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# RACQUETBALL

Inside ...  
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**EXCLUSIVE ... Choice  
Hotels U.S. OPEN  
coverage — Monchik  
wins his fourth &  
Gudinas her first!**

*Interview ... Cheryl Gudinas  
Lives her Dream and earns her  
first U.S. OPEN title for ...*

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AND ...  
• IRT & LPRA updates  
• People, Global  
• Industry News  
• Instruction

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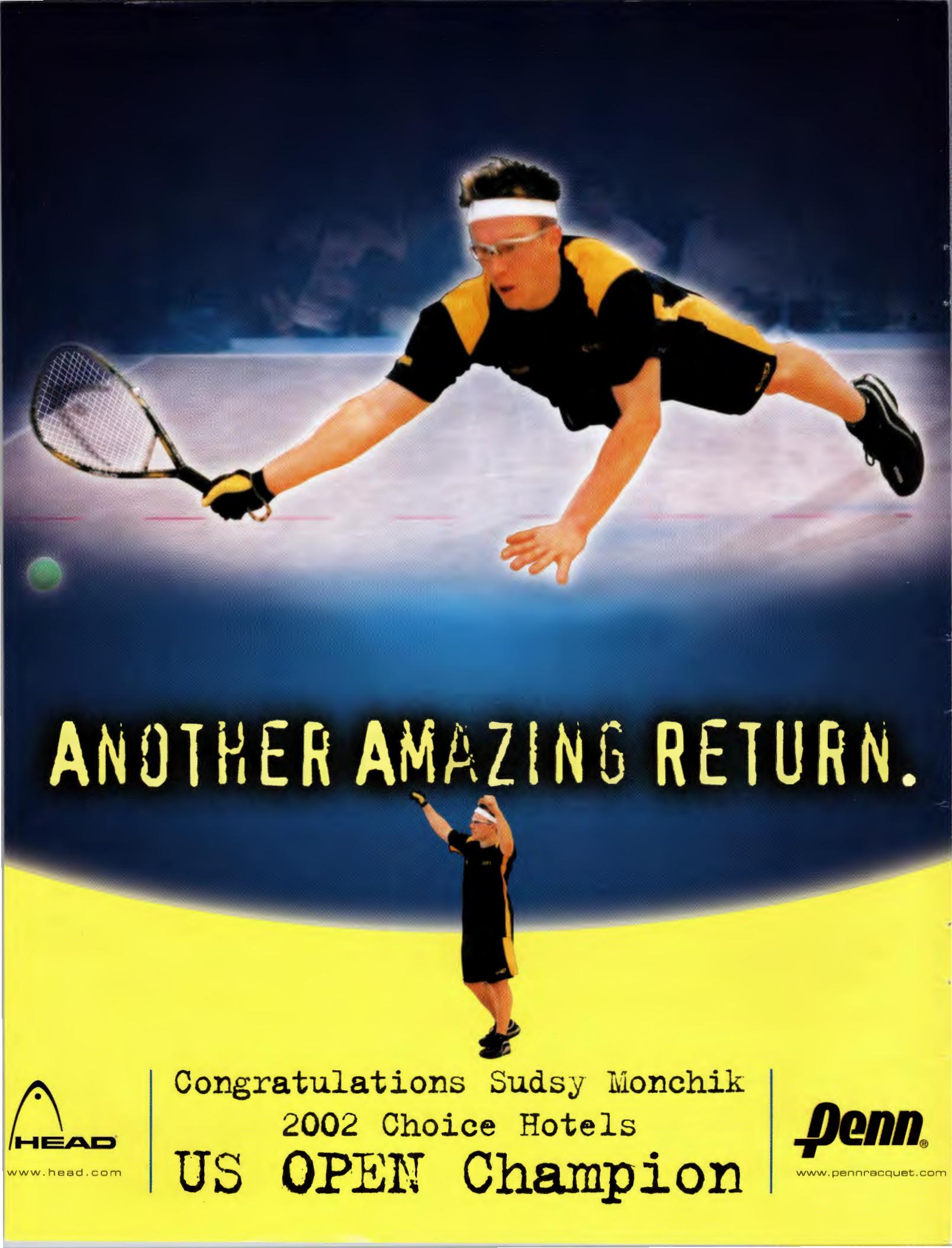
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**RACQUETBALL**

Volume 14, Number 1  
January - February 2003

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*... on the cover ... Cheryl Gudinas hit a career highnote with her 2002 U.S. OPEN win — it had been the only major title that had eluded her.*

*... this page ... Top pros take time out from their competition schedule in Memphis to visit patients (Brianas is pictured) at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This year, the U.S. OPEN surpassed \$100,000 in donations to the hospital [see page 45]. Both photos: Vicki Hughes.*

## from the >>>



Hmmm ... so what's new with you? Has everyone snapped out of their post-holiday funk yet? Begun the new year with a renewed sense of well-being and overall good cheer? Recovered from the icy blast of reality offered up in the last issue?

Imagine my surprise at hearing (secondhand, of course) that readers had been taken aback at being presented with some cold, hard facts about the sport ... from the USRA's financial woes refrain, to the manufacturers matter-of-factness about the market. But hey, who thought we were tennis? It takes a special kind of unique, clever,

intelligent, kind and well-meaning type of individual to really get in there and stick with racquetball. Either you got it, or you don't. If we really took it all-so-seriously, there'd be nothing but bodies lying around (or heads piled in a corner). C'mon ... it had to put you in the mood for a little holiday shopping, didn't it?

In any case, it's a brand new year, and ... well ... we just have to push on. Want to do something about it? You'll have your chance. In the very next issue: board elections. Vote for individuals that you truly think "fit" the profile of a board member for a non-profit corporation. Think (literally) "non-profit" ... and pick those who can do the best job of assisting in the care-and-feeding of an organization with a lot of potential and good intentions — but without the substantial financial resources it needs to realize them.

Right now, your dues underwrite a tidy package of basics: a pretty snappy magazine (if I do say so myself), a couple of info-packed websites, some athlete insurance, and a comprehensive infrastructure of state-based local organizations to help keep the sport active in your area by supporting sanctioned events. Is there more that you want? Need? Can't live without?

There's been a lot of buzz lately about a new rating system for the sport. Do you want/need one? How badly? Would you be willing to underwrite some added costs to make it work? What if it's unwieldy or complicated? Who's going to manage it from the "grassroots" up? If we don't have the resources (\$) to do it right, should we do it at all? Or wait? Or what? It's classic chicken-and-egg. What comes first, the need, or the ability? If the sport truly needs it ... are we able? If we're not able to afford, or manage it ... do we need it?

These are the types of issues that the national staff and board of directors have to wrestle with, year-round. And when it comes right down to it, it's all about resources and setting priorities. So if its information retrieval we need ... who's going to give us the brand-spanking new network-server-interactive-internet-website thingie that's going to solve all our data, recordkeeping, education, communication and public service needs in the new year (and someone to drive it)? I guess it's never too early to start a new letter to Santa ...

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## **Inspirational**

It's not often that one picks a role model that is younger than you, but after reading about Johnny Hennen in the Nov/Dec issue (page 20), he is my perfect choice.

Coming back from so many adversities, and still being able to maintain his championship competitive spirit is the stuff we all hope to be able to do. This story came to me the day after I returned home from the hospital after going through an aortic valve replacement—and I hope to get back into form, like Johnny. Six years ago, I went through a triple bypass operation and six months later was playing competitively. This year, having just turned 70, I really wanted to make a push for ranking, but that will have to be delayed for a while. But with the knowledge that Johnny Hennen has done it, I'm hoping that it will carry me also to my goals.

Thanks, Johnny, for the inspiration and I hope you have continuing success on the racquetball courts – and more importantly, health-wise.

*Ralph Levitan • Westport, Connecticut*

## **Exception**

I read the article by Tom Rall regarding racquetball in America. I strongly agree with the point of the article regarding developing the game of racquetball. The biggest thing racquetball needs to do is focus on young players. I have been teaching youth racquetball in YMCAs since 1983. I have taught hundreds of kids to play and hopefully they will continue playing as adults. He does have a few misconstrued facts in his premise though. Racquetball was developed by Joe Sobek in 1949 and is strongly based on handball, which by most estimates is well over 1000 years old. To compare American football to rugby and not compare racquetball to handball is a bit of a stretch. Basketball, on the other hand, was developed by Dr. James Naismith in 1891 at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, MA. It was not derived from any other game (at least no one in the past 111 years has tried to take credit for it).

*Bruce Patnoudes • Benton Harbor St. Joseph YMCA*

## **Details Please**

In the September/October issue of Racquetball Magazine, Sudsy's Magic Show "The Backhand Lob Serve" doesn't show where the ball hits the front wall, floor (and sidewalls or back wall if any) and how far Sudsy is from the sidewall. Is it a lob or half lob? Thanks!

*Alex Glaros • Davis, California*

*Fran Davis elaborates: With most lob serves, the ball hits the front wall about three-quarters of the way up for the full lob (or about halfway up for the half-lob), and lands about 1-2 feet in front of the dotted safety line in both. Sudsy is pictured about five feet from the left side wall, and the motion for both the lob and half-lob is the same. This series shows "technique" rather than ball placement, detailing Sudsy's movements from racquet prep to follow-through. Once proper stroke mechanics are learned, adjustments in ball placement give you*

## **Stand up and be Counted !**

*In the next issue of RACQUETBALL (the March/April edition), the annual USRA Board of Directors election materials and ballot will be delivered to all adult members in good standing. To be certain of receiving them, you'll want to make sure that your membership doesn't lapse between now and then, since there were two important procedural changes that were approved at the May 2002 Board meeting that will go into effect with this voting round. They are:*

- 1. The National Singles entry will no longer contain a separate ballot (making the magazine ballot the only method by which to vote, other than by numbered ballot on request).*
- 2. Eligible USRA voters must be 18 years of age or older.*

*By previewing these changes, and alerting readers to the coming ballot, one of the most important changes that the Board would like to affect is voter turnout. Of 18,000 USRA members, only 584 actually turned in ballots last year – or only 3.5% of our membership! And that was the highest turnout in the history of board elections ... The 2000 Gore/Bush Presidential election garnered a 49% return (and everyone decried that turnout) so 3.5% obviously doesn't cut it for true voter involvement.*

*In the next few months, you'll be able to find information on the candidates and their stances on relevant issues, in both print and website presentations. We hope that this will help members make an informed choice. Members play an important role in the process, since your vote helps appoint directors who perform oversight functions and set policy for the USRA. The Board makes budget and programming decisions, so if you have an interest in the sport as a whole, or anything about the USRA in particular, it's your responsibility to study the candidates and make informed choices. Let your voice be heard. VOTE!*

## **Great Expectations**

*When the election materials arrive, you'll find candidate photos and platform statements from those who have either been nominated by board committee, or have petitioned for a spot on the ballot. The USRA Board Election Committee, chaired by Jim Garner, reviewed the qualifications of the following five individuals, and has pre-approved them for the slate: Lorraine*

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Galloway (N.Y.); Lance Gilliam (Texas); Geoff Peters (Ill.); Tom Rall (Colo.); and Frank Taddonio (Ariz.). At press time, the deadline for petitions had not yet passed ... so additional names may appear on the final ballot in the next issue.

In reviewing the final slate, the following list of "great expectations" may help guide you in selecting candidates who will have the best "fit" for board service. Here's what they'll be asked to do:

## **So, You want to be a USRA Board Member ...**

... GREAT! Serving on the Board to further a sport we all love is a wonderful endeavor. There are many ways to help our sport, and joining the Board of Directors is certainly a major step. Please take a few minutes and review the information below. After reading it carefully and putting good thought to the requirements, make the decision best for all concerned.

1. Each board member will be required to attend meetings. There is always the annual meeting just prior to the National Singles. Usually there is a fall meeting in Colorado. In addition to these meetings, which require time and travel, there are many phone conversations and e-mail sessions. This generally means you will be required to take time off from your job for travel and meetings.
2. Every board member should be willing to give an annual gift to the USRA. The amount isn't important. What is important is that our Board be 100% vested in our organization. This is very important when applying for grants.
3. Each board member will be asked to be on at least three (3) committees. This means meetings of some type (phone, email, or travel). You will be asked to make decisions that are in the best interest of the USRA in these committees and then present them to the board. The Board will endeavor to assign you a committee that matches your interest, however, may be asked to serve in another area.
4. You may be asked to work at National tournaments, without remuneration. These are our events to host and we should expect to help if staff needs our assistance.
5. Each board member must remember that confidential issues are often discussed, and it will be important to hold those confidences dearly.
6. Everyone who sits on the board must sign a letter regarding Conflict of Interest.
7. You must remain accessible to the general membership and be willing to address concerns
8. USRA membership must be current at all times.
9. All USRA Board members are expected to respond to member needs in a professional manner. It is important to be able to have a positive and professional dialogue with our membership.

Material compiled by USRA Board members Chris Cole & Jan Stelma. See full Board List online at [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org) > "Directories"

variety in your shots. See the September/October 1999 issue for "The Lob Serve."

## **Retro-spective [edited for space]**

I am writing this in response to Tom Slear's piece, "Racquet Wars [Nov/Dec 2002]. I began playing racquetball in '92. After being a member at a half dozen clubs in as many cities, I have some experience with the illness that ails racquetball. I also have some experience with the club management side.

Club Owners and the manufacturers a both party to the downturn of the sport. Club owners are in the business of selling memberships, but too often the sales staffs at these facilities couldn't sell ice cream in hell. Then, the clubs end up in a bad cash position and are forced to cut services; only treating the symptoms and not the illness.

The problem is that management lost sight of its responsibility to train its sales people to sell memberships and not simply take orders. Contrary to Doug Ganim's position that it is, "not their job to create demand. They respond to it ..," club owners can create demand through promotion and it is then their responsibility to effectively train their sales people to close deals when they show up at the door.

Manufacturers are also responsible [and] need to simply get more resourceful in their tactics. Make heroes out of your players. Mythical if necessary. The top players today are the best ever. Football was a closet sport many decades ago, but the Galloping Ghost still rides in many realms of the game today. Try some focused marketing to promote the events, like the Pay Per View idea, or an internet site that has live action on it. Create some excitement! Get hungry.

It seems that the game of racquetball is like a football team trying to score in the red zone against a tough opponent with seconds left on the clock. You only need a field goal to tie, or as Doug Ganim puts it, "We don't have to have huge numbers to justify our existence", but if you score the touchdown, you win!

*Jason Langston • Orange County, CA*

[Jason's original letter to the editor was almost as long as Slear's feature article, so the preceding is greatly abbreviated. Read the full text, including some interesting background info, and more suggestions, online at [www.racqmag.com](http://www.racqmag.com). – Editor.]

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## Cheryl Gudinas Lives Her Dream

*With a #1 ranking and a career first U.S. Open win notched on her belt this year, Cheryl Gudinas is on top of her game and plans on staying there. She rose to these heights of professional racquetball with fierce determination, a solid belief in the rewards of hard work, and an enviable support system. And ... a few great role models along the way.*

**Interview by Dick Barton**

## early cheryl ...

"For now, racquetball is my whole life," she told *RACQUETBALL* in an exclusive interview one chilly Chicago night over deep-dish pizza. "And, frankly I am living my dream. What could be better?"

Cheryl had just finished some holiday shopping at an outlet mall when she sat down to update a career in the game she lives and breathes every day. Spending a few hours with this reigning court star leaves little doubt that she will continue to impress fans and competitors alike for years to come.

Born in Chicago, she stayed close to the Windy City in a nearby suburb where she was introduced to the "game" under slightly unusual circumstances.

"Around 1983, I was a wide-eyed freshman, singing in the girl's choir at Downers Grove North High School, when I developed a crush on an upperclassman," she explained. "All the girls were a bit crazy over this hunk of a guy. He worked at a local health club, so I figured if I joined the club and hung out there then I would get a chance to meet him."

Well, Cheryl never did get his attention but did meet some other great guys who introduced her to racquetball. At first, she just hit the ball around with them for some exercise but then started to like the action and the game.

"I love a good workout and racquetball gave it to me then ... and still does," she said. "It didn't take long before I was regularly beating those guys. They later encouraged me to enter a local tournament to test my newfound skills".

The tournament was at the Naper Olympic Club. She was entered in the "D" singles. But, there was one problem. The time. Her match was at 8:00 a.m.

"I hated that because it was too early for me," she grimaced. "I still hate playing too early in the morning. I do much better in the afternoon. That's when I normally practice."

Despite the early starting time, she handily won her first tournament, then quickly started her rise at other tournaments through C, B and then A where she finally came to "rest" for a while.

She continued to play hard and practice through high school; later she further perfected her game and work ethic while attending Illinois Benedictine College where



she majored in Nutrition and Physical Education.

What she learned in her college classrooms, she applied to her racquetball routine. "I learned about the true value of nutrition and fitness. You could say I am a fitness nut who truly believes that I can work myself into a state of complete readiness on the court."

"I regularly work out to near exhaustion because I feel that is what it takes to be at the top in this game," she said. "I follow the philosophy of Coach Pat Summit of the Lady Volunteers basketball team at the University of Tennessee."

Coach Summit stresses fitness and conditioning as a way to victory for her team. She tells the competition "we will out-work you" for the win on game day. You could say Cheryl lives and breathes that same philosophy, using it as her method for being a top competitor.



Cheryl with the first of three back to back 25+ titles, in 1991.

Some observers say that Cheryl works so hard that she doesn't seem to enjoy playing the game. At times, there seems to be more frustration than joy about her talent.

"I've heard people say I don't enjoy myself, at times, but the fact is I am just very hard on myself," she counters. She is probably harder on herself than anyone else would be. She illustrated a case in point: after hitting what appeared to be a perfect pinch rollout, she

expressed dissatisfaction, to the surprise of those who had witnessed the seemingly perfect shot.

"I wanted the ball to come straight back not to the center of the court," she exclaimed. In this case, perfection was in the eye of the beholder.

She professes, "I do love this game and cannot imagine doing anything else right now. Racquetball is my life and, frankly, I am living any serious player's dream."

But all the glory, adulation, and financial rewards were not attained without help along the way. Cheryl is the first to admit that.

She's followed some positive role models over the past 15 years. One of those was Chris Evon, who helped Cheryl stay strong as part of her personal support system. Others in the support system include practice partners Bob Clar, Ted Huddleson, Gary Lehnert, and Steve MacInnis.

"My support system has been there for me at some tough times and in the good times," she said. "I could not do what I do without them. They are all racquetball nuts like me!"

Best friend Kelley Beane is the head coach of the U.S. Junior Team, and is also credited as a source of inner strength. "Kelley really knows me like a big sister would and helps me in so many ways," she exclaims. "When I get into my usual state of high anxiety and am so nervous I can't sleep or eat, she knows how to calm me down and get me to eat, rest, and relax".

"I have been fortunate to have a great support system. Kelley is a big part of that along with Mitt Layton and other friends who double as coaches".

Another early role model was 7-time world champion Lynn Adams. Cheryl credits Lynn's example for show-

ing her the true spirit of a champion, by the way she worked harder than anyone else, perfected her game to the highest degree, and competed with dignity.

"Lynn never gave up even in the toughest situations like being down in a finals," she said. "I follow her example to help me come back in the last minutes to win the match and a championship." Lynn was an inspiration and remains a friend even today, years after her retirement.

Cheryl patterned her professional life after another of her heroes, Michael Jordan. She admires his unbeatable work ethic and love of his game. She tries to pattern her preparedness and competitive spirit after the guy most believe to be basketball's finest player.

As if it wasn't enough just to follow Jordan's example, she brings a little bit of "Michael" with her onto the court. She has a number "23" on her game skirt and often wears a hat with his Leaping Airness logo. She's known for wearing hats when she plays and each one has a special meaning to her, but the Jordan chapeau is most cherished.

Cheryl dismisses the notion that she might be superstitious. But aside from having a #23 on her skirt, she always wears a lucky silver cross around her neck because it brings back fond memories of a win in the 2000 World Championships, when she had been down 9-3 and come back to win 11-10. But she claims that such things are more Zen than superstition. Hmm... Zen... Michael Jordan. Perhaps she should be introduced to Lakers Coach Phil Jackson, "the Zen Master?"

Cheryl knows it takes more than nervous energy to win the big ones. She works hard all the time and has not one but two excellent trainers. One of those is Eugene Coyle [see pg. 45] who knows how to design a workout

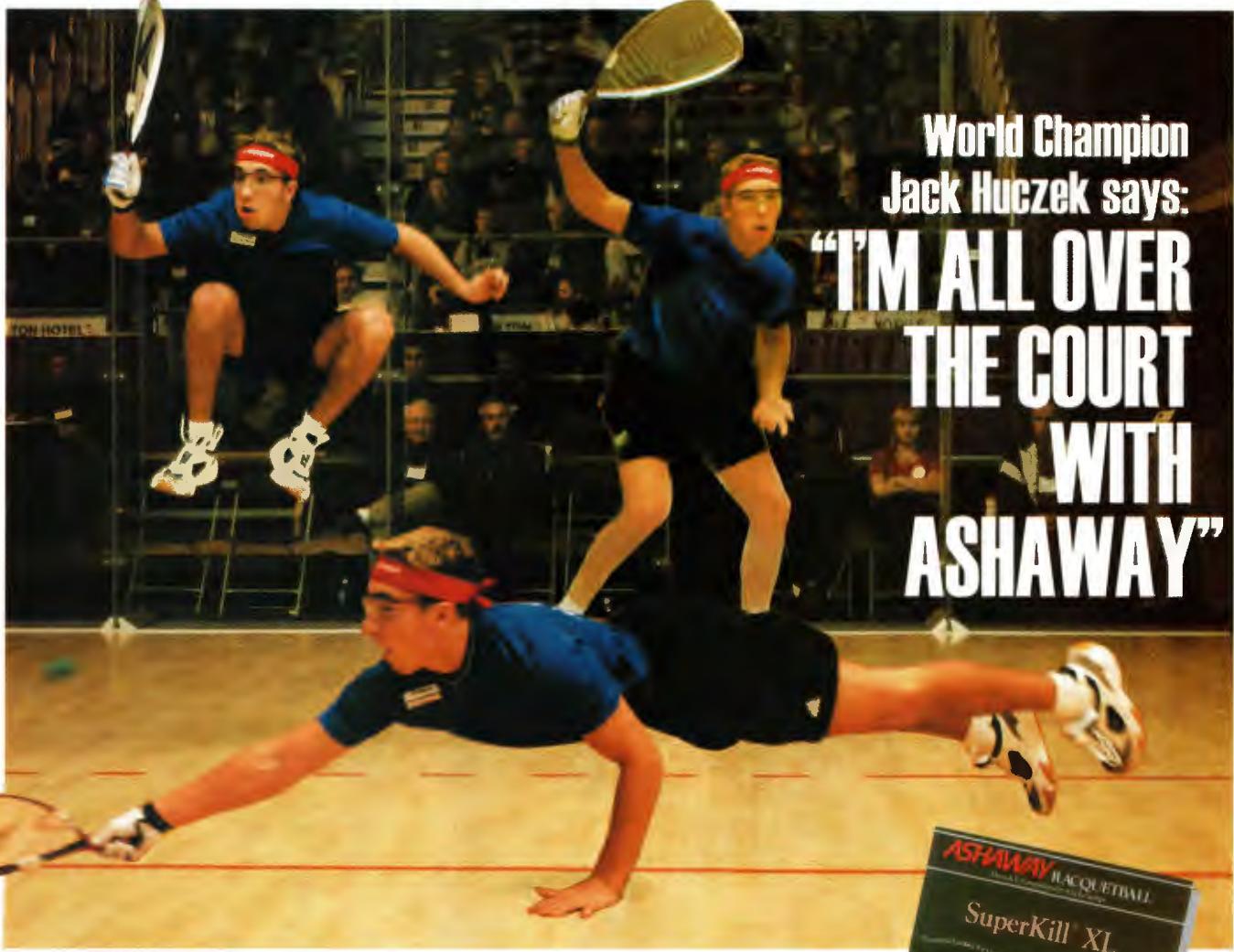
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... cheryl ... continues on page 31



*With parents Patricia and William Gudinas in Houston this year. Right: with Kelley Beane in 1998.*





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### Guess Who's Back?

A year ago, just before the U.S. OPEN was set to begin, event director Doug Ganim received a phone call that turned the IRT season upside down. It was Sudsy Monchik, calling to say that he may have broken his foot in a freak accident after he stepped on a rock getting out of the car. At first it was a question of whether or not he could play that weekend; later, he found that he would miss far more than that.

After learning that he would have to sit out the rest of the season, Sudsy's injury meant many things. Not only did he lose his bid to become the first man to repeat as U.S. OPEN champion, but he also lost his chance at becoming the first to capture six pro tour season titles. Despite the setback, he still managed to navigate to and around the 2001 U.S. OPEN in a wheelchair, sign autographs, and be "Sudsy". And as a native New Yorker, he kept his perspective, "Things could be a lot worse," he kept saying (referring to the events of 9-11, only weeks earlier). There were times, however, when you could read Sudsy's face as he watched from the sidelines ... "That should be me out there."

Instead it was Cliff Swain in the 2001 final, who went on to win his second title and later hold off a hot Jason Mannino at the end of the season to capture a previously elusive sixth pro tour title. Cliff, who everyone keeps trying to write off as being washed up, keeps proving the contrary. Whenever he hears "the aging Cliff Swain" or "Cliff can still hold his own with the new stars of the IRT" he just grits his teeth and takes care of business. He's used to it by now — people have been trying to write him off for 10 years.



## monchik takes fourth open title

This year it seemed only fitting that Monchik and Swain would meet in the finals once again for the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. They are, perhaps, the two greatest players to ever step onto a racquetball court. At the same time, they're also two players that everyone had written off over and over again, especially this year. Two players that only know how to do one thing ... win.

But due to the layoff, Sudsy came into the draw placed in the No.9 spot, while Swain had slipped to No.3 in the rankings. Early round play became all the more important, as some of the lower seeds began to struggle — and fall — in the 32's.

The first to drop was No.16 Tim Doyle, who recently became semi-retired in order to take on more duties in the E-Force player department. Unsigned rising star Jason Thoerner, who finished second at the IRF World Championships in August, took Doyle out in straight games.

"I was very worried going into the match," said Thoerner afterwards. "You never know which Tim Doyle will show up, the one that can make the semi-finals or the one that hasn't been playing. I just went in expecting the best from him and tried to stay focused the entire match."

