily activities. Keep in mind that the brain thinks in terms of whole muscle motions and not the use of individual muscles. This means that pain may not always be the first symptom of a developing pattern. Try to recognize a regional pain or symptom pattern that is consistent over a large body area (i.e. the hip, low back, and buttocks or the shoulder, neck, and upper back). This is characteristic of an imbalance problem and treatment may be necessary. Be sure that the treating physician is familiar with these patterns and don't wait if you suspect a problem, as prolonged imbalance will be "learned" and repeated by your muscles.



Green and Saunders crowned Canadian Singles Champions

From Racquetball Canada Website

Jennifer Saunders was crowned Canada's new racquetball queen, after defeating top-seeded defending champion Josee Grand'Maitre, of Longueuil, Quebec in the final of the Canadian championships, at Club Sani Sport, in Brossard, Quebec in May. The 25 year-old from Winnipeg dominated the encounter, winning in two straight games of 15-12 and 15-4.

"It's something I've worked on for so long and it's so unbelievable. I couldn't imagine it could go any better," she said, grinning, as she was swarmed by friends and supporters following her victory. Saunders also confirmed her spot on the Canadian squad for the World Championships.

"I have international experience and I played all the toughest girls so I'm going in with the purpose of bringing home the championship and maybe going on the podium," she said.

Michael Green's dream of claiming the top spot in Canada's rankings also became a reality, after he defeated Brian Istace, of Calgary, in the title match of the men's open singles division at the Canadian championships.

"I thought it would have come a lot earlier. It's almost a surprise now, so I'm really happy. I kept Brian off-balance and I played a solid and smart game," said the Hamilton native who also confirmed his spot on the Canadian squad for this summer's World Championships.

The full composition of the men's squad for the World Championships has yet to be determined. Current doubles player Mike Ceresia of Toronto has yet to confirm his commitment to the team, which pushes Green to choose between entering the singles or the doubles event.

"I'm gonna talk with the coaching staff and with the players to decide. It's a terrible dilemma," he said.

Canada's number one player, Kane Waselenchuk, of Edmonton, was not at the Nationals with a severe injury to his playing hand, so his status is also "TBA" for the Worlds.

The women's team is all set up for Puerto Rico. Jennifer Saunders will head the singles roster, along with Josee Grand'Maitre, of Longueuil, Quebec. Doubles champions Amanda MacDonald and Karina Odegard, from Saskatoon will also represent Canada at the Worlds.

Team Ecuador Revitalized

Submitted by Kim Harris

After several years of not competing internationally, Team Ecuador is finally back in the courts. A three-year economic crisis kept the team from traveling and competing like they had hoped, as the FERAC (Ecuadorian Racquetball Federation) and Olympic Committee were enduring financial difficulty. With the stability and improvements that have come from switching the country's currency from the Sucre to the Dollar, Ecuador is beginning to bounce back and proving its determination to succeed.

For the first time in its history, the Ecuador National Soccer team has qualified to go to the World Cup. As a result of this victory, more and more Ecuadorian athletes are beginning to see that "Si se puede" (or "it can be done"), can be a way of life. Team Ecuador is striving to follow in the footsteps of the National Soccer team by making victory in world competition their main goal.

In March, the team competed in the Tournament of the Americas in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Seeing as the top teams in this tournament would be qualifying for the 2003 Pan-Am Games in the Dominican Republic, Team Ecuador did not want to walk away empty-handed. After many weeks of grueling training and prac-

tic, the players went to Bolivia with their heads held high, knowing they were more ready than they'd ever been to prove themselves worthy of a chance to compete at the Games. With 12

teams battling for the honor of representing their country, the Ecuador men's team finished in 7th place – a tremendous victory for a team that has been in the shadows for some years now. Technical Director, John Harris, was pleased with their placement and said "These guys are at a level we've never seen before and it's great to see them living up to their potential."

When asked about his impression of the Team's performance in Bolivia, Jorge Luis Cueva, the President of FERAC said "For me, our participation in Bolivia was a great success. We as a team went with just one goal – to qualify for the Pan-Am Games in 2003 and we accomplished that. It's a great joy for me, as the President, to see our country take a first step towards achieving our dreams."

With up and coming players such as Jose Luis Cueva, Gustavo Molina, and Santiago Ugalde, Ecuador is looking to take great strides as they prepare to compete in the World Championships. Ecuador's number one player, Jose Luis Cueva is excited about the opportunity and said, "After participating in the Tournament of the Americas in Bolivia, I now really have a hunger to be back in international competition. I'm really looking forward to competing in the World Championships in Puerto Rico so I can see



Front Row: L to R: Jorge Luis Cueva, Gladys Saquinaula, Martha Jarrin, John Harris. Back Row: L to R: Jose Luis Cueva, Gustavo Molina, Santiago Ugalde.

where I stand against some of the best there are after eight hard months of preparation and practice."

We look forward to seeing more of our friends from Ecuador as we wish them all the luck in the world. "SI SE PUEDE!" Welcome back!

USA & Canada Dominate Pan Am Qualifier

Submitted by Tom Rall

Earlier in the spring, the designated Pan American Games qualifying event – the PARC 15th Tournament of Americas took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia. And while it was yet another year where American, Canadian and Mexican teams dominated the field, it was unlike the last four years that Canada placed a clear second to the U.S. In the absence of a tie-breaking procedure, this year marked the first time that the USA and Canada officially 'tied' for first place. It could be a clear wake up call for the U.S., and a call-to-arms for Team Mexico, which placed third, a position it has held for the last five years. In 1996, however, they placed a very strong second to the USA, and in that same year Canada, ironically, placed sixth. With these few exceptions over the last half-decade the teams who have finished strongest, either taking home the Gold, Silver or Bronze have been the USA, Canada and Mexico.

Some surprising statistics about the Tournament of Americas are that the players on the Women's Doubles team from Bolivia were the only two players in either the Men or Women's finals that were not from the USA, Canada or Mexico. The good news is that not all players in the finals were only from the USA, Canada and Mexico. Also, there were no repeat Singles or Doubles winners at this year's event. And finally, only Bill Sell, USA (Orange County, California) holds the honor of being the only player in the history of this event to have won both the Singles and Doubles Gold Medals the same year – Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 1988!

For more detailed results, go to www.racquetball-magazine.com > "Event Coverage" > choose "2002 Tournament of the Americas" for in-depth online reports and team rosters.

on the road again ...

In February, International Racquetball Federation [IRF] Secretary General Luke St. Onge was invited to meet with IOC officials and make a presentation on behalf of racquetball. To commemorate the historic meeting, he is pictured with (L-R): IOC Sports Director Gilbert Felli, [St. Onge], IOC President Jacques Rogge, and IRF Executive Vice-President Erik Meyer.



rb:people & places



Roberts inducted to Hall of Fame

This year's USRA Hall of Fame inductee, Andy Roberts, was selected on the basis of his outstanding athletic accomplishments, spanning a career of nearly three decades.

One of the most dominant pro players of the 90's, Roberts finished six seasons with a top five ranking — twice finishing in the No.2 spot (1993, 1995). With over 15 tour wins to his credit, Roberts was — and continues to be — a fearsome opponent. He finished with a top-10 season ranking on the tour as recently as 1999.

Early in his rise to prominence, Roberts worked his way up

through the junior ranks, gaining a reputation that earned him a racquetball scholarship at the University of Memphis. While there, his three singles and two doubles crowns helped Memphis win two National Intercollegiate Championships.

From college, Roberts went on to capture a National Doubles title in 1985, a National Singles title in 1988 and a U.S. Olympic Festival singles win in 1991. He recaptured the National Doubles crown 15 years later in 2000.

Selected as the USRA Athlete of the Year twice (1988, 1990), Roberts was also appointed to the U.S. National team for eight consecutive terms (1985-1991), where he added Tournament of the Americas, and World Championship titles to an impressive resume.

Beckwith Wins 'Fair Play Award'

Submitted by Tom Rall

Lee Beckwith, one of Colorado's premier players in both the Open and Age Divisions was named the 2002 John Halverson 'Fair Play Award' recipient at ceremonies held in Houston in late May. Tom Rall nominated Lee based upon his observations during the Colorado State Championship, where Lee distinguished himself as having displayed outstanding sportsmanship during the entire tournament.



Athletes honored: At the USRA's annual award banquet in Houston, Athlete of the Year awards were given to Cheryl Gudinas and Jack Huczak (above). Age group recognition went to Debbie Tisinger [Peggy Steding Award winner] and Ruben Gonzalez [Bud Muelheisen Award recipient] (below). On receipt of his award, Gonzalez used the platform to thank Russ Mannino with the presentation of a special gift clock to mark their long-term friendship. Photos: John Foust.



But it was during one match in particular that Lee showed what sportsmanship is all about, and also redefined court etiquette. Against an opponent he had played before, Mike McKlinton, Lee took a shot that could have ended the rally, but as luck would have it he instead overran it a bit and hit the ball slightly 'off'; the ball traveled close to his body and passed just by him. Mike was positioned very close behind, but with both players 'on the run,' for it to be called an 'avoidable' was nebulous at best. Both players stopped. As McKlinton entered the service box to serve again, Lee stopped him and said, 'That shot was an avoidable.

