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Ruben Gonzalez

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RACQUETBALL

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... on the cover ... The ageless Ruben Gonzalez. Will he be inducted into the Hall of Fame? Photo courtesy Ektelon, by Taylor Photo

... this page ... Ruben backtracks in his match against Mike Gidry at the 1999 Promus U.S. OPEN. Photo: Vicki Hughes.

from the editor

I really hate that my memory is going. I mean, really. Hate. It. Particularly when it comes to filling in this absolutely last spot in each magazine, and I'm at a complete loss for recalling even one fascinating subject that caught my attention over the past eight weeks. It should be simple, after all. Just partial recall of *one* of those situations that made me smile, roll my eyes, smack my forehead and say "that would make a great editorial!" would do it. An inkling. A germ. A brain cell on its last legs.



Instead, I have to check my calendar, backtrack to the last time I was in this situation and hope for the best. What *have* I been up to? Has anyone bent my ear lately? Could it have been any one of those incredibly enthusiastic state association presidents and volunteers at the Leadership Conference last month? Probably. I've actually played once or twice in the last fortnight; might one of my opponents have made a noteworthy comment? Maybe. Our websites have been keeping me up nights. Is it possible to talk to yourself in your own sleep? Yikes!

Oh sure, I can always fall back on the standard stuff: ... avoidables! (call 'em yourself during the week and they won't be so hard to accept in tournaments); junior development (yes, we need more juniors); sandbagging (have some self-respect and don't do it); dwindling courts (call AmPRO for help in the fight); history (ask Ruben Gonzalez about his colorful past ...); the sport's direction (vote for board members); and improving skills (your tutors are ready). You'll find all this, and more, in this issue.

Now I remember! The web-vs-print debate! Every once in a while (when budgets are being reviewed, now that I think about it), someone comes up with the bright idea that maybe we don't really need a magazine after all, and we could definitely reduce the association's costs in that area, big time. The paper! The printing! The postage! The grey hair! Couldn't we just do it online and reach the same audience? Achieve the same goals? Cover the same subjects? Hmm... I don't know. Are you ready?

So now I'm wondering. Is it possible that racquetball readers are ready to abandon their "hard-copy" in favor of full-tilt cyberspace? Turning those pages getting to be too much for you? Or do you prefer the tangible, pick-it-up-off-the-coffee-table form over mouse-surfing to racqmag.com and clicking away? We know that the majority of our readership is net-ready. Yep ... now I *really* am curious ... and by the way — what was I saying?

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reader forum

MISSED THE MARK

I am writing this in regard to your latest issue of Racquetball (Nov-Dec 99). I know it never hurts to have a well-known sports figure as a feature story in a magazine. But in this case I feel quite strongly about a story that wasn't given any recognition at all. This year's National Doubles held in Baltimore allowed participants for the first time ever to compete in three events. What a story you had about two individuals (David Azuma & Terri Graham) who were the first players ever to win three gold medals. I have had the privilege to compete against and watch these athletes play for many years. What a shame there wasn't an article on these racquetball players. I personally think this is a tremendous accomplishment and should not be overlooked. It seems to me that racquetball players enjoy hearing about their fellow players that do amazing things in our sport — wouldn't this be the case as well? From a dedicated reader of your publications!

Leslie Pawka | San Diego, California

LIST-LESS

Was I the only one bothered by the fact that absolutely no racquetball stars made the end of century, greatest athlete lists? In Sports Illustrated, they featured the top 50 athletes from every state. In my search, I found no racquetball athletes, such as Marty Hogan in Missouri, Cliff Swain in Massachusetts, Brett Harnett in Nevada, or Mike Yellen in Michigan. Mike did not even make the Detroit Free Press' top 100 athletes in Michigan history, here in my home state. Admittedly, the most populated states, such as New York and California, excluded many top athletes from various sports, just due to sheer numbers. But, Missouri, Nevada, Michigan, Massachusetts are not highly populated states. I also know that over the years, SI has occasionally printed an article about the great racquetball players. Elevating the status of our sport in the eyes of the media should be a focus of the USRA in the coming decade, taking a lead from other sports in the promotion of the sport and the players.

Jim Woolcock | Davison, Michigan

CONNECTED

Just wanted to drop a big "thank-you!" to you and your staff. I'm one of the "racquetball addicts" that impatiently waits for RACQUETBALL not only to arrive, but also to be posted on the website. I really enjoy the insight and ideas that get expressed each issue. I was especially excited with the January/February 2000. RACQUETBALL magazine's pursuit to grow the greatest sport ever appears to be very close to taking the next big step.

The editor's note was fantastic, and the Changing Times article was right on. I myself tend to wear Nike shorts while playing, but will be ordering other shorts as soon as the west coast opens for business today. Why should we promote the advertisers that don't promote our sport?

On another note, I have a three-year old daughter who stunned both my wife & myself when the current issue arrived. She looked at the cover & told my wife, "That's Jason, Daddy says he dives a lot." When my wife told me this I was shocked. My daughter watches the old US Open tapes with me quite often and always makes references to Sudsy. She knows who Cliff is, and occasionally John Ellis (I have to explain how great ProKennex is to her!), but I don't recall ever talking to her directly about Jason Mannino — let alone his diving mastery. All of my old copies of RACQUETBALL are now on her bookshelf, and she knows if one is missing. I guess I'll have to wait until she finishes reading it now! I figured this was yet another success story that I wanted to share!

I truly believe the word is getting out there. I am starting to see more younger players show up at junior clinics in our area, and seeing older players that are a few years removed from the game coming back! Thanks again for the wonderful magazine and great promotion of the greatest sport ever!

Rob Ayres | Plainfield, Illinois

COMMITMENT

Your editorial in the November/December issue was so right. I've worked at a small town fitness center for several years, and in that time we've been through a handful of owners. We have six courts, aerobics, cardio and free weights. When we had good sales people who made a good commission, our membership soared. When the owners relied on counter staff and non-paid volunteers, membership dropped dramatically. I've run a few sanctioned tournaments, but it looks like it's all coming to an end — by spring, sadly, I expect our club to close. The business is there to be had with proper management and a professional person to generate membership — but owners just won't pay someone a living wage.

Name withheld | Anytown, USA

YOUTHFUL

I started playing Paddleball in New York when I was 18 because it was available at any park and other than the equipment it was free. I moved to Pennsylvania in 1987 and have been playing racquetball for about 10 years now. I am 45 years old. I play in a few tournaments a year and went to Memphis for the Open in 1998 (a great experience). In a recent tournament at the Athletic Club in Wilkes-Barre PA, I was beaten by a 17-year-old kid. I was excited and happy to see some young blood in the sport. Later I found out that his father owned a club further north. We need to get more young people involved in this sport.

That is the reason I am writing. I am tasking the USRA to bring in the younger players. Someone needs to canvas the club owners and the high schools and bring them together. Clubs should make free court time available from 3pm to 5pm, or any time during the day, for school practices and for competitions. High school kids don't typically join health clubs or



usra regional events 2000

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	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	Chicago, Illinois	Geoff Peters	773-935-9685
April 14-16	Spectrum Club	Canoga Park, California	Deb Tisinger	818-999-5944
	Southern Athletic Club	Atlanta, Georgia	Liz Lyon	770-923-5400
	Merritt Athletic Club	Baltimore, Maryland	Terri Brauer	410-315-7900
	Cedardale Health & Fitness Club	Haverhill, Massachusetts	Bill Gargan	603-367-8533
	Central Courts	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Mike Locker	612-920-6652
	Missouri Athletic Club West	St. Louis, Missouri	Jen Yokota	314-731-2668
	Hall of Fame Fitness Center	Canton, Ohio	Doug Ganim	614-890-6073
	Cascade Athletic Club	Portland, Oregon	Connie Martin	503-665-4142
	Northwest Athletic Club	Houston, Texas	Annie Muniz	713-432-0881
May 5-7	Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club	Orlando, Florida	Van Dubolsky	352-395-5356

2000 junior regional qualifiers [level 3] ... at all state championships

Former junior regional qualifying requirements have been replaced with the stipulation that HEAD Junior Olympic entrants must first compete in a recognized Level 3 State Championship in order to qualify for the 2000 event. Although there are no longer separate regional qualifying tournaments for juniors, all other stipulations remain in force — you must compete in (not merely enter) the qualifying state event, age requirements, etc.

have the finances for court time, but they would love this sport. This would benefit the schools and the club owners. The owners would be cultivating future members, and increasing the response to tournaments. Pro players travel from state to state for competitions. Why not have them spend some of their time at schools, convincing and assisting principles and school boards to develop racquetball programs. It's a simple idea, and I am probably not the first to suggest it, but it is needed.

Gary Gold | Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania

UN-CONSOLABLE

Anyone who's been to the US Open has to marvel at the amount of effort and personal sacrifice that goes into pulling off such a colossal event. For the past two Opens I have arrived grateful and almost relieved to have only had to show up ready to play and revel, the tortuous logistics having been managed by a host of USRA loyalists in the months prior.

This all notwithstanding, I came away from this year's event feeling gyped and incredulous. The application unequivocally promised consolation, yet for the 50 percent of participants to whom that promise applied, a dismissive "sorry, a change was necessary" paragraph of non-explanation in the first day's newsletter was the only consolation we got.

In asking around I was told that a flood of last day faxed applications combined with the inclusion of doubles events this year exceeded available court time and truth in advertising had to be sacrificed. The application said that entries would be "limited." To what? Evidently to however many procrastinators wanted to apply! Nancy Reagan be damned, just keep saying yes! And anybody who feels like whining about it should just reflect a bit more on the value of watching everybody else play for the next five days.

But maybe I'm missing the point and all this is part of a self-correcting process. If a tournament director casually allows enough participants to travel home feeling cheated, in future years having enough court time to honor the credibility of the application will be less challenging.

Don Sanderson | Park City, Utah

CORRECTION

I'm not sure that Chuck Leve can carry a tune, but it was he — not Chuck Berry — who was the "brains behind early pro tour and court club development" as cited in the **Ten Most Powerful People in 20th Century Racquetball**, on page 26 of the January/February issue. [If you've ever seen Jim Hiser's handwriting, you'd understand the typo, but I certainly should have caught it ... the long hours are getting to me! Apologies to Chuck ... Leve! -Editor]

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IN WHICH



TO

COWER.



gotta play...

Mike Yellen looked once, paused, then looked again, much as if it were a hot July day and there before him stood a pile of snow.

"This can't be right," the pro tour's top player in the mid-1980s said to himself. "Ruben Gonzalez can't still be playing racquetball, at least not well enough to be in the semi-finals of the national singles."

Yellen had retired from the professional tour in 1993 and subsequently lost touch with the particulars of the game. The only reason he was in Houston three years ago for the U.S. Nationals was to be inducted into the Racquetball Hall of Fame. He never expected to meet up with his old friend, to say nothing of watching him defend a national amateur championship title he'd earned only one year prior.

"I hadn't kept up with the game much, but I had heard that Ruben had an Achilles tendon injury," Yellen said recently from his home in Michigan. "That meant he was what? 47? (actually, 44) That's an injury a 25-year-old can't come back from. Yet here he was, working his way back on to the tour."

After recalling the incident, Yellen conceded that he shouldn't have been so surprised. Gonzalez is a freak of nature. Players on the tour have known that for years. He picked up a racket for the first time in his mid-20s, when most players are entering their prime. He didn't win a tournament on the professional tour until 1987, when he was 36, an age when most professionals are staging exhibitions and reminiscing about their golden days. A year later, Gonzalez snatched the top spot away from Yellen, eight years his junior. Bouncing back from a serious injury? That should have created as much stir as a gentle breeze on a cool spring day.

"I remember looking at him and laughing," says Yellen of the meeting in 1997. "The first thing I said was, 'You're amazing.' He said, 'Yeah, I just keep plugging along. I gotta play.'"

by tom slear

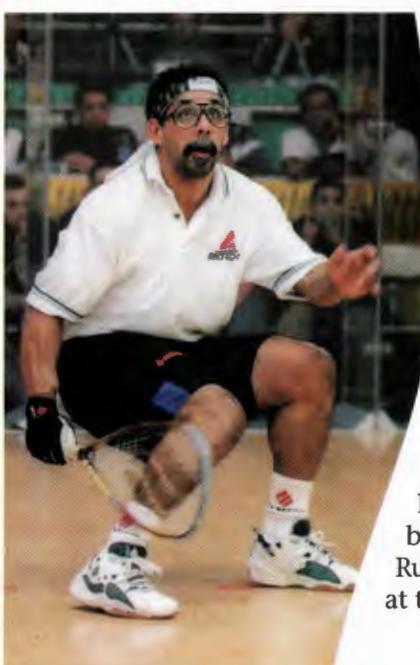
Action photos: Vicki Hughes | Award photo: John Foust

Just plugging along? An understatement typical of the understated Gonzalez. Last December in Memphis, he just plugged along to the quarterfinals of the Promus U.S. Open Racquetball Championships, the premier tournament on the pro tour. To advance that far, Gonzalez beat No. 9 Andy Roberts, who was playing in his hometown and on his home court, and No. 8 Mike Guidry, who, at 29, is a mere three years older than Gonzalez's oldest son. In Memphis, Gonzalez's run ended against No. 1 Sudsy Monchik, who is closer in age to Gonzalez's two grandchildren than to Gonzalez himself.

Grandpa Ruben gives little thought to his longevity. He did most of his aging long before he began to play racquetball. He grew up in Harlem, street tough. His daily routine through most of his teen years was as simple as it was immutable. He hustled for money during the afternoon, drank beer in the evening, and slept wherever he ran out of energy, which was often in a public park or some flop house with drug addicts shooting up in the hallway.



ABOVE: '99 CHAMPS! WITH DOUBLES PARTNER MIKE GUIDRY. BELOW: LATER DEFEATING GUIDRY AT THE U.S. OPEN.

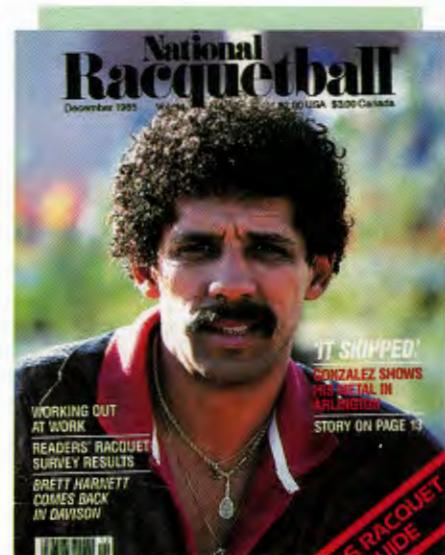


"That never seemed strange to me because that was all that I knew," he says. "I was always getting into fights. If you saw me on the street, you would have gotten out of my way. I don't know why I escaped that and so many others didn't." Pause. "I just don't know."

If Gonzalez hadn't dropped out of school after ninth grade, he could have been a star running back or third baseman. His athletic ability was unquestioned, as was his competitive drive.

"He dove on cement," says Russ Mannino, who got to know Gonzalez from one-wall handball tournaments in and around New York City in the 1970s. "He would just get up and continue to play. He wasn't hurt at all. No one could play with Ruben. He was the champ. The best."

But being the best in one-wall handball paid for coffee and perhaps a danish. Gonzalez was in his mid-20s, married for the second time, and the father of two boys. He badly needed of a career change. Mannino, (father of IRT No.4 Jason), was about to open a racquetball club in Staten Island. He suggested to Ruben that he move his family there, work at the club, and give racquetball a try.

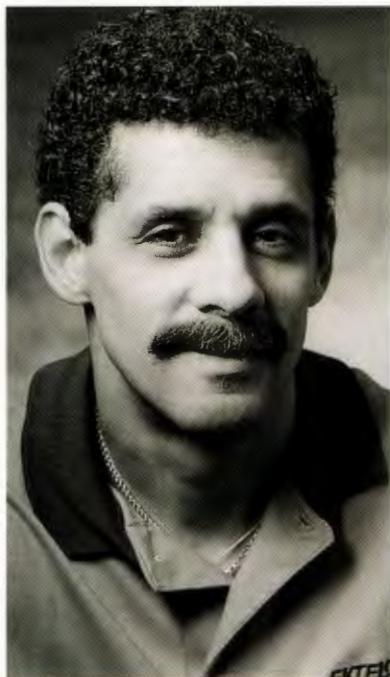


It was legendary fifteen years ago, and it's still remembered today. With \$15,000 on the line in a final against Marty Hogan at the Crystal Racquet & Health Club in Arlington, Virginia on October 5, 1985, Ruben Gonzalez earned a reputation for fair play that has followed him to this day.

In the December '85 issue of National Racquetball, editor Drew Stoddard described it ...

The match was capped with one of the most stunning displays of sportsmanship ever seen on the men's tour. With Hogan serving at match point and Gonzalez trailing by only two, Ruben ended a furious rally with a mid-court forehand kill, called good by referee Corey Brysman. Instead of stepping up to serve, however, Gonzalez overturned the call himself saying the shot had skipped and offered his hand to Hogan in congratulations. It was a courageous act which cost Gonzalez the only real shot he has ever had at winning a major tour event.

"It skipped," said Ruben later, "and that was the only thing that really mattered. I don't think anybody else saw it, but I thought 'If I'm going to win it, I'm going to win it the right way; there will be another time.' I just couldn't take it, because I knew I would have to live with that for a long time."



"He practiced, practiced, practiced, and learned," says Mannino. "He wasn't spoiled like the kids today. He got his ass kicked for three or four years (on the tour), but each time he lost, he learned and got better. It was a slow, gradual climb."

But one with no doubts.

"I couldn't afford any because I had nothing to fall back on, no

other choice," Gonzalez says. "At night I'd go up on the roof of our apartment building in Staten Island and practice 1,000 forehands and 1,000 backhands. That's all I had going for me. I was a hustler."

Even before Gonzalez reached the top spot in 1988, his racquetball peers were in awe of the ol' man. He had a

pleasant, quiet demeanor in a sport defined by brashness. He was a family man in an occupation that tested fidelity with its constant travel. His physical attributes were legend, not all of them displayed on the court, as evidenced by his nickname: tripod. (Think about it. It'll come to you.)

Above all, however, Gonzalez was a straight shooter. He wanted nothing handed to him. If he got it, he had to have earned it, a character trait vividly displayed at a pro stop in northern Virginia in 1985.

Gonzalez was playing Marty Hogan in the final. Hogan was a racquetball icon. Gonzalez had yet to win a pro tournament. The two were locked into a five-game struggle. Hogan served with the score 10-8 in the tiebreaker. Gonzalez ended the rally with an apparent forehand killshot.

The seconds ticked by. Gonzalez did not move to take the serve. Jerry Hilecher, No. 7 on the tour at the time, was watching the match. He noticed a trace of a smile on Gonzalez's face.

"Looking back on it, I think it was a sign of peace," Hilecher says. "It was a very dramatic moment. It was a

AGELESS RESPECT!

By Tom Rall

I first met Ruben Gonzalez in 1978. I had to play him in a Pro qualifying round and, at the time I thought 'it could have been worse.' I could have had to play Hogan or Peck. Instead, I ended up playing into Ruben, and losing. Surprise! For those who have never had the opportunity to play him, let me tell you that it's pretty much like playing Boris - the Computer Chess Game. He's way ahead of you on every shot, so much so that sometimes he appears capable of napping during rallies — which can be very discouraging while you're busy getting a tour of the court! Aside from his amazing playing ability, he was also a perfect gentleman all around. For a guy who looks mean with that mustache of his, he was quiet, humorous, and nice! Everyone got along with him and he had a following a mile long. In short, back in 1978 he was something of a hero. He was also the oldest guy on the pro tour back then ... easy-going, soft spoken, and yet beating everyone in

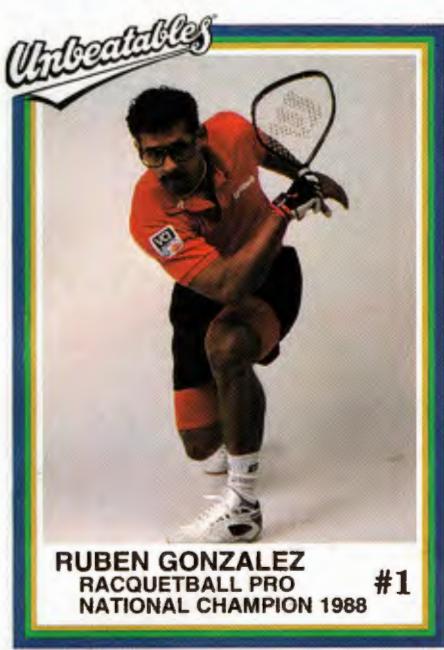
sight! So it's safe to say that the first time I met Ruben I was impressed with him and I liked him. Who wouldn't?

Not much has changed with Ruben since 1978. I ran into him again in the mid-eighties at Mike Ray's birthday party in Phoenix during another stop (where Ed Andrews played the part of Captain Kirk and murmured 'Beam me up Scotty' while rolling



under the weather and not at 100%, he could still outlast everybody.

Another 15-years or so later, I'm still playing and traveling to tournaments and, amazingly, so is Ruben! What's even more amazing is that he's still winning and beating a whole new generation of young pros. His recent performance at the US Open is testament enough of just how ageless he really is. Has he changed off the court? Well, when I ran into him in New York while he was recovering from every player's worst nightmare — an achilles tendon tear — he was the same Ruben, cordial, easy-going and nice as can be. We talked a bit. We laughed. I was kind of disappointed he didn't recall playing me years ago. But he's played so



great match. We all wanted to see it go on, but Ruben knew what he had to do."

Gonzalez remembers a jumble of thoughts racing through his mind: I still have a chance. If I get by Hogan, I win this tournament. But hold on! What would a win mean? I didn't earn it. My shot skipped.

many people. How could he remember all of us? It's easy to remember him, because there's only one Ruben Gonzalez! It's probably safe to say he's played more opponents than anyone else in the game today. I mean count the years he's been playing and do the math! I asked how he was doing with his tendon problem. He told me it was coming along okay and that he planned to take it easy for a while. That year he won the New York State Championship, the Regionals, and then went on to win the Nationals in Houston. He took it easy all right. Every single opponent he played he took out easily! To this amazing feat I can only ask, 'What would he have been like if he had taken things seriously?'