Later that evening Mike Dennison knocked off No.12 Chris Crowther, also in straight games. The first game was a marathon that went to 14-12, but Dennison found his rocket serve in the next two games to close out the match 11-6, 11-7.

"I was excited to finally close Chris out," said Dennison after the match. "The last two times we played I was up on him 2-0 and he came back to beat me in five."

Also in the round, No. 6 Alvaro Beltran dropped the first game to former intercollegiate champ Shane Vanderson before winning three straight, including a 13-11 thriller in game four. Javier Moreno and Dan Llacera had an all out war in their match, splitting the first four games before the young Mexican took the decisive fifth, 11-8, to move on.

The top seeds showed how they'd earned their positions in the round of 16, with just two matches exceeding the three game minimum. The only "upset" of the round was No.9 Sudsy over No.8 Derek Robinson in straight games,

which set up the match that everyone had hoped for: Monchik vs. No.1 Jason Mannino.

**2002 Choice Hotels 7th U.S. OPEN**  
Coverage by Ryan John, Photos by Vicki Hughes



## round of 16 action

*top: mannino vs. thoerner; center left: monchik vs. robinson; center right: swain vs. gonzalez; bottom: waselenchuk vs. moreno*

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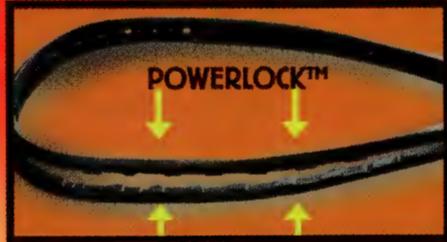


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\*World Champion  
Kane Waselenchuk

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With PowerLock™ construction, two frame halves come together to create a racquet with superior STRENGTH! Conventional string holes are drilled, which sever fibers and reduce frame stiffness, weakening the frame. PowerLock's™ internal wall maintains 100% frame fiber integrity providing superior frame stiffness for power and less twisting on off center shots!

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Get a handle on all this POWER and STRENGTH with the new Air + Comfort™ handle. The clear Vision PowerWrap™ Grip is ultra tacky and reveals four air-filled quadrants that move independently within the handle for superior shock absorption, while the red cross dampener reduces frame vibrations even MORE! All this creates a state-of-the-art comfort and traction system you can see and feel!



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### Quarters

Suds vs. Jason is exciting if it's only a pick-up game at a local club, but on the sport's grandest stage this match turns into a spectacle. Playing to a capacity crowd, neither player held anything back, and the stories retold for years to come won't have any need for exaggeration. Both players came out with heart and determination, making incredible shots and keeping irretrievable balls in play, sending the crowd into furious ovations after each rally. In the end, Sudsy came out on top of his longtime friend in four spectacular games of 12-10, 11-9, 7-11, 11-3.

Just as exciting was the No.4 Jack Huczek vs. No.5 John Ellis battle on the show court. Huczek, who was

defeated by Ellis at the 2000 Open, has since risen to the top-four on the IRT, was ready to show that his game has matured. Ellis came out firing in the first game and took it 11-8. Huczek wasn't fazed and squeaked out a win in game two 12-10. He then preceded to dominate game three 11-4 and edged Ellis once again 12-10 to earn a spot in the semifinals.

No.7 Rocky Carson stepped up his game to give No.2 Kane Waselenchuk a run for his money. The first two games were tight with Kane coming out on top 12-10, 11-7. The third was just as close but it was Carson that mustered up the win 12-10 before falling in the fourth 11-8.

From the unusual mid-bracket berth, Swain continued his march toward the final with a straight game advance over Alvaro Beltran.

### Semifinals

The semifinals were set and the match-ups mirrored each other, pitting experience vs. youth. In the top half it was Monchik against Huczek, who had made their rivalry clear, and vocal, earlier in the season. In front of the enormous U.S. OPEN crowd, the pair was much more cordial and stuck with their court skills to make bold statements.

Suds came out like a man possessed in the first game, taking it 11-4. Huczek came away with a win in game two 11-9, but there wasn't enough momentum to carry him through. Sudsy seemed like a runaway freight train, gaining speed with each game, and passing round. He dismantled Huczek in the third and fourth games to close out the match 11-7, 11-6.



*Every which way ... Mannino is well known for his diving prowess, and good buddy Monchik gave him every opportunity to showcase the skill in their quarterfinal. Below left: Ellis vs. Huczek.*

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**

## quarterfinals

In addition to the Monchik/Mannino quarterfinal thriller, the round featured Ellis vs. Huczek (facing page, bottom), Swain vs. Beltran (below left) and Carson vs. Waselenchuk (right).



## legends tour

In its first full season, the Legends Tour made its U.S. OPEN debut on the stadium court in Memphis. The tour features some of the best to ever play the game in an invitation-only format. There were four players invited to play at the OPEN for a prize money purse of \$5000. Of the four, all of them were considered "the best" at some point in their careers.

Bret Harnett earned the top seed and, although he hasn't played much competitive racquetball since retiring from the pro tour, still looked to be in top shape. He faced Gregg Peck, who has stayed active in racquetball on the coaching side, leading the 2001-2002 U.S. Junior Team to another world title. Gregg held his own against the lefty, but Bret's power was too much throughout the 15-11, 15-13 match win.



Still considered by many to be the best to ever play, Marty Hogan was seeded second and faced yet another Peck ... this time it was Dave. Both players have continued to compete in amateur age divisions and that competitiveness was evident as they battled it out just like "back in the day." Marty came out on top this time, but had to go extra innings 13-15, 15-5, 11-7.

The finals kicked off championship action Sunday on the stadium court. After dispensing of the Peck brothers a day earlier, Bret and Marty were ready to duke it out. The chatter was non-stop, as the two re-lived earlier days of trash-talking and fan exchange — even going so far as to ask the gallery to make calls that they felt the referee had overlooked. The games stayed close for beginning of each, before Bret pulled ahead to close out the match in straight games of 15-11, 15-12, and win the inaugural U.S. OPEN Legends Championship.

In the bottom half was the best left-hander ever, Swain, pitted against fellow southpaw and heir apparent, No.2 Kane Waselenchuk. They had put on great shows in past U.S. OPENs, but Swain, who hadn't lost a game thus far, kept on track in eliminating Kane in three straight 11-9, 11-9, 11-7. Although the games were close and Kane was openly critical of referee Jason Thoerner in post-match comments, it wasn't officiating that had decided the match.

### **One more time ...**

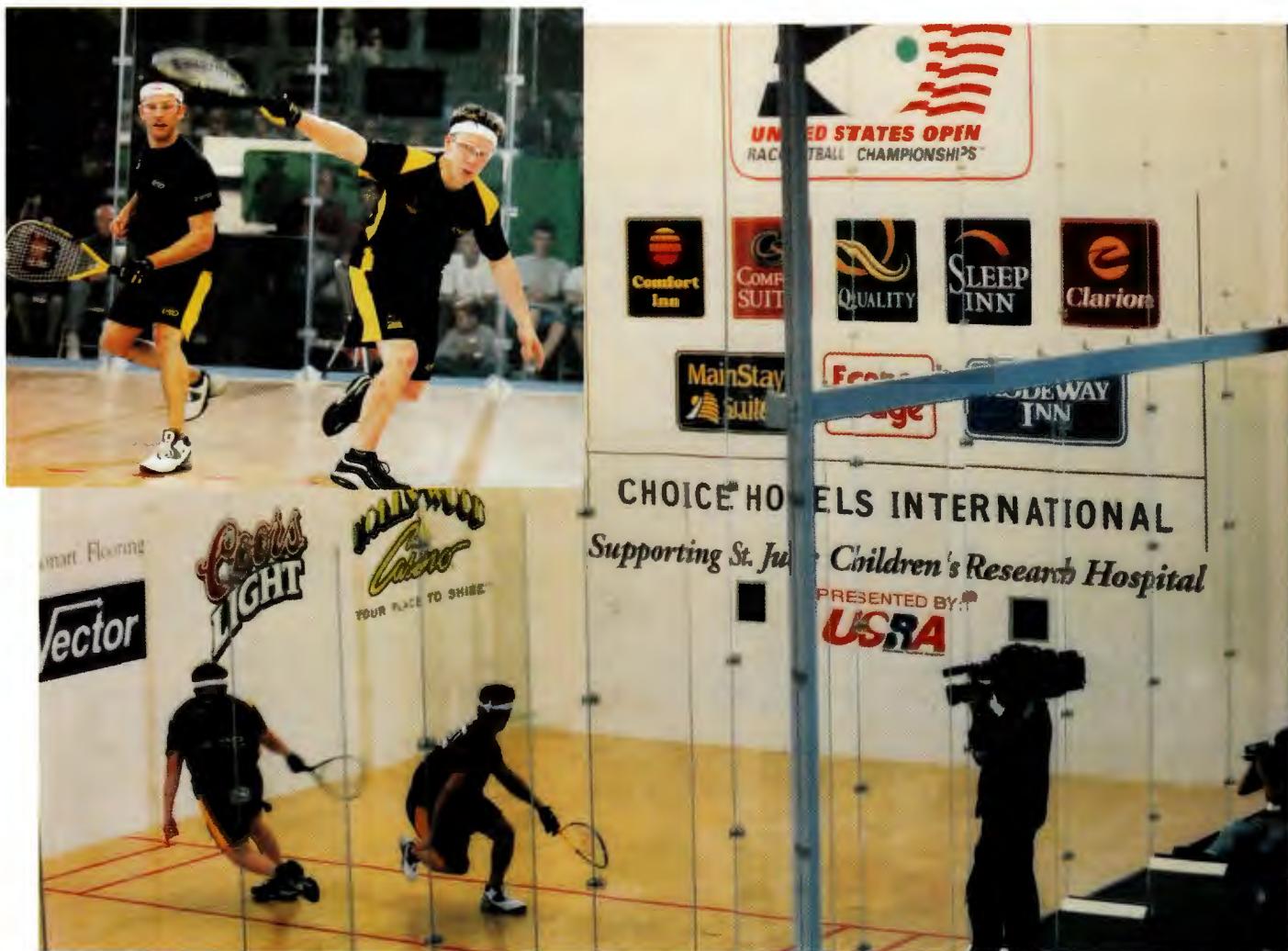
So, we arrive here again, with a Sudsy vs. Cliff battle. Their rivalry has gone on for years (even penetrating the Sport's Illustrated radar)

but this time it was a little different. For the first time in a long time, both players had something to prove, not so much to themselves, but to all of their detractors. Did it quiet those whispers that Sudsy wasn't motivated enough to come back from such an injury, or that Cliff is too old to compete on the tour? Probably. They each proved, under the sport's brightest spotlight, that they are still the cream of the crop.

The first two games of the match were amazing, as Cliff built big leads in both, only to see Sudsy erase them meticulously to come out on top 12-10, 12-10. The third game was shaping up to be just as close,

until Swain tweaked his back reaching for a shot. He hit the ball around a bit during a timeout to try and get himself back in order but the pain was obvious with each swing. Out of respect for his long-time rival, even Sudsy's face showed concern, but if one thing is certain, it's that there is no quit in Cliff Swain. They played out the last few points of the deciding third, but the damage was done, and Sudsy closed out the match 11-7.

"Everyone was wondering if I could come back from my foot (injury)," Sudsy said after the match. "How's that for an answer?" he said holding his U.S. OPEN trophy, pointing towards the court.



# finally! a first open title for gudinas

Cheryl Gudinas has been, hands down, the most dominant female racquetball player in the world for several years now. Even with growing parity in the L P R A ranks, she has always kept one or two steps ahead of everyone else. Through this reign Cheryl has won virtually every crown imaginable, with two world titles, four national singles titles, three national doubles titles, a Pan Am Games singles title, and twice she's won seven tour stops in a row. But, one title has eluded her all of these years – the U.S. OPEN.

At this year's event, Cheryl didn't want to make an issue out of the hole in her resume, but each year that she didn't win in Memphis made the story grow bigger and bigger. How could the sports brightest star not shine on its grandest stage? "I'd like to win it just so people would quit talking about it," she said early on, but everyone knew that there were other reasons. Cheryl is a champion and that's what champions do – win. How could the sport's most coveted prize slip through her grasp so often?

After the qualifying round, challengers began their quest for the title in the round of 32. As expected, top seeds advanced easily in straight games, but there were many exciting matches between players as they battled to advance.

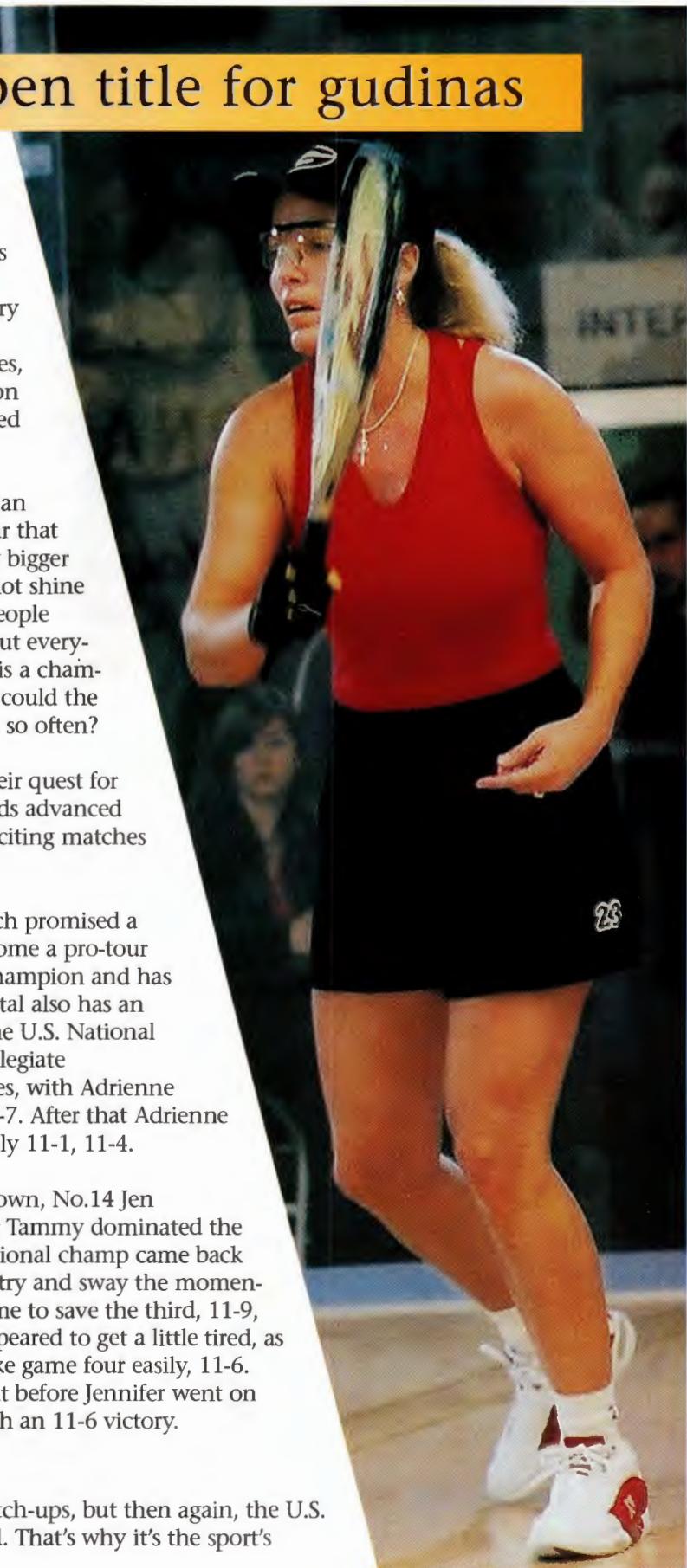
The No.10 Adrienne Fisher vs. Krystal Csuk match promised a glimpse of the future. Adrienne has recently become a pro-tour regular and is the three-time U.S. High School champion and has won more junior titles than you can count. Krystal also has an impressive junior record and earned a spot on the U.S. National team this past April by winning the U.S. Intercollegiate Championships. The pair split the first two games, with Adrienne winning the first 11-8 and Krystal the second 11-7. After that Adrienne stepped it up a notch and won the next two easily 11-1, 11-4.

Against former intercollegiate champ Tammy Brown, No.14 Jen Saunders found herself in a good-sized hole after Tammy dominated the first two games 11-0, 11-3. But the Canadian national champ came back determined to be more aggressive in her play to try and sway the momentum back to her favor. Jen fought back just in time to save the third, 11-9, and stay in the match. At that point, Tammy appeared to get a little tired, as Jennifer continued to keep the pressure on to take game four easily, 11-6. The deciding fifth game was tied 6-6 at one point before Jennifer went on one last run to finish her amazing comeback with an 11-6 victory.

## Sixteens

The round of 16 presented many interesting match-ups, but then again, the U.S. OPEN has something for the fans in every round. That's why it's the sport's premiere annual event.

Added material by Todd Boss



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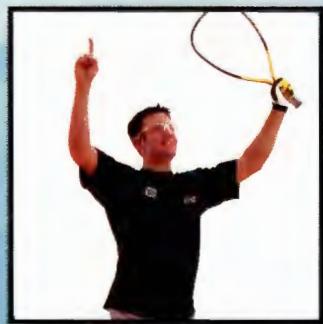
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#1 Player in the World  
5-Time World Champion



**Derek Robinson**  
World Champion  
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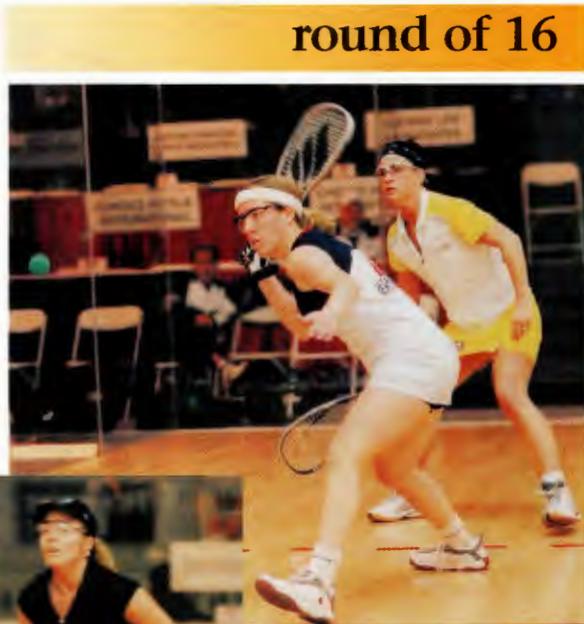
Iso-Zorb™ is an exclusive Wilson polymer, similar to the material used in skyscraper foundations to absorb the shock of an earthquake. We utilize Iso-Zorb as a buffer between the TRIAD hoop and handle for dramatically increased levels of comfort, which can be customized to fit your game.



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## round of 16



Laura Fenton had decided to "semi-retire" when she turned 40, and limit her tournament travel only to the "big ones." The plan appears to work, since it seems that she's able to step up her game at those big ones, and remain a contender. It also worked in allowing her to be placed in the No.11 spot (up from her actual ranking of #23 going into the event) on the basis of a top-four finish last season. There she faced No.6 Susy Acosta, who has been playing incredible this fall after disappointing showings last season.

Expectedly, the match opened with close split wins in the first two games. But Laura seemed to get better as the match wore on and after picking up an 11-7 win in the third game, she rolled through the fourth, 11-4, to advance.

After taking out one U.S. Intercollegiate champ, Adrienne Fisher was set to face another in No.7 Kristen Walsh. No strangers on the court, they have met numerous times at both the junior and pro levels, with Kristen winning the majority of the match-ups. But Adrienne has dedicated herself to working hard to improve her game, and has steadily moved up the rankings. Her hard work paid off in Memphis as she defeated Walsh in straight games to advance, for the first time, into an LPRA quarterfinal round.

"I played pretty tough today," she said after her match. "I lost to Kristen in five (games) in North Carolina so I went home, worked hard, and really came out to play today."



Top left: Rice vs. Brenda Kyzar  
Above: Wachtel vs. Amy Foster  
Left: Rosy Torres vs. Gudinas

### Quarterfinal

With the exception of the two preceding round upsets, each of the remaining top seeds advanced into the quarterfinals with ease. There, two-time U.S. OPEN champ Jackie Rice ended Adrienne's run in straight games. Rice appeared to

be on a mission to regain her title and No.1 ranking (hers being the only straight game win of the round) as matches began to get tighter and the draw began to get smaller.

Cheryl Gudinas faced former doubles partner, No.8 Kim Russell, who has been steadily improving her singles play and has been known to give Gudinas tough matches. This time was no exception, as Russell edged Gudinas 12-10 in the first game. But the mentally tough Gudinas didn't let the loss get to her as she turned the pressure back on Russell, taking the next two 11-7, 11-3. The fourth game was another close battle, but this time it was Gudinas that came out on top with a narrow 12-10 win to advance.

Laura Fenton also faced a doubles partner, this one her current, in No.3 Rhonda Rajsich. The two had teamed up to take silver at national doubles in October, but on the singles court it was all business. Fenton took the first game 11-8 before Rajsich came back to dominate

game two 11-2. The veteran Fenton stayed composed and relied on her experience to force Rajsich into mistakes. It proved to be just enough, as Fenton took games three and four 11-8; 11-8.

Defending champ and No.4 seeded Kerri Wachtel finished the quartet by downing No. 5 Kersten Hallander in four games after losing the first. Wachtel peaked for the tournament last year for her first tour win and had plans on doing so again. This win put her against longtime friend Gudinas in the semifinals for the second year in a row.

## A Family of Winners

by Mike Mojer & Kassi Herr

Over the years, there have been many "racquetball families" with multiple players with the same last name. Husbands and wives, parents and their offspring, siblings, and even grandparents get on the bandwagon. After all, this is a great family sport. One such family made a splash at the Choice Hotels U.S. Open this year, with a matched pair of "A" division wins by the brother/sister pair of Andres and Claudia Ramirez of Casselberry, Florida. Claudia even went on to win the Women's 25+ division for a double-gold haul.

The Ramirez family grew up in Bogota, Colombia, where their father played racquetball and owned a fitness club from 1982 until 1992. Claudia, Andres and their older brother Carlos all began playing at an early age.

Born February 5, 1978, Andres began playing at the age of five. In 1992 he traveled to Jacksonville to participate in the Junior World Championship, and a few years later he returned to Florida to attend school on a soccer scholarship. After realizing that racquetball was a very popular sport in the sunshine state, he started playing again.

Over the past six years, he has competed regularly and continued to improve his skill level. He started out in the Miami area, facing "big guns" Tim Hansen, Julio Junki, and Matt Fontana. Last year he moved north and joined the Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club, where he has

continued to face some of the state's toughest competitors, who have taught him some tricks that have made even more competitive. It is a pleasure to watch him train at our club, where he works out and practices six days a week.

After winning the Men's A division at the U.S. Open in Memphis, he couldn't find the words to explain his fascination with the event. He found it had plenty of fun people, nice courts, outstanding competition, and enjoyable surroundings. He was very impressed with the quality of play, in all divisions.

Older sister Claudia, born December 11, 1972, also learned to play in Bogota with her father. She currently competes in the OFRC's Men's AA league, after winning the Men's A league last season. She doesn't train as often as her brother, but gets the most out of every practice game, where she is also highly competitive.

Guys on the challenge court have come to realize that they had better play at the top of their game if they hope to beat her. One thing that sets her apart from many players is her competitive nature. Even if her opponent is an open level male, she plays to win.

After a five-year hiatus from the sport, she made a comeback at the Holiday Cash Classic at the Orlando Fitness and Racquet Club in December of 2001, where a loss to Lori Lepow in the final of Women's Open motivated Claudia to

## Semifinals

Gudinas realizes that Wachtel is capable of beating anyone, at any time that she steps onto the court. She found out firsthand at last year's U.S. OPEN in the semifinals when Wachtel dashed her hopes, once again, of winning the sport's most coveted crown. Now she found herself in the same position, but was determined not to let history repeat itself.

Wachtel, on the other hand, wouldn't have minded a repeat of last year's performance and she came out strong in the first game, only to fall short 12-10.



dedicate more time to the sport. The following March, Claudia competed at Omega 40 in Ormond Beach and won the Women's B. With renewed confidence, she began training to participate in her first national singles event, where she entered Women's A and Women's 25, and took second place in the age division.

Hooked on the fun and excitement of competing with players from all over the U.S., Claudia traveled to Minneapolis for National Doubles in October, then headed to the U.S. Open in November with a mission. She intended to bring home the first place trophy for Women's A, and she exceeded her expectations by also winning Women's 25+. It's safe to say that she will only improve as she competes against open level opponents in the future.

Congratulations to the Ramirez family for their success in Memphis.

## Sidelines

Compiled by Kevin Joyce

For many new and returning participants this year's event certainly left its mark. A record 770+ players converged in Memphis for a week long racquetball extravaganza. Here's what some of those players had to say about the experience:

"It is the greatest event that you can play in. Last year I came for the first time. It's all about watching the Michael Jordan's of racquetball – and they are right here." — Leo Cage (Memphis, TN)

"It is a great event. Just fantastic. We will be back next year." — Juan Carlos (Cochabamba, Bolivia)  
*Bolivian National Team Coach*

"The staff is very organized and friendly. Come and watch some of the greatest racquetball on Earth. I finally got my friends to come and they really enjoyed it." — Jerry Maxson (Hopkinsville, KY)

"There is not much competition in my age division (Men's 70+) at home and I find many more people to play here. The matches are fantastic. I like Cliff Swain. He is my favorite – a very modest kind of guy. I'll be back next year!" — Sean Reid (Las Vegas, NM)  
*Sean lives part of the year in Ireland.*

"We are very pleased with the facilities and the people. We'll get more people to come next year. It is a great event." — Genie Martin (Burlington, NC)  
*Women's 45+C/D contestant*

"I have never seen professional racquetball and that was the main reason I wanted to be here. You can't appreciate the athlete's agility, speed and athleticism until you see it in person. I also visit with old friends that I have not seen in a long time and meet a lot of new people. You have the opportunity to rub shoulders with the best players in the world and they are accessible and part of the entire group right here in the bleachers. The world champions are all here." — Mark Shupe (Cincinnati, OH)  
*Kentucky State Racquetball Association President (1992-94)*

"This is the coolest racquetball event ever. The players seem really big on the court!" — Matthew Brown (Winnipeg, Canada)  
*Matt is the son of Canadian National Team Coach Ron Brown*

"The competition is always very good; I like pulling for Sudsy. This is my first time in three years that I made a medal round (25+C/D). It is exciting." — Steve Reisser (Murfreesboro, TN)  
*Steve works at a Nissan plant in Smyrna, TN which has racquetball courts for employees.*

Gudinas began to hit better shots as the match wore on and took the second 11-6. Wachtel kept the third game closer but Gudinas was on a mission that couldn't be stopped and won 11-9.