You could have killed that ball. I was in your way.' With that, the first game ended with Lee losing 14-15 on a call he made against himself. He walked off the court a bit disappointed, only to receive a standing ovation! He may have lost the game, but he had won the respect of everyone watching.

The close second game played out much like the first: 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, and Lee made two more calls on himself, but this time won the game 15-13. The tiebreaker was filled with great gets, long rallies and even more amazing shots! At 8-8, Lee made another call on himself on a 'get'. It was questionable. The referee, even the crowd thought he had gotten the ball. But Lee was true to himself and insisted 'I didn't get that', and handed the ball to his opponent.

With an exceptional display of fine sportsmanship, Lee won the match 11-10. Shaking hands, it was clear that Mike was in awe of Lee's behavior. The crowd, which had grown substantially since the first game, was now on its feet. There was loud applause. Lee Beckwith in his first round match at the Colorado State Championships had set the example for the rest of the players to follow. Although Lee did not go on to win the tournament, players talked about his match for the entire weekend!

This is the kind of sportsmanship that demands recognition. Lee Beckwith is a player of integrity, one who is not afraid of making calls on himself, and obviously would never take anything he didn't deserve. Here is a player of substance, who we should all strive to emulate.



LEFT: LEE BECKWITH & TOM RALL. BELOW: USRA BOARD PRESIDENT OTTO DIETRICH PRESENTS NORTH CAROLINA STATE PRESIDENT LYNN STEPHENS WITH THE 2002 "PRESIDENTIAL AWARD." THE WORLD SENIOR RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE WAS ALSO TAPPED TO RECEIVE THE JOE SOBEK CONTRIBUTOR'S AWARD.



NMRA Sets another Record

by Ben Brewster

In mid-March, the Spectrum Club in Canoga Park, California hosted the National Masters Racquetball Association's Championships, where a record number of players competed to make this the biggest tournament in the 31-year history of the NMRA. Two hundred forty-six entrants played over 1,700 matches in a round-robin format on the Spectrum Club's twenty courts, averaging over 30 matches per court, per day. "This could only have happened with the excellent leadership of the Spectrum's staff" said Ron Pudduck, NMRA President.

Debra Tisinger is the Racquetball Coordinator and Club Professional who, along with her daughter, Janel and volunteer Ron Lam, managed all tournament scheduling. Debra certainly knows racquetball and was recently named the Peggy Steding Award winner by the USRA and is currently ranked No.1 in the Women's 35+ and 40+ divisions. Janel is ranked No.2 in Women's 24 and under and is on the U.S. Junior Team.

Merijean Kelley, NMRA Vice-President said, "that player reactions were so positive toward the staff, club and hospitality, the NMRA Board decided to return to the Spectrum next year for the 2003 National Championships. The LA setting, accommodations at the Hilton Woodland Hills, great food, and fine banquet facilities were other factors in this easy decision." The on-site Spectrum sidewalk café was a huge hit with players. Using special "NMRA tourney dollars"

rb:people & places

players were able to order from a full menu or a luncheon buffet. Manager Jim Greene said his café's motto is: "The Inside Secret to Fitness" and that the big seller was the Smoothie/Shake offering. He estimated that over a thousand pounds of fruit were used for shakes during the tournament.

Tourney Results

A record 246 players plus 45 guests were on-hand for the competition and banquet. That's forty more players than the last tournament, which was also a record-breaker. Ron Pudduck noted that the membership of the organization has grown more than 150% during the last four years and now has to limit the number of entries. The fact that the championships were located on the West Coast seemed to have had little effect on where players came from. Ron noted that "34 states plus the District of Columbia were represented and that exactly half or 17 states were located east of the Mississippi River."

WOMEN'S SINGLES -- 45+ Sherron Boyea-CA; 50+ Elaine Dexter-CA; 55+ Merijean Kelley-CA; 60+ Sharon Hastings-Welty-OR; 70+ Lola Markus-IL; 80+ Mary Low Acuff-NC. **WOMEN'S DOUBLES** -- 50+ Carla Francis-CA/Elaine Dexter-CA; 55+ Merijean Kelley-CA/Nidia Funes-CA; 60+ Marquita Molina-CA/Nancy Martin-CA.

MEN'S SINGLES -- 45+ Carlos Ascunce-CA; 50+ Frank Taddonio-AR; 55+ Scott Rudoni-CA; 60+ Glenn Allen-VA; 65+ Ken Moore-CA; 70+ Sean Reid-NV; 75+ Victor Sacco-NY; 80+ Bob McAdam-TX. **MEN'S DOUBLES** -- 45+ Gene Pare-CA/Denny Vincent-OH; 50+ Gene Pare-CA/Eric Barkey-CA; 55+ Barry Hendricks-AZ/Jon Walker-AZ; 60+ Tom Penick-CA/Glenn Allen-VA; 65+ Ken Moore-CA/ Paul Banales-AZ; 70+ Gene Ferris-CA/Emil Kuenzler-NY

MIXED DOUBLES: Leslie Pawka-CA/ Mike Pawka-CA; Joy Desantis-CA/Ron Adams-CA; 65+ Lola Markus-IL/Roy Rudichuk-OK

The Next Stop

The NMRA's International Championships is set for July 17-20 in Champaign, Illinois using the University of Illinois' athletic facility. An AmPRO Clinic will be offered before the tournament on July 15-16. Ron Pudduck expects this to be another record breaker



Minnesota did it Again

by Barbara Wilson

Minnesota had the second largest contingent at this event, second only to California with 80 players. In attendance were Bob Englund of Minnetonka, in the 70+ singles and doubles; Harold "Cap" Hiles of Stillwater (70+ singles); Susan Kieffer of Nisswa (50+ doubles and singles); Don Larsen of Mount (60+ doubles); Lee Rients of Wilmar (60+ singles); Amos Rosenbloom of Edina (70+ doubles); Ralph Stillman of Minnetonka (70+ doubles and singles); and Dave Warner of Maple Plain (50+ doubles and singles).

Stillman and Englund came in fourth in the 70+ doubles division and Hiles and Rosenbloom came in eighth. Fingerman and Larsen finished third in the 60+ doubles.

Most of these participants have been making the journey to the tournaments for years. All are over 50 years of age and many well beyond that. It is a commitment to good health and fitness that keeps them active participants.

and suggests that players get their entries in early. Note: For more information about the NMRA or the tournament contact Ron Pudduck at 734 426-7522 or email at: ronpudduck@aol.com

Pictured: Debra Tisinger and Ron Pudduck welcome players to the Spectrum Club. Debra runs several major tournaments each year ...one of which is the Tournament of Terror, (a Halloween event where wild costumes are the order of the day). She is holding up the souvenir shirt designed by her father who is a retired graphics designer.

Building Michigan Junior Racquetball

by Dale Brown

"We wanted to get a mess of kids together for a day of racquetball," said Twayne Howard, "To say that we got that done is something of an understatement." One of the organizers of the first-ever Mich-Illi cup — a one-day junior tournament featuring players from Michigan and Illinois — Howard was referring to the nearly 70 youngsters who gathered in Grand Rapids at the Orchard Hills club on February 23.

"Their kids are a little further along than ours in terms of tournament competition, but this was a fine chance for Michigan juniors to see what's possible," said Dale Brown, another of the

event organizers. The Illinois team boasted four players with top ten national rankings and those players in the boys' 10 through boys' 18 divisions carried the day for Illinois. Points were awarded to the top three finishers in six boys' divisions and three girls' divisions. "Although they took home the travel trophy, I was proud of the Michigan kids. We played hard and shook hands when the matches were over," said Brown.

Paula Spagnuolo, director of racquetball at several clubs in Grand Rapids, is excited about the emergence of junior racquetball as a sign of health for the sport. "Of the 35 or so players on the Michigan team, nearly 25 came from our program here in West Michigan," she said. "That gives us some idea of what we can do as we learn from successful programs in other states like Illinois, Ohio, and Oregon," Spagnuolo added. The Grand Rapids players were joined by a Detroit contingent coached by Lewis Forest and two players from Muskegon. "If we're to develop a truly state wide program, we'll need to pull in players from Lansing and the other areas where programs are developing," Brown said.

The Grand Rapids program has seen more than 170 young people come in to a Sunday clinic program over the past three years. Every Sunday they get together for free play, in-house tournaments, instruction, and (sometimes) pizza. Older members have supported the program with equipment and donations. Now several of the junior players are anticipating competition at the state tournament in April and at the nationals in June. "The Mich-Illi Cup was just one more step in our development," Brown said. "Our kids were really dazzled by the matching red shirts the Illinois players wore. I guess we'll have to get some blue ones for our bunch."

Not your Typical Match

by Philip Suarez, M.D.

The 2002 Regional Qualifying tournament in San Antonio, Texas saw typical tough competition and great racquetball ... but it also featured a dramatic trauma that none of us anticipated.

