

RACQUETBALL

**Intercollegiate
Champs
Shane
Vanderson
& Kristen
Walsh**

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See page 32 ...**

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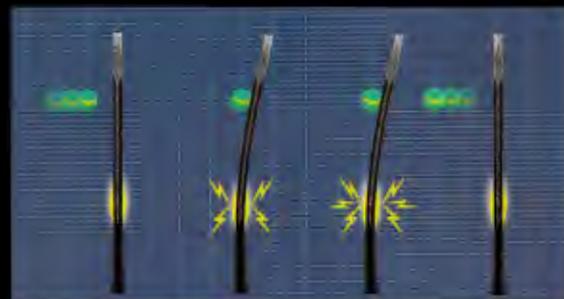
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from the editor

It seems that the operative term in this issue is "open" ... from the U.S. OPEN and its fate as a television property, to defining the true meaning of the term competitively. In each of these areas, the



International Racquetball Federation will play an important role in administering policy to an ever-increasing player base worldwide (see page 42 for an interesting development).

On the home front, I've just returned from our regional event in New Mexico, with a boatload of questions briskly burning holes through my remaining brain cells. After several days of casual - as well as semi-heated - discussions with players who've experienced it firsthand, a

third component to the term "open" comes to mind. Basically, at what level should U.S. events remain open to foreign nationals?

At USRA national events which serve as qualifiers for the U.S. National Team, players who qualify for national team competition for countries outside the U.S. are restricted from competition in the selected qualifying divisions (men's and women's open), but not from the age and skill divisions. At the regional qualifiers, the same restriction applies to the "open" divisions (not age and skill).

At this particular regional, one parent was pleased with the "reality check" given to his youngsters (who routinely walk through local draws) by the highly-talented group of Mexican juniors who were on hand. Another wasn't so happy. Among the adults, the question of "exclusivity" was a bit muddier. For those who intended to go on to nationals, it was an issue of seeding in age divisions which promise to be highly-competitive in Houston. Then, should non-U.S. citizens be invited to compete in U.S. National Championships at all? Are U.S. citizens allowed to compete in the national championships of other countries? Are more *international* events needed?

The intent in sharing U.S. events has been to enable players worldwide to test their skills against, now-arguably, the best competitors in the world. The developmental component of the plan has certainly been met, as international players climb the ranks of the pro tour, hold IRF world titles and dominate divisions at each of the annual international events, across the board.

As an equal-opportunity competitor myself (I'm perfectly capable of having my butt kicked by opponents of any nationality), I simply don't have any of the answers to any of these questions ... but I'm certain that our readers - worldwide - have some ideas on the subject. Wanna share?

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... on the cover ... Intercollegiate champs Shar Vanderson and Kristen Walsh back on campus at Baldwin Wallace. Photo: Donala Dobos, Photo Editor "The Exponent."

... this page ... One of six cameras used to tape U.S. OPEN footage for "re-mix" back at J.M. & Associates and later broadcast on ESPN2. Photo: Mike Boatman.



vanderson & walsh win intercollegiates

Photo: Donata Dobos

Over two hundred students, representing thirty-six colleges and universities throughout the country enjoyed an extended spring break as they journeyed to glamorous Las Vegas, Nevada for the E-Force 29th USRA National Intercollegiate Championships presented by Penn Racquet Sports. In the week leading up to April Fool's Day, the Las Vegas Sporting House was the primary host facility, with some matches played at the Chuck Minker Sporting Complex. Like most travelers to Las Vegas, the participants all had dreams of winning big – only this week it would be on the courts, instead of at the tables.

Wild Cards

Upset action began early in the quarterfinals as two of the top seeds were taken out and another pushed to the limit. Jason Jansen of Normandale Community College logged the first upset by knocking off No.4 seeded Willie Tilton of the University of Southern Colorado. Tilton had looked as though he was in control when he took the first game with ease, 15-3, but Jansen was able to regroup between games and storm back to take the second, 15-5.

After the two lopsided contests it was hard to tell what would happen in the deciding third. Tilton took an early 4-1 lead in the tiebreaker, but Jansen wouldn't be denied. "I knew that if I could keep him moving from

side to side, like I did in the second game, that I could win the match." Jansen did some moving himself, as he dove for several spectacular retrievals, and followed each of them by jumping up and pumping his fists to keep his momentum going. Fueled on emotion, Jansen rolled off ten unanswered points to take the win, 11-4.

Jeff Bloom of California Western School of Law provided the next upset with surprising ease over No.3 seeded Ceasar Carrillo, playing for the University of Memphis. Many considered Carrillo to have a real shot at the title but Bloom played superb for the 15-8, 15-1 win — just as he had in his first three matches. In those, he hadn't lost a game while holding each of his opponents to under ten points.

The top seed, and current 18-and-under world champion Shane Vanderson of Baldwin Wallace, survived a scare and cut short University of Texas's Ryan Rodgers' run after a hard fought match that went to a tiebreaker. Vanderson, who also is a member of the Baldwin Wallace golf team, may have had the Las Vegas links on his mind as he dropped the first game to Rodgers, 15-13. But he re-focused between games and, with the support of his cheering teammates and a stuffed bear, was able to pull off the win by taking the second game and tiebreaker 15-3, 11-5. The match featured some of the most exciting rallies of the week, as both players

made unbelievable gets, diving and returning balls that seemed impossible to reach.

Four Aces

In the next round, Vanderson was brilliant in his first game against Jason Jansen, jumping out to a 9-0 lead and finishing it quickly at 15-6. But, as Willie Tilton could attest to, Jansen wouldn't give up easily and it looked as though he was planning another comeback when he stormed out to a 10-0 lead in the second game. He slowed the pace and forced Vanderson into making costly mistakes. After a timeout at 10-0, Vanderson remembered, "I was just thinking about getting a point." He did, but it didn't seem to faze Jansen, who quickly rattled off two more to push the score to 12-1.

That was when Vanderson revved-up his own remarkable comeback with crisp passes and amazing gets that rattled Jansen and forced him to take his own timeout at 13-9. But Vanderson was relentless, scoring the next six points to take the match and reserve his spot in the finals.

"At 10-0, I pretty much thought that I wasn't going to be able to come back," recalled Vanderson, "I just concentrated on getting a point, and then I wanted to get more than six so that I could have the first serve in the tiebreaker. When I got to ten I thought, 'Maybe I can win this thing'."

Vanderson's challenger for the prized U.S. team spot would be the winner of the Josh Tucker/Jeff Bloom semifinal. Tucker was impressive, keeping the pressure on Bloom the entire time, and overpowered

him with hard passes and pinch rollouts. Bloom seemed frustrated with himself at times and never really seemed to get into the flow of the match as Tucker took it in straight games, 15-2, 15-3.

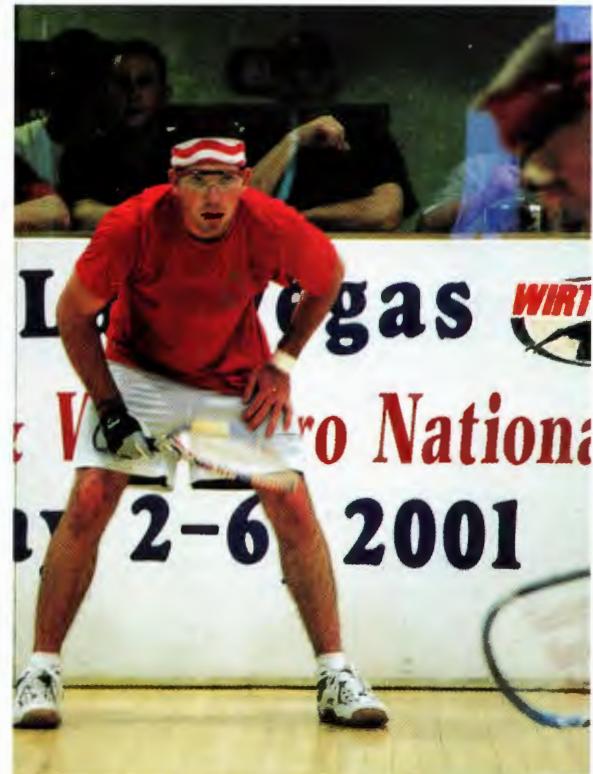
"I felt really comfortable out there today, as I have all week," said Tucker. "I felt relaxed and just went out there and played my game."

King of Clubs

With the top seeds set to face off, everyone anticipated an exciting final. It wouldn't be the first time that Vanderson and Tucker had been in the same big match. They'd previously met in the 18 and under finals of the 1999 Junior Olympics and, in the same year, the Junior Worlds. Tucker had been victorious in both matches, leaving Vanderson with a taste for revenge.

It seemed that Vanderson was in that frame of mind, as he jumped out to an 8-1 lead marked by perfectly executed down-the-line passes that Tucker was unable to retrieve. After a timeout Tucker was able to put a few points up, closing the gap to 8-4, but that was all of the scoring he would do in the first game as Vanderson won it 15-4.

"I felt good at the beginning of the match," said Vanderson later. "I thought about it all last night and I just knew going in that if I got off to a good start then the match would go my way."



Shane concentrates on returning Josh Tucker's serve in their final. Photo: Beth Vanderson

The second game was not as easy, when a more focused Tucker came out and rattled off the first five points to take a 5-0 lead. Vanderson then battled back to tie the score there, and they never strayed more than two points apart for the rest of the match. The game featured long rallies with spectacular dives, six knotted scores, and four lead changes. Eventually Vanderson was able to put away the game, and the match, 15-13.

The always-cordial Tucker was quick to give Vanderson credit, even after taking the hard loss. "Shane had his opportunities and he took advantage of them," he said, "I played alright, and he played real good. It could've pretty much gone either way the second game. This is tough."

2001 E-Force 29th USRA National Intercollegiate Championships

• Story by Ryan John • Added material, courtesy "The Exponent"

Queens on Deck

Although all of the top seeds advanced in women's quarterfinal action, the competition was fierce and there were some close calls.

Top seeded Brooke Crawford of Santa Clara was tested against Melissa Borgwat of Shasta College, who came out hot in the first game and grabbed an early 11-6 lead. Crawford was able to gather herself and battle back to tie the score at 13 apiece but Borgwat then finished the game 15-13, with a perfectly executed cross-court winner, just out of Crawford's reach.

In the second game you could sense that Crawford had one thing on her mind: winning. She jumped out to a 13-0 lead, hardly missing a shot during her run. With each point you could sense her confidence grow as she hit crisp passes and low pinches. Borgwat struggled just to get on the board and eventually succumbed 15-4.

In the tiebreaker Crawford stayed on fire, pulling away with a 5-0 lead. Borgwat made it interesting by reaching 5-4 but that was as close as she would get as Crawford scored the last six points to take the game, and the match, 11-4.

The University of Oregon's Liana Kerwood pushed No.3 seeded Claudia Corpi of the University of Southern Colorado, to the limit in their quarterfinal tiebreaker. Corpi won the first game, 15-10, but Kerwood evened things up in the second by taking it 15-8.

In the third, Corpi found herself down quickly at 6-1. Frustrated with herself she called a timeout to confer with her coach. "I was being defensive and not taking shots," she explained, "I was moving well and diving but when I did I would hit ceiling balls or lob it back to her. I needed to be more aggressive." And

Off the Court

by Jennifer Bischoff

The top intercollegiate racquetball champions in the nation this year come from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. Sophomore Shane Vanderson and freshman Kristen Walsh each won singles titles at the recent National Intercollegiate Championships, earning roster positions on the U.S. National Racquetball Team at the same time. The pair are certainly the best at what they do on the court, but there's more to these undergrads than gold medals and national titles.

Vanderson is a business administration and marketing major at BW and though he hasn't decided on any career goals, it's important that his future career leave some spare time for racquetball. An active man on campus, Vanderson is a member of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity and is on the golf team. In fact, one of the reasons he chose to attend Baldwin-Wallace was because they offered him the opportunity to compete in his two favorite sports, racquetball and golf. His true passion lies in racquetball though, and right now, he's focused on winning more tournaments. "Most of all I just want to have fun," says Vanderson, "and fun for me is winning."

Behind Vanderson and his accomplishments are his supporters. "My parents are the best. They are the ones that keep my life in check, and they are the ones that I go to when I need some advice, and believe me they are always happy to give [it to] me," insists Vanderson. He is also grateful to his sponsor, Head Penn Racquet Sports, for giving him the opportunity to play the sport he loves.

Teammate Kristen Walsh is also an outstanding young athlete and scholar, whose ambitious drive will definitely take her to great heights on and off the court. A pre-medical student,

Walsh plans to have a career in the medical field, possibly pharmacy. Aside from sports and school, she is musically gifted and plays the guitar and sings for her church. Walsh also loves to read, but between athletics and studying there isn't much time left over.

Like any great athlete, Walsh has the ability to be successful at just about any sport she takes on. In high school, she was active in basketball, volleyball, and softball. Outdoors, she is an extremely adventurous individual and loves hiking, fishing, water skiing, mountain biking, and her second favorite pastime, snowboarding. She attributes her outdoorsy nature to being born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, near the mountains.

Walsh's amazing talent comes naturally to her entire family. All three of her younger siblings have taken up the sport, and her parents actually met while playing racquetball. Well-aware of how demanding the sport is, her family offers her plenty of support. "I do want to thank my parents for all the support that they have given me over the years. They have never stopped believing in me and that has been a big motivation over the years," commented Walsh. She's also sponsored by Head Penn Racquet Sports, and thanks God for all of the talents and opportunities bestowed upon her.

Shane Vanderson and Kristen Walsh are extraordinary individuals. Both grasp the dedication and determination needed to take whatever they wish from life. For now they have chosen to seize the racquetball world by storm. Already national champions, only time will tell what their next conquest will be.

Jen Bischoff is a freshman English major at Baldwin-Wallace, with a focus on pre-law, who also serves as the Sports Editor of the school's newspaper, The Exponent.

that she was when she returned to the court, as she began using a hard z-serve that quickly tied the score at 6 all. Kerwood wasn't fazed and rattled off three more points of her own to take a 9-6 lead. Again, Corpi dug deep to tie the score at 9-9 and after a series of side-outs she was able to pull out the match with an 11-9 victory.

Number two seeded Kristen Walsh of Baldwin Wallace and fourth seeded Christina Lewental of Oregon State both advanced in straight games to face Corpi and Crawford, respectively, in the semis.

Straight Flush

Christina Lewental, who previously hadn't lost a game during the tournament, was quickly overpowered and forced into frequent mistakes by Crawford. A determined Lewental managed to keep the match close but in the end Crawford proved to be just too much as she earned the advance in straight games, 15-9, 15-6.

Kristin Walsh was outstanding in her match against Claudia Corpi, blanking Corpi 15-0 in the first game without missing a shot. The second game was more of the same as Walsh jumped out to an 11-0 lead, but the spunky Corpi never gave up, diving time and time again to retrieve Walsh's kill shots. At one point in the match Corpi dove and opened up a cut on her left knee that forced her to take an injury time out. On her return it was obvious that the knee was bothering her every time she got up after a dive, but it was likely that the outcome would have been the same, as Walsh took the second game 15-6.

"I felt really good out there, all of my shots were going how I wanted



Corpi vs. Walsh

them to," commented Walsh. "I feel that I step it up at National tournaments, I love playing in them and I look forward to playing in the finals tomorrow."

Full House

It was a full house that gathered to watch the women's finals, with the same type of re-match anticipation as they'd had for in the men's finals. Crawford and Walsh aren't strangers when it comes to playing each other with a title on the line, either. They met in the finals of the 1999 High School Nationals, where Walsh edged Crawford for the title.

Crawford looked sharp in the first game with a strong serve that led to either aces or weak returns that she put away for points. She opened with a 9-4 run and after a timeout, Walsh was able to pull within one, at 10-9. Again, Crawford's serve kicked in and she was able to close the game, 15-9.

Walsh came out more relaxed and determined in the second game, drawing Crawford out of her game to take a 7-2 lead. Crawford refused to give in, however, and forced herself back into it, tying the score at 11-11. The two exchanged points and were tied 12-12 and 13-13

before Walsh was able to squeeze out the last two points she needed to force a third game.

In the tiebreaker Walsh again took a big lead to start out the game 8-2 but Crawford wouldn't go away, battling back to tie the score at 9-9. The two swapped serves several times before Walsh earned a sideout and called a timeout.

"I went out and talked to my coach, Brian (Pointelin), and he told me to hit cross-court lob serves to her forehand and hard passes down the right side ... that I could do it." The advice worked, as she was able to roll off the last two points to take the match 11-9 and claim her spot on the U.S. National Team.

Double-Down

This particular U.S. Team qualifying event hasn't yielded an appointee for the past two years, since previous winners have not been U.S. citizens. With their first career, one-year appointments, Vanderson and Walsh become the newest members of the U.S. Adult National Team, but they've also earned the distinction of joining Jack Huczak as the only players to serve terms on both the U.S. Junior and Adult teams concurrently.

Photo: Beth Vanderson

E-Force 29th USRA National Intercollegiate Championships

Las Vegas, Nevada: March 28 - April 1, 2001

INDIVIDUAL TITLE FINAL RESULTS

SINGLES DIVISIONS

Men's #1: *Shane Vanderson (Baldwin Wallace)* def. *Josh Tucker (MO Southern State Univ.)* 15-4, 15-13
 Men's #2: *Mark Bloom (CA Western School of Law)* def. *Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace)* 15-4, 15-12
 Men's #3: *Justin Arms (Baldwin Wallace)* def. *Dan Beaudry (Univ. of Southern CO)* 15-3, 15-7
 Men's #4: *Nick Giunta (Univ. of Southern CO)* def. *Steve Molnar (Baldwin Wallace)* 14-15, 15-11, 11-4
 Men's #5: *Lee George (Univ. of Southern CO)* def. *Sean Steele (Baldwin Wallace)* 15-10, 15-10
 Men's #6: *Brandon Burgess (Univ. of Southern CO)* def. *Mohab Khatib (AZ State Univ.)* 15-9, 15-14

Women's #1: *Kristen Walsh (Baldwin Wallace)* def. *Brooke Crawford (Santa Clara Univ.)* 9-15, 15-13, 11-9
 Women's #2: *Kris Alatorre-Martin (AZ State Univ.)* def. *Kathy Ropers (Univ. of Texas)* 15-8, 15-2
 Women's #3: *Adva Buzi (Univ. of Texas)* def. *Christie Funk (Univ. of Southern CO)* 15-9, 15-9
 Women's #4: *Laura Barrera (Univ. of Texas)* def. *Deeann Litchfield (Brigham Young Univ.)* 14-15, 15-11, 11-5
 Women's #5: *Regan Pore (Baldwin Wallace)* def. *Kami Nicholas (Brigham Young Univ.)* 15-13, 4-15, 11-9
 Women's #6: *Holly Crockett (Brigham Young Univ.)* def. *Cari Winebernner (Penn State)* 15-1, 15-1

DOUBLES DIVISIONS

Men's #1: *Cesar Carrillo - Jeff Garner (Univ. of Memphis)* def. *Andy Hawthorne - Shane Vanderson (Baldwin Wallace)* 15-9, 15-10
 Men's #2: *Lee George - Sammy Menache (Univ. of Southern CO)* def. *Justin Arms - Steve Molnar (Baldwin Wallace)* 9-15, 15-2, 11-7
 Men's #3: *Dan Beaudry - Brandon Burgess (Univ. of Southern CO)* def. *Andy Warner - Mark Warner (AZ State Univ.)* 15-11, 15-13

Women's #1: *Elle Summers - Kristen Walsh (Baldwin Wallace)* def. *Fernanda Arias - Adva Buzi (Univ. of Texas)* 15-13, 15-12
 Women's #2: *Laura Barrera - Kathy Ropers (Univ. of Texas)* def. *Jamie Christensen - Kami Nicholas (Brigham Young Univ.)* 15-6, 15-7
 Women's #3: *Holly Crockett - Deeann Litchfield (Brigham Young Univ.)* def. *Shannon Fogal - Cari Winebernner (Penn State)* 15-8, 15-5

Mixed #1: *Megan Hauck - Jason Bronson (AZ State Univ.)* def. *Laura Hasler - John Mattson (Brigham Young Univ.)* 15-10, 15-10
 Mixed #2: *Michele Thornton - Justin Arms (Baldwin Wallace)* def. *Kris Alatorre-Martin - Mark Warner (AZ State Univ.)* 15-5, 5-15, 11-10
 Mixed #3: *Jackie Thronson - Willie Tilton (Univ. of Southern CO)* def. *Jamie Nebeker - Corey Christiansen (Brigham Young Univ.)* 15-13, 15-14

OVERALL TEAM RESULTS

1. Baldwin Wallace College (2188)
2. University of So. Colorado (2025)
3. University of Texas (1592)
4. Arizona State University (1045)
5. Brigham Young University (1035)
6. University of Memphis (906)
7. Penn State University (837.5)
8. CA Western School of Law (625)
9. Univ. of So. Missouri - Columbia (409)
10. Bryant College (325.5)
11. Univ. of NC - Charlotte (297.5)
12. Missouri Southern State (280)
13. Normandale Community College (245)
14. Texas A&M (208.5)
15. Clarkson University (192)
16. University of Wisconsin (180.5)
17. Utah State University (142)
18. Univ. of California at Berkeley (127)
19. Southern Missouri State (108)
20. Sacramento State University (106)
21. Shasta College (106)
22. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (94)
23. University of Nebraska (88)
24. U.S. Air Force Academy (88)
25. Utah Valley (70)
26. Nichols College (66)
27. Univ. of Colorado - Boulder (64)
28. University of Florida (44)
29. Marist College (41)

