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ISRA



Newsletter

The Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association

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April 2006

I.S.R.A.
Junior
Championship
2006



Whole Lotta Hardware!

...pages 5-6

Goldblatt & Snyders Excel at Junior States

ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

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From the President

Are you part of the solution...or part of the problem?

This may be preaching to the choir, but our sport is in trouble and it needs our help. Our national organization, USA Racquetball, is strapped for cash. You will soon be hearing about an effort to change the membership fee structure. What that structure will be remains to be seen, but additional funds are needed to keep the organization going. In the past, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) provided a large portion of the funding. That funding has been cut and needs to be made up somewhere else.

So, how can you be part of the solution? Rather than deciding to quit playing racquetball when the price goes up (yes, believe it or not, some will react to that extreme), you can pay the new membership fee and continue to support our sport.

I hear comments that "they" are going to quit playing if the national ranking system doesn't get fixed. I hear comments that "they" are not going to play Travel League if they have to be USAR/ISRA members. I hear comments that "they" will quit if the price for a membership goes up. It seems to me that the "they's" must indeed be "we."

What do we get from the national organization? USA Racquetball provides a national ranking system. Yes, the new system is in transition at the moment. It needs history to make it more accurate. History takes time. The national organization maintains the official rules of the sport, publishes those rules and prints the rulebooks. They also adjudicate any issues regarding rules violations. The national organization supports tournament play across the country, hosts national events, and provides secondary insurance for all players in sanctioned events. And, the national organization provides continuity in the form of a bi-monthly publication.

What do we get from the state organization? We get a link to the national organization, access to the ranking system, insurance, tournaments, etc. We

also get the volunteers who staff the tournaments, run the Travel League in Illinois, produce the quarterly newsletter and populate the website. Without our volunteers, there would be nothing to complain about...because there would be nothing happening at all.

We know we could improve the national rankings for the Illinois players if we could just extract the information from our old Illinois ranking system and send it to USA Racquetball. Our system has the history that their system needs. The problem is that our system resides on an old outdated computer that uses software none of us can decode. We can enter it all manually (match for match), but that takes more time than we can seem to muster at the moment. We intend to do what we can, as soon as we can, to help rectify the rankings. You can do the same by continuing to play in events and adding to the history that will help correct the system.

You can also help by talking to players who may be inactive and asking them to rejoin the USAR/ISRA *simply to support racquetball*. It's neither pleasant nor in any of our best interest to hear about people letting their memberships lapse because, "Hey, I'm not entering any tournaments for awhile, so I'll save the \$\$ and renew when I have to."

All of us have benefited so much from the sport, the contacts and the friendships over the years. Let's cheerfully and with *gratitude* give something back to keep it all going.

Laurel



ISRA Family News



Kirk & Lawson in Torino

Although lamenting my absence from ISRA State Doubles for the first time since the early 90's, I certainly couldn't argue with the reason...I was working my "day job" in Torino (my employer, McDonald's, is a Top Sponsor of the Olympics) and Kit was touring all over Italy. I think he may have missed his calling...he does a really superb job with his travel memoirs. We had this rare picture together taken the night of the ladies' free skate and medals ceremony at Palavelle - very cool to be there, in more ways than one!

P.S. The next issue of Racquetball

Magazine will reach our homes soon. Five individuals are running for two board seats...so **please take the time to pull out the USA Racquetball Board election ballot and cast your vote for me** - I'm committed to growing racquetball for us all!

— Cheryl Kirk

Amatulli Open

Illinois players journeyed over to the Omni Club in Schererville, Indiana to participate in the Amatulli Open (March 3-5). John Amatulli thanks everyone for their participation:

"I'm excited that this is our biggest turnout yet with 175 entrants. I really appreciate the huge turnout from all of the Illinois players (about 60% of the draw). A Huge Thank You to everyone!

I am so proud we all pitched in to benefit the University of Chicago Children's Hospital; because of my daughter Lauren's experience, this cause is very near and dear to my heart.

For those of you who couldn't make it this year, we hope to see you next year for a great experience."

Amatulli Open, Illinois 1st and 2nd place finishers:

Men's Open Singles (1st) Ben Croft, (2nd) John Amatulli; Men's A (1st) Tony Gonzalez, (2nd) Desmond Slusher; Men's B (1st) Mike Vieni; Men's C (2nd) Gerardo Sulic; Men's D (1st) Dan Pacetti; (2nd) Scott Martin; Men's 25/40 (2nd) Steve Lloyd;

Men's 45 (2nd) Frank Ball; Men's 50 (2nd) Horace Miller; Men's 35 & under B/C (2nd) Juan Martinez

Men's Open Doubles (1st) Ben Croft/John Amatulli, (2nd) Juan Herrera/Brian Simpson (IN); Men's A Doubles (2nd) Wil Rounsaville/Frank Ball; Men's C Doubles (1st) Mike Vieni/David Carr, (2nd) Steve Williams/Howell Johnson; Men's 35+ Doubles (1st) Brian Berkelhamer/Jorge Ortiz, (2nd) Martin Gonzalez/Delmer Reed

Women's Open Singles (1st) Krystal Csuk; Women's A (2nd) Julia Perkins; Women's B/C (2nd) Bernadette Bland

Women's Open Doubles (2nd) Barb Curran/Patrice Calvi

Juniors 16 & Under Singles (1st) Joey Eminger

Mixed Open Doubles (1st) Krystal Csuk/Juan Herrera; Mixed A Doubles (2nd) John Puccio/Marian Bala; Mixed 35+ Dbls (1st) Julia Perkins/Jim Bono (IN), (2nd) Jim Hillman/Nancy Amaro

Travel League Party

Check out the signup form on page 15 in this issue for the ISRA Travel League Party scheduled for Friday evening, April 21 at Glass Court. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded, with the exception of the B/C playoff finals that will not quite be finished...winners of this playoff activity will be announced in the July issue of the ISRA Newsletter.

Notice of Election of ISRA Officers and Board Members

The ISRA Board will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2006, at the National City Bank office in Oak Brook at 2021 Spring Road, Suite 600 (use the elevator in the southwest corner of the building). As with all ISRA meetings, this meeting is open to the membership; however, this session is particularly important since all members attending have a vote in the election of the ISRA Board of Directors. Officer and Board positions are staggered two-year terms. This year, the open positions include Vice President, Treasurer, two of the four Zone Vice Presidents and three Governing Board member positions.

The Officer slate is:

Cheryl Kirk for Vice President
Michelle Halverson for Treasurer
Carol Bastien for South Zone VP
Doug Halverson for West Zone VP

The following three individuals are being re-nominated to the Governing Board:

Patrice Calvi, Rich Clay, and Joe Silius

Per the ISRA bylaws, opposing slates and individuals must be nominated in writing and received prior to May 1. If there are no additional nominations, the Nominating

Committee's slate will be accepted automatically. Anyone interested in running for Officer or a Board position should contact Laurel Davis at laurel.davis@nationalcity.com or Pam Grace at pgrace@cata.info.