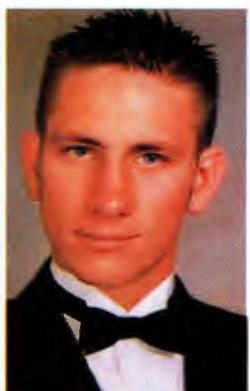
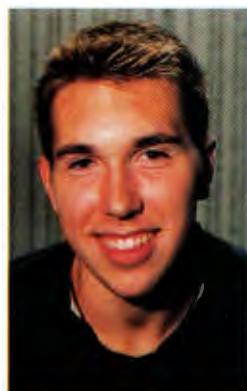
I was in Dallas for the Texas Medical Association meeting from Wednesday until Friday, April 19th. From there, my wife, Trish, and I got in the car at noon and drove to San Antonio for the regional. After settling in, we went over to the courts only to discover that my first match opponent didn't show. I won that by forfeit. My second match, in Men's 45+ A/B was scheduled for 11:00 pm.

The match went on pretty close to the scheduled time against a fellow by the name of Rick Mogren. Rick and I have played before and know each other pretty well.

As the first game was winding down I was winning 12-10 and just won a long rally to take the score to 13-10. As I turned to get the ball, I saw Rick crumple to the ground. He collapsed on the court and quickly went into complete cardio-respiratory arrest! He had a massive M.I. right there on the court! I knew exactly what happened when I saw him go down...



scholars: Winners of 2001-2002 scholarships were (clockwise from top left): Krystal Csuk [Baldwin Wallace]; Lauren Deutsch [Univ. of Southern California]; Jack Huczek [Oakland University]; Matt McElhiney [Univ. of South Florida]. *New applications are being reviewed now for the 2002-2003 academic year. For program details, go to www.usra.org >"Sitemap/Index" > "Scholarships" or call 719-635-5396.*



July – August 2002

rb:people & places

I turned to the crowd watching and told them to call 911 and immediately dropped to my knees. I rolled him over; he was hyperventilating for a moment, then quit breathing altogether. Checked for pulse — nothing. He was, quite simply, dead right there on the court.

Immediately before starting the match he had said "Phil, I guess I'm getting old or something. I've been having chest pressure and pain for a few weeks now." I told him that we did not have to play but he insisted that he had a full cardiac work up in March and he was fine and wanted to play. Almost prophetically I jokingly told him before I served the first point - "now, Rick, if you go down in here I'm NOT giving you mouth-to-mouth!" He responded, "Good! I don't want you to give me mouth-to-mouth. Let me die instead!"

Well, I certainly ate my words.



philip suarez & rick mogren

As luck would also have it, Zelda Salas, the girlfriend of another Victoria player, just walked through the door when this happened. She worked as an EMT and promptly came in to help.

We started performing CPR right there on the court only after a few moments. Somehow I got the short straw and did the breathing! Zelda did the compressions, Trish timed and counted everything, and several other people were there ready to help. It was an absolute *eternity* till the EMS arrived — 13 minutes to be exact! After every breath I found myself looking over my shoulder hoping to see them. The final "four and FIVE" came all-too-quickly and it was time to blow again! Each time we checked for a pulse we got nothing.

When the EMS arrived they hooked up their monitor — he was still in a deadly heart rhythm without a true beat. They had the equipment to clear his airway and they shocked him once. His cardiac function returned immediately.



They then intubated him and started bagging him with oxygen.

They whisked him off to the hospital. Apparently by the time they got to the ER (only three minutes away) he was already fighting and pulled his tube out.

After the excitement settled down a bit, I showered and went to the ER, where Rick was confused but alert and stable. Another visit Saturday evening found him on the step-down ward on telemetry — doing *perfectly* fine! He had undergone a cardiac cath Friday night. They placed a stint and had done a balloon on two other cardiac artery narrowings.

Unbelievably, Rick was discharged from the hospital the next Monday! Apparently the cardiologist told him that he probably was going to have *no* permanent cardiac muscle damage! He also, thank God, had absolutely NO CNS (brain) injury from the event! A *real* win for us!!

Rick definitely has another lease on life! You hear about these scary things all the time — but I never thought it would happen to ME! YIKES!!

Every time I've been involved in a medical emergency I've had all my equipment there — tubes, suction, EKG monitors, operating rooms, etc. This time I only had my Ektelon racquet! Never have I seen such a thing, particularly with a relatively healthy 46 year old man!

There are a couple of take-home messages here. First, I guess, if you're going to have a massive heart attack and try to die on the court, you'd better be playing a doctor!

Second, *everyone* should be up on CPR and know how to immediately resuscitate someone if they go down. Looking around, I didn't see very many people who had a clue what to do. He surely would have been dead, or at least suffered severe brain injury, if efforts had been delayed *at all*.

Go out and take CPR! Until our sport gets on-site EMS staffing, each and every player at the competitive level should take it upon themselves to get this training. As it was shown in April of 2002 in San Antonio: something that simple can save another's life. And remember: nobody promises you tomorrow!

Philip Suarez is a practicing physician in Victoria, Texas and a member of the South Texas Team Ektelon.

wedding bells

Rumford — Dennison

Former two-time age-group champion Mike Dennison wed Carrie Rumford on April 13th, 2002. The two met at an Intercollegiate regional tournament while Mike was playing for Akron University and Carrie for Baldwin Wallace College. After dating for four years, she finally gave in and the two were married in Mike's hometown of Stow, Ohio. Several racquetball tournament regulars were in the wedding including Mike's best man and twin brother Dave, Chris Wachtel, Matt Adesso, Rob Teren, and Butch Simpson. Mike admits, "If it weren't for racquetball, I may have never met her." Carrie is employed as a Physical Education instructor at the Chagrin Falls Intermediate School and Mike is a mortgage broker for Diversified Lending, Inc. The couple plans to start a junior team of their own, so everyone beware of a kid shooting rockets off of his racquet in a court near you soon!

Schenker — Muller

Former, long-time U.S. National Team member, and world doubles champion Eric Muller tied the knot with Boston University classmate Lydia Schenker in mid-March. A non-racquetball player, the new Mrs. Muller is originally from New Jersey, and now teaches third grade in New York City. The wedding was held in New Jersey, and attended by cohorts Jack Huczak, Aaron Katz, and Sudsy Monchik [pictured].

Schagel — Mannino

Jason Mannino married Jennifer Schagel on February 9, after several years of courtship and, at press time, the pair were already expecting. The wedding was held at the Monte Carlo Hotel in Las Vegas, with the reception in a 2000 square foot suite at the Mandalay Bay Hotel. It included 40 members of their family and closest friends, including some of racquetball's top names: Mr./Mrs. Adam Karp, Mr./Mrs. Brian Mirich, Fran Davis, and Jeff Bloom.

Paraiso — Rice

Although it's almost time for the first anniversary, this behind-the-scenes photo still works. LPRA supporters at the wedding took some time to visualize some shots, in formal wear, with newlywed Jackie Paraiso Rice. L-R: Laura Fenton, Ramona Vonondarza, Jackie, and Kersten Hallander.



rb:people & places



Winterton Re-appointed as U.S. Team Coach

After a two-year stint as head coach of the Mexican National Team, Jim Winterton is back coaching for the U.S. Winterton previously coached the U.S. squad for a full decade before stepping down to work with the U.S. Junior National Team. He was soon approached for, and accepted, the head coaching position for Mexico.

During his tenure, Winterton's U.S. squads won the International Racquetball Federation World Championships in each of the years

he was at the helm. His teams also brought home five Tournament of the Americas team crowns and swept the 1995 Pan-American Games, winning six gold medals and two silvers. In the 1999 Pan Am Games, his team almost repeated the feat by capturing six gold medals, a silver, and a bronze.

In his first World Championships as the head of the Mexican Team Winterton coached the men's team world championships in both singles and doubles. In the process, his players made history by capturing the men's team title, plus an individual World title for Alvaro Beltran in singles. It was the first time, ever, that Team Mexico players had placed so well, and it was also the first year that the U.S. did not come away with the overall World Championship team trophy.

Winterton is eager to get to work to make sure that doesn't happen again at the World Championships this August in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His roster will have been named by the time this issue is delivered; look online at www.usra.org for updates!

Nick Sans: Athlete, Champion, and Friend to Many

by Tom Rall and Mickey Bellah

Sadly, after a long illness, one of racquetball's most beloved members has passed away. For all of us who knew Nick Sans it is safe to say we enjoyed the pleasure of his quiet demeanor, his soft smile and his very keen sense of humor. He was indeed an easy man to like. As a man of principle, strong character and integrity he set an example for us all to follow. One described Nick as

"...a man who had a great spirit, a tender heart and a very gracious approach to his fellow man." Certainly Nick touched the hearts of many. We were lucky to have had him among us for so long. He was a good man, a good friend, and he'll be missed.