WOMEN'S TEAM RESULTS

1. University of Texas (861)
2. Baldwin Wallace College (748)
3. Brigham Young University (703)
4. University of Southern Colorado (645)
5. Penn State University (449.5)
6. Arizona State University (318)
7. Santa Clara (210)
8. Southern Missouri State (152)
9. Oregon State University (140)
10. University of Oregon (88)
11. Anna Maria College (70)
12. Bryant College (37.5)
13. Marist College (27)
14. Clarkson University (25.5)
15. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (17)
16. Nichols College (15)

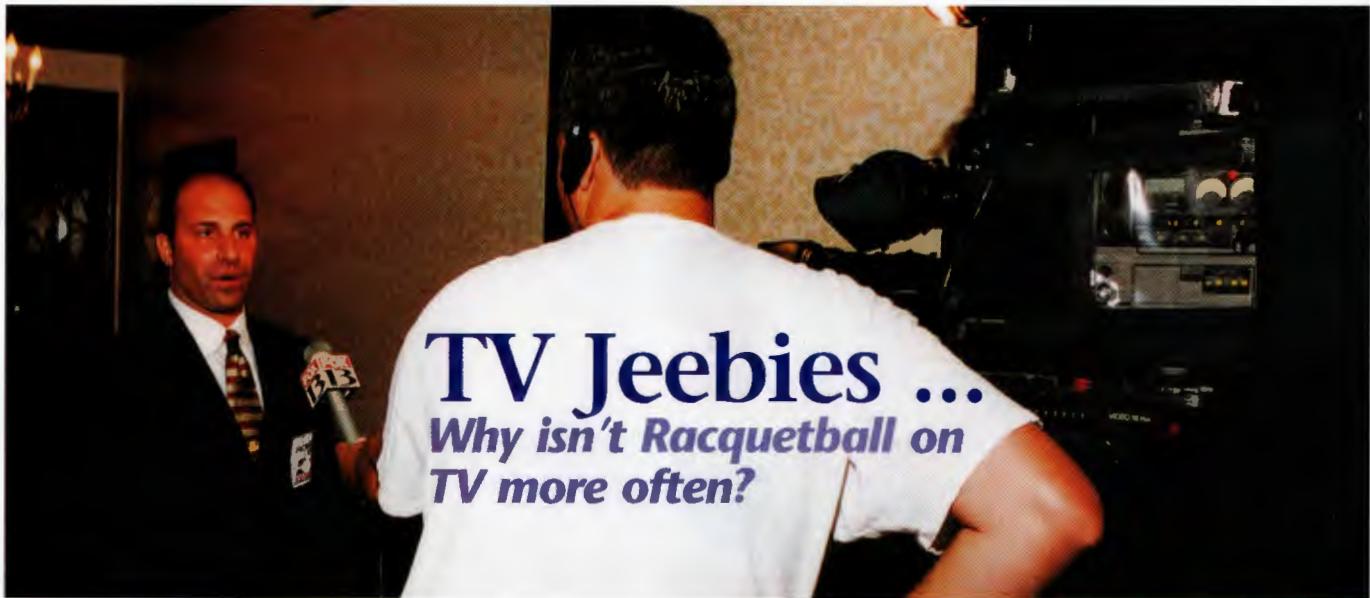
MEN'S TEAM RESULTS

1. Baldwin Wallace College (1440)
2. University of So. Colorado (1380)
3. University of Memphis (906)
4. University of Texas (731)
5. Arizona State University (727)



Championship Baldwin-Wallace squad — Back row: Head Coach Dr. Tim Miller, Jim Eakin, Steve Molnar, Andy Hawthorne, Justin Arms, Shane Vanderson, Sean Steele. Front row: K.D. Doyle, Michele Thornton, Amanda McCormick, Elle Summers, Regan Pore, Kristen Walsh. Photo: Beth Vanderson.

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I've been playing this great sport we all love for the past 21 years, and had the good fortune of being able to travel worldwide competing with the U.S. Team. In those years I've spent countless hours in hundreds of clubs and locker rooms, talking to racquetball enthusiasts of every description. As long as I can remember, the topic of "racquetball on TV" has been bantered about as if it were one of the great mysteries of the universe.

It seems everybody has an opinion on the subject. Most conversations start out bristling with disgust at how billiards, bowling, water-skiing, and log-chopping make their way to the airwaves with regularity, but that pro racquetball is nowhere to be found. In most cases, these discussions end with someone declaring with authority: "It's too bad you can't televise racquetball ... the ball moves so fast, you can't follow it on television."

To be honest, until about seven years ago (when I first started developing the concept for the U.S. OPEN), I was just another one of those thousands of racquetball players who shared that same, somewhat un-informed opinion. Back then, all I knew was that I loved racquetball ... therefore it should be on TV! Blaming this dilemma on "technical difficulties" in filming the high-speed sport seemed logical (along with that secret international broadcast-executive plot to keep racquetball down). But after a whirlwind course on the subject, I came to the frightening realization that, for over a decade, I'd really had absolutely no idea what I was talking about! I hate when that happens.

What I did know was that one of the main goals for the U.S. OPEN was to produce the sport's first real Grand Slam event, which — of course — would *have* to be

nationally televised. Since I had absolutely no idea how to make this happen, I turned to Jerry McKinnis (who I knew from his work with the IRT) for help. He had produced excellent pro tour broadcasts in the early 90's and gotten those shows aired on ESPN2. I also knew

a "state of the industry" special report

• by Doug Ganim, U.S. OPEN Executive Director

that he was an avid player and the owner of J.M. Associates, a nationally renowned production house specializing in outdoor sports programming (see page 14). For the past six years I've worked with J.M. Associates to produce a one-hour, tape-delayed broadcast of each annual U.S. OPEN for ESPN2. In the process, I've learned a great deal about 'the business,' including the true answers to "Why isn't racquetball on TV more often?" Here's what I found out ...

The Product

First, let's get the biggest myth out of the way — "You can't televise pro racquetball because the ball moves too fast." The truth is, racquetball can be televised and done so very well. Anyone who has viewed a U.S. OPEN broadcast will tell you that you can definitely see the ball and follow the action without any problem. The key, as I learned from Jerry, is to tape the action from several different angles (six cameras in all) and take all the raw footage back to the editing room.

During this "post-production" phase, it's common to find that that one of the camera angles usually captures a particular serve, shot, or even an entire rally better than the others. In building a "master tape" (using tape from all the cameras) you continually select and paste

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down the best footage available for every rally. After "building the show," a complete master tape clearly shows the ball during every rally. Of course, viewers can always replay a rally in slow motion to add even more dimension to the broadcast.

In addition to learning all this cool stuff about "producing," I realized that this is just the tip of the iceberg ... racquetball can be televised even better! The proper way to go about it is to hire a professional cinematography group to test every possible variable - from the color of the walls, ball, and floor - to various lighting techniques and hidden cameras for new and improved angles. This type of study would produce an even better technique, which could then be maximized with high definition TV. As HDTV technology becomes more widespread in the U.S., televised racquetball would reap the visibility benefits of significantly increased numbers of pixels captured by higher resolution digital taping equipment.

So now you know all about producing a racquetball show for TV. But how do you get it on the air? This was another entirely new education "adventure" for me, but what I learned is actually quite refreshing. I'll start with the answer and then work backward. The bottom line: Almost anything can get on television ... all it takes is \$\$. Now that you know the truth, let's talk about why.

The Profit Margin

Television time is just like any other commodity. Networks sell airtime and try to realize the largest possible profit-per-minute during each time slot of the day. The classic way to achieve this goal is to produce (or purchase) programming that will attract a significant number of viewers. The network then sells the available inventory of commercial

spots during the broadcast for whatever price the market will bear given the size of the viewing audience.

Networks can also achieve profit goals by selling blocks of time directly to producers of programming. This is known as a time-buy deal. The best example of a pure "time-buy" is late night infomercials, for which a company purchases a 30 or 60-minute block of time and then has total control over all the minutes in terms of producing content. You may not realize that many of the "normal" shows we watch are time-buy deals.

Another way to go about it is with a programming time-buy that works a bit differently. In this case, a programmer purchases an entire block of time from a network, but agrees to a pre-set format in terms of building in commercial breaks in standard quantities and at standard times. The programmer then attempts to offset the total cost of the time-buy by selling the commercial inventory independently.

A third way to structure programs is through partial time-buys. This works exactly the same as a regular time-buy except that the network agrees to charge a lower price for the block of time in exchange for part of the commercial inventory. This is how the U.S. OPEN works with ESPN2. In our case, we split the 16 spots with ESPN2 and retain a total inventory of eight thirty-second commercials.

We then take those eight commercial spots and allocate most of them to sponsorship packages that garner corporate support for the event (i.e. Hilton receives three thirty-second spots during the broadcast in return for their title sponsorship support). Some of the remain-

ing spots we sell outright to advertisers. Then ESPN2 sells their inventory of eight spots to advertisers and combines that revenue with our partial time-buy contribution to financially justify the entire one-hour block.

Using these basics (there are many other hybrid versions that can be negotiated) let's look at beach volleyball as an example. First, the promoters wanted to televise a beach volleyball event, but had no track record of capturing viewers. So they raised money and took it to the networks to search out the best time-buy deal. After several time-buys, beach volleyball promoters started to attract larger audiences with their broadcasts. Based on that larger viewer base, soon they were able to negotiate a lower time-buy price and trade back some of the commercial inventory. As ratings continued to improve, promoters were able to trade back all of the commercial inventory in return for the rights to the programming (this no-fee time-buy arrangement is called a pure barter agreement). As ratings continued to rise, promoters were able to sell the programming rights to networks for a fee. Finally, with a large "market" of viewers, commercial spots became more valuable and networks were able to sell them to cover the costs of the right fees and still realize a profit for the time allotted.

Now it's either ...

Now back to our question. *Why isn't racquetball on TV?* Now that we know it can be televised well and that there really isn't a network conspiracy against the sport, the problem is clear. Racquetball has simply been unable to come up with the cash to accomplish a few critical tasks. First, we need to underwrite the study to develop the best possible technique to televise racquetball. Second, we need funds to employ a professional production firm, such as J.M. Associates, to produce 26 one-hour racquetball shows per year. Lastly, we need to cover the costs of purchasing time-buys for one hour of racquetball on national TV for 26 consecutive weeks per year (a season) for at least two years. If this could be accomplished I believe these telecasts would build a very large and loyal group of regular viewers.

So how much money are we talking about? To televise racquetball properly we need a tour that utilizes the made-for-TV portable court (probably modified to the findings of the cinematography study). To set up the court with bleachers, lights, and sound - in multiple cities - would equal the production and time-buy fees for the broadcasts. All told, we'd need to raise between \$3 - \$4 million per year to pull this off. Is this an unreasonable amount? Not really. In the world of sports

marketing this isn't a lot of money. In return for a major sponsor putting up, let's say, \$2 million dollars they would get significant on-screen logo presence during 26 hours of national television broadcasts, some commercial time, numerous on-site benefits at all tour events (VIP tickets, signage, trade show booths, souvenir program ads, etc.) and a host of other marketing benefits. Co-sponsors could receive similar packages until all the needed money is raised. This is not an impossible scenario for the sport and is actually quite inexpensive for the uncluttered opportunity that would be offered.

Or ...

There are less expensive ways to accomplish similar goals with regard to getting TV time on a more regular basis. An idea that we are pursuing now is to produce seven hours of programming at the U.S. OPEN, instead of just one, by filming each match individually from the quarterfinals through the finals. We would then create a series of "linked" shows to be run once per week for seven consecutive weeks. Viewers would be informed that they are "watching a men's quarterfinal match at the Hilton U.S. OPEN and that the winner will move on to the semi-finals. Tune in next week for another quarterfinal match-up between X and Y." As you can see, viewers could follow the same tournament over seven weeks until the champion is crowned.

This format would be far less costly since we wouldn't need to set up the portable court in seven different cities, and production costs would be lower per hour since the crews would only need to travel and set up all their gear once (around the portable court) to capture all the matches. A second Grand Slam event in another city could employ the same format to generate 14 weeks of programming for a fraction of the cost (about \$850,000). Raising this kind of money will still be a huge challenge, but it is within reason.

Your Part

One of the keys to accomplishing this modified format is to convince ESPN to sell us a partial time-buy program at a reasonable cost. The only way they will consider this is if they believe this series of programming has the chance to attract a significant number of viewers and therefore create higher values for commercial inventories. This is where YOU come in. ESPN2 has agreed to a test for the sport of pro racquetball and will air the Hilton U.S. OPEN on June 18th at 1:00 p.m. EST [see page 33]. This time slot is a huge improvement over the 2:00 a.m. slots we've had in the past - and the reason is *that they want to test for viewer interest*. It's

absolutely critical that we respond by tuning in and then contacting ESPN to tell them that we want more! It's that simple. If we perform well on this "test" we'll be able to continue on this road toward more televised racquetball. If we fail, it's over. Refer to the box shown below and the center pages of this issue for specific instructions on what you can do to make an important difference.

Approximately six million people play racquetball in the U.S. and more than 40 million have played the sport at some time in their lives. We all know that racquetball is the best-kept secret in sports, with incredible athletes hitting a rubber ball near 200 miles per hour and diving around the court with grace and agility. Nothing is more exciting than two pros locked in battle in a close match. The sport can offer interesting personalities and characters that would be well received by sports fans throughout the country. I personally believe that the excitement of regular television exposure would cause racquetball to double in size to over 12 million in no time.

I hope this article clears up some of the mystery surrounding racquetball and television, and that you've become as convinced as I am that it is only a matter of time before the sport breaks out onto the national broadcast scene in a big way. If you know of a sponsor that might be interested in this pioneering opportunity, please contact me at ganim@earthlink.net. We're ready to respond eagerly with formal sponsorship presentations to aid in this effort to get you more of what you want. See you on the courts!

See page 32-33 of this issue for the grand plan, but these are the basics:

CONTACT ESPN by mail, fax, and e-mail to tell them that you are a huge fan of racquetball and ESPN. Tell them that you want to see more racquetball on TV!

**MAIL letters to: ESPN
Attn: Programming
Department
935 Middle Street
Bristol, CT 06010**

**COPY your letter to:
USRA
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO
80904**

**FAX your letter to: ESPN
Attn: Programming
Department
Fax (860) 766-2415**

EMAIL by going to ESPN.com and scrolling to the very bottom of their opening page. Click on "CONTACT US" then click on "ESPN TV" under the "ESPN Content" section. Fill out the form, type your message in the box, then click "Submit."

Who is Jerry McKinnis ... ?

Well, anyone who watches ESPN on Saturday mornings already knows him. He is the owner of J.M. Associates, an internationally renowned television broadcast company specializing in outdoor programming. He is also one of the primary commentators for many of the outdoor shows on ESPN and is a household name among fishermen worldwide.

As a young boy his first love was baseball. A talented athlete, Jerry grew up in Arkansas and worked hard to become the best baseball player he could. He made it all the way to the minor leagues and pitched for the Kansas City Athletics from 1955-1960. During his best year he achieved a record of 15-15 with an ERA of 3.10. That season he struck out 240 batters and walked only 23.



During the baseball off-season, Jerry worked as a fishing tour guide on the banks of the White River in the Ozark Mountains for \$4-\$5 per day. Although he didn't know it then, he was learning the trade that would become his life's work and make him one of the most famous outdoor sports celebrities in the world.

It all started when Jerry was asked by a local Little Rock television station to give fishing tips during some of the evening news telecasts. The popularity of those segments gave way to the idea of producing a half-hour show called The Fishin' Hole, produced and hosted by Jerry McKinnis. He worked hard to gain distribution for his show through syndication, contacted as many local TV stations as he could and eventually worked his way up to airing The Fishin' Hole weekly in 110 markets.

A major turning point in Jerry's career came in 1979. He was a pioneer cable subscriber and watched with amazement from his living room as ESPN first came on the air

with SportsCenter. He remembers thinking "What a great idea! An all-sports network. This is going to be a huge hit." A few months later he was able to secure an appointment with the original founders of ESPN at their offices in Bristol, CT. Back then the offices for ESPN consisted of a couple of trailers and a satellite dish, and the meeting changed his life.

Jerry McKinnis: Fame ... fortune, yet still in love with Racquetball

ESPN became the permanent home of The Fishin' Hole, which is now the network's longest-running weekly show (36 years and counting!). Jerry McKinnis is largely credited with pioneering the entire outdoor broadcast genre of television programming. As most know, ESPN's Saturday morning lineup consists of an entire block of outdoor programming, much of which is produced by J.M. Associates. In addition, J.M. produces the Stihl Timbersports Series, the Walmart FLW Bass Fishing Tour, and the annual U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships broadcast on ESPN2. J.M. Associates also played a key role in the development and production of ESPN's new Outdoor Games, touted as the Olympics for hunting and fishing. At 64 years of age, Jerry McKinnis still travels the world making amazing quality television for ESPN.

In the midst of all this, at 38, Jerry's went through an unwanted divorce, and a friend introduced him to racquetball as a way to keep his mind off his troubles. He was immediately hooked and found himself on the community owned courts 4-5 times per week. His athletic background served him well as he gradually moved up to compete against the best players in town. After taking his lumps for a year or two he worked his way up to the Open division at the young age of 42! He then started playing in tournaments and introduced all four of his children to the game (Shannon, Mark, Mike, and Matt).

For the past 26 years he's never looked back, playing racquetball religiously 1-3 times per week, even now. Shannon, Mark, and Mike no longer play due to back problems that plague most of the family, but Matt endures the pain and has become one of the best Men's Open players in Arkansas.

"Racquetball has been a very important part of my life." Jerry recalls "It has helped me through some tough times

and still offers one of the few opportunities for stress relief in my busy schedule."

In the early 90's Jerry joined forces with Hank Marcus and the IRT to produce the first real high-quality broadcasts of professional racquetball. Using on-screen graphics and delving into the personalities of the players,

McKinnis created the first prototype program of what televised pro racquetball could be if the money was ever raised to do it right. He used his strong relationships with ESPN to get six different one-hour shows on the air over a three year period.

For the past five years Jerry and his staff at J.M. Associates have produced the annual U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships broadcast on ESPN2 and continued to develop new and innovative ways to present the sport to the public. To this day, Jerry's dream is to help the sport of racquetball achieve worldwide acclaim by producing a regularly televised series of weekly shows.



After a recent meeting with ESPN executives he was able to secure an improved time slot for this years U.S. OPEN broadcast — to air June 18th at 1:00 pm EST — for the purpose of testing the market for viewer interest. "It is absolutely critical that everyone who loves this game tune in to ESPN2 and watch this show" he reported after the meeting. "Then we need everyone to contact ESPN via e-mail, fax, and mail to let them know that we all want to see more racquetball."

Although McKinnis is as busy as ever, he still finds time to play racquetball whenever he's not on the road. The sport is very fortunate to have Jerry as a loyal enthusiast and, hopefully, sometime soon his dream (and ours) of regularly televised pro racquetball will come true!



Foxwoods Pro-Am 2001

By Kevin Young

This year's annual Foxwoods Pro-Am stop became known as the Red Swain Memorial in honor of Cliff Swain's dad who passed away recently. And, always the competitor, Cliff wanted this one especially "for Dad." When I arrived for the round of sixteen, folks in the stands were already wondering if the final would rival last year's awesome four-game duel. It was good to be back.

Early Rounds

Quarterfinal action for the top seeds saw Swain take a quick win over No.8 seeded Derek Robinson in three. "I played solid, but when you're playing the number one player in the world you have to play better than just solid, you know," mused Derek. "I should have had the second game, I was up 8-6 and had a couple of shots to really put it at 9 or 10 and just didn't capitalize. You win the second game, it's one-one and things definitely change ... but you let Cliff up 2-0 and it's tough. He's made a career out of closing matches out."

Also in straight games, Jason Mannino advanced past No.6 seeded Mike Guidry, who only managed nine points in game two, which was their closest. But Jason had been playing well despite clutching his shoulder throughout the match.

Suds Monchik took four games to get past Alvaro Beltran who, in his rookie year on the tour, was pleased with his performance after the match. "I look at the rest of the season in a positive way. I don't have anything to lose; it's my first season. Everything I do, I cannot lose points, just earn points, and so I feel a good season coming up."

Tim Doyle's close-out match of the evening against No.12 seeded Kane Waselenchuk was a barnburner. Canada's current national champion and a southpaw to boot, Waselenchuk showed everyone why he's a force to be reckoned with. This 19-year-old played like a veteran in taking a five-game match from his E-Force "boss."

Before the match, Doyle admitted to knowing that he had a tough match coming up. Both played their hearts out but Kane just had more awesome diving gets and incredible shots, along with the crowd on his side for

his youth and "underdog" status. A lot of calls didn't go his way but he battled back for the upset win, regardless.

