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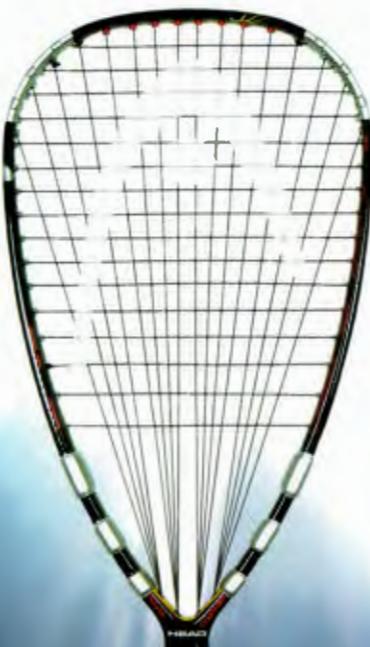
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SPORT GRAPHICS



Mission Statement

USA Racquetball (USAR) is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide opportunities for members and enthusiasts to actively participate in the sport, through sanctioning of events, administration of programs and development of competitive teams.

Vision Statement

To provide racquetball opportunities in the sport of racquetball for all levels of participation through:

Objectives:

- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT** - USAR values its members and will strive to provide the best possible member services at all levels.
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT** - USAR believes that racquetball is a lifetime endeavor and the benefits of health, recreation, and competition should be available to everyone. USAR will strive to expand its membership in order to share these benefits with as many players and supporters as possible.
- **PROMOTION OF THE SPORT** - in order to sustain a strong player base USAR will promote the numerous benefits of participation through mass marketing efforts.
- **COMPETITIVE SUCCESS** - USAR strives to maintain America's position as the number one racquetball nation in the world. Success at the elite levels has a positive influence on every other facet of our sport.
- **SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS** - USAR values its relationship with sponsors and will continue to maximize benefits and exposure.

FEATURES



WOR

Ready for WOR?



Gudinas Earns 4th #1

Despite battling injuries and the comeback of an old rival, Cheryl Gudinas was able to capture her fourth straight LPRA Season Title.



Kane is Able

Just when everyone was ready to count him out, Kane Waselechuk battled back to earn the IRT title in one of the closest finishes in history.



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EDITOR'S NOTE

RYAN JOHN

USAR MEDIA DIRECTOR MANAGING EDITOR

There has been much talk and many articles written lately about the future of racquetball. I would like to take the time, and I apologize for the use of an old cliché, to stop and smell the roses. Not to say that we should rest on our laurels, but sometimes, while we are so intent on moving forward, we don't take the time to look back and see what we have actually accomplished.



Our professional tours are thriving. Attendance at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN once again was at an all-time high and the new agreement with The Tennis Channel put more hours of racquetball on national T.V. than at anytime since the early 1980's. The IRT just finished one of the closest and most exciting seasons in history. The LPRA has exciting new talent and some of the younger players are beginning to develop their skills, much as we saw on the IRT just a few years ago. Even the newly formed Legends Tour has got into the mix by exposing a new generation to the great innovators of the past.

International racquetball is on the upswing. The PARC Pan American Championships boasted their highest numbers ever with 14 countries taking part, for the first time in history the IRF World Championships will take place on Asian soil, and international events are no longer dominated by America. It isn't that the talent level has gone down in the U.S.; it's just that other countries have fell in love with our sport, embraced it, and have begun to work hard at it. That's a good thing.

The recent SGMA report is also a great sign that things are beginning to happen. Although the rise in racquetball participation is only a few thousand in numbers, it should be taken as a victory for our sport and something to build upon. It is the first time since the late 1980's that racquetball can boast an increase in numbers.

As most of you know, USA Racquetball has undergone a number of changes in the past several months and continues to strive for improvement. Our name has been changed to better align with the rest of the National Governing Bodies, we have a sharp new logo, the website and magazine both have new looks, and we have cut our budget drastically in order to work within our means.

I understand that there is still room for improvement in all areas across the board; my job included. But really, we are in the middle of an exciting time for our sport and each and every one of us has a chance to make a difference. The opportunity is out there and if we look at the position we are in we should be able to find the confidence needed to move forward.

COUNTDOWN

10

Number of IRF World Championships the U.S. has won

9

Number of finals decided by a tiebreaker at the 2004 USAR National High School Championships

8

Number of players/teams that Alabama placed in the finals of the 2004 USAR Intercollegiate National Championships

7

Number of Pro National Championships that 2004 Hall of Fame Inductee Shannon Wright won during her 12-year career

6

Consecutive National Singles Open Titles would become a new record if Cheryl Gudinas can win again this year

5

2004 Hall of Fame Inductee Fran Davis' 1986 WPRA final season ranking. Her last full season on tour

4

Times in a row that Cheryl Gudinas has captured the LPRA season ranking title. Also the number of different IRT season title holders in the same number of years

3

Number of events that Kane Waselenchuk won in a row to end the '03-'04 season and finish ranked No.1

2

Number of gold medals earned by both Canada and Mexico in individual competition at the 2004 PARC Pan American Championships

1

First time in 10 years that the number of racquetball players has increased in the U.S.!

SOUND OFF!

ABOUT THE MAG...

Simply put...Ace, Game, Match to USA
Racquetball. Congratulations!

Jack Hughes
San Mateo, CA

The format is great (definitely more colorful) and it is a much easier read than the old one. The old one was good, but this new magazine reflects the new changes and directions of racquetball. Keep up the good work!

Pam Trent
Mt. Juliet, TN

I just wanted to drop a note and say how impressed I was with the new issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine. It is evident all the hard work and time that was put into the new format. Let me just say simply from the players that we truly appreciate all the work you do to cover and promote our favorite sport. Thanks!

James O'Keefe
Raleigh, NC

I just wanted to let you know that the "new look" of RACQUETBALL Magazine is great! When I received it I thought it was a completely different magazine. It was only after I mentioned it to Merle Walker that I learned that it was the same magazine as before, just with a new look. My perception of it is that it really jumps out at you, seems to have an 'action' quality to it, and the layouts are vastly improved. I just wanted to take

a moment to congratulate you for a job very well done. Keep up the great work. I think everyone in the racquetball community appreciates it.

Randy Dunay
Cleveland, OH

HIGH SCHOOL KUDOS

We really enjoyed this years High School National Tournament. It is an AWESOME event that allows young players to rise to a higher level of competition! Thank you for putting it all together. We appreciate your time and all the work that Jim, Heather and the other USRA Directors put into this unique tournament. It was great to see so many talented young racquetball players assembled in one place at the same time in the spirit of friendly competition.

Thanks again for organizing the Nationals for our kids. It was an excellent way to end our leagues season.

Patrick Hostman
Head Racquetball Coach
DeSmet Jesuit High School
St. Louis, MO.



To send a letter to the editor for publication in RACQUETBALL Magazine, please send your name, address, telephone number, and the letter to:

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time, however, I want to take the opportunity to lay down a challenge for all of you to enhance this effort by creating a groundswell of new players, members, programs and events.

There are already many remarkable people contributing their time and effort to racquetball programs and initiatives all across our great country, but they need our help and there's a lot more that can be done. Can you imagine that a tournament director would offer juniors the opportunity to play in a tournament at no charge and insufficient interest was generated, forcing cancellation of the event? This actually happened and it is a sad commentary on our otherwise exciting and growing sport. This is just one example of an area where we need personal involvement. I know there are many others.

If you read - really read - the last issue of our magazine, you learned of a number of ways you could contribute by helping out. Randy Stafford, VP, USA Racquetball Board of Directors, asked for donations to assist with the financial burdens that have increased since withdrawal of USOC funding. He is in the middle of the second year of "Players Helping Players" with a lot of ground to cover in order to achieve the \$75K annual goal.

If you are unable to help financially, recall Shane Wood's Collegiate Update and his offer to help anyone desiring to start up a collegiate program. We all know Oregon has a highly successful junior program and Bruce Reid and John Ferguson offered their assistance to anyone wanting to begin a junior program. They all have a wealth of knowledge and the willingness to get you started.

It's time to step up to the plate.....

My previous articles covered all of the ongoing initiatives and projects designed to move our sport forward and create not only a more effective organization, but one filled with excitement and enthusiasm. This

Connie Martin is covering successful state programs. Help others out by contributing to her article and tell everyone how you achieved success. I guarantee that there are many State Directors and Boards who would definitely appreciate your ideas and thoughts. Take pride in what you have accomplished and let others know what you are doing and how.

These are only a few ideas but there are so many more that can generate interest in our sport so that we are able to sustain the momentum started by Jim Hiser and the National Staff. Take a friend to the club, put a racquet in their hand, and run around the court for a few games - remember how infectious that was and how once you got started, you fell in love with the game. Start up a weekly get together of players so others can see how the game is played. If you already have something going, add a new player or two until you grow into a full blown league. I've been fortunate enough to participate in the "Dawg Pound" at Bolling AFB in the D.C. area and there are always more players than courts available on a weekly basis. I believe there are activities like this across the country but we can make them even bigger and better. Buy a USA Racquetball membership for someone having a birthday or other special occasion.

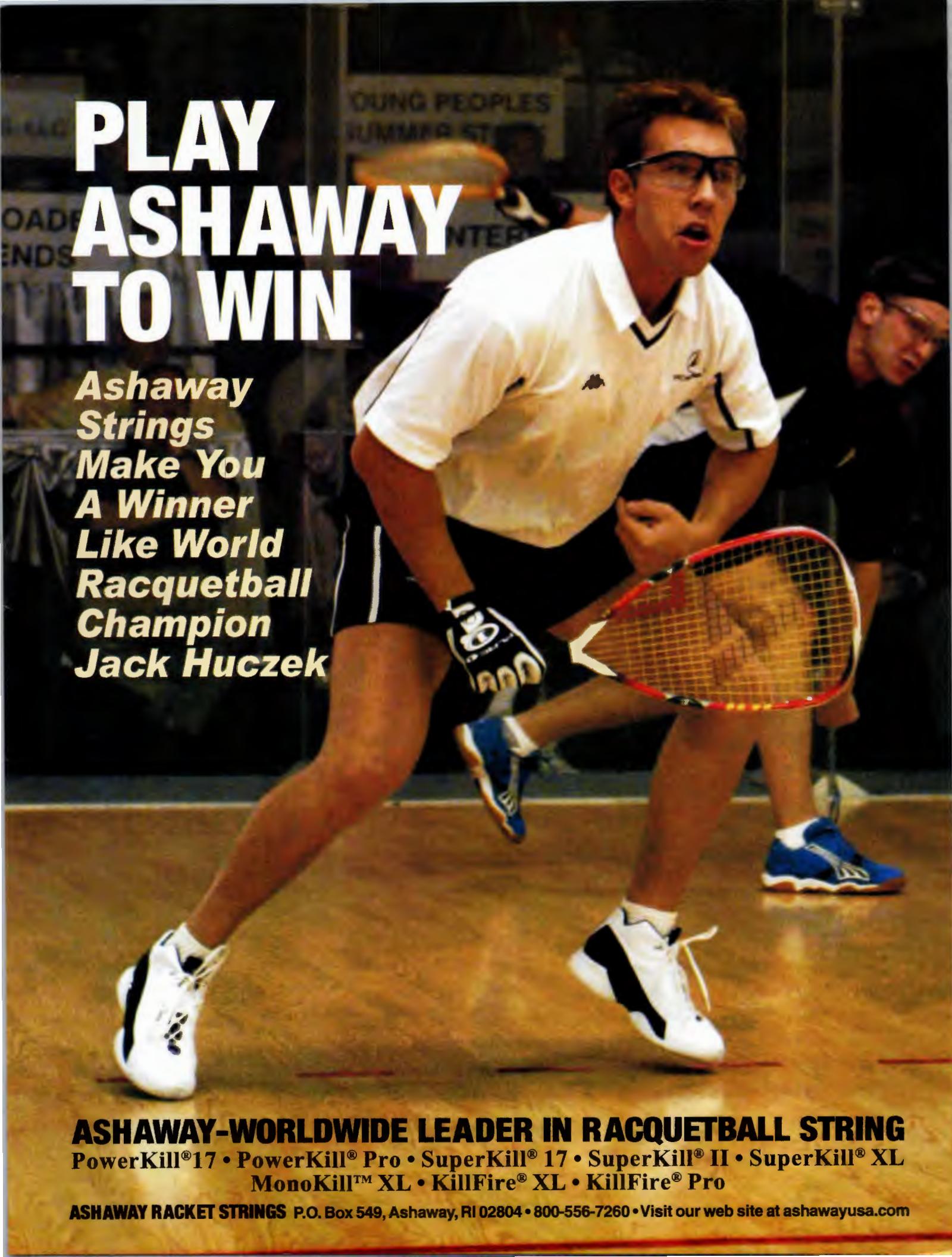
Take a friend to the club, put a racquet in their hand, and run around the court for a few games

As I started this piece, I acknowledged that there are many hard working, dedicated enthusiasts across our great nation committing their precious time and efforts to programs and activities, but there are many more of you who are only talking about it. I challenge each and every one of you to do something for our sport and to do it soon. Your contribution may be as easy as writing a check or as time consuming as starting up a junior program, but any action will be better than status quo.

Step up to the plate and take a few swings - you may strike out or you may get a base hit, but with enough determination you may hit a home run and start a flourishing program rivaling the best in existence today! Good luck and thanks in advance for accepting this challenge. Let us know how you did.

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"Give A Membership"

Something happened to me last month that caught me totally off guard. It was during one of my racquetball matches and it showed me how little I really do know. Before I finish this story, I want to relate to you what I see is going on in one area of our sport.

"There are a large number of new courts being built in more areas than ever before."

This happens to be in the rebuilding of our sport of racquetball - especially in the construction of new courts. We all know that during the late 80's and 90's there were a lot of courts being taken out or converted to other uses. And there were a lot of reasons for that, ranging from too many courts built, to fewer players, to changing times and different types of physical exercise that people were doing those days.

However, during this time, and especially within the last five years, there has been a transition going on that is causing an underlying change in our sport. There are a large number of new courts being built in more areas than ever before. Yes, the large 10 and 20 court facilities are not being built very often, but there is a high number of facilities adding anywhere from one to five courts. I know for certain that racquetball is engrained in our society in many ways and this is proven in the new types of places that courts are being built each and every year. The courts that were lost during the decline are being systemically replaced each year at the tune of about 800 new courts in different locations throughout our country.

For instance, there are courts being built at clubs, YMCA's, universities, military bases, churches, wellness centers (both corporate and community) and even a fair number of courts in homes. What does this mean? There are at least a hundred people, and probably more, new players added to our sport, for each new court built. This translates into 80,000 new players every year added to our sport through these new courts. Currently, we have over 5,000,000 players according to Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA). This is an enormous number of players and maybe our growth is not huge right now, but we do have a large player base. This is the good news and I believe it will only get better.

Randy Stafford

V.P. USA Racquetball
Board of Directors



Now for the end of my story. As I was trying to say, before I got sidetracked on where we are within our sport, I was playing a match last month with this guy that I have played with for years. We started talking about things in general and the conversation moved to racquetball and I asked him if he had seen our latest magazine and how nice it looked with our new format. He replied, "What magazine?" I could not believe what he asked. This person that I had played for 10 years did not even know there was a racquetball magazine and had never seen one. He plays more than I do, at least 4 times a week, and it is his main sport. But he never plays in tournaments, so he would not have automatically received a membership. It dawned on me that I had not done my job as a member of USA Racquetball. I wanted to turn this into a positive as I feel this situation is quite common. I started thinking that we have so many interested players and we need just a small portion of them to join our organization. This would greatly benefit the new player and our organization. I have now given him a membership. I am thinking that there are many of us that play non-members every week.

I am asking each of us to find a player that you play and "Give a Membership" to this player. This way we will be helping this person learn about our sport and helping USA Racquetball at the same time. It is a very small thing for us to do individually, as the cost and effort is not much. But it will mean a lot in the long run. We need new members now and I am asking each of us to find these players and fill out the attached card and send it in this week. I will list all the names of members that participate in the "Give a Membership" campaign in an upcoming issue. I think you will be very happy to give away a membership and present your friend with our newly updated magazine. Please help us build our membership by participating in this program called "Give a Membership".

"...we have so many interested players and we need just a small portion of them to join our organization."

For some of us fortunate enough to be able to give a donation also, I ask that we do both. Please join me in helping us rebuild our organization, USA Racquetball, while our sport rebuilds.

Players HELPING

We are slowing nearing our goal of \$75,000 for the "Players Helping Players" campaign, but we won't be able to reach it without your help. See the attached donor card on this page and make your contribution today! Notice that you will not only be helping the sport that you love, but there are some pretty cool gifts offered with your donation!

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Jim Wildofsky - \$100

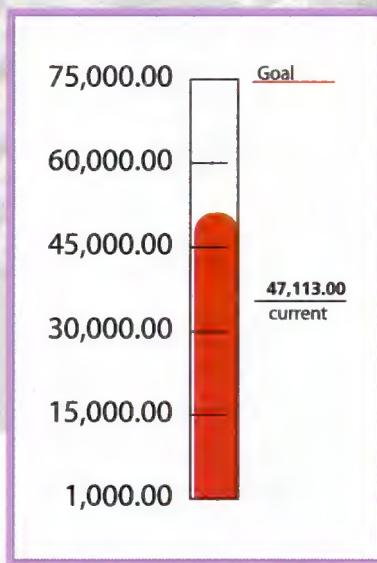
D Level (\$50 & up)

Alan Tolliver - \$50

Bill Genarella - \$50

Victor Scammel Jr. - \$50

2004 Total Donations: \$47,113



Players

PLAY WITH FIRE

WOR WORLD OUTDOOR RACQUETBALL

Profile of Brian Hawkes

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE:

When did you first play outdoor?

BRIAN HAWKES: Just before my freshman year in high school. (27 years ago) A good friend of mine had taken a summer racquetball class and taught me how to play. I loved it right away and have been playing ever since.

RM: What attracted you to outdoor?

BH: At the time I started, it was the only game I knew. I knew nothing about indoor racquetball. However, I still love the outdoor game better. There's nothing like it. Once you go to an outdoor tournament, you're hooked! Fans heckle the players, players heckle the fans, and the great thing is that it's all part of the game - it's laughs all day at the tournaments. You can play 4 or more matches at the same

time - in fact, I catch myself watching other matches between points of my own match.

As far as the style of play goes, you have to go after it - you can't sit and hit ceiling balls all day and wait

for a set-up. No matter where the ball is - 1 foot high or 10 feet high - you have to find a way to hit it - it's not coming off the back wall. That's another thing - you can hit a 6 foot high passing shot for a winner and it's a great shot. To really go after it, you need to be willing to dive on concrete and sacrifice some skin. You get to play under the sun and get a tan - not to mention you get to smell barbeques and sun tan lotion instead of sweaty bodies and moldy towels.

RM: How long have you been involved with outdoor tournaments?

BH: I played in my first outdoor tournament about a year or so after I started playing. I thought I was good

enough to enter the "B" division, but was advised to start in the novice since it was my first tourney. My partner and I lost our first match and then lost in the semifinals of the consolation bracket. (So much for being the "B" player I thought I was). I can remember playing every day after that for the next two years. (Outdoors - even in the rain - I didn't like losing very much back then)

RM: List of titles?

BH: Outdoor: 2 National Junior Singles, 19 National Open Singles, 7 National Open Doubles. Indoor: Toronto Pro-Am Winner, L.A. Olympic Festival Gold Medalist, Formerly Ranked #7 IRT Pro Tour, Amateur National Champion 1984

RM: How did playing outdoor help/effect your indoor game?

BH: I developed a strong forehand (and a weak backhand) - Cutting the ball off and hitting lots of overheads helped my indoor game, but I think in the long run if I had started playing indoors I would have developed into a much better indoor player. Who knows, though, I wouldn't trade it for the world.

RM: Coolest place you have seen or played?

BH: My trip with the U.S. Team down to Costa Rica for the Tournament of the Americas way back when was the greatest trip I had ever been on. The fans down there cheered after every point. They were so excited to just be there cheering on their hometown players. They appreciated the game like no other fans I have ever seen.

RM: Greatest match you ever played?

BH: Last year's Outdoor National Finals - July, 2003. I played Dave Genevay, a long time friend and opponent in the outdoor game. Due to my hectic schedule and an old shoulder, I had practiced a total of one day from January to the tournament. Throughout the tournament it had been obvious to me that I was paying dearly for my lack of practice. I was playing just well enough to win my first two matches, and I had barely gotten past Greg Solis in the semifinals. I was still struggling to muster up some confidence going into the finals, so I called Lynn Adams in Chicago to get

some advice. She said to just go out there and pretend you know what you're doing. It worked - I don't remember missing a shot during the first game, and continued to play strong in the second and won 15-0, 15-3. It was to my recollection the best match I had ever played.

RM: Your best outdoor shot?

BH: The deception and angle on my serve - I stand on the far right or far left - I use the same motion and hit the serve either straight in or into the corner - either way the other player has to move wide left or wide right to return it. If I can get him off balance and then off the court with me standing in the middle to return his shot, I have the advantage.

RM: Best outdoor player you have ever seen?

BH: The biggest rival I ever had was with a good friend of mine - Dan Southern - we had some battles back in the day. I heard Charlie Brumfield was a great outdoor player, but unfortunately I never got to see him play. If I say I'm the best ever, I wonder if that would motivate any of the indoor pros that I've been trying to get out there for years. Sudsy? Ruben? Cliff? ■

Profile of Rocky Carson

The #4 IRT pro has been a familiar face on the outdoor courts of Southern California for a long time including winning the 2002 Outdoor Nationals. As the first IRT pro since Ruben Gonzalez to play in the sun, Rocky talks outdoor vs. indoor from a pros perspective.

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE:

When did you first play outdoor?

