

RACQUETBALL



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National Doubles Finalists Qualify for U.S. National Team



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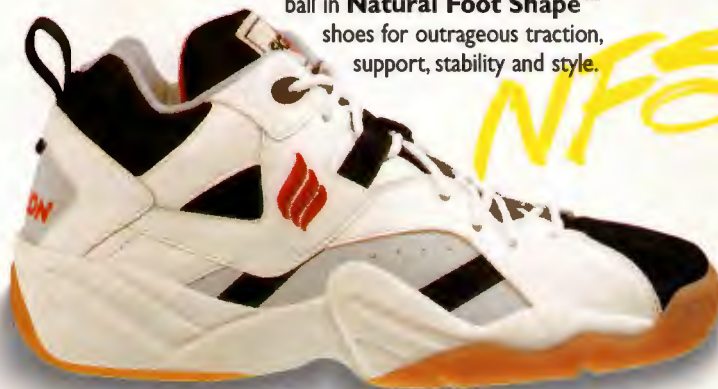
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from the editor

Don't panic — this is NOT it! Since I used this space in the last issue to announce our need for a new logo, I thought I'd follow up with a look at what has been accepted as a transitional variation until something new and exciting wins our contest. The letters USRA, set in the same way as the previous AARA logo, are only intended to provide a clear – but temporary – visual reference to the former name, while you get used to the new letter combination. You'll see this version used in several ways over the next few months, until we do a major rollout of the new corporate design.



This also presents a good opportunity to think about moving forward, not only with a new logo, but in the very way we think about our sport. Can we continue to cherish – without losing – the warm, fuzzy way this association was built ... and still make tough decisions when they're needed? Can we hold in high regard – without forgetting – our former heroes ... and still keep an eye to the future? Can we stay home-grown – without languishing – and still demand a place in a multi-million dollar sports market? Darned if I know ... but the questions do bear some thought.

It just might be time for a new attitude. We'll hit 30 this coming year. The big 3-0. Will we *all* take on more responsibility for the growth of our sport? Will we *all* decide to bring more people onto the courts? Will we *all* practice so we won't get so frustrated when we play in a tournament? Will we *all* try to be good sports and respect our opponents? Will we *all* take a long, hard look at our motivation? Will we *all* promise to eat right and get enough sleep? Well, it couldn't hurt, you know.

So, having said all that, I suppose you'll expect me to make these *my* New Year's resolutions. After all, responsibility is a good thing – and I am plenty old enough to start acting like an adult. Just don't hold me to it when the music gets loud.



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Contents



RACQUETBALL Magazine

FEATURES

29th National Doubles	8
8th World Seniors	16
SPECIAL: Gift Guide	31

DEPARTMENTS

PROfile Tour Highlights	
IRT/Las Vegas	18
IRT/New Orleans	19
IRT/Stockton	20
WIRT/Annapolis	23
WIRT/Canoga Park	24
Tour Update	25
1996-97 Calendar	28
Tour Rankings	26
USRA National Rankings	60
USRA National Events Calendar	62
Corporate Sponsors & Advertisers	64

INSTRUCTIONAL

Mastery of Racquetball	
featuring Tom Travers	35
Guest AmPRO Tip: Practice Games	
by Lorraine Galloway	40
Ektelon Game Plan: by Dave Peck	42
AmPRO Tip: Getting Ready	
by Fran Davis & Diana McNab	43
Wilson Game Plan: Taking Advantage	
by Lynn Adams	44
AmPRO Club Racquet by Michelle Gould ...	49
Ashaway Mains & Crosses	
by Steve Crandall	50

COLUMNS

From the Editor	2
Changing Times by Luke St. Onge	51
RB: Global	52
Tournament Update	56

TOURNAMENT ENTRIES

Pro Kennex IRF World Juniors	53
Women's Senior/Master Championships ..	56
1997 Regional Qualifiers	41

PHOTOS ... Top: Robin Levine (foreground) goes for a forehand against Michelle Gould at National Doubles. Center: Gus Farrell takes a breather between games at World Seniors. Bottom (L-R): Daughter Kim Judy and mom Tony Jody show what a great time they had at the Carmen Kendall Women's Classic.

ON THE COVER ... Open finalists from national doubles strike a holiday pose in Phoenix. Top: Todd O'Neil. Second row (L-R) Cheryl Gudinas, Derek Robinson, Michelle Gould. Front row (L-R): Doug Ganim, Joy MacKenzie, Jackie Paraiso, Dan Obremski.: Photo: Kevin Vicroy.

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reader forum

bravo, garrett

I came across an article in the September/October issue of Racquetball Magazine that has moved me to write a letter to the editor, something I rarely do. The article I refer to was "Tribute to a Teacher."

I recently met Garrett Parks, the subject of that article, at the World Senior Championships in Albuquerque. Garrett was, in every way, a gentleman, both on the court as an opponent, and off the court as a newfound friend. Garrett and I played a very close, hard-fought match, but there was never any rancor or controversy about calls. Garrett was very polite and pleasant, both during the match and later, as we visited and watched other matches together.

The article just reinforced my impression of Garrett as a fine person, giving something back to the sport of racquetball. Often, especially come tournament time, civility seems to go out the window in the heat of battle. Garrett represented to me the other side of that coin. He showed that it is possible to be both a very strong competitor and a gentleman on the court.

Garrett, I tip my hat to you and can only hope to try to emulate your on- and off-court manner.

Roger Barber
Wheatland, Wyoming

Just a quick note of thanks for running the "Tribute to a Teacher" piece. More players than I ever knew have read the thing. There is one down side, however. Garrett now has more new students than ever before. Perhaps it will be necessary, now, to establish an "advanced class."

Paul Gordon
Los Angeles, California

freedom of speech

I think it appropriate to apply two of Speaker Gingrich's most popular adjectives to Mr. Ruedisueli's letter in

your [last] issue's Reader Forum. His belligerent reply to Matt Farrell's column "The Novice" was both "grotesque" and "pathetic."

First, to respond to an offhand and rather mild remark concerning the country's most disliked public official, then expect an editor to curb that opinion is no less than a call for censorship. Then, to follow up with almost two columns of incoherent fulmination on the evils of "liberals" and "government," undermines his own demand for neutrality in the letters department.

I say no. Letters and columns are designed to give voice to individual ideas and opinion – even those as abusive, incoherent and, I should say, un-American, as Mr. Ruedisueli's.

Don Williams
Beverly Hills, California

world review

Just wanted to send you a note to tell you how much I enjoyed the whole experience of the World Championships. For years I have longed to be at the Olympic Games, and my time still had not come for the Atlanta Games. However, this was as if the IRF brought the Games to me!

The Opening Ceremony was wonderful with all those joyous faces from all over the world and bodies brimming with energy and anticipation of the competition. What a very special group of people this "clan" of racquetballers is, the camaraderie was very genuine and they all supported one another. The love of their game overcame any language barriers and their unity to the cause of making their sport an Olympic sport was unquestionable.

Every time I was at the Club, the players always exhibited a free-spirited nature and loved laughing and having fun. I know that each of them returned home with very special memories and truly enjoyed their experience here in Phoenix, thanks to you and all the efforts

of your staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the fun and competition, and to be able to present the athletes their medals was a very special honor for me, it was all unforgettable!

Colleen Stone
Maricopa County Sports Commission

comments online ...

Here's a sampling of what we've been hearing online since our "first draft" of the AARA website debuted in May. We've got big plans for its future — plus major improvements to the RACQUETBALL Magazine ONLINE homepage — so keep looking us up in cyberspace ... [http:// www.racquetball.org](http://www.racquetball.org) and [http:// www.racqmag.com](http://www.racqmag.com).

Stay with it! The net is coming ... you made a good decision to get on, be patient ... // **Duncan Watt**

Greetings, and congrats on a great site. Here in Ontario we are also proud to be helping promote our great sport by establishing a web site. We would like to add you to our links page and request a reciprocal link. Our address is <http://www.interlog.com/rollout> Thanks and feel free to contact me for further information. // **Jacob Solomon**

The page is very informative and well structured to allow easy navigation. The subjects cover nearly all aspects of the sport and I look forward to you keeping me abreast of the latest happenings in our beloved sport. Keep up the great work! // **Carlos Hill**

Great site. Well laid out, and informative. Would like to see more state association involvement online. I think it's a great way to get the word out about the game, and keep current players interested. // **Wayne Smith**

I finally found you guys. I tried earlier with the address from the mag but with little success. Now you have become a bookmark. // **Dennis S. Danie**

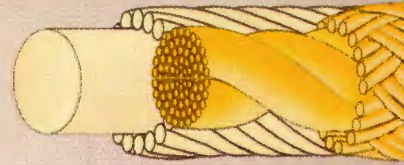
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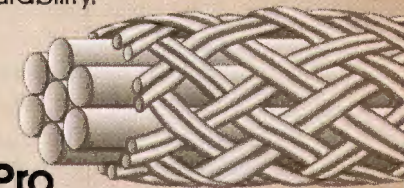
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readersonline

rankings on your page as a selection. Besides that I think the new web page is great. // **Reed Bastian**

It's great that the USRA is on-line. It was just a matter of time. This type of forum can quickly bring together people from around the country, making it that much smaller. This could also be a great forum to use for throwing out ideas to the masses. Unfortunately, I'm being sent on a remote tour to Korea for a year. Hopefully, they will have internet access over there so I can keep in touch with you guys. Thanks. // **Joe Ecklund**

I was excited about finding the URL for y'all – and now I'm a bit disappointed. The information herein is a rather old/dated (as to sanctioned tournaments). If I knew this was a reliable place for tournament info I'd check it often. I've found that I can't rely on snail info. Another suggestion is to provide links to State associations (a homepage) where they could list local tournaments and items of interest. Last suggestion – contact the advertisers from your magazine and offer them a good deal to put their ad on here – preferably with a link so we could deal with them through cyber-space. Take care and keep up the good work. // **Bill Maguire**

I am Editor of the ORA State Newsletter and our recently created website <http://members.aol.com/racqbo/ora.htm>. Could this be added to your "Other sites to visit" link? I have added the AARA's Internet address to the ORA website. Thanks!! // **Chris Carter**

I am a senior player (club only) who is still trying to improve my game. I'm very interested in your pages. This is my first visit but I'll continue to check you out. // **Carol J. Brown**

Nice page ... anything to promote and support R-ball..... Keep up the good work. // **Terry Pellam**

I think this is the best way to keep your membership informed. Most racquetball players that I know seem to be affluent enough to own a computer and be connected to the web. Keep up the good work! // **Mike Meline**

Thanks to Stan Shaw III and his company Excell Net — New England is on the WWW. Stan has the entire New England schedule and some other stuff out there so far. It is at: <http://www.neracquetball.com>. It would be nice if you could add a point to it. // **Thanks, William D. Gargan**

Love the home page. Would love some kind of chat room of racquetball players!! // **Lori Basch**

I really like the layout of this web site but the updates are slow. Like other sport sites I would like to see results from important tournaments posted during and immediately following them — Albuquerque for example. // **Tony Condon**

Thanks for the information available. I travel quite a bit to international destinations and enjoy playing as much as possible. Your worldwide list of racquetball home pages will help me. // **Ken Foster**

Great to see that the AARA has a web page. This will be one that I check often! // **Lee Lepore**

You list a lot of names and "letter" mailing addresses but no e-mail addresses. I would like to e-mail Otto on the horrible rule change that AARA is experimenting with (24 and under) but can't find his e-mail address. Otherwise, no complaints so far. Nice page! // **Tony Shawver**

I am playing racquetball in Japan, two to three times a week. This home page is very convenient to me to know what's going on in the U.S. about racquetball. // **Yoshinori Muto**

Great Page! I'm suggesting it to all of my racquetball club members to view! Have you any promotional materials we might be able to use to promote our new club? // **Debra M. Madison**

Cool, I just got on the web yesterday and the first thing I do is connect with my racquetball buddies. I LOVE THIS GAME!! I will be competing in the midwest seniors tourney this weekend here in Indy. I was surprised I did not find any information about it while browsing around. Possibly because I don't know what I am doing yet. // **Dennis Barrow**

Congratulations on a well put together resource that will serve racquetball well. But, what of the AARA to USRA? Why no mention of the impending change here? // **Dave Torrey**

If you're looking for intercollegiate program information, you can access the ACRA @ <http://www.racquet-world.com/acra.html>. Also, look for updated print listings of sites in upcoming issues! // **Linda Mojer**

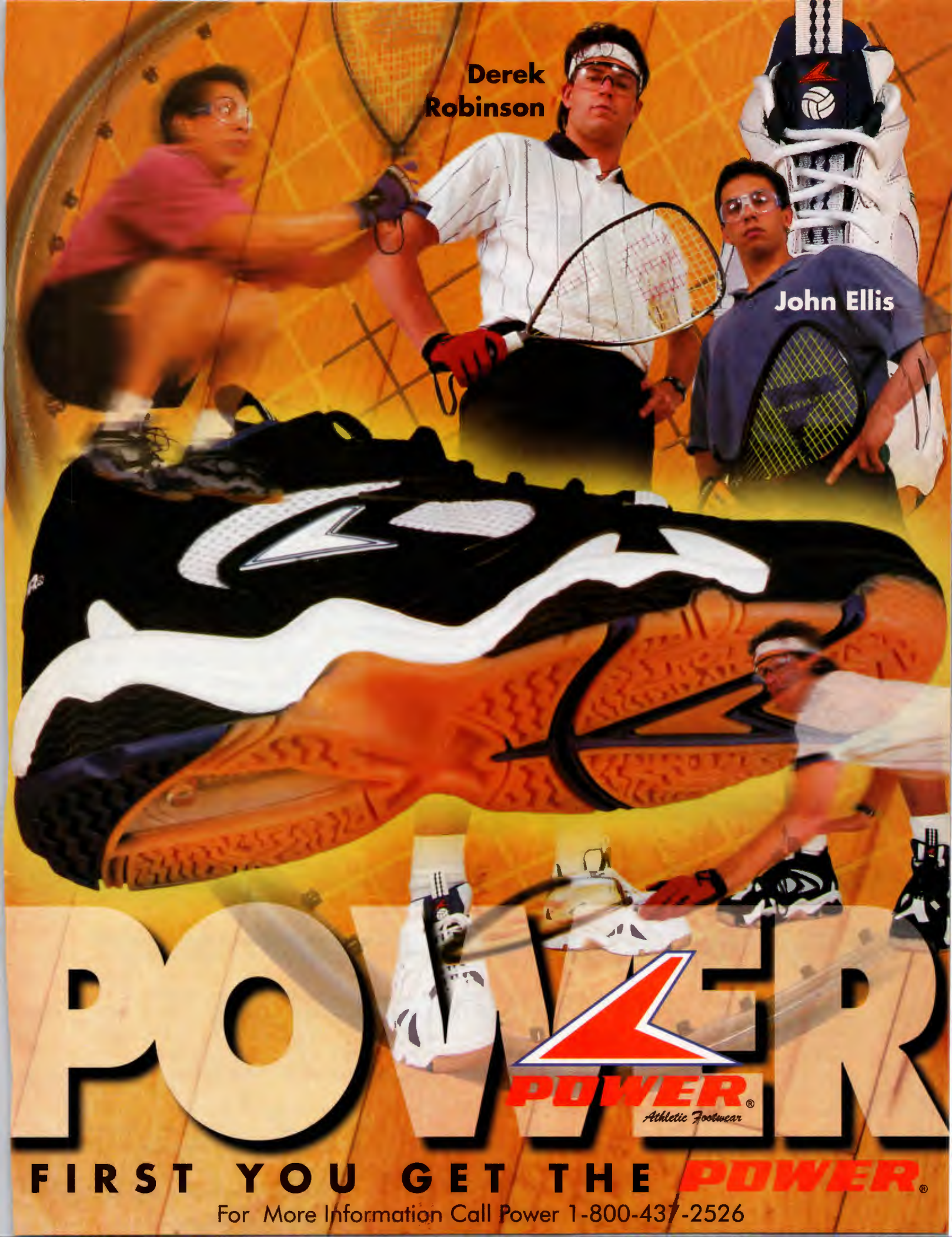
IHRSA WEB SITE

@ <http://www.ihrsa.org>

The International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) launched its web site on the internet on July 31. The site, designed primarily for those involved in the health club industry, features meetings and trade show information; a list of industry suppliers along with links to their home pages; and descriptions of publications and videotapes produced by the association.

IHRSA's site features a complete listing of member clubs to aid consumers in finding quality clubs that are convenient to them. IHRSA is a nonprofit trade association representing more than 3000 clubs in 50 countries. Members of the association subscribe to a Code of Conduct and consider it their mission to enhance the quality of life through physical fitness and sports.

CORRECTION: All photos credited to Meryl Robertson in the September/October issue (primarily of Todd O'Neil & family) were actually snapped by MARY RICKARD. We didn't have a positive ID on the photographer, so picked up the name on the overnight envelope. Meryl is evidently a nice lady who works for FedEx, but MARY was the woman behind the lens. Sorry for the mix up!



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NEW U.S. NATIONAL TEAM MEMBERS AND NATIONAL DOUBLES FINALISTS, COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: GUDINAS (L) & GOULD, ROBINSON (L) & O'NEIL, PARAISO (L) & MACKENZIE, OBREMSKI (L) & GANIM. PHOTOS: KEVIN VICROY.

FIRED UP IN PHOENIX

It had been touch and go there for awhile — many had thought that the number of entrants would be down due to the “hot on its heels” U.S. OPEN. But after all the last-minute telephone pleas, faxes and late fees had been processed, an even larger player roster than last year was divvied-up among 34 age and skill divisions of the Ektelon AARA 29th U.S. National Doubles Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports in Phoenix, October 16-20. And even with a cool spell gracing the city with a balmy 90 degrees in the shade, this year’s event kept them all fired up in Phoenix ...

Men’s Open, Pro Style

Each year it seems that more and more of the biggest-name former pro tour greats make their way back to their “roots” in amateur competition. In Phoenix, the men’s open roster read like a “who’s who” with Marty Hogan, Bret Harnett, Gregg Peck and Dan Obremski all claiming prominent positions in the draw.

In his first round, Hogan and California partner Steve Lerner drew the pick-up team of Jeff Bell and U.S. Junior team member Ryan Staten. Rushing from a late plane, Staten was introduced to Bell just minutes before their match and the two opted to start with Bell on the left side against Lerner. Sixteen-year-old Staten would receive serve from one of the sport’s most legendary figures. By the end of the 15-6 first game rout, a string of service return errors by the youngster had prompted a change in positioning, and Staten moved to the left side for game two.

For their opening serve, Ryan stepped up to the plate and blasted a short one in Lerner’s direction — forgetting about the one-serve rule in the men’s team qualifier. Back on track, neither team made their move as they stayed even to

5-5, until Hogan and Lerner began to power-skip balls to give Bell and Staten a 10-5 advantage. Finally, a new ball seemed to do the trick, and Hogan/Lerner put together a string of points that took them to 14-10 with only a single sideout in the run. In a noble effort, Bell went all out to make two more points for the team, Staten dumped a forehand into the front corner to reach 13 but it was too late. Lerner's last lob to the left corner was too much of a temptation for Staten — who went for his favorite backhand splat, and missed.

In the next round, Hogan and Lerner ran into trouble against '95 national singles champion Michael Bronfeld and two-time world doubles and current intercollegiate singles champion Eric Muller. Bronfeld and Muller needed a tiebreaker to oust Hogan and Lerner, 15-12, 13-15, 11-7. The round of sixteen also marked the close of a title bid by Gregg Peck and John Amatulli, who lost in straight games to Floridians Tim Hansen and James Lorello. Only Harnett, with new partner Bobby Rodriguez, and Obremski re-united with Doug Ganim, advanced into the quarterfinals.

Quarterfinal Countdown

Following their close tiebreaker win in the sixteens against the non-traditional lefty-lefty pair of Hart Johnson and Todd Stead, Harnett and Rodriguez went up against '95 silver medalists Todd O'Neil and Derek Robinson. While lefties O'Neil and Harnett battled it out against the white wall, Rodriguez and Robinson had to work the glass on the right. And while pairing with one of the greats of the early pro tour doesn't hurt your chances, Rodriguez rose to the occasion and held nothing back — even taking a gutsy short-hop backhand return of serve that skipped to end the match, 11-9.

And then there was one. After pulling out their first tiebreaker against Eric Storey and Mike Johnston in the sixteens, Ganim and Obremski dispatched Kelly Gelhaus and Joe Paraiso in shorter order, 15-13, 15-6 to reach the semi-final qualifying round against top seeds and defending champions Adam Karp and Bill Sell.

Semi-Final Qualifier

Defending champions Adam Karp and Bill Sell both needed a win to stay on the U.S. Team. Todd O'Neil's current stint wouldn't be up until the '95 national singles, but Robinson had to reach the final to keep his uniform. It had been over six years since Dan Obremski had qualified



HOGAN IN HIS QUARTERFINAL.
PHOTO: KEVIN VICROY.