Semi-semi

Unfortunately, only half of the semifinal round was played, after Jason Mannino had to forfeit due to injury during the warm up. "I'm just upset, I never forfeit out of matches. I got on the court and took some backhands and the shoulder felt okay, but I hit two or three forehands and realized that I had no chance of winning," he stated after his default to Monchik. "The only thing I had a chance of doing was further injuring my arm and my shoulder. With three tournaments in a row, back-to-back-to-back right now, I can't afford to miss any of them so I've got to rest it and hope it feels better."

Still on deck and always ready to entertain, Sudsy kept the crowd happy by playing games to five with members of the audience. Remaining in his sweats, he was challenged by a few, but laughed and joked with the crowd, while winning them all.

The all-lefty semifinal pitted Swain against Waselenchuk, for another awesome display by both. Cliff won the first game 12-10; Kane the second, 11-8. The crowd was buzzing as they realized Kane was "the real deal" but game three was all Cliff with an 11-2 reply. Someone yelled out to Kane, "Welcome to Cliff's House" and he turned to the crowd, grinned and gave a big thumbs-up.

After closing out the fourth game and match at 11-9, Cliff commented, "I played solid today mentally, the kid's a great player, [with] a lot of talent. I feel like if I stay into any match mentally every single point, I'm going to win. It was a real close, great match — I think — for the crowd today."

Kane replied, "I thought I played pretty good but Cliff played awesome and I didn't hit the shots [I needed] and hopefully I can get him again in Jersey." Asked about what it was like to play Cliff in front of his home-town fans, he added "It's tough, every single point he gets, the crowds going crazy, you just have to block that out and just play."

When quizzed on his strategy for the finals, Cliff smiled and said, "Play better than the other guy."

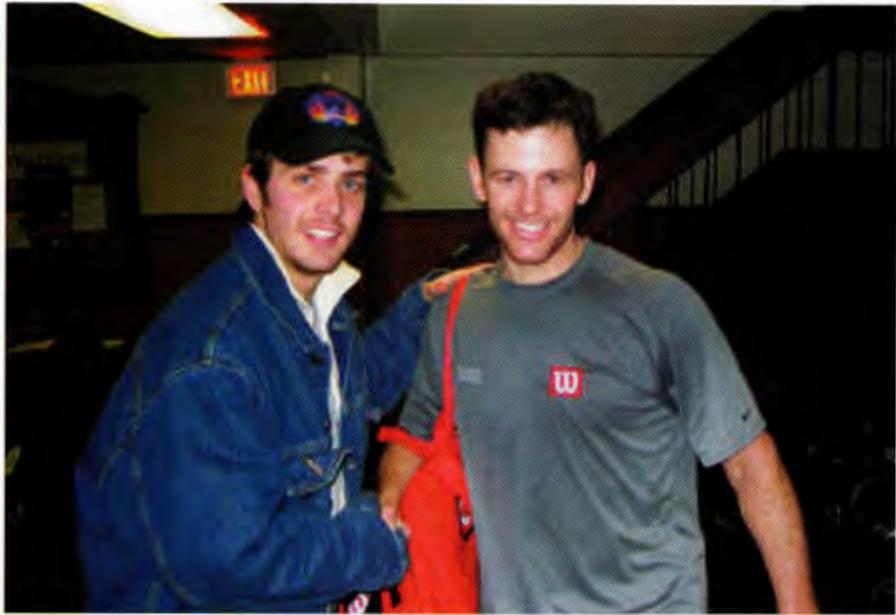
Tour referee Erin Brannigan was on duty from the quarterfinals on, and when asked if he liked his assignment to ref the pros, he replied "No, but I love the sport and want to see it get better. Not many people want to ref." And with that, he headed up to what would be yet another hot seat.

Another Marathon

In the opening game of the final, Cliff jumped to a 5-2 lead and the crowd went wild. But on his first sideout, Sudsy hit a short serve that Cliff lunged for and managed to get back to the front wall. The call? A good serve and a double bounce get on the return. The crowd groaned while Cliff looked to the ref and announced, "the serve was short and I got it." To which Erin replied, "3-5." After Suds scored another point, he drove a good serve to the right side and Erin called "stop, short serve." Arms raised, Cliff turned to look at Erin as if to ask why he'd stopped play, then headed for the service box. Sudsy walked to the back glass to inform Erin that he'd tell him when he makes a bad call ... paused then raised his fists and yelled "That's a bad call!" The crowd's amusement offset Sudsy's irritation, since he's adept at easing the pressure with a little comic relief.

At 7-6, Cliff sent a powerful z-serve to Sudsy's backhand, who skipped it, giving the crowd an opening to encourage Cliff to "keep going, make a run here." The next serve to Sudsy's forehand popped out in mid-court for another skipped pinch attempt, this time underneath the airborne Cliff and, again, the crowd loved it. At 9-6, they sensed a win for Cliff, but Sudsy responded by drilling a serve down the line to the right for a winner, followed by a timeout. Sudsy seemed a bit pressured as he talked to the crowd and the ref, and returning to the court, Swain's final point followed on a crosscourt winner to end it at 11-7.

Cliff took a 3-1 lead in the second game, but Suds tied it with a great backhand splat rollout, then advanced to 6-3. Cliff finally got the serve, but couldn't capitalize and they traded sideouts until a great rally ended with Sudsy skipping the ball into the right corner, with Cliff positioned directly behind him. Suds turned to the ref who,



In Boston, MTV host Joey McIntyre — formerly of "New Kids on the Block" — dropped in to check out "Cliff's House."

after a moment's hesitation, called for a replay. While the crowd again mumbled its disapproval, Sudsy won another rally and it began to look like his game. Cliff's next backhand splat return of serve forced Sudsy to dive for a narrow winner, to which Erin called "sideout" for another round of heckling. It had been a spectacular get by Sudsy and he knew it. He just smiled and walked to the backcourt. The crowd grew quiet.

Later Sudsy launched a tremendous drive serve to the right that broke out a 2"x4" piece of the front wall panel about a foot off the floor. Since there aren't any court hinders in pro ball, they played on. A few rallies later, Sudsy had reached 10-7. After a timeout, he returned to score the game winner to a chorus of groans from the partisan crowd.

Early in game three, Sudsy drove a serve short by six inches, which Cliff didn't even bother to move toward. Without an immediate call, Sudsy eyeballed the ref, who called "point" to put the crowd back in full voice. Cliff battled back to close it out with an ace to the backhand for the 11-8 win and a 2-1 game lead. The crowd re-set itself to "rowdy."

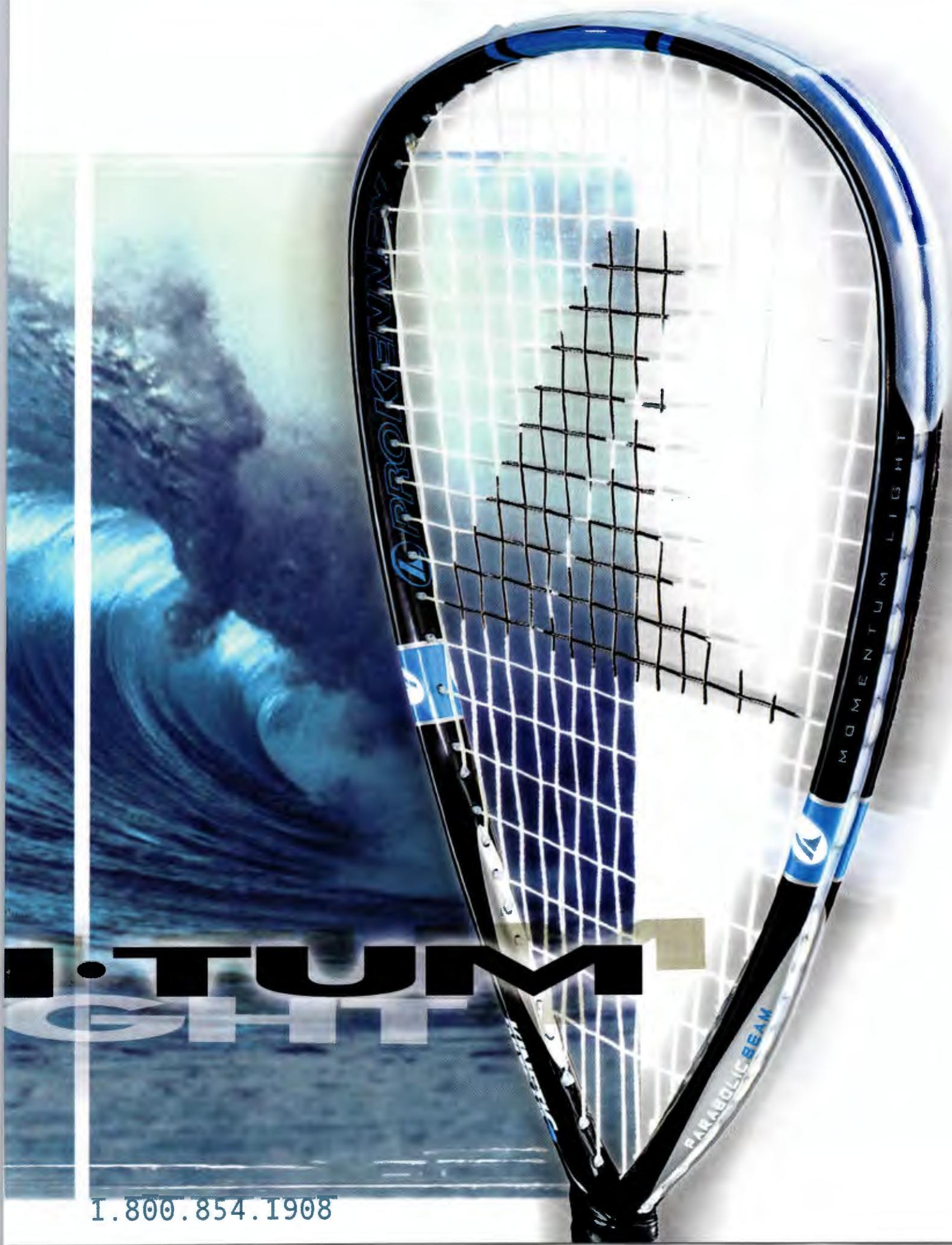
Game four began very slowly, with lots of sideouts and few points. Sudsy chipped away to earn three and Cliff got his first point twelve minutes into the game. Suds continued to chip away and he went up to 8-1. At one point, Suds dove into the back left corner, ending up on his hands and knees staring at a kid no older than two,

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also on his hands and knees peering back into the court through the glass. They held the pose for ten seconds to much laughter. Afterward, Cliff managed to stay on track for a couple of points but the game slipped away at 11-3. The crowd was subdued.

The tiebreaker opened with a sideout by Cliff that brought on the biggest cheers and encouragement of the day. Sudsy added to it by raising his arms up and down, urging the crowd on. The hometown fans hadn't had much to cheer about in game four and they were hoping for a great finish.

The mutual intensity was high as Sudsy marched out to a 7-3 lead, before Cliff pulled it back to 6-7, bringing the crowd to its feet. Both players then took turns drilling setups into the floor and Sudsy inched up to an 8-6 lead that had Cliff on the run. A drive to Cliff's backhand was returned high to the back wall, and Suds' forehand, which sent it crosscourt to the right. Again Cliff barely reached it, then returned it high to the back glass. This time Suds took a backhand to the right, that Cliff returned crosscourt left, as Suds followed it around off the back wall. Cliff leaped out of the way as Suds drove another forehand crosscourt to the right. This went on for three more exchanges before Sudsy finally hit a backhand, 38-foot pinch winner! Turning to the crowd, he pumped both fists in the air and they forgot their favorite in cheering for the extended rally. Two rallies later, Sudsy pinched to the same left corner and the match was his.

Although the hometown boy didn't win, the crowd knew it had been treated to a great show and offered a drawn-out standing ovation to them both. Afterwards Cliff exclaimed emotionally, "sorry I didn't win Dad, but I did my best." And he thanked the sponsors for their support and fans for their intensity.

Sudsy also addressed the crowd, "You guys are awesome, I love it. I love that you hate me." He went on to say that he'd been a friend of Cliff's since he was seven and looked up to him. He also said that Red was a good man and raised the toughest competitor that he'd ever met. Those of us in Boston know that. Thanks for the show, guys. See you next year, at "Cliff's House."



Photo: proracquetball.net

A 'Classic' in Fairfield By Bill DiGregorio

The end result might have been easier to predict than recent northeast weather forecasts. However, no one could have foreseen the Canadian storm front that passed through New Jersey during the 2nd Annual IRT Pro-Am, held at the completely refurbished Classic Athletic Club in Fairfield, in early February.

More than a thousand spectators and two hundred amateur players were on hand to experience one of the most spirited events in recent memory. In particular, this tournament gave fans — most of whom believe the sport to be "exclusive" to the United States — a great opportunity to see firsthand just how competitive it is in other countries. Most of the sold-out crowd left on Sunday afternoon buzzing about three basic truths: Sudsy Monchik and Cliff Swain are still on top of their game; Ruben still defies Father Time; and Kane is certainly able.

The Qualifiers

Players from as far away as Canada, Mexico and California combined with some of this region's best talent to create an exciting pro-qualifier. While most first round matches appeared to offer little challenge to the top players, one did stand out. Travis Aldinger, the No.1 ranked player in Pennsylvania, and widely considered the top amateur in the northeast, was set to play living legend Ruben Gonzalez. The gallery quickly realized how close this match would be after Aldinger took the first game. Unbelievable gets by Aldinger kept the remaining games close and had the crowd looking for more. But in the end, Gonzalez's experience and passing game were too much for Aldinger, who went down in four. "When I first saw the draw sheet and realized who I was playing, I was nervous, to say the least," said Aldinger. "In the end I played well and had a great experience."

The second round was not without its own great match-ups, including a three-pronged attack by Canadians who battled their way into the round of 32, where a fourth, Kane Waselenchuk, waited. The best match in the round of 32 was easily that between Team Canada's Brian Istace and the No.11 seed, Alvaro Beltran of Mexico. Beltran is the current IRF world champion and was a semi-finalist in the 2000 US Open, but Istace's control and consistency won out over the long haul, 10-12, 12-10, 11-6, 2-11, 11-5. Fellow

Canadian Kris Odegard lost to Gonzalez in four games, while countryman Mike Green easily defeated Chris Crowther in three. Local star and No.9 seeded Mike Locker advanced by defeating the eventual Men's Open champion, Mexico's Javier Moreno in four, while Dan Llacera and Dale Valentine advanced with hard fought five-game victories against Mike Johnston and Erin Brannigan, respectively.

But the match that had many spectators picking their jaws up off the floor was No.12 ranked Waselenchuk's straight game victory against Anthony Defusto. A top ranked regional amateur from New York, Defusto did all he could to stay in the match but it was obvious that Waselenchuk could read his every move. Kane was *everywhere*. Anything Defusto tried – down the line, cross-court, pinch – the tough lefty was waiting. Stepping into the service box, the 19-year-old would follow-up his 170-mph serve with a 50-mph touch shot. While no one left the Classic Athletic Club that evening correctly pronouncing "Waselenchuk," they will all remember witnessing one of the most talented up-and-coming pros on tour.

The round of 16

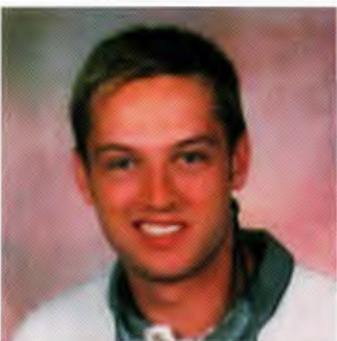
Most of the draw went as scripted in the round of sixteen. In the top bracket, straight game wins were common, as top seeded Swain toppled Llacera; No.4 seeded Jason Mannino ripped through Valentine; and Locker scored a surprisingly easy victory against No.8 seeded Tim Doyle. The bottom bracket saw No.2 seeded Monchik defeat friend and mentor Gonzalez in three; and four game wins went to No.3 seeded John Ellis over Green and No.7 seeded Derek Robinson past No.10 seeded Dan Fowler.

But each half of the bracket also featured two five-game upsets – each



The Canadian Invasion ...
Above: Kane Waselenchuk

Below (top-bottom):
Mike Green; Brian Istace;
Kris Odegard. Photos:
Racquetball Canada
www.racquetball.ca



at the hands of our friends north of the border. In the bottom, Istace defeated No.6 Rocky Carson 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, while in the top, Waselenchuk came back to outlast No.5 Mike Guidry 11-4, 9-11, 5-11, 11-1, 11-8. Waselenchuk's victory placed him against Mannino for the next round, setting up a rematch of their U.S. Open meeting three months earlier, where Kane had upset the then-defending event champ. This particular quarterfinal instantly became the most anticipated match of the tournament this side of the finals. Can anyone say "Eh, Oh Yea"?

To the Finish

Friday night fans jockeyed for choice seating at the sold-out quarterfinals. For starters, the crowd was treated to straight game wins by local favorite, Monchik, who quickly defeated Robinson, followed by top seeded Swain convincingly eliminating Locker. The third match of the evening saw Istace take three-game upset over Ellis, who was obviously not fully recovered from his knee injury.

The fourth match, Waselenchuk vs. Mannino, was clearly the main event. Waselenchuk came out aggressively, attacking half-lob and z-lob serves to take the first game win, 11-8. In the second, Mannino's anticipation seemed to keep his opponent off balance and, in an apparently strategic move, he also began to work referee Erin Brannigan with frequent debates on encroachment and 'gets.' The plan worked in rattling Kane a bit, who lost the second 11-5, before regrouping to come out firing in the third. With relentless speed and determination, Waselenchuk jumped out to a 7-3 lead, but while moving towards his right to retrieve a shot, he came up limping after his foot caught the sidewall crotch. He hung on to win the close third game, 12-10, but his play appeared to be affected by his injury. Mannino took advantage in the fourth game, winning easily 11-4. Although Waselenchuk again regrouped between games and the fans were treated to a classic game five, with several lead changes and amazing athleticism, Mannino came back for a hard-fought 13-11 victory.

Saturday's semi-finals played out as expected, with Swain easily defeating Mannino 8, 4, 3 while Monchik overcame a slow start to defeat the last remaining Canadian, Brian Istace, (6), 3, 10, 0.

The Finals

For the fourth tournament in a row, and fifth of the season, fans were treated to the sport's top rivalry between No.1 and No.2. But this time, a bit more was at stake. A victory by Monchik would move him past Swain in the rankings, making him the No.1 player in the world. Again, the exhibition court was sold out for these two giants.

The crowd, divided but clearly favoring Monchik, enjoyed a match in which each game could have gone either way. Again, referee Brannigan drew fire from both players, particularly by Swain who seemed to question several short serve calls. Monchik took control late

in the first game and came away with an 11-6 victory, followed up by an early lead in the second. But Swain, who struggled with his trusted drive serve and usual consistency most of the afternoon, came back to gain the advantage at 10-9 and made several attempts to close it out. Once again, Monchik fought back and went on to win the second 12-10. True to form, the third was another battle that Monchik won, repeating his earlier 12-10 score. With the victory, Monchik regained the title of No.1 player in the world.

[This annual stop is widely considered a showcase event and is looked forward to each year by the racquetball community in the greater New Jersey area. So, instead of using this space to pen a description of the writer, I'd like to thank the new owners of the Classic Athletic Club for their support. Furthermore, this tournament would not exist nor be successful without the dedicated efforts of the host facility, staff, volunteers, sponsors and New Jersey State Racquetball Director Bill Serafin. Great job Bill! Anyone who has attempted to run this type of event understands the many hours and thankless work involved. — BD]

Monchik makes five in a row look Easy!

Story & Photos by Cameron Potts

Most of the few dozen people who took the day off work to sneak a peek at round of sixteen matches of the Second Annual Michael Lanning Pro-Am, looked on in awe when 17-year-old Jack Huczak took the court on Friday, February 16. It was like watching a moment in history, perhaps a passing of the torch. Die-hard fans at the first match of the day wanted to see the tour's youngest gun against arguably the greatest player in the history of the game.

On paper, the noon match between Huczak and Cliff Swain looked to be a shot-makers delight – the athletic and controlled Huczak against the, well, athletic and controlled Swain. But instead, it may have marked a changing of the guard as Huczak broke through with a three-game upset victory over the No.2 seed. To those in attendance, it was like an omen that Huczak would own the weekend.

Huczak, seeded 15th, controlled the match from the outset, never allowing Swain to get into a comfortable rhythm. The high school senior made every shot he tried — splats, reverse pinches, flat rolls — taking the match 11-2, 11-5, 11-5. Before most of the spectators had even arrived for the afternoon matches, the biggest upset had already taken place.



New Faces

Earlier in the round of sixteen, local hero Mike Locker had fallen to Javier Moreno, beginning the series of upsets at the Northwest Athletic Club in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Qualifier Alvaro Beltran kept the streak going when he took out No.6 Mike Guidry in four games. This brought some new faces into the quarterfinals, against players who make a living by advancing to the final eight and beyond.

As it turned out, the weekend didn't belong to Huczak after all (at least not in the pro division — Huczak later took the Open title). In the quarters, he faced No.7 Rocky Carson, who was seeking to avoid the upset bug. Carson, who beat Dan Fowler in four to reach the quarters, took advantage of a slow start by Huczak to forge a 2-0 lead. But then Huczak caught his stride, ripping winners and pinch shots to climb back into the match 11-1, 11-8. Carson admitted later that he was tired in those games, and he wanted to conserve his energy once he knew the match was going the distance.

