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NATIONALS

FULLERTON, CA • MAY 25-29



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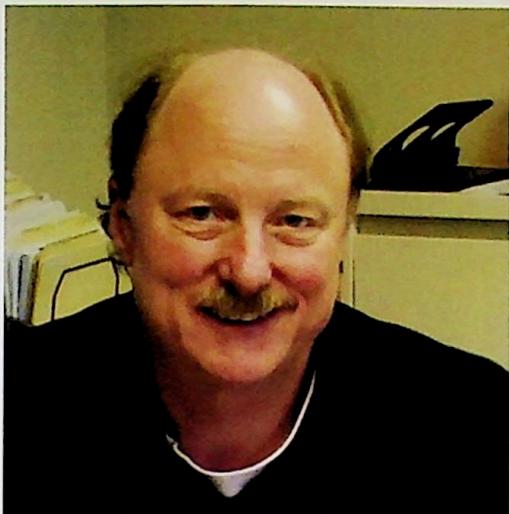


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Dear Tournament Participants and Guests,

On behalf of Team Ektelon, I would like to welcome you to the 2011 Ektelon Nationals. We are extremely proud to be working with the International Racquetball Tour, USA Racquetball, the Meridian Sports Club and a long list of volunteers to bring you one of the premier events in the sport. There are many new features associated with this event and we have worked hard to develop a unique and high energy atmosphere. Also, since this is the only event that allows top amateurs and pro's to compete for a national title in one location, the action on court promises to bring some of the most historic moments in the sport.

The Ektelon Nationals is very special to us as it provides the ideal showcase to display our 40+ years of heritage in the sport. We wish all players in the competition the best of luck and we hope everyone has a great experience at this year's event!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Scott Winters".

Scott Winters

Vice President, Ektelon





FULLERTON, CA • MAY 25-29



EVENT SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Player and VIP check-in 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

WEDNESDAY –

Player Check-in – 7:30 am – 9:00 pm

VIP Check-in – 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Pro Qualifying – 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

Hospitality – 9:00 – 11:00 am

IRT Pro Qualifying – 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

Hospitality – Noon - 2:00 pm

Pro Am Doubles – 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

THURSDAY –

Player Check in – 7:30 am – 9:00 pm

Hospitality – 9:00 am – 11:00 am

VIP Check-in – 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

IRT Rounds of 32 – 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Hospitality – Noon - 2:00 pm

IRT Rounds of 16 – 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Press conference/Ribbon Cutting

& Sponsor Appreciation Party – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Ektelon Accuracy Contest – 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

FRIDAY –

Player Check in and Sales – 8:00 am – 9:00 pm

Hospitality – 9:00 - 11:00 am

VIP Check-in – 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Ektelon Clinic – 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Hospitality – Noon - 2:00pm

IRT Quaterfinals – 12:00 pm/2:30 pm/4:00 pm/6:00 pm

Ektelon Play Pro Challenge – 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

PENN Pig Roast and Pool Party –

Marriott Hotel – 8:00 pm

SATURDAY –

VIP Hospitality Breakfast – 9:00 – 11:00 am

Team Ektelon Meeting – 10:00 am - Noon

Hospitality – Noon - 2:00 pm

IRT Semis – 3:00 pm & 4:30 pm

Ektelon Fiesta in the Pro Village – 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm

SUNDAY –

Team Adrenalin Practice – 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Hospitality – 10:00 am - Noon

Ektelon Hard Hitting Final – Noon

IRT Final – 2:00 pm

HEAD

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It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 2011 EKTELON Nationals presented by Penn. IRT is thrilled to be partnering with USA Racquetball in creating a mega-event that has the full support of the entire industry. With on-going entertainment and activities on and around the all-Lucite Clear Court, deluxe VIP amenities, evening parties and the opportunity to hobnob with the best players in the world, we are confident that the EKTELON Nationals presented by Penn will be an event you will be talking about all summer.

As the premier racquetball competition during the sport's first wave of growth in 1980's, the Ektelon Nationals created greater public awareness via broadcast on network television. We hope to achieve a similar outcome and make the EKTELON Nationals presented by Penn the cornerstone to a new media strategy to drive racquetball's next wave of growth. This year's event will be streamed live to tens of thousands of fans around the world via the IRT Network and also will be recorded for future broadcast to millions of viewers on MavTV.

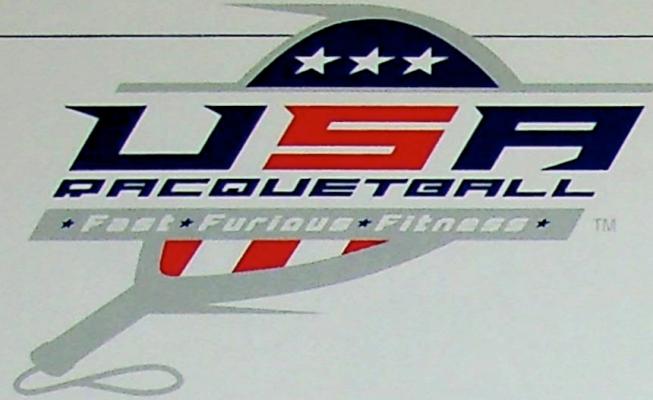
The EKTELON Nationals as a professional competition has a rich history and tradition in the sport and was the proving ground for many of racquetball's legends. For example, in 1985, a 19 year-old lefty by the name of Cliff Swain burst onto the scene by defeating racquetball immortals Marty Hogan, Dave Peck and Gregg Peck en route to the EKTELON Nationals title. Will the next Cliff Swain emerge at this year's event? There are several exciting young players looking to lay stake to that claim – including Intercollegiate champ Taylor Knoth, recently crowned Pan Am Champion Daniel De La Rosa and EKTELON Team Adrenaline's Nick Montalbano.

Of course, the real story this year is another famous racquetball lefty, current #1 player in the world Kane Waselenchuk. You simply MUST find an opportunity to watch one of Kane Waselenchuk's matches at the event. Kane, in his on-going quest to continue shattering the record book, will put his unprecedented 108 match winning streak on the line as he attempts to complete a second undefeated season. Looking to be a spoiler and add to his own impressive list of accomplishments is the #2 player in the world, Rocky Carson. The EKTELON Nationals presented by Penn also will be the capstone on very affirming seasons for rising stars who have steadily moved up the rankings – will Ben Croft break out to win his first pro stop? Will Jose Rojas continue his recent momentum that saw him reach the semi-finals at the Mexican Open? Will Charlie Pratt and Tony Carson solidify season-ending positions in the top 10? I personally can't wait to see how the action unfolds.