ON THE SIDELINES

Hall of Famers on Hand ... For the first time, two AARA Hall of Famers, Gary Mazaroff and Ed Remen, teamed up to compete at National Doubles. They were defeated in the quarterfinals of Men's 45+ by eventual champions Stan Wright and Gene Pare. Three more Hall of Fame honorees were also in attendance: Mary Low Acuff, Jo Kenyon and Luzell Wilde.

Twice the fun ... Several players took part in not one, but two, finals on Sunday. Their results — Dave Azuma, gold in MX40+ & silver in M40+; Jerry Davis, gold in M50+ & M55+; Elaine Dexter, gold in W40+ & MX40+; Chris Evon, gold in W30+ & silver in MX35+; Agatha Falso, gold in W45+ & MX50+; Don Goddard, gold in M75+ & silver in M65+; Michelle Gould, gold in WO & silver in MXO; Lee Graff, gold in MX55+ & silver in M55+; Art Goss, gold in M75+ & silver in M70+; Jerry Hilecher, gold in M40+ & silver in M35+; Meri Jean Kelley, gold in W50+ & silver in MX50+; Jo Kenyon, gold in MX60+ & silver in W50+; Dick Kincade, silver in M65+ & M70+; Rob Lybbert, silver in MA & MXA; Lola Markus, gold in MX55+ & silver in W50+; Tom McKie, silver in M50+ & MX50+; Dori Moss, gold in W25+ & silver in W30+; Jackie Paraiso, gold in MXO & silver in WO; Leslie Pawka, gold in W40+ & silver in MX40+; Jack Ross, gold in M50+ & M55+; Gerri Stoffregen, silver in W45+ & MX45+; Eileen Tuckman, gold in W45+ & MX45+; Stan Wright, gold in M45+ & silver in M40+.

All in the Family ... Aside from twins Jackie Paraiso and Joy MacKenzie, several mixed doubles teams reached the finals by keeping it all in the family. Jackie and brother Joe Paraiso won the Mixed Open; Christine & Jim Wright won



GALLERY: Clockwise from lower left — Dori Moss (L) and Teri Lawrence; Curtis Winter (L) and Glenn Warren; Jon Martin (L) and Lynn Skadeland; Dave Azuma (L) and Stan Wright. All photos: Desk Staff.



for the U.S. Team for a win with long-time partner Doug Ganim. Tim Hansen earned a spot for his doubles win in 1990, but James Lorello hadn't been his partner at the time. The pressure was a factor to everyone but Obremski, who was oblivious to the "team cut" element of the semi-final playoffs.

From the #4 spot, Hansen and Lorello had been a force throughout the tournament, succumbing only occasionally to the belly-bumping antics that marred their performances last year. One big kiss on Lorello's cheek from Hansen, in appreciation of a great down the line pass at 11-11, was about as outlandish as it got. Instead, the pair let their racquets do the talking, as Lorello flat-rolled his backhands and Hansen played his best sleight of hand with his "now you see it, now you don't" forehands into both front corners. More than once he fooled all *three* other players on the court with a quick cut-off out of thin air that disappeared, briefly, while the trio scrambled into back court to retrieve or cover ... what? Robinson appeared to be particularly frustrated at the close of the first game, as he stubbornly refused to give way to O'Neil on a fading shot in center back court on game point. Struggling to avoid backswing contact with his partner, Derek skipped it, then pounded furiously on the court door before taking his two minute breather.

Returning for the second game, Robinson was clear-headed and focused as he earned the first three points outright with definitive forehands, then watched patiently as Lorello and Hansen skipped four in a row. O'Neil got to hit a couple of shots in reaching their 9-1 lead, before Derek took over again to earn points and pressure their opponents into errors that boosted the lead to 14-4. A skipped forehand pinch by Hansen took the match to a tiebreaker.

In the third, the momentum shifted again, this time making Robinson more effective on defense. As Hansen and Lorello deftly moved the ball around, O'Neil and Robinson were in the air more often than not until they found themselves deep in a 1-6 hole. In all, Robinson put together two points as they dug out, but it was O'Neil's forehand that saved the day. A pinch roll-out, a cross court, then three down the line passes brought them up to a 9-7 lead, followed by a cross court backhand in front court by O'Neil to reach match point.

Another sideout came when Robinson skipped a backhand, but he quickly redeemed himself with aggressive returns to regain serve. Then it was Todd again, moving another down-the-line by Lorello, who skipped his last backhand of the day.

World Champions Play Off

In the other semi-final, current world champions Adam Karp and Bill Sell faced off against two-time ('88 & '90) world champions Doug Ganim and Dan Obremski for a match that was a bit closer all the way through. Ganim and Obremski dropped the first game 15-8; Karp and Sell lost the next one with a similar margin of 15-9, but the single extra point earned them the serve in the breaker.

A two-time national and world doubles champion himself, referee Eric Muller was on the hot seat from the outset in game three, after having his very first call appealed and overturned by both linesmen. Sell then opened with a shot that would later come back to haunt him, a skipped forehand that gave Ganim/Obremski their first serve. From there, Obremski didn't just jump over his opponent's shots to hold center court position, he leapt over Doug's as well. Even with years between matches, their experience as a team still seems to be easily "on call."

But for Karp and Sell, who had looked sharp in earlier rounds, this was not destined to be a good day. Karp's usual routine of diving for shots earned him two avoidable hinder calls, and twice he lost a rally when the ball in play hit him. The only offensive shots he was able to hit were forehands, and they were few and far between. Of the seven points earned by the defending champions, five were credited to Karp and two to Sell. The same tally of seven went the other way, with Ganim claiming four winners in the tiebreaker, and Obremski three. The remaining points of the eleven came from the two avoidables, and two forehand errors by Sell, at 8 and 11.

Historically, it's rare for teams to successfully defend titles in men's open (singles or doubles). Only three teams in 29 years have done so: Ganim/Obremski, Steve Trent/Stan Wright and Jeff Kwartler/Mark Malowitz. Only two of those earned a third career title: Ganim/Obremski and Trent/Wright. Might Ganim & Obremski set a record with a fourth?

Men's Open Final

After struggling through two preceding round tiebreakers, it must have been a relief for Todd O'Neil and Derek Robinson to sneak in a straight game match. "We were really struggling and fought the whole way," recalled O'Neil, "but I think we really peaked it out right here."

Right *there* was a 15-9 first game in which the only errors on O'Neil and Robinson (one skipped shot apiece) occurred on offense for sideouts. As they had in the earlier semi-final: Robinson's job was to be precise in his shotmaking with whatever came his way to either side; O'Neil's forehand needed to be unerring. Pressure came to bear on Ganim, who

the Mixed A division; **Leslie & Mike Pawka** earned the silver in Mixed 40+; as did **Helen & Jack Dunsmoor** in Mixed 55+.

Heard Around the Court ... It was great to see former big-name pro players from the sport's past shooting it out, including: **Marty Hogan, Jerry Hilecher, Dave Peck, Gregg Peck, Bret Harnett, Davey Bledsoe, Stan Wright, Steve Trent, Evan Terry** ... all potential candidates for the Hall of Fame?

Research & Development ... Many industry representatives were on hand to support their sponsored players and check out the impressive levels of play at Doubles. Our long-time friend from Penn, **Dick Roberson**, visited the competition, and Ektelon's **Scott Winters** was seen everywhere supporting players, negotiating contracts, and helping the event to be a success. **Terri Graham** of Wilson Racquetball was on hand to both promote and compete (winning the Women's 30+ title); E-Force's **Ron Grimes** was in attendance to field check his new frames; and Courtesy Sports' **Brian Mirich** played, then worked, all week. ... And what a great all industry auction! Virtually every manufacturer participated by donating top-of-the-line equipment and accessories to be offered along with quality Olympic memorabilia. The auction brought in over \$6,000 for the U.S. Team and the Olympic Dream.

Rumour Mill ... The national office worried that the Doubles might have fallen too close to the U.S. Open in November and that the draw would be compromised. Much to our delight, the final total of 521 teams actually exceeded last year's number by 10. Doubles remains as

**Robin Levine (L) and Michelle Gould battle it out.
Facing page: Kim Russell serves, Levine looks on.**

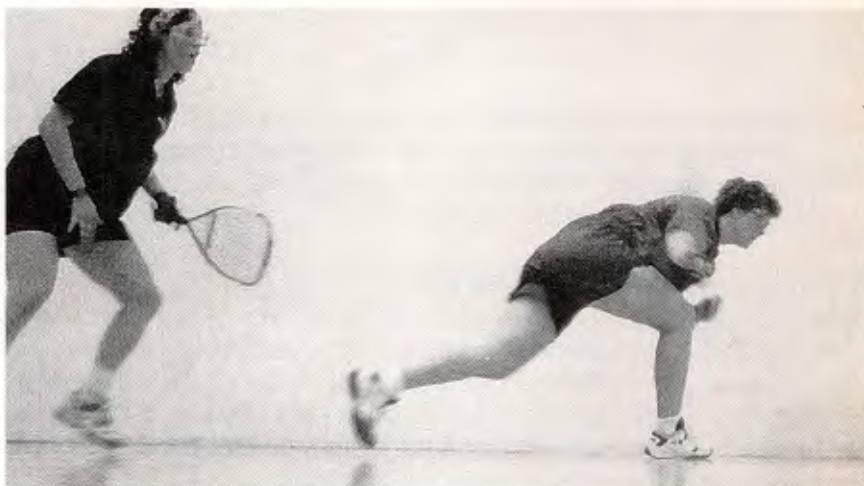
received the majority of the shots but only made about 50%. After opening with a rare short serve, Obremski's stats turned out to be about the same.

In game two, Ganim and Obremski pulled ahead briefly to 5-1 with a series of lob serves to the left corner that O'Neil would remember later. But Todd and Derek quickly recovered to re-establish the same 10-5 lead they had enjoyed in the first. At one point in a long rally, Ganim was screened in mid-court and resorted to trying to see "under" the 6'4" Robinson. The call was a simple hinder, but referee Eric Muller began to prepare for the eventual "trial." Several rallies later, another mix up in center court saw Robinson on the floor in the classic example of an avoidable hinder. The Harvard law school student had his argument well-prepared, however, explaining that had Ganim's "accomplice" not taken the shot before it got to Robinson, there might, indeed, have been an avoidable called. Instead, the point was replayed and only one more sideout was in store for Ganim/Obremski.

At 12-8, Robinson got into a forehand pinch rut: made one, skipped one and made one to get back the serve at 13, before Todd laid in a forehand reverse pinch to put them at match point. O'Neil's choice? Lob to the left. In what seemed like slow-motion, the high slider hung on the wall, and hung on the wall, then dropped like a stone for an ace and a first national doubles title for O'Neil and Robinson. "I'm just glad to be on a team that has Todd O'Neil on it," summed up Derek ...

Women's Open Early Rounds

With byes for top seeds Michelle Gould/Cheryl Gudinas and #2 seeds Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso in the first round, early competition in the women's open team qualifying division opened on Thursday, with only one true upset. Californians Lisa Hjelm and Kari McDonough slipped past '92 national doubles champions Mary Lyons and Susan Pfahler with an 11-9 tiebreaker victory to move into the quarterfinal. Returning to the circuit after shoulder surgery and a lengthy recovery, lefty Robin Levine re-teamed with partner Kim Russell to successfully work her way back into quarterfinal contention with a straight game win over Lori Harper and Carol Kriegler.



Quarterfinal Challenges

Amy Kilbane and partner Holly Gray posed an early threat to #2 seeded twins Joy MacKenzie and Jackie Paraiso in their first match of the tournament. Kilbane and Gray issued their challenge by jumping to a 12-2 lead in the first game, but then eased up just enough to let the current world doubles champions back in the game. Jackie and Joy dug out a bit to receive serve at 8-14, before making their move with a sideout, then ending with a big push to hold serve to the finish. After the narrow 15-14 loss, Amy and Holly never recovered to stage another upset bid, and lost the second game 15-5.

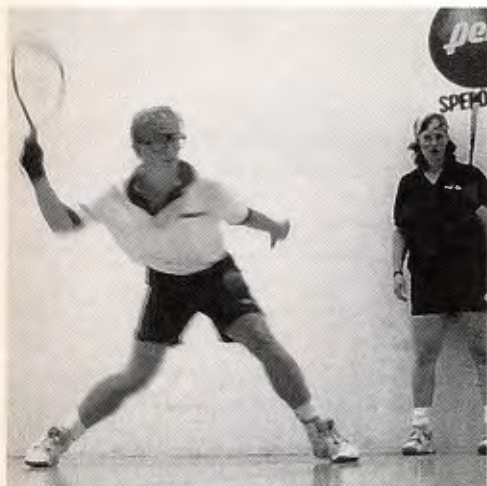
In the top half of the draw, one quarterfinal match up set four former intercollegiate singles champions against one another. Robin Levine ('88) and Kim Russell ('90) defeated Elaine Mardas ('91) and Kerri Stoffregen ('94) 15-4, 15-13.

Tough Semi-Finals

In the team qualifying round, both top seeded pairs were pushed to their limits by teams made up of former teammates and often-rivals. Russell formerly teamed with Gudinas, and Levine has the distinction of being the only opponent since 1989 to interrupt Gould's string of national singles title wins with an upset victory in 1994. Michelle Gould and Cheryl Gudinas went to the wire in their semi-final against Robin and Kim. In both games, Levine and Russell held a lead and service advantage, but couldn't pull out the last points.

"We were down in both games," said Gould, "We really had to be mentally tough and try to get it back together ... I was real proud of ourselves for that."

Jackie Paraiso was also in familiar territory against opponents Malia Bailey and Laura Fenton in their semi-



final. Jackie earned the '96 world title with sister Joy, the '94 title with Fenton and the '90 title with Bailey. In their 11-8 tiebreaker, Bailey and Fenton shared two errors apiece for points to give the twins a 9-6 lead, before Joy made the last two shots into the glass — one down the line and the next a pinch — to take the close win.

One More Time

Michelle Gould opened game one of the final with a short serve and sideout. She ended it twenty minutes later with an ace drive to Jackie's backhand. In between, Jackie served up two of her own ace drives, tied it up at five apiece, then tacked on two late points to reach 7-10 before Michelle and Cheryl tagged out with pairs of unanswered shots, and the final ace, to win the first 15-7.

Game two started out a little closer, with the teams staying even until the twins took a momentary 7-6 lead. There, an avoidable hinder call by referee Elaine Mardas tied it up again. "I was kind of hesitating because Michelle likes those set ups down the middle" said Gudinas, "so there was some confusion on Jackie's part when I went for it as a last resort."

"I was all set up and ready to rip it," commented Michelle, "[the call] was just a turn in momentum for us that allowed us to get it together."

That momentum took them to a 12-7 lead before Jackie and Joy called for a timeout, then returned to the match with a fresh outlook. They each answered with a forehand pinch rollout, then two passes in Cheryl's direction to bring them to 11. Two more sideouts and single backhand winners by Michelle put the defending champions within striking distance of the title, but Jackie and Joy rallied one last time to regain serve and earn two more points. A skipped backhand off the backwall by Jackie returned the serve to the top seeds, and Cheryl followed up with a forehand that cracked off a seam in the glass in front of the service box for the win.

Paraiso's Revenge

Right after the women's final, Jackie Paraiso took advantage of an immediate chance to avenge her loss by pairing with brother Joe Paraiso to upset the top-seeded team of Michelle Gould and Eric Muller in the finals of mixed open in straight games of 15-5, 15-11.

"Oh, that was so gratifying," said Jackie Paraiso. "It was nice to just get out there and play, relax and hit the shots that I wanted...I put that other match [against Gould and Gudinas] aside and just went out there and played."

popular as ever, and nothing seems able to change that. In connection with the Open angst, we also want to dispel any rumor that the dates for national doubles will be changed. You can safely mark **October 15-19** on your 1997 calendars for next year's event — probably in Phoenix, but perhaps *not* at City Square.

Dedication & Commitment (to racquetball) Prize ... Doubles fanatic Gus Farrell of El Paso, Texas takes this prize. His wife Claudia was due with their first baby on doubles weekend ... and went into labor on day two. Gus returned to El Paso on Thursday evening after his match; stayed on hand to help with the delivery the next day; then flew back to Phoenix later Friday to proceed with the tournament. Gus and Claudia are the proud parents of a firstborn son — 7 lb. 12 oz. **Esteban. Congratulations!**

That's Amazing ... In their Men's 70+ round robin playoff, **Luzell Wilde and Les Skelton** defeated **Dick Kincade and Art Goss**, 15-0 in the first game. Kincade/Goss replied in the second with a 15-0 win over Skelton/Wilde, then took took the tiebreaker victory 11-2. Talk about a slow start!

Staff Kudos ... Margo Daniel's top-notch tournament team of **Mary Lyons and Van Dubolsky** should offer a course on diplomacy at the United Nations. They have to be the best in the business at working out problems, scheduling matches, and being flexible at the tournament desk. Players just couldn't say enough good things about them and their work! But where was **Jim Hiser**? He skipped this national in favor of a cruise to the Caribbean on a chartered yacht ... must be nice!



Mixed open silver medalists Michelle Gould and Eric Muller (L) and first-time mixed open champions Jackie Paraiso and Joe Paraiso.
Photo: Kevin Vicroy

The Paraiso's had set out on their road to the finals by easily putting away Teri Lawrence and Mike Johnston 15-6, 15-3. In the semifinals, the opposition was more formidable in the team of current Boy's 18-and-under national champion Eric Storey and women's touring pro Amy "Killer" Kilbane. Again, Jackie and Joe Paraiso outplayed their opponents, this time by scores of 15-10, 15-3.

It's a Wrap ...

Successful Defenders — Top seeds to successfully defend their '95 titles were: Gould & Gudinas in Women's Open; Jerry Davis & Jack Ross in Men's 50+ and Men's 55+; Paul Banales & Tom Moore for a third consecutive year in Men's 60+; Mary Lyons & Susan Pfahler for a fourth consecutive year in Women's 35+; Lynn Skadeland & Jon Martin in Mixed 30+; Elaine Dexter & Dave Azuma for a third straight year in

Mixed 40+; Jo Kenyon & Ron Maggard in Mixed 60+.

Trade Wars — Only a handful of players came back with a different partner to repeat 1995 wins, including a shameless Myron Hicks in Men's A; Jason Thoerner in Men's 24- (formerly 19+); Victor Sacco in Men's 70+; and Rachel Gellman in Women's 24- (formerly 19+).

First Time Champions as a Team

— Claiming their first national titles, as a team, were: Todd O'Neil & Derek Robinson in Men's Open; Jackie Paraiso & Joe Paraiso in Mixed Open; Jeannie Cannella & Mary Keenan in Women's A; Christine & Jim Wright in Mixed A; John Amatulli & Gregg Peck in M30+; Marty Hogan & Steve Trent in M35+; Jerry Hilecher & Leo Gurnoe in M40+; Ridlon Kiphart & Joe Lambert in M65+; Philip Dzuik & Victor Sacco in M70+; Don

Goddard & Art Goss in M75+; Teri Lawrence & Dori Moss in W25+; Chris Evon & Terri Graham in W30+; Elaine Dexter & Leslie Pawka in W40+; Elaine Mardas & Dave Ganim in Mixed 25+; and Eileen Tuckman & Gary Mazaroff in Mixed 45+.

First Timer with a Veteran Partner

— Several lucky partners found that experience gave them the edge in taking home a gold medal: Tommy Medina (w/Myron Hicks in Men's A); Andrew Haywood (w/19+ champion Jason Thoerner) in M24; James Lorello (w/'90 open champ Tim Hansen) in M25+; Gene Pare (w/3x open champion Stan Wright) in M45+; Philip Dzuik (w/2x 70+ champion Victor Sacco) in M70+; Renee Ramirez (w/19+ champion Rachel Gellman) in W24; Mark Baron (w/3x open champion Malia Bailey); Mike Aubrey (w/2x mixed 45+ champ Agatha Falso) in Mixed 50+; and Lee Graff (w/Lola Markus) in Mixed 55+.

Reunited for the Win — After "playing the field" with other partners for several years, two teams reunited to reclaim previous titles: Agatha Falso & Eileen Tuckman (won W35+ in 1987, plus hold eight other titles, each, with other partners); and Nidia Funes & MeriJean Kelley (won W45+ in 1991).