Additionally, any ISRA member who wishes to help improve the quality of racquetball in Illinois is welcome to join the Auxiliary Board. Please contact Laurel Davis at the above email address. Come out and support Illinois Racquetball!

Signed, The Nominating Committee
Pam Grace (Chair), Geoff Peters
and Tom Utterback

Andy Pitock Serves as U.S. Team Assistant Coach at Junior Worlds

Andy Pitock, Chicagoland racquetball instructor and an ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine) certified health fitness instructor, conducts sessions at The Glass Court and Naper Olympic Health & Fitness. In December, however, he took a couple of weeks away from the local action to perform a new role – U.S. Junior Team Assistant Coach at the Junior World Championships in Juarez, Mexico! We recently caught up with him for an account of his experiences South of the Border.

ISRA: How did you become involved with the U.S. Junior Team?

AP: I was already involved with Junior Team Illinois — I like working with kids. I offered my assistance in a conversation with Cheryl Gudinas last year and when an opening came available for a mature individual with a fitness background to join the coaching team, she took me up on my offer.

ISRA: What is your overall role with the U.S. Junior team?

AP: My role is to focus on the fitness aspects. For example, at the Colorado camp this past year, I evaluated fitness programs, advising on problems such as arm fatigue (for which I developed specialized shoulder exercises).

ISRA: What was Juarez like?

AP: We flew into El Paso, Texas, and crossed over the border to Juarez. While I can't say the city is a resort destination by any means, the facilities afforded to the Junior Worlds included a brand new club, mall, and hotel. We generally remained in that area and didn't venture out much.

ISRA: What specifically did you do at the Junior Worlds?

AP: There were 16 kids there – 2 each in 18, 16 and 14 (both boys and girls) and doubles teams as well (some were additional doubles players while others played in singles and then also paired off for doubles). As an assistant coach, I provided support to Coaches Cheryl Gudinas, Shane Wood, and Kelley Beane

as well as to each of the players assigned to me. A coach makes sure his/her players are on time for their matches, evaluates their racquetball as needed, reinforces warm-ups and routines, encourages mental focus, and even makes sure the players have sufficient water and Gatorade, not to mention Windex for keeping shoes clean on often-dusty courts!

ISRA: Tell us about a typical day at the Junior Worlds.

AP: We were up at 6:00 am, had eaten breakfast by 6:30, grabbed a shuttle by 7:00, and checked our players in at 8:00 for 9:00 matches. Racquetball ran all day until around 7:00 pm...then, everyone had dinner at the hotel followed by a full team meeting until 10:30. The players went to bed and the coaches stayed to confer until about midnight. I roomed with Shane Wood, who prepped me on how to coach the team, providing specifics on how to assist individual players and how to best defeat the other team. That meant discussion in the room, often until 2:00 am. Four hours of sleep and back at it again!

ISRA: How did the U.S. Junior Team fare in the World Championships?

AP: The U.S. placed second. Mexico has an outstanding junior racquetball development program. In many instances, kids are bused after school to a club where they practice and do their homework before going home



Andy Pitock

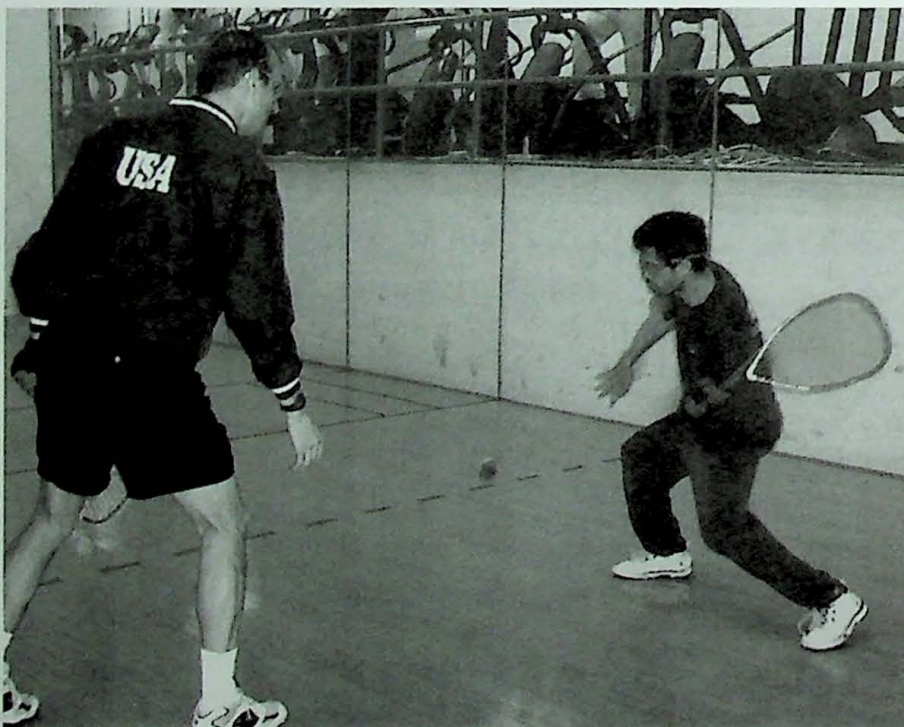
for the night. And the fans really get behind their team – competing against a Team

Mexico player is like your worst nightmare, doubled! Imagine banging drums, chants of "Me-xi-co!" and deafening cheers celebrating every one of your opponent's points.

ISRA: What lies ahead for you with the U.S. Junior Team?

AP: I'd like to continue to contribute going forward, to support Cheryl and the other coaches as well as to incorporate more fitness training (such as jumping rope for endurance) into our players' training programs.

Editor's Note: Andy is available for racquetball and fitness training at Glass and Naper by appointment. He can be reached at (630) 629-3390.



Andy coaches Glass Court member Tom Lamberson

ISRA Junior State Singles & Doubles

Glass Court Swim & Fitness

January 7-8, 2006

Tournament Directors: Barry Dixon & Cheryl Kirk

Again this year, the tournament was hosted by the Glass Court and the turnout was great. With 36 entries ranging in ages 7 to 18 from various parts of Illinois, it was an action-packed weekend of racquetball that provided the opportunity to see how the "veterans" have progressed. We had new faces participating this year as well and it's wonderful to witness the excitement players feel at their very first tournament! Everyone enjoyed welcome bags filled with goodies from McDonald's, National City Bank, BFI, Cub Foods, JTI, the ISRA and the IRT. Roc's Pizza and the Glass Court provided great food the entire weekend. Many thanks to our sponsors and volunteers for helping to make this a great tournament!