Fenton had several upsets to her name by the time the semi's rolled around, and looked to add No.2 seeded Rice to the list. But Rice had other plans and her play had continually gotten better as the tournament progressed. She continued that trend against Fenton, playing better with each game, and logged an 11-9, 11-6, 11-3 victory to move on (right).

### Final

Just like the IRT, the women's final featured two of the best to ever play the game. One had already won two U.S. OPEN titles, the other was still searching for her first. Last year Rice looked as though she had the tournament wrapped up after Gudinas was knocked out before the finals but Wachtel had thrown her a curve. This year, both Gudinas and Rice were on a mission and something had to give.

Gudinas has a winning record against Rice on tour, although, at times, their matches have been nail-biters. Gudinas already had enough pressure, and didn't want to add more by getting off to a slow start.

Jackie won the toss, served first and moved ahead 2-0, while Cheryl dealt with some jitters and visibly grimaced after one loose shot gave Jackie an easy put away. But Cheryl gritted through nerves and evened the first game at 4-4, using a nice backhand half-lob along the side wall to force Jackie into playing defensively. Cheryl's strategy was to slow down the more aggressive Rice, and it showed as she gained the upper hand in several ceiling-ball rallies to take the first game 11-5.

In back-and-forth action throughout game two, both players began missing shots they shouldn't, perhaps due to it being the sixth match of a long tournament. After a tough avoidable call went against Jackie, she began volunteering more ceiling balls and conservative play — and falling into Cheryl's hands as she built a commanding lead. At 4-10, Jackie ended a rally by hitting a great 39' pinch winner, and followed it up with another nice pinch winner for 5-10, but it wasn't enough. Cheryl claimed game two, 11-5, on a missed ceiling ball.

Despite winning the first two games easily, the monkey wasn't quite off Cheryl's back

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 26**





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Memphis, Tennessee  
November 20-24, 2002

## PRO DIVISIONS

**Men's Pro:** Sudsy Monchik (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. Cliff Swain (Braintree, Mass.) 12-10; 12-10; 11-7  
**Women's Pro:** Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) def. Jackie Rice (El Cajon, Calif.) 11-5; 11-5; 9-11; 11-6  
**Legends:** Bret Harnett (Henderson, Nev.) def. Marty Hogan (Chesterfield, Mo.) 15-11; 15-12

## USRA Singles Divisions:

**Men's Open:** Josh Tucker (Joplin, Mo.) def. Andy Hawthorne (Champaign, Ill.) 15-7; 15-12  
**Men's 24-:** Ben Croft (Lake Bluff, Ill.) def. Mitch Williams (Washington, N.C.) Def (ns)  
**Men's 25:** Dale Valentine (Riverside, Calif.) def. Brent Hansen (Hudson, IA) 15-8; 15-5  
**Men's 30:** Brian Fredenberg (Dallas, Texas) def. Dale Valentine (Riverside, Calif.) 11-15; 15-5; 11-4  
**Men's 35:** Jim Minkel (Houston, Texas) def. James Leone (Canfield, Ohio) 10-15; 15-4; 11-0  
**Men's 40:** Scott Cullins (Woodstock, Ga.) def. Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.) 15-14; 15-14  
**Men's 45:** Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Rex Ledbetter (Cookeville, TN) 15-10; 15-13  
**Men's 50:** Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Thomas Rall (Lakewood, Colo.) 15-7; 15-6  
**Men's 55:** Dwayne McKnight (Silver Spring, Md.) def. Bill Welaj (Somerville, N.J.) 15-6; 15-9  
**Men's 60:** Glenn Allen (VA Beach, Va.) def. Robert Siemiatkoski (Bristol, Conn.) 15-6; 5-15; 11-3  
**Men's 65:** Lee Graff (Bend, Ore.) def. Michael Jackson (Shelton, Conn.) 15-10; 15-3  
**Men's 70:** Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) def. John O'Donnell Jr. (Champaign, Ill.) 15-7; 15-12  
**Men's 75:** Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) def. Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 15-8; 15-7  
**Men's 80:** Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. Samuel Harry (Harrisburg, Pa.) 15-8; 15-5

## Skill & Age+Skill

**Men's A:** Andres Ramirez (Casselberry, Fla.) def. Kipp Atwell (Denham Springs, La.) 15-2; 10-15; 11-3  
**Men's B:** Erik Beltran (Ensenada, B.C.) def. Francisco Camarena (Tijuana, Mexico) 15-12; 15-10  
**Men's C:** Brandon Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Felipe Veracoechea (Houston, Texas) 15-2; 15-10  
**Men's D:** Joseph Lee (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Joshua Sheffield (Newport News, Va.) 15-10; 15-13

**Men's 24- A/B:** Juan Rivas (South Attleboro, Mass.) def. Jared Torres (Garden City, Kan.) 15-10; 12-15; 11-10  
**Men's 24- C/D:** Brandon Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Carlos Oviedo (San Ysidro, Calif.) 15-1; 15-12  
**Men's 25 A/B:** Jason Linnell (Alexandria, Va.) def. Rod Van Dyke (Winter Haven, Fla.) 12-15; 15-6; 11-7  
**Men's 25 C/D:** Felipe Veracoechea (Houston, Texas) def. Steve Reisser (Murfreesboro, TN) 15-13; 13-15; 11-3  
**Men's 35 A/B:** Stanley Shaw III (Wilbraham, Mass.) def. Paul Licari (Macomb, Mich.) 15-13; 15-6  
**Men's 35 C/D:** Jeff Johnson (Warren, Mich.) def. Lyle Branton (Fairburn, Ga.) 15-5; 14-15; 11-0  
**Men's 45 A/B:** Sal Perconti (St. Petersburg,

Fla.) def. Monty Simpkins (Madison, Miss.) 4-15; 15-13; 11-7  
**Men's 45 C/D:** Larry Knetzger (Kennesaw, Ga.) def. Mario Ponce (Mexico City, Mexico) City 7-15; 15-14; 11-8  
**Men's 55 A/B:** Leo Klimaitis (Chicago, Ill.) def. Joe Reno (Bartlett, TN) 15-7; 15-4  
**Men's 55 C/D:** Don Russell (S. Haven, Miss.) def. Charles Van Hoose (Rochester, Mich.) 15-7; 15-13

**Women's Open:** Brenda Kyzer (Lexington, S.C.) def. Krystal Cuk (Naperville, Ill.) 15-8; 15-6  
**Women's 24-:** Adrienne Fisher (Dayton, Ohio) def. Rhonda Rajsich (Phoenix, Ariz.) 15-11; 3-15; 11-5  
**Women's 25:** Claudia Ramirez (Casselberry, Fla.) def. Stephanie Munger (Anchorage, Alaska) 15-3; 14-15; 11-9  
**Women's 30:** Heather Dunn (Haverhill, Mass.) def. Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) 15-5; 13-15; 11-8  
**Women's 35:** Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) def. Solanna Taragan (Redondo Beach, Calif.) 15-12; 10-15; 11-1  
**Women's 40:** Kim Machiran (Ballwin, Mo.) def. Cheryl Miosi (Clarence, N.Y.) 15-11; 10-15; 11-7  
**Women's 45:** Linda Moore (Madison, Neb.) def. Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) by forfeit  
**Women's 50:** Joanne Pomodoro (East Boston, Mass.) def. Debbie Chaney (Indianapolis, Ind.) 15-3; 15-8  
**Women's 55:** Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Mildred Gwinn (Waxhaw, N.C.) 15-1; 15-7  
**Women's 60:** Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) 15-1; 15-4  
**Women's 75+:** Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) unchallenged  
**Women's 80+:** Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) unchallenged

## Women's Skill & Age+Skill

**Women's A:** Claudia Ramirez (Casselberry, Fla.) def. Michelle Poage (Anchorage, Alaska) 15-3; 15-8  
**Women's B:** Diana Courtney (Mich.) def. Cheryl Kirk (Naperville, Ill.) 15-11; 15-11  
**Women's C:** Muromachi Tomoko (Saitama, ) def. Priscilla Krammer (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) 15-1; 15-6  
**Women's D:** Janice Bell (Jonesboro, Ga.) def. Laurell Burrows (Miami, Fla.) 15-10; 15-7  
**Women's 24- A/B:** Keely Franks (Austin, Texas) def. Sarah Ulmer (St. Louis, Mo.) 15-6; 15-1  
**Women's 24- C/D:** Holly Hettesheimer (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Wesley Toland (Parkin, Ark.) 13-15; 15-7; 11-4  
**Women's 25+ A/B:** Hilary Anderson (Shaker Heights, Ohio) def. Karen Denu (Alexandria, Va.) 15-7; 15-8  
**Women's 25+ C/D:** Priscilla Krammer (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) def. Laurell Burrows (Miami, Fla.) 15-11; 15-7  
**Women's 35+ A/B:** Felicia Mann (Detroit, Mich.) def. Melody Gorno (Trenton, Mich.) 15-7; 6-15; 11-1  
**Women's 35+ C/D:** Susan Simmons (Memphis, Tenn.) def. Alex Fernander (Memphis, Tenn.) 3-15; 15-9; 11-4

Find daily site reports, expanded results and drawsheets @ [www.racqmag.com](http://www.racqmag.com) > "event coverage"

**Women's 45+ A/B:** Karen Green (Waterford, Mich.) def. Andee Glansberg (Saratoga, N.Y.) 15-7; 15-9  
**Women's 45+ C/D:** Genie Martin (Burlington, N.C.) def. Marilyn Lemmon (Nesbit, Mass.) 2-15; 15-12; 11-0  
**Women's 55+ A/B:** Sharon Brockbank (Boise, Idaho) def. Marquita Molina (Wasco, Calif.) 8-15; 15-11; 11-3  
**Women's 55+ C/D:** Aurora Bocanegra (Topeka, Kan.) unchallenged

## USRA Doubles Divisions:

**Men's Open:** Vincent Gagnon (Longueuil, Canada)/Francis Guillemette (Montreal, Canada) def. Chris Coy (Elk City, Okla.)/Brian Fredenberg (Dallas, Texas) 15-3; 15-10  
**Men's A:** William Andreu (Gladstone, Mo.)/Jim Brane (Kansas City, Mo.) def. Bob Jackson (Ridgeland, Miss.)/Drew Toland (Parkin, Ark.) 15-8; 8-15; 11-5  
**Men's B:** Billy Sewell (Georgetown, Ky.)/Jim Zimmer (Hamilton, Ohio) def. Gerald Beattie (Edmond, Okla.)/Alan Kenney (Oklahoma City, Okla.) 15-7; 15-6  
**Men's C:** Eddie Barber (Salt Lake City, Utah)/Eddy Connor (Riverton, Utah) def. Lyle Branton (Fairburn, Ga.)/Michael Kaufman (Marietta, Ga.) 10-15; 15-11; 11-2  
**Men's 19+:** William Andreu (Gladstone, Mo.)/Richard Maggard (Blue Springs, Mo.) def. Jason Hicks (Vine Grove, Ky.)/Kris Robinson (Lexington, Ky.) 15-0; 15-1  
**Men's 35:** Scott Consoli (Orlando, Fla.)/Scott Cullins (Woodstock, Ga.) def. Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.)/Gordon Kirkland (Orlando, Fla.) 15-8; 7-15; 11-6  
**Men's 50:** Richard Bocanegra (Topeka, Kan.)/Jim Brane (Kansas City, Mo.) def. Dennis David (Conway, Ark.)/Rocky Rodriguez (Riverside, Calif.) 13-15; 15-14; 11-2

**Women's Open:** Sylinda Kenyon (Houston, Texas)/Phyllis Morris (Denton, Texas) def. Janet Miller/Shirley Rainey 15-11; 15-10  
**Women's A:** Kim Glansberg (Woodland Hills, Calif.)/Carolyn Hollis (Calabasas, Calif.) def. Janet Miller/Shirley Rainey by forfeit  
**Women's B:** Joy DeSantis (Woodland Hills, Calif.)/Gail Schaefer (Randallstown, Md.) def. Noriko Terasawa/Tomoko Muromachi (Saitama, Japan) 15-9; 15-2  
**Women's 35:** Marsha Berry (Louisville, Ky.)/Peggy Stephens (Louisville, Ky.) def. Kelley Beane (Manchester, N.H.)/Joanne Pomodoro (East Boston, Mass.) 13-15; 15-6; 11-10  
**Women's 50:** Debbie Chaney (Indianapolis, Ind.)/Brenda White (Dunlap, Ill.) def. Kay McCarthy (Germantown, Tenn.)/Joanne Pomodoro (East Boston, Mass.) 15-9; 15-10

**Mixed A/B:** Debbie Ullman (Westerville, Ohio)/Jeff Marmer (Loveland, Ohio) def. Kyoko Hirobayashi (Kashiwa-City, Japan)/Hisao Shimizu (Chestnut Ridge, N.Y.) 6-15; 15-14; 11-9  
**Mixed C/D:** Pamela Trent (Mt. Juliet, Tenn.)/Stanley Trent (Nashville, Tenn.) def. Teresa Buck (Hot Springs, Ark.)/Larry Ford (Pearcy, Ark.) 15-7; 15-6  
**Mixed 30:** Cari Kresa (Dania, Fla.)/Herve Bony (Norland, Fla.) def. Sandra Kubany (Olney, Md.)/Dwayne McKnight (Silver Spring, Md.) 15-11; 15-3  
**Mixed 40:** Debbie Chaney (Indianapolis, Ind.)/Dave Watson (Miami, Okla.) def. Cheryl Miosi (Clarence, N.Y.)/John Miosi (Clarence, N.Y.)

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## ON THE AIRWAVES ...

### **ESPN2 AIRDATES TBA in January**

ESPN2 has made a commitment to air a one hour racquetball show from the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Championships, held in Memphis this past November. The show is expected to air in February or March with an exact date and time to be announced by January 20th.

The one hour show will feature coverage from the Men's Pro quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals. In addition, highlights will be included from the Women's Pro finals along with interviews with top players and "behind the scenes" action. ESPN2 commentators for the show will be Tommy Sanders and Aaron Katz.

The USRA is currently taking orders for VHS and DVD copies of the one hour broadcast to air on ESPN2. Copies will be shipped approximately one week after the air date in the order received. Call the USRA at (719) 635-5396 ext. 0 to place your order today.

Visit [www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com) after January 20th for a specific air date and time for the show and be sure to tune in!

### **RadioHeads**

One of the highlights of the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN media package was the addition of a live internet radio broadcast. U.S. OPEN webmasters Willie and Jackie Tilton first introduced the live broadcast concept at the 2001 U.S. OPEN, but seemed to perfect it at this year's event. The technology was based on a server hosted by Tilton's company and was connected using a high-speed line donated by Pomeroy in Memphis.

Some of the guest DJ's included Jason Mannino, Adam Karp, Dave Ganim, Chuck "City" Meredith, Laura Fenton, and Jen Saunders. The Tiltons hope to capitalize on the success they had in Memphis by broadcasting other pro stops live "... if there is a demand." They most recently broadcast in mid-December, from the Lakewood Athletic Club Pro-Am in Denver.

"We were in the top 100 Internet radios on the day of the (U.S. OPEN) finals," said Willie. "We started with 30 or so people at the time of the quarters."

For more information on upcoming racquetball broadcasts go to [www.meetandplay.com](http://www.meetandplay.com).

yet. Rice woke up to take a narrow 9-7 lead in the third, until Cheryl zoned in on three crisp passing shots to take the serve and tie it up at 9-9 before whiffing a setup off the back wall. A long ceiling ball rally ended with a Gudinas put away, and the possibility of a shutout.

But while both had played well in rally, it was a tightly-wound Gudinas who pitched a lob serve out of play on the stadium courts lower sidewalls. Another quick side-out put Cheryl right back in the box ... where she preceded to repeat the same, exact error! This time Rice took advantage of the service mis-cue and rattled off two points to take the game 11-9.

Some players would get rattled after dropping a game on crucial service errors, but not Gudinas. She came out in the fourth more determined than ever and took a quick 7-0 lead before Jackie tried to employ a strategy of picking on Cheryl's less-aggressive forehand. But Rice's passing shots to the right stayed up and her ceiling shots popped off the back wall nicely to give Cheryl a 10-1 lead, just as swiftly.

With championship point at hand Gudinas again began to get a little tight. Soon the score was 10-3, exchanges began to get testy and referee Brenda Kyzer was compelled to intervene and ask the players to give each other a bit more room. After scrapping for points and still down 10-6, Rice was launching a comeback, but before she could kick it into high gear, Gudinas got the winner she needed to force a sideout and then closed out the match 11-6 for her first U.S. OPEN win.

"People kept telling me how big this was, now I am starting to see that it is," said an elated Gudinas after the match. "I am just glad that it is over and I don't have to talk about it (not winning the U.S. OPEN) anymore."





## Shifting Positions

There seems to be a lot more shuffling going on in the men's ranks than in years past. Between issues, only three players stuck to their positions in the top 20 (1. Mannino, 8. Rocky Carson, and 15. Javier Moreno).

The biggest mover was Jason Thoerner, who jumped five spots, but all eyes are on Sudsy Monchik who moved four, and cracked the top 10 for the first time since injuring his foot more than a year ago. He is less than 100 points away from breaking back into the top five.

## INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SEASON RANKINGS

[Rankings through Memphis]

	Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1.	4211	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	1	2
2.	3464	Kane Waselenchuk	Alberta, Canada	3	10
3.	3368	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	2	1
4.	2812	Jack Huczak	Rochester, MI	5	11
5.	2580	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	4	3
6.	2538	Alvaro Beltran	San Diego, CA	7	5
7.	2498	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	11	4
8.	2424	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	8	6
9.	2319	Derek Robinson	Kennewick, WA	6	9
10.	2088	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada	9	12
11.	1757	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX	10	8
12.	1532	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	13	16
13.	1361	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	14	13
14.	1243	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	16	18
15.	1226	Javier Moreno	Memphis, TN	15	19
16.	981	Tim Doyle	San Diego, CA	12	7
17.	956	Jason Thoerner	Canton, GA	22	N/A
18.	766	Dan Llacer	Rehoboth Beach, DE	20	25
19.	599	Brian Istace	Alberta, Canada	17	14
20.	588	Shai Manzuri	Manchester, NH	18	22

## • men's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

### 2002-2003 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCORECARD

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New Orleans .....	Kane Waselenchuk def. Alvaro Beltran .....	7-11, 11-2, 7-11, 11-9, 12-10
Stockton .....	Jason Mannino def Alvaro Beltran .....	13-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-2
Denver .....	Sudsy Monchik def. Jason Mannino .....	11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 5-11, 13-11
Chihuahua .....	Kane Waselenchuk def. Jason Mannino .....	11-8, 6-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-6
McLean .....	Alvaro Beltran def. Jack Huczak .....	2-11, 11-8, 3-11, 11-6, 11-5
Chicago .....	Jason Mannino def. Kane Waselenchuk .....	11-5, 11-4, 11-8
Riverside .....	Sudsy Monchik def. Jason Mannino .....	1-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-6
Memphis .....	Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain .....	12-10, 12-10, 11-7
Denver .....	John Ellis def. Alvaro Beltran .....	11-9, 11-9, 11-8

### 2002-2003 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE

January 9-12 .....	Cleveland, OH .....	Cleveland Open @ Severance Athletic Club
January 16-19 .....	Long Island, NY .....	New York Open @ Sportime of Syosset, 718-429-8489
Jan.30 - Feb.2 .....	Coral Springs, FL .....	Florida Cup @ Quadrangle, 954-743-8900
February 6-9 .....	Austin, TX .....	Longhorn Open @ University of Texas, 512-407-8595
Feb.27 - Mar.2 .....	San Diego, CA .....	San Diego Open @ American Athletic Club, 619-477-2100
March 20-23 .....	Boston, MA .....	Foxwoods Pro Am @ Metro South Athletic Club, 508-588-3444
April 3-6 .....	Greensboro, NC .....	NC Open Championships @ Pyramid Health & Fitness
April 24-27 .....	Chesapeake, VA .....	Virginia Beach Open @ Greenbriar North YMCA, 757-366-9622
May 1-4 .....	Phoenix, AZ .....	Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University

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



## CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

*Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*

out Courtside Luxury Box section with a waiting list. Still, something else was different. It's kind of hard to put a finger on exactly what it was but the easiest way to describe it would be —50% more electricity in the air!

I not sure why the atmosphere was so much more exciting this year but having now had some time to reflect on the event here are some special words of thanks that I have....

—**Our sponsors**, especially Choice Hotels International, not only supplied the financial support we needed to run a first class event but really participated in the event this year. Nearly all our corporate partners brought senior executives, customers, and associates to enjoy the pro matches. This enthusiastic attendance helped to charge up the event.

Some of our valuable partners included Co-sponsors: Coca Cola, Coors Light, First Vector, Hollywood Casino, Lucite International, Northwest Airlines, WilsonArt Flooring; Supporting Sponsors: Ceco Building Systems, Clear Channel Outdoor, Covington Pike Toyota, Susan L. Klimaitis Foundation, Ron Marr, Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau, Memphis & Shelby County Sports Authority, Memphis Magazine/Memphis Flyer, Nabisco, Rose Construction, WMC FM 100/AM 790. Gold Patrons: Bradford Furniture / Ultimate Racquetball, CupidsClub.com, Ektelon, I See Optical, Head/Penn Racquet Sports, InterSKY, Inc., Coleman Lew & Associates, Lowe's, Perconti Data Systems, Pomeroy, RCO Japan, R.E.S. Investments, Dan Rhoades, The Court Company, Young People's Summer Stock. Silver Patrons: American Color, Danka, Freixenet Sparkling Wine, Vicki Hughes Photography, Sarkis V. Kish Oriental Rugs, Nathanson Creek Wine, Starr Distributors, Varsity Spirit.

—**Our Staff!** It took over 100 volunteers to run this year's event and what an incredible job they did. The high level of service provided to all our guests along with everyone's friendly demeanor really made a difference in the end product. I wish I could name all of the behind-the-scenes people that kept this massive event running smoothly.

## Hard to Believe ... By U.S. OPEN Director, Doug Ganim

It is hard to believe that we've just hosted our *seventh* U.S. OPEN! It seems like only yesterday that the USRA Board of Directors and I were all huddled in a room dreaming about what a true "Grand Slam" for racquetball could be like. Thanks to all our sponsors, players and fans, the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN has become everything we had hoped, a true weeklong celebration of the sport!

For those that attended this year's event, you already know what a special week it was. Of course, we had the largest draw ever with over 770 players from 18 countries around the world. We also had a 22% increase in ticket sales for the pro matches, an Industry Trade Show that was 50% larger than the year before, and a sold-

—**The Pro's.** I have to give much of the credit for the added "electricity" to the on court efforts of all of the pros. I have watched a lot of racquetball in my years and I can tell you that the I have never seen so many players work so hard to try and win. There's no question about it...the pro's play harder at the U.S. OPEN than any other tournament of the year and the result often leaves fans speechless!

—**The Industry.** This year everybody who is anybody in the sport of racquetball was on hand in Memphis. Manufacturers and vendors not only supported the event but they brought more attractive booths, key customers, and top-level executives with them. The grandness of the Industry Trade Show helped to create an excitement in the air from the minute guests arrived.

—**The amateur players and fans!** By far the single most dramatic difference this year was the attitude of the fans. All of the key pro matches were packed with spectators and they were loud! Everyone seemed to be cheering for their favorites, applauding great rallies, and enjoying countless hours of pro racquetball with impressive endurance. The fans are what make this the greatest tournament in the history of the sport!

Plans are already underway for the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN, scheduled for November 19-23. If you have never been to Memphis for this grand event make plans now to come celebrate the sport of racquetball with us!

Happy New Year to all !



## PLAYER COUNCIL

The LPRA recently voted in a new player council, appointing the following athletes, and also naming officers for the season:

LPRA Player Council  
 Kersten Hallander (Treas.)  
 Jackie Rice (VP)  
 Kim Russell (President)  
 Jo Shattuck  
 Rosy Torres (Sect.)

## Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Season Rankings

[Rankings through Memphis]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 703.500	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1	1
2. 501.250	Jackie Rice	San Diego, CA	2	2
3. 256.000	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	4	5
4. 244.750	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	3	3
5. 184.250	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	6	4
6. 164.750	Kim Russell	Austin, TX	7	9
7. 149.000	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	5	8
8. 125.500	Susanna Acosta	Chihuahua, Mexico	8	12
9. 99.250	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	13	20
10. 93.000	Lori-Jane Powell	Calgary, Alberta, Canada	10	7
11. 92.500	Laura Fenton	Overland Park, KS	16	10
12. 84.250	Jennifer Saunders	Winnipeg-Manitoba, Canada	9	13
13. 77.250	Amy Foster	Fairlawn, OH	15	N/A
14. 68.250	Denise Mock	Allen, TX	12	14
15. 66.250	Rachel Gellman	Phoenix, AZ	11	19
16. 63.750	Brenda Kyzer	Lexington, SC	17	21
17. 62.125	Rosy Torres	San Diego, CA	23	38
18. 61.625	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD	14	15
19. 47.250	Tammy Brown	Caldwell, ID	45	N/A
20. 37.000	Stephanie Munger	Anchorage, AK	32	29

## • women's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

### 2002-2003 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCORECARD

OFFICIAL SHOE OF THE LPRA: EKTELON

Rosarito Beach.....	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice.....	11-7, 11-7, 11-6
Charlotte .....	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice .....	11-2, 11-4, 13-11
Albuquerque .....	Jackie Rice def. Rhonda Rajsich.....	3-11, 11-8, 11-2, 11-2
Colorado Springs .....	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice.....	9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-4, 11-4
Memphis.....	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice .....	11-5, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6
Denver.....	Jackie Rice def. Cheryl Gudinas .....	11-8, 3-11, 12-10, 11-13, 11-5

### 2002-2003 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE

January 17-19.....	Cincinnati, OH.....	Five Seasons Country Club, 513-469-1400
February 1-3.....	San Diego, CA .....	La Mesa Racquetball Club, 619-460-3500
February 14-16.....	Nashville, TN .....	TBA
March 7-9 .....	Minneapolis, MN .....	Central Courts, 763-572-0330
March 13-15 .....	Baltimore, MD .....	Make-a-Wish Open @ Merritt Athletic Club/Towson
March 28-30 .....	Saskatoon, Canada .....	River Racquet Athletic Club, 306-242-0010
May 1-3* .....	Phoenix, AZ .....	Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University

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

## **Ektelon Signs Jennifer Saunders**

Ektelon recently announced the signing of Jennifer Saunders to a two-year contract. The addition of Saunders to Ektelon's sponsored Canadian professional players, Kane Waselenchuk and Mike Green, further exemplifies Ektelon's commitment to women's professional racquetball and to the Canadian market.