Thank you for being a part of this historic event!

Jason Mannino
President, International Racquetball Tour
www.irt-tour.com

Home of the world's best racquetball players



On behalf of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors and our National Staff, we welcome you to the 2011 Ektelon Nationals! Each year we gather to recognize the best amateurs in the sport. This year we are fortunate to include the IRT Men's Professional players as part of this spectacular competition.

We would like to recognize the national staff – Heather Fender, Heather Izzett, Terri Lewis, Eddie Meredith, Melody Weiss, and Joe Williams – for their above-and-beyond efforts to prepare for this event. And, without our 100+ wonderful volunteers, it would be impossible to undertake an event of this magnitude.

Much gratitude goes to Scott Winters and Ektelon for stepping forward to once again become title sponsor of the event. It is our intention to live up to Ektelon's expectations of "returning to the good old days" when the Ektelon Nationals was considered the premier event of the year.

USA Racquetball continues to forge ahead in an effort to attract new sponsors to our sport. The Ektelon Nationals and the US Open provide racquetball with annual opportunities for exposure and visibility. USA Racquetball hopes to continue this tradition by creating yet another grand slam event in the future.

To create mega-events to promote the sport takes both a solid partnership and a common vision. With the US Open, this has been accomplished with Doug Ganim. For the Ektelon Nationals, the joining of forces with the IRT and Ektelon lays the foundation from which this event will flourish in the future.

The IRT continues to be a major force within the sport. The USAR/IRT partnership that began with Dave Negrete has further developed with Jason Mannino. This partnership provides a strong alliance for future recruitment of outside-the-sport sponsorships. The potential for increased exposure and funding has never been closer within our grasp.

Many thanks to all of our event sponsors as well as to the management and staff of the Meridian Sports Club for hosting us here in sunny Southern California. This weekend begins an exciting new era for racquetball. Enjoy, and thank you for being a part of this historic event!

James Hiser
Executive Director
USA Racquetball

Cheryl Kirk
President, Board of Directors
USA Racquetball



May 2011

Dear USA Racquetball Players, Coaches and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the City of Fullerton! I know I speak for the entire Fullerton City Council and all the citizens of Fullerton when I tell you how very pleased we are that you have selected our city to be the site of your 2011 Ektelon National Racquetball Championships. We wish you every success with your tournament.

The City of Fullerton is a most appropriate location for your tournament as it has long had a tradition of athletic excellence. Over the years, four of our residents - including legendary Los Angeles Dodgers Manager Tommy Lasorda - have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. On the collegiate level, teams from our community college and state university have excelled in all areas of sports, including, in the case of the Titans Baseball Team of California State University, Fullerton, capturing the National Collegiate World Series Championship. The City also enjoys a very active and talented group of youth sports teams, from Little League and Pop Warner Football to soccer and rugby. In fact, a Fullerton Rangers team recently captured the prestigious Dallas Cup championship. So, you can be sure will find a most appreciative and enthusiastic audience in Fullerton's citizens!

While you are here I hope you will take an opportunity to explore our community. I am confident you will be satisfied with your decision to come Fullerton! From more than 150 fine restaurants to 50-plus beautiful parks, playgrounds and sports complexes, Fullerton offers something to meet every interest. We are also home to the award-winning Fullerton Museum Center, as well as the Muckenthaler Cultural Center. Our downtown boasts many unique and distinctive shops, and every Thursday evening we offer "Fullerton Market," a combination street fair and farmers' market, with free entertainment, activities for kids, and a beer and wine garden for adults.

In closing, I again wish to welcome you and thank you for making the City of Fullerton the site of the 2011 Ektelon National Racquetball Championships. It is our hope that you will consider Fullerton your home now and in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Don Bankhead".

Don Bankhead
Mayor Pro Tem



May 2011

Dear USA Racquetball Competitors and Friends:

The Fullerton Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your decision to move the 2011 Ektelon National Singles Racquetball Championships presented by ProPenn to the Meridian Sports Club in Fullerton. In addition, it is truly an honor to host the top men's professional racquetball players on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) as they battle for the season's final grand slam event.

This event, which will bring the country's best racquetball players to Fullerton, is truly an occasion that puts our city in the national spotlight. We look forward to winners in the top men's and women's divisions from this tournament to receive appointments to the USA Racquetball National Team and to have them represent our country in the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. Fullerton is a community with great history and tradition. Our roots as a small, tight-knit agricultural community form the backbone of our city and are evident even to this day. Living in Fullerton has always been a source of pride for its residents who enjoy the diversity of our culture and the rich tapestry that has made us what we are today.

I invite you to explore our culture as well as our hospitality. In the 23 square miles of our city you will find more than 150 restaurants, over 1,000 acres of parks, as well as museums, cultural centers and six colleges and universities. Throughout Fullerton there really is something for everyone. This is a community that is sure to amaze not only new visitors to the area, but its own residents as well.

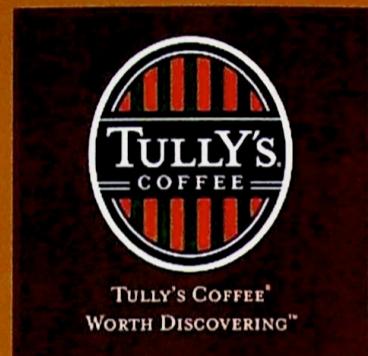
Again, welcome. We look forward to a long relationship with USA Racquetball here in Fullerton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Theresa Harvey".