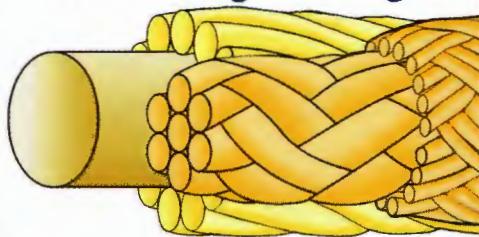
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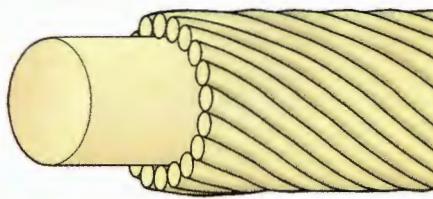
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In the fifth, Carson (above) built an early lead, only to watch Huczek seemingly seal the match when he went on a five point run to go up 8-5. But Carson, at his glacial pace, slowed the game even more and climbed back into a 9-8 lead. Huczek eventually tied the score at nine, but Carson kept his composure and ripped three clean winners to take the match 11-9.

In the other quarterfinals, No.1 ranked Sudsy Monchik wore out eighth seed Derek Robinson in five games of 9-11, 11-5, 3-11, 11-6, 11-2. Jason Mannino also needed five to take out Tim Doyle, 8-11, 11-6, 11-3, 7-11, 11-1, and in the only match that didn't go the distance, John Ellis played nearly flawless racquetball for a straight game advance, 11-3, 11-3, 11-4, over Beltran.

A Carson First

The first semifinal pitted Carson against Ellis, whose ankle had swollen overnight from an earlier round injury, leaving him at well below 100 percent. Ellis, who usually relies on his power and quickness, could not push off side-to-side, leaving Carson with a huge opening for easy down the line shots to take big leads. Ellis gamely held on in the first two, threatening to steal a win, but the combination of his opponent's strategy and the sore ankle were too much. Ellis fell in three, 11-8, 11-8, 11-1, and the win marked a debut pro final for Carson.

In a rematch of last year's semifinal, Mannino flew

around the court against Monchik. Mannino's ability to dive even before a shot is taken gave the crowd the thrills they were looking for, and it forced the world's best player to hit perfect shots to score points. Mannino's strategy worked in the first game to earn an 11-4 win, but Monchik slowly wore his acrobatic challenger down over the next three games.

After losing the second 11-6, Mannino had a chance to regain momentum, but couldn't get past a seventh point in the third. In what would become the final game, the two players exchanged points back and forth, until they tied at 10. Every time it looked like Mannino had a chance to pull out a win, Monchik rolled a shot and kept him at bay. Finally, Monchik took control and pulled away to win the fourth, 13-11.

"I played well. I don't mind losing like that," Mannino told the crowd after the game.

Short and Sweet

In the final, Carson gave it everything he had in the first game, but once again it was Monchik's ability to make the key shots when he needed them that made the difference. Down 10-6, Monchik rolled one after another for three rallies, forcing Carson to attempt perfect shots to get the needed final point. But he never did, as Monchik slowly crept back, with a scoring run that took him to a 12-10 turnaround win. Despite its early excitement, the match was over after the first game.

Carson struggled with his serve in the remaining two games, and despite fighting back from a 7-3 deficit in the second, Monchik took an 11-7 win and closed out the match, 11-5, in the third.

"I knew it was his first final, so he was going to be nervous," Monchik said. "When he got that lead (in the first game) I knew if I could come back it would ruin his mental frame of mind. I knew it would affect him the rest of the match." The win marked Monchik's fifth straight tour win, further tightening his grip on the top ranking.

For his part, Carson said he didn't feel nervous in his first final. "You have to give him credit. He rolled out some great shots. It is a hard road (getting to your first final)," he continued "It's always a good learning experience."

Monchik is now the only player to have ever won the Michael Lanning Benefit Pro-Am, now in its second year. Proceeds from the tournament benefit Michael Lanning, a former Minnesota player who suffered a spinal cord injury in 1997.



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2000-2001 INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SCORECARD & SCHEDULE

New Orleans	Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik	10, (9) 4, 7
Stockton	Jason Mannino def. Sudsy Monchik	5, (9) 5, 9
Las Vegas	Swain/Mannino def. Robinson O'Neil	5, 3, 4
Albuquerque	Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis	4, (7) 4, 1
Chicago	Cliff Swain def. John Ellis	9, 4, 1
Memphis	Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain	8, 9 (9) 3
Denver	Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain	3, 1, 12
Boston	Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain	(7) 7 (8) 3, 6
Fairfield	Sudsy Monchik def. Cliff Swain	6, 10, 10
Minneapolis, MN	Sudsy Monchik def. Rocky Carson	10, 7, 3
May 2-6	Las Vegas, NV	PRO NATIONALS @ The Sporting House
May 17-20	Modesto, CA	The Court Room
June 1-3	Portland, OR	Tournament of Champions @ Multnomah Athletic Club

• men's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR RANKINGS

[Through Minneapolis, 02/18/2001]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 3731	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	2	1
2. 3443	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	1	2
3. 2699	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	3	4
4. 2440	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	4	3
5. 2101	Tim Doyle	San Diego, CA	5	5
6. 1929	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	7	9
7. 1820	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX	6	6
8. 1725	Derek Robinson	Kennewick, WA	8	8
9. 1423	Alvaro Beltran	Chihuahua, Mexico	12	58
10. 1393	Mike Locker	Minneapolis, MN	9	11
11. 1287	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	11	10
12. 1103	Kane Waselenchuk	Alberta, Canada	13	n/a
13. 1090	Adam Karp	Stockton, CA	10	7
14. 942	Erin Brannigan	Sagle, ID	15	24
15. 731	Louis Vogel	Albuquerque, NM	14	14
16. 727	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada	19	50
17. 707	Greg Thomas	Bend, OR	17	41
18. 648	Jack Huczak	Rochester Hills, MI	18	36
19. 583	Luis Bustillos	Chihuahua, Mexico	16	15
20. 570	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	21	18

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2. Jason Mannino
3. John Ellis
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1. Rocky Carson
2. Mike Locker
3. Ryan Homa
4. Erin Brannigan

Ashaway

Official String of the IRT

1. Derek Robinson
2. Erin Brannigan
3. Kris Odegard
4. Brian Pointelin



Watertown Luxe

by John Edwards

They were sent personal invitations, traveled by limousine, and had a bottle of champagne waiting in each of their rooms. But the luxury treatment of this New York weekend was left outside the court as twenty-two of the top women on the pro tour fought for valuable ranking points at the S.H. Montaya Pro Stop in early February.

With just a few points separating first from second, as well as fourth and fifth ranking spots, there was no room for error as the round of 32 got underway. Loreto Barriga, seeded No.21, upset No.12 seeded Denise Mock, while Barriga's teammate from Chile, No.20 Angela Grisar followed suit and toppled No.13 Stephanie Munger. Meanwhile, on the bottom of the bracket, Anita Maldonado, seeded No.22, was determined to earn more points as she dominated No.11 Jo Shattuck in the first, third and fourth games for the win. At No.14, Jennifer Dering also fell to No.19 seeded Cintya Salazar Leveque in three games.

Cancel all bets with your bookie because the show had only just begun and the fast courts at Shapes Fitness Center had already become a factor in making the outcomes less predictable. Making their way into the quarters were Christie Van Hees, Doreen Fowler, Laura Fenton and Rhonda Rajsich in the top half, along with

Cheryl Gudinas, Kersten Hallander, Susana Acosta and Jackie Paraiso. With all of the semi-finalists ranked in the LPRA's top-10, the playoffs had come together just as expected.

Van Hees, who began the weekend with the #1 tour ranking, called upon her intimidating forehand drive serves to dominate No.9 seeded Fowler, who fell in three games with only eight points in each contest. From the No.2 position, Paraiso struggled with left-handed Mexican champion, No.7 seeded Acosta, who started the match by controlling the pace and holding Paraiso to 15 points. But Paraiso's tour experience emerged as she returned to basic passing shots to put the pressure on Acosta. After a series of unforced errors, Acosta lost the momentum to Paraiso who went on to win game two, 21-14. Having slipped into a rhythm, Paraiso continued with the same strategy to win the next two games 21-8 and 21-15.

Earlier in the day, No.3 Gudinas and No.6 Hallander had been in a war zone of their own. Gudinas came out firing her kill shots in the first game to earn a quick 21-10 score, then traded a win to Hallander as each struggled to keep their focus. Hallander emerged victorious in the third game, keeping her pace from the second and posting a 21-17 score in both. Facing game four, Gudinas had hoped to keep the pressure on, but Hallander had met the challenge with high energy

"gets" that could only be described as "ESPN moments." An excited crowd was treated to a fourth game that had evolved into a true test of athleticism. It was almost as if both players understood that the first person to skip would lose. With both within three points of winning, Hallander's hustle and "gets" eventually forced Gudinas to crack and skip the last two points of the game.

Going into game five, both players came out firing again but this time it was a "down the line" shot battle. Neither could afford the luxury of even a few skipped balls or easy set-ups so they both resorted to predictable passing



shots. While Gudinas played with more shot variety, Hallander continued her high-energy hustle to keep her score within reach of her opponent. In the end, Gudinas posted the win, edging out Hallander with a score of 21-19.

Next, the crowd gathered to see the days most anticipated match between No.4 seeded Rajsich and No.5 seeded Fenton. The winner of this battle would advance to challenge Van Hees. "I didn't play aggressively in game one," said Fenton who lost 21-19. "Because of Rhonda's speed and agility, I decided to change the speed and push on every point," Fenton later explained. That strategy proved to be effective as she strategically used her pinch shots to consistently work her way to a 21-12 win in game two. Fenton's new strategy, combined with unforced errors from Rajsich, earned two more wins in games three and four, where Fenton limited Rajsich to scores of 8 and 11 respectively. "I needed to beat a 15-year-old yesterday and an 18-year-old this morning," said Fenton, 39, referring to her win over the much younger Rajsich. "So this means even more."

In the next round, Fenton worked through her back discomfort to post a 21-18 win in her first game against Van Hees. Chronic back problems forced Fenton to use some of her time-outs in games two and four, but Van Hees had already become more aggressive, and put away the next three games with dazzling shots including a match winning forehand rollout while running backwards.

In another surprise win, Gudinas posted a straight game win over Paraiso, who had been hampered by shoulder pain that neutralized her backhand kill shots. Gudinas took advantage of the set-ups and rolled to a 21-17 win in game one, then held her momentum to post a 21-19 game two score. "If you're flat, it's hard to come back under this system," said Gudinas referring to the new LPRA scoring rules. Game three was a "crowd pleaser" as Paraiso worked through the pain to trade the lead back and forth, but it was Gudinas who survived the longest rally of the match to get a 22-21 lead. It was that same determination that drove Gudinas to win the final and defeat Paraiso 23-21.

"Every time we have played so far this year, the winner won in three games," said Gudinas, who recalled the details of their last three encounters. "My goal is to win the majority of the pro stops," she added. Prior to

Gudinas serves to Van Hees in the final. Photo: Mark Purser



Watertown, Paraiso and Van Hees had both posted two tournament wins and Gudinas had posted one.

Sunday morning's final between Van Hees and Gudinas drew a quiet but eager crowd. The excitement slowly swelled among the spectators as both ladies came out firing drive serves in an attempt to break down their opponent's rhythm. They traded points back and forth with Gudinas limiting Van Hees lead to no more than three points in the first contest. Van Hees took the 21-17 win in game one but Gudinas refused to let up and pulled away in game two to her own 21-15 win. The strategy started to change a little as Gudinas experimented with lob serves in game three. Van Hees killed two of those serves on the return and forced Gudinas back to the faster pace. They stayed neck-and-neck through the first thirteen points but Gudinas earned the 21-16 win.

Van Hees recognized that there was no room for error in what could have been the final game and she executed a near flawless game. That concentration earned her a 21-15 win to drive this dramatic battle to a tiebreaker, where Gudinas jumped to a 19-12 lead by

keeping Van Hees on defense. The momentum shifted when Van Hees tried a lob serve that was killed on the return. Van Hees struggled with her drive serves from then on, although she closed the gap to 19-15, before Gudinas took a time out. Gudinas, who wanted to maintain her intensity, later explained that during the timeout she told herself to "relax and don't do anything stupid." She then returned a Van Hees serve with a cross-court passing shot to go to a match advantage at 20-16. After a hinder replay, Gudinas switched to a down the line put away to earn the win and tournament title.

"This was a really weird tournament for me," said Gudinas. "I barely escaped my quarterfinal match... then I get into the finals and I overused my touch shots." she added, "so I decided to eliminate the 'touchy stuff' in the fifth game."

After the Watertown tournament, Van Hees retained the No. 1 ranking, followed by Paraiso, Gudinas, Fenton and Rajsich rounding off the next five spots, respectively.

Gudinas wins in Minnesota

Story & photos by Cameron Potts

It was a weekend of firsts for Cheryl Gudinas when she took part in the Michael Lanning Pro-Am in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Remarkably, after a career of titles at every level, this tournament win marked the first time that Gudinas had attained the women's pro tour top ranking.

Gudinas has long sought her best finishes in amateur events in order to retain her position on the national

team. That dedication has served her well, in winning the recent 2000 World Championships and the Pan-Am games title in 1999. This year, though, Gudinas decided on a new track – an all-out attack on the pro calendar.

"I've never been number one as a pro. I always seem to lose out at the end of the year and finish second or something like that," Gudinas said. "I have always been concerned about finishing high in the amateur ranks for the national team. But this year I set a goal of winning more pro stops."

The Minnesota event was Gudinas' third win of the year, giving her one more than Jackie Paraiso and Canadian Christie Van Hees. All three players had the chance to claim the top ranking in Minnesota, but only Gudinas came out on top. It means a great deal to the Illinois native. "It is a huge deal because as the top seed, I don't have to play Christie or Jackie in the semifinals," she said.

Van Hees didn't make the trek down to Minnesota, leaving the top ranking tug-of-war between Paraiso and Gudinas. The sport's two stars easily made their way through early rounds, then faced tough opponents in the semifinals. Paraiso took on the athletic Rhonda Rajsich in one match, while Laura Fenton brought her all-court game against Gudinas in the other semi.

Paraiso, who has struggled with tendonitis in her shoulder all season, took out an ounce of revenge on Rajsich. Earlier in the year, Rajsich beat Paraiso in the U.S. Open to reach the final before losing to Van Hees. This time though, Paraiso played a strong control game to keep her younger and quicker opponent off balance. Despite the sore shoulder, Paraiso took out Rajsich in three

straight games, 21-16, 21-5, 21-13.

The other semi was much closer. Fenton had to contend with Gudinas' ability to hit shots when she needed them, while Gudinas wanted to keep Fenton off balance with strong passing shots. The two veterans took part in what best could be called a chess match, each one trying to out-think the other. Gudinas held the upper hand in



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Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Rankings

[Through Minneapolis, 02/26/2001]

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	Last Year
1. 462.50	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	3	2
2. 432.50	Jackie Paraiso	San Diego, CA	2	1
3. 420.00	Christie Van Hees	Vancouver, B.C. Canada	1	3
4. 191.25	Laura Fenton	Overland Park, KS	5	19
5. 187.50	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	4	n/a
6. 101.25	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	6	4
7. 78.75	Susana Acosta	Chihuahua, Mexico	7	5
8. 68.75	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD	9	10
9. 61.25	Kim Machiran	Ballwin, MO	8	8
10. 49.75	Lori-Jane Powell	Calgary, Alberta, Canada	11	12
11. 46.75	Michelle Lucas	Annandale, VA	10	11
12. 38.75	Janet Myers	Charlotte, NC	12	9
13. 33.75	Kristen Walsh	Berea, OH	15	22
14. 30.75	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO	14	14
15. 26.25	Chris Evon	Wheeling, IL	13	n/a
16. 18.50	Denise Mock	Allen, TX	18	29
17. 15.50	Linda Moore	Madison, NE	53	30
18. 15.00	Josee Grand'Maitre	Longueuil, Quebec, Canada	16	17
19. 14.75	Angela Burth	Las Vegas, NV	17	15
20. 12.75	Lourdes Sanders	Ft. Collins, CO	19	16

• women's tour rankings • scorecard • schedule

2000-2001 LADIES PRO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SCORECARD & SCHEDULE

Albuquerque	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso	17, 18, 16
Colorado Springs	Christie Van Hees def. Jackie Paraiso	(15) 21, 19 (18) 14
Memphis	Christie Van Hees def. Rhonda Rajsich	7, 12 (22) 11
Denver	Jackie Paraiso def. Cheryl Gudinas	14, 17, 9
Rosarito Beach	Jackie Paraiso def. Christie Van Hees	(19) 18 (15) 17, 19
Watertown	Cheryl Gudinas def. Christie Van Hees	17 (15) (16) 15, 16
Minneapolis	Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Paraiso	14, 15, injury forfeit
Chicago	Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Stoffregen	14, 13, 19

May 2-6	Las Vegas, NV	PRO NATIONALS @ The Sporting House
June 1-3	Portland, OR	Tournament of Champions @ Multnomah Athletic Club

2001-2002 SEASON

August 3-5	San Luis Potosi, Mexico	La Loma Sports Complex
September 7-9	California (Doubles Event)	TBA
September 20-23	North Carolina	TBA
October 18-20	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Tom Young's Athletic Club
November 2-4	Colorado Springs, Colorado	Lynmar Racquet & Health Club
November 15-19	Memphis, Tennessee	Racquet Club of Memphis
December 6-8	Denver, Colorado	Lakewood Athletic Club

For more event details and complete tournament drawsheets online, go to www.ladiesproracquetball.com > "Events"

the first two games, taking an early 2-0 lead, before Fenton nearly snatched game three. In the end, Gudinas was the stronger player, hitting the corners and using a deadly accurate backhand passing shot to seal the win, 21-15, 21-16, 21-19.

The final pitted two of the tour's top names, but offered little of the drama the capacity crowd at Northwest Athletic Club had hoped for. From the outset, Gudinas' power put Paraiso on the run. Gudinas owned the center of the court, forcing Paraiso to stretch for pinpoint passing shots, only to then bury the ball in the corner on a pinch. In what seemed like a short period of time, Gudinas was up 2-0 and in total control of the match.

In between games and during time-outs, Paraiso sought medical attention on her ailing shoulder, which was rubbed down and stretched. Her backhand did not give the former No. 1 player any pause, but she winced openly when she went for a forehand shot.

"I have chronic tendonitis in my rotator cuff. I just couldn't bring my arm back to hit a forehand. I skipped a lot of forehands because I can't hold onto the racket tight enough," Paraiso said. While her shoulder hurt all through the tournament, she explained that it gets worse the further along she gets. And playing the semi-final and final in the same day made matters worse.

In the third game, down 14-3, Paraiso called a timeout and informed referee Fenton that she was done. Paraiso told a disappointed crowd that her injury was too

painful to continue. That gave Gudinas the win and the top ranking, though it wasn't quite how she'd wanted to claim it.

"I'm not very happy. I'd rather play Jackie and lose than win this way," Gudinas told the crowd. "There are no achievements without challenges. Everyone gets injuries and I think it just kills your confidence out there."

The mentally tough Gudinas never let up on Paraiso throughout the match, looking to end it early. Despite her opponents' injury, this was Gudinas' day, as she controlled the outcome from the start with accuracy and power.

"It is very frustrating. It was a hard decision to make because I have won a lot of tournaments when I have been injured," Paraiso said. "I wanted to get that top ranking. People ask me why I still play even though I am injured, and I say it is the chance to be number one."

For at least one week though, Gudinas claimed the top spot and it will take some doing to wrest it away.

The Michael Lanning Pro-Am is in its second year, but the first for the women's tour. Proceeds from the tournament benefit Michael Lanning, a former Minnesota player who is paralyzed from a fall at home. At the inaugural Michael Lanning tournament last year, tour players helped raise enough money to present Lanning with a conversion van.



Between tour stops, Cheryl Gudinas and World Senior champ Bill Welaj shared some pointers with Bahamian hopefuls in a one-day clinic. Ozzie Rollie and Chigozie Ijeoma (pictured at the far right and left of Welaj & Gudinas, at left) are combining efforts to become involved with the International Racquetball Federation and hope to field a Bahamian team to the 2002 World Championships.



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RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

November 14-18, 2001
Memphis, Tennessee

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monday, june 18
1:00 pm eastern

What else can YOU do to help make our dreams of more racquetball on TV a reality? Here are five things that can make a major difference to the future of televised racquetball:

BEFORE ...

1. TELL every racquetball player you know about the broadcast on ESPN2 on June 18th at 1:00 p.m. EST.

2. GO to hiltonusopen.com, click on "Download Flyer" to print out a mini-poster promoting the broadcast date, OR pull out this centerfold. POST these flyers in every club you can and pass out copies to every league player you see.

3. CONTACT ESPN by mail, fax, and e-mail to tell them that you are a huge fan of racquetball and ESPN. Tell them that you want to see more racquetball on TV! MAIL letters to: ESPN
Attn: Programming Department
935 Middle Street, Bristol, CT 06010

FAX your letter to: ESPN
Attn: Programming Department
Fax (860) 766-2415

EMAIL by going to ESPN.com and scrolling to the very bottom of their opening page. Click on "CONTACT US" then click on "ESPN TV" under the "ESPN Content" section. Fill out the form and type (or cut and paste) your message in the box. Then click "Submit."