ROCKY CARSON: I grew up around it since my Dad played. I started around 5 or 6 then we moved to Central California where there were no outdoor courts. I moved back to Orange County after high school and started to play again.

RM: What attracted you to outdoor?

RC: I love being outside doing anything. I enjoy the sun and the competition. With the great weather in Southern California there is nothing better then playing



Hawkes

racquetball outside. Outdoor has so much potential with public courts at grade schools, high schools, colleges, and parks. Everyone who tries outdoor loves it and wants to play again.

RM: How long have you been involved with outdoor tournaments?

RC: The first tournament I ever played in was the 2002 Outdoor Nationals.



RM: List of titles?
RC: 2002 National Champion
*Editors note: Rocky beat Brian Hawkes in the final, which is considered the greatest upset in the history of outdoor racquetball.

RM: How does playing outdoor help your indoor game?

RC: Any kind of racquetball helps my game. The differences are overwhelming with no back wall, ceiling, or sidewalls. Some of the worst shots in indoor are great in outdoor; overheads down the middle, overhead Z serves, etc. When playing outdoor I am still learning and copying the great players like Hawkes. It makes it both exciting and frustrating at times. I have to think about situations instead of reacting to them like I do indoors. The challenging thing about outdoor is being an indoor pro does not guarantee a win outdoors over anyone. There are great outdoor players who are A level players indoors; and they can beat me or any other pro outdoors.

RM: Coolest place you have seen or played?

RC: Newport Beach, it's a beautiful area.

Bikers & skaters are cruising by all the time.

RM: Greatest match you ever played?

RC: Without a doubt the win over Hawkes. I went into the match hoping to just keep it close. Before the match guys in the crowd were telling me I had no chance to beat Brian; that he never loses. I lost the first game close and came back and won the next two. I remember looking back at the referee and crowd in the third game and their surprise at the fact that I was winning. That win over Brian was one of the greatest wins of my entire career; indoor or outdoor. Brian is the most dominating player I have ever seen in the entire sport. I have an unbelievable amount of respect for him.

RM: Your best outdoor shot?

RC: Unfortunately, the outdoor guys would say it is my wide angle pass that doesn't land in the court! Seriously, I am not really known for a certain shot. I have a pretty good overhand Z serve and I work the angles.

RM: Best outdoor player you have ever seen?

RC: Easy, Hawkes!

RM: What's the biggest difference in outdoor from the IRT?

RC: Has to be the crowds. In outdoor they are right on top of you, almost part of the match. When you get a pro playing an outdoor player it is just a great atmosphere. It is like you are playing against your opponent and the entire crowd. They love the outdoor versus indoor battles. Most pros come outdoors once, get beat and never come back! I am looking forward to seeing more of them this July. ■

profile of Greg Solis

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE: When did you first play outdoor racquetball?

GREG SOLIS: When I was 15-years-old with my Dad & brother.

RM: What attracted you to outdoor?

GS: My Dad & brother already played and the sunshine!

RM: How long have you been involved with outdoor tournaments?

GS: Since I was 16, so about 12 years now.

RM: List of titles?

GS: Won 3 Junior Nationals; 1998, 99 National Doubles Champion (with brother Andy; 99, 01, 02 National Finalist).

RM: How does playing outdoor help or effect your indoor game?

GS: It makes me quicker, I learned to cut off balls better, increased power, and retrieving ability.

RM: Coolest place you have seen or played?

GS: Newport Beach

RM: Greatest match you ever played?

GS: Semis of Outdoor Nationals 1999 vs Kevin Booth, I won in an 11-10 tiebreaker, and the semis of Outdoor Nationals 2003 vs Hawkes where I lost in an 11-8 tiebreaker.

RM: Greatest match you ever saw?

GS: Hawkes vs Gelhaus Outdoor Nationals 1990. Hawkes was amazing hitting 6 aces in a row.

RM: Your best outdoor shot?

GS: Ability to hit on the run from 60 feet, which would be beyond the back wall in indoor racquetball.

RM: Best outdoor player you have ever seen?

GS: Brian Hawkes



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Q & A with Robert Martinez

WOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE: When did you first play outdoor?

ROBERT: July 1995 at Newport Beach. As a challenge from a friend.

RM: What attracted you to outdoor?

ROBERT: The pace and liberty to hit the ball from any angle as well as the sun and the scenery.

RM: How long have you been involved with outdoor tournaments?

ROBERT: Since 1995, then I became hooked and wanted to go up the ranks from the "C" division player.

RM: How does playing outdoor help your indoor game?

ROBERT: I have more variety to kill balls and place the opponent on the defensive. I like the fact that you can wear an opponent down to the ground by hitting the ball constantly at and around him out the door to another zip code.

RM: As National Tournament Director for WOR what are your goals for outdoors growth?

ROBERT: To introduce the outdoor game to every indoor player and have them reach the optimal level of play they can all achieve.

RM: I have heard that there are courts right on the beach in California & Hawaii. Is that true?

ROBERT: It's true. There are also courts by the beach in Florida. We have plans for future events in Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico, which are also by the beach.

RM: When & where is the WOR Outdoor Nationals?

ROBERT: On the 9th, 10th, and 11th of July at Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California. Make sure you bring your chair and your sunscreen along with your game!

RM: There is a rumor that a new outdoor ball is being developed for play at the Nationals?

ROBERT: Absolutley! The demands of the outdoor player call for it and Ektelon has stepped up. They are creating a whole new line for outdoor players that battle with the outdoor elements. The new Fireball from Ektelon will enhance the game where it counts most, the shadows while keeping the heated pace we all like. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Make plans to get some sun and racquetball in at the upcoming WOR Outdoor Nationals this July and don't miss a chance to play on the beach and go to the NFL Pro Bowl next February at the WOR Hawaii event;

WOR OUTDOOR NATIONALS

presented by EKTELON • July 9-11 • Golden West College Huntington Beach, California

Tournament Director: Robert Martinez
714-376-8535 or 714-638-7588

E-mail: Robert@worldoutdoorracquetball.com

WOR HAWAIIAN OPEN

Scheduled for February 11-13, 2005 this event is the best of all worlds. Played in beautiful Waikiki at Fort De Russy, tournament director Big Rod Felton will welcome everyone to the islands. As an added bonus the event is scheduled for the weekend of the Pro Bowl. Outdoor racquetball and football in Hawaii, it doesn't get any better then that.

Check out the WOR website for everything you want to know about outdoor racquetball: www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com

WOR's Mission Statement

To organize and unite all factions of Outdoor Racquetball under one association.

WOR Vision Statements

WOR will elevate and govern competition.

WOR will build equity in Outdoor Racquetball with aggressive promotion that attracts participants, event hosts, fans, spectators and the marketing partners necessary to advance the game into prominence.

WOR will work to bring outdoor players throughout the world into the mainstream of racquetball through affiliation with USA Racquetball.

WOR will make Outdoor Racquetball an important vehicle in the promotion and overall growth of the sport of racquetball by leveraging the unprecedented level of excitement inherent in the outdoor game and events.

2004-2005 WOR

Board of Directors

Ron Starkman

Greg Freeze

Robert Martinez (National Tournament Director)

Scott Winters

Hank Marcus (Executive Director)

WOR Webmaster: Mark Naylor
www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com

Quick Facts

WOR is sponsored by Ektelon. In addition, Ektelon also sponsors Brian Hawkes who is regarded as the greatest outdoor player in the sport's history.

WOR's inaugural season includes super series events in:

Waikiki

Orange County

Detroit

New York

Florida

Las Vegas

RANKING SYSTEM

WOR ranking system in which players earn points in singles & doubles in each sanctioned event played. Points are based on level of tournament;

WOR OUTDOOR NATIONALS

1st: 600

2nd: 475

Semi: 390

Quarters: 275

Round 16: 150

Round of 32: 75

WOR SUPER SERIES EVENTS

1st: 500

2nd: 375

Semi: 290

Quarters: 175

Round of 16: 100

Round of 32: 40

WOR SANCTIONED EVENTS

1st: 400

2nd: 275

Semi: 190

Quarters: 100

Round of 16: 50

Round of 32: 25

WOR SHOOT OUTS

(1 day events)

1st: 200

2nd: 100

Semi: 75

Quarters: 50

Round of 16: 25

Round of 32: 10

2003 OUTDOOR

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE

Open

1. Brian Hawkes
2. Dave Geneva

AA

1. Jeff Johnson
2. Gary Martin

C

1. Robby Johnson
2. Wes Obana

Masters

1. Don DiPalma
2. Greg Sheffield

Junior Boy's 16-

1. Bryan Pineda
2. Robert Martinez

Junior Boy's 10-

1. Garrett Hickman
2. Sean Gauci

JUNIOR GIRL'S

1. Alyssa Martinez
2. Amber Barrera

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2004 32nd USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships

presented by Penn Racquet Sports

Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club • Fountain Valley, California • March 24-27



ALABAMA

The catalyst behind Alabama success is, without question, Natalie Crocket and her husband Bud. Presented with the idea of buying a house to lodge a racquetball team, the Crockets immediately stepped forward and made the idea a reality. The result ended up sounding like a reality series fit for MTV. Eight racquetball players – all under the same roof, with the same goal – win a National Championship. Coached by former player Jeff Garner and numerous assistants, the Alabama team proved that dedication, camaraderie, and someone who cares are the keys to success and a National Championship.

MOTHER/DAUGHTER

Led by National Champion Kristen Walsh and her mother Marianne Walsh, the University of Utah won their first women's national title. In perhaps the biggest upset of the tournament, Kristen and her mother upset the highly favored Alabama team of Adrienne Fisher and Da'Monique Davis to secure the title.



DIVISION II SCHOOLS

Baldwin Wallace continues to be a powerhouse in men's collegiate racquetball, again capturing the Division II men's and overall team title. Coach Tim Miller has proven success is possible at all levels – all it takes is organization, a few dedicated donors and consistent in-school promotion.

OREGON/OREGON STATE

The success of the well-grouped junior and high school programs was evident by the strong showing of the two Oregon convexitities. Led by junior stars Dan Sheppick, Ryan Lindell, Jenny Cary, and Christina Lewendall, Oregon proved it would be a future threat not only at the junior and high school level, but also at the collegiate level.



COLORADO STATE - PUEBLO

The dominating theme for success at all the top schools is a dedicated coach or supporter. At Colorado State, Richard Krinsky has proven that recruiting and fund raising are the keys to a strong probe. Led by Illinois native Ben Croft, Colorado State captured the men's title for a fourth time. Colorado State is one of the few schools that provide strong support to racquetball. They even offer limited scholarships!



BYU

A consistent top three finisher, BYU continued their success with a balanced line-up of consistent performers in all six singles and two doubles positions on both the men's and women's side.

 **EKTELON**
Event Sponsor

FINAL TEAM RESULTS

OVERALL TEAM

DIVISION II		
1. Alabama	2315	1. Baldwin Wallace
2. Oregon State	2093	2. Bryant College
3. BYU	1695	3. RPI
4. Cal State – Sacramento	1434	4. Nichols College
5. Penn State	1414	5. Va. Polytechnic Ins.
6. Utah	1137	6. Clarkson
7. North Carolina	755	7. Albany Law School of Union
8. Utah Valley State	684	8. Eastern New Mexico
9. Arizona State	561	
10. Oregon	353	
11. Cal Berkeley	352	
12. Texas	269	
13. Ohio State	222	
14. Wisconsin	136	
15. New Mexico	113	
16. SW Missouri State	88	

DIVISION II

1. Baldwin Wallace	1105.5
2. Bryant College	433
3. Clarkson	231
4. RPI	145
5. Nichols College	80

MEN'S TEAM

DIVISION I

1. Colorado State	1890	1. DIVISION II
2. Alabama	1655	1. Bryant College
3. Oregon State	1203	2. Clarkson
4. Cal State – Sacramento	919	3. Baldwin Wallace College
5. BYU	916	4. RPI
6. Penn State	835	
7. Missouri	695	
8. Utah Valley State	587	
9. North Carolina	545	
10. Arizona State	493	
11. Arizona	381	
12. Cal Berkeley	318	
13. Utah	307	
14. Oakland University	280	
15. Texas A&M	277	
16. Texas	252	
17. Oregon	223	
18. Utah Valley State	221	
19. Purdue	213	
20. Cal State - San Bernardino	210	
21. Ohio State	205	
22. SE Missouri State	160	
23. Cal State – Fullerton	140	
24. St. John's	140	
25. Wisconsin	133	
26. Nevada – Reno	132	
27. SW Missouri State	107	
28. Duke	90	
29. Massachusetts - Amherst	70	
30. Auburn	65	
31. New Mexico	51	
32. Sunny Birmingham	15	



FINAL TEAM RESULTS

SINGLES

MEN'S

1. Jack Huczak (Oakland University)
def. Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace) 15-9,15-2
2. Justin Arms (Baldwin Wallace)
def. Chris Barton (Colorado State - Pueblo) 15-9,15-4
3. Ryan Lindell (Oregon State)
def. Shane Karmelin (Alabama) 15-5,7-15,11-10
4. Brady Hernandez (Alabama)
def. Nick Giunta (Colorado State - Pueblo) 15-14,15-10
5. Joey Lee (Colorado State - Pueblo)
def. Chris Crockett (Alabama) 15-9,15-11
6. Mat Melster (Colorado State - Pueblo)
def. Mike King (Brigham Young) 15-6,15-11

WOMEN'S

1. Kristen Walsh (Utah)
def. Adrienne Fisher (Alabama) 4-15,15-10,11-3
2. Da'Monique Davis (Alabama)
def. Jenny Cary (Oregon State) 15-5,15-11
3. Kaylee Pfennig (Oregon State)
def. Andrea Jones (Utah) 15-4,15-7
4. Michelle Gonzalez (Oregon State)
def. Kristen Karl (Penn State) 15-1,15-4
5. Kami Nicholas (Brigham Young)
def. Audrey James (North Carolina) 15-4, 15-2
6. Tami Barrows (Brigham Young)
def. Meredith McGee (North Carolina) 15-2, 15-10

DOUBLES

MEN'S

1. Chris Barton/Ben Croft (Colorado State - Pueblo)
def. Justin Arms/Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace) 15-8,15-3
2. Brady Hernandez/Shane Karmelin (Alabama)
def. Nick Giunta/Joey Lee (Colorado State - Pueblo) 15-3,15-11
3. Dan Beaudry/Matt Melster (Colorado State - Pueblo)
def. William Booth/Chris Crockett (Alabama) 12-15,15-3,11-7

WOMEN'S

1. Kristen Walsh/Marianne Walsh (Utah)
def. Da'Monique Davis/Adrienne Fisher (Alabama) 15-12,12-15,11-1
2. Michelle Gonzalez/Kaylee Pfennig (Oregon State)
def. Marci Mangelson/Audrey Thompson (Brigham Young) 15-3,2-15,11-4
3. Tami Barrows/Kami Nicholas (Brigham Young)
def. Meredith McGee/Lindsay Short (North Carolina) 15-1, 15-4

MIXED

1. Melissa Borgwat/Marc Salinas (Sacramento State)
def. Erin Marston/Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace) 15-13,15-3
2. Gill Scott-Fleming/Tommy Medina (Arizona State)
def. Wakana Sears/Tyler Bachman (U.C. Berkley) 15-2,15-5
3. Kristen Daigle/Geoff Ehringer (Penn State)
def. Brianna Russell/Matt Roberts (Sacramento State) 15-11, 15-3

2004 Wilson 17th USA Racquetball High School Championships

presented by Penn Racquet Sports

Multnomah Athletic Club • Portland, Oregon • March 4-7

FIRST TIMERS

Kelly Fisher upset #1 seed Elise Wilson in the final for her first National High School singles title. She previously recorded three doubles titles with sister Adrienne, the only four-time singles winner. Joey Lakowske also was able to earn his first National High School singles title by squeezing past close friend, and fellow Oregonian, Charlie Pratt, 15-14, 10-15, 11-8.

A FAMILY THAT PLAYS TOGETHER ...

The Ferguson's – Coach John and players Katie and Elizabeth lead their underdog team to Catlin Gables High School first National title. "Is this really true?" was John Ferguson's response as his team was announced as the National Champions. A strong showing in the three mixed doubles division proved the difference as Catlin Gabel barely edge another Oregon school Southridge High.

BALANCING ACT

Mazama girls and St. Louis University boys proved that a well-balanced team is the key to success – especially in the new format used at this year's championships. As expected, the format rewarded schools with the greatest depth. "Every match in every division is so important," stated Dan Whitley. "It is important for the schools to fill every position in every division in order to have a chance at winning the National title." The Mazama girl's team earned gold medals in two singles and one doubles division on their way to the girl's team title while St. Louis University's boy's recorded five division titles (three singles, two doubles) to earn their third national boy's team title.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Zhenya Ephremova, from Ozeisk, Russia helped lead Catlin Gable to the National Championship. Zhenya became introduced to racquetball when she moved in with the Ferguson family as an exchange student in 2002. A tremendous athlete, Zhenya was a member of the Russian Junior Volleyball team where she lived away from her family and trained eight hours per day. When she realized her height would always be a disadvantage, Zhenya left the volleyball team to concentrate on academics. It was two years of trying before she was accepted into the exchange program that led her to the Ferguson's, a full scholarship at Catlin Gabel, and racquetball. Next year Zhenya plans to enroll at Smith College.

Wilson vs Fisher

National Champs
Catlin Gabel

Mazama High
Girls Team

Ephremova



FINAL TEAM RESULTS

Overall Team Results

SCHOOL	TOTAL POINTS
1. Catlin Gabel High (Portland, Ore.)	2328
2. Southridge High (Beaverton, Ore.)	2289
3. Beaverton High (Beaverton, Ore.)	2147
4. Kirkwood High (St. Louis, Mo.)	1500
5. Mazama High (Klamath Falls, Ore.)	1406
6. Sprague High (Salem, Ore.)	1405
7. Sunset High (Portland, Ore.)	1068
8. Lincoln High (Portland, Ore.)	700
9. Copper Hills High (West Jordan, Utah)	659
10. LaSalle High (Milwaukie, Ore.)	482
11. Gresham High (Gresham, Ore.)	370
12. Centennial High School (Gresham, Ore.)	352
13. Clackamas High (Clackamas, Ore.)	320
14. Rex Putnam High (Milwaukie, Ore.)	126
15. Jordan High (Sandy, Utah)	125
16. McMinnville High (McMinnville, Ore.)	124
17. Barlow High (Gresham, Ore.)	93
18. Gladstone High (Gladstone, Ore.)	31

Boy's Team Results

1. St. Louis University (St. Louis, Mo.)	1685
2. Southridge High (Beaverton, Ore.)	992
3. Garden City High (Garden City, Kan.)	959
4. Beaverton High (Beaverton, Ore.)	950
5. Kirkwood High (St. Louis, Mo.)	866
6. Sprague High (Salem, Ore.)	697

7. Watertown High (Watertown, S.D.)	667
8. Catlin Gabel High (Portland, Ore.)	576
9. South Salem High (Salem, Ore.)	557
10. Xavier High (Queens, N.Y.)	525
11. Copper Hills High (West Jordan, Utah)	516
12. Crescent Valley High (Corvallis, Ore.)	500
13. Pacific Crest Community (Portland, Ore.)	500
14. Fruita Monument High (Grand Junction, Colo.)	438
15. Sunset High (Portland, Ore.)	401
16. Brainerd High (Brainerd, Minn.)	250
17. Elk City High (Elk City, Okla.)	250
18. Memorial High (Manchester, N.H.)	250
19. Rockford High (Rockford, Mich.)	250
20. Del Norte High (Albuquerque, N.M.)	249
21. Gresham High (Gresham, Ore.)	219
22. Oregon City High (Oregon City, Ore.)	187
23. Centennial High School (Gresham, Ore.)	169
24. DeSmet Jesuit High (St. Louis, Mo.)	125
25. Viewmont High (Bountiful, Utah)	125
26. Clackamas High (Clackamas, Ore.)	106
27. Rex Putnam High (Milwaukie, Ore.)	96
28. Bellingham High (Bellingham, Wash.)	62
29. Christian Brothers High (St. Louis, Mo.)	62
30. LaSalle High (Milwaukie, Ore.)	46
31. Lynden High (Lynden, Wash.)	45
32. Barlow High (Gresham, Ore.)	31
33. Mazama High (Klamath Falls, Ore.)	31
34. Gladstone High (Gladstone, Ore.)	24
35. Lincoln High (Portland, Ore.)	12

Girl's Team Results

1. Mazama High (Klamath Falls, Ore.)	1250
2. Catlin Gabel High (Portland, Ore.)	1131
3. St. Joseph's Academy (St. Louis, Mo.)	957
4. Beaverton High (Beaverton, Ore.)	702
5. Villa Duchesne (St. Louis, Mo.)	674
6. Southridge High (Beaverton, Ore.)	629
7. Centerville High (Centerville, Ohio)	625
8. Bristol Central High (Bristol, Conn.)	500
9. Sunset High (Portland, Ore.)	490
10. Kirkwood High (St. Louis, Mo.)	459
11. Klamath Union High (Klamath Falls, Ore.)	438
12. Sprague High (Salem, Ore.)	412
13. Lincoln High (Portland, Ore.)	375
14. LaSalle High (Milwaukie, Ore.)	311
15. Lindbergh High (St. Louis, Mo.)	250
16. Skyline High (Salt Lake City, Utah)	250
17. Clackamas High (Clackamas, Ore.)	214
18. Centennial High School (Gresham, Ore.)	183
19. Henley High (Klamath Falls, Ore.)	125
20. Jordan High (Sandy, Utah)	125
21. McMinnville High (McMinnville, Ore.)	124
22. Babylon High (Babylon, N.Y.)	93
23. Barlow High (Gresham, Ore.)	62
24. Gresham High (Gresham, Ore.)	58
25. Rex Putnam High (Milwaukie, Ore.)	30
26. Copper Hills High (West Jordan, Utah)	18
27. Forest Grove High (Forest Grove, Ore.)	15
28. Gladstone High (Gladstone, Ore.)	7

2004 Wilson USA Racquetball High School National Championships

March 4-7: Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland, Ore.

FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Singles

Boy's

1. Joey Lakowske (Crescent Valley - Ore.) def. Charlie Pratt (Pacific Crest - Ore.) 15-14, 10-15, 11-8
2. Aaron Grossman (Southridge - Ore.) def. Tony Teach (Beaverton - Ore.) 15-6, 15-4
3. Eric Weber (St. Louis University - Mo.) def. Brad Ballam (Kirkwood - Mo.) 15-10, 15-9
4. Andy Turbak (Watertown - S.D.) def. John Reagan (St. Louis University - Mo.) 12-15, 15-13, 11-10
5. Eric Durban (St. Louis University - Mo.) def. Scott McClellan (Sprague - Ore.) 11-15, 15-14, 11-8
6. Ryan Franklin (St. Louis University - Mo.) def. Lyle Resch (Sprague - Ore.) 15-9, 15-8

Girl's

1. Kelley Fisher (Centerville - Ohio) def. Elise Wilson (Bristol Central - Conn.) 2-7
2. Brittany Legget (Mazama - Ore.) def. Elizabeth Ferguson (Catlin Gabel - Ore.) 15-13, 15-8
3. Stacey Northrop (Mazama - Ore.) def. Casey Finney (Southridge - Ore.) 15-0, 15-11
4. Lisa Schwarz (St. Joseph's Academy - Mo.) def. Kelsey Wik (Centennial - Ore.) 15-2, 15-10
5. Elena Baca (Beaverton - Ore.) def. Stephanie Herr (Southridge - Ore.) 15-5, 15-14
6. Alyssa Asay (Beaverton - Ore.) def. Elizabeth Falkenstein (Beaverton - Ore.) 15-13, 5-15, 11-7

Doubles

Boy's

1. Jared Torres/Josh Williams (Garden City - Mo.) def. Aaron Grossman/Scott Rieders (Southridge - Mo.) 11-15, 15-8, 11-3
2. John Reagan/Eric Weber (St. Louis University - Mo.) def. Deshone Davie/Mitch Votruba (Kirkwood - Mo.) 14-15, 15-5, 5-7 Ret (inj)
3. Eric Durban/Ryan Franklin (St. Louis University - Mo.) def. Patrick Corcoran/Joe Lorenz (St. Louis University - Mo.) 15-13, 2-15, 11-4

Girl's

1. Ashley Legget/Brittany Legget (Mazama - Ore.) def. Elizabeth Ferguson/Katie Ferguson (Catlin Gabel - Ore.) 6-15, 15-10, 11-2
2. Laura DiLeo/Lisa Schwarz (St. Joseph's Academy - Mo.) def. Abby Coleman/Aislynn Neish (Sunset - Ore.) 15-9, 15-9
3. Elizabeth Falkenstein/Mckenzie Taylor (Beaverton - Ore.) def. Ashley Medford/Genna Salmon (Beaverton - Ore.) 15-9, 9-15, 11-4

Mixed

1. Sarah Moyle/Scott Rieders (Southridge - Ore.) def. Katie Ferguson/David Schwartz (Catlin Gabel - Ore.) 15-6, 15-12
2. Elizabeth Ferguson/Kamran Masoed (Catlin Gabel - Ore.) def. Katie Luman/Aaron Grossman (Southridge - Ore.) 15-7, 15-9
3. Heidi Duncan/Madison Dickson (Beaverton - Ore.) def. Elena Baca/Brandon Wickstrom (Beaverton - Ore.) 15-13, 13-15, 11-9

2004 PARC



Team Canada



Team USA



(L-R) Mexico, Canada and the US at the Medal Ceremony

17th Pan American Championships Cuenca, Ecuador

There were a record 14 countries that took part in the 17th PARC Pan American Racquetball Championships April 2-11 in Cuenca, Ecuador. It was the first time that Ecuador has hosted the event and also the first time in international competition that Canada has swept the men's and women's singles divisions, leading them to the Overall Team title.

In an all-Canadian final, Brian Istace defeated Corey Osborne, 15-13, 11-15, 11-7, for his first Pan American Championship men's singles title. Istace outlasted American Mike Dennison, 15-5, 10-15, 11-4, and Osborne got past another American, Shane Vanderson, 15-14, 15-9, in the semifinals to set up the Canadian final.

Canada's Lori-Jane Powell won three consecutive tiebreaker matches en route to her first Pan American

Championship women's singles title. Powell became the first non-American woman to earn a gold medal in the event since her fellow countrywoman Heather Stupp did it in 1987. Powell got past American Kristen Walsh, 15-2, 15-12, 11-10, in the quarterfinals and Chile's Angela Grisar, 10-15, 15-12, 11-5, in the semifinals before defeating Mexico's Lupita Torres, 15-6, 12-15, 11-6, in the final.

Mexico was able to repeat the doubles sweep they posted at the 2003 Pan American Games in Santo Domingo. Carlos Bacmeister and Abraham Pena teamed up for Mexico to defeat Dennison and Vanderson in the final, 15-8, 15-9. Suzy Acosta and Rosey Torres, 2003 Pan American Games gold medalists, defeated Canadians Jose GrandMaitre and Jen Saunders, 15-14, 9-15, 11-6, to complete Mexico's triumph.

MENS SINGLES:

Brian Istace (CAN) def. Corey Osborne (CAN) 15-13, 11-15, 11-7

MENS DOUBLES:

Carlos Bacmeister/Abraham Pena (MEX) def. Shane Vanderson/Mike Dennison (USA) 15-8, 15-9

WOMENS SINGLES:

Lori-Jane Powell (CAN) def. Lupita Torres (MEX) 15-6, 12-15, 11-6

WOMENS DOUBLES:

Susy Acosta/Rosy Torres (MEX) def. Josee GrandMaitre/Jennifer Saunders (CAN) 15-14, 9-15, 11-6

OVERALL TEAM RESULTS

1. Canada (130)
2. Mexico (112)
3. USA (110)
4. Chile (72)
5. Argentina (61)
- 6t. Ecuador (60)
- 6t. Puerto Rico (60)
- 8t. Bolivia (59)
- 8t. Honduras (59)
10. Venezuela (57)
11. Columbia (56)
12. Dominican Rep. (55)
13. Guatemala (51)
14. Brazil (50)

WOMEN'S TEAM RESULTS

- 1t. Canada (35)
- 1t. Mexico (35)
3. USA (25)
4. Chile (21)
5. Dominican Rep. (5)
6. Bolivia (4)
7. Puerto Rico (3)
- 8t. Ecuador (0)
- 8t. Guatemala (0)

MEN'S TEAM RESULTS

1. Canada (45)
2. USA (35)
3. Mexico (27)
4. Argentina (11)
5. Ecuador (10)
6. Honduras (9)
- 7t. Venezuela (7)
- 7t. Puerto Rico (7)
9. Columbia (6)
10. Bolivia (5)
- 11t. Guatemala (1)
- 11t. Chile (1)
- 13t. Brazil (0)
- 13t. Dominican Rep. (0)

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LPRA IN CHICAGO

Schaumburg Tennis Center • Chicago, Illinois • February 13-15



The LPRA ventured to the hometown of top-ranked Cheryl Gudinas for their seventh tournament of the season. It seemed at the time that Gudinas may have already locked up her fourth straight LPRA season ending rankings title, but that wouldn't dampen her desire to win in front of her hometown.

Gudinas was on cruise control in the first two rounds, defeating both Diane Moore and Jo Shattuck in straight games. Shattuck, who has all the physical tools, is beginning to get over her mental blocks and earned her second quarterfinal appearance of the season. Also in early round action, Karen Moore upset No.6 Adrienne Fisher in a thrilling five-gamer, 11-, 6-11, 8-11, 11-9, 12-10.

The semifinals were set with all four competitors advancing past the quarterfinals in straight games. Gudinas faced Kristen Walsh in the top half of

the draw and, after splitting two close games, Gudinas got past her doubles partner, 12-10, 8-11, 11-6, 11-8. The bottom half of the draw pitted Christie Van Hees and Kerri Wachtel in what would become a battle for the No.2 spot at the end of the season. Van Hees seems to get better with each tournament and disposed of Wachtel in straight games, 11-5, 11-1, 11-5.

A few years ago, before Van Hees' hiatus from the tour, Gudinas and Van Hees was a common match-up in the finals. As this season has progressed it is once again becoming the norm. For the fourth time this season, the second time in the finals, they faced off. At first it looked as though Van Hees would be able to even their match record this season at two apiece after taking a 2-1 lead in the match. Gudinas, known as the most mentally tough player on the tour, kept her head and came back for her sixth title of the season.

LPRA SLAMROCK SHOOTOUT

YMCA of Middle Tennessee • Nashville, Tennessee • March 12-14

The LPRA celebrated an early St. Patrick's Day in Nashville at the "Slamrock" Shootout at the YMCA of Middle Tennessee. The story going into the semifinals was Tammy Brown's superb play. She upset No.4 Kristen Walsh in the round of 16, 11-7, 11-2, 9-11, 11-9, and then recorded her second upset over No.5 Kersten Hallander in the quarterfinals, 5-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-6.



Van Hees was able to win her first tournament of the season

Cheryl Gudinas, Christie Van Hees, and Kerri Wachtel rounded out the semifinalists. Gudinas advanced there after getting past Gerri Stoffregen in straight games and hard-hitting Brenda Kyzer in four. Van Hees played a five gamer against Chile's Angela Grisar in the round of 16 and then, in a U.S. OPEN final rematch, defeated Rhonda Rajsich in four. Wachtel was the only one of the semifinalists to win all of her preceding matches in straight games.

Gudinas and Brown were even after their first four games, but the momentum seemed to be flowing Brown's way after winning the fourth, 12-10. Gudinas must not have known this and controlled the entire fifth game, winning it 11-1. Van Hees continues to look as though she had never left the tour and defeated Wachtel in straight games, 11-7, 11-5, 11-8.

Again it was Gudinas and Van Hees facing off in the final of a tournament. Gudinas had won every contest since the U.S. OPEN, although many of them have been close. This time it was Van Hees' turn as she quickly took a 2-0 lead. Gudinas managed a win in the third, but Van Hees was able to close things out in the fourth for her first win of the season.

FINAL

Christie Van Hees def. Cheryl Gudinas 11-6, 11-9, 5-11, 11-4

LPRA PRO NATIONALS

Arizona State University • Tempe, Arizona • April 30-May 2

The beautiful Arizona State University was the site for the 2004 LPRA Pro Nationals and the competition was just as hot inside as the temperature was outside. Gudinas had already had the No.1 ranking locked up for the fourth straight season, but there were three women vying for the No.2 spot.

Rhonda Rajsich, Christie Van Hees, and Kerri Wachtel all had an opportunity to finish the season ranked No.2 and it all came down to their performances at this event. Van Hees earned a spot in the semifinals against Tammy Brown, who defeated an ailing Cheryl Gudinas in the quarterfinals. Rajsich and Wachtel both advanced into the semifinals against each other in what would become the first big match with rankings implications.



Van Hees addressed the crowd after her victory in Tempe

Rajsich, feeding off her hometown vibe, advanced past Wachtel to give herself a shot at the No.2 position. Van Hees continued her rise from being unranked at the beginning of the season and advanced over Brown for her third straight final appearance.

Rajsich and Van Hees first squared off this season in the final of the U.S. OPEN and now were set to battle it out once again; this time with the No.2 ranking at stake. Rajsich fed off her hometown fans in attendance, but Van Hees was too strong. After two close games, Van Hees took control of the third to finish the season No.2.

FINAL

Christie Van Hees def. Rhonda Rajsich 12-10, 11-9, 11-5

2003-2004 LADIES PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Rosarito Beach	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	11-6, 10-12, 11-8, 11-4
Charlotte	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	11-7, 11-4, 5-11, 11-7
Albuquerque	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel	11-5, 11-8, 9-11, 11-1
Memphis	Rhonda Rajsich def. Christie Van Hees	6-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-7
Honolulu	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice	11-4, 11-4, 11-3
Coral Springs	Cheryl Gudinas def. Christie Van Hees	11-4, 1-11, 11-4, 11-1
Chicago	Cheryl Gudinas def. Christie Van Hees	11-3, 6-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-4
Nashville	Christie Van Hees def. Cheryl Gudinas	11-6, 11-9, 5-11, 11-4
Phoenix	Christie Van Hees def. Rhonda Rajsich	12-10, 11-9, 11-5

LADIES PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION 2003-2004 FINAL SEASON RANKINGS

Points	Player	Hometowns	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 906.500	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1	1
2. 479.250	Christie Van Hees	Kelowna, B.C.	9	NR
3. 462.250	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	3	4
4. 449.750	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	2	3
5. 340.750	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	5	8
6. 254.500	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	4	5
7. 209.750	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	6	6
8. 149.000	Tammy Brown	Boise, ID	19	22
9. 138.250	Angela Grisar	Santiago, Chile	13	NR
10. 137.000	Jackie Rice	El Cajon, CA	7	2
11. 135.000	Brenda Kyzer	Lexington, SC	10	11
12. 133.250	Kim Russell	Austin, TX	8	7
13. 119.500	Jo Shattuck	Denver, CO	12	16
14. 91.750	Karen Morton	Erie, PA	20	25
15. 89.000	Suzi Acosta	Chihuahua, Mexico	15	10
16. 82.000	Rachel Gellman	Phoenix, AZ	16	18
17. 65.500	Stephanie Munger	Anchorage, AK	18	21
18. 63.500	Krystal Csuk	Naperville, IL	22	26
19. 56.250	Ramona VonOndarza	Venezuela	21	20
20. 52.500	Lori-Jane Powell	Prince Albert, Sask.	11	9

CHERYL'S FOURTH

Cheryl Gudinas will go down in history as one of the best female racquetball players of all-time, but this season she proved that she isn't ready to quit adding to her resume. Going into the season she was the favorite to repeat as the No.1 player on the women's tour – and she didn't disappoint.

Cheryl started off the season by winning the first three stops despite suffering from what she thought was a minor foot injury. She continued to play tournaments while trying to limit her training in order to accommodate her injury. Finally, at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, a tournament that has been her Achilles' heel, she faltered.

Cheryl lost to former rival Christie Van Hees, who was attempting a comeback, in the semifinals.

Instead of getting down on herself or seeking pity, Cheryl welcomed the challenge and went on another three-tournament win streak including two wins in the finals over Christie.

"I'm glad that she (Christie) is playing again even though it makes my life more difficult," Cheryl said. "I think that she will definitely be the player to beat on the tour next season although there are so many other players on the tour that have the ability to step it up and be competitive."



Cheryl later learned that her "minor foot injury" was actually a broken bone. In between tournaments she kept her foot in a cast, making it virtually impossible for her to train, especially at the level she was accustomed to. She didn't, however, miss any tour events. She made the finals at Nashville, but was knocked out early at the season finale in Phoenix.

The fact that Cheryl continued to play the last two events of the season is a testament to her character. She has already had the No.1 ranking locked up, but the competitor in her wouldn't let her quit. She never thought about forfeiting, missing a stop, or using the injury as an excuse.

"It was good to have it (the title) wrapped up before going to Phoenix because I wasn't sure how I would play there without training," she said. "It was a great relief to be able to repeat as No.1 again."

Cheryl knows that next season won't be a cakewalk either and plans to regain her health before it starts. She knows that, besides Christie, there are many other players that will be vying for the title she has now held for the past four seasons. She points out that Kerri Wachtel, Rhonda Rajsich, Kristen Walsh, and Adrienne Fisher all have the tools necessary to win on the LPRA tour. She also notes that there is a lot of talent out there that doesn't play on the tour full-time, but has the ability to compete at this level.

The biggest obstacle that most of these players need to overcome is outworking the hardest working woman in racquetball. If they don't then we might be reading the same article this time next season; except we will be reading about Cheryl's fifth straight title.

LADIES PROFESSIONAL TOUR



SAN DIEGO OPEN

American Athletic Club • San Diego, CA • February 27-29

Jason Mannino appeared to be emerging from an early season slump after his performance at the New York City Pro Am and his hometown of San Diego seemed to be the perfect place for him to continue his great play. Once again Kane Waselenchuk was a no-show, giving Huczak the opportunity to separate himself even further from the pack.

There weren't many surprises in the quarterfinals, but there were some great matches. After getting beat soundly in the first game, 11-3, Alvaro Beltran turned things around against Cliff Swain to win a close second game, 14-12, and then went on to win the next two, 11-2, 11-9. Mike Green gave Huczak all he could handle in a five-gamer, but Huczak showed why he is the world's No.1 player by stepping it up in the fifth to advance. Mannino got past good friend Sudsy Monchik in four and Rocky Carson advanced past Mike Guidry to round out the semifinalists.

Mannino and Beltran squared off in the bottom half of the bracket and Mannino had little trouble advancing in straight games, 11-6, 11-9, 11-8. The top half featured Huczak and Carson in a rematch of the 2003 USAR National Singles Championships. This match was nearly as close as their battle nearly a year ago with Carson advancing in five games, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7, 9-11, 11-6, for his first finals appearance of the season.

Mannino jumped out to a 2-0 game lead in the final against Carson. Carson was able to take one from Mannino in the third, but Mannino, backed by his hometown fans, closed things out in the fourth for his second straight tournament win.

FINAL

Jason Mannino def. Rocky Carson 11-8, 11-2, 7-11, 11-2



Jason scored a win in his hometown.

KENTUCKY PRO AM

University of Louisville • Louisville, KY • March 5-7

The IRT season, as a whole, could be summed up by taking a look at the Kentucky Pro Am results. It has truly become an "on-any-given-day" tour and tournaments are now wide-open for anyone to win.

Sudsy Monchik has showed "images of old" several times this season as he attempts to finally get over the injury bug. He knocked off Kane Waselenchuk in the round of 16 and then Jack Huczak in the quarterfinals. Rocky Carson, fresh off his finals appearance at the last event, got past Swain in the quarterfinals, and then ended Monchik's run in the semifinals, for his second straight finals showing.

In the bottom half of the draw, Shane Vanderson and Mike Green played a close five-gamer with Vanderson coming out on top, only to be knocked off by Mannino in the very next round. Derek Robinson got past Josh Tucker and Alvaro Beltran to set up a semifinal against Mannino. Robinson played lights out against Mannino at the U.S. OPEN, but this time it was Mannino's turn as



Rocky captured his first title of the season in Louisville

he earned revenge by disposing of Robinson in straight games, 11-2, 11-5, 11-7.

Mannino looked to be at the top of his game heading into the final although Carson had knocked off some tough opponents to get there as well. Carson struck first with an 11-9 win and Mannino evened things out by winning the epic second game 15-13. They split the next two games as well, leading to a decisive fifth game that Carson took for his first tournament win of the season.

FINAL

Rocky Carson def. Jason Mannino 11-9, 13-15, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7

GREENSBORO OPEN

Sportcenter Triad • Greensboro, NC • March 18-21

Heading into Greensboro, the season ending rankings title had become a three-man race between Jack Huczak, Jason Mannino, and Kane Waselenchuk with Mannino coming on strong, Huczak holding steady, and Waselenchuk seeming to fade.

There were no upsets leading into the semifinals, which appeared to feature two great match ups. Mannino and Carson just came off an exciting five game match to decide the last tournament, but this time Mannino extracted his revenge in stunning fashion, defeating Carson in three straight, 12-10, 11-6, 11-7. Huczak and Waselenchuk has became the most anticipated pairing on the IRT, even though Waselenchuk has seemed to own Huczak in their past encounters. This time, however, it was Huczak in control of the match. He knocked off Waselenchuk in straight games, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7, for his first professional win over the Canadian.



Jason was back in the race for No.1 after a win in Greensboro

Huczak and Mannino traded lopsided wins in the first two games of their match before things heated up. Mannino won a close third game, 13-11, and then closed things out in the fourth for his third tournament win in the last four pro stops.

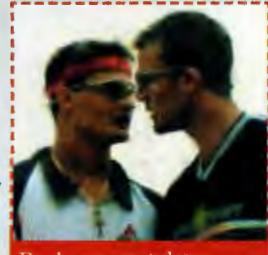
FINAL

Jason Mannino def. Jack Huczak 11-3, 4-11, 13-11, 11-8

FOXWOODS PRO AM

Metro South A.C. • Boston, MA • April 1-4

With the season starting to wind down, the competition on the courts was growing more intense. Jason Mannino had fully reemerged and now had a legitimate chance to defend the No.1 ranking title he captured last season. Jack Huczak continued to play consistent racquetball and still had a grasp on the No.1 ranking, not yet ready to let it go. Waselenchuk was still in contention, but needed to win out in order to capture the title. One could only wonder where Rocky Carson would be if he had started playing at the level he had shown in the past two events for the



Rocky congratulates Kane after their final in Boston

entire season. These four players, the ones with the most on the line, made up the semifinals of the Foxwoods Pro Am.

When Carson and Huczek faced each other in the semifinals at the Pan American Games, Huczek believed the score was called wrong at one point and argued himself to a technical before regaining his composure. This time it was Carson who believed the score was called wrong, only Carson argued the call this until he received six technicals, resulting in a 4 to -6 lead for Huczek. Carson went on to lose the first game, 11 to -2, despite swaying the crowd to his side after the Technical Fest. First game shenanigans aside, this was a great match. Huczek took the third, 11-8, and appeared to be headed towards his fifth final of the season when Carson turned his game around to take the next three, 11-7, 11-8, 11-5, earning his third finals appearance of the season.

The bottom half semifinal didn't possess near the drama of Carson and Huczek's match. Waselenchuk has proved that nobody can touch him when he is at the top of his game and against Mannino he was at the top. He torched Mannino in the first two games, 11-5, 11-4, then won a close third, 12-10, to advance to the final against Carson.