**EKTELON AARA 29TH U.S. NATIONAL
DOUBLES RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
City Square Sports Club: Phoenix, Arizona
October 16-20 — RESULTS ...**

OPEN & A DIVISIONS

Men's Open: #2 Todd O'Neil (Dallas, Texas)/Derek Robinson (Kennewick, Wash.) def. #4 Doug Ganim (Columbus, Ohio)/Dan Obremski (North Versailles, Pa.) 15-9, 15-9
Women's Open: #1 Michelle Gould (Boise, Idaho)/Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) def. #2 Jackie Paraiso (El Cajon, Calif.)/Joy MacKenzie (Santee, Calif.) 15-7, 15-13
Mixed Open: #2 Jackie Paraiso (El Cajon, Calif.)/Joe Paraiso (San Jose, Calif.) def. #1 Michelle Gould (Boise, Idaho)/Eric Muller (Boston, Mass.) 15-5, 15-11

Men's A: Myron Hicks/Tommy Medina (Tucson, Ariz.) def. Rick Howick (Sumner, Wash.)/Bob Lybbert (Lynwood, Wash.) 14-15, 15-5, 11-2

Women's A: #2 Jeannie Cannella/Mary Keenan (Colorado Springs, Colo.) def. Tracey McDade (Smyrna, Tenn.)/Darlene Truett (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) 15-4, 15-7

Mixed A: Christine Wright/Jim Wright (Wilmington, Del.) def. #1 Rob Lybbert (Lynwood, Wash.)/Dianne Pratt (Renton, Wash.) 15-10, 10-15, 11-7

MEN'S AGE DIVISIONS

Men's 24+/-: #1 Jason Thoerner (Jacksonville, Fla.)/Andrew Haywood (Nacogdoches, Texas) def. Matt Schute/H.R. Coe (Bozeman, Mont.) 15-13, 15-14

Men's 25+: #1 James Lorello (Coral Springs, Fla.)/Tim Hansen (Boynton Beach, Fla.) def. #3 Hart Johnson (St. Paul, Minn.)/Todd Stead (Minneapolis, Minn.) 15-8, 13-15, 11-5

Men's 30+: John Amatulli (St. John, Ind.)/Gregg Peck (Coppell, Texas) def. #3 Glenn Warren (Orange Park, Fla.)/Curtis Winter (Jacksonville, Fla.) 15-13, 15-10

Men's 35+: #4 Marty Hogan (San Diego, Calif.)/Steve Trent (Riverside, Calif.) def. #3 Jerry Hilecher (Granada Hills, Calif.)/Steve Lerner (Riverside, Calif.) 15-13, 13-15, 11-10

Men's 40+: #4 Jerry Hilecher (Granada Hills, Calif.)/Leo Gurnoe (Cardiff, Calif.) def. #3 Stan Wright (Fremont, Calif.)/Dave Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.) 15-10, 15-9

Men's 45+: #4 Stan Wright (Fremont, Calif.)/Gene Pare (Campbell, Calif.) def. #3 Dave Kovanda (Worthington, Ohio)/Ron Woolard (Dublin, Ohio) 15-11, 15-5

Men's 50+: #1 Jerry Davis (Shaker Heights, Ohio)/Jack Ross (Miami, Fla.) def. #2 Tom McKie (Garland, Texas)/Craig Olsen (Grand Island, Neb.) 15-9, 15-14

Men's 55+: #1 Jerry Davis (Shaker Heights, Ohio)/Jack Ross (Miami, Fla.) def. #2 Lee Graff (West Linn, Ore.)/Tom Penick (La Mesa, Calif.) 15-9, 15-10

Men's 60+: #1 Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Tom Moore (Arcadia, Calif.) def. #2 Don Alt (Dublin, Ohio)/Otis Chapman (Cleveland, Ohio) 7-15, 15-9, 11-7

Men's 65+: Ridlon Kiphart/Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. #4 Don Goddard (Glasgow, Mont.)/Dick Kincade (Divide, Colo.) by injury forfeit

Men's 70+: #1 Philip Dzuik (Homer, Ill.)/Victor Sacco (Norwood, N.Y.) def. #2 Art Goss (Colorado Springs, Colo.)/Dick Kincade (Divide, Colo.) 15-5, 15-3

Men's 75+: #2 Don Goddard (Glasgow, Mont.)/Art Goss (Colorado Springs, Colo.) def. #1 Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.)/Luzell Wilde (Centerville, Utah) 15-9, 15-7

WOMEN'S AGE DIVISIONS

Women's 24+/-: #1 Rachel Gellman (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Renee Ramirez (El Paso, Texas) def. #2 Kayla Harvey (Laramie, Wyo.)/Marnie Shute (Riverton, Wyo.) 15-6, 15-9

Women's 25+: #4 Teri Lawrence (Pembroke Pines, Fla.)/Dori Moss (Plantation, Fla.) def. #2 Marcia Richards/Stacey Sour (Greenwood Village, Colo.) 15-0, 15-12

Women's 30+: #2 Chris Evon/Terri Graham (San Diego, Calif.) def. #1 Kersten Hallander (Jacksonville Beach, Fla.)/Dori Moss (Plantation, Fla.) 15-13, 15-6

Women's 35+: #1 Mary Lyons/Susan Pfahler (Neptune Beach, Fla.) def. #3 Lori Harper (Eau Claire, Wis.)/Carol Kriegler (Russellville, Minn.) 10-15, 15-8, 11-6

Women's 40+: #2 Elaine Dexter (Dublin, Calif.)/Leslie Pawka (San Diego, Calif.) def. Carolyn Foster (St. Paul, Neb.)/Deb Lukes (Grand Island, Neb.) 15-3, 15-4

Women's 45+: #3 Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.)/Eileen Tuckman (Boynton Beach, Fla.) def. #1 Shelley Ogden/Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio) 15-10, 15-7

Women's 50+: #2 Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Merjean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.) def. #5 Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) 15-10, 15-1

MIXED AGE DIVISIONS

Mixed 24-: #3 Ileana Villareal/Alain Pujolar (Hialeah, Fla.) def. #2 Kerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Dave Ganim (Columbus, Ohio) 15-13, 15-8

Mixed 25+: #3 Elaine Mardas/Dave Ganim (Columbus, Ohio) def. #1 Debbie Bryant (Sneads Ferry, N.C.)/Ivey Powell (Rocky Mountain, N.C.) 15-13, 15-7

Mixed 30+: #1 Lynn Skadeland (Sherwood, Ore.)/Jon Martin (Gresham, Ore.) def. Sandra Ruiz (Elk Grove, Calif.)/Brad Carter (Concord, Calif.) 15-9, 2-15, 11-9

Mixed 35+: #3 Malia Bailey (Norfolk, Va.)/Mark Baron (Herndon, Va.) def. #1 Chris Evon (San Diego, Calif.)/Bill Lyman (Berwyn, Ill.) 15-8, 15-10

Mixed 40+: #1 Elaine Dexter (Dublin, Calif.)/Dave Azuma (Lake Oswego, Ore.) def. #2 Leslie Pawka/Mike Pawka (San Diego, Calif.) 15-10, 15-9

Mixed 45+: #3 Gary Mazaroff (Albuquerque, N.M.)/Eileen Tuckman (Boynton Beach, Fla.) def. #1 Gerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Mike Stephens (Ada, Mich.) 15-2, 15-12

Mixed 50+: #1 Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.)/Mike Aubrey (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. #3 Merjean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Tom McKie (Garland, Texas) 1-15, 15-12, 11-1

Mixed 55+: #4 Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.)/Lee Graff (West Linn, Ore.) def. #2 Helen Dunsmoor/Jack Dunsmoor (Boise, Idaho) 15-2, 15-6

Mixed 60+: #4 Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.)/Ron Maggard (Lake Tapawingo, Mo.) def. #3 Sid Williams (Tacoma, Wash.)/Sue Embry (Valley Center, Calif.) 15-9, 15-1

Mixed 75+: #1 Mary Low Acuff/Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) unchallenged

OOPS! ... Medalists who had their photos taken at the close of the event — we have bad news. Problems with the camera and/or film caused the majority of the shots taken on Sunday to be terribly overexposed or completely out of focus. For the most part, what you see with the article is all we were able to salvage. So, don't expect a photo in the mail ... there just aren't any. We apologize for the camera, the film, the processing, the phases of the moon and anything else that might have been a factor ...

world seniors

VIII

by Kevin Vicroy

The VIII IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships crowned 18 divisional world champions at the close of the five-day multi-format tournament which ran from August 27-31 in Albuquerque, N.M. Preliminary round robin flights were played in the first four days, followed by a single-elimination playoff in most divisions. Men over 70 and women over 50 competed in exclusive round-robin playoffs throughout the entire five days, facing off against the entire bracket to gain the highest point average, without an added single-elimination playoff.

Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.) won his fifth consecutive Men's 60-and-over title while Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) earned first place in the Men's 65-and-over division for the second time.

Several repeat champions survived the women's brackets. Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) won her first Women's 55-and-over title after five-straight 50-and-over championships. Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) has won a divisional title in each of the IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships. This year's tournament was no different as the North Carolina native captured the Women's 75-and-over crown.

MEN'S FINALS—M35+: Steve Lerner (Highland, Calif.) def. Mike Martinez (Tustin, Calif.) 15-8, 15-12; M40+: Gene Couch (Melbourne, Fla.) def. Clee Melvin (Kentwood, Mich.) 9-15, 15-11, 11-5; M45+: Dave Kovanda (Worthington, Ohio) def. Gary Mazaroff (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15-10, 15-11; M50+: Dennis O'Brien (Boise, Idaho) def. Mike Aubrey (Phoenix, Ariz.) 15-11, 11-15, 11-8; M55+: Fred Letter (Warren Township, N.J.) def. Ron Galbreath (New Wilmington, Pa.) 15-10, 14-15, 11-2; M60+: Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Don Alt (Dublin, Ohio) 15-8, 15-5; M65+: Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Vance Lerner (Highland, Calif.) 15-11, 15-6; M70+: Dick Kincade (Divide, Colo.) def. Tony Duarte (Barstow, Calif.) 46.3-40.1*; M75+: Nick Sans (Irvine, Calif.) def. Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 47.4-46.7*; M80+: Harry Steinman (Baltimore, Md.) unchallenged.

WOMEN'S FINALS—W35+: Debra Tisinger (Canoga Park, Calif.) def. Kim Wilkerson (Portland, Ore.) 15-5, 15-3; W40+: Taffy Wood (Vancouver, B.C., Canada) def. Linda Mojer (Colorado Springs, Colo.) 15-10, 15-11; W45+: Eileen Tuckman (Boynton Beach, Fla.) def. Shelley Ogden (Cincinnati, Ohio) 5-15, 15-7, 11-3; W50+: Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.) def. Meri Jean Kelley (Palo Alto, Calif.) 48.4-43.9*; W55+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Marquita Molina (Wasco, Calif.) 49.0-37.5*; W60+: Jo Kenyon (Tallahassee, Fla.) def. Kathy Mueller (St. Cloud, Minn.) 46.5-34.2*; W65+: Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) def. Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 49.0-43.4*; W75+: Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. Eleanor Quackenbush (Salem, Ore.) 43.4-11.9*.

** Scores in these finals represent point averages after the entire round-robin (against all entrants in the division) had been played out. In single elimination medal rounds (after players had qualified for positions by placing highest in their round-robin flights), finals were played in a regulation format.*

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Sudsy Monchik - The New IRT World Champion. / Cliff Swain - 4 time IRT World Champion and currently number 2 player in the world.

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FOXWOOD IRT DOUBLES

Las Vegas, the perfect place to kick off the '96-97 IRT season, and what better way than to pair everyone up for some doubles action?

Early Rounds

Top seeds Sudsy Monchik and Tim Doyle were stretched to 15-13 in the first game by Sakai and Clark, before cruising through the next two, 11-3, 11-6. Second seeds Andy Roberts and Mike Ray took on first round opponents Manzuri and Ghafarshad for a quick 11-7, 11-3, 11-0 win. Cliff Swain and Tony Jelso, seeded #3, dropped the first game to Perez and Johnson, then advanced 11-1, 11-2, 11-1. From the #13 spot, Henry Martinez and Bret Harnett started their upset run with #4 seeded Kachtik and Guidry, defeating the Texas duo 11-9, 6-11, 11-4, 11-8. Also advancing were #8 seeds Michael Bronfeld and Eric Muller over Fillipini/Schenck; #6 seeds Woody Clouse and Jason Mannino over #11 Mayorga/Mulcock; #10 Kelly Gelhaus and Steve Lerner defeating #7 Derek Robinson and Todd O'Neil 11-9 in the fifth; and #5 seeds Adam Karp and John Ellis driving past the #12 seeded Portland duo of Hanners and Weatherbee.

Quarterfinals

Bronfeld and Muller gave Monchik and Doyle a close call by taking them to a tiebreaker before Sudsy stepped up to flat roll several backhands to take control of the match, and win the fifth and final game 11-2. Kelly Gelhaus and Steve Lerner dropped their first game to Roberts and Ray, but then won two close ones, and a not-so-close fourth to move on to the semi's. The lefty-righty match-up of Cliff Swain and Tony Jelso vs. Woody Clouse and Jason Mannino provided some great rallies, including some astounding gets from Jason Mannino (of course). But Mannino's acrobatics were not enough to turn the tide, as Swain and Jelso rolled on in three straight. The last quarterfinals match proved that the upset in the first round was no fluke, as hometown boys Harnett and Martinez steam-rolled over Ellis and Karp 11-7, 11-9, 11-6.

Semi-finals

Gelhaus and Lerner squared off against #3 Swain and Jelso, who advanced to the finals in three games 11-3, 11-4, 11-12. The other semifinal matched Monchik and Doyle against the hometown team of Harnett and Martinez, who held his own with the big boys, hitting good passes and some kills from deep court, while Harnett showed that he can still play at the top level of the game. The match was close, but Monchik and Doyle prevailed 11-5, 11-2, 4-11, 5-11, 11-8.

Final

The final featured the number one and two players in the world facing off on the left side, and their hard-hitting partners ripping balls down the right. The match was intense, with Swain and Jelso getting worked in the first two games before they managed to turn things around, and came from behind to win (5-11) (6-11) 11-4, 11-9, 11-6.

ROUND OF 16

Monchik/Doyle	def.	Sakai/Clark	11-3, 11-6
Bronfeld/Muller	def.	Manzuri/Ghafarshad	11-7, 10, 11-4
Ellis/Karp	def.	Hanners/Weatherbee	11-2, 11-7
Harnett/Martinez	def.	Perez/Johnson	11-4, 11-8
Swain/Jelso	def.	Robinson/O'Neil	11-2, 11-1
Mannino/Clouse	def.	Mayorga/Mulcock	11-7, 11-7
Gelhaus/Lerner	def.	Roberts/Ray	11-2, 11-9
Roberts/Ray	def.	Manzuri/Ghafarshad	11-3, 11-0

QUARTERFINALS

Monchik/Doyle	def.	Bronfeld/Muller	11-2, 11-11
Harnett/Martinez	def.	Ellis/Karp	11-9, 11-6
Swain/Jelso	def.	Clouse/Mannino	11-10, 11-4
Gelhaus/Lerner	def.	Roberts/Ray	11-9, 11-3

SEMI-FINALS

Monchik/Doyle	def.	Harnett/Martinez	5-11, 11-8
Swain/Jelso	def.	Gelhaus/Lerner	11-4, 11-2

FINAL

Swain/Jelso	def.	Monchik/Doyle	11-4, 11-9, 11-6
-------------	------	---------------	------------------

ELMWOOD PRO-AM

Humid weather, southern hospitality, slow courts and of course, Bourbon Street! Elmwood Fitness Center in "Nawlins" is the perfect place for a Pro-Am.

The first round started the tournament off on the right foot with the first match of the tournament going the distance. Kelly Gelhaus and Michael Bronfeld battled it out for over two hours until Bronfeld won it 11-3 in the fifth. Also advancing from the first round was Reiff over Sable, Jelso over Phillipini, Kachtik over Arroyave, Ellis over Satawa, Clouse over Glowa, Doyle over Sawyer, and Ray over Jackson. In the bottom half, Mulcock defeated Schenck, Vogel beat Simpson, Guidry past Bhuta, Mannino advanced over Bloom, and Fowler took his win from Kerr.

Round of Sixteen

Newly #1 ranked player Sudsy Monchik faced Scott Reiff, who made the semi's here last year — but not this time as Monchik won in three straight. Against #2 Cliff Swain, Mike Bronfeld appeared a little slow after his earlier five games with Gelhaus, and Cliff won in three quick ones. Jason Mannino, #7, faced Dan Fowler, and advanced in four games. Andy Roberts, #3, got a wake-up call from James Mulcock, but still prevailed 13-11 in the fourth. Also moving on was Ray over Doyle and Ellis over Clouse in three apiece, and Guidry over Vogel, and Kachtik over Jelso in four each.

Quarterfinals

First up was #8 Drew Kachtik and #1 Sudsy Monchik, who overwhelmed Kachtik in three straight. Next, Ray and Ellis faced off with two completely different game styles, providing some great action. Ellis was ripping everything he could get a racquet on, and Ray was removing all the pace he could, but Ellis took it in four 11-6, 7-11, 11-2, 11-9. In Roberts vs. Guidry, Mike put up a good fight but went down 13-11 in the fourth. The match of the round saw Jason Mannino and Cliff Swain put on their usual acrobatics show, with Cliff dropping a single game before moving on 11-1 in the fourth.

ROUND OF SIXTEEN

Sudsy Monchik def. Scott Reiff 11-6, 11-8, 11-5
Drew Kachtik def. Kelly Gelhaus 11-4, 7-11, 11-2
John Ellis def. Michael Bronfeld 11-5, 11-9, 11-8
Mike Ray def. Dan Fowler 11-2, 11-8, 11-4
Andy Roberts def. James Mulcock 13-11, 7-11, 13-11
Mike Guidry def. Bhuta 11-5, 11-0
Jason Mannino def. Bloom 11-2, 7-11, 13-11
Cliff Swain def. Vogel 11-3, 11-4, 11-6

QUARTERFINALS

Sudsy Monchik def. Drew Kachtik 11-9, 11-1, 11-2
John Ellis def. Mike Ray 11-6, 11-2, 11-9
Andy Roberts def. Jason Mannino 13-11, 7-11, 13-11
Cliff Swain def. Mike Guidry 11-1, 11-6, 11-1

SEMI-FINALS

Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis 11-11, 11-6, 11-6
Andy Roberts def. Cliff Swain 13-11, 2-11, 11-5

FINAL

Sudsy Monchik def. Andy Roberts 11-5, 9-11, 11-1



SUDSY MONCHIK. PHOTO: COURTESY KILLSHOT



MIKE GUIDRY (L) & SUDSY MONCHIK. ALL PHOTOS: COURTESY KILLSHOT.

Semi-Finals

Ellis started out strong, winning the first two games and building an 8-3 lead in the fourth. But, after an over-eager prediction from an Ellis fan, Monchik stated that he would launch a comeback and win the match. Sudsy proved to be a man of his word, winning the third 13-11, the fourth 11-6 and the fifth 11-6. The second match pitted Roberts and Swain, who battled for over

two hours to the chance to get a shot at Sudsy Monchik. Cliff won the first, Andy the second and third. Cliff came back to win the fourth 11-2, but Andy prevailed in the tiebreaker, 11-5, to go for the title.

Finals

The club was jam-packed for the finals, where the #1 and #3 players in the world put on quite a show for the New Orleans crowd. Monchik won the first, Roberts the second, Monchik the third, Roberts the fourth. In the fifth, Roberts looked a little slow, possibly showing a little bit of his age, and lost 11-1. So the season begins, and the new number one has defended his ranking. Sudsy Monchik wins the New Orleans Pro-Am.

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COORS LIGHT PRO-AM

To Stockton we go, for the longest-running pro event in the history of racquetball. The Westlane Racquet Club hosted this pro event on Labor Day Weekend, with two rounds of qualifying and hard fought matches from day one.

Early Round

Congrats to qualifiers Vince Kelley, Franco Palmer, Greg Thomas, Rocky Carson, Sameer Hadid, Dale Millhollin, Greg Freeze, and Shoichi Sakai. Although these players qualified, none could manage to take a game from their top seeded opponents, with the exception of Sakai. So with the top eight seeds all advancing, the rest of the field set up this way: Fowler cruised past Simpson, Karp beat Mulcock, Clouse over Messina, Bronfeld outlasted Robinson, Vogel squeezed past Sawyer, Jelso took out Embry, and Doyle beat Gonzalez in three straight.

Round of Sixteen

Monchik started his undefeated run for the rest of the weekend with Kelly Gelhaus, but eventual finalist Cliff Swain had to come from behind the beat Tim Doyle in five. John Ellis cruised over Tony Jelso in three; Louis Vogel won a long battle with Drew Kachtik 11-9 in the

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Sudsy Monchik
#1 ranked professional
racquetball player in the world.



Cliff Swain
#2 ranked professional
racquetball player in the world.