Theresa Harvey
Executive Director

Tully's welcomes *you* to the
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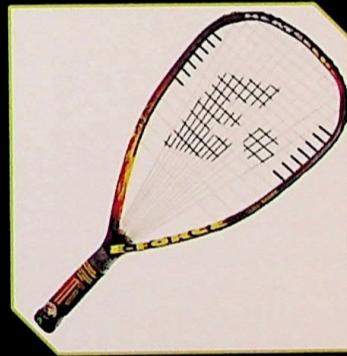
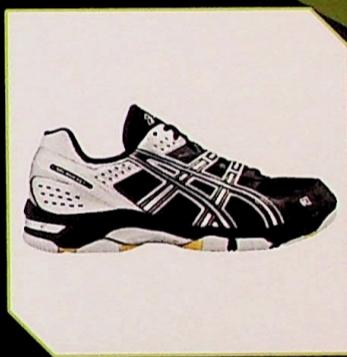
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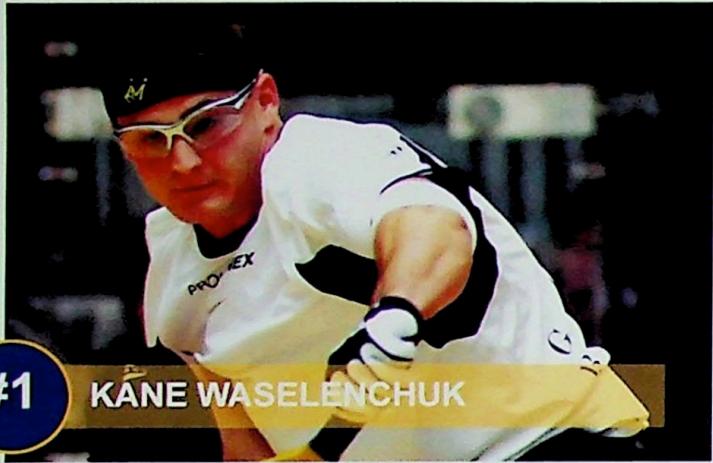
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WHO TO WATCH

PHOTOS BY SCOTT PERRY

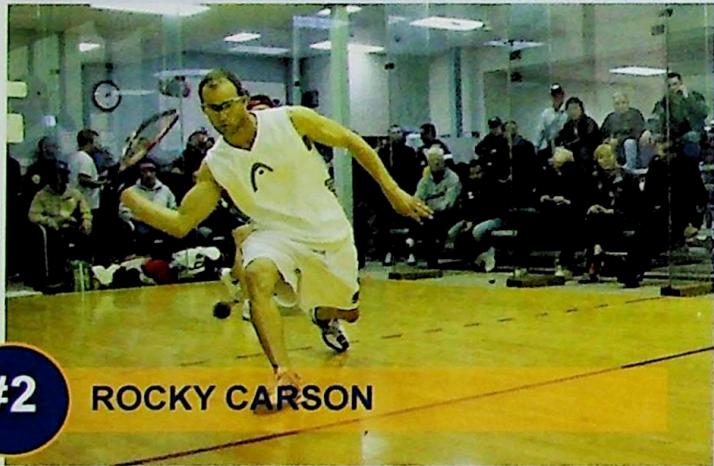
JEFF OLMER



#1

KANE WASELENCHUK

Kane Waselenchuk is the man to beat, with over 100 match wins in a row. He's dropped a few games along the way, including one in the U.S. Open Championship against Alvaro Beltran, who holds the distinction as the person to hand him his most recent defeat. As Beltran rehabilitates from knee surgery, others vie for the chance to deliver Kane's next loss. Jack Huczak and Rocky Carson have each taken him to four games. Carson's forced five, twice. Yet, the mere mention of "games lost" points to his dominance. Does it also reveal dents in his invincibility? Not to him – he's already set to tie Cliff Swain's record of six #1 year-end titles and has stated that his goal is to extend his winning streak to 200. In the meantime, he continues to hone his unorthodox mix of power, soft shots, changing speeds, and unpredictable angles in order to add more victories in his record setting run.



#2

ROCKY CARSON



Rocky Carson carries the solitary honor of capturing three of racquetball's major titles during the same year. Ranked #1 for the 2008 season, he'd like to now claim one win that's eluded him for the last three years: a match victory against Kane Waselenchuk. Carson did take the Corona Open Championship by beating local favorite Alvaro Beltran, who sent him packing in the U.S. Open Round of 16's. Tough tournaments in the front half of the season spurred him on in the back half. Mentally and physically fit, the court-savvy Carson can cover every inch of the court. Yet, he prefers to dominate the center, keeping opponents off balance and on the defensive. More recently, he's added power to his pinpoint control. With a string of nine finals and competitive rallies the scores don't show, Carson will try to take the best of five in the championship match.

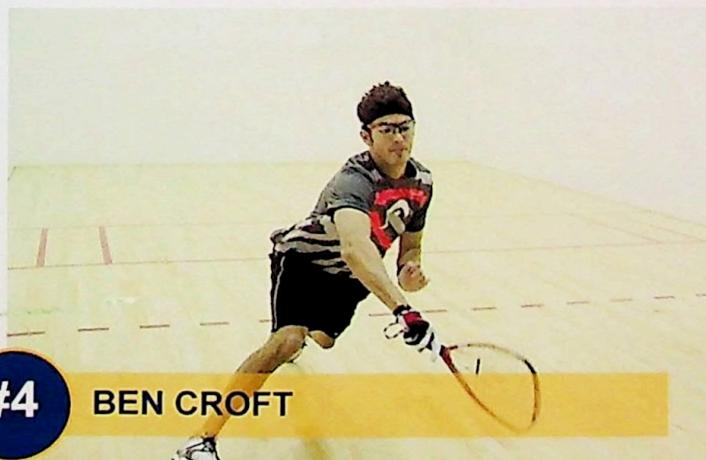


#3

JACK HUCZEK



Early-round upsets in the beginning of the season sent the world's #2-ranked player **Jack Huczek** to the #4 slot in the draw, facing the same wall at the semis that blocked Carson in the finals: Kane Waselenchuk. Consistent and steady play propelled Huczek's late-season rise to the #3 slot, which means he'll face the bottom half of the draw before meeting the man at the top. His opponents will include Carson, with whom he's split bouts the two times they met this season. The title at the Cactus Salon NYC ProAm came with Huczek's win. He'd like to repeat that performance in Fullerton.

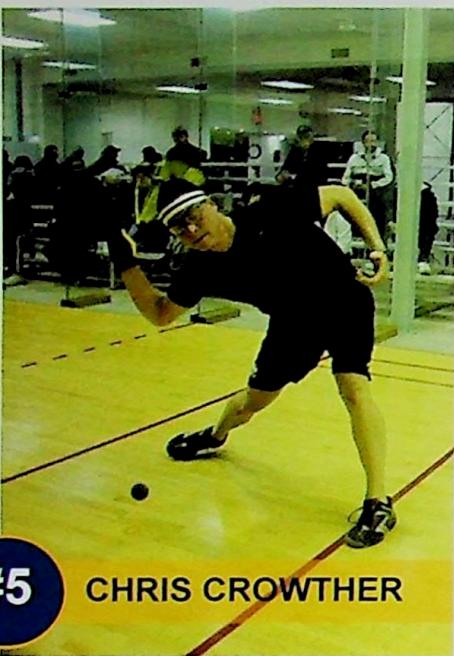


#4

BEN CROFT

Ben Croft separated himself from the pack, firmly establishing his place in the top four on the tour. Fueled by emotion, he's known to reverse the usual order of scoring by losing points from technicals. Most often, it's Waselenchuk and Carson handing this consistent semifinalist the most frustration, as Croft has been unable to push past his nine semifinal appearances. Exchanging ranking positions with Huczek means he'll challenge Waselenchuk en route to the finals. No matter. He contests every point, throwing his body around with agility and speed. Look for workhorse Croft to fight for a spot on Sunday and the first professional title in his career.