Waselenchuk continued his pace in the final against Carson as he blistered drive serves to both sides to take a 2-0 game lead in the final. Carson attempted another comeback, as he did against Huczek, and took the third game, but couldn't keep pace in the fourth. Waselenchuk closed out the match in the fourth for his first tournament win since the U.S. OPEN.

FINAL

Kane Waselenchuk def. Rocky Carson 11-1, 11-5, 4-11, 11-7

IRT PRO NATIONALS

Chuck Minker Sports Center • Las Vegas, NV • April 22-25

With more prize money and ranking points at stake, each match at the IRT Pro Nationals took on added importance in the ever-close rankings race.

Jack Huczek had a chance to tighten his grip on the No.1 ranking with a good showing in Las Vegas, but Mike Green helped to keep the field wide-open by dispatching Huczek in the quarterfinals in four games. Rocky Carson, who had been playing the best racquetball of his career, also made an early exit at the hands of Alvaro Beltran. Kane Waselenchuk and Jason Mannino appeared unfazed by the pressure of a rankings race and both advanced to face each other, yet again, in the semifinals.

Beltran and Green squared off in the top half of the draw. Would it be Green advancing to the first final of his career or Beltran moving into his career high third final of the season? After a close first game that Beltran won 12-10, there wasn't yet a clear answer. As the match progressed, Beltran did come up with an answer for everything that Green threw at him and moved into the final in straight games.

For the second tournament in a row Waselenchuk and Mannino faced each other in the semifinals. Again Waselenchuk raised his game to a level not previously seen and quickly moved past Mannino in straight games, 11-2, 11-6, 11-3.

With his wedding scheduled just hours away (see Back Courts), Beltran had a lot on his mind heading into the final against Waselenchuk. Winning seemed to be the biggest thing on his mind, however, as he became the first player to take a game off Waselenchuk in this tournament. Waselenchuk, maybe feeling Beltran's need to get to the chapel, turned

things up for the rest of the match and claimed his second straight tournament win.

FINAL

Kane Waselenchuk def. Alvaro Beltran 10-12, 11-1, 11-5, 11-1

IRT DALLAS

Dallas, TX • April 29-May 1

For the first time in years the final season rankings title came down to one tournament. If either Jack Huczek or Kane Waselenchuk won the event, they would become the No.1 player in the world. Jason Mannino still had an outside shot to defend his title if Huczek and Waselenchuk fell early, but it was Huczek and Waselenchuk who controlled their own destinies.

Huczek looked as though he might fall early after Sudsy Monchik took the first game of their match, 11-3. Huczek righted the ship, however, and moved past Monchik in four and then advanced past Rocky Carson in the semifinals to put himself in position for the title.



Kane and Jack played it close for the entire season.

Waselenchuk looked unstoppable in his wins against Shane Vanderson in the quarterfinals and Alvaro Beltran in the semifinals, both in straight games. This made the No.1 ranking not only come down to the last tournament of the season, but the last match of the season.

One of the knocks against a Huczek/Waselenchuk rivalry in the last issue of RACQUETBALL was their lack of playing each other in big matches. This was possibly one of the biggest matches ever played in pro racquetball, at least in recent years. Waselenchuk came out firing in the first game and took it with ease. Huczek tied things up in the second game, squeaking out an 11-9 win. But, as he has showed he can do time and time again, Waselenchuk took his game to another level. He won the third and fourth games to take home the final pro stop of the season and, more importantly, the season ending rankings title.

FINAL

Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczek 11-4, 9-11, 11-4, 11-8

MEN'S INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR 2003-2004 FINAL SEASON RANKINGS

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 3684	Kane Waselenchuk	Edmonton, Alberta	3	2
2. 3633	Jack Huczek	Rochester Hills, MI	1	4
3. 3305	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	2	1
4. 2931	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	6	6
5. 2789	Alvaro Beltran	Tijuana, Mexico	5	5
6. 2406	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	4	3
7. 2255	Derek Robinson	Denver, CO	7	9
8. 2124	Mike Green	Burlington, Ontario	8	11
9. 2089	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	13	8
10. 1763	Shane Vanderson	Berea, OH	11	20
11. 1729	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	16	17
12. 1589	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX	10	10
13. 1267	Josh Tucker	Joplin, MO	12	19
14. 1149	Dan Llacer	Rehoboth Beach, DE	14	13
15. 1008	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	18	14
16. 986	Mike Dennison	Twinsburg, OH	15	18
17. 840	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	9	7
18. 526	Javier Moreno	Chihuahua, Mexico	21	15
19. 497	Mitch Williams	Raleigh, NC	22	26
20. 448	Rodrigo Urzua	Boca Raton, FL	30	NR

2003-2004 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR FINAL SEASON SCORECARD

New Orleans	Kane Waselenchuk def. Jason Mannino	14-12, 11-9, 11-4
Stockton	Jack Huczak def. Alvaro Beltran	6-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-4
Alexandria	Jack Huczak def. Cliff Swain	7-11, 2-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-9
Chicago	Kane Waselenchuk def. Alvaro Beltran	11-8, 11-5, 11-8
Memphis	Kane Waselenchuk def. Derek Robinson	11-8, 11-6, 11-8
Cleveland	Jack Huczak def. Cliff Swain	9-11, 11-9, 11-4, 10-12, 12-10
New York	Jason Mannino def. Jack Huczak	10-12, 11-2, 3-11, 11-5, 11-7
San Diego	Jason Mannino def. Rocky Carson	11-8, 11-2, 7-11, 11-2
Louisville	Rocky Carson def. Jason Mannino	11-9, 13-15, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7
Greensboro	Jason Mannino def. Jack Huczak	11-3, 4-11, 13-11, 11-8
Boston	Kane Waselenchuk def. Rocky Carson	11-1, 11-5, 4-11, 11-7
Las Vegas	Kane Waselenchuk def. Alvaro Beltran	10-12, 11-1, 11-5, 11-1
Dallas	Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczak	11-4, 9-11, 11-4, 11-8

KANE IS ABLE

What another exciting year for the men's International Racquetball Tour! There was excitement and electricity in the air from the first pro stop in New Orleans until the last match of the year took place in Dallas. Everyone thought that the No.1 position was up for grabs this season and they were right. For the first time in recent history, the No.1 ranking came down to the final match of the season between Jack Huczak and Kane Waselenchuk with Kane becoming the fourth different player to earn the No.1 ranking in as many years.

Kane's story actually began this June, way before the season even started. Towards the end of last season Kane suffered from an unknown illness, which severely hindered his ability to compete. He sought help from many different sources to no avail before finally being diagnosed, and cured, by Dr. Shea in Memphis.

Kane began the '03-'04 season like a

man on a mission, winning three of the first five tournaments, including his triumphant return to Memphis and a victory on racquetball's grandest stage — The Choice Hotels U.S.



OPEN. But Jack was close on his heels.

"It felt good to be No.1, but there was so much season left," he said.

Just one tournament after he assumed the No.1 position from Jason Mannino, Kane's inner ear problems resurfaced and Jack moved ahead after a win in Cleveland. Jack followed up that performance with solid, consistent play and held onto the ranking until the very end.

Jason overcame early season troubles and began to play at the level that earned him the No.1 ranking last season. Rocky Carson also got in the mix by posting several finals appearances, including a tournament win in Louisville. Meanwhile, it seemed as though Kane would bow out of the rankings race due to injury and missed tournaments, much like what happened a year ago.

But just when you thought he was out, he jumped right back in. Kane raised racquetball to a level not seen before on tour, winning the final three pro stops to capture the ranking title. When his game is on, his torpedo-like drive serves and lightning fast hands are too much to handle. Jack and Jason stayed in the race right until the end, but really, when healthy, Kane is in a league of his own.

"I like when I have all the pressure on me," Kane said. "It was just the fact of showing everyone that I belonged in that spot (No.1). I don't think it could have felt any better than doing it the way that I did."

A VIEW FROM THE COMMISH

Dave Negrete, IRT Commissioner



I want to thank all the tournament directors and clubs that ran and hosted events this season. The IRT appreciates all that you do and your support of racquetball. Also, since we do not have the funding to bring an event to a particular city or region we thank all the local sponsors for enabling the IRT tour to survive. Hopefully in the near future we will be able to help with some of the financial burden of hosting a tour stop.

Also a thank you to the official IRT partners: Head Racquet Sports, Pro Kennex, Ektelon, E-Force, Ashaway Strings, Crew West, Pro Racquetball.net and to our largest industry supporter, Penn Racquetball. And special thanks to the Klimaitis Family for your sponsorship of the IRT.

Our tour charity for this season and next is the Angel Fund and we thank all those who contributed to the Angel Fund this season. I know that they are very appreciative of the support of the racquetball community. Cliff's father, Red, passed away from ALS and the Angel Fund is working on a cure and to increase awareness of ALS. For more info on how to help check the link on the IRT website or contact me directly at negrezt@mindspring.com

Thank you to the staff at the USAR office for your help with the tour and promotion of the IRT in the new and improved Racquetball Magazine.

Thank you to the small but great IRT staff and volunteers that helped out this season Nick Irvine, Diane Bunker, Julie Vincent and Suzanne Gale to name a few. Also to the Board of Directors for your support of yours truly and helping make the tough decisions this season; Eric Muller, Leo Klimaitis, Rich Donnelly, Jason Mannino, Kane Waselenchuk and Derek Robinson.

Lastly I would like to thank all the fans of the IRT for all your support on the website and at the events. The players wouldn't be where they are today, playing the game that they love, without you.

On behalf of the IRT and its players Thank You.



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* Sports Tracking Europe (Germany/France: July-Dec 2003, Hitlist Total Market, in value), GFK (Austria: Aug-Dec 2003, Hitlist Tennis Racquets, in value), Sports Marketing Surveys, USA, Specialty Store Retail Audit, (July-Dec 2003, in value); Yano-Kaiza Report, (Sept-Oct 2003, quote of 80 key retailers nationwide)

** IRT/LPRA rankings as of April, 2004

HEAD

Duel in the Desert

The season ending Legends Pro Nationals were held at the beautiful Arizona State University Campus in Tempe, Arizona. The action was as hot as the Arizona sun in summer.

Ruben Gonzalez won the Legends 45+ National Title beating two-time defending champion, Marty Hogan, 15-7, 8-15, 11-10. Hogan led 10-7 in the third, when he seemed to hot-dog just a little too much. Marty skipped a no-look shot and also muffed a backhand-spike off a ceiling shot at 10-9 in the tiebreaker. The spike looked great until the ball bounced back and hit Marty. Ruben and Marty both broke in to laughs for a moment before the stoic Gonzalez stole an 11-10 victory and the 2004 Legends National Title.

Ruben defeated Dave Peck, 15-11, 15-13, in one semi and Marty cruised past Randy Stafford, 15-9, 15-4, in the other. Stafford had earlier upset Benny Koltun, 15-11, 10-15, 11-9, in a tough quarterfinal match.

Cliff Swain won the Champions 35+ National Title, defeating Legends rookie Derek Robinson, 15-10, 9-15, 11-2, in the final. Swain seemed to save the big artillery for the third game, in which he overpowered Robinson. Cliff defeated Corey Brysman in the semis and Scott Oliver in the quarters. Brysman had earlier beat Gerry Price in the quarters. Price

won a very tough round of 16's over Gregg Peck 13-15, 15-9, 11-9. Derek Robinson advanced to the final with a semifinal win over Mike Ray and a

Gonzalez and Hogan

quarter final win over Mike Ceresia. Ray beat Todd O'Neil in the quarters and Ceresia won a tough three gamer over Dave Johnson in the 16's 7-15, 15-10, 11-5.



The Open Doubles Championship final featured Cliff Swain and Marty Hogan against former USAR and IRT National Doubles champions Derek Robinson and Todd O'Neil. Swain and Hogan prevailed 15-13, 15-10. Hogan rolled out the last five balls in the second game to break open an extremely tight match. Hogan and Swain defeated Brian Pointelin and Tom Fuhrman in a close two-game semi and O'Neil and Robinson got past Corey Brysman and Mike Ray in three games.

new players on board

We are proud to announce Tim Doyle, Derek Robinson, Dan Obremski and Egan Inoue will be playing on next year's Legends of Racquetball Tour. The tour will feature two divisions next season. The Champions Division is for players from thirty-five to forty-four years old and the Legends

Divisions will be for players forty-five and older. At some events you may see both groups combined and at others they will play separate draws. Looking forward to a third great season of Classic Pro Racquetball!

2003-2004 legends awards

Player of the Year Cliff Swain

Sportmanship Award Ruben Gonzalez

Most Improved Player Corey Brysman

Special Recognition To:

Scott Hirsch, Stacy Hirsch, Shawn Royster, Shari Coplen, Luis Quinones, Eddy Marin, Lorri Brigham, Steve Keeley, Charlie Brumfield and Suzanne Gale for making this a very special season.



Hogan, D. Peck, and Stafford

Legends



The Legends Tour
Classic Pro Racquetball

the legends go to boston

It was fitting that Cliff Swain won the Red Swain Memorial in Brockton, Mass. Cliff beat fellow East Coast Legend, Ruben Gonzalez, 15-4, 15-5, in a quick final. Ruben had earlier beaten Marty Hogan, 15-14, 15-6, in the semifinals to avenge the loss to Hogan in the America's Cup final. Swain defeated Corey Brysman, 15-10, 15-8, in a match that was more competitive than the scores indicated.

In quarterfinal action, Cliff beat Mike Ceresia, 15-7, 15-8, Corey came back from a 15-6, 12-4 deficit to get past Mike Ray, 6-15, 15-12, 11-6. Ruben squeaked by Dave Peck, 10-15, 15-9, 11-7 and, in the match of the mouths, Marty Hogan outtalked and outplayed Gerri Price, 15-14, 15-7. Gerri was up 14-9 in the first when Marty turned up the volume on the conversation and his play.

A few exciting matches in the round of 16 included Corey Brysman getting by Gregg Peck, 15-8, 15-6, Mike Ceresia edging Todd O'Neil, 15-11, 15-13, and Dave Peck blowing out Scott Oliver 15-0, 15-2.

Marty Hogan and Todd O'Neil proved they could hang with, and beat, the young guys. Marty and Todd won the Men's Open Doubles, beating several tough teams along the way.

The event was very special to all the Legends and they are proud to have raised and donated \$7,000 to the Angel Fund.



Swain

2004 legends tour final season rankings

1. Cliff Swain, Braintree, MA	9. Gerry Price, San Ramon, CA
2. Ruben Gonzalez, Staten Island, NY	10. Dave Johnson, Huntington Beach, CA
3. Marty Hogan, Chesterfield, MO	11. Todd O'Neil, Burlington, VT
4. Corey Brysman, Miami, FL	12. Scott Oliver, Sacramento, CA
5. Mike Ray, Hilton Head, SC	13. Randy Stafford, Memphis, TN
6. Dave Peck, Austin, TX	14. Benny Koltun, St. Louis, MO
7. Derek Robinson, Denver, CO	15. Steve Lerner, Riverside, CA
8. Mike Ceresia, Burlington, Ontario	16. Brett Harnett, Las Vegas, NV

2003-2004 legends racquetball tour final season scorecard

Coral Springs	Cliff Swain def Marty Hogan	15-7, 10-15, 11-6
Las Vegas	Marty Hogan def Mike Ray	15-10, 9-15, 11-9
Portland	Cliff Swain def Mike Ray	15-10, 15-9
Fountain Valley	Cliff Swain def Corey Brysman	15-6, 14-15, 11-3
Riverside	Cliff Swain def Marty Hogan	15-9, 15-13
San Juan	Ruben Gonzalez def Marty Hogan	15-14, 12-15, 11-4
St. Louis	Cliff Swain def. Marty Hogan	12-15, 15-7, 11-6
Memphis	Ruben Gonzalez def. Marty Hogan	11-15, 15-9, 11-7
New York	Ruben Gonzalez def. Mike Ceresia	15-10, 15-11
Coral Springs	Marty Hogan def. Ruben Gonzalez	15-11, 15-4
Boston	Cliff Swain def. Ruben Gonzalez	15-4, 15-5
Phoenix	Ruben Gonzalez def. Marty Hogan	15-7, 8-15, 11-10

For information concerning any Legends Tour events, contact Marty Hogan at 636-346-2305, send e-mail to pvranch@aol.com, or go to www.lengendsrbtour.com.com.

match these legends of the game with their nickname:

1. The Rat	6. Splinter Chest	a. Ruben Gonzalez	f. Marty Hogan
2. 5 and 9	7. The Cheater	b. Andy Roberts	g. Steve Serot
3. The Buzz Saw	8. Smokin	c. Davey Bledsoe	h. Jerry Hilecher
4. Grandpa	9. The King	d. Bud Muehlheisen	i. Cliff Swain
5. Bo	10. The Godfather	e. Steve Strandemo	j. Steve Keeley

INTERNATIONAL SCENE

INTERNATIONAL
RACQUETBALL
FEDERATION



English

2004 English Open in Alconbury

Christy Slattery (Ireland) won the men's Open final at the 2004 English Open against young Irish hope Tristan Hickey, while Wendy Hackett (England) succeeded over teammate Karen Walker in the women's Open final. The event has been held at the RAF Alconbury which may also serve as the site for the 2005 European Championships to be held in England.

Brazil

New Federation for Brazil

New movement in Brazil: During the annual meeting in Sao Paulo on April 10th, a new board has been formally elected for the ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE RAQUETEBOL. Ivo Samy Katz was named the new board president.

Ireland

O'Callaghan Wins 14th National Title

Kilkenny's Noel O'Callaghan won his 14th successive All Ireland Open Singles Championship title defeating Jimmy Gannon (Arklow) in the final at Moylagh, Co Meath. Susan Neary (Arklow) is the new women's Open champion, while her brother Adam won the Men's B singles. Maura O'Doherty (Templederry) won the women's B singles.

UPCOMING IRF EVENTS

Date	Event	Site	Country
June 11	Korea Doubles Championships	TBA	South Korea
June	East Japan Doubles	TBA	Japan
June	West Japan Doubles	TBA	Japan
Jun 11-13	Torneo de Masters	Chihuahua	Mexico
Jun 23-26	IRF 2nd World Senior Doubles	Colorado Springs, CO	USA
Jul 7-11	Campeonato Nacional Infantil Juvenil	Chihuahua	Mexico
June 30-July 5	Colombian National Championships	Bogota	Colombia
July	Weekday Singles Tournament	TBA	Japan
July	Central Japan Open	TBA	Japan
July 14-17	NMRA International Masters Invitational	West Allis, WI	USA
July 30-Aug. 6	IRF 12th World Championships	Anyang	South Korea
Aug. 31- Sept. 4	IRF 20th World Senior Championships	Albuquerque, NM	USA
August	South Japan Open	TBA	Japan
August	East Japan Team Competition	TBA	Japan
August	West Japan Team Competition	TBA	Japan
September	Dutch Nationals	Zoetermeer	Netherlands
Sept. 17-19	21st Hamburg Open	Hamburg	Germany
September	Regional Singles Tournament	TBA	Japan
September	National Senior Singles	TBA	Japan

Germany

Successful 2004 German Open in Hamburg

The 2004 German Open took place successfully in Hamburg. Martin Klipper won the men's Open final while Yvonne Kortes (Germany) finished first in the women's Open. For most European teams, the 2004 German Open served as a qualifier for the 2004 World Championships. Check the German Open website for complete results.

Belgium

2004 Belgian Open Site Named

The 2004 Belgian Open will take place in Antwerp once again. The site will be the Indoor Sports Club and is an official event of the European Racquetball Tour (ERT).

SOUTH KOREA

HOST OF THE XII IRF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Written by Seung Ha Shin
Translated by Yuni Cobb

Until now, all world racquetball championships were held in either North or South America. But racquetball has recently made a breakthrough in Southeast Asia, becoming increasingly popular in Guam, Japan, and Korea. The Korean Racquetball Federation (KRF) desired to host the 12th IRF World Championships in order to increase the awareness of racquetball in Southeast Asia and to help racquetball become an official Olympic sport.

The KRF's proposal was discussed at the 1996 World Championships in Phoenix and again during the 2000 tournament that took place in Mexico. Mr. Hong, the president of the Asian Racquetball Federation (ARF) and the KRF, made a presentation at the 2002 World's in Puerto Rico that resulted in the decision to allow Korea to host the tournament in 2004. In October 2003, a meeting was held between the IRF and KRF concerning preparation for the event.



The venue for the 12th World Championships will be the Anyang Juvenile Center in Anyang, South Korea. It has six glass courts and many other facilities including a great fitness center. The Youth Center is conveniently located next to many shops and is only minutes from several reasonably priced

hotels. Anyang is one hour from Incheon International Airport and only 30 minutes from the capital city of Seoul. Players are able to tour Seoul and experience its 5000-year-old history found at ancient Korean sites.

Currently there are 200 racquetball courts and 20,000 racquetball players in Korea. Most racquetball courts spread throughout the country are run by cities, provinces, schools, or YMCAs. The fact that a majority of them are open to the public is the reason that racquetball has spread so fast throughout Korea. The KRF was established in 1992 and is a member of the ARF and IRF. There are several racquetball tournaments held in Korea including the national singles, national doubles, in addition to other sanctioned events. This year, the KRF's 12th National Singles and Doubles Championships serve as qualifiers to determine which athletes will represent Korea at the World Championships.