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ROUND OF 16

Sudsy Monchik def. Mike Guidry 11-8, 11-9, 11-4

Mike Guidry def. Janson Mannino 11-4, 11-9, 11-4

Janson Mannino def. Woody Clouse 11-4, 11-2, 11-6

Woody Clouse def. Andy Roberts 11-4, 11-7, 11-6

Andy Roberts def. Louis Vogel 11-2, 11-6, 11-3

Louis Vogel def. John Ellis 11-1, 11-8, 11-5

John Ellis def. Cliff Swain 11-2, 11-3, 11-8

Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik 11-8, 11-2, 11-1

QUARTERFINALS

Sudsy Monchik def. Mike Guidry 11-2, 11-8, 11-4

Jason Mannino def. Woody Clouse 11-2, 7-11, 11-8

Andy Roberts def. Louis Vogel 11-1, 11-8, 11-5

Cliff Swain def. John Ellis 11-5, 12-10, 13-11

SEMI-FINALS

Sudsy Monchik def. Jason Mannino 11-3, 12-10

Cliff Swain def. Andy Roberts 11-5, 11-7, 11-4

FINAL

Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain 11-4, 11-8, 11-5

fifth; Jason Mannino routined Adam Karp; Andy Roberts beat Bronfeld in three; and Mike Guidry outlasted Dan Fowler 11-4 in the fifth. And just to add to the excitement, Woody Clouse overcame a near forfeiture and a first game loss to advance past Mike Ray in four.

Quarterfinals

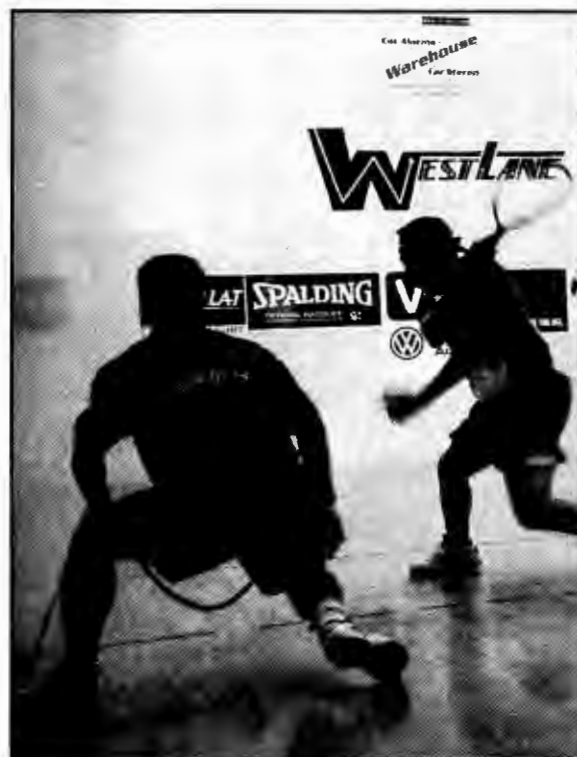
The quarterfinals had hometown favorite John Ellis face Cliff Swain. The house was packed with Ellis fans, but Swain won a close one 11-4, 4-11, 12-10, 13-11. Monchik stayed focused over Guidry; Louis Vogel hit eight ace serves in game two but still lost to Roberts 11-1, 6-11, 11-8, 11-5; and Jason Mannino won a close four game battle over Woody Clouse 13-11, 14-12, 7-11, 11-8.

Semi-Finals

The semifinals had Swain and Roberts doing battle again, and Mannino and Monchik staging their own war on the other side of the draw. Andy Roberts was nursing a pulled muscle in this arm, and was unable to put up much of a fight against Cliff, as Swain went on to win 11-5, 11-7, 11-4. Long time friends and rivals Monchik and Mannino showed their stuff for the Stockton crowd, as Jason played well, but the number one player in the world had too much for him, as Sudsy went on to win 11-6, 11-3, 12-10.

Final

The final was traditional — #1 vs. #2. To the surprise of the crowd, Monchik was all over Swain from the start, and cruised easily to an 11-6, 11-8, 11-5 win and captured his second straight title of 1996.



TOP: MIKE GUIDRY (L) & SUDSY MONCHIK
ABOVE: JOHN ELLIS
ALL PRO SECTION PHOTOS:
COURTESY KILLSHOT

WIRT IN ANNAPOLIS

The 96-97 WIRT season kicked off in Annapolis, Maryland, September 5-8. With a full schedule this year, and the return of several contenders, the season promises excitement!

Early Rounds

Lydia Hammock, Jennifer (Mayadas) Dering, Bev Supanik, and Shegemi Yasuda (all the way from Japan!) were the newcomers to the tour this time around, and Hammock advanced into her first round of sixteen, with a victory over Lisa Calitri.

Round of Sixteen

Michelle Gould looked as impressive as usual with a straight game victory over Hammock. Lynne Coburn again had a tough first round, losing to Jackie Paraiso in a five game tiebreaker. Returning to the tour following shoulder surgery, Robin Levine defeated our favorite Prince fan, Anita Maldonado, 11-5, 11-8, 11-1. Janet Myers advanced into her first quarterfinal, and a much-improved Dina Moreland upset veteran Molly O'Brien. Number two seeded Cheryl Gudinas defeated Doreen Fowler in straight games to advance along with tour regulars Marcy Lynch and Laura Fenton.

Quarterfinals

Michelle Gould was pressed a bit by the always-fiery Jackie Paraiso, but came out on top, in four games. Robin Levine, who hasn't slowed down a bit since her surgery, defeated Marcy Lynch, but in the process, re-injured her shoulder, forcing a forfeit to Gould in the next round. Laura Fenton went on to defeat Myers, but needed four games to do it, as Myers served well, and kept Fenton on her toes. Gudinas posted an energetic win against Dina Moreland, diving several times enroute to saving game two, and ultimately won the match in three, 11-4, 12-10, 11-2.

In the only semi-final, Laura Fenton faced Cheryl Gudinas. Starting strong, Fenton seemed to have the upper hand, and Gudinas couldn't seem to focus in as she had previously. Taking a timeout midway through the second, she was able to regroup, then tie the series 1-1. Fenton escaped with the third, 11-9, but fell to Gudinas in games four and five, 11-3, 11-6.

ANNAPOLIS PRO-AM

Annapolis, Maryland: September 5-8

.....Lydia Hammock

.....Lynne Coburn, 2-11

.....Anita Maldonado

.....Michelle Gould

.....Amy Kilbane

.....Kim Machiran

.....Molly O'Brien

.....Doreen Fowler

.....Jackie Paraiso

.....Marcy Lynch

.....Janet Myers

.....Dina Moreland

.....Laura Fenton, 4-11

.....Cheryl Gudinas, 11-6

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Final

The final became the traditional #1 vs. #2 match up, with what has become a traditional outcome. Gould looked steady in game one, shooting well and using the splat into the glass, never allowing Gudinas to react. In game two, Gould took a 10-6 lead, but Gudinas changed her serving strategy a bit, forced some weak returns, and finally won game two on an avoidable, 12-10, during which Cheryl's racquet connected with Michelle's mouth. After a fifteen minute injury timeout, Gould regrouped and escaped with the next two games, 11-9, 11-9.

• **SIDENOTES** •
Congrats to Jennifer Dering, the newlywed!
Welcome Shegeml Yasuda... how do you like the states?
Congratulations to Michelle Wiragh, semi-pro winner, and to Bev Supanik, winner of the OPEN division, in an 11-9 tiebreaker!

WIRT IN CANOGA PARK

Canoga Park's annual "Tournament of Terror" kicked off at Racquetball World in early October. Debbie and Kevin Tisinger, and their staff, once again did an excellent job welcoming the WIRT back, and making everyone happy to be in L.A.!

Round of 16

Michelle Gould breezed through her first match, and #4 seeded Dina Moreland advanced with a victory over up-and-comer Tammy Brockbank, who had a big win at the Tournament of the Americas last spring, and later won her second intercollegiate championship. Brockbank pushed Moreland to five games.

Laura Fenton, seeded #11, advanced along with Randy Friedman who claimed a nice victory over #5 Amy Kilbane. You always have to watch out when Randy's around... Molly O'Brien and Lynne Coburn advanced, as did Cheryl Gudinas with a win over the always pesky Chris Evon, 11-4, 11-4, 11-7. Perhaps the most interesting match in the round was between Robin Levine and new #3 seed Jackie Paraiso. The crowd wasn't sure which way this one would go, but Paraiso showed why she has recaptured her spot in the top four so quickly since her return, by winning handily in three.

Quarterfinals

In the next round, all matches went fairly quickly with all winners needing only straight games to close out their matches... Paraiso looked great against Molly O, and

Friedman would fall to Dina Moreland easier than had been anticipated. Gudinas looked steady against golf partner, Lynne Coburn, winning the match, 11-7, 11-1, 11-7, and Gould had an easy go of it in defeating Laura Fenton.

Semi-finals

Gould continued her brilliant play in her semi-final against crowd favorite Dina Moreland. Dina appeared fired up early, but Michelle has a way of taking the wind out of her opponent's sails, and did, taking the match in crushing fashion, 11-0, 11-5, 11-0. The other semifinal saw #2 and #3 meeting for the first time since the nationals in Las Vegas last April. Gudinas rolled through the first game, and appeared to be in control, but later lost her rollout in game two and fell behind early in the game. She battled back to a near-save at 10-12. Game three went like the first, and game four went like the second, and the two found themselves in a tiebreaker. Gudinas went up 4-0 and liked the way the game was looking for her. Jackie battled to tie the game at 4 but that point turned out to be her last as, with some inspiration from the crowd, Gudinas regained momentum and won the match 11-4.

Final

Gudinas started out strong against doubles partner Gould in the final by serving up some aces of her own this time around, and doing a good job of defending against Gould's serve. The combination found Cheryl with an early 9-3 lead in the first before Michelle took a timeout, regained her composure, and got the ball rolling.

• **SIDENOTES** •
Did you know that St. Louis has more stop signs per capita than any other city? Did you say, "per capita"? Certainly that's something to remember!" • Most Welts award . . . goes to Bubbles Brockbank. Be proud! • Kim, you run a great meeting!

Earning one point at a time, she tied it up at nines. Gudinas again found herself with a slim 10-9 lead, but ultimately fell to Gould's comeback, 10-12. In game two, Gould seemed confident after pulling out the first, Gudinas couldn't quite get her serve working again, and Gould won it 11-6. In the third, it was all Michelle, who seemed to get better as the match went on, and didn't let Cheryl get on the board at all. She pressed on to an 11-0 win, and also took her second pro title of the season. So far, she's two for two . . .

WIRT PRO-AM*

Canoga Park, California: October 4-6

ROUND OF 16

Michelle Gould def. Doreen Fowler, 11-1, 11-1, 11-0
 Laura Fenton def. Marcy Lynch, 11-9, 11-0, 11-4
 Randy Friedman def. Amy Kilbane, 11-8, 11-2, 11-1
 Dina Moreland def. Tammy Brockbank, 11-6, 11-6, 9-11, 9-11, 11-5
 Jackie Paraiso def. Robin Levine, 11-7, 11-7, 11-4
 Molly O'Brien def. Janet Myers, 11-8, 11-2, 11-1
 Lynne Coburn def. Anita Maldonado, 11-3, 11-4, 11-9
 Cheryl Gudinas def. Chris Evon, 11-4, 11-4, 11-7

QUARTERFINALS

Michelle Gould def. Laura Fenton, 11-3, 11-2, 11-6
 Dina Moreland def. Randy Friedman, 11-4, 11-3, 11-3
 Jackie Paraiso def. Molly O'Brien, 11-5, 11-0, 11-2
 Cheryl Gudinas def. Lynne Coburn, 11-7, 11-1, 11-7

SEMI-FINALS

Michelle Gould def. Dina Moreland, 11-0, 11-5, 11-0
 Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso, 11-3, 8-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-4

FINAL

Michelle Gould def. Cheryl Gudinas, 12-10, 11-6, 11-0

IRT UPDATE

From Press Releases

PROFESSIONAL STAFF GROWS: The IRT is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Grant Smith of Fountain Hills, Arizona as the official chiropractic physician for the tour. Dr. Smith began his new position at the Ralph's/Food 4 Less Pro-Am in Riverside, California and will also join the editorial staff of Killshot. A graduate of Life Chiropractic College West in San Lorenzo, California, Dr. Smith is currently in practice with his mother, Dr. Elizabeth Smith.

IRT, Inc. president Hank Marcus commented "The time for the IRT and it's professionals to have a chiropractic physician is long past due. Dr. Smith will give us the assurance that the IRT professionals will play to their optimum, and be able to receive immediate attention if there are any injuries during the grueling 11 month season". Dr. Smith added, "It is exciting both personally and professionally to be involved with some of the most talented athletes in sports."

FRENCH CONNECTION: IRT Properties recently announced the addition of a new country to the IRT family. Under a new agreement with Racquetball Plus and its Director, Philippe Lecomte, IRT France has been

profile/Tour Update

created and will promote at least four satellite events in Paris during the current season. Three added events will take place in Strasbourg, Biarritz, and Bordeaux. The title sponsor of the events will be Deloitte Touche Tomatsu, co-sponsored by several of the IRT's sponsors including Spalding and Penn.

Said IRT Commissioner Hank Marcus, "With the IRT France Satellite Tour joining IRT Japan, IRT CanadaWest, and IRT Canadian Pro-Am Tours, the international expansion of the IRT is tremendously exciting. Beyond North America, IRT events will now be held in both Asia and Europe with South America to follow in the near future. It is not beyond our expecta-

tions that the IRT will have full ranking pro stops in several countries perhaps as early as next season. This is a great step forward for racquetball."

PRO PENN THROUGH 2001: Penn Racquet Sports and the IRT have signed a new contract naming Penn's Pro Penn green ball as the official ball for the tour until 2001. "Our partnership with Penn over the last 3 years has been great because the Pro Penn ball continues to offer the playability, consistency and durability that tour players demand," said Hank Marcus, IRT Commissioner. "I'm looking forward to our next five years together and to a great future for the game of racquetball."

'96-97 irt & wirt rankings

MEN'S STANDINGS

1. Sudsy Monchik. New York 2360
2. Cliff Swain Massachusetts 2170
3. Andy Roberts Tennessee 2000
4. John Ellis California 1480
5. Mike Ray South Carolina 1435
6. Mike Guidry Texas 1307
7. Jason Mannino California 1272
8. Drew Kachtik Louisiana 984
9. Dan Fowler Maryland 837
10. Louis Vogel New Mexico 820
11. Tony Jelso California 818
12. Adam Karp California 650
13. Mike Engel Maryland 615
14. Woody Clouse California 574
15. Brian Rankin Missouri 494
16. Derek Robinson Washington 489
17. Tim Doyle New York 411
18. Ruben Gonzalez New York 378
19. Michael Bronfeld California 351
20. Darrin Schenck Arizona 330

Rankings as of 09.30.96

WOMEN'S STANDINGS

1. Michelle Gould Idaho 800
2. Cheryl Gudinas Illinois 609
3. Jackie Paraiso California 414
4. Dina Moreland California 410
5. Laura Fenton Nebraska 405
6. Molly O'Brien Maryland 314
7. Amy Kilbane Ohio 279
8. Lynne Coburn Maryland 231
9. Marcy Lynch Pennsylvania 230
10. Chris Evon California 226
11. Kim Machiran Missouri 181
12. Robin Levine California 172
13. Janet Myers North Carolina 162
14. Doreen Fowler Maryland 159
14. Anita Maldonado New York 159
16. Lorraine Galloway New York 147
17. Randy Friedman New York 139
17. Michelle Wiragh Maryland 139
19. Debbie Tisinger California 106
20. Kim Allen Louisiana 86

Rankings as of 10.08.96



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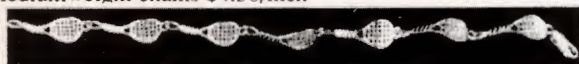
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pro tour

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Memphis, Tennessee

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Lakewood Holiday Pro-Am
Classic @ Lakewood Athletic
Club - Denver, Colorado

January 15 - 19

Ralph Schomp Automotive
Invitational @ Denver Ath.
Club - Denver, Colorado

January 22 - 26

IRT Columbus Pro-Am
Continental Athletic Club
Columbus, Ohio

January 29 - Feb. 2

Racquet Club of Pittsburgh
Pro-Am @ Racquet Club of
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February 12 - 16

VCI Pro-Am
Southern Athletic Club
Atlanta, Georgia

Feb. 26 - March 2

Penfield Pro-Am @ Penfield
Racquet & Fitness Club
Rochester, New York

March 12 - 16

Coors Light Pro-Am @ LA
Fitness - Anaheim, California

March 19 - 23

Boston Pro-Am @ Boston Ath.
Club - Boston, Mass.

March 26 - 29

PaineWebber Pro-Am
City Square Sports Club
Phoenix, Arizona

April 2 - 6

Team Concepts/Gold's Gym
Pro-Am @ Gold's Gym
Syracuse, New York

April 9 - 13

VCI Doubles Championships
Schoeber's Athletic Club
Pleasanton, California

April 23 - 27

Foxwoods IRT Pro Nationals
Las Vegas Sporting House
Las Vegas, Nevada

April 30 - May 4

San Diego Pro-Am '97
Club TBA
San Diego, California

May 14 - 18

Bay101 IRT World
Championships
Bayhill Athletic Club
Milpitas, California

June 4 - 8

Spalding Tournament of
Champions @ Multnomah
Ath. Club-Portland, Oregon

WIRT CALENDAR

November 13 - 17

Promus Hotels U.S. OPEN
Racquet Club of Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee

December 11 - 15

RAD Athletics Super Series
Lakewood Athletic Club
Denver, Colorado

January 9 - 12

1997 Grand Slam Pro-Am
Highpoint Athletic Club
Chalfont, Pennsylvania

calendar ... tour calendar

February TBA

RAD Athletics Super Series
Club TBA
Roanoke, Virginia

March 14 - 16

RAD Athletics Super Series
Continental Athletic Club
Columbus, Ohio

April 23 - 27

Foxwoods WIRT Pro
Nationals @ Las Vegas
Sporting House, Nevada

May 1 - 4

Crystal City Classic Pro-Am
The Skyline Club at Crystal
Gateway-Arlington, Virginia

May 14 - 18

Bay101 WIRT World
Championships @ Bayhill
Athletic Club-Milpitas, Calif.

June 5 - 8

RAD Tournament of
Champions @ Multnomah
Ath. Club-Portland, Oregon

SPALDING IRT SATELLITE TOUR

November 22 - 24

St. Louis Super Series
St. Louis, Missouri
Brian Rankin (314)
838-1330

Courtesy Sports Elite 8
Burlingame, California
Mark Spangenberg
(800) 729-1771

December 13 - 15

Christmas Classic
Tyson's Corner, Virginia
Ed Willis (703) 527-7785

January 10 - 12

Billings Open
Billings, Montana
Kim Nissley (406)
259-2626

January 3 - 5

"I Love RB" Series
Silver Spring, Maryland
Dan Fowler (301)
762-4993

Feb. 28 - March 2

Paducah Open
Paducah, Kentucky
Sandy Trail (502) 443-7529

March 7 - 9

Omni 41 Make-A-Wish
Open-Schereville, Indiana
Rich Lopez (219) 738-1841

March 14 - 16

Green Mountain Open
Essex Junction, Vermont
Ed Hammer-Williamson
(802) 654-7717

St. Louis Super Series
St. Louis, Missouri
Brian Rankin (314)
838-1330

Continental A.C. Open
Columbus, Ohio
Steve Lerner (614)
847-0884

April 4 - 6

IRT TN State
Championships
Nashville, Tennessee
Walter McDade (615)
871-4301

July 11 - 13

Courthouse of Blues Open
Jackson, Mississippi
Chris Baker (601) 992-3900

IRT CANADIAN PRO-AM TOUR

November 15 - 17

Maximum Fitness
Fort St. John, BC

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1

Sherk Rec Center
Leamington, ONT

January 10 - 12

#1 Nautilus
Peterborough, ONT

January 24 - 26

Cedar Springs
Burlington, ONT

Feb. 28 - Mar. 2

Mayfair-Toronto, ONT

April 11 - 13

Fit For Life Aquin Court
Toronto, ONT

April 24 - 27

Lakeshore Rec Center
Port Elgin, ONT

May 1 - 4

Grand Finale - Club TBA

Dates TBA

Mirabel - Montreal, QUE
Club TBA - Prince Albert, SAS
Mayfield - Edmonton, ALB
Ottawa Athletic Club, ONT
Fit For Life Airport -
Mississauga, ONT

For Canadian Pro-Am Info:
Adrian Webb
Racq / Reation
(519) 653-3448

IRT JAPAN

November 2 - 4

Big Bang Sports Club
Koriyama
Fukushima, Japan

December 21 - 23

Tokyo YMCA - Tokyo, Japan

April 5 - 6

Club TBA - Osaka, Japan

July 19 - 21

Sports Club Together
Fukuoka, Japan

For IRT Japan Information:
Koichi Kitamura
Moonlight Workshop;
Headquarters for IRT Japan
81-3-3398-2847
e-mail: chau-san
@libra.bekkoame.or.jp

IRT CANADA WEST

Nov. 27 - Dec. 1

The River Club
Richmond, BC

March 12 - 16

Carnoustie Racquet Club
Port Coquitlam, BC

Dates TBA

Newlands Racquetball Club
Langley, BC
The California Club
Surrey, BC

For IRT CanadaWest Info:
Kelly Kerr - (604)
536-2478
e-mail: irtkid
@uniserve.com

GENESIS

The original hangs in the foyer of the International Racquetball Federation office in Colorado Springs. This 40" by 52" work by Colorado artist Donna Pylypczuk is titled "Genesis" and depicts what is considered to be the evolution of racquetball from the MesoAmerican Ball Game played in Central America as far back as 2000 B.C. It is theorized that all rubber ball games may have their origins in this ancient form of competition.