Nick managed to win several tournaments in his day, two of which were the National Singles Championship in Houston, and National Masters Singles Championship. As a player, he was both methodical and crafty, able to maneuver his opponents out of position and then take advantage of it, winning streaks of points at a time in a single game. Once ahead Nick was hard to beat. He won a lot of games, way, way more than he lost. And in the process he made several friends. Even the players he beat could not help but like him. The result was a man showered with friendships that lasted a lifetime.

We are always saddened by the loss of someone we once knew, especially a loved one. Nick was one who attracted and befriended many people from all walks of life, from company presidents and professional athletes in different sports, to surgeons, technological geniuses, inventors, politicians, writers, authors and scientists. He treated everyone the same, never talking 'down' to anyone and always carrying a quaint smile around with him wherever he went. We saw him frequently at our club — The Spectrum Club, Fullerton, California. Sometimes he joined us for doubles. Sometimes he just practiced. Always he was a joy to be with. Tom Rall described him this way:

'I met Nick in 1989 while getting some food served at one of the tournaments we were both playing in. He asked me to pass him the mustard and for the next thirteen years we talked every time we saw each other. Then we became members of the same club and were always talking about this or that, trying to be funny. He was a quiet, easy-going, yet sophisticated man whose smile and soft gray hair became his trademark. He was an honest man who embraced life with an open mind



readerforum...con't from pg 4

and heart. He was always easy to talk to even though I knew he was a giant of a man intellectually. I also knew he was loved by many. Hearing of his passing saddened me, as I am sure it did others who knew him.' All who knew him are saddened by Nick's passing and express our sincere condolences to his family. We all will miss him.

Lynmar Named U.S. National Training Center

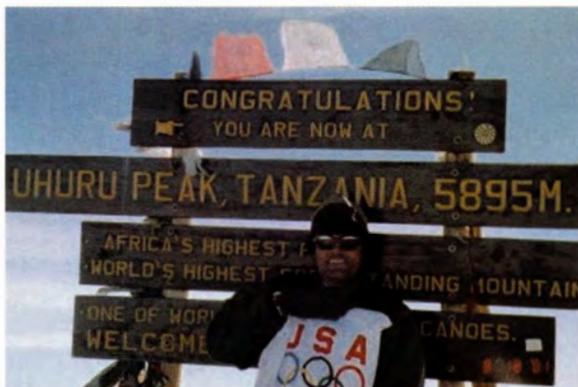
The Lynmar Health and Racquet Club and the U.S. Racquetball Association recently announced an agreement, in which the facility has been named the official national racquetball center for USRA's elite training programs. Lynmar will become the venue for all elite events offered locally by the USRA, including national team training camps, junior elite camps, conferences, and major international racquetball events hosted by the USRA and the USOC.

Lynmar was the host venue for the Top-Three Challenge in 1991 (between the U.S., Canada and Mexico), which was nationally televised; and the U.S. Olympic Festival in 1995. The USRA's elite racquetball camps have been held at the facility since 1984 and the club is seeking to expand in the future to become the premier racquetball tournament venue in the United States. Just minutes from the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Lynmar has hosted events from state championships to Ladies Professional Racquetball Association pro tour stops.

Racquetball on Kilimanjaro

Last fall, former USRA webmaster Curt Rettke stopped on his way up Mt. Kilimanjaro to try and pose with his USA Racquetball t-shirt. "The racquetball (photo) did not come out as well as I'd hoped ... the USA shirt came out kinda bad because the 30 mph

wind gusts made it tough to keep the shirt steady." He survived his three-week trip [see more photos at www.rettke.org] just in time to return home and complete the real test – finish out the racquetball season, uninjured!



Board Elections

The board's election committee released verified tallies in Houston, which identified the four successful candidates seeking election. By percentage of votes cast, Ed Willis (Va.) lead the list of board hopefuls by earning 45.5%, followed by Randy Stafford (Tenn.) with 44.2%, Stephanie Munger (Alaska) with 41.8% and Jim Garner (Ala.) with 37.5% [see photos & profiles in the March/April issue]. Each has now been named to a three-year appointment to the board. For the full board list, and new officer positions, go to www.usra.org > "Directories" > "Board of Directors."

relatively recent past. This group was further expanded when my next match was against a gentleman returning to competition after recovering from serious back surgery.

Added to this list (compiled over 26 years of play) are a host of other folks who have battled diabetes, cancer, disc removals, heart disease, and amputations, but who have stubbornly refused to "throw in the towel." Each one steps on the court with the firm intention of beating the stuffing out of their opponents. Those opponents, in turn, shouldn't even consider that the challenges they've had to overcome will in any way impair those efforts. The omission of names is deliberate, none of these folks are looking for any special dispensations or sympathy — the minute you start thinking otherwise is when they will proceed to beat your brains out.

Our history books report that when asked to surrender, John Paul Jones (Revolutionary War) became famous for saying "I have not yet begun to fight" and General Tony McAuliffe, for his one word response of "Nuts" at the battle of the bulge (WWII). Both backed up their words with world renowned actions.

The actions of the few folks I've just mentioned (plus the legion of those I have not had the pleasure of competing against yet) also speak much louder than words of the courage, competitiveness, tenacity, and heart of the folks that make up our international racquetball community. Any of those "Comeback Kids" (ranging in age from 16 to 64), will recognize themselves when they read this, and know that their intangible, well-earned "Gumption Awards" have been presented (or at least acknowledged) here today.

And by the way, it's nice to be back after a two and a half year layoff due to a little problem of my own.

Mike Lazarow • League City, Texas

ENTRY FORM — Ektelon 35th U.S. National Doubles Championships

Minneapolis, Minnesota: October 2-6, 2002

Name _____ Gender: M F

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eves) _____

Email _____

Birthday _____ Age _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Partner _____ Division _____

Partner _____ Division _____

Partner _____ Mixed _____ *

*A third division is offered for Mixed Division play only. No consolation rounds offered.

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, Northwest Athletic Club-Hiway 100, Penin 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 _____

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

I have been AmPRO certified at this level by (name required):
AmPRO Certified Instructor _____

I have recently competed at this level in my state, and been approved for participation at this level nationally by the state director or designated representative shown:
(name required) _____

I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the _____ 2000 National Doubles, or the _____ 2000 U.S. OPEN.

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OPEN Team Qualifier (unrestricted entry)

AGE Divisions	SKILL Divisions
<input type="checkbox"/> 24-	<input type="checkbox"/> ELITE (State Open)
<input type="checkbox"/> 25+	<input type="checkbox"/> A
<input type="checkbox"/> 30+	<input type="checkbox"/> B
<input type="checkbox"/> 35+	<input type="checkbox"/> C
<input type="checkbox"/> 40+	<input type="checkbox"/> D
<input type="checkbox"/> 45+	<input type="checkbox"/> 24- A/B
<input type="checkbox"/> 50+	<input type="checkbox"/> 24- C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 55+	<input type="checkbox"/> 25+ A/B
<input type="checkbox"/> 60+	<input type="checkbox"/> 25+ C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> 35+ A/B
<input type="checkbox"/> 70+	<input type="checkbox"/> 35+ C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 75+	<input type="checkbox"/> 45+ A/B
<input type="checkbox"/> 80+	<input type="checkbox"/> 45+ C/D
<input type="checkbox"/> 85+	<input type="checkbox"/> 55+ A/B
	<input type="checkbox"/> 55+ C/D

MIXED Doubles Divisions

<input type="checkbox"/> MX OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/> MX 40+
<input type="checkbox"/> MX ELITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MX 45+
<input type="checkbox"/> MX A	<input type="checkbox"/> MX 50+
<input type="checkbox"/> MX B	<input type="checkbox"/> MX 55+
<input type="checkbox"/> MX C	<input type="checkbox"/> MX 60+
<input type="checkbox"/> MX D	<input type="checkbox"/> MX 65+
<input type="checkbox"/> MX 24-	<input type="checkbox"/> MX 70+
<input type="checkbox"/> MX 25+	<input type="checkbox"/> MX 75+
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WHERE: Northwest Athletic Club - Hiway 100
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763-535-3571

WHEN: October 2-6, 2002
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POSTMARK BY: Fri. Sept. 13

STARTING TIMES:
Monday - Sept. 30 @ 5:00 pm (central)
763-535-3571, ext.2
CHECK-IN: Tuesday - Oct. 1 @ 6:00 pm
PLAY BEGINS: Wednesday - Oct. 2 @ 8:00 am

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MEN

Men's 24- A/B

1. Andres Ramirez, FL
2. Chris Coy, OK
- 3T. Joey Lakowske, OR
- 3T. Jason Linnell, DC
- 5T. Cesar Castro, TX
- 5T. Jesse Keavney, AK
- 7T. Armando Amaro, WA
- 7T. Chad Daves, OK
- 7T. Bryan Jacoby, SC
- 7T. Marcelo Laprea, TX

Men's 24- C/D

1. Arthur Schmeiser, AZ
2. Jason Martucci, TX
- 3T. Bradley Butler, TN
- 3T. Brandon Stanley, LA
- 5T. David Martin, PA
- 5T. Kyle Shawger, OH
7. Stephen Terry, TX
- 8T. Tripp Isley, NC
- 8T. Andrew Kopf, NY
- 8T. Scott Schmidt, MO