— Barry and Cheryl

Results

Event: 1st, 2nd

Boys 18: Geoff Goldblatt, Joey Limonciello

Boys 16 Gold: Geoff Goldblatt, Trevor Snyders

Boys 16 Silver: Zac Antonoff, Andrew Gaines

Boys 14 Gold: Trevor

Snyders, Matt Pietrus

Boys 14 Silver: Colin Lynch, Will Herr

Boys 12 Gold: Erich

Schubert, Nick White

Boys 12 Silver: Brian Lynch, Robbie Quinn

Boys 10: Luke White, Jake Null

Boys 8 and Under: Sean Lynch, Chad Charland

Girls 14 & Under: Lauren

Pacetti, Rachel Vena

Boys 18 Gold Doubles:

Geoff Goldblatt/Trevor

Snyders, Joey Limonciello/ Kevin Schulz

Boys 16 Doubles: Matt

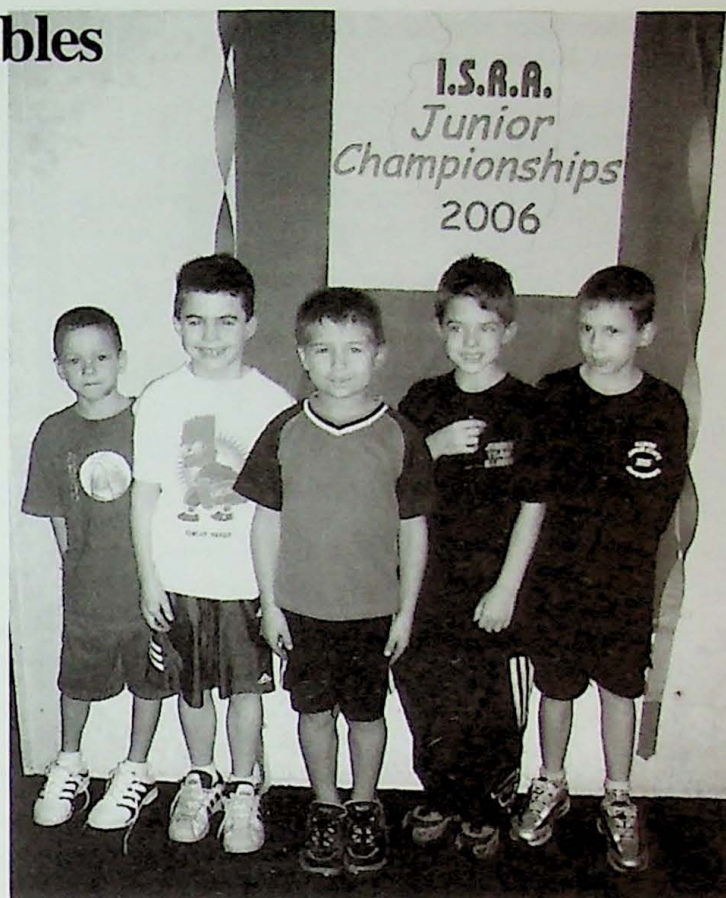
Pietrus/Zac Antonoff, Kevin

Lynch/Joey Eminger

Boys 12 Doubles: Robbie

Quinn/Miles Brugh, Brian Lynch/Jonathan Quinn

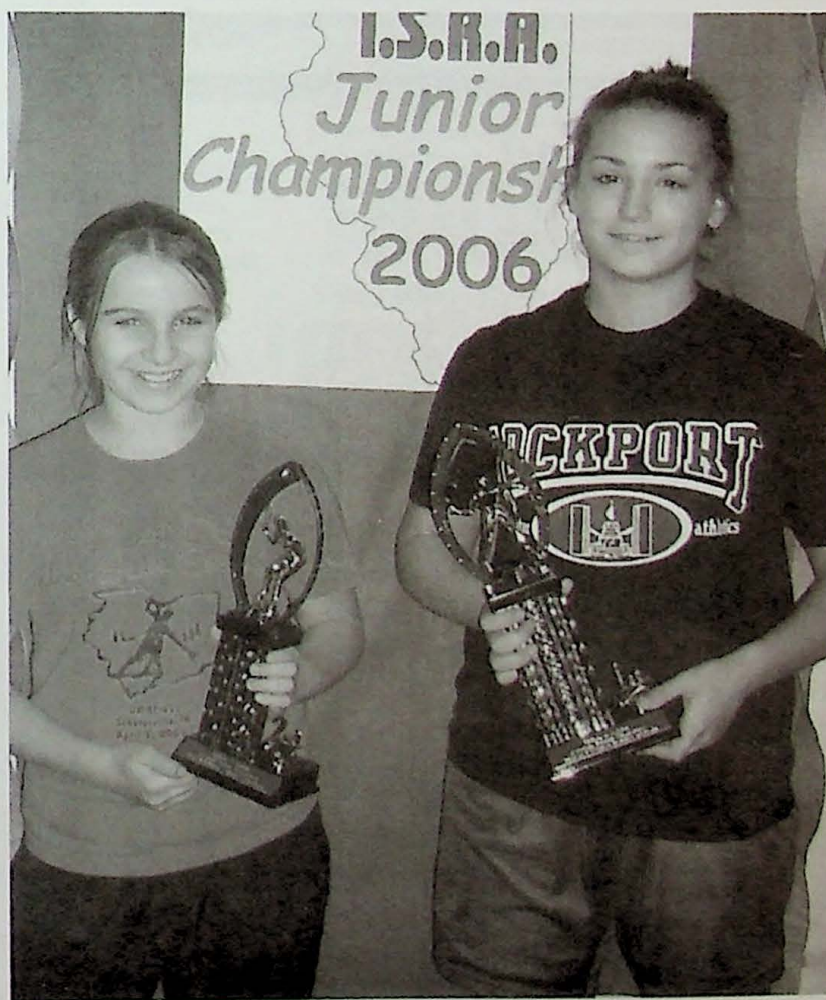
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*Just Getting Started...Boys 8- Multibounce
Chad Charland, Sean Lynch, Danny Pacetti,
Jeremy Dixon, Matthew Quinn*



*Kevin Schulz & Joey Limonciello
Boys 18 Gold Doubles, 2nd place*



*Rachel Vena & Lauren Pacetti
The Girls 14+ Division!*



Boys 16 Doubles winners Matt Pietrus & Zac Antonoff



Liz Molitor quizzes Juniors on the rules of racquetball

It's All in Your
COURT!
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Here's a challenge to

- ▶ Sponsor ONE NEW player to the sport of racquetball this year. Any age.
- ▶ Take him/her to your club... and teach the game. Stay with them until they can join a league on their own.
- ▶ Just think how good you'll feel when each of us sponsors the players of tomorrow!



www.illinoisracquetball.com



Erich Schubert & Nick White, Boys 12- Champ and Runner-up

Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic Tournament

Silver Lakes Country Club

January 13-15, 2006

Tournament Director: Jeff Grace

How do racquetball players know that the holiday season has officially ended? Well, it's the arrival of the Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic Tournament in January, of course. "The Revie" marks the end of a well-deserved break after the U.S. Open when we cooled off a bit, got realigned and geared up for the next half of the season. The new year conjured up new resolutions and for this tournament, a new venue, the Silver Lakes Country Club. This is a beautiful facility with plenty of space: rolling hills to golf, a clubhouse (complete with a bar), a peaceful view and great racquetball courts. We needed the space, too, because in between racquetball games our players were able to gain a mental workout with some challenging games of chess. Who will be the best chess player this year? This was even more of a reason to hang out on Sunday besides the finals (da Bears, da Champions, need I say more?).