Donna Marie Pylypczuk is primarily a self-taught artist with a unique style. Experienced in many mediums, she prefers acrylics and took over four months to research and complete this particular work. In subtle relief among the background of trees, a racquetball player can be seen preparing a backhand. A limited-edition of 250 signed and numbered artist's prints are available for \$35.00, as well as signed museum quality posters on heavy stock for \$15.00.

To obtain either the limited edition print, or poster, contact the IRF at 719/635-5396. Visa & Mastercard accepted.

1996 holiday gift guide

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★ giftguide

'96holiday

PYTHON GRIPS

Happy Holidays from Doug Smith, Network Marketing and Python Grips — the "official grip" of the AARA, Racquetball Canada, and the world's #1 ranked player, Sudsy Monchik. In '96 over 30 national and world champions used a Python grip. Thinner, lighter, 15 colors, made in the USA and priced to sell. Network Marketing also distributes Kleershot Eyeguards, Wristlacers, Dry Grip, Forten Strings, Pro Kennex Racquets and the new RAD eyeguards. Call or fax for more info.



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Fax: 770/751-9469



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP VIDEO

See the finals of the team round at the 1996 Ektelon IRF VIII World Championships from Phoenix, Arizona! With this video, you'll be ringside at the battle for the World Cup, between U.S. #1 player Ruben Gonzalez and Canada's #1 Sherman Greenfeld — plus the women's playoff between U.S. #1 Michelle Gould and Canadian #1 Josee Grand'Maitre. Going into the round, the U.S. held a slim lead in overall points ... and the men's team title slipped away for the first time since 1988. The narrow 10-8 win for the World Cup couldn't have been more exciting! See it all on video for \$29.95 (shipping/handling included) by calling the International Racquetball Federation @ 719/635-5396. Visa/MC accepted.

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'96 holiday gift guide

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Return of Serve to Your Backhand

MOVE 1.

A quick, short step with the left foot to point it toward the side wall. This is almost a pivot, except that you lift the foot an inch off the floor and move it slightly toward the side wall.

MOVE 2.

Your right foot comes across toward the side wall. At the same time, your hips and body turn and your racquet is up and back. You are ready to strike the ball.

Return of Serve to Your Forehand

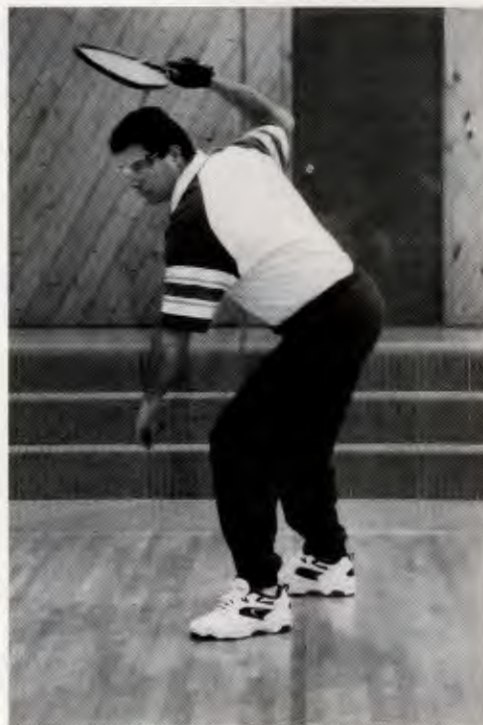
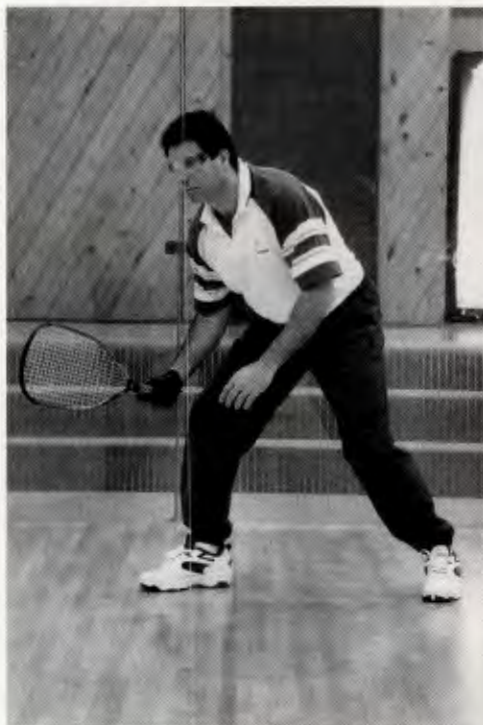
MOVE 1.

A quick, short step with your right foot to point it toward the side wall.

MOVE 2.

Your left foot comes across as your body turns and your racquet comes up, ready to hit.

With these quick, two-step movements, you should be able to get to a ball on either side, all the way to the side wall.



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Part 3 Backhand: principles & confident execution of 11 different shots. Practice drills. (45 mins.)

TAPE 2: 1 HOUR 23 MINUTES

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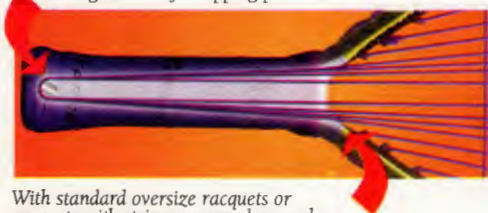
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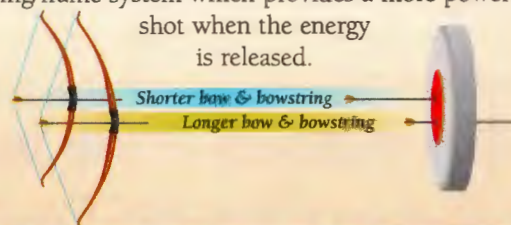
Havoc™ 230g

16.2" LongString Technology and power-weighted 230-gram frame create incredible power by putting more mass behind the ball.

Why longer mainstrings deliver more power.

As racquet frames evolved, longer mainstrings resulted in huge increases in power. The quadraform head shape out-powered the teardrop (and throat-pieces became obsolete). The midsize out-powered the quadraform. The oversize outpowered the midsize. 16.2" LongString Technology outpowered the oversize.

Why do longer mainstrings and racquet bow length generate more power? It's the same principle as the bow and arrow. For an equal amount of effort, longer mainstrings and bow length cause the strings to stretch further, allowing the frame to store more energy. The result is a string/frame system which provides a more powerful shot when the energy is released.



See Why E-Force Racquets Are More Powerful

Racquet	Bow Length	Max Length Mainstrings	Combined Length 10 Mainstrings	The E-Force Advantage
21.0" LongString Mayhem	21.0 in.	20.5 in.	193.5 in.	Longest mainstrings in racquetball
16.2" LongString				
Chaos	16.2 in.	16.0 in.	141.3 in.	Longer mainstrings than all other competitive racquets
Havoc	16.2 in.	16.0 in.	141.3 in.	
Frenzy	16.2 in.	16.0 in.	141.3 in.	
Racquets w/o Throat Piece				E-Force's longer mainstrings deliver more power
Maxstring length small	15.1 in.	14.8 in.	135.2 in.	
Typical length	14.3 in.	14.2 in.	131.3 in.	
Racquets with Throat Piece				E-Force's mainstrings are substantially longer
Standard throat	13.1 in.	13.0 in.	124.0 in.	
Wrapped throat—E-Force	13.9 in.	13.8 in.	136.8 in.	

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AmPRO Tip: Make Quality Decisions about Playing Time

By Lorraine Galloway, Advanced Instructor

Some people fall into the category of being one of the best players at their club — and often have a difficult time finding people of similar ability to play. One solution for the stronger player is to play drilling games when a comparable opponent is not available. In most of the examples listed below, the stronger player would not have to let their opponent know they were working on certain shots in their game. Drilling games are great training tools to use when a competitive opponent is not available.

PASSING GAME: Practice your passing shots in a game situation by not allowing any of your shots to hit a side wall first. Your shots must make contact with the front wall first. If you don't contact the front wall first, you lose the rally.

CEILING GAME: In this game, you have to hit all of your shots to the ceiling first. If your shot doesn't hit the ceiling first, you are giving your opponent a set-up for a kill shot. If your opponent doesn't hit an effective kill shot, again take your shot up to the ceiling until you win or lose the rally.

DEFENSIVE GAME: The defensive game requires you to only hit defensive shots during all rallies. This includes ceiling balls, Z-shots, around the world shots, and lob shots. Rollouts are not allowed — if you hit one, you lose the rally.

PINCH AND SPLAT GAME: This game requires you to hit only pinches and splats. The ball must hit a side wall first to be counted. If the ball hits the front wall first, you lose the rally.

OFFENSIVE GAME: In the offensive game, every shot you hit must be an aggressive one — go for the bottom board. This game leaves little time for your opponent to react and at the same time challenges you to hit offensive shots from all positions on the court.

BACKHAND OR FOREHAND GAME: In this game, work on your weaker side (forehand or backhand). Hit the offensive shots with your weaker side (backhand?) and defensive shots with your stronger side (forehand?). You can hit defensive shots with your backhand as well. If you want to make it tougher, try serving with your backhand. This game strengthens your weaker side and improves your defensive game on your stronger side.

CUT-OFF GAME: This game requires you to hit a ball before it passes you if at all possible. The purpose of this game is to practice your short-hops and volleys. It also helps your reaction time improve. The only shots you are allowed to let through are the obvious over the head shots (which you should take-off-the-back-wall for an *easy* set-up).

SERVING GAME: This game requires one person to serve throughout an entire game. The receiver can earn points only if they win the rally. This type of game lets the receiver practice their return of serve throughout the entire game. The server can practice the same serve the entire game, or mix it up. Either way, you will have a great practice game.

Now you have enough tools to provide everyone with plenty of good games!! Take advantage of the situation and get quality practice time with anyone you play. Be patient, persistent, and polite to all players at every skill level who are willing to try these new game formats.

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Seattle, Washington

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Billings, Montana

[Adult/Jr. #13]
Billings Athletic Club
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Director: Steve Pinnow
406/245-6204

Broomfield, Colorado

The Edge Athletic Club
Director: John Foust
303/699-8121

Arlington, Texas

Maverick Athletic Club
817/275-3340
Director: Bob Sullins

Ft. Smith, Arkansas

Ozark Sports Club & Ft. Smith
Athletic Club
Director: Dann Schwinger
501/785-8666

Minneapolis, Minnesota

SITE: TBA
Director: Dave Hart
612/938-9309

Canton, Ohio

Hall of Fame Fitness Center
Director: Doug Ganim
614/890-6073

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Louisiana State University
Student Rec Complex
Director: Al Schof
504/468-2813 (H)
504/464-1532 (W)

Atlanta, Georgia

Southern Athletic Club
Director: Liz Lyon
770/923-5400

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

South Florida Racquet
& Health Club
Director: Mary Lyons
904/270-2224 (FRA)

Baltimore, Maryland

[Adult/Junior #3]
SITE: TBA
Director: Molly O'Brien
410/315-7900 (W)
410/315-8802 (FAX)

Allentown, Pennsylvania

Allentown Racquet & Fitness
Director: Jodi Paul
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Track & Racquet Club
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• **Jacksonville, Florida**
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• **Las Vegas, Nevada**
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RACQUETBALL Magazine



regionals 41



Time: The Present

Setting: The Wonderful Life of a Racquetball Tournament Director

... All those years of working have paid off. I'm able to provide for my family. I have a beautiful home, a savings account, college tuition for the kids, a new car and many other wonderful things.

Along with working my normal job, I've also had the opportunity to run racquetball tournaments for all these years. It's finally paying off. I have another tournament just starting and as usual, it's running on time, lots of entries! I love running tournaments.

Whoa, there have been some great matches. Oh no! A player is down. It looks like a heart attack! I hope he's all right! I didn't plan on this. I don't have certified CPR personnel on hand. I don't have a first aid kit, no doctor, nothing! How do we get him to the closest hospital? Am I going to be held liable?

Time: Six Months Later

Setting: The Miserable Life of a Racquetball Tournament Director

... Everything I've worked for is lost. My house, savings account, car, all gone! All because America is lawsuit hungry. What am I going to do? Damn those attorney's.

Have you ever run a tournament and potentially opened yourself up for some type of litigation? If you didn't sanction your event, you did. Your excuse might have been that "sanctioning is a hassle." But let me offer you some of positives that far outweigh any "hassles."

With USRA Event Sanctioning, you receive liability insurance coverage that protects you for up to five million dollars. The policy can also protect the facility owner, staff and the tournament participants.

Duly "licensed" USRA members who play in your tournaments are also covered by the USRA's secondary medical insurance policy. So you may think it's a hassle to make sure all your participants are USRA members, but as a tournament director, you're only protecting yourself further. At a sanctioned event, if one of your entrants is injured, you won't have to write a check to pay for a players treatment. As a licensed competitive player, you are protected, in that you'll be able to get the proper medical attention if needed.

Some more added benefits as a tournament director to having your tournament sanctioned is that you get the

mailing labels and lists of members at no cost. Through USRA sanctioning, many states can often arrange to get tournament drawsheets, scorecards, and racquetballs direct from industry representatives. And let's not forget about the ranking points that your quarterfinalists can earn, and the free advertising for your club in the calendar section of *RACQUETBALL Magazine*.

Just remember, injuries can and will happen. What if it happens at your tournament? Do you want to expose yourself to a potential lawsuit and great personal loss? It can happen to you if you don't sanction your tournament!

USRA Sanctioning Benefits

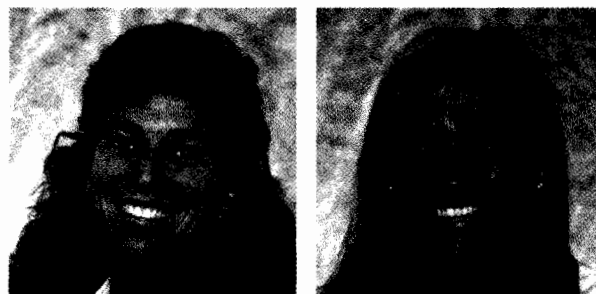
- \$5,000,000 General Aggregate per event liability coverage
- Secondary accident medical insurance for all USRA athlete members
- Advance promotion of event in *RACQUETBALL Magazine*
- Exclusivity of dates to host an event, as set forth by the state association
- Because the USRA offers liability insurance of \$5 million, it is required that ALL participants of current USRA members in order for coverage to be in full force.

Upon receipt and approval of sanctioning request, the USRA will provide to the tournament director:

- Mailing labels of USRA members for requested states
- Rulebooks, membership applications, tournament results form
- *RACQUETBALL Magazine*, on request
- Current USRA membership lists, for requested states
- Current USRA state rankings upon request

AMPRO TIP: Getting Ready for the Big One!

By Fran Davis & Diana McNab



Olympic fever ... you felt it, saw it and could almost touch it. It was everywhere — commercials, TV Guide, magazine covers, billboards and in stores. The Olympic athletes in Atlanta had spent years — or maybe even their whole lives — preparing for this moment. How do these athletes do it and how does it relate to you?

Winning at any level, whether it be recreationally, professionally or representing the U.S. in the Olympics, is all about preparation,

preparation, preparation. What your goals are and what you want to accomplish will determine the degree to which you prepare.

Following are the exact steps that not only the Olympic athletes used to "get ready for the big one in Atlanta," but also what the U.S. National Racquetball Team used to get ready for the World Championships; what Ruben Gonzalez used to get ready for the Nationals and win a National title; and what Sudsy Monchik used on

his quest to become the #1 IRT mens professional racquetball player in the world. It works!!!

#1 Physical — Fine tune particular skills and areas of your game... practice, practice, practice. The word "consistent" should be synonymous with your name.

#2 Nutrition — Protein builds muscle and strength. Carbohydrates increase muscle energy. A low-fat, high complex carbohydrate diet with lots of water (60-90 ounces per day.) Eat every 3-5 hours — mini-

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of the program.

Photo by John Foust

meals more often. Cut down on fats, salts and sugars.

#3 Cross-training and Conditioning — Endurance: aerobic training 6-8 weeks before competition. Power: Sprint – speed training 2 weeks prior to competition. Yoga, stretching, visualization during competition. Hard day/Easy day. Specificity of training. Recovery is key.

#4 Relaxation — Saunas, jacuzzi, massage, water therapy, reflexology, total relaxation, music, aromatherapy.

#5 Visualization — In living color every night and morning, see yourself performing perfect technique and performance ... add movement and a cue word, "Yes," "Now," "Go" to affirm proper response. This is the #1 mental skill prepare for the "big one." See and

feel yourself winning in every game.

#6 Positive Self-Talk, Affirmation, Cue Words — "Programming your mind for success" – what you say becomes your reality. Plant positive messages about the way you want to play in the game.

#7 Stress and Recovery Ratio — Remember to recover to the same level as you are having stress – mentally, physically, emotionally, & spiritually. Stress and recovery conclude all unfinished business in preparation for the event.

#8 Attitude and Motivation — Keep moving and keep positive. Balance your life and enjoy one day at a time.

#9 Simulation Training — Go over the entire event from start to finish and rehearse everything and anything that could come up for

you. Practice positive strategies and responses so that you are relaxed and prepared for the competition.

#10 Pre-Game Psyche Plan — Mentally and physically prepare to reach your "flow state" zone. Practice your desired performance response from the morning you get up for the game. Go through all of your rituals and see yourself winning each game. Don't leave anything out.

These 10 steps are clearly a detailed approach for the ultimate competition(s) and ultimate performance(s.) Use one or all of the steps in order to reach your own potential and win a few tournaments or league matches. The key is to remember to keep a healthy balance of the Mind/Body/Spirit and emotional preparation. Good luck!!



No, this is not an article on how to sneak a fast one over on some poor, unsuspecting soul. Rather, these are some thoughts on how to make the most of all the opportunities that you come across as an active racquetball aficionado.

In hundreds of clubs across the country, there are camps, clinics, lessons, and demo nights. Lots of opportunities to learn, purchase, enjoy and socialize. I conduct lots of clinics, lessons, camps and demo nights as part of my job, so I thought I would pass along some tips on how to get the most out of these activities. You may as well get your money's worth plus a little more if possible.

Demo Nights

A lot of racquetball companies host demo nights at a local club. It's a night where the sales or company reps set out a table of demo racquets and other racquetball related products. The point is for you to try the products, hopefully fall in love with them, and then run into your pro shop to make the purchase.

This type of event is perfect for every player of every skill level. The best way to pick the right racquet for your game is to hit and play with a lot of different racquets. Only then will you know what's best for your style of play. A demo night lets you try as many racquets as you like, and its free! Plus, you have the

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Top: Lynn Adams conducts a Wilson Camp at the Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club. Bottom: Receiving a little added "assistance" from OTRC club pro Mike Mojer (left foreground).

company sales rep on hand to answer any questions you may have about how a racquet is made, what the weight and balance is on a particular frame and why it's good for your game. So take advantage, demo like crazy and find the perfect racquet that will hit an abundance of backhand rollouts!

Pro Clinics

These are special events that you don't want to miss.

A top professional comes to your club, plays a quick exhibition, then conducts a clinic, usually on court. Many times they will play members quick games to 7 or 8 at the program. These events are fun, exciting, and very motivating.

Don't miss out by skipping the event. It's not every day you get to see the best players in the world in action. These players eat, live and breathe racquetball and they can provide you with a wealth of information.

How can you get the most out of a pro clinic? First, go armed with questions. Don't be shy about asking lots of questions, especially if others are being quiet. The pros love to talk about the game, how they train, what they do to calm their nerves, how they motivate themselves, etc. If you are really serious about getting the most out of the clinic, write your questions down and have the list in front of you. It would be a shame to go home wishing you had remembered to ask about how to get more power with your forehand.

Second, be one of the members who get to play the pro a short game to 7. Even if you

are a beginner, it's fun and exciting to be able to say you played a game with Michelle Gould or Sudsy Monchik.