I am the same age as Ruben. So we play in the same amateur age divisions (40+ & 45+) and we've both been playing racquetball for over 28 years! So it isn't like I just discovered Ruben Gonzalez. Hardly! This having been said I can tell you I am very surprised that it took so long for him to be nominated to the Racquetball Hall of

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At the end of those 10 seconds — Hilecher recalls that it seemed like 10 minutes — Gonzalez overruled the referee, thereby handing the match to Hogan. The spectators sat stunned. The display of honesty took nearly a minute for them to absorb. When they understood the magnitude of what they had witnessed, they roared with approval. This was Babe Ruth pointing toward the fence, or Doug Flutie completing the Hail Mary pass. Gonzalez had given them one of racquetball's defining moments.

"I hear about that call all of the time and that's not bad," Gonzalez says. "Can you think of anything better to be remembered for?"

Nothing better, but perhaps something close. He's 48 *still* hopes for another win on the pro tour. Wouldn't that be a hoot? Tripod beating the Magic Show!

It couldn't happen to a nicer guy ...

Fame. And to this prestigious honor, I say 'Terrific' and 'It's about time!' He is a player who has done it all. He's won Pro-Stops, been ranked professionally in the top five for too many years to count, and come back after a terrible injury and won the Amateur Nationals! Now at the age of 48 he's back playing the pros! It's also no secret that he has both motivated and inspired many young protégés — most notably Sudsy Monchick and Jason Mannino. And he's done all this while continuing to compete against opponents that were young enough to be his own offspring. He's been an inspiration, a breath of fresh air, in a sport that more than routinely sparks angry and aggressive behavior. He's done so much. As a player, coach, and leader he's significantly affected and in some ways changed the sport we all love and appreciate. And what's more is that he's also done it longer and more successfully than all of us. In my opinion he should have been nominated long ago! This, of course is only one players' opinion and, like noses, we all have one.

In the end we all have to decide for ourselves why it's taken so long to recognize this truly remarkable man for what he is — one of the greatest players and racquetball figures of all time! He's exciting to see play. He's interesting to be around. He's never aloof, nor arrogant. He's always helpful. He's the epitome of sportsmanship. He is one for all of us to try to emulate. He is a man of character with strong integrity. He's a natural leader. And he's ageless. How can anyone not admire and respect that? Ruben is a man for our time. And he's been an unsung hero for altogether too many years. Therefore, it's easy for me to say that ... on behalf of this writer and the millions of others that he has influenced, Thank you, Ruben, for all that you've given and continue to give to us and to racquetball. You are truly a unique and special individual, a man of all time and you should be proud to know that you have already earned ageless respect from all of us! Few athletes in any sport at any time in our history have ever earned more!

HOW TO *GET HYPER*

(AND AVOID A SECOND YEAR OF THE SAME
OLD TITANIUM RACQUETBALL).

TAUGHT BY RACQUETBALL PROFESSORS CLIFF SWAIN AND DEREK ROBINSON.

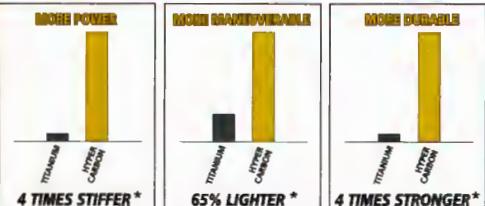
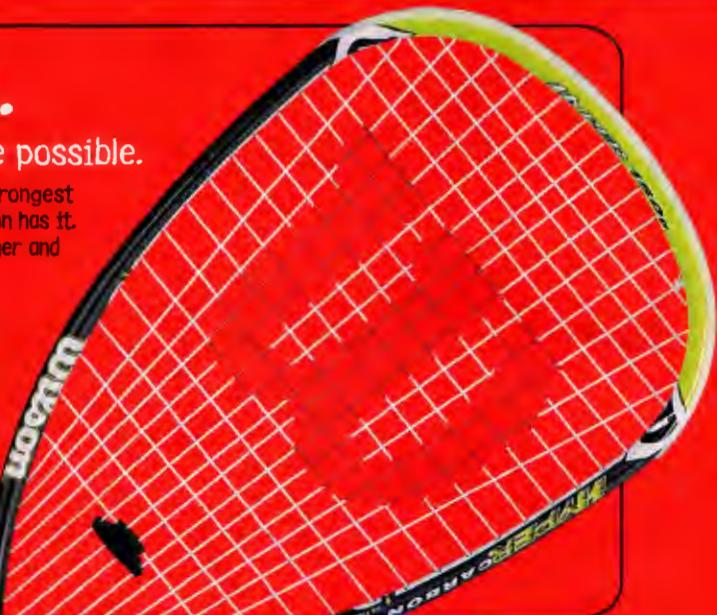


Lesson 1.

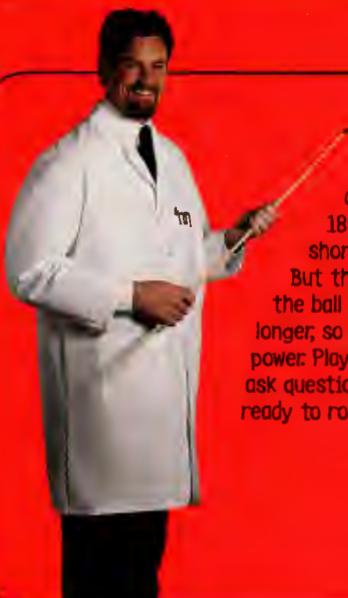
With Hyper Carbon, all things are possible.

Hyper Carbon™ is the lightest, stiffest, strongest material ever used in racquets. And only Wilson has it. Hyper Carbon is 4-times stiffer, 4-times stronger and 65% lighter than titanium.

The Hyper 150g is the lightest racquetball racquet ever made. The maneuverability is amazing. Yet the incredible stiffness of Hyper Carbon and the trampoline effect of Power Holes™ technology create awesome power. With no vibration. And don't worry about arm fatigue. The head-heavy Hammer Design® lets you generate maximum swing speed with no extra effort. I've never played anything like the Hyper 150g.



*Comparison numbers: Hyper Carbon™ vs. titanium. All materials compared in their raw material states.



With all due respect, Cliff, the Hyper Air Hammer™ is the most powerful racquet in racquetball. The combination of Hyper Carbon and the 180-gram head heavy design really shortens the distance to the front wall. But the flexibility of Power Holes keeps the ball on the strings a split second longer; so you can control all that power. Players who hit first and ask questions later should get ready to rock.

Hyper Air Hammer

When you buy either of these sensational Hyper Carbon racquets, you get "The Mind of a Champion", Wilson's new video starring Cliff and Derek, ABSOLUTELY FREE! That's a \$19.95 value.





Lesson 2.

All gloves are not created equal.

The next time you buy a racquetball glove take this quiz:

- 1) Is the glove made of premium SensiTouch™ Cabretta sheepskin leather?
- 2) Does it have a seamless one-piece palm and thumb to reduce bunching and blisters?
- 3) Does it feature dive protection on the knuckles and along the two outside fingers?
- 4) Is it great looking with lots of color?

(Hint: If you didn't answer "Yes" to all 4 questions, buy the new Rage glove from Wilson.)



Lesson 3.

Performance and style are not mutually exclusive in a racquetball shoe.

(That means you can have them both in the same shoe.)

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Slash DST Mid



Lesson 4.

Stop dreaming about a protective eyeguard that looks like sunglasses.

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Vents



Lesson 5.

Bag the old excuses... and the new equipment.

Once you move up to Hyper Carbon, you'll need this new All Gear Bag. It features a full length racquet pocket, zippered inside wet pocket, three accessory pockets and a detachable glove cord. There's a place for everything – except excuses. You won't need those now.



All Gear Bag



Lesson 6.

Just Get Hyper!

It's not the same old titanium racquetball anymore.





ABOVE: 18 AND UNDER WINNERS BROOKE CRAWFORD AND JOSH TUCKER ACCEPT THE JUNIOR TEAM TROPHY. BELOW: THE ENTIRE TEAM CELEBRATES AT THE BANQUET. ALL PHOTOS: CHRISTIE HYDE.

The Twelve Days of ... a Junior World Racquetball — Christmas!

.... On the first day of a junior racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... one team of tournament staff!

USRA Programs Director Jim Hiser, Tournament Director Margo Daniels and Jim's 'right-hand-gal' Heather Fender arrived in sunny southern California, but enjoying the beach was the last thing on their minds this pre-holiday week.

.... On the second day of a junior racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... two pounding headaches!

Jim Hiser was faced with the monumental task of compiling draws for 294 junior athletes representing eight countries competing in 30 different divisions, in 48 hours – or less.

.... On the third day of a junior racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... three hundred junior players!

Of the nearly 300 junior athletes competing at the Pro Kennex 11th IRF World Junior Championships, almost half were representing a country other than the USA, the largest percentage ever for a racquetball event held in the USA. Team Mexico brought the largest contingent with more than 60 athletes traveling north of the border to compete. Both Canada and Ireland fielded large teams for the event. Other countries included Puerto Rico, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador.

.... On the fourth day of a junior racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... four wins in boys' 18- singles for the USA.

Competition kicked off Friday evening with a limited number of matches in the boys' 18-and-under and 16- singles and girls' 10-doubles. USA athletes grabbed four wins in the boys' 18- singles division, but the talk of the evening was Mexico's strong first round. Mexican players opened in eight matches and won seven of them, with the team's only loss coming in the boys' 18- singles where California-resident Juan Herrera knocked off Manual Villa, 15-7, 15-2.

With such a strong start, Team USA's coaches and athletes knew that their defense of their world junior championship title would not be easy.



... On the fifth day of a junior racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... five pairs of Venezuelan team forfeits.

The Venezuelan Team was forced to officially withdraw from competition on Saturday due to massive flooding in their country. Head Coach Manuel Medina told World Junior Championship officials that the team of 10 athletes and their families had been spared from the disaster, but the airport and highways were all closed. Thousands of people perished in the natural disaster, which unleashed avalanches of mud, boulders and water. A moment of silence was observed for the Venezuelan Team and its countrymen at Los Caballeros Sports Village before play continued.

... On the sixth day of a junior racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... six unanswered points by Janel Tisinger.

Canoga Falls, Calif.'s Janel Tisinger met fourth-seed Joanna Rivera of Mexico in the girls' 16- quarterfinals. Rivera jumped out to a quick lead, winning the first game 15-8 and was leading the second 12-5 when Tisinger mounted a huge comeback with the aid of U.S. Junior National Team assistant coach Kelley Beane. Janel rallied to take the second game 15-14, and the momentum carried into the tiebreaker where she took the match 11-6.

The quarterfinals proved detrimental for many other highly seeded players as top-seed Juan Arzate of Mexico fell in the boys' 14- singles to California-resident Bernard Dorman in a tiebreaker, 15-14, 7-15, 11-4. Mexico's Alejandra Licon knocked off girls' 10- top-seed Shannon Inglesby of Portland, Ore., 15-11, 15-9.

The boys' 18- singles division proved to be the hottest competition of the day. Although top-seeded Josh Tucker of Joplin, Mo., breezed into the quarterfinals with his 15-0, 15-1 win over Canada's Trevor Grunbridge, it was one of the only easy matches in the division.

Second-seed Octavio Bustillos of Mexico fell to Annapolis, Md.'s Matt Gehling, 15-6, 15-9, while fourth-seed Kam Barteski of Canada could not manage the onslaught by the USA's Mitch Williams, falling 15-13, 15-12. The fifth-seed, Mexico's Oviedo Baco, battled a long, close tiebreaker match against Riverton, Wyo.'s James Ford, but was unable to hold out, falling to Ford 12-15, 15-14, 11-10.

.. On the seventh day of a junior racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... seven guaranteed medals for Team USA.

Although the challenge raised by Mexico and Canada was intense early in the championships, Team USA began locking up the medal rounds with big wins in the boys' 18- and 16- singles and girls' 18- quarterfinals.

Team USA was guaranteed a medal in girls' 18s by advancing two of its athletes to the semifinals. Oregon's Brooke Crawford topped Nebraska's Megan Bals, 15-6, 15-2, while Iowa's Sara Borland knocked off Oregon's Michelle Gonzalez, 7-15, 15-2, 15-3.

The USA locked up medal sweeps in both the boys' 18s and 16s by setting up all-USA semifinals in both singles divisions.

Josh Tucker ousted University of Memphis' Jeffrey Garner, 15-5, 15-2, while James Ford took Mitch Williams to a tiebreaker for the 15-9, 12-15, 11-7 win in the boys' 18s. Shane Vanderson squeaked past Mexico's Erwin Bernal, 15-14, 14-15, 11-9, and Stephen Lewis took out Matthew Gehling, 15-9, 15-14, to also advance to the boys' 18s semifinals.

In the boys' 16s, Jack Huczek toppled Zach Miller, 15-2, 15-5, while his doubles partner Bart Crawford defeated Martin Cory, 15-7, 15-8, to advance. Second-seeded Eduardo Ortega of Mexico was knocked off by Matthew McElhiney, and Andy Hawthorne struggled to top Erik Leetch, 13-15, 15-9, 11-5.

... On the eighth day of a junior racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... eight medals to USA athletes.

The first round of finals were held on Tuesday, with USA athletes capturing eight medals, while Mexico stayed hot on their heels with six. The Mexican boys' 12- doubles team of Jose Cabrera and Cesar Guzman defeated Oregon's Joey Lakowske and Charles Pratt, 15-1, 14-15, 11-7 for the gold medal, while another Mexican pair, David Ortega and Jose Ramos, took the boys' 10- doubles title from Alaska's Nick Arturo and Wisconsin's Brad Starken, 15-5, 15-6.

California's Jose Rojas grabbed the boys' 8- singles title by knocking off Oregon's Erick Podwill, 15-4, 15-5, but Podwill rebounded to pick up the boys' 8-and-under multi-bounce gold medal over Mexico's Elizzer Maldonado, 11-9, 11-5.

Tuesday was filled with semifinal action in all the other divisions, and Team USA firmed its strong lead in the team competitions with big wins. Both Brooke Crawford and Sara Borland knocked off Canadian opponents to advance to the girls' 18- singles gold medal match. Crawford toppled Genevieve Brodeur, 15-11, 15-2, while Borland rallied from behind to defeat Veronique Guillemette, 11-15, 15-1, 11-5. However, the semifinals would not be the last time the USA and Canadian athletes would meet. Crawford and Borland, as doubles partners, advanced to the corresponding gold medal match, to face the same Canadian pair.

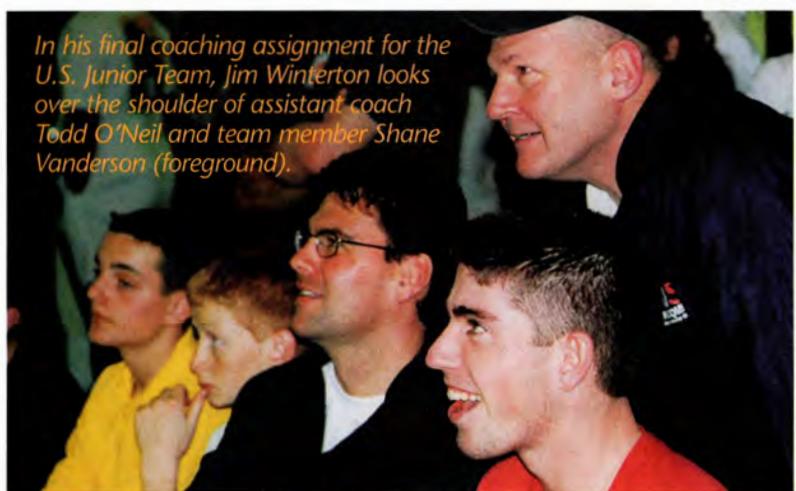
Top-seed Kristen Walsh topped California's Janel Tisinger, 15-4, 15-2, in the girls' 16- semifinal. Walsh's doubles partner, Krystal Csuk, hoped to meet her partner Walsh in the singles' finals, but was unsuccessful against Canada's Karina Odegard, falling in a fierce tiebreaker 15-10, 13-15, 11-10. Walsh and Csuk did advance to the doubles final by taking care of Ireland's Sonya Donnelly and Niamh O'Neill, 15-4, 15-12.

In Boys 18- singles, Josh Tucker defeated James Ford, 15-7, 15-9, while Shane Vanderson topped Stephen Lewis, 15-4, 15-11, for the two to advance to the gold medal match. As a team, Vanderson and Lewis came back to knock off Jeffrey Garner and Mitch Williams, 3-15, 15-8, 11-0, in the boys' 18 doubles semifinals. Matt Gehling and Michael Harmon, who shocked the racquetball world at the U.S. National Doubles Championships with an upset of the then-defending open division champions, also advanced to the doubles finals by topping Mexico's Erwin Bernal and Hector Urquidi, 15-7, 8-15, 11-6.

Another doubles' pair was set to meet up against each other in boys' 16- singles gold medal match as Jack Huczak advanced by defeating Andy Hawthorne, 15-7, 15-7, and his partner, Bart Crawford topped Matthew McElhiney, 15-7, 15-14. The two also made it to the doubles finals with their win over Mexico's Abraham Pena and Mario Hernandez.

Yet another all USA final was set in the boys' 14- singles division as Brandon Shoemaker defeated Oregon's Ryan Lindell, and Steve Klaiman knocked off Mexico's Augustin Tristan.

In his final coaching assignment for the U.S. Junior Team, Jim Winterton looks over the shoulder of assistant coach Todd O'Neil and team member Shane Vanderson (foreground).



... On the ninth day of a junior racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... nine singles gold medals to USA athletes.

USA athletes captured nine gold medals, aiding Team USA in capturing the overall, girls' and boys' team titles. After taking the silver medal last year to Rocky Carson, Josh Tucker was determined to bring home the gold in boys' 18- singles division, but Shane Vanderson wasn't giving up the gold without a fight. Tucker took the first game 15-13, but Vanderson rallied back to win the second game 15-10. However, Vanderson's momentum began to waver in the tiebreaker, as Tucker took the gold medal 11-7.

Vanderson was able to take home a gold medal anyway as he and partner Stephen Lewis topped Matt Gehling and Michael Harmon in the boys' 18-and-under doubles gold medal round, 11-15, 15-11, 11-10.

Jack Huczak and Bart Crawford started off Wednesday morning by capturing the boys' 16-and-under doubles gold medal together, but faced off against each other later in the day for the singles title. Huczak, fresh off his men's open win at the U.S. OPEN, was able to get the better of his partner, defeating Crawford 15-6, 15-3, for his eighth-consecutive world junior singles title.

Steven Klaiman and Brandon Shoemaker were another doubles team who captured gold together in the morning, in the boys' 14-and-under division, but took to the court as singles opponents in the afternoon. Klaiman managed to top Shoemaker for the singles gold medal, 15-12, 15-8.

Doubles partners turned opponents was common in the girl's brackets as well, as Brooke Crawford and Sara Borland grabbed gold in the girls' 18- doubles before meeting in the singles gold medal round. Borland,

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hampered by a shoulder injury in the second game, was unable to hold off her doubles partner, taking the silver, 15-12, 15-8.

In the only singles gold medal round among the older age divisions that was not an all-USA match, Kristen Walsh topped Canada's Karina Odegard, 15-14, 15-9, for the girls' 16-singles title. Walsh's luck was not as good in the doubles final, as she and partner Krystal Csuk fell to teammates Lauren Deutsch and Crystal Winfrey, 15-12, 9-15, 11-5.

Once again doubles partners Lindsay Deutsch and Adrienne Fisher grabbed the gold in the girls' 14-and-under doubles division before meeting each other on the court for the singles title. Fisher knocked off her partner, 15-3, 15-4, for her second gold medal of the championships.

... On the tenth day of a racquetball Christmas, the racquetball Santa sent to sunny Fountain Valley ... ten planes to take all the athletes safely home.

After receiving their medals and dancing the night away at a banquet following Wednesday's gold medal matches, athletes and coaches boarded planes to head home to be with their families for Christmas.

The eleventh and twelfth days of this particular racquetball Christmas were not spent in sunny Fountain Valley ... but in hometowns across the world as parents and athletes frantically prepared for the Christmas holiday, after realizing the dream of competing in the last World Junior Championships of the century! Congratulations to all, and to all a good night!



PRO KENNEX 11TH IRF WORLD JUNIOR RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
PRESENTED BY PENN RACQUET SPORTS
LOS CABALLEROS SPORTS VILLAGE
FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

BOYS SINGLES

Boys' 18-: Josh Tucker (Joplin, Mo.) def. Shane Vanderson (Dublin, Ohio) 15-13, 11-15, 11-7
Boys 16-: Jack Huczak (Rochester Hills, Mich.) def. Bart Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 15-6, 15-3
Boys' 14-: Steven Klaiman (Houston, Texas) def. Brandon Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio) 15-12, 15-8
Boys' 12-: Cesar Guzman (Mexico) def. Joey Lakowske (Corvallis, Ore.) 15-11, 15-13
Boys' 10-: David Ortega (Mexico) def. Jose Ramos (Mexico) 15-12, 15-8
Boys' 8-: Jose Rojas (Stockton, Calif.) def. Erick Podwill (Portland, Ore.) 15-4, 15-5
Boys' 8- multi-bounce: Erick Podwill (Portland, Ore.) def. Elizier Maldonado (Mexico) 11-9; 11-5
Boys' 6- multi-bounce: Joseph Lee (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Jaime Martell (Mexico) 11-5; 9-11; 11-7

GIRLS SINGLES

Girls' 18-: Brooke Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Sara Borland (Bettendorf, Iowa) 15-12, 15-8
Girls' 16-: Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, UT) def. Karina Odegard (Canada) 15-14, 15-9
Girls' 14-: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) def. Lindsay Deutsch (Studio City, Calif.) 15-3, 15-4
Girls' 12-: Brandi Prentice (Canada) def. Kelley Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) 15-3, 15-11
Girls' 10-: Eleni Guzman (Mexico) def. Alejandra Licon (Mexico) 15-10, 15-3
Girls' 8- multi-bounce: Wesley Toland (Parkin, Ark.) def. Stephanie Enriquez (Mexico) 7-11, 11-6, 11-7.