"We're excited to sign Jen to Team Ektelon," stated Andy Roberts, Promotions Manager for Ektelon, "she's a hot up-and-comer in racquetball and is exactly what Ektelon needs to continue to build for the future."

Saunders, from Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada, is currently ranked #11 on the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association (LPRA) player rankings. Saunders proved herself at the 2002 Worlds when she made a very impressive run, losing in the finals 13 and 13 to reigning world champion Cheryl Gudinas. If Saunders can hang on court with Gudinas, she can hang on the court with any player in the LPRA.



"I look forward to playing with the Ektelon product," stated Saunders, "Historically, Ektelon has always had the best racquets in the sport. By signing with Ektelon, I feel this will help me get one step closer to accomplishing my dreams in racquetball."

Saunders will be outfitted in Ektelon product head-to-toe from her racquet, the new Ektelon More™ Attitude™, down to her footwear, the new Ektelon NFS® Women's Tour Mid, as well as of all her apparel and accessories.

For more information about Ektelon please contact us at 800-283-2635 or log onto our website at [www.ektelon.com](http://www.ektelon.com).



Legends finalists Bret Harnett and Marty Hogan pose at the ProKennex booth in Memphis. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

## **Harnett Rejoins ProKennex**

World ProKennex is proud to announce their alliance with Bret Harnett, one of the greatest lefthanders in the history of racquetball. This announcement comes as Harnett becomes one of the star players of the newly formed Legends Tour that will have a full schedule in 2003/2004 and joins Hall of Fame player Marty Hogan to give ProKennex Racquetball a winning combination.

Harnett's pure-offense game style placed him at the top of the pro game throughout the mid to late 80's and earned him numerous accomplishments that include:

1979 Junior National Champion  
1980 National Singles Champion  
1981 Professional Rookie of the Year  
1984 Ektelon National Professional Champion  
1986 DP Leach National Professional Champion  
Over 20 Professional Tour Victories

"Bret has the respect of anyone he has ever competed with or against, past or present, said Mike Martinez, Director of Fall Sports at World ProKennex, Inc. "We are very happy to be associated with Bret and welcome him back to the ProKennex family."

For more information about ProKennex Racquetball, contact Mike Martinez at 800-854-1908 X 7211 or see [www.prokennex.com](http://www.prokennex.com)

## **New Ashaway SuperKill® XL Strings**

SuperKill XL racket string is the newest addition to Ashaway's popular SuperKill family of strings, which includes SuperKill II and SuperKill 17. The new 17 gauge (1.25 mm) string can be strung at up to 50 lbs (23 kg) of tension and is available in 40 ft (12 M) packages and 360 ft (110 M) reels. The new string is white with red and blue crosses.

For additional information on Ashaway's SuperKill XL Racquetball Strings, Email: [sales@ashawayusa.com](mailto:sales@ashawayusa.com) Website: [www.ashawayusa.com](http://www.ashawayusa.com)

*SuperKill® XL racquetball string combines the response and resiliency of a multifilament core with the ball control and durability provided by the textured surface. SuperKill XL, features a red, white and blue string pattern, is recommended for players who want a lively, powerful string that provides excellent bite on the ball.*



## **New Grip from Unique**

Unique Sports Products, maker of TournaGrip, introduces the Next Level Racquetball replacement grip. The Next Level grip is engineered to give the right amount of cushioning, vibration absorption and tacky feel. Two different materials are combined on the top surface to accomplish this breakthrough feat, and the grip is available in tan/black and black/black. Suggested retail price is \$5.99.



## **2003 Choice U.S. OPEN Dates Announced**

The USRA confirmed the dates for the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. The event will be held November 19-23, 2003 in Memphis, Tennessee and will mark the eighth consecutive year for this "Grand Slam."

"For the past several years we have run the U.S. OPEN during the week prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. This has proved to be a successful time of year for the event as our attendance levels have grown every year. In 2003 we will remain consistent with the dates for the event." stated U.S. OPEN Director Doug Ganim. "But due to court time restrictions we will only accept the first 750 players to enter the event in 2003." This year's event drew a record number of 770 entrants.

## **... CHERYL ... continued from page 8**

for this sport. The other is a former coach at her old high school, Tim Lang. Tim has been the strength and fitness coach for the Texas Rangers and the Chicago White Sox. He is now at DePaul University. She works out with Eugene and Tim as often as possible.

Life at the top is fun for Cheryl but like all athletes she has had her disappointments along the road to success. After losing in the finals to Michelle Gould in 1996, she finished well at the Open many times since then.

"In 1996, Michelle was a better player than me and continued to be for several years," she said. "There were other great players in front of me over those years as well. What helped me win the U.S. Open this year was improved physical and mental conditioning."

For months leading up the Open, she visualized everything about it including her outfit, the music played at her introduction, the crowd, the court play, and even her speech. By the time the Open came around, she had "lived it" many, many times in her head and simply played it out.

She did make one change before this year's Open. She adopted "Lose Yourself" by Eminem as her song. He uses it in the new film "8 Mile." The lyrics speak to her like none other. It's now part of her mental preparation so she insisted it be played during her introduction.

Being #1 has its unique challenges. Sudsy Monchik once said one of the biggest challenges is continuing to challenge yourself. "I just keep working hard and perfecting my game," the Cheryl said. "And, I'll keep doing it as long as I can. It's a fun ride that I want to last."

As one who believes in visualization, she can see a few more #1 rankings and hopefully a few more U.S. Open titles in the years ahead. She wants to play competitively until at least the age of 40. After that, racquetball will be just for fun and exercise.

*About the author: Dick Barton is a lifelong player and marketing consultant from Park Ridge, Illinois, and a contributor to Racquetball. He can be reached at [www.2bartons.com](http://www.2bartons.com).*

# racquetball

## 3 -- PLAY REGULATIONS

### Rule 3.1 SERVE

In Open Division competition, the server will have one opportunity to put the ball into play. In all other divisions, the server will have two opportunities to put the ball into play.

The player or team winning the coin toss has the option to either serve or receive at the start of the first game. The second game will begin in reverse order of the first game. The player or team scoring the highest total of points in games 1 and 2 will have the option to serve or receive first at the start of the tiebreaker. In the event that both players or teams score an equal number of points in the first two games, another coin toss will take place and the winner of the toss will have the option to serve or receive.

### Rule 3.2 START

The server may not start the service motion until the referee has called the score or "second serve." The serve is started from any place within the service zone. (Certain drive serves are an exception. See Rule 3.6.) Neither the ball nor any part of either foot may extend beyond either line of the service zone when initiating the service motion. Stepping on, but not beyond, the lines is permitted. However, when completing the service motion, the server may step beyond the service (front) line provided that some part of both feet remain on or inside the line until the served ball passes the short line. The server may not step beyond the short line until the ball passes the short line. See Rule 3.9(a) and 3.10(i) for penalties for violations.

### Rule 3.3 MANNER

After taking a set position inside the service zone, a player may begin the service motion--any continuous movement which results in the ball being served. Once the service motion begins, the ball must be bounced on the floor in the zone and be struck by the racquet before it bounces a second time. After being struck, the ball must hit the front wall first and on the rebound hit the floor beyond the back edge of the short line, either with or without touching one of the side walls.

### Rule 3.4 READINESS

The service motion shall not begin until the referee has called the score or the second serve and the server has visually checked the receiver. The referee shall call the score as both server and receiver prepare to return to their respective positions, shortly after the previous rally has ended.

designated by local rules as an obstruction rather than being out-of-play.

(b) Broken Ball. If the ball is determined to have broken on the serve, a new ball shall be substituted and the serve shall be replayed, not canceling any prior fault serve.

### Rule 3.9 FAULT SERVES

The following serves are faults and any two in succession result in an out:

(a) Foot Faults. A foot fault results when: 1. The server does not begin the service motion with both feet in the service zone. 2. The server steps completely over the service line (no part of the foot on or inside the service zone) before the served ball crosses the short line.

(b) Short Service. A short serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, hits the floor on or in front of the short line either with or without touching a side wall.

(c) Three Wall Serve. A three-wall serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, on the rebound, strikes both side walls before touching the floor.

(d) Ceiling Serve. A ceiling serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and then touches the ceiling (with or without touching a side wall).

(e) Long Serve. A long serve is a served ball that first hits the front wall and rebounds to the back wall before touching the floor (with or without touching a side wall).

(f) Bouncing Ball Outside Service Zone. Bouncing the ball outside the service zone as a part of the service motion is a fault serve.

(g) Illegal Drive Serve. A drive serve in which the player fails to observe the 17-foot drive service zone outlined in Rule 3.6.

(h) Screen Serve. A served ball that first hits the front wall and on the rebound passes so closely to the server, or server's partner in doubles, that it prevents the receiver from having a clear view of the ball. (The receiver is obligated to take up good court position, near center court, to obtain that view.)

(i) In open division play, if a serve is called a screen, the server will be allowed one more opportunity to hit a legal serve. Two consecutive screen serves results in an out.

(j) Serving before the Receiver is Ready. A serve is made while the receiver is not ready as described in Rule 3.5(b).

### Rule 3.10 OUT SERVES

Any of the following results in an out:

(a) Two Consecutive Fault Serves [see Rule 3.9], or a single fault serve in open division play.

(b) Missed Serve Attempt. Any attempt to strike the ball that results in a total miss or in the ball touching any part of the server's body.

those surfaces. A returned ball must touch the front wall before touching the floor.

(d) Failure to Return. The failure to return a serve results in a point for the server.

(e) Other Provisions. Except as noted in this rule (3.11), the return of serve is subject to all provisions of Rules 3.13 through 3.15.

### Rule 3.12 CHANCES OF SERVE

(a) Outs. A server is entitled to continue serving until one of the following occurs: 1. Out Serve. See Rule 3.10. 2. Two Consecutive Fault Serves [see Rule 3.9], or a single fault serve in open division play [see exceptions: 5.0]. 3. Failure to Return Ball. Player or team fails to keep the ball in play as required by Rule 3.11 (c). 4. Avoidable Hinder. Player or team commits an avoidable hinder which results in an out. See Rule 3.15.

(b) Sideout. Retiring the server in singles is called a sideout.

(c) Effect of Sideout. When the server (or serving team) receives a sideout, the server becomes the receiver and the receiver becomes the server.

### Rule 3.13 RALLIES

All of the play which occurs after the successful return of serve is called the rally. Play shall be conducted according to the following rules:

(a) Legal Hits. Only the head of the racquet may be used at any time to return the ball. The racquet may be held in one or both hands. Switching hands to hit a ball, touching the ball with any part of the body or uniform, or removing the wrist safety cord during a rally results in a loss of the rally.

(b) One Touch. The player or team trying to return the ball may touch or strike the ball only once or else the rally is lost. The ball may not be carried. (A carried ball is one which rests on the racquet long enough that the effect is more of a sling or throw than a hit.)

(c) Failure to Return. Any of the following constitutes a failure to make a legal return during a rally: 1. The ball bounces on the floor more than once before being hit. 2. The ball does not reach the front wall on the fly. 3. The ball is hit such that it goes into the gallery or wall opening or else hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play [See Rule 2.1(a)]. 4. A ball which obviously does not have the velocity or direction to hit the front wall strikes another player. 5. A ball struck by one player on a team hits that player or that player's partner. 6. Committing an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15. 7. Switching hands during a rally. 8. Failure to use a racquet wrist safety cord. 9. Touching the ball with the body or uniform. 10. Carrying or slinging the ball with the racquet.

(d) Effect of Failure to Return. Violations of Rules 3.13 (a) through (c) result in a loss of rally. If the serving player or team loses the rally, it is an out. If the receiver loses the rally, it results in a point for the server.

(e) Return Attempts. The ball remains in play until it touches the floor a second time, regardless of how many walls it makes contact

referee believes was sufficient to stop the rally, either for the purpose of preventing injury by further contact or because the contact prevented a player from being able to make a reasonable return, the referee shall call a hinder. Incidental body contact in which the offensive player clearly will have the advantage should not be called a hinder, unless the offensive player obviously stops play. Contact with the racquet on the follow-through normally is not considered a hinder. 4. Screen Ball. Any ball rebounding from the front wall so close to the body of the defensive player that it prevents the offensive player from having a clear view of the ball. (The referee should be careful not to make the screen call so quickly that it takes away a good offensive opportunity.) A ball that passes between the legs of a player who has just returned the ball is not automatically a screen. It depends on whether the other player is impaired as a result. Generally, the call should work to the advantage of the offensive player. 5. Backswing Hinder. Any body or racquet contact, on the backswing or on the way to or just prior to returning the ball, which impairs the hitter's ability to take a reasonable swing. This call can be made by the player attempting the return, though the call must be made immediately and is subject to the referee's approval. Note the interference may be considered an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15. 6. Safety Holdup. Any player about to execute a return who believes that striking the opponent with the ball or racquet is likely, may immediately stop play and request a dead-ball hinder. This call must be made immediately and is subject to acceptance and approval of the referee. (The referee will grant a dead-ball hinder if it is believed the holdup was reasonable and the player would have been able to return the shot. The referee may also call an avoidable hinder if warranted.) 7. Other Interference. Any other unintentional interference which prevents an opponent from having a fair chance to see or return the ball. Example: When a ball from another court enters the court during a rally or when a referee's call on an adjacent court obviously distracts a player.

(b) Effect of Hinders. The referee's call of hinder stops play and voids any situation which follows, such as the ball hitting the player. The only hindrances that may be called by a player are described in rules (2), (5), and (6) above, and all of these are subject to the approval of the referee. A dead-ball hinder stops play and the rally is replayed. The server resumes play at first serve.

(c) Responsibility. While making an attempt to return the ball, a player is entitled to a fair chance to see and return the ball. It is the responsibility of the side that has just hit the ball to move so the receiving side may go straight to the ball and have an unobstructed view of and swing at the ball. However, the receiver is responsible for making a reasonable effort to move towards the ball and must have a reasonable chance to return the ball for any type of hinder to be called.

### Rule 3.5 DELAYS

Except as noted in Rule 3.5 (b), the referee may call a technical foul for delays exceeding 10 seconds.

(a) The 10 second rule applies to the server and receiver simultaneously. Collectively, they are allowed up to 10 seconds after the score is called to serve or be ready to receive. It is the server's responsibility to look and be certain the receiver is ready. If a receiver is not ready, they must signal by raising the racquet above the head or completely turning the back to the server. (These are the only two acceptable signals.)

(b) Serving while the receiving player/team is signaling not ready is a fault serve.

(c) After the score is called, if the server looks at the receiver and the receiver is not signaling not ready, the server may then serve. If the receiver attempts to signal not ready after that point, the signal shall not be acknowledged and the serve becomes legal.

### Rule 3.6 DRIVE SERVICE ZONES

The drive serve lines will be 3 feet from each side wall in the service zone. Viewed one at a time, the drive serve line divides the service area into a 3-foot and a 17-foot section that apply only to drive serves. The player may drive serve between the body and the side wall nearest to where the service motion began only if the player starts and remains outside of the 3-foot drive service zone. In the event that the service motion begins in one 3-foot drive service zone and continues into the other 3-foot drive serve zone, the player may not hit a drive serve at all.

(a) The drive serve zones are not observed for cross-court drive serves, the hard-Z, soft-Z, lob or half-lob serves.

(b) The racquet may not break the plane of the 17-foot zone while making contact with the ball.

(c) The drive serve line is not part of the 17-foot zone. Dropping the ball on the line or standing on the line while serving to the same side is an infraction.

### Rule 3.7 DEFECTIVE SERVES

Defective serves are of three types resulting in penalties as follows:

(a) Dead-Ball Serve. A dead-ball serve results in no penalty and the server is given another serve (without canceling a prior fault serve).

(b) Fault Serve. Two fault serves result in an out (either a sideout or a handout).

(c) Out Serve. An out serve results in an out (either a sideout or a handout).

### Rule 3.8 DEAD-BALL SERVES

Dead-ball serves do not cancel any previous fault serve. The following are dead-ball serves:

(a) Court Hinders. A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve. Also, any serve that hits any surface

Also, allowing the ball to bounce more than once during the service motion.

(c) Touched Serve. Any served ball that on the rebound from the front wall touches the server or server's racquet before touching the floor, or any ball intentionally stopped or caught by the server or server's partner.

(d) Fake or Balk Serve. Any movement of the racquet toward the ball during the serve which is non-continuous and done for the purpose of deceiving the receiver. If a balk serve occurs, but the referee believes that no deceit was involved, the option of declaring "no serve" and having the serve replayed without penalty can be exercised.

(e) Illegal Hit. An illegal hit includes contacting the ball twice, carrying the ball, or hitting the ball with the handle of the racquet or part of the body or uniform.

(f) Non-Front Wall Serve. Any served ball that does not strike the front wall first.

(g) Crotch Serve. Any served ball that hits the crotch of the front wall and floor, front wall and side wall, or front wall and ceiling is an out serve (because it did not hit the front wall first). A serve into the crotch of the back wall and floor is a good serve and in play. A served ball that hits the crotch of the side wall and floor beyond the short line is in play.

(h) Out-of-Court Serve. An out-of-court serve is any served ball that first hits the front wall and, before striking the floor, either goes out of the court or hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play for a valid reason [See Rule 2.1(a)].

(i) Safety Zone Violation. If the server, or doubles partner, enters into the safety zone before the served ball passes the short line, it shall result in the loss of serve.

### Rule 3.11 RETURN OF SERVE

(a) Receiving Position

1. The receiver may not enter the safety zone until the ball bounces or crosses the receiving line. 2. In making an "on the fly" return attempt, the receiver may not strike the ball until the ball breaks the plane of the receiving line. However, the receiver's follow-through may carry the receiver or the racquet past the receiving line. 3. Neither the receiver nor the racquet may break the plane of the short line, except if the ball is struck after rebounding off the back wall. 4. Any violation by the receiver results in a point for the server.

(b) Defective Serve. A player on the receiving side may not intentionally catch or touch a served ball (such as an apparently long or short serve) until the referee has made a call or the ball has touched the floor for a second time. Violation results in a point.

(c) Legal Return. After a legal serve, a player receiving the serve must strike the ball on the fly or after the first bounce, and before the ball touches the floor the second time; and return the ball to the front wall, either directly or after touching one or both side walls, the back wall or the ceiling, or any combination of

with — including the front wall. If a player swings at the ball and misses it, the player may continue to attempt to return the ball until it touches the floor for the second time.

(f) Broken Ball. If there is any suspicion that a ball has broken during a rally, play shall continue until the end of the rally. The referee or any player may request the ball be examined. If the referee decides the ball is broken the ball will be replaced and the rally replayed. The server resumes play at first serve. The only proper way to check for a broken ball is to squeeze it by hand. (Checking the ball by striking it with a racquet will not be considered a valid check and shall work to the disadvantage of the player or team which struck the ball after the rally.)

(g) Play Stoppage — 1. If a foreign object enters the court, or any other outside interference occurs, the referee shall stop the play immediately and declare a dead-ball hinder. 2. If a player loses any apparel, equipment, or other article, the referee shall stop play immediately and declare an avoidable hinder or dead-ball hinder as described in Rule 3.15 (i).

(h) Replays. Whenever a rally is replayed for any reason, the server resumes play at first serve. A previous fault serve is not considered.

### Rule 3.14 DEAD-BALL HINDERS

A rally is replayed without penalty and the server receives resumes play at first serve whenever a dead-ball hinder occurs. Also, see Rule 3.15 which describes conditions under which a hinder might be declared avoidable and result in loss of the rally.

(a) Situations — 1. Court Hinders. The referee should stop play immediately whenever the ball hits any part of the court that was designated in advance as a court hinder (such as a vent grate). The referee should also stop play (i) when the ball takes an irregular bounce as a result of contacting a rough surface (such as court light or vent) or after striking a wet spot on the floor or wall and (ii) when, in the referee's opinion, the irregular bounce affected the rally. 2. Ball Hits Opponent. When an opponent is hit by a return shot in flight, it is a dead-ball hinder. If the opponent is struck by a ball which obviously did not have the velocity or direction to reach the front wall, it is not a hinder, and the player who hit the ball will lose the rally. A player who has been hit by the ball can stop play and make the call though the call must be made immediately and acknowledged by the referee. Note this interference may, under certain conditions, be declared an avoidable hinder. See Rule 3.15. 3. Body Contact. If body contact occurs which the

### Rule 3.15 AVOIDABLE HINDERS

An avoidable hinder results in the loss of the rally. An avoidable hinder does not necessarily have to be an intentional act. Dead-ball hindlers are described in Rule 3.14. Any of the following results in an avoidable hinder:

(a) Failure to Move. A player does not move sufficiently to allow an opponent a shot straight to the front wall as well as a cross-court shot which is a shot directly to the front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the rear corner farthest from the player hitting the ball. Also when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents an opponent from taking either of these shots.

(b) Stroke Interference. This occurs when a player moves, or fails to move, so that the opponent returning the ball does not have a free, unimpeded swing. This includes unintentionally moving in a direction which prevents the opponent from making an open, offensive shot.

(c) Blocking. Moves into a position which blocks the opponent from getting to, or returning, the ball; or in doubles, a player moves in front of an opponent as the player's partner is returning the ball.

(d) Moving into the Ball. Moves in the way and is struck by the ball just played by the opponent.

(e) Pushing. Deliberately pushes or shoves opponent during a rally.

(f) Intentional Distractions. Deliberate shouting, stamping of feet, waving of racquet, or any other manner of disrupting one's opponent.

(g) View Obstruction. A player moves across an opponent's line of vision just before the opponent strikes the ball.

(h) Wetting the Ball. The players, particularly the server, should ensure that the ball is dry prior to the serve. Any wet ball that is not corrected prior to the serve shall result in an avoidable hinder against the server.

(i) Apparel or Equipment Loss. If a player loses any apparel, equipment, or other article, play shall be immediately stopped and that player shall be called for an avoidable hinder, unless the player has just hit a shot that could not be retrieved. If the loss of equipment is caused by a player's opponent, then a dead-ball hinder should be called. If the opponent's action is judged to have been avoidable, then the opponent should be called for an avoidable hinder.

### Rule 3.16 TIMEOUTS &

Rule 3.17 TECHNICAL FOULS AND WARNINGS apply to tournament play, using an official.

rules of play

Earlier this season I covered my magical "Backhand Lob Serve" [Sept/Oct 2002] and mentioned three reasons that I developed this particular serve: It's different; it's more difficult for your opponent to return; and, while I'm relocating into good center court position, my eyes never have to leave the ball until the last minute. For exactly these same reasons, I am going to teach you another variation in the family of backhand serves ... my magical "Backhand Drive Serve."

The "backhand lob serve" comes from the group of "softer and higher" serves which keep the ball out of your opponent's hitting zone (below their belly button) and keeps it above their chest, making it a tougher shot to return offensively. The "backhand drive serve" comes from the group of "lower and harder" serves which give your opponent less time to react, makes them move suddenly one way or the other, and is also tougher to return.

Both the "Backhand Lob and Drive Serves" are needed in your game because, depending on your opponent, one or the other will come in handy. Remember the "serve strategy" we've talked about in previous issues:

— If you are playing the power player, the bruiser, the animal, the player who likes to rock and roll you would want to slow the game down (change the pace) and take it out of their hitting zone (above their chest/shoulder) — a lob serve accomplishes this.

— If you are playing a control player, someone with knee problems or poor footwork, or can't move well to one side or the other you would want to speed up the game (change the pace the other way) and make them change direction and react quickly — a drive serve accomplishes this.

Let's check out the photos on the facing page to break down my magical "Backhand Drive Serve" so you can use it effectively, with the same confidence that I do.

It's another great serve to add to your arsenal. Remember the change of pace, height, angle and type of serve keeps your opponent guessing and can cause a



## The Backhand Drive Serve

Photos: Tony Biggs

weak return, which is the purpose of any good serve. It's the same philosophy used by a pitcher in baseball, who throws different pitches to keep the batter off balance and confused, hoping for a weak hit.

I don't recommend trying this serve until you can hit your regular drive serves [see July/August 1999 online at [www.racqmag.com](http://www.racqmag.com) "back issues"], but once you can you can move on to this advanced move: a "backhand" drive serve as well as a "forehand" drive serve. Believe me if it works for me at the pro level, just imagine what it can do for you at a sanctioned event one weekend! Enjoy the variety of your new service game. It's fun, which is the name of the game!