Third, bring a friend with you. Either introduce someone new to the sport, or bring along a friend who's just starting out. Let's all work together to grow the sport of racquetball. A pro clinic is a fun and entertaining way to introduce the sport to a newcomer.

Clinics

If you want to learn about a specific aspect of the game, then a clinic is the way to go. There are clinics on how to hit a backhand, how to hit a drive serve, how to get in proper court position, etc.

Attending a clinic is an economical way to get specific information and help for your game. A clinic usually costs anywhere from \$5-\$20 per session, as opposed to \$20-\$30 for a private lesson.

The best way to take advantage of a clinic is: first, go armed with a notebook. Take notes on the lesson so you can go back over the information when you are alone, working on the court. We tend to forget lots of details, which can be important when you are trying re-create that Z serve you just learned. So take detailed notes.

Second, commit to at least two, 15-20 minute practice sessions for the next few weeks. Your new skills won't automatically become a part of your game unless you practice it with some consistency. Repetition is the only way to create a new skill. Going to a clinic is only the first step. Practicing on a consistent basis is the third step.

Lessons

These are private, one-on-one sessions, where you get a pro's total, undivided attention. Private lessons will usually cost between \$20-\$40 an hour. If you are going to spend that amount of money, it will be to your advantage to do whatever possible to get your money's worth.

- #1 Know what you want to improve. Analyze your game as much as possible. What are your strengths and weaknesses? Where do you want to win points and how do you lose points? The more you know about your game, the more you can get a specific lesson to help your game.
- #2 Take a notebook. Again, like the clinic, write down what happened during the lesson. The more detailed and specific you are, the more you'll remember two weeks later.
- #3 Practice !!! I've given a lot of lessons in my day, and it still amazes me that players want a lesson every week, but do nothing between the lessons to improve their game. Your backhand will not get better just because I show you what to do for an hour. You have to get out there and work on the drills, practice the motions and spend time on the court repeating the skills over and over.

It doesn't take hours and hours, five days a week. Who has that kind of time? I don't. So, commit to at least two, 15-20 minute practice sessions to get the most out of that private lesson.

Camps

Camps are fun, informative and an inexpensive way to get a lot of information in a short amount of time. Camps usually take place over a weekend, and you'll be with 10-25 people, and 2-3 instructors. Camps cost anywhere between \$75-\$200, so it pays to get the most of the experience.

- #1 You tend to do a lot of drills during a camp, and that usually means using parts of your body that aren't used to repetition. Prior to camp, stretch on a daily basis, and be physical on a daily basis, especially if its not a part of your usual routine.
- #2 Show up thirty minutes prior to the camp start time. Give yourself time to warm up and stretch.
- #3 Be ready with a notebook and pen. There will be so many topics covered, you'll never be able to remember everything without your notes.
- #4 Ask lots of questions. Write them down prior to camp, and if they aren't covered in the lectures, make sure you ask.
- #5 If there is time, play one of the instructors, or better yet, play someone your own skill level while an instructor watches. Ask for feedback.
- #6 At the end of camp, write down a top-10 list of everything you want to work on and improve. Take the skill that is #1, work on it until it is a part of your game, then cross it off and go to #2. Focus on one skill at a time. If you try to do too much at once you'll end up frustrated and most likely end up quitting.
- #7 Don't be shy about calling the instructor with questions after the camp is over. It's easy to forget details and it can save you a lot of time and grief to go back to the source if a question comes up.

All of these events are fun, but you can take them beyond fun depending on how much you want to utilize the opportunities that they provide. So get involved, get active, and *take advantage!*

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NEWS FOR PROFESSIONALS IN THE BUSINESS OF RACQUETBALL • Special to RACQUETBALL Magazine

Certify your Programmers!

Are your racquetball programs adding to your bottom line? Did you know that AmPRO offers programs that create or substantially improve racquetball as an additional profit center?

AmPRO offers a program for Certified Programmers that is second to none. This course will teach your Racquetball Program Director all the ins and outs of the programming business. Keeping your members happy and satisfied is extremely important for member retention and AmPRO has the answers. We know you won't mind finding some additional profits along the way.

AmPRO's certified instructor program offers your racquetball teaching pro a great opportunity to learn how to sell more lessons, plus keep students happy and satisfied. The certified instructor program is conducted as an intensive three day course.

Participants will come away with the proper techniques and teaching methods from the finest clinicians in our sport. The added level of prestige your facility realizes by offering the services of an AmPRO certified instructor

will also produce new profits – be sure to prominently display your instructor's certificate.

Give the office of AmPRO a call if you would like additional information on any of our programs. AmPRO is here to help your facility realize new profits from racquetball.

Two AmPRO Programmer Certification Clinics will be held in the spring, one in the midwest and another on the east coast. If you are interested in earning your AmPRO Programmer Certification, please contact Connie Martin @ 503/666-7642, or the AmPRO office @ 208/362-3844.

Programming Certification consists of an intensive two-day clinic for racquetball directors (or program directors in charge of racquetball) and covers • Planning & Marketing • Goal Planning • Sponsorship & Donations • Fund-raisers & Charity Events • Mixers & Round Robins • Special Population Programs • Special Events • Reference List • Budgets & Studies • Compensation • New Member Programs • Leagues & Tournaments • Juniors Programs • Ongoing Programs • Pro Shop • Pro Events & Clinics.

Scheduled 1996 & '97 AmPRO Instructor Clinics As of September 15, 1996

<u>Date</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>City</u>
October 11-13	Glass Court Swim & Fitness	Lombard, IL
October 25-27	Pro Sports	Bellevue, WA
November 22-24	Track & Racquet Club	Fayetteville, NY
November-December	Merritt Athletic Club	Baltimore, MD
November-December	What A Racquet Athletic Club	San Francisco, CA
December 6-8	Jacksonville Athletic Club	Jacksonville, FL
December 6-8	Aurora Athletic Club	Aurora, CO
December-January	Site To Be Determined	Harbor City, CA
January 3-5	Downtown Health & Racquet	New Haven, CT

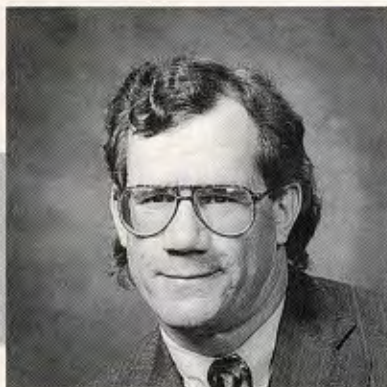
Scheduled 1996 AmPRO Programmer Clinics As Of September 15, 1996

<u>Date</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>City</u>
November 2-3	Gresham Athletic Club	Portland, OR

For additional information, or to schedule your own clinic, please call Michelle Gould, AmPRO Executive Director at (208) 362-3844.

Participants will be provided with a take home exam for completion within six months. Upon successful completion of the examination, participants will receive credentials as an AmPRO Certified Programmer, and an attractive AmPRO Certificate (suitable for framing).

The fee for this two day Clinic is \$169 per person (2nd person, same club \$145). Course Fees include a copy of Racquetball Workbook 101 (which has been sent to every IHRSA Club in April of '96 at no cost) and Racquetball Workbook 102, designed exclusively for these Clinics.



ASHAWAY
RACKET STRINGS

MAINS & CROSSES: Understanding Manufacturer's Claims II

By Steve Crandall

As we saw a couple issues ago, racquet strings are made from different fibers to accommodate the differing needs of "power" and "control" players. How those materials are put together — in other words, the string's design — also affects its performance. There are hundreds of string models available, with dozens of different design features. Here's how to make sense out of a fairly confusing selection of products.

Racquet strings have two basic components: a core and a jacket. The core is the central load-bearing member. It provides strength, and determines the majority of the string's "response" characteristics: how much it will stretch when strung in the racquet; how much more it stretches when hitting the ball; and how quickly it rebounds.

Three basic core types exist. The monofilament core, found in string commonly called "tournament nylon," is the most common. It consists of a single thick nylon fiber, or a few medium-gauge nylon fibers that have been chemically bonded together so they are, in effect, a single thick filament.

Multifilament cores are made from thousands of very thin fibers twisted and/or braided together, but not chemically bonded: they're free to stretch somewhat independently from one another. As a result, multifilament cores are less stiff, or more resilient, than monofilament cores of the same material. And resiliency, as we know, generates more power, but at the expense of ball control. Multifilament cores may be made from nylon, polyester, Kevlar®, or other materials.

The third type is the composite, or "semi-monofilament" core, in which a small number of relatively thick

fibers — usually between three and ten — are twisted or braided together, but not chemically bonded to each other. For example, the core of the PowerKill™ Pro racquetball string consists of five Zyex® monofilaments twisted around a sixth central one.

Manufacturers can make subtle adjustments in stiffness and responsiveness by combining different materials in a variety of configurations in composite-cored strings. The DuraKill™ string, for example, has a round inner core, composed of Kevlar multifilaments, surrounded by four "flattened" nylon monofilaments. This gives the string a somewhat squarish cross-section, which provides more "bite" on the ball.

During a match, the main strings in the racquet move back and forth against the cross strings, and would quickly be sawn through if it weren't for the string's abrasion-resistant jacket, also known as the cover or wear layer. The jacket also provides texture to the surface of the string, which is even more important than cross-sectional shape for "bite" or control. In multifilament and composite strings, the jacket also holds the core filaments together.

Jackets may be either twisted or braided over the core. Twisting provides a somewhat smoother surface, making it easier to string the racquet. Braiding produces a more textured surface, for more bite.

When a fiber breaks in a twisted jacket, it begins to unravel, and the string may deteriorate quickly with further use. In a braided cover, the over-under-over design locks all the fibers together, so the breakage of a single fiber doesn't mean the imminent death of the string. In fact, many jacket fibers may break and the string will remain



STRINGS DIFFER IN CONSTRUCTION. BOTTOM: MULTI-STRANDED MONOFILAMENT DESIGN. MIDDLE: POWERKILL™ PRO STRING, WITH ZYEX® "SEMI-MONOFILAMENT" CORE. TOP: DURAKILL™ STRING, WITH KEVLAR® MULTIFILAMENT INNER CORE AND FLATTENED SEMI-MONOFILAMENT OUTER CORE.

intact. The broken jacket fibers will stick out, producing a somewhat "hairy" surface that aids ball control. Eventually, of course, even braided jackets become so worn they can no longer protect the core.

From three types of cores and two types of jackets, there are six basic combinations of string construction. Beyond that, hundreds of other possibilities exist: core fibers may be twisted or braided, and may have different numbers and types of fibers; jackets may be twisted or braided tighter or looser, and may consist of either one or two layers of different materials. The strands in each braid may be a single fiber, or may be a small bundle of two or three fibers.

Players need not, however, concern themselves with this level of detail. The sensible approach is to identify the basic core and jacket designs that are appropriate to your style of play, also bearing in mind the importance of different materials. Then, through play-testing, you can compare the string models that have the basic core/jacket combination you want, to find the one that feels right for you.

changingtimes **by Luke St. Onge**



Heading into a new century, and a fourth decade, the AARA has changed its name to the United States Racquetball Association. The sport has evolved and adapted to changing times — and so has its national governing body. That national governing body has continued to develop and prosper — and so has its membership base. Those players and athletes have taken on the many new challenges and opportunities offered by the sport— and the USRA will do the same.

Over the past several years the AARA adopted an aggressive policy to expand its leadership role beyond the competitive player — taking the promotion of racquetball to the club owner/manager and the club program developer. It became the central catalyst in the unification of its own amateur athletes, pro's (IRT & WIRT), club owners (IHRSA), and manufacturers (RIA). It has driven the entire sport toward the common goal of systematic growth — both domestic and international.

In achieving these benchmarks, the AARA took a page from its successful colleague, the United States Tennis Association (USTA). Then, looking at its own expanded responsibilities, thought the time was right to change its corporate name to better reflect the totality of the association as it is today. So, welcome to the "new" USRA . . . we are proud of what it is — and the great potential that it holds. We hope you are as well.

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INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

In 1997, *RACQUETBALL Magazine* will begin publishing international rankings periodically in its pages, beginning with the results of the three IRF recognized international events held in 1996: the World Championships, the World Senior Championships and World Junior Championships. Results from these events will rank players in the full range of Open and age divisions, based on the current USRA ranking structure for level of event. National championships recognized by the IRF in the new year will also be added to the international rankings, along with selected invitational events.

Event Level & Description	Finish & Point Awards				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8th
1 = National Championship	150	100	75	50	25
2 = International Invitational	250	150	100	75	50
3 = World Championship	300	200	150	100	75

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JUNIOR TEAM CANADA: Top (L-R) – Coach Ron Brown, Christie Van Hees, Jennifer Saunders, Dennis Oteyza, Kam Barteski, Paul Albert, Kris Odegard. Front row (L-R) – Amanda Kerr, Amanda MacDonald, Lisa Kerr, Joel Milhiewicz, Karina Odegard. Photo: Courtesy Racquetball Canada.

INTERNATIONAL RULE CHANGES

At its bi-annual World Congress, the IRF instituted four rule changes which take effect January 1, 1997. The first rule change reverts the "calling a time out" rule back to its original form —



International Racquetball Federation
World Junior Championships
Los Caballeros Sports Village
Fountain Valley, California
December 19-22



ENTRY FORM – Please Print . . .

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Country _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Partner _____ Division _____

Partner _____ *Division _____

National Ranking _____ Division _____

National Championship Division _____ Finish _____

Other Seeding Information _____

**To play in three divisions, the third division must be mixed doubles.*

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 IRF, Los Caballeros Sports Village, event sponsors or their respective agents for any and all injuries. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can certify in writing that my protective eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in AARA Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the IRF/USOC guidelines.

Participant Signature & Date _____

LIABILITY: I agree to be liable for all costs for damages for which my child is responsible and to pay for all costs arising from any disciplinary action imposed as stated in the Junior Code of Conduct, as adopted by the IRF.

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date _____

RACQUETBALL Magazine

BOYS SINGLES

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under
____ 8- multi-bounce
____ 8- regular rules

GIRLS SINGLES

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under
____ 8- multi-bounce
____ 8- regular rules

BOYS DOUBLES

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under

GIRLS DOUBLES

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under

MIXED DOUBLES (Third event only)

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under



OLYMPIC PLAY-OFF FORMAT: Each entrant is guaranteed three matches in singles. Please review the section explaining the format for individuals who lose. Awards will be presented to winners in each play-off bracket.

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO:
IRF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
1685 WEST UINTAH
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80904-2921

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 5 (Postmarked by December 2, 1996)

ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENT

First event. (\$50.00) _____
Second event (\$25.00) _____
Mixed Doubles. (\$15.00) _____
AARA Membership fee . . (\$15.00) _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Make checks payable to AARA. Entry form is not complete, nor is entry accepted, unless check for correct amount is enclosed and all information is provided. Payment at check-in will be processed as a late entry and surcharged. For hotel and travel information, call 719/635-5396, ext. 55

tournament entry

53

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in which a player can call a time out at any time up to the point at which the service motion begins. The second rule change stipulates that players must wear shirts with sleeves for international competition, and eases the insignia requirements to include either the country name, abbreviation or graphic image (flag, map or country outline) on the back of team shirts used for match play. The third rule change shortens the forfeiture time from 20 minutes to 10 minutes, and the fourth adds four age divisions to the official competition list: 6 and under, 6 and under multi-bounce, 80+ and 85+.

WELCOMED FROM THE FOUR CORNERS

Rod Davis of the Hopi Indian Tribe was an important part of the IRF VIII World Championship opening ceremonies in Phoenix last August. Davis, a world-renowned Native American Hoop Dancer, welcomed the participating countries with a demonstration of the Hoop Dance. Rod illustrated how the countries came to the Worlds from the four sacred directions of North, South, East and West by forming the hoops into a sphere representing the globe. A special thanks to Rod, and to the Heard Museum for the referral to him for this very special presentation.



GUAM'S BEST JUNIORS. Pictured above left (L-R) - Kneeling: Coaches Mike Mendoza & David Adams; Second row: Maka Borja, Justin Diaz; Third row: Tony Borja, Steven Miranda; Top row: Rodney Ricarte, Joey Diaz. Pictured above right (L-R) - Kneeling: Patricia Dickens, Nicole Blackwell; Second row: Danielle Ceribo, Rani Peterson, Tracy Dickens. Photos: Courtesy Kerri Trahin.

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BOOKS FROM JR RACQUETBALL

Super Sale! Tricks to Improve your Game, \$6.99; The Jesus Manuscript: Jesus as Racquetball Player, \$7.99; Keeping your Eye on the Ball: Racquetball, \$4.99; Racquetball for People who Hate Racquetball, \$6.99; Racquetball and Zen, \$6.99. Add \$4.00 for handling with each order from: JR Racquetball, P.O. Box 33, Jesup, IA 50648.

HELP WANTED — EARN EXTRA INCOME

Earn \$200-\$500 weekly mailing phone cards. For information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Inc., P.O. Box 0887, Miami, FL 33164.

RACQUETBALL TEACHING PRO ...

... Requires four years professional teaching experience. Must have played in sanctioned tournaments in open or pro division. Must have directed AARA sanctioned tournaments, run leagues and group lessons. Will promote play to members and non-members. Will be on call to teach private lessons at all levels. Will run clinics and classes for juniors and adults. Business is open 6am-10pm

daily. Will work 35 hours per week as scheduled. \$10.98 per hour. Position will last November 1 to May 15, 1997. Send resume and references to: ATTN: Melody, Flathead Job Service, 427 1st Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 59901. JO# 1936455.

BOARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

Four persons will be elected to the AARA Board of Directors in May of 1997. Interested candidates can get on the ballot in two ways: by committee nomination (contact a board member) or by petition (with the signatures of 100 licensed AARA members). To obtain petition forms, write the AARA at 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921. Signatures must be obtained between October 1 and December 1, 1995 — with completed forms submitted to the national office by December 15 for verification. The term of office is three years and includes the commitment to attend two annual meetings (in September or October, and May), serve responsibly and take a leadership role on committees.

USRA LOGO CONTEST

When the AARA officially changes its name to USRA on January 1, it will also need a new logo! The rules are: 1) finished artwork only (no sketches), in both color and black & white versions; 2) each submission must be mounted on a 8 1/2 x 11" foam-board for presentation and judging; 3) name and contact information must appear on the BACK of each entry; and 4) entries must be received by **FRIDAY, December 6**. Send your entries to: USRA LOGO CONTEST, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921 — ATTN: Linda Mojer.

U.S. TEAM STAFF

The AARA is accepting applications for staffing both adult and junior team events in the coming year. Applicants should have technical/ stringing expertise, be able to handle administrative details for national and international events, plus be familiar with U.S. Team policies. Application forms and a complete job description can be obtained by calling the AARA office at 719/635-5396.

U.S. TEAM QUALIFYING

In order to earn an appointment to the U.S. National Team, benchmark performances must be reached at selected national championship qualifiers. In 1997, the team will be made up of **Intercollegiate National champions** (1 each, male & female = 2); **semi-finalists from the U.S. National Singles Championships** (4 each, male & female = 8); and **finalists from the U.S. National Doubles Championships** (4 teams, 2 each, male & female = 8). Individuals are appointed to the U.S. Team for a term of one year, and are then added to a pool of athletes to compete internationally and conduct goodwill tours abroad.

JUNIOR TEAM QUALIFYING

It's a bit more complicated for the juniors, who have to undertake a six month qualifying process which includes an initial application, state nomination, regional selection, and a team trial at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. Fourteen players are then selected from the trials to make up the final roster. For more information about the process, please contact USRA Associate Director of Programming Jim Hiser at 719/635-5396, ext. 30.

tournament update

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SENIOR/MASTERS RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

January 23-26, 1997

The Sports Barn — 301 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

Deadline & Fees — Postmarked by January 10, 1997 - \$65.00 per entrant (one division only). Refunds will be issued only if the cancellation is received before the entry deadline. Make checks payable to the Sports Barn.

Host Hotels — Chattanooga Choo Choo — Holiday Inn @ 800/872-2529 (\$55/night, 1-4/room); Clarion @ 423/756-5150 (\$65/night, 1-4/room).

Travel/Booking Information — Call Lookout Travel @ 800/367-1826 to organize your arrival/departure, coordinate complimentary bus transportation and secure optimal airline ticket discounts. Players may fly into Atlanta and receive complimentary bus transportation provided by the Greater Chattanooga Sports Committee (a 1-1/2 to 2 hour ride) — or — connect all the way to the Chattanooga Airport, with van service for Chattanooga Choo Choo Holiday Inn guests.

Format & Rules — Round robin flights with an advance into a single-elimination medal round, played in matches of 2-3 games to 11, depending on size of division. Self-officiated. AARA rules govern, including the mandatory use of approved, lensed eyewear as specified in AARA Rule 2.5(a). AARA membership required to compete.