DOUBLES

Boys' 18- Doubles: Stephen Lewis (Kennewick, Wash.) - Shane Vanderson (Dublin, Ohio) def. Matt Gehling (Annapolis, Md.) - Michael Harmon (Sarasota, Fla.) 11-15, 15-11, 11-10
Boys' 16- Doubles: Bart Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.) - Jack Huczak (Rochester Hills, Mich.) def. Patric Mascorro (Houston, Texas) - Rusty Powell (Baton Rouge, La.) 15-5, 15-10
Boys' 14- Doubles: Steven Klaiman (Houston, Texas) - Brandon Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio) def. Juan Arzate - Alajandro Portillo (Mexico) 9-15, 15-3, 11-3
Boys' 12- Doubles: Jose Cabrera - Cesar Guzman (Mexico) def. Joey Lakowske (Corvallis, Ore.) - Charles Pratt (Portland, Ore.) 15-1; 14-15; 11-7
Boys' 10- Doubles: David Ortega/Jose Ramos (Mexico) def. Nick Arturo (Anchorage, Alaska)/Brad Starken (Muskego, Wis.) 15-5, 15-6

Girls' 18- Doubles: Sara Borland (Bettendorf, Iowa) - Brooke Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Genevieve Brodeur - Veronique Guillemette (Canada) 10-15, 15-13, 11-3
Girls' 16- Doubles: Lauren Deutsch (Studio City, Calif.) - Crystal Winfrey (Powell, Ohio) def. Krystal Csuk (Naperville, Ohio) - Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah) 15-12, 9-15, 11-5
Girls' 14- Doubles: Lindsay Deutsch (Studio City, Calif.) - Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) def. Jenny Cary (Hillsboro, Ore.) - Cari Miltitsky (Fresh Meadows, N.Y.) 15-8, 12-15, 11-6
Girls' 12- Doubles: Ashley Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) - Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Nancy Enriquez - Marcela Moreno (Mexico) 14-15, 15-7, 11-2
Girls 10- Doubles: Shannon Inglesby (Portland, Ore.) - Brittany Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Eleni Guzman - Evelyn Jasso (Mexico) 15-12, 15-14

Mixed 18- Doubles: Karina Odegard - Kris Odegard (Canada) def. Brad Bodai (Carmichael, Calif.) - Adlisha Payne (Sacramento, Calif.) 15-4, 15-13
Mixed 16- Doubles: Terence Li - Brandi Prentice (Canada) def. Dan Beaudry (Pueblo, Colo.) - Erica Beaudry (Pueblo, Colo.) 15-14, 15-14
Mixed 14- Doubles: Jenny Cary (Hillsboro, Ore.) - Ryan Lindell (Beaverton, Ore.) def. Valerie Lefebvre - Perras (Canada) 15-12, 15-3
Mixed 12- Doubles: Andrew Grissom (San Jose, Calif.) - Ashley Willhite (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Joey Lakowske (Corvallis, Ore.) - Ashley Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 15-9, 15-13
Mixed 10- Doubles: Jonathan Doyle (Cincinnati, Ohio) - Brittany Legget (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Brady Regier (Gladstone, Ore.) - Liz Taylor (Portland, Ore.) 15-13, 15-3



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ProFILE Tour News



Colorado Pro Stop Update by Christie Hyde

Hot on the heels of the Promus U.S. OPEN, both the men's and women's pro tours rolled into the Denver suburb of Lakewood, Colorado for the IRT Controlling Systems/Coca-Cola Pro-Am and the WIRT Zanhaus Medical Supplies Pro-Am in mid-December.

After the upsets at the U.S. OPEN, fans on hand at the Lakewood Athletic Club were looking for some great rematches, but the frigid Colorado weather — coupled with the grueling competition and travel between the two events — took its toll on many of the top athletes. While flu-ridden U.S. OPEN champion Jason Mannino ran a high temperature, many other athletes showed signs of being under the weather as well.

The first round of men's competition offered the first upset, as retired-pro Woody Clouse knocked off No.9

seeded Rocky Carson, 11-6, 12-14, 9-11, 11-5, 11-7, to advance to the round of 16, where he fell victim to Derek Robinson in straight games. The sixteens saw no major upsets, but still had its share of excitement, as a sickly Mannino struggled past Louis Vogel, 11-3, 11-0, 12-14, 7-11, 11-5, and Dan Fowler took No.6 seeded Mike Guidry to five long games, 11-13, 12-10, 11-2, 1-11, 13-11.

Although top-seeded Sudsy Monchik complained of feeling every bit as sickly as many of the other players did, it was not evident on the court, as he breezed past Derek Robinson in the quarterfinals in three straight games of 11-5 each. And the much-anticipated rematch between Monchik and Mannino would not take place at this stop, either, after Mannino finally succumbed to his flu and forfeited to Tim Doyle due to illness. On the other half of the bracket, both John Ellis and Cliff Swain breezed into the semifinals as well.

Monchik made quick work of Doyle in the semifinals, 11-2, 11-7, 11-4, as did Swain of Ellis, 11-5, 11-7, 13-11, to square off (once again) the top-two players on tour — a match many had anticipated seeing a week earlier in Memphis.

Swain, who had captured this particular mile-high title each time the pro tour stopped in Lakewood, was by far the crowd favorite, as he came out strong to win the first game 11-9. But later in the match Swain's play began to deteriorate and his frustration level rose as Monchik bounced back from his U.S. OPEN loss to take the win in the next three games, 11-7, 11-6, 11-2.



How funny was it? Sudsy and Cliff just can't seem to agree. Photo: John Foust.

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Ron Brown **Dir. of Coaching – Canada (not pictured)**



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Ladies Lakewood Lineup

The women's competition saw Christie Van Hees reclaim her number-two ranking (after being positioned No.11 at the U.S. OPEN), thereby bumping Cheryl Gudinas to third and leaving the undefeated Jackie Paraiso undisturbed in the top spot.

In the round of sixteen, the top-five women advanced in straight games, but there was plenty of excitement among the lower ranks. Phyllis Morris upset No.7 seeded Kim Machiran, 11-3, 11-8, 5-11, 3-11, 11-4, while No.8 Michelle Lucas struggled past No.9 Doreen Fowler, 11-9, 10-12, 6-11, 11-6, 11-5.

Paraiso, Van Hees and Gudinas quickly put away their quarterfinal opponents in three-straight games, but the most interesting faceoff was the rematch between Susana Acosta and Kersten Hallander. Acosta upset Hallander in the U.S. OPEN quarterfinals, winning a semi-final berth in Memphis on an always-controversial avoidable hinder call. But Hallander was determined to regain her top-four ranking, and defeated Acosta without incident, 11-9, 13-11, 2-11, 11-8, to advance to the semifinal.



Jackie prepares a backhand against Cheryl Gudinas in Denver. Photo: John Foust.

There, Paraiso put a quick end to Hallander's run, defeating her 11-2, 11-5, 11-3, to advance to the finals, but the crowd's attention was on another U.S. OPEN rematch between Van Hees and Gudinas (yet another pro who was obviously under the weather).

With her father cheering and coaching her from the crowd, Van Hees quickly ran out to a two game lead, 11-8, 11-7, and was leading the third game 5-0 when Gudinas mounted her comeback with a third game win, 11-7. In spite of having to blow her nose repeatedly between rallies, Gudinas continued to gain momentum, overcome her illness and defeat Van Hees over the next two games, 11-4, 11-8. Her advance into the finals allowed Gudinas to take back the short-lived second-place ranking spot that Van Hees had claimed coming into the event.

On Sunday, Gudinas managed to take a strong first-game lead to win it 11-7, but slipped in the next two as Paraiso took them 11-3, 11-5. Gudinas rallied back in the fourth to win it 12-10 and force a fifth, but Paraiso was on fire and quickly put away her opponent 11-1 to capture her ninth-straight WIRT title.

New Mexico

Pro-Am

by Cheryl Gudinas

The 1999-2000 WIRT season got underway at Tom Young's Athletic Club in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico. Although some of the top seeds were noticeably absent — which would later affect their seedings at the Promus U.S. Open — some new faces appeared to make the tournament an exciting event.

Recent mom to her second child, Lourdes Sanders rejoined the tour by eliminating Johanna Rivera in the first round, while Jo Shattuck beat Cyd Evans in three, and top junior player Kristen Walsh beat Peggy Stephens in an

exciting five game match. Alicia Blaakman also fell to Rachel Gelman in the first round.

In the round of 16, top seeded Jackie Paraiso advanced easily over Sanders, as did Phyllis Morris and Michelle Lucas over their respective opponents, Sandy Kubany and Jo Shattuck. Janet Myers fell to Lisa Hjelm in an 11-5 tiebreaker, while Kersten Hallander and Doreen Fowler each advanced in three games. Angela Burth went to five games before losing to Suzy Acosta, Mexico's top player. Second seeded Cheryl Gudinas took out Rachel Gelman in three straight.

In the most exciting and lengthy match of the tournament, Hjelm faced Lucas in a two-and-a-half-hour barnburner. With great retrieving ability, Lisa made thrilling gets in the fifth to take the match 11-2, 11-13, 8-11, 11-5, 11-5. Hallander took four games to defeat Doreen Fowler, who played well but didn't capitalize on some opportunities when she needed to most. Suzy Acosta fell to Gudinas in three.

In the semis, Paraiso met up with a worn-out Lisa Hjelm. Try as she might, Lisa just didn't have the energy after her earlier marathon that day to give Paraiso a game early. She managed to push Paraiso in the latter stages of the match, but it would not be enough. Jackie held on to win the third game 12-10, for the match.

On the other half of the bracket, Gudinas came out looking a bit flat. Hallander played well in hitting some of her overhead reverse pinches, and with a good service game won the first two games 11-8, 11-2. Luckily for Gudinas, the tide would turn as she scraped together a win in the third, got some momentum and hung on to take the fourth game as well. Hallander never re-grouped, and appeared to lose her focus in the fifth, dropping the game 11-1, and allowing Gudinas to advance into the first final of the season.

Paraiso came out focused in the final, fully adjusted to the altitude, and looking sharp. Taking early leads in all three games of the short match, she appeared to be in control throughout. Gudinas didn't seem to have the fire she needed to take out the tour's #1 ranked player as Jackie earned her first victory of the new season in straight games of 11-9, 11-9, 11-8.



pro X.

Shoulder Injuries

by **Grant P. Smith D.C.**

It doesn't really matter if you are a beginner or an advanced player ... we are all guilty of getting a little lazy on the court from time to time. Problems that arise in the shoulder area are usually due to improper form. Trying to overpower your opponent with a

cross-court pass or a crowd-pleasing backhand splat might expose the shoulder to possible injury. And let's not forget the overhead offensive shot or even the "old school" overhead serve that can potentially give rise to other types of shoulder injuries.

The shoulder complex is made up of three bones: the collar bone (clavicle), the wing bone (scapula) and the long bone of the arm. These are held together by muscles and ligaments — but without a true socket to hold it in place — so the shoulder sacrifices stability for a large arc of movement. It is very important to make sure that the shoulder is properly conditioned before entering into a tournament situation. Players often push themselves more in competition and those who do not have the proper conditioning are at risk. If you notice even a subtle loss of motion, weakness or pain with movement, you need to do something about it since the pain usually does not go away on its own. When treated immediately, normal function can often be restored.

Treatment of shoulder injuries initially focus on relief of pain, using ice, non-steroidal anti-inflammatories and rest while maintaining your usual cardiovascular fitness program. You may also introduce stretching and progressive resistance exercises to re-establish full range of motion.

Theraband and light weights are then used with gradual tension at varying angles as soon as most of the pain has diminished. How much and how long is really up to the individual's current conditioning and pain levels. If a shoulder condition persists, consult your primary care physician and it probably wouldn't hurt to pick up a few lessons on fundamentals from your local club pro.



tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

IRT Rankings

[Through 01/31/00]

Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1. Sudsy Monchik	1	2	4364
2. Cliff Swain	2	1	3550
3. John Ellis	3	3	2630
4. Jason Mannino	4	4	2509
5. Tim Doyle	8	8	2020
6. Adam Karp	5	9	1896
7. Mike Guidry	7	5	1860
8. Derek Robinson	6	7	1760
9. Rocky Carson	9	20	1719
10. Dan Fowler	11	11	1456
11. Andy Roberts	10	6	1275
12. Mike Locker	12	17	1149
13. Doug Eagle	13	13	956
14. Scott Reiff	24	57	630
Louis Vogel	14	12	630
16. Jeff Bell	16	46	537
17. Luis Bustillos	17	24	516
18. Ruben Gonzalez	18	23	506
19. Mike Johnston	23	40	478
20. Eric Muller	15	22	475

WIRT Rankings

[Through 01/25/00]

Player	Last Issue	Last Year	Total Points
1. Jackie Paraiso	1	1	697
2. Cheryl Gudinas	2	2	482
3. Christie Van Hees	3	3	459
4. Kersten Hallander	4	4	368
5. Susana Acosta	5	17	349
6. Lisa Hjelm	6	25	283
7. Phyllis Morris	7	12	250
8. Kim Machiran	8	30	231
9. Janet Myers	9	7	223
10. Doreen Fowler	10	10	220
11. Michelle Lucas	11	9	203
12. Lori-Jane Powell	12	16	153
13. Jennifer Dering	13	34	152
14. Jo Shattuck	14	29	138
15. Angela Burth	15	20	135
16. Lourdes Sanders	16	na	133
17. Josee Grand'Maitre	17	25	129
18. Angela Grisar	18	na	86
19. Laura Fenton	19t	18	81
Sadie Hall	19t	37	81
Robin Levine	19t	8	81

1999-2000 IRT SCORECARD & CALENDAR

New Orleans.....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain6, 1, 6
 Stockton.....Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis(7), 5, 8, 5
 Albuquerque.....Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik7, 11, 8-2 (inj.)
 Chicago.....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain8, 3, 5
 Memphis.....Jason Mannino def. Cliff Swain8, (4), 8, 8
 Lakewood.....Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain(9), 7, 6, 2
 Boston.....Sudsy Monchik def. Tim Doyle12, (5), 9, 15
 Fairfield.....Cliff Swain def. Jason Mannino3, 7, 3

February 17-20Brooklyn Ctr, MNNW Hwy 100 Racquet/Swim
 February 24-27Rochester, NY.....Penfield Racquet & Fitness
 March 9-12Birmingham, ALPrime Racquet and Fitness
 March 16-19Modesto, CA.....Modesto Court Room
 March 23-26Santa Barbara, CA.....Goleta Valley Athletic Club
 April 26-30Las Vegas, NV.....Las Vegas Sporting House
 May 11-14Seattle, WA.....TBA
 May 18-21San Diego, CA.....Sorrento Valley Fitness Club
 June 1-4Portland, OR.....Multnomah Athletic Club

1999-2000 WIRT SCORECARD & CALENDAR

AlbuquerqueJackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas9, 9, 8
 Memphis.....Jackie Paraiso def. Christie Van Hees (8), 11, 1, (5), 2
 LakewoodJackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas....(7), 3, 5, (10), 1

March 17-19Roanoke, VA.....Roanoke Athletic Club
 March 24-26Northern VA.....Crystal Gateway Sport & Health
 April 27-30Las Vegas, NV.....Las Vegas Sporting House
 June 2-4Portland, OR.....Multnomah Athletic Club

GUIDRY/HJELM CAPTURE ZANHAUS MEDICAL SUPPLIES WORLD PROFESSIONAL MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The World Pro Mixed Doubles Championship was truly an international affair as IRT & WIRT pros teamed up in Lakewood to crown a mixed doubles champion for the first time in five years. Players from the US, Mexico, Canada, and South America put on a great show for the spectators with Mike Guidry and Lisa Hjelm capturing a five-game thriller over Luis Bustillos and Suzy Acosta. Both the semifinals and final were crowd favorites with great gets, teamwork, and strategy. Spectators really enjoyed the teamwork between the IRT & WIRT pros as the women proved more than capable of handling the big serves and power of their IRT opponents. The event was a great success and sponsors, players, and spectators look forward to expanding the event next year to be even bigger and better.

SEMI FINALS: Mike Guidry/Lisa Hjelm defeat Brian Istace/Michelle Lucas 10-12, 11-6, 12-10, 11-; Luis Bustillos/Suzy Acosta defeat Woody Clouse/Angela Grisar 10-12, 9-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-7.

FINAL: Mike Guidry/Lisa Hjelm defeat Luis Bustillos/Suzy Acosta 11-1, 1-11, 2-11, 11-8, 11-6.

Derek Robinson and Robin Levine win with Ashaway string in their racket.

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OFFICIAL STRING OF THE USRA

PLEASE PRINT ...

Name _____ Gender: M / F

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eves) _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Date/Time arriving in Houston _____
(Refer to "Opening Rounds" at left for travel planning)

Regional (required) _____ Division(s) _____

FOR SEEDING — Please indicate your finish in these events:

1999 National Singles Div ____ Finish ____ Div ____ Finish ____
 2000 State Championship Div ____ Finish ____ Div ____ Finish ____
 2000 Regional Qualifier Div ____ Finish ____ Div ____ Finish ____
 1999-00 NMRA / WSMRA Div ____ Finish ____ Div ____ Finish ____
 1999 U.S. OPEN Div ____ Finish ____ Div ____ Finish ____

WAIVER I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the USRA, Ektelon, Downtown YMCA, Penn Racquet Sports, and all other event sponsors or their respective agents for any and all injuries. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can provide certification in writing that my protective eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USRA Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the USRA/USOC guidelines, and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature & Date _____

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

 I competed in my regional at this level, as shown above. I have been AmPRO certified at this level by:

AmPRO Certified Instructor (name required) _____

 I have competed at this level in my state since January 1, 2000.

Verified by: State President (signature required) _____

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

MC/Visa _____ Exp. _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Entry Form, Fees & Payment

FAX ENTRY TO: 719-635-0685

ALL players must have pre-qualified by competing in any division at a regional event. See "Qualifiers & Certifications."

OPEN

Open*
 24-
 25+
 30+
 35+
 40+
 45+
 50+
 55+
 60+
 65+
 70+
 75+
 80+
 85+

SKILL (one only)**

A
 B
 C
 D

AGE + SKILL***

24-	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
25+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
30+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
35+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
40+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
45+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
50+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
55+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
60+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
65+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
70+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
75+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
80+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
85+	<input type="checkbox"/> A/B, or	<input type="checkbox"/> C/D
Wheelchair		

*An "Elite" drop-down division will be offered to every first-round loser in the Open Team Qualifier. Players will automatically be placed into this draw and re-seeded for continued competition. Champions will receive title recognition and award, but no consolation round will be offered.

** Player may enter only one of the divisions shown in RED, and must be approved to compete at that skill level (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

*** Players must be approved at the skill level chosen along with their age (see "Qualifiers & Certifications").

FIRST EVENT (\$76.00) \$ _____
SECOND EVENT (\$35.00) \$ _____

Current Membership # Exp. _____
 USRA Membership (\$20.00) \$ _____
 Late Fee (\$15.00) \$ _____
 Telephone Entry fee (\$8.00) \$ _____
 Guest Package (\$70.00) \$ _____
 Guest Name:

Tax deductible donation to Olympic Dream \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Entries are NOT accepted without pre-payment and required signatures. Additional surcharges may include: \$23.00 for returned checks and \$10.00 for declined credit cards.

"The Players Event"

The "Finals" is the only national championship for singles competition in open, skill, age group and combined divisions. In addition to a full week's worth of competition in this Level Six event, you'll enjoy special activities all week long ...

WEDNESDAY • VIP and National Champions Reception — Hyatt Regency. An invitation-only reception to honor winners of a National Championship within the past year.

THURSDAY • Sports Carnival and Dance —Hyatt Regency. Ektelon, Penn and the USRA will host a sports carnival with an opportunity to test your skills at various sporting booths and an accompanying dance with numerous dance contests. Complimentary munchies and drinks.

FRIDAY • 'A Night of Chances' — Analyze the official souvenir program, review past performance statistics, check the odds and place your bets. Featuring a professional race track announcer, this evening of "horse racing" will conclude with winners bidding on selected items. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to the local charity.

SATURDAY • Hula at the Hyatt — The Hyatt Grand Ballroom will become a Hawaiian paradise. Be sure to wear your favorite Hawaiian clothing and receive a souvenir lei from our grass-skirted greeters. Hall of Fame and Outstanding Performance awards will also be presented during the festivities.

SUNDAY • 'Singing in Houston' — try out your best karaoke tunes at the Back Room Bar. Special prizes for best imitations and best all-round.

Need an expanded entry form? Call the office @ 719-635-5396, pick one up at your regional qualifying event, or follow links from www.usra.org / "Index" | "Forms" for a .pdf download.

**FAX ENTRY TO: 719-635-0685
STARTING TIMES: 713-659-8501**

MEMBERS ONLY:

This National Event is hosted for USRA members only. A USRA membership is required of all participants, and entrants may join with their entry, apply on site, or must be able to present a current membership card, a receipt, or a cancelled check indicating recent enrollment as proof of membership.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Wednesday, MAY 10, postmarked no later than Monday, MAY 8. Only pre-paid entries are placed into the draw; all entries are final; and no refunds will be issued after the deadline date, regardless of cause (including unforeseen injury or illness).

TRAVEL & LODGING

THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TRAVEL DESK AND UNITED AIRLINES JOIN THE USRA TO OFFER THE LOWEST POSSIBLE UNITED AIRFARES TO NATIONAL EVENTS! For reservations, phone United's U.S. Olympic Travel Desk, toll-free, at **800/841-0460** between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm EST weekdays. Then reference the special USRA conference account number **5731L** to receive an additional 5% off United's lowest fare! Your support of this program brings racquetball closer to becoming an Olympic Sport!