### TRICK #1 ... The Ready Position

- Body square to the side wall
- Left foot in front of the right, on (not over) the short line
- Knees soft and relaxed
- Weight even (50/50)
- Racquet knee high, but cocked up
- Body slightly bent
- Eyes on ball



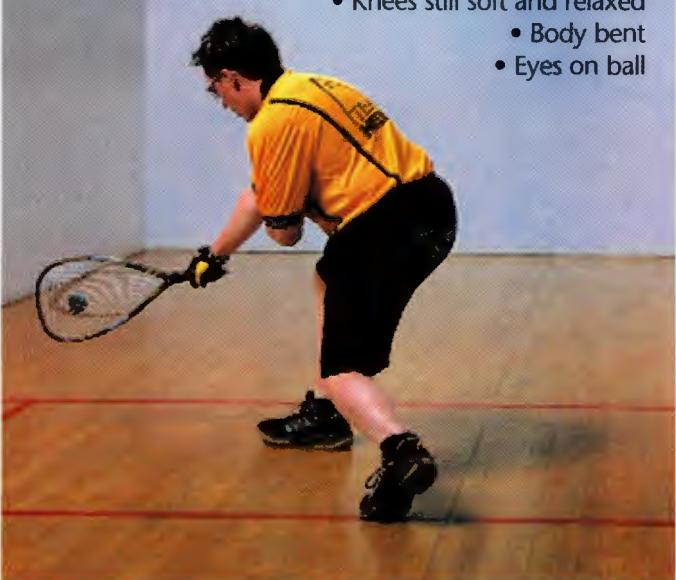
### TRICK #2 ... The Step

- Step at a 45 degree angle with right foot, weight still relatively even (50/50 or 55/45)
- Drop the ball at full extension from your body
- Racquet comes up shoulder high
- Knees soft and relaxed
- Body bent
- Eyes on ball



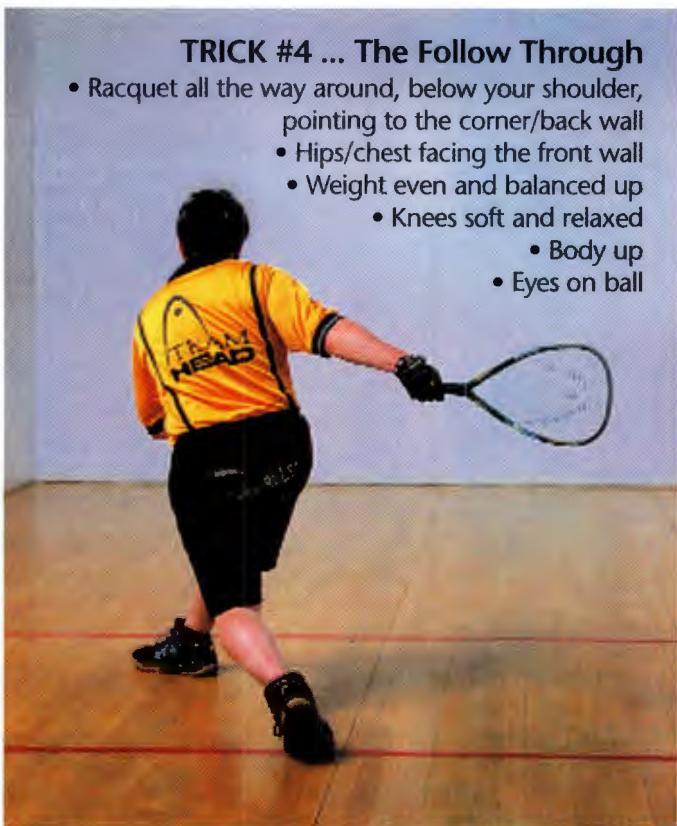
### TRICK #3 ... The Swing/Contact Point

- The back foot pivots opening up the hips
- Weight even (50/50)
- The racquet comes down to full extension, flat and level
- Contact point at knee high or lower
- Knees still soft and relaxed
- Body bent
- Eyes on ball



### TRICK #4 ... The Follow Through

- Racquet all the way around, below your shoulder, pointing to the corner/back wall
- Hips/chest facing the front wall
- Weight even and balanced up
- Knees soft and relaxed
- Body up
- Eyes on ball





## Wilson Game Plan: Be Like Cliff ... Pack some Punch in your Shots!

by Chris Evon & Cliff Swain

Cliff Swain is arguably one of the best-conditioned athletes on the tour. He is disciplined, he is dedicated and he is confident he will *never* lose because he is out of shape. You can have this same winning attitude. Your fitness level is the one thing you can control. Set some goals, be disciplined, be dedicated, and even you can be like Cliff!

Here are three of Cliff's basic exercises to increase his upper body strength:

### PULL UPS

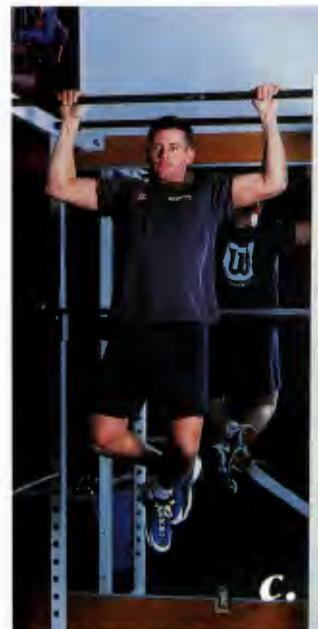
*Muscle Groups:* Back and Biceps

#### *Technique:*

- a.** Hands facing out, legs crossed at ankles.
- b.** Raise your body so your chin passes the top of the bar.
- c.** Lower slowly. Do not arch your back or kick your feet.

#### *Variations:*

- d.** Change the width of your grip to work different muscles. Raise and lower your body to a count of two, or to a count of four.



## **DUMBBELL SHOULDER PRESS WITH BALL >>**

*Muscle Groups:* Shoulder and Core muscles.

*Technique:*

- e.** Develop your core muscles by sitting on the ball while lifting.
- f.** Keeping your back straight, raise weights slowly.
- e.** Lower slowly to the original position.



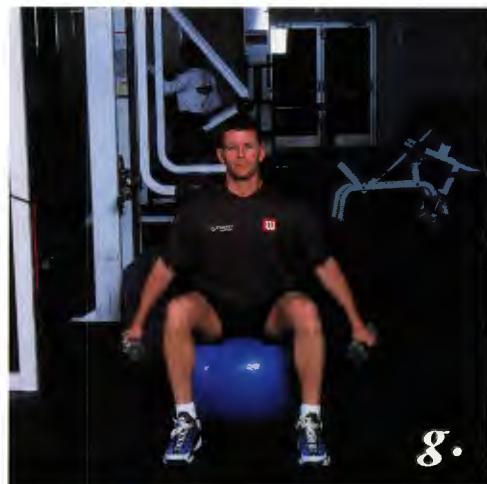
## **DUMBBELL LATERAL RAISE WITH BALL >>**

*Muscle Groups:* Shoulder and Core muscles.

*Technique:*

- g.** Keep your back straight.
- h.** Raise your arms slowly to horizontal.

Keep a slight bend in your elbow. Hips should be directly under your shoulders.



## **Sets and Repetitions**

There are several methods to lifting. If possible, find a certified trainer to help you develop a program specifically for you. Try these three methods to get you started:

Three sets of ten. Find a weight that you can lift. It should be difficult to complete the last few reps. Rest one minute between sets.

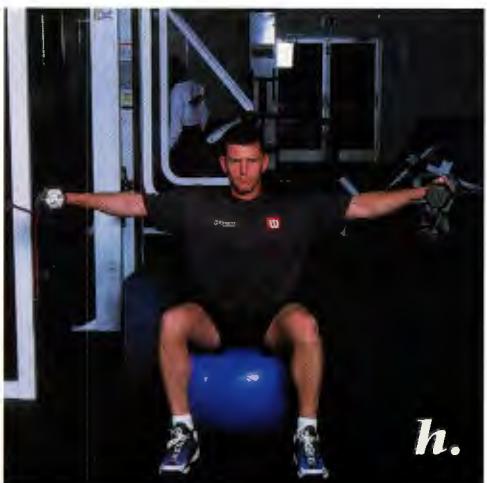
**Drop Sets** — Do five sets. (Sets can vary)

First set:	5 reps.
Second set:	4 reps, add weight.
Third set:	3 reps, add weight.
Fourth set:	2 reps, add weight.
Fifth set:	1 rep, add weight.

**6, 12, 24** — Increase reps, reducing weight with each.

First Set:	6 reps with the most weight you can handle.
Second Set:	12 reps, reduce the amount of weight.
Third Set:	24 reps, reduce the amount of weight again.

Depending on the techniques, the amount of weight used, and the repetitions, lifting can help you add strength, power, and endurance. If you are looking to improve your fitness level to help your game, spend some time in the weight room. You will see the difference!





*Top four close-ups: As far as your wrist goes, it isn't necessary to coil the wrist to make it snap when hitting the ball (top). Instead, when you bring your racquet back, you simply cock your wrist sideways. Below: The wrist shown, cocked, just before making contact, and extended afterward.*



## BACKHAND MECHANICS

by Kersten Hallander

We looked at the forehand in the last issue, and now I'd like to break down the backhand for you. It's a more natural stroke than the forehand, so it boggles me that so many players have a weaker backhand stroke. If this is the case for you, I hope this article helps to equal things out.

Once you decide to hit a backhand, square your shoulders to the sidewall, get your racquet ready, knees slightly bent and feet shoulder width apart. Getting ready for a backhand is basically wrapping your arm around your neck and slightly coiling your torso. Make sure your grip is almost as high as your opposite shoulder [photo 1].

But unlike the forehand (where the free arm helps to bring the torso around), the non-hitting arm in the backhand is sort of in the way. So you'll need to get (and keep) it out of the way to allow your torso to make a full rotation through the swing.

Keep your shoulders open, bend your non-hitting elbow slightly and point it towards the opposite sidewall when getting your racquet back. Then, just before the ball gets into the hitting zone, coil your body a little bit more and put most of your weight on your rear foot. Your chin should be directly above the shoulder of your hitting arm [photo 2]. Notice at this point that the racquet face should be higher than the grip, the shoulder of the non-hitting arm is higher than the shoulder of the hitting arm, the grip is now as high as the shoulder of the non-hitting arm and the back is practically facing the front wall. Doing all of this is necessary to unleash the power in your backhand.

As the ball drops into the hitting zone, start to transfer your weight by taking a 5-10 inch step towards the front wall. As you are stepping and transferring your weight, the body uncoils, the hips rotate and the racquet head drops down behind the hips. The shoulder of the non-hitting arm drops to the level of the other shoulder [photo 3.]. The knee on your leading leg should be bent approximately 120 degrees and your toes are pointed towards the front wall for a straight in shot and slightly towards the sidewall if you want to hit a pinch. Don't let your knee extend past your heel, as this will compromise balance in your follow through.



1.



2.



3.



# performance series

As your arm comes to full extension, your wrist is still cocked sideways, which causes the bottom of the grip to face the front wall first [photo 4.]

To make contact with the ball, the racquet face needs to catch up with the grip, following the momentum of the racquet head, the body uncoiling and the hips rotating. Your wrist un-cocks sideways too. This is all necessary to get the "pop" on the ball and hit with more power. At the point of contact your stance should be very stable, elbow locked, grip tight (especially the ring and pinky fingers) and the racquet face should be perpendicular to the floor [photo 5.]

*A close up of the wrist still cocked sideways before contact and un-cocking at the point of contact is illustrated in the bottom two small "glove" photos on the facing page.*

Just as it is in the forehand, the follow through is of the utmost importance. After contacting the ball, keep rotating the torso and hips so that the shoulders and hips become square with the front wall. Pivoting your rear foot like squashing a bug helps in doing this. With your arm still fully extended, bring the grip up as high, or higher than the shoulder of your hitting arm. This should now be higher than the shoulder of the non-hitting arm too [photo 6.]

Timing is everything to get that "pop" on the ball. Practice in front of a mirror in slow motion so you can have a visual picture in your mind when trying it on the court. As it becomes more comfortable, start to practice your full swing in fast motion in front of the mirror, too. Remember to unleash the power in your swing when you step into the ball and un-coil your

body. After you have practiced in front of the mirror and have a good picture in your mind on how to execute, it's time to get on the court and practice.

Start out with the basic drop and hit drill. The ball shouldn't be too close, or too far away, or you'll sacrifice power and control. In the last issue, we "measured" your point of contact [the length of your shoulder-to-midpalm, plus 16-18"] to determine how far away the ball should be when you hit it. Stand 4-5 feet from the sidewall and drop the ball away from you at whatever distance you measured. Bounce the ball towards the front wall a little bit also to account for the 5-10 inch step you take towards the front wall during your swing. Everyone's step is different so find where you step with your leading foot and measure your contact point out laterally from the inside heel. Once you set your distance, you can put a piece of tape on the floor to help you get the hang of bouncing your set up to just the right spot.

Once you get the timing down and are hitting the ball with some power and control straight in to the front wall, try setting yourself up with some short ceiling balls and hitting those straight in too. A short ceiling ball is one that bounces a second time in the rear court area. Then aim to about 6-12 inches high on the front wall. Doing the drop and hit drill is great for perfecting your stroke mechanics, but practicing shots in a game situation is what gives you the confidence to hit that same winner in match play.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future articles, please don't hesitate to contact me at [kersten@kersten.com](mailto:kersten@kersten.com).





**Q: I have a guy here in my hometown that is begging me to let him coach me in open tournaments. I've coached myself over the years; what's your view?**

youth and adult organized leagues — and you'll find coaches. A coach gives the student direction by having a vision of potential and the ability to help make that vision a reality. A good coach seeks to develop an environment in which each and every athlete can enjoy their maximum opportunity to achieve success and reach their goal(s) and potential.

Now let's take a closer look at this coaching checklist. A good coach will:

- Be knowledgeable about the sport; the ability to share that knowledge with the student in terms they can understand and implement is critical.
- Be communicative. The saying "you have two ears and one mouth, listen twice as hard as you speak" makes a very powerful statement. If you listen closely to your athletes, you can give them what they need for success.
- Be positive. Always find the positive in what they do; positive reinforcement leads to self-confidence, enthusiasm and motivation.
- Create goals. If you create direction with a realistic vision, students will feel a tremendous amount of success from their accomplishments.
- Continue their education. Always have your eyes and ears open to learning from other coaches within (or outside) your sport, since that will bring new experiences and opportunities to you, which you can then share with your athletes.
- Know each athlete. Learn their strengths, weaknesses and what makes them tick physically, emotionally, spiritually, and in every which way.
- Set a good example. Both on and off the court, the athlete needs to respect you.

**A:** As a professional coach myself, I strongly urge you to move in that direction *only* if you find the right person, with the right qualities and credentials. Take a look at almost any sport — either team or individual, amateur or professional, or even

- Develop game plans. A plan of action is created by knowing your opponent's, and your own, strengths and weakness.
- Be open-minded. Be open to the possibilities, be open to the athlete's point of view, be open to criticism and be able to admit your own mistakes and shortcomings.
- Be confident, in your ways and in your principles.
- Be motivational. Pumping up your athletes is something they need and love in a coach.
- Be supportive. Encouragement is key.
- Regard the athlete as a person first. Students want to be looked at as a human being with feelings, emotions and thoughts, not just as an athlete with ability.
- Be consistent. Gain respect by fulfilling the preceding steps.

There you have it, a coaching checklist. When you want to select a coach, you now have some guidelines you can use to help you find just the right one. Good luck and when you find a good one you will experience your game skyrocket. Be prepared for that success!

Following are some comments from a few players whose accomplishments have earned them the utmost respect. And they have strong feelings about coaching:

**IRT #1 Jason Mannino (coached by R. Gonzalez & F. Davis)** "I consider myself a student of the game, but even I know I need a coach. I got to the #4 ranking with some coaching, but when I joined forces a little over two years ago with Fran Davis, my present coach, I began climbing to the #1 ranking, which I presently hold. She has made the most difference in the mental side of my game. What more can I say?"

**IRT #4 Sudsy Monchik (coached by R. Gonzalez & F. Davis)** "No matter how great of a player you are, a good coach can, and will, point things out in live play that you don't see. That alone can make the difference between winning and losing the match. I clearly remember that if Fran, my coach, wasn't at the 2002 Pro National Championships (my first tournament back after I broke my foot and was out of commission for 8 months) I could have lost my qualifying match in three straight as I was down two

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**Smarter Head, Better Game — by Fran Davis • Coaching Tips**

email your questions to: [fran@frandavisracquetball.com](mailto:fran@frandavisracquetball.com)

games to none. Fran and I talked in between games and she pulled me out of the "funk" I was in mentally and I came back to win that match three games to two. Coaching is instrumental."

**LPRA #1 Cheryl Gudinas** (coached by K. Beane, M. Layton, M. Bailey) "It's vital to have a coach. Mine know me personally, physically and emotionally and they support me and believe in me totally. That allows me to perform at my best."

**World Doubles Champions Jackie Rice & Kim Russell** (coached by

J. Winterton and F. Davis).

**Kim Russell** ... "In my estimation a good coach instills confidence in their players, gains mutual respect for one another and is open, honest and straightforward with their athletes. I experienced this first hand with Fran at the 2002 World Championships in P.R. and that is why I was able to rise to the occasion".

**Jackie Rice** ... "I believe that coaching is a vital part of a successful athlete's career. A coach can be helpful in several ways such as in teaching you fundamentals, developing your mental game without you even

knowing it and can be your eyes outside the court while you are competing. There are a lot of times when I am playing in a tournament that I wish I had a coach to help me, like I do when I play for the U.S. Team. Fran has influenced me the most in my career. Her encouragement, positive mentality and wisdom have made a tremendous difference in my career and has helped to mold me into the athlete that I am today. Believe me, if it was financially feasible, I'd have a full time coach to travel with me to all my tournaments."



## Training: Tendonitis vs. Muscle Soreness

**by Tim Scheett, Ph.D**

Have you ever wondered why some people wear those bands around their elbows or knees? Does it give them more power? More control? Or do they just look cool?? The answer to all of those questions is simply, no.

Those bands are being used in an attempt to control tendonitis. Tendonitis is literally the swelling or inflammation of a tendon and is most commonly caused by too much stress being placed on the point where the tendon attaches to the bone (a tendon is the tissue that connects a muscle to a bone). In racquetball, tendonitis most commonly affects the bicipital (elbow) and patellar (knee) tendons.

Tendonitis will typically occur very close to a joint and the pain will be very close to a bone whereas muscle soreness (discussed in a previous article) will be felt throughout the muscle itself. If you are experiencing pain in either of these areas before, during or after you play – you need to see an athletic trainer, physical therapist or your physician.

Quite often you will be advised to rest and ice the affected joint for a period of time. If that does not alleviate the problem, more aggressive treatments will be required. For them, you'll need to be under the direct supervision of a trained professional.

The bands that you see people using work by applying pressure to the affected tendon such that the stress of the muscle contraction is not being exerted on the point where the tendon attaches to the bone – but rather at the point where the band is applying pressure to the tendon and underlying bone.

At this point you may be wondering what causes a tendon to become inflamed. This is simple – too much stress. In many cases bicipital tendonitis (commonly known as tennis elbow) is often caused because the racquet grip is too big for the person's hand. An oversized grip will cause a person to apply too much stress to the bicipital tendon and once a tendon is inflamed it is more likely to become inflamed with each additional stress. (Tendons have a very poor blood supply as compared to muscles and thus take much longer to heal.)

If you are experiencing or have experienced pain in your elbow I would suggest consulting with an equipment expert that can be found in many club pro shops, a certified athletic trainer or physical therapist, all of whom may be able to give you some advice about how to select a proper grip size for your hand.

As always – if you have questions you would like to have addressed here – just send me an email. [tim.scheett@hotmail.com](mailto:tim.scheett@hotmail.com)

# rb:people & places



## usra scholarships awarded to seven



The USRA recently announced the recipients of the 2002-03 scholarship awards. The program funded a \$500 award to each student to be used toward expenses for undergraduate education.



Repeat awards were given to Krystal Csuk (Naperville, IL) attending Baldwin-Wallace College and Joel Worthington (Overland Park, KS) at the University of Kansas, followed by first-time awards for: Christopher Barton (Portland, OR) University of Southern Colorado; Christopher Finley (Greenville, NC) University of North Carolina - Charlotte; Laurie Fisk (St. Louis, MO) University of Missouri; Christopher Meyer (McMinnville, OR) University of Colorado; and Travis Woodbury (Arlington, VA) at the University of Memphis.



**Chris Barton** began playing racquetball competitively as a freshman in high school and by the time he was a senior won the Oregon State High School championships in both singles and doubles. He graduated from Mt. Hood Community College and plans to continue his education at the University of Southern Colorado and compete on their racquetball squad.

**Krystal Csuk** is a two-time USRA Scholarship recipient from Naperville, Illinois. She is the current U.S. Intercollegiate Champion and was a member of the 2002 Baldwin Wallace National Racquetball Championship team.

Top four, Across L-R:

Chris Barton  
Krystal Csuk  
Chris Finley  
Laurie Fisk.

Left, Top to Bottom:  
Christopher Meyer,  
Travis Woodbury,  
Joel Worthington.

Krystal is also a member of the U.S. National Team.

**Chris Finley** graduated in the top third of his class at D.H. Conley High School in Greenville, N.C. He began playing tournaments in 1993 and is ranked No. 1 in men's D in North Carolina. He attends the University of North Carolina - Charlotte, where he is majoring in Engineering.

**Laurie Fisk** is the reigning 18- Mixed Doubles National High School Champion and a member of the 2002 Kirkwood High National High School Championship Team. She is continuing her education at the University of Missouri - Columbia where she plans on majoring in Business. Laurie graduated from high school with a 3.66 cumulative GPA.

**Christopher Meyer** graduated with honors from McMinnville High School in 2002. He is the founder of the McMinnville H.S. Racquetball Club and has competed in numerous national championships and two world championships. He attends the University of Colorado - Boulder.

**Travis Woodbury** has been a member of the U.S. National Junior Racquetball team and runner-up in several national and world junior events. He is attending the University of Memphis where he is a member of the racquetball team. Travis is also an advanced certified instructor and has spent time as a volunteer for the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships.

**Joel Worthington** is a two-time USRA scholarship recipient. He has completed his second year at the University of Kansas where he is studying to earn a degree in Strategic Communications from the School of Journalism. Joel also spent a semester studying abroad in Europe splitting six weeks in Florence, Italy and six weeks in Paris, France where he still found time to compete.

Scholarship applications are available to currently enrolled college students and graduating high school seniors that have been accepted into an accredited university as a full-time student. The deadline to apply for a 2003-2004 scholarship is June 15,2003. Please contact the USRA for an application.

## Wyoming Scholarship Awarded

*Submitted by Lisa Maes, Green River Parks & Recreation*

The Wyoming Racquetball Association, in partnership with the Green River Parks and Recreation Department, proudly announced its first \$500.00 scholarship, awarded to Jason Rich of Green River. Jason is the son of Gino and Elaine Rich of Green River, and is attending the University of Wyoming this year.



This new scholarship for the youth of Wyoming has taken a few years to develop, many hours of consultation, brainstorming, and hard work. The Wyoming Racquetball Association helps clubs and recreation departments with the scheduling of racquetball tournaments, promotes membership in the United States Racquetball Association, and also keeps track of state wide points for seeding in their sanctioned tournaments. They were very generous in kicking off this scholarship by donating \$1,000 to get the fund started. They also wrote a letter to all members endorsing the scholarship. The rest of the donations were made by racquetball players throughout the State of Wyoming

This exciting new program will help boost the development of Junior Programs in Wyoming's clubs and recreation centers. Junior programs are very instrumental in developing new players and giving the youth a chance to continue playing this fun sport through college and beyond.

Interested candidates can pick up scholarship information from their counselors office, or send an email to Lisa Maes at [limaes@wyoming.com](mailto:limaes@wyoming.com) for a copy of the application. Requirements include showing good sportsmanship, tournament play, helping younger players learn the game, and citizenship off the court. The scholarship is available to high school seniors and college students.

I would like to commend former WRA President, Jay Beach; Treasurer, Kelly Tegeler; Vice President, Mark Smith; new President, Thomas Neibauer; and all the players who contributed. They helped make an idea become a reality.

Again, congratulations to Jason Rich of Green River for becoming the first recipient of this scholarship. We look forward to the future, and the presentation of more awards like this in 2003.

## Interns on Deck

*by E. Therese Pramick*

For the fourth straight year, the U.S. OPEN continued its partnership with the University of Memphis chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). Ten UM interns were each assigned several pro players to "cover," then developed media plans to create publicity in players' hometowns. They interviewed the athletes and contacted their local media outlets to develop a professional rapport with sports editors and writers nationwide, as well as Canada and Mexico.

Throughout the tournament, interns drafted press releases after each match and sent them off to newspapers, television and radio stations. Part of the learning experience was in discovering that, after follow-up calls, racquetball was *not* a top priority for most media. But, through dedication and hard work, many found ways to "pitch" their athletes and succeed in securing coverage of their accomplishments, and for the

### Participating University of Memphis interns:

Adam Badrian – Senior  
Jessica Bearden – Freshman  
Melissa Diaz – Senior  
Mitzi Hunt – Junior  
Amanda Jenkins – Senior  
Amanda Mauck – Junior  
Abby More – Senior  
Ashley Perry – Sophomore  
Therese Pramick – Senior  
Liz Taylor – Senior

# rb:people & places

event itself. TV news stations from across the country requested video feeds from local Memphis stations to air during their sports broadcasts and several newspapers asked for photography to accompany the press releases that they were picking up for reprint.

The interns lived and breathed racquetball for five days, usually working "standard hours" at the Racquet Club of Memphis that lasted well after midnight. Despite all of the hard work and long hours, most said it was well worth the effort.

"Though it was difficult at times, it was all worth it in the end," said sophomore intern Ashley Perry. "It was an unbelievable learning experience and one I am looking forward to being involved with again next year."

Most of the interns were unfamiliar with the sport ahead of time, but they immediately saw the appeal as the event began. Freshman intern Jessica Bearden even challenged the IRT's No.10 player, Mike Green, to a late night match for fun. Green was able to squeak out the win but, most importantly, came off of the court uninjured, much to the surprise of onlookers.

While many of the students were new to the intern program, a few were repeaters. In fact, an intern tradition continued this year as No.3 ranked Cliff Swain gave his tournament sneakers to one of the returning interns, senior Adam Badrian.

Each intern claims to have learned a great deal from participating, whether they plan to go into a public relations field or not. They learned how to excel under pressure and deal with fickle media personnel. They honed their creative writing skills and perfected the art of interviewing players even after a disappointing loss.

"Getting a chance to participate in the racquetball internship was great," said senior intern Amanda Jenkins. "I learned so much about what public relations practitioners actually do."

"The partnership that we have established with the University of Memphis has become an invaluable part of Media Operations at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN. This year, I am proud to state that we experienced the best media coverage of any U.S. OPEN to date," said USRA Media/PR manager Ryan John. "Most of this was due to the hard work and long hours put in by the

interns. Even with finals approaching they remained dedicated, stayed up late with no compensation and sacrificed their free time. The job that they do is often overlooked and I wanted to personally thank each one of them."

The USRA and U.S. OPEN staff would like to thank Dr. Rick Fischer at the University of Memphis Journalism Department for his continued support of the program and a very special thanks to Forsyth Kenworthy, a former intern, who continues to volunteer countless hours after working a full day at her real job! Without her help, year-round, the program would not run as smoothly.

## Pro Am Doubles

by Ryan John

This year's U.S. OPEN kicked off, as always, with the annual Pro-Am doubles benefit fundraiser. Going into the event, the U.S. OPEN had donated over \$84,000 in the past six years and set its goal at a cumulative total of \$100,000 with gifts added in 2002 [a goal achieved ... see next item, facing page].