Tournament play just gets better and better with Illinois becoming, in my opinion, one of the hotbeds of great players and games. This tournament falls right in that category with players from Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Peoria (wait, that's still in Illinois) showing up in force to support the tournament. We kicked off the weekend quietly on Friday with opening rounds. On Saturday, the skill levels increased and some of the fellas (John Amatulli, Keith Minor, Ben Croft, Wil Rounsaville, just to name a few) began heating things up, smacking that ball around. The Open ladies (Washington, Csuk, Moore, Molitor, Eminger, Somberg) burned up a few courts of their own. Sunday saw Games of Fire (aka final matches) being played and when the dust settled, the winners were as listed below.

The Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic is a long-standing tradition in Illinois and if you don't have this tournament on your calendar of events for the year, you should definitely add it. There is a true sense of family fun and plenty of activities to boot...for example, we celebrated a special birthday for Cheryl Kirk! You may be looking for new jewelry, a nice accessory or some beauty products — there are vendors to help you with that; in between matches, you can get your shopping fix! The silent auction always has great items for a worthy cause — children! I would be remiss if I didn't send out a BIG THANKS to all of the ladies who helped make sure that players had enough delicious food to eat. The tournament directors and staff who spend many hours before a tournament preparing draw sheets and trying to accommodate every players' time constraints and requests — THANK YOU! The weekend was outstanding and we always

look forward to a new year with Revie, Anita and the crew. (Oh and by the way, look out for the Bears next year, you Indiana fans.) Get your game together and we'll see you in 2007 when the New Racquetball Year begins and you can once again renew those racquetball resolutions!

— Carolyn Watkins

Results

Event: First; Second; Semis

Men's Open (11): Brian Simpson (IN); Ben Croft; John Amatulli, Keith Minor
Men's AA (2): Jorge Ortiz, David Kerr, Jr.
Men's A (11): Ben Fraga; Marc Cadvette; Jim Schavocky, Richard DeArmas
Men's B (23): Brian Andresen; Trevor Snyders; Mike Moran, Mark Stevenson
Men's C (26): Mike Vieni; Mike Ryan; Fred Conforti, Ernesto Tan
Men's D (16): Curtis Paloumpis; Andres Uribe; Phil Jones, Kenny Brown
Men's 30/35/40+ (7): Brent Huff; Marc Cadvette; Joey Logan, Bill Lattner
Men's 45+ (4): Bob Wright; Jim Schenk; Kevin Yeazell (3)
Men's 50+ (10): Larry Wackowski; Frank Milazzo; Jim Bono (IN), Len Restaino
Men's 55+ (6): Dennis Healy; Horace Miller; Joe Silius, Bruce Nelson
Men's 60+ (6): Donald Blomquist; Willie McGee; Horace Miller, John O'Donnell, Jr.

Women's Open (6): Diane Moore (IN); Krystal Csuk; Genevieve Washington (MI), Liz Molitor
Women's AA (2): Ellen Somberg; Janet Eminger
Women's A (6): Karen Thurlow; Carolyn Watkins; Julie Popovich (IN), Lynne Weisbart
Women's B/C (4): Kelly Carson; Julianne Beran; Lee Ann Neubauer (3rd)

Women's 35+ (3): Genevieve Washington (MI); Julia Perkins; Karen Thurlow

Men's Open Doubles (4): Brian Simpson (IN)/Ben Croft; Adam Taylor (IN)/Ryan Griffin (IN); Geoff Goldblatt/Jorge Ortiz (3rd)

Men's A Doubles (9): Tim Brown/Rajesh Sondhi; Tom Lamberson/Richard DeArmas; Wil Rounsaville/Frank Ball, Clayton Campbell/Mike Yadron

Men's B Doubles (14): Brady Mann/Jim Maroon; Royce Simpson/Ric Langston, Brian Andresen (IA)/Jon Soike, Ray Shimizu/John Usmaal

Men's C Doubles (14): David Carr/Mike Vieni; Wayne Lorenz/Scott Fauque; Sal Galvan/Will Llaguno, Sal Oliver/Carlos Merino

Men's 40+ Doubles (5): Winston Cole/Frank Ball; Jim Hillman/Chris Caldwell; David Lilly/Ken Cook (3rd)

Men's 50+ Doubles (5): Delmer Reed/Jim Davis; Brion Parrish/??; Bob Duwsich/Larry Wackowski (3rd)

Men's Century Doubles (10): Joe Silius/Jeff Hotler; Delmer Reed/Jim Davis; Brion Parrish/George Kleber, Glynn Williams/Len Restaino

Women's Open/A Doubles (7): Nancy Amaro/Janet Eminger; Liz Molitor/Laurel Davis; Patrice Calvi/Mary Herron, Barbara Curran/Cheryl Kirk

Mixed Open Doubles (7): Diane Moore (IN)/Keith Minor; Krystal Csuk/Juan Herrera; Ellen Somberg/Jim Hillman, Barbara Curran/John Amatulli

Mixed A Doubles (7): Desmond Slusher/Leila Gray; Julie Popovich (IN)/Drake Deavours (IN); Gwen English/Glynn Williams, Mary Herron/Dan Kolodziej (IN)

Mixed B/C Doubles (4): Trevor Snyders/Kelly Woycheese; Frank Valentino/Julianne Beran; Don Hayden/Dorothy Che-Menju (3rd)

Juniors 14 & 16 (6): Matt Pietrus; Kelly Woycheese; Will Herr, Joey Eminger

Juniors 12 & Under (5): Chris Bono (IN); Brian Lynch; Justin Kuhlman (3rd)

Where Are They Now?

Lynne Weisbart had this great idea...so many times we wonder, "Say, whatever happened to _____?" You know, the people who have drifted away from the Illinois racquetball family and on to careers (perhaps in other states or countries), kids, other sports, etc. Apparently, there *is* life outside of racquetball!

Let's start close to home — Lani and Josh Weisbart, daughter and son of Howard and Lynne, played quite successfully as Juniors a few years back. Looks

like they've sprung into adulthood nicely...congrats to both, and we'd love to have you back in racquetball one of these days!