The view from the front of the Anyang Juvenile Center

Courts at Anyang Juvenile Center



THE HISTORY OF THE SPORT IN KOREA

- 1965** Racquetball was introduced to a select few Koreans at the 8th U.S. Army Trent gymnasium in Yongsan, Korea.
- 1980** The first Korean racquetball courts were built at Seogang National University and Club Kolon and the general population was exposed to racquetball. Soon following this the Pohang Technology University, the Korean Air Force Academy, and many private clubs build racquetball courts and the sport begins to rapidly spread throughout the country.
- 1987** The first national tournament was organized at the Kolon fitness center.
- 1988** Korean players attend their first International tournament in Japan. The news was reported in newspapers and on television increasing the interest in racquetball in Korea.
- 1990** The first racquetball book is published in Korean, the Korean team and staff attend their first IRF World Championships in Venezuela, and Korea joins the IRF.
- 1991** The Korean Amateur Racquetball Association (KARA) was established. A national tournament was held to select Korean players to attend the 6th IRF World Championships.
- 1996** KARA changes its name to KRF and for the first time has official members and holds sanctioned tournaments. KRF places 11th at the 8th IRF World Championships. The Korea Racquetball Magazine begins to be published quarterly.
- 1997** The city of Ansan World Sportion Club hosts the 10th Asian Racquetball Championships and the tournament is televised.
- 1998** The KRF participates in the 9th IRF World Championships in Venezuela.
- 1999** The 11th Asian Racquetball Championships were held in Anyang, Korea. The ARF was established and a president and vice president were elected. Mr. Caulkins, Vice President of the IRF at the time, attends the meetings.
- 2001** The 12th Asian Racquetball Championships were held in Taegu, Korea. The Korean team places first in both men's and women's open divisions.
- 2002** Korea places 10th at the 11th IRF World Championships in Puerto Rico.
- 2003** Korea places first in both men and women's open divisions at the 13th Asian Racquetball Championships in Saipan.

You can see pictures of the Anyang Youth Center and the courts that will be used in this year's WRC by going to the KRF website at www.krf.pe.kr and clicking on the camera next to the 12th WRC logo.

HERE'S THE DEAL...

JAY & SUDS GIVE THE SCOOP ON HOUSTON



By Jason Mannino & Sudsy Monchik



ROCKY CARSON

S | He might have too much pressure on him. With that being said, look for him and Jack to play in the finals. First or second - done deal. Easy money.

J | I agree



JACK HUCZEK

S | They should just fly in on Saturday night and play the finals on Sunday. Everyone else can just play for 3rd and 4th. First or second - no less. GUARANTEED! (Barring injuries)

J | I agree

MITCH WILLIAMS



SHANE VANDERSON

S | Great player and would have a shot but it will be tough with the # 2 ranked player in the world in the draw.

J | Vandy is hit or miss. If he can hit the front wall, without it coming off the back wall, he has a shot.



MIKE GUIDRY

S | Great guy, bad knee. Recent surgery will prevent him from winning, which means beating Rocky or Jack. If he wasn't hurt he would be in my top three...Wait, he still is!

J | Could make the semi's with a bum knee, or with a bum anything for that matter. He's a good enough player to compensate for health issues. But he will not be able to go all the way because at 30+ years old, something's gotta give.

DOUG GANIM

S | C'mon Doug, enough is enough. You have no shot!! Jack would run you so much that you might puke and Rocky would probably let you win a game since you sign his checks, but this is out of your reach. What time are we teeing off?

J | Could be a spoiler if he can stay off the golf courses, which I doubt. It's tough to play two rounds of golf per day and still be able to win against the best players in the world. But I would put good money on him upsetting a youngster, and I'm taking bets!



CHRIS CROWTHER

S | Hardest hitter standing still in the draw and the Houston courts are fast. One problem...Jack and Rocky will make him hit on the run. Chris "The Crippler" Crowther should consider getting physical with his opponents and he may actually win this thing.

J | After the event the club will need to re-surface the floors after all the power skips. The only chance that Crowther has is if he hits the ball through his opponents, and he's just the guy to do it.



JO SH TUCKER

S | Simple, this guy is great. Really, he is a great player but he is WAY too nice. He needs to learn to get mean and stop telling everyone nice shot on the court.

J | Josh is struggling as of late on the pro tour, but I think this is his forte. He can play amateur ball and, if he treats it as such, he can squeak out a few good wins. A great finish for him would be the semi's, but I'm not sure he has it in him yet. Yet.

RUBEN GONZALEZ

S | Ruben...Cuantos anos tienes? (Translation - How old are you?) Nobody knows. I have known you for 25 years and you were supposedly 30-something when we met which makes you... No clue. Who cares? Everyone loves Ruben and, as always, I will be rooting for him, but too much firepower in the draw. Make sure he is on the main court!

J | Rubes, who'd bet against him? He's 104 years old this year, and plays like he's a teenager. He's always going to be my dark horse.



CHERYL GUDINAS

S | How's the foot? She is the most consistent and obviously the favorite
J | It's hard to bet against her.



RHONDA RAJSICH

S | The best athlete in the women's draw. Wicked jump shot and gets around the court. Semis - AT LEAST
J | Oh Rhonda, you've been killing me for years. She can't win until she comes and trains with me for a few weeks, then she may never lose a match again.

ADRIENNE FISHER

S | Tough, tough player. This could be her week.

J | Hits it a ton, but does she have the legs to win an event?



KRISTEN WALSH

S | Awesome player and only lady to ever return one of my backhand cross court bombs. Seriously Kristen...WOW! I think she would have a better shot in the men's draw!!
J | A smasher, she also hits a ton. She also has excellent court coverage ability. I'm still waiting for her to break through. This may be her time.

KERSTEN HALLANDER

S | Hmm...She's solid but I don't think she could get through everyone

J | It's all in her head. If she plays smart and within herself, she will surprise us all.

JACKIE PRICE

S | Jackie is always tough but I think her lack of pro play and court time will stop her from winning another title. She's awesome and has game, but the young 'uns are pains in the butts!!!!

J | She can win any event, but does she really want to?

KIM RUSSELL

S | When she enters as Kim Waselenchuk she will be much more intimidating to her peers. She's got a shot

J | If she plays like Kane, she wins it all.



LAURA FENTON

S | Not enough fire power for the youngsters...

J | Looks great, but not a threat anymore.

KERRI WACHTEL

S | Former U.S. OPEN champ. Look for a final appearance and if she's not playing Cheryl she should win it. Actually, regardless of who she is playing she could win it.

J | Always has a chance, but on those fast courts it may be tough.

USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL EVENT 2004 SCHEDULE

June 23-27	31st USAR Junior Olympic Championships	Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Sept. 29-Oct. 3	37th USAR National Doubles Championships	Tempe, Arizona
Nov. 16-21	Choice Hotels 9th U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships	Memphis, Tenn.
Mar. 4-6	18th USAR National High School Championships	St. Louis, Missouri
Mar. 30-Apr. 2	33rd USAR National Intercollegiate Championships	TBA
April 14-17	USAR Regional Championships	Nationwide
May 25-30	38th USAR National Singles Championships	Houston, Texas

For weight control, racquetball is excellent.
You'll burn over 800 calories in an hour.

Activities that burn a lot of calories through sustained, repetitive use of large muscle groups—racquetball, running, cycling, swimming, basketball, tennis and squash—lower your percentage of fat tissue to muscle tissue.

And the top- 10 calorie burners are

1. Running (seven minute miles)-174*
2. Racquetball-13.7
3. Cycling (race)-13.0
4. Swimming (backstroke)-13.0
5. Swimming (crawl)-12.0
6. Basketball-10.6
7. Tennis-8.4
8. Cycling (leisure)-7.7
9. Golf-6.5
10. Walking-6.3

Racquetball adds variety to your fitness routine and is the most fun you can have while working out.

*Calories burned per minute
Source: Michael O'Shea, Ph.D., Sports Training Institute

A typical player covers nearly two miles in "quick steps" during a one-hour match—increasing your heart rate to the target 70-80% of its maximum rate.

Even a beginner can get a good cardiovascular workout. This very lively ball comes off the wall at all sorts of angles, so you'll be doing lots of running.

When practiced and played consistently with knees bent and body low (much like that of a linebacker or downhill skier), you move quicker, hit with more power and work your lower body like never before.

Aerobic activity raises your heart rate to its training zone. Anaerobic activity is even more intense—an all-out effort like a hundred-yard dash. Racquetball offers the best of both.

Racquetball works nearly all of your muscles-- in your arms, legs, back, chest and even your neck. Many other sports and exercises work only a few muscles at a time.

Athletes

USA Racquetball Male Athlete of the Year

After taking a year off from competing in USA Racquetball events, Rocky came back to Houston last May for a chance to qualify for the U.S. National Team in order to take part in the 2003 Pan American Games. Rocky not only qualified for the team, but wound up earning his second USA Racquetball National Singles title.

Rocky didn't have an easy draw when he came to Houston. He faced defending champion Mike Guidry in the semifinals where he narrowly escaped with a win that took nearly two hours. After splitting the first two games, Rocky found himself down 8-2 in the tiebreaker before he was able to slowly chip away at the lead for an 11-10 victory.

Rocky then faced 2002 champion Jack Huczak in a rematch of the 2001 final that Jack won. It looked as though Rocky was outmatched after dropping the first

game, 15-6, but he didn't let up and won the second to force yet another tiebreaker. Again Rocky let his opponent gain a seemingly insurmountable lead, 8-3, before kicking his game into high gear. For the second straight match Rocky came out on top 11-10, this time it was for the title.

Rocky then traveled to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic to compete for the U.S. in the Pan American Games. He earned a bronze medal in men's singles, falling to fellow countryman Jack Huczak in the semifinals. It is common on foreign ground for the crowd to cheer against the U.S., but Rocky had won them over throughout the week and chants of "Rocky! Rocky!" were even sometimes heard during his matches.

For the fifth straight year Cheryl Gudinas has been named the USAR Female Athlete of the Year. Cheryl had another outstanding performance in 2003, tying the record set by Michelle Gould with her fifth straight USA Racquetball National Singles title.

Cheryl may seem to be more at home on the courts in Houston than even in her hometown of Lisle, Ill. Once again she breezed through the draw, winning all of her matches in straight games. She defeated good friend Kerri Wachtel, 15-12, 15-1, before downing Laura Fenton, 15-11, 15-5 in the final.

From Houston Cheryl went on to represent the U.S. at the Pan American Games and did so in stunning fashion. Cheryl walked through the draw as if it were a local tournament, racking

up win after win, all in straight games. She again faced Laura Fenton in the final, but this time she needed a tiebreaker to earn her second straight Pan American Games gold medal, 11-15, 15-7, 11-5.

Cheryl also finished 2nd in singles at the 2003 Tournament of the Americas in Santo Domingo and 3rd at the 2003 USA Racquetball National Doubles Championships with partner Kristen Walsh in Minneapolis.

ROCKY CARSON



CHERYL GUDINAS



USA Racquetball Female Athlete of the Year

2004 USA Racquetball Hall of Fame Inductees

Shannon Wright

Shannon Wright dominated women's racquetball throughout the late 1970's and early 80's. During her 12-year career she racked up over 35 professional tournament victories, captured seven National Championships, and finished #1 on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) Tour four times. She is said, by some, to have revolutionized women's racquetball with her hard-hitting style and aggressive play.

During her career she was heavily involved in conducting clinics throughout the country and authored "The Women's Book of Racquetball" in 1980. She also made an appearance on ABC's Superstar Competition in Key Biscayne, Florida, finishing 3rd. In 1976 she was named the International Racquetball Association (IRA) "Women's Professional of the Year," the following year was named the IRA "Athlete of the Year", and in 1979 was selected by Racquetball Illustrated as the "Player of the Year."

Shannon left the professional circuit in 1982 after narrowly being defeated by Lynn Adams in the National Professional Championships to pursue her education. In 1989 she completed a degree in Biochemistry from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She was awarded her PhD from the University of Minnesota in December of 2002 and is currently in the process of completing her last two years of Medical School.



Shannon Wright

Fran Davis

Fran Davis is known throughout racquetball as one of the top clinicians in the game. She conducts the highly successful "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" racquetball camps and is credited with coaching both Sudsy Monchik and Jason Mannino.

She has also been successful as a coach for the U.S. National Team. She served as Assistant Coach for the 1990, '92, '94, '96, '98, and 2002 IRF World Champions and in 1987 she was named the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Racquetball Coach of the Year. She was also part of the 1995 U.S. Pan American Games coaching staff, helping them to sweep the competition in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Former U.S. National Head Coach Jim Winterton said of Fran, "Her passion for the sport is surpassed only by her energy and knowledge of the game."

"The Hall of Fame, in any sport, is what everyone strives for," Fran said upon hearing of her induction. "That means that you will go down in history as one of the greatest players, coaches, or contributors. To me, the biggest thing is to get in while I am still heavily involved in the sport and that I am able to share it with those close to me."



Fran Davis

ON CAMPUS

RACQUETBALL IS A CLUB SPORT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Richard Krinsky, Ph. D. • Colorado State University - Pueblo

"Varsity athletes often miss class because of athletic commitments. Club-sport athletes often miss athletic competitions because of academic commitments."



Racquetball is a club sport, not a varsity sport, on college campuses. The distinction between these two athletic statuses often creates confusion. One important distinction is that varsity sports are governed by national collegiate amateur associations like the NCAA and the NAIA. Their rulebooks are voluminous and regulations exist for all aspects of sport recruitment and competition. In contrast, club sports tend to be loosely organized and do not entail the same level of rigor in respect to rules and regulations. Racquetball as a club-sport is governed by the rules and regulations of USA Racquetball.

Another distinction regards funding. College and University Athletic Departments fund varsity sports. Club sports are often funded through student recreational fees that oftentimes derive from the same pot of money that supports intramural programs. Partial and full athletic scholarships are awarded to varsity athletes however it is unusual for scholarships to be awarded to athletes in club sports.

It should be noted that the athletic commitment and responsibility are different for club versus varsity sports. For varsity sports, especially at the Division I level, athletics takes precedence over academics. The reverse is true for club sports. Varsity athletes often miss class because of athletic commitments. Club-sport athletes often miss athletic competitions because of academic commitments. It is ironic that colleges are more recognized for their athletic programs than for their academic programs. It is very difficult for varsity athletes to major in programs like engineering and chemistry because of the training and competition demands from athletics. Racquetball players can simply choose to play, or not to play in tournaments depending upon the demands of their academic programs.

Varsity programs hire coaches. Coaches are responsible for recruiting players, conducting practices, and scheduling competitive events. Coaches can also be responsible for fund raising and responsible for their team's won-loss record. Club participants (students) usually set up practice schedules, arrange for competitions, and engage

in fund raising. The promotion and continuation of the club is directly related to involvement of student members. When a varsity coach resigns a university searches for a replacement and the program is assured continuation. When a successful college sponsor resigns the club program usually dies.

In summary, the predominant collegiate model for athletics, throughout the world, is the club-sport model. It is only in the United States that University's become more recognized for their athletic achievements than for their academic achievements. It is ironic that we need to remind ourselves that the gold ring for students on college campuses is a college degree leading to a professional, not athletic, career. Even though collegiate racquetball club teams are governed by USA Racquetball and funded through student fees these programs can provide excellent athletic opportunities and help to improve the quality of life for players in college. Tips for developing competitive collegiate racquetball programs will be provided in the next issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine. ■

JUNIOR MATTERS

A Commitment to the Future of Racquetball

By Scott Hettesheimer • Chair, Junior Development

Our goal is to create a product that will start, double or triple a junior program anywhere. The effort involves members, manufacturers, state associations, clubs, and pros all supporting this poster/web site program. The website is interactive with 20,000 posters ready to be sent.

The poster/web site project will introduce, advertise and promote the sport of racquetball. It specifically solicits juniors. We have 20,000, 11" by 17", full-color poster prints featuring two designs. We are asking volunteers to hang the posters (with permission) anywhere there is "people" traffic. This would include but not be limited to, grade schools, high schools, colleges, restaurants, retail stores, indoor and outdoor recreational fields, gyms, public pools etc.

Each poster hanging in a public location will generate on the average 100 looks a day. If the poster was displayed for 10 days, 1000 looks will be generated. We plan to distribute a minimum of 10,000 posters every six months. With national support, we will accomplish a minimum of 10 million introductions of the sport every six months. If the posters were displayed for one month, we will have 60 million introductions a year. This will generate new juniors, as well as bring other players back to the sport. Manufacturers will sell more equipment, clubs will have more members, pro shop sales will increase, and there will be an increased need for lessons. In addition, associations will grow, as well as sponsorship money and business in general.

The web site provides information on running a junior program. I encourage everyone with an idea for a junior program, to forward this idea for inclusion to our site. More importantly, I need for everyone to request the support of your state association. We are asking states to donate \$100 to junior development. In return, the association will be listed as a contact on the website and also receive 100 posters for them to distribute to clubs, pros, advertisers and sponsors. It is vital for a state to participate, because many clubs that we ask to participate inquire about their state's

support. This brings us to club participation. We need everyone to introduce and sell this to their home club. A club package is \$100. The club will receive 100 posters, a listing on the website as a contact for new players, a web listing as a sponsor/donor, and the RMC will make six professionally produced TV commercials available to the club. In six months, the club will be contacted again and offered 100 posters of the next design for \$65. We suggest that the club distributes posters through their membership for their members to hang. A club has to financially participate in this project in order to be listed as a "place to play racquetball". The posters generate inquiries and direct these inquiries to the web site. The web site organizes "places to play" by state, city and business name. There are approximately 20 clubs in the Greater Cincinnati area. If just eight clubs participate, it would provide 800 posters displayed in this area alone, generating 24,000 impressions. When an interested player goes to the web site to find a place to play, they will only find the eight supporting clubs. This project should generate a 100% return on investment to a club in a few short weeks.

We have a business that donates to our project based on the number of contracts that they write. This sponsor is "The College Store", an organization that specializes in finding scholarship and grant money for high school students planning college. Any high school student subscribing to their service gets a special price when using our producer code "222" and we receive a \$50.00 donation. They also have a referral program that pays \$25.00 to the referring student.

It is the ambition of junior development to grow the sport of racquetball by increasing the number of Junior's playing the sport. I look forward to working with you. The web address is www.RB4U.com. You can contact me through the website, e-mail askscott@fuse.net, or fax 513-661-7732. I have a sample club package that I will send upon request. I suggest using this packet when introducing this opportunity to your club.

"We are at the point where we need your involvement!"



WHAT'S THE CALL?



At its Fall 2003 meeting, the Board of Directors addressed several proposed "rule changes". They decided to implement two proposals immediately and referred two others for more study and future consideration.

Effectively immediately, the terms that racquetball has used since its origination to describe the two general categories of hindrance, i.e. "deadball" and "avoidable", will be replaced with the terms "replay" and "penalty". These two new terms more accurately reflect the "outcome" of the actions that come under the scope of their rules.

"... basic hinder rules themselves remain unchanged -- only the terms used to categorize them are new."

Deadball → **Replay**

Avoidable → **Penalty**

As I see it, many people were familiar with and used the term "avoidable" hinder, but it was only the most astute rule aficionados who even knew that the complimentary term was "deadball" for those hindrances not considered to be "avoidable". Instead, most people just used the term "hinder" to refer to those that weren't avoidable.

Sure, it's going to take some time for the new terms to catch on, but once they do, they should make the intent of the rules a bit clearer. Remember that the basic hinder rules themselves remain unchanged -- only the terms used to categorize them are new.

The two other rule changes being studied further involve (i) setting a limit on the length of the wrist tether and (ii) considering whether a "replay" hinder occurring on the second serve should give the server only his second serve again, rather than his first (as is presently provided for by the rules.) Look for an opportunity to express your opinion (vote) on these two changes in the near future.



by Otto Dietrich
USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

Michael Kaufman from Atlanta, GA, asks: I have two questions about technical fouls: Can the call of a technical foul be appealed; and, when can the referee forfeit the match due to technical fouls (i.e. a certain number of technical fouls, a certain degree of severity of a technical foul, etc.)?

Almost everything that the referee calls or DOESN'T call during a match is appealable if line judges are being used. However, there are two calls that are NOT appealable -- technical fouls and match forfeitures. These calls are left solely to the discretion of the referee, but they may be subjected to an on-site due process review that starts with the tournament desk. I plan to discuss these "on-site due process procedures" in more depth in the next issue of RACQUETBALL.

Regarding when the referee can forfeit a match, i.e. when enough is "ENOUGH", there are no written guidelines, but a little history of the rule's evolution might help. Since beginning, matches could always be forfeited for extremely bad behavior. Then, recognizing the need to punish unsportsmanlike behavior without ending the entire match, the technical foul -- punishable by the loss of a point -- was instituted. The actual rule (3.17) lists several examples of actions that can justify that penalty. Next came the technical warning (no point deducted) to provide for handling conduct that was not quite as distasteful, and thus not warranting the loss of a point. In the old days, there was a rule which said that three technical fouls warrants match forfeiture. However, some players and referees interpreted that to mean that if you have one technical foul, then you still had 2 more before you could be forfeited. Also, some technical fouls, like "delay of game" may well warrant the deduction of a point, but 3 such delays could hardly justify a match forfeiture. So, the "3 technicals and your out" rule was eliminated, in effect permitting a forfeiture regardless how many technical fouls have been charged up to that point. When all is said and done, the referee's judgment about unsportsmanlike behavior is final, but it can be reviewed by the tournament director and other due process elements.

Always "Play by the Rules" and, if you don't have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them on-line at: <http://www.usra.org/usra/pub&ref/Rulebook.htm>. Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball.

"When all is said and done, the referee's judgment about unsportsmanlike behavior is final..."

Get With the Program

“Families”

by Connie Martin



IIf you want to keep moms and dads playing...get the kids to play. If you want the kids to keep playing...get the moms and dads to play. What is so great about racquetball is that it can be a family activity. Every Friday night you can all head down to the Club together and play. Play with each other...play against each other... make up games to challenge the kids (or the parents)...make it a ‘Family Night Out.’