Ground Transportation: Bus and limousine services are available from both Houston airports (you must make your own arrangements on arrival). From Hobby: \$17/taxi; \$11/Airport Express. From International: \$32/taxi; \$16/Airport Express. Rates shown are approximate and subject to change.

Hyatt Regency Houston, 1200 Louisiana (1 block from YMCA) — newly renovated for 2000! Rate: \$75.00 per night for up to 4 persons/room. For reservations, call 713/654-1234 and mention National Singles to receive your special rate.

QUALIFIERS & CERTIFICATIONS

Regionals: All players must have competed — in any division — at a recognized Regional Qualifier to be eligible to compete in the U.S. National Singles Championships. Any legitimate waivers of qualifying competition must have been directed to — and approved by — the USRA Headquarters **prior** to the scheduled regional weekend. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play, for any reason.

Skill Division Certification: A, B, C, and D division entrants must:

- have competed in the same division in the regional qualifier.
- be AmPRO rated in those divisions (certified by an AmPRO instructor since January 1, 2000), or
- include State Director's signature verification (on entry) indicating competition at the entered level since January 1, 2000

NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria for corresponding skill levels in "Age+A/B" & "Age+C/D" divisions.

Amateur Status: Only amateurs may participate. A professional is defined as anyone who has accepted prize money in the preceding 12 months, regardless of amount, in any IRT/WIRT pro sanctioned tournament or any other event so deemed as professional by the USRA Board of Directors.



M A Y 2 4 - 2 9 , 2 0 0 0

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO: "THE FINALS"

1685 West Uintah • Colorado Springs, CO • 80904-2906 [Or fax to: 719/635-0685]

Entries must be received by WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 (Postmarked no later than May 8)



AmPRO 2000

An Interview with Gary Mazaroff

What is the goal of the American Professional Racquetball Organization [AmPRO]?

To develop a body of knowledge with which to train current and prospective constituents, as well as encourage compensation for professionals in the field, commensurate with their knowledge base, training, and skills. Ideally, teachers, coaches, and programmers will all interact to change the general perception of racquetball being either stagnant or experiencing negative growth.

Why did you elect to take the program Directorship?

I have been involved with racquetball for the better part of 30 years. My background is in education, and I felt that this could be a marriage between someone with the tools, and a program that is crucial for the growth of the sport. In addition, with my intramural and recreational sports background at the university level, I have witnessed firsthand how programming efforts breed success. The instructional and coaching components of AmPRO are two of the ingredients for our overall program success.

As AmPRO Director, what is your responsibility?

To provide leadership and to help spark the industry at all levels, including education, recreation, career opportunities and sales. Also, to have a minimum of one full-time certified professional in every club in the country — within three years — who will have the programming tools and instructional expertise to enhance the enjoyment and to raise the standards of all participants, regardless of background, motivation, and skill level.

How long has AmPRO been around?

A little more than a decade. I can't give you a precise number of years, but I have been involved as a student and as a clinician for approximately ten years.

Major discussions about AmPRO took place at the 15th annual State Leadership Conference in Colorado Springs. What happened?

This was the first time since I have been involved with this conference that all the leaders in the industry were present on the same platform. Even more impressive was that each validated the stance of the others — that we need to get going now to get qualified personnel into the clubs, fitness centers, Y's, colleges, and other locations, in order to help sustain and strengthen the racquetball industry as a whole.

How will this goal be achieved?

With diligence and efficiency; by surrounding myself with professionals who have the same education and motivation as myself. By being visible; traveling into a host of facilities across the country and around the world. By seeing what is working and why; and by sharing resources and experiences with those who require our assistance and with those who wish for positive growth.

What will it mean for the sport and the industry?

A steady growth and room for expansion. More courts will be built, and dormant courts will be re-accessed for high occupancy use. Also, a better bottom-line for owners and operators.

How fast do you think this will happen?

Within three years!

How can others help in this important project?

By placing ego aside and working with others who have something to offer. By enhancing all promotional efforts through word of mouth, actions, and professionalism. Finally, by recognizing and sharing the inherent values of the game and sport and encouraging people to work full time at it.

How important is the involvement of the entire industry to make this happen?

It is mandatory! Once again, racquetball does not — and will not — have the luxury of having various interest groups working to counter other group interests. Each segment of our constituency needs to shine in order to make the whole greater than the sum of the parts. Industry leaders — racquet and ball manufactur-



ers, governing bodies, professional and amateur player organizations, electronic and other media groups — must all continue to strive toward steady growth. Participants and administrators in other sports and disciplines can also share in this wealth. They must be spoon-fed opportunities and reminders that racquetball can and should be a cross-training tool for enjoyment, fitness, and enriched lifestyles.

How long do you think it will take AmPRO to become self-sufficient?

My original plan was to give the program three years of full time commitment. After completing one year of that commitment, my stance is unchanged. Right now self-sufficiency means covering operating costs (including salary) with income from memberships and seminar fees. I envision a constant re-assessment of 'self sufficiency' over time. Expenses and revenue will increase proportionate to the success of the overall program. We cannot be blind to the fact that AmPRO will not thrive with only one person. Additional personnel will be hired to raise our standards and our opportunities. Let's say three more years!

AmPRO Instructor Certification Clinic Schedule

Date	Host Club	City/State	Clinician	Contact
March 14-15	Tyson's Sport & Health	McLean, VA	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960
March 24-26	Garden City Family YMCA	Garden City, KS	David Watson	918-540-3503
April 7-9	Club One Royal Courts	San Jose, CA	Dave George	650-873-1354
April 25-26	Bloomington Athletic Club	Chicago, IL	Carol Pellowski	262-514-3497
May 22-24	Downtown YMCA	Houston, TX	Ken Woodfin	281-280-8408
June 9-11	Allentown Racquetball & Fitness	Allentown, PA	Lorraine Galloway	718-739-4629

For more information about conducting an AmPRO Instructor Certification clinic, or about becoming certified, please contact Gary Mazaroff [Director of AmPRO Instructor Certification] at 505/266-8960, email GMazaroff@usra.org.

AmPRO Instructors! Check your online directory listing for accuracy! Follow links from www.usra.org | "AmPRO" | "Instructors" to see if we have your most recent contact information, then email us corrections, if needed!

industry news industry news

Wilsonart Signs with U.S. OPEN

U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships Tournament Director Doug Ganim announced that Wilsonart Flooring International has signed a three-year deal to become a major co-sponsor of the U.S. OPEN. The company first became involved in the sport last year with a cross-over move into the market when it donated the flooring for the made-for-television portable court, which is used as the main exhibition court for the U.S. OPEN. Wilsonart Flooring product took the place of the traditional varnished hardwood floor in the court, while Wilsonart laminate material was used for the surface of all front and side wall panels in the court.

Although most racquetball courts have hardwood floors, the Wilsonart floor in the portable court was a hit with top pros. "I have been playing racquetball since I was five years old, and this is the best floor I have seen in a racquetball court," said two-time U.S. OPEN champion and top-ranked IRT player Sudsy Monchik. "It is not only beautiful, but provides excellent traction and consistent hardness for true bounces from rally to rally."

Promoters were also left raving after the 1999 championships. "From a promoter's standpoint, the Wilsonart floor in the portable racquetball court can't be beat. It can be installed and un-installed in less than one hour, there is never any need to refinish it, and every time we use the court, the floor looks like its brand new."

The deal signed by Wilsonart will make it a major co-sponsor of the U.S. OPEN through the 2003 championships. Held each November in Memphis, Tenn., the U.S. OPEN has developed into the largest and most prestigious racquetball event in the world. The tournament features all the top men and women pro athletes, the largest prize money purse of the year, over 650 amateur competitors, and a tape-delayed national television broadcast on ESPN2.

Oregon Junior Racquetball Association Offers Grant Money

The Oregon Junior Racquetball Association, nationally known for its extensive junior racquetball programs, has announced that it will offer \$4,000 in grants to foster state junior racquetball development across the United States.

The association is able to offer the grants thanks to revenues from the 1998 Ektelon 25th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships and 1999 Wilson National High School Championships, which were both hosted by the association.

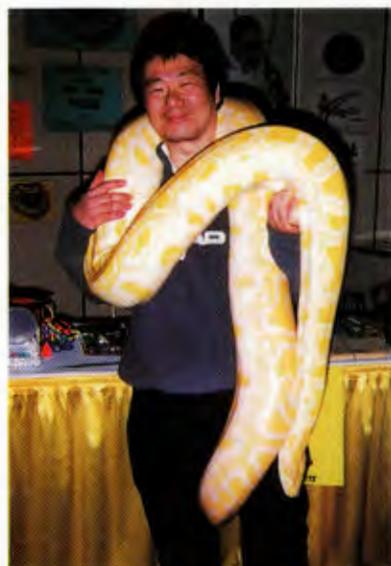
The association has two primary qualifications for grant proposals: the state organization must have a dedicated junior board and the state will document and validate the funds granted. Applications for grants must be received by April 30, and include the state junior coordinator, fund usage (high school, juniors, outreach, etc.), current status of the state's junior program, and the amount of the request.

Applications will be reviewed and grant announced at the U.S. Junior Olympic Championships in June. All grant requests and questions should be forwarded to John Ferguson at 4250 SW Council Crest Drive, Portland, OR 97201 or he may be contacted by telephone at 503/223-4087.

News from Python

Network Marketing, which is best known for marketing Python racquet grips, has officially changed its name to Python Racquetball and added a website. Check out the new site on the internet at www.pythonracquetball.com or contact Doug Smith at python2@mindspring.com for all the latest ... including — Rad's new Triumph Sunglasses — Rad has put a red-tinted lens in their popular Triumph model eyeguard and they look sharp! The red lens is ideal for the golf course, as well as the racquetball court (highlights greens). Black or Burgundy frame, priced at \$29.95. New Python undergloves have been added to the line of racquetball and squash products. See display ad, pg.58.

*RIGHT: KOICHI KITAMURA
TRAVELED ALL THE WAY
FROM JAPAN TO ATTEND
THE 1999 PROMUS U.S.
OPEN — AND HANDLE A
REAL, LIVE 14-FOOT, 120 LB.
ALBINO PYTHON!
PHOTO: DOUG SMITH.*





Just when
you thought
Wilsonart®
Flooring
couldn't get
any better...
it did.

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EMBROIDERED — FACING PAGE ...

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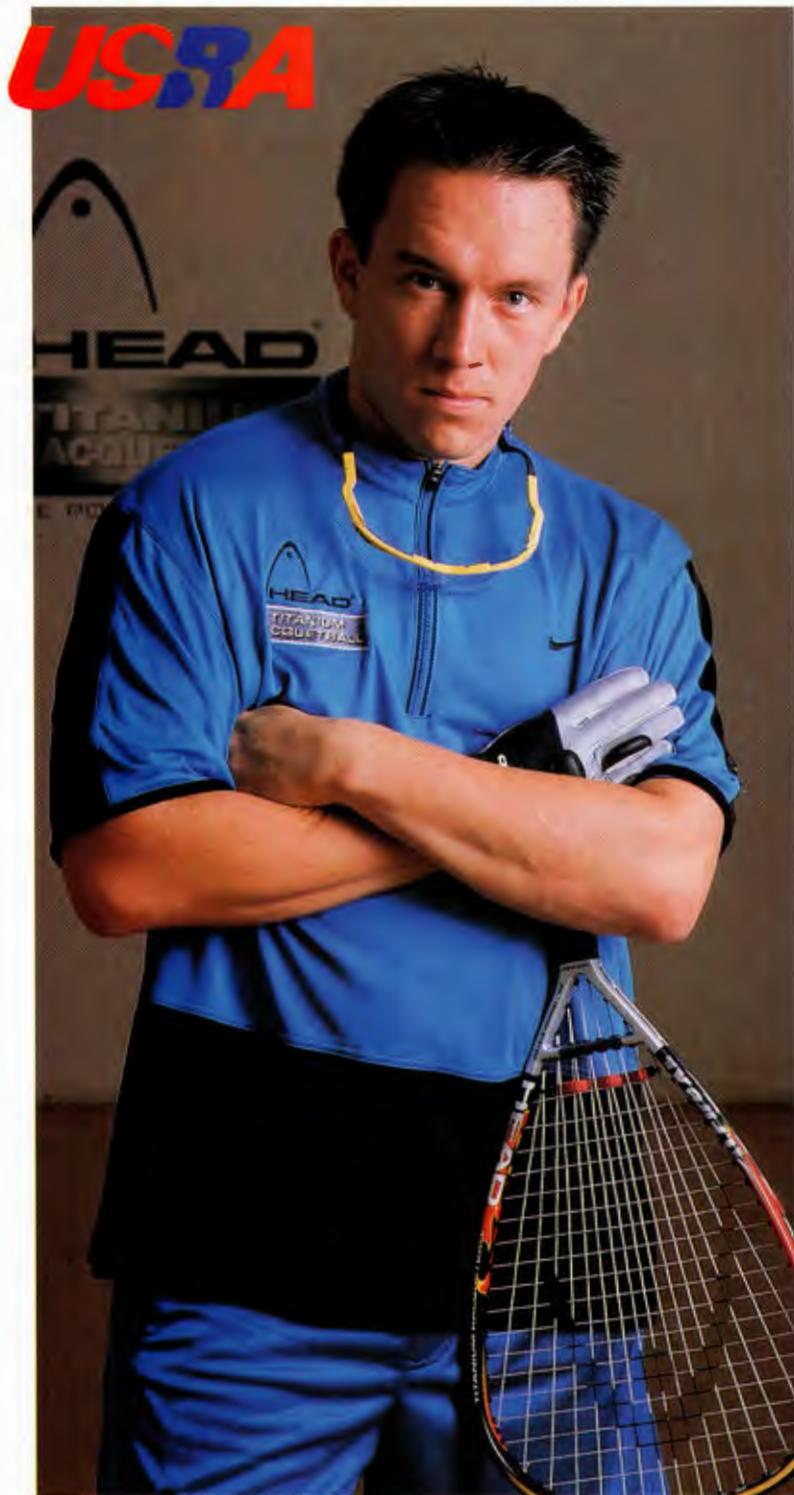
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Last issue I shared with you my magical *Return of Serve*, one of the most important aspects of the game, after the serve itself. It truly sets the tone to the match. If your return of serve is strong, solid and brings your opponent deep in the court (ceiling and passes), you now have time to move into good center court position (which we will discuss in depth today) and the server is hitting from 35' and back. When I am playing Cliff, John or Jason I strive to keep them deep every time because of the pressure it puts on them. Usually pressure results in mistakes and unforced errors! And, yes ... this is awesome, if I must say so myself.

Well, I now want to bring you my magical *Center Court Position* — which makes me one of the fastest, quickest and best retrievers in the game today.

Here's how it works best: Center Court Position requires being at the right place at the right time, but exactly what is the right place at the right time? First, here are facts to consider before you can completely understand good center court position ...

Sudsy's Magic Show Featuring ... Center Court!

Before I tackle what is the right place at the right time, these are some facts I'd like to share with you:

1. 30% of all balls can be killed from the dotted line. The percentage of effectively killing the ball decreases the deeper your opponent shoots from within the court.
2. 70% of all balls end up or travel through an imaginary box (I call center court), which starts at the dotted line, goes back about 5' to 7' and is about 10' wide. This is where I try to position myself throughout the match — after the serve, after the return of serve as well as during the rally — because this is where you can cover most shots. All of the pros know this is mine and I fight for it all the time.
3. 30/40/30 offensive principle. Every time you or your opponent hits the ball (the offensive player), one of the following occurs:
 - 30% of all balls skip
 - 40% of all balls are left up
 - 30% of all balls will be winners

So remember the advantage always swings toward the defensive player.

4. No one is super human, not even me. Therefore, you cannot kill every shot. Give up the lower percentage shots (kills and pinches) and use the higher percentage shots (passes).

TRICK #1: Center Court Position

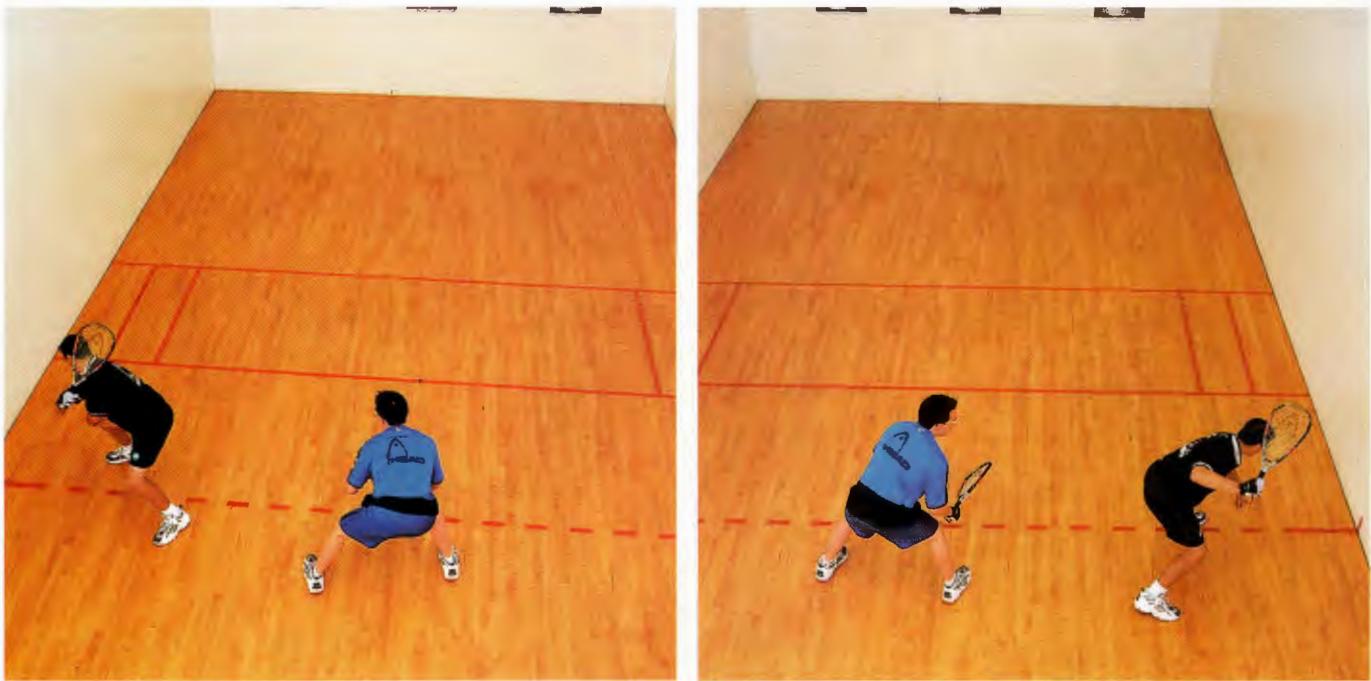
- With these four facts at your fingertips let's examine my exact position in center court, being in the right place at the right time. Your position is determined by the position of your opponent as well as the position of the ball. The two go hand-in-hand.
- The deeper my opponent (Adam Karp/offense) is on the court, the deeper I am (defense) in the box (see photos 1 and 1a, below).



1 — 1a

Photos by Kurt Silvershield

2 — 2a



TRICK #2: Movement

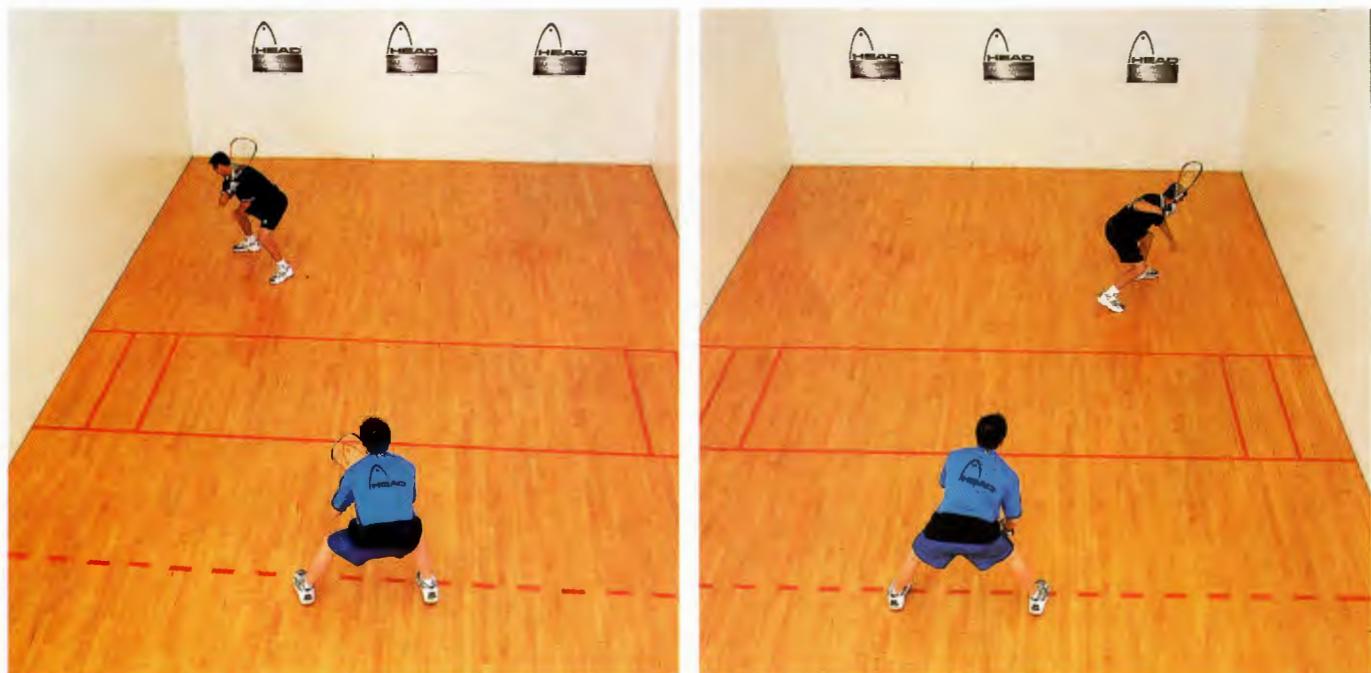
- As Adam moves up, I move up, but rarely in front of the dotted line (see diagram 2 & 2a, above and 3 & 3a, below).
- Remember, by staying deeper you are protecting against the pass (a higher percentage shot). Also keep in mind the 30/40/30 principle. Always make your opponent hit the most difficult shot to beat you. Make them think kill, pinch, or roll out, because more mistakes will

occur the lower on the front wall your opponent aims.