COPY your letter to: USRA
1685 West Uintah
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

4. WATCH OR TAPE THE BROADCAST ON MONDAY, JUNE 18 at 1:00 p.m. EST.

AFTER ...

5. Immediately after the broadcast, RE-write, RE-fax, and RE-email ESPN (see item #3 above) to thank them for putting pro racquetball on the air and to tell them that you want to see more!

If every USRA member and Racquetball Magazine subscriber executes all five of these steps (particularly the correspondence to ESPN) our sport would make a huge impression on the folks that have the power to put racquetball on TV on a regular basis. This is our chance to really make a difference!

June 2001

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HILTON U.S.OPEN BROADCAST ON ESPN2
JUNE 18, 1pm EST • Watch or Set your VCR

24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

HEAD 28th USRA Junior Olympics
June 23-27 • Denver, Colorado

s m t w t f s

July 2001

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NMRA International Masters [5]
July 18-21 • West Allis, Wisconsin

22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

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August 2001

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IRF 13th World Senior Championships
August 28 - September 1 • Albuquerque, New Mexico

s m t w t f s

ESPN2 To Test Market for Racquetball Viewer Interest — Hilton U.S. OPEN to Air June 18th at 1:00 p.m. EST

ESPN2 recently announced the first air date for the tape delayed broadcast from the 2000 Hilton U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships as Monday, June 18th at 1:00 p.m. eastern standard time. In addition, two re-broadcast dates will be announced by mid-May.

The reason for the vastly improved time slot (past Hilton U.S. OPEN shows have aired at 2:00 a.m.) is that ESPN2 is testing the market to see if there is sufficient viewer interest to support expanded racquetball coverage in the future.

"This is the first real opportunity the sport of racquetball has had in over 15 years to become a part of mainstream televised sports in the U.S." explained Hilton U.S. OPEN Director, Doug Ganim. "We have a genuine chance to make a very positive impression on the executives at ESPN, who are looking for what will be the next hot property in sports programming. It is time for pro racquetball to come out of the closet and be recognized for the truly incredible sports entertainment package that it is."

Here is how the test will work. ESPN2 will monitor the Nielson ratings for the first showing (on June 18th) and compare them to other shows that have aired during the same time slot in the past. If we match or exceed ratings expectations, ESPN will immediately begin considering expanded future coverage of pro racquetball, including a possible weekly series. It is absolutely critical that racquetball fans throughout the U.S. tune in and watch this show! If you are unable to be near a TV during this time, set your VCR and tape the show, as this also counts towards ratings.

On the production front, J.M. Associates has put together an incredible show featuring exciting graphics, slow motion replays of thrilling rallies, and a new studio set with video backdrop for the event commentators. Color analysts will be former top pro player Aaron Katz and ESPN outdoor sports celebrity Tommy Sanders.

"This will be the best TV production in the history of the sport of racquetball. We have pulled out all the stops to make the best possible impression on ESPN. Now all we need are the fans to respond by watching the show and writing in to ESPN." explained Jerry McKinnis, owner of J.M. Associates.

ESPN International has also agreed to offer distribution for the show. The Hilton U.S. OPEN show will receive a Spanish commentators overlay and then be shown on ESPN Latin America and ESPN Pacific Rim during the months of July and August.

Let's all do our part to help racquetball emerge as the next sport to be regularly televised. Chances like this only come around once every 15 years!

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1.



2.



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7.



6.



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- [Not shown] Sweatshirt — Lee 85/15. Heather Grey. \$32.00

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3. Sweatshirt (Authentic Pigment Dyed) Garment washed 80/20. Color: Denim (no XXL). \$35.00
4. Denim Jacket [Lee] — (no XXL) \$60.00.
5. Duffle Bag. Navy. \$45.00
6. Wind Shirt — 100% polyester by Port Authority. Navy. \$60.00
7. Tipped Polo Shirt (Anvil Cotton Deluxe) Colors: White w/navy, Navy w/white. \$32.00

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In the last few articles in the Magic Show Series, I discussed some very advanced techniques for jumping and diving. These are both nice, fun elements to have in your game, but are by no means a necessity to play the game, and play it well. So for that reason, I want to change directions and delve into a crucial area: Proper Contact Point.

At the camps that I teach with Fran Davis, we see players who have trouble with the very basic concept of "where to contact the ball." Surprisingly, regardless of your level [the "#1 pro in the world (like me), or the club/tournament player (like you)], this is a fundamental concept *everyone* must learn in order to become consistent and deceptive. The contact point for everyone — me, you or the D player — is *exactly* the same.

Let's unravel the Magical Contact Point so you too can gain the consistency and deception I experience in my game.

(Due to time, space and redundancy, I will only zero in on the contact point of my swing; so please reference the March/April & May/June 1999 issues for the details of my power backhand and forehand).

Fran Davis taught me this clever trick years ago when I was a member of the U.S. National Team and she was the Assistant Team Coach. I've never forgotten it, and I think you'll agree that the "visuals" on the following pages make it crystal clear.



Proper Contact Point

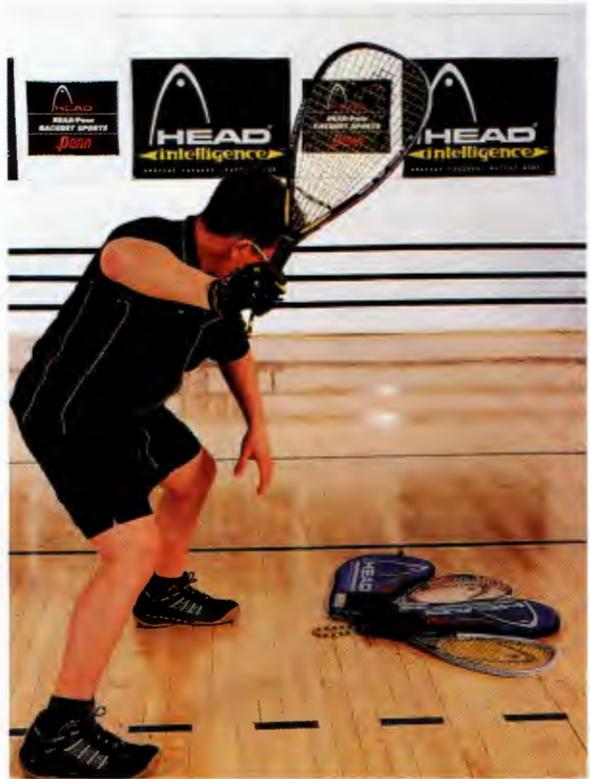
Photos: Rodney Boyd



Trick #1 • The Hitting Zone

The racquets are laid out on the floor where you should be making contact with the ball, which is out by your lead foot. Everything remains the same with footwork, body position, step (see March/April & May/June 1999 issues) for consistency and deception. The only thing that changes for a particular shot is where — in your hitting zone — you contact the ball.

1.



Trick #2 • The Pinch

Hit the ball at the first racquet, generally below the knee. The ball should hit the side wall closest to you first, near the corner, then the front wall, then bounce twice before the second side wall.

2.

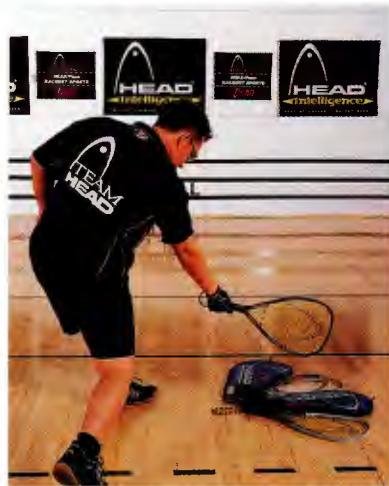


Trick #3 • Down the Line

Hit the ball at the second racquet, below the knee. The ball hits between you and the closest sidewall (not hitting the side wall), and bounces twice before the back wall.



3.

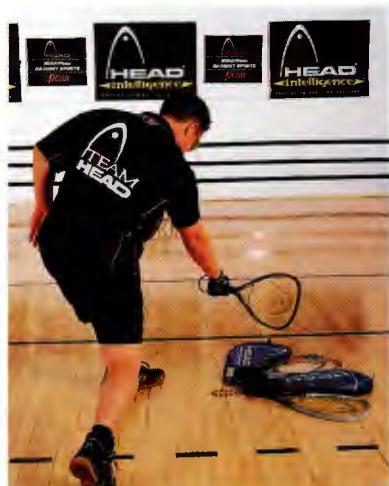


Trick #4 • Cross Court

Hit the ball at the third racquet, below the knee. The ball hits between you and the furthest sidewall, (not hitting the side wall), and bounces twice before the back wall.



4.



Trick #5 • Reverse Pinch

Hit the ball at the fourth racquet, below the knee. The ball hits the sidewall furthest from you first, at the opposite corner, then the front wall and bounces twice before the second sidewall.

I can't stress enough how the concept of hitting different shots from the same position — but changing the contact point — reinforces deception and consistency (keeping things simple). This differs from the old school of thought where you point your foot in the direction you wanted the ball to go (which complicates things by telegraphing your shot). I encourage you to try my Magical "Contact Point" tricks and you too will gain and experience what I do ...

consistency and deception ... a *must* for your game, as well as a necessity to play the game, and play it well! The #1 player in the world wouldn't steer you wrong. I do this all the time!



5.



Best of luck to you in keeping your opponent off balance and guessing with consistent deception. See you at one of our camps!

Wilson Game Plan:

by Lynn Adams

A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words

" You need to flatten out your stroke!" Have you ever heard that comment before? It's a common phrase among instructors, but sometimes it's a difficult concept to grasp.

Here's where a visual image can be a more effective teaching tool than a thousand words. Props can also be helpful. I found this particular technique to be useful in helping players "feel" what it's like to swing flat and level. I like to call it the "Coffee Table" drill.

Envision that you found the perfect coffee table for your living room, but it costs \$1,000. Whew! That's a lot of money. But it's so *perfect* ...

So you work and save and finally you're able to purchase this magnificent table. One day, while relaxing at home, the doorbell rings ... unexpected company! You look around and notice cups and plates and newspapers messing up your beautiful new table. You must clean it quickly. You grab your Wilson, top of the line, racquet (what did you expect?) to clear off the table with a single swing. But here's the catch...if you swing down or up (on the ball), you will hurt the table. Bad option! Instead, you must swing flat and level to clear it off without damaging your prized possession!

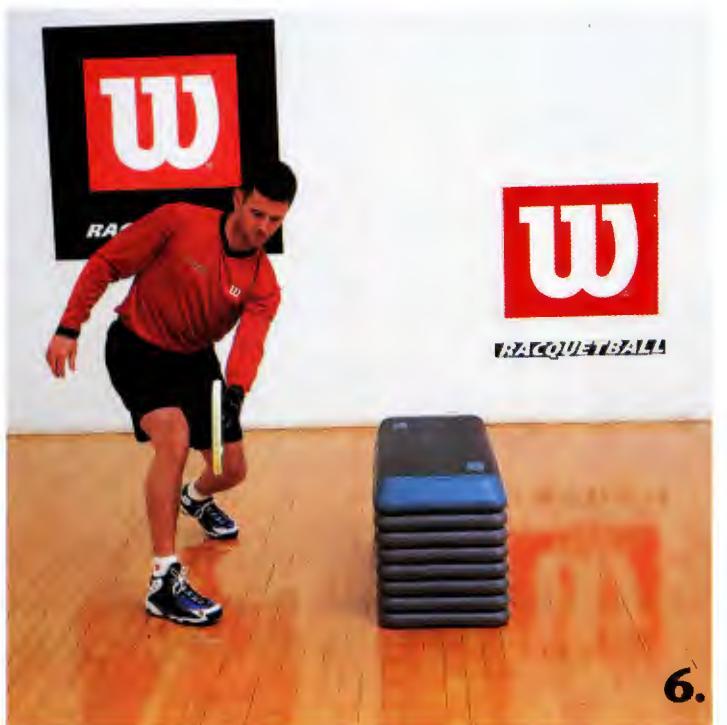
As you get proficient at swinging level, lower the height of the table and go for some flat, killshot type swings.

This is a great drill to create the muscle memory you need to be able to hit the ball flat consistently.



The Coffee Table Drill

featuring Cliff Swain



Q: I usually never have enough time to warm up for my matches and I use the first game as a warm up. What do you think?

You are definitely not alone, unfortunately. I am alarmed at how many players at my camps share that same sentiment and ask me for a solution all the time.

Using the first game as a warm up is usually disastrous. It goes against the very philosophy I teach at my camps, "K.I.S.S. Racquetball...keep it simple but smart." I stress high percentage racquetball in my camps. If you use the first game as a warm up, the odds are stacked against you. Think about it. If you are playing a match (2 out of 3 games) and you lose the first game because you were "warming up," you now must win 100% of the games remaining and your opponent only needs to win 50% of the games remaining. I don't know about you, but that's a pretty tough position to be in every time you play.

Believe me, I do understand time restraints and/or a lack of courts, which ultimately supports this line of thinking, but I can help you with this one.

Diane McNab, former Sports Psychologist and Nutritionist of the US Team, showed me a 5-10 minute warm up routine that I have personally used and also shared with my students over the years that has been extremely successful:

Goals of Warm-Up

- How to Accomplish These Goals

1. Raise your core body temperature from 98.6° to 100.6° F (check with your physician).

- Use cardio equipment at the club ... stairmaster, stationary bikes, treadmill, rower
- Take a hot shower
- Use the whirlpool, sauna or steam
- Walk or march up and down the hallway
- Do jumping jacks in place

2. Perform activity at a slower pace.

- If a court is available, hit lightly for a few minutes and go through some basics ... drop & hit forehands & backhands, ceiling balls, passes, some serves

• If no court is available, put the racquet in your hand and shadow hit all of the above shots (swing motion without a ball)

3. Stretching quads, hamstrings, calves & ankles.

- (see "Stretching" by Bob Anderson)
- Include arms, shoulders, neck, waist, groin,

4. Breathing.

- In through your nose, out of your nose or mouth.

5. Visualize your game.

- Mentally rehearse who you are playing and plan (this can be done at home, your office, or in your car on the way to the club).



I totally encourage you to try your hardest to find some time, as minimal as it may be, to warm up your body and mind so you are ready for the task at hand and to play your best. If you're not ready, several things are bound to happen:

- 1) Injury
- 2) Frustration
- 3) You'll lose a match you could, or should, have won.

Please make it your priority and goal to warm up prior to your match ... you will not only play better, and thereby win more matches, but you will definitely be less aggravated. Remember, 5-10 minutes is better than no minutes at all. You'll experience the difference and never go back. We do this routine at my camps...come check it out!

Head Rules by Fran Davis • "Proper Warm-Up"

email your questions to: fran@frandavisracquetball.com

Physical Training for Racquetball

by Marcy Lynch

Besides skill practice (see the March/April issue) physical training is a great place to put some time in the overall plan to improve your game. Although it's important to play racquetball in order to train for racquetball, time spent in other related physical activities can have a profound effect on improvement. Following are four types of physical training and the benefits of each.

1. Cardiovascular or aerobic training is the core of almost any training regimen. It builds stamina which improves your ability to 'last' through long rallies, close games, and tiebreakers. Cycling, spinning, running, aerobic classes, kickboxing, speed walking are all examples of aerobic exercise. By definition, an aerobic activity requires oxygen. In order to provide the oxygen necessary for the activity, it's important to keep the heart rate to between 60 - 70 percent of maximum (there are health club charts that show you the maximum heart rate based on your age - or you can subtract your age from 220). Above 70 percent, you start to enter the anaerobic zone, or exercise performed without oxygen. Examples of anaerobic exercise are sprints and activities that require short bursts of speed. Anaerobic exercise helps build lung capacity and extends the range of the ability to remain aerobic.

2. Strength training is about pushing or pulling against resistance. The most common method of strength training is to use weights. Elastic bands, water resistance, and exercises using your own body weight can build strength as well. The importance of strength training is to build muscles that are strong and resilient. Strength training helps prevent injury and provides the ability to create power, along with enhancing stamina. In general, lifting heavier weights with fewer repetitions builds strength and power. Lifting lighter weights with more repetitions builds tone and stamina.

3. Speed training is anaerobic and an adjunct to cardiovascular training. Speed work helps you get to the ball more quickly and efficiently. Some examples are sprints, court drills, hills, stadiums, stairs, jump rope, anything that requires you to move your feet with short, quick steps. Speed training is usually done in 'sets' with rest in between. Footwork drills are a type of speed training, as they require quick steps. The added benefit of footwork drills is that they involve steps in a variety of directions and at varying tempos which is

great for racquetball. The best drills include forward, backward, and side to side movements. Plyometrics also belong in the speed work category and relate to explosive movement, which will help you take an explosive first step toward the ball. Plyometrics involve jumping up to a raised platform and/or off of one, landing and jumping again. These, too, are done in sets of repetitions.

4. Flexibility is often one of the most overlooked aspects of a training program. The benefit to racquetball is that it allows for greater range of motion, prevents injury, and reduces muscle soreness by ridding the body of lactic acid build up caused by exertion. Stretching, yoga, pilates, PNF stretching (using active resistance combined with stretching) are all forms of exercise which contribute to flexibility. Muscles which are used over and over again, as in the case of any type of regular exercise, actually become tight and short. Flexibility training elongates the muscles which allows for better blood flow and more efficiency of movement.

So, using these components, how do you devise a plan for yourself that doesn't take several hours a day? The best way to start is to include something from each category in your overall program and plan those activities on different days. Combining one or two activities in a single session makes great use of time. For example, a half-hour practice session followed by a sprint workout, or an aerobic workout combined with a weight workout. The variety of doing something different on different days lessens the chance of overtraining or feeling stale and contributes to overall balance.

In summary, the best training program is one that works best for you. There is no set program that works for everyone and there are unlimited ways in which to challenge yourself. The key to a lifetime commitment to either racquetball or exercise is to keep it fun. When playing or training is no longer fun, it becomes difficult to continue and easy to quit. So, go out, have a little fun, and do something different this week in your exercise routine. You will not only benefit physically, but mentally and emotionally as well.

For my free e-newsletter, send an e-mail to marcy@marcyl Lynch.com, or visit www.marcyl Lynch.com. ©Marcy Lynch 2001.



new directions

by Luke St. Onge

Is it time for racquetball to truly "go open?" Well, what does that mean, exactly? It means that any person — pro or amateur — can compete in an "open" division national qualifier to attempt to earn a spot on the U.S. National team. This differs from the current system, under which athletes who wish to compete on the U.S. National team must deposit any winnings earned from a bona fide pro tour with their national federation (the USRA). Then the athlete may submit travel and training expenses against these winnings, and thereby remain eligible to compete for U.S. team spots.

Is it time for racquetball to join other major sports like tennis, basketball, track and field, hockey and baseball in allowing any person to qualify to represent their country in international competition? In reality, that opportunity already exists for any athlete who competes on the IRT or LPRA tours, since actual tour winnings don't even begin to cover their expenses. So if an athlete follows the procedure they can easily compete in both arenas.

Maybe an explanation of how this all works might be in order. The ultimate governing body in the sport is the International Racquetball Federation, which administers the sport on the international level. At present, the IRF definition governing eligibility for competition in IRF events follows the same procedure on earnings.

Under Congress's "Stevens Amateur Sports Act" a national governing body [NGB] may not adopt an eligibility rule which is more restrictive than the interna-

tional federation [IF] rule. Thus, legally, the USRA would have to abide by IRF rules on this issue.

On the pro side, the IRT has established its *own* rule that restricts the top four ranked men from competing in USRA qualifying events. This is a self-imposed limitation set by the IRT and is not a rule enforced by the USRA. The LPRA has no such rule.

In a short period of time, the LPRA's stature — and roster — has grown, especially among foreign players. At a recent stop in New York, seven countries were represented and the tour has now become the primary training field for female players worldwide. The IRT has also seen an influx of foreign players who use the tour as a similar training ground for international competition.

With the prospect of up to ten different countries fielding athletes who have won money on the tours — compounded by the administration of the expense procedure, and the reality that the IRF is no longer accomplishing its original goal — the IRF is examining the issue of revising eligibility restrictions to join the others sports and go truly "open."

When racquetball becomes an Olympic Sport, the IRF must guarantee that it will send the sport's very best athletes. And while the current rule still allows this to happen, it really serves no purpose and has become outdated.

How much would this impact the current situation? Very little. In fact, nothing major would change, other than the existing "paper trail" of routing winnings through a National Federation and back to the athlete in the form of expenses (which has become a sham) would be eliminated.

Stay tuned and I'll keep you updated as this debate continues at the international level.





The 23rd Dutch Open

Zoetermeer, Holland: March 16 – 18

Story & photos by Tom Rall

The longest-running racquetball tournament in European history began its twenty-third year with great anticipation of what the 2001 event would bring. Unlike the French Open in Paris, the Irish Open in Arklow, or the German Open in Hanover (where consecutive years are closer to ten) The Dutch Open remains a pillar of consistency. As the event approaches the quarter-century mark, it continues to set an example of steady attendance year after year, decade after decade.