Men's 25+ A/B

1. Arturo Burriel, TX
2. Enrique Loaiza, CA
- 3T. John Halpin, CT
- 3T. Derek Izzi, PA
5. Augie Pasko, MI
6. Myron Brough, OH
7. Dale Durborow, OR
- 8T. Ryan Covell, MI
- 8T. Brian Dimler, SC
- 8T. Shaun Stone, OK

Men's 25+ C/D

1. Harold Beshaw, PA
2. Daniel Miller, TX
- 3T. Michael Belvedere, IL
- 3T. Sid Harshavat, IL
5. Twayne Howard, MI
6. Filipe Veracoecha, TX
- 7T. Greg Hogsed, SC
- 7T. Mark Myer, OK
- 9T. David Cohen, MA
- 9T. Tommy Coshatt, GA

Men's 30+ A/B

1. Sean Baker, TX
2. Roberto Cantos, GA
3. Martin Gonzalez, IL
4. Don Dettmore, FL
- 5T. Andre Roy, MI
- 5T. Mark Smith, WA
7. Simon Lee, WA
- 8T. Paul Adams, MI
- 8T. David Marrero, PR
- 8T. Dennis Negrete, IL

Men's 30+ C/D

1. Kirk Tim, TX
2. Twayne Howard, MI
3. Clarence Jones, NC
4. Michael Van Cleave, WA
5. Miguel San Miguel, TX
- 6T. Jeff Homme, WA
- 6T. Keith Komosinski, AE
- 6T. Brian Lavenia, FL
- 6T. Daryn Watson, TX
10. Patrick McCaslin, WA

Men's 35+ A/B

1. John Dill, TX
2. Chris Salge, TX
- 3T. David Marrero, FL
- 3T. Angelo Perilli, PA
- 5T. Jacob Chambers, KS
- 5T. Rob Gruner, NY
7. Mark Bianchi, OK
- 8T. Eric Hagelin, WA
- 8T. Matt Malolepszy, MI
- 8T. Jake Skinner, NM

Men's 35+ C/D

1. Jeff Courtright, TX
2. Rudy Olivares, TX
- 3T. Garry Carter, CA
- 3T. Paul Gomberg, TX
- 5T. Michael Berube, FL
- 5T. Terry Lambright, LA
- 7T. Rick Falcone, IL
- 7T. Sam Thomas, OK
9. George Church, TX
- 10T. Bill Elder, OK

Men's 40+ A/B

1. Alfred Baca, TX
2. Edward Reed, CA
3. Jeff Elder, MD
4. Doug Hebert, SD
5. David Stob, WA
- 6T. Chris Evans, NM
- 6T. Leo Formanski, IL
- 6T. Rob Herman, WA
- 6T. Jeff Tloczynski, MI
- 10T. Edward Barlow, RI

Men's 40+ C/D

1. Sterling Altobell, CA
2. Jeff Johnson, MI
3. Michael Kaufman, GA
4. Keith Gardner, VA
5. Tracy Dieri, WA
- 6T. Wayne Bristol, CA
- 6T. Royce Simpson, IL
- 6T. Lynn Stephens, NC
- 6T. Oscar Vargas, TX
- 10T. Anthony Korn, WA

Men's 45+ A/B

1. Frank Gomila, LA
2. John Patalano, RI
- 3T. Dave Gross, SD
- 3T. Tyrone White, AL
- 5T. Keith Butts, TX
- 5T. Robert Franks, TX
7. Tom Jacoby, NC
- 8T. William Cannon, AL
- 8T. Joel Matautia, WA
- 8T. Mark Pritchard, NM

Men's 45+ C/D

1. Gerald Howard, TX
2. Lou Kleinman, TX
- 3T. Ronald Harris, TX
- 3T. Sez Ozden, GA
- 5T. Ray Firlie, MD
- 5T. Charles Van Hoose, MI
7. Peter Kochis, OK
- 8T. Clarence Lawry, NJ
- 8T. Larry Leno, WA
- 8T. Joe Machado, OK

Men's 50+ A/B

- 1T. Dave Lund, MI
- 1T. Ray O'Brien, IL
- 3T. Dan Dallas, IL

Men's 50+ A/B

1. Pete Chmielewski, CA
2. Garry Carter, CA
3. Robert Franks, TX
4. Antonio Garcia, TX
- 5T. Al Kohl, MI
- 5T. John Koziol, IL
- 7T. Jim Gutierrez, CA
- 7T. Roy Povich, MI
- 7T. Dennis Rosenberg, PA
- 7T. Joe Vallender, IL

Men's 50+ C/D

1. Walt Charlton, OK
2. Charles Van Hoose, MI
3. Bruce Cole, CA
4. George Jackson, TN
- 5T. William Dodge, WA
- 5T. Michael Grosse, CO
- 5T. Gerald Howard, TX
- 5T. Peter Kochis, OK
- 9T. Howard Call, WA
- 9T. Pete Sagasi, WA

Men's 55+ A/B

1. Jim Baker, TX
2. Terry Dees, CO
- 3T. Ken Foster, TX
- 3T. Robert Hill, TX
5. George Smuckel, IL
- 6T. Willie Davenport, VA
- 6T. Jerry Kriger, VA
- 6T. Mogens Klit Norlem, MD
- 9T. Bob Chapman, OK
- 9T. Larry Knetzger, GA

Men's 55+ C/D

1. Mike Bennett, TX
2. Howard Watters, TX
- 3T. Larry Bizzari, IN
- 3T. Ben Brewster, TX
- 5T. Don Russell, MS
- 5T. Marc Scher, TX
- 7T. Pete Kochis, OK
- 7T. Ralph Ronnebaum, KS
- 9T. Dean Hicks, OK
- 9T. Ronald Maestas, AZ

Men's 60+ A/B

1. G Kyle Smith, TX
2. Leon Stanley, AL
3. Al Miller, OH
4. Larry Cox, TX
- 5T. Jess Madden, MI
- 5T. Al Murray, IL
- 7T. Bob Baudry, LA
- 7T. Richard Cramer, TX
- 7T. William Gingold, IL
- 7T. William Roever, TX

Men's 60+ C/D

1. Ronald McElwee, AL
2. Larry Bizzari, IN
3. John Ferguson, OR
4. Ron Bouchard, NH
- 5T. Bill Dunn, TX
- 5T. Sam Koster
7. Aaron Vederoff, WA
8. Howard Call, WA

Men's 65+ A/B

- 1T. Susan Lichtman, NY
- 1T. Sheri Zappala, NY
- 3T. Melody Gorno, MI

3T. Jim Emerson, MI

Men's 70+ A/B

1. Ken Yahir, IL
2. Michael Garcia, IL

Men's 75+ A/B

1. Ken Yahir, IL

WOMEN

Women's 24- A/B

1. Kelley Fisher, OH
2. Nicole Whitney, NY
3. Keely Franks, TX
4. Jesi Fuller, NM
5. Jeni Fuller, NM
- 6T. D'amonique Davis, TX
- 6T. Danielle Mathieu, MO
- 6T. Rachel Mimms, KY

Women's 24- C/D

1. Eva Alle, GA
2. Wesley Toland, AR
3. Marci Laramee, TN
4. Danielle Jameson, TN

Women's 25+ A/B

1. Candi Hostovich, VA
2. Claudia Ramirez, FL
- 3T. Nathania Stewart, GA
- 3T. Ramona VonOndarza, FL
- 5T. Karen Denu, VA
- 5T. Danielle Emerson, MD
7. Stephanie Cobb, MI
- 8T. Dyan Anderson, MD
- 8T. Catherine Bertucci, IL
- 8T. Stephanie Bird, OK

Women's 25+ C/D

1. Marci Laramee, TN
2. Cheyenne Hayes, WA
3. Taryn McDonough, CA
- 4T. Michelle Lexow, IL
- 4T. Larissa Llinas, FL
- 6T. Claudine Andola, FL
- 6T. Heidi Zitza, MO
- 6T. Holly Zitza, MO
- 9T. Linda Bateman, AK
- 9T. Melanie Stowell, FL

Women's 25+ A/B

1. Esther McNary, CT
2. Sara Noyes, FL
3. Hilary Anderson, OH
4. Beatrice Jefferson-Benny, AZ
- 5T. Sharon Chandler, WA
- 5T. Judy Ostoich, PA
- 7T. Catherine Bertucci, IL
- 7T. Irene Delgado, NY
- 7T. Karen Denu, VA
- 7T. Jessica Hamlin, FL

Women's 30+ C/D

1. Patty Barrows, MA
2. Victoria Pickard, FL
3. Tracie Valentine, MD
4. Chantell Knowles, TX

Women's 35+ A/B

- 1T. Susan Lichtman, NY
2. Sheri Zappala, NY
- 3T. Melody Gorno, MI

3T. Karen Green, MI

5. Kathy Welker, IL
6. Rhonda Kochis, OK
- 7T. Thao Le, VA
- 7T. Jennifer Nelson, MN
9. Bonnie Sanderson, PA
- 10T. Rebecca Polignone, MD