→ **Start a Free Family Clinic...**

Set up a free clinic for families every month or every other month. Show parents how to work with their kids on the court. You don't have to play the games by the rules, you can make up your own. Young kids can play no-bounce or multi-bounce against their parents (or bigger brothers and sisters). With kids that are not quite ready to even play no-bounce, teach ball-handling skills. One thing kids love to do is hit something. A racquet and a ball (with everyone wearing eye guards) is an excellent way to work on hand-eye coordination, sweat, have fun and spend some family time together.

→ **Host a Parent-Child Tournament...**

For those parents and kids that know how to play, host a Parent-Child Tournament. Using a handicap system, have the parents play each other and the kids play each other. Add the wins and losses of the parent/child together for prizes. However, the emphasis should be on playing and family time together as opposed to winning.

→ **Try a Family Fun Carnival...**

If you have a Juniors Club, they can host a carnival for the parents (maybe as a fundraiser.) The kids can set up different types of games (i.e., challenge courts) and skill courts (i.e., how many ceiling balls they can hit) where the parents can earn prizes.

→ **Designate Special Family Nights...**

A great way to introduce racquetball to families is to have a Special Family Night such as Racquetball and Gym Games. Parents and kids have to work as a team to finish an Activity Card. Upon completion they turn it in for a prize. Everyone can be a winner on a program such as this. You can even set it up as a Social: Spaghetti Feast and Racquetball Night. Where else can your family enjoy family entertainment and dinner for only \$8.

Connie can be reached at:
Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com

“As a
Racquetball
Director,
you can be
a catalyst
to this
Family
Fun!”



MARCY'S COACHING CORNER

Training tips for body and mind



Racquetball is a fun way to work up a sweat and get a great workout. A well-rounded fitness program, however, requires more than playing racquetball a couple times a week. An integrated plan that will make you a better racquetball player and keep you fit, healthy and injury free includes cardio, weight, core, balance, and flexibility training. Without spending all your free time in the gym, how do you maximize your efforts to get the most 'bang for your buck'?

1

Interval cardio train. Rather than slogging out 30- 40 minutes of even paced training on a piece of cardio equipment, mix up the pace by doing fast/slow intervals. Aim for increasing your pace for an interval of 15-30 seconds (the average length of a racquetball rally) followed by decreasing your pace for the same length of time. Cut your total time down to 25 minutes, get a great workout, simulate the demands of your sport, and burn maximum calories.

2

You don't need to spend hours weight training. Heavy weight training and multiple sets is for body builders and elite athletes. Besides, the quality of your training is much more important than the quantity. Most people will profit from a balanced full body weight workout that can be completed in about 45 minutes, including warm-up and cool down.

3

Explore functional movements. Work with a trainer who specializes in sports training and include exercises that relate specifically to racquetball such as cable core rotations, single leg squats, lateral lunges. Include these as part of your weight workout.

4

Develop a strong core. You can add it to your weight routine or do it while watching the tube at home. 10 minutes of a focused core regimen 2 to 3 times a week will make a huge difference in your ability to power the ball.

5

Flexibility is one of the most overlooked aspects of training and one of the most important. Make it a habit to hit the floor as soon as you walk off the court and stretch for 10 minutes before you take a shower.

Create the best 'bang' for your 'buck'!



Marcy is a NASM Certified Personal Trainer, ICF Certified Personal Coach, and a Certified Nutrition Consultant. She can be reached at www.marcylynch.com.

Fran's House



By Fran Davis • "Building Your Perfect Game" • May/June 2004



QUESTION:

I hear about "Watching the Ball" at all times. Fran, can you expand upon this concept, please?

ANSWER:

"Watching the Ball" in racquetball or in any sport is critical. Too often I see players of ALL levels take their eye off the ball either prematurely or they never watch the ball at all... a BIG mistake. By watching the ball you can gain valuable information that you can use to figure out where the ball is going.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

- 1 If the ball is hit too deep in their stance or way behind their front leg the ball will probably catch the sidewall and pinch.
- 2 If the ball is hit way out in front of them or way out in front of their front leg the ball will probably go cross court.
- 3 If the ball is hit in the middle of their front foot the ball will probably go down the line.
- 4 If the ball is hit above their shoulders they are probably going to the ceiling.
- 5 If the ball is hit knee high or lower it will probably be a good offensive return such as a kill, pass-kill, or pass.
- 6 If the ball is hit knee high and higher it will probably be a set up.

By watching the ball and your opponent you have doubled your reaction time....you see the ball come off their racquet, into the front wall and then out again. If you do not watch the ball and your opponent you have decreased your reaction time by half....you only see it come off the front wall, but you don't see it leave your opponents racquet and go into the front wall. With today's game the balls are faster and the racquets are bigger so increased reaction time is a must.

WHEN DO YOU WATCH THE BALL?

- A During a rally - square up to the front wall, legs spread, knees bent, looking over your left or right shoulder depending on which side the ball is on.
- B After the serve - relocate back into good center court position and square up...(same as "a").
- C Returning the serve- you should be down and ready, square up...(same as "a")... and make sure your eyes are on the ball, NOT the front wall.

In summary, "Watching the Ball" is imperative. If you look throughout the magazine at the top pros you see ALL of them watching the ball intently. By doing this it gives them a better jump on the ball and quickness to the ball, that is a big asset in racquetball.

Here's an exercise you can do to "watch the ball" better, which I picked up in one of my readings along the way. Use typewriter white out and paint two lines around the ball. Now play with that ball and it will help you track the ball a little bit better and longer so you can react to the ball quicker. I tried it, it works. Don't take this subject lightly as "Watching the Ball" is half the battle.

Go to my website, www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for information on the video/camps.



By Derek Robinson

Big D's Roadshow

150%

One of the most common questions players ask me at my RoadShow events is how they can get faster. Many senior and master players feel they have "lost a step" over the years and desperately want to get it back. Here is a great drill that can help players of all levels and all ages get 50% faster in 5 minutes!

1

Stand in the ready position behind the hash marks. Your partner will then toss a ball to your forehand OR backhand side.

2

The most efficient way to move to the ball is by using the crossover step. If the ball is tossed to your right, crossover with your left foot. If you are moving to your left, crossover with your right foot.

FASTER IN 5 MINUTES!!

3



Try to catch the ball with your RACQUET HAND! As soon as you catch it, toss it back to your partner and return to the center.

4 Your partner then repeats the drill to either side.

5 It is good to do this drill past the point of getting tired. It will work on your conditioning and help you to keep your footwork sharp after you get fatigued.

Many players will go after a ball by stepping to the side with the wrong foot. When going for a forehand shot for a right handed player, if you step to the side with your right foot two problems occur. One is that you don't move very far, and the other is that you are in an open position to hit the ball. Advanced players can get away with this on their forehand side because of the strength of their stroke and their wrist snap. But it is very difficult for anyone to execute a strong backhand in an open position.

Your best and most efficient movement is to use the crossover step. This drill will teach you not to waste steps and will help your body be in the best possible position when hitting the ball.

Most people are not slow. They just get to the ball slowly. And more often than not, they get to the ball slowly because they move in inefficient ways.

Try this drill and I guarantee you will get to the ball faster and surprise the heck out of yourself and your opponent!

Go to my website at bigdracquetball.com to see when a Big D RoadShow may be coming to your area. Who knows, maybe we can get on the court and try this drill together!

In the last few issues I have covered my magical "Grip Change", "Swing Flat vs. Pendulum" and a "Flat Backhand vs. a Curled Backhand" which are all extremely fundamental offensive concepts. Today I want to discuss an extremely fundamental defensive concept of when you are "Off Balance and Out of Position take the Ball to the Ceiling". Too often I see players when they are off balance and out position still try and shoot the ball and wind up leaving it up for an easy set up for their opponent or worse yet they skip the ball, an easy point for their opponent. By going to the ceiling you are buying yourself time to get back to good center court position and at the same time you are pushing your opponent into the back court, a place you want to keep them. The reason being is that the further back your opponent is in the court, the further they are from the target, thusly making it harder for them to score. This can be done either during the rally or on the return of a good drive serve that you can barely get your racquet on.

Let's take a look at my magical "Ceiling Ball when I am Off Balance":



THE READY POSITION

- Down and ready
- Legs spread wider than shoulder width apart
- Knees bent
- Bent slightly at the waist
- Racquet up and in the middle of your stance
- On the balls of your feet ready to push off
- Eyes on ball

TRICK#1



THE STEP & SWING

- Cross over step
- Racquet back and up and begins to come down
- Non-hitting arm down for balance
- Bent over reaching
- Eyes on ball

TRICK#2

"BY GOING TO THE CEILING YOU ARE BUYING YOURSELF TIME...."



THE CONTACT POINT

- Racquet is way out in front of you where contact is made
- Racquet head pointing to ceiling
- Non-hitting arm used for balance

TRICK#3



THE FOLLOW THROUGH

- Racquet is completely around
- You are still bent over, but ready to push back up getting ready for the next shot
- Eyes on ball throughout

TRICK#4

Believe me when I tell you this concept is one you want to implement into your game...it's a must. If you have the opportunity to watch pros like me, Jason, Cliff, Cheryl, or Christie play you will see for yourself that we use this exact concept in our games. Often players think the pros shoot everything which couldn't be further from the truth. The last thing you want to do is hustle and work REALLY hard to get there, get your racquet on the ball and then dump it into the ground or leave it up for your opponent to shoot. All of that is a waste of time and energy. By going up with the ball you create time to recover back to center court while the ball is traveling to the ceiling and you push your opponent back... a VERY smart move.

Please, I urge you to try and use this as it will probably add points to the score board. For more information either pick up one of the videos, "Build Your Racquetball Dream House" or come to one of our camps. For details go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com

Center Court Readiness...



By John Ellis

2003 USA Racquetball National Doubles Champion

Ellistyle

LISTEN UP RACQUETBALLERS.

If you've been playing racquetball longer than a couple of months then you should know that ideal center court positioning is about a step behind the encroachment line. However, center court positioning is about more than just where to be on the court, but also how to be there. What I mean is, it's great to be in the correct center court position while your opponent is hitting the ball but are you ready?? So often I see players get to center court only to not really be ready to retrieve the shot coming. Too much standing straight up, racquet by your side and eyes wondering around. That's not going to work!!! Here are some key points to implement into your court positioning.

1

I'm low and ready to retrieve, watching my opponent and my racquet is in good ready position.



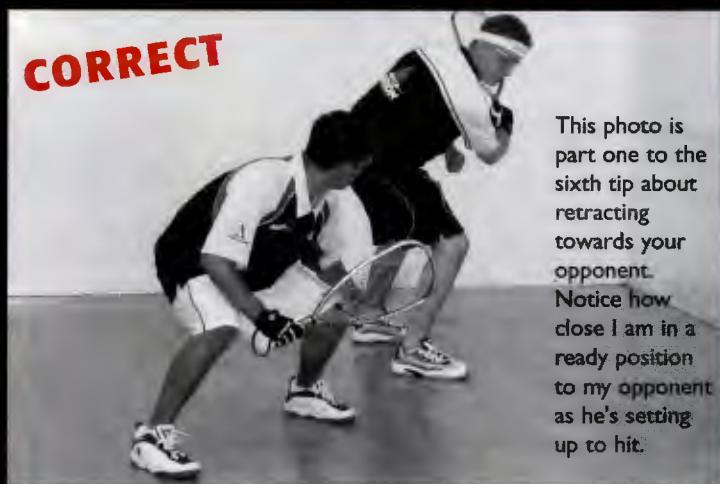
After you hit your shot, whether offensive or defensive, hustle to center court. Don't walk there watching your shot in admiration. If you've been playing racquetball for awhile then you should be confident in the direction of your shot, so why do you have to slowly move to center court like you want to make sure you see where the ball is going? Get to the dotted lines choppity!! Expect your opponent to return your shot with a good shot of their own.

Looking straight ahead, racquet by my side and no regard for where my opponent is shooting from.



#2

CORRECT

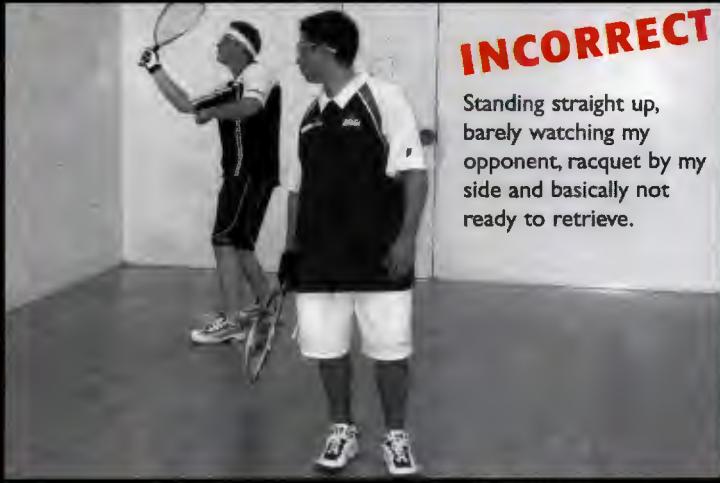


This photo is part one to the sixth tip about retracting towards your opponent. Notice how close I am in a ready position to my opponent as he's setting up to hit.

DEFENSIVE RACQUET PREPARATION IS KEY. Get that racquet up waist high and right in front of you. Don't let it hang by your side. Good defensive racquet prep will allow you to get ready for the next shot, whether it's a forehand or backhand, much easier. Also, what grip are you in while at center court? Do you even know? Most players from the D-A level aren't too sure. My advice is to be in your backhand grip when it's not your turn to hit. It should be more natural to go from the backhand grip to your forehand grip, not to mention the backhand side is going to be where your opponent hits their shots more often unless you have a Walter John Klugewitz (Who?) backhand.

INCORRECT

Standing straight up, barely watching my opponent, racquet by my side and basically not ready to retrieve.



#4 WATCH YOUR OPPONENT HIT THEIR SHOT.

Don't just turn and face the front wall when you get to center court. There is no chance of anticipating where their shot is going if you don't see them set up. Rotate your body towards your opponent about 45 degrees so you can see both the front wall and your opponent.

#5 USE YOUR EYES!!

By watching your opponent set up to hit you'll be able to get a beat on where they are going with their shots by how they position their body. Look for their tendencies from both sides. Do they open their lead leg towards the middle when going crosscourt? Maybe they point that lead leg towards the sidewall with every pinch. If you can begin to anticipate shots then

#3

CORRECT



Picture two for the sixth point. I'm now back in good center court position and ready to retrieve as my opponent is hitting the shot.

GET LOW WITH IT!!

Once you're in center court, bend those legs and get ready to move fast if needed. Stop with the standing straight up. This game is played close to the ground so get your body down there. Of course all this bending will get you fatigued a little quicker. That's a good thing!! And please, bend at the knees not at the waist or you'll be checking into the therapy office real soon.

obviously you'll get more balls. If you want the best example of this, order a Jason Mannino video from ProRacquetball.net and study. He's not that fast; he just knows where you're going to hit the ball by watching and learning.

#6 ONE LAST TIP DIRECTED TO THE INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED PLAYERS.

If you can get into center court position quickly it will allow you to then retract closer to your opponent while they are setting up. As they go to shoot their shot then you can time your movements back into center court without getting hit by the racquet and ready to retrieve. Your readiness and closeness to your opponent without being in the way will send a message to them that you are going to get their shot. However, if your timing is off it could result in a racquet to your body or head and a potential penalty hinder. Quickness and timing are the key.

I hope these pointers help you with your center court readiness. Don't be lazy!! I always tell my students to over exaggerate their positioning and it will look right to me. Ask more of yourself and I promise you will be ready to move much quicker. I will focus on moving from center court in my next article. Until then, Keep em rollin!!!

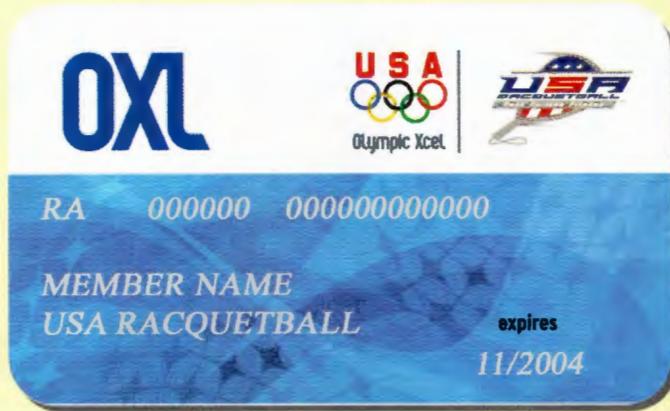
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

“Your membership card has a new look”



By Kevin Joyce USA Racquetball Membership Director

Your membership card has a new look and new benefits. Each membership card has the member's name embossed on it and has the look and feel of a credit card and replaces the paper cards that have been issued in the past. The first batch of new membership cards began reaching members in early March of 2004.



Additional OXL Card Benefits Include:

- United Airlines
- Marriott Properties
- Gateway Computers
- US Olympic Team Store
- Monster.com
- Nu Skin

Some things you should know about the new OXL membership card:

- Printing frequency is once a month – on the 10th
- From processing to receiving your card it can take up to 4 weeks
- All cards are mailed directly from the New York embossing plant
- Carrier envelope has the same logo and marks as the card (do not discard it)

While the new cards are being processed on a monthly basis the turn around time does take longer and your patience is greatly appreciated. (Membership card insert on page 56 & 57)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROCESS

In the past, all members coming up for renewal were mailed a renewal notice three months prior to the membership expiration date; and, a second renewal was mailed 30 days prior to membership expiration if you didn't respond to the first mailing.

Effective immediately, members will be mailed one notice alerting them that their membership is going to expire. The postcard notice for members coming up for renewal will be mailed approximately 45 days before expiration. For example, members coming up for renewal on July 1 will be mailed a postcard renewal on or about May 15th.

FUTURE RENEWAL EFFORTS INCLUDE AN EMAIL REMINDER

Since the new online system was launched in December many new and renewing members have begun activating their online member profiles and including an email address. While we certainly do not have email addresses on all current and lapsed members our intention is to send a monthly email reminder to members coming up for renewal as well.

31st US Junior Olympic Championships

June 23 - 27 / Eau Claire, WI
Eau Claire Athletic Club



• Entry Form - Please Print

Name	Gender M F
Address	
City	State/Zip
Phone (Day)	(Evening)
Email	
Birthdate	Age
Partner's Name	Division
Partner's Name	Division
Required Qualifier: [State Championship, Junior Regional or National High Schools]	
Other Seeding Information	

Equipment Survey

Racquet	Glove
Eyeguards	Shoes
Sponsor	

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 USA Racquetball, Head, Penn Racquet Sports, Eau Claire Athletic Club 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 child's protective eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the USA Racquetball/USOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears. **LIABILITY:** I agree to be liable for all costs for damages for which my child is responsible and to pay for all costs arising from any disciplinary action imposed as stated in the Junior Code of Conduct.

Guardian Signature/Date

Participant Signature/Date

Junior Olympics Directory

voice: 719-635-5396 • fax: 719-635-0685
Starting Times 5pm ET 6/21: 715-833-2201
United Airlines [#511SM]: 800-841-0460
The Plaza Hotel: 715-834-3181
\$89.00 per night, up to four/per room

• Divisions

BOYS SINGLES

- 18 & under
- 16 & under
- 14 & under
- 12 & under
- 10 & under
- 8 & under
- 8- multi-bounce
- 6- multi-bounce

BOYS DOUBLES

- 18 & under
- 16 & under
- 14 & under
- 12 & under
- 10 & under

Check here if you need a doubles partner!

• Fees & Payment

First Event.....	(\$65.00).....
Second Event.....	(\$40.00).....
Mixed Doubles.....	(\$35.00).....
USAR Junior Membership...(\$20.00).....	
- without RACQUETBALL....(\$15.00).....	
Late Fee.....	(\$15.00).....
Telephone Entry.....	(\$10.00).....
Tax deductible donation to Junior Team USA.....	\$.....
TOTAL DUE:	\$.....

Identify your USA Racquetball MBNA credit card when you charge your entry, and receive an additional 10% off your fees. Only MBNA charges receive this discount!

MC/Visa

Expiration Date

USAR Visa? Y | N

Cardholder (please print)

Signature

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO:

USA Racquetball JUNIOR OLYMPICS
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906

Entries must be received by June 9 (Postmarked no later than June 4). Entries are not accepted without pre-payment and required signatures. Additional surcharges may include: \$23.00 for returned checks and \$10.00 for declined credit cards.



Coaches Corner

An Interview With...

Dave Ellis was named the U.S. National Team Head Coach this past year and recently took part in his first international event in that capacity at the 2004 PARC Pan American Racquetball Championships in Cuenca, Ecuador. He has been married to his wife, Pat, for 34 years and is the father of successful IRT pro John Ellis. Dave began playing racquetball 30 years ago and continues to work on his game to this day.

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE: How did you first become interested in racquetball?

DAVE ELLIS: My brother-in-law took me to play and I was fortunate enough to beat him that first time and so I got interested that way (laughs).

RM: Did you get John interested in the game?

DE: The way it happened was that I had to babysit John while my wife worked in the afternoon. I took John with me down to the YMCA where they had three courts because I wanted to play. What I did was stick him in a court with a racquet when he was three. He had some pretty incredible hand-eye coordination and was hitting the ball before too long. He entered his first tournament when he was five.

RM: How did you become involved in coaching?

DE: I guess I grew up working with John and trying not to over-coach him as a father. I just tried to work with him and give him perspective. That kept on for years and then about five or six years ago I started to go with him to about half or two-thirds of the pro stops and did that (coach) for about three or four years.

RM: When did you become involved with coaching with the National Team?

DE: My first tournament where I was actually part of a support staff was with Jim Winterton as the head coach at the 2002 World Championships in Puerto Rico. I had been to a lot of international events as a spectator. Well actually, come to think of it, I was working with Gary Mazzaroff at the Worlds in 2000 in Mexico. We were working with players from teams that didn't actually have any support staff whatsoever; no coaches. So I, along with my wife, decided to go and enjoy the tournament and work with those players.

