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Editorial Consultant
Linda Mojer / With Substance, Inc.
info@withsubstance.com

Design
Matt Lupton
luptondesign@gmail.com

Cover Photo
ReStrungMag.com

USA RACQUETBALL STAFF

Steve Czarnecki
Executive Director
sczarnecki@usra.org

Jim Hiser
Program Manager
jhiser@usra.org

Terri Lewis
Director - Membership & Annual Giving
tlewis@usra.org

Myles Hayes
Coordinator, Membership Services
mhayes@usra.org

Barb Pyle
Accounting Assistant
bpyle@usra.org

Joe Williams
National Volunteer
jwilliams@usra.org

USA Racquetball Advisors
Doug Ganim – US OPEN Director
Connie Martin – USAR-IP Programmer
Otto Dietrich – Rules Commissioner

Submissions

Racquetball Magazine welcomes submissions from our members and readers. If you have an idea for an article you may discuss your topic with the editor either by email or telephone.

Contact: magazine@usra.org

All items submitted are subject to editing.

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 635-5396
www.USARacquetball.com

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USAR LOGO UPDATED

Please NOTE that USA Racquetball has revised and updated its logo, to now display the tagline: "Fast, Fun, Fitness." If you are authorized to use the graphic in your activities and promotions, please be sure to REPLACE previous versions with the latest image. Contact the USAR for a set of high-resolution graphics for best display use.



A determined Paola Longoria lost only one game in her run to the final, in this quarterfinal match against Veronica Sotomayor.
Photo: Ken Fife, StylishShutter

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MISSION STATEMENT

USA Racquetball is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the USA Olympic Committee, and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide the infrastructure and organization for racquetball. We also provide competitive opportunities for members and enthusiasts through our coordination of racquetball organizations, development and administration of rules and programs, sanctioning of events and development of teams for international competition.

VISION STATEMENT

To provide opportunities in the sport of racquetball for all levels of participation through:

Objectives:

- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT** – USAR values its members and will strive to provide the best possible member services at all levels.
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT** – USAR believes that racquetball is a lifetime endeavor and the benefits of health, recreation, and competition should be available to everyone. USAR will strive to expand its membership in order to share these benefits with as many players and supporters as possible.
- **PROMOTION OF THE SPORT** – in order to sustain a strong player base USAR will promote the numerous benefits of participation through mass marketing efforts.
- **COMPETITIVE SUCCESS** – USAR strives to maintain America's position as the number one racquetball nation in the world. Success at the elite levels has a positive influence on every other facet of our sport.
- **SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS** – USAR values its relationship with sponsors and will continue to maximize benefits and exposure.



FROM THE

Executive Director

Thanks-for-Giving

"Think of giving not only as a duty but as a privilege." - John D. Rockefeller

Thank you to the many USA Racquetball members who recently contributed to the U.S. National Junior Team. The young members of that team gave it their all in representing our country at the Junior World Championships held in Sucre, Bolivia in late October.

These players truly are the future of our sport here in the United States. In representing their country, the commitment these individuals make goes well beyond simply training and preparing to play their best. They and their families invest a significant amount of time and financial resources by qualifying at the Junior Olympic Championships, then attending the Team Training Camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and, this year, traveling more than 4,000 miles to Bolivia for the Junior World Championships.

Typically, most of the international athletes that our National Junior Team members face in competition receive government funding support for training and travel. Unfortunately, this is not the case in the United States ... nor does USA Racquetball receive any form of high performance funds from the U.S. Olympic Committee for either its Junior or Adult National Teams.

This means that for us to field the best teams to international competitions, USA Racquetball relies on the generous support of you, our members. This year, USA Racquetball will dedicate more than \$75,000 toward Junior National and National Team expenses. We appreciate the generous support received thus far but, unfortunately, the funds raised to date have not yet covered the most basic costs. Nonetheless, our goal is to provide even more support to these players who dedicate themselves so fully to representing our country. With your continued help, we're certain we can provide that much-needed assistance to our exceptional athletes.