WHO TO WATCH



#5

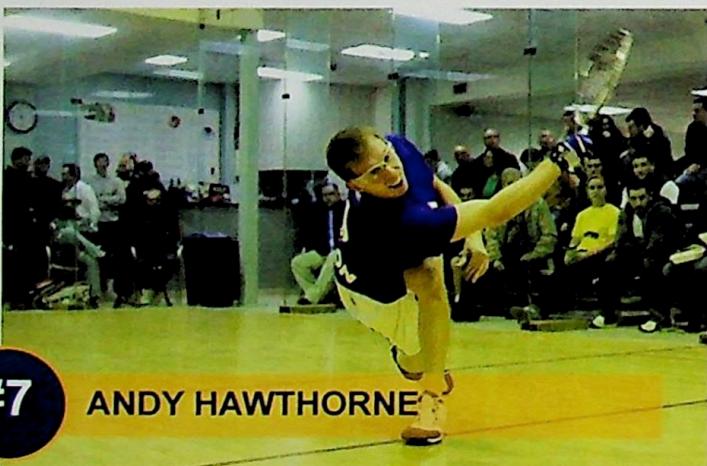
CHRIS CROWTHER

With a strong finish last spring and the return of the two-serve rule, this season seemed made for power player **Chris Crowther**. He didn't disappoint, following up a two-and-a-half hour marathon match against Rocky Carson during the San Diego Racquet House ProAm with a trip to the finals at the Cali, Colombia Grand Slam, where he took one game from Kane and displayed the best technical, physical and mental game of his career. Big drive serves and a huge reach coming off of his 6'6" frame have helped this reliable quarterfinalist. He struggled to make it to the semis in the back half of the season but realized a nice boost with his silver medal achievement at the Pan American Racquetball Championships in April. He'll have to battle an intermittent injury along with his opponents to advance to Saturday's round.



#6

JOSE ROJAS

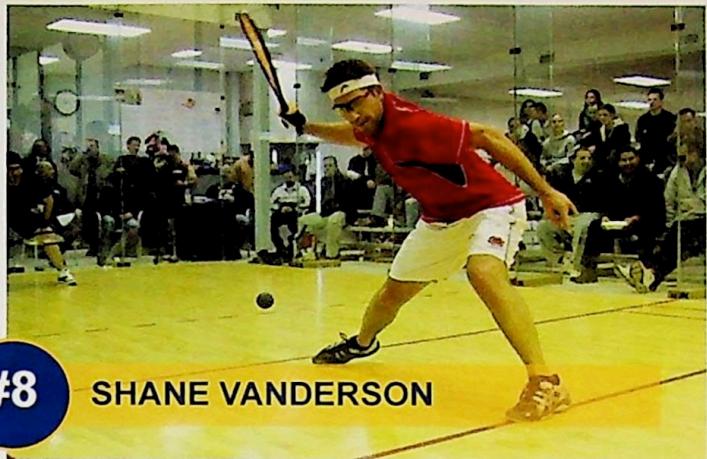


#7

ANDY HAWTHORNE

Andy Hawthorne hit the courts almost every weekend, competing and working his way into the quarterfinals of each Grand Slam and almost every Tier 1 event. As Hawthorne steps inside the glass walls, he'll carry the confidence earned from consistent improvement, culminating in a five-game match against Rocky Carson in St Louis and taking Ben Croft to four in the Mexico Open. One of the most exciting players to watch, he's known to dive and battle after the ball as he goes all out for every rally during each game. Hawthorne is very close to some big wins. One could happen here on the center stage.





#8

SHANE VANDERSON

A tour professional since the age of 15, **Shane Vanderson** has shown he continues to have what it takes to compete with the upper echelon of players in the sport. A family tragedy cost him much more than valuable ranking points at the U.S. Open, but he came back strong, making his two semifinal appearances after the first of the year. Armed with a formidable backhand and scorching drive serves, Vanderson can be an aggressive opponent on the court. Yet, his contract is up at the end of this season. Will this be his last stop as a full-time professional on tour?

RISING STARS

9 CHARLIE PRATT

The IRT's official referee, Charlie Pratt, is spending more time inside the four glass walls after winning the biggest game of his career during the U.S. Open to make his first quarterfinal appearance where he pushed Jack Huczak to four games. Well-coached and hardworking, Pratt has steadily improved during the second half of the season to climb within one slot of becoming a top-eight professional on the tour.

#10 ANTHONY HERRERA

Anthony Herrera embodies the young breed of player with explosive gets that seem to allow him to reach the ball with ease. He started out firing last fall, forcing top-eight opponents to four and five games in order to get past him to the next round. Herrera celebrated his college graduation in December by making his first quarterfinal in January. Each match brings him closer to breaking through. Expect to see him moving higher by working smarter after turning his full-time attention to a career competing in racquetball.

#14 TONY CARSON

Now that he's earned his college degree, Tony Carson is focused on cracking the top ten by the end of next year. He's made the quarterfinals in two out of the last three Tier 1 events he's entered, upsetting Shane Vanderson in the MonaVie SLC ProAm and then playing past Chris Crowther in

St. Louis before taking Ben Croft to five games. With creative shot-making, a big heart, and an entertaining personality, the 2008 National Intercollegiate Champion and 2011 Pan American Games Silver Medalist (Men's Doubles) is set to do just that.

#39 TAYLOR KNOTH

The reigning Junior Worlds, National Singles, and Intercollegiates Champion, Taylor Knoth is a full-time student with a pro-style game incorporating power and big drive serves along with accuracy and control. Coached by Fran Davis since he was twelve years old, Knoth recently renewed his contract with HEAD Penn Racquet Sports. According to Doug Ganim, "He's also a very humble kid with a great attitude and work ethic. We love his performance on the court, too. He's a class act both on and off the court."