The fundraiser paired 32 professional players with amateurs (who donate \$250.00 per entrant to take part) in a single elimination format. In addition to sharing court time with the best players in the world, each amateur received an autographed racquet from their pro partner.



Pictured above L-R, finalists: Jackie Rice, Jake Brandyberry, Tom Curren, Jason Mannino. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

Winners of this year's event were Cincinnati's Tom Curren and IRT No.1 Jason Mannino, who looks forward to playing in the benefit every year. "St. Jude is a wonderful charity to come out to support," said Mannino. "It's nice to be able to have so much fun and do something worthwhile at the same time."

Through the drawn-out evening, the pair pulled out of the top half of a full draw of 32 with wins over Will Gumer/Tim Doyle, Steve Kowlabany/Mike Guidry, Twayne Howard/Jack Huczak, Cesar Carrillo/Brian Pointelin and Jake Brandyberry and current world doubles champion Jackie Rice in the final.

The win this year makes it two in a row for Curren, who was partnered with Kane Waselenchuk last year. "I have been playing in this for six years now and have won the last two," said Curren. "It (playing with a pro) forces an amateur player to play at a higher level. That and the fact that I have had two very good partners has helped me."

Even though they were runner-ups, Jackie Rice (San Diego, Calif.) and Jake Brandyberry (Cleveland, Ohio) still enjoyed the event. "I had a great time playing with Jake," said Rice, currently ranked No. 2 on the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association [LPRA] tour. "It's not only fun but for a good cause."

## **U.S. OPEN Breaks \$100,000.00 Donation Mark for St. Jude**

*By Dorothy Dee*

The 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships raised \$12,500 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital — more than any other single U.S. OPEN and marking a \$100,575 milestone in the event's seven-year fundraising history for St. Jude's.

The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the U.S. OPEN's designated charity, was founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas in 1962. The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is one of the world's premier centers for research and treatment of catastrophic diseases in children, primarily pediatric cancers.

"The great work done by St. Jude's deserves our support and Choice Hotels is proud to play a small role in helping families who are facing very difficult challenges," said Wayne W. Wielgus, senior vice president, marketing for Choice Hotels. "It is our goal to push this support even higher with the 2003 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships."

## **High-End Support System**

Sudsy Monchik and Cheryl Gudinas not only share the title of 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Champion, they also share the same personal trainer — Eugene Coyle. Eugene is the owner of Personalized Fitness Inc., which is comprised of approximately 20 trainers that occupy three studios in the Chicago area.

An accomplished player in his own right, Eugene is the reigning Illinois state open champ and was the runner-up in the men's 35+ division at the IRT World Senior Championships. He has applied his personal training knowledge with his racquetball knowledge for a winning combination.

"Because I am a player I feel that gives me an edge on other personal trainers," he said after the U.S. OPEN. "Apparently it works."

Both Cheryl and Sudsy agree that Eugene's methods are very effective. "He's made my workouts very sports specific," Cheryl said while preparing for the Denver LPRA stop. "What's nice about Eugene is that he is also a player and one of the most knowledgeable trainers I have ever worked with."



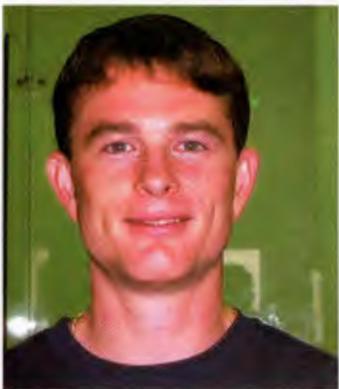
"He gave me a good routine to get ready and prepare, directed strictly towards racquetball," Sudsy said of the routine Eugene put together for him after his foot injury. "If I didn't do that (the program Eugene designed) I wouldn't be where I am at today."

Eugene develops programs designed specifically for racquetball that include speed and footwork drills combined with strength and conditioning. He said one of the most important aspects of a workout routine is program design. "You can walk into any gym and see a multitude of machines," he explains. "But you need to have the knowledge to know what to do [with them]."

How does he feel about being the personal trainer of both the men's and women's U.S. OPEN champions? "I definitely take pride in it and I have actually received e-mails from other accomplished players asking me what they can do to improve their training." Then he added, "Sudsy and Cheryl already had an abundance of talent before they met me so I don't want to take too much credit."

Want to learn more about Eugene or Personalized Fitness Inc., you can reach him by phone at 847-955-9680, or by email at [EugeneCoyle@earthlink.net](mailto:EugeneCoyle@earthlink.net).

# rb:people & places



## Rodgers' quest is quite a racquet

By Mike Forman

It's easy to see why Ryan Rodgers traded a computer screen for a racquetball racquet.

When Rodgers isn't teaching as part of his duties as the professional at the

Racquetball and Fitness Club in San Antonio, he's usually on the road competing in a tournament or conducting a demonstration.

"Once I started playing racquetball, I kept playing because I loved it," Rodgers said while taking a break after a demonstration match against fellow pro Lance Gilliam at the Victoria YMCA on Tuesday night. "Now, I play racquetball for my job. I couldn't ask for anything better than that."

Considering the 26-year-old Rodgers is ranked No. 4 in the state and has the opportunity to earn an income in the six-figure range, his decision to change his major at the University of Texas from computer science to kinesiology makes perfect sense.

"I wanted to be an engineer," Rodgers said. "But I just couldn't see myself sitting behind a computer all day."

Instead, Rodgers spends most of his time on the racquetball court, where he launched a program for maximum success in a minimum amount of time.

Rodgers played basketball and tennis when he attended high school in Irving and didn't pick up a racquetball racquet until he arrived in Austin.

"Some of my friends started playing and I pretty much learned

on my own," Rodgers said. "I played a girl in my first match and she beat me. It was a new challenge."

It took Rodgers three matches to avenge his first loss and he became proficient enough to make Texas' racquetball team, which competes on the club level, as a sophomore.

He took part in four intercollegiate championships at Texas, going from the team's No. 4 player in his first year to the No. 1 player in his third and fourth years.

Rodgers advanced to the quarterfinals last spring in Las Vegas before becoming a professional in the summer.

"I used to want to hit every shot as hard as I could," Rodgers said. "But I learned that accuracy is more important. Now, I'm trying to get accuracy with power."

Rodgers displayed his technique during the demonstration match against Gilliam, spraying shots at different speeds from all angles of the court.

"The more experience you get, the more racquetball becomes like a chess game," Rodgers said. "You learn when to hit a pinch shot (off the side wall to the front wall), down the line or a cross-court shot."

Rodgers has also learned how important it is to keep your emotions in check during a match.

"Racquetball is a very mental sport," Rodgers said. "If you're mad, it makes it difficult to do things. It's a sport that's really hard to learn and it's easy to get frustrated with when things aren't going right. But the more you learn, it becomes easier to get back on track."



Racquetball reached its peak during the 1980s before participation dropped off in the '90s due in part to a lack of court space.

But Rodgers has noticed a resurgence in racquetball's popularity and that's why he enjoys doing clinics.

“You can learn the game if you find a good instructor,” Rodgers said. “You need to get someone early on and learn your basic stroke. Little tips can make a big difference.”

The best tips, as Rodgers knows all too well, can’t be found on a computer screen.

*Reprinted by permission of the author; originally published 10/18/2001 in the Victoria Advocate.*



Although new to the sport, she was heading toward national acclaim for an all-time attendance record at major USRA sanctioned events in Texas and the United States. As yet, the record has gone unchallenged!

On her arrival day, her father happened to be in the final stages of completing the draw, and issuing starting times, for the October 25-27 Spook Fest in San Antonio. Apparently, she wanted to see the event for herself, even though Dad lost an 11-10 tiebreaker in the semi-finals. “I must have been dreaming,” she mused.

But while awake she did enjoy her first tournament and was snug as a bug courtside at the November 8-10, Jim’s Gym event in San Marcos, Texas. A bystander of sorts, she blissfully snoozed through her father’s semi-final

## **Follow-Up Fairy Tale**

*by Kevin Joyce, USRA  
Membership Director*

At the Choice U.S. OPEN in Memphis, spectators may have noticed one young fan in attendance who was often — predictably — lulled to sleep courtside. With bright eyes open (sometimes) she seemed to adapt quickly to the squashing sound of a racquetball rollout and the cheers of the crowd at the end of a rally.

finish once again. He was pleased and her mother was beaming, too!

Then, the proud parents (without a doubt) and the mini-fan were on the road once more, to make the trip to Memphis for the 2002 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. That week was her first experience in the big leagues of professional racquetball.

As Lance Gilliam stated, “It was really something seeing her for the first time. I was helping her dad finish the draw and assign starting times in the hospital cafeteria when he got the call.” Lance continued to plan the event while his friend went on to fulfill his husbandly duties in the maternity ward.

Kayden Bailey Rodgers, born on the evening of October 22, 2002 in San Antonio is the daughter of Tish and Ryan Rodgers. Mom and Dad are employed at the San Antonio Racquetball & Fitness Club as coordinator and pro respectively.

Although she weighs less than a case of racquetballs and her talent on the court is still unpredictable she has the makings of a champion ... two loving parents and a streak of three events in four weeks!

At her current pace, by the time she reaches 10, a record 480 events could be under her pillow. U.S. OPEN players and fans couldn’t help but extend their congratulations to Ryan, Tish and the youngest fan in racquetball — Kayden! Maybe she’s a racquetball fairy, or maybe she just wants to catch a nap.

Either way, she was courtside all week long in Memphis!

## **Another Up & Comer**

*by Travis Mettenbrink*

Introducing Hailee “Comet” Nichole Fluhart, born to Nichole Mettenbrink on July 17, 2002. She is the granddaughter of long-time racquetball enthusiast Tom Mettenbrink, and godchild to Uncle Travis, of Grand Island, Nebraska. Good forehand!





# ProFILE ... ProFILE



## **IRT Chicago [October 31 - November 3]**

The IRT headed to Chicago to battle it out on the home turf of commish, Dave Negrete, where the \$6000 prize is one of the tour's biggest and the event itself is one of the most anticipated stops of the year. With the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN on the horizon all of the players were approaching top form with only two more stops until the "Big Show." The feature match was Cliff Swain and Kane Waselenchuk in the semifinals — the winner would lay claim to the No. 2 ranking spot.

As Swain and Waselenchuk stepped onto the court there were already murmurs through the crowd of a classic battle. Cliff came out firing in the first and took an early lead, schooling Waselenchuk on the drive serve. Looking frustrated, Kane could do nothing but sit back and watch how to serve someone right out of the match. Cliff won the first 11-6.

Swain again showed his service skills in the second game, running up a 5-1 early lead. A few questionable calls by the ref put Waselenchuk right back into it and he pulled within one at 6-7. Unfazed, Cliff continued to move ahead and take the second 11-7.

The third game had to be one of the most exciting this season, as both athletes played out of their minds. Up 4-0 Cliff looked like he had another one in the bag. Kane was playing well but missed some key shots at critical times. Up 4-0, Cliff snatched one out of the air and "hit an angle never seen before" (John Ellis) to end the rally. Down 2-7, Kane hit a between-the-legs, reverse pinch rollout, which changed the whole momentum of the game and put him right back in it. Kane battled



**swain vs. waselenchuk in chicago**

back to tie the score at 10-10 and eventually won the crucial third 12-10.

The fourth game again saw Swain jumping out to an early 4-0 lead. Kane brought it within three points at 3-6, but Swain continued to play lights out and rolled off four more unanswered points to take a 10-3 lead. Down 3-10, and switching to the lob, Kane put himself right back into the game and came back to win 12-10.

With it all coming down to the fifth and final game the players left it all on the court. Up 4-1 and back to the drive, Waselenchuk jumped out to lead 7-3. A frustrated Cliff watched Kane pull ahead and move into his third final of the year.

Showing why he's taken over the top spot, Jason Mannino made quick work of the young Canadian, logging a straight game victory, 11-5, 11-4, 11-8, to strengthen his hold on No.1.

## **IRT Riverside [November 7-10]**

Riverside was a wild ride that saw Chris Crowther knock off Derek Robinson and Jason Thoerner oust John Ellis in the round of 16. Then two former No.1's, Cliff Swain and Sudsy Monchik, battled it out in the quarterfinals, with Monchik pulling ahead. In the semifinals Kane Waselenchuk retired to Sudsy because of an inner ear infection and Jason Mannino held off a hot Alvaro Beltran, setting up a much anticipated finals match between two good friends as well as fierce rivals.

The stands were packed and the crowd was eager to see two of the top players in the world battle it out for the title at the Splat Shot Pro-Am. Mannino came out strong in the first out to a 6-0 lead. Sticking with his patented lob serve, Mannino invited Monchik to make mistakes, which he did. After a timeout "Skippy" returned to the court and tried to turn it around, but Mannino stayed in control to win the first game 11-1.

Game two was a complete turn around by Sudsy, who returned to the fundamentals that have been so successful for him in the past. He went up 7-3, and he didn't skip as much! Some spectacular gets by Mannino put him right back into the match at 6-8, where Sudsy got a bad call after which he made the crowd bust up with a little East Coast humor. Sudsy then took a timeout to regain his composure. It worked and he ended the game with a 35' rollout, 11-7.

*Compiled from IRT reports by Nick Irene; photos courtesy IRT*



Sudsy took an early 3-0 lead in the third but a timely broken string provided Mannino with a fresh racquet and a fresh start, and he brought it back to 4-3. Smart play by Sudsy retrieved the lead and he went up 9-4, but he had trouble closing out the game. Mannino battled back to within two, at 8-10, until Sudsy was finally able to close it out.

In the fourth Sudsy took an early 6-2 lead as Mannino tried to find his composure. The further they got into the match the better Sudsy looked on the court as he increased his lead to 8-2. Serving for match point Sudsy lobbed to Mannino's backhand forcing a weak return, but Monchik skipped a routine dink into the floor. The mistake allowed Mannino to run off four straight points to bring the score a bit closer at 10-6. But Sudsy brought the heat for his follow-up match point attempt, and won his second stop of the new season.

## LPRA Colorado Springs [November 1-3]

by Ryan John

Cheryl Gudinas is dangerous every time she enters the court, but she is especially dangerous coming off of a loss, which doesn't happen that often outside of Memphis (except this year). A month earlier, Rhonda Rajsich had defeated Cheryl in the semis of the stop in Albuquerque. But Colorado Springs is like a second home to Cheryl, who spent nearly three weeks there this summer, coaching the U.S. Junior National Team then hanging around for the USRA Elite Training camp.

At the Lynmar Classic, presented by Apple Mortgage, Gudinas first faced Mexican national team member Rosy Torres in the round of 16. The pesky Torres took the first game 11-8 before Gudinas regained the upper hand to take the next three 11-1, 11-8, 11-3. All other top seeds advanced in straight games except Kerri Wachtel, who dropped the first game to good friend Amy Foster, 11-8, before going on to win the next three

to advance.

Gudinas might have thought it was a U.S. vs. Mexico invitational, as she faced yet another Mexican team member in southpaw Susy Acosta in the quarterfinal. But in this round Gudinas wasted no time taking the straight game win.

Kersten Hallander and Kerri Wachtel's match went much longer but no one in attendance had any complaints. Hallander took the first game rather easily 11-5 only to see herself facing elimination in the fourth after Wachtel rattled off two straight wins 11-8, 11-3. Hallander showed no signs of surrender, however, and came back to win the next two 11-8, 11-4. Rice and Rajsich also advanced into the semifinals with four game wins defeating Kim Russell and Kristen Walsh, respectively.

Gudinas faced Hallander in the semifinals and got past her with a four game win 11-4, 7-11, 12-10, 11-4. Next up was Rice against Rajsich in what is becoming one of the most exciting rivalries to watch. Both players throw themselves all over the court to retrieve shots and they seem to bring out the best in each other whenever they play. After splitting the first four games the players headed into a decisive fifth. Rajsich may have been a little hampered after an injury to her playing hand caused by repeated diving. "Look at it," she said, describing her mangled digits. "It's hamburger." Jackie went on to take the fifth 11-3.

So it was Gudinas and Rice in the third out of four LPRA finals this season (and the *gazillionth* time overall), but it never gets old. In their previous two meetings this season Gudinas was able to oust Rice in straight games. That wouldn't be the case at altitude, as Rice took the first game 11-9. Gudinas improved her play in the second to win 11-5, but Rice wouldn't go away, winning the third 11-7. With her back against the wall Gudinas regrouped after the third and came back onto the court more focused. She played fundamentally sound, forcing Rice into mistakes, and took the next two games 11-4, 11-4 for her third win of the season.

As an added benefit, long-time event organizer Eddie Meredith managed to fund and purchase airtime from a local cable provider to produce a one-hour broadcast of the women's final. The show aired numerous times in the Colorado Springs market, throughout the month of November.

## Sport ... Politics ... Racquetball?

By Gary Mazaroff

Over the years, I've often heard that sport and politics do not mix. Regardless of one's stance on this issue, the reality is that they do mix. Berlin in 1936: Adolf Hitler's Aryan superiority theme was shredded by Jesse Owens. Mexico City in 1968: Tommy Smith and John Carlos used the award podium to focus world attention on racism. U.S. Presidents throw out first pitches and phone winning coaches and athletes for political, party and personal "spin." Finally, media and sponsors pressure the directors at Augusta National Golf Club for female integration. Politics, positive or negative, is ingrained in every move we make. Sport is not exempt.

Since the mid-80's, when international racquetball began its campaign for Olympic recognition, the inclusion of foreign athletes has been critical to our cause. Political gain was the first criterion! The recruitment of athletes who could qualify to play for their homeland was requisite for more recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), regardless of the player's athletic prowess. Mike Aringer (Sweden), Gustavo Farell (Uruguay), Tony Onimole (Nigeria), and Chau Phan (Viet Nam) are some athletes who have participated in the World Championships for their homeland. All reside in the United States.

Racquetball is no different from international basketball thirty years ago, when foreign countries were accommodated and subsidized to participate against the United

States and other world powers. Today, the international basketball stage has a more even playing field. Over the past decade, in much the same way, Mexico and Canada have developed their athletes and programs and now have national teams that are competing at par against the U.S. Team. The motivation has changed to recruit more qualified athletes, whether they are part of a developed or developing country.

This past February I met Mahab Khatib. He was enrolled in an AmPRO certification course in Phoenix, and his intent was to validate his playing and teaching skills as an instructor at Arizona State University. After sharing experiences with Mahab for two days, I was convinced that I could recruit him to play in the upcoming World Championships in Puerto Rico. He had the desire, the baseline skills, and the wherewithal to travel outside the U.S. He would be one of the few players to represent a Middle Eastern country and the first from Syria.

This might not have been a big deal, had it not been for an event that took place this past summer at Wimbledon, where two tennis athletes captured center stage, not due to their athletic skills, but more for their ethnicity. One, from Israel and the other from Pakistan, they had been competing together as a doubles team and were innocently trying to make a name for themselves in the world arena of sport. Unfortunately, during the escalation of terrorist attacks in that region of the world, they became pawns for political expediency, to the point that the Pakistani would be sanctioned if and when he returned to his homeland.



Racquetball has held its own bi-annual World Championships since 1981. It saw its first Pan American Championships in 1987. In 2003, it will be played at the Pan Am Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. In 2004, over thirty countries will be represented in the World Championships in Seoul, Korea. Originally, the 2002 World Championships had been scheduled for Paris, France, in an obviously 'political' move designed to get more European involvement in the sport and influence the IOC. However, once the French organizing committee dissolved, common sense required that another location be found (San Juan, Puerto Rico). Another agenda of the IRF was to create

the "League of Nations" (LON) group to help with travel, onsite logistics, coaching, and expenses for selected athletes from designated nations. Nine countries competed in Puerto Rico under the LON banner; Syria was among them. The IRF continues to sponsor goodwill tours to five continents as part of its agenda, which have included Cuba, Haiti, Spain, Guam, and Australia.

Racquetball continues to have pockets of strength in the U.S. as well as overseas. Browse to various websites and speak with those who travel extensively to find out where they exist. We will continue to support the goal of Olympic inclusion with strong programs and politically motivated actions. Whether one is an Arab living in Arizona or a Jew living in New Mexico, it should not matter. We all have similarities and differences that can be embraced. All of us sitting at the racquetball table have that in common.

## Central American/Caribbean Games

RESULTS ... Men's Singles – Finals: (3) Gilberto Mejia (Mexico) def. (1) Alvaro Beltran (Mexico) 15-14; 15-6. Semifinals: (1) Alvaro Beltran (Mexico) def. (4) Mathew Anderson (Belize) 15-2; 15-2; (3) Gilberto Mejia (Mexico) def. (2) Simon Perdomo (Dominican Republic) 14-15; 15-3; 11-7

Women's Singles – Finals: (1) Susana Acosta (Mexico) def. (2) Claudine Garcia (Dominican Republic) 7-15; 15-9; 11-2. Semifinals: (1) Susana Acosta (Mexico) def. (4) Anita Maldonado (Puerto Rico) 15-12; 13-15; 11-4; (2) Claudine Garcia (Dominican Republic) def. (2) Lupita Torres (Mexico) 15-5; 15-8.

Men's Doubles – Finals: (1) Javier Moreno/Cesar Guzman (Mexico) def. (3) Curtis Winters/Osvaldo Garcia (Puerto Rico) 15-12- 15-4

Women's Doubles – Finals: (1) Rosy Torres/Nancy Enriquez (Mexico) def. (2) Claudine Garcia/Rosa Gomez (Dominican Republic) 15-6; 15-1

Final Team Standings — Men — 1. Mexico - 55; 2. Puerto Rico - 25; 3. Guatemala - 17. Women — 1. Mexico - 50; 2. Dominican Republic - 31; 3. Puerto Rico - 22.

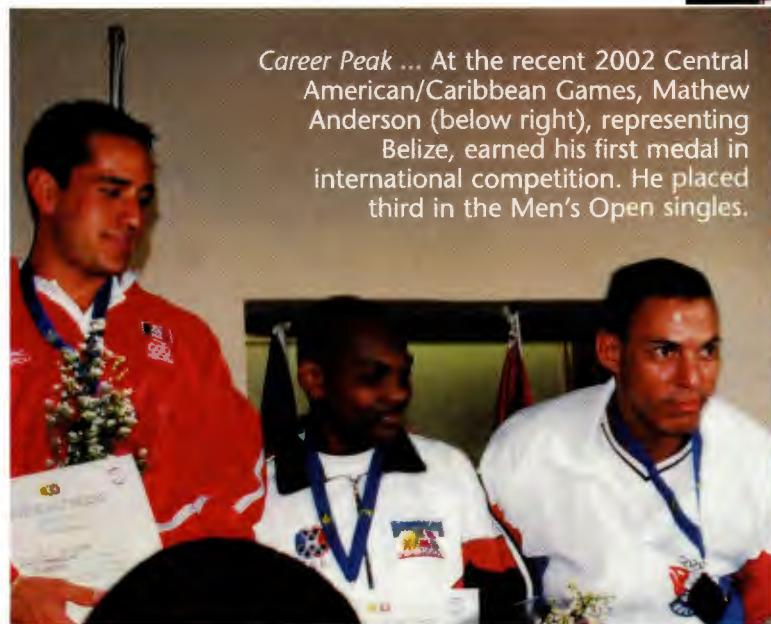
## Joachim Loof inducted to GRF Hall of Fame

By Mike Mesecke

An independent selection committee recently inducted Joachim Loof, of Hamburg, to the Hall of Fame of the German Racquetball Federation for the year 2002.



Joachim Loof has won the European Singles Championships five times and also won the Doubles title six times. With many other national and international titles, he can be considered one of the most successful (if not the most successful) players of the past 15 years in Germany and Europe. As he is still successfully playing in competition, he is still on the top of the rankings and is a role model for youth.



*Career Peak ...* At the recent 2002 Central American/Caribbean Games, Mathew Anderson (below right), representing Belize, earned his first medal in international competition. He placed third in the Men's Open singles.



*Courts under Construction ...* for the 2003 Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, slated for "grand opening" in August.

# 2003 national calendar

Jan.31-Feb.2	WSMA 14th U.S. Women's Senior/Master Championships [5]. . . . .	Orlando, Florida	810-774-6900
Feb.28-Mar.2	Wilson 16th U.S. National High School Championships [6]. . . . .	St. Louis, Missouri	719-635-5396
March 12-15	NMRA U.S. Masters Championships [5]. . . . .	Canoga Park, California	734-426-8952
April 3-6	E-Force 31st U.S. Intercollegiate Championships [6]. . . . .	TBA	719-635-5396
April 10-13	Ektelon USRA Regional Championships [5]. . . . .	Nationwide	<a href="http://www.usra.org">www.usra.org</a>
April 11-19	PARC 16th Tournament of the Americas [5]. . . . .	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	719-635-5396
May 21-26	Ektelon 36th U.S. National Singles Championships [6]. . . . .	Houston, Texas	<a href="http://www.usra.org">www.usra.org</a>
June 25-29	Head 30th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6]. . . . .	TBA	719-635-5396
July 23-26	NMRA Masters International Championships [5]. . . . .	Minneapolis, Minnesota	<a href="http://www.nmrba.org">www.nmrba.org</a>

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## 2003 ektelon adult regional qualifiers [level 4] ... nationwide

Date & Site . . . . .	Location . . . . .	Contact . . . . .	Phone . . . . .
<b>March 27 - 30</b>			
Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club . . . . .	Orlando, FL	Bill Herr . . . . .	407-880-7790 x552
Racquetball & Fitness Clubs . . . . .	San Antonio, TX	Annie Muniz . . . . .	713/895-8688
<b>April 10 - 13</b>			
Spectrum Club . . . . .	Canoga Park, CA	Debbie Tisinger . . . . .	818/884-5034
Southern Athletic Club . . . . .	Atlanta, GA	Ric Crosby . . . . .	770-923-5400
Glass Court Swim & Fitness . . . . .	Chicago, IL	Geoff Peters . . . . .	773/935-9685
Central Courts . . . . .	Minneapolis, MN	Bill Bredenbeck . . . . .	763/572-0330
Executive Health & Sports Center . . . . .	Manchester, NH	Kelley Beane . . . . .	603-759-2729
Sport & Wellness Clubs . . . . .	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff . . . . .	505-266-8960
Sporttime of Syosset . . . . .	Long Island, NY	Tom Keogh . . . . .	718-429-8489
Strongsville Recreation Center . . . . .	Cleveland, OH	Doug Ganim . . . . .	614-890-6073
Southern Athletic Club . . . . .	Oklahoma City, OK	David Watson . . . . .	918-541-0722
Cascade Athletic Club . . . . .	Gresham, OR	Brian Anchetta . . . . .	503-665-4142
Tysons Sport & Health Club . . . . .	McLean, VA	Ed Willis . . . . .	703-684-4146
<b>April 24 - 27</b>			
Vetta Sports Club of Concord . . . . .	St. Louis, MO	Dan Whitley . . . . .	314-842-6363 x3

## other recognized qualifiers ... for seniors 45 & up

Jan.31-Feb.2	Women's Senior/Master Championships . . . . .	Orlando, FL	Kendra Tutsch . . . . .	608-592-2497
March 12-15	NMRA Masters National . . . . .	Canoga Park, CA	Ron Pudduck . . . . .	734-426-8952
	[These qualify 45+ entrants ONLY! . . . . .			35+ & 40+ players in the preceding events must still take part in a regional qualifier — from the first group shown above — in order to compete at National Singles].