- By being at the right place at the right time, I have more time to react to the ball. More time to react means being more efficient and more effective while conserving energy. This leads to a more consistent performance like mine ... wouldn't you say?!

See you next issue for some magical advanced shots of mine.

3 — 3a





Game Plan by Cliff Swain & Lynn Adams

If you've ever hit a softball or a baseball ... if you've ever just *watched* softball or baseball ... then you have some knowledge of how to hit a racquetball. The two swings are quite similar, so if you aren't sure how to hit your forehand, turn the page, grab a bat and swing away!





backswing

Backswing — If you watch any good power hitter in baseball, you notice that they keep their bats up on the backswing and the elbow is up even with the shoulder. This facilitates time to generate momentum and bat speed. The more momentum and speed you generate, the harder you hit the ball.

- The racquetball stroke follows the same principle. Get your elbow up so you have time and room to generate some momentum with your swing.

Coming Into The Ball — Picture a baseball player hitting a line drive. He needs to come through the ball flat and level. He doesn't swing up or down on the ball. He's got his bat and his elbow up on the backswing, so before he can level out his swing, he's got to drop the bat back behind himself. After he drops the bat back, he then pulls his arms and bat through the swing, hitting flat and level.

- In racquetball, flat is good! You want to hit with a flat and level stroke to hit those nice low kill shots. You must drop the racquet back behind yourself before you start coming in to the ball if you want to hit the ball with a flat and level swing.



coming into the ball



contact

Contact — Mark McGwire just hit another home run. They show it in slow motion...at the point of contact, is he jammed with the ball close in to his body? Of course not. He has full extension, maximizing his leverage and power.

- One of the best things you can do for your racquetball game is learn to keep the ball away from your body. If you get jammed up with the ball too close to your body, you lose power and control. Full extension at the point of contact is crucial.



Follow Through — A baseball player doesn't stop his swing after making contact with the ball. His body, arms and hips all rotate, letting the momentum of the swing continue around.

- It's the same in racquetball. After making contact with the ball, don't stop the momentum of your swing. If you do stop your follow through, you'll lose power and hurt your elbow. One of the most common causes of elbow pain is a stopped follow through.



follow through





Head Rules by Fran Davis

Keep 'em Guessing

before it bounces to catch your opponent off guard, leaving them less time to react, set up, and get in position. The overhead pass/pinch/reverse takes the ball above your head as if you were hitting a ceiling shot, but at the last minute bringing it down. The key to taking a shot off the back wall is to move in and out with the ball. The height and speed at which the ball hits the front wall determines how far it comes off the back wall. You'll need good eye contact so you can judge the ball better.

Sudsy is living proof that predictability can be deadly as you move up the ranks in your own level of play. Keep all these different shots in mind, but don't get overwhelmed. Try to implement some of these shots into your game slowly, but surely. Good luck in adding variety to your game. It's "the spice of life" after all — ask Sudsy ... he knows!

Q:&A...Q&A

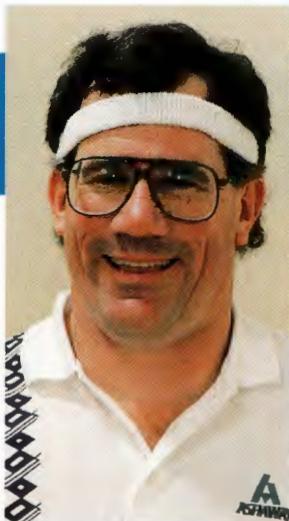
Boy-oh-boy, Fran, people can read me like a book. Can you help me become less predictable?

First of all, let me assure you that you are not alone. Predictability is a major problem at all levels, professional and amateur alike. I clearly remember when Sudsy Monchik was playing for the U.S. Team and then turned pro. His major problem was that he was "splat happy" ... and everyone knew it. I kept telling him if he mixed up his shots with some down the line passes or cross-court pass kills, his splat would become more effective because people wouldn't be camped out waiting for it all the time. As he became a more mature and groomed professional — with more variety in his shots and serves — his ranking consistently rose until he eventually became the #1 pro.

Sudsy accomplished the tremendous feat of being ranked #1 by incorporating more and more variety into his game so he was no longer as predictable a player as he had been earlier in his career. Let's take a look at just a few of the offensive shots Sudsy (and most of the pros) utilize in their games to end the rally or score a point.

- **Kill** — The ball hits the front wall 6" and lower and bounces twice before the short line. Contact point is ankle high or lower.
- **Pass Kill** — The ball hits the front wall 12" and lower and bounces twice before the dotted line. Contact point is shin high or lower.
- **Pass** — The ball hits the front wall 18" and lower and bounces twice before the back wall. Contact point is knee high and lower. *Down the line*: Hits between you and the closest side wall and does not hit the side wall at all. *Cross Court*: Hits between you and the furthest side wall and does not hit the side wall at all. *Wide Angle*: Hits the front wall first, then the side wall on a fly, even with or slightly behind your opponent.
- **Pinch/Reverse Pinch** — The ball hits to the closest corner possible (farthest corner possible on the reverse) and hits side wall 6" and lower, then the front wall and then bounces twice before the second side wall. Contact point is ankle high and lower. Hit when you are away from the side wall.
- **Splat** — Hit when the ball is within 6" of the side wall. The ball hits side wall 6" and lower, then the front wall and bounces twice before the second side wall.

You can add even more surprise to these shots by being able to adjust "where" you take them. The cutoff kill/pass/pinch/splat takes the ball out of the air



MAINS & CROSSES

By **Steve Crandall**
Vice President, Sales & Marketing

USRSA Worth Keeping an Eye On

An organization closely aligned with racquetball, the United States Racquet Stringers Association (USRSA) has set its sights on raising its own "level of play" a notch or two in the year 2000. If they pull it off, they will likely become a very useful checkpoint on the radar screens of serious racquetball players.

The USRSA is a for-profit association of dues-paying racquet stringers with 6500 members worldwide. The organization's goals include certification of members; competency in and knowledge of racquet strings, stringing equipment, and stringing technique; and conducting on-going research to ensure that their information base is always on the cutting edge. They would also like to become a conduit for information on these subjects to serious players.

I had an opportunity to talk with the new president of the USRSA, Pat Curry, who recently sold his own software firm to renew his love affair with racquet sports. Pat is very enthusiastic about the growing popularity of "lifestyle sports" in the age of the internet. Rather than encouraging more of us to be couch potatoes, he sees the internet as a tool for getting more out of our racquetball experience. According to Pat, the internet will play an important role in improving the quickness and flexibility of the USRSA.

With his computer background, it's not surprising that Pat envisions an expanded role for the World Wide Web in the organization. His plans to expand and redesign the USRSA website include providing members with more rapid access to vast amounts of collected information, which will allow them to become a better resource to their customers, as well as to racquetball players. The new website (which will debut later this year) will also have large segments available to players themselves, on such subjects as new string test results, and recommended string tensions. At the same time, the association is increasing its research staff so the quality and quantity of information should become even better.

Although the association's member magazine, Racquet Tech, is primarily of interest to professional racquet stringers, Pat says there are a considerable number of hardcore racquetball enthusiasts who subscribe for the

technical information. But Pat also confessed that one thing that turns racquetball players off about Racquet Tech is that most of the information is about racquet sports in general (although one issue a year does have a racquetball focus, and many items apply to all racquet sports). So, while subscriptions will still be available, much of the content germane to racquetball players will be retrievable from the website.

One of the broadest areas targeted for improvement is the certification program. There are currently two levels of certification — Certified Stringer and Certified Racquet Technician (CRT). Certified Stringers (currently numbering 2000) have received a one-time only certification assuring that the stringer is familiar with then-current materials and stringing practices. A stricter standard is set for the only-500 Certified Racquet Technicians in the world today, who must be retested yearly to ensure consumers that they are up to date on the latest techniques and technology. The USRSA is replacing CRT with a higher level of certification called Master Racquet Technician (MRT), and plans to make it easier to obtain the newer certification by tripling the number of testers (from 22 testers in the U.S. and 3 international) over the next two years, with one in each major city.

Although certification does not apply to players themselves, Pat stressed the importance of the USRSA as an educational organization. He said, "As far as advice on what machine to buy or how to teach yourself, we have all the materials anyone would ever need, if they have the interest."

Pat added, "I am enthusiastic about the future of racquet sports, here and internationally, or I wouldn't have jumped into this endeavor." (He mentioned that racquetball in particular seems to have bottomed out but is showing signs of renewal.) "I am focused on the association side and making sure we continue to deliver the highest quality of independent observation. But the idea of having it spill over into the internet is exciting to me."

So with all of these enthusiastic plans, the USRSA bears watching. We racquetball players would certainly benefit from better and more readily accessible information and higher levels of service from the organizations that aspire to serve us. Good luck, Pat.



GET A GRIP!

By Kelly Kirk, Certified Racquet Technician

How often should players re-grip? You could hear "They ought to change 'em every day!" from a wholesaler who just *might* have an underlying motive for persuading players to discard grips frequently. On the other hand, racquetball players can be inordinately cheap (as

in "tawdry, contemptible because of lack of any fine, lofty, or redeeming qualities," according to Webster's). Allow me to illustrate. In the past month I have been presented with a performance frame with black electrical tape as its formal grip and a midline frame with a paper towel grip. That's right, instead of investing in a new grip, simply grab a paper towel and wring it tightly around the handle. Coincidentally, both these players complained that they weren't striking the sweetspot very often! *There's only so much a manufacturer can do ...*

At the very least, bare minimum, you should re-grip as often as you re-string. If you are a player who employs a stranglehold — or death grip — on their frame throughout the match, you can re-grip as often as every two weeks. From a piggybank perspective, it's more economical to re-grip than to buy a new glove. Consider a grip purchase part of your overall playing budget.

As a serious player (you *are* playing to win, aren't you?), how can you continue to ignore the grip? Why settle for a grip that has digressed from tacky to slick? Aside from being inordinately superstitious (in addition to being cheap), why would you not seek the advantage of a secure grip? After all, manufacturers have compiled a fair amount of grip data that covers not only the tackiness, but also longevity, length, width, compression, stretch, absorbency, thickness, and even the beveling (bevel) of the grip. And although you may choose to disregard commercial claims, why would you opt to deliberately lose any points in a game due to a substandard grip?

You're convinced to re-grip? Your first choice is easy: rubber or a replacement soft grip. There are drawbacks, and advantages, to both. Rubber burns your gloves, but the grip will last much longer and deters sweat accumulation. Rubber grips, in general, will increase the diameter

of your handle more than a soft grip, and will also add a few more grams to your frame. On the other side of the scale, soft grips will have to be replaced more often and will, for the most part, accumulate sweat if you do not change your glove frequently. Choosing a grip is a subjective decision. What feels good to one player, may feel awkward to another.

Let's start with rubber grips, which in some cases are not rubber at all. Take the Python. Touted the thinnest of the rubber grips, it feels like rubber, looks like rubber, but it's not rubber. According to Doug Smith of Python Racquetball, it's actually made of Kraton. Kraton's claim to fame is that it absorbs absolutely no moisture. Or to put it another way: if you submerged a Python in water for a week (why would you do that?), the grip would still maintain its tacky feel - as opposed to rubber which deteriorates under such conditions. Whether you choose Wilson, Ektelon, or another manufacturer's rubber grip, you are now left with the task of putting it on.

The application of rubber grips is relatively easy if you're not in a hurry. Remove your wrist lacer and put a bit of scotch tape over the lacer's entry to prevent glue spillage from being a nuisance. (Carpeted flooring isn't the best place to try this.) Strip your handle bare and clean the surface with alcohol. If there is a staple remove it with a pair of pliers. A pallet handle will benefit from a brush up with sandpaper to rough up its slick surface. If your pallet handle has experienced crunch, you can fill the gaps with beeswax. If you don't want the bulb or ring at the end of the grip, now is the time to take a pair of scissors and cut off the extra length. For those of you not blessed with hot hands, use a heat gun to soften up the first part of the grip on the end you plan to slide over the handle.

Take your tube of glue and squeeze three quarters of it — spinning the grip as you do so — into the grip's interior. (It is not necessary to make sure the entire inside of the grip is coated for the glue will spread as you pull on the grip.) Set aside the grip. Take the remaining glue, all of a teaspoon's worth, and apply it to the butt of the handle. This is the most important part, if there is not a ring of glue around the handle where you first start to slide the rubber grip, it will make for a difficult job. Now take your grip and "spin" it over the handle. Don't pull it on, spin the grip. It should glide on with little trouble. For best results, allow your grip to sit overnight and dry.

For those of you favoring Ektelon's Clear Vision grip, life gets much easier! These grips are designed to slide on with virtually no effort. Clean the grip off as described previously. Then take the Clear Vision grip and tug at the top just a bit so the mouth is a bit wider. Spray WD-40 inside the grip and on the handle too. Once again, spin the grip on. A bit of warm water and soap on this grip after hard matches will extend its longevity.

As a group, soft grips are much easier to put on, but for whatever reason, few people wrap them correctly. As usual, strip and clean your handle before application. When you are applying a soft grip a clean surface becomes even more important. You may wish to assist the grip by one of three ways: staple it to the butt; spray a blast of adhesive glue on the handle; or stick a three inch strip of double sided adhesive tape near the butt end of the handle. You will take the tapered end of the grip and begin the wrap at the butt end of the handle. It is important that you stretch all cushion grips and line up grooves so there is barely any overlap. Failure to stretch the grip out properly will result in an unwieldy grip. How tight do you wrap? You should almost hear the back of the grip breaking as you stretch

it over your handle. Finally, take your finishing tape and cut it at a diagonal. (Keep in mind that with the handle held away from your body, left-handers will wrap counter clock-wise, right-handers clock-wise.)

Don't be stingy when it comes to soft grips. If one doesn't suit you, try another! For comfort you might try Ektelon's Durated, a long-time favorite which has performed well over the years. And naturally, Wilson offers up a nice cushion grip as well. ProKennex has introduced a Vibe grip that is not quite like the original put on their frames, but close enough to satisfy players who have grown accustomed to the ribbed grip. If thinness is a priority over cushion, one of the thinnest wraps out there is E-Force's original grip. Last, but not least, Python has just announced a new leather wrap grip with a snakeskin pattern that is both thin and durable. But with such a huge variety of grips on the market, I think Luke St. Onge expressed it best, "... support those who are dedicated to the racquetball industry."

And if wrestling with your handle creates great anxiety, just have your stringer do it. That's what we're here for!



changing times by Luke St. Onge

Elsewhere in this issue, we cover the AmPRO industry initiative, which was the featured topic at the USRA's annual Leadership Conference. It was a great leap forward for our sport to have virtually every segment of the industry represented at the conference — and to have total agreement on a course of action that aims to have an AmPRO certified teacher/programmer in each and every facility that has a

racquetball court. Without the complete support of all of these groups, an initiative like this would never have gotten off the ground.

Each Leadership Conference depends on a keynote speaker to get things off to a great start. This year Sandy Coffman, of the consulting firm "Programming for Profit" [see pg. 53] was asked to give the keynote address. Sandy, whose roots are deeply set in racquet-

ball, is one of the featured speakers at the annual IHRSA convention and has individually consulted with numerous clubs on programming for profit. Sandy readily accepted the task, and donated her time to come to Colorado Springs to set just the right tone for the meeting. And that she did. Having been in the racquetball business since the beginning, her perspective on the industry was right on and created the perfect environment for all of the entities to move forward with a united front to address the problem. This was truly a passage for our sport and the goals set — and agreed to — at this conference are reasonable and attainable.

Many thanks to the USRA State Leaders for making the commitment to be the USRA's eyes and ears in the club industry ... to AmPRO Director Gary Mazaroff for making the personal commitment to make the program functional ... to Chuck Leve of IHRSA — without whose help on building the bridge to the club owners, the entire project would take four times as long ... to the twelve industry leaders who have agreed to both bring their sponsored players into the program and support it economically. It's very exciting to see this all come together at such a critical time for our sport.



FRENCH OPEN MEN'S 35+ FINALISTS PHILIPPE LECOMTE (FAR LEFT) AND TOM RALL IN PARIS.

Rall Wins French Open!

Racquetball's fifth French Open took place in Paris the third week of January, culminating with finals on the 16th. Among those Europeans playing on Sunday was the USA's Tom Rall, who won the 35+ division with a victory over France's own Philippe Lecomte, Europe's number one ranked player in that division and last year's reigning champion. The match opened the door for more Americans to come and play next year!

Rall, who dropped out of racquetball for the better part of three years due to injury, began playing in 1972. At the time of his injury, his national ranking was #3 in the Men's 40+ and #7 in the Men's 45+. Some of Rall's career highlights include winning the All-Army Singles in 1975, an '89 bronze finish and '90 silver medal at World Seniors, a '99 bronze and '96 gold medal at the Promus U.S. OPEN, plus a string of state and regional wins between 1996 and the present. In his 28 years of playing he's won over 200 tournaments in the United States and Europe, while lending his off-court time to organizing and managing leagues, making personal donations (totaling over \$5,000 for the U.S. Team in 1990), offering his time in setting up the racquetball venue at the Los Angeles Olympic Festival, plus serving on the New York State Racquetball Association Board of Directors.

Rall, who traveled a record distance of 6,367 miles to Paris for this year's French Open, also played in men's open and made it to the quarters. Later, the Men's 35+ final offered plenty of excitement right from the start. The first game went to Rall, who had fallen behind

early but come back to win, with strong serves and solid rally-winners. Lecomte took the second game by running down every passing shot and diving for just about every ball seemingly out of his reach. In the eighth point, with Rall serving, the two players collided for an avoidable. With the exception of announcing the score, this was the only call made by the referee during the entire match. The tiebreaker was a runaway for Rall, who launched nine serves in a row to get to 10-0 in what seemed like no time at all. His backhand slice serves consistently floated down the sidewall, causing his opponent to move left and back looking for an opportunity to make contact. But the

ball refused to come off either the side or back walls, and Lecomte watched all of them die in the corner, as Rall earned his first French Open title with an 11-1 victory. Both players displayed high levels of play, executed extraordinary technical playing skills, and showed great sportsmanship all through the match, which lasted nearly two hours. The crowd, favoring countryman Lecomte, showed their appreciation for both players after the match.

Among the many Europeans who attended and participated there was another contingent of American service men and women stationed in Europe. Tom Keogh, originally from Ireland and now living in New York City also made the trip.

The clean, well-managed tournament facility, ironically named "Forrest Hills" is good sized and has just about everything one could want in the way of athletic comfort, with several workout areas, pools, racquetball, squash and tennis courts, as well as four hotels, several restaurants and a bar. The club will be the host site for next years' French Open Singles Championship, again scheduled for January. It will also host the first International Senior Doubles Tournament scheduled to take place in June (for more information, contact Gary Mazaroff at 505-266-8960).

Tom Rall is a Wilson sponsored player, AmPro Certified as an Advanced Instructor, and resides in Fullerton, California. He plays at the Spectrum Club and can be reached via email at trall@ix.netcom.com.

French Open RESULTS: Men's Open: Trevor Hayter (GER) def. Martin Klipper (GER); Women's Open: Daphne Wanee (HOL) def. Jennifer Blanton (USA); Men's 35+: Tom Rall (USA) def. Philippe Lecomte (FRA); Men's B: Steven Boon (BEL) def. Charlie Hamon (USA); Men's C: Clyde Huyck (USA) def. Guy Beaumont (FRA); Men's D: Olivier Heroguelle (FRA) def. Damien Taillet (FRA).

19th German National Championship Results

Hamburg, Germany: January 28-30, 2000 [<http://www.racquetball.de/>]
 Men's Open: Achim Loof (Hamburg) def. Bjoern Jensen (Hamburg) 15:5/15:7. 3. Mike Mesecke (Hamburg), 4. Ralf Lysakowski (Hamburg). Women's Open: Yvonne Kortes (Bad Toelz) def. Petra Kindermann (Frankfurt) 15:1/15:5. 3. Eva Lang (Bad Toelz), 4. Stefanie Lang (Bad Toelz). Men's Doubles: A. Loof/T. Paulsen (Hamburg) def. M. Mesecke/B. Jensen (Hamburg) 12:15/15:7/11:9. 3. J. Ludwig/V. Arcouette (HH/Gustavsburg), 4. J. Buchholtz/A. Schmitz (Hamburg). Seniors 35+: Bjoern Jensen (Hamburg) def. Vincent Arcouette (Gustavsburg) 15:13/9:15/11:4. 3. Hermann Bachmaier (Bad Toelz), 4. Goetz Schulte-Langforth (Worms). Seniors 40+: Joerg Ludwig (Hamburg) def. Thorbjorn Paulsen (Hamburg) 15:3/15:6. 3. Stefan Lang (Bad Toelz), 4. Gisbert Goede (Hamburg). Senior Doubles: J. Ludwig/B. Jensen (Hamburg) def. H. Bachmaier/T. Paulsen (Bad Toelz/Hamburg) 15:2/15:5. 3. V. Arcouette/G. Schulte-Langforth (Gustavsburg/Worms), 4. G. Goede/S. Lang (Hamburg/Bad Toelz). Juniors U17: Jan Buchholtz (Hamburg) def. Arne Schmitz (Hamburg) 15:14/15:11. 3. Michael Krueger (Hamburg), 4. Stefan Schooa (Hamburg).