#62 JOSE DIAZ

Jose Diaz has dominated junior ranks on the world platform over the past five years, taking home gold at the 2011 High School Championships. Like fellow Ektelon Team Adrenalin player Jose Rojas, Diaz is a product of the Stockton, California, racquetball powerhouse. This 18-year old will attend college at Sacramento State where he wants to start a racquetball program while making his impact on the pro tour.



US TEAM ROUNDS OUT IN FULLERTON



Earning a spot on the US Team via the Qualifying divisions has always been uppermost in the minds of the players who compete at Nationals. This year, the stakes are even higher! Every four years, the Pan American Games (second only in prestige to the Olympic Games themselves) are hosted by a city somewhere in the western hemisphere. Racquetball competition was not included on the roster of sports in the Rio de Janeiro 2007 Pan American Games, but we are once again one of the sports (46 total) included this year. Eight* US Team members, along with roughly 4,000 other U.S. athletes, will be heading to Guadalajara, Mexico this October to represent their country.

(* A US Team contingent consisting of Chris Crowther, Andy Hawthorne, Tony Carson, Jansen Allen, Cheryl Gudinas, Rhonda Rajsich, and Krystal Csuk, captured a gold and three silver medals at the Pan American Racquetball Championships in April in Nicaragua to place second overall and earn, along with Mexico, the maximum eight berths for the Pan American Games in Guadalajara.)

So, who will be traveling to Guadalajara to compete for the United States?

With this new Ektelon Nationals event format that offers both USAR amateur and IRT divisions, those earning the right to compete in singles at the Pan American Games (men's/women's/team competition) will be, for the men, the top two IRT pros as of June 1, and for the women, the top WPRO athlete as of June 1 as well as the winner of the Women's US Team Qualifying division here in Fullerton. The doubles athletes eligible to make the trip are the winners of 2011 National Doubles (men and women), i.e. Rocky Carson, Jack Huczak, Aimee Ruiz, and Jackie Paraiso.



Additional members of the US Team (not the Pan American Games team) will be, in singles, the Ektelon Nationals finalists of the Men's US Team Qualifying division as well as the Ektelon Nationals second, third and fourth place finishers in the Women's US Team Qualifying division. For doubles, the second place finishers at 2011 National Doubles (Cheryl Gudinas, Krystal Csuk, Chris Crowther, and Shane Vanderson) join the roster along with 2011 Intercollegiates singles winners Taylor Knoth and Michelle Key.

About the Pan American Games

The Pan American Games (Pan Am Games) is a multi-sport event between competitors from all nations in the Americas, held every four years in the year before the summer Olympic Games. The games were last held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2007. The next will be in Guadalajara, Mexico in October 2011, followed by the 2015 games in Toronto, Canada. (Source: Wikipedia)

Racquetball has been part of the Pan American Games since the 1995 Games in Mar del Plata, Argentina, although it was not included in the 2007 Games. Racquetball is included in the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico and is also expected to be included in the 2015 Pan American Games that have been awarded to Toronto, Ontario. The United States has dominated the racquetball events since its inception. (Source: Wikipedia) Sixty athletes from twelve countries will compete in racquetball at the 2011 Pan American Games. The United States has captured the Gold in the team competition every Games since our first appearance in 1995, with Cheryl Gudinas (singles) and Jackie Paraiso (doubles) having earned two Gold medals apiece.

Year	Men's Singles	Women's Singles	Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles
2003	Jack Huczak	Cheryl Gudinas	Alvaro Beltran Javier Moreno	Susana Acosta Rosy Torres
1999	Adam Karp	Cheryl Gudinas	Doug Ganim Drew Kachtik	Joy MacKenzie Jackie Paraiso
1995	John Ellis	Michelle Gould	Sudsy Monchik Tim Sweeney	Joy MacKenzie Jackie Paraiso-Gibson

Source: www.guadalajara2011.org.mx

GUDINAS GOES FOR THE GOLD... AND THE RECORD!

by Kit Lawson

An amazing, undisputable truth: Cheryl Gudinas has won the National Singles Women's title EIGHT times. No one has won it more often.

No wonder Coach Dave Ellis nicknamed her "Goods." Over the years, Gudinas' record of accomplishment includes eight Single's titles, three World Championships, two US Open titles, and innumerable pro stop victories. Currently ranked #3 on the Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) tour, she earned that nickname by regularly delivering the goods! According to Ellis, "Cheryl's preparation for matches is flawless, both physical and psychological. It was a pleasure to work with her when coaching Team USA."

Fans of racquetball will be watching Cheryl compete during the next segment of her illustrious career to see if she can top the national singles championship record she shares with Michelle Gould. When asked if it was urgent that she win a ninth title in 2011, Cheryl said it was not. She prepares to win, yet she plans to compete well into the future.

How can that be? Compared to the core of highly ranked players in the ranks of professional racquetball, Cheryl's age of 43 is really (pardon the expression) OLD! The other nine of the top 10 WPRO women players' average 28 years...young. What is her secret of eternal youth? Cheryl cites the importance of her training regimen and a proper diet (with only infrequent lapses for fare like French toast and bacon!). She also credits the fact that she's had very few injuries, although ironically she's nursing a foot injury at the moment.

Cheryl says she was "just okay" in athletics in her youth. She allows that she can make claim to the fame of being the first 5th grader to hit a softball out of the school's park, but overall her life in athletics was fairly unremarkable. Then she casually started to play

racquetball as a high school freshman in Illinois. Even that event wasn't the stuff champions are made of...she started playing because there was a boy she liked who worked at the club!

Gudinas quickly grew to the sport, with thanks to other club members who were among the top players in the state. She particularly credits Kerry Spix for inviting her to play with this group, where she began to hone her skills. A few years later (circa 1988) Ted Huddleston made her his special project by playing long days of racquetball one-on-one and coaching her via daily drills. Andy Pitock's coaching support has had tremendous influence on her success as well. Her strength and conditioning coaches Tim Lang (formerly of the Chicago White Sox, Texas Rangers and DePaul University) and Eugene Coyle have contributed to her achievements over the years. And her friend (and US Junior Team Coach) Kelley Beane to this day provides valuable advice and analysis on the physical and psychological nuances of Cheryl's match preparation and competitive strategy.

At age 23, Cheryl participated in her first Pro Stop at Glass Court in Lombard, Illinois, that launched her amazing career. She didn't win that tournament, but she did win the Open division and Pro Consolation by defeating the same opponent in both. A good start...the rest is in the record books.