Hospitality — Provided throughout, plus Saturday night banquet. Hospitality pass for non-competitors, \$20.00; Saturday evening banquet pass, \$15.00.

To receive an **official entry form**, contact June Riggs at the Sportsbarn @ 423/266-1133 (direct line). For WSMRC membership and be added to the mailing list, contact the Women's Senior/Master Racquetball Council via Kendra Tutsch, 110 South Midvale Blvd., Madison, WI 53705 @ 608/233-5865.

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS IN LAS VEGAS

by Ron Pudduck

Two hundred masters players gathered in Las Vegas to gamble on their racquetball skills (and the occasional one-armed bandit), where the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) hosted its annual international tournament for a very enthusiastic group of players from around the world. Over 1600 matches were contested, and for players entered in two events, many played 20 to 30 matches over the course of the four day event. At the conclusion, there were many tired but happy participants who took home gold, silver, bronze and pewter medals.

Men, aged 45+ and up, and women 35+ and over competed in age bracket groups divided into five year intervals. Because of the very large draw and the huge number of matches, the courts at both the Las Vegas Sporting House and the Las Vegas Athletic Club were kept filled.

In men's singles competition, 50+ Lemon Stanley, 60+ Paul Banales, 70+ Victor Sacco and 75+ Earl Acuff were the only players to go undefeated in flight competition and win their age groups. In men's 55+ doubles, the team of Lee Graff/Tom Penick won over Rex Lawler/Ron Maggard by a one point margin of 173 to 172. Ron Pudduck/Paul Banales went undefeated in flight competition, but lost the playoff by two points to Tom Penick/Allen Weckerly. The closest bracket was in men's 65+ doubles. The teams of Jack Bogasky/Jim Keenan and Gene Grapes/Al Schattner tied at 285 points each. Scoring 284 points, and finishing a close third, was the Vancouver, Canada team of Alan Adirim and Duncan Stockwell.

NMRA masters players will gathered again in February, 1997 in El Paso, Texas for their round-robin national singles championships. Why not join them! Membership in the NMRA - National Masters Racquetball Association, costs \$25.00 for three years. This fee entitles members to play in all tournaments and to receive the NMRA newsletter and a world/national directory of all NMRA master players. To join the NMRA, contact: Carole Stoll or Paul Banales, 4201 N. 83rd Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85037, Phone: 602-849-6288 (98).

FINAL SINGLES RESULTS — MEN'S 45+: Leo Gumoe (CA) def. Darryl Warren (CA); 50+: Stan Lemon (TX) def. John Aldape (ID); 55+: Rex Lawler (IN) def. Joe Jackman (PA); 60+: Paul Banales (AZ) def. Lee Newman (CA); 65+: Harvey Clar (CA) def. Vance Lemer (CA); 70+: Vic Sacco (NY) def. Dick Kincade (CO); 75+: Earl Acuff (NC) def. Nick Sans (CA); 80+: Harmon Minor (CO) def. Harry Steinman (MD). **WOMEN'S 35+:** Debra Tisinger (CA) def. Mary Beke (AZ); 40+: Deborah Holley (Canada) def. Rona Valadez (TX); 45+: Yvonne Drexler (Canada) def. Karen Weins (FL); 50+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (OR) def. MeriJean Kelly (CA); 55+: Lou Bradley (WI) def. Margueta Molina (CA); 60+: Jo Kenyon (FL) def. Kathy Mueller (MN); 75+: Mary-Low Acuff (NC) unchallenged.

FINAL DOUBLES RESULTS — MEN'S 45+: Gary Mazaroff (NM) - Joe Kirkpatrick (NM) def. Tom Butler (CA) - Leo Gumoe (CA); 50+: Bob Coe (OK) - Jack Soble (OH) def. Pete Petty (TN) - Joe Reno (TN); 55+: Lee Graff (OR) - Tom Penick (CA) def. Rex Lawler (IN) - Ron Maggard (MO); 60+: Tom Penick (CA) - Allen Weckerly (CA) def. Paul Banales (AZ) - Ron Pudduck (MI); 65+: Jack Bogasky (VA) - Jim Keenan (CA) def. Gene Grapes (PA) - Al Schattner (PA); 70+: Saal Lesser (NY) - Vic Sacco (NY) def. Jack Gushue (NY) - Dick Kincade (CO); 75+: Earl Acuff (NC) - Luzell Wilde (UT) def. Don Goddard (MT) - Nick Sans (CA). **MIXED 35+:** Reuben Triplett (FL) - Renee Fish (FL) def. Chuck French (AZ) - Marla Cusano (NV); 50+: Joe Jackman (PA) - MeriJean Kelly (CA) def. Tom Butler (CA) - Joy Desantis (CA).

ALOHA DOUBLES

by Philip Eliana Jr.

The 1996 Hawaii State Racquetball Doubles Championships drew just under a hundred participants from around the state to the Kauai Athletic Club, forming 64 teams in nine title divisions. Thrilling the gallery of enthusiasts, the matches were tough, with the players going all out to try and win the title of "State Champion."

In Men's Open, the final was an all-Kauai shoot-out featuring #1 seeded Brad Balonick/Jim Bartlett against Philip and Jon Villatora. When the dust settled, it was Balonick/Bartlett

on top after two games. In Women's Open/A, Kauai's Jaylee Balonick and Candace Agustin staged a valiant two hour and fifteen minute battle in the semi-final, before losing to Oahu's Jody Yotsuda/Ann Wert. In the final, Yotsuda/Wert fell to another Oahu team, Leafa Su'e and Debbie Chen.

In Mixed A, the Kona team of Steve Landry and Kato Dant held off Kauai challengers Randall Wilson and Myrah Cummings through two rounds of double elimination competition to take the title.

The Men's C division featured a pair of newcomers to the sport, Donely Borrero and Kalani Mederious, who met up with the Maui team of Vern

Dahl/Dick Newman in the final. Boasting a bit more experience, and a combined age of 116 to their credit, Dahl/Newman took the win in straight games.

Hawaii State Doubles Results — Men's Open: Brad Balonick/Jim Bartlett def. Jon Villatora/Philip Villatora; **Men's A:** Vince Camacho/Willie Rivera def. Lee George/Dale Hoopai; **Men's B:** Pete Martinez/Wayne Smith def. Andrew Bonafacio/Brian Nakayama; **Men's C:** Vern Dahl/Dick Newman def. Donely Borrero/Kalani Mederios; **Women's Open:** Debbie Chen/Leafa Su'e def. Jody Yotsuda/Ann Wert; **Women's B/C:** Sally George/Anita Roberts def. Vivian Seely/Elizabeth Stanberry; **Mixed Open:** Ann Wert/Joe Lee def. Leafa Su'e/Vince Camacho; **Mixed A:** Kato Dant/Steve Landry def. Myrah Cummings/Randall Wilson; **Mixed B/C:** Sally George/Andrew Bonifacio def. Anita Roberts/Richard Holcomb.

More Tournament Update on Page 58

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tournamentupdate

THE CARMEN KENDALL WOMEN'S CLASSIC

by Jack Dunsmoor

One of the many goals of the Idaho Racquetball Association is to promote and increase women's participation in racquetball. Unfortunately, the catalyst for this effort was the untimely death of Carmen Kendall in November, 1994. Carmen was a young woman with many interests including working with 4H youth, raising and riding horses, working at a local TV station, and racquetball. Carmen was tournament director for her home club and for years had been the main tournament desk honcho at many racquetball tournaments around the Boise area. Carmen was

well-known and well-liked.

Carmen had planned a women's only tournament to get more women involved in the sport and show them a good time in maybe a little less competitive environment than a regular tournament. After

Carmen's death, Donna Johnson, an IRA board member, put Carmen's ideas into action. She formed a women's committee to plan and execute the Carmen



Kendall Women's Classic.

With full cooperation and help from Idaho Athletic Club (IAC) owners Cheryl and John Wardle, and the support of many sponsors including the Idaho

Racquetball Association (IRA), the first tournament was held in February, 1995. The tournament was a resounding success and drew 45 ladies, which was enough to keep the club's four courts busy for a day and a half.

The tournament committee continued to meet and plan for the second annual Carmen Kendall Women's Classic, which was held in mid-February. They had hoped for a larger turnout and planned for a 3-day event, but were amazed when 70 ladies from all over the southern half of the state signed up (a 56% increase). The turnout really kept the courts full with 110+ matches to play. Good planning and organization along with sharp tournament desk people kept everything running smoothly and on schedule.

Friday evening, Michelle Gould, the women's champion of everything and winningest player in history, gave a full hour clinic attended by 65 players. Her professionalism, knowledge and friendliness were well-received.

A terrific newspaper article, featuring Theresa Silva – a local open player with fibromyalgia, led into

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Created for and with the help of the professional players of the International Racquetball Tour (IRT).

the tournament and local TV provided news coverage all weekend. Six local businesses/services had product/demonstration tables set-up. Over 15 local businesses contributed food and drink. More than 45 businesses and individuals sponsored and or gave prizes.

Each participant received a prize from random drawings throughout the tournament and one lucky raffle winner won a valuable racquet shaped pendant specially made by a local jeweler. First and second place winners received oversized embroidered towels. Every player got a beautiful sweatshirt. Hospitality was available 100% of the time. A wonderful lasagna meal was served Saturday afternoon by one of Carmen's friends. The tournament coast was only \$12 (plus \$5 for the second event.)

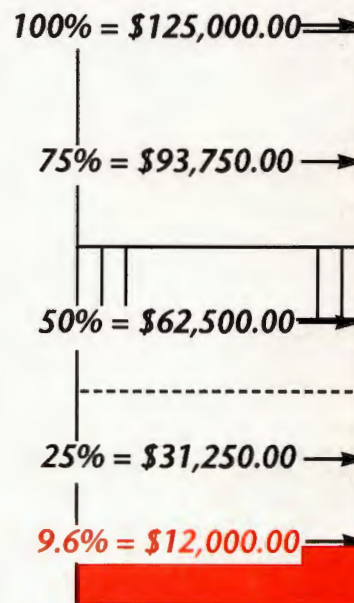
Many beginners played twice as well on Sunday as they had on Saturday. There were excellent competitive matches in all skill levels and truly outstanding play in the open division. The tournament staff was efficient, friendly and courteous. "Designated good guys" were recruited to do most of the reffing.

This tournament is a real positive for women's racquetball in Idaho and the tournament committee's attention to all details has made it the premier tournament in Idaho and on a par with the best in the nation. If the growth continues we'll have to build more courts. The tournament committee: Donna Johnson, chairman; Pauline Irish, Sally Kinion, April Cowley, Wendy Swanson and Helen Dunsmoor.

Carmen was a classy lady. This was a classy tournament. Carmen would be delighted!

PORTABLE COURT COUNTDOWN ...

So far, \$12,000 has been donated to the project, or a little less than 10% ... Let's try to reach the short line (at least) by the new year! It's a huge project, so please contribute what you can!



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If you drop your racquet, you drop matches. The new Pro Penn Tackified Racquetball Glove has a tacky leather grip that ensures the only thing you drop is your opponent.

MEN

Men's Open

1. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
2. Todd O'Neil, TX
3. Jimmy Lowe, AK
4. George Delaney, MA
5. Eric Muller, MA
6. Doug Ganim, OH
7. Brian Simpson, IN
- 8T. Tony Boscia, CO
- 8T. Craig Rappaport, PA
- 8T. Chris Wright, MO

Mens's A

- 1T. Doug Brehm, TN
- 1T. Scott Grunin, NY
3. Ruckman Nilsen, KS
4. Matt Gehling, MD
5. Jack Huczek, MI
6. Steve Pace, MA
7. Ryan Staten, KS
8. Gary Jarrett, CA
- 9T. Grant Barker, MO
- 9T. Mark Bouchard, MA

Men's B

1. Don Dettmore, FL
2. Steve Plakotar, NJ
- 3T. Pat Fulghum, ID
- 3T. Rich Hurt, NE
- 3T. Rocco Saccente, NY
- 6T. Doug Brehm, OH
- 6T. Jeff Kenneson, VT
8. Steve Pitchford, VA
9. Siva Raghupathy, WA
10. Cory Martin, WI

Men's C

1. Lefty Bartscher, NE
2. Scott Johnson, ID
3. Marc Schnittker, CO
4. Henry Willis MS
5. Robert Sellers, NM
6. Ray Hom, CA
- 7T. Tim Garvey, IL
- 7T. Chad Tyranski, VA
9. Mike Cohen, NY
10. Paul Garand, VT

Men's D

1. Jay Gordon, TX
2. Frank Jaurigue, OH
3. Anthony Zeringue, LA
4. Jeff Dahr, Jr., NE
- 5T. Gary Bray, FL
- 5T. Hal Mitlitsky, NY
- 7T. Shawn Phillips, LA
- 7T. Scott Remsen, MA
- 7T. Peter Rowley, DE
- 7T. Jerry Roler, MO

Men's Novice

1. Jose Lopez, TX
2. Steve Astrin, GA
- 3T. Brian Alepiev, NY

- 3T. Wayne Clason, MI
- 3T. Kevin Daub, CO
- 3T. Travis Elquist, ID
- 3T. Jason Hadjstylianos, NY
- 3T. Mike Kruczynski, MD
- 3T. Daniel Smith, NH
- 3T. Brian Waldron, OH

Men's 19+

1. Rob Dejesus, NM
2. Scott Grunin, NY
3. Rich Baer, NY
4. Jason Thomer, FL
5. Franco Palmer, CA
6. Matt Fontana, FL
7. Jim Ellenberger, WI
8. Dustin Delong, WA
- 9T. Matt Adesso, OH
- 9T. Shane Wood, MA

Men's 25+

1. Kevin Graham, WI
2. James Lorello, FL
3. Mike Locker, MN
4. Mark Cavallaro, NY
- 5T. Chris Baker, MS
- 5T. Brian Londo, CA
- 5T. Jeff Wilson, NM
8. Norm McNutt, FL
9. Dave Ganim, OH
10. Julio Junkie, FL

Men's 30+

1. Bruce Erickson, MO
- 2T. Rabbit Rogers, ID
- 2T. Alan Sheppard, NC
4. Lance Gilliam, TX
5. Sam Wasko, VA
6. Chris Gallagher, IN
- 7T. Rob French, CO
- 7T. Tim Hansen, FL
9. Jim Grant, MA
10. Clay Griffin, SC

Men's 35+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Mike Martinez, CA
3. Dave Eagle, OH
4. Dave Peck, TX
5. John Scargle, FL
6. Gil Rodriguez, VA
7. Joe Hassey, AZ
- 8T. Jeff Hanno, NY
- 8T. Martin McDermott, TX
10. Jim Durham, CA

Men's 40+

1. Gene Couch, FL
- 2T. Ed Garabedian, PA
- 2T. Mitt Layton, FL
4. Tom Travers, OH
5. Rick Sorenson, MO
- 6T. Leo Jolly, NC
- 6T. Steve Neighbors, ID
8. Troy Stallings, MN
- 9T. Mike Cole, CO
- 9T. Philip Parker, PA

Men's 45+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Gary Mazaroff, NM
3. Dan Davis, TX
4. Leo Gurnoe, CA
5. Doug Dickman, MO
6. Rick Fusari, FL
7. Frank Ciociola, NY
8. Jim Luzar, WI
9. Dominic Palmieri, OH
10. Jim Bailey, VA

Men's 50+

1. Dennis O'Brien, ID
2. Stan Lemon, TX
3. Ed Remen, VA
4. Russ Deegan, FL
- 5T. Ray Huss, OH
- 5T. Tom McKie, TX
7. Horace Miller, IL
- 8T. R.O. Carson, CA
- 8T. John Mootz, NY
- 8T. Craig Olsen, NE

Men's 55+

- 1T. Wendell Nelson, ID
- 1T. Bobby Sanders, OH
3. Joe Mulkerrin, VA
4. Warren Reuther, LA
5. David Jordan, NJ
6. Rex Lawler, IN
7. Ron Galbreath, PA
- 8T. Charlies Garfinkle, NY
- 8T. Robert Large, KS
- 8T. Len Wilson, PA

Men's 60+

1. David Jordan, NJ
2. Paul Banales, AZ
3. Jerry Holly, CA
4. Jack Dunsmoor, ID
- 5T. Don Alt, OH
- 5T. Otis Chapman, OH
7. Jim Railey, TN
- 8T. Louis Berson, NY
- 8T. Art Hurley, NM
10. Rex Benham, AR

Men's 65+

1. Vance Lerner, CA
2. Joe Lambert, TX
3. John O'Donnell, IL
4. Victor Sacco, NY
- 5T. Verlyn Dunn, ID
- 5T. Pearce Grove, VA
7. Mal Roberts, FL
8. Ralph Waddington, NM
- 9T. Frank Trask, ME
- 9T. Pete White, MA

Men's 70+

1. Victor Sacco, NY
2. Mal Roberts, FL
- 3T. Richard Davis, TX
- 3T. Dick Kincade, CO
- 5T. Jack Gushue, NY
- 5T. Bill Matotan, NM

- 7T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 7T. Mike Landy, FL
- 9T. Charlie Devine, AL
- 9T. Hank Richard, GA

Men's 75+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
- 2T. Robert McAdam, TX
- 2T. Nick Sans, CA
- 4T. Hank Richard, GA
- 4T. Andy Trozzi, MA
6. Charles Russell, CA
7. Cam Snowberger, SC
8. Al Romero, NM
- 9T. Frank Sganga, FL
- 9T. George Spear, FL

Men's 80+

1. Harry Steinman, MD
2. C. Allen Shepherd, MD
3. John Pearce, TX
4. Andy Trozzi, MA
5. Harmon Minor, CO
6. Walt Mosenthal, MA

Men's 85+

1. John Pearce, TX

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Tammy Brockbank, ID
- 2T. Michelle Gould, ID
- 2T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
4. Marcia Hartz, NY
5. Mary Tessier, CA
- 6T. Malia Bailey, VA
- 6T. Mary Lyons, FL
8. Denise Mock, TX
9. Dina Moreland, CA
10. Lisa Hjelm, CA

Women's A

1. Cheryl Gistand, TX
2. Angie Daake, NE
3. Carol Zimlinghaus, CO
4. Kathy Geels, FL
5. Dianne Pratt, WA
- 6T. Leisa Marquart, NE
- 6T. Thelma Ruhlen, VA
- 6T. Darlene Truett, TN
9. Sherron Boyea, CA
10. Pattie Schof, LA

Women's B

1. Melanie Mueller, CO
2. Yesenia Delbusto, FL
3. Becky Kaufman, KS
4. Molly Law, CO
- 5T. Jeni Fuller, NM
- 5T. Linda Vallieres, VT
7. Kristen Kovar, NE
8. Vicky Depiore, OH
- 9T. Kim Brackett, NH
- 9T. Janet Hicks, FL

Women's C

1. Charlotte Kocherspiger, PA
2. Belinda Dettman, FL
3. Kassi Herr, FL
4. Laurie Gordon, CT
5. Mary McCormack, NJ
- 6T. Shari Hall, WA
- 6T. Chris Herrmann, MO
- 6T. Leslie Miller, IL
9. Gina Fulner, TX
10. Janelle Howes, NM

Women's D

1. Leslie Butler, FL
2. Jesi Fuller, NM
3. Linda Robinson, TX
4. Eyerce Armstrong, DE
5. Terry Truvillion, MI
- 6T. Winnie Alvarez, AZ
- 6T. Julie Bauman, CA
- 6T. Cheryl Bird, TX
- 6T. Susan Callum, MA
- 6T. Fanny Duenas, FL

Women's Novice

1. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
2. Jennifer Swallow, PA
3. Susan Smiley, DE
- 4T. Suzanne Carpenter, OH
- 4T. Joanne Herrera, CO
- 4T. Linda Keener, FL
- 4T. Ruth Kuhlrig, CT
- 4T. Judy Mancusso, VA
- 4T. Jedonne Montgomery, ID
- 4T. Janet St. Clair, SC

Women's 19+

1. Amy Kilbane, OH
2. Erika Juhl, DE
- 3T. Aimee Roehler, PA
- 3T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
5. Heather Dunn, VT
- 6T. Sue Cox, FL
- 6T. Kelly Craig, FL
- 6T. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
- 6T. Allison Garner, TX
- 6T. Rachel Gellman, AZ

Women's 25+

1. Jen Yokota, MO
2. Elaine Mardas, OH
3. Kelley Beane, NH
- 4T. Cara Pellowski, WI
- 4T. Stacy Sour, CO
6. Sheila Collins, TN
7. Sandee Roach, UT
8. Lisa Shelby, ME
- 9T. Tina Bragdon, CO
- 9T. Angela Burth, MD