Torres Receives Top Athletic Award >>

Mexico's Rosy Torres was recently awarded the "Luchador Olmeca" — one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an athlete, coach or sport developer in Mexico. The name of the award is derived from the first-ever registered sport in Mexico, which was wrestling by the Olmecs. Luchador translates into wrestler or fighter in English. Only one athlete is allowed to receive the award per sport, unless there is a doubles team, and out of 70 sports federations in Mexico, only 51 received the honor.

'Nacho' Named to High Performance Group >>

ATF Sports Inc., a Boca Raton, Fla., based agency, announced the addition of Luis 'Nacho' Bustillos to the Latin American High Performance Group through a contract with Adidas. The Latin American High Performance Group is composed of elite athletes in non-Olympic sports, for whom ATF Sports arranges sponsorship contracts.

Twenty-two-year-old 'Nacho' is a pro on the International Racquetball Tour from Mexico and was ranked 20th at the time of his selection for the group. He hopes to move up in the rankings since he will now be able to play the IRT full time thanks to help from ATF Sports.

'Nacho' was chosen for his leadership on and off the court, his sportsmanship, dedication in competition and training and his firm commitment to work towards success. ATF Sports hopes to give him the resources to achieve a better ranking on the IRT Tour and an excellent finish in the upcoming World Championships, which will be held in his home country of Mexico in August.

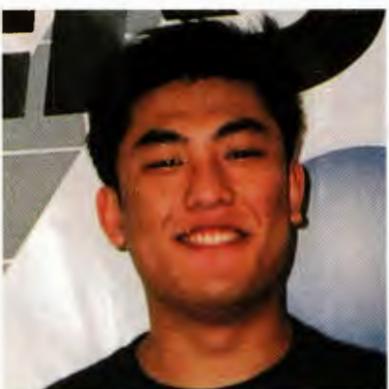


TOP: ROSY TORRES POSES WITH HER AWARD, IN FRONT OF A MURAL DEPICTING THE MESO-AMERICAN BALL GAME. BOTTOM: LUIS BUSTILLOS.

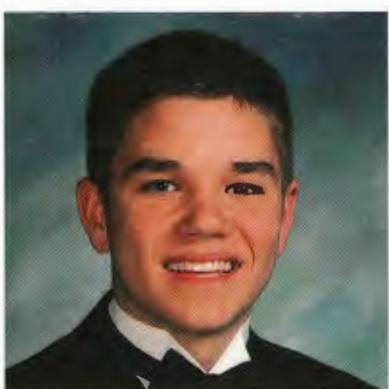
rb:people & places



ERIN BRANNIGAN



JOHN COLE



SCOTT FISHER

Scholarship Winners

Erin Brannigan (Sandpoint, Idaho/University of Southern Colorado)

When Erin Brannigan was 14 years old he attended the Junior Elite Racquetball camp at the Olympic Training Center. He's not sure if it was the atmosphere of the Olympic Training Center or the coaches who were speaking to him about commitment and dedication to sport, or maybe a combination of both, but Erin left the camp transformed. The changes not only affected his approach to racquetball, but also his schoolwork, family and friends.

Erin is now an English major at the University of Southern Colorado, where he aided the university's racquetball team in capturing the 1999 World Intercollegiate Team title by winning the men's #2 singles and doubles titles. The former national high school champion is now developing into one of the top racquetball players in Colorado and the U.S., and continues to give back to the sport he loves by interning with Racquetball magazine this term.

John Cole (Hinesville, Georgia/Georgia Tech)

John Cole lived in Korea as a youngster, where he played as his father's doubles partner, but was isolated from the top racquetball players in the world, and had little excitement for the game. That all changed one day when 13-year-old John happened upon a player practicing on the rundown courts where he and his father played. It was the first time he had seen anyone hit a splat shot and he was amazed by the beauty and power of the shots. He eventually gained the courage to ask the player to teach him those very same shots, and he has continued to progress as a ever player since.

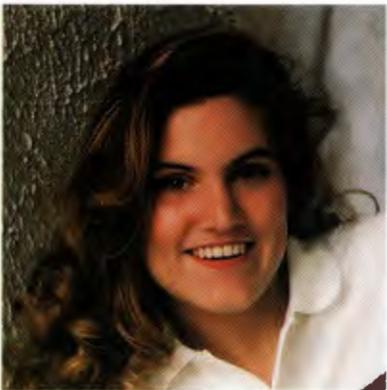
John and his family have been in the United States for over five years, during which time he graduated as valedictorian of Liberty County High School. He is now attending Georgia Tech majoring in chemical engineering and seeking a minor in material science and engineering. Although he was in an intensive academic program in high school, John managed to find time to volunteer at the local YMCA and Youth Services (military), teaching racquetball to the children in Liberty County and Fort Stewart.

Scott Fisher (West Babylon, New York/University of Delaware)

University of Delaware freshman Scott Fisher remembers when he was six years old and would roll out of bed early Saturday mornings to head to the racquetball club with his parents. His parents' devotion to the game quickly transferred to their son, and Scott became hooked. But back then you had to pay for court time — something that would quickly deplete a six-year-old's piggy bank — so

Scott spent many hours hitting on a dark court until some older players began to invite him out to play. He emerged from the dark to start besting adults in the club and competing in tournaments.

While at West Babylon High School, Scott captured three junior regional titles and three junior state titles. His athletic achievements were not limited to racquetball, as he was named the MVP of the golf and cross-country team, as well. Scott has also excelled academically, graduating in the top-10 of his senior class, and winning numerous academic awards, including the N.Y. State Science Supervisors' Association Biology and Advanced Placement Chemistry Awards, President's Award for Educational Excellence and West Babylon High School Top-Ten Scholars Award. Scott is now pursuing a biology degree at the University of Delaware.



SADIE HALL



SETH TAYLOR

Sadie [Gross] Hall (Memphis, Tennessee/ University of Memphis)

Sadie Gross-Hall has managed to find a perfect balance in her life. As a child she competed in numerous junior racquetball tournaments, winning six world junior titles, six junior national titles and three Canadian junior titles. After graduating from Yankton Senior High School in South Dakota, Sadie moved to Memphis where she could focus on not only academics, but also on racquetball under the guidance of one of the best collegiate racquetball coaches in the nation — Larry Liles at the University of Memphis.

At Memphis, Sadie excelled on the court and in the classroom, graduating Magna Cum Laude in only three-and-a-half years with a degree in business administration, and capturing four medals at World Intercollegiate Championships. Sadie, who was married last summer, opted to continue her education by returning to the University of Memphis to receive her Masters in business administration with emphasis in accounting. She interned with top-accounting firm Deloitte and Touche, with whom she enjoyed working so much she accepted a position with the company following graduation, saying that it is flexible with her schedule so that she can continue with her racquetball career.

Seth Taylor (Shelbyville, Indiana/ Franklin College, Franklin, Ind.)

When 18-year-old Seth Taylor decided which college to go to, he didn't choose one because he's a fan of the football team or because all his friends were going there. He chose Franklin College because he thought it would better suit himself and his studies with its small classrooms and tight-knit community. A pretty mature decision for a young man.

But extra-curricular activities did factor into his decision, and Seth participates in racquetball, tennis and

show choir at Franklin this year, three things in which he was extremely involved during high school — where he was named the MVP of the boys' tennis team, in addition to being named the show choir's performer of the year twice. And although his school did not have a racquetball team, Seth practiced with his two siblings under the direction of his parents, and went on to capture two junior national titles in 14-and-under mixed doubles

— in 1995 with Lindsay Sears and 1996 with Krystal Csuk. Seth and Krystal also took a silver medal at the World Junior Championships in 1996.

Huczek & U.S. Junior National Team Receive U.S. Olympic Committee Awards

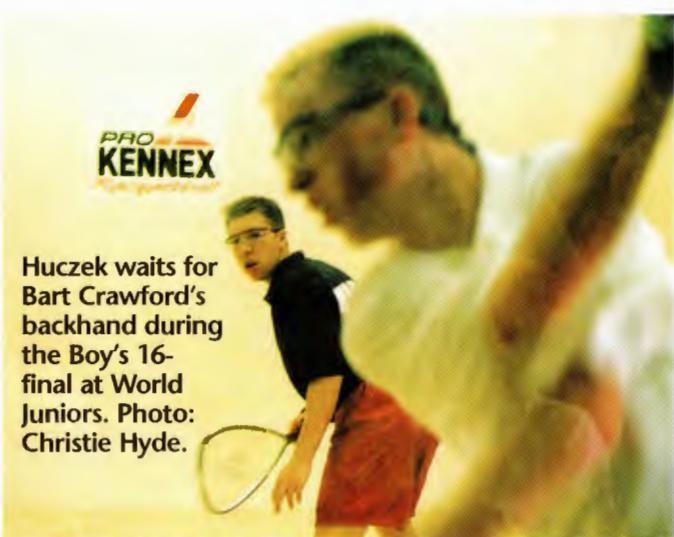
Jack Huczek and the U.S. Junior National Racquetball Team were named as the U.S. Olympic Committee's Male Athlete and Team of the Month for December. This marks the first time, ever, that a racquetball player has won the award.

Huczek, who celebrated his 17th birthday the same week of the announcement, dominated the racquetball world in the month of December at both the Promus U.S. OPEN and the Pro Kennex 11th IRF World Junior Championships. At the U.S. OPEN, Huczek competed in men's pro, open and 24- divisions, winning two of the three. In the IRT draw, the youngster upset one of his junior national team coaches, Todd O'Neil, in the first round, while in the men's open division, Huczek breezed through

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

PRO
KENNEX
Racquetball

Huczek waits for
Bart Crawford's
backhand during
the Boys' 16-
final at World
Juniors. Photo:
Christie Hyde.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION & BALLOT

There are seven (7) candidates for three (3) vacancies on the USRA Board of Directors. Biographical and other candidate information appears on these two pages, as well as online at www.racqmag.com. For this ballot insert to be valid, the following is required:

- **Postcard ballot must bear a legible signature, plus the original mailing label from this publication [March/April 2000], attached where indicated.**
- **Entrant must be a current USRA member in good standing.**
- **Only one ballot per member may be cast (either with the postcard ballot delivered via RACQUETBALL, or with a paid national singles entry, not both).**
- **Any number of candidates, up to the maximum of three (3) may be chosen.**
- **Ballot must be received by MAY 10, 2000.**



GARRY CARTER

GARRY CARTER — Napa, California

The defining moment in any competition is the crowning of an undisputed champion. However, very few of us can compete with the Sudsy's or the Cliff's. To encourage competition and participation for every member and for the development of racquetball as a lifetime sport, the USRA introduced national skill level and age competition. *Great Idea!* But for skill level competition to survive and fulfill its purpose, there needs to be a way of validating a competitor's skill level. Despite what most of us have been lead to believe, we don't have skill level verification. Neither do we have anyone to champion this cause. I've looked.

With your support and votes, I will champion this cause while being active in other areas that keep our sport healthy and alive, like AmPRO. Your vote for Garry Carter is a way of telling the USRA that you want to keep skill level competition but that you want it fair and verifiable. We run the risk of losing meaningful skill level competition if effective verification is not implemented soon. Please give skill level competition and me your support. To learn more, go to http://cara.sunset.net/skill_level.htm or email me at Crater1@aol.com



OTTO DIETRICH

OTTO DIETRICH — Lilburn, Georgia

Known mostly for my proclivity for refereeing and public address announcing, I maintain a regular Internet presence in the racquetball newsgroup! Less well known is that over the past 12 years, I've served three, three-year terms on the USRA Board of Directors and, in 1998, was selected by my fellow directors to be the USRA President!

Being re-elected to the Board would allow me to continue as a representative of the average USRA member—unencumbered by a "sponsorship" commitment, with the wisdom of experience and the degree of independence vital to keeping the USRA on a steady course.

Admittedly, I'm not a "political-type", so I won't bore you with empty promises. In fact, the only reason I ever ran for election back in 1988 was so I could become the National Rules Commissioner—a position I held for an unprecedented ten consecutive years! During those years, my interest in the multitude of other Board responsibilities has steadily increased.

As you cast your vote, please remember that the board needs people who are willing to work tirelessly without compensation. My experience demonstrates that I'm that kind of person and will work for the betterment of the USRA and racquetball! Vote Otto!

VAN DUBOLSKY — Gainesville, Florida

For over 20 years it has been my honor to serve and represent the sport at many different levels – and I would like to bring that experience back to the USRA Board of Directors – with your support. I have been a competitive player since 1967; on the Florida Racquetball Association board (as treasurer and/or president) since 1978; and the southeastern regional director [1978-1992]. I was appointed to the national board in 1982, followed by election wins in 1983, 1987 and 1993, and serving two terms as the Board President. During this period I was also the U.S. delegate to the IRF, the U.S. representative to the USOC House of Delegates, plus was chosen as the U.S. Team Leader for the 1995 Pan American Games.

I have been a national tournament director and floor manager for USRA and IRF events since 1983, and have recently been nominated to the USRA Hall of Fame. Obviously, racquetball and the USRA have played a major role in my life. Other than my family, the sport is more important to me than anything else and I am proud to have played a role in its evolution. I



VAN DUBOLSKY

usra board of directors election | official ballot

There are seven (7) candidates for three (3) vacancies on the USRA Board of Directors. Biographical and other candidate information appears on pages 48-49 of the March/April issue of RACQUETBALL. For this ballot to be valid, the following is required:

- *Ballot must bear a legible signature, plus the mailing label from this publication [March/April 2000], attached where indicated.*
- *Voter must be a current USRA member in good standing.*
- *Only one ballot per member may be cast (either with a national singles entry or this postcard ballot delivered via RACQUETBALL, not both).*
- *Any number of candidates, up to the maximum of three (3) may be chosen.*
- *Ballot must be received by MAY 10.*

Vote for UP TO THREE (3) persons by placing an X on the line before their name.

Garry Carter (CA)
 Otto Dietrich (GA)
 Van Dubolsky (FL)
 Annie Muniz (TX)
 Raul Reyna (TX)
 Jan Stelma (NC)
 Frank Taddonio (AZ)

Members legible signature required

Securely affix mailing label – with tape – to this boxed area.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

USRA Board Elections 2000
United States Racquetball Association
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906

hope that you will allow me the opportunity to continue to serve everyone who shares racquetball as a primary interest!

ANNIE MUNIZ — Bellaire, Texas

Over the past three years I have had the opportunity to serve on the USRA Board (the last two as Treasurer). I am thankful for the experience and the opportunity to be involved and in a great Association. We have made many positive changes that have enhanced the Association. During this time we have upgraded all the national events and most importantly we have balanced our budget to secure the future of the USRA.

I believe the USRA is headed in the right direction with the support of not only its members but also an active Board. I have learned over the past three years, it is important to have a Board that is willing to listen to its membership and fully participate in *all* USRA functions. We need a Board that will look out for the interest of its members and also support the USRA staff. I am committed to you, the members, and to the USRA staff. I take my responsibilities seriously and am an active Board participant. I would like to serve another three years to continue fulfilling the vision we all have for racquetball.

RAUL (RUDY) REYNA — San Antonio, Texas

For many years I have been (and continue to be) an advocate for racquetball in many different parts of the U.S. As a member of the USRA Board, I would bring the type of corporate experience that would help us continue to grow the sport. I have served and continue to serve on local and national boards in other fields and I have a good understanding of what is required in dealing with Board matters. I still play racquetball and compete in tournaments. Last year I attended some general USRA meetings at the U. S. Open and later helped bring together USRA staff with University of Memphis staff to develop a very successful public relations project. Additionally, working for a large corporation for 26 years has provided me with insight that will help in dealing with the business world on behalf of the USRA. I have contacts throughout corporate America that should come in handy in the future. I am also working with schools in San Antonio to see where we can set up some racquetball programs for our inner-city youth. This is one of the keys to the future of our sport. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to doing whatever I can to help grow racquetball.

JAN STELMA — New Bern, North Carolina

After being President of the North Carolina Racquetball Association for over two years, and serving on the Board prior to that, I feel I have amassed some experience at the front lines that could help at the National level. Also, being a club owner, I can share in multi-perspectives on different issues. Our state treasury has gone from being a deficit budget to over \$6000.00 positive. We are promoting USRA memberships within our state by using creative incentive programs. I am very interested in promoting players of all levels, not just tournament players. I also would like to help establish some national funding and help our USRA become fiscally strong. It is important for Board members to be responsible to the members and the sport. I think I can bring to the table a deep sense of wanting our sport to grow, our organization to grow, and listening to the issues of our membership.

FRANK TADDONIO — Gilbert, Arizona

I strongly desire to be a member of the USRA Board of Directors because the sport of racquetball is at an extremely important point in its history. I believe I can be instrumental in fostering initiatives and working on existing projects to sustain and improve our sport. I have been playing for over twenty years, continuously striving to keep pace with developments in the sport. As a military officer, I have been assigned across the USA and around the globe and always did my best to be an ambassador for racquetball. Thanks to my military assignments, I have witnessed and participated in a multitude of programs in California, Washington and Virginia. Noteworthy was my membership on the Virginia State Board as the rules commissioner and I continue to work on various committees for the Arizona State Board. I also compete in local, state, regional, and national level tournaments. I am an Ektelon-sponsored player and work as a club professional at an Arizona facility. I am also AmPro certified and certified as a Level II referee. As a Board member, I'll be in a position to help with future developments of our sport at all levels. If I am elected to the Board, I will work diligently to improve as many aspects of our sport as possible.



ANNIE MUNIZ



RUDY REYNA



JAN STELMA



FRANK TADDONIO

rb:people & places

the draw, knocking off several pro athletes ranked in the IRT top-20 enroute to becoming the youngest-ever men's open winner in U.S. OPEN history. Huczak also captured the men's 24-and-under title.

Only two weeks later, Huczak traveled with the U.S. Junior National Team to compete in the World Junior Championships, where he won the boys' 16-and-under singles and doubles titles, with his doubles partner Bart Crawford. It marked Huczak's eighth world junior singles title and fourth doubles title.

Huczak's wins aided the junior national team in their sweep of the overall, boys' and girls' team titles at the world junior championships over teams from Mexico and Canada, which finished second and third respectively. In total, U.S. athletes captured 22 gold, 17 silver and 16 bronze medals in the 30 singles and doubles divisions competed at the championships.

The U.S. Junior National Team garnered all but one of the first-place votes from the Athlete and Team of the Month voters, with the U.S. Show Jumping Team and lugers Mark Grimmette and Brian Martin finishing second and third, respectively. Huczak grabbed all the first-place votes, leaving equestrian rider Dell Hendricks and weightlifter Oscar Chaplin III in second and third place, respectively. Racquetball came close to sweeping the December awards, with 18-and-under world junior champion Brooke Crawford (Klamath Falls, Ore.) finishing second in the Female Athlete of the Month voting behind cyclist Alison Dunlap. Although Crawford picked up more first-place votes than Dunlap, her overall points total was three less than the cyclist's.

Babes in Waiting ...

Although we're without photos as yet, former U.S. National Team member and top-ranked racquetball pro Michelle Gould and husband Rod gave birth to their first child on January 7th. Son Ryan Charles weighed in at 6 lbs, 11 oz. and just shy of an oversized frame at 21 inches long. Gleeful parents and the newest Gould have been busy, so we'll have to wait for a mug shot!

Hall of Famer and all-time great (see the Draw of the Century) Mike Yellen also became a proud dad recently. He and wife Becky announced the birth of twin sons Jacob and Joshua in December. We'll give you those details (and photo, hopefully) later on as well ...

IRT-pro Derek Robinson and wife Tina [Alonzi] Robinson had their first child, Ethan Daniel, January 27 at 2:10 a.m. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz and was 21 inches long. On top of the traditional announcement, Dad sent a video clip of Ethan, sleeping (much as he is above right), via email to the internet-connected in his address book. Congratulations!!



King of Kids

by Karen May

Ed Mazur runs a Farmington insurance agency, but his true avocation is "king of kids," or being in charge of the junior programs of the Connecticut Racquetball Association (CRA). Mr. Mazur is a past president of the association as well as a tournament player. It seems to be in the genes as well as their environment as both Mazur children, Eddie and Kara, are two of the elite Team Connecticut juniors. As regional champions, they competed in Phoenix, Ariz., at the U.S. Junior Olympic Championships at the beginning of the summer. Eddie won regionals in Vermont and New York, and Kara won both regionals and a junior national championship.

"Kara Mazur is the first national champion at any level of racquetball from this state," said Juliet Campbell, who has been president of CRA since 1993. "I've been friends with Ed for 13 years through racquetball," said Campbell, who is also a business associate of Mr. Mazur and "one of three coaches of the Mazur kids. Scott Eliasson, who is a professional player, is brilliant with them. I concentrate on their conditioning by drilling and some technical work and Ed does the basic strokes and such."

"Since Eddie can already beat me at age 13," said his father, "I guess we're doing a great job. Actually, Kara and Eddie have tried everything sports-wise. He competed in cross-country at Avon Middle School last year and Kara's going to start that this year. They both are on soccer travel teams and are going over with their mother after this

interview to try tennis. We have no life except for driving them to various events." Mr. Mazur said, with a laugh.

"Kara was a clean-up hitter on the softball team this summer. I think racquetball has enhanced her hand and eye coordination," said the proud father. Ms. Campbell added, "Her reflexes are so good that she plays third base, 'the hot spot,' which is what I played on my college softball team as well. I don't think I'm their favorite because of the repetitive nature of the drills I make them do. "Actually, Kara gets up every morning and runs two miles," said Mr. Mazur. "She's going to be 11 in November and she's already pretty dedicated to working out. Of course, I am her dad but she's an extremely athletic kid with a lot of skills."