In 2005, an article was penned about another woman player who was expected to replace Gudinas. The article conferred upon her an implied "has-been" status. Not so fast. Cheryl didn't appreciate being so easily written off, and she re-dedicated herself to fitness and focus. Since then, she has remained steady as a force to be reckoned with -- and one of the most accomplished women to have ever played the game.





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MAV TV

MAV TV Facts and Figures:

- There will be 81 total airings over a 21 week period
- All production will be done in HD
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- DVD will be ready for sale August 1st, 2011
- To subscribe to MAV TV – www.mavtv.com

Airing will also include feature player profiles, instruction and other informative segments about the sport

To preorder your DVD contact Joe Williams at
jwilliams@usra.org

A MISSION TO HONOR AND EMPOWER WARRIORS

by Becky Melvin

The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) began when several individuals took small, inspired actions to help others in need. While watching the evening news, a group of veterans and brothers were moved by the difficult stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq. They realized that something needed to be done for these brave individuals beyond the brass bands and ticker tape parades. They wanted to provide tangible support for the wounded to help them on the road to healing both physically and mentally. What they viewed as a small contribution compared with what the warriors had sacrificed became WWP's founding program: WWP backpacks delivered bedside to wounded warriors. These backpacks contain essential care and comfort items including clothing, toiletries, calling cards and more, all designed to make a warrior's hospital stay more comfortable. The backpacks are provided to wounded service members arriving at military trauma centers throughout the country. Transitional Care Packs, a smaller version, were later developed to be sent directly to Afghanistan and Iraq to provide immediate comfort during a warrior's relocation to a U.S. military trauma center. What started as a program to provide comfort items has grown into a complete rehabilitative effort to assist warriors as they recover and transition back to civilian life.

Since its founding, WWP has sought to maintain programs and services that are innovative and meet the developing needs of today's wounded warrior. As the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq continue and the landscape of veterans of these wars evolve, so, too, do WWP's priorities and initiatives. Over 39,000 of our nation's armed forces have been physically wounded during the current conflicts. Hundreds of thousands more are estimated to be recovering from invisible wounds of war, including post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and traumatic brain injury (TBI). The physical and mental stress warriors face has long-lasting effects on their readjustment. Physical recovery is not enough; these brave individuals need empowerment to succeed and thrive in life after injury.

Project Odyssey brings veterans with PTSD and readjustment challenges together for outdoor activities that support the healing process. Through outdoor recreation activities, warriors discover their inner strength and find the courage to continue their journey. Project Odyssey is a supportive environment where warriors

can share their strengths and challenges with peers, Wounded Warrior Project staff, and Vet Center counselors. WWP believes that nature and recreation are powerful tools for healing the spirit and mind. Soldier Ride is a WWP initiative that provides adaptive cycling opportunities for wounded warriors across the country. Generally two to four days long, rides are geared toward warriors of all abilities, with both adaptive and standard cycling equipment provided. In addition to the physical benefits, Soldier Ride raises public awareness of the issues warriors face through public events held throughout the ride.

Advocacy on behalf of our wounded warriors is providing injured service men and women a voice in local and national issues and ensures current legislative and government policies reflect sensitivity to the unique needs of wounded warriors. Earlier this year, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act went into law. For the first time in history, families of veterans severely wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq will receive comprehensive, coordinated support that will enable them to provide these warriors with needed home care. Caregiver Retreats are essential to the well-being of spouses, parents, and siblings, and these retreats ultimately benefit the warriors who rely on their care. WWP's caregiver retreat series provides these unsung heroes with an opportunity to get physical and mental rest and rejuvenation as well as connect with others facing the same challenges. TRACK is the first and only education center in the nation designed specifically for wounded warriors. The program consists of classroom-based learning with ancillary support services like health and wellness training, personal finance workshops, and resume and interview preparation. An externship component with a local employer is also an integral part of the twelve-month program. TRACK focuses on the "whole warrior" and provides a bridge from previous military and combat life to a new successful civilian life.

Thousands of warriors and caregivers each year participate in any one or many of the various programs offered by WWP, designed to nurture the mind and body and encourage economic empowerment. Wounded Warrior Project is continually working toward honoring and empowering American heroes and making this generation of warriors the most successful and well-adjusted in our nation's history. To learn more and get involved, please visit www.woundedwarriorproject.org.



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For more information, visit woundedwarriorproject.org.