RM: What made you interested in becoming the U.S. National Team Head Coach?

DE: I thought that I had the qualifications for the job and to be in that position is the ultimate opportunity. You're part of the Olympic Program and I consider it a real honor to be able to serve U.S. Racquetball in that respect.

Dave Ellis

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM COACH



RM: Was it intimidating at all to take over the helm from such a successful coach as Coach Winterton?

DE: Of course Jim's a legend in many ways. His record is just outstanding, but he is also the kind of coach that is really concerned about the players and loves the players; each and every one of them. He coaches not only skills. He's a great diagnostician. He can just look at a player and analyze weaknesses. But he also coaches character. In that respect then sure, sure it's a tough act to follow.

RM: How was your first experience as a Head Coach at the 2004 Pan American Racquetball Championships in Ecuador?

DE: It was fantastic, but the travel was tough. We had a long bus ride, some late hours, and some troubles with the reservations when we got there, but the team was great. The four players, Shane (Vanderson), Mike (Dennison), Kersten (Hallander), and Kristen (Walsh) were wonderful. They were very supportive of each other and they gave it their all. I think it was a tough adjustment for them with the altitude and I think that we could have used a couple more days there before the tournament. The players seemed a little anxious at times and I wondered if they were so supportive towards each other that they placed additional pressure on themselves to not let each other down. It was a fantastic experience. Our team gave 100% and represented our flag in a really truly great way.

RM: What do you think is important for the future of U.S. Racquetball?

DE: The most important thing you can do as a racquetball player is support junior program in your club whether it be financially, getting out and working with the kids, or recruiting kids to the sport. As coach, I call on fellow racquetball players from the United States do everything you can to get juniors playing and support them in any way you can.

Shakers & Movers

With Scott Hirsch, Executive Director, Legends Tour

Before racquetball, Scott Hirsch played one-wall paddleball in Hollywood Beach, Florida, where he grew up. He started with paddleball when he was around four-years-old and continued until the age of 10. That was when his father drove him to Ft. Lauderdale to watch pro racquetball. It was Scott's first introduction to the sport and he soon traded in his paddle for a racquet with strings.

He began playing tournaments a year later and competed in many junior events including what was then called the Junior Orange Bowl (now the Junior Olympics). Scott later competed for Providence College at the intercollegiate level, even winning an intercollegiate regional.

During this time he was able to play against some of the best players including Cliff Swain, who was his college roommate. It was also during this time that Scott decided that he was never going to make a living from playing racquetball.

"I realized that there was just a different level out there and I was never going to make money as a racquetball player because I was not in that league," Scott said. "So I went to work and got away from the sport quite a bit."

He basically stayed away from the sport from the mid 1980's until 2000. He spent much of his time working, got married, and started a family. He did, however, still kept in touch with Swain to get updates, but rarely played and didn't attend any events. In fact, he said the last time he saw Sudsy Monchik and Jason Mannino "they were two eight-year-olds hot dogging around the courts with everyone saying that they were the best eight-year-olds ever."

Then in 2000 he received a phone call from Swain inviting him to attend the Pro Nationals in Las Vegas. "Cliff called me and asked me to come out to Vegas to watch him play," Scott recalled.

"I did and I had a great time."

Scott then made plans to attend the first pro stop of the next season in New Orleans, but this time he brought his family along with him to enjoy the experience including his son Josh who became exposed to the sport for the first time.

"My son saw the game for the first time. He went into a court, started hitting the ball around, and really fell in love with the sport too," Scott said. "That was really my reentry into the sport. I really enjoyed being able to share that with him."

Scott and Josh began to play racquetball together regularly and soon Josh began entering junior tournaments in Florida. As Josh became more involved in competing in tournaments, Scott became more involved in supporting and promoting them.

Then in 2001, during the short period of turmoil on the IRT, Scott received a phone call from some of the top pros asking for his help in putting on a pro stop in Florida. He had already had a tournament scheduled to help raise money for the American Cancer Society and, after calling on a few friends, combined the tournaments to host the first tournament of the "new IRT." That was the beginning to his sponsoring of tournaments.

From there Scott teamed up with Marty Hogan to help form The Legends Tour, although Scott is hesitant to take any credit. "It's really Marty's baby. I'm just along for the ride." The Legends has become a full-blown tour with several pro stops held both separately and in conjunction with the other professional entities.

Scott says that the concept behind The Legends is simple. "It is really to do just a few things. To help the sport by adding entertainment and letting



racquetball enthusiasts see some of the greatest racquetball players of all time," he explained. "We also like to align ourselves with charities. I am proud to say that we have been able to raise thousands of dollars for different charities. That, to me, is more important than scheduling X or Y amount of tournaments."

The Legends Tour has also given former pro greats the opportunity to compete again and to make a little money at the sport that they have done so much for. The Legends has also helped with travel costs of some players that may not have been able to afford to attend events. Scott even runs junior tournaments in Florida where there is no charge for the participants. Each junior receives a t-shirt, lunch, and even an occasional ride to the club.

Scott says that his reward in all of this is the opportunity to discuss racquetball with some of the greats including Steve Keely, Marty Hogan, and Charlie Brumfield, just to name a few. He is especially fond of the time he has been able to spend with Bud Muehlheisen.

Scott looks forward to the future of racquetball and also the future of The Legends Tour. "We talk about a future, but the present is not so bad. We have five million players and it is just a wonderful sport. It's a great exercise and a lot of fun. I think there is a bright future ahead of racquetball if we embrace it and we're willing to work towards it. I've seen some positive steps recently."

"I think next year can only be bigger and better," he said of The Legends Tour. "A lot of people didn't believe in the initial concept (of the tour), but when you see the fans reaction to the matches it makes a believer out of anyone."

National Team



Name ➔ Shane Vanderson
Nickname ➔ Vandy



Did You Know?

Shane earned All-state honors in the 4X800 relay while attending high school at Dublin Scioto, which explains his speed on the court. Shane also lettered twice in golf while attending Baldwin Wallace College.

National Team Appointments ➔ 3

Most Recent Qualifier ➔ 2003 National Doubles Championships
(2nd with Mike Dennison)

Sponsors ➔ Head, Team Butch, RPi

Occupation ➔ Professional Racquetball Player

Date of Birth ➔ May 26, 1981 (age – 22)

Birthplace ➔ Columbus, Ohio

Hometown ➔ Dublin, Ohio

Current Residence ➔ Middleburg Heights, Ohio

Biggest Influence ➔ Rodney Southwood

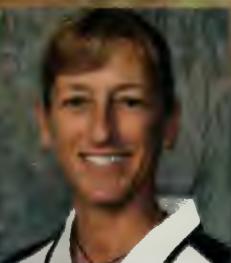
Strengths ➔ Devastating Backhand

Training Schedule ➔ Court time – 2x's a week, Interval training – 2x's a week, Core training – 4x's a week, Weight's – 2-3x's a week

Goals ➔ To reach the No.1 position on the IRT.

Did You Know? ➔

Kersten began playing tennis at the age of six and competed at the High School and Collegiate level. It wasn't until she turned 20 that racquetball sparked her interest. Since then she has progressed from Pennsylvania State "C" champion to one of the top players on the LPRA tour.



National Team Appointments ➔ 7

Most Recent Qualifier ➔ 2003 National Doubles Championships (2nd with Janel Tisinger)

Date of Birth ➔ May 31, 1964 (age – 39)

Birthplace ➔ Montclair, New Jersey

Hometown ➔ San Diego, California

Current Residence ➔ Moorpark, California

Biggest Influence ➔ Charlie Brumfield

Strengths ➔ Quickness, Footwork

Training Schedule ➔ Weights – 4x's a week, Cardio – 2-3x's a week, Ply metrics – 2-3x's a week, Court time – drilling 2x's a week, playing 2-3x's a week

Goals ➔ Win the National Singles Championship, play for the U.S. at the upcoming IRF World Championships, and stay in the Top 5 of the LPRA for a few more years.

Name ➔ Kersten Hallander

Nickname ➔ K-Lo



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Spotlights



Junior National Team Appointments ➤ 5
Most Recent Qualifier ➤ 2004 National High School Championships (1st – Girl's No.1 singles)
Sponsors ➤ Head, Gamma
School ➤ Will attend the University of Alabama in fall of '04
Date of Birth ➤ May 29, 1986 (age – 17)
Birthplace ➤ Kettering, Ohio
Hometown ➤ Centerville, Ohio
Current Residence ➤ Centerville, Ohio
Biggest Influence ➤ Mother and Father, Elaine and Rex Fisher
Strengths ➤ Backhand
Goals ➤ To keep qualifying for the junior team for the rest of her eligibility and to reach the Top 5 on the LPRO tour.
Favorite T.V. Show ➤ CSI: Miami
Favorite Movie ➤ How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days
Favorite Racquetball Pro ➤ Cheryl Gudinas



Name ➤ Kelley Fisher
Nickname ➤ Swillie

Junior National Team Appointments ➤ 4
Most Recent Qualifier ➤ 2004 National High School Championships (1st – Boy's No.1 singles)
Sponsors ➤ Head
School ➤ Crescent Valley High School
Date of Birth ➤ September 8, 1986 (age – 17)
Birthplace ➤ Corvallis, Oregon
Hometown ➤ Corvallis, Oregon
Current Residence ➤ Corvallis, Oregon
Biggest Influence ➤ Charlie Pratt
Strengths ➤ Drive serve
Goals ➤ Winning junior worlds, that's always been the most important thing.
Favorite Video Game ➤ Duck Hunt
Favorite Movie ➤ The Big Lebowski
Favorite Racquetball Pro ➤ Shane Vanderson



Name ➤ Joey Lakowske
Nickname ➤ Skippy

Junior Team

ROBINSON EXTENDS CONTRACT WITH WILSON

Wilson Racquet Sports is pleased to announce that Derek Robinson has signed a long term agreement to extend his Wilson contract.

Derek, also known as "Big D", has been a part of the Wilson team for ten years and has established himself not only as one of the top professional players in the world, but as one of the best clinicians in the game today. The Big D RoadShow appears in over 75 clubs throughout the country each year. With a strong, charismatic personality, he relates to players of all ages and abilities and is especially great with juniors. Robinson dedicates much of his time to raising money for junior programs throughout the country.



Derek's role with Wilson reaches beyond his exposure on the courts. He works closely with sales and marketing to build the strength of the Wilson brand. "Derek has become an important part of our team," says Terri Graham, Business Director for Wilson Indoor Racquet Sports. "He has learned the business side of things and is a part of all our major decisions. We look forward to working with Derek for many years to come."

racquetball on the rise

The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) released its Sports Participation Trends report in April and lists an increase in Racquetball participation from 2002 to 2003. This is the first sign of growth in Racquetball since the late 1980's. This slight increase in numbers is a positive sign of the Racquetball Renaissance emerging. Perception is reality.

2002 - 4,840,000 participants

2003 - 4,875,000 participants

= +0.7

* 1987 (Benchmark) - 10,395,000 participants

RACQUETBALL IN COOKING LIGHT

Be sure to check out the May issue of Cooking Light magazine. There is a seven page spread on racquetball complete with photos and instruction from USAR Executive Director Jim Hiser. The article lightly touches on the fundamentals of our sport, giving beginners and non-players enough information to try it out.



racquet for the cure



This year's Racquet for the Cure marked a milestone for us. Still one of Colorado's largest women's draw, we managed to pull in 59 women this year, our largest tournament yet. Our new location was The Denver Athletic Club, which gave us full use of all their courts and the banquet facility. The DAC has a great atmosphere for everyone to watch matches as well as to socialize with other players. It was a fun and successful event.

The tournament kicked off Friday night with 26 mixed doubles teams taking the court for four hours.

There was then a break at 8pm featuring Wilson's Chris Evon and Derek Robinson and Ektelon's Linda Moore. Chris and Linda teamed together to hold a doubles challenge. Teams paid \$50 for a chance to play them in a game to 9. The challengers were awarded \$5 of their money back for each point that they scored. Derek did the same in a singles format, but used a 20-year-old Wilson racquet. He didn't even relinquish the relic when he played Woody Clouse. The event was a success and raised \$425 in just one hour!

The following day featured a tournament played in a double drop down format, similar to the Olympic format. The day also included a clinic by Big D and an exhibition match between Chris and Linda.

The banquet brought over 100 people, the largest in the tournament's history. The guests were treated to two wonderful speakers; One each from the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Rose Medical Hospital. There was also a silent auction that helped to raise an addition \$810.

Combined with a tournament that Linda Moore held earlier in Nebraska we were able to raise \$6800 towards the fight against breast cancer. Thanks go out to all of the local and national sponsors that helped to make the event a success.



GOING TO THE CHAPEL...

No. 5 ranked IRT pro Alvaro Beltran wed long-time girlfriend Vanessa Mendoza April 24th just hours after Alvaro played against Kane Waslenchuk in the final of Pro Nationals. The couple chose the famous Little White Chapel in Las Vegas. Javier Moreno served as the Best Man and Ramona VonOndarza was the Maid of Honor. CONGRATULATIONS!



hall of famer passes

Larry Lederman, often called the "founding father of racquetball", died April 21 at his winter home in Mesa, Arizona. Lederman patented the sport in 1968 and initiated the first national tournament. His accomplishments weren't just limited to racquetball. Lederman was a star wrestler in college, winning the Big 10 championship in 1938, and also served as President of the Amateur Athletic Union from 1962 to 1966. He has been inducted into numerous Hall of Fames including Racquetball, International Wrestling, and the AAU.



19TH NRAD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 19th National Racquetball Championship for the Association for the Deaf took place April 23 – 25 at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. The tournament is overseen by the National Racquetball Association for the Deaf, and sanctioned by USA Racquetball. The ten-division tournament format was all double elimination, which meant all participants played plenty of racquetball.

It is noteworthy to mention that although there is a hearing impairment with all players, there are no rule changes or adjustments during play. Referees used sign to communicate with the players on the court, and things went right along very smoothly.

Tournament participants came from all over the country – New York, Arizona, Maryland, California and Virginia just to name a few. As players arrived in the Valley of the Sun they were greeted with a well-organized event where Tournament Directors Greg Brown and Richard Redos managed to encounter no major problems and had few, if any, late matches the entire weekend. The 20th National Racquetball Championship for the Association for the Deaf will take place next year at Crystal City, Virginia at a date to be announced.



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Age As Of 8/31/2004:	Date Of Birth:	

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EVENT DETAILS: Expanded entry form will be available in May at www.usra.org, go to "Index" to search online. To request a full entry form by mail, contact Gary Mazaroff at 505-321-1110, or email joel.gellman@gte.net.

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Men's 85+

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Women's 40+

Women's 45+

Women's 50+

Women's 55+

Women's 60+

Women's 65+

Women's 70+

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- July 23-25 Woodbridge, NJ
- August 6-8 San Francisco, CA (Singles)
- August 13-15 San Francisco, CA (Doubles)
- September 17-19 TBA
- September 24-26 FL
- October 8-10 Laurel, MD
- October 29-31 MI (tentative)
- November 5-7 Anchorage, AK
- November 12-14 Greensboro, NC
- November 2-9 Aruba (Caribbean Island)
- TBA dates will be Canada, GA, NM, IL, & more dates are subject to the INT schedule.
- Questions? Upcoming camp dates
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USA RACQUETBALL TOP 10 NATIONAL RANKINGS

MEN'S OPEN

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Rocky Carson, CA
3. Brian Pointelin, UT
4. Jack Huczek, MI
5. Mike Guidry, TX
6. Scott Reiff, NH
7. Jim Frautschi, MN
8. Steve Hayden, ME
9. Shane Vanderson, OH
10. Jason Thoerner, GA

MEN'S ELITE

1. Raymond Maestas, NM
2. Rodrigo Urzua, FL
3. Alex Zamarino, IN
4. Robert Lee, NM
5. Tom Carey, ME
- 6t. Ralph Cuesta, FL
- 6t. Scott Hunt, ME
8. Roland Labelle, ME
9. Jake Skinner, NM
10. Chris Coy, OK

MEN'S A

1. Jody Morris, TX
2. Roberto Cantos, TX
3. Marty Hammond, PA
4. Juan Majalca, OH
- 5t. Kipp Atwell, LA
- 5t. Joe Klibowitz, WI
7. Max Cloud, NM
8. Stacey Smith, NM
9. Tony DeGiorgio, ID
10. Earl Haskins, CO

MEN'S B

1. Rick Rubin, FL
- 2t. David Levy, FL
- 2t. Dennis Whitehead, TX
4. Wayne Thornton, AR
- 5t. Harold Beshaw, PA
- 5t. Brandon Stanley, LA
7. Tony Chavis, SC
8. Tim Couch, MI
9. Chris Rogers, AR
10. Tim Page, PA

MEN'S C

1. Tim Kirk, TX
2. Garry Carter, CA
- 3t. Barry Cruthirds, MI
- 3t. Craig Dickensheets, NM
- 3t. Ray Meisner, IL
6. Drew Toland, AR
7. Steve Brumbaugh, UT
8. Stephen Bounds, SC
- 9t. Jeff Courtright, TX
- 9t. Reggie Foster, TN

MEN'S D

1. Mairo Moreira, CA
2. Jim Stein, PA
3. Jeff Van Horn, PA
4. Marc Sherman, TX
5. Ron Maestas, NM
6. Steven Morkey, PA
- 7t. Jorge Navarro, IL
- 7t. Donnie Patterson, AR
9. Devon Van Valkenburg, UT
10. Jeff Larsen, UT

MEN'S NOVICE

1. Jack Clarke, NM
2. Steve Bellum, ME
- 3t. Peter Angolin Jr., CT
- 3t. Michael Esquivel, TX
- 3t. David Libby, ME
- 6t. David Lynch, NH
- 6t. Jared McManus, NY
- 6t. Seth Smith, NM
9. Joshua Petshaft, CT
10. Steve Kraus, IL

MEN'S 24+

1. Mitch Williams, NC
- 2t. Matthew McElhiney, FL
- 2t. Travis Woodbury, VA
4. Andy Hawthorne, OH
5. Hal Rutherford, MO
- 6t. Joey Lakowske, OR
- 6t. Brent Walters, NC
8. Chris Coy, OK
- 9t. Allan Crockett, AL
- 9t. Jason Geis, CA

MEN'S 25+

1. Mike Dennison, OH
2. Aaron Metcalf, FL
3. Jason Sylvester, NY
- 4t. Mike Orr, PA
- 4t. Dale Valentine, CA
6. Mike Snarr, NC
7. Damian Zamorano, AZ
8. Devin Cannady, NM
9. Chris Johnson, UT
10. Tim Bacich, MO

MEN'S 30+

1. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ
2. Brian Pointelin, UT
3. Brian Fredenberg, TX
- 4t. Aaron Metcalf, FL
- 4t. Eric Williams, NC
6. Dave Bartscher, TX
7. James Leone, OH
8. Orlando Cabana, FL
- 9t. Bob Ferreira, AZ
- 9t. Steve Hayden, ME

MEN'S 35+

1. Dan Llacer, DE
2. Tony Boscia, CO
- 3t. Kelly North, KY
- 3t. Donald Sims, TX
5. Alan Sheppard, NC
- 6t. Tony Feldstein, CO
- 6t. Doug Ganim, OH
- 6t. Jimmy Lowe, AK
9. Rob Cook, NC
10. Ken Bailey, ME

MEN'S 40+

1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Eric Foley, MD
4. Bobby Haab, CT
5. Sam Tolisano, NY
6. Warren Einiger, FL
- 7t. Scott Cullins, GA
- 7t. Richard Eisemann, TX
- 7t. Oscar Fierro, UT
10. Don Sanderson, UT

MEN'S 45+

1. Joe Hassey, NV
2. Mitch Smith, PA
3. Dave Milazzo, IL
4. Glenn Leib, PA

5. Glenn Bell, TX
6. John Greer, PA
- 7t. Greg Hodges, MI
- 7t. Leonard Mervin, TX
- 7t. Tom Neill, NM
- 7t. Miguel Santiago-Cruz, TX

MEN'S 50+

1. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
2. Mitt Layton, FL
3. Frank Taddonio, AZ
4. Gregg Mandell, IL
5. Mark Baron, VA
6. Jim Luzar, WI
7. Russ Palazzo, CT
- 8t. Gary Peterson, MN
- 8t. Howard Walker, TX
- 8t. Darryl Warren, CA

MEN'S 55+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Greg Hasty, IL
3. Ed Remen, NC
4. Tom McKie, TX
5. Russ Mannino, CA
6. Jack Crowther, CA
7. Gary Biedermann, NC
8. Leo Klimaitis, IL
9. Horace Miller, IL
10. Terry Albright, MO

MEN'S 60+

1. Dan Jones, GA
2. Glenn Allen, VA
3. Roger Wehrle, GA
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. Chris Segura, UT
6. Ed Sword, KY
7. Ron Hutcherson, IN
- 8t. Reed Barnitz, NM
- 8t. Mitch Milewski, NH
10. Wayne Thornton, AR

MEN'S 65+

1. Rex Lawler, IN
2. Lee Graff, OR
3. Dave Snyder, TX
- 4t. Ron Adams, CA
- 4t. Jerry Northwood, AZ
6. Michael Jackson, CT
7. Bob Webster, CA
8. Jim Wilking, UT
9. Jack Schoeppey, AR
10. Art Hurley, NM

MEN'S 70+

1. Don Alt, OH
2. John O'Donnell, IL
3. Paul Banales, AZ
4. Ken Karmel, NM
5. Chuck Kaiser, MI
6. Jim Stahl, TX
7. Ron McElwee, AL
8. Emil Kuenzler, NY
- 9t. Ted Cooke, CA
- 9t. Roy Gaul, TX