Do you know of someone from whom we might like to hear some news? Please forward a scanned business card or even just the information to cherylkkirk@aol.com. I'll include your scoop in a future issue.

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One Day Doubles Tune-Up

The Southlake Club, Mundelein

January 21, 2006

Tournament Director: Cindy Flores-Mocarski

Eugene Coyle of Palatine took top honors again at the One Day Doubles held Saturday, January 21st at The Southlake Club. Coyle, who is nationally-ranked and has competed on the Professional IRT Tour teamed up with ISRA State Doubles Champion George Pappas to best club member Brian Berkelhamer and sixteen-year-old Geoff Goldblatt, a sophomore at Lane Tech High School, in the Men's Open Final. In the Men's B final, Southlake Club members Kevin Schulz (also 16 years old) and his partner, 17-year-old Joey Limonciello, lost a hard-fought final to the father/son duo of Juan Martinez and Juan Martinez III. Club member Bill Butterworth and partner Gerry Kudanian battled through the day to emerge as the champions in the Men's C division over Alberto Palacios and Dick Goldblatt. In the Fall Open, it had been Bill over Gerry in the finals of the Men's C – so this time they pooled their talents to take the doubles!

In the Men's 45+ Division, Geoff Peters and Mike Berdell teamed up to take the Gold over Steve and Roger Bettenhausen. Geoff also paired with Joan Vande Kieft to pick up second place in the Mixed Doubles where they were beaten by the Indiana duo of Mike Hernandez and Sarah Hoffman.

The tournament was sponsored by El Barrios on Diamond Lake Road in Diamond Lake; consequently, all players and spectators ate well the entire day! Congratulations to Club Manager Cindy Flores-Mocarski and her entire staff – Bob, Lynn, Fred, Sam, Geoff and Jesus for a job well done.

The Southlake Club recently underwent an extensive remodeling and the players had nothing but compliments for the newly-refinished courts. Stop by and play the Saturday Challenge Court for only \$10 with your USAR/ISRA Competitive License. The club, on Route 45 behind the Consumers Credit Union (1200 South Lake Street), has 6 racquetball/handball courts, a full cardio the-

atre, free weights, a pro shop, and provides a beer and wine bar to relax after your workout. Call for more information at (847) 949-8180.

— Geoff Peters

Results

Event: First; Second; Semis

Men's Open Doubles (3): Eugene Coyle/George Pappas; Brian Berkelhamer/Geoff Goldblatt; Jorge Ortiz/Mike Berdell (3rd)

Men's B Doubles (4): Juan Martinez/Juan Martinez III; Kevin Schulz/Joey Limonciello; Mike Hernandez (IN)/Sarah Hoffman (IN) (3rd), Mike Antonoff/Dick Goldblatt (4th)

Men's C Doubles (5): Gerry Kudanian/Bill Butterworth; Alberto Palacios/Dick Goldblatt; Mike Antonoff/Zac Antonoff (3rd), Roger Bettenhausen/Steve Bettenhausen (4th)

Men's 45+ Doubles (3): Geoff Peters/Mike Berdell; Roger Bettenhausen/Steve Bettenhausen; Gerry Kudanian/Bill Butterworth (3rd)

Mixed Doubles: Mike Hernandez (IN)/Sarah Hoffman (IN); Geoff Peters/Joan Vande Kieft; Geoff Goldblatt/Sandy Ostman (3rd)

The 2006 St. Valentine's Day Massacre

Schaumburg Tennis Plus

February 17-18, 2006

Tournament Director: Dave Negrete

Over sixty players converged on Schaumburg Tennis Plus to play in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre event presented by Rip It Racquetball. Everyone at this two-day event appeared to have a great time! This was an IRT satellite event and featured a final match pitting #16 ranked IRT professional and full-time college student Ben Croft against #65 IRT ranked professional and local veteran John Amatulli. Croft came out the victor in this great match in four games. Amatulli teamed up to win the Mixed Open Doubles title with partner Barbara Curran, taking out the tough team of Liz Molitor and Angelo Batistatos. Lynn Yeazell and Mike Hammel won the Mixed Elite division. Liz Molitor played some great racquetball, winning the Women's Open final against the feisty Julie Vincent in two straight. Martha "Marty" Huske took the Women's Elite, winning a tiebreaker against Lynn Yeazell in the last match of the night. The Men's A featured two junior friends with Kevin Schulz defeating his practice partner Joey Limonciello in two. There is a bright future in racquetball for these two young players. The Men's B saw Mike Hammel take out STP's Pete Schmeichel in two tough games. Aaron Pace overcame another tough junior

player, Vince Carvallo, to win the Men's C in an 11-10 tiebreaker. The Men's D was a round robin with Adam Augustine taking the champion spot and Gary Dyrek achieving a close second. George Pappas played well enough to prevail over Brent Huff in the Men's 30+ division. Spectators thought it was all over when "Doc" lost the second game and went tiebreaker, but George had enough in the tank to win. Bruce Nelson took home the first place prize in the Men's 50+ division with Frank Milazzo finishing second.

Special thanks to Martha Huske, Julie Vincent, Diane Bunker and Liz Molitor for helping out with the event. Also, a "happy belated birthday" wish to Ben Croft, who turned 21 a week before the event.

Additionally, a huge thank you goes to the Pappas family for their support of the Illinois Racquetball scene and Rip It Racquetball. When you have the chance, stop by their new 18 North restaurant in St. Charles. The food is awesome and the restaurant has a great atmosphere for an enjoyable dinner followed by a cigar in the jazz bar (Doc's Martini Bar) downstairs. Good luck to George and Linda in your new endeavor!

For a look at the full draw and results, go to www.onlineacb.com for all the information on the event.

— Dave Negrete

Results

Event: First; Second; Semis

Men's Pro (18): Ben Croft; John Amatulli (IN); Angelo Batistatos (IN), Dennis Negrete

Men's Elite (2): Joe Gill; David Kerr Jr.

Men's A (9): Kevin Schulz; Joey Limonciello; Antonio Medina, Pat Taylor

Men's B (14): Mike Hammel; Pete Schmeichel; Rick Seaberg, Mark Stevenson

Men's C (7): Aaron Pace; Vince Carvallo; Moses Elias, Fred Conforti

Men's D (5): Adam Augustine; Gary Dyrek; John Garris (3rd)

Men's 30+ (10): George Pappas; Brent Huff; Watmora Casey; Tim Dern

Men's 50+ (3): Bruce Nelson; Frank Milazzo; Jeff Grace (3rd)

Women's Open (10): Liz Molitor; Julie Vincent; Lori Good, Ellen Somberg

Women's Elite (4): Martha Huske; Lynn Yeazell; Janet Christie, Karen Thurlow

Senior/Master Women Shoot It Out In Texas!!!!