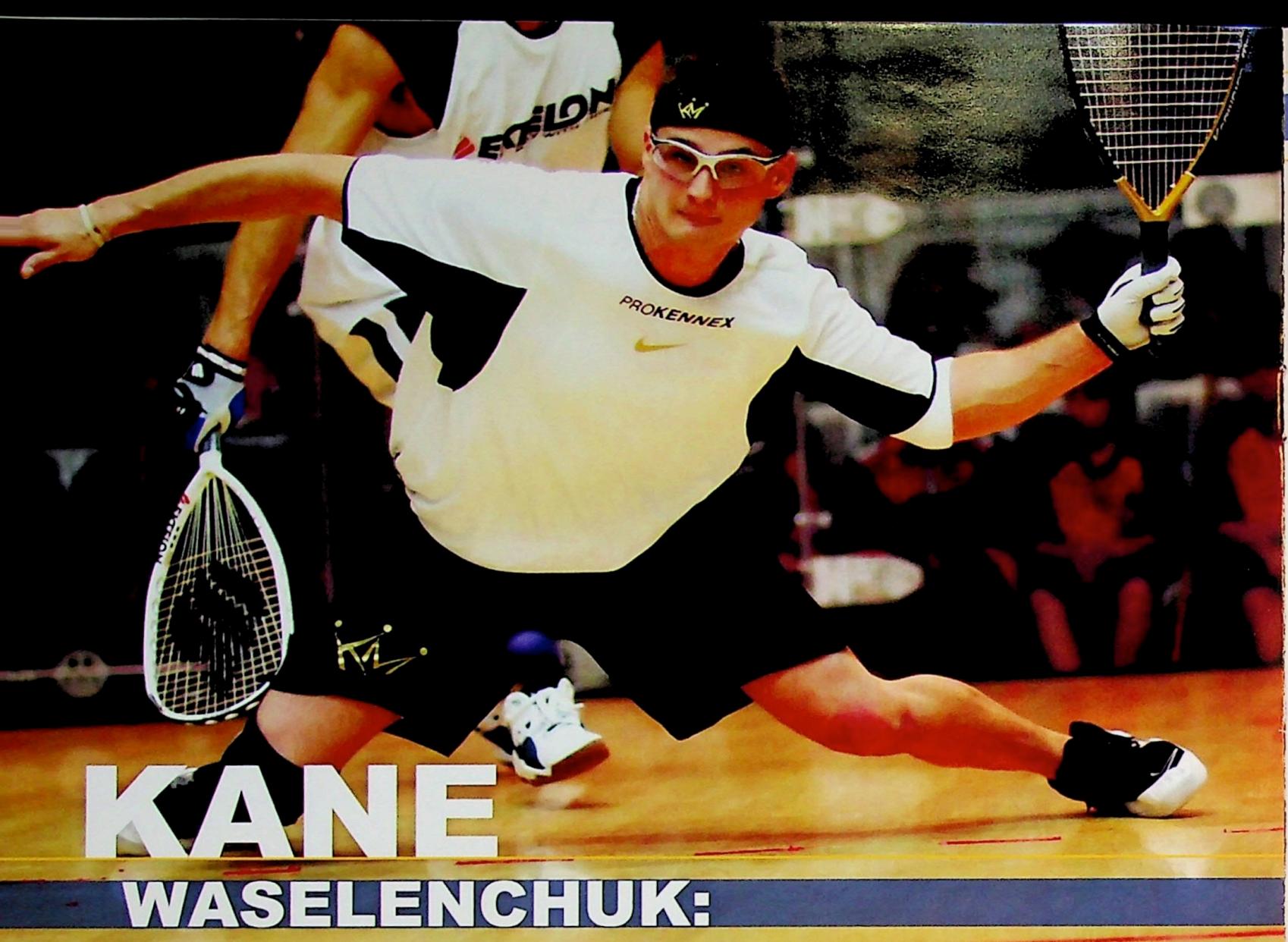


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KANE WASELENCHUK:

BREAKING RECORDS AND CHANGING THE PRO GAME

By Jen Sinclair Johnson

Kane Waselenchuk, the world's top-ranked player, will walk onto Stadium Court wearing heavy armor forged from a 105-match winning streak, more than doubling Marty Hogan's run in the '70's and Sudsy Monchik's in the late '90's. While Waselenchuk overhauls the record books, he's also transforming the professional game.

Hogan introduced speed, strength, and athleticism to a sport that had been marked by a slower, more controlled game. Rocket serves and two-shot rallies reigned until rule changes and player strategies evolved to create "power" and "control" techniques. Adept at both styles, Waselenchuk also displays that "something else", according to his coach, Jim Winterton. "He hits behind the back, between the legs, and over his shoulder. I've

never seen anyone with such a variety of shots. In the future, that's going to be the norm."

Racquetballs spring from the #1-ranked pro's racquet in every direction, yet his play is not fundamentally sound, a surprising fact that Winterton respectfully admits. "His unpredictability is what makes him great. He can hit as hard as any, dink in the corner softly, change speeds, angles. He demonstrates creativity that is absolutely amazing. He's Shakespeare with a racquet."

That's not to say he can't be beat, according to Dave Peck, who took home the 1982 Ektelon Championship title, beating Mike Yellen in the finals to claim the #1 ranking from Marty Hogan. "My attitude was that I was going to go for it, and I didn't care who was in the way. I was going to work to try to win first place."



Just as Peck knew that beating Hogan required a savvy game plan, he realizes that those trying to take out today's champ will find the going rough. "He understands the physical and mental aspects of what it entails to be the best player in the world and to keep his competition from beating him. There are weaknesses in his game, but those weaknesses are minute. Competitors are going to have to have the fortitude to isolate on the minuscule weaknesses and execute – that's way easier said than done."

Perhaps that's also why more players on the tour are working with a coach, the second way Waselenchuk has influenced the sport, according to Winterton. "I heard a pro say, 'I wish I had a coach.' You never would have heard that ten years ago, but players need to know how to take criticism and leave their comfort zone in order to improve."

Waselenchuk has done what it takes to become better. Although he won his first pro stop in a record-setting six tournaments (the fastest ever for a rookie), he struggled afterward to make it past the quarters. Peck has seen how those days have changed. "Kane is a student of the game, trains like an SOB, works all the facets. He's the complete package, mental and physical, which is why he's so successful and why he'll wind up with Cliff as the best player of the game, based on anyone's objective scorekeeping (i.e., major tournament titles coupled with multiple years as the #1 professionally ranked player). It's just that simple."

Winterton agrees. "When you watch him play, it's like a sport dynasty. I don't know if it'll ever come along again in the history of racquetball."



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JUNIOR U.S. TEAM

This year's Junior US Team will be selected at the 2011 US Junior National Championships June 25th – 29th in Portland, Oregon.

The team will be comprised of the finalist in the boys and girls 18, 16, and 14's as well as the doubles champions in those divisions.

Coaches for the team are Head Coach Kelley Beane and Assistant Coaches Shane Wood, Cheryl Gudinas and RO Carson.



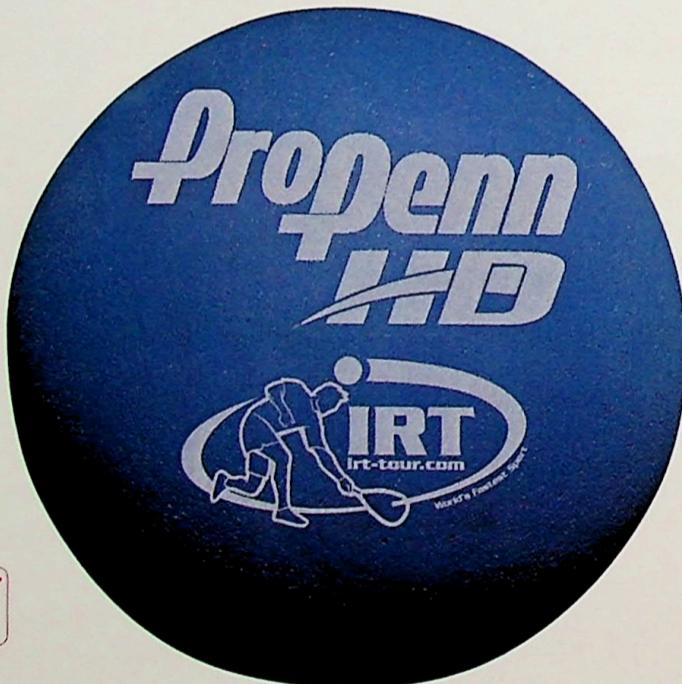
This year's World Championships will be held in the Dominican Republic July 23rd – 30th.