One of the things that has contributed to the tournament's long-running success has been its organizers. Together, Karel Matla and Rene Hehemann have managed to stage this tournament, again and again, over its twenty-three year run. Last year Rene, former President of racquetball in the Netherlands and coach of its National Team, retired after over fifteen years of service. Although no longer an organizer, he remains active and took part in this year's Dutch Open.

Today, hosting the tournament has become a family affair for Karel Matla, a long-time veteran, organizer, player and promoter of Dutch racquetball. Along with his son, Pascal, Europe's number one ranked Open player, his wife, Jennette, and daughter, Chantal, the entire Matla family runs the event. Unlike tournaments here in the U.S., desk staffing is a serious undertaking, considering the many languages spoken just at registration. But language barriers don't trouble the Matla's; between them they speak four languages! Given that this entire family is so active, one is tempted to rename it The 'Matla' Open! Together, Karel and Pascal also organize various other events throughout Holland, as well as instructing and promoting the game when- and wherever possible. With this kind of devotion to the sport, racquetball in the Netherlands is in good hands!

The Racketcenter De Leyens, located on the East end of the small, very quaint Dutch city of Zoetermeer, hosts the event each year. Upon entering, players find the restaurant/café bar, which is usually full of club members having their coffee, juice or tea. Four tennis courts, two glass-back racquetball courts, and three squash courts can all be seen from the café area, providing a visual effect second to none! Plush couches and chairs line the entry, inviting members and guests to sit and relax before or after working out. Few tournament sites look this good and are as comfortable; it's no wonder that players keep coming back year after year. The Racketcenter De Leyens



in Zoetermeer is a city gem and exceptional in every way.

Located only a few miles east of Den Haag, Zoetermeer is a town with a personality all its own. Unlike Holland's political neighbor (The Hague), where embassies abound seemingly on every street and a conservative, yet relaxed, atmosphere exists throughout, Zoetermeer boasts a large shopping mall in the center of town, small shops everywhere, and its people are extremely nice, friendly and helpful. Everyone speaks English, but many other languages can be heard while making one's way around town. The Dutch are exceptional linguists; most of whom speak three languages effectively,

and many speak up to five! Mainly an industrial town, Zoetermeer possesses a quaintness all its own. Windmills, 'Moulons' as they are called, and long waterways called 'Graks' are bountiful throughout Holland's 'below sea level' landscape. And tulips, of course, are everywhere!

As in years past, the best players in Europe traveled to Zoetermeer to compete in this premier national open tournament, which draws players not only from The Netherlands, but also from surrounding countries of Europe and overseas. England, Mexico, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, France, the United States and, of course, The Netherlands were all represented at an event that has become a European racquetball 'tradition' at its best!

Participants arrived with smiles on the faces; some making their debuts, others returning for their fourth, fifth or even tenth time. Martin Klippe, Germany's top Open player and ranked No.2 in Europe, arrived confident and eager to compete. At 21, Martin is the current German National and European Open Champion. Ireland's Padriac Bensen; David Szafranski, an American artist living in Paris; and several excellent U.S. military players made the trip to compete as well. Tom Rall, former French Open, Irish Open, two-time US National Masters, and current World Senior champion, arrived from the U.S., along with Cinthia Tilbury and Manuel Organista – who found it amusing when asked where they were 'stationed' in Europe.

Local newspaper and radio coverage was excellent, both before and during the event, as photographers and journalists covered



Tom Rall, Cindy Tilbury, Pascal Matla, Martin Klippe

activities as they happened and arranged interviews with players and tournament officials. Information was provided city-wide, networked all over Holland day to day, and results were posted on the Internet throughout! In short, the event was newsworthy and received more than average attention by the Dutch media and others. It is this kind of forethought by organizers that has also contributed to The Dutch Open's long-running success.

Play opened on Friday and the courts quickly became a hotbed of activity! There was interest in all divisions, but all eyes were on the Men's and Women's Open, where preliminary rounds saw no surprises or upsets. The final four in the Men's Open were Pascal Matla (Holland), Tom Rall (USA), Martin Klippe (Germany) and Raul Cardenas (Mexico). Rall, who had done well to beat players from both Belgium and Holland to earn his berth in the semis, had already won the Men's 50+ division and was ready for a good match against Europe's number one ranked Open player. Ironically, Pascal Matla, at 25, is exactly one-half Rall's age, and in the end, it was youth and speed that outlasted the veteran in three games.

In the other semifinal, Martin Klippe also took three games to beat Raul Cardenas. This set up yet another "showdown" between Europe's top Open players: No.1 Matla and No. 2 Klippe. Only recently Matla had surprised everyone at the U.S. Open, where he won all his pro-qualifying matches and advanced to the round of 32 in the men's open division. Klippe, not to be out-done, had displayed his awesome talents at this year's French Open in Paris, beating California's Shawn Royster and taking current World Champion Alvaro Beltran to five games before finally losing their tiebreaker. Thus, everyone present was genuinely excited about watching this final, which turned out to be racquetball played at its best! The exciting match went to five games, with Martin finally winning the fifth 12-10. Scores of the previous four games were 11-

3, 8-11, 11-6, and 10-12! In the end, it was only a matter of a few points that separated these two very fine players.

On the ladies side, the Women's Open semifinal round saw Rita Mitchell (USA) beat Kathy Tritsman (Belgium/Holland) 15-2, 15-1, and Daphne Wanee (Holland) eliminate Wendy Hackett (England) 15-2, 15-0. The final was another very close match, with Rita Mitchell defeating Wanee, 15-8, 3-15, 11-9. Congratulations to all these fine Open players for their excellent performances! For all other division results, visit <http://www.racquetball.nl/> on the web.

As always, the 23rd Dutch Open offered a forum for excellent racquetball play and the opportunity for people from all over Europe and elsewhere to meet and socialize. At its close, players slowly made their departures with high expectations for next year. As one of Europe's best-managed and longest-running tournaments, The Dutch Open is an event worth taking part in, and The Netherlands is certainly a place well worth visiting! If you're interested, more information about The 24th Dutch Open can be found on the web at <http://www.racquetball.nl/> Make your arrangements now!

1st Rheinland Pfalz Open

Neubruecke, Germany: March 3-4

Write-up/photographs by Mike Mesecke

The first edition of the Rheinland Pfalz Open took place on March 3-4 in Neubruecke. Rheinland Pfalz is one of Germany's 16 Federal States and has many German racquetball enthusiasts and U.S. military facilities. Tournament Director Norbert Schwenck and Mike Mesecke from the German Federation invented this tournament. "It should give racquetball in this state another boost," said Mike Mesecke "and the facility that is managed by Norbert offers the best possibilities for such an event." So, U.S. and German players attended this tournament and many great and close games were played. Everybody is already looking forward to the 2nd Rheinland Pfalz Open in 2002!

RESULTS — Mens Open: William Smith (USA) d. Curtis Morgan (USA) 15-13, 15-14; Mens B: Ron Ruiz (USA) d. Markus Mindnich (GER) 15-2, 15-4; Mens C: Jason Moore (USA) d. Yvonne Kortes (GER) 15-2, 15-7; Womens Open: Yvonne Kortes (GER) d. Birgit Miller (GER) 15-2, 15-5; SR35+: James Johnson (USA) d. Vincent Arcouette (USA) 15-11, 15-8; Seniors 40+: James Johnson (USA) d. Ron Ruiz (USA) 15-10, 15-6; Juniors (multi bounce): Tony Moore (USA) d. Seth Penniston (USA) 7-2, 7-2; Doubles Open: J. Johnson/W. Smith (USA) d. M. McPhearson/A. Kirkpatrick (USA) 15-11, 15-14.



Rheinland Pfalz Finalists (L-R): Doubles — Mack McPhearson, Allen Kirkpatrick, William Smith, James Johnson (doubles); Women's Open — Yvonne Kortes (three-time German national champion); Men's Open — Curtis Morgan, William Smith.



AERA organizes to promote racquetball

by Michael Bowers, AERA Publicist

American racquetball players in Europe took the first step toward resurrecting the dormant American European Racquetball Association [AERA], with the election of board members and adopting the organization's charter, at a meeting held on March 31 in Mannheim, Germany.

Sallie Benedict of Heidelberg was unanimously elected President of the organization that hopes to promote racquetball among Americans living and working overseas by scheduling and organizing tournaments throughout the military communities.

Membership in the organization is free and open to all military and civilian ID-card holders, including retirees and family members. Americans living and working in Europe can also join the association along with Europeans not affiliated with a European association.

"It is very exciting that the efforts of some dedicated players have come to reality," said Benedict. "There has been lots of brainstorming, dedication and hard work to make this happen. It is about time we become organized to show those who think racquetball is dead that they are dead wrong."

Ron Ruiz, of Kaiserslautern/Sembach, got the nod as Vice President. "We hope to make large tournaments a regular event," said Ruiz. "We also want to attract more younger players who are the future of our sport. Most of our top players are over 40 and cannot carry the torch forever."

"We aim to make participating in the AERA fun, exciting and challenging, with hopes of getting more beginners and novice players, especially women, to commit to racquetball and become its foundation," Ruiz continued.

Other board members include Mack McPhearson (Geilenkirchen), General Secretary; Bob Bagley (Ramstein AB), Treasurer; and James Johnson (Heidelberg), Board member at large. Rounding out the list of individuals who will serve the interest of hundreds of far-flung racquetball players from England to Italy are Curly Karmelin (Mannheim), tournaments/rules coordinator and Vincent Arcouette (Wiesbaden), membership/points/rankings coordinator.

One of the primary objectives of the organization will be to have sports directors coordinate tournament information through the AERA. This will avoid schedule conflicts between several military tournaments on the same weekend, or military tournaments planned at the same time as other major European tournaments.

Plans are underway to get the association sanctioned as a private organization by U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Air Forces in Europe. As a private organization, the AERA will have more flexibility to deal directly with sports directors.

"We want to be able to approach sports directors with the proposal of [AERA] organizing and running a tournament," said Benedict. "We will only ask they set a date and make the courts available. We will do practically all the rest that is within our power."

The AERA will have a point system for players from open to beginners and age groups and work has begun on developing a tournament schedule. Long-range goals of the association are possible sanctioning by the U.S. Racquetball Association and creating a website. Military tournaments are now posted on the GRF website at www.racquetball.de/.

The AERA also plans to set up juniors' program and lure qualified people from the states to conduct clinics to certify referees and instructors. As a non-profit organization, such

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

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McKinney Named to Racquetball Hall of Fame

Caryn McKinney, of Decatur, Georgia has been selected as this year's USRA Hall of Fame inductee on the basis of her career accomplishments as a pro athlete, spanning more than a decade. As late as the 1998 U.S. OPEN, McKinney remained competitive on the women's pro tour, reaching the

semi-final of that year's event against an exceptional field of up-and-coming current tour regulars. Well known for her court-sense, McKinney was a dominant player on the Women's Pro Racquetball Association [WPRA] Tour throughout the 80's and into the 90's, where she consistently placed in the top five of season-ending results. During her professional career she reached the semifinals in nearly 50 pro events, winning eight. Her career peaked in 1989 when she captured the WPRA National Championship and was propelled to the top spot in the rankings and was named the tour's Player of the Year.

McKinney's contributions have been just as impressive off the court. Well respected as an instructor and coach, she taught at the Elite Olympic Training Camp for eleven years, longer than any other instructor. In addition, she also served on the WPRA Board of Directors for six years, three as its President. In 1985 and 1986 she was the recipient of the WPRA Steding Cup, an award honoring Peggy Steding, which went to the player who contributed the most to the tour both on and off the court.

2000 Athletes of the Year

In the Open category, Rocky Carson and Cheryl Gudinas have been selected as the USRA Male and Female Athletes of the Year, while Agatha Falso and Tim Hansen were chosen to receive the Peggy Steding and Bud Muehleisen Awards, in recognition of their age-group performances in senior division competition.

Each of the awards is based on performances over the course of the preceding calendar year.

USRA Male Athlete of the Year: Rocky Carson

Carson, 21, captured his first Men's Open title at the Ektelon U.S. National Singles Championships last May with a straight game defeat over Doug Eagle in what many consider to be his breakthrough year. The win earned Carson his second U.S. National Team appointment and a spot on the U.S.'s World Team roster to compete in the International Racquetball Federation [IRF] World Championships held in San Luis Potosi, Mexico last August. There, he placed second in the individual medal rounds after being defeated in an 11-6 tiebreaker by Alvaro Beltran of Mexico. In later team competition, he followed up with a victory over Canadian national champion Kane Waselenchuk to add a win to the overall World Cup team point standings. Carson also played full-time on the International Racquetball Tour this season, breaking into the top ten and earning a semifinal finish at the 2000 Pro-Nationals in Las Vegas. Carson capped the year in doubles, pairing with Kim Russell to win the mixed open division at the U.S. National Doubles Championships.

USRA Female Athlete of the Year: Cheryl Gudinas

For the second consecutive year Gudinas, 33, earned both the Women's Open title at the Ektelon National Singles Championships and has been selected as the USRA's Female Athlete of the Year. A member of the U.S. National Team for eight straight years, Gudinas also competed at the IRF World Championships last summer and logged a narrow upset win over then-current World Champion and Canadian rival, Christie Van Hees, in an 11-10 tiebreaker to take the crown in individual title round play. On the pro tour last season, Gudinas won the U.S. West Tournament of Champions in Portland over Kersten Hallander and placed second at the Pro-Nationals in Las Vegas to Jackie Paraiso. Later in the season Gudinas reached the semi-finals of the sport's premiere pro-am event, the Hilton U.S. Open in Memphis and has since captured the #1 ranking spot on the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association [LPR] tour.

Peggy Steding Award Winner: Agatha Falso

Floridian Agatha Falso now adds the prestigious Peggy Steding award to her list of accomplishments after a successful year of high-level competition in the 50-and-over and 55+ age divisions. At the Ektelon National Singles Championships, Falso walked away with the



Top to bottom: Athletes of the Year
Rocky Carson, Cheryl Gudinas,
Agatha Falso, Tim Hansen.

gold in the 50+ division, with a run that included defeating the #1 seed and reigning 55-and-over World Champion, Sharon Hastings-Welty in the semifinals before defeating Terry Rogers in the finals. She came short of winning double-gold in Houston, succumbing to Gerri Stoffregen in the finals of 55+ for a silver medal finish. She continued her run at the International Racquetball Federation [IRF] World Senior Championships, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she held each of her opponents to under five points en route to a first place finish in the 50+ division. Just one month later, at the U.S. National Doubles Championships in Baltimore, Falso teamed up with Jeff Leon to take the gold medal in the 55+ mixed doubles division by defeating Nidia Funes and Glenn Allen in two games. Again, she ended up just shy of double-gold when she and partner Jim Bailey took the silver medal in 50+ mixed doubles, barely falling to Merijean Kelley and Bill Welaj 15-9, 3-15, 11-6.

Bud Muehleisen Award Winner: Tim Hansen

Hansen never gave up a game enroute to his Y2K "hat-trick" in the men's 40+ divisions at the USRA's "big three" events – National Singles, Doubles and U.S. OPEN – a feat which earned him this year's Bud Muehleisen Award. Hansen started his winning journey at the Ektelon National Singles Championships in Houston, by earning a gold medal in the men's 40+ with a win over Noel DeLaRosa. Again, at the Hilton U.S. Open Championships in Memphis, he cruised through the singles field and easily defeated current 40+ World Champion, Dave Eagle, in straight games to capture the title. A career doubles champ, Hansen teamed up with fellow Floridian, Gordon Kirkland, to seize gold in the 40+ division at the U.S. National Doubles Championships in Baltimore. Hansen and Kirkland went up against the top-seeded team of David Azuma and Jerry Hilecher in the finals, and handed them — just as Hansen had done with everyone else during the year – a straight game loss, 15-3, 15-8.

Racquet for the Cure

by Cindi Middlekauff

The second annual "Racquet for the Cure" charity event to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation was held on February 10th at the Colorado Athletic Club – Inverness. Unique to this event is that it targets both women racquetball enthusiasts and women's health issues – specifically breast cancer. The main objectives for this one-day event are to get the ladies together for a full day of racquetball, along with meeting new friends, networking with associates, enjoying great food and prizes, plus learning more about breast cancer and raising funds for the Komen Foundation.

Metro area Denver news and radio stations were great supporters of the event, with pre- and post-tournament promotions and interviews, as well as live coverage on the day of the event. Local celebrity Vanessa Bethel (who lost both parents to cancer and is well-known for raising money for the foundation by doing the most "touch and goes" with a single engine airplane) was on hand for interviews and to speak at the awards banquet.

Following the format of last year's awards ceremony, individuals and teams received the opportunity to choose their own prizes from a sizable collection of goods and services. The best selection was reserved for the "first round" of winners, beginning with the Novice division and working back to the open division, followed by team awards.

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Promoter Vanessa Bethel gets ready for her close up. Right: Bethel with event organizer Cindi Middlekauf. Photos: Dan Davis.



Special thanks go to the sponsors who make this event so special and successful: Wilson, Ektelon, IRT commissioner Hank Marcus, Flu Central, Mirka Abrasives, B & G Solutions, Hilton Garden Inn, GNC, D & D Tire Service, Blue Skyy Massage, the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association and the USRA, along with many local restaurants and businesses who donated certificates to their establishments. A special thanks to Colorado Racquetball Association [CRA] president Dan Davis and board member Adam Katz for volunteering their time to handle the tournament desk.

This pilot "Racquet for the Cure" event has been a very rewarding and educational experience for the organizers, the players and the sponsors. From this tournament, we have developed a committee whose goals are to create a bigger and better event that can serve as a model for expanding the concept nationwide, and developing a series of events to serve as a major fundraiser for this worthwhile cause. If you would like more information on how to host a "Racquet for the Cure" tournament, please contact Cindi Middlekauff at 303-790-7777, extension 113 for sample formats and sponsorship packages.

Ohio's Ryan John Accepts Media Post

Ryan John has joined the USRA national office staff in Colorado Springs, Colorado as Media and Public Relations Coordinator in the association's communications department. Formerly of Massillon, Ohio, John



graduated from Massillon Washington High School and attended Kent State University. Prior to accepting the USRA position, he was active in the sport as a tournament director, a club pro, and vice-president of a local community-service group with expansion hopes in Colorado. An avid competitor in his own right, John has competed in three national singles championships, two U.S. Opens, and numerous regional, state, and local tournaments.

"I'm excited about working in racquetball," said John, "It's a big move for me, but I love the sport and this is a great opportunity to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes at the national office."

In his new position, John will assist in all phases of Media and Public Relations projects relating to national events, U.S. team athletes, managing a national press network, directing special programs, and general promotion of the sport. The position also provides a wide range of support to RACQUETBALL Magazine and other USRA publications and media projects.

John's first site assignment was to staff the E-Force 29th USRA National Intercollegiate Championships in Las Vegas, where he was responsible for the daily site management of Media/PR operations, and later authored the event coverage for RACQUETBALL.

IHRSA Awards

At its 20th Anniversary International Convention & Trade Show in San Francisco, March 21-24, the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association honored outstanding racquetball facilities and programmers. Three clubs were chosen from among a nationwide field of nominees, and the 2001 Racquetball

International Racquetball Federation *IRF WORLD SENIOR* World Senior Racquetball Championships

Aug. 28 – Sept. 1, 2001 • Albuquerque, New Mexico



ENTRY FORM – PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION LEGIBLY.

Last Name:	First Name:	
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Country:	Gender (Check One): <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	
Email:		
Age As Of 8/29/2001:	Date Of Birth:	

CHECK ONE EVENT PER PARTICIPANT

WHEELCHAIR DIVISION

Men/Women 35+

MEN'S DIVISIONS

- Men's 35+
- Men's 40+
- Men's 45+
- Men's 50+
- Men's 55+
- Men's 60+
- Men's 65+
- Men's 70+
- Men's 75+
- Men's 80+
- Men's 85+

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

- Women's 35+
- Women's 40+
- Women's 45+
- Women's 50+
- Women's 55+
- Women's 60+
- Women's 65+
- Women's 70+
- Women's 75+
- Women's 80+
- Women's 85+

PLAYER LEVEL

- Advanced (Open, A)
- High Intermediate (A, B)
- Low Intermediate (C, D)
- Novice

State Ranking: _____

Regional Ranking: _____

National Ranking: _____

Spectator(s):

CHECK METHOD OF PAYMENT BELOW – TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED: \$

U.S. Currency Only. Add \$5.00 processing fee for VISA or Mastercard.

Check Money Order Bank Draft VISA Mastercard

Credit Card # Exp. Date:

NO REFUNDS AFTER AUGUST 1, 2001.

WAIVER: In consideration of my participation in the World Senior Racquetball Championships, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the World Senior Racquetball Championships Council, New Mexico Sports and Wellness Clubs, Tom Young's Athletic Club, Kirtland Air Force Base, International Racquetball Federation, United States Racquetball Associations, New Mexico Racquetball Association, and their respective agents, representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries or damages, whether caused by negligence of the above or otherwise. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition and can provide certification in writing that my protective eye guards (including prescriptive frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified by the IRF rules. By registering to compete in this event, I release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

(Original Signed Waiver Required For Participation.)