## junior qualifiers

*To become eligible for play in the HEAD 29th U.S. Junior Olympics [June 25-29, 2003], entrants must first compete in any Level 3 State Championship, OR in a recognized junior regional event (not offered in all areas), OR in the National High School Championships. All players must compete in (not merely enter) the qualifying state, regional or national event, plus meet all age requirements and other entry stipulations.*

For more information about the upcoming regional championships, please contact Kevin Joyce at 719-635-5396, ext. 123 or [kjoyce@usra.org](mailto:kjoyce@usra.org). Or go online at [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org)

## ••• qualifying tipsheet •••

<u>This Sanctioned Event . . . . .</u>	<u>Qualifies players for:</u>
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Recognized Junior Regional . . . . .	Junior Olympics
National High Schools . . . . .	Junior Olympics
National Intercollegiates . . . . .	National Singles
Regional Qualifiers . . . . .	National Singles
WSMRA Championship . . . . .	National Singles [45 & up]
NMRA Championship . . . . .	National Singles [45 & up]
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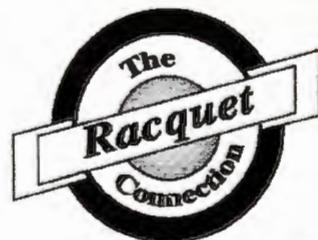


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**Men's 24- A/B**

1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Andres Ramirez, FL
3. Jared Torres, KS
- 4T. Jason Linnell, DC
- 4T. Juan Rivas, MA
- 6T. David Chirban, MO
- 6T. Zeke Daniels, FL
- 6T. David Radke, NE
- 6T. Hisao Shumizu, NY
10. Jesse Keaveny, AK

**Men's 24- C/D**

1. Brandon Stanley, LA
2. Arthur Schmeiser, AZ
- 3T. Jansen Allen, TX
- 3T. Jason Martucci, TX
- 5T. David Martin, MD
- 5T. Tyler Wickers, CO
- 7T. David Martin, PA
- 7T. Carlos Oviedo, CA
- 9T. Matt Buck, MO
- 9T. Tino Cortinas, TX

**Men's 25+ A/B**

1. Arturo Burriel, TX
- 2T. Enrique Loaiza, CA
- 2T. Shaun Stone, OK
- 4T. Derek Izzi, PA
- 4T. Jason Linnell, VA
- 6T. John Halpin, CT
- 6T. Wes McDonald, LA
- 6T. Dan McNeil, VA
- 6T. Eric New, NC
- 6T. Carlos Ramirez, FL

**Men's 25+ C/D**

1. Harold Beshaw, PA
2. Felipe Veracoechea, TX
- 3T. Daniel Miller, TX
- 3T. Mark Myer, OK
5. Mike Belvedere, IL
- 6T. James Randy Allen, CO
- 6T. Scott Heald, MA
- 6T. Angel Ramirez, GA
- 6T. Curt Smith, NC
- 6T. Steve Yap, TX

**Men's 30+ A/B**

1. Sean Baker, TX
2. Roberto Cantos, GA
3. Martin Gonzalez, IL
- 4T. Joe Gill, IL
- 4T. Brian Pashai, VA
- 4T. Chris Wilmoth, MD
- 7T. Don Dettmore, FL
- 7T. Andre Roy, MI
- 7T. Sam Talsiano, NY
10. Alex Francois, CA

**Men's 30+ C/D**

1. Tim Kirk, TX
2. Twayne Howard, MI
3. Clarence Jones, NC
- 4T. Phillip Grasha, PA
- 4T. Scott Sease, PA
- 4T. Clayton Shaffer, CO
7. Michael Van Cleave, WA
8. Miguel San Miguel, TX
- 9T. Brian Butzer, PA
- 9T. Bill Hodges, OH

**Men's 35+ A/B**

1. John Dill, TX
2. Chris Salge, TX
3. Mark Bianchi, OK
- 4T. Angelo Perilli, PA
- 4T. Stan Shaw III, MA
6. Ray Cordero, TX

**7T. Mike Andrien, VA**

- 7T. Kipp Atwell, LA
- 7T. Edward Barlow, RI
- 7T. Warren Einiger, FL

**Men's 35+ C/D**

1. Jeff Courtright, TX
2. Rudy Olivares, TX
3. Martin Quinones, TX
4. Michael Kaufman, GA
- 5T. Lyle Branton, GA
- 5T. Paul Gomberg, TX
- 5T. Jeff Johnson, MI
8. Jay Brown, OK
- 9T. Carter Green, VA
- 9T. Neil Hughes, OR

**Men's 40+ A/B**

1. Alfred Baca, TX
2. Edward Reed, CA
3. Bob Wright, IN
4. Jeff Elder, MD
- 5T. Robert Abbott, VA
- 5T. Jose Martinez, CA
- 7T. Doug Hebert, SD
- 7T. Rob Herman, WA
9. David Stob, WA
10. Jeff Tloczynski, MI

**Men's 40+ C/D**

1. Jeff Johnson, MI
2. Sterling Altobell, CA
- 3T. Royce Simpson, IL
- 3T. Lynn Stephens, NC
5. Michael Kaufman, GA
6. Clayton Shaffer, CO
7. Keith Gardner, VA
- 8T. Marty Buynak, OH
- 8T. Dean Cline, MI
- 8T. Tracy Dieni, WA

**Men's 45+ A/B**

1. Frank Gomila, LA
2. John Patalano, RI
- 3T. Joe Bonavita, DE
- 3T. Tyrone White, AL
- 5T. John Coaker, MI
- 5T. Claude Crocker, SC
7. Sal Perconti, FL
- 8T. Guy Meadows, FL
- 8T. Paul Miller, NY
- 8T. Paul Pierce, MA

**Men's 45+ C/D**

- 1T. Ronald Harris, TX
- 1T. Gerald Howard, TX
3. Lou Kleinman, TX
4. Larry Knetzer, GA
5. Charles Van Hoose, MI
- 6T. Jeff Beinfohr, GA
- 6T. Garry Carter, CA
- 6T. James Fitzwater, MD
- 6T. Todd Johnson, ME
- 6T. Jeff Tack, CO

**Men's 50+ A/B**

1. Peter Chmielewski, CA
2. Garry Carter, CA
- 3T. Robert Franks, TX
- 3T. Allan Kohl, MI
- 5T. John Coaker, MI
- 5T. Dave Robert, MO
- 5T. Fred Shields, CA
- 5T. Mag Velasquez, MD
- 9T. Antonio Garcia, TX
- 9T. Dennis Rosenberg, PA

**Men's 50+ C/D**

1. Walt Charlton, OK
2. Charles Van Hoose, MI
3. Michael Grosse, CO
4. Bruce Cole, CA
- 5T. Pete Kochis, OK
- 5T. Bill Martin, MD
- 5T. Jim Stiffler, OH
8. George Jackson, TN
- 9T. Robert Corsello, MD
- 9T. Greg Keys, CO

**Men's 50+ C/D**

1. Walt Charlton, OK
2. Charles Van Hoose, MI
3. Michael Grosse, CO
4. Bruce Cole, CA
- 5T. Pete Kochis, OK
- 5T. Bill Martin, MD
- 5T. Jim Stiffler, OH
8. George Jackson, TN
- 9T. Robert Corsello, MD
- 9T. Greg Keys, CO

**Men's 55+ A/B**

1. Jim Baker, TX
2. Terry Dees, CO
- 3T. Barry Anders, IL
- 3T. Stan Lemon, TX
- 5T. John Bryant, TX
- 5T. Robert Hill, TX
- 5T. Leo Klimaitis, IL
- 8T. Larry Cox, TX
- 8T. Fred Roe, CA
- 8T. Ross Smith, FL

**Men's 55+ C/D**

1. Mike Bennett, TX
2. Howard Watters, TX
- 3T. Larry Bizzari, IN
- 3T. Marc Scher, TX
5. Danny Robinett, CO
6. Don Russell, MS
- 7T. Dean Hicks, OK
- 7T. Sam Hood, AR
- 7T. Ron Meyers, WA
- 7T. Tom Owens, PA

**Men's 60+ A/B**

1. G Kyle Smith, TX
2. Leon Stanley, AL
3. Al Miller, OH
4. Elliott Papermaster, WI
5. Richard Mendrala, CA
6. Larry Cox, TX
- 7T. Jess Madden, MI
- 7T. Jay Moxley, CA
- 7T. Mike Oester, IL
10. Bob Baudry, LA

**Men's 60+ C/D**

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

**Men's 65+ A/B**

1. Norbert LeCompte, NH
- 2T. Ken Hardman, NH
- 2T. Ray O'Brien, IL
4. Dan Dallas, IL
5. Jim Emerson, MI
6. Mike Oester, IL
7. Ken Yahir, IL
8. Terry Wagner, IL

**Men's 65+ C/D**

- 1T. Ron McElwee, AL
- 1T. John Ohlenbusch, AR
3. Bill Dunn, TX

**Men's 70+ A/B**

1. Ken Yahir, IL
2. Dan Dallas, IL
3. Terry Wagner, IL

**Men's 75+ A/B**

1. Ken Yahir, IL

**Women's 24- A/B**

1. Kelley Fisher, OH
2. Keely Franks, TX
3. Nicole Whitney, NY
4. Jesi Fuller, NM
5. Sarah Ulmer, MO
- 6T. Da'Monique Davis, TX
- 6T. Danielle Mathieu, MO

**Women's 24- C/D**

1. Eva Alle, GA
2. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
3. Kimberly Walsh, UT
4. Wesley Toland, AR
5. Hannah Oliver, CO
- 6T. Heidi Zitz, MO
- 6T. Holly Zitz, MO
- 6T. Ramona Von Ondarza, FL
- 6T. Irene Delgado, NY
- 6T. Sara Noyes, FL
- 6T. Nicki Whitney, VT
- 6T. Valerie Willis, NC
10. Karen Denu, VA

**Women's 25+ C/D**

1. Marci Laramee, TN
2. Cheyenne Hayes, WA
- 3T. Priscilla Krammer, FL
- 3T. Taryn McDonough, CA
- 5T. Amy Stasny, IL
- 5T. Karen Waring, VA
- 7T. Laurell Burrows, FL
- 7T. Michelle Lexow, IL
- 9T. Claire Brooke, MO
- 9T. Victoria Pickard, FL

**Women's 30+ A/B**

1. Esther McNany, CT
2. Sara Noyes, FL
3. Hilary Anderson, OH
4. Lynn Yeazell, IL
5. Beatrice Jefferson-Benny, AZ
- 6T. Sharon Chandler, WA
- 6T. Robbie Compton, MD
- 6T. Judy Ostoich, PA
9. Shauna Teagle, WA
10. Catherine Bertucci, IL

**Women's 30+ C/D**

1. Patty Barrows, MA
2. Tracie Valentine, MD
3. Victoria Pickard, FL
4. Meredith Wilkes, OH
5. Chantell Knowles, TX
- 6T. Aimee Newhall, MD
- 6T. Michelle Walker, OH
8. Colleen Lockwood, VA

**Women's 35+ A/B**

1. Susan Lichtman, NY
2. Melody Gorno, MI
- 3T. Rhonda Kochis, OK
- 3T. Sheri Zappala, NY
5. Felicia Mann, MI
- 6T. Jill Crouse, CA
- 6T. Melissa Johnson, ME
- 6T. Thao Le, VA
- 6T. Donna Lienhart, VA
- 6T. Fran Outten, FL

**Women's 35+ C/D**

1. Aurora Bocanegra, KS

**Women's 35+ C/D**

1. Barbara Christensen, UT
2. Gwendlin Morris, FL
- 3T. Jessica Hamlin, FL
- 3T. Susan Simmons, FL
5. Beth Gainer, PA
- 6T. Lori Powers, TX
- 8T. Janice Bell, GA
- 8T. Susan Geers, VA
10. Shari Gross, PA

**Women's 40+ A/B**

1. Janice Kennedy, GA
2. Rosario Kelley, TX
3. Guimoar Matheus, CA
- 4T. Hugnette Keohen, CA
- 4T. Kathleen Plourd, PA
6. Vivian Rodriguez, WA
- 7T. Linda Bentzel, PA
- 7T. Gina Cendoya, FL
- 7T. Tina Davenport, MD
10. Elaine Fisher, OH

**Women's 40+ C/D**

1. Sabrina Francis, PA
2. Jean Lerch, NH
3. Janice Bell, GA
4. Diana Courtney, MI
5. Teresa Welch, TX
6. Judy Ostoich, PA

**Women's 45+ A/B**

1. Cheryl Kirk, IL
2. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
3. Cynthia Huge, CT
4. Karen Green, MI
5. Pat Sims, ME
- 6T. Andee Glansberg, NY
- 6T. Pattie Schof, LA
- 8T. Teresa Buck, AR
- 8T. Laura Patterson, MI
10. Janice Barcomb, MA

**Women's 45+ C/D**

1. Diana Courtney, MI
2. Ann Barnes, MS
3. Anne Billingham, VA
- 4T. Laura Davis, GA
- 4T. Genie Martin, NC
6. Summer Arledge, CO
- 7T. Janet Christie, IL
- 7T. Marilyn Lemon, MS
- 9T. Nila Cole, CO
- 9T. Darlene Redfoot, NC

**Women's 50+ A/B**

1. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
2. Lynn Thomas, TX
3. Pattie Schof, LA
4. Ronnie Wetzel, TX
- 5T. Cynthia Huge, CT
- 5T. Pat Kong, WA
- 5T. Marquita Molina, CA
- 5T. Veronica Yorks, MD
9. Dorothy McDavid, IL

**Women's 50+ C/D**

1. Pat Fleming, VA

**Women's 55+ A/B**

1. Sharon Brockbank, ID
2. Pattie Schof, LA
3. Marquita Molina, CA
4. Josine Haustermann, OK

**Women's 55+ C/D**

1. Aurora Bocanegra, KS

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## **Men**

### **Men's Open**

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Jack Huczak, MI
3. Mike Guidry, TX
4. Jason Thoerner, GA
5. Josh Tucker, MO
6. Chris Wright, MO
7. Ben Croft, IL
8. Mike Locker, MN
9. Jimmy Lowe, AK
10. Raymond Maestas, NM

### **Men's Elite**

1. Matthew Anderson, GA
2. Richard Maggard, MO
3. Raymond Maestas, NM
4. Craig Allen, WA
5. Maurice Barros, KS
6. Mike Gann, OK
7. Matt Anderson, IN
- 8T. David Guenter, CO
- 8T. Filip Vesely, NV
10. Wayne Gonsalves, NY

### **Men's A**

1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Andres Ramirez, FL
3. Myron Brough, OH
4. Kipp Atwell, LA
5. Marcelo Laprea, TX
6. Mike Gaffney, PA
7. Jay Mathis, GA
- 8T. Drew Toland, AR
- 8T. Alex Zamudio, IN
10. Jake Brandyberry, OH

### **Men's B**

1. Carlos Ramirez, FL
- 2T. Vito Rubiano, IL
- 2T. Bryan Shaw, MO
4. Tony Gonzales, IL
5. Joe Appleman, MA
6. John Reed, CO
7. Mike Kaiser, MN
- 8T. Tony Gonzalez, IL
- 8T. Elliott Mistich, LA
10. Cam Grundman, MN

### **Men's C**

1. Harold Beshaw, PA
2. Mike Belvedere, IL
3. Jon Soike, IL
4. Garry Carter, CA
5. Kevin Chan, OH
- 6T. Jerry Garcia, CO
- 6T. Richard Morris, TX
- 8T. Mark Burd, SD
- 8T. Scott Schmidt, MO
- 8T. Brandon Stanley, LA

### **Men's D**

1. David Sadler, TN
2. David Aguirre, CA
3. Felipe Veracoechea, TX
4. Jansen Allen, TX
- 5T. Suneel Battula, OH
- 5T. Mario Giancola, MN
- 5T. Joseph Lee, LA
8. Gene Desruisseaux, MA

9. Alex Brown, OH
10. George Bazinet, AR

### **Men's Novice**

- 1T. Todd Anderson, NH
- 1T. Bruno Guerrero, FL
3. Josh Redding, KY
- 4T. Terry Bahr, CA
- 4T. Andrew Carter, OH
- 4T. Orlando Gonzalez, TX
7. Alfredo Alvizo, FL
8. Justin Watson, OK
- 9T. Larry Hicks, KY
- 9T. Robert Quintela, NM

### **Men's 24 -**

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Ben Croft, IL
3. Jack Huczak, MI
4. Alejandro Herrera, FL
5. Brent Walters, NC
- 6T. Mike Harmon, FL
- 6T. Darrin Prince, MN
- 6T. Shane Vanderson, OH
- 9T. Sanjay LaForest, NY
- 9T. Marcelo Laprea, TX

### **Men's 25+**

1. Mike Orr, PA
2. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ
3. German Herrera, FL
- 4T. Gared Edmunds, KY
- 4T. Shawn Royster, CA
6. Kyle Veenstra, WI
- 7T. Mike Dennison, OH
- 7T. Nate Gagne, ME
9. Ryan Griffin, IN
10. Andy Gross, MN

### **Men's 30+**

1. Brian Fredenberg, TX
2. Brian Pointelin, UT
3. Kelly North, KY
4. Toby Devore, LA
5. Julio Junki, FL
6. Pete Ulliman, OH
- 7T. Tom Keogh, NY
- 7T. Dale Valentine, CA
9. Cary Slade, IL
10. Chris Jones, OK

### **Men's 35+**

1. Jim Minkel, TX
2. Eugene Coyle, IL
3. Jim Frautschi, MN
4. Jimmy Lowe, AK
5. Doug Ganim, OH
6. John Barrett, PA
7. Alan Sheppard, NC
8. John Collison, DE
- 9T. Bobby Haab, CT
- 9T. Donald Sims, AE

### **Men's 40+**

- 1T. Scott Cullins, GA
- 1T. Dave Watson, OK
3. Bobby Haab, CT
- 4T. Dave Eagle, OH
- 4T. Glenn Leib, PA
- 4T. Tom Travers, OH

- 7T. Tony Feldstein, CO
- 7T. Tim Hansen, FL
9. Bill Lyman, IL
10. Richard Eisemann, TX

### **Men's 45+**

1. Randy Stafford, TN
2. Mitch Smith, PA
3. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
4. Patrick Gibson, TX
- 5T. Rick Howick, WA
- 5T. Len Knudsen, FL
7. Dave Milazzo, IL
- 8T. Greg Benson, CA
- 8T. Greg Campbell, CT
- 8T. Robert House, MD

### **Men's 50+**

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Frank Taddonio, AZ
3. Jim Luzar, WI
4. Howard Walker, TX
- 5T. David Dennis, AR
- 5T. Tom Rall, CO
- 7T. Gary Mazaroff, NM
- 7T. Darryl Warren, CA
- 9T. Mark Daigle, NY
- 9T. David Olson, IL

### **Men's 55+**

1. Bill Wolfe, NY
- 2T. Tom McKie, TX
- 2T. Horace Miller, IL
- 2T. Sammy Robles, TX
- 5T. Terry Albright, MO
- 5T. David Steiger, ME
7. David Warner, MN
8. Dennis McKee, IL
- 9T. Ron Combs, CA
- 9T. Ron Galbreath, PA

### **Men's 60+**

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Ed Sword, KY
3. Leland Rents, MN
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. Chris Segura, UT
- 6T. Kyle Smith, TX
- 6T. Roger Wehrle, GA
8. Jim Trammell, MO
9. Mitch Milewski, NH
10. Ron Hutcherson, IN

### **Men's 65+**

1. Michael Jackson, CT
- 2T. David Jordan, NJ
- 2T. Jerry Northwood, AZ
4. Dave Snyder, TX
5. Jerry Holly, CA
6. Charlie Hamon, WA
7. Lee Graff, OR
- 8T. Alan Dwyer, FL
- 8T. Dave Lund, MI
- 8T. Ken Moore, CA

### **Men's 70+**

1. Don Alt, OH
2. Sean Reid, NV
3. Robert Miller, SC
4. Joe Lambert, TX

- 5T. Marty Donohue, FL
- 5T. Frank Trask, ME
- 7T. Jim Dunn, CA
- 7T. Emil Kuenzler, NY
- 7T. Don Maxey, TX
- 7T. John O'Donnell Jr., IL

### **Men's 75+**

1. Duane Russell, MI
2. Dick Kincade, CO
3. J.W. Studak, TX
- 4T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 4T. Joe Lambert, TX
- 4T. Victor Sacco, NY
7. Mal Roberts, FL
- 8T. Hank Richard, NC
- 8T. Cam Snowberger, SC
10. Philip Dziuk, IL

### **Men's 80+**

1. Robert McAdam, TX
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Sam Harry, PA
4. Bill Matotan, NM
5. Cam Snowberger, SC
6. Hank Richard, NC
- 7T. Don Goddard, MT
- 7T. Bill Weinacht, OH
9. Samuel Harry, PA
10. Albert Romero, NM

### **Men's 85+**

1. Bill Sherman, TX
2. Ben Marshall, TX
3. Luzell Wilde, UT
4. Walter Gardner, UT

## **Women**

### **Women's Open**

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Aimee Roehler, NJ
3. Vallana Perrault, MN
4. Brenda Kyzer, SC
5. Laura Fenton, KS
6. Denise Mock, TX
- 7T. Elaine Albrecht, OH
- 7T. Jackie Rice, CA
9. Heather Dunn, MA
10. Lorraine Feeney, MA

### **Women's Novice**

1. Debra Mathis, FL
- 2T. Theresa Brodzik, OH
- 2T. Malorie Johnson, ME
- 2T. Kristi Zonfrelli, MA
- 5T. Judy Bress, NH
- 5T. Donna Margwarth, NM
- 5T. Martha Robinson, NH
8. Yvonne Grinnell, NM
9. Jenifer Westemeier, NM
10. Bambi Brown-Lynch, NM

### **Women's Elite**

1. Aimee Roehler, NJ
2. Solanna Taragan, CA
3. Janel Tisinger, CA
4. Jeni Fuller, NM
- 5T. Heather Dunn, MA
- 5T. Susan Hann, FL
7. Jill Crouse, CA
- 8T. Jessie Carabajal, CO
- 8T. Cyd Evans, NM
- 8T. Jerer Luttner, TX

### **Women's A**

1. Susan Lichtman, NY
2. Vicki Taylor, MN
3. Leah Upshaw, GA
- 4T. Grace Jaworsky, MO
- 4T. Claudia Ramirez, FL
6. Candi Hostovich, VA
7. Tina Joslin, TX

### **Women's 24+**

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 2T. Janel Tisinger, CA
- 2T. Kristen Walsh, UT
4. Krystal Csuk, IL
5. Lauren Deutsch, CA
6. Jeni Fuller, NM
- 7T. Melissa Borgwat, CA
- 7T. Rhonda Rajisch, AZ
9. Kris Alatorre-Martin, AZ
10. Kelley Fisher, OH

### **Women's 25+**

1. Aimee Roehler, NJ
- 2T. Heather Dunn, MA
- 2T. Kerri Wachtel, OH
- 4T. Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 4T. Claudia Ramirez, FL

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**based.on.results.processed.by.the.national.office.as.of.12.01.02**

6. Stephanie Bird, OK
7. Jennifer Lynch, CO
8. Ramona Vononderza, FL
- 9T. T.J. Baumbaugh, VA
- 9T. Shannon Stewart, MD

**Women's 30+**

1. Jo Shattuck, CO
- 2T. Elaine Albrecht, OH
- 2T. Debra Bryant, NC
4. Vivian Gomez, FL
- 5T. Amy Foster, OH
- 5T. Lorraine Galloway, NY
- 5T. Tina Joslin, TX
- 5T. Hideko Uchiyama, PA
9. Kelley Beane, NH
10. B.J. Ehriggott, CT

**Women's 35+**

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. Solanna Taragan, CA
3. Anita Maldonado, NY
4. Debra Tisinger, CA
5. Felicia Mann, MI
- 6T. Debra Bryant, NC
- 6T. B.J. Ehriggott, CT
8. Lisa Papp, GA
9. Lori Lepow, FL
10. Leah Upshaw, GA

**Women's 40+**

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
2. Kim Machiran, MO
3. Malia Bailey, VA
4. Denise Mock, TX
5. Marianne Walsh, UT
6. Cheryl Miosi, NY
- 7T. Sheri Anderson, AZ
- 7T. Shari Coplen, MO
- 9T. Anita Maldonado, NY
- 9T. Terri Thornton, MN

**Women's 45+**

1. Linda Moore, NE
2. Marsha Berry, KY
3. Meena Evans, NC
4. Susan Pfahler, FL
5. Marcia Richards, CO
6. Karen Key, AZ
- 7T. Mary Keenan, CO
- 7T. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
- 9T. Laura Patterson, MI
- 9T. Jean Trimble, FL

**Women's 50+**

1. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
2. Janet Myers, NC
- 3T. Debbie Chaney, IN
- 3T. Elaine Dexter, CA
- 3T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Kathy Dunham, IL
7. Susan Kieffer, MN
8. Renee Fish, FL
9. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
10. Andee Glansberg, FL

**Women's 55+**

- 1T. Merijean Kelley, CA
- 1T. CeCe Palaski, CA
3. Agatha Falso, FL

4. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
5. Margaret Hoff, IL
- 6T. Mildred Gwinn, NC
- 6T. Paula Sperling, NM
- 8T. Nidia Funes, CA
- 8T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR

**Women's 60+**

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Marquita Molina, CA
3. Mildred Gwinn, NC
4. Gail Schaefer, MD
5. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
6. Gloria Piscoran, OR
7. Annabelle Kovar, NE
8. Joy Desantis, CA
9. Nancy Butts, WI
10. Shirley Crouse, IL

**Women's 65+**

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Lola Markus, IL
3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
4. Barbara Anderson, VA
5. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
6. Carol Brown, AZ
7. Jeanne Leben, AZ

**Women's 70+**

1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Reta Harring, WI
3. Louise Kiss, NM
4. Marilyn Hoagland, MN

**Women's 75+**

1. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
2. Mary Wysocki-Schwartz, WI

**Women's 80+**

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

3. Timothy Lerow, FL
4. Jose Diaz, CA
5. Keegan North, OH
6. Ryan Coates, OH
- 7T. Doug Brenner, OR
- 7T. Josh Hirsch, FL
- 7T. Chase Stanley, LA
10. Andy McGuffey, OH

**Boy's 8- Multi-bounce**

1. Sam Reid, OR
2. Doug Brenner, OR
3. Keegan North, OH
4. Jose Diaz, CA
5. Ryan Coates, OH
6. Josh Hirsch, FL
7. Andrew Lee, KY
- 8T. Kamal Lachmansingh, VA
- 8T. Thomas Paradis, CT
- 8T. Luis Quinones, FL

**Boy's 10-**

1. Joseph Lee, LA
2. Taylor Regier, OR
3. Taylor Knoth, OR
4. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
- 5T. Dylan Reid, OR
- 5T. Trevor Snyders, IL
7. James Fahey, CT
- 8T. Matthew Hunter, FL
- 8T. Brad Kirch, NY
10. Logan North, OH

**Boy's 12-**

1. Danny Lavelly, OH
2. Sean McGrath, IN
3. Taylor Knoth, OR
4. Ishmael Aldana, CA
5. Billy Wainwright, OR
6. Brad Kirch, NY
- 7T. Chad LaForest, NY
- 7T. Taylor McDermott, TX
- 7T. John Sanderson, UT
- 7T. Trevor Smith, OR

**Boy's 14-**

1. Scott Rieders, OR
2. Chris Coy, OK
3. Richard Sledzik Jr., MA
4. Zachary Apperson, OH
5. Graham Seaders, OR
6. Andrew Gale, UT
- 7T. Nathan Chirban, MO
- 7T. Mike Keddie, NH
- 7T. David LaForest, NY
10. Michael Wood, LA

**Boy's 16-**

1. Dan Sheppick, OR
2. Ben Croft, IL
3. Charles Pratt, OR
4. Matt Emmel, NY
5. Zachary Apperson, OH
- 6T. Brady Prince, MN
- 6T. Daniel Stewart, KY
- 6T. Drew Toland, AR
9. Scott Manship, MA
10. Ronnie Hubbard, OH

**Boy's 8-**

1. Sam Reid, OR
2. Marco Rojas, CA

**Boy's 18-**

1. Ben Croft, IL
2. Marc Moccia, MA
3. Jack Huczek, MI
4. Ryan Lindell, OR
5. David Chirban, MO
6. Josh Epstein, NY
7. Dan Cramer, OR
- 8T. Clay Burris, FL
- 8T. Travis Woodbury, VA
10. Chris Brown, CT

**Girls**

**Girl's 6-**

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
2. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
3. Brooke Lynn Rushefsky, AZ
4. Jessica Noll, AZ
5. Madison Gilluly, AZ

**Girl's 6- Multi-bounce**

1. Emily Hathaway, MN
2. Abbey Lavelly, OH
- 3T. Antonia Duran, NM
- 3T. Danielle Soltren, FL
- 3T. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
6. Tessa Fearnster, WA

**Girl's 8-**

1. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
2. Annelise Albrecht, OH
3. Natalia Canovas, FL

4. Lauren Neilan, MA
5. Alexis Templeton, NM
- 6T. Rebecca Berryman, KY
- 6T. Dawn Jones, NC
- 6T. Abbey Lavelly, OH
- 6T. Jordan Ward, ID
10. Alexandra Duran, NM

**Girl's 8- Multi-bounce**

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
2. Lauren Stanley, LA

3. Annelise Albrecht, OH
4. Nicole Bruns, VA

5. Kendra Henderson, OR
- 6T. Rebecca Berryman, KY
- 6T. Emily Hathaway, MN
- 6T. Samantha Rosado, CT
9. Katie Ragan, MN
10. Natalia Canovas, FL

**Girl's 10-**

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
2. Nicole Grundman, MN

- 3T. Sally Blakemore, VA

**Girl's 12-**

1. Shannon Inglesby, OR
2. Brittany Legget, OR
3. Sharon Jackson, IN
4. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
5. Emily Melgaard, ID
- 6T. Paige Hunter, FL
- 6T. Wesley Toland, AR
8. Shanae Taylor, IN
- 9T. Jennifer Fenton, KS
- 9T. Ashley Wetherall, NJ

**Girl's 14-**

1. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
2. Ashley Willhite, OR
3. Kara Mazur, CT
4. Dannielle Pimental, OR
- 5T. Shannon Inglesby, OR
- 5T. Alyson Webb, OH
7. Jenny Epstein, NY
8. Rebeka Kopf, NY
9. Sharon Jackson, IN
10. Sarah Moyle, OR

**Girl's 16-**

1. Katie Ferguson, OR
2. Adrienne Fisher, OH
3. Elise Wilson, CT
4. Ashley Willhite, OR
5. Kimberly Walsh, UT
6. Kelley Fisher, OH
- 7T. Da'Monique Davis, TX
- 7T. Ashley Legget, OR
9. Elizabeth Ferguson, OR
10. Jaimie Campanelli, MI

**Girl's 18-**

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
- 3T. Veronica Baldwin, OR
- 3T. Janel Tisinger, CA
5. Melissa Gransbury, OR
6. Bethany Dundon, OR
7. Jeni Fuller, NM
- 8T. Kelley Fisher, OH
- 8T. Ashley Legget, OR
10. Tina Chung, OR

**EVENT LEVEL/**

**DESCRIPTION**

1 = Club/League Event

**FINISH/POINTS**

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5-8 9-16

30 20 15 10 5 0

2 = Open Tournament

50 30 20 15 10 0

3 = State Championship

150 100 75 50 25 0

4 = Regional Championship

250 150 100 75 50 0

5 = National Invitational

300 200 150 100 75 25\*

6 = National Championship

600 400 300 200 100 50\*

At selected national events:

Round of 16 finishers receive added points (in draws of 48 or more)\*

Blue division winners receive 20 points (in draws of 16 or more)

Red division winners=15 points; White division winners=10 points.

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## january...

January 24-26

Battle Of Bangor @ Gold's Gym.....	Bangor, ME	207-947-0763
E-Force Xtreme Tour #9 @ NW-Hwy 100.....	Brooklyn Center, MN	763-535-3571
Indy Open @ Noblesville Athletic Club.....	Noblesville, IN	317-879-8100
Leftover Tourney @ Arlington Sport And Health.....	Arlington, VA	703-522-1702
Northern Ohio Championship @ Solon Athletic Club.....	Solon, OH	440-349-3349
Southern Ohio Championship @ Waycross Sports Club.....	Westerville, OH	614-890-6073
Harbour Open @ Harbour Island Athletic Club.....	Tampa, FL	813-202-1950
2nd Annual PLC Racquetball Championship @ Prairie Life Center.....	Omaha, NE	402-691-8546
Massachusetts State Doubles @.....	TBA, MA	978-521-1867
Super Bowl Splat @ Olympus Athletic Club.....	Northfield, MN	507-645-8007

January 25

## february...

Jan. 29 - Feb. 01

Orem Open @ Orem Fitness Center.....	Orem, UT	801-229-7156
Widmer Cup @ Lloyd Athletic Club.....	Portland, OR	503-287-4594
America's Cup IRT Event @ Quadrangle.....	Coral Springs, FL	561-433-8999
Miller Lite Open @ Athletic Club Of York.....	York, PA	717-764-8536
Minot Open @ Minot YMCA.....	Minot, ND	701-852-0141
Mitch Nathanson Classic @ Exec Health Sports Center/Nashua A.C.....	Manchester, NH	603-759-2729
NAC Winter Classic @ Northwest Athletic Club.....	Springdale, AR	479-750-3538
Strongsville Open @ Strongsville Rec Center.....	Strongsville, OH	440-238-2244
The Rip It Open @ Lamesa Racquetball.....	Lamesa, CA	619-669-6836
Winter Green Classic @ Laurel Sport & Fit.....	Laurel, MD	410-987-0980
Women's Invitational @ Johnson Ranch Racquet Club.....	Roseville, CA	916-782-2300
10th Annual Rochester Pro-Am @ Rochester A/C.....	Rochester, MN	507-282-6000

February 01-02

WNY Open @ University Of Buffalo.....	Buffalo, NY	716-639-0621
Missouri State Juniors @ Concord Sports Club.....	St Louis, MO	314-533-0294
E-Force Xtreme Tour #10 @ Southview A/C.....	W St Paul, MN	651-450-1660
February Points Rally @ The Alaska Club Fairbanks.....	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
Greenbriar Classic @ Greenbriar Athletic Club.....	Indianapolis, IN	317-897-5481
Racquet For The Cure @ Lakewood Athletic Club.....	Lakewood, CO	303-738-9797
St. Louis Open @ Vetta Sports Concord.....	St Louis, MO	314-840-3111
Sweetheart Doubles @ Sawmill Athletic Club.....	Columbus, OH	614-889-7698
Valentine Double Trouble @ Alpha Racquetball & Fitness.....	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
Westchester Classic @ Club Fit.....	Jefferson Valley, NY	914-245-4040
Winter Warmup @ Classic Athletic Club.....	Fairfield, NJ	973-389-9978

February 11-13

Wyoming State Doubles @ YMCA.....	Casper, WY	307-234-9187
Massachusetts State Juniors @.....	Tba, MA	978-521-1867

February 13-16

St. Valentines Day Massacre @ Redwood Center.....	West Valley City, UT	801-974-6923
Aurora City Open @ 3191 S. Vaughn Way.....	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313

February 14-16

The Mixer" @ Walton Life Fitness Center".....	Bentonville, AR	479-204-1000
Ball Buster @ Fitness Inc.....	Pocatello, ID	208-233-8035

February 19-23

Central NY Championships @ Gold's Gym Of Dewitt.....	Dewitt, NY	315-449-0400
E-Force Xtreme Tour #11 @ NW-Hwy 100.....	Brooklyn Center, MN	763-535-3571

February 20-23

Ground Hog Open @ Metro South Athletic Club.....	Brockton, MA	508-588-3444
The Head Intelligence X Tour @ Heights Health & Racquet Club.....	Westerville, OH	614-890-6073

February 21-23

Valentine's Day Open @ Portland Racket & Fitness.....	Portland, ME	207-775-6128
10th Annual Winter Classic @ American Family Fitness.....	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400

Delaware State Doubles @ Kirkwood Fitness & Racquetball.....	Wilmington, DE	302-674-9468
Park Place Open @ Park Place Athletic Club.....	Beaverton, OR	503-644-3900

Colorado Springs City Champs @ Lynmar Racquet & Health Club.....	Colorado Springs, CO	719-598-4069
Adirondack Open @ Glens Falls Family YMCA.....	Glens Falls, NY	518-793-3878

Burnsville Hotshots" USRA\MRA @ NW Burnsville Club".....	Burnsville, MN	952-435-7125
Countryside YMCA Charity Tournament @ Countryside YMCA.....	Loveland, OH	513-932-1424

Giuliana's Racquetball Classic @ Center Court Fitness Club.....	Grand Forks, ND	701-746-2790
Killshot For Cancer @ Waverly Oaks Athletic Club.....	Waltham, MA	508-881-3953

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February 22	LA Fitness Event @ Chandler Club .....	Phoenix, AZ	480-633-2736
	Long Island Winter Classic @ 40 Maple Avenue.....	Rockville Center, NY	718-429-8489
	Midwest Senior Masters @ Davison Racquet Club.....	Davison, MI	517-887-0459
	Pepsi Premier @ Rawlins Rec Center.....	Rawlins, WY	307-328-4573
	Shelbyville Open @ Shelby County Athletic Club.....	Shelbyville, IN	317-861-3687
	The Schultz Classic @ The Sports Center .....	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3303
	Icicle Open @ Allentown Racquet Club .....	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
	32nd Annual Sugarloaf Ford @ YMCA.....	Winona, MN	507-454-8298
	Five Seasons Super 7 Shootout Ser @ Five Seasons Country Club.....	Westlake, OH	440-871-2811

**march...**

Feb. 25 - March 01	Spring Smash @ Marv Jensen .....	South Jordan, UT	801-253-4404
Feb. 28 - March 01	Grand Island YMCA 2003 Open @ Grand Island YMCA .....	Grand Island, NE	308-384-8181
Feb. 28 - March 02	Railyard Racquetball Tournament @ Railyard Athletic Club.....	Woodsville, NH	603-747-8006
	Hot Springs Open @ Hot Springs Health & Fitness .....	Hot Springs, AR	501-525-4900
	IAC Annual "Spring Roll Out" @ Idaho Athletic Club" .....	Boise, ID	208-345-7599
March 06-09	March Madness @ Suburban Racquet .....	St Cloud, MN	320-251-3965
March 07-09	ORA State Singles & Intercollegiate @ Hall Of Fame Fitness Center .....	Westerville, OH	614-890-6073
March 07-10	Maryland/DC State Singles @ Severna Park Racquet & Fitness .....	Millersville, MD	410-987-0980
March 08	Annual Fun Tournament @ 3191 S. Vaughn Way .....	Aurora, CO	303-680-5569
March 11-15	Ektelon Doubles/LPRA Stop @ Central Courts .....	Columbia Heights, MN	763-572-0330
March 12-16	Joe Connors & Gary Hornsby Memorial @ Rock Springs Civic Center.....	Rock Springs, WY	307-352-1420
March 13-16	March Madness RB Frenzy @ Courts Plus Fitness Center.....	Fargo, ND	701-237-4805
March 14-16	March Points Rally @ The Alaska Club Fairbanks.....	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
March 20-23	Massachusetts State Singles @ .....	MA	978-521-1867
March 21-23	New Hampshire State Singles @ Executive Health & Sports.....	Manchester, NH	603-759-2729
March 22-24	Omni 41 Amatulli Open @ Omni 41 .....	Schererville, IN	219-865-6969
March 22-23	Pennsylvania State Singles @ Penn State University .....	State College, PA	717-599-7806
	Arizona State Singles @ Las Fitness - Arrowhead .....	Phoenix, AZ	480-830-0213
	Connecticut State Singles @ Downtown Health & Racquet Club .....	New Haven, CT	860-632-1281
	Maine State Singles @ Central Maine Athletic Center.....	Lewiston, ME	207-786-4820
	Five Seasons Super 7 Shootout Series @ Five Seasons Country Club.....	Westlake, OH	440-871-2811
	Luck Of The Heights @ Cottonwood Heights.....	Salt Lake City, UT	801-974-6923
	Spring Fever Doubles @ East Side Athletic Club .....	Milwaukie, OR	503-659-3845
	Make A Wish @ Merritt - Townsen.....	Townsen, MD	443-394-8884
	E-Force Xtreme Tour #12 @ Southview A.C.....	W St Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	Killshot Classic @ John Brown University .....	Siloam Springs, AR	479-204-1000
	Missouri State Singles Open @ Concord Sports.....	St Louis, MO	314-533-0294
	New York State Singles Championships @ The Court Club .....	Albany, NY	518-438-3935
	St. Paddy's Day Open @ Club Ultimate.....	Bedford, OH	440-942-2700
	The Luck O' the Irish Open @ Springfield Athletic Club .....	Springfield, OH	937-399-2360
	Idaho State Singles @ 24 Hour Fitness Courthouse.....	Boise, ID	208-368-9737
	Red Swain Pro-Stop @ Metro South Athletic Club .....	Brockton, MA	781-982-6029
	Baywinds Spring Open @ Baywinds Athletic Club .....	Huron, OH	419-433-2750
	E-Force Xtreme Tour #13 @ NW-Hwy 100.....	Brooklyn Center, MN	763-535-3571
	Spring Kick Off V @ Central Penn Fitness .....	Harrisburg, PA	717-564-4171
	Wyoming State Juniors @ Green River Rec Center .....	Green River, WY	307-872-0511
	Nebraska State Singles @ Sports Courts .....	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
	New Jersey State Singles @ Classic Athletic Club.....	Fairfield, NJ	973-389-9978
	Indiana State Singles @ Greenbriar Athletic Club.....	Indianapolis, IN	317-897-5481

• The majority of listed, sanctioned events are level two events; where titles indicate a "state" "regional" or "national" tournament, a higher level of point earnings may be applied. • Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 02/03, you must renew in the month of February in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month. For expanded calendar listings, refer to the online edition of RACQUETBALL at [www.racqmag.com](http://www.racqmag.com). For online entries, go to [www.usrastore.com](http://www.usrastore.com).

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# players helping players ...

## lifetime membership sale!

One of the mid-range benefits offered in the current fundraising campaign is a lifetime membership (a \$1,000.00 value) for half-price. Donate to the campaign at the "A" (or above) level and your name will be added to the list of lifetime members, shown below, and you'll never have to worry about renewals (or rate hikes) again! But you'll want to hurry ... this campaign "promise" runs out May 31 — after which all lifetime memberships will cost the full \$1,000.00. Sign up today!

Bruce Adams ..... Tulsa, OK  
Robert Alford ..... Columbia, SC  
David Anderson ..... Sacramento, CA  
Charles Angelopolus ..... Phoenix AZ  
Jon A. Anton ..... Thief River Falls MN  
Michael Arnolt ..... Indianapolis IN  
Fernando Avalos ..... Hilliard OH  
Davey L. Bledsoe ..... Atlanta GA  
John R. Boudman ..... Hummelston PA  
Linda A. Boudman ..... Hummelston PA  
Leroy S. Brack ..... Houston TX  
Rick Bresnahan ..... Hope ME  
Jeff Burbank ..... Chesterfield MO  
Keith Calkins ..... Penn Valley CA  
Kevin S Chen ..... Randolph NJ  
John Cole ..... Hinesville GA  
Eileen B. Cummings ..... Ramona CA  
Margo P. Daniels ..... Monterey CA  
Jerry Davis ..... Shaker Hts. OH  
C.W. (Pete) Dean ..... Colorado Springs CO  
Bill Delaney ..... Palo Alto CA  
Jon Denley ..... Bricktown NJ  
Dan Derr ..... Ormond Beach FL  
Debra R. Derr ..... Ormond Beach FL  
Doug Dickman ..... Sedalia MO  
Nan Dietz ..... Anchorage AK  
Keith B. Dressler ..... Chattanooga TN  
Van Dubolsky ..... Gainesville FL  
Stephen Ducoff ..... Colorado Springs CO  
Heather Dunn ..... Haverhill, MA  
Don Everton ..... Twin Falls ID  
Randy Feinberg ..... Bala Cynwyd PA  
Eric Foecking ..... Tampa FL  
Bill Ford ..... Clifton NJ  
John Foust ..... Aurora CO  
Cathie Frederickson ..... MI  
Myron Friedman ..... Portland ME  
Doug Ganim ..... Westerville, OH  
Russ Granata ..... Addison IL  
Tyrone Gray-El ..... Jessup, MD  
Tom Hagan ..... Beaverton Or  
Susan Heller ..... Saint Louis MO  
Jim Hiser ..... Colorado Springs CO  
Curtis Hoffman ..... San Leandro CA  
Joe Houck ..... Colorado Springs CO  
Twayne M. Howard ..... Grand Rapids MI  
William Hunt ..... Sicklerville NJ

Joanna G. Kenyon ..... Tallahassee FL  
Michael Kirmayer ..... New York City NY  
Leo Klimaitis ..... Barrington Hills, IL  
Lisa Krug ..... Fenton MO  
Edgar R. Lafferty III ..... King William VA  
Henry Leeds ..... Washington DC  
Steve Lerner ..... Columbus OH  
John M. Link ..... Hopatcong NJ  
Randall Elmo Long ..... Sierra Vista CA  
David Lutz ..... Harrisburg PA  
Dario Mas ..... Wilmington DE  
William Merkel ..... South Milwaukee WI  
Dr. Arthur Missirlian ..... Windsor CO  
Penny Missirlian ..... Windsor CO  
Linda Mojer ..... Colorado Springs CO  
John H. Mooney ..... Colorado Springs CO  
Rose Mooney ..... Colorado Springs CO  
Joseph Ngai ..... New York NY  
Greg Nordhoff ..... Jasper IN  
Salvatore Perconti ..... St. Petersburg FL  
George Platko ..... Bellevue WA  
Peter D. Popovich ..... Charlotte NC  
J. S. Reidell ..... Cozad NE  
Ed Remen ..... Apex, NC  
Holly Remen ..... Apex, NC  
Andy Roberts ..... Memphis, TN  
Chuck Rousenberg ..... Tampa, FL  
Rich Saffo Sr. ..... Woodsville NH  
Allen Schattner ..... Pittsburgh PA  
Robert Schattner ..... Cherry Hill NJ  
Judi Schmidt ..... FL  
Al Seitelman ..... Port Jefferson NY  
Kendra E. Shaffer ..... Corlville IA  
Robert Schattner ..... Cherry Hill, NJ  
J. Morgan Smith ..... Birmingham AL  
Mitch Smith ..... Camp Hill PA  
Campbell Snowberger ..... Myrtle Beach, SC  
Randy Stafford ..... Memphis, TN  
Jan Stelma ..... New Bern, NC  
Luke St. Onge ..... Colorado Springs CO  
Greg L. Stoner ..... Pembroke Pines FL  
Ernesto Tan ..... Frankfort, IL  
Dave Titus ..... Mammoth Lakes CA  
John Vohland ..... Colorado Springs, CO  
John Jay Wargat ..... Dighton MA  
Charlie Wickham ..... Charlotte NN

## the campaign trail

These "Players helping Players" donors have kick-started the ambitious fundraising campaign announced in the last issue of RACQUETBALL, with gifts that total just under \$20,000 toward the first "phase" of a \$100,000 goal [by May 31, 2003]. Even better news was the signing-on of an anonymous donor with a matching funds gift of \$25,000 — meaning that every dollar donated by individuals will be doubled by the matching gift. You give \$50.00 and \$100.00 goes into the fund!

### Open Level (\$5,000 & up)

Matching Donor  
Randy Stafford, Tenn.



### Elite Level (\$1,000 & up)

Bruce Adams, Okla.  
Doug Dickman, Mo.  
Doug Ganim, Ohio  
Susan L. Klimaitis Foundation, Ill.  
Ed & Holly Remen, N.C.  
Chuck Rousenberg, Fla.  
Campbell Snowberger, S.C.  
Luke St. Onge, Colo.  
Jan Stelma, N.C.  
John Vohland, Colo.



### A Level (\$500 & up)

Jeff Burbank, Mo.  
Heather Dunn, Mass.  
Joe Houck, Colo.  
Linda Mojer, Colo.  
Andy Roberts, Tenn.  
Robert Schattner, N.J.  
Ernesto Tan, Ill.



### B Level (\$250 & up)

Phil Cohen, N.M.  
Woodrow Gibson, Ind.



### C Level (\$100 & up)

Luis Alvarez, N.Y.  
David Hendricks, Ariz.  
Dick Kincade, Colo.



### D Level (\$50 & up)

Anthony DiCianni, Ill.  
Bob Goldbetter, N.Y.  
Doug Smith, Ga.



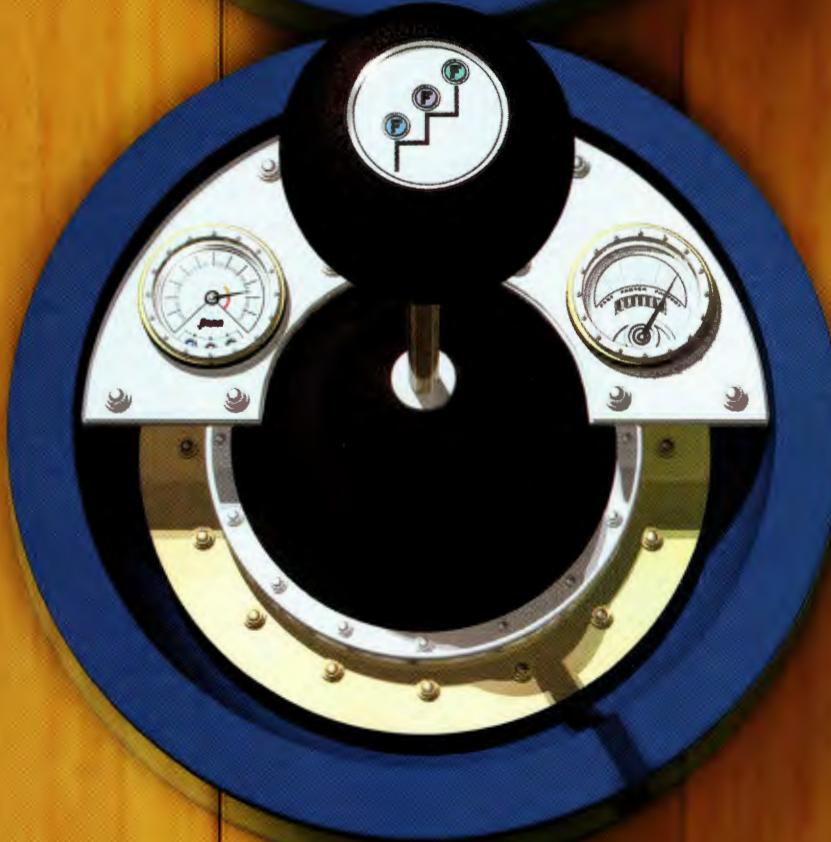
Total donated (outright) since the kickoff in the last issue =

**\$25,600**

To take part in the "players helping players" campaign, find the fundraising card in the November/December issue of RACQUETBALL, then select your giving level (and perks) ... OR follow links to a .pdf donation form from the Nov/Dec online preview at [racqmag.com](http://racqmag.com), OR sign up online at [www.usrastore.com](http://www.usrastore.com), under "Make a Donation" ...

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