Women's 30+

1. Kersten Hallander, FL
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Kim Machiran, MO
4. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
- 5T. Dina Moreland
- 5T. Mary Pomeroy, IN

ankings...rankings

- ST. Cindy Wittenbrink, NM
8T. Phyllis Morris, TX
8T. Debbie Tisinger, CA
10. Cindy Tilbury, MN

Women's 35+

1. Debbie Tisinger, CA
2. Mary Bickley, PA
3. Carol Kriegler, MN
4. Mary Beke, AZ
5T. Denise Mock, TX
5T. Roz Petronelli, MA
5T. Janet Tyler, FL
5T. Marianne Walsh, UT
9. Mary Lyons, FL
10. Linda Moore, NE

Women's 40+

- 1T. Karen Holden, CA
1T. Janet Myers, NC
1T. Marcia Richards, LA
4. Mary Keenan, CO
5. Renee Fish, FL
6. Linda Mojer, CO
7T. Elaine Dexter, CA
7T. Janell Marriott, RI
7T. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
10. Sue Adams, FL

Women's 45+

1. Eileen Tuckman, FL
2. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
3T. Donna Ebner, MO
3T. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
3T. Pattie Schof, LA
6. Shelley Ogden, OH
7T. Elaine Dexter, CA
7T. Judy Sands, OH
7T. Paula Sperling, NM
10. Agatha Falso, FL

Women's 50+

1. Merijeane Kelley, CA
2. Agatha Falso, FL
3T. Mildred Gwinn, NC
3T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
5. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
6. Nidia Funes, CA
7. Pat Tarzon, IL
8. Donna Johnson, ID
9. Tawn Wolfe, CA
10. Rose Stoltmann, WI

Women's 55+

1. Mildred Gwinn, NC
2. Jo Kenyon, FL
3. Nancy Butts, WI
4. Marquita Molina, CA
5. Helen Dunsmoor, ID
6. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
7. Sue Carow, IL
8. Annabelle Kovar, NE
9T. Lou Bradley, WI
9T. Marion Crawford, NY

Women's 60+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL

2. Kathy Mueller, MN
3. Mary Walker, CA
4. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
5. Susan Embry, CA
6. Lola Markus, IL
7. Norma Carlisle, UT
8. Ann Byers, OR
9. Louise Kiss, NM

Women's 65+

1. Reta Harring, WI
2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
3T. Lola Markus, IL
3T. Roberta Schoenfeld, NM
5. Paula McNeish, FL
6T. Rebecca Dixon, OH
6T. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
8T. Louise Kiss, NM
8T. B.G. Railey, TN

Women's 70+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA

Women's 75+

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
2. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

BOYS

Boys 8

1. Nick Arturo, AK
2. Cody Drago, OR
3. David Lewis, CO
4T. Andrew Grissom, CA
4T. Matthey Hammond, TX
6. Justin Erdman, OH
7. Paul Bennett, UT
8. Eric Wodrich, IN
9T. Jamin Godwin, FL
9T. Brady Prince, MN

Boys' 8 Multi-bounce

1. Justin Erdman, OH
2. Nick Arturo, AK
3. Mark Swanson, NM
4T. Jamin Godwin, FL
4T. Harrison Slocum, FL
6. Ivan Sanchez, MX
7. Bill Travers, OH
8T. Cody Drago, OR
8T. Kenny Green, GA
10. Jeffrey Gordon, TX

Boys' 10

1. Jeremy Robbins, TX
2. Brad Slocum, FL
3. Tyler Hollingsworth, OR
4. Steven Klaiman, TX
5. Simon Jackson, IN
6. Blake Von Kaenel, NE
7T. David LaForest, NY
7T. Geoffrey Mora, CA
9. Andrew Kopf, NY
10. Dan Sheppick, OR

Boy's 12

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Trevor Crowe, OR
3. Bart, Crawford, OR
4T. Cory Martin, WI
4T. Seth Parker, PA
6. Josh Epstein, NY
7T. Clay Burris, FL
7T. Dain Taylor, IN
9. Patrick DeBord, NE
10. Roy Lee Luna, NM

Boy's 14

1. Shane Vanderson, OR
2. Sanjay LaForest, NY
3. Mike Harmon, FL
4. Ryan Staten, KS
5. Shane Vanderson, OH
6T. Grant Barker, MO
6T. Joel Worthington, KS
8T. Ashley Conway, NC
8T. Scott Fisher, NY
10. Jason Jansen, ND

Boy's 16

1. Rocky Carson, CA
2. Willie Tilton, CO
3. Josh Tucker, MO
4. Andy Tucknott, NE
5T. Jeffrey Garner, AL
5T. Ryan Staten, KS
7. Brit Berkey, IN
8. David, Liakos, NE
9. Nathan Porter, UT
10. Justin Carey, NY

Boy's 18

1. Eric Storey, IN
2. John Stanford, JR., FL
3T. Sam Ryder, WI
3T. Shane Wood, MA
5. Dan Darling, OR
6. Stephen Mykalcio, NY
7T. Erin Brannigan, ID
7T. Terrance Hobbrook, UT
7T. Willie Tilton, CO
10. Jeffrey Garner, AL

GIRLS

Girl's 8

1. Ashley Willhite, OR
2. Dianne Meyer, OR

3. Trina Harper, WI
4. Rebeka Kopf, NY
5. Christine McCracken, NM
6. Kelley Fisher, OH
7. Ashley Murphy, MO
8. Paige Chandler, TN
9T. Brandie Handon, OR
9T. Katie Lyons, FL

Girl's 8 Multi-bounce

1. Trina Harper, WI
2. Sarah Moyle, OR
3. Brittany Legget, OR
4. Dianne Meyer, OR
5. Christine McCracken, NM
6. Nicole Robinson, OR
7. Katie Lyons, FL
8T. Paige Chandler, TN
8T. Ashley Murphy, MO
8T. Shanae Taylor, IN

Girl's 10

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Derai Darling, OR
3. Jesi Fuller, NM
4. Kimberly Irons, OH
5. Brandie Hanson, OR
6. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
7. Kelley Fisher, OH
8. Leslie Luna, NM
9. Kastle Arturo, AK
10. Lindsay Deutsch, TX

Girl's 12

1. Crystal Winfrey, OH
2. Kimberly Irons, OH
3. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
4T. Jeni Fuller, NM
4T. Molly Law, CO
6. Candice Tueller, UT
7. Juliana Mayor, NY
8. Derai Darling, OR
9T. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
9T. Kristen Walsh, UT

Girl's 14

1. Maggie DeBord, NE
2. Kristen Kovar, NE
3. Kristen, Walsh, UT
4T. Krystal Csuk, IL
4T. Melanie Mueller, CO
6. Kindra Sears, IN
7. Sara Wend, OR
8. Adva Buzi, TX

9. Sara Borland, IA
10. Brooke Crawford, OR

Girl's 16

1. Megan Bals, NE
2. Sara Borland, IA
3. Melissa Harmon, FL
4. Katie Gould, MO
5. Brooke Crawford, OR
6T. Megan Guardiani, MA
6T. Lindsay Sears, IN
8. Liana Kerwood, OR
9. Leisa Marquart, NE
10. Dionna Brown, CA

Girl's 18

1. Sadie Gross, SD
2. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
3. Kori Grasha, NY
4T. Shannon Feaster, RI
4T. Dawn Gates, IL
6T. Erin Frost, OR
6T. Meadow Krantz, MN
7. Christina Lewendal, OR
8. Colleen Maginn, WI
9. Brooke Crawford, OR

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NEW! Look for periodic International Rankings to be published in RACQUETBALL Magazine in 1997! See RB:GLOBAL for information on IRF recognized international events and ranking point schedule.

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61

NOVEMBER

November 13-17

U.S. OPEN

**RACQUETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
**The Racquet Club
of Memphis, TN**
719/635-5396

November 15

**Courthouse Health &
Wellness Open**
Chelmsford, MA
508-453-4173

Fall Coors Light Open
Royal Court
Kearney, NE
308-236-5110

Garden State Open
Westwood Health &
Fitness—Westwood, NJ
201-444-0859

Open Tournament
Stonebrook Racquet
Club—Winchester, VA
703-662-7546

Pennbriar Fitness
Center Holiday Classic
Erie, PA
814-825-8111

Rock Springs Family
Rec. Center Roll-Out
Rock Springs, WY
307-352-1440

Leesburg Public
Racquetball
"Behind Scottys"
Leesburg FL
352-315-4117

**Downtown Health &
Racquet Turkey Open**
New Haven CT
203-248-1869

Minnesota State
Doubles
Minneapolis MN
612-920-6652

November 16

Lehigh Valley Open
Allentown Racquetball
Club—Allentown, PA
610-821-1300

November 21

Pro Kennex Grand Prix
#2—Courtesy
Sports/Schoebers
San Jose, CA
415-968-7970

November 22

Aggieland Open
Texas A & M
College Station, TX
409-793-6943

ALPHA Racquetball
Club Turkey Gobbler
Mechanicsburg, PA
717-540-5111

Cottonwood Club Open
Lincoln, NE
402-475-3386

Fairbanks Turkey Trot
Alaska Athletic Club
Fairbanks, AK
907-562-246

Florid Three-wall
Outdoor Champion-
ships @ Santa Lucas
Lantana, FL
407-731-1781

Ice Breaker
Sportsmall
Murray, UT
801-261-3426

Racquets Four Sports
Center Classic
Indianapolis, IN
317-783-5411

Turkey Shoot @ Idaho
Falls Racquet Club
Idaho Falls, ID
208-522-2712

Turkey Splat @ Harbor
Square Athletic Club
Edmonds, WA
206-778-3546

Turkeyfest '96
The Maine Event
Topsham, ME
207-729-0129

18th Anniversary Fall
Tournament @ Penfield
Racquetball Club
Rochester, NY
716-586-7777

Maryland/DC State
Doubles @ Severna
National Park Racquet
& Nautilus
Millersville, MD
410-987-0980

Ohio State Doubles
Waycross Sports Club
Cincinnati, OH
614-890-6073

November 23

Racquetball One
Doubles @ East
Lansing Mac
East Lansing, MI
616-975-9080

November 28

Turkey Shoot
The Racquet Centre
Hollywood, CA
310-861-6028

November 29

Mistletoe Matchup
Downtown Athletic
Club—Norfolk, VA
804-625-2222

DECEMBER

December 4

The Holiday Racquet
The Alaska Club
Anchorage, AK
907-337-9550

December 6

Brian Scott Memorial
AJ'S Parkcenter Club
Boise, ID
208-343-2288

Build The Arc @ Courts
Plus—New Bern, NC
919-633-2221

Dagwood's @ Grand
Forks Tennis Center
Grand Forks, ND
701-746-2790

Crackshooter
Fitness Plus
Cheyenne, WY
307-638-7587

Craig McCoy Memorial
The Tournament House
Riverside, CA
909-682-7511

Connecticut Cup
Nehr @ Newington
Newington, CT
203-248-1869

Holiday Classic
Southern Athletic Club
Lilburn, GA
770-923-5400

Holiday Classic
Sports Barn
Chattanooga, TN
423-266-1133

Holiday Invitational
Mariner Square Athletic
Club—Alameda, CA
510-523-8011

Holiday Magic
Westerville Ath. Club
Westerville, OH
614-882-7331

Holiday Open @ Mad
Maggie's/Burlington
Burlington, MA
617-273-1025

North Platte Open
North Platte Rec. Ctr.
North Platte, NE
308-532-4357

Northeastern PA
Championships @ The
Athletic Club—Plains
(Wilkes Barre), PA
717-823-2124

Portland Open
Racket & Fitness Open
Portland, ME
207-775-6128

Quad West Winter
Cash Classic
Quadrangle Athletic
Club—Clearwater, FL
813-535-4901

Santa Claus Classic
Merritt Athletic -
Security—Baltimore, MD
410-298-8700

Indiana State Doubles
Omni 41 Sports &
Fitness Center
Schererville, IN
219-865-6969

Washington State
Doubles
Bally's Total Fitness
Lynnwood, WA
206-745-8008

December 7

One Day Shoot-Out
Northwest Fitness
Center—Houston, TX
713-771-5811

1996 MI State Doubles
Ann Arbor One On
One—Ann Arbor, MI
810-468-2787

December 10

Rocky Mountain
Masters Champion-
ships @ Redwood
Multi-Purpose Center
West Valley City, UT
801-974-6923

December 13

Mountain Madness
Gatlinburg Community
Center—Gatlinburg, TN
423-436-5755

N.E.M.R.A.
Cedardale Rac. & Fit.
Haverhill, MA
603-893-7261

The Head Racquetball
Tour Doubles
Solon Athletic Club
Solon, OH
614-890-6073

Winter Classic
Gold River Racquet
Club—Gold River, CA
916-638-7001

X-Mas Classic
The Tysons Club
McLean, VA
703-442-9150

December 14

Racquetball One -
Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids - Mac
Grand Rapids, MI
616-975-9080

alendar...alendar

December 15

Jack Frost Jr. Tourney
Lincoln Racquet Club
Lincoln, NE
402-423-2511

December 19-22

IRF 8th WORLD

JUNIOR

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Los Caballeros

Sports Village

Fountain Valley, CA

719/635-5396

December 20

Ektelon Championships
Merritt Athletic/Towson
Towson, MD
410-315-7900

Salt Lake Community
College Open
Salt Lake City, UT
801-464-7792

December 28

Inaugural Tampa
Metro @ Central City
YMCA-Tampa, FL
813-229-9622

JANUARY

January 3

Off The Wall New
Year's @ Natomas
Racquet Club
Sacramento, CA
916-649-0909

January 4

Central New York
Doubles Championships
Track & Racquet Club
Fayetteville, NY
315-446-3141

January 7

Alta Canyon Avalance
Sandy, UT
801-942-2582

January 10

Chattanooga Open
Sports Barn
Chattanooga, TN
423-266-1133

Chilly Open

Lifecenter Plus
Hudson, OH
216-655-2377

Dynar Jet

Gillette Rec. Center
Gillette, WY
307-682-7406

E-Force Championships

The Tournament House
Riverside, CA
909-682-7511

4th Annual AT/Pro AM

Ponca City YMCA
Ponca City, OK
405-762-9011

L/A Rollout

Hilltop Community
Sports Ctr.
Lewiston, ME

Omaha Open

Sports Courts/Omaha
Omaha, NE
402-339-0410

15th Summit City

Open @ Summit City
Court Club
Ft. Wayne, IN
219-485-1671

January 15

Ace, Pass & Pinch
The Alaska Club
Anchorage, AK
907-337-9550

January 17

Ball Breaker
Kourthouse Racquet
Fitness-Laramie, WY
307-742-8136

Head Racquetball Tour

All Doubles
Mid-Town Athletic Club
Cincinnati, OH
614-890-6073

Host Lions

AJ'S Parkcenter Club
Boise, ID
208-343-2288

Jim Backes Open

Healthworks
Wallingford, CT
203-248-1869

1996 NATIONAL EVENTS

NOVEMBER 13-17

AARA 1st U.S. OPEN Racquetball

Championships: Memphis, Tennessee

DECEMBER 19-22

IRF 8th World Junior Championships:

Fountain Valley, California

1997 NATIONAL EVENTS

JANUARY 16-19

USRA Annual Leadership Conference:

Colorado Springs

JANUARY 24-26

Women's Senior/Master Championships:

Chattanooga, Tennessee

FEBRUARY 13-15

NMRA Masters Singles Invitational: El

Paso, Texas

FEB.28 - MAR. 02

ProKennex USRA 10th National High

School Championships: St. Louis, Missouri

MARCH 21-30

PARC 11th Tournament of the Americas:

Chihuahua, Mexico

APRIL 02-06

E-Force USRA 25th U.S. Intercollegiate

Championships: Boise, Idaho

APRIL 03-05

NMRA U.S. Golden Masters Singles &

Doubles: Baltimore, Maryland

APRIL 17-20

Regional Qualifier Weekend! Nationwide!

MAY 21-26

Ektelon USRA 30th U.S. National Singles

Championships: Downtown YMCA -

Houston, Texas

Superbowl Open
West Lane Racquet
Club-Stockton, CA
209-472-2100

January 21

January Thaw
Towne & Country
Woodcross
801-298-3232

January 22

Alaska Ath. Club Open
Anchorage, AK
907-562-2460

January 24

Greenbriar Classic
Greenbriar Athletic
Club-Indianapolis, IN
317-257-3261

I.R.T. Columbus Pro-Am
Continental Athletic
Club-Columbus, OH
614-548-4955

January 24-26

Women's Senior/

Master National

Championships

Sports Barn

Chattanooga, TN

423-266-1133

January 25

Racquetball One-
Doubles Finale
Jewish Comm Center
Health Club
West Bloomfield, MI
616-975-9080

January 28

Orem Open
Orem Fitness Center
Orem, UT
801-224-7158

... And don't
forget to plan for
REGIONALS ...
APRIL 17-20

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A Healthy Racquet	43
Ashaway	5
Bell Racquet Sports	24
Black Knight	52
Court Sports	51
Courtesy Sports	23
Crown Trophy	54
E-Force	38/39
Ektelon	Inside front cover/1
Ektelon	48, Back Cover
First Coast Promotions	28
Gemini Racquetball	Inside back cover
Genesis print & poster	30
Head Sports, Inc.	17,45
JR Racquetball	55
Klipspringer USA	24
Lawler Court Products	52
Leader	21
Mastery of Racquetball	37
MBNA	40
Michael's Ripit Club	28
Network Marketing	47
Pacific Sports Warehouse	54
Panacea Consulting, Inc.	20
Penn Racquet Sports	57,58,59
PJ & Associates	55
Power Footwear	7
Samuels Tennisports	24
Teaching Pro Wanted	55
Vincent	28
Wilson	27
Win Sports	55
... & GIFT GUIDE	
AARA Instructional Videos	33
Ektelon	31
Mastery of Racquetball	34
Michael's Ripit Club	33
Neumann Gloves	33
Penn Racquet Sports	31
Python Grips	32
RAD Eyewear	34
USA Racquetball Polos	32
World Championship video	32
World Team t-shirt	34
... & TOURNAMENT ENTRIES	
World Juniors	53
Women's Senior/Master Nationals	56
1997 Regionals	41

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Racquet Science

The Gemini System

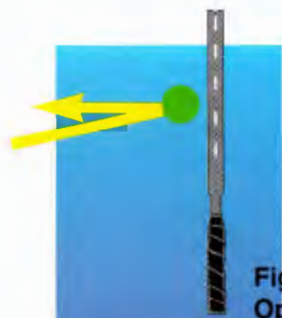


Figure 1:
Optimum point
of contact for a
perfect shot

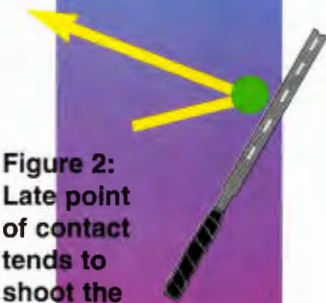


Figure 2:
Late point
of contact
tends to
shoot the
ball wider
than
intended



Figure 3:
Early point
of contact
tends to
pull the
ball off line

Basic physics teaches us that there is a balance point called the center of gravity for every racquet. As that center of gravity moves closer to your hand, the racquet swings faster. Farther from your hand, the racquet swings slower.

If you contact the ball behind the optimum point (Figure 2), your swing is late and needs speed from a racquet with a center of gravity near your hand. If you contact the ball too far in front (Figure 3), your early swing needs less speed from a frame with a center of gravity farther from your hand.

Ideally, we should hit the ball at the optimum point in the middle of the swing, where the racquet face is flat (Figure 1). By fitting you with a frame with the center of gravity fine tuned for your specific swing mechanics. Gemini will make this happen.



As the president of Gemini Racquetball, I feel my reputation is on the line with each racquet that leaves our Richmond, Virginia headquarters. That's why it's important to me that each player receives the racquet that offers the best combination of weight and balance to play to the top of his or her potential. To make this happen, Gemini offers customized, powerful racquets, the knowledge and experience to perfectly match them to your individual swing mechanics, and a commitment to service that is the most personalized in the industry.

Gemini doesn't sell through discounters or middlemen or pay professional players to endorse racquets. We work with individuals who want the perfect weapon to play better racquetball. I personally guarantee that the experts at Gemini can individually fit you with a racquet that will improve your game. It is my belief that once you own a Gemini that has been customized for you, you will never play with anything else.

Ron Halloran
President

Even though it's basic science, no other company offers each racquet frame manufactured in one of three distinctly different balance configurations. Each Gemini racquet also comes in the overall weight you choose, strung and gripped just for you, direct from the factory, and guaranteed.

The new Power Wave by Gemini employs WAVEX technology to become the single most powerful frame in racquetball. It comes with the same balance and weight options and personal attention and guarantee of the original Gemini Triple Balance series. Gemini frames are combat tested in national and international competition.

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