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE & DATE:

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO:
WORLD SENIOR RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
P.O. BOX 30188 • ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87190

DEADLINE: Entries must be received by August 1, 2001

EVENT DETAILS: For hotel and tournament details, go to www.usra.org "Index" to search online for an expanded entry form (downloadable as .pdf), contact Gary Mazaroff at 505-266-8960 to request a full entry form by mail, or email joel.gellman@gte.net.

TRAVEL: United Airlines @ 800-841-0460 [use acct. #598HM] for best United rate.

OFFICIAL BALL: Pro Penn



3rb:people & places



Programming Award went to the Alaska Clubs, followed by first runner up, ClubSport of Pleasanton, and second runner up, Lakewood Athletic Club. On hand to accept on behalf of their facilities were (l-r): Marianne Alonzi (LAC), John Marchetti (Alaska Clubs), and Margaret Pederson (ClubSport). Photo: www.photogroup.net.

Pembroke Shores League

by Mary Moreland, Recreational Aide
Pembroke Pines Parks & Recreation Department

Congratulations to the winners of a new USRA sanctioned league program in Pembroke Pines, Florida. Juan Martinez won an Ektelon Triple Threat Hornet racquet; Roland Tagle and Andy Velez each took home an Ektelon tournament bag; and Tony Collier and Ben Bencomo received new Ektelon eyewear, all donated by the USRA.

The photo was taken before the drawing and, although the group was short a couple of participants in this shot, the 16-member league gets to view photos uploaded to a new website by organizer (and photographer) Mary Moreland. Pictured are: (back row) Andy Velez, Ralph Viera, Gerald Klapper, Stephen Whitney, "Ben" Bencomo, Tony Collier, Juan Martinez; (front Row) Raul Reyes, James Fleming, Roland Tagle, Victor Ferran. Not Pictured: Mike Lackovic, Lorraine Crawl, Edwin Toro, Manny Benitez, Dexter Keels.



CENSORED! Okay, so maybe they are "Scooby-Doo" trunks instead of Calvin Kleins, but there's no way we're going topless here ... Ladies! Head over to the Florida association website for more. — Editor

"I have been posting our league standings and weekly schedule and recently secured a new domain specifically for that purpose" said Moreland. "The players who use the internet seem to like it, and I think if they pull up their name and schedule, maybe photos on their PC at work, home or wherever, it's a good promotional tool for the sport. They can always show it off: 'Look, George—here's the racquetball league I play in on Monday nights!'."

You asked for It!

In response to the women looking for speedo-clad male bodies after seeing the "Angels" layout in the January/February issue, it occurred to me that the

real men of our sport would never pose in speedos for a national publication. So here's a photo that ladies in Central Florida think embodies the "rugged" nature of racquetball-playing men. These tough guys are not only very good racquetball players, but each of them also cross-trains for other unusually

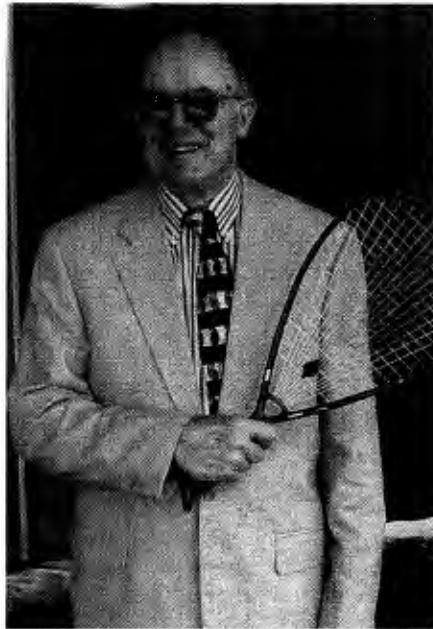


demanding sports. [L-R] Bill Herr (President of the Florida Racquetball Association, and FRA webmaster) is a champion kickboxer, and has recently begun bodybuilding for competition. Randy Forrest is a triathlete. Wayne Ivey is a wrestler. Ron Maisel is a weightlifter. I may be biased, but I think this is much sexier than skimpily-clad pretty boys in speedos! **Kassi Herr • Orlando, Florida**

As a follow-up to my last letter to you, I am enclosing a pic of my all-time favorite racquetball player dressed to kill (a shot). Although he decided the Speedo layout wasn't for him, we did get him dolled up.

With a career spanning more than 20 years, my dad Frank Trask has been my first and best inspiration for playing racquetball. Well known and loved in Maine, he was ranked nationally among the top ten players in his age division for most of those years. This year, he went to the National Masters and took third place.

Standing just shy of six feet tall, he weighs between 165-175 pounds. His fitness regimen consists of playing racquetball 3-4 times per week, along with running, lifting weights, and plenty of ice cream, a not-so-secret passion of his. He is 70 years old. **Susan Serfass • Eliot, Maine**



short story by hannah spector • "the can collector"

My mother told me that tennis lessons were going to be too expensive. Racquetball was a cheaper sport and that's what we could afford. The racquet she bought me looked close enough to a tennis racquet, except that the handle was short. I gripped it, twirled it, and convinced myself that a tennis racquet would be too big and clumsy for a kid my size anyway.

My first lesson proved to be a success when I hit the ball fast and low on the wall. My coach screamed, "that's the way Rosie!" Her enthusiasm became my own and soon enough I was on the racquetball courts everyday. I practiced alone most of the time and occasionally I saw another girl, who looked about my age and stature, walk to the opposite end of the courts with her sports bag thrown naturally over her shoulder. She smacked the ball and it echoed like crackling thunder to my end of the club.

I was curious about this girl and after several weeks, I began watching her practice. I climbed up the stairs that lead to the top of the courts and walked to the dead end side of the club where she always played. My tiny eyes and forehead peeped down at her from a corner of her court while I ate my lunch. After two weeks, the girl turned her head up at me and yelled, "Do you want to play or what, I'm getting sick of this!" Her eyebrows were furrowed and her intimidating voice was enough to win me over for good. I walked back down the stairs and began letting Alice beat me at racquetball every day.

In my eyes, we were friends. Every morning, I walked to the dead end side of the courts and met her. I learned differ-

ent techniques by playing with her. Serves, ceiling balls, cross court and down the line kills. We both had a competitive nature and took the sport seriously.

Mid afternoon, I went to the snack bar by the tennis courts and ordered my usual ham sandwich. I really wanted to buy "The Club's Club," but a ham sandwich was all I could afford. My mother gave me three dollars every morning and this didn't allow for much choice. By the time I returned to the cold, air-conditioned courts, Alice claimed to have already eaten her bag lunch. I thought nothing of it and watched her practice while I ate.

Our days were long, and Alice started taking us to the small arcade located by the locker rooms. She took my three dollars, and we played video games with it. I was concerned about what I would do for food, but she snapped at me, "Don't worry about it. We can go down to the snack bar and have crackers for free."

That's what we did. Together, we ate dozens of crackers and formed great, big mounds of clear plastic wrappers on our picnic table. "Go up to the cook and ask him for some pickles," she commanded. I looked at her curiously, got up, and did what she told me. The cook handed me the pickles over the counter.

By the second month of summer, my routine became having Alice beat me at racquetball, handing Alice over my money, and eating crackers and pickles with Alice for lunch. Fridays, though, were special days. Fried mushrooms. She crunched

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on the greasy fried batter from the mushrooms like potato chips. I got the slimy remains.

Once while we were at the snack bar, Alice told me that she collected cans around her neighborhood and thought it would be a good idea if we started collecting them together too. "At the end of the day there's plenty of cans near the tennis courts," she said. She pulled a folded garbage bag out from under the table and shook it open like a bird flapping its wings. We circulated around the tennis courts.

I was left-handed, Alice right. This worked out perfectly so that we could exchange one of our old, stiffened racquetball gloves while picking through the wire bins. I was somewhat embarrassed by what the tennis players would think. "Who cares, we're ghosts to them," Alice growled, "I hate those stupid tennis players anyway, dressed all in white, they think they're so much better than us." How could they feel superior to us if we were ghosts? I didn't challenge Alice's remark, but continued following her around the clay courts to the next trash bin.

She began having grander ideas about can collecting, and we started working the trash barrels by the snack bar. I lifted the metal top off and turned my head in the other direction to avoid getting a big whiff of stench up my nose. Alice stuck her skinny arms into the container and sifted through the half eaten food until she located what she wanted. When her own bag was full, she said to me, "I'll be back soon." She left the club with the rattling bag hung over her shoulder. I never knew where she disappeared to or how much money she made. I never saw any of it. I was just her helper.

Alice actually never came back to the club at the end of the day like she claimed she would, but I always found her at the dead end side of the racquetball courts the following morning. One time, she took me to the outskirts of the club. We walked down a small dirt road, and I soon saw what she was after. About one hundred feet ahead of us were two massive garbage reservoirs. My eyes widened and moved from the sight of the black blobs in the distance back to Alice. Back and forth my eyes went until I began feeling dizzy. "Where are we going?" I asked. My voice was feeble and my words thinned into nothing. Alice kept walking.

We stood at the base of the receptacles while looking up to where a dark line crossed the sky that lead down to a place I didn't want to go. "I'll jump inside and you can sit on the edge. I'll hand you the cans and you put them in this bag." She handed me her bag and then jumped up and grabbed the rim. She heaved her dangling legs over and called to me from the other side, "Come on Rosie, jump up!" I obeyed.

Alice ripped open all the garbage bags she could get her spider-like fingers on. I sat on the edge of the receptacle, the

frontier of two worlds, and Alice handed me up aluminum cans from one of them. I dropped each and every one into her bag until it was full. Then I opened a new bag and did the same thing while sitting on the edge of the other receptacle.

When Alice had had enough, we jumped back out. "I'll be back," she said. I knew that I would not see her till the next morning, but nodded "okay." That was the first and last time we took on this project. I think the job overwhelmed Alice just as much as it did me.

It was the last month of summer, and Alice told me that she'd decided to quit playing racquetball. She never gave me a reason and I was never one to ask her too many questions. She turned her back to me and walked away. That was the last time I saw her.

I practiced alone in my original court at the front of the club but no longer heard the sound of crackling thunder from the other side. I pounded the blue, rubber ball against the wall until the strings on my racquet broke, and then I stuffed my equipment back in my bag and walked outside the club where I made a left and then another left which led me to the dirt road Alice had introduced me to. The two containers were getting closer. Rusty, black metal towered over me. I unzipped my bag and chucked my racquet over the edge. I chucked my balls over the edge, and then I did the same thing with my gloves and then the empty bag went over too.

It was late in the afternoon when my mother picked me up at the front of the club. She was waiting for me in the old station wagon just as usual.

I jumped in the car, held my mother's hand, and we drove away.

Hannah Spector teaches freshman writing at Emerson College, in Boston, Massachusetts, where she is completing a Masters Program in creative writing. She has previously published fiction in "Scriptorium," a Harvard Writer's Journal and is currently working on her first novel. One of her proudest achievements was winning a Junior Nationals racquetball title, in 14 and under doubles.



HEAD 28th U.S. Junior Olympics
June 23-27, 2001 | Denver, Colorado
Lakewood Athletic Club



• entry form — please print

Name _____ Gender M | F

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____

Phone (Evening) _____

Email _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Partner's Name _____ Division _____

Partner's Name _____ Division _____

Required Qualifier Competed In _____
 [State Championship, Junior Regional or National High Schools]

Other Seeding Information _____

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

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

Guardian Signature/Date _____

Participant Signature/Date _____

• **LODGING:** Holiday Inn Lakewood, 7390 West Hampden Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80227 [303/980-9200]. Rate: \$79.00 per night, up to four/per room. Reserve early to secure the tournament rate. • **GROUND TRANSPORTATION:** HERTZ is the official rental car sponsor — make your reservations by calling 800-654-2240 with reference #02RD0001 for your special rate. • **THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TRAVEL DESK AND UNITED AIRLINES JOIN THE USRA TO OFFER THE LOWEST POSSIBLE UNITED AIRFARES TO NATIONAL EVENTS.** • For reservations, phone United's U.S. Olympic Travel Desk, toll-free, at 800/841-0460 between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm EST weekdays. Then reference the special USRA conference account number 598HM to receive your low fare! Your support of this program brings racquetball closer to becoming an Olympic Sport! • **OFFICIAL BALL:** Pro Penn

For online details ... www.usra.org

junior olympic	phonebook
FAX this entry to	719-635-0685
For complete entry, call	719-635-5396
Starting times @ 5pm MST, 06/21	303-989-5545
United Airlines [#598HM]	800-841-0460
Hertz Car Rental [#02RD0001]	800-654-2240
Holiday Inn Lakewood	303/980-9200

• divisions | entry deadline: June 8

BOYS SINGLES

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GLOBAL ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

endeavors will depend on players networking with state-side contacts to ask those qualified professionals to help.

The AERA was in high gear in the mid-80's, hosting tournaments that attracted hundreds of American and European participants. However, the military drawdown of the 90's virtually silenced the organization until now. In the interim, European racquetball players developed national organizations (German, Dutch, French, Irish, and United Kingdom) which now comprise the European Racquetball Federation.

While Americans frequent ERF events, participation by Europeans was rare at American tournaments, mainly due to a difference in formats. European players did not earn ranking points since military tournaments were not sanctioned by the ERF. Now, the AERA is committed to bringing several ERF events to military communities that have plenty of courts and regularly host tournaments. AERA officials have targeted Wiesbaden and Baumholder as possibilities, with Mannheim as another prime choice.

For more information about the AERA or to sign up, please contact: Benedict at benedicts@2b4.com; Ruiz at ruizr@eu.deca.mil, McPherson at mack-nick@t-online.de; Bagley at amazingbob@hotmail.com; Johnson at sesforce-mod@hq.c5.army.mil .

April Fools in Mannheim

March 31-April 11, 2001
by Michael Bowers

It was no joke. Racquetball players signed up in droves to take part in the April Fools Tournament in Mannheim, to make it the largest military event in many years. Event organizer Robert Rosier had hoped to equal or better this year's Paris Open, which attracted 70 international players. But after quite a few no-shows he was still left with an impressive 53 players, the majority American military, who took to the courts at three locations. German competitors from Bad Tölz added true international flavor.

In the end, Mike Bowers of Kaiserslautern continued his winning ways by claiming the men's open title with a 15-10, 15-6 victory over William Smith of Geilenkirchen. It was Bowers' fourth open title in as many tournaments, but the 44-year-old's streak had nearly come to an end in the quarterfinals against Rico Southee, also of Kaiserslautern. After leveling the match in the second game, Southee forged a 9-3 advantage in the tiebreaker before Bowers rallied to run off eight unanswered points to recover the win at 11-9.

"I had him frustrated and was in control," said Southee. "Then I stopped doing what had worked up to that point, and he came storming back. This was one I should have won."

After the early-round close call, Bowers played inspired racquetball in securing a spot in the finals with a 15-3, 15-4 win over James Johnson of Heidelberg. Smith advanced to face Bowers after an 8-15, 15-11, 11-4 victory over Bob Bagley of Ramstein.

Bowers also captured the master's title, with a 15-14, 15-13 win over James Johnson, who was definitely the ironman of the event (playing in three divisions at age 50). In the semis, Bowers had gotten by David Szafranski, Paris, 15-6, 13-15, 11-1 while Johnson closed out Ray Garcia, Ramstein, 15-10, 15-13. Willie Wenzel, Bad Tölz, was the consolation winner.

The winner in the seniors division was Heidelberg's Willie Gaddis, who battled to a 7-15, 15-14, 11-4 win over Johnson. Dan Shealey, Spangdahlem, was the consolation winner. Gaddis also earned first place in the open doubles, teaming with Stanley Johnson of Heidelberg to defeat Southee and Sascha Alsbach, Frankfurt, 15-7, 14-15, 11-5.

However, earlier the two victorious doubles partners squared off in the finals of the men's A division, where Gaddis edged Sam Johnson 13-15, 15-9, 11-9.

Rita Mitchell defeated Nicole McPherson, Geilenkirchen, 15-1, 15-0 to capture the women's open crown. This win marked back-to-back titles for Mitchell, who some weeks earlier won the Dutch Open by trouncing the European Racquetball Federation's two top-seeded players for the title.

Petra Kindermann, Frankfurt, took the women's A division title with a win over Rhonda de Jesus of Mannheim.

In the B division, William Harris, Ramstein AB, defeated Brent Hadaway, Geilenkirchen, 15-11, 13-15, 11-9. Ron Ruiz, Sembach, was the consolation winner after getting by James Meeks, Mannheim, 15-3, 15-13.

Nate Morim, Mannheim, was the winner in the C division over Shawn McFadden, Wiesbaden. The consolation winner was Michael Thornburg, Hanau, who downed Dell Craig, Mannheim, 15-11, 15-6.

Thornburg had better luck in the D division taking first place with a 15-6, 15-3 win over Samuel Singletary, Mannheim. Hanau's John Hill was the consolation winner after getting by de Jesus, 15-3, 15-9.

The tournament was the first to be organized and conducted by the newly organized American European Racquetball Association [AERA], and Mannheim sports officials were so impressed, they've already added it to next year's schedule.

"Rosier and Curly Karmelin did a great job of promoting and organizing the event," said Mannheim sports director Thomas Benson. "I never expected the tournament to be so grand, and this has definitely put us on the racquetball map."

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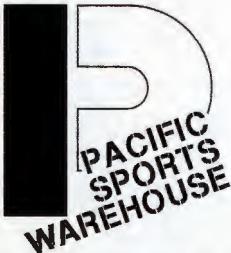
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may ...

May 13-20	Trial Camp/Armed Forces Invitational	Ft. Sam Houston, TX	703-681-0638
May 17-20	National Warm Up @ Club International	Santa Fe, NM	505-473-9807
May 18-20	Crystal Coast Classic @ Sports Center	Morehead City, NC	252-726-7070
	Fiberlink Technologies #4 @ Arizona Athletic Club	Tempe, AZ	480-730-8156
	Junior Regional/Metro City @ Sportplex East [3]	Birmingham, AL	205-988-3819
	Junior Regional @ Valley Athletic Club [3]	Tumwater, WA	360-398-8512
	Player Appreciation @ Merritt Athletic - Security	Baltimore, MD	410-298-8700
	Spring Splat Pro-Am @ Modesto Court Room	Modesto, CA	209-577-1060
	Tournament Of Aces @ Tri-City Leisure Center	West Columbia, SC	803-772-0672
	EFC Spring Shoot Out @ Elmwood Fitness Center	Harahan, LA	225-766-6167
	34th USRA National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, TX	719-635-5396

May 19
May 23-28

june ...

June 7-10	New Mexico State Games @ Tom Young's Athletic Club	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
June 8-10	Pepsi Cup Team Champs @ Colorado Athletic Club	Aurora, CO	303-696-9313
	Craig McCoy Memorial @ The Tournament House	Riverside, CA	909-682-7511
	Gold Country Open @ Courthouse Athletic Club	Auburn, CA	530-885-1964
	Grand Prix @ Double Diamond Athletic Club	Reno, NV	775-425-1885
	Louisiana Games/June Classic @ Elmwood Fitness Center	Harahan, LA	225-766-6167
	Maverick One-Day Shoot Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
	Sunshine Games @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
June 9	Outdoor Warm Ups @ Golden West College	Huntington Beach, CA	714-546-8560
June 14-17	Spring Crusher @ Courts Plus	Jacksonville, NC	910-346-3446
June 15-17	Summer Slam Bonanza @ Merritt Athletic - Security	Baltimore, MD	410-496-7903
	Summer Splat 2001 @ Modesto Court Room	Modesto, CA	209-957-1060
June 16	NFC Shootout Series @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
June 22-24	Steve Powers Memorial @ Tyson's Sport & Health	McLean, VA	703-442-9150
June 23-27	Head/Penn 28th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6]	Denver, CO	719-635-5396
June 30-July 1	The Broadstone Open @ Broadstone Racquet Club	Folsom, CA	916-983-9180

july ...

July 6-8	July Jam @ TBD	TBD, AL	205-988-3819
July 13-14	Doubles Or Nothing Tournament @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet	Orlando, FL	407-645-3550
July 13-15	Big Brothers/Big Sisters @ Courts Plus	New Bern, NC	252-633-2221
July 14	Hot Tamale One Day Shoot Out @ Racquetball & Fitness Clubs	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
	Maverick One Day Shoot Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
	Summer Pick Of The Pairs @ Allentown Racquet Club	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300

AmPRO Instructor Certification Clinic Schedule

DATE	HOST CLUB	CITY/STATE	CLINICIAN	CONTACT
May 11-13.....	Riverpoint Sports & Wellness	Albuquerque, NM	Joe Wittenbrink	505-890-0096
May 11-13.....	Wimbledon Sportsplex	Memphis, TN	David Watson	918-541-0722
May 11-13.....	Harbor Square Athletic Club	Edmonds, WA	Paul Reynolds	425-778-3546
May 21-22.....	Downtown YMCA	Houston, TX	Ken Woodfin	281-280-8408
June 8-10.....	Multnomah Athletic Club	Portland, OR	Paul Reynolds	425-778-3546
June 1-3.....	Modesto Court Room	Modesto, CA	Dave George	650-589-6904
June 22-24.....	Parque Central	San Juan, PR	Gary Mazaroff	505-266-8960
June 29-July 1	LA Fitness	Phoenix, AZ	Karen Key	480-545-1363
July 16-17	Wisconsin Athletic Club	West Allis, WI	TBA	
July 20-22	West James Club	St. Charles, MO	David Watson	918-541-0722

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

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

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July 20-22	Georgia Games Championships @ GA Tech Student Athletic Complex	Atlanta, GA	404-370-0881
	Outdoor Nationals @ Golden West College	Huntington Beach, CA	714-546-8560
July 21	NFC Shootout Series @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
July 27-29	Ballard Open @ Olympic Athletic Club	Seattle, WA	425-697-6841
	Summer Classic @ Quad West	Clearwater, FL	727-535-4901
	Summer Slam @ Family Fitness	Huntsville, AL	256-880-0770
	Virginia State Games @ Arlington Sport & Health	Arlington, VA	703-522-1702
	2001 ARAC Doubles Only Open @ American River Athletic Club	Sacramento, CA	916-920-1933

august ...