17th Annual Women's Senior/Master National Racquetball Championships
January 27-29, 2006

Barbeque, bull riding, cowgirls, stockyards and cattle drives, the "Texas two step" and Billy Bob's were all a part of the attractions in Dallas, site of the WS/MRA 17th National Women's Senior/Masters Tournament. Ninety-five women from all over the U.S. participated in the 3-day round robin event. The youngest age group is 35 but our oldest participant was 77 years young! And this year, the WS/MRA introduced a B/C division for 35+ and 45+ players.

The appropriately-named Maverick Club in Arlington, Texas hosted the tournament. Prior to the start of the tournament, entrants participated in "fun" doubles on Thursday afternoon. Wilson Sporting Goods donated items to be raffled off at the doubles events.

Those who participated were asked to donate for "Racquet for the Cure" and were entered in the raffle. Thanks to all the generous doubles teams and Wilson Sporting Goods, \$475 was raised for the fight against breast cancer.

The tournament kicked off Friday. Depending on the size of the age group, two or three eleven-point games were played in self-officiated matches. Julie Vincent, Liz Molitor, Donna Heinzl and Nancy Kronenfeld all made it to the play-offs; Lynne Weisbart, Margaret Hoff, and Lola Markus medaled in their respective flights. Plenty of hospital-

ity was served throughout the tournament, including the Saturday night banquet. Our tournament director Jere Luttner is a member of a Belly Dancing Ensemble; she and her troupe performed several dances for the evening's entertainment!

Illinois was well represented by eleven women and a couple of token men to boot (pun intended): Frank Bunker and Coach Dave Negrete. Congratulations to Team Illinois on a fine showing:

40+: Julie Vincent – QF
55+: Nancy Kronenfeld – 1st;
Donna Heinzl – QF



Margaret, Lola, and Nancy take the bull by the horns!

45+: Liz Molitor – SF; Diane Bunker
60+: Margaret Hoff – 1st
45+ B: Lynne Weisbart – 2nd
65+: Pauline Kelly
50+: Martha Huske; Brenda White
70+: Lola Markus – 1st

So where in the world will the WS/MRA be for the 18th Annual National Championships? In Orlando, January 26-28, 2007! Get out of the cold and join us down there! For more information on the WS/MRA, check out our website: <http://mexecpc.com/tutsch/WSMRA/main.html> or simply click on the link on the ISRA website.

— Nancy Kronenfeld and Liz Molitor



Team Illinois

L to R: Bunker, White, Molitor, Huske, Kelly, Hoff, Weisbart, Markus, Kronenfeld, Heinzl, Vincent



Send to:

ISRA
603 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148

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U.S. Olympic
Committee



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Junior competitor \$20.00
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Total enclosed \$

Tournament _____ Representative _____

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine (six times/year) and the Illinois Newsletter (four times/year).

2006 ISRA State Doubles Championships

Glass Court Swim & Fitness

January 27-29, 2006

Tournament Director: Laurel Davis

Players numbering 161 made the trek to the Glass Court Club in Lombard to participate in the 2006 ISRA State Doubles Championships. They came from the woods (Wildwood, Woodridge, Woodstock and Lynwood), the parks (Tinley, Oak, Deer, Orland and Villa) and the stream (Carol). They came from the north (Belvidere), the south (Alton and Bethalto) and the west (Port Byron). In total, 68 communities from all over the state of Illinois were represented!

Many matches featured long rallies and pressure-packed tiebreakers. Teams in ev-

Ball and Wil Rounsaville along the way.

Dave Bachar and Tom Utterback were unable to defend their Men's Open title. They fell to Juan Herrera and George Pappas in the semifinals. George and Juan beat Tony Marquez and Steve Horve in the finals to take the championship. Looks like George knows how to pick a partner...but he proved to be no slouch himself!



Ray O'Brien & Ken Yahiro took on the youngsters in Men's 50/55+ B/C



Men's A Champs Glynn Williams & Desmond Slusher receive congrats from Joe Silius

ery division battled long and hard throughout the weekend in hopes of capturing (or recapturing) an elusive State Doubles title. Disagreements were resolved quickly and fairly. As is usually the case in doubles, there's twice the heat in every match. It's good to note that even in the heat of the battle, Illinois players generally exhibit exceptional fair play and sportsmanship.

The draw always seems smaller in Doubles...but it takes twice as many people to make up a draw, so that's really not the case at all. Desmond Slusher and Glynn Williams paired up in the Men's A division and came out on top in the field of sixteen teams, the largest draw in the tournament. They knocked off first seeds Frank

Due to the number of divisions offered, several brackets enjoyed round robin play with many new state titlists earning their medals in hard-fought matches during the 3-day event. A couple of the divisions were so hard-fought that at least one player, Jim Freamer of Peoria, made a trip to a local hospital on Saturday night. We are happy to report that he had a relatively pleasant experience at Good Samaritan Hospital and we hope he is feeling much better by now.

The ISRA thanks Diane and Joe DeArmas and their staff for helping us put on another great tourna-

ment. Between the food donated by several sponsors and the meals provided, there was a dazzling display of hospitality with loads of great food, seemingly never-ending. The Glass Court Club makes every tournament held there a pleasure to play. Thanks also to all of the volunteers who helped us pull off another successful State event.

— Dave Milazzo and Laurel Davis

Results

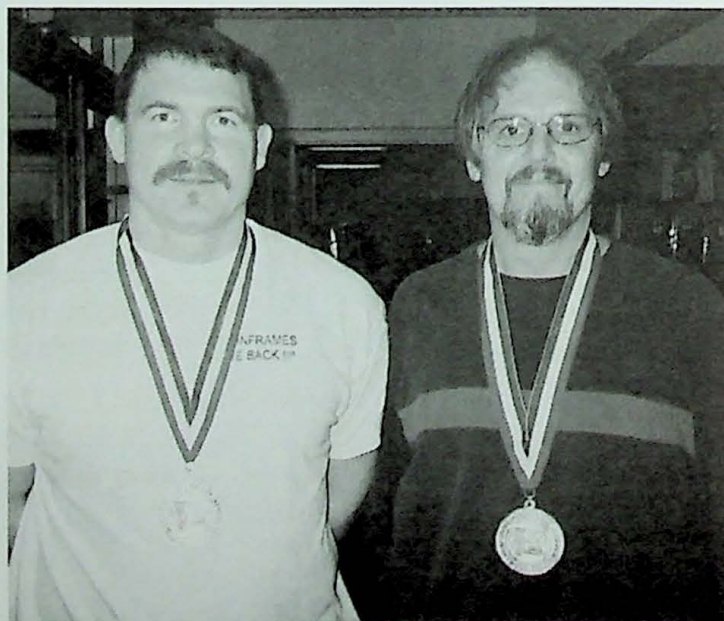
Event: First; Second; Semis

Men's Open Doubles (8): Juan Herrera/George Pappas; Steve Horve/Tony Marquez; Dave Bachar/Tom Utterback, Bob Clar/Jorge Ortiz