Has been an experience

As if on cue, Anna Mazur arrived at the office with Eddie and Kara as well as their individual "brag books" of pictures from competitions. "We've traveled all over as a family for racquetball," said Mrs. Mazur, "and it's a great learning experience. They've played in nationals and internationals, and know the Mexican team. Kara plays doubles with a girl from Nebraska and mixed doubles with a boy from Colorado," she said. "They are both good students as well as having the sports. Since racquetball is not a scholarship sport, Eddie will probably do running or soccer at the collegiate level and Kara could get a scholarship for soccer or softball."

"I'd like to do something with computers and math when I grow up," said Eddie, "but I'll always play



racquetball, too." His sister, Kara, said, "I want to be an architect and still play all my sports."

"The promotion of the sport," Mr. Mazur said, "isn't as good as it could be, but there are people who are professionals earning money by endorsements and tournament winnings. Both Foxwoods and Ruth Chris' Steak houses have been sponsors here in Connecticut as well as some of the equipment companies."

Mrs. Mazur, who played racquetball in college, said, "It's not an Olympic sport, but it is included in the Pan American Games. In fact, Laura Fenton, the mother of Jenny, the girl from Nebraska that plays doubles with Kara, played in the Pan American Games."

She added, "Basically, the racquetball community is very close. We're part of a group that extends from New York through Maine."

"Kara was actually born during a tournament," remembered her mother. "Ed drove to the hospital, went back to finish up at the tournament and she was born within two hours. She actually took her first steps on a racquetball court on her first birthday a year later. We would throw a bunch of balls into the court and have it serve as a large playpen. The event is called the 'Turkey Open' and was held on November 5 that year. Kara was crawling around and the next thing we know she picked up a ball and started walking with it."

Mrs. Mazur recalled, "Eddie actually played in our kitchen when he was little, with a ping pong paddle. It was a long narrow room, shaped somewhat like a court and he would bounce the balls off the wall all afternoon if I let him."

Clinics, experience has helped

All this early exposure has catapulted both Mazur children into the winners circle at an extremely competitive level. Ms. Campbell credits the junior programs and children's clinics that the association has been involved with.

"We have three training locations: Healthworks in Wallingford and the Bristol and Newington Healthtrax. Six out of 10 members are on junior group, which are ages 6-17, when to junior nationals," Ms. Campbell said.

rb:people & places

"Most tournaments run from Fridays to Sundays; Kara's been beating kids in her age group and even adults. Some people don't even want to play her when they see the brackets," said Mr. Mazur.

Kara doesn't quite grasp what's happening. "It makes me feel that I'm not good enough," the 10-year-old said. "It's exciting to win and to tell the news to all my friends when I get back home."

"The age brackets," Mrs. Mazur said, "are based on their ages at the beginning of the year. Eventually, both Eddie and Kara will play in mixed doubles together when they get to their teens."

"To stay competitive, they have to play at least three times a week. The court at the University of Hartford is closer to our house and that's where we've been working out," said Mr. Mazur.

[excerpted with permission, from Avon Life Magazine]

World Renowned Artist Creates Regional Artwork

In January the USRA unveiled the official artwork for the 2000 Ektelon USRA Regional Championships by Charles Fazzino, a world-renowned artist specializing in three-dimensional original and limited edition pop art [see the inside back cover for a large view of the artwork, and page five for the latest update to the regional listing]. Last year, Fazzino was named as an U.S. Olympic Committee official licensee to create artwork depicting Team USA's participation in the 2000 Olympic Games and 2002 Olympic Winter Games. He was also asked to provide the official artwork for the 1999 U.S. Olympic Congress, Oct. 24-26, where he then debuted the first of his limited edition Olympic-themed serigraphs.

Fazzino, best known for his use of vibrant colors, exceptional detail and storytelling ability with his artwork, has released several hundred editions over the course of his 20-year-career. His partnership with the USRA was a result of his work with the U.S. Olympic Committee. He also boasts a prestigious list of licensing partners including Walt Disney Art Classics, Warner Bros. Consumer Products, the National Football League and Major League Baseball. His artwork can be found in the private collections of hundreds of celebrities including First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, NFL quarterback Dan Marino, and TV talk show host Rosie O'Donnell.

Starting the New Year Right!

By Lori Lepow

Lots of great playing and lots of fun! That's the best way to describe the first major event of the new year, the 2000 U.S. National Women's Seniors/Masters Championships held January 21-23. The Merritt Athletic Club in Baltimore was host to the event which drew over 100 women, ages 35 and up from all over the United States.



This tournament is rated a Level 5 Invitational (and a recognized regional qualifier for players in the 45 and over divisions), which means that it attracts many top women's senior division players nationwide. The round robin format makes for a great workout and lots of matches for all of the players regardless of skill, so many make the trip because they know they will see a lot of court time over the three day period. The word is out among the women ... if you love to play, this is the tournament for you!

Smaller divisions play a straight round robin format with one flight, while larger divisions have multiple flights to qualify into a single-elimination playoff. Players are only allowed to enter one age level due to the number of matches played in each division. All of the matches are self-officiated, and while the level of play is very high, so is the level of sportsmanship.

Round robin play in all divisions began on Friday and continued through early afternoon on Saturday. In this phase, each competitor played two games to 11 against every other player in their flight. In the divisions with enough players to fill more than one flight, top finishers from each of the flights earned spots in a bracket of eight for a single elimination playoff to determine a champion. Playoff matches began on Saturday afternoon and were played the best two out of three games to 11, followed by semis and finals – and the crowning of new champions – on Sunday.

After the quarterfinals wrapped up on Saturday, players were treated to a terrific banquet at the club. Included, of course, was the traditional recognition of all of the

tournament's directors, hosts and many of the players who had attended the Women's Senior/Masters since its inception. In addition, awards were presented to the finishers in the divisions that had been decided at that point.

This year, a snowstorm in the northeast just before the championships made getting to Baltimore difficult for many players, with numerous flight delays and cancellations. Several arrived very late Thursday night and didn't get much sleep before having to play early matches on Friday. However, only a couple of matches needed to be re-scheduled due to late arrivals.

The Women's Senior/Master Nationals is a great tournament. It is run well, has great hospitality, lots of fun, camaraderie and most of all, lots of the thing we all love to do – playing! That's why participation has steadily increased since the event began. Next year's event will be held January 19-21, 2001 at the Spectrum Club in Canoga Park, California. If you're a female player over 35 – put this one on your calendar!

FINAL RESULTS

35+: Kim Whalen (WI) def. Solanna Taragan (CA) [2,3]
40+: Debra Tisinger (CA) def. Sallie Benedict (VA) [6,10]
45+: Susan Pfahler (FL) def. Meena Evans (NC) [6,6]
50+: Terry Rogers (CA) def. Mary Jo Murray (FL) [6,10]
55+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (OR) def. Margaret Hoff (IL) [280-257]
60+: Gloria Piscoran (OR) def. Jean Tull (VA)
65+: Jo Kenyon (FL) def. Lola Markus (IL)
70+: Reta Harring (WI) def. Dorothy Vezetinski (WA)
75+: Helen Deysher (PA)

Lori [Basch] Lepow is a long-time player from Central Florida, who is nationally ranked #2 in W30+ and #7 in W25+. In her first year at the Women's Senior Master event, she reached the W35+ semi-finals, following her title win in Women's 30+ at the 1999 U.S. OPEN last December.

Singles Champion Passes Away

Gerald Stoltmann, the 1997 men's 60+ national singles champion, died of pancreatic cancer April 29, 1999 in his home in Mequon, Wis. Stoltmann also captured the 1997 U.S. OPEN men's 60+ title during his career. Born October 19, 1936, in Milwaukee to Isabel and John Stoltmann, Gerry was an all-city basketball player in high school. He also competed in track, cross country and football, and played golf. He did not take up racquetball until 1970 when someone invited him for a game.

He first competed nationally in 1988, and his wife Rose joined him in playing during the 80's. Together they traveled around the U.S. playing in tournaments in San Francisco, Las Vegas, Baltimore, Boston and many other cities. Stoltmann is survived by his wife Rose and two sons, Andrew of Chicago and Scott of Mequon.



Keynote speaker Sandy Coffman was transported in time when she saw the photo of herself (above), taken from a story which ran in the July 1977 issue of National Racquetball, entitled "Luring Women into Racquetball." Coffman was on hand at the USRA's annual Leadership Conference, to kick off the proceedings with her own special enthusiasm.



rb:people & places



Moving On ...

Margo Daniels resigned from her position as National Tournament Director, effective February 29, to accept a position as an Administrative Assistant at the Santa Lucia Preserve, which is a new resort being built near her home in Monterey, California. The resort will be complete in three to four years, and hopes to achieve a six-star rating. Daniels anticipates being named the Director of Guest Services following the resort's completion. "Working with the USRA Board, the staff, club owners, sponsors and the athletes has been very rewarding," she said "and those memories will last a lifetime. I have reached my pinnacle through this sport and the experiences I have acquired will never be forgotten."

Jim Winterton also recently resigned his position as U.S. Junior Team Coach. He stated "I will miss the athletes and the Junior team. I really enjoyed this past few months working with the kids. Mexico has offered me a chance of a lifetime. I will be developing racquetball and helping to set up the types of programs that have fueled the United States's excellence. I appreciate all of the mentoring and advice I have received from everyone and truly hope I can continue to work at the Elite Camp. Thank you for all of your help and continued support. I'm sure I will be in touch!" Winterton has been named the Head Coach of the Mexican National Team, effective immediately.



Leaders 2000 ... Nearly seventy volunteers from state associations nationwide (and Alaska!) gathered at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs for the USRA's annual Leadership Conference in mid-January. Can you find **your** state association president? Photo: John Foust. [See Conference footage & materials online @ www.RacquetballCentral.com]

Calling All Junior Artists

The Head 27th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 24-28, and the USRA is holding a contest for the official artwork of the championships. Any junior player eligible to play in the championships is invited to submit artwork with the theme of "Racquetball & Kids: Perfect Partners." Age group winners (6-and under through 18-) will be awarded individual prizes, and the grand prize winner will have their artwork featured as the official artwork of the championships, plus receive a free entry to the event.

Entries may be in crayon, colored pencil, paint, marker, collage or any other method you choose. They cannot be larger than 8-1/2" x 11". Entries should be sent to the national office, marked ATTN: JUNIOR ARTWORK CONTEST. They must be received by Friday, April 21 (postmarked no later than April 19).

For more information, contact Christie Hyde at 719/635-5396 ext. 126 or via e-mail at CHyde@USRA.org.

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March 15-19	Alaska State Doubles @ Fairbanks Athletic Club[3]	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-6801
March 17-18	Idaho State Singles @ 24 Hour Fitness [3]	Boise, ID	208-377-0040
March 17-19	Alabama State Singles @ Family Fitness [3]	Huntsville, AL	205-988-3819
	Delaware State Singles @ Kirkwood Fitness & Racquet Club [3]	Wilmington, DE	302-478-7919
	Ed Willis Turney @ Athletic Express	Gaithersburg, MD	703-527-7785
	Green Mountain Open @ Racquet's Edge	Essex Jct, VT	802-878-7033
	Nebraska State Singles @ Sports Courts [3]	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
	Pro Kennex Super Six Stop #6 @ Southview Athletic Club	West St. Paul, MN	651-450-1660
	St. Patrick's Day Classic @ Racket & Fitness Center	Portland, ME	207-775-6128
	St. Patrick's Festival @ Clovis Community College	Clovis, NM	505-769-4153
	Wyoming State Singles @ Wyoming Athletic Club [3]	Casper, WY	307-265-6928
March 18-20	Shapes Racquetball Open @ Shapes Family Fitness Center	Watertown, NY	315-782-9348
March 22-26	New Mexico State Singles @ Tom Young's Athletic Club [3]	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
March 23-26	Arapaho Advocates For Children @ Colorado Athletic Club	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
March 24-26	All American Club Pro-Am @ All American Club	Baxter, MN	218-829-6453
	Indiana State Singles @ Greenbriar Athletic Club [3]	Indianapolis, IN	317-255-3321
	Louisiana State Singles @ LSU Recreational Complex [3]	Baton Rouge	504-468-2813
	The Negrete Open @ Athletic Club Of Bloomingdale	Bloomingdale, IL	630-893-9577
	Saturday Shoot Out Series II @ Downtown Dallas YMCA	Dallas, TX	214-954-0500
	Silver Bullet Shoot-Out @ Ozark Sports Club	Ft. Smith, AR	501-646-4338
	Tina Luciano Open @ River Bend Athletic Club	Peace Dale, RI	401-789-9585
	2nd Annual Spring Classic @ SW Recreation Center	Gainesville, FL	352-336-9318
	5th Crystal City Classic @ Crystal Gateway Sport & Health	Arlington, VA	703-527-7785
March 25-26	Michigan State Singles @ Lansing MAC [3]	East Lansing, MI	810-468-2787
	Regional Warm-Ups @ Gold's Gym	DeWitt, NY	315-446-0376
Mar 28-Apr 1	Utah State Singles @ Orem Fitness Center [3]	Orem, UT	801-229-7154
Mar 31-Apr 2	Maine State Singles @ Fitness Forum [3]	Sanford, ME	207-324-1154
	Minnesota State Singles @ Highway 100 Club [3]	Brooklyn Center, MN	612-920-6652
	Oklahoma State Juniors @ Southern Athletic Club [3]	Oklahoma City, OK	918-493-2276
	Oklahoma State Singles @ Southern Athletic Club [3]	Oklahoma City, OK	405-762-3943
	Spring Round Up @ Round Up Athletic Club	Pendleton, OR	541-276-0880
	Lifestyles Open @ Lifestyles	St. Petersburg, FL	727-347-7701
	West Virginia State Singles @ Marshall University [3]	Huntington, WV	304-696-2942
	Wisconsin State Singles Tune Up @ Mukwonago Athletic Club	Mukwonago, WI	262-363-2212
	WNY State Championship @ Bally Total Fitness	Amherst, NY	716-743-1852
	2000 Tri-State R/B Challenge @ BQE	Woodside, NY	718-429-8489

april ...

April 1-3

April 5-8	April Fools @ Healthworks	Wallingford, CT	203-248-1869
April 5-9	Real Women Play Racquetball @ Lincoln Racquet Club	Lincoln, NE	402-454-2765
April 7-9	Rio Tournament @ Rio Sport & Health	Gaithersburg, MD	301-258-5100
	NMRA National Masters @ Racquet Power Health & Fitness [5]	Jacksonville, FL	904-262-4424
	Alaska State Singles @ The Alaska Club Midtown [3]	Anchorage, AK	907-337-9550
	E-Force 28th World Intercollegiate Championships [5]	Tempe, AZ	719-635-5396
	Arkansas State Singles @ Summerhill [3]	Rogers, AR	501-582-9200
	North Carolina State Singles @ Courts Plus [3]	Jacksonville, NC	252-633-2221
	OJRA 5th Stop @ Timberhill Athletic Club	Corvallis, OR	541-757-8559
	Raq-Attack @ Dan Gamel's Health & Athletic Club	Fresno, CA	559-227-8405
	Robious Spring Open @ Robious Sports & Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-330-2222
	Spring Rollout @ Idaho Athletic Club	Caldwell, ID	208-888-0060
	Super 6 @ Results Sports & Fitness	Tucson, AZ	480-730-8156
	Wisconsin State Singles @ Wisconsin Athletic Club [3]	West Allis, WI	414-321-2500
	Adult Regional @ Lakewood Athletic Club [4]	Lakewood, CO	303-422-5703
	Adult Regional @ Glass Court Swim & Fitness [4]	Chicago, IL	630-629-3390
April 8-9	County Championships @ Gold's Gym	DeWitt, NY	315-446-0376
April 14-16	Adult Regional @ Central Courts [4]	Columbia Heights, MN	612-920-6652
	Adult Regional @ Spectrum Club [4]	Canoga Park, CA	818-999-5944
	Adult Regional @ Cascade Athletic Club [4]	Gresham, OR	503-666-7642

**sanctioned•event•calendar•sanctioned•event•calendar
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April 14-23	Adult Regional @ Merritt Athletic Club [4]	Baltimore, MD	410-298-7485
April 22-24	Adult Regional @ Southern Athletic Club [4]	Lilburn, GA	770-979-9421
April 28-29	Adult Regional @ Missouri Athletic Club West [4]	St. Louis, MO	314-731-2668
April 28-30	Adult Regional @ Northwest Fitness Center [4]	Houston, TX	713-432-0881
	Adult Regional @ Hall Of Fame Fitness Center [4]	Columbus, OH	614-890-9985
	Adult Regional @ Cedardale Athletic Club [4]	Cedardale, MA	603-367-8533
	PARC 13th Tournament of the Americas	Cochabamba, Bolivia	719-635-5396
	Idaho State Junior Open @ Sandpoint West Athletic Club	Sandpoint, ID	208-265-4774
	Rick Weaver Buick Open @ Nautilus Fitness Center.	Erie, PA	814-868-0072
	Cancer @ Merritt Athletic - Annapolis.	Annapolis, MD	410-269-1976
	Crawfish Classic @ Prime Fitness	Birmingham, AL	205-988-3819
	Hawaiian Open @ Sacramento Court Club.	Sacramento, CA	916-920-1933
	Illini Classic @ The Fitness Center.	Champaign, IL	217-356-1616
	Pomona Valley Open @ Claremont Club.	Claremont, CA	909-625-6791

may ...

May 4-7	National Warmup @ Club International.	Santa Fe, NM	505-473-9807
May 5-7	Annual Cinco De Mayo @ Pueblo Athletic Club	Pueblo, CO	719-561-3488
	Adult Regional @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club [4]	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
	Spring Fling @ Clubsport Pleasanton	Pleasanton, CA	925-463-2822
	Wallace Dockall Open @ Jim's Gym	San Marcos, TX	512-353-0789
	Wisconsin State Juniors @ Mukwonago Athletic Club [3].	Mukwonago, WI	262-363-2212
	What A Racquet Open @ What a Racquet	Daly City, CA	650-994-9080
May 12-14	NWFC Shoot Out Series @ Northwest Fitness Center.	Houston, TX	713-432-0881
May 13	Junior Open Championships @ Colorado Athletic Club	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
May 13-14	LAC Open @ Lloyd Athletic Club	Portland, OR	503-287-4594
May 17-21	Craig McCoy Memorial @ The Tournament House	Riverside, CA	909-682-7511
May 19-21	Merced Spring Open @ Merced Sports Club.	Merced, CA	209-722-3988
	Super 6 @ Arizona Athletic Club	Tempe, AZ	480-730-8156
	Tournament Of Aces @ Tri City Leisure Center	West Columbia, SC	803-772-0672
	Club Championship @ Gold's Gym	DeWitt, NY	315-446-0376
May 20	Ektelon 33rd USRA National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, TX	719-635-5396
May 24-29	Oregon State Singles @ Multnomah Athletic Club [3]	Portland, OR	503-223-8740

june ...

June 8-11	Annual Pepsi Cup @ Colorado Athletic Club.	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
June 9-11	New Mexico Games @ Midtown Sports & Wellness.	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
	Crystal Coast Classic @ The Sport Center.	Morehead City, NC	910-726-7070
	Gold Country Open @ Courthouse Athletic Club	Auburn, CA	530-885-1964
	Louisiana Games/June Classic @ Elmwood Fitness Center	Harahan, LA	504-468-2813
June 10	Summer Scorcher @ The Spectrum Club	Canoga Park, CA	818-884-5034
	One Day Shoot Out @ Maverick Athletic Club.	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348

upcoming 2000 national & international events ...