MEN'S 75+

1. Joe Lombert, TX
2. Duane Russell, MI
3. Victor Sacco, NY
4. Dick Kincaide, CO
5. Carl Buschner, MA
- 6t. Ray Gordon, ND
- 6t. Hugh Groover, AR
8. Jack McAfee, OR
- 9t. Earl Acuff, NC

- 9t. Philip Dziuk, IL

MEN'S 80+

1. Robert McAdam, TX
2. Sam Harry, PA
3. Earl Acuff, NC
4. Bill Matotan, NM
5. J.W. Studak, TX
6. Irving Shuman, AZ
7. Al Romero, NM
- 8t. Don Goddard, MT
- 8t. Stuart Strand, CA
10. Carlton Appleby, CA

MEN'S 85+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Walter Gardner, UT

WOMEN'S OPEN

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Laura Fenton, KS
- 3t. Heather Dunn, MA
- 3t. Kerri Wachtel, OH
5. Rachel Gellman, AZ
6. Shannon Feaster, MD
7. Ines Queiros, CT
8. Jo Shattuck, CO
9. Kristen Junkin, VA
10. Diane Moore, IN

WOMEN'S ELITE

1. Teresa Beresford, VA
2. Solanna Taragan, CA
3. Debra Bryant, NC
4. Jeni Fuller, NM
5. Sherri Berry, MO
- 6t. Shari Coplen, MO
- 6t. Jesi Fuller, NM
- 6t. Jackie Gopie, FL
- 6t. Liz Molitor, IL
- 6t. Sarah Ulmer, MO

WOMEN'S A

1. Suzette Solomon, IN
2. Esther McNany, CT
3. Pat Sims, ME
4. Vivian Rodriguez, WA
5. Holly Reitzel, PA
6. Sharon Wilks, NC
7. Val Currier, ME
- 8t. Mark Bennett, WA
- 8t. Sarah Campbell, UT
- 8t. Madeleine Edwards, TN

WOMEN'S B

1. Chandra Shaw, TX
2. Diana Courtney, MI
3. Melanie Hanson, UT
- 4t. Lori Good, IL
- 4t. Shannon Inglesby, OR
6. Susan Miller, UT
- 7t. Jennifer B. Cook, NC
- 7t. Beth Gainer, PA
9. Val Shewfelt, UT
10. Priscilla Krammer, FL

WOMEN'S C

- 1t. Morci Laromee, TN
- 1t. Jean Lerch, NH
3. Janice Bell, GA
4. Beth Gainer, PA
5. Melanie Mowrer, NM
- 6t. Tracy Cerovski, OH
- 6t. Shonna Rice, KY
8. Renee Ijeoma, FL
- 9t. Valla Laboa, UT
- 9t. Angela Locke, SC

WOMEN'S D

- Carolyn Watkins, IL
- Richelle Kulju, WA
- Ashley Loyd, TN
- Sarah Warhaftig, CO
- Haley Rollins, GA
- Marilyn Gilmore, NC
- Heather Norris, UT
- Laya Lee, GA
- Heidi Zitz, MO
- Heather Perkins, NC

WOMEN'S NOVICE

- Mandy Wittenbrink, NM
- Jaime Labelle, ME
- Jacquelyn Rosado, CT
- Brenda Cadman, ME
- Mickey Rogers, NM
- Chelsea Winstead, NC
- Christy Ebbs, NH
- Lauren Patalano, RI
- Kathy Dalburg, GA
- Irenea Erteza, NM

WOMEN'S 24+

- Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
- Lauren Deutsch, CA
- Kelley Fisher, OH
- Da'Monique Davis, TX
- Adrienne Fisher, AL
- Janel Tisinger, CA
- Jeni Fuller, NM
- Jesi Fuller, NM
- Kelly Victorine, ID

WOMEN'S 25+

- Shannon Feoster, MD
- Kerri Wachtel, OH
- Aimee Ruiz, NJ
- Rachel Gellman, AZ
- Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
- Ginny Baier, NC
- Sarah Campbell, UT
- Keely Franks, TX
- Ramona Von Ondarza, FL
- T.J. Baumbaugh, VA

WOMEN'S 30+

- Amy Foster, OH
- Claudia Ramirez, FL
- Jo Shattuck, CO
- Heather Dunn, MA
- Paula Truman, ME
- Tina Hagen, CO
- Rosemarie Kratzer, SC
- Sandy Colello, ME
- Vivian Gomez, FL
- Candi Hostovich, VA

WOMEN'S 35+

- Solanna Taragan, CA
- Lorraine Galloway, NY
- Anita Maldonado, NY
- Denise Mock, TX
- Cheryl Johnson, NM
- Beth Neff, WA
- Holly Remen, NC
- Sharon Wilks, NC
- Patty Willyard, TX
- Lynn Fonseca, GA

WOMEN'S 40+

- Lorraine Galloway, NY
- Malia Bailey, VA
- Anita Maldonado, NY

- Shari Coplen, MO
- Denise Mock, TX
- Solanna Taragan, CA
- Debra Tisinger, CA
- Cyd Evans, NM
- Margaret Demorest, CA
- Laura Brandt, FL

WOMEN'S 45+

- Linda Moore, NE
- Debra Tisinger, CA
- Chris Evan, IL
- Vicki Panzeri, WA
- Liz Molitor, IL
- Val Shewfelt, UT
- Susan Pfahler, FL
- Marcia Richards, CO
- Meena Evans, NC
- Cindy Tilbury, CO

WOMEN'S 50+

- Marsha Berry, KY
- Karen Key, AZ
- Terry Ann Rogers, CA
- Debbie Chaney, IN
- Jere Luttnar, TX
- Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
- Joanne Pomodoro, MA
- Kathy Ruzicki, IL
- Wanda Collins, WA
- Elaine Dexter, CA

WOMEN'S 55+

- Merjean Kelley, CA
- Paula Lemon, OK
- Dee Stribling, NC
- Margaret Hoff, IL
- Andee Glansberg, NY
- Sharon Huczek, MI
- Merjean Kelly, CA
- Joyce May, CA
- Paula Sperling, NM
- Sharon Chandler, WA

WOMEN'S 60+

- Mildred Gwinn, NC
- Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
- Marquita Molina, CA
- Nidia Funes, CA
- Gail Schoefer, MD
- Donna Bockus, MI
- Gloria Piscoran, OR
- Pauline Kelly, IL
- Joy DeSantis, CA
- Mary-Low Acuff, NC

WOMEN'S 65+

- Annabelle Kovar, NE
- Iona Baldwin, MO
- Anabelle Kovar, NE
- Minnie Toledo, CA
- Shirley Barron, KY
- Ellen Kropf, WA
- Ellen McAfee, UT

WOMEN'S 70+

- Lola Markus, IL
- Louise Kiss, NM
- Sarah Foster, CA
- Betty Railey, KY

WOMEN'S 75+

- Reta Harring, WI
- Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- Mary Lou Kackert, NM

WOMEN'S 80+

- Mary-Low Acuff, NC

BOY'S 6-

- Matt McAdam, CO
- Anthony Vargas, CO
- Ryan Nelson, CO
- Isaac Vargas, CO
- Ethan Robinson, CO

BOY'S 6- MULTI-BOUNCE

- Spencer Shoemaker, OH
- Matt McAdam, CO
- Luke Meyer, WI
- Kyle Ulliman, OH
- Thomas Santilli, CT
- Ian Bellisario, AR
- David Njoroge, CT
- Aaron Hagemann, IL
- Ralph Grillone III, MA
- Deryk Wray, OH

BOY'S 8-

- Sam Reid, OR
- Ryan Coates, OH
- Doug Brenner, OR
- Zach Pellowski, WI
- Josper Jackson, AK
- Adam Manilla, CO
- Sean Cooperider, FL
- Keegan North, OH
- Alex Winter, NY
- Anthony DiMatteo, CT

BOY'S 8- MULTI-BOUNCE

- Keegan North, OH
- Anthony DiMatteo, CT
- Doug Brenner, OR
- Zach Pellowski, WI
- Sean Cooperider, FL
- Jasper Jackson, AK
- Jeffrey Locke, OR
- Adam Manilla, CO
- Groydon Clarke, NM
- Thomas Santilli, CT

BOY'S 10-

- Dylan Reid, OR
- Joey Lee, OR
- Brad Falvey, WI
- Joel Boyea, CT
- Marco Rojas, CA
- Joseph Lee, LA
- Tim Lerow, FL
- Taylor Regier, OR
- Josh Hirsch, FL
- Jack Clarke, NM

BOY'S 12-

- Taylor Knoth, OR
- Danny Lively, OH
- Trevor Snyders, IL
- Billy Wainwright, OR
- Joey Lee, OR
- Jose Rojas, CA
- James Fahey, CT
- Sam Vargas Jr., CO
- Nick Loy, IL
- Taylor McDermott, TX

BOY'S 14-

- Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
- Allan Crockett, AL
- Jonathan Doyle, OH
- Sean McGrath, IN
- Devan Van Valkenburg, UT

- Jerome Jackson, MA

- Tim Albert, CT
- Brenden Arruda, WA
- Tripp Isley, NC
- Anthony Montanez, UT

BOY'S 16-

- Charlie Pratt, OR
- Joey Lakowske, OR
- Jordan Walters, NC
- Andrew Gale, UT
- Anthony Martin, UT
- Angel Khamis, IL
- Darrel Miller, WI
- Drew Toland, AR
- Mike Keddie, NH
- Carlos Lopez Jr., FL

BOY'S 18-

- Ben Craft, IL
- Dan Sheppick, OR
- Brandon Shoemaker, OH
- Carlos Lopez Jr., FL
- John Sanderson, UT
- Shane Karmelin, GA
- Erik Becker, MO
- Ryan Watson, OK
- Marco Hidalgo, TX
- Geoffrey Hunter, FL

BOY'S 6-

- Elizabeth Vargas, CO
- Railey Zantop-Zimlinghaus, CO

BOY'S 6- MULTI-BOUNCE

- Elizabeth Vargas, CO
- Donielle Elder, MD
- Danielle Falvey, WI
- Erica Manilla, CO
- Madie Mashek, CO
- Emma Braun, CO
- Abbey Braun, CO

BOY'S 8-

- Abbey Lively, OH
- Micaela Garrison-Desany, MA
- Lauren Feder, SC
- Elizabeth Vargas, CO
- Louren Stanley, LA
- Brooke Lynn Rushefsky, AZ
- Katina Wutke, IL
- Lindsey Feder, SC
- Jessica Noll, AZ
- Madison Gulluly, AZ

BOY'S 8- MULTI-BOUNCE

- Abbey Lively, OH
- Lauren Stanley, LA
- Elizabeth Vargas, CO
- Holley Hungerford, OR
- Lauren Feder, SC
- Tessa Feemster, WA
- Lindsey Feder, SC
- Amy Shoudi, AZ
- Krystal Boyle, OR
- Danielle Elder, MD

BOY'S 10-

- Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
- Tarryn Harborth, CA
- Elizabeth Brenner, OR
- Samantha Rosado, CT
- Veronica Sotomayor, IL
- Monique Horyza, CA

- Courtney Chisholm, MA

- Rachel Hagemann, IL
- Emily Pincus, AZ
- Jacquelyn Rosado, CT

GIRL'S 12-

- Danielle Key, AZ
- Wesley Toland, AR
- Nicole Grundman, MN
- Melissa Quinones, FL
- Jacquelyn Rosado, CT
- Veronica Sotomayor, IL
- Samantha Rosado, CT
- Courtney Chisholm, MA
- Tarryn Harborth, CA
- Mondy Wittenbrink, NM

GIRL'S 14-

- Brittany Legget, OR
- Shannon Inglesby, OR
- Sharon Jackson, IN
- Danielle Pimental, OR
- Kara Mazur, CT
- Jennifer Fenton, KS
- Holly Hettesheimer, OH
- Paige Hunter, FL
- Melissa Quinones, FL
- Hannah Oliver, CO

GIRL'S 16-

- Elise Wilson, CT
- Kelley Fisher, OH
- Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
- Kimberly Walsh, UT
- Ashley Legget, OR
- Erin Egan, IL
- Melissa Quinones, FL
- Ashley Willhite, OR
- Katherine Affeltranger, UT
- Heather Norris, UT

GIRL'S 18-

- Adrienne Fisher, AL
- Jesi Fuller, NM
- Lauren Ritter, MO
- Do'Monique Davis, TX
- Katie Ferguson, OR
- Kynzie Dalton, OR
- Mary Garringer, NM
- Kimberly Walsh, UT
- Melissa Gransbury, OR
- Tess Lee, OR



sanctioned events

JUNE

June 4-6	Hurricane Hideout @ Goldsboro YMCA
June 4-6	Sport and Health Tournament @ Worldgate Sport and Health
June 5-6	Body Mill Summer Classic @ The Body Mill
June 10-13	Pepsi Cup @ Aurora Athletic Club
June 11-13	Lowcountry Summer Classic @ St. Andrews Family Fitness
June 11-13	New Mexico State Games @ Kirtland East Fitness Center
June 12-12	Triple Crown One Day Shootout @ Maverick Athletic Club
June 16-18	Flagstaff Tournament @ Flagstaff A.C. East/West
June 18-20	Ballard Open @ Olympia Athletic Club
June 18-20	Grand Canyon State Games @ Arizona State University
June 18-20	Sunshine State Games @ Leach Center/F.S.U.
June 19-19	E-Force Extreme Series @ Northwest Fitness Center
June 23-25	Summer Bluegrass Games @ University of Kentucky
June 25-27	Aloha Open @ Body Check Health & Fitness
June 26-26	Summer Splat @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio

Goldsboro, NC	919-736-1232
Herndon, VA	703-709-9100
Clearwater, FL	727-538-0078
Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
Charleston, SC	843-766-9527
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Seattle, WA	206-675-1349
Tempe, AZ	480-633-2736
Tallahassee, FL	904-343-9644
Houston, TX	713-895-8688
Lexington, KY	859-873-6496
Winston Salem, NC	910-947-3202
San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596

JULY

July 9-11	Big Brothers & Big Sisters @ Courts Plus New Bern
July 9-11	Doubles or Nothing @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club
July 9-11	Georgia State Games @ Athletic Club Northeast
July 9-11	Junior Jam @ Naples Fitness Center
July 9-10	Prattski Doubles @ Renton Bally's
July 9-11	Tribute to Armed Forces @ Spectrum Club
July 10-10	Triple Crown One Day Shootout @ Maverick Athletic Club
July 16-18	Doubles Open @ Midtown Athletic Club
July 16-18	Retro Racquetball Tournament @ Quadrangle Athletic Club
July 16-18	2nd Annual Harbour Island Shootout @ Harbour Island Athletic Club
July 16-18	2nd Annual Ektelon Summer Slam @ Newman Fitness Center
July 17	E-Force Extreme Series @ Northwest Fitness Center
July 17-18	Hoosier State Games @ Omni 41
July 17-18	League-Nations Handicapped Doubles @ Pojoaque Wellness Center
July 21-24	NMRA Masters International Championships @ West Allis Athletic Club
July 23-25	5 Seasons Super7 Shootout Series @ Five Seasons Country Club
July 24	Hot Tamale @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio
July 24-25	July Racquetball Tournament @ Cedardale Athletic Club
July 25-27	Courthouse of Blues X @ Courthouse Racquet & Fitness

New Bern, NC	252-633-2221
Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
Atlanta, GA	770-972-2303
Naples, FL	239-262-1112
Renton, WA	425-253-3106
Canoga Park, CA	323-256-4421
Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
Sacramento, CA	916-441-2977
Coral Springs, FL	954-659-8300
Tampa, FL	813-765-5120
Fort Stewart, GA	800-335-5066
Houston, TX	713-895-8688
Scheneville, IN	317-847-6563
Santa Fe, NM	505-455-9355
West Allis, WI	734-426-8952
Westlake, OH	440-871-2811
San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
Haverhill, MA	978-927-3923
Flowood, MS	601-932-4800

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

August 6-8	Florida State Doubles @ Orlando Racquet & Fitness
August 6-8	North Carolina State Doubles @ Sportscenter
August 7	Triple Crown One Day Shootout @ Maverick Athletic Club
August 13-15	Warmup Doubles @ LA Fitness
August 20-22	Lobsterbake @ Cedardale Athletic Club
August 20-22	Georgia State Doubles @ Concourse Athletic Club
August 21-21	E-Force Extreme Series @ Northwest Fitness Center
August 27-29	Harbour Island Summer Shootout @ Harbour Island Athletic Club
Aug. 31 - Sept.	4IRF World Senior Championships @ Midtown Sports & Wellness

Orlando, FL	407-889-3861
Concord, NC	910-947-3029
Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
Phoenix, AZ	480-545-1363
Haverhill, MA	978-927-3923
Atlanta, GA	404-992-9969
Houston, TX	713-895-8688
Tampa, FL	813-765-5120
Albuquerque, NM	505-321-1110

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

May 26-31	USR 37th National Singles Championships
June 23-27	USR 31st Junior Olympic Championships
July 5-11	USR High Performance Training Camp
July 21-24	NMRA International Masters Tournament
July 31-Aug. 7	IRF XII World Championships
August 8-15	U.S. Junior National Team Training Camp
Aug. 31-Sept. 4	IRF 15th World Senior Championships
Sept. 29-Oct. 3	USR 37th National Doubles Championships
Nov. 16-21	Choice Hotels 9th U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships

Houston, Texas	
Eau Claire, Wisc.	
Colorado Springs, Colo.	
West Allis, Wisc.	
Seoul, Korea	
Colorado Springs, Colo.	
Albuquerque, N.M.	
Phoenix, Ariz.	
Memphis, Tenn.	

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Racquetball Federation
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This spring, as usual, folks have dusted off the old, tired "pro versus amateur" debate as the racquetball nation prepares for the USA Racquetball Nationals in Houston. The dialogue began early this year, as Jack Huczak, the

#1 ranked professional player in the world, competed in the amateur Intercollegiate Nationals. While I like a good argument as much as the next guy, I do find this topic particularly tiresome. Misguided analogies comparing racquetball to basketball and the arguments about what is in the best interest of the sport have been made over and over again. Rather than getting twisted in our knickers yet again this season, let's study the economic forces driving the choices made by racquetball's governing organizations and players. By starting with the premise that people are rational actors – that is, we are economic animals who always do what we believe is in our personal best interest – we can make sensible assumptions about the motivations of various constituents, examine past decisions and predict future behavior.

Let's begin with USA Racquetball. Qualifying for the U.S. National Team is the cornerstone of the USAR's efforts to develop elite level players. For years, to ensure that making the U.S. Team was an achievable goal for up-and-comers, USAR erected barriers that discouraged the top pros from retaining their amateur status (prize money won in professional events had to be funneled thru USAR and only could be claimed against expenses). Given that the top 5 pros often won prize money in excess of their expenses, retaining one's amateur status became onerous, and USAR achieved its objectives. This system worked well until the top U.S. amateurs could no longer beat the professional players that competed on behalf of Canada and Mexico. When the U.S. Team loses, USAR cannot maximize its funding from the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Ultimately, USAR's economic incentives to win international competitions outweighed the risk of



by Eric Muller

alienating developing players. Today, USAR has not only changed its policy but is throwing tremendous resources at courting the top Americans to play for the U.S. Team.

Turning next to the professional tour, we see that economic factors have once again shaped policy. When the IRT was in its fragile infancy, the organization's prevailing view was that pro stops needed to be differentiated from all other events in order for the tour to survive and thrive economically. As a result, the IRT enacted rules to discourage the top players from entering events not professionally sanctioned, and several top IRT professionals (Roberts, Kachtik, Doyle, Newman, Hawkes and Obremski) relinquished their amateur status in dramatic fashion by pulling out of the 1991 National Doubles days before the tournament. As the pro tour stabilized over the past decade, the tour has come to a different view, namely that the IRT should not prevent players from capturing the increasingly attractive financial incentives being offered in amateur events. As a result, today the IRT places no restrictions on competing for spots on national teams. Lest I be characterized a misogynist, I note that ever since Michelle Gilman's day, the top women have always played in the amateurs as the women's professional tour has never provided a meaningful economic alternative.

What better evidence of the power of our economic framework and the efficiency of the market than Jack Huczak's decision to play in the Intercollegiate Nationals? As the highest ranked American on the IRT, Huczak already qualifies for the U.S. Team and all of its attendant benefits, so his upside was difficult to identify. Regardless, whether he derives utility from racking up titles or enjoys playing for t-shirts and trophies, the marginal benefits of playing the Intercollegiates outweighed the marginal costs in Huczak's calculus, and he acted in his best interest.

In the end, opponents of professionals playing in amateur events should be thanking Huczak for crystallizing the issue because his decision demonstrates the result of taking the current pro/amateur rules to their logical extreme. It is only perverse outcomes that will push racquetball's decision-makers to re-assess the costs and benefits of the existing rules regime.

MULLER'S MARKET PICKS

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Buy

CHRISTIE VAN HEES
Training with Monchik and new contract may lead to oversized returns.

However, investors should monitor closely due to restructuring risk.

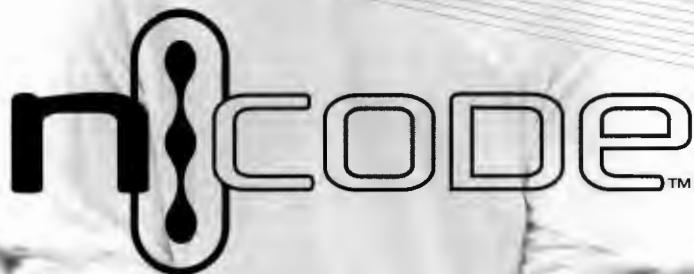
Sell

JACKIE RICE
strong long term performer but faces the law of diminishing returns after years of out performance.

Hold

CHERYL GUDINAS
Improves with age like fine wine. A core holding as she could be #1 for a couple more years.

The Inside Scoop



POTENTIAL UNLOCKED



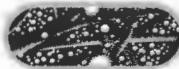
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