Although the World Championships is normally held in November, this year, because of the Pan American Games held in October, the Junior Worlds has been moved to July. This leaves less than one month for the team to fundraise and prepare!

This will be an expensive trip and with the Nationals and Worlds being less than one month apart the financial burdens on the families are enormous.

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LONG-TIME RELATIONSHIP FORGED OVER YEARS RESULTS IN NEW EVENT

by Jen Sinclair Johnson

For the first time, three major racquetball organizations, USA Racquetball, the International Racquetball Tour, and Ektelon have joined together to combine the amateur National Finals Championships and the IRT Pro Nationals into one event. The Ektelon Nationals presented by Penn embraces the heritage of one of racquetball's premier tournaments and will serve as a catalyst for the sport's next wave of growth.

According to Jim Hiser, Executive Director of USA Racquetball, "This is the first step in partnering together and developing a mega event that I think will turn into the largest over the next few years."

Companies and organizations within and around the sport have changed over the decades, yet the ties forged during the past 25 years by individuals, now in leadership positions, have made it possible to collaborate on an event of the magnitude of The Ektelon Nationals presented by Penn.

Scott Winters, a 30-year industry veteran and Vice President of Ektelon, remembers the original Ektelon Nationals well. "Everyone looked forward to it. Whether playing or not, you were there. It was always very well-run and featured some of the best players in the world, all competing at once."

The 1985 Ektelon Nationals Champion, Cliff Swain, beat Marty Hogan and the Peck brothers to earn the title, yet was "just in awe" to be there. "I'd won my first pro tournament a few months before. It was such a big event...people coming from all over the country. I thought it was so cool."

Andy Roberts started playing the pro tour during the original event's heyday. "Incredibly passionate racquetball people weren't just there to watch, but to cheer for – or against – someone. It made for memorable confrontations with controversial calls, tighter matches, and the interaction between the gallery and pros. It was like a Red Sox vs. Yankees game."

Dave Peck also enjoys strong memories from the tournament. Even as the sport was exploding, the friction between players and among sponsors amplified the excitement. Off the court, everyone was cordial. Inside the glass, they wanted to destroy each other. "They weren't really nice matches." It's what made Peck's 1982 Ektelon Nationals Championship title and resulting year-end #1 ranking so sweet. "No one thought that Marty Hogan could be beaten, much less lose his #1 ranking. That's why I remember it so well – the feeling, intensity, and all those things. I didn't do it by default, because the best player was also there."

Ed Andrews, who won every amateur championship title (at least once) prior to turning pro, remembers the large draws that funneled into big matches. "Players had to win a state-level tournament just to enter, which created a buzz."

The buzz around the revived tournament comes back to Ektelon, a division of Prince Sports, which is rallying the entire company and promotional team around this event. They're taking this opportunity to celebrate the brand's industry leading 42- year heritage in racquetball and to launch their new product line featuring a signature series of Ruben Gonzalez products.

The 58-year old widely known as "The Legend of Racquetball" and former #1 pro recently capped his career with an unprecedented contract to play a Farewell Tour with Ektelon, setting the goal of reaching a top-ten ranking by the age of 60. Sudsy Monchik, five-time IRT Champion and perennial fan favorite, will celebrate his new advisory agreement with Ektelon and energize the crowds as emcee of the stadium court. The future will be represented, too, as Ektelon unveils Team Adrenalin, a group of up-and-coming stars on a trajectory to join the pro tour.

The IRT will be ready. The IRT leadership team, led by Jason Mannino since last year, set a top goal of enhancing the value for those partnering with the organization. According to Mannino, "It felt like a way to tie in, add value, and combine our Pro Nationals with one of the biggest events in the game, USA Racquetball's National Finals."

Jim Hiser and his staff at USAR were looking for a new home for "The Finals" after the Houston, Texas YMCA closed. "This is the first time the U.S. Team qualifiers will be held outside of Houston. We saw the opportunity for another Grand Slam event and to bring out the portable court." The Meridian Sports Club in Fullerton, California, turned out to be the ideal choice. "It's a great venue and a great location."

Hiser also sees the move as good for the future of the sport. "We're going to all kinds of extra measures to ensure this is a very special inaugural event, and we plan to add even more enhancements down the line in the next couple of years. We hope it's a springboard for new things to happen."

Mannino agrees. "It's a sign of the things to come. We'd like to tie in other sponsors to propel the event to a televised grand slam event level."



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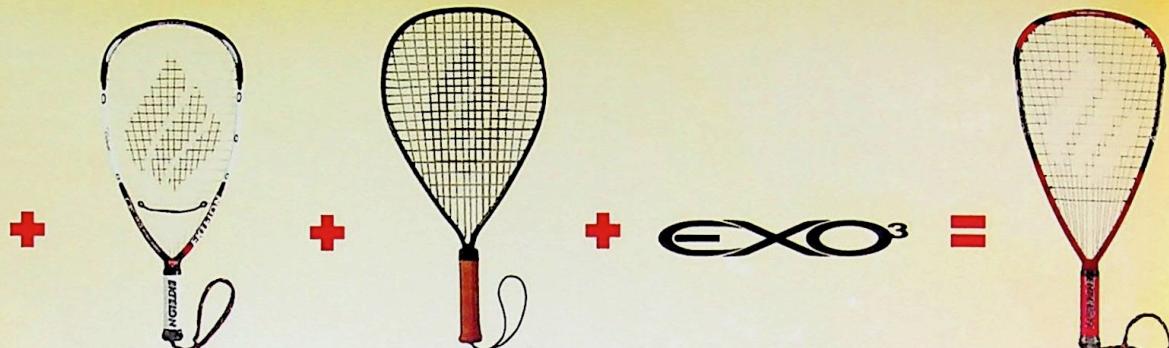
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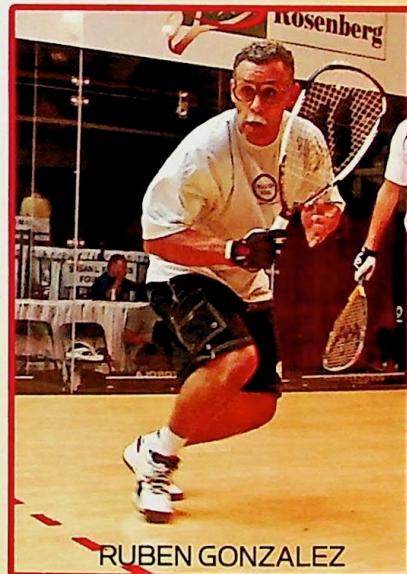
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