

# RACQUETBALL

**The First New IRT Season Champion in a Decade**

## Mannino's on Top of the World

*It's been a long road for Jason Mannino ... from a near-fatal accident to clinching this season's top professional ranking*



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### INSIDE ...

- **National Singles**
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- **Pan Am Preview**
- **Instruction, People**

## INTRODUCING HEAD'S MOST POWERFUL TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT.

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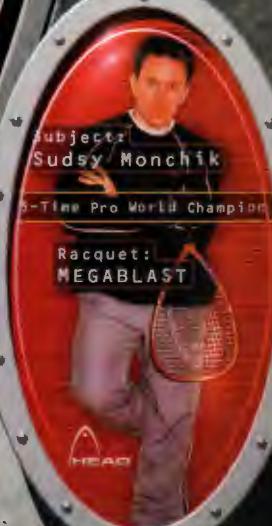
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POWER CHANNELS

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"You  
thought I  
hit the ball  
hard before...  
wait until you see  
me hit with MegaBlast!!!  
Unbelievable Power!" - Suds





I never could keep a secret (*that's not really true, but it's a great opening line*) ... so here's a little sneak preview of some of the things that we're just dying to announce for next season ...

First off, Director of Membership Kevin Joyce is directing efforts to fully automate the USRA membership database, with interactive features which will allow members to review and manage their own records. When we're up and running, you'll have secure password access to your information, and be able to check your tournament history, membership renewals and sales records.

You'll also be in the pipeline to receive periodic email newsletters and special announcements about upcoming events (don't panic — wholesale spamming will *not* be allowed and you'll be able to opt-out if you don't want to receive anything). Once members have "secured" their own records with their own individual password (beyond member number), they'll also be able to cast votes for elections, participate in surveys, and poke around in the rankings.

Ah ... the rankings. For some, an obsession ... for others, only a passing fancy. But hand-in-hand with the new member services, the USRA's next ranking system will be an exciting change, at the very least. Forget making the quarters, over and over again, to climb into the top ten — you'll actually have to beat someone in the top-ten to pull ahead. When that happens (and your tournament director submits the results electronically) you'll be able to check it out online, to see the effect of your most recent performance(s). The new system will use head-to-head results to rank order every registered member, from No.1 through dead last. Then you'll be able to sort the data to generate lists by state and age (even city & club), to obtain the relative positions of subgroups of local players, according to where they fall on the main national scale. Pretty neat, huh?

A third component of the deal will be a new input method, to get all those match results from your sanctioned events into the ranking program for processing. And there's the rub ... the success of the new ranking scheme will depend almost solely on the ability and willingness of local tournament directors to track and report each and every match result. We'll offer a number of options, from very simple (but time intensive) to more sophisticated (and quicker) — but your results won't get anywhere until the TD makes it happen, just as soon as possible after the last match has been played.

Right now, there are several types of tournament management software that can generate results reporting that can be uploaded to the rankings quickly and easily. We'll be working with each of them to help make results reporting a snap, then help TDs get used to the idea. Want more details? Attend the "Summit in the Rockies" [see pg. 43] for the unveiling. Or stay tuned here for updates ...

... What? ... What's that, Kevin? ... I wasn't supposed to say anything until September? Oops... !

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*... on the cover ... Jason Mannino had been told that he'd never walk again, so what made him think he could win a pro tour season title? Whatever it was, it worked ... and he's on top of the world. Photo: Courtesy Pro Kennex.*

The wee Mannino didn't take long to pick up Dad's racquet and start swinging ... we suspect that plenty of lamps and shins were sacrificed in the early days ...



# readerforum readerforum readerforum readerforum

## Warm, Fuzzy Responses

I felt compelled to respond to your "Warm Fuzzy Feeling" article. At the end of 1999 our company went through a major transition and buyout which resulted in the phase out of my job. I was a 20 year veteran with our company, and the stress of the transition left me 50 lbs overweight, I had high blood pressure and had developed diabetes (which I feel was aggravated by stress). A dark spot had developed in my right eye, which rendered it totally useless (another stress related complication).

I began playing racquetball religiously Monday through Friday. Initially I could only play 10 to 15 minutes, and it would take me the rest of the day to recover. I noticed that when playing racquetball it was impossible to concentrate on work or health related problems. Racquetball became a safe haven from all types of tensions and pressures.

I played for months before all the aches and pains subsided, but I gradually began to feel better. I worked through my pains and currently play one to two hours per day.

Thanks to racquetball the stress in my life has been greatly reduced and I deal with it better. Racquetball is the most effective way I have found to deal with stress and physical health issues. I have lost over 30 lbs, the sight in my right eye has returned and I feel better than I have felt in 25 years. In short "I Feel Great!"

In summary, Linda: Go ahead and feel worthwhile, righteous and splurge with that warm fuzzy feeling. It is just as noble to prevent someone from developing health problems (through racquetball) as it is for the medical profession to deal with them once they have developed.

*But there was a mistake in your article: Racquetball, after all, is not just a game, but somehow Linda, I think you knew that all along. Thanks for your article, and the good you do.*

*Jerry Sanders • Spring, Texas*

I work with diabetics and one of the things we really stress is the importance of exercise. I think the best exercise a diabetic can get is playing racquetball and because I am a player, I push it as well.

The problem is a lack of equipment. Diabetics have to spend a large amount of their expendable income on medications and glucose testing strips if they are to stay healthy. They can't afford to buy equipment for this or any other sport, to be quite frank, and we at [Diabetics4Diabetics.com](http://Diabetics4Diabetics.com) simply don't have the revenue to pay for it either.

We treat all diabetics whether they have money or not, and depend on corporate sponsors to help out at times. So if our program could benefit from this letter, it would be just one

more way of doing "bigger and better" things through racquetball. Good luck!

*Bill Branson • Phoenix, Arizona  
diabeticwellness@hotmail.com*

Just got the magazine and read your editorial. I think the same thing sometimes: why do I spend so much time, effort and money on a sport that really doesn't get anywhere? But then it's those little things that bring you back to reality. It's the presenting of a \$1,200 check to the Ronald McDonald House Charities and then finding out that another person is challenging that amount at another tournament in Charleston, SC (saying that they are going to beat my amount). But then knowing in the back of my mind that I would gladly lose that challenge to see my donation amount beat for such a worthy cause. I guess that's what it is about.

It's also the friendships you make over the years. I can't believe the amount of people I have met over my last 25 years of playing. I look at Adrienne Fisher and think about me when I was her age playing on the tour. I hope she builds the type of memories that I have participating in this great sport.

*Brenda Kyzer • Lexington, South Carolina*

Six years ago, the Ft Smith Community Services Clearinghouse initiated a program called "Meals for Kids" to help feed children in this area that were experiencing extreme and even devastating hunger. The problem seemed particularly bad on Monday mornings, giving strength to the belief that these children had received little or no food over the weekend. To date, there are over 1000 students now receiving meals from the Meals for Kids program.

On Saturday February 8th, at World Class Fitness in Ft Smith, 21 players, all in one division, played 15 games each and then some stuck around for more doubles. Why would they want to play for six hours straight for no prizes or trophies. Because it was for charity. The players were all placed in one division, with points being given to lower division players and they played one game to 15 with rally scoring. Justin Watson emerged on top with 13 wins in his 15 games. Little brother Michael was right behind him with 12 wins and big brother Ryan right behind him with 11 wins.

The doubles were won in a tiebreaker by Michael Watson and Mike Nichols over Ryan Watson and Chris Nichols. The other participants were Chuck Davis, Bruce Adams, Pat Bellisario, Jack Schoeppey, David Greene, Brian Sanderford, Michael Squires, Pat Duboise, David Blocker, Larry Howard, Robert Abbott, Tripp McGehee, Stephanie Bird, Danny Davis, John Schwinger, and Aaron Adams.

Also donating but not playing were Ed Porter, Paula Guise, Leslie Watson and Dann Schwinger. Inland Container of Ft. Smith also donated to this cause. This is the second year

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for this fundraiser event and in the two years, we have donated over \$1000 to the Meals for Kids program. Thanks to you all.

*Dann Schwinger • Ft. Smith, Arkansas*

*Thanks to everyone for sharing those special efforts to benefit individuals and charities "above and beyond" the sport itself. And I'm certain that there's a lot more going on than this! — Editor*

## Back to Basics

For what it is worth, I think the USRA/ESPN videotape on the 2002 US Open was over-edited. I believe players such as myself are interested in simply seeing the pros play. We want every rally and every point. Forget the goofy graphic treatments and hype. If we want that, we'll tune in MTV. We want to watch the world's best play the game we love. Plain and simple. Show us full matches or, at least, complete games with John, Derek, Sudsy, Cliff ... and the women pros too.

After doing stories for Racquetball on Lynn Adams and Cheryl Gudinas, I would like to see more coverage of the women's pro tour by ESPN or the USRA. The USRA can hire a videographer and produce its own tapes. I would pay decent money for videotapes of entire matches or key games of men and women pros. It's sure cheaper than airfare and hotel, for a trip to Memphis or Houston.

*Dick Barton • Park Ridge, Illinois*

## Retrospective

I feel the need to belatedly comment on the usra.org home page. Selecting Jackie Rice for the home page seems very appropriate, but Dan Obremski might seem a bit of a stretch in this "what have you done for me lately" world we live in. However, for me, seeing Dan's likeness brings back many happy memories — I had just discovered tournament racquetball in the mid 80's and I still remember the first time I saw Dan (playing against Doug Ganim), in Toledo, Ohio. I couldn't wait to get back to my

small town club and tell all of my "club level" friends that there are big city tournaments with some "really good" players — worth the time to go see in action. Dan was a fixture on the Ohio racquetball scene in the mid to late 80's and he never failed to put on a good show.

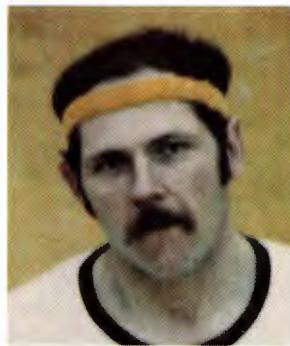
Fast forwarding to today, it's sad that Dan no longer can compete, due to a needed and costly knee surgery. I want to think that there must be a USRA member who is also a orthopedic surgeon who might be able to offer his or her services for the "good of the sport." Wouldn't it be neat if we could once again see Dan and Doug contending for yet another National Doubles title? If this never comes to pass, I still want to say thank you for selecting Dan from a considerable list of fine players to appear on the usra.org home page.

*Steve Lahey • Ottawa, Ohio*

## Youth Outreach

I was delighted with the Juniors issue. Kids are the future of the sport and the long term market that many club owners do not cultivate in order to keep their clubs thriving. The Houston Downtown YMCA Youth Outreach Program described in page 21 of that issue has been followed up with once a month repeat events, and so far roughly 150 to 180 kids have had a little taste of the game and a fun day in the process. We are continuing to expand the reach of the program, get more kids to become familiar with the game, and working on some charity sponsored memberships for inner city kids.

Houston is blessed with several community minded folks that realize the tremendous benefits to both the kids and community of introducing them to constructive activities. Simon Weiderman



## hmmm ... who 'dat?

One writer recognized "the familiar glare" and another handful of email guessers were right on the money. Our mystery veteran was current U.S. Team Head Coach and Hall of Famer Jim Winterton — at a time when handball and racquetball players wore the same uniforms!

New age photo (right): John Foust.

of the JCC has youth instructional leagues and a double bounce program, and Bill Dunn of Victoria YMCA runs Youth programs and leagues, in addition to our (downtown YMCA) program headed up by John Bright and Peyton Dorsett.

It is my hope that club managers will recognize this valuable, relatively untapped, potential market and start taking advantage of it. Clubs could easily donate non prime hours to junior highs and high schools in their local areas for racquetball team practice; let teams play their competitive events in the non prime post-8pm time slots; benefit from charitable donation of the currently under-utilized/unused time; and simultaneously build the future clientele that helps insure the club own long term success.

*Mike Lazarow • Houston, Texas*

## Correction

It was an awful slip, but the "centerfold" Hall of Fame poster mistakenly cited Larry Lederman as "deceased" — when in fact, we were told, he most certainly is not! Our thanks to Bill Schultz for pointing out the error, and giving us the opportunity to set the record straight. My apologies! — Editor

# Finally !

## Whether You Think You Can or You Think You Can't, You're Right! ... how Jason Mannino became the best racquetball player in the world ...

*"...Tortoise walked and walked. He never, ever stopped until he came to the finish line ... After that, Hare always reminded himself, "Don't brag about your lightening pace, Slow and Steady won the race!" – The Tortoise and the Hare, a fable by Aesop*

*"Hello all. I finally did it. I clinched the #1 ranking ... I can't explain the feeling inside. Let's just call it the best feeling you can feel. I want to personally thank you all for your undying support all year long. You've given me the strength I needed to achieve my life long goal."*

– Jason Mannino  
Internet posting,  
March 23, 2003

Feature by  
Eric Muller



AUTHOR AND SUBJECT, AT THE '99 U.S. OPEN. PHOTO: VICKI HUGHES.

While no one has ever described Jason Mannino as slow, his extraordinary ascent to the top of racquetball's elite has been a long journey. Mannino's well-chronicled past as a street smart New Yorker and cocky junior champion, who miraculously recovered from a near-death car accident [see box below] to become a top-ranked IRT pro is certainly impressive. However, Mannino's realization of his lifelong ambition of finishing the year as the IRT's #1 ranked player on the planet is legendary. Along the way,

Mannino etched a place in racquetball lore by wresting the crown from not one, but two, of the greatest players in history while fending off challenges from an invasion of young talent last season.

### One for the Ages

Achieving the number one ranking in any season is impressive; finishing first in the 2002-2003 tour lineup was remarkable. The IRT's 18-event season was the longest in a decade and the most competitive in history. Unprecedented depth and ruthless competition saw eight different players win ranking events.

Through it all, Mannino's performance was commanding. With consistency as his hallmark, Mannino fed on the pressure and locked in the number one ranking by the 14th event on the slate. When all was said and done, Mannino won seven events and finished nearly 1,000 points ahead of #2 ranked Kane Wasenlenchuk.

### An Unlikely Champion

While not the first to try, Mannino is the first player in a decade to succeed in finishing No.1, bearing a name other than "Suds" [Monchik] or "Cliff" [Swain]. Indeed, since 1993, Swain finished No.1 five times (six times in his career) and No.2 five times while Monchik held five No.1 titles and two No.2 finishes. In the face of such total domination, Mannino remained confident, "I thought I was in the hunt even when I wasn't. But over the past several years I felt that I had a chance to finish No.1 going down the stretch at the end of each season, but the Suds/Cliff onslaught was just too much at that time."

**What Accident?** On July 26, 1993 Jason Mannino was driving his car on a rainy night when it went through a puddle and spun out of control. Colliding with another vehicle, Jason's car burst into flames as it spun off the road, finally coming to a stop after hitting a telephone pole, fire hydrant, and a bus sign. His friend and passenger, Kurt Kratzer, and another friend in a trailing vehicle, Steve Guarnieri, helped Jason from the car as flames shot out 20 feet from his gas tank.

At the hospital it was learned that Jason had broken his back in three places, suffered a broken pelvis, two

broken ribs, and was bleeding internally. It was not known if he would live. When he did, doctors told him that he would never walk again. He was hospitalized for two weeks and confined to bed for four months. Eight months later he began to walk with a back brace and a walker, before shedding them to walk on his own, but with a limp.

Jason didn't pick up a racquet again until November of 1994. At a San Jose event, he won one match before losing in the next round. He then began to train rigorously for the World Junior Championships that were only three weeks away. After shedding 18 of the 30 lbs. he'd gained in recovering from the accident, Jason ripped through the boy's 18-singles division to win the title ... and more.

Still, Mannino seemed an unlikely candidate to pry the top ranking from the shared Swain/Monchik death grip. An 8-year tour veteran, Mannino was a perennial semi-finalist who occasionally logged wins against Swain and Monchik. Perhaps it was a sign of things to come when Mannino used his control / retrieval / counter-punching game to defeat Monchik and Swain in succession to win the 1999 U.S. Open. In reflecting on how he was able to "crack the code" and come out on top against the pair, Mannino says he "always felt that it was only a matter of time....I just tried to make it as hard as possible to beat me. I felt I would win the battle of attrition." Hmm – if only it were that easy!

While Mannino gradually enjoyed additional inroads against Monchik and Swain during the next couple of seasons, he did not move up in the rankings. It seemed that Mannino's career, while stellar (and enough for Racquetball magazine to name him one of its 32 Greatest Players of the 20th Century, Nov.'99), would never yield a #1 finish.

### **Seize the Moment**

When Monchik broke his foot prior to the 2001 U.S. Open and was out for the entire season, many believed it to be a foregone conclusion that Swain would dominate the remainder of the events and easily capture his sixth season title. Mannino, never one to be influenced by the whimsy of conventional wisdom, stepped into the breach. For the remainder of the year, he catapulted past the rest of the field and battled Swain at every turn. In the end, Swain did capture his historic sixth title, but only by the narrowest of margins over Mannino.



## 20 Questions with...

### Jason Mannino

2002-2003 IRT Season Champion  
1999 U.S. OPEN Champion

**Birthdate:** ..... January 28, 1975 [age:27]  
**Place of Birth:** ..... Brooklyn, New York  
**Current Residence:** ..... San Diego, California  
**Family:** ..... Married to Jennifer, son Jason  
**Height:** ..... 5'8"  
**Weight:** ..... 175  
**Racquet:** ..... Pro Kennex Shadow 165  
**Sponsors:** ..... Pro Kennex, RacquetballCatalog.com, Resendez Chiropractic.

**Wheels?** Mercedes SLK hardtop convertible, black on black.

**What CD is in your car right now?** I have six in the changer, but "Life After Death" by the Notorious B.I.G. was playing when I got out.

**How do you relax?** Usually by the T.V. with my wife and a glass of wine.

**Last movie that you saw?** Bruce Almighty

**Favorite actor?** DeNiro. I don't think I need to explain why.

**Favorite referee?** Erin Brannigan. He was the best and he wasn't even that good.

**Best trash line you have dropped?** I have a couple and most you can't print. The most recent one that you can was after a player was complaining to the ref after I just beat him 11-0. I looked over at him and said, "Why are you complaining? I just gave you a donut, do you really think you have a chance?"

**Best trash line you have heard?** "I'm gonna beat you so bad this game your mother's gonna make you do three-a-days."

**Favorite opponent?** Sudsy. He's the most exciting to play.

**East coast or west coast?** When it comes to family and friends, east coast. When it comes to quality of life, west coast.

**Ice cream or cake?** Cake.

**Coke or Pepsi?** Pepsi.

**Beer or champagne?** Champagne.

**Favorite eats?** East coast or west coast? (laughs) West, Mexican. East, Italian

**Best pizza?** Sam's in Brooklyn.

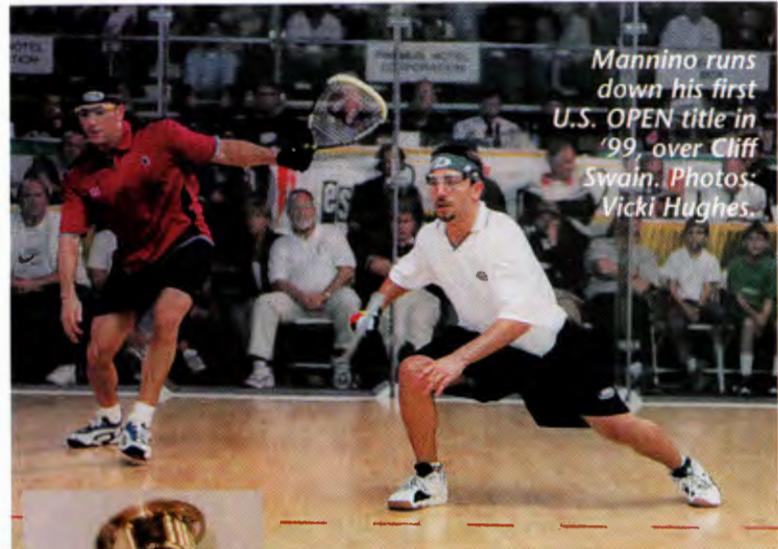
**Favorite non-racquetball sport?** Baseball.

**Favorite team?** The Yankees.

**Perfect vacation?** An over water bungalow in Tahiti, drinking a frosty drink, and laying on a hammock with the wife.

**Ten years from now you'll be ...** Retired, enjoying life with my family and friends. Maybe doing some teaching and camps to give back to the sport.

**What are you good at again?** That's the question! Everything. No, seriously the real answer is working with people that love the game. You can just tell who they are.



### Quite a Lineup

After the 2001-2002 season's epic battle, the 2002-2003 season was the most eagerly awaited in years. Would Swain be able to capture a seventh title? Would Monchik return with a vengeance to reclaim the top spot? Many experts believed that a new champion would indeed be crowned. Rabid fans turned a hopeful eye toward Waselenchuk – a mild-mannered, cheery Canadian who is

the latest incarnation of the lethal Hogan/Swain/Monchik-serve-and-shoot game style. Some believed that an 18 event season, the longest in a decade, would favor iron man Swain or even the much celebrated and ballyhooed Huczek, a fit and fleet-footed latter-day Mike Yellen. Mannino certainly figured to be in the mix, but the jury was out on whether his body could withstand the long season and whether his game would hold up against an ever-increasing talent pool.

The season exceeded all of those expectations. Leading up to the U.S. Open, Waselenchuk came of age with monster wins at the season opener in New Orleans and in Mexico. Young gun Alvaro Beltran, the finest player ever produced by Latin America, began the season white-hot with a finals appearance and his first-ever tour victory in Virginia. Monchik shook off ring-rust to capture Colorado and Riverside. Swain struggled. In addition to pocketing wins in Stockton and Chicago, three additional finals appearances gave Mannino an early lead in the rankings race.

Mannino was barraged at mid-season, when Monchik caught fire and several others, including John Ellis, Derek Robinson, Mike Guidry, Huczek and Mike Green, found their stride. Mannino recognized the situation for what it was, "it has not been easy. [Everyone] decided to bring their A-games this year,

making it harder than ever to get through them. I just tried to play the percentages and let the chips fall where they may." Still, Mannino's foundation was intact. Backed by a strong support system including his father, wife and coach Fran Davis, Mannino never lost in the 16's and rebounded from several quarterfinal losses with victories in the following event. Like most players on tour, Mannino nursed nagging ailments all season, yet he avoided major injury despite his go-for-broke, acrobatic game style.

At the end of the day, Monchik and Waselenchuk faded with injuries. Late season charges by Huczek and Carson fell short. Swain, while managing to gut out a No.3 ranking, never found his rhythm and failed to win an event all season for the first time in his storied career. In the end, Mannino's consistency and determination left him as the last man standing.

### **The Future**

As great as it was for fans this season, 2003-2004 is going to be even better. Will Swain and Ellis return to form? Will Monchik's wounds mend sufficiently for him to complete the season? How long can Mannino keep Huczek, Carson and Beltran under his thumb? Can anyone stop Waselenchuk?

No one knows the answers to these questions, but rest assured that Mannino is in his prime and will fight to keep his spot. Between his stellar junior career and his heroics over the past couple of seasons, Mannino's place in racquetball history is secure. But he's hungry for more. He believes that multiple No.1 finishes are required to be counted among the Hogan, Yellen, Swain and Monchik crew, yet he recognizes the task ahead is not an easy one.

He says, "next season should be a lot like the first half of this season. Sudsy will come out smoking. We will all be trying to keep him down. Jack, Rocky and Alvaro will continue their consistency, and I think Cliff will return to form and surprise some critics. And I gotta believe that Kane and I will be making another run at No.1. Hopefully there will be the same parity as this past season to add some serious excitement to the sport. My toughest competition will be everyone I play. I just want to get out of my own way, play hard, play the percentages, and not lose any matches I should have won. The rest is history." History indeed. •

### **Q & A With Mr. M**

Nothing makes a person happier and more proud than to see their children succeed in life, especially at something that they love. RACQUETBALL interviewed Jason's dad, Russ Mannino, for his views on his son's career. Russ is an accomplished player and coach in his own right, taking second in the men's 55+ in Houston this year, but all talk centered around Jason and his new IRT title.

*How does it feel to know that your son just became the No.1 player in the world?* We all live through our kids and it's nice that they attain their goals and can make a living playing a great sport. Whether he achieved No.1 or not would have been a great accomplishment considering the accident he had. Last year he finished No.2 and if that was as high as he finished then I still would have been proud of him.

*What was it like for you and your family after Jason's accident?* That was pretty challenging. First, you don't know if your kid is going to live. Second, you had to wonder if he would walk and be able to function normally afterwards. Third, and the least important, was whether he could play racquetball again. It took him about a year before he picked up a racquet and started fooling around with it on the court.

*Did you know that he would be able to reach the No.1 spot?* Before the accident I thought he could be a top player. He'd just lost an 11-8 tiebreaker to Suds at Junior Nationals and then a week later he had the accident. After the accident it wasn't a concern, but he wanted to take a couple of years to compete on tour and see if he could make a living at it. Every year he got better until this year when he got to be No. 1.

*When did you first know that he could be one of the great ones?* Probably when he was 13 or 14 when he played in the 16's at the World Juniors in Florida. He and Sudsy always played up a division at worlds and Jason beat some good players like Alan Engle and some others. He didn't win, but he beat three or four real tough players.

*What do you think drives Jason to excel?* I think the toughness of growing up in New York, the east coast confidence, the east coast cockiness, keeps him strong. Now that he is out here (San Diego) and is a little more mature, he realizes that works for him on the court. A lot of players can try to come on the court with an attitude, but they don't pull it off as well not coming from the east.



*What do you see in Jason's future?* I think he can stay on top for another few years. Now with a family I think he'll probably play for a few more years and then stay in the sport, whether it be coaching or clinics, to give back to the sport.

*Russ Mannino (center) holds grandson Jason, flanked by son and daughter-in-law, Jennifer.*

# WHEN TWO HALVES COME TOGETHER...

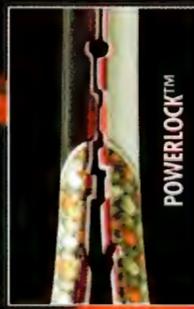
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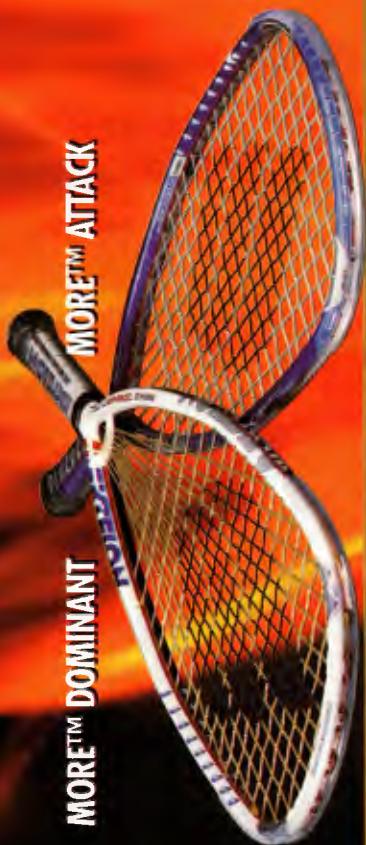
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#2 player in the World\*

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L-R: Huczek & Carson



L-R: Gudinas & Fenton



*Once again the country's best racquetball players headed to the Downtown Houston YMCA to compete in the 2003 Ektelon 36th USRA National Singles Championships presented by Penn Racquet Sports. Over 600 players were scheduled to compete for the right to be named "National Champion" in 60+ divisions separated by age, skill, and age-skill.*

There was a great deal more riding on this year's Open division playoffs, since they were also a designated as the last Pan American Games qualifier [see sidebar]. Play heated up immediately.

The men's 53-player draw opened with two rounds on Wednesday, and no upsets in the feeder round. With most of the top seeds earning byes, only two of the top 16 seeds fell victim in the second.

## carson & gudinas sweep nationals

The first upset came when Brent Walters knocked off No.9 seeded Chris Wright. Walters' court coverage was key to his victory as he frustrated Wright with his amazing retrievals. After edging Wright in the first game 15-14, Walters forced Wright into numerous mistakes in the second, winning easily 15-5.

The second upset of the day came at the expense of former two-time champion, No.11 Adam Karp, who was defeated by Zack Miller in straight games of 15-12, 15-13. Karp was the last player to win back-to-back men's open national singles titles (1998-99), but his bid for a third was thwarted by the 20-year-old Californian.

Surviving an early round scare was No.5 seed, Rocky Carson, who barely advanced past a pesky Tom Furman. Furman built a 13-7 lead in the first game, which Rocky methodically picked away to win 15-13. The second game was close throughout with Rocky again making a push at the end to pull out the 15-11 victory.

### Two More Fall

The upsets continued into the round of 16 when two more top seeds fell. Southpaw No.13 Mitch Williams upset another former two-time champion, No.4 Michael Bronfeld, 15-2, 15-12. "I got a few good gets in the first couple of points and I think that put the pressure on him," Williams said. "After that he started trying to roll everything out and it forced some skips."

Williams almost gave away the second game after building a 9-1 lead. Bronfeld scored nine straight

points to take a 10-9 lead before Williams could get his game back. "He started to hit some good shots," Williams explained. "I think that when I dove and rolled out a ball to get to 13 that really turned it in my favor."

All of the upsets into the tournament at this point have been by up and coming younger players making their mark by taking out experienced veterans, but Doug Ganim, 37, turned the tables by upsetting No.7 Josh Tucker, who had turned 23 less than a week earlier.

After two close first games, with Ganim taking the first 15-14 and Tucker the second 15-13, Ganim shocked the crowd by dominating the tiebreaker 11-1.

"Josh just got off to a bad start in the breaker," Doug said. "Once I got him under my thumb he started to press. He didn't have his normal game."

### Quarters

Defending champion Mike Guidry had a tough time with No.8 Chris

Crowther in their quarterfinal. At first it looked as though Guidry would cruise into the semis after an easy 15-3 win in the first game. But Crowther came back in the second to even things up with a 15-10 win of his own. Guidry escaped the upset, holding off Crowther in the tiebreaker to advance, 11-8.

Although Crowther came close, No. 6 Shane Vanderson logged the only upset of the day by defeating No. 3 Jason Thoerner, 15-8, 15-12. Vanderson nearly blew a 14-4 lead in the second game after Thoerner, disgusted with his play, began chanting, "Let's go Shane! Let's go Shane!" Vanderson let Thoerner get to within two points, 14-12, before closing out the match, 15-12.

"That was the first time I ever had an opponent cheer for me," a confused Vanderson said after the match. "It was kind of weird."

Also advancing into the semis were No. 2 Jack Huczak and No. 5 Carson. Huczak ended Ganim's run through the draw in straight games, 15-7, 15-9, while Carson also advanced in two over Williams, 15-13, 15-6.

### **Down to the Wire**

In an upset that took nearly two hours, Carson pulled out a narrow win over Guidry, 15-11, 14-15, 11-10. The players stayed within a few points of each other for the entire first and second games, before Guidry took an early 8-2 lead in the third. Carson was upset with calls that went against him and uncharacteristically lost his composure.

"The fact that I missed four straight shots after I got the bad calls made me realize that I needed to relax," he said. "I

took a few deep breaths and thought about the things I needed to do instead of the things that were going wrong."

Carson did manage to relax and began to chip away, tying the game at 9-9 and then moving ahead 10-9. Guidry saved match point once with a diving retrieval for a winner, then evened the game at 10-10 after Carson skipped the next return of serve. Guidry then hit an apparent winner for the match, but the call was overturned on appeal. A well placed touch shot to the right front corner by Carson completed the turnover.

In the lower half, Huczak defeated Vanderson, in straight games of 15-12, 15-1. The first game started out with Huczak in the lead 5-2 before Vanderson scored six straight points to move ahead 8-5. Huczak tied the game again at 9-9 and then took control.

"I wasn't nervous in the beginning, but I wasn't as relaxed as I should have been," Huczak explained. "At 9-9 I settled in and began to hit to the open court, which created more opportunities for me."

The second game was all Huczak as Vanderson was unable to get anything going.

### **U.S. NAMES PAN AM TEAM**

This year's national singles was also the last chance for players to qualify for the quadrennial Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic in August. The Pan Ams are the biggest international sports event outside of the Olympics and the best chance for our sport to achieve worldwide recognition — and they only roll around once every four years.

The USRA changed the qualifying procedures for the U.S. National Team this past March and for the first time selected a pro from both the IRT and LPRA tours to compete in singles at the Pan American Games. Cheryl Gudinas, ranked No. 1, and Jack Huczak, ranked No. 4, were the highest ranked pros to accept the USRA's offer following pro nationals in early May.

The doubles teams were solidified at the National Doubles Championships last October in Minneapolis. Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Guidry repeated as the men's champions, thus earning the right to compete in Santo Domingo. Jackie Rice and Kim Russell, separately two of the most successful doubles players in history, teamed up once again to earn the women's title and will represent the U.S. in women's doubles.

That meant that the two highest finishers, other than these six, would earn the final two spots on the Pan Am squad. Although all players in the semifinals qualified for the team, Rocky Carson, Shane Vanderson, Laura Fenton, and Kerri Wachtel were trying to take that one step further and earn the right to participate in the Pan Ams.

By virtue of making the finals, Carson and Fenton captured the final two spots on the Pan Am team and will represent the U.S. in the men's and women's No. 2 singles spots, respectively.

### **U.S. National Team Pan American Games Roster**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Player</b>
#1 Men's Singles	Jack Huczak
#2 Men's Singles	Rocky Carson
#1 Women's Singles	Cheryl Gudinas
#2 Women's Singles	Laura Fenton
Men's Doubles	Ruben Gonzalez & Mike Guidry
Women's Doubles	Jackie Rice & Kim Russell

"Shane played well in the first game, but I don't know what happened in the second," said Huczak after the match. He forced

**Ektelon 36th U.S. National Singles Championships**  
Presented by Penn Racquet Sports  
Coverage by Ryan John • Photos by Bruce Adams

Vanderson to make numerous errors, leading to an easy win.

### **The Final**

In a rematch of the 2001 finals, Carson was again set to face Huczek for the title. In 2001 Carson was the top seed, but Huczek blew past all competition, including Carson, to win his first singles crown. This year Carson was the underdog, aiming to avenge that loss two years ago.

Huczek drew first blood with a 15-6 win. It seemed that no matter what Carson was able to do, Huczek was able to do it a little better.

"Jack didn't miss very many shots in the first game," Carson said. "He played nearly flawless racquetball."

Carson built a commanding 9-1 lead in the second, but nearly lost it when Huczek drew close at 9-6. Carson again pulled away, 13-6, only to have Huczek close the gap to 13-12 before Carson closed the door, 15-12, to force a decisive third.

"He missed a few shots that allowed me to get a lead and some confidence," Carson explained. "I was able to hold on to get to the breaker ... barely."

In that breaker it looked as though Carson was out of the match. Huczek built an early 5-1 lead, then expanded it to 8-3. Carson then changed his service game from soft lobs to hard drives and jam serves.

"I said to myself 'Do or die, get your serve in' to try and put pressure on him," Carson said. "I thought if I got it in then I could get a couple of quick points."

The points didn't come quick, but Carson was able to tie the game at

8-8 after picking away at the lead. They were then tied at 9-9 and 10-10 before Carson forced Huczek into a skip in the backcourt with a passing shot to reclaim the title.

### **Ladies Turn**

Perennial defender Cheryl Gudinas was attempting to make history by seeking her fifth straight title. She claimed the No.1 seed position, followed by last year's runner-up Laura Fenton at No.2, then Jackie Rice and Kersten Hallender as the third and fourth seeds, respectively.

Although the few top seeds that had to play in the opening round of 32 advanced easily, two upsets marked the round of 16 for the women. The first was scored by No.10 Malia Bailey in her defeat of May/June cover-girl and No.7 seeded Adrienne Fisher in a 15-5, 7-15, 11-4 tiebreaker. Bailey, 44, said she used experience gained against Fisher, 17, at last October's national doubles.

"I played doubles against Adrienne in Minnesota and remembered some of her tendencies," Bailey explained. "That worked in the first game, but she adjusted nicely in the second. I tried to mix things up in the third and it worked."

Elsewhere, Phoenix neighbors No.11 Rachel Gellman and No.6 Rhonda Rajsich faced off. The match was exciting as Gellman, known for her power, and Rajsich, relying on her athleticism, battled it out to a 15-13, 8-15, 11-6 upset win for Gellman.

Liz Alvarado took No.4 Kersten Hallander to the limit, once again proving that there are no easy rounds in Houston. Alvarado took the first game 15-10, but Hallander was able to rely on her LPRA tour experience to pull out the come-

from-behind victory by taking the next two games, 15-4, 11-7.

### **Top Four**

Gudinas continued her trek towards a fifth straight title by defeating No.9 Kristen Walsh in straight games, 15-13, 15-8, while her good friend, No.5 Kerri Wachtel, recorded a minor upset against Hallander, thereby earning a spot on the U.S. National Team for the first time since 1994. Wachtel forced errors on Hallender by hitting precision passes through both games of 15-7, 15-5.

In the bottom half of the bracket both Fenton and Rice advanced in straight games to set up a No.2 versus No.3 battle. Fenton got past Bailey, 15-11, 15-11 and Rice defeated Gellman, 15-4, 15-8. Rice, a routine semifinalist and six time national doubles champ, was still seeking her first singles crown.

### **Semifinals**

Gudinas moved closer to setting a record after defeating No.5 Kerri Wachtel in straight games of 15-12, 15-1. Wachtel took an early 8-3 lead in the first, but Gudinas remained patient, waiting for opportunities.

"She started out really strong and was putting the ball away in the first game," Gudinas said. "I kept giving her setups off the back wall."

The tide turned for Gudinas when she switched to a wallpaper serve that hung on the sidewall. "I hate to lob serve her because she is so good at cutting the ball off, but I had no choice because she was putting away all of my other serves," said Gudinas. "Luckily I was hitting it well enough that it worked."

Fenton faced Rice in a rematch of last year's semifinal. Rice came out

# Congratulations Champ!

From Your Friends at



Congratulations to Rocky Carson for winning the Men's Open division at the 2003 USRA National Singles Championships! He will now lead the U.S. National Team on their quest for GOLD at the 2003 Pan American Games in the Dominican Republic. Only four weeks prior to the Nationals Rocky switched to the new HEAD MegaBlast 175 racquet and started hitting the ball harder than ever. "I feel like I can knock down the front wall with this racquet!" stated Carson after winning the Nationals. And he was not the only player in Houston putting "holes in the walls"! As a matter of fact, HEAD players completely dominated the Men's Open division. In an unprecedented showing, 6 of the 8 quarterfinalists were HEAD players and ALL WERE USING THE NEW HEAD MegaBlast TECHNOLOGY! Congrats to Jason Thoerner, Mitch Williams, Doug Ganim, Chris Crowther, Shane Vanderson, and of course Rocky Carson on a job well done. HEAD MegaBlast—get one in your hands or you may get crushed by someone who does.



*Rocky Carson*

-2003 USRA

National Champion



**MEGABLAST**  
TECHNOLOGY

## A Tough Road

Only a handful of players had a chance at two gold medals on the final day of competition at National Singles this year. It's a grueling week and easy matches, no matter what division, are hard to come by. Making one final is hard enough; two is nearly impossible.

Solanna Taragan and Anita Maldonado each made two finals in full single-elimination draws, and even faced each other in one of them. RACQUETBALL caught up with them after their 35+ match (which Solanna won 14-14, 15-12, 11-8), to get their views on making two finals at perhaps the hardest tournament of the year.



"We train hard to do this and this is what it is all about," said Anita [top left] who earlier lost her women's 40+ final to Malia Bailey. "Making it to one final is hard enough, but to make two finals is an awesome feeling."



"I think it's too risky to come here and just play one event because you could lose early with all the talent here," Solanna [bottom left] said of her decision to play both the women's 35+ and women's Elite. "But, if you keep going in both draws you are dead by the end of the tournament."

Anita agreed and had no regrets about playing two divisions even though she was exhausted before playing in her second final of the day. "I would do it the same way. It was fun," she explained. "You can't come out here and play just one event unless you are Cheryl Gudinas and feel that you are going to win the Open."

Solanna ended up losing her Elite final to Teresa Beresford, but was still elated with her performance in Houston. "I think the women's 35+ draw is very prestigious," she said. "This is the tourney of the year. I know some people are saying that the (U.S.) OPEN is, but the best players come here every year."

hot and looked like she would walk away with the first game after building 9-2 and 13-5 leads, but Fenton methodically dismantled the margins until she got back into the game and was then able to win, 15-14, on a forehand rollout.

"The biggest thing was to be patient. I just wanted to try and get into a rhythm before the first game was over," Fenton said. "I knew I could win the first game, but I didn't expect to."

Rice refocused in the second game, which was tight throughout, but Fenton was hitting precision passes to keep Rice in the backcourt. That led to easy setups for Fenton that she was able to put away for winners. Rice made the occasional, incredible shot, but Fenton's patience and consistency cemented the 15-13 win.

"You have to keep her (Rice) in the back of the court," Fenton explained. "If you let her play up front she could beat you."

## Record Setter

Gudinas is regarded as the best women's player in the game today and has held that distinction for several years. Last November, she finally was able to get the U.S. OPEN monkey off her back with a win in Memphis, and later finished the LPRA season on a five-tournament winning streak.

But Fenton had gained a little confidence as she headed into the daunting task of dethroning the four-time champ. She had defeated Gudinas in their most

recent final at the Tournament of the Americas this past April in a three game thriller, 15-14, 14-15, 11-8.

Anyone else might have had that defeat in mind heading into a major rematch — but not Cheryl Gudinas.

Although the first game was tight throughout, Gudinas was better able to keep control of center court, which gave her more offensive opportunities. She capitalized on each of those and pulled ahead at the end of the game, 15-11.

"My game plan going into the match was to keep her in the back of the court because she is such a good shooter up front," Gudinas explained. "I knew I had to win the first game or else she would have been able to gain confidence going into the second. Once she gets confidence in her game, it's a dangerous thing."

Gudinas came out firing in the second game, scoring six straight points to go up 6-0. Fenton pulled within three at 7-4, but that was as close as she would get. Gudinas closed out the match, 15-5, with a forehand kill shot then let out a scream as she raised an open hand to symbolize the five national championships that she has won.

"The early lead in the second game allowed me to just relax and play," Gudinas said. "I think that really put the pressure on her and forced her to try some things that she normally wouldn't have." •

# ektelon national singles

Downtown YMCA, Houston,  
Texas: May 21-26, 2003

## OPEN U.S. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFIERS

Men's Open: Rocky Carson (Laguna Niguel, Calif.) def. Jack Huczak (Rochester, Mich.) 6-15; 15-12; 11-10  
Women's Open: Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill.) def. Laura Fenton (Overland Park, Kan.) 15-11; 15-5

## AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's 24+: Mitch Williams (Washington, N.C.) def. Matthew McElhiney (Sarasota, Fla.) 15-5; 15-7  
Men's 25+: Mike Dennison (Twinsburg, Ohio) def. Aaron Metcalf (Jacksonville, Fla.) 5-15; 15-5; 11-4  
Men's 30+: Tom Fuhrman (Tucson, Ariz.) def. Brian Fredenberg (Dallas, Texas) 7-15; 15-9; 11-2  
Men's 35+: Dan Llacer (Rehoboth Beach, Del.) def. Tony Boscia (Lakewood, Colo.) 12-15; 15-7; 11-1  
Men's 40+: Jimmy Lowe (Fairbanks, Alaska.) def. Eric Foley (Columbia, Md.) 15-6, 15-8  
Men's 45+: Joe Hassey (Las Vegas, Nev.) def. Glenn Bell (Nederland, Texas) 15-14; 15-10  
Men's 50+: Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, N.Y.) def. Mitt Layton (Jacksonville, Fla.) 15-8; 15-4  
Men's 55+: Ed Remen (Apex, N.C.) def. Russ Mannino (San Diego, Calif.) 15-7; 15-11  
Men's 60+: Dan Jones (Atlanta, Ga.) def. Warren Reuther (New Orleans, La.) 15-6; 15-5  
Men's 65+: Dave Snyder (Austin, Texas) def. Rex Lawler (Terre Haute, Ind.) 15-10; 15-13  
Men's 70+: Don Alt (Dublin, Ohio) def. John O'Donnell Jr. (Champaign, Ill.) 15-4; 15-3  
Men's 75+: Joe Lambert (Plano, Texas) def. Duane Russell (Lansing, Mich.) 15-13, 15-12  
Men's 80+: Robert McAdam (Crowley, Texas) def. Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) 15-12, 15-3

Women's 24+: Rhonda Rajsich (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Lauren Deutsch (West Hills, Calif.) 15-0; 15-5

Women's 25+: Kerri Wachtel (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Aimee Roehler (Sterling, N.J.) 15-8; 15-1

Women's 30+: Amy Foster (Fairlawn, Ohio) def. Johanna Shattuck (Denver, Colo.) 15-14; 15-8

Women's 35+: Solanna Taragan (Redondo Beach, Calif.) def. Anita Maldonado (Bronx, N.Y.) 14-15, 15-12, 11-8

Women's 40+: Malia Bailey (Norfolk, Va.) def. Anita Maldonado (Bronx, N.Y.) 15-10; 15-2

Women's 45+: Chris Evon (Wheeling, Ill.) def. Susan Pfahler (Neptune Beach, Fla.) 15-2; 15-8

Women's 50+: Marsha Berry (Louisville, Ky.) def. Karen Key (Gilbert, Ariz.) 15-11; 14-15; 11-8

Women's 55+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Mildred Gwinn (Waxhaw, N.C.) 15-2, 15-7

Women's 60+: Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Mildred Gwinn (Waxhaw, N.C.) 15-2, 15-7

Women's 65+: Annabelle Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.)

Women's 70+: Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.)

Women's 75+: Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.)

Women's 80+: Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.)

## SKILL DIVISIONS

Men's Elite: Raymond Maestas (Albuquerque, N.M.) def. Rodrigo Urzua (Boca Raton, Fla.) 10-15; 15-9; 11-9

Men's A: Jody Morris (Maxwell, Texas) def. Roberto Cantos (Hutto, Texas) 15-3; 15-8

Men's B: Rick Rubin (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) def. Dennis Whitehead (Anna, Texas) 15-8; 15-12

Men's C: Tim Kirk (Ft. Worth, Texas) def. Garry Carter (Napa, Calif.) 15-4; 15-10

Men's D: Mario Moreira (Freedom, Calif.) def. Jim Stein (Waynesboro, Pa.) 15-6; 15-10

Women's Elite: Teresa Beresford (Arlington, Va.) def. Solanna Taragan (Redondo Beach, Calif.) 15-9, 15-14

Women's A: Suzette Solomon (Indianapolis, Ind.) def. Esther McNany (Farmington, Conn.) 13-15; 15-10; 11-1

Women's B: Chandra Shaw (Cedar Hill, Texas) def. Diana Courtney (Saint Clair Shores, Mich.) 2-15, 15-11, 11-2

Women's C: Marci Laramée (Murfreesboro, TN) def. Jean Lerch (Exeter, N.H.) Def (ns)

Women's D: Carolyn Watkins (Chicago, Ill.) def. Richelle Kulju (Tacoma, Wash.) 15-13; 15-4

## AGE+SKILL DIVISIONS

Men's 24- A/B: Dallis Rogers (Overland Park, Kan.) def. Brandon Stanley (Baton Rouge, La.) 15-5; 15-3

Men's 24- C/D: Juan Martinez III (Springfield, Mo.) def. Jason Martucci (Houston, Texas) 15-6; 14-15; 11-2

Men's 25+ A/B: Dennis Whitehead (Anna, Texas) def. Sean Wilson (Taunton, Mass.) 15-10; 15-2

Men's 25+ C/D: Twayne Howard (Grand Rapids, Mich.) def. Mike Easthorpe (Harrison Township, Mich.) 15-6, 15-11

Men's 30+ A/B: Sean Baker (Houston, Texas) def. Dale Durboraw Jr. (Grants Pass, Ore.) 12-15; 15-7; 11-5

Men's 30+ C/D: Roger Hertzberg (Humble, Texas) def. Twayne Howard (Grand Rapids, Mich.) 15-0; 15-10

Men's 35+ A/B: Alok Mehta (Wellesley, Mass.) def. Dennis Negrete (Schaumburg, Ill.) 15-11; 12-15; 11-2

Men's 35+ C/D: Curt Firestone (York, Pa.) def. Brad Nelson (Fischer, Texas) 14-15; 15-3; 11-9

Men's 40+ A/B: Charles Lee (Baton Rouge, La.) def. Steve Mejia (San Angelo, Texas) 15-12; 15-7

Men's 40+ C/D: Rudy Olivares (San Antonio, Texas) def. Michael Kaufman (Marietta, Ga.) 15-1; 15-11

Men's 45+ A/B: Gwynne Edmunds (Bowling Green, Ky.) def. Jack White (Warren, Mich.) 15-10; 15-4

Men's 45+ C/D: John Shurbet (Lubbock, Texas) def. Lou Kleinman (Houston, Texas) 15-5; 15-14

Men's 50+ A/B: Ron Martucci (Birmingham, Ala.) def. Robert Franks (Trophy Club, Texas) 15-2; 15-7

Men's 50+ C/D: Ray Meisner (Glendale Heights, Ill.) def. Charles Van Hoose (Rochester, Mich.) 15-10; 15-6

Men's 55+ A/B: A.B. Dennis (San Antonio, Texas) def. John Patalano (Warwick, R.I.) 15-9; 15-14

Men's 55+ C/D: Garry Carter (Napa, Calif.) def. Howard Watters (Fort Worth, Texas) 15-5; 8-15; 11-3

Men's 60+ A/B: Joseph Harman (Atlanta, Ga.) def. Al Miller (Wooster, Ohio) 15-13; 15-4

Men's 60+ C/D: Wayne Thornton (Clarksville, Ark.) def. Alberto Palacios (Chicago, Ill.) 15-3; 15-7

Women's 24- A/B: Keely Franks (Austin, Texas) def. Sarah Wells (Oak Harbor, Wash.) 15-6, 15-10

Women's 24- C/D: Tracy Cerovski (Valley View, Ohio) def. Sherrika Darnell (El Dorado Hills, Calif.) 15-10, 15-12

Women's 25+ A/B: Ramona Vonondarza (Boca Raton, Fla.) def. Stephanie Bird (Tulsa, Okla.) 13-15, 15-9, 11-4

Women's 25+ C/D: Marci Laramée (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) def. Kristen Liebmann (Austin, Texas) 15-2, 15-0

Women's 30+ A/B: Umpapan Trakoontripop (Voorhees, N.J.) def. Chandra Shaw (Cedar Hill, Texas) 15-11; 3-15; 11-8

Women's 30+ C/D: Carolyn Watkins (Chicago, Ill.) def. Sarah Sokoloff (Bedminster, N.J.) 15-14, 15-9

Women's 35+ A/B: Sheri Zappala (Westbury, N.Y.) def. Katy Wood (Sitka, Alaska) 15-11, 15-14

Women's 35+ C/D: Beth Gainer (Mount Joy, Pa.) def. Gwendlin Morris (APO) 15-8, 15-8

Women's 40+ A/B: Sheri Zappala (Westbury, N.Y.) def. Pat Hake (Elizabethtown, Pa.) 9-15; 15-4; 11-3

Women's 40+ C/D: Sharon Shapiro (Manchester, N.H.) def. Janice Bell (Jonesboro, Ga.) 12-15, 15-11, 11-5

Women's 45+ A/B: Elizabeth Shaia (Victoria, Texas) def. Susan Kieffer (Nisswa, Minn.) by forfeit

Women's 45+ C/D: Janet Christie (Schaumburg, Ill.) unchallenged

Women's 50+ A/B: Sharon Huczak (Rochester, Mich.) def. Susan Kieffer (Nisswa, Minn.) 0-15, 15-7, 11-8

Women's 50+ C/D: Becky Smith (Verden, Okla.) unchallenged

Women's 55+ A/B: Paula Lemon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) def. Sharon Brockbank (Boise, Idaho) 15-13, 9-15, 11-6

Women's 55+ C/D: no division

Women's 60+ A/B: Marquita Molina (Wasco, Calif.) unchallenged

Women's 60+ C/D: Annabelle Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.) unchallenged

Find daily site reports, expanded results, sideline reports and drawsheets @ [www.racquetballmagazine.com](http://www.racquetballmagazine.com) > "event coverage" — plus at [www.the-finals.com](http://www.the-finals.com)

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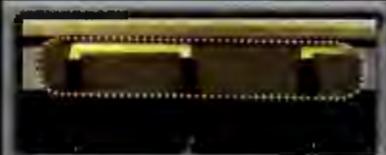


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The tournament featured over 200 of the nation's best collegiate players representing 40 schools from across the country. Up for grabs were spots on the U.S. National Racquetball team, earned by the men's and women's No.1 singles champions. Other individual awards were at stake in singles and doubles competition, as well as trophies earned by the top men's, women's, and overall team finishers.

The tournament began on Wednesday and the men completed two rounds, bringing their draw of 32 down to just 8. Kudos to the seeding committee as all of the top 8 seeds advanced into the quarterfinals, including top seeded defender Jack Huczak and No.2 Vanderson, but the competition promised to get tougher leading into the finals.

"I felt good today, but I know that the tournament is going to get harder as we go along," said Vanderson, last year's runner-up. "I have trained hard and hopefully I can make it to Saturday for another shot at the title."

#### *Quarterfinals*

The draw went almost as planned again in the quarterfinals as the top three seeds advanced into the semifinals in the men's No.1 singles division. Only the No.4 seed wasn't so lucky. Chaffey College Freshman Zack Miller upset No.4 Jimenez in straight games, 15-4, 15-7.

Miller earned the right to face Huczak in the semifinals. Huczak was rolling through the competition, and had allowed his opponents to score only a total of six points combined. He defeated Sacramento State's Mark Salinas, 15-1, 15-3, in the quarterfinals.

"I want to go out there and have fun, play hard, and take it one match at a time," Huczak said.

In the bottom half of the bracket No.3 Carrillo defeated No.6 Sanjay LaForest, who is playing for St. John's University, 15-5, 15-11. No.2 Vanderson also had little trouble advancing into the semifinals for the third straight year by downing Bryant College's Timothy Wilson 15-4, 15-2.

"I look forward to competing against Cesar (Carrillo) tomorrow," Vanderson said. "I would really like another shot at Jack (Huczak) on Saturday."

## **huczak & walsh top undergrads**

*At the beginning of the year, Tempe, Arizona hosted the NCAA Division I Football National Championship game between Ohio State and Miami. The next national championship on the city's docket was the E-Force 31st USRA Intercollegiate National Championships, on the Arizona State University Campus in April.*



#### *Semifinals*

Huczak and Miller faced each other for the first time in intercollegiate competition, but they have faced each other before during their junior careers. In 2001 they met in both the national and world 18- singles finals with Huczak coming out on top both times. Huczak came out on top again this time 15-8, 15-4, putting him in the finals for the second consecutive year.

He would face No.2 Vanderson in a rematch of last year's thrilling final which went to a tiebreaker. Vanderson also has not lost a game, but had a tougher time in his semifinal match than did Huczak. After winning a close first game against Carrillo, 15-12, Vanderson found himself down 9-1 to start the second. After conferring with Baldwin Wallace Assistant Coach Mike Dennison during a timeout Vanderson stepped up his game and stormed back for a 15-12 win to advance into the finals.

"I am glad to have got through that match," Vanderson said of his match with Carrillo. "Now my focus is set on regaining my title tomorrow."

## team results

### Finals

Huczek versus Vanderson is almost always an exciting match. Both players are extremely athletic and routinely make incredible retrievals. The match started out much like last year's final, but Vanderson was plagued by inconsistency, which hampered his bid for a second intercollegiate title.

Vanderson was ahead 6-5 in the first game when referee Willie Tilton called a skipped ball on an apparent winner by Vanderson. One line judge disagreed with Tilton's call and the other indicated a no decision, causing the point to be played over. Vanderson was visibly upset about the call and Huczek took advantage of the opportunity, ending the game on a 10-1 run, 15-7.

In the second game Vanderson again took an early lead, but Huczek patiently hung around waiting for a mistake. Huczek kept himself in rallies with spectacular retrievals until a setup presented itself, which he consistently was able to capitalized on, leading to a 15-7 win in the second as well.

### Women

Krystal Csuk was back again to defend the title she won in an upset over previous defending champion Kristen Walsh. Walsh was also eager to reclaim her title. Ironically, Walsh played for Baldwin Wallace College when she won her title and then transferred the following year, as did Csuk. Walsh now competes for the University of Utah and Csuk for DuPage College in Illinois. Sacramento State's Melissa Borgwat and hometown favorite Kristen Alatorre-Martin of Arizona State were also considered to be in the hunt.

The women's No.1 singles began with just one opening round, putting their draw into the round of 16. Most of the top seeds earned a bye for the first round, but would definitely see action on the following day with two rounds scheduled.

There was an exciting roller coaster match between Texas A & M's Natalie Brush and Utah Valley State's Kensie Brown. Brown won the first game easily 15-2, but Brush put that game behind her to win the second 15-9. After two relative blowouts, no one knew what to expect in the tiebreaker. What they got was the closest game of the match with Brown squeaking by 11-9.

### Opening Rounds

Unlike in the men's draw, there were some upsets in the women's round of 16. Oregon State's Jenny Cary, seeded No.7, and No.8 seed Laurie Fisk of the University of Missouri both lost. Cary was upset by the university of Texas' Keely Frank in a three game battle, 15-13, 8-15, 11-7. Fisk lost to Penn State's Quinn Morton in straight games, 15-7, 15-13.

Things were righted in the quarterfinals with the top three seeds advancing to the semifinals.

As with the men the fourth seed was left behind.  
University of

### OVERALL TEAM RESULTS

1. Brigham Young University	1846
2. University of Southern Colorado	1731
3. Baldwin Wallace College	1713
4. Penn State University	1583
5. Arizona State University	1179
6. Sacramento State University	1050
7. Oregon State University	820
8. University of Utah	599
9. University of Texas at Austin	598
10. Southwest Mo. State University	517
11. University of North Carolina	496
12. Utah State University	485
13. University of Calif. at Berkeley	452
14. University of Nevada at Reno	312
15. Texas A&M University	147
16. University of Southern Calif.	140

### MEN'S TEAM RESULTS

1. University of Memphis	1757
2. Baldwin Wallace College	1482
3. University of Southern Colorado	1410
4. Bryant College	822
5. Oregon State University	766
6. Penn State University	718
7. Arizona State University	709
8. Sacramento State University	639
9. Brigham Young University	593
10. Utah Valley State College	531
11. University of Mass. at Amherst	444
12. Auburn University	414
13. University of Calif. at Berkeley	392
14. University of North Carolina	370
15. Utah State University	352
16. Oakland University	350
17. University of Utah	319
18. University of Wisc. at Madison	263
19. University of Oregon	252
20. Chaffey College	210
21. Southwest Mo. State University	208
22. University of Nevada @ Reno	192
23. University of Texas at Austin	158
24. St. Johns University	140
25. Texas A&M University	135
26. Clarkson University	132
27. University of New Hampshire	106
28. Nichols College	82
29. University of Washington	70
30. University of Colorado-Boulder	68
31. Rensselaer Polytech Institute	50
32. Sam Houston State University	31
33. University of Southern Calif.	0

### WOMEN'S TEAM RESULTS

1. Brigham Young University	1253
2. Penn State University	865
3. Bryant College	558
4. Arizona State University	470
5. University of Texas at Austin	440
6. Sacramento State University	411
7. Utah Valley State College	390
8. University of Southern Colorado	321
9. Southwest Mo. State University	309
10. Clarkson University	289
11. University of Utah	280
12. Baldwin Wallace College	231
13. DuPage College	210
14. University of Southern Calif.	140
15. Utah State University	133
16. University of North Carolina	126
17. University of Nevada @ Reno	120
18. Southern Oregon University	70
19. University of New Mexico	70
20. University of Calif. at Berkeley	60
21. Oregon State University	54
22. University of Mo. at Columbia	27
23. Texas A&M University	12
24. Nichols College	3

### DIVISION II OVERALL TEAM RESULTS

1. Bryant College	1380
2. Utah Valley State College	921
3. Clarkson University	421
4. Nichols College	85

**E-Force 31st U.S. National  
Intercollegiate Championships**  
Presented by Penn Racquet Sports  
Remote coverage by Ryan John

Southern California's Lauren Deutsch upset hometown favorite and No.4 seed Kristen Alatorre-Martin in a come from behind victory. Deutsch seemed to get better as the match progressed winning 8-15, 15-9, 11-1.

Top-seeded Csuk and No.2 Walsh advanced easily in straight games. Csuk defeated Morton 15-5, 15-1 and Walsh got past Franks 15-3, 15-4. No.3 Borgwat also advanced, but not as easily, over an improved Jeni Fuller 15-14, 15-14.

### Semifinals

The women's semifinals offered some of the most exciting matches of the weekend. Defending champion Csuk seemed unstoppable in her first game against Deutsch as she blanked her, 15-0. Deutsch rebounded in the second game and came away with a win, 15-13, but Csuk recovered in time for the tiebreaker to win it, 11-5.

Things weren't easy for No.2 Walsh either as she had to come back against No.3 Melissa Borgwat after blowing a 12-6 lead in the first game. Borgwat ended the first game on a 9-1 run to win, 15-13. Walsh regrouped between games and went on to win the second 15-7, and then shut out Borgwat 11-0 in the tiebreaker.

Both Csuk and Walsh were looking forward to their finals rematch. "I'm excited to play Kristen," said Csuk. "She's one of my favorite people to play because she always gives 110% and we always have close matches."

"I'm looking forward to playing Krystal in the finals," Walsh said. "I have been anticipating this match since last year."

### Finals

The women's final last year was two lopsided exchanges, then a tight tiebreaker in which Csuk scored an upset 11-9. They opened with another pair of lopsided games this year, but it was Walsh who earned both wins. She appeared to be on a mission, playing nearly flawless racquetball and capitalizing on mistakes by Csuk enroute to a 15-8, 15-0 victory to reclaim her title.

Csuk began the match by hitting well placed passes, but Walsh was there to gobble them up. Csuk was forced to play more defensive than normal when her offensive shots found the floor more often than the front wall. Walsh, however, couldn't seem to miss, especially in the second game, and went offensive at every opportunity keeping the pressure on Csuk through the last point. •

Arizona State University Student Recreation Center  
Tempe, Arizona: April 2-5, 2003

# e-force national intercollegiates

#### Men's Singles

- U.S. Team Qualifier/#1: Jack Huczak (Oakland University) def. Shane Vanderson (Baldwin Wallace College) 15-7, 15-7
- #2: Andy Hawthorne (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Jeffrey Garner (University of Memphis) 15-8, 15-6
- #3: Justin Arms (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Mike Lawrence (University of Memphis) 15-10, 15-6
- #4: Travis Woodbury (University of Memphis) def. Brandon Burgess (University of Southern Colorado) 15-6, 15-13
- #5: Bob Jackson (University of Memphis) def. Fred Drago (Bryant College) 15-0, 15-4
- #6: Adam Long (Penn State University) def. David Pekema (University of Calif. at Berkley) 15-5, 15-5

#### Women's Singles

- U.S. Team Qualifier/#1: Kristen Walsh (University of Utah) def. Krystal Csuk (DuPage College) 15-8, 15-0
- #2: Paige Harris (Brigham Young University) def. Sarah Morrison (Penn State University) 15-13, 14-15, 11-9
- #3: Tawnya Woodbury (Brigham Young University) def. Heidi Zitza (Southwest Missouri State University) 15-4, 15-3
- #4: Marci Mangelson (Brigham Young University) def. Holly Zitza (Southwest Missouri State University) 15-4, 15-8
- #5: Eileen Sanchez (Brigham Young University) def. Kristen Karl (Penn State University) 15-2, 15-3
- #6: Karin Christiansen (Brigham Young University) def. Kristen Daigle (Penn State University) 15-7, 15-6

#### Doubles

- Men's Doubles #1: Andy Hawthorne/Shane Vanderson (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Cesar Carrillo/Jeffrey Garner (University of Memphis) 15-14, 15-5
- Men's Doubles #2: Andreas Jimenez/John Rhodes (University of Southern Colorado) def. Mike Lawrence/Travis Woodbury (University of Memphis) 15-14, 15-10
- Men's Doubles #3: Chris Barton/Brian Pederson (University of Southern Colorado) def. Ray Forbes/Bob Jackson (University of Memphis) 15-5, 13-15, 11-7

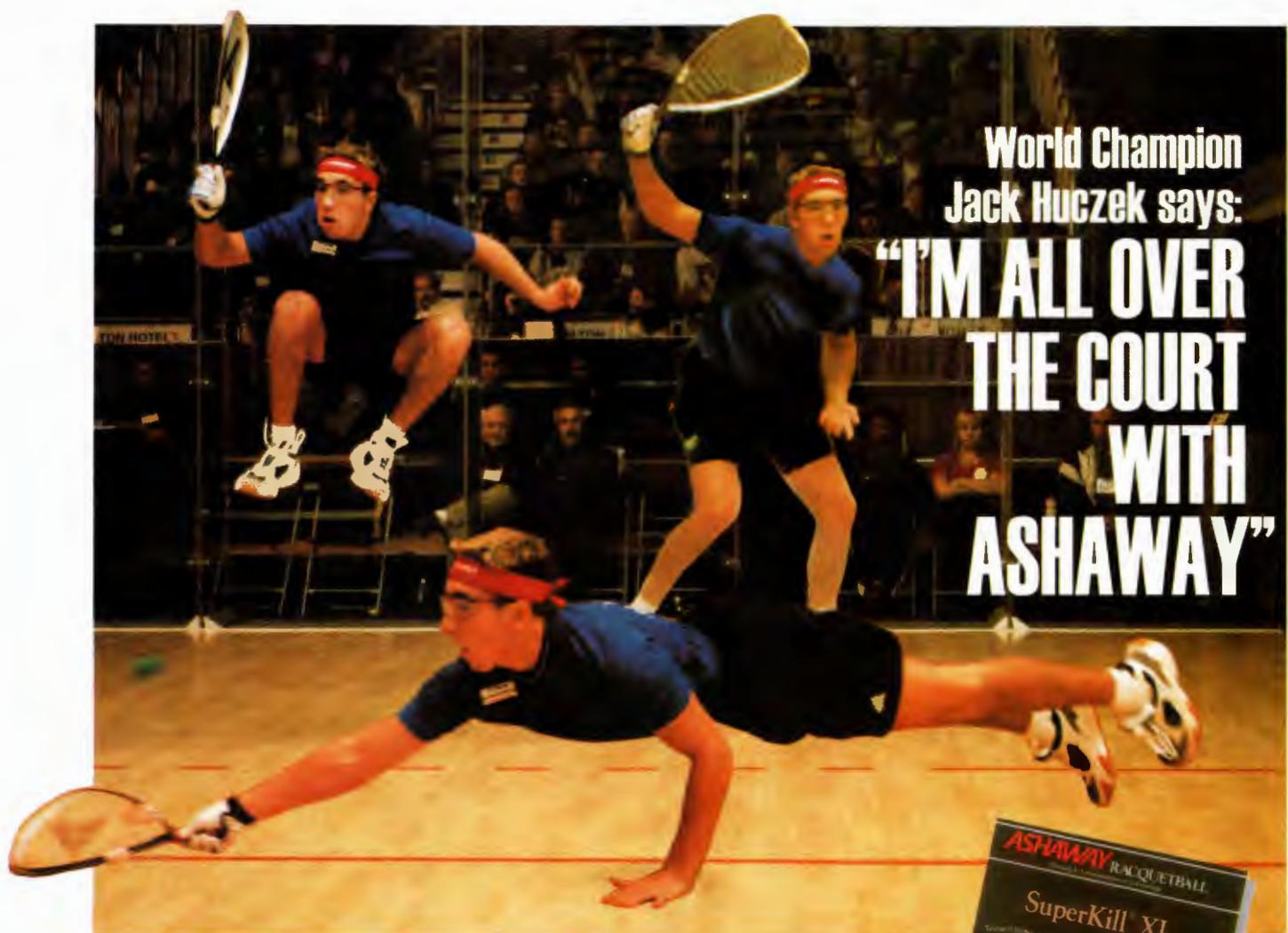
- Women's Doubles #1: Adva Buzi/Keely Franks (University of Texas at Austin) def. Kristen Alatorre-Martin/Nicole Passage (Arizona State University) 15-2, 15-9

- Women's Doubles #2: Marci Mangelson/Tawnya Woodbury (Brigham Young University) def. Lucy Auraamidou/Jennifer Bezrutczyk (Penn State University) 15-3, 15-3
- Women's Doubles #3: Karin Christiansen/Eileen Sanchez (Brigham Young University) def. JarDanna Bailey/Dianna Lankford (Utah Valley State College) 15-5, 15-3

- Mixed Doubles #1: Melissa Borgwat/Jason Santos (Sacramento State University) def. Sarah Morrison/Sergio Nieto-Montenegro (Penn State University) 15-14, 15-5
- Mixed Doubles #2: Tara Hipp/Justin Arms (Baldwin Wallace College) def. Adva Buzi/Brenden Hale (University of Texas at Austin) 15-12, 15-12

- Mixed Doubles #3: Audrey Thompson/Brady Woodbury (Brigham Young University) def. Kelly Cheney/Rick Warner (Arizona State University) 15-7, 9-15, 11-5

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This special Ronald McDonald Charity Tournament took place at the Quadrangle Club in beautiful Coral Springs, May 9-11, drawing more than 40 junior players and 160 amateur players in addition to the 7 "Legends" battling it out for a \$6000 first place prize.

## legends in south florida

Newly named "legend" Cliff Swain was understandably the top seed going into the tournament, followed by big-name stars Marty Hogan, Ruben Gonzalez, Dave and Gregg Peck, Mike Ray, and Corey Brysman.

Mike Ray upset Ruben Gonzalez, his doubles partner for the event, in straight games 15-8, 15-8.

Also moving into the semis were Hogan, Swain, and Peck. Hogan played Peck and won 15-9, 15-13 followed by the Swain versus Ray match where Swain won easily 15-3, 15-1.

The final was between two of the greatest players to play the game - Cliff Swain and Marty Hogan. There was a lot of talk and fun on the court, but it was the younger Legend who was able to come away with the win 15-7, 10-15, 11-6.



out of the desert, into the tropics

One of the most interesting racquetball personalities on any circuit, Steve "Bo" Keeley, showed up at the Legend's event in Coral Springs. Known as one of America's great modern adventurer's, some in the racquetball world might remember Bo as a top touring professional in the 70's and the author of "The Complete Book of Racquetball", which sold over 100,000 copies. Bo is also a seven time national paddleball champion and traveled around the country giving clinics and playing tournaments in his customized Chevy van with Barfo, his Doberman, and a six-foot stuffed rabbit named Filmore J. Hare riding shotgun.

Bo has been out of the racquetball loop for some time now, concentrating on his adventures and living in the Baja desert. Through a chance meeting he became associated with the Legends Tour and will travel to the events sharing his knowledge on racquetball and paddleball. In Florida he conducted a clinic mainly for the juniors in attendance, but the adults that were at the clinic left just as enlightened.

"Two chapters of my life were first on the professional racquetball circuit, then around the globe as a traveler," he explained. It looks as though he might be adding another chapter that goes back into the racquetball world.

He is currently writing his seventh book entitled "Cat Man" that details more of his adventures including his travels to 95 countries, hikes and bicycle trips across the U.S., and his "Executive Hobo" tours. There is not enough room to do Bo's adventures justice, but you can read about them at [www.greatspeculations.com](http://www.greatspeculations.com). It would be time well spent.

and back to the desert ...

The following weekend, the Legends again hit the courts in Las Vegas at the Las Vegas Racquetball Challenge. Six Legends took part in the event including Marty Hogan, Mike Ray, Dave and Greg Peck, Corey Brysman, and Steve Lerner.

Lerner and Greg Peck started the tournament out right by going into an exciting tiebreaker match in which Lerner came out on top 10-15, 15-9, 11-6. Dave Peck fared better than his brother in the first round by defeating Brysman in straight games 15-9, 15-8.

The semifinals provided the crowd with another great old-style nail-biter between Hogan and Dave Peck. They traded 15-14 wins in the first two games before Hogan turned it up a notch in the breaker to win 11-5. Mike Ray advanced to face Hogan in the finals by getting past Lerner 15-8, 15-7.

Once again those in attendance were treated to a tiebreaker in the finals between Hogan and Ray. Hogan won the first 15-10, but Ray evened things up in the second, winning 15-9. The tiebreaker was a back and forth battle with Hogan edging Ray 11-9 to win the tournament.

## ten grand paycheck

An added highlight to the Florida event was a \$10,000 winner-take-all match between six time IRT champ Cliff Swain and the reigning season champion Jason Mannino. The stands were packed for this high stakes match and it was remarkable to see that almost half of those in attendance were juniors, each holding letter sized photos of either Cliff or Jason that would later be autographed.

The match was action packed with great gets and lightning-quick shots. Jason became a little frustrated with the official's calls (as did some of the fans), but referee Fred Stallworth stuck by his guns. "I felt like regardless of what they said, I called what I saw."

## more than just surviving

In this day and age the "family" health club is slowly becoming extinct. When corporate giants such as 24 Hour Fitness and Bally's Health Clubs move in, the mom-and-pop fitness centers are often unable to compete.

The Quadrangle Club in Coral Springs is the exception — they're thriving. Owned by Dean Katchel and family, the club has seen its ups and downs, but continues to hold its own amidst strong corporate competition. In fact, Dean and family have expanded their club, even restoring two courts that had been taken out in the 80's to accommodate aerobics and weights.

"A lot of the independent health clubs in the area couldn't compete when the larger health clubs came in, but we had racquetball to differentiate ourselves from the rest," Dean explained. "When we expanded our building to accommodate our aerobics program we decided to add back two of the courts that we had taken out. I was told that was crazy."

Or maybe not so crazy — the Quadrangle has since been able to host numerous state, local, and regional tournaments, as well as pro stops and the recent Legends event. The club is truly a family organization with Dean's wife MJ, and daughters Melissa and Denise all logging time to make the business a success.



In the end it was Cliff who prevailed in four games 11-5, 11-8, 7-11, 11-7, to take home the big check. That match alone generated nearly \$4000 in donations for the Ronald McDonald House, in addition to creating more than a little extra excitement for the sport.

"Scott (Hirsch), Luis (Quinones), and Ed Marin are probably the best thing to happen to racquetball since I have been around," Swain said after the match.

"They are all great guys that promote the sport and have the means to do so. Those three guys have the ability to take it to the level that we have dreamed of."

"I have been looking for people that believe in the sport, have been involved with it for most of their lives, and that were willing to put the money up to propel it to the next level," Jason agreed. "I think I have found them here in South Florida. I can't thank them enough for creating an excitement that this sport has been thirsting for."

Two of the men responsible for the Legends Tour — quietly providing the cash reserves it takes to pull off such an event — are Scott Hirsch and Luis Quinones. They do not, however, covet the spotlight, and instead prefer to remain behind the scenes in making things happen.

They contacted RACQUETBALL about covering the Legends event in Coral Springs, even going so far as to underwrite some expenses, but getting an interview with them was nearly impossible.

## behind the scenes

"This isn't about us," Luis said. "This is about racquetball, and promoting racquetball."

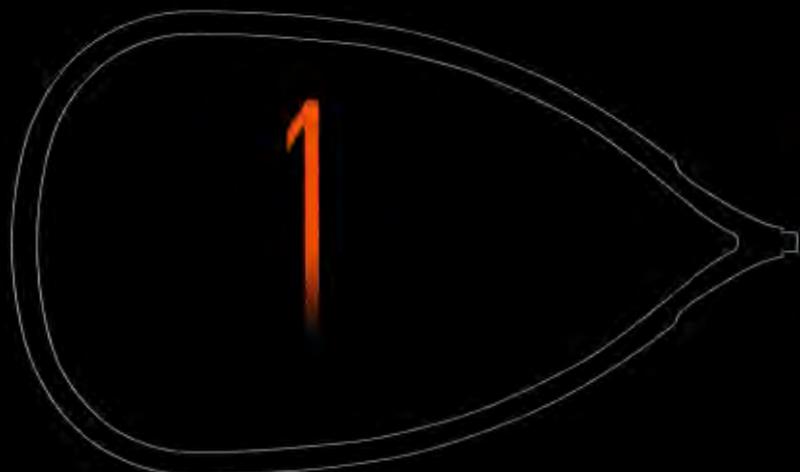
Only through others was it learned what they have done, and continue to do, for the sport. They have hosted junior tournaments in Florida with no entry fees and even underwrote USRA memberships for the juniors. Scott is also a leading "Open Level" donor in the "Players Helping Players" fundraising campaign, which is reserved for gifts of \$5,000 or more.

There are other endeavors that Scott and Luis have taken part in to help promote the sport, but out of respect for their wish to remain low key, we won't list them.

Instead we'll just mention how much they are appreciated for their continued support and love for the game.

coverage by ryan john  
photos by mike tiezzi

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# OP THREE



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when you purchase the  
new TRIAD 150 or 170.

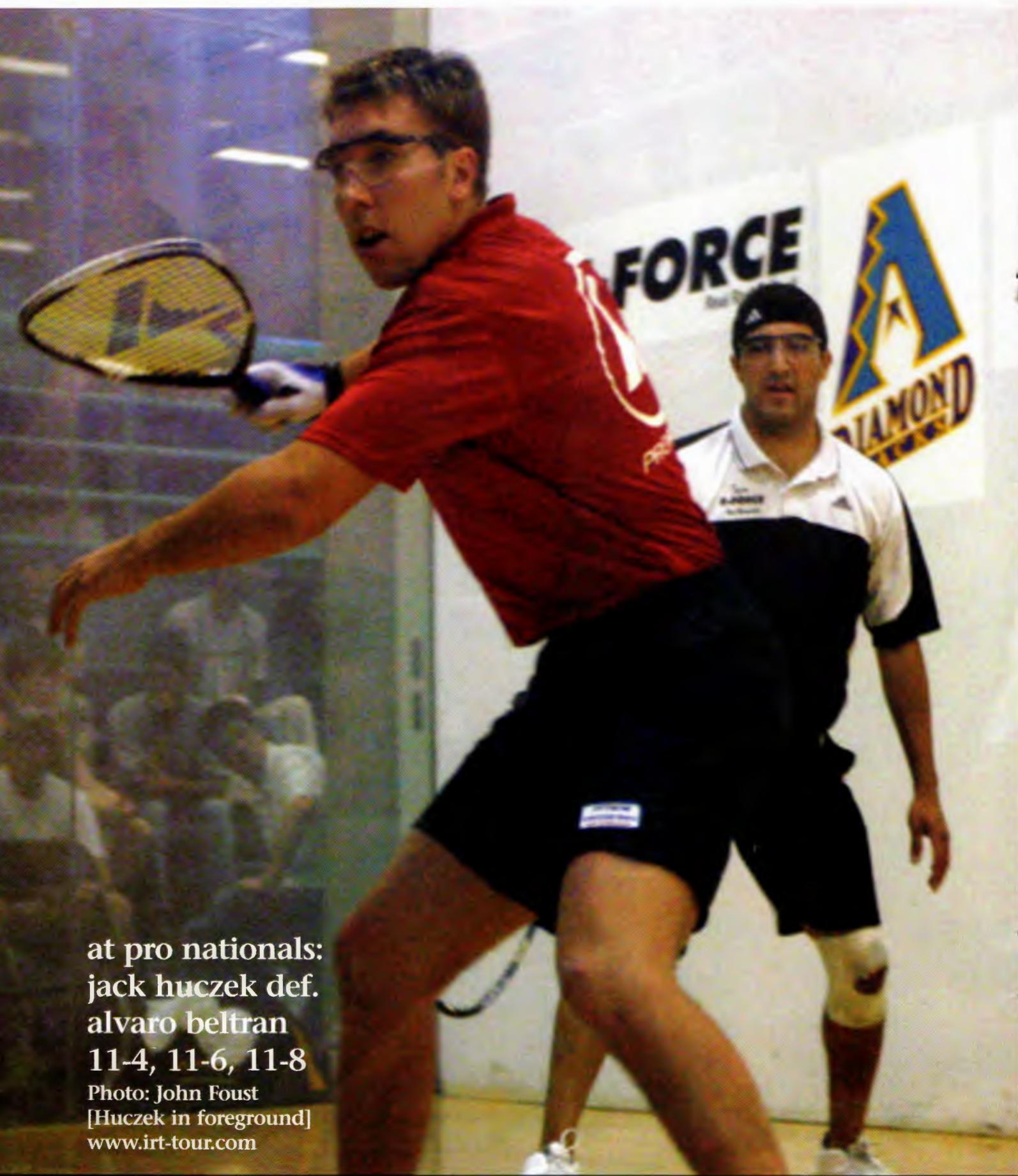
TRIAD 150

TRIAD 170

TRIAD



wilson.com



at pro nationals:  
jack huczek def.  
alvaro beltran

11-4, 11-6, 11-8

Photo: John Foust  
[Huczek in foreground]  
[www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com)

Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	In '02
1	4964	Jason Mannino	San Diego, CA	1 2
2	4040	Kane Waselenchuk	Edmonton, Canada	2 4
3	3580	Cliff Swain	Braintree, MA	3 1
4	3474	Jack Huczak	Rochester Hills, MI	8 5
5	3360	Alvaro Beltran	Tijuana, Mexico	5 6
6	3263	Rocky Carson	Santa Maria, CA	7 7
7	3169	John Ellis	Stockton, CA	4 3
8	3003	Sudsy Monchik	Staten Island, NY	6 17
9	2684	Derek Robinson	Kennewick, WA	9 8
10	2554	Mike Guidry	Carrollton, TX	10 10
11	2266	Mike Green	Ontario, Canada	11 11
12	1786	Jason Thoerner	Canton, GA	12 30
13	1290	Dan Llacerá	Rehoboth Beach, DE	17 22
14	1280	Chris Crowther	Riverside, CA	15 14
15	1076	Javier Moreno	Chihuahua, Mexico	14 16
16	1044	Ruben Gonzalez	Staten Island, NY	13 12
17	1038	Dan Fowler	Rockville, MD	16 15
18	926	Mike Dennison	Twinsburg, OH	18 27
19	844	Josh Tucker	Joplin, MO	25 154
20	813	Shane Vanderson	Dublin, OH	20 34
21	743	Nick Irvine	Stockton, CA	19 89
22	742	Brent Walters	Raleigh, NC	22 50
23	582	Brian Pointelin	Salt Lake City, UT	23 26
24	383	Shai Manzuri	Manchester, NY	24 18
25	360	Gilberto Mejia	Mexico	26 —
26	348	Mitch Williams	Raleigh, NC	29 56
27	339	Dale Valentine	Riverside, CA	21 23
28	307	Ben Croft	Lake Bluff, IL	36 62
29	248	Doug Ganim	Westerville, OH	57 29
30	237	Devin Cannady	Albuquerque, NM	30 51
31	232	Agustin Tristan	San Luis Potosi, MEX	31 119
32	227	Woody Clouse	Denver, CO	32 19
33	219	Andy Hawthorne	Berea, OH	33 73
34	207	Alesandro Herrera	Miami, FL	43 133
35	189	Vincent Gagnon	Quebec, Canada	37 —
36	189	Brian Fredenberg	Dallas, TX	38 67
37	187	Adam Karp	Stockton, CA	28 21
38	169	Andres Ramirez	Casselberry, FL	46 —
39	167	Hiroshi Shimizu	Japan	40 39
40	163	Eugene Coyle	Palatine, IL	39 33
41	152	Tony Boscia	Denver, CO	41 174
42	140	Gil De Los Rios	Chihuahua, Mexico	43 —
43	135	Eduardo Ortega	Chihuahua, Mexico	47 —
44	122	Zack Miller	Alta Loma, CA	45 54
45	114	Mike Harmon	Sarasota, FL	48 119
46	113	Shane Wood	Auburn, MA	147 —
47	110	Matt McElhiney	Bradenton, FL	49 —
48	103	John Lee Rhodes	Colorado Springs, CO	52 —
49	102	Rich Wagner Jr.	Truckee, CA	50 —
49	102	Nate Gagne	Biddeford, ME	— —



irt-tour.com

## International Racquetball Tour Season-End Top-50 Rankings

[Through Pro Nationals, 05/2003]

Obviously the biggest rankings story is that Jason Mannino ended Sudsy Monchik's and Cliff Swain's 11 year stranglehold on the No.1 position by finishing the year as the IRT champion. But there are a few more tidbits of interest for you statistic-fans ...

- Kane Waselenchuk's No.2 finish is the highest ever for a non-U.S. player.
- Making the biggest jump from outside of the top 20 into the top 20 was Josh Tucker who moved from No.154 a year ago to No.19.
- Current World Doubles champ Gilberto Mejia made the biggest jump into the rankings. Not ranked in 2002, Mejia worked into the No.25 spot in the final rankings.
- Eighteen states are represented among the top-50 ranked players. California leads the way with 9, followed by Ohio and Florida who are tied with 4 apiece.
- Besides the U.S., three other countries are represented in the rankings. Mexico has six players ranked followed by Canada with three, and Japan with one.
- Only five players finished this season ranked in the same position as last season. The highest was Mike Guidry who finished No.10 last year and again this year. The lowest was Hiroshi Shimizu who finished No. 39 in both seasons.



at pro nationals: cheryl gudinas def.  
jackie rice 11-3, 11-5, 5-11, 11-5

Photo: John Foust [Gudinas at right]  
[www.ladiesproracquetball.com](http://www.ladiesproracquetball.com)

	Points	Player	Hometown	Last Issue	In '02
1	1213.00	Cheryl Gudinas	Lisle, IL	1	1
2	695.750	Jackie Paraiso Rice	El Cajon, CA	2	2
3	649.750	Kerri Wachtel	Cincinnati, OH	3	3
4	476.500	Rhonda Rajsich	Phoenix, AZ	4	4
5	324.750	Kersten Hallander	San Diego, CA	5	5
6	244.000	Adrienne Fisher	Centerville, OH	7	17
7	240.750	Kim Russell	Austin, TX	6	8
8	187.500	Kristen Walsh	Salt Lake City, UT	8	6
9	183.500	Lori-Jane Powell	Canada	11	9
10	171.250	Susy Acosta	Mexico	9	11
11	166.750	Brenda Kyzer	Lexington, SC	10	25
12	156.000	Amy Foster	Fairlawn, OH	12	26
13	125.000	Jennifer Saunders	Canada	15	13
14	107.000	Doreen Fowler	Rockville, MD	13	15
15	106.500	Rosy Torres	Mexico	14	43
16	95.7500	Johanna Shattuck	Denver, CO	17	18
17	87.0000	Laura Fenton	Overland Park, KS	16	10
18	70.0000	Rachel Gellman	Phoenix, AZ	19	14
19	67.0000	Denise Mock	Allen, TX	18	12
20	62.5000	Ramona Vonondarza	Venezuela	20	21
21	60.0000	Stephanie Munger	Anchorage, AK	22	41
22	57.2500	Tammy Brown	Boise, ID	21	--
23	35.7500	Elaine Albrecht	Delaware, OH	23	20
24	34.2500	Robyn Perrin	Antioch, TN	24	41
25	33.2500	Karen Morton	Erie, PA	27	--
26	33.2500	Krystal Csuk	Naperville, IL	25	40
27	32.0000	Gerri Stoffregen	Cincinnati, OH	29	39
28	28.7500	Janet Myers	Charlotte, NC	26	19
29	26.0000	Lourdes Sanders	Ft. Collins, CO	28	44
30	22.0000	Diane Bohling	El Paso, TX	30	36
31	21.7500	Veronique Guillemette	Canada	71	67
32	20.7500	Chantal Turgeon	Canada	41	30
33	19.0000	Claudine Garcia	Dominican Republic	34	7
34	18.5000	Julie Neubauer	Canada	67	67
35	16.5000	Ellen Crawford	Alexandria, VA	31	22
36	16.0000	Lisa Hjelm	Carmichael, CA	39	32
37	15.7500	Vivian Gomez	Miami, FL	32	--
38	15.0000	Angela Burth	Las Vegas, NV	40	77
39	15.0000	Kelley Fisher	Centerville, OH	33	53
40	12.0000	Josee Grand'Maitre	Canada	90	39
41	11.7500	T.J. Baumbaugh	McLean, VA	35	38
42	11.0000	Jessie Carbajal	Aurora, CO	36	67
43	10.5000	Carola Loma	Bolivia	37	--
44	10.5000	Shannon Feaster	Silver Spring, MD	38	43
45	10.0000	Hideko Uchiyama	Japan	50	--
46	10.0000	Claudia Corpi	Mexico	65	27
47	10.0000	Linda Ellerington	Canada	--	--
48	10.0000	Amanda Dunn	Canada	83	30
49	8.7500	Phyllis Morris	Hillsborough, NC	42	77
50	8.7500	Lorraine Galloway	Jamaica Estates, NY	43	74



[ladiesproracquetball.com](http://ladiesproracquetball.com)

## Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Season-End Top-50 Rankings

[Through Pro Nationals, 05/2003]

There are thirty-two of them  
Sleeping six deep, on pull out  
couches and floors

Enduring long flights, cold coffee,  
cheap hotels

Traveling all over the continent to  
test themselves, and each other,  
within the confines of a small  
windowless room

They come from everywhere, from  
different countries and cultures

Some are princesses, some are  
paupers

They are young, and not so  
young

They are mothers, wives, sisters,  
daughters

But when the time comes, their  
differences fade,  
only to reveal some of the best  
athletes on the planet

They each become another  
opponent, another competitor

A racquet, four walls, and a small  
green ball that goes 150 mph  
Bruises the size of grapefruits,  
prize money that barely covers  
the hotel

No crowds, no fame, no big shoe  
contracts (yet!)

We compete to compete ...  
We are racquetball players.  
— Jo Shattuck

## Ektelon® More Performance™

Two new models will be added to Ektelon's More Performance series of racquets for July 2003 — the More™ Dominant and More™ Attack — featuring an eye catching, stylish design with each half of the frame a different color.

"We are confident that the S Series racquets will outperform any other racquet on the market," stated Scott Winters, Senior Director of Indoor Court Sports for Ektelon, "the new Direct Contact™ Suspension System adds that extra power everyone is looking for in racquetball."



More™ Dominant has Ektelon's highest power level, at 2050, and features the Triple Threat® with Tungsten weighting system and

Power Ring®, WallGlider™ Bumper and PowerScoop™, which increases comfort and durability with full frame stiffness and a uniquely shaped shaft that absorbs wall and floor impacts. The Dominant weighs in at 170 grams with an oversized hitting surface of 104 square inches.

Suggested retail: \$280. The More™ Attack has a power level of 1950 and features all the benefits of More Performance S Series, weighing in at 175 grams with an oversized hitting surface of 104 square inches. SRP: \$250.



## Dyna-Flex Gyro Exerciser

Remember the gyroscopes you played with as a kid (at least you older folks did ...)? You would wind it up, pull the string and watch it spin? Then you'd pick it up and try to hold it still, which was a challenge. Well, the Dyna-Flex Gyro is the same idea ...

only much faster and much more high-tech. Testimonials claim that it not only greatly strengthens the wrist, arm and shoulder, but that it also cures elbow problems.

"After checking around, I found similar results from others" agreed Doug Smith, of Python Racquetball. "They not only used it, but were practically addicted to it. I decided to order one

and see for myself and I have to admit, not only are they fun, but they're very effective in increasing arm strength."

The Dyna-Flex "Pro" — Designed with a high-performance rotor, which can reach speeds up to 13,000 rpms and offer 38 lbs. of torque. Offers a thermo grip band that aids in controlling this powerhouse; it's not only for fun, but also for sports rehabilitation and conditioning. SRP: \$25.00.

The Dyna-Flex "Powerball" — The ultimate in engineering design work. Offers same features as the "Pro", but has the added features of an on-board generator which activates LED lights (the faster the spin, the brighter the lights), a perfectly balanced rotor and removable top cap enabling insertion of the visible digital "Speed-Meter". \$35.00.

"Speed Meter" — The "Speed Meter" upgrades the Dyna-Flex Powerball to the ultimate, with three added functions: 1) Measure the user's current speed, 2) user's highest rpms and 3) maximum revolutions of the gyro. \$18.00.

For more information contact [www.pythonracquetball.com](http://www.pythonracquetball.com) or call Doug Smith @ 800-456-4305.

## New Instructional Video by Fran Davis

Fran Davis Racquetball introduces "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" a new two-hour instructional video to aid players in learning and strengthening their games. The video focuses on mastering the basics, and compares shaping your racquetball game with building a house — you start with the foundation and framework before adding the accessories.

With over 30 years of experience in the industry, Davis is widely known as a premier clinician, with credentials which include serving on the U.S. National Team and as the Pan American Coach and World Championship Coach. She's been a nominee for the USRA Hall of Fame, and has conducted over 1,200 camps and clinics in her career.

"Building Your Racquetball Dream House" is supported by HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports and is available at [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) or at select dealers throughout the U.S. Suggested retail price is \$39.95 (VHS) and \$49.95 (DVD). [see display ad on page 59]

## Here it is ... the Choice Hotels 8th U.S. OPEN entry form!

Is yours missing? If so, call 1-800-678-5396 for a replacement entry & ticket application, then plan to join us in Memphis, November 19-23, 2003 for the biggest and best pro tour event of the year!

# 2003 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**November 19-23, 2003**  
**Memphis, Tennessee**

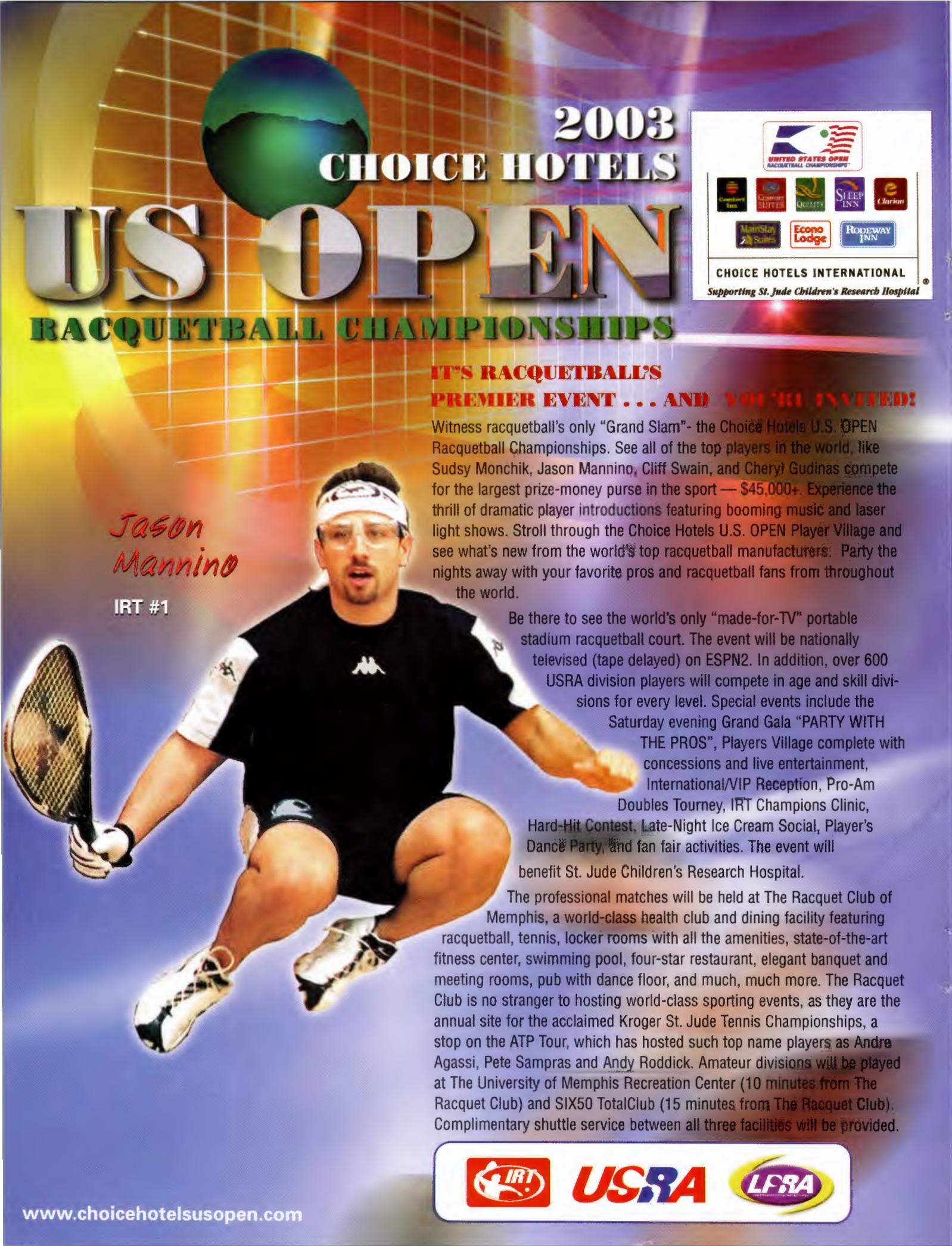


**CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL**

*Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*

## Entry Form and Ticket Application

[www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com)



# 2003 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

*JASON  
Mannino*

IRT #1



2003  
CHOICE HOTELS



## IT'S RACQUETBALL'S PREMIER EVENT . . . AND YOU'RE INVITED!

Witness racquetball's only "Grand Slam"- the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. See all of the top players in the world, like Sudsy Monchik, Jason Mannino, Cliff Swain, and Cheryl Gudinas compete for the largest prize-money purse in the sport — \$45,000+. Experience the thrill of dramatic player introductions featuring booming music and laser light shows. Stroll through the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Player Village and see what's new from the world's top racquetball manufacturers. Party the nights away with your favorite pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world.

Be there to see the world's only "made-for-TV" portable stadium racquetball court. The event will be nationally televised (tape delayed) on ESPN2. In addition, over 600 USRA division players will compete in age and skill divisions for every level. Special events include the Saturday evening Grand Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", Players Village complete with concessions and live entertainment, International/VIP Reception, Pro-Am Doubles Tourney, IRT Champions Clinic, Hard-Hit Contest, Late-Night Ice Cream Social, Player's Dance Party, and fan fair activities. The event will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The professional matches will be held at The Racquet Club of Memphis, a world-class health club and dining facility featuring racquetball, tennis, locker rooms with all the amenities, state-of-the-art fitness center, swimming pool, four-star restaurant, elegant banquet and meeting rooms, pub with dance floor, and much, much more. The Racquet Club is no stranger to hosting world-class sporting events, as they are the annual site for the acclaimed Kroger St. Jude Tennis Championships, a stop on the ATP Tour, which has hosted such top name players as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and Andy Roddick. Amateur divisions will be played at The University of Memphis Recreation Center (10 minutes from The Racquet Club) and SIX50 TotalClub (15 minutes from The Racquet Club). Complimentary shuttle service between all three facilities will be provided.

## MADE-FOR-TV PORTABLE STADIUM RACQUETBALL COURT

One of the most exciting aspects of the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is that the world's only "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court will be used for all feature matches! The unique construction of the court allows stadium seating for more than 1,000, in addition to courtside luxury boxes for sponsors and VIPs.

From the quarterfinals on, all men's and women's pro matches will take place on the stadium court. Dramatic player introductions complete with laser light shows and booming music will treat racquetball fans to a total entertainment experience.

Saturday evening will top off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year – the eighth annual Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Grand Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS". More than 1,000 racquetball fans are expected to turn out at The Racquet Club Party Center for an evening of live entertainment featuring one of Tennessee's hottest dance bands. Elegant ice carvings, extravagant hors d'ouerves and desserts, huge dance floor, cash bar, multi-media slide show, and all the top racquetball pros in the world will make the evening one to remember. The cost for guests and tournament spectators is \$35 per person. Players participating in the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN will be admitted free!



## PARTIES, PARTIES AND MORE PARTIES

That's right! For those of us who like to enjoy our evenings, the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN promises a solid week of non-stop fun, kicking off with a Wednesday night International/VIP Reception and Thursday late-night ice cream social at The Racquet Club. And that's only the beginning! On Friday evening, the action moves to the "Pub" nightspot at The Racquet Club of Memphis, which will feature a DJ spinning the hottest tunes for your dancing pleasure. Mingle with the pros and racquetball fans from throughout the world.

## CHOICE HOTELS PLAYER VILLAGE

The nerve center of the event will be the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Player Village. Many activities are scheduled to take place in the Village, including an extensive Industry Trade Show, pro autograph signing sessions, live stage with entertainment, concessions, cash bar, informational seminars, and plenty of seating to kick back and relax. Admission is free for all spectators and players.



Wilsonart® Flooring  
WILSONART  
INTERNATIONAL



NORTHWEST  
AIRLINES

FirstVector



Lucite  
International

## PRO MATCH SCHEDULE

Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude	Tuesday	5 p.m.- 10 p.m.
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying	Wednesday	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Men's round of 64	Wednesday	4 p.m.- 11 p.m.
Men's round of 32	Thursday	10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Women's round of 32	Thursday	1 p.m.- 7 p.m.
Men's round of 16	Thursday	5 p.m.- 9 p.m.
Women's round of 16	Friday	9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Men's quarters	Friday	3 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Women's quarters	Friday	4 p.m.- 7 p.m.
Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1	Saturday	12:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2	Saturday	3:00 p.m.- 6:00 pm
Women's finals/Men's finals	Sunday	12:00 p.m.- 3 p.m.

## MEMBERSHIP

All players must be current members of the USRA. If you're not, a membership can be purchased at the event (\$30 per year). In addition, all players entering the pro draws must be current members of the IRT/LPRA Players Association or join at the event (\$10).

## PLAY BEGINS/STARTING TIMES/ CONFIRMATION/ENTRY DEADLINE

Players must be prepared to play as early as 8 a.m. on the dates indicated in the chart below. Requests for special starting times must be indicated on the entry form. Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests, however no guarantees can be made. **Starting times will be available after 5 p.m. on Monday, November 17th by calling The Racquet Club at (901) 765-4428.** Entries and ticket orders can be confirmed online after October 29, 2003 at [www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com). Please immediately call the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 120 if any errors or omissions are found. All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 5th and/or postmarked by Friday Oct. 31st.

## OPENING ROUNDS SCHEDULE

### Wednesday Nov. 19th

**Singles** – All Pro's, Men's Open, A, B, C, D, 24 & under, 24 & under A-B-C, 25+, 25+A-B-C, 30+, 35+, 35+A-B-C, 40+, 45+, 45+A-B-C, 55+A-B-C.

**Doubles** – Men's Open, A, B, C, 35+

### Thursday Nov. 20th

**Singles** – Men's 50+, 55+, Women's Open, A, B, C, D, 24 & under, 24 & under A-B-C, 25+, 25+A-B-C, 30+, 35+, 35+A-B-C, 40+, 45+, 45+A-B-C.

**Doubles** – Men's 19+, All Women's and Mixed except 50+

### Friday Nov. 21st

**Singles** – Men's 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, Women's 50+, 55+, 55+A-B-C, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+,

**Doubles** – Men's and Women's 50+

## CHECK-IN

All player registration will take place at The Racquet Club of Memphis. Check-in is required prior to participating in the event. Hours for registration are: Tuesday, November 18th 3 p.m.- 10 p.m., Wednesday, November 19th 8 a.m.- 10 p.m., Thursday, November 20th 8 a.m.- 9 p.m., and Friday, November 21st 8 a.m.- 9 p.m.

## SKILL LEVEL CERTIFICATION

Skill-level entrants (A, B, C, D divisions.) must be AMPRO certified at that level or be approved by the state director or representative as being legitimately competitive in the entered skill division at a level five event. Tournament directors will use these benchmarks to determine eligibility for skill competition, and reserve the right to re-classify or disqualify players when/if they are improperly placed. *NOTE: Players in Age+Skill must meet the same criteria.*

## TICKETS FOR PRO MATCHES

Everyone will be required to purchase tickets for pro matches — see ticket application or call (800) 234-5396 ext.120. All non-players must purchase a ticket to be admitted to the Saturday evening Grand Dinner Gala **"PARTY WITH THE PROS"**. Seating is limited, therefore it is strongly recommended that you purchase tickets in advance.

**ABSOLUTELY NO VIEWING WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT A TICKET.**

Last year's ticket packages sold out four weeks in advance, so don't delay!

**A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury box seats (with table service) may be available starting at \$2,200. Call 614-890-6073 for availability.**

## HOSPITALITY

Limited hospitality for amateur players will be available at The University of Memphis and the Six50 TotalClub only. The Racquet Club of Memphis features a four-star restaurant for your dining pleasure, as well as the Player Village with limited concessions offered throughout the tournament.

## SILENT AUCTION & PRO/AM DOUBLES CHALLENGE

For the benefit of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital a silent auction will be held during the event featuring Olympic Memorabilia and sporting goods equipment from the industry's best manufacturers. Checks, cash, VISA and MasterCard are welcome. In addition, Tuesday evening, November 18th, 32 lucky amateurs will have the opportunity to play in a single elimination (one game to 15) doubles challenge with a top professional player as their partner. All proceeds will be donated to St. Jude, and each amateur player will receive an autographed racquet from their pro partner. **Call (614) 890-6073 if you are interested in participating as spots are limited.** Pro/Am Doubles for St. Jude – \$250 donation.

## ST. JUDE HOSPITAL

The Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships is once again proud to name St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as its designated charity. Founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude is dedicated to the successful treatment of diseases that afflict children. Having treated more than 13,000 patients from 47 states and 53 countries, the hospital is a world leader in the treatment of catastrophic childhood illnesses. During the past five years the Choice Hotels U.S. Open has raised over \$100,000 for St. Jude!

## TRAVEL AND LODGING

Travelennium and Northwest Airlines join the USRA in offering you the lowest possible airfares/rental car rates to the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN. For reservations, call Travelennium at (800) 844-4924. Be sure to reference the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. When making hotel reservations, you must mention the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Rates are good for up to four people per room. You must make reservations by October 29, 2003 for these special rates. Regular shuttle service will be available between all three clubs throughout the event. In addition, transportation will be provided from the main host hotel (Comfort Inn-East) and Hawthorn Suites to The Racquet Club every half hour. No parking is available at The University of Memphis, so players must use the shuttle.

1. COMFORT INN-EAST\*  
(main host hotel)  
5877 Poplar Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38119  
(901) 767-6300  
Rate: \$69

3. HAWTHORN SUITES\*  
1070 Ridge Lake Blvd.  
5111 Sanderlin Ave.  
(901) 682-1722

5. UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS  
630 Echies St.  
(901) 678-2816

2. COMFORT INN-  
Sycamore View  
1335 McRee St.  
Memphis, TN 38134  
(901) 372-2700  
Rate: \$69 - \$79

4. THE RACQUET CLUB  
OF MEMPHIS  
5111 Sanderlin Ave.  
(901) 765-4400

6. SIX50 TotalClub  
6161 Shelby Oaks Dr.  
(901) 388-6580

\* Only the COMFORT INN-EAST and Hawthorn Suites will have regular shuttle service to The Racquet Club (every half hour)

For additional nearby hotels  
(with special event rates) please  
contact the US OPEN headquarters at  
800-234-5396 ext 0 or e-mail us at  
hfender@usra.org



*Jackie  
Paraiso*

LPRA #2

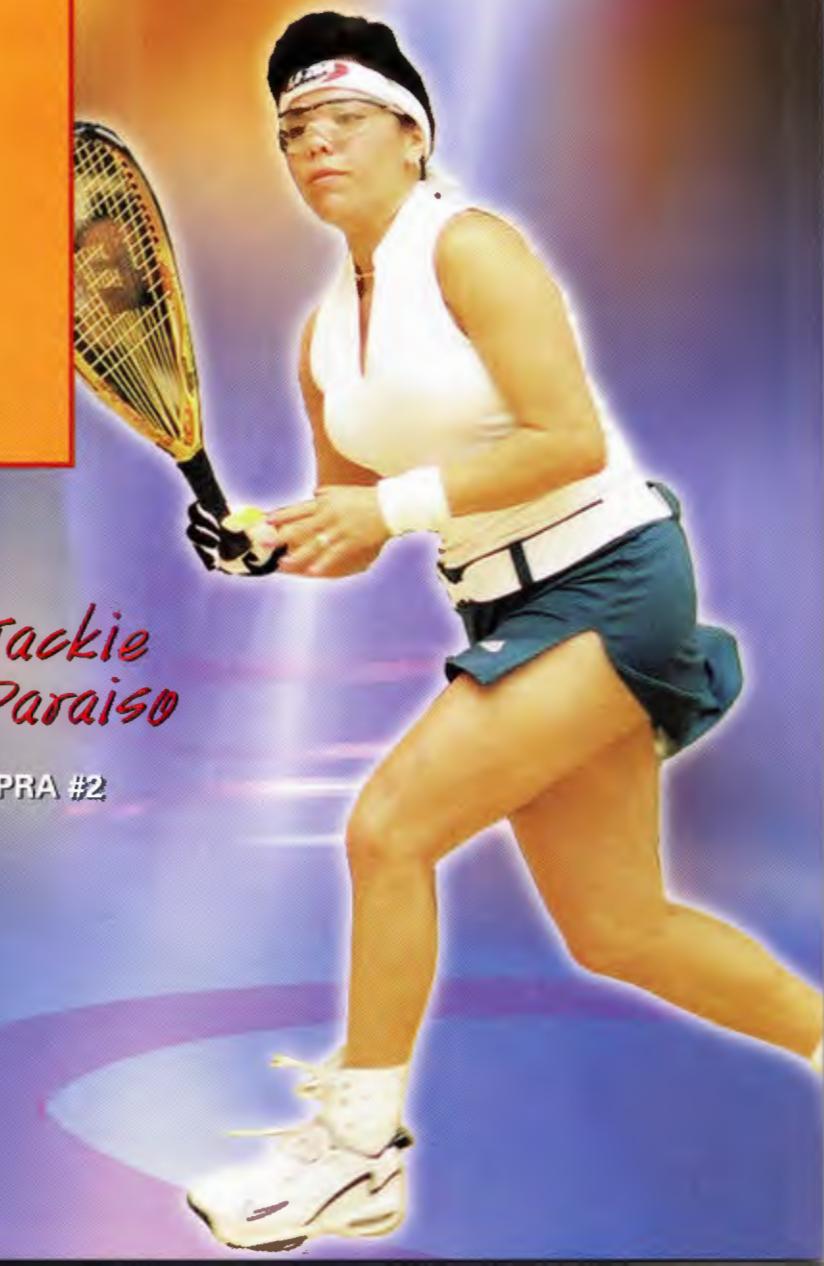
## CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS

### Men's Pro

2002 Sudsy Monchik  
2001 Cliff Swain  
2000 Sudsy Monchik  
1999 Jason Mannino  
1998 Sudsy Monchik  
1997 Cliff Swain  
1996 Sudsy Monchik

### Women's Pro

Cheryl Gudinas  
Kerri Wachtel  
Christie Vanhees  
Jackie Paraiso  
Jackie Paraiso  
Michelle Gould  
Michelle Gould



# PRIZE MONEY

over \$45,000!

## RULES/FORMAT

All USRA divisions will be played according to official USRA rules, including the mandatory use of protective lensed eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards. Pro divisions will use IRT/LPRA rules. For all age divisions, players must meet the proper age requirement as of the first day of the tournament (November 19th). All divisions (pro and USRA) will use the ProPenn (green) ball. Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions.

## RANKING POINTS

**USRA:** The top-eight finishers in all divisions will receive USRA ranking points. This is a Level 5 event.

**Professionals:** On the IRT/LPRA tours, prize money determines the level of ranking points associated with a given event.

## OFFICIATING

All players will receive \$5 for each USRA division match they referee. Players losing a match in the pro divisions are required to referee with no fee paid.

## CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

We are very pleased to have Choice Hotels International as our title sponsor for the U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. Choice Hotels International (NYSE: CHH) is one of the world's largest lodging franchisors, franchising more than 5,000 hotels in 46 countries under the Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality, Clarion, Sleep Inn, Econo Lodge, MainStay Suites, and Rodeway Inn brand names. For more information on Choice, visit the company's web site at [www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com).



## Men's Pro-\$30,000

1st	\$8,000	16's	\$ 600
2nd	\$4,000	32's	\$ 325
Semis	\$2,000		
Qrtrs	\$1,000		

## Women's Pro-\$14,000

1st	\$4,000	Qrtrs	\$ 650
2nd	\$2,200	16's	\$ 350
Semis	\$1,200		

## Men's & Women's Open Singles

1st	\$ 350	Semis	\$ 85
2nd	\$ 175		

## TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

### Event Director:

Doug Ganim

### Floor Manager:

Pete Ulliman

### Executive Committee:

Jim Hiser, Kay McCarthy, Heather Fender

### Pro Commissioners:

Dave Negrete (IRT), Merle Walker (LPRA)

For More Information, Call the Choice Hotels U.S.

OPEN Racquetball Championship Headquarters  
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# PRO MATCH TICKET APPLICATION

	Price	Quantity	Total(\$)
SESSION #1: .....	\$16	_____	_____
Men's & Women's Pro Qualifying Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.			
Men's round of 64 Wednesday, 4 p.m.- 11 p.m.			
SESSION #2: .....	\$16	_____	_____
Men's round of 32 Thursday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.			
Women's round of 32 Thursday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.			
SESSION #3: .....	\$16	_____	_____
Men's round of 16 Thursday, 5 p.m.- 9 p.m.			
SESSION #4: .....	\$18	_____	_____
Women's round of 16 Friday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.			
Men's quarters #1,#2 Friday, 3 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.			
SESSION #5: .....	\$18	_____	_____
Men's quarters #3, #4 Friday, 5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.			
Women's quarters Friday 4 p.m.- 7 p.m.			
SESSION #6: .....	\$20	_____	_____
Men's semi #1/Women's semi #1 Saturday, 12:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.			
SESSION #7: .....	\$20	_____	_____
Women's semi #2/Men's semi #2 Saturday, 3:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.			
SESSION #8: .....	\$30	_____	_____
Women's finals/Men's finals Sunday, 12:00 p.m.- 3 p.m.			

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Make check payable or use credit card and mail to:  
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 1685 West Uintah  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2906  
 - OR -

To order your tickets by phone call: (800) 234-5396 ext. 120  
 or fax this completed form to : (719) 635-0685

Visa/MC # ..... Exp. Date .....

Cardholder's Name (print) .....

Signature .....

Name to hold tickets under .....

Street Address .....

City ..... ST ..... Zip .....

Home Phone ..... Work Phone .....

E-Mail ..... Fax .....

TOTAL

Tickets will not be mailed in advance. They can be picked up at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Will Call Desk, located at The Racquet Club (I.D. is required). Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets in advance to be guaranteed a seat.

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury box seats (with table service) may be available starting at \$2,200. Call (614) 890-6073 for availability.

# ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (night) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 USRA Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seeding Information (2002 U.S. OPEN, 2003 States, Regionals, Nationals) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Club \_\_\_\_\_

## USRA DIVISIONS

Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events: (3 events permitted if at least 2 are doubles divisions):

Check one: Men's  or Women's

**Skill Divisions\***  
 Can only enter ONE from this group  
 A  B  C  D

**Skill + Age Divisions\***  
 24 & under A  35+ C   
 24 & under B  45+ A   
 24 & under C  45+ B   
 25+ A  45+ C   
 25+ B  55+ A   
 25+ C  55+ B   
 35+ A  55+ C   
 35+ B

### Doubles & Mixed Doubles Divisions\*

Open <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	50+ <input type="checkbox"/>	MX A/B <input type="checkbox"/>	MX 30+ <input type="checkbox"/>
A <input type="checkbox"/>	19+ <input type="checkbox"/>		MX C/D <input type="checkbox"/>	MX 40+ <input type="checkbox"/>
B <input type="checkbox"/>	35+ <input type="checkbox"/>			

Partner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 Partner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

### \*REQUIRED Skill Verification Form

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

I have been AMPRO certified at this level by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AMPRO Certified Instructor (name required) \_\_\_\_\_

I have recently competed in this skill category in my state, and have been approved for participation in this category at a Level Five event by the state director or designated representative shown below: \_\_\_\_\_ (name required)

I competed at this level (but did not win the division title) at the: \_\_\_\_\_ 2002 U.S. OPEN, or the \_\_\_\_\_ 2003 USRA National Singles

## PRO

Men's (IRT)\*\*  Women's (LPRA)\*\*

\*\* The Men's Pro draw will begin in the round of 64 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. The Women's Pro draw will begin in the round of 32 with qualifying rounds scheduled as needed. Players wishing to enter the amateur OPEN division must enter it directly as a second event.

**WAIVER:** I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release and all rights and claims that I may have against the USRA, IRT, LPRA, Ganim Enterprises, Choice Hotel Corporation, The Racquet Club of Memphis, Wimbledon Sportsplex, The University of Memphis, and all other Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN sponsors, or their respective agents for any and all injuries I may suffer as a result of participation in this event. By registering to participate in this event, I release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (parent if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ENTRY FEES

Players may enter a maximum of two events (3 events permitted if at least 2 are doubles divisions). Consolation will not be offered due to court time restrictions. Players in multiple divisions may play back-to-back matches. **Returned checks will be assessed a \$23 service charge (\$10 for declined credit cards).** Phone entries will be accepted through the entry deadline with a **\$10 service charge** and a major credit card by calling the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN headquarters at (800) 234-5396 ext. 120. Maximum amateur draw is 600 players. Once filled, all additional entries received will be returned with refund.

### Amount Pd. Division

### ENTRY DEADLINE:

All entries must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 6th and/or postmarked by Friday, Oct. 31st. No refunds will be given after the entry deadline. All entries received after the entry deadline will be assessed a \$20 late fee if space is still available in the tournament.

### ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

Limited hospitality, free access to Player Village and fan fair activities at The Racquet Club, souvenir Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN shirt, Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Souvenir Program, ticket to the Saturday evening Dinner Gala "PARTY WITH THE PROS", plus much, much more!



Have you enclosed your Pro Match Ticket Application and payment for tickets? Seating is limited. Must purchase tickets to be guaranteed a seat. One check can be written for entry fees and tickets. Last year's event sold out four weeks in advance!

First Event (USRA Divisions/Pro's)	(\$94/\$105)	Amount Pd. _____	Division _____
Second Event	(\$47)	_____	_____
Third Event	(\$47)	_____	_____
USRA Membership	(\$30)	_____	
Late Fee/Phone Entry	(\$20/\$10)	_____	
PARTY WITH THE PROS	(\$35 each)	Quant. _____	
TOTAL		_____	

Visa/MC \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 or FAX this completed form to (719) 635-0685

To enter by phone call:  
 (800) 234-5396 ext. 120

## **Ektelon Rising**

Ektelon recently announced their highest market share since 1999, as well as a powerful dominance of the high-end racquet market, according to numbers released by the Tennis Industry Association. At the same time, the company's top sponsored pros continue to move up the rankings on the professional tours.

"This is fantastic news," stated Scott Winters, Senior Director of Indoor Court Sports for Ektelon, "we have been working extremely hard on improving our product and it's really paying off. We know that our MORE Performance™ technology is the main reason for our large increase in the high-end racquet market."

In the player department, Canadian southpaw Kane Waselenchuk has won three pro stops, as well as reaching the semis or finals in eight other tour events this season, and climbed to the #2 spot on the International Racquetball Tour [IRT] rankings. Ektelon veteran, Mike Guidry, former national singles champion and three-time national doubles champion, continued his success with a win at the New York City Pro-Am in January. Kerri Wachtel, 2001 U.S. Open Champion and currently ranked #3 on the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association [LPCA] tour, won a recent stop in her hometown of Cincinnati by defeating the #1 player in the world.

"Our pro players are really making us proud at Ektelon," stated Andy Roberts, Ektelon Promotions Manager and Hall of Fame Player, "it's exciting when we have 5 of the top 15 players on both the IRT and LPRA pro tours!"

## **Non-Surgical Tendonitis Treatment**

Manhattan-based Dr. Jeffrey M. Gross, M.D., D.P.M.R. recently announced the addition of the Sonocur, a therapy system that treats chronic pain associated with tendonitis, to his rehabilitation and sports medicine facility. The system's technology, developed in Germany, administers a preset number of pulses (or low-energy shock waves) to areas where patients are experiencing pain.

Although millions suffer from tennis elbow, only about five percent of those affected acquire the condition by playing tennis. Tennis elbow often results when the forearm muscles that straighten and raise the hand and wrist are overused. Overuse of these muscles cause the tendons to be repeatedly tugged at the point of attachment. Physicians typically suggest that patients suffering from tendonitis rest the injured area, perhaps using a splint to immobilize it. Hot or cold compresses, physical therapy,

cortisone shots, acupuncture, and massage also are suggested to reduce pain and aid in the healing process.

The Sonocur was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in July 2002 to treat tennis elbow, lateral epicondylitis, and it has been widely available in Canada and Europe for nearly five years. Patients usually receive one treatment per week for three weeks at a cost of \$900.00 for each treatment — a considerable savings compared to \$10,000 for surgery. The treatment is so cost effective that the British Columbia Workers Compensation Board (in Canada) will not approve surgery for tennis elbow unless a patient already has failed Sonocur treatment.

Read more about tendonitis and this treatment facility, in the July/August online edition, at [www.racquetball-magazine.com](http://www.racquetball-magazine.com); or search the internet under "Sonocur".

**Where am I Again? • by Page Kern**

When Jason Mannino got off the plane in Minneapolis and was asked where he was going, he admitted he didn't have a clue. Windom, a farming community in southwestern Minnesota, with a population of less than 4,500, was his actual destination. He had never seen it on a map, nor envisioned staying at a location where his cell phone would not function through most of his stay!

Fran Davis and Jason Mannino brought their traveling clinic to our courts, visited with local school students, and discovered "rural" living. Their presentations, both on and off the court, were genuine, educational, and timely. Not only did they address the game of racquetball, they spoke of life and learning. While Fran was the teacher, Jason was the enforcer through stories. Their ability to capture their audience while teaching and entertaining was memorable.

I applaud Head/Penn and ProKennex for supporting such quality people and programs. Communities such as Windom rarely have the opportunity to interact with people at Fran and Jason's success level, let alone get to know them on such a personal level. The Toro Foundation of Bloomington was also responsible for funding their visit.



On a lighter note, the most memorable quote of the visit came from Jason who, after learning what housing costs were in Windom, said, "I could buy a house and put it on my credit card!" Get the man a slip and a pen ... we'd love to have him as a neighbor!

2003  
CHOICE HOTELS

# US OPEN

## RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Memphis, Tennessee



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In the last issue I talked about "Relocating Out of the Box after the Serve" and getting back into good center court position. It was marked on the floor with tape so you could see exactly where center court is located.

In this issue, I want to take it one step further and discuss my magical "Center Court Position" during a rally. No matter whether you are serving, or in the middle of a rally, you want to get back into good center court position. This is so you don't get beat by the pass, or get jammed, and you are in the best possible position to be ready for the next shot.

Let's define *center court* as being in the right place at the right time, therefore you are in position to get to a majority of the balls. As you will see from the pictures, center court is behind the dotted line and lies in the middle of the back half of the court.

This is the most advantageous position to be in because either the ball that has been hit will pass through that box or if you are in the box with one step and a reach you can get to most balls and return them.

At this point, let's take a closer look at where you should position yourself (the correct position) depending on where the ball is at and where your opponent is hitting from as well as where you shouldn't position yourself (the incorrect position). Check out the next two pages for some clear illustrations.

I can't stress enough how important center court position really is (very!). It's critical to winning or losing a match. This is one area I really zero in on when I am playing the guys on tour. Where are they standing and, very often, where are they *not* standing? Believe it or not this is my basic strategy — put the ball as far away from my opponent as possible to force them to hit on



the run. If I hit the ball where they are *not* I force them to hit on the run creating mistakes for me to capitalize on. You too can use this very simplistic strategy because if it works for me it will work for you.

Give it a try and let me know how it works at one of my camps with Fran Davis. And look for me in Fran's new video ... where Chapter Six covers "Center Court."

\*Reference older "magic show" instructionals online, by going to [www.racquetballmagazine.com](http://www.racquetballmagazine.com) > "Back Issues"

correct positioning



### TRICK # 1 The Correct Position

- Sudsy (offense/yellow) is at the dotted line shooting the ball.
- Rocky (defense/black) is in good center court position, down and ready, behind me in the box. And should remain somewhere in that box no matter how far up I go. If I do move up he moves up in the box too, but not in front of the dotted line. He's protecting against the pass and giving up the kill and pinch.

### TRICK #2 The Correct Position

- Sudsy (offense) is deep...beyond 30 feet.
- Rocky (defense) is in front of me, down and ready, in good center court position in the box well behind the dotted line. Again, he is protecting against the pass giving up the kill and pinch.





### TRICK #3 Incorrect Position

- Sudsy (offense) is in the middle shooting the ball.
- Rocky (defense) is off to one side out of the box out of position. He is very vulnerable to any shot hit cross court and to the pinch to the right corner. He's giving up too much. Rocky really should be in the box behind me giving up the kill and pinch, but covering the pass.



### TRICK #4 Incorrect Position

- Sudsy (offense) runs around his backhand to hit his forehand to trap Rocky.
- Rocky (defense) is blocked because he never moved into center court after his shot. Again, Rocky is vulnerable to almost every shot as he is trapped on the wall ... not where he wants to be. Hit and move back to the box so you are in good center court position.



### TRICK #5 Incorrect Position

- Rocky is going to hit a ball off of Sudsy's ceiling ball.
- Sudsy is blocked in. I never moved back into center court after I hit my ceiling ball. Now I am trapped and out of position ... and vulnerable.

incorrect  
positioning

## Building your Perfect Game

I heard someone talk about routines. Just how important are routines in one's performance?

Let's put it this way: all the best athletes, in all sports (not only in racquetball), have routines. Athletes thrive on consistency and routine. We are creatures of habit and perform best when there are no surprises. This means that optimal performance levels need to have pre-performance routine. Let's take a look at four of the best pros to ever play the game, and their routines:

### Jason Mannino

[#1 IRT Pro Champion/US Open Champion]

*Off the Court — Preparation Time: 4 hours*

- Room - Relaxes in room, sleeps or watches a movie
- Meals - 3 hours (same restaurant and the same meals)
- Shower - 2 hours and it is the same every time; lays his clothes out a certain way; washes body parts in the same order; the towels are in exactly the same place each time
- To Club - 1 hour.

*At Club* — Assesses situation on previous match and then begins 1 hour before his match a 20 minute stretching routine, visualizing and then 30 minute hitting routine on the court.

- On the Court, during the match: *Serve* - Takes his full 15 seconds, bounces the ball against all three walls as he walks toward the front wall, visualizes the serve he is going to hit before he gets back into the service zone to serve. *Return of Serve* - Takes his full 15 seconds, walks around, clears the mechanism (his mind) and gets into the present moment.

### Cheryl Gudinas

[#1 LPRA Pro Champion/US Open Champion]

*Off the Court — Preparation Time: 4 hours*

- Room - Relaxes in room-reads, watches T.V., goes over game plan
- Meals - 3 hours (light), then again 1/2 hours before match
- Shower - 2 hours
- To Club - 1 hour.

*At Club* — Assesses situation of previous match and within 1 hour of her match she socializes for ONLY 15 minutes and then for the next 45 minutes gets serious with stretching, quick feet drills, light lift and then hits

- On the Court: *Serve* - Takes her allotted time, visualizes and then hits the ball into all three walls. *Return of Serve* - Racquet up takes her time, clears her mechanism and gets into the present moment.

### Suds Monchik

[Five-time IRT Champ/Four-time US. Open winner)

*Off the Court — Preparation Time: 3 1/2 hours*

- Room - Chills out
- Meals - 2 1/2 hours
- Shower - 2

hours

• To Club - 1 1/4 hour

*At Club* — Assesses the situation of the previous match and then within 1 hour of his match he loosens up on the bike, stretches, visualizes, goes over his game plan and then, within 30 minutes of his matches, he doesn't talk to anyone and begins to hit.

- On the Court: *Serve* - Takes his full 15 seconds between points, fixes his shorts, shirts and eyeguards, focuses on only one thing, "now what do I serve?"
- *Return of Serve* - Takes his time, focuses, taps racquet on the floor.

### Jackie Paraiso Rice

(#2 LPRA Pro/World Champion)

*Off the Court — Preparation Time: 4 hours*

- Room - Relaxes, goes over her game plan very briefly and hangs out
- Shower - 3 hours
- Meals - 2 hours
- To Club - 1 hour

*At Club* — Assesses the situation of the previous match and then 1 hour before her match she does 10 minutes of cardio, visualizes, 20 minutes of stretching and hits for about 15-20 minutes.

- On the Court: *Serve* - Takes her time, bounces the ball into the side wall then the front wall and gets into the present moment of what she is going to serve.
- *Return of Serve* - Takes her time and clears her mechanism walking from one side of the court to the other, then taps her racquet in the corner of the back wall or on her shoe.

Now you've got it ... the routines of the best. They do not deviate from this at all! They do not get caught up in the moment, they do not stay at the club all day, they get off their feet, they rest, they eat properly, they *hydrate* (all of them drink gallons of water over the course of the pre-event week and of course at the tournament itself), they do tons of visualizing, they review their game plans, they relax and they do what works for them.

You can use any of these routines, a portion of them or try your own, but the point is: have one. They will enhance your performance ... just ask Jason, Cheryl, Sudsy or Jackie when you see them. They do not leave home without them... that is how important they believe they are.



by Fran Davis

[fran@frandavisracquetball.com](mailto:fran@frandavisracquetball.com)

Most people we've taught have at some time in their life played baseball. The great thing about that is, swinging a baseball bat is a very similar motion to swinging a forehand. Once we make that comparison, players quickly pick up the key points to improving their forehand stroke.

#### Key Point #1: Preparation

*... Preparing for both strokes is almost identical.*

1. Turn sideways. You would never see a baseball player facing the pitcher before they hit. Be sure you turn your body completely sideways when setting up to hit any shot.
2. Get your racquet up! Early racquet preparation is essential for good shots. Be sure your hand gets above the height of the ball.
3. Raise your elbow. Your elbow should come up to about the level of your shoulder. Pull your elbow back slightly to start to generate power.



#### Key Point #2: Extension

*... Go for the line drive!*

1. Get a good, clean extension of your arm and wrist when making contact with the ball.
2. Notice the head of the racquet and the bat is slightly below the hand at contact.
3. Don't forget the basics: Step into your shot with your front foot, keep your head down, keep your shoulders level.



#### Key point #3: Follow through!

1. Rotate your hips and your shoulders.
2. The racquet will rise up slightly and come around your body.
3. Stay on balanced with knees bent and shoulders and hips level.



Wilson Game Plan  
instructors are the  
legendary Cliff Swain  
(left-y), and top IRT  
pro and "Big D"  
RoadShow clinician,  
Derek Robinson.

ABILITY SCALE
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## Officiating What's the Call?

by Otto Dietrich, NRC  
ODietrich@usra.org

"I'm back!" Over the past five years that I've been the USRA's Board President, Rich Clay has served as the National Rules Commissioner. But when other commitments made Rich's continuing on in that role rather difficult, I immediately offered to resume that duty, after having held the post for ten years between 1988 and '98. So, shortly

after taking office, my successor, Frank Taddonio, appointed me to another term as NRC.

One of the first things I wanted to do was to make this column a regular part of the magazine again. Got a rules/refereeing question? You can email it to me at ODietrich@usra.org. A few of them will be selected to appear in this column, and the remainder will be answered directly by email to the extent possible.

Here's the first from Jeff Altman. *"Some friends of mine and I are trying to get a clearer definition of a screen serve. Can you provide more clarity? One friend says that the serve has to be 18" from either side of your torso."*

First, reading the screen serve rule [3.9(h)] carefully will disclose the two basic criteria that have to be present for a serve to be declared a screen — "closeness" AND "impairment caused by that closeness".

So, what does "close" mean? Well, that's pretty subjective, but I recently began describing it as being "a little less than your racquet is long" (assuming, of course, that it is 22" long). So, is that 18"? Well, approximately! Here's how I apply that criteria.

Further away from the server than that approximate "racquet length" distance, and I won't call a screen.

Within that distance and it *might* be a screen ... and here is where the second part of the criteria comes in. Did the "closeness" of the ball passing to the server impair the receiver? How did they react? If you see a normal reaction to the serve, with an attempt to return it, then it's "no screen" since there was no impairment indicated. If the

## Training SI Joint Pain

by Aaron Haydu, D.C.  
ahaydu18@hotmail.com

The low back can undergo significant stresses when playing a game as competitive and demanding as racquetball. Low back pain is a common cause of complaints following a vigorous match or tournament, due to the repetitive bending, reaching, and stretching required.

Occasionally, low back pain is not caused from the low back but from a large joint in the pelvis called the sacroiliac (SI) joint. This pain can be differentiated from low back pain with a good physical exam and needs to be treated properly in order to avoid further complaints.

The SI joint is a large joint in the pelvis that connects your tailbone (sacrum) to your pelvic bones. Its irregular shape and strong ligaments allow it to be a source of stability for the connection of the leg to the trunk. The joint has very little mobility but instead acts as a stabilizer of the pelvis and helps distribute impact forces from the legs. In low back pain that is worse with walking and after athletic activities, the SI should be considered as a possible source of the pain.

Initially, the low back and hip should be examined and ruled out first as a primary cause of the symptoms. Often the pain is caused by minor excessive forces or movements (such as those encountered in athletic activity) that can place a shearing stress on the protective cartilage. The joint is also capable of sustaining strain and sprain injuries that can be quite painful and debilitating, especially with walking and moving the affected leg. Individuals who have a short leg of even a few millimeters have been shown to develop SI pains as well.

Avoiding the injury involves strengthening the core muscles of the body (those from below the chest to above the knee). Abdominal training and leg flexibility are crucial, as are balance and coordination activities. Evaluation for chronic pain from the joint



both articles continue ... on page 42

Wilson Game Plan  
**Use your Elbow** 

There are two culprits that can cause you to leave the ball "up" preventing you from hitting that perfect killshot.

**Culprit #1**

Allowing the racquet face to travel on an upward arc or opening the face on impact.

**Simple Solution**

Make sure your racquet hand is above the ball during preparation.

**Culprit #2**

Extending your arm too early, causing your racquet to float instead of snap into the ball.

**Simple Solution**

Try this drill to help you get the feel and timing of your extension and wrist snap, which will keep the ball down and your opponent frustrated.

1. Set up to hit a down the line forehand shot.
2. Place a ball in the crook of your arm.
3. Squeeze the ball slightly by increasing the bend in your elbow.
4. Hold the ball in place as long as possible as you swing.
5. At the imaginary point of contact, release the ball quickly.

Note: You may naturally have a back swing that will not hold the ball. That is fine. The key is to bend your elbow as you start your swing so you can have a full, quick, powerful release. This will help to keep your shots low and will also add to power to your stroke.

ABILITY SCALE
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Intermediate
Beginner

*Wilson Game Plan instructor:  
top teaching pro Chris Evon.*

Want to improve  
your killshot? Try  
this simple tip!



## ... what's the call?

receiver holds up the swing, it's a "screen" since they did *not* swing and the impairment is assumed. With a delayed, awkward reaction to the serve, it's also a "screen" due to the impairment -- even if the player attempts to hit the ball and maybe even rolls it out!

So, you can see that judgment has to be involved and I know of no way to eliminate it completely. But if you have some idea, I'd love to hear it!

Meanwhile, be sure to "play by the rules" and, if you don't have a copy, you can purchase one at [www.usrastore.com](http://www.usrastore.com) or find and review them online at: [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org), then "Sitemap/Index" to "R"ulebook.

In closing, I want to — again — sincerely thank Rich for having carried the NRC torch so very well for the past five years. We agree that there is much to be done and I will try to make it all happen. Of course, Rich's continued input is essential to this work, so he will remain on the Rules Committee, no matter what!

## ... training

may reveal arthritis and nutritional support or joint injections maybe valuable. Also, if a leg length discrepancy is at fault, a lift for the inside of the shoe can correct the imbalance and allow for more effective distribution of the forces in the pelvis. Often the joint has become fixated, and requires manual treatment or manipulation to restore normal movement.

As with all joints, maintaining good joint health requires three key things. First, the joint must have healthy, strong, and flexible muscles acting on it. Second, the joint surfaces must be mobile. And thirdly, the body must be able to control the joint effectively with good balance and coordination. There are a number of exercises that can help this joint specifically and your chiropractor or trainer should be able to direct you toward keeping this joint healthy and happy.



### USRA Update

## The Board Report

by **Frank Taddonio, President**

[franktaddonio@att.net](mailto:franktaddonio@att.net)

The initial excitement of serving as the USRA's new Board President is quickly wearing off as I focus on the tasks ahead. I truly feel privileged and honored to serve at this particular time in our sport's history, since many developments are beginning to unfold, thanks to hard work by the national staff, board and committee members.

As you will read in the highlights that follow, we are about to implement a national ranking system with greater logic and accuracy, an automated membership database (linked to the ranking system), and we're looking into a tournament software program that will not only make a tournament director's job a lot easier - it will also be integrated with the other new systems being established. A new membership card is also in the works.

Our goal is to capitalize on all these great developments to bring the USRA closer to the state organizations. There isn't much that can be accomplished through autonomy, but if we all work together, the team can achieve goals never thought possible. The main focus right now needs to be back to the clubs and the recreational players. If we collectively work in that direction I firmly believe the juniors will follow.

Executive Director Jim Hiser has charted this course for us and we need to support his vision and goals. If you'd like to hear more about them, a great opportunity is coming up in September with the Summit in the Rockies [see facing page]. I hope we'll have a great turn out, with lots of good suggestions and ideas on how to implement them.

### Board Meeting Highlights

Jim Hiser, Executive Director, presented his report to the Board that included his continued dedication to excellence and a challenge to everyone to improve the way we are doing business. He stressed the importance of our commitment to recreational players and club owners.

Board members were briefed about the recent changes approved by the IRF to reduce the number of players fielded by national federations at Junior Worlds. The new procedures limit designated team players to two (formerly three) in the 18, 16, and 14 and under divisions, for the purposes of earning points for the World Cup. Other format changes include

new competitive fields for younger and non-team athletes.

A Rankings Task Force completed its research of a number of different systems for possible use by the USRA to establish a national rankings system, and recommended that a new system called Vantage Tech be adopted. The system will be demonstrated at Summit of the Rockies.

In public forum, North Carolina's Lynn Stephens presented a proposal for recombining Age+Skill divisions, from five-increments of combined skill levels, to ten-year increments of single skill levels. The adaptation will be used at the upcoming National Doubles and U.S. Open events.

The USRA's new Marketing Director, Ivan Davis [see page 50], presented an exciting new approach he plans to use for marketing our sport and seeking sponsorships.

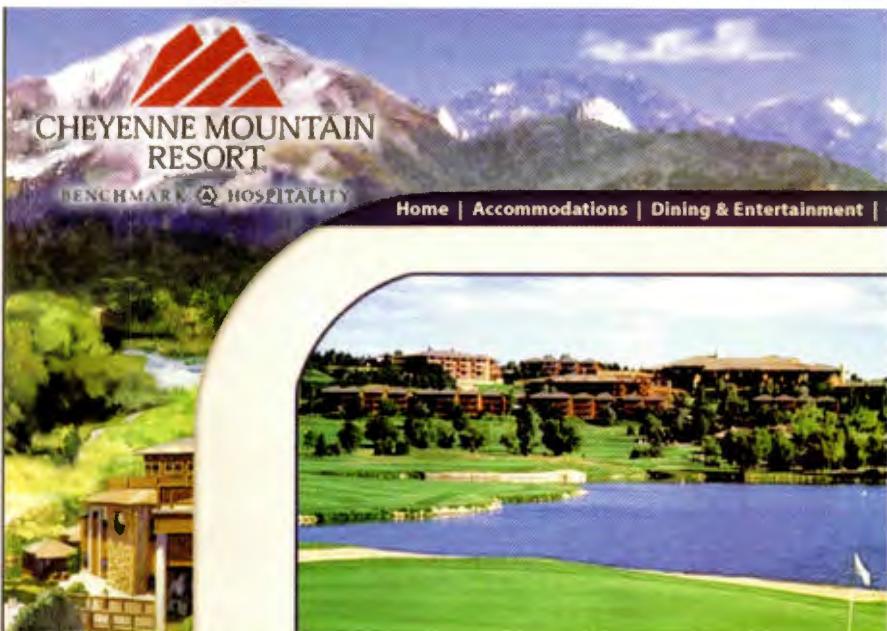
Membership Director Kevin Joyce outlined a new membership database that will be implemented soon. This automated system possesses many enhanced features for online memberships and the maintenance of data. The system is also intended to tie in with the rankings system and a proposed new tournament system.

Randy Stafford announced that the "Players Helping Players" fundraising campaign had passed its established goal of \$100K. He is already in the process of developing next year's campaign.

The new Board ratified the following election results, for new members and new officers: President - Frank Taddonio; Vice President - Randy Stafford; Secretary - Jan Stelma; Treasurer - Lance Gilliam; New Board member - Lorraine Galloway; New Military Representative - Jeff Elder.

## USRA Summit in the Rockies

### Colorado Springs, CO: September 4-7, 2003



*From tournament directors to fans, manufacturers to novices, state presidents to open champs ... all are welcome to the USRA's debut Summit in the Rockies this fall !*

*In an effort to educate and inform enthusiasts and corporate interests alike, the 2003 "Summit in the Rockies" will offer an exciting environment for industry leaders, club members and owners, State Associations and volunteers, USRA and international members to come together to create a new direction and focal point for the sport. This will be an open meeting, for anyone who wishes to attend and take part.*

*Everyone will stay at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort located in Colorado Springs, which offers dramatic views, championship golf, beautiful recreation complex (including racquetball courts), business service center, award winning dining facility, and Will Rogers Lounge.*

*Registration and check-in will begin on Thursday September 4th. Fees will include: Room (double occupancy), breakfast and lunch each day, breakout sessions, summit registration fees, wine reception, Saturday night Banquet/Live Auction, Summit souvenir, and all Summit materials. Summit Cost — \$450.00 per person (Value: \$650.00). Register online, at [www.usrastore.com](http://www.usrastore.com), under "Event Entries."*



green & powell win  
canadian singles titles



Canadian eyes to the skills of Corey Osborne, as Green needed a tiebreaker to capture his second consecutive Canadian title.

Osborne and his doubles partner, Francois Viens, were the upset winners in the doubles division as they took out Mike Ceresia and Brian Istace in a Tuesday night match that featured the noisiest crowd ever. Even Ceresia's trademark off-court antics weren't enough to fire him up as the Osborne/Viens team won the right to represent Canada at the Pan Am Games. While Osborne did qualify in both singles and doubles, it is widely expected that he will choose to play doubles, thereby opening the door for Green and Istace in the #1 and #2 singles spots.

The Team Selection process was developed by the athletes a couple of years ago, and is designed to reward players for their performance in three Canadian events. With Waselenchuk a non-participant in any of those three events, Canada's top ranked player is off the team.

## 2003 Canadian Nationals

by Cheryl McKeeman

The newly renovated Studeo55 club in downtown Vancouver is the latest in urban cool. Throughout the week of the Nationals, the music was upbeat all day and night, the energy was high, and the final results surprised a lot of people.

For the past few years, the Open divisions have been scheduled with doubles at the beginning of the week and Singles at the end. This format was implemented this year for every division, with all doubles running from Monday noon until midnight Tuesday, and then all singles events running from 9:00 am Wednesday until Saturday at 4:00 pm. For people playing in two doubles events, Monday and Tuesday were a bit much — six matches in less than two days, and occasional scheduling conflicts as well — but overall most of the players liked the idea of concentrating on doubles for two days before turning their attention to singles. The four days of singles play were much more relaxed, with few players ever having more than one match per day.

For the first time ever, a 70+ singles event was included at our national championships, and five venerable gentlemen played in that round robin division. They also played in the 65+ doubles round robin. As a result, the 70+ gang ended up playing more matches in the week than most other players in the tournament.

In the Men's Singles event, top seed Kane Waselenchuk was a last-minute no-show, meaning that the next two top seeds (Brian Istace and Michael Green) met in the semi-finals. Green dominated that match. The finals opened

**Canadian Racquetball Team named for Pan Am Games — Grand'Maitre poised for third straight Games appearance**

Racquetball Canada officially announced its team for the Pan Am Games. The singles roster includes Calgary residents Brian Istace and Lori-Jane Powell, along with Mike Green of Burlington, Ontario, and Winnipeg's Jennifer Saunders.

Cory Osborne of Penetanguishene, Ontario will team with Francois Viens of Rock Forest, Quebec, in men's doubles. Veteran Josée Grand'Maitre of Longueuil, Quebec, will join Julie Neubauer of Calgary in women's doubles.

"I think overall we have a real strong team," said Canadian head coach Michel Gagnon. "I think we can be among the top two (countries)." Gagnon added that he has set a goal of winning six medals, two of them gold.

With the announcement, Grand'Maitre, 41, is set to become the first Canadian racquetball player to appear in three Pan Am Games when she hits the court in Santo Domingo. She also appeared in Winnipeg ('99) and Mar del Plata, Argentina ('95). She has also been a member of the Canadian team at six world championships and 12 Tournament of the Americas competitions.

Powell is the second member of the Canadian team to have previous Pan Am Games experience. She won a silver in Winnipeg with Debbie Ward of Prince George, B.C., in women's doubles.

Green, Istace, Neubauer, Osborne, Saunders and Viens will all debut in their first Pan Am Games. For more information, please contact Peter Robinson @ 647.227.5540, e-mail [racquetballcanada@hotmail.com](mailto:racquetballcanada@hotmail.com), or go to [www.racquetball.ca](http://www.racquetball.ca). All photos this page, courtesy Racquetball Canada website.



In doubles, Jennifer Saunders and Josee Grand'Maitre teamed up to topple the top seeds, Lori Jane Powell and Julie Neubauer who had won the Doubles Selection Event in January. The singles final saw defending national champion Saunders lose 13-11 in the tiebreaker to Powell. With the "double qualifier" (Saunders in both singles and doubles), Powell will play in the No.1 singles position, followed by Saunders in No.2. To build a new doubles team, Neubauer will be teamed with Grand'Maitre for the Pan Ams.

At the Saturday night banquet, Racquetball Canada presented the World Champion Gold Medal men's team with rings to commemorate their win. The best part of this was that there was a first-timer in the group, namely team physio Bob Fong. Throughout the evening, various players praised Bob's contributions to the team, so it was particularly special for us to see him receive his ring.

The highlight of the Saturday night banquet was a power point presentation featuring the winners of all the divisions, as well as photos from throughout the week, all set to music. This was also done last year in Quebec, and it makes for a fantastic end to the day as everyone cheers for their hometown players.

Draw sheets, full results and press releases from the week can be viewed on the Racquetball Canada web site at [www.racquetball.ca](http://www.racquetball.ca). Next year's national championships will be held in Burlington, Ontario during the third week of May.

## Pan Am Preview-ed at TOA

by Luke St. Onge

Easter week saw the 16th Tournament of the Americas, presented by Penn Racquet Sports, played in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, site of the 2003 Pan American Games. Under the direction of DR Racquetball Federation President Rafael

Fernandez [shown at right, unveiling plans at a press conference], this was a designated test event for those Games, as well as for the top teams from this hemisphere.

All scheduled Pan Am sports must conduct test events prior to Opening Ceremonies, to try out all of the various facets of the organization. From credentials to security, transportation, accommodations, venue, technical application, officials, awards, press, media, and closing ceremonies are all closely scrutinized to ensure a successful games in August.

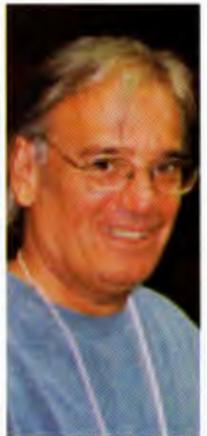
The Dominican Republic passed with flying colors and the 2003 version of the Pan American Games for racquetball will once again be the best showcase for our sport since its inception. The competition was held at the Santo Domingo Country Club on their recently



## Another New Direction

*Some thoughts after 18 months in seclusion*  
by Luke St. Onge

Well, after 24 years of being the Executive Director of the USRA, remaining on staff, and taking on a new position as General Manager of the Lynmar Health and Racquet Club here in Colorado Springs, the last 18 months have been a real learning experience as well as a chance to learn the club business.



It's been very interesting to see the role of racquetball in the fitness market, from the other side of the fence. Any club owner who recognizes the role of sports like racquetball and tennis has a leg up on all other Health Clubs. Retention, which is extremely high in both sports, is the lifeblood of any well-managed and developed club.

And since I'm still on the USRA staff as the International Director, for those interested in our Olympic prospects, it's been a real up and down time. Although racquetball was on the bubble for inclusion in 2008 in China, we were caught up in the politics of the IOC, which was under new leadership and charting new waters in trying to remove — and add — sports. The bottom line for China 2008 was that no new sports would be added unless current sports were eliminated. The IOC pushed back and no sports were removed, thus no new sports were added.

We will see what the future brings as we head toward the 2012 Games. I would like to thank all those who have had the vision within racquetball to never give up working to have our sport take its rightful place in the sporting world. Now is not the time to name them all, but in future columns I'd like to have you meet them. They are not the big names in the sport — some are in the Hall of Fame, but most are those who fight a lonely fight in the trenches. I think you will find their stories informative and interesting.

All TOA photos, courtesy Luke St. Onge

refurbished pair of championship courts. Although the temperature was in the high 90's, with plenty of rain, the courts were well air-conditioned and did not affect play or the endurance of the players.

Twelve national teams made the trip and the draw boasted all of the Pan Am Qualifying teams, with the exception of Colombia, which cancelled at the last minute. Second only to the Olympics in importance as a multi-international event, the Pan American Games recognize only individual play, so there will not be a team championship in August. But the TOA does award a team title, and play began with the round robin format the first four days, which determined the seeding for the single elimination portion over the last three days. Virtually all of the prospective medal contenders were there.

Current men's world singles champion Jack Huczek won his first Tournament of the Americas title by defeating Canadian Michael Green in a tiebreaker, 15-6, 13-15, 11-3. "It was a good match," Huczek said. "Mike (Green) got off to a slow start in the first game, but played well in the second. I had to step it up a couple clicks in the tiebreaker."

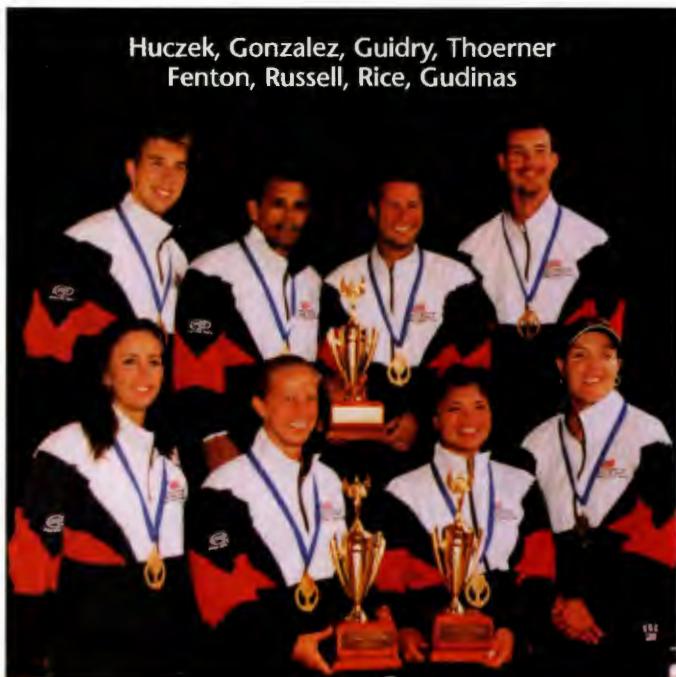
Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Guidry paired up to take the men's doubles title over Mexico's Alvaro Beltran and Javier Moreno in what spectators said was the best racquetball game that was ever played. Not only from the fantastic play on the court but the sportsmanship that went along with it. After losing the first game, 15-6, Gonzalez and Guidry recovered to win the next two, 15-11, 11-10. "The first game didn't go to well. They (Beltran and Moreno) picked on me, the old man," said Gonzalez, 50. "I just said to myself that they aren't going to be able to do that anymore and I took control."

Both Cheryl Gudinas and Laura Fenton earned spots in the women's singles final, which guaranteed another gold medal for the U.S. Defending champion Fenton earned the win in an upset over the current world singles title holder Gudinas in the closest match of the tournament, 15-14, 14-15, 11-8. "Even though I won the last (Tournament of the Americas) this one means more because I know I beat the best," said Fenton referring to Gudinas. Gudinas did not compete in the 2002 Tournament of the Americas due to an injury suffered during practice.

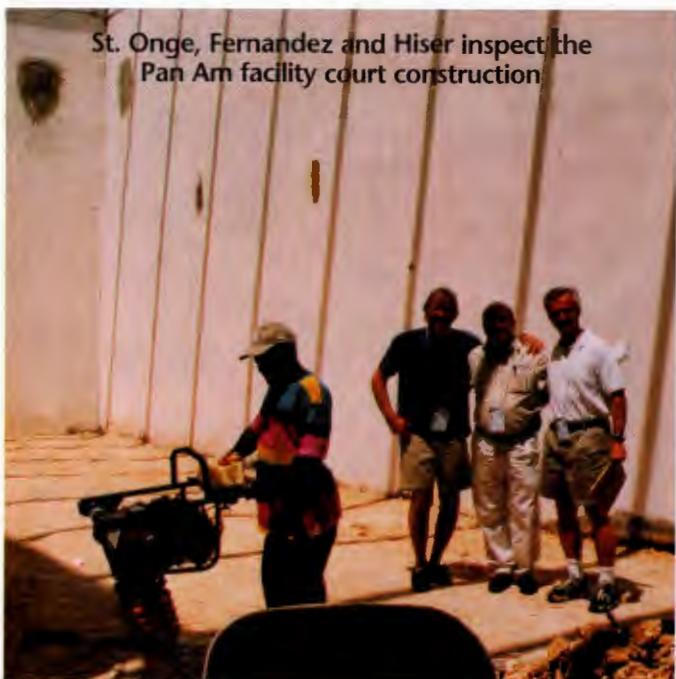
The U.S. women's doubles team of Kim Russell (Austin, Texas) and Jackie Rice (El Cajon, Calif.) cruised through their draw without allowing an opposing team to reach double-digits. They defeated Mexico's Rosy Torres and Susy Acosta in the finals, 15-4, 15-8. Rice and Russell are undefeated as a team in international competition since teaming together last August to compete at the International Racquetball Federation World Championships.

Strong showings were made in earlier rounds by the women's doubles team of Rosy Torres and Susy Acosta from Mexico, Angela Grisar from Chile, men's doubles from Argentina Daniel Maggi/Shai Manzuri, and Bolivia's Santiago Canedo/Ricardo Monroy, along with local favorite

Huczek, Gonzalez, Guidry, Thoerner  
Fenton, Russell, Rice, Gudinas



St. Onge, Fernandez and Hiser inspect the Pan Am facility court construction



Follow the Pan American Games online at: [www.santodomingo2003.com](http://www.santodomingo2003.com) and [www.racquetballmagazine.com](http://www.racquetballmagazine.com)

Claudine Garcia from the Dominican Republic. All have a chance at a medal in August.

The only thing missing was the new facility, with its eight glass championship courts that were still under construction at the Dominican Republic Olympic Village. The new facility, which will also be the venue for the 2006 World Championships, boasts two side wall-back wall glass courts with seating for up to 1000, plus six additional courts with full glass back walls. The construction is under the supervision of Randy Stafford of the Court Company, who designed the portable court used at the U.S. OPEN.

The Pan American Games will take place August 1-17 in Santo Domingo, involving 7,500 athletes from 42 nations. The racquetball competition begins on August 5 and runs through August 10.

## Belgian ... or Venezuelan ... Open ?

by Mike Mesecke

It was an extremely short, unannounced visit but it was very much appreciated. The National Team of Venezuela came to Europe and played against the Irish team one weekend and then left for Belgium to play the 20th edition of the Belgian Open in Antwerp the next. Team Venezuela was touring to prepare itself for the upcoming Pan Am Games this August.

Due to organizational difficulties, the Belgian Open was forced to move, and many of the European players were unable to come; however I think that Manuel Medina and his team enjoyed their trip to our city. European top players Martin Klipper and Trevor Meyer were not able to attend the tournament, but the national team members Belgium and the Netherlands were (almost) all on hand. Players from France, Germany and Morocco also joined this event.

So it was no wonder that the Venezuelans dominated the Mens Open; there were no Europeans in the semifinal. Only Bruno Bouilliac, of France, and Mike Mesecke, of Germany, made it to the quarterfinals, both losing there in two straight games against Cesar Castro and Antonio Yamin.

In the semis, 40-year-old Antonio Yamin had to play the 18-year-old youngster Cesar Castro, who was much faster and won in straight games. In the other Ralf Reinhard had to play against Marcelo Laprea, a 19-year-old Venezuelan who also gave his older opponent no chance in that game.

So in the final, the youngest players of the tournament faced off. Even as Cesar led in the first game with 7-0, Marcelo was able to come back to the game with powerful shots and a better strategy. He won the 2003 Belgian Open final 15-11, 15-10.



Above L-R: Team Venezuela: Ralf Reinhard, Cesar Castro, Antonio Yamin, Jorge Hirsekorn, Marcelo Laprea. Right L-R: IRF officials Erik Meyer (BEL), Manuel Medina (VEN), Mike Mesecke (GER).

Mens B was dominated by Edwin Torres, a U.S. citizen living in Germany and employed by the U.S. military. He beat William Ebersole (USA) in a close and powerful semi final where Torres defeated Mr. Mhedi (Morocco).

While the Seniors 35+ division was "owned" by the Europeans, the old guys 45+ was another Venezuela division in which team captain Manuel Medina won all his games and defeated Robert Schwabb 7-15, 15-4, 11-1 in the semis and William Ebersole in two straight in the final.

"We want to come back to Europe next year," said Manuel Medina, "we need to organise our trip more in advance and be able to maybe play the Irish or German Open next time."

European Racquetball Federation President Erik Meyer thanked Manuel for travelling to Europe: "It is always an experience to see these great players on our courts in Europe and we all are looking forward to seeing them or other National teams at our tournaments (again)."

**RESULTS** — Men's Pro/Open: Marcelo Laprea (VEN) def. Cesar Castro (VEN) 15-11, 15-10. Men's B: Edwin Torres (USA) def. Mehdi (MAR); Mens C: Marc van der Linden (BEL) def. Philippe Chevalier; Men's +35: Bruno Bouillac (FRA) def. Niklass Deboutte (BEL); Men's +45: Manuel Medina (VEN) def. William Ebersole (USA); Doubles: Jorge Hirsekorn/Marcelo Laprea (VEN) def. Manuel Medina/Antonia Yamin (VEN).

## Arklow Irish Open

by Michael Barnes

The 19th Arklow Irish Open was held on the May 2-5 bank holiday weekend, drawing a record entry of over 90 players, with 25% from overseas. When you consider that we only have two courts in Arklow and two just outside of our town it was quite a busy time for all concerned.

With over twenty from the U.S., it looked like they would take the major honours and they did just that. The all-U.S. final between Brian Fredenberg and Shane Wood was one of the best seen in this competition for years. After going to the fifth and final game, at 10-all it was Brian who just managed to scrape home with a score of 12-10.

The tournament also tries to raise money for charity and this year it was the turn of the Arklow

branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association to receive the proceeds.

We had ten finals, and each of the winners and runners-up received hand made engraved Co Mayo crystal. We would like to thank all the competitors who travelled to Arklow and we hope to see them in Ireland again in the not too distant future. The 2004 Irish open will be held April 30 through May 3 of next year.

**RESULTS** — Men's Open Singles: Brian Fredenberg def. Shane Wood 3-2; Men's B/C Singles: Triston Hickey def. Adam Neary 2-0; Men's 40 +Singles: Vincent Fitzgerald def. Tom Keogh. 2-1; Men's D/Novice Singles: Larry Byrne def. Michael Barnes (jnr) 2-1; Men's Open Doubles: Brian Fredenberg + Terry Jackson def. Shane Wood + Padraig Benson 2-1; Men's C/D Doubles: Padraig Ryan + Kieran Brannigan Ireland def. Larry Byrne + Michael Barnes (jnr) 2-0; Women's Gold Division: Sallie Benedict def. Susan Neary 2-0; Women's Blue Division: Bernadette Comerford def. Colette Barnes 21-7; Women's Novice Singles: Eilish Gibney def. Vanessa Barnes 2-0; Women's Doubles: Sallie Benedict/Colette Barnes def. H Shanahan/N Coffey 2-0.



Top L-R: Michael Barnes Tournament Director, Brian Fredenberg, Sheila Neary, Club Chairperson, and Shane Wood. Bottom L-R: Sallie Benedict, Sheila Neary and Susan Neary.



On behalf of the USRA, I would like to personally thank everyone who participated in our "Players helping Players" campaign. We set a lofty goal of \$100,000, having no idea if we could really reach that level. The outpouring of donations from players was very large, breathtaking and certainly unexpected. I could tell the donations were from the heart and soul of all of us ... as players, we all want racquetball to succeed and prosper.

When the campaign deadline passed on May 31, our grand total exceeded the goal by over \$30,000. With this type of support, combined with the many changes at the USRA, we will begin to see a much different organization in the years to come. There are many exciting things happening right now.

The first exciting upgrade is a new, internet-based membership program that your donations helped make possible. One advantage of this system will be the ability for all members to

access information about fellow players, tournaments, matches and updates at any time. We have needed something like this to help unite the sport and its players. It will enable the USRA to maintain contact with all of the members for a very low cost, keeping us informed — personally and directly — of new events, players, and racquetball in general. These brand new features (and many more in the planning stages) are being made possible by your donations. I will publish a full accounting of where these funds are being used in an upcoming issue.

We will start a new fundraising campaign for the next season, and will ask you to please keep us on your list of worthwhile causes; we feel that our efforts are just getting started and we'll need your continued support to obtain our goals. The USRA is our organization and one of its main goals is "players helping players" and this can only be done with your support. Many thanks and keep on playing. — Randy Stafford

## they did it!

These "Players helping Players" donors put the USRA's ambitious fundraising campaign over the top, with gifts that exceeded the \$100,000 goal by another \$32,000. Thank you very much !

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

Jeff & Cindy Conine, FL  
Doug Dickman, MO  
Scott Hirsch, FL  
Randy Stafford, TN

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

Bruce Adams, OK  
Jaime Anaya, CA  
Mark Baron, KY  
P. Sue Beckwith, IA  
Marsha Berry, KY  
William Cooper, MD  
Miss Sherrika Darnell, CA  
Otto Dietrich, GA  
Tony Feldstein, CO  
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Gary Gloegger, GA  
Jason Hicks, KY  
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Darold Key, AZ  
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Stacey Young, VA  
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Donna Cooper, TX  
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David Stark, NY  
Hector Topete, CA  
Bob Townsend, SC



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

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Shirley Barron, KY  
Anthony DiCianni, IL  
Barbara Faulkenberry, GA  
Ken Fife, VA  
Bob Goldbetter, NY  
Gray Norris, SC  
Victor Scammell Jr., TX  
Dr. Craig Shaak, FL  
Doug Smith, GA  
Gary Walter, NY  
Roger Wehrle, GA



Total donations =

**\$132,406**

Of that total, anonymous donors made substantial contributions behind the scenes. Special thanks go out to those generous "mystery" givers!

# campaign closes with a bang!

# rb:people & places

## USRA Annual Award Winners



### Presidential Awardee

#### Laurel Davis

Each year the USRA recognizes an outstanding state association leader with the Presidential Award. Full USRA compliance in regards to sanctioned tournaments, solid membership base, quality newsletter, and an outstanding website are all criteria for selection. This year's winner was Illinois State President Laurel Davis.

Illinois has an exceptional junior program that consistently has players finishing high at national and world events; it also ranks fourth in the country in overall membership with 818 current members.

"While all of our volunteers devote a lot of personal time and energy directing the efforts of their respective state associations, Laurel Davis and the board members of IRSa far exceed the annual requirements to maintain their affiliation status of the USRA and have earned this annual recognition," said USRA Membership Director Kevin Joyce. "Hats off to Laurel Davis and the ISRA Board of Directors."



### Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor, Claude Crocker

The Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award is given annually for athletes, coaches, officials, and administrators who have demonstrated, over the course of the year, an outstanding commitment to the sport of racquetball. Claude Crocker from North Carolina was this year's recipient for his efforts with the USRA and the LPRA tour.

Throughout last season, Crocker generously supported both the USRA and LPRA in an effort to help promote the sport from behind the scenes. The Charlotte, N.C. LPRA stop has become one of the most successful and lucrative tournaments of the year, and both associations are very appreciative of the time, effort and resources devoted by Claude to assure the event's success.

### John Halverson Fair Play Winner, Dan Sheppick

Dan Sheppick was deservedly tapped to receive the John Halverson Fair Play Award this year for his exploits during the World Junior Championships last year in Orlando. The award is given for an exceptional gesture of fair play carried out during the year by an athlete, team member, or spectator — and his actions more than fit the bill [see page 11 of the March/April edition for a full account]. Congratulations to the youngster, who was not in attendance in Houston, but will be "re-awarded" his plaque at Junior Olympics.



### USRA Hires Director of Marketing

The USRA recently announced the hire of Ivan Davis as Director of Marketing and Sponsorship Sales. The new post was created in response to organizational efforts to increase the national governing body's sponsorship base.

Davis spent 17 years in advertising sales with Xerox and The Wall Street Journal and got his first experience in the sports market as the Manager of Marketing for the New York Yankees. He also added to his professional expertise through stints with the Sports Channel, the Washington Wizards, Washington Capitals, and the United States Olympic Committee [USOC] before coming on board with the USRA.

"There was a need here (with the USRA) and the USRA was ready to make some changes under Jim Hiser's new direction," Davis explained. "They explored their options and I happened to be one of them."

Davis plans to strengthen the organization on three fronts: to build a brand that is worthwhile to the membership, establish ties with all forms of media, and provide value in sponsorships.

"We want to be sensitive to the needs of our members and sponsors," Davis said. "We need to make companies feel that we are helping them grow."

Davis attended his first racquetball event at National Singles in Houston, where he familiarized himself with the sport and its top players.

## **Walker New LPRA Commish**

Merle Walker was recently appointed the new LPRA commissioner by the tour's Board of Directors. Walker, a player in his own right, was competing at National Singles in Houston, where we were able to catch up to him after a match to discuss his new position.

"I knew that the tour was without a commissioner and I knew that they needed help," Merle said of his decision to apply for the post. "I put together a vision statement, had a few interviews, the board voted, and then offered me the job."

Merle's plan for the future of the tour including building on the improvements made while the tour was under USRA management. "I'd like to use the groundwork that the USRA has already laid and continue to grow the tour by having a strong core of tournaments that will raise the amount of prize money," he explained. "I am lucky to have numerous resources at my disposal including Jim Hiser and Linda Mojer with the USRA and Dave Negrete with the IRT. I am confident that we can all work together towards our common goal of promoting the sport of racquetball."

Reaching out to the community is also a goal of Merle's. "One of the first things we are looking to do is associate ourselves with a charity," he said. "We want to be more involved in the communities that we go into for events."

At home in Cleveland, Ohio, Merle owns Blackbird Woodworking, where he designs and builds custom furniture.

## **Ladies Day Shootout • by Bruce Adams**

The women's program of the Oklahoma Racquetball Association held a successful Ladies Day Shootout that drew thirteen ladies from Oklahoma, Kansas and

Arkansas [*pictured below right*]. Some of them traveled almost three hours to meet at the Cushing Community Center (about 45 miles west of Tulsa) for a fun day of fellowship and round-robin racquetball.

Door prizes were given away to all ladies at the free promotional event; pizza for lunch also brought smiles to their faces; and an Ektelon demo table was set up for those wanting to try out and purchase the latest equipment. Husbands, children and other visitors were on hand to help cheer the ladies on to victory. A lot of camaraderie and laughs could be heard from state champions, to a beginning player (Charissa Sulerhi) in her first week. Jane Neel had only been playing a month. Old friendships were rekindled when Chelo Gavin ended a five-year hiatus from the game. She had gotten burned out on tournaments, but she not only had a great time but played very well.

Three round-robin divisions kept everyone busy; the very first match in the B/C division between Sandra Lewis (Independence, KS) and Becky Smith (Duncan, OK) lasted over an hour and 45 minutes!

New friendships were established by the time the event had finished and the evening concluded when all went to a local Mexican restaurant to relax and replay some close shots earlier in the day.

The co-women's directors of the ORA, Therese Lewis and Paula Lemon, hope to have one or two women-only events next season. "The purpose of this day was to have an event for women of all skill levels who had never played in a tournament and encourage those who haven't played in quite some time to get back into it," Lewis stated. "I feel we accomplished this and look forward to more events like this in the future. There are a lot of good women players in Oklahoma."



# rb:people & places



**Standard Issue?** The "Patriot" frame is a bit hit with soldiers in the middle east. Barb Faulkenberry [2nd from right] reports: "We have two racquetball courts here at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. Both are in pretty battered shape, but they are used 24 hours a day! Everyone here works at least 12-14 hours a day. Some folks get one day off out of seven. Somehow a lot of us always find time for a little racquetball!!"



I'd thought I'd send you a picture of our Winter Youth Instructional League. In the Fall and Spring sessions, 31 kids cycled through my program; most are 10-12 years old but range from 10-17. About a third of the players have taken the class at least one other time. Grass roots racquetball at its best! — Brian Phillips, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

RESULTS -- Open: 1. Therese Lewis, 2. Christina Moore, 3. Julie Hill; B/C: 1. Theresa Morrison, 2. Sandra Lewis, 3. Becky Smith; Novice: 1. Linda Bennett, 2. Donna Cantrell, 3. Jane Neel.

## Traveling League Soldiers • by Olga Pollock

In southwest Oklahoma, a group of players observed that there were a number of enthusiasts throughout the state who enjoyed playing locally but didn't want to take part in tournaments. Because the local players wanted to meet and play new people, a traveling league was organized to fulfill that need.

Four clubs, all within a 90-mile radius, were invited to participate in the traveling league events. Players from these four clubs meet monthly, rotating among each sites. As many as 50 players participated in a single event. Levels of play vary from novice to open and include men and women, playing singles and doubles. Each of the local clubs provides food, fun, and hours of play on a given Saturday. The only cost is an entry fee of five dollars to cover court time. What a bargain for up to six hours of playing time with a variety of players!

Two of the league players are soldiers Shaun Stone from Tinker Air Force Base and Doug Miller from Ft. Sill, who participate in both league play and tournaments. Shaun was the gold medalist in Men's "B" at the 2002 Oklahoma State Singles; Doug placed second. Both soldiers were deployed to the Middle East when the United States went to war with Iraq. [Pictured L-R: Stone & Miller]



These men were recently honored in absentia at the 2003 USRA Regional Singles Championships in Oklahoma City. A display was set up at the tournament so players could view photos of the men and make donations for care packages. ORA Members gathered six boxes of items to send, and contributions from local companies paid for packaging and shipping.

Wives of the soldiers have expressed gratitude to the members of the Oklahoma Racquetball Association for their generosity and kindness. Until they return home, the ORA will keep Shaun and Doug in their thoughts.

## Midlands Challenge II • by Fred Ritschard

Once again, some of the midwest's finest junior racquetball players from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio & Kentucky, returned to the Greenbriar Athletic Club, in Indianapolis, IN, to battle for the

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

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<input type="checkbox"/> 40+	<input type="checkbox"/> D
<input type="checkbox"/> 45+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 50+	
<input type="checkbox"/> 55+	<input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
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# rb:people & places



## hmmm ... who 'dat — IL?

This is an easy one ... but still fun! Email your guesses to LMojer@racqmag.com



*Former Missouri state president and touring pro Jen Yokota wed Tom Sheldon last fall and the couple did a "sporting tour" before the ceremony. They're pictured on the ice at the Kiel Center (they're both hockey fans) and later the entire wedding party went to Busch Stadium for more pictures in front of the Stan Musial statue. We're guessing that the "something blue" might have been a racquetball! Photo: Dave Cannizzaro.*

coveted 'Midlands Award', in the second Annual 'Midlands Junior State Challenge' racquetball tournament. As was the case last year, the athletes from Junior Team Illinois brought the 'Midlands' title home with them in January.

All of the participants in this regional, four-state junior racquetball challenge tournament represented themselves, and their states, as skilled and sportsmanlike ambassadors. Many a friendship amongst the players has been made in the first two years of this major tournament!

Junior Team Illinois led the way with 20 players competing in the 'Midlands'. The state team scoring followed last year's order with Illinois posting 31 points, Indiana garnering 18, Ohio close behind with 15, and, Kentucky, with some new faces, putting up 4 points. Indiana and Ohio doubled their scoring from last year.

The individual age division finals went like this: Boys' 10-: 1. Matt Loy (IL), 2. Erich Schubert (IL); Boys' 12-: 1. Trevor Snyders (IL), 2. Nick Loy (IL); Boys' 14-: 1. Jonathan Doyle (OH), 2. Sean McGrath (IN); Boys' 16-: 1. Sean McGrath (IN), 2. Jonathan Doyle (OH); Boys' 18-: 1. Dain Taylor (IN); 2. Michael Steinhause (IL). Girls Combined: 1. Sharon Jackson (IN), 2. Holly Hettesheimer (OH).

Thanks to the tournament founder, Fred Ritschard (IL), the tournament director, Cathy McGrath (IN), the tournament coordinator, Deb Chaney (IN), and, to all of the players and parents, who make this event possible and who make it so exciting!

## Hair today, gone tomorrow ...

Doug Eagle has been in email contact during his travels in India [see May/June '03, pg. 44], and recently filed the following report ... "I am happy to share that it was just harvest time. The second harvest for me now. What am I harvesting? Hair. That's right, HAIR! In the first part of 1999 I cut off 25 ponytails of long healthy hair, and donated them to the Locks of Love Foundation in Florida. They take hair donations and turn them into wigs for the many children that undergo cancer treatment, which causes the loss of hair.

Once again, four years later, I found myself with a head full of new crops. So call me a *hair farmer* ... I did it again. This time I am living in India, and the idea of helping is always coming up. The yield was a strong 29 ponytails all at the 10-inch minimum. This harvest once again has made me a Bald EAGLE. It is always fantastic to be a part of the energy flow. Pass it on! (even if it is attached to my head) Buddha spoke of



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Additional criteria include a minimum age of 40, minimum terms of service and/or performance on an amateur or pro tournament circuit, plus nominees must submit complete resume documentation addressing the specifics of their performance and/or service to be considered. For online information on submitting Hall of Fame nominations, go to: [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org) | Index | "Hall of Fame." Deadline for submitting nominations is OCTOBER 1.

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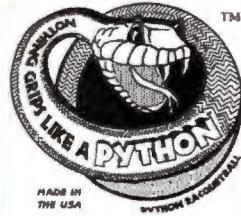
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- Coached 3 Jrs. to over 10 National and World Titles
- Racquetball Hall of Fame Nominee 2003
- USA National Team Coach 1990-96, 2002, 2003
- World Championship Coach 1990-96, 2002
- Women's Sports Foundation International Hall of Fame Finalist 1998-2000
- USOS National Coach of the Year 1997
- Pan American Coach-Gold Medal 1995
- Conducted over 1,200 Camps/Clinics
- 20+ Year Camp Experience

### Racquetball Camp Schedules

#### 2003

July 11-13 Boston, MA

July 18-20 Albany, NY

July 25-27 Woodbridge, NJ

August 1-3 TBA

August 8-10(singles) San Francisco, CA

August 15-17(doubles) San Francisco, CA

September 6-7(doubles) NJ/NY

September 19-21 So. Florida

October 24-26 Portland, OR

November 14-16 San Antonio, TX

December 4-11 Aruba(Caribbean Island)

#### 2004

January 23-25 Chicago, IL

February 13-15 Seattle, WA

February 20-22 TBA

March 12-14 Greensboro, NC

April 2-4 Minneapolis, MN

April 16-18 TBA

May 7-9 TBA

May 14-16 TBA

\*This schedule is tentative due to IRT dates!

\*\* Cities pending: IN; MD; Dallas/Houston, TX;  
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Chapter 7-Serve  
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### EYESHIELD

### EYEGUARDS

BLACK KNIGHT .....

HI-CONTRAST .....

TURBO .....

EKTELON:

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# national rankings

## MEN

### Men's Open

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Shane Vanderson, OH
3. Josh Tucker, MO
4. Nate Gagne, ME
5. Shane Wood, MA
6. Mike Locker, MN
7. Brian Fredenberg, TX
8. Rocky Carson, CA
9. Ben Croft, IL
10. Andy Hawthorne, OH

### Men's Elite

1. Ralph Cuesta, FL
1. Raymond Maestas, NM
3. Alex Zamudio, IN
4. Rodrigo Urzua, FL
5. Dana Mahar, NM
6. James Kostal, WY
7. Tom Carey, ME
8. Damon Peterson, IL
9. Zach Pope, TX
10. Ismael Aldana, CA

### Men's A

1. Roberto Cantos, TX
2. Marty Hammond, PA
3. Kipp Atwell, LA
3. Jody Morris, TX
5. Eric Vought, OH
6. Mark Bianchi, OK
7. Marco Mijares, GA
8. Scott Mitchell, CO
9. Wade Reuther, WA
10. Rick Slezak Jr., MA

### Men's B

1. Rick Rubin, FL
2. Tim Page, PA
2. Dennis Whitehead, TX
4. Joel Ernst, OH
5. Tom Pendleton, MD
6. David Levy, FL
7. Bryan Himaya, NY
8. Chris Hulke, MN
9. Jason Hicks, KY
9. Chigozie Ijeoma, FL

### Men's C

1. Garry Carter, CA
2. Tim Kirk, TX
3. Bob Reou, MI
3. Scott Stoodley, NH
3. Paul Tatz, AZ
6. Jonathan Collins, FL
7. Brian Butzer, PA
8. Brandon Mcnab, TX
8. Ray Meisner, IL
8. Brandon Stanley, LA

### Men's D

1. Jim Stein, PA
2. Mairo Moreira, CA
3. Ron Collins, WA
4. Marc Sherman, TX
5. Jorge Bejar, GA
5. Jason Small, NJ
7. Ron Maestas, NM
8. Daniel Russell, TN

9. Mike Barrows, CO
9. George Parobek, IN

### Men's Novice

1. Greg West, NH
2. Alex Bahls, NM
2. Dusty Gallivan, TX
2. Freddy Guevara, FL
2. Bruce Hotchkiss, MI
2. Michael Rivers, OH
7. Pete McConnell, DC
8. Matt Anderson, MA
8. Logan North, OH
10. Jim Picchi, RI

### Men's 24-

1. Marc Moccia, MA
2. Mitch Williams, NC
3. Andy Hawthorne, OH
4. Alejandro Herrera, FL
4. Jack Huczek, MI
6. Ben Croft, IL
6. Matthew McElhiney, FL
8. Mike Gaffney, PA
8. Shane Vanderson, OH
10. Chris Coy, OK

### Men's 25+

1. Mike Orr, PA
2. Mike Dennison, OH
2. Jason Sylvester, NY
4. Dan Whitley, MO
5. Jason Colangelo, MD
6. Aaron Metcalf, FL
6. Alain Pujolar, FL
8. Oscar Macias, TX
8. Ryan Rodgers, TX
10. Nate Gagne, ME

### Men's 30+

1. Brian Fredenberg, TX
2. Aaron Metcalf, FL
3. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ
4. Brian Pointelin, UT
5. Jamal Harris, MD
6. Roberto Cantos, TX
6. Dave Stark, NY
8. Chris Jones, OK
9. Marco Mijares, GA
10. Peter Beckwith, WA

### Men's 35+

1. Eugene Coyle, IL
2. Dan Llacer, DE
3. Tony Feldstein, CO
3. Doug Ganim, OH
3. Kelly North, KY
6. Jim Frautschi, MN
7. John Collison, DE
8. John Barrett, PA
9. Steve Goedker, MI
10. James Kostal, WY

### Men's 40+

1. Tony Feldstein, CO
1. Dave Watson, OK
3. Eric Foley, MD
3. Jimmy Lowe, AK
5. Scott Cullins, GA
5. Bobby Haab, CT
7. Randy Forrest, FL

8. Mike Barrows, CO
8. Joe Garbarino, NY
10. Ray Griffiths, UT

### Men's 45+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Joe Hassey, NV
3. James Jones, CA
4. Patrick Gibson, TX
5. John Greer, PA
6. Randy Stafford, TN
7. Glenn Bell, TX
8. Dave Milazzo, IL
9. Len Knudsen, FL
10. Mark Baron, VA

### Men's 50+

1. Darryl Warren, CA
2. Mitt Layton, FL
3. Mark Baron, VA
3. Frank Taddio, AZ
5. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
6. David Olson, IL
7. Howard Walker, TX
8. John Vohland, CO
9. Russ Palazzo, CT
10. Jim Luzar, WI

### Men's 55+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Ed Remen, NC
3. Tom Mckie, TX
4. David Warner, MN
5. Russ Mannino, CA
5. Dave Steiger, ME
7. Dan Jones, GA
8. Bill Wolfe, NY
9. Ron Marr, KY
10. Dwayne McKnight, MD

### Men's 60+

1. Glenn Allen, VA
2. Dan Jones, GA
3. Warren Reuther, LA
4. Ron Burdo, FL
5. Pat Taylor, IL
6. Ed Sword, KY
7. Chris Segura, UT
8. Leland Rients, MN
9. Pete Keiser, OH
9. Mitch Milewski, NH

### Men's 65+

1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Michael Jackson, CT
3. Dave Snyder, TX
4. Rex Lawler, IN
5. Jerry Northwood, AZ
6. Bob Sullins, TX
7. Grant Morrill, PA
8. Bob Drouin, NH
8. Alan Dwyer, FL
8. Dave Lund, MI

### Men's 70+

1. Don Alt, OH
2. John O'donnell, IL
3. Chuck Kaiser, MI
4. Sean Reid, NV
5. Robert Miller, SC
6. Ken Karmel, NM

7. Wendell Hall, NM
8. Joe Miller, FL
9. Jim Stahl, TX
10. Joe Lambert, TX

### Men's 75+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Duane Russell, MI
3. Carl Buschner, MA
4. Dick Kincaide, CO
5. Philip Dziuk, IL
6. Victor Sacco, NY
7. Ken Yahiro, IL
8. Philips Dulaney, VA
9. Earl Acuff, NC
9. Michael Martin, CO

### Women's C

1. Beth Gainer, PA
1. Marci Laramee, TN
3. Jean Lerch, NH
4. Teresa La Brie, NH
5. Aline Jackson, AR
6. Cherie Evans, WA
6. Nancy Hodges, OH
8. Sharon Shapiro, NH
9. Tracey Flaesch, MD
10. Suzanne Ewert, NH

### Women's D

1. Carolyn Watkins, IL
2. Danielle Key, AZ
3. Sarah Warhaftig, CO
4. Richelle Kulju, WA
4. Ashley Loyd, TN
6. Cathy Doucet, NH
7. Janice Bell, GA
8. Nancy Aiken, OR
8. Kim Roy, NH
8. Debbie Vering, NM

## WOMEN

### Women's Open

1. Heather Dunn, MA
2. Malia Bailey, VA
3. Rachel Gellman, AZ
3. Denise Mock, TX
5. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
6. Shannon Feaster, MD
7. Brenda Kyzer, SC
8. Tammy Brown, ID
9. Lorraine Feeney, MA
10. Vallana Perrault, MI

### Women's Elite

1. Teresa Beresford, VA
2. Tina Hagen, CO
2. Solanna Taragan, CA
4. Tina Joslin, TX
5. Jill Crouse, CA
6. Debra Bryant, NC
7. Jesi Fuller, NM
7. Claudia Ramirez, FL
9. Sandy Colello, ME
10. Jeni Fuller, NM

### Women's A

1. Suzette Solomon, IN
2. Susan Lichtman, NY
2. Vicki Taylor, MN
4. Pat Sims, ME
5. Maria Vera, GA
6. Tara Arnett, VA
6. Esther Mcnany, CT
6. Christine Watson, TX
9. Barbara Christensen, UT

### Women's Novice

1. Shacoeva Danes, FL
1. Jackie Morrison, NY
1. Jennifer Wells, TX
4. Courtney Hill, NM
5. Courtney Chisholm, MA
6. Katherine Affeltranger, UT
6. Lucy Avraamidou, PA
6. Diane Bass, TX
6. Monica Gotelaere, GA
6. Yvonne Grinnell, NM

### Women's 24-

1. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
2. Lauren Deutsch, CA
2. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Kristen Walsh, UT
5. Kelley Fisher, OH
6. Krystal Csuk, IL
7. Melissa Borgwat, CA
8. Sara Borland, IA
9. Da'monique Davis, TX
9. Jeni Fuller, NM

### Women's 25+

1. T.J. Baumbaugh, VA
2. Rachel Gellman, AZ
2. Kerri Wachtel, OH
4. Jennifer Lynch, CO
4. Aimee Roehler, NJ
6. Stephanie Munger, AK
7. Stephanie Bird, OK



[based on results processed by the national office as of 06/04/03]

8. Shannon Feaster, MD
8. Claudia Ramirez, FL
10. Ramona Von Ondarza, FL

**Women's 30+**

1. Heather Dunn, MA
2. Amy Foster, OH
3. Jo Shattuck, CO
4. Tina Hagen, CO
4. Candi Hostovich, VA
6. Claudia Ramirez, FL
6. Paula Truman, ME
8. Cintya Leveque, VA
8. Linda Moore, PA
8. Karen Morton, PA

**Women's 35+**

1. Solanna Taragan, CA
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Felicia Mann, MI
3. Denise Mock, TX
3. Holly Remen, NC
6. Anita Maldonado, NY
6. Lisa Mayo, ME
8. Lynn Fonseca, GA
9. Roz Petronelli, MA
10. Melody Gorno, MI

**Women's 40+**

1. Cheryl Miosi, NY
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Denise Mock, TX
4. Kim Machiran, MO
5. Malia Bailey, VA
6. Laura Brandt, FL
7. B.J. Ehrigg, CT
7. Terri Thornton, MN
9. Anita Maldonado, NY
10. Cyd Evans, NM

**Women's 45+**

1. Marcia Richards, CO
2. Linda Moore, NE
3. Susan Pfahler, FL
4. Jere Luttnar, TX
5. Liz Molitor, IL
6. Chris Evon, IL
7. Meena Evans, NC
7. Karen Key, AZ
9. Julie Hill, OK
9. Val Shewfelt, UT

**Women's 50+**

1. Debbie Chaney, IN
2. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
3. Elaine Dexter, CA
3. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
5. Marsha Berry, KY
6. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
7. Karen Key, AZ
8. Jere Luttnar, TX
9. Carla Francis, CA
9. Susan Kieffer, MN

**Women's 55+**

1. Merijean Kelley, CA
2. Cece Palaski, NM
3. Paula Lemon, OK
4. Margaret Hoff, IL
5. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
6. Paula Sperling, NM

7. Mary Petty, TX
8. Mildred Gwinn, NC
8. Jackie Jones, FL
8. Vickie Utter, NC

**Women's 60+**

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Marquita Molina, CA
3. Mildred Gwinn, NC
4. Joy Desantis, CA
5. Nidia Funes, CA
6. Gail Schaefer, MD
7. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
8. Gloria Piscoran, OR
9. Donna Backus, MI
10. Annabelle Kovar, NE

**Women's 65+**

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
1. Annabelle Kovar, NE
3. Iona Baldwin, MO
3. Jo Penny, SC
5. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
6. Naomi Eads, MO
7. Carol Brown, AZ
8. Jeanne Leben, AZ

**Women's 70+**

1. Lola Markus, IL
2. Reta Harring, WI
3. Louise Kiss, NM
1. Mary-Lou Acuff, NC
2. Mary Lou Kackert, NM
3. Mary Wysocki-Schwartz, WI
1. Mary-Lou Acuff, NC

**BOYS**

**Boys 6-**

1. David Zingale, AZ
2. Kyle Ulliman, OH
2. Jesse Van Valkenburg, UT
4. Kyle Einstein, AZ
4. Skywalker Garcia, AZ
4. Spencer Shoemaker, OH
7. Kevin Bierner, AZ
7. David Diaz, AZ
9. Dustin Anderson, AZ
9. Sam Bredenbeck, MN

**Boys 6- MB**

1. Nicholas Fonseca, GA
2. Kyle Ulliman, OH
3. Sam Bredenbeck, MN
4. Anthony Dimatteo, CT
5. Conor Grammes, VA
6. Cory Richer, CO
7. Ralph Grillone III, MA
8. Sam Appel, VA
8. Brandon Golob, VA
8. James Ritucci, MA

**Boys 8-**

1. Keegan North, OH
2. Chris Vosburg, MA
3. Chase Stanley, LA
4. Ryan Coates, OH

4. Sam Reid, OR
6. Jose Diaz, CA
6. Adam Manilla, CO
6. Matthew Wray, OH
6. Anthony Zingale, AZ
10. Ryan Barker, FL

**Boys 8- MB**

1. Keegan North, OH
2. Paul Frondorf, VA
3. Kyle Ulliman, OH
4. Jose Diaz, CA
4. Chris Vosburg, MA
6. Anthony Dimatteo, CT
7. Sam Reid, OR
7. Matthew Wray, OH
9. Conlon Berry, OH
9. Graydon Clarke, NM

**Boys 10-**

1. Logan North, OH
2. Joseph Lee, LA
3. Rion Ocampo, VA
4. Daniel Ring, MN
5. Jeffrey Dingesne, MA
5. Jose Rojas, CA
7. Jack Clarke, NM
7. Dan Poindexter, MI
9. Sam Allen, CT
9. Shawn Branham, VA

**Boys 12-**

1. John-Craig Chisholm, MA
2. Tyler Lienhart, VA
2. Andrew Price, MI
4. Danny Lavel, OH
5. Trevor Snyders, IL
6. James Fahey, CT
7. Jake Bredenbeck, MN
8. Beau Breton, NH
9. Brett Loehr, VA
10. Freddy Alvizo, FL

**Boys 14-**

1. Rick Sledzik Jr., MA
2. Nick Czatt, VA
2. Sean McGrath, IN
4. Alex Moe, ND
5. Tripp Isley, NC
6. Cody Sylvester, UT
7. Kenny Shuman, OH
8. Cam Grundman, MN
9. Mike Krieger, MI
10. Gavin Bennett, NH

**Boys 16-**

1. Zachary Apperson, OH
2. Daniel Stewart, KY
3. Anthony Martin, UT
4. Andrew Gale, UT
5. Erik Darnell, CA
5. Joel Ernst, OH
5. Mike Keddie, NH
5. Sean McGrath, IN
5. Lavery Thompson, TX
5. Garret Young, CA

**Boys 18-**

1. Dan Sheppick, OR
2. Ben Croft, IL
2. Marc Moccia, MA

2. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
2. Dain Taylor, IN
6. Joey Lakowske, OR
7. Jack Huczek, MI
8. Charlie Pratt, OR
9. Alex Brown, MI
9. Phil Laduke, PA

**GIRLS**

**Girls 6-**

1. Sidney Bercovich, AZ
1. Brooke Rushefsky, AZ
1. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
4. Jessica Noll, AZ
4. Railey Zantop-Zimlinghaus, CO
6. Madison Gilluly, AZ

**Girls 6- MB**

1. Abbey Lavel, OH
2. Krystal Boyle, OR
2. Emily Hathaway, MN
2. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
2. Railey Zantop-Zimlinghaus, CO

**Girls 8-**

1. Abbey Lavel, OH
2. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
3. Laura Lyndon, NH
4. Natalia Canovas, FL
5. Nicole Bruns, VA
5. Rebecca Nader, NH
5. Kayla Pereira, MA
5. Brooke Lynn Rushefsky, AZ
9. Nicole Ortega, AZ
10. Parkes Kendrick, OR

**Girls 8- MB**

1. Abbey Lavel, OH
2. Natalia Canovas, FL
2. Hannah Ocampo, VA
4. Nicole Bruns, VA
4. Danielle Elder, MD
4. Michaela Garrison-Desany, MA
4. Nike Onimole, NM
4. Lauren Stanley, LA
9. Toni Duran, NM
10. Kendra Henderson, OR

**Girls 10-**

1. Courtney Chisholm, MA
2. Jacquelyn Rosado, CT
3. Lily Berry, OH
3. Danielle Key, AZ

**EVENT LEVEL/  
DESCRIPTION**

**FINISH/POINTS**

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5-8	9-16
30	20	15	10	5	0
50	30	20	15	10	0
150	100	75	50	25	0
250	150	100	75	50	0
300	200	150	100	75	25*
600	400	300	200	100	50*

At selected national events:

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

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

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

# age+skill rankings

## MEN

### Men's 24- A/B

1. Dallis Rogers, KS
2. Joshua Jones, FL
2. Brandon Stanley, LA
4. Juan Rivas, MA
4. Drew Toland, AR
6. Stewart Solomon, PA
6. Jonathan Woods, TX
8. Chris Robledo, FL
9. Tripp Isley, NC
9. Jared Torres, KS

### Men's 24- C/D

1. Jason Martucci, TX
2. Juan Martinez III, IL
3. Suneel Battula, OH
4. Matt Buck, MO
5. Brandon Stanley, LA
6. Carlos Lopez Jr., FL
6. David Martin, MD
8. Carlos Oviedo, CA
9. Josh Jeter, MS
10. Josh Atkinson, MD

### Men's 25+ A/B

1. Dennis Whitehead, TX
2. Jason Hicks, KY
2. Ryan John, CO
4. Sean Wilson, MA
5. Dan Mcniel, VA
6. Charles Levine, MD
6. Don Tinker, FL
8. Julian Gomez, UT
8. Jason Linnell, VA
10. Curt Smith, NC

### Men's 25+ C/D

1. Twayne Howard, MI
2. Jossue Montoya, TX
3. Mike Easthope, MI
3. Sean Troyer, GA
5. Jose Ortiz, TX
6. Lee Monks, MA
6. Felipe Veracoechea, TX
8. Garrett Berman, CA
8. Matt Cambi, VA
8. Josh Hallberg, FL

### Men's 30+ A/B

1. Sean Baker, TX
2. Dale Durboraw, OR
3. Marty Hammond, PA
4. Kevin O'keefe, MI
5. Eric Jubin, TX
6. Tim Wigder, DC
7. James Coleman, GA
7. Scott Gargas, OH
7. Chris Wilmoth, MD
10. Sean Troyer, GA

### Men's 30+ C/D

1. Roger Hertzberg, TX
2. Twayne Howard, MI
3. Juan Martinez, IL
4. Brian Butzer, PA
4. Pedro Pena, FL
4. Mark Stevenson, IL
7. Daniel Mullin, MI
8. Jesus Quevedo, TX
9. Julio Jimenez, MD
10. Steve Maisel, FL

### Men's 35+ A/B

1. Alok Mehta, MA
2. Dennis Negrete, IL
3. Patrick Knox, DC
4. Kipp Atwell, LA

4. Mark Bianchi, OK
4. Stan Shaw III, MA
7. Mario Curiel, TX
7. John Dill, TX
7. Art Fleming, OR
7. Rob Gruner, NY

- Men's 35+ C/D
1. Curt Firestone, PA
2. Juan Martinez, IL
3. Lyle Branton, GA
4. Michael Kaufman, GA
5. Brad Nelson, TX
6. Roger Hertzberg, TX
7. Jeff Johnson, MI
8. Dom Christiano, PA
8. Edward Garcia, FL
8. Robby Johnson, CA

- Men's 40+ A/B
1. Charles Lee, LA
2. Steve Mejia, TX
2. Larry Moon, VA
4. Lloyd Richless, PA
5. Monty Simpkins, MS
6. Peter Chase, OK
6. Warren Einiger, FL
6. John Mason, IL
10. Derek Kazakos, FL

- Men's 40+ C/D
1. Rudy Olivares, TX
2. Michael Kaufman, GA
3. Dale Clark, MD
4. Don Ramirez, MO
5. Juan Martinez, IL
5. Ken Rivas, OK
5. Gerald Shadley, FL
8. Royce Simpson, IL
9. Howard Bursch, PA
9. Tommy Crespo, FL

- Men's 45+ A/B
1. Gwynne Edmunds, KY
2. Terry Greene, FL
3. Joel Matautia, WA
4. Jack White, MI
5. Claude Crocker, SC
6. Ed Barlow, RI
7. Robert Frazier, AL
7. Sal Perconti, FL
9. Freddy Aguilar, NY
9. Rick Betts, CA

- Men's 45+ C/D
1. John Shurbet, TX
2. Lou Kleinman, TX
3. Ronald Harris, TX
4. Dean Cline, IN
5. Mike Easthope, MI
5. Larry Hicks, KY
7. Chris Garrett, VA
7. Larry Knetzer, GA
7. Tony Watt, GA
10. Jimmy Falcon, MD

- Men's 50+ A/B
1. Bill Cooper, MD
2. Ron Martucci, AL
3. Robert Franks, TX
3. Paul Wilson, PA
5. Dan Babuka, VA
5. Ken Hooley, FL
7. Dennis Rosenberger, PA
8. Dick Heithoff, IL
8. Bill Hodges, OH
8. Wes Teel, FL

### Men's 50+ C/D

1. Ray Meisner, IL
2. Chuck Van Hoose, MI
3. Marc Scher, TX
4. Paul Chertoff, VA
4. Gary Doane, FL
4. Rodney Reiter, OH
7. Robert Fulton, TX
8. Robert Corsello, MD
9. Larry Bobier, VA
9. Sherman Gipson, MI

### Men's 55+ A/B

1. A.B. Dennis, TX
2. Ron Marr, KY
3. John Patalano, RI
4. Carl Moody, VA
5. John Bryant, TX
5. Leo Klimaitis, IL
7. Don Acklin, PA
7. Buddy Baldwin, NJ
7. Don Davis, IL
7. Eddie Gardner, VA

### Men's 55+ C/D

1. Howard Watters, TX
2. Garry Carter, CA
3. Marc Scher, TX
4. Larry Bizzari, IN
5. George East, VA
5. Dean Hicks, OK
5. Don Russell, MS
5. Chuck Van Hoose, MI
9. Donald Currie, PA
9. Peter Kochis, OK

### Men's 60+ A/B

1. Joe Harman, GA
2. Al Miller, OH
3. Charles Erban, MA
4. Don Davis, IL
5. Pete Blakeslee, AR
6. Elliott Papermaster, WI
7. Mike Cordry, WA
8. Peyton Dorsett, TX
8. Mike Majcejwski, TX
8. Bill Roever, TX

### Men's 60+ C/D

1. Wayne Thornton, AR
2. Larry Bizzari, IN
2. Alberto Palacios, IL
4. Ron McElwee, AL
5. Howard Call, WA
5. David Seltzer, IL
5. Bill Sidenstick, VA
8. Ron Bouchard, NH
8. Charles Curtis, TX
8. Bill Dunn, TX

## WOMEN

### Women's 24- A/B

1. Keely Franks, TX
2. Tracy Ceroski, OH
2. Sarah Wells, WA
4. Laurie Fisk, MO
5. Danielle Mathieu, MO
5. Sarah Ulmer, MO
7. Amanda McCormick, OH

### Women's 24- C/D

1. Tracy Ceroski, OH
2. Sherrika Darnell, CA
2. Heidi Zitza, MO
4. Holly Hettesheimer, OH
5. Maria Fe Guerrero, FL
6. Wesley Toland, AR

6. Sarah Warhaftig, CO
6. Holly Zitza, MO
9. Amberchelle Yonkosky, FL
10. Natalie Brush, TX

### Women's 25+ A/B

1. Ramona Von Ondarza, FL
2. Stephanie Bird, OK
3. Hilary Anderson, OH
4. Kelly Bruns, VA
4. Kristen Liebmann, TX
4. Karen Paiz, FL
4. Kelly Wood, OH
8. Karen Denu, VA
9. Jennifer B. Cook, NC
9. Irene Delgado, NY

### Women's 25+ C/D

1. Marci Laramée, TN
2. Kristen Liebmann, TX
3. Iva Espinoza, NM
3. Priscilla Krammer, FL
5. Ginger Buttke, TX
5. Erin Haug, CA
5. Nancy Hodges, OH
5. Ana Maria Plaza, FL
9. Laurell Burrows, FL
10. Chantell Knowles, TX

### Women's 30+ A/B

1. Umpapan
1. Trakootriop, NJ
2. Chandra Shaw, TX
3. Tish Rodgers, TX
4. Priscilla Krammer, FL
5. Tina Hernandez, IL
6. Irene Delgado, NY
7. Carla Alford, FL
7. Ashley Darmar, VA
7. Lori Good, IL
7. Sandra Whitney, SC

### Women's 30+ C/D

1. Carolyn Watkins, IL
2. Sarah Sockolof, NJ
3. Eva Alle, GA
3. Heidi Kneisl, FL
5. Laurell Burrows, FL
5. Karissa Sparks, DC
7. Lisa Carsrud, MN
7. Jill Jones, VA
7. Andrea Katzendorr, VA
10. Victoria Pickard, FL

### Women's 35+ A/B

1. Sheri Zappala, NY
2. Lori Good, IL
3. Jeanine Black, TX
3. Thao Le, VA
3. Katy Wood, AK
6. Tina Joslin, TX
7. Felicia Mann, MI
7. Gennie Salinas, TX
9. Angela Deltito-Cook, PA
9. Tina Hernandez, IL

### Women's 35+ C/D

1. Beth Gainer, PA
2. Alex Fernander, FL
3. Gwendolyn Morris, AP
4. Venita Mitchell, TX
5. Janice Bell, GA
5. Susan Simmons, FL
5. Pamela Trent, TN
8. Cathy Doucet, NH
8. Teresa Ives, WA
10. Felicia Jackson, TX

### Women's 40+ A/B

1. Sheri Zappala, NY
2. Pat Hake, PA
3. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
4. Vivian Rodriguez, WA
5. Mary Bennett, WA
5. Susan Borschel, VA
5. Tina Hernandez, IL
8. Chris Suever, VA
9. Gina Cendoya, FL
9. Ping Chu, VA

### Women's 40+ C/D

1. Sharon Shapiro, NH
2. Janice Bell, GA
3. Jean Lerch, NH
4. Teresa Ives, WA
4. Joan Jimenez, VA
6. Myriam Lakibi, VA
7. Dawn Watkins, FL
8. Sydnee Porter, WA
8. Burtle Zimmerer, OH

### Women's 45+ A/B

1. Elizabeth Shaia, TX
2. Tina Hernandez, IL
3. Phyllis Clair, TX
3. Susan Keiffer, MN
5. Diane Nellis, PA
6. Cheryl Kirk, IL
7. Karen Green, MI
8. Diana Courtney, MI
8. Sue Goodwin, CA
8. Deb Irvine, NH

### Women's 45+ C/D

1. Janet Christie, IL
2. Genie Martin, NC
3. Dorothy Che-Menju, IL
3. Nancy Gager, NJ
5. Marilyn Lemon, MS
6. Anne Billingham, VA
6. Maria Nieves, WI
8. Mary Moreland, FL
9. Kim Novak, MI

### Women's 50+ A/B

1. Sharon Huczek, MI
2. Susan Kieffer, MN
3. Judy Arnold, FL
3. Lynne Weisbart, IL
3. Linda White, PA
6. Joan Vande Kieft, IL
7. Dorothy McDavid, IL

### Women's 50+ C/D

1. Becky Smith, OK
2. Dorothy Menju-Che, IL
3. Maria Nieves, WI
4. Wendy Tyus, WA
5. Thelma Howard, MI

### Women's 55+ A/B

1. Paula Lemon, OK
2. Marquita Molina, CA
3. Sharon Brockbank, ID

### Women's 55+ C/D

1. Aurora Bocanegra, KS
2. Pat Fleming, VA
3. Dorothy Byers, OH

### Women's 60+ A/B

1. Marquita Molina, CA

1. Annabelle Kovar, NE

# event calendar

## July ...

July 18-20

ARAC 2003 Doubles Open @ American River Athletic Club .....	Sacramento, CA	916-920-1933
Commonwealth Games @ Lancelott Sport&Health .....	Vinton, VA	540-977-1200
Summer Bluegrass State Games @ University Of Kentucky .....	Lexington, KY	859-873-6496
United Nations Doubles @ Pojaque Wellness Center.....	Santa Fe, NM	505-266-8960
2003 Georgia Games @ Athletic Club Northeast.....	Atlanta, GA	770-972-2303
Hot Tamale @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs Of Sa.....	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
Junior Jam @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet .....	Orlando, FL	239-262-1112
Pick Of The Pairs @ Allentown Racquet Club.....	Allentown, PA	610-821-1300
Masters Intl Championships @ Northwest Ath Club-Hwy 100.....	Minneapolis, MN	734-426-8952
Ballard Doubles Open @ Olympic Athletic Club .....	Seattle, WA	206-909-7094
Lou Gehrig's Doubles Cash @ Quadrangle Athletic Club.....	Coral Springs, FL	954-753-8900
VA State Games @ Arlington Sport&Health .....	Arlington, VA	703-522-1702
Dallas Doubles Series @ Landmark Fitness Factory .....	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
Pan Pacific Masters Games @ American River Athletic Club.....	Sacramento, CA	916-920-1933

July 23-26  
July 25-27

July 30 - Aug.03

## August ...

August 01-03

August 9

August 15-17

August 22-24

August 26-30

2nd Annual Capitol Classic @ Kentucky State Univ. .....	Frankfort, KY	502-868-0107
Triple Crown One Day Shootout @ Maverick Ath Club.....	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
2003 Nc State Doubles @ Courts Plus.....	Jacksonville, NC	910-346-3446
NWFC Summer Shootout @ Northwest Fitness Center .....	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
Another Leftover Tourny @ Worldgate Sport&Health .....	Herndon, VA	703-527-7785
Best Of Texas @ Racquet & Fitness Club Of Sa .....	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596
Florida State Doubles @ The Body Mill.....	Clearwater, FL	727-538-0778
Dallas Doubles Series @ Landmark Fitness Factory .....	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
IRF World Senior Championships @ New Mexico Sports & Wellness .....	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960

## September ...

September 6

September 12-14

September 19-21

September 26-28

Dallas Doubles Series @ Landmark Fitness Factory .....	Dallas, TX	972-392-1500
American Family Fall Open @ American Family Fitness .....	Richmond, VA	804-330-3400
Outback Blast It @ The Sports Center.....	Fayetteville, NC	910-864-3303
Triple Crown Championships @ Maverick Athletic Club .....	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
Alpha Fall Kick Off @ Alpha Racquetball & Fitness.....	Mechanicsburg, PA	717-540-5111
2003 Ky State Doubles @ Louisville Ymca.....	Louisville, KY	270-497-4348
2003 Tx State Doubles @ Northwest Fitness Center .....	Houston, TX	713-895-8688
Balloon Fest Blow-Out @ Redbud Ymca Of Abilene .....	Abilene, TX	915-695-3839
Diez Y Seis @ San Antonio College .....	San Antonio, TX	210-733-2761
Falls Rally @ Olympus Racquet&Fitness .....	Sterling, VA	703-430-0666

## October ...

October 4

October 17-19

October 18-19

October 24-26

Fall Shoot Out Of The Brazos @ Lakewood Tennis & Fitness .....	Waco, TX	254-753-0228
Halloween Open @ Cocoa Court Club .....	Hershey, PA	717-540-5111
1st Annual Ichabod Memorial @ Louisville Ymca .....	Louisville, KY	270-497-4348
Texas State Seniors @ Maverick Athletic Club .....	Arlington, TX	817-275-3348
Spook Fest @ Racquet & Fitness Clubs Of San Antonio.....	San Antonio, TX	210-344-8596

## 2003 national event listings @ [www.usrastore.com](http://www.usrastore.com)

July 23-26

July 9-14, 14-20

August 1-17

August 27-30

September 4-7

October 1-5

November 19-23

December 17-21

NMRA Masters International Championships [5] .....	Minneapolis, Minnesota	<a href="http://nmra.info">nmra.info</a>
High Performance Camp & U.S. Junior Team Camp .....	Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396
Pan American Games (U.S. Team event) .....	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	719-635-5396
IRF 15th World Senior Racquetball Championships [5] .....	Albuquerque, NM	505-266-8960
Summit in the Rockies .....	Colorado Springs, CO	719-635-5396
Ektelon USRA 36th National Doubles Championships [6] .....	Minneapolis, MN	719-635-5396
8th Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Championships [5] .....	Memphis, TN	719-635-5396
ProKennex IRF 15th World Junior Championships .....	Orlando, FL	719-635-5396

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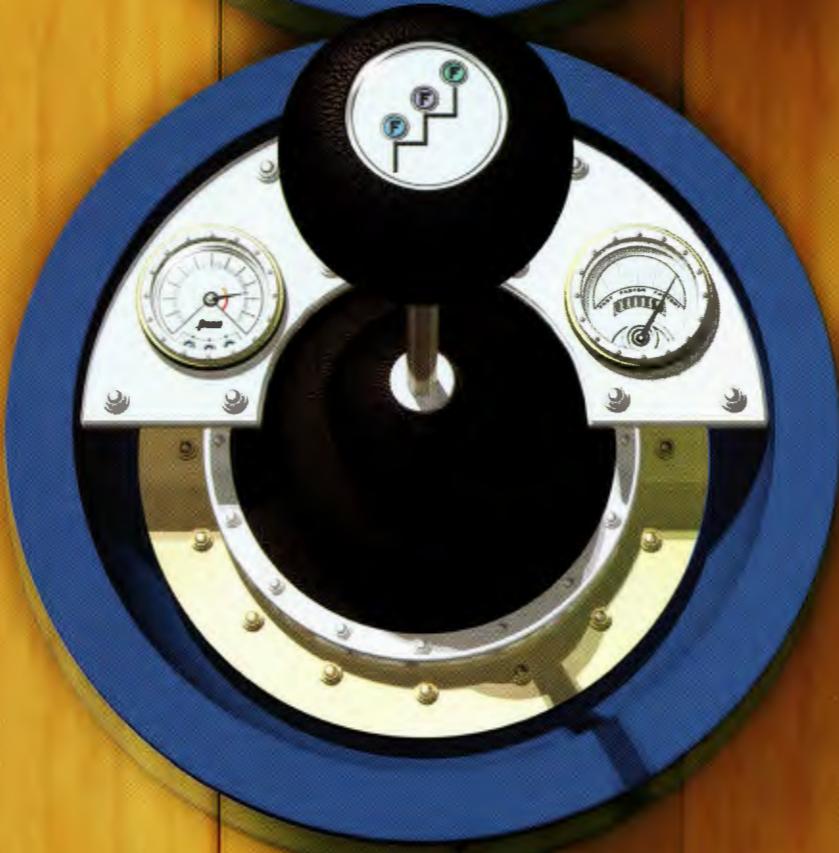
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