Men's AA Doubles (4): Pat Armstrong/Mike Vicary; Joe Gill/Geoff Goldblatt; Mitch Becker/Brian Berkelhamer (3rd)

Men's A Doubles (16): Desmond Slusher/Glynn Williams; Keith Mecklenburg/Chris Liljestrand; Frank Ball/Wil Rounsaville, Randy Rupsis/Trevor Snyders

continued on next page



Scott Fauque & Dan Musgrove, Men's Age C Winners

ISRA State Doubles Championships
continued from previous page

Men's B Doubles (12): Joey Limonciello/Kevin Schulz; Brett Crawley/Robert Littledale; Zac Antonoff/Trevor Snyders, John Anaya/John Geatros

Men's C Doubles (10): David Carr/Mike Vieni; Jim Dubois/Dave Wielgus; Todd Burris/Joe Lococo, Scott Fauque/Dan Musgrove

Men's 30/35 + (6): Steve Horve/Tony Marquez; Pat Armstrong/Mike Vicary; Jim Frenner/Gary Steiger, Luis Monsreal/Jorge Ortiz

Men's 40 + (5): Dave Bachar/Bill Lyman; Geoff Heekin/Scott Martin; Bob Clar/Joe Gill (3rd)

Men's 45 + (4): Bill Lyman/Dave Milazzo; Gregg Mandell/Dave Olson; Frank Ball/Winston Cole (3rd)

Men's 50/55 + (7): TJ Ferro/Joe Silius; Gregg Mandell/Dave Olson; Brion Parrish/Len Restaino, Frank Milazzo/Delmer Reed

Men's 55 + (2): Dennis Healy/Bruce Nelson; Horace Miller/Delmer Reed

Men's 30/35 + A (3): John Anaya/Chris Liljestrand; Bob Brennan/Sean Nelson; Mike Hammel/John Puccio (3rd)

Men's 40/45/50 + A (6): Tod Dillard/Don Kuehn; Geoff Heekins/Scott Martin; Dan Flood/Jeff Grace, Jim Maroon/John Snarr

Men's 40/45 + B (5): Brad Goeppinger/Jim Maroon; Ken Brackett/John Richier; Tom Curtis/Jim Wehrli (3rd)

Men's 50/55 + B/C (4): Darryl Earl/Ric Langston; Dick Goldblatt/Alberto Palacios; Gene Cromwell/Tom Curtis (3rd); Ray O'Brien/Ken Yahiro (4th)

Men's Age C (5): Scott Fauque/Dan Musgrove; Dan Opferman/Bob Woycheese; Sergio Rivera/Wesley Jura (3rd)

Women's Open (2): Nancy Amaro/Janet Eminger; Barbara Curran/Patrice Calvi

Women's A (3): Marian Bala/Lynn Yeazell; Pam Grace/Barb Vagedes; Dorothy Che-Menju/Carrie Howard (3rd)

Women's B/C (3): Gwen English/Leila Gray; Gail Goeppinger/Joann Kempthorne; Julianne Beran/Dolores Bethune (3rd)



Bill Kuhlman & Janet Christie, 1st place, Mixed B/C



Bruce Nelson & Dennis Healy, Men's 55+ winners (with Joe, again!)



John Thorson, Sr. came over to cheer on John Thorson, Jr.!

Women's 35/40 + (2): Janet Eminger/Ellen Somberg; Nancy Amaro/Laurel Davis

Mixed Open (4): Barbara Curran/John Thorson; Janet Eminger/Tom Utterback; Pam Schubach/Jim Frenner (3rd)

Mixed A (10): Julia Perkins/Wil Rounsaville; Gwen English/Glynn Williams; Lynn Yeazell/Mike Hammel, Leila Gray/Desmond Slusher

Mixed B/C (5): Janet Christie/Bill Kuhlman; Kelly Woycheese/Trevor Snyders; Jonelle Kohoutek/Jim Dubois, Julianne Beran/Frank Valentino

Mixed 35/40/45 + (9): Ellen Somberg/Jim Hillman; Nancy Amaro/Tom Utterback; Julia Perkins/Winston Cole, Patrice Calvi/Joe Silius

Mixed 45/50 + B/C (4): Carolyn Sobacki/Jim Wehrli; Joann Kempthorne/Jim Maroon; Gail Goeppinger/Brad Goeppinger (3rd)

Landmark March Invitational 2006

Landmark Health & Racquet Club

March 3-5, 2006

Tournament Directors: Kurt Mankle & Mike Vicary

Once again, we had a full tournament for our big Spring Invitational! With 153 players and approximately 240 entries, this tournament continues to be the most popular in Central Illinois. The competition this time was really something! A large majority of the matches taking place went to tie-breakers. This presented quite a challenge to our expert control table staff to keep everything running on time, but they succeeded. With the addition of our 9th court, we were able to eliminate the dreaded mid-night start times! Our open divisions were exceptionally exciting with play from newcomer Matt Davenport of St. Charles, MO and Greg Hasty II, who we welcomed back to the Landmark courts from Tampa, FL. Many of us had difficulty moving on Monday!

We greatly appreciate all who helped to make this event a success. Many do not realize how much time and work is put into producing this tournament. Tournament directors Kurt Mankle and Mike Vicary work very hard to produce the brackets and slot-

ting times with many details to consider. It is not easy, but they do an excellent job in trying to provide you with the best tournament experience possible. Our loyal volunteers put forth a great deal of help with bracket setting (Pam, Dan, Don & Jesse), time slotting (Jim, Pat & Kenny), set-up, control table, check-in, referees, etc. Thank you to all participants in this year's tournament and to the many spectators who came out to watch the action.

Our continued gratitude goes out to all our sponsors, too. With their help, we are able to provide a quality tournament that can be enjoyed by all. A special thanks to Jim and Karen Carter of Carter Law Offices, Scott Sutton of Sutton Carpet, Bill Leroy of ReMax, Chris Evon of Wilson Racquet Sports, Jim Stowell of Robert W. Baird & Co., John Bisanz and John Abraham with Tri-County Appraisal and National City and Jim Strebing of CMFI Group. Your loyalty to this tournament has made it the best!

Participants, we hope you enjoyed your tournament experience. If you weren't able to join us...plan on marking your calendar for the 2nd Annual Racquet for the Cure tournament on August 25th & 26th and the No Frills/Fall Warm-Up Tournament scheduled for October 6-8th!

—Terry Sutton

Divisions, First, Second

Men's Open — Matt Davenport (St.