Women's 35+ C/D

- 1T. Barbara Christensen, UT
- 1T. Jessica Hamlin, FL
- 3T. Gwendlin Morris
- 3T. Lori Powers, TX
- 5T. Shari Gross, PA
- 5T. Felicia Jackson, TX
7. Molly Hedgecock, NC

Women's 40+ A/B

1. Janice Kennedy, GA
2. Rosario Kelley, TX
3. Guimoar Matheus
4. Vivian Rodriguez, WA
5. Gina Cendoya, FL
- 6T. Elaine Fisher, OH
- 6T. Melody Gorno, MI
- 6T. Joanne Reyes, TX
- 6T. Ynez Slaymaker, AK

Women's 40+ C/D

1. Sabrina Francis
2. Jean Lerch, NH
3. Janice Bell, GA
4. Teresa Welch, TX

Women's 45+ A/B

1. Cheryl Kirk, IL
2. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
- 3T. Cynthia Huge, CT
- 3T. Cece Palaski, CA
- 5T. Marquita Molina, CA
- 5T. Patricia Schof, LA
7. Laura Patterson, MI
- 8T. Teresa Buck, AR
- 8T. Dorothy Che-Menju, IL
- 8T. Janet Christie, IL

Women's 45+ C/D

1. Diana Courtney, MI
2. Ann Barnes, MS
- 3T. Sue Benton, TN
- 3T. Laura Davis, GA
5. Nancy Gager, NJ
- 6T. Janet Christie, IL
- 6T. Connie Coile, FL
- 8T. Debra Kinn, AK
- 8T. Darlene Redfoot, NC
- 10T. Molly Hedgecock, NC

Women's 50+ A/B

1. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
2. Lynn Thomas, TX
3. Patricia Schof, LA
4. Ronnie Wetzel, TX
5. Dorothy Che-Menju, IL
- 6T. Cynthia Huge, CT
- 6T. Pat Kong, WA
- 6T. Marquita Molina, CA
- 6T. Veronica Yorksi, MD

Women's 55+ A/B

1. Josine Haustermann, OK

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MEN

Men's Open

1. Jack Huczak, MI
2. Mike Guidry, TX
3. Chris Wright, MO
4. Mitch Williams, NC
5. Jason Thoerner, GA
6. Mike Dennison, OH
- 7T. Mike Orr, PA
- 7T. Danny Shelton, ID
- 9T. Shane Dodge, WA
- 9T. Rabbit Rogers, ID

Men's Elite

1. Matthew Anderson, GA
2. Raymond Maestas, AZ
3. Richard Maggard, MO
4. Shannon Kohl, MI
- 5T. Wayland Cubit, OK
- 5T. Jay Gray, NM
- 5T. Hester Jackson, GA
- 5T. James Kostal, KS
- 5T. Steve Rogers, LA
- 5T. Rick Wagner, AZ
- Men's A
1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Marcelo Laprea, TX
3. Kipp Atwell, LA
4. Joey Lakowske, OR
5. Drew Toland, AR
6. Eduardo Guillen, ID
7. Adam Tueller, UT
8. Mike Gaffney, PA
9. Jay Mathis, GA
10. Myron Brough, OH

Men's B

1. Carlos Ramirez, FL
2. Tony Gonzales, IL
3. Vito Rubiano, IL
4. Andres Ramirez, FL
- 5T. Myron Brough, OH
- 5T. Bryan Shaw, MO
- 5T. Steve Tanner, ID
8. Andy Poplin, NC
9. Pat Duboise, AR
10. Curtis Morgan, NY

Men's C

1. Harold Beshaw, PA
2. Richard Morris, TX
3. Jim Triumph, KY
4. Kyle Shawger, OH
5. Bryan Shaw, MO
6. Michael Belvedere, IL
7. Jason Dupuy, ME
8. Sid Harshavat, IL
- 9T. Nick Catanoso, PA
- 9T. Rick Rubin, FL

Men's D

1. David Aguirre, CA
2. David Sadler, TN
- 3T. Brian Thompson, KY
- 3T. Tom Tierney, IN
- 3T. Filipe Veracoechea, TX
- 6T. Anthony Sandretto, FL
- 6T. James Thomas, GA

8. Alex Brown, MI
- 9T. Scott Gilbertson, KY
- 9T. Richard Morris, TX

Men's Novice

1. Josh Redding, KY
2. Rick Wunsch, PA
3. Larry Hicks, KY
4. Todd Anderson, NH
- 5T. Suneel Battula, OH
- 5T. Don Culwell, TN
- 5T. Joe Gammon, NM
- 5T. Bruno Guerrero, FL
- 5T. Allen Kuykendall, PA
- 5T. Mike Madsen, AR

Men's 24+

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Brent Walters, NC
3. Michael Harmon, FL
- 4T. Jeff Albert, IL
- 4T. Jason Bledsoe, FL
- 4T. Adam Cary, WA
- 4T. Bryan Gray, DE
- 4T. Mike Harmon, FL
- 4T. Brady Hernandez, LA
- 4T. Alejandro Herrera, FL

Men's 25+

1. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ
2. Mike Orr, PA
3. Mike Dennison, OH
- 4T. Gared Edmunds, KY
- 4T. Ryan Homa, MN
- 4T. Kyle Veenstra, WI
- 7T. Jason Colangelo, MD
- 7T. Andy Gross, MN
- 9T. Jason Hicks, KY
- 9T. Shawn Royster, CA

Men's 30+

1. Brian Fredenberg, TX
2. Brian Pointelin, UT
- 3T. Julio Junki, FL
- 3T. Kelly North, KY
- 3T. Dale Valentine, CA
6. Sean Travelstead, KY
- 7T. Toby Devore, LA
- 7T. John Ledig, FL
9. Pete Ulliman, OH
10. Russ Bruns, VA

Men's 35+

1. Jim Minkel, TX
2. Donald Sims, AE
3. Eugene Coyle, IL
4. Dave Watson, OK
5. John Barrett, PA
- 6T. Jim Frautschi, MN
- 6T. Steve Goedker, MI
- 6T. Linh Hansen, KY
- 6T. Jimmy Lowe, AK
10. Ron Argenbright, ME

Men's 40+

- 1T. Tim Hansen, FL
- 1T. Bill Lyman, IL
3. Tom Travers, OH
4. Dave Eagle, OH

- 5T. Scott Cullins, GA
- 5T. Tom Neill, NM
- 7T. Gwynne Edmunds, KY
- 7T. Miguel Santiago, TX
9. Greg Hodges, MI
10. Steve Simpson, MD

Men's 45+

1. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
2. Randy Stafford, TN
3. Mitt Layton, FL
- 4T. Carlos Ascunce, CA
- 4T. Rick Howick, WA
6. Pat Gibson, TX
- 7T. Mark Baron, VA
- 7T. Edward Garabedian, PA
- 7T. Rex Ledbetter, TN
10. Jim Schenk, IN

Men's 50+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Jim Luzar, WI
3. Frank Taddonio, AZ
4. Darryl Warren, CA
- 5T. David Dennis, AR
- 5T. Edward Garabedian, PA
7. Denny Vincent, OH
8. Jim Santino, MI
9. Tom Rall, CO
10. Bruce Nelson, IL

Men's 55+

1. Bill Wolfe, NY
- 2T. Horace Miller, IL
- 2T. Dave Warner, MN
4. Sammy Robles, TX
5. Joe Quirke, IL
6. Glenn Allen, VA
7. Terry Albright, MO
8. Joe Bard, WA
- 9T. Ron Combs, CA
- 9T. Fred Hunter, KY

Men's 60+

1. Ron Hutcherson, IN
2. Leland Rients, MN
3. Warren Reuther, LA
4. Ed Sword, KY
5. Roger Wehrle, GA
6. Chris Segura, UT
7. Glenn Allen, VA
8. Jim Trammell, MO
9. Ron Galbreath, PA
10. Grant Morrill, PA

Men's 65+

- 1T. Jerry Holly, CA
- 1T. Michael Jackson, CT
- 3T. Charlie Hamon, WA
- 3T. Dave Lund, MI
- 5T. Don Alt, OH
- 5T. Ken Moore, CA
- 5T. Dave Snyder, TX
8. David Lund, MI
9. Rex Benham, AR
10. Robert Miller, SC

Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. John O'Donnell, IL
3. Sean Reid, NV
4. Don Alt, FL
5. Robert Miller, SC
6. Pearce Grove, VA
7. Charles Kaiser, MI
8. Ralph Stillman, MN
- 9T. Jim Dunn, CA
- 9T. Bob Englund, MN

Men's 75+

1. Duane Russell, MI
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Victor Sacco, NY
- 4T. Dick Kincaide, CO
- 4T. Mal Roberts, FL
- 4T. Cam Snowberger, SC
7. J W Studak, TX
8. Jack McAfee, OR
9. Bill Matotan, NM
10. Al Romero, NM