August 3-5	Micro-Mold Doubles Only @ Nautilus Fitness & Racquet	Erie, PA	814-459-3033
August 11	Maverick One Day Shoot Out @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
August 17-19	Hooters Racquetball Tournament @ Sportplex East	Birmingham, AL	205-988-3819
August 18	NFC Shootout Series @ Northwest Fitness Center	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
August 24-26	26th Annual Best Of Texas @ Racquetball & Fitness Club	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596

september ...

September 1-3	16th Annual Warren Finn @ JCC Of Houston	Houston, TX	713-432-0881
September 7-9	American Family Open @ American Family Fitness	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400
September 8-10	Maverick Fall Classic @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
September 14-16	Nautilus Fitness & Racquet Tournament @ Nautilus Fitness & Racquet	Erie, PA	814-459-3033
	Outback Blast It @ The Sports Center	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3303
September 15	Diez Y Siez Classico @ Racquetball & Fitness Clubs	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
September 21-23	Alpha Fall Kick-Off @ Alpha Racquet Club	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
	State Doubles & Fall Festival @ Downtown YMCA	Birmingham, AL	205-988-3819
	Texas State Doubles @ Northwest Fitness Center [3]	Houston, TX	712-895-8688
	Virginia State Doubles @ Robious Sports & Fitness [3]	Richmond, VA	804-330-2222

october ...

October 3-7	Ektelon 34th USRA National Doubles [6]	Las Vegas, NV	719-635-5396
October 10-17	Huntsman World Senior Games @ Desert Palms	St. George, UT	435-652-0201
October 12-14	Magic City Classic @ Prime Fitness	Birmingham, AL	205-988-3819
	San Lando Outdoor Tournament @ San Lando Rec Center	Altamonte Springs, FL	407-290-9887
October 19-21	Texas State Seniors @ Maverick Athletic Club	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
October 26-28	West Michigan Open @ Michigan Athletic Club	Grand Rapids, MI	616-956-0944
October 27	Les Radcliffe Memorial @ Moore YMCA	Mobile, AL	334-471-3111
	Spookfest One Day Shoot Out @ Racquetball & Fitness Clubs	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596

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

• Please note: USRA memberships are processed by month, not date ... when expiration is shown as 08/00, you must renew your membership in the month of August in order to play in any sanctioned events held that month.

For expanded calendar listings, refer to the online edition of RACQUETBALL at www.racqmag.com, or go to Active.com for a calendar listing under "Sports You Do"



for online entries to national events

2001...

May 23-28	Ektelon 34th U.S. National Singles Championships [6]	Houston, Texas	719-635-5396
June 23-27	HEAD/Penn 28th U.S. Junior Olympic Championships [6]	Denver, Colorado	719-635-5396
Aug.28 - Sept.1	IRF 13th World Senior Championships [5]	Albuquerque, New Mexico	505-266-8960
October 3-7	Ektelon 34th USRA National Doubles Championships [6]	Las Vegas, Nevada	719-635-5396
November 14-18	Hilton 6th U.S. OPEN [5]	Memphis, Tennessee	719-635-5396
December 16-20	ProKennex IRF 13th World Junior Championships [5]	TBA	719-635-5396

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MEN

Men's Open

1. Jack Huczak, MI
2. Dan Fowler, MD
3. Rocky Carson, CA
4. Doug Eagle, TX
5. Gared Edmunds, KY
6. Mike Locker, MN
7. Mitch Williams, NC
8. Jimmy Lowe, WA
9. Brent Walters, NC
10. Dan Llacer, DE

Men's A

1. Not a Member, CA
2. Brian Stone, GA
3. Sunny Osagie, AR
- 4T. Clay Burris, FL
- 4T. Ryan John, CO
- 4T. Cory Martin, WI
- 4T. Jody Morris, TX
- 4T. Cary Slade, IL
- 9T. Dan Herrera, CO
- 9T. Victor Zambrano, VA

Men's B

1. Not a Member, TX **T**
- 2T. John Dill, TX
- 2T. James Russell, FL
4. Jeff Nelson, MD
5. Jason Hicks, KY
- 6T. Not a Member, TX **T**
- 6T. Vic Corey, NC
- 6T. Brandon Cortese, MI
- 6T. Craig Sparks, AZ
- 6T. Larry Weene, MA

Men's C

1. Chris Coy, OK
2. Jim Zimmerer, OH
- 3T. Not a Member, TX **T**
- 3T. Not a Member, IL
- 3T. Drew Toland, AR
6. Octavio Medina, CA
7. Cam Grundman, MN
- 8T. Emmanuel Drege, TX
- 8T. Marc Freer, MN
- 8T. Chris Veale, DE

Men's D

- 1T. Jeff Bell, CT
- 1T. Ken Newberry, TX
- 1T. Bryan Shaw, MO
4. Joe DeRoche, IL
5. Christopher Nichols, AR
6. Not a Member, TX **T**
7. Robert Villanueva, FL
- 8T. Michael Grosse, CO
- 8T. Joe Snyders, MD
10. Richard Toland, AR

Men's Novice

- 1T. Francis Aguilera, CA
- 1T. Garrett Jordan, TX
- 1T. Dan LaRochelle, NH
- 1T. Joedy Pack, OH
- 5T. Louis Lenkus, TX
- 5T. Not a Member, NM

- 7T. Rich DeYoung, NH
- 7T. Brandon Ritschard, IL
9. Logan Stewart, KY
10. Mani Behrang, TX

Men's 24+

1. Jason Bledsoe, FL
2. Andy Hawthorne, IL
3. Mitch Williams, NC
4. Kyle Veenstra, WI
5. Richard Ross, PA
6. Javier Moreno, TN
7. Brent Walters, NC
- 8T. Alvaro Beltran, CA
- 8T. Andrew Coon, KY
- 8T. Jeff Garner, AL

Men's 25+

1. Brian Pointelin, UT
2. Mike Dennison, OH
3. Dale Valentine, CA
- 4T. Tom Fuhrmann, TX
- 4T. Tim Hardison, SC
- 4T. Ryan Homa, MN
- 4T. Mike Locker, MN
- 4T. Raymond Maestas, NM
- 4T. Chris Zalegowski, NH
10. Jamal Harris, MD

Men's 30+

1. Kevin Graham, WI
2. Jim Minkel, TX
3. Don Costleight, NY
4. Jim Frautschi, MN
5. John Ledig, FL
- 6T. John Davis, LA
- 6T. Jody Morris, TX
- 6T. Jeff Stark, WA
- 9T. Not a Member, NY
- 9T. Not a Member, CA

Men's 35+

1. Armando Alonso, FL
2. Dave Watson, OK
- 3T. Dave Eagle, OH
- 3T. Alan Sheppard, NC
5. Dave Negrete, IL
- 6T. Jimmy Lowe, WA
- 6T. Brad McCurniff, IA
8. Scot Consoli, FL
9. Lance Gilliam, TX
10. Not a Member, OH

Men's 40+

1. Dave Eagle, OH
2. Tim Hansen, FL
3. Bill Lyman, IL
4. Noel De La Rosa, TX
5. Greg Hodges, MI
6. Steve Wattz, CA
7. Glenn Leib, PA
8. Carlos Ascunce, CA
- 9T. Lynn Johnson, OK
- 9T. Gary Tanko, WI

Men's 45+

1. Jim Luzar, WI
2. Russ Palazzo, CT
3. Ruben Gonzalez, NY

- 4T. Keith Eksuzian, MA
- 4T. Darryl Warren, CA
- 6T. Patrick Gibson, TX
- 6T. Mitt Layton, FL
- 6T. Gary Mazaroff, NM
9. Joe Clinton, TX
10. Dennis Fisher, UT

Men's 50+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Thomas Rall, CA
3. Bill Welaj, NJ
4. Don Scales, TX
5. Don Prater, FL
6. Dave Warner, MN
7. Doug Douville, UT
8. Denny Vincent, OH
- 9T. David Dennis, AR
- 9T. Terry Michnya, MD

Men's 55+

1. Ray Huss, OH
2. Glenn Allen, VA
3. Ron Galbreath, PA
4. Mike Winslow, FL
- 5T. Kevin Dorr, MD
- 5T. Tom McKitie, TX
- 5T. Dennis O'Brien, UT
8. Ron Yonkee, IL
9. Terry Albright, MO
10. Warren Reuther, LA

Men's 60+

1. Jim Wilking, UT
2. Jim McPherson, TX
3. Ron Hutcherson, IN
- 4T. Leland Rients, MN
- 4T. Not a Member, OH
6. Grant Morrill, PA
7. Ron Adams, CA
8. Joe Capozzoli, PA
9. Lee Graff, OR
10. Rex Lawler, IN

Men's 65+

1. Don Alt, OH
2. Jerry Holly, CA
3. Not a Member, OH
4. Kenneth Moore, CA
5. Milas Turnley, FL
6. Art Johnson, CO
7. Don Maxey, TX
8. Ken Karmel, AR
- 9T. Ed Olah, IL
- 9T. Frank Trask, ME

Men's 70+

1. John O'Donnell, IL
2. Joe Lambert, TX
3. Barney Friesth, SD
4. Not a Member, TX
5. Robert Miller, SC
6. Carl Buschner, MA
7. Stan Fugate, FL
8. Ralph Waddington, NM
9. Philip Dziuk, IL
10. Not a Member, WA

Men's 75+

1. Robert McAdam, TX
- 2T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 2T. Dick Kincade, CO
- 2T. Not a Member, IA
5. Al Romero, NM
6. Bill Matotan, NM
7. J.W. Studak, TX
- 8T. Bill Gencarella, CA
- 8T. Bob Miller, MI
10. Bill Murphy, MO

Men's 80+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Cam Snowberger, SC
3. George Spear, FL
4. Ben Marshall, TX
- 5T. Hank Richard, NC
- 5T. Charlie Russell, CA
7. Harry Steinman, MD
8. Bill Weinacht, OH
9. Robert McAdam, TX
10. Walter Gardner, UT

Men's 85+

1. Harry Steinman, MD
2. Ralph Hoyle, NY

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
2. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
3. Kristen Walsh, OH
4. Kersten Hallander, CA
5. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
- 6T. Doreen Fowler, MD
- 6T. Aimee Roehler, NJ
8. Shannon Feaster-Stewart, MD
- 9T. Denise Mock, TX
- 9T. Lourdes Sanders, CO

Women's A

1. Isabel Nagelin, VA
2. T.J. Baumbaugh, MD
3. Jean Gordon, MN
4. Pat Sims, NH
- 5T. Not a Member, AR
- 5T. Karen Roykouff, ME
- 5T. Melissa Young, TX **T**
8. Not a Member, TX **T**
- 9T. Bessie Cheng, CA
- 9T. Vivian Gomez, FL

Women's B

1. Valerie Willis, NC
2. Cheryl Kirk, IL
3. Rhonda Kochis, OK
4. Rosario Kelley, KY
5. Catherine Bertucci, IL
6. Donna Spano, MA
7. Janice Kennedy, GA
8. Jennifer B. Cook, NC
- 9T. Not a Member, CO
- 9T. Angela Deltito-Cook, PA

Women's 25+

1. Debra Bryant, NC
2. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
3. Cara Pellowski, WI
- 4T. Tina Hagen, CO
- 4T. Kim Herold, SC
6. Jo Shattuck, CO
- 7T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 7T. Aimee Roehler, NJ
- 9T. Heather Dunn, MA
- 9T. Lia Sullins, TX

Women's 30+

1. Michelle Lucas, VA
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
- 3T. Debra Bryant, NC
- 3T. B.J. Ehrigg, CT
5. Doreen Fowler, MD
6. Micky Richer, CO
7. Kelley Beane, NH

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8. Michelle Shewchuk, MN
 9T. Laura Brandt, FL
 9T. Angela Burth, NV

Women's 35+

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
 2. Kersten Hallander, CA
 3. Denise Mock, TX
 4T. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
 4T. Anita Maldonado, NY
 4T. Debra Tisinger, CA
 7. Solanna Taragan, CA
 8. Lori Lepow, FL
 9. Terri Thornton, MN
 10. Kelley Beane, NH

Women's 40+

1. Debra Tisinger, CA
 2. Val Shewchuk, UT
 3. Linda Moore, NE
 4. Malia Bailey, VA
 5. Roz Petronelli, MA
 6. Peggy Stephens, KY
 7. Not a Member, AZ
 8. Cari Kresa, FL
 9. Susan Hann, FL
 10. Liz Molitor, IL

Women's 45+

1. Susan Pfahler, FL
 2. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
 3T. Meena Evans, NC
 3T. Jere Luttnar, TX
 5. Nan Higgins, NH
 6. Marcia Richards, CO
 7. Jean Trimble, FL
 8. Not a Member, MI
 9. Brenda White, IL
 10. Karen Key, AZ

Women's 50+

1. Agatha Falso, FL
 2. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
 3. Merjean Kelley, CA
 4. Shelley Ogden, OH
 5T. Jane Bentley, NM
 5T. Sharon Huczak, MI
 7T. Kathy Dunham, IL
 7T. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 7T. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
 7T. Not a Member, OR

Women's 55+

1. Mary Lou Faura, NM
 2. CeCe Palaski, CA
 3. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
 4. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
 5. Nidia Funes, CA
 6. Agatha Falso, FL
 7T. Mildred Gwinn, NC
 7T. Jo Kenyon, FL
 7T. Gail Schaefer, MD
 10. Nancy Kay Butts, WI

Women's 60+

1. Mildred Gwinn, NC
 2. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
 3. Jo Kenyon, FL

8. Michelle Shewchuk, MN
 4T. Marquita Molina, CA
 4T. Gloria Piscoran, OR
 6. Nancy Martin, CA
 7T. Janet Dahl, CA
 7T. Pauline Kelly, IL
 7T. Not a Member, NE
 7T. Ann Westphal, AZ

Women's 65+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
 2. Lola Markus, IL
 3. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
 4T. Naomi Eads, MO
 4T. Mildred Gwinn, NC
 4T. Louise Kiss, NM
 4T. Mary Walker, CA
 8. Grace Brickner, CO

Women's 70+

1T. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
 1T. Reta Harring, WI
 3. Tillie Davies, AZ
 4. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

Women's 75+

1T. Beth Keene, TX
 1T. Christine Stephens, TX
 3. Helen Deysher, PA
 4. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

BOYS

Boys' 6 & Under

1T. Not a Member, ID
 1T. **Keith McElhany, SD**
 1T. Not a Member, WI

4T. Not a Member, UT

4T. Nick Gottsleben, SD
 4T. Zachary Pellowski, WI
 4T. Thomas Trowbridge, ID
 8. Blake Heiser, SD
 9T. Jackson Rogers, NM
 9T. Alex Turbak, SD

B6- Multi-Bounce

1. Sam Reid, OR
 2. Marco Rojas, CA
 3. Timothy Lerow, CT
 4. Kyle Walsh, UT
 5T. Colin Kush, CT
 5T. Jackson Rogers, NM
 7. Steven Kochis, OK
 8. Keith McElhany, SD
 9T. Zachary Pellowski, WI
 9T. Blake Spencer, CO

Boys' 8 & Under

1. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
 2. Joseph Lee, LA
 3. Charlie Locke, OR
 4. Brad Falvey, WI
 5. Matthew Hunter, FL
 6. Logan North, OH
 7. Taylor Regier, OR
 8. Taylor Knoth, OR

9T. Zach Gibbons, AZ
 9T. Carson Green, ID

B8- Multi-Bounce
 1. Taylor Regier, OR
 2. Miguel Martinez, AK
 3. Brad Falvey, WI
 4. Sam Reid, OR
 5. Daniel Ring, MN
 6. Jackson Rogers, NM
 7. Tommy Crisp, WA
 8. Dylan Reid, OR
 9. Chase Stanley, LA
 10. Charlie Locke, OR

Boys' 10-

1. Jose Rojas, CA
 2. Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
 3. John Sanderson, UT
 4. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
 5. Jonathan Doyle, OH
 6. Trevor Smith, OR
 7. Joseph Lee, LA
 8. William Lee, LA
 9. Not a Member, UT
 10. Daniel Borisov, WA

Boys' 12-

1. Nick Arturo, AK
 2. Chris Coy, OK
 3. Andrew Grissom, CA
 4. Allan Crockett, AL
 5. Tripp Isley, NC
 6T. Cam Grundman, MN
 6T. David Lewis, CO
 6T. Brady Prince, MN
 9T. Brandon Callihan, AK
 9T. John Edwards, WA

Boys' 14-

1. Dan Sheppick, OR
 2. Joey Lakowske, OR
 3T. Shane Karmelin, GA
 3T. Drew Toland, AR
 5. Ben Croft, IL
 6. Ryan Mimms, KY
 7T. Charles Pratt, OR
 7T. Brad Slocum, FL
 9. Devin Drury, WA
 10. Andrew Gale, UT

Boys' 16-

1. Jack Huczak, MI
 2. Bart Crawford, OR
 3. Michael Lawrence, AL
 4. Not a Member, TX
 5. Cory Martin, WI

EVENT LEVEL/DESCRIPTION

6. Clay Burris, FL
 7. David Hutchins, FL
 8. Devin Drury, WA
 9. Andrew Coon, KY
 10. Erik Leetch, AR

Boys' 18-

1. Jack Huczak, MI
 2. Shane Vanderson, OH
 3. Not a Member, AZ
 4. Bart Crawford, OR
 5. Zack Miller, CA
 6. Not a Member, FL
 7. Ryan Kofoid, AK
 8. Robert Gunther, AK
 9T. Russ Amundson, AK
 9T. Michael Lawrence, AL

4. Wesley Toland, AR
 5. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
 6. Emily Melgaard, ID
 7. Not a Member, AZ
 8. Mickey Rogers, NM
 9. Shanae Taylor, IN
 10. Courtney Hill, NM

Girl's 12-

1. Ashley Willhite, OR
 2. Danielle Pimental, OR
 3. Sarah Moyle, OR
 4. Sarah Hettesheimer, OH
 5. Stacey Northrop, OR
 6T. Michelle Key, AZ
 6T. Kara Mazur, CT
 8. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
 9T. Not a Member, AZ
 9T. Brianna Elder, MD

GIRLS

G6- Multi-Bounce

1. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
 2T. Sierra Adam, CO
 2T. Not a Member, OK
 4T. Michaela Christiansen, ID
 4T. Not a Member, NM
 6. Blake Plaster, ID
 7. Katie Faith, CO

Girl's 8 & Under

1. Nicole Grundman, MN
 2. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
 3. Tia Smith, OR
 4T. Brooke Bolender, OH
 4T. Kaitlynn Pacinelli, NM
 6. Ceara Odell, NM
 7T. Not a Member, NM
 7T. Bailee Painter, ID
 7T. Shanda Wheat, ID
 10. Not a Member, NM

G8- Multi-Bounce

1. Tristyn Trelease, OR
 2. Nicole Grundman, MN
 3. Kali Gottsleben, SD
 4T. Rebecca Machiran, MO
 4T. Tia Smith, OR
 6. Hannah Edwards, WA
 7. Brianna Ho, WA
 8. Nicole Carrell, WA
 9T. Kaitlynn Pacinelli, NM

Girl's 10-

1. Brittany Legget, OR
 2. Shannon Inglesby, OR
 3. Sharon Jackson, IN

Girl's 14-

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 2. Ashley Legget, OR
 3T. Kastle Arturo, AK
 3T. Jesi Fuller, NM
 5. Kimberly Walsh, UT
 6T. Michelle Key, AZ
 6T. Natalie Starken, WI
 6T. Nikki Winfrey, OH
 9. Kelley Fisher, OH
 10. Elizabeth Jenkins, ID

Girl's 16-

1. Crystal Winfrey, OH
 2. Janel Tisinger, CA
 3. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 4. Jesi Fuller, NM
 5T. Kelley Fisher, OH
 5T. Cari Mitlitsky, NY
 7. Jenny Cary, OR
 8T. Laurie Fisk, MO
 8T. Linda Knudsen, UT
 8T. Kimberly Walsh, UT

Girl's 18-

1. Kristen Walsh, OH
 2. Krystal Csuk, IL
 3. Adrienne Fisher, OH
 4T. Elise Wilson, CT
 4T. Crystal Winfrey, OH
 6. Kelley Fisher, OH
 7. Laurie Fisk, MO
 8. Lauren Deutsch, CA
 9T. Kris Alatorre-Martin, VA
 9T. Kynzie Dalton, OR

FINISH/POINTS

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

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

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