Charles, MO), Greg Hasty II (Tampa, FL)

Men's AA — Cal Palmer (Galesburg), Steve Horve (Decatur)

Men's A — Don Kuehn (Alton), Jake Sutton (Landmark)

Men's B — Chris Dimmitt (Macomb), Ananth Kini (Landmark)

Men's C — Bill Nicholson (Oregon, IL), Gus Lamesch (Oregon, IL)

Men's 40+ — Rick Reynolds (Landmark), Greg Hasty (Landmark)

Men's 40+ B — Todd Zeigler (Landmark),

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Many Thanks to Our Sponsors:

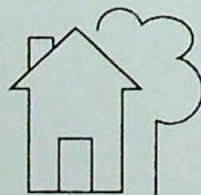


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Charlie Crotz * Carl Carter * Dennis Toland

Landmark Invitation Results
continued from previous page

Jim York (Ottawa)

Juniors (High School) — Dylan Shoemaker (Quad Cities), Will Herr (Springfield)

Women's Open/A — Brenda White (Landmark), Ellen Somberg (Oak Park)

Women's B — Cara Phillips (Landmark), Greta Kelly (Landmark)

Women's C — Jenni Morgan (Landmark), Debbi Jemison (Springfield)

Men's Open Doubles — Steve Horve/Tony

Marquez, Rick Reynolds/Greg Hasty II

Men's AA Doubles — Dan Curless/Kurt

Mankle, Mike Campbell/Tod Dillard

Men's A Doubles — Jim Maroon/Dan

Curless, Jim Stowell/David Angevine

Men's B/C Doubles — Randy Kingery/Jim

Bernal, Ron Rimmel/Doug Gordon

Women's Open/A Doubles — Pam

Schubach/Brenda White, Ellen Somberg/

Janis Russell

Women's B/C Doubles — Traci Steen/Joann

Kempthorne, Missy Moses/Pam Stanek

Mixed Open Doubles — Pam Schubach/

Kurt Mankle, Kelly Carter/Mike Vicary

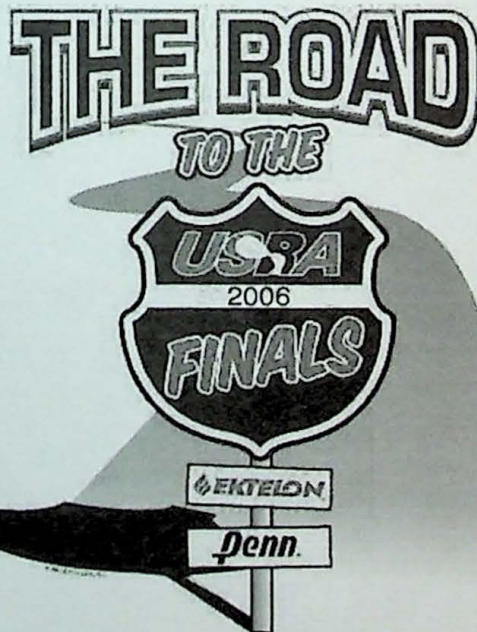
Mixed A Doubles — Terry Sutton/Jake

Sutton, Greta Kelly/Jesse Purvis

Mixed B/C Doubles — Elizabeth Anderson/

William Gingold, Traci Steen/Steve

Wiebler



**Come on out to the
IRT Pro Nationals/
USAR Regionals!
April 26-30, 2006**

2006 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR



For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar, please contact
Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413 or at Petersgeoff@hotmail.com

**April 26 - 30
IRT Pro Nationals**

Schaumburg Tennis Plus
Dave Negrete (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

May 24 - 29

39th Ektelon USA Racquetball National Championships

Downtown YMCA, Houston, TX

Heather Fender (719) 635-5396

SANCTIONED

July 28 - 30

Summerfest

The Glass Court Swim & Fitness

Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

SANCTIONED



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- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include **product pricing**.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- If ads are run for the entire season, **AND** payment is received with the first issue, the sixth ad is **FREE!**
- These rates are in effect until December 31, 2006.
- Deadlines are as follows:

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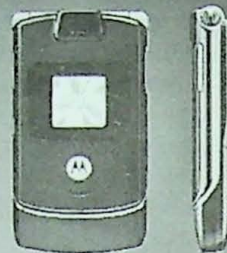
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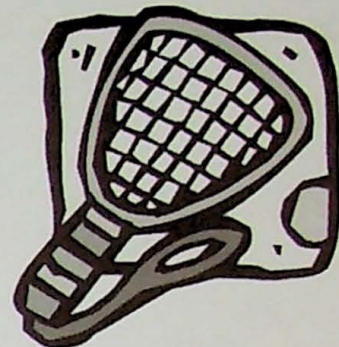
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ISRA Travel League Doubles Round Robin & Awards Banquet



Friday, April 21, 2006

All skill levels invited!

Wind up this travel team season with an evening of great racquetball competition, food, fun and prizes. USRA rules apply.

- ❖ Organized Round Robin play 6:30pm – 8:30pm (check in by 6:15pm)
- ❖ Banquet starts at 8:45pm
- ❖ Awards and Raffle 9:30pm
- ❖ \$12.00 per person
- ❖ Banquet/Raffle/Awards Only — \$7.00 per person

Fill out the entry form below and mail with payment to:

Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club

830 E. Roosevelt Road, Lombard, IL 60148

You may phone in your registration with a credit card: (630) 629-3390

(\$2.00 phone registration fee)

Registration is required for the round robin and awards banquet. Sign up early for round robin play, since space is limited! Please sign up with your doubles partner.

Name _____
Phone H _____ W _____
Partner's Name _____
Phone H _____ W _____

Travel Team Skill Level (Circle Two):

Women's

Men's

Open/A

B/C

Round Robin including awards banquet (\$12.00) \$ _____
Partner's fee round robin including awards banquet (\$12.00) \$ _____
Awards Banquet Only/Guest (\$7.00) (Total # for dinner _____) \$ _____
Phone-in charge (\$2.00) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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(847) 359-5098

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(630) 833-5064

Saturdays

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Members \$3, Non-Members \$10

Glass Court Swim & Fitness

(630) 629-3390

Wednesdays 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays 7 a.m. - Noon

Members Free, Non-Members \$7

Heritage YMCA

(630) 420-6270

Naperville, IL

Saturdays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Members \$4, Non-Members \$8

Lakeshore Athletic

Club - Downtown

(312) 644-4880

Chicago, IL

Mondays & Wednesdays

5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Members free, Non-Members \$12

Landmark Health & Racquetball

(309) 685-8200

Peoria, IL

First & Third Fridays of Month

6-8 p.m. \$5.00

MultiSports Complex

Melrose Park

708-343-5151

Mondays 7 - 9 p.m.

Members \$5

Non-Members \$7

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Sundays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

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9 a.m. - Noon

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Women Open/A Players

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Members \$3, Non-Members \$5

The Southlake Club

(847) 949-8180

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\$10.00 for ISRA Members

(with membership card)

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Sat 8-10 a.m.

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To add your club to this list, contact:

Lynne Weisbart (847) 732-7245



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