Men's 80+

1. Robert McAdam, TX
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Cam Snowberger, SC
4. Don Goddard, MT
- 5T. Samuel Harry, PA
- 5T. Bob McAdam, TX
7. Bill Matotan, NM
- 8T. William Gillio, CA
- 8T. Ben Marshall, TX
- 8T. William Matotan, MN

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Laura Fenton, KS
3. Julie Hill, OK
4. Kim Russell, TX
- 5T. Elaine Albrecht, OH
- 5T. Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 7T. Brenda Kyzer, SC
- 7T. Jackie Rice, CA
9. Adrienne Fisher, OH
10. Janet Myers, NC

Women's Novice

- 1T. Jen Bezrutczyk, PA
- 1T. Judy Bress, NH
- 1T. Malorie Johnson, ME
- 1T. Melissa Quinones, FL
- 1T. Jenifer Westemeier, NM
- 6T. Katie Boggs, FL
- 6T. Danielle Doucette, ME
- 6T. Elena Heath, PA
- 6T. Donna Margwarth, NM
- 6T. Martha Robinson, NH

Women's Elite

1. Aimee Roehler, NJ
2. Janel Tisinger, CA
3. Heather Dunn, MA
4. Solanna Taragan, CA
5. Cyd Evans, NM
- 6T. Krystal Csuk, IL
- 6T. Lauren Deutsch, CA
- 6T. Jeni Fuller, NM
- 6T. Marcy Lynch, PA
- 6T. Beth Neff, WA

Women's A

1. Candi Hostovich, VA
2. Leah Upshaw, GA
3. Pat Sims, ME
4. Nathania Stewart, GA
- 5T. Melissa Johnson, ME
- 5T. Susan Lichtman, NY

Women's 25+

1. Kerri Wachtel, OH
2. Aimee Roehler, NJ
3. Heather Dunn, MA
- 4T. Lauren Deutsch, CA
- 5T. Jeni Fuller, NM
- 5T. Kristen Walsh, UT
7. Laura Best, KY
8. Sandra Richards, TN

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6. Kim Herrold, SC
 7. Jennifer Lynch, CO
 8. Stephanie Munger, AK
 9T. Rosemary Anderson, NC
 9T. Stephanie Bird, OK

Women's 30+

1. Elaine Albrecht, OH
 2. Kelley Beane, NH
 3. Amy Foster, OH
 4T. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 4T. Johanna Shattuck, CO
 6. Debra Bryant, NC
 7. Lorraine Galloway, NJ
 8T. Priscilla Gathon, CO
 8T. Vivian Gomez, FL
 8T. Jackie Gurley, SC

Women's 35+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 3. Solanna Taragan, CA
 4. Anita Maldonado, NY
 5. Felicia Mann, MI
 6. Laura Fenton, KS
 7T. Laura Brandt, FL
 7T. Debra Bryant, NC
 7T. Alice Douglass, IN
 7T. Paula Saad, MI

Women's 40+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2. Malia Bailey, VA
 3. Liz Molitor, IL
 4. Marianne Walsh, UT
 5. Peggy Stephens, KY
 6T. Meena Evans, NC
 6T. Chris Evan, IL
 8. Shari Coplen, MO
 9. Ellen Somberg, IL
 10. Cyd Evans, NM

Women's 45+

1. Meena Evans, NC
 2. Susan Pfahler, FL
 3. Marsha Berry, KY
 4. Marcia Richards, CO
 5. Linda Moore, NE
 6T. Karen Key, AZ
 6T. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
 8. Val Shewfelt, UT
 9. Brenda White, IL
 10. Mary Keenan, CO

Women's 50+

1. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
 2. Susan Kieffer, MN
 3. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 4. Janet Myers, NC
 5. Elaine Dexter, CA
 6T. Linda Covault, WI
 6T. Linda Neel, OR
 8T. Agatha Falso, FL
 8T. Karen Weins, FL
 10. Sharon Huczak, MI

Women's 55+

1. Cece Palaski, CA
 2. Merijean Kelley, CA

3T. Nidia Funes, CA
 3T. Mary Lou Furas, NM
 3T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 6. Margaret Hoff, IL
 7T. Agatha Falso, FL
 7T. Paula Sperling, NM
 9. Joy DeSantis, CA
 10. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR

Women's 60+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Mildred Gwinn, NC
3. Marquita Molina, CA
4. Sharon Welty, OR
- 5T. Gloria Piscoran, OR
- 5T. Gail Schaefer, MD
7. Gail Schaefer, CA
8. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
9. Pauline Kelly, IL
10. Annabelle Kovar, NE

Women's 65+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Lola Markus, IL
3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
4. Naomi Eads, MO
- 5T. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
- 5T. Jo Penny, SC
7. Carol Brown, AZ
8. Jeanne Leben, AZ

Women's 70+

1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Reta Harring, WI
3. Rita Harring, WI
4. Betty Railey, KY
- 5T. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
- 5T. Louise Kiss, NM
7. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
1. Mary Low Acuff, NC
2. Helen Deysher, PA

BOY'S

B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Sam Reid, OR
2. Nicholas Fonseca, GA
3. Doug Brenner, OR
- 4T. Matt McAdam, CO
- 4T. Jackson Rogers, NM
- 4T. Spencer Shoemaker, OH
- 7T. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
- 7T. David Nojorge, CO
- 7T. Kyle Ulliman, OH
10. Jimmy Leone, OH

Boy's 6-

1. Jesse Van Valkenburg, UT
2. Gregory Shipman, UT
3. Brandon Golob, VA

B8- Multi-Bounce

1. Andrew Lee, KY
2. Marcos Rojas, CA

3. Keegan North, KY
 4T. Trent Chester, MI
 4T. Jose Diaz, CA
 4T. Nicholas Fonseca, GA
 4T. Josh Hirsh, FL
 4T. Matt McAdam, CO
 4T. David Negrete, IL
 4T. Kyle Walsh, UT

Boy's 8-

1. Joseph Lee, LA
2. Chase Stanley, LA
3. Keegan North, KY
- 4T. Dan Poindexter, MI
- 4T. Marco Rojas, CA
6. David Negrete, IL
- 7T. Chandler Craig, MS
- 7T. Timothy Lerow, FL
- 7T. Andy McGuffy, OH
- 7T. Maurice Miller, GA

Boy's 10-

1. Joseph Lee, LA
2. Danny Lavelly, OH
3. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
4. Trevor Snyders, IL
- 5T. Matt Barbusak, MI
- 5T. Tyler Hooghe, OH
- 5T. Matt Hunter, FL
- 5T. Tyler Kirkland, FL
- 5T. Michael Miller, GA
- 5T. Logan North, KY

Boy's 12-

1. John Pollio, KY
2. Justin Fleck, IL
3. Jonathan Doyle, OH
4. Jose Rojas, CA
5. Danny Lavelly, OH
6. Korey Walsh, UT
- 7T. Aaron Adams, OK
- 7T. Nick Arturo, AK
- 7T. Drew Brannigan, UT
- 7T. Jake Bredenbeck, MN

Boy's 14-

1. Anthony Martin, UT
2. Andrew Gale, UT
3. Joey Lakowske, OR
4. Angel Khamis, IL
5. Brandon Ritschard, IL
6. Jonathan Justice, NC
- 7T. Zachary Apperson, OH
- 7T. Jermaine Brock, MI
- 7T. Chris Butler, TN
- 7T. Brandon Callihan, AZ

Event Level/Description

- 1 = Closed Club Event
- 2 = Open Tournament
- 3 = State Championship
- 4 = Regional Championship
- 5 = National Invitational
- 6 = National Championship

Finish/Points

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

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

Boy's 16-

- 1T. Steven Klaiman, TX
- 1T. Daniel Stewart, KY
- 3T. Alex Brown, MI
- 3T. Nathan Clark, ME
5. Ben Croft, IL
- 6T. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
- 6T. Drew Toland, AR
8. Zachary Apperson, OH
9. Scott Manship, MA
10. Stuart Anderson, NE

Boy's 18-

- 1T. Andrew Coon, KY
- 1T. Jack Huczak, MI
- 1T. Quang Nguyen, UT
4. Logan Stewart, KY
- 5T. Zack Miller, OH
- 5T. Darrin Prince, MN
7. Richard Terry, UT
8. Arthur Schmeiser, AZ
9. Ben Croft, IL
10. Nicholas Brockbank, ID

Girl's 12-

1. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
- 2T. Paige Hunter, FL
- 2T. Shannon Inglesby, OR
- 2T. Danielle Key, AZ
- 2T. Sarah Parrish, FL
- 2T. Wesley Toland, AR
- 2T. Jamie Vincent, IL
- 2T. Angie Yates, UT
9. Sharon Jackson, IN
10. Cheryl Lotts, OH

Girl's 14-

- 1T. Ashley Legget, OR
- 1T. Kimberly Walsh, UT
3. Kate Anderson, AZ
- 4T. Kelli Anderson, AZ
- 4T. Erin Egan, IL
- 4T. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
- 4T. Kristen Johnson, AR
- 4T. Danielle Key, AZ
- 4T. Hannah Oliver, CO
- 4T. Kaitlin Quintana, NE

Girl's 16-

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Da'monique Davis, TX
3. Ashley Legget, OR
- 4T. Jesi Fuller, NM
- 4T. Sarah Geislinger, MN
- 4T. Malorie Johnson, ME
- 4T. Michelle Key, AZ
- 4T. Kim Walsh, UT
- 4T. Rochelle Zimmerman, MI
10. Danielle Doucette, ME

Girl's 18-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
2. Krystal Csuk, IL
- 3T. Lauren Deutsch, CA
- 3T. Lauren Ritschard, IL
- 3T. Staci Swinger, AR
- 3T. Janel Tisinger, CA
- 3T. Jordan Ward, ID
8. Vanessa Young, IL
9. Jeni Fuller, NM
10. Amanda Taylor, AZ

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July...