April 5-9	E-Force 28th IRF World Intercollegiate Championships [5]	Phoenix, AZ	719-635-5396
April 13-16	Ektelon USRA Regional Championships [4]	Nationwide	719-635-5396
April 14-23	PARC Tournament of the Americas	Cochabamba, Bolivia	719-635-5396
May 24-29	Ektelon 33rd USRA National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, Texas	719-635-5396
June 1-4	World Senior Doubles.	Paris, France	505-266-8960
June 24-28	Head 27th USRA Junior Olympic Championships [6]	Minneapolis, Minnesota	719-635-5396
July 12-15	NMRA International Masters Championships [5]	Colorado Springs, Colorado	816-229-1300
August 4-12	IRF 10th World Championships.	San Luis Potosi, Mexico	719-635-5396
Aug.29-Sept.2	IRF 12th World Senior Racquetball Championships [5]	Albuquerque, New Mexico	505-266-8960
October 4-8	Ektelon 33rd USRA National Doubles Championships [6]	Baltimore, Maryland	719-635-5396
November 15-19	5th U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships [5]	Memphis, Tennessee	719-635-5396
December 16-20	ProKennex 12th IRF World Junior Championships [5]	TBA	719-635-5396

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

• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 04/00, you must renew your membership in the month of April in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

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men

Men's Open

1. Mike Locker, MN
2. Jack Huczak, MI
- 3T. Michael Bronfeld, CA
- 3T. Adam Karp, CA
5. Dan Llacer, DE
6. John Davis, LA
7. Matt Gehling, MD
8. Brian Fredenberg, TX
9. Doug Ganim, OH
10. Todd O'Neil, TX

Men's A

1. Barney Revuelta, TX
2. David Ghio, CA
- 3T. Mike Cole, NH
- 3T. Ryan Lindell, OR
- 5T. Doug Brehm, TN
- 5T. David Leon, CA
7. Sanjay Laforeste, NY
8. Joe Clinton, TX
9. Dave Bartscher, TX
10. Eric Rieman, IL

Men's B

1. Ryan Lindell, OR
2. Angelo Perilli, PA
3. Eddie Pavloski, TX
4. Tony Garcia, TX
5. Felix Marrero, LA
6. Dan Shupsky, FL
7. Bill Boada, LA
8. Steve Simpson, OH
9. Joe Dorner, FL
10. Rob Bultinck, MN

Men's C

1. Peter Michaely, TX
2. Donnie Crowe, LA
3. Craig Sparks, AZ
4. Matt Clark, IA
5. Paul Dolan, CA
6. Wes McDonald, LA
- 7T. Bruce Schaff, CO
- 7T. Andy Silva, FL
9. Garry Carter, CA
10. Eric Fritchley, OH

Men's D

1. Jerry Buchanan, LA
2. Ryan Kinnaman, AR
3. Garry Carter, CA
4. Sid Harshavat, IL
5. David Eaton, OH
6. Kris Robinson, KY
7. Bradley Vaughan, NC
8. Emmanuel Drege, TX
9. Matt Stroup, NJ
10. Drew Toland, AR

Men's Novice

1. Bobby Lavelle, OH
2. Carlos Guzman, TX
- 3T. Not a Member, NH
- 3T. Christopher Nichols, AR

- 3T. Tavares Patton, NY
- 6T. Robert Lee, NM
- 6T. Felix Ruiz, NJ
- 8T. Craig Mirsky, PA
- 8T. Ari Post, VA
10. Jake Bredenbeck, MN

Men's 24+

1. Jack Huczak, MI
2. Kyle Veenstra, WI
3. Jack Long, TX
4. Jeffrey Garner, AL
5. Ryan Homa, WI
- 6T. Josh Tucker, MO
- 6T. Dan Whitley, MO
- 8T. Brad Hansen, IA
- 8T. Not a Member, FL
10. Bart Crawford, OR

Men's 25+

1. Sameer Hadid, CA
2. Rob Dejesus, AZ
3. Barney Revuelta, TX
- 4T. Jeff Arnett, MO
- 4T. Fabian Balmori, FL
- 4T. Russ Bruns, VA
- 4T. Scott Grunin, NY
- 4T. Mike Locker, MN
- 4T. Chris Zalewski, NH
10. Al Schof, LA

Men's 30+

1. John Davis, LA
2. John Collison, DE
3. Brad McCunniff, IA
- 4T. Jeff Bell, AZ
- 4T. Jim Frautschi, MN
6. Alan Sheppard, NC
7. David Watson, OK
8. Hector Capo, FL
9. David Smith, GA
10. John Amatulli, IN

Men's 35+

1. Bobby Haab, CT
2. David Lockridge, GA
3. Dave Negrete, IL
4. Scot Corisoli, FL
5. Jimmy Lowe, WA
6. Gary Tanko, WI
7. Carl Evers, WI
8. David Watson, OK
- 9T. Bill Serafin, NJ
- 9T. Tom Utterback, IL

Men's 40+

1. Walter Schramm, NY
2. Don Ott, IN
3. Tom Travers, OH
4. Roger Miller, VA
5. Michael Anderson, MI
6. Gary Tanko, WI
- 7T. Greg Diaz, FL
- 7T. Dan Hardan, WA
- 7T. Not a Member, TX
10. Carlos Ascunce, CA

Men's 45+

1. Gary Mazaroff, NM
2. Deriny Vincent, OH
3. Tom Weniger, CA
4. Russ Palazzo, CT
5. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
- 6T. Ed Garabedian, PA
- 6T. Jesus Moctezuma, TX
- 6T. Dominic Palmieri, OH
- 6T. Steve Silverman, SC
10. Jim Luzar, WI

Men's 50+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Greg Hasty, IL
3. Ed Remen, NC
4. Jim Bailey, VA
5. Ron Galbreath, PA
6. Dan Davis, TX
7. Mark Daigle, NY
- 8T. Dave Arnold, NM
- 8T. Tom McKie, TX
10. Kevin Dorr, MD

Men's 55+

1. Ray Huss, OH
2. Glenn Allen, VA
3. Dennis O'Brien, ID
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. Len Wilson, PA
6. Ron Galbreath, PA
- 7T. Mickey Bellah, CA
- 7T. Jim Trammell, MO
9. G. Kyle Smith, TX
10. Peter Silver, FL

Men's 60+

1. Jim Wilking, UT
- 2T. Lee Graff, OR
- 2T. Rex Lawler, IN
4. Charlie Garfinkel, NY
5. Jerry Holly, CA
6. Bob Webster, AL
7. Ron Adams, CA
8. Grant Morrill, PA
9. George Wade, MO
10. Dario Mas, DE

Men's 65+

1. Don Alt, FL
2. Not a Member, OH
3. Ken Moore, CA
4. Paul Banales, AZ
5. John O'Donnell, IL
6. Don Maxey, TX
7. Ron McElwee, AL
8. Robert Miller, SC
- 9T. Jim Dunn, CA
- 9T. Bob Kleinschmidt, MN

Men's 70+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Barney Friesth, SD
3. Philip Dziuk, IL
- 4T. Bill Reese, TX
- 4T. Victor Sacco, NY
6. Chuck Martarano, IL
- 7T. Carl Buschner, MA

- 7T. Mal Roberts, FL
9. Stan Fugate, FL
10. Chuck Lake, VA

Men's 75+

1. Nick Sans, CA
2. Earl Acuff, NC
- 3T. Robert McAdam, TX
- 3T. Cam Snowberger, SC
5. J.W. Studak, TX
6. Al Romero, NM
7. Bernard Sand, IA
- 8T. Bill Matotan, NM
- 8T. George Spear, FL
- 8T. Lake Westphal, AZ

Men's 80+

1. George Spear, FL
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Charlie Russell, CA
4. Ben Marshall, TX
- 5T. C. Allen Shepherd, MD
- 5T. Cam Snowberger, SC
7. Harry Steinman, MD
8. Bill Sherman, TX

Men's 85+

1. Harry Steinman, MD

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Not a Member, KS
3. Sadie Hall, TN

4. Denise Mock, TX
5. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
6. Robin Levine, CA
- 7T. Lisa Hjelm, CA
- 7T. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
9. Phyllis Morris, NC
10. Aimee Roehler, NJ

Women's A

1. Esther McNany, CT
2. Janel Tisinger, CA
3. Sharon Steeley, SC
4. Not a Member, VA
5. Brenna Bilbrough, OR
6. Sheri Zappala, NY
- 7T. Lori Edmonds, NE
- 7T. Kathy Ropers, LA
9. Patrice Calvi, IL
10. Ann Doucette, ME

Women's B

1. Diane Taylor-Whitman, MA
2. Michelle Poage, AK
3. Nathania Stewart, GA
4. Rhonda Kochis, OK
5. Renee Kemp, MD
6. Kathy Welker, TX
7. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
8. Charlotte Kochersperger, PA
9. Catherine Radloff, IL
10. Bette Miller, CO

Women's C

1. Cheryl Kirk, IL
2. Lynn Hiorns, IL
3. Sharon Wilks, NC
4. Beth Rist, LA
5. Janice Kennedy, GA
6. Alice Avchen, FL
- 7T. Angela Cook, PA
- 7T. Not a Member, TX
- 7T. Stephanie Guthrie, GA
10. Joanna Reyes, TX

1. Ramona Vonondarza, FL
2. Pamela Trent, MD
3. Samaria Bennett, TX
4. Gretchen Gobar, NH
- 5T. Sunshine Dryer, OK
- 5T. Danielle Mathieu, MO
7. Gennie Salinas, TX
8. Jamie Johnson, OH
9. Lisa Crispin, CA
10. Rita Derr, CO

Women's D

1. Theresa Alimena, OH
- 2T. Kim Boehmler, DE
- 7T. Lai Man Cheung, PA
- 7T. Stephanie Garcia, NM

Women's Novice

1. Gretchen Gobar, NH
2. Nancy Bennett, PA
3. Elise Wilson, CT
- 4T. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
- 4T. Gena Reilly, NM
6. Anna Post, VA
- 7T. Kristen Fritz, PA
- 7T. Christina Lewendal, OR
- 7T. Kristen Sutek, AL
10. Sadie Hall, TN

Women's 24+

1. Aimee Roehler, NJ
- 2T. Shannon Feaster, MD
- 2T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
- 4T. Megan Bals, NE
- 4T. Sara Borland, IA
6. Brooke Crawford, OR
- 7T. Kristen Fritz, PA
- 7T. Christina Lewendal, OR
- 7T. Kristen Sutek, AL
10. Sadie Hall, TN

Women's 25+

1. Heather Dunn, CA
2. Jo Shattuck, CO
3. Jen Yokota, MO
- 4T. Jennifer Dering, NY
- 4T. Lisa Marie Papp, GA
- 6T. Not a Member, PA
- 6T. Lori Lepow, FL
- 8T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 8T. Holly Remen, NC
10. Esther McNany, CT

Women's 30+

1. Kim Russell, TN
2. Lori Lepow, FL
- 3T. Lorraine Galloway, NY
- 3T. Michelle Lucas, VA
5. Kelley Beane, NH
6. Micky Richer, CO
- 7T. Cheryl Conrad, IA

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7T. Terri Straka, MN
 9T. Jennifer Dering, NY
 9T. B.J. Ehrrott, CT

Women's 35+

1. Denise Mock, TX
 2. Holly Rermen, NC
 3. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 4. B.J. Ehrrott, CT
 5. Debra Tisinger, CA
 6. Phyllis Morris, NC
 7. Karin Sobotta, WA
 8. Kim Machiran, MO
 9. Not a Member, KS
 10. Jean Trimble, FL

Women's 40+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2T. Mary Beke, AZ
 2T. Janell Marriott, RI
 4T. Chris Eron, IL
 4T. Susan Pfahler, FL
 6. Linda Moore, NE
 7. Jill Mitchell, AK
 8T. Val Shewfelt, UT
 8T. Jean Trimble, FL
 10. Peggy Stephens, KY

Women's 45+

1. Karen Key, AZ
 2. Not a Member, CA
 3. Brenda White, IL
 4. Lesley Kishigian, MI
 5. Debbie Chaney, IN
 6. Janell Marriott, RI
 7. Jere Luttnar, TX
 8. Linda Bentzel, PA
 9T. Marsha Berry, KY
 9T. Nan Higgins, NH

Women's 50+

1. Merijean Kelley, CA
 2T. Sharon Huczek, MI
 2T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 4. Shelley Ogden, OH
 5. Pattie Schof, LA
 6. Agatha Falso, FL
 7T. Donna Ebner, MO
 7T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 9T. Mary Lou Furaus, NM
 9T. Terry Ann Rogers, CA

Women's 55+

1T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 1T. Gail Schaefer, MD
 3. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 4. Marquita Molina, CA
 5. Mildred Gwinn, NC
 6. Nidia Funes, CA
 7. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
 8T. Nancy Kay Butts, WI
 8T. Louise Graham, WI
 10. Joy DeSantis, CA

Women's 60+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
 2. Annabelle Kovar, NE
 3. LaVonne Kohlhepp, WI

4. Susan Embry, WA
 5. Naomi Eads, MO
 6. Audrey Lenroot, WI
 7T. Jeanne Leben, AZ
 7T. Lola Markus, IL
 9. Danielle Smith, AK

Women's 65+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
 2. Lola Markus, IL
 3. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 4. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
 5. Ruth Zenk, FL
 6. Paula McNeish, FL
 7. Louise Kiss, NM

Women's 70+

1. Reta Harring, WI
 2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
 3T. Tillie Davies, AZ
 3T. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+

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

Women's 80+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

boys

Boy's 6 & Under

1. Kyle Rynard, IN
 2. Joseph Lee, LA
 3. Matthew Markert, LA
 4. Dan Ring, MN

B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Joseph Lee, LA
 2. Calvin Godwin, FL
 3. Ryan Kutner, TX
 4T. Andres Garcia, CA
 4T. Matthew Hunter, FL
 6. Marco Rojas, CA
 7. Taylor Regier, OR
 8T. Brad Falvey, WI
 8T. Erik Formo, MN
 8T. James Hardy, OR

Boy's 8 & Under

1. Jose Rojas, CA
 2. Erick Podwill, OR
 3. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
 4. John Sanderson, UT
 5. Billy Wainwright, OR
 6T. Joseph Lee, LA
 6T. Not a Member, CO
 8. Not a Member, CO
 9. Chris Rynard, IN
 10. Not a Member, TX

B8- Multi-Bounce

1. Joseph Lee, LA
 2. Billy Wainwright, OR
 3. Miguel Martinez, AK

4. Calvin Godwin, FL
 5. Andrew Peterson, OR
 6. Not a Member, CO
 7T. Chris Rynard, IN
 7T. Casey Sauter, WI
 9. Not a Member, CO
 10. Isaac Mitchell, AK

Boy's 10-

1. Nick Arturo, AK
 2. Connor Reynolds, GA
 3T. Mark Beaudry, CO
 3T. Jose Rojas, CA
 5. Allan Crockett, AL
 6. William Lee, LA
 7. Matt Keddie, NH
 8. Brad Starken, WI
 9. Johnny Melgaard, ID
 10. Cam Grundman, MN

Boy's 12-

1. Joey Lakowske, OR
 2. Matt Johnson, NM
 3. Chris Coy, OK
 4. Drew Toland, AR
 5. Eddie Mazur, CT
 6. Charles Pratt, OR
 7. Mike Keddie, NH
 8. Andrew Grissom, CA
 9. Marc Kovalick, FL
 10. David Laforest, NY

Boy's 14-

1. Steven Klaiman, TX
 2. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
 3. Ryan Lindell, OR
 4. Ben Croft, IL
 5. Dan Sheppick, OR
 6. Jacob Karmelin, GA
 7. Clay Burris, FL
 8. Drew Toland, AR
 9. Nicholas Rowley, AZ
 10. Mike Keddie, NH

Boy's 16-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
 2. Bart Crawford, OR
 3. Joey Delfino, MA
 4. Rusty Powell, LA
 5. Erik Leetch, AR
 6. Matthew McElhiney, FL
 7. Sanjay Laforest, NY
 8. Dan Beaudry, CO
 9T. Andy Hawthorne, IL
 9T. Michael Lawrence, AL

Boy's 18-

1T. Josh Tucker, MO
 1T. Shane Vanderson, OH
 3. Stephen Lewis, WA
 4. Jeffrey Garner, AL
 5. Not a Member, MA
 6. Mitch Williams, NC
 7. Joe Marchetti, AK
 8. Jack Huczek, MI
 9. Matt Gehling, MD
 10. Darrin Prince, MN

7. Erin Pratte, NY
 8. Brittany Legget, OR
 9. Jennifer Fenton, KS
 10. Katie Wafer, CO

Girl's 12-

1. Ashley Legget, OR
 2. Kelley Fisher, OH
 3. Kynzie Dalton, OR
 4. Kastle Arturo, AK
 5. Elise Wilson, CT
 6. Kimberly Walsh, UT
 7. Natalie Starken, WI
 8. Brandie Hanson, OR
 9. Ashley Willhite, OR
 10. Cassie Shattock, CO

girls

G6- Multi-Bounce

1. Stephanie Rojas, OR
 2. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
 3. Tristyn Trelease, OR
 4. Sierra Adam, CO
 5. Katie Faith, CO
 6T. Ashley Bechard, WI
 6T. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 6T. Kaitlynn Pacinelli, NM

Girl's 8 & Under

1. Wesley Toland, AR
 2. Stephanie Moyle, OR
 3. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
 4. Samantha Pimental, OR
 5T. Brianna Elder, MD
 5T. Danielle Key, AZ
 7T. Nicole Grundman, MN
 7T. Ashley Wetherell, NJ
 9. Tia Smith, OR
 10. Paige Hunter, FL

G8- Multi-Bounce

1. Wesley Toland, AR
 2. Stephanie Moyle, OR
 3. Nicole Grundman, MN
 4. Cory Laurita, CO
 5. Stephanie Rojas, OR
 6. Amy Willhite, OR
 7T. Courtney Hill, NM
 7T. Julia Negrete, IL
 9. Sierra Adam, CO
 10. Ceara Odell, NM

Girl's 10-

1. Kara Mazur, CT
 2. Shannon Inglesby, OR
 3. Liz Taylor, OR
 4. Rebeka Kopf, NY
 5. Dannielle Pimental, OR
 6. Michelle Key, AZ

Girl's 14-

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 2. Cari Miltitsky, NY
 3. Jenny Cary, OR
 4. Lindsay Deutsch, CA
 5. Jesi Fuller, NM
 6. Erica Beaudry, CO
 7. Mary Sweeney, NY
 8. Kelley Fisher, OH
 9T. Not a Member, SC
 9T. Augusta Shaposhnikov, CA

Girl's 16-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
 2. Krystal Csuk, IL
 3. Cari Miltitsky, NY
 4. Nickii Whitney, VT
 5. Kristen Kovar, NE
 6. Crystal Winfrey, OH
 7T. Lauren Deutsch, CA
 7T. Molly Law, CO
 9T. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
 9T. Linda Knudsen, UT

Girl's 18-

1. Brooke Crawford, OR
 2. Kristen Walsh, UT
 3. Michelle Gonzalez, OR
 4. Sara Borland, IA
 5. Megan Bals, NE
 6. Lauren Deutsch, CA
 7. Chris Young, AK
 8. Tiffany Sheppick, OR
 9. Crystal Winfrey, OH
 10. Meghan Guardiani, MA

EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION

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

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

ad index

A Healthy Racquet	415-757-0199	58	USRA Merchandise	719-635-5396	32/33
AmPRO Help Wanted	813-262-1112	56	Vincent Fitness	800-241-1136	56
Ashaway	800-556-7260	25	Wilson	800-272-6060	12/13
Bell Racquet Sports	800-724-9439	56	Wilsonart Flooring	800-710-8846	31
Court Sports	800-352-1042	59	Your Tennis Advantage	800-596-1725	56
Courtesy Sports	800-729-1771	59			
E-Force	800-433-6723	21	ENTRIES & INFO	USRA Events	
Ektelon	800-435-8356	6/7	E-Force Intercollegiates	719-635-5396	52
Excell.Net	413-565-4430	57	Ektelon Regionals	719-635-5396	IBC & 5
Gemini	804-745-0075	59	The Finals	719-635-5396	26/27
Head Sports Inc.	800-874-3234	IFC			
Head Sports Inc.	800-874-3234	Back cover			
Holabird Sports	410-687-6400	57	OFFICIAL WEBSITE SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS		
Klippermate	847-742-1300	56	Excell.Net	www.excell.net	
Lawler Court Products	800-875-3701	55	E-Force	www.e-force.com	
Leader	800-847-2001	17	PlayPro	www.playpro.com	
Michael's Ripit	800-552-6453	56	Wilson	www.wilsonsports.com	
Pacific Sports Warehouse	800-835-1055	55			
Penn Racquet Sports	800-289-7366	3			
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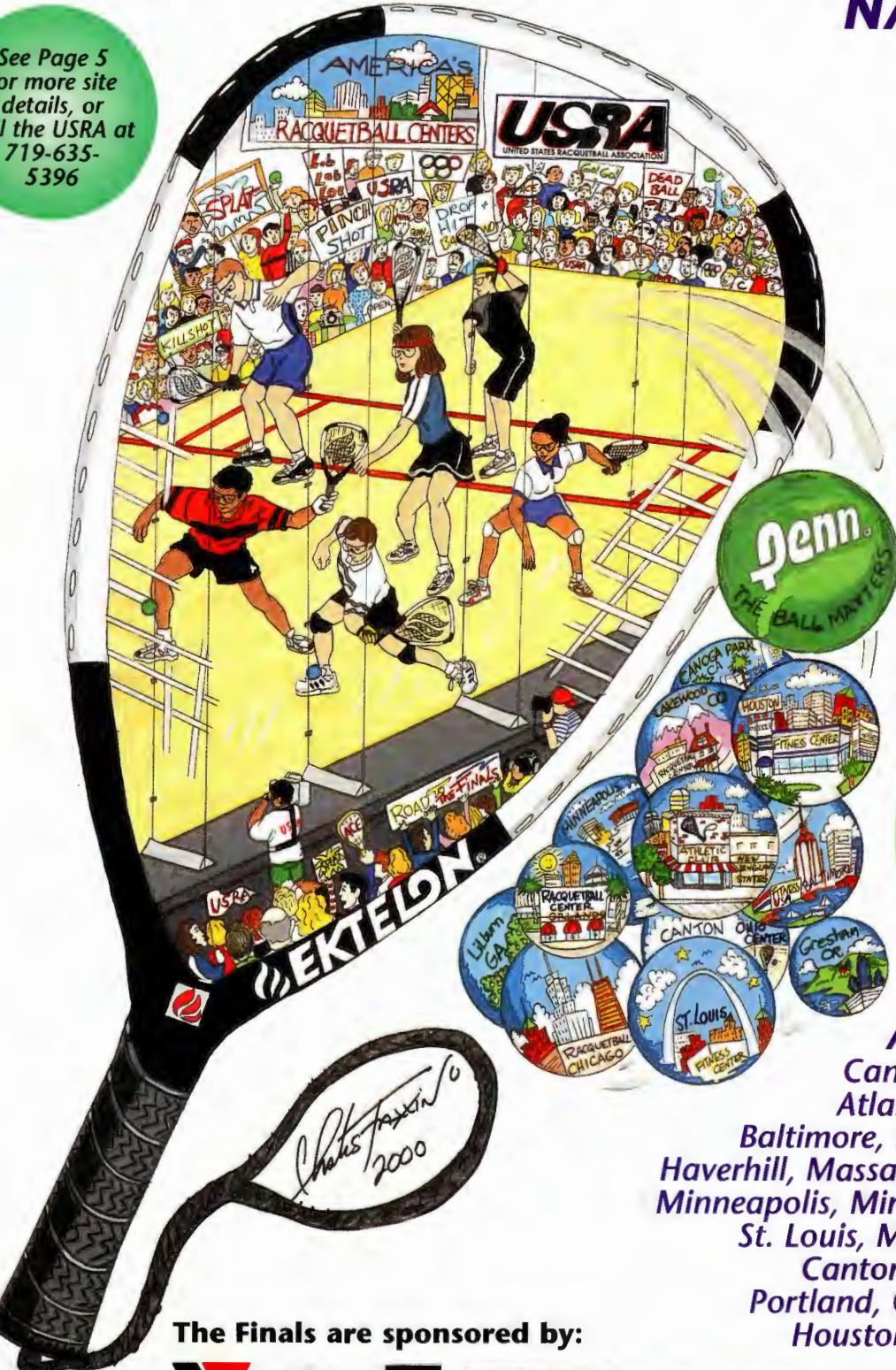
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