It's never too late to make a donation and now is a great time to consider a year-end gift. Please consider joining the many USA Racquetball members who have supported the U.S. Junior National and National Racquetball Teams by making a new (or additional) donation in 2013. USA Racquetball is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax-deductible, so simply visit USARacquetball.com and click on the "Donate" link to make an online gift, or contact our office at (719) 635-5396 if you have questions about the many alternative ways to donate, shown at right.

DONATE AIRLINE MILES

If you have airline miles that you'd like to contribute to reduce the cost of travel to an international competition, please contact Terri Lewis at (719) 635-5396 x123 or tlewis@usra.org.

SUSTAINING GIFT

Consider a donation to USA Racquetball that fits within your budget and recurs on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Give us a call at (719) 635-5396 or set up your donation online at USARacquetball.com on the Donate page.

GOODSEARCH

Earn funds for USA Racquetball simply by searching the Internet. GoodSearch (powered by Yahoo) is a quality search engine that delivers the results you expect. If every USA Racquetball member used GoodSearch for only a few searches a day, more than \$100,000 a year would be raised. They also have shopping and other activities geared toward charitable fundraising.

VEHICLE DONATION

Donate a car, truck or RV to USA Racquetball through V-DAC. Contact them at (877) 999-8322.

PLANNED GIVING

Leave a lasting legacy in the sport you love through a planned gift to USA Racquetball. If you would like to discuss a bequest, Charitable Gift Annuity, or other type of planned gift, please contact Steve Czarnecki, Executive Director, at (719) 635-5396 x129 or sczarnecki@usra.org.

2013 U.S. NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM DONATIONS

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continued on next page



Photo courtesy Larry Haemmerle

FROM THE President

By Larry Haemmerle, President
USAR Board of Directors

As we enter a new racquetball season, volunteers throughout the country are busy preparing schedules, arranging events, and soliciting volunteers. This is a great time to encourage everyone to get involved, and there are a variety of ways that you can enjoy our sport even more, by serving and promoting it in your community.

While I serve on the USA Racquetball Board of Directors with a great group of dedicated board members, I also sit on my own state board as President of the Colorado Racquetball Association. I encourage all of you to consider serving in some capacity, at any level.

There are also numerous committees at the National level, as well as special interest groups, tours and circuits throughout the country that support the development, growth and improvement of our sport. Although the work can be long, hard – and sometimes thankless (!) – I can attest that you will find the experience rewarding.

Each new season also prompts me to reminisce over the many years that I have been involved in racquetball. At the U.S. Open in October, I enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to mingle with some of the legends of our sport at a special tribute to Charlie Brumfield. It was among the best reunions of legends in recent memory, and the passion they still have for our sport continues to be inspirational.

I was particularly pleased to see Kane Waselenchuk mingling with these great players in Minneapolis. You could tell that he was as honored as they were to experience this rare opportunity to share experiences and pose for photos. There were stars from every decade, and everyone agreed that it was an honor and a privilege to enjoy their company.

I strongly encourage the younger generations to seek out and learn the history of our sport and its many heroes and legends, since so many of their stories are remarkable. Many newcomers to the sport aren't even aware of this rich history, or familiar with many of the top competitors of their time.

I encourage everyone to visit the Hall of Fame on our website, then make every attempt to meet with some of these legends to learn about the incredible history of our sport. I salute Jim Easterling and the Hall of Fame Committee for their tireless work in preserving our history. They take this task very seriously and are to be commended.

Although our current top competitors are making their own history by setting new records each and every day, at some point in the future their time will have also passed. Let's all make certain that we honor our history to date while making sure that new accomplishments are also recognized for many years to come.

President's Advisory Council

The President's Advisory Council is comprised of individual donors who make an unrestricted tax-deductible annual donation of \$1,000 or more to USA Racquetball. These giving leaders provide meaningful support for the Association and are invited to visit with the President and

Executive Director on a regular basis to discuss its activities and direction. Thank you to the 2013 President's Advisory Council members:

Steve Czarnecki, Dick Kincade, Chris Knight, Geoff Peters, and Shannon Wright.

2013 U.S. NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM DONATIONS

continued from previous page

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Junior WORLDS

XXV IRF World Junior Championships • Sucre, Bolivia • 20 - 26 OCTOBER 2013

Coverage & photos by Cheryl Kirk
Additional photos by Luke St. Onge

The U.S. Junior Team's trip to Sucre, Bolivia, to compete in the IRF World Junior Racquetball Championship was an unparalleled cultural experience! The following provides a snapshot of the first 24 hours for the players, their parents, and the coaches:

Go to airport, check in, go through security, board, flight, land, eat, board, (long) flight, sleep (?), land, visa/immigration, claim luggage, customs, re-check luggage, security, (short) flight, land, luggage, shuttle, hotel, unpack, eat, practice, team meeting, eat, CRASH!

With the altitude (9,000 feet) and the dryness, staying hydrated was critical. A team of parents found a small grocery store and loaded up a couple of carts with bottled water. We borrowed the carts to haul the water three blocks back to the hotel with a store employee accompanying us to retrieve their property.

U.S. JUNIOR TEAM

The delegation included 17 players (10 boys/7 girls ranging in age from 11 to 18), 13 parents, three coaches, and this writer as "cruise director." The divisions were divided up into World Cup (18's, 16's, 14's singles and doubles), Esprit Cup (12's and 10's singles and doubles), and Challenger Cup (non-qualifying divisions). The World and Esprit Cup players qualified at the USA Racquetball Junior Olympics held last June.

Competing in Boy's 18's singles were Adam Manilla (CO) and Connor Laffey (OR). Adam paired up with Sawyer Lloyd (CA) in the doubles. Jake Birnel (WA) and Sam Bredenbeck (MN) played the 16's singles and then teamed up in the doubles. The Boy's 14's singles and doubles were Justus Benson (WI) and Evan Wargo (FL). In the Girl's divisions, Sa-

mantha Simmons was the lone Girl's 18's singles player. The Girl's 16's were Kaitlyn Simmons (MD) and Hollie Scott (WA) in the singles and doubles. Jordan Cooperrider (FL) and Erika Manilla (CO) were the Girl's 14's players.

In the Esprit Cup division, Sebastian Fernandez (CA) and Julian Singh (CA) took on all comers in the Boy's 12's singles and doubles while Tommy Andraos (CA) was the Boy's 10's singles competitor. On the Girls' side, Kaitlyn Boyle (OR) and Graciana Wargo (FL) both played Girl's 12's singles and teamed up for Girl's 12's doubles. The U.S. had no participants in the non-qualifying Challenger Cup divisions.

U.S. DELEGATION

The U.S. Junior Team coaches at the event were Cheryl Gudinas (IL), Nick Montalbano (NY/CO), and Team Trainer Jody Nance (CA, who also served as a coach). Head Coach Kelley Beane (NH) and Coach Jen Meyer (CO) were unable to make the trip due to personal circumstances, but they were with the team via email, text, and telephone; tracking results online; and in spirit every step of the way. This is a good time to mention that all of these individuals give up work, school, and personal time to make trips with the team. They are truly selfless in what they provide to USA Racquetball and the U.S. Junior Team.

The U.S. delegation was also enhanced by the attendance of 13 parents who not only supervised their own kids but also watched over the several whose parents couldn't make the trip. They took photos, made water runs, accompanied groups of kids to meals, tracked start times, etc. They are: George Andraos, Jeff Benson, Don Birnel, Daryl and Sue Cooperrider, Rafael Fernandez, Alice Laffey, Victor and Nancy Manilla, Richard Simmons, Jennifer Singh, and Gary and Kathleen Wargo.

Several of the group spoke Spanish (Victor Manilla, Rafael Fernandez, Alice Laffey, and Richard Simmons, as well as Trainer/Coach Jody Nance and player Sawyer Lloyd), which proved extremely helpful.

OPENING CEREMONIES

The 5:00 Opening Ceremonies became the 3:30 Opening Ceremonies due to the schedule of Evo Morales, President of Bolivia. That compelled the team to rush back from lunch, throw on their warm-ups, and grab buses to the Coliseo Jorge Revilla Aldana. Once there, the U.S. players and coaches lined up with the other countries in preparation for their march into the arena.

Once President Morales entered the stadium along with city and IRF dignitaries, the Bolivian national anthem was played, then the parade of nations began, in alphabetical order. The U.S. was fifth (since our official country name there was Estados Unidos). Spiritedly, our athletes and coaches entered the stadium and took their lap of honor prior to taking their seats for the program.

Native dancers entertained in traditional costumes, IRF President Osvaldo Maggi addressed the audience, and President Evo Morales spoke for 10 minutes, encouraging the young athletes. He made special mention of the U.S. and Canada, recognizing that while those two countries have political differences with Bolivia, this is about sports and young people. He expressed pleasure that the U.S. and Canada were in attendance.

Morales, a racquetball player himself, is credited with responsibility for building the 14-court facility in Sucre. At the Opening Ceremonies, he was gifted with a new racquet from E-Force representative Rachael Hall.

The best way to describe the atmosphere at the III Fase Complejo Polideportivo Estadio Patria was "electric." Every day, the club was packed full of players, coaches, staff, and delegation guests plus a great number of Bolivian citizens who came to witness the action. Wherever Bolivia played, bleachers were packed and enthusiasm ran high. "Bolivia! Bolivia!"

THUNDERING HERD - RACQUETBALL FANS!

Racquetball is huge in Bolivia! For example, as the team was leaving for practice the first afternoon, a local newspaper reporter and a photographer arrived. Two photos were included in a multiple-page Sunday section about the event.

Alice Laffey, son Connor, Hollie Scott, and Jordan Cooperrider were featured on national television one evening after a taped morning interview. Alice's Spanish skills helped immensely in conveying the thoughts of our U.S. racquetball athletes.

Some of the players mentioned that a phenomenon occurred one afternoon when a court was assigned to Bolivia, then unassigned, then another one was assigned. As each announcement was made, avid Bolivian fans who had settled in got up from the bleachers en masse and headed as one "swarm," as one athlete referred to it, to grab seats at the new location. "I got out of the way just in time as a huge wave of people came toward me!"

Key matches at this event were broadcasted in real time on Bolivian National TV! There were some delays on the final day of competition -- the finals matches needed to run concurrent because of the television coverage. Nice problem to have...

Sí, racquetball is a very big deal in Bolivia!



Opening ceremonies were jam-packed ...
as were the courtside stands.

A WEEK'S WORTH OF GREAT RACQUETBALL

It was an up-and-down week for the team. Everyone played against some very tough players and teams. After starting out pretty strong, matches were lost during the later stages of competition that put only a handful of the U.S. players into the semifinal and final matches. However, the combined efforts of each and every team member helped the U.S. hold on to a very respectable team finish. And, as all the coaches agreed, each U.S. player left everything on the court, playing with heart and spirit. Whether they were up or down in their matches, they never lost their determination and drive to win.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

The festivities were held back at the same Coliseo Jorge Revilla Aldana where the Opening Ceremonies took place one week earlier. Beginning about 7:00 pm with VIP comments and Local Organizing Committee recognition, the balance of the evening was the awarding of medals (gold, silver, bronze) in 47 divisions as well as the bestowing of Team honors. Cameras were flashing and players from all countries were

TEAM USA RESULTS

MEDALS

Jordan Cooperrider/Erika Manilla

Silver – Girl's 14's Doubles

Jordan Cooperrider

Bronze – Girl's 14's Singles

Adam Manilla/Sawyer Lloyd

Bronze – Boy's 18's Doubles

Sebastian Fernandez/Julian Singh

Silver – Boy's 12's Doubles

Sebastian Fernandez

Bronze – Boy's 12's Singles

Tommy Andraos

Bronze – Boy's 10's Red Division Singles

Team Results

Through the combined efforts of every player on the team, the following outcome was realized:

World Cup (18's, 16's, and 14's)

3rd place in Boy's, 3rd place in Girl's, and 3rd place Overall Team.

Esprit (12's and 10's)

4th place in Boy's, 4th place in Girl's, and 3rd place Overall Team.

View complete match results at www.internationalracquetball.com.



US Junior Team Coaching staff L-R: Cheryl Gudinas, Nick Montalbano, Jody Nancy and Cheryl Kirk.

posing for pictures with one another. The atmosphere was loud and energy-charged. It was just what you would expect a Junior Worlds Closing Ceremony to be like.

TEAM DYNAMICS

From my observation, the camaraderie and cooperation between the athletes, coaches, and parents was exemplary. The team meetings were upbeat and motivating, and everyone pitched in to help in every possible way. "The players adjusted nicely to the altitude," said Head Coach Cheryl Gudinas. "The coaching staff worked great together, and the team supported each other at every match."

"The 2013 team is a group of determined and passionate players who love to play for our great country," said Nick Montalbano. "Sponsors and donators, thank you for your support of the U.S. Junior Team. None of this would have been possible without you!"

Added Jody Nance, "Besides the fabulous play here in Sucre, the camaraderie amongst the USA Team players, coaches, parents, and of course Cheryl Kirk, was really amazing. The bonds

A great group of parents were also on hand to support their own outstanding athletes, as well as the team overall.

that were developed in Sucre are strong and will be long-lasting. I felt privileged to be a part of this special group."

Beyond the competitive play, there was so much more the U.S. Junior Team members gained from this experience outside the courts. To name a few: camaraderie, friendship, leadership, teamwork, memories, respect, ambassadorship, exposure to other countries and cultures, younger players learning from older ones (and vice versa!), and last but not least, the singular feeling of representing one's country on the international stage. Nick Montalbano said at the final team meeting, "Ten years from now, you may not remember whether you won or lost, but you will remember the friendships and connections you made. This experience is one you will value for the rest of your lives."

This team was rock solid as a unit. They supported each other and accepted each other for who they are. It was really quite something to witness, and it was heartwarming to hear them express gratitude to those who donated time and financial resources in support of their racquetball pursuits.

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

On behalf of USA Racquetball and the players, we want to take this opportunity to recognize those who have made contributions to the team. We couldn't do it without you! Please go to page 3 to view those who have contributed through USA Racquetball.

Huge thanks go also to American Motors (Victor and Nancy Manilla), and Personal Touch Travel (Julia and Greg Hayenga), as well as numerous State Racquetball Associations that stepped up on behalf of their athletes. Associated donators through various Go Fund Me sites and through personal and organization contributions to the families are warmly thanked as well.

Thanks so much to everyone who followed along with the action ... we felt your long-distance presence, and it made a big difference!





Boys 12 and under doubles finalists.



Girls 14 and under doubles finalists.

IRF XXV WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

TEAM STANDINGS

Overall Combined World Cup Team (18's, 16's, 14's)

1. Mexico
2. Bolivia
3. USA
4. Canada

Boy's World Cup Team (18's, 16's, 14's)

1. Mexico
2. Bolivia
3. USA
4. Costa Rica

Girl's World Cup Team (18's, 16's, 14's)

1. Mexico
2. Bolivia
3. USA
4. Guatemala

Overall Combined Esprit Team (12's, 10's)

1. Mexico
2. Bolivia
3. USA
4. Ecuador

Boy's Esprit Team (12's, 10's)

1. Bolivia
2. Mexico
3. Venezuela
4. USA

Girl's Esprit Team

(12's, 10's)

1. Mexico
2. Bolivia
3. Costa Rica
4. USA

INDIVIDUAL WORLD CUP STANDINGS

*Note: no third place playoffs,
two bronze medals awarded*

Boy's 18 Singles

1. Conrado Kevin Moscoso (BOL)
2. Rodrigo Garay (MEX)
3. Eduardo Garay (MEX)
3. Diego Crespo (BOL)

Boy's 18 Doubles

1. Rodrigo Garay/Javier Mar (MEX)
2. Sebastian Julio Ona/Conrado Kevin Moscoso (BOL)
3. Adam Manilla/Sawyer Lloyd (USA)
3. Andres Aviles/Gabriel Garcia (CRC)

Girl's 18 Singles

1. Lucia Gonzalez (MEX)
2. Mariana Tobon (VEN)
3. Masiel Simone Rivera (BOL)
3. Melania Sauma (CRC)

Girl's 18 Doubles

1. Alexandra Herrera/Ximena Gonzalez (MEX)
2. Masiel Simone Rivera/Paola Cossio (BOL)
3. Ana Gabriela Martinez/Maria Renee Rodriguez (GUA)

Boy's 16 Singles

1. Andree Parrilla (MEX)
2. Rodrigo Montoya (MEX)
3. Coby Iwaasa (CAN)
3. Marcelo Vargas (BOL)

Boy's 16 Doubles

1. Rodrigo Montoya/Erik Garcia (MEX)
2. Marcelo Angel Vargas/Cristhian Mina (BOL)
3. Coby Iwaasa/Nicolas Bousquet (CAN)
3. Hansel Martinez/Juan Jose Salvatierra (GUA)

Girl's 16 Singles

1. Diana Aguilar (MEX)
2. Natalia Mendez (BOL)
3. Hawira Rojas (BOL)
3. Luisa Santillan (MEX)

Girl's 16 Doubles

1. Diana Aguilar/Montserrat Perez (MEX)
2. Iriana Avendaño/Natalia Mendez (BOL)
3. Adriana Homsi/Wanda Carvajal (BOL)
3. Ivan Sempertegui/Maria Jose Munoz (ECU)

3. Michéle Morissette/Danielle Drury (CAN)
3. Maria Cespedes/Meriananlle Delgado (DOM)

Boy's 14 Singles

1. Cristian Longoria (MEX)
2. Juan Loreto (MEX)
3. Andres Avendaño (BOL)
3. Set Cubillos (COL)

Boy's 14 Doubles

1. Cristian Longoria/Cesar Barragan (MEX)
2. Andres Avendaño/Rodrigo Mendoza (BOL)
3. Sergio Acuna/Andres Montero (CRC)
3. Juan Francisco Cueva/Jorge Ochoa (ECU)

Girl's 14 Singles

1. Ana Gabriela Martinez (GUA)
2. Erin Rivera (MEX)
3. Wanda Carvajal (BOL)
3. Jordan Cooperriider (USA)

Girl's 14 Doubles

1. Monserrat Mejia/Andrea Ramirez (MEX)
2. Jordan Cooperriider/Erika Manilla (USA)
3. Adriana Homsi/Wanda Carvajal (BOL)
3. Ivan Sempertegui/Maria Jose Munoz (ECU)



RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

International Racquetball Tour

By Jamie Weber

Photo courtesy Restring Magazine

The first half of the IRT season has been exciting, with more events than ever on the 2013-14 schedule. Over 70 tournaments – including the return of the Tournament of Champions, sponsored by ProKennex, and international events from South America to Canada – join favorites on a lineup that allows fans, players, and families the chance to catch nearby racquetball action.

IRT President Jason Mannino estimates that the total number of stops will actually exceed 90, starting with September's opener, the Novasors Ghost of Georgetown Kansas City Championships.

Before mid-point in the season, the top players will have trekked to the newest Tier 1 in Garden City, Kansas (moved up from a Tier 3) and returned to the U.S. Open in Minnesota for Grand Slam pro ranking points and prizes. By season's end, more than 3,000 players are likely to have entered Tier 1 stops, along with 500 entrants stepping onto the hardwood to challenge Tier 1 pros.

Mannino credits a special effort to expand opportunities outside of the United States resulting in more international events on the itinerary than ever before. He also points to the work of Adam Karp, VP Event Development, for bolstering the Satellite Tour, which includes Tier 2 – Tier 5 events (including three in Mexico), and longtime favorites like the annual Longhorn Open in Austin, Texas, which sells out well in advance at 325 players plus takes a wait list of up to another 50-100 participants.

Karp estimates the over 56 lower-tiered tournaments will showcase 1,000 players testing their skills in the pro singles bracket alone. Over 7,000 total entrants will participate.

"Satellite tournaments give players more chances to test their game against the pros, helping them attain the experience of taking on top competitors."

In addition to providing more events, the lower tier events give local venues opportunities to host their favorite top players internationally, including in Costa Rica, Mexico, and Canada as well as in the United States.



Tournament of Terror
Photo by Randy Lam



The numbers for this year's IRT schedule are big, as excitement for the season continues. The popularity of racquetball is also on an upswing, made possible by the hard work of the tournament directors. This year there are many directors who are holding two or more events. Between the surging energy and the sheer number of entries that each event brings, the season promises to exceed expectations as the IRT continues to grow.

For a complete tournament schedule and more information about the men's professional International IRT Tour, visit www.IRT-Tour.com.



One Happy Camper ... At the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN, Kane Waselenchuk set a record that may never be broken, with nine event titles (half of those awarded in the history of the event!). He also surpassed Cliff Swain's record of 70 career pro tour wins. Photo: Roby Partovich.

LPRT Generation (E)

The Evolution of the Women's Game

By Sarah Warhaftig

Fact: We know the LPRT has infinite potential to showcase the world's best racquet sport athletes. Right now an evolution is taking place. We see a young and talented pool coming up through the ranks, and an influx of international presence reflects the new face of the game. Now it's time to ask the questions. How did this evolution take place? What is the next tour generation going to look like? What consistent factors must every player

have to compete, and how will the face of the sport evolve for years to come?

Mirroring the global rise in women's athletics, female racquetball players from outside the US now receive substantial support from their respective governments. The average age of a top-ten player has dropped, after a series of over-30 players retired to open up ranking spots.

In 2009-10, two out of the top ten women on tour had international status. Today, six of the top ten hold that distinction. Is international training different? The junior programs in many of these countries seem to consistently produce top-level players.

The tour itself has increased its visibility by scheduling stops outside the US, including repeat appearances in Toluca, Mexico, where an LPRT draw was featured in conjunction with a pro squash event. The draw featured high-calibre competition by players from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and the US. The glass portable court featured top matches throughout the weekend, including the quarterfinal upset of Rhonda Rajsich by Canadian Frederique Lambert. Colombia's Cristina Amaya made her finals debut against undefeated Paola Longoria, who held her game and continued to dominate on home turf.

In addition to new faces, is the game itself evolving? It's now a much more aggressive, attack game – with faster, lighter racquets as the root cause. Once "traditional" below-the-waist shooting zones expanded vertically, offensive opportunities are now being created above the waist. Consistency, control and the execution of high percentage opportunities are still the building blocks of the game, but post-shot movement and the ability to attack more often is key. The game is more dynamic and athletic, and the top tour athletes are adapting to those changes.

Whether it's the rise of more young athletic players or the evolution of the game itself, the tour is thriving. Look toward the growing LPRT schedule, along with newer athletes, to complement tour successes. It's time to start watching the rise of each and every tour athlete. At every tournament, in every round, upsets are the new normal ... making the season exciting and unpredictable!

Tier 1 schedule



January 24-26

Wilson Tour for Hope
Cincinnati, OH

February 21-23

Winter Classic
Overland Park, KS

March 21-23

Great Balls of Fire
Miami, FL

April 11-13

Southern California Regionals
Reseda, CA

April 25-28

Battle at the Alamo
San Antonio, TX

TBD

SCS Title and Escrow Pro/Am
Herndon, VA

WACHTEL RETIRES

A progressive force on the women's pro tour for over a decade, Kerri Wachtel recently announced her official retirement.

Kerri started playing on tour in 2001 and that same year won the US OPEN. She's been ranked in the top 8 for 12 years, stopping only long enough to deliver beautiful twins, then returning to the circuit to earn a #2 season finish.

"Kerri is a person filled with energy and passion for the game of racquetball," said Terri Graham, Wilson US Business Director of