July 17-20	NMRA International Champs @ University Of Illinois.....	Champaign, IL	217-351-9093
July 19-21	VA Commonwealth Games @ Sport & Health.....	Vinton, VA	540-977-1200
July 20-21	Cornhusker State Games @ Sports Courts	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
July 20	Hot Tamale @ Racquetball & Fitness	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
	NWFC Shoot Out @ NWFC	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
July 25-27	LCC 3 Day Tournament @ Lincoln City Club	Dallas, TX	214-827-9994
July 26-27	ARAC Doubles Open @ American River Athletic Club.....	Sacramento, CA	916-920-1933
July 26-28	Ballard Open @ Olympic Athletic Club	Seattle, WA	206-789-5010
	Quad West Summer Classic @ Quad West.....	Clearwater, FL	727-535-4901
	Summer Bluegrass Games @ University Of Kentucky.....	Lexington, KY	859-873-6496
	Virginia State Games @ Arlington Sport & Health	Arlington, VA	703-522-1702
	1st Annual Summer Slam @ Newman Fitness Center	Ft Stewart, GA	912-964-8574
July 27-August 1	Beat The Heat @ Classic Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	973-389-9978

August...

August 2-4	Colorado State Games @ US Air Force Academy.....	Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396
	1st Annual Capital Classic @ Kentucky State University.....	Frankfort, KY	502-868-0107
August 3	Atlanta Grand Prix #3 @ Athletic Club Northeast.....	Atlanta, GA	404-784-5327
August 10	Triple Crown One Day @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
August 16-18	Another Leftover Tournament @ Worldgate Sport & Health	Herndon, VA	703-527-7785
	Gallatin Heatstroke @ Gallatin Civic Center.....	Gallatin, TN	615-451-5911
	2002 FL State Doubles @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-880-7790
	2002 Georgia State Doubles @ Southern Athletic Club.....	Lilburn, GA	770-923-5400
August 17	Florida Challenge @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet.....	Orlando, FL	407-889-3861
	NWFC Shoot Out @ NWFC	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
August 22-25	Elmwood Fitness Summer Pro-Am @ Elmwood Fitness Center.....	Harahan, LA	225-266-3882
August 23-25	Best Of Texas @ Racquetball & Fitness	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
August 24	Goodbye Summer Shootout @ Classic Athletic Club	Fairfield, NJ	973-389-9978
August 28-31	IRF World Sr. Racquetball Champ @ New Mexico Sport & Wellness.....	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
August 29-31	LCC 3 Day Tournament @ Lincoln City Club	Dallas, TX	214-827-9994
Aug. 30 - Sept. 1	Harbor Island Labor Day Turney @ Harbor Island Athletic Club	Tampa, FL	813-202-1950

September...

September 6-8	American Family Open @ American Family Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400
September 7-8	Goucher Open @ Goucher College	Baltimore, MD	410-337-6389
September 13-15	Outback Blast It! @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3303
	Triple Crown Championships @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3340
	2002 FRA Regional Doubles @ Quadrangle East Athletic Club	Coral Springs, FL	305-753-8900
	2002 GRA Regional Doubles @ Southlake Athletic Club.....	Morrow, GA	770-968-1792
September 19-21	LCC 3 Day Tournament @ Lincoln City Club	Dallas, TX	214-827-9994
September 20-22	Aspen Hill Open @ Aspen Hill Club	Silver Spring, MD	301-598-5200
September 21-22	Alpha Fall Kick Off @ Alpha Racquet Club.....	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
September 21	No Frills Doubles @ Players Athletic Club	Warren, MI	586-774-6900
September 26-29	E-Force Health Strategies Invite @ Health Strategies	Wichita, KS	316-651-8013
September 27-29	Fall Rally @ Olympus Racquet & Fitness	Sterling, VA	703-430-0666
	Great Balls Of Fire @ University Of Miami Wellness Center	Miami, FL	305-284-1853
	2002 Texas State Doubles @ NWFC.....	Houston, TX	713-895-8688

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

• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 08/02, you must renew your membership in the month of August in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

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

For online entries, go to www.usrastore.com.

Save the "AA" for Batteries ...

It's been an issue for quite some time — the quantum leap between the "A" skill division and "Open." Given the current climate on the pro tours and relaxed eligibility standards ... right down to *where* you live — an "Open" draw can feature a top seed that you've played (and beaten) every week for a year, or a vacationing pro from out of town. And if there's cash involved, you can expect to see even bigger names, from further away, in *any* Open draw.

In response, the "Elite" division was developed and instituted several years ago, and is now a full-fledged, point-earning bracket of play across the board. If your state still offers "AA" as the stop-gap, your points are being compiled in "Elite" when the results come in. So urge your tournament directors to call it what it is — Elite!

A similar move to "broaden" the player base and give more competitive opportunities to skill level players was established with the addition of "Age + Skill" divisions. With an aging roster of players who are still at the top of their games, standard age divisions can *also* include pro tour regulars (like Ruben Gonzalez at 50!) who raise the bar a bit above average. Now it's acceptable to offer "Age plus" A/B and C/D brackets at sanctioned events, and for players to earn ranking points for placing in them.

So now it's time for everyone to get on track with a standardized "menu" of division offerings [shown at right]. "Intermediate" is not a recognized division; 23+ B/C is not a recognized division; "BB" is not a recognized division ... so if you're playing in any of these mutations at a sanctioned event, your points aren't being tallied because they just don't "fit" the ranking structure. *Don't let your wins fall through the cracks — insist on "recognized divisions" at all your tournaments!*

C.4 RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS

Title opportunities at national championships will be selected from the division lists which follow. Combined "Age + Skill" divisions may also be offered to provide additional competitive opportunities for non-open entrants.

For ranking consistency, state organizations and tournament hosts should select from these recognized divisions when establishing competition in all sanctioned events.

(a) Open Division. Any eligible player, as defined in C.1.

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

24 & under	Varsity
25+	Junior Veterans
30+	Veterans
35+	Seniors
40+	Veteran Seniors
45+	Masters
50+	Veteran Masters
55+	Golden Masters
60+	Veteran Golden Masters
65+	Senior Golden Masters
70+	Advanced Golden Masters
75+	Super Golden Masters
80+	Grand Masters
85+	Super Grand Masters

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

18 & Under

16 & Under
14 & Under
12 & Under
10 & Under
8 & Under (regular rules)
8 & Under (multi-bounce rules)
6 & Under (regular rules)
6 & Under (multi-bounce rules)

(d) Skill Divisions. Player eligibility is determined by AmPRO skill level certification, or verification by a state association official, at the entered level.

Elite*
A
B
C
D
Novice

(e) Age + Skill Divisions. Player eligibility is determined by the player's age on the first day of the tournament, plus AmPRO skill level certification, or verification by a state association official, at the entered level. Such combinations may be offered as additional competition to players who do not fall into the "open" or designated skill levels of play. For example: 24-A/B, 35+ C/D, 65+A/B, etc.

*Given that unrestricted OPEN level play may include eligible pro tour athletes, Elite level play can include state-level open, or "semi-pro" players — and therefore does not require "certification" of any type. Players in "lettered" divisions (only) must be able to verify their eligibility at the entered level of play.

2002 national calendar

August 2-10	IRF 11th World Championships	San Juan, Puerto Rico	719-635-5396
August 16-21	U.S. Junior Team Training Camp	Colorado Springs, Colorado	719-635-5396
August 21-26	High Performance Training Camp	Colorado Springs, Colorado	719-635-5396
August 28-31	IRF 14th World Senior Championships [5]	Albuquerque, New Mexico	719-635-5396
October 2-6	Ektelon USRA 35th National Doubles Championships [6]	Minneapolis, Minnesota	719-635-5396
November 20-24	Choice Hotels 7th U.S. OPEN Championships [5]	Memphis, Tennessee	719-635-5396
December 18-22	IRF 14th World Junior Championships [5]	Orlando, Florida	719-635-5396

ad index

Volume 13, Number 4.....JULY/AUGUST 2002

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Head Sports Inc.	800-874-3234	IFC+1
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Python Racquetball.....	800-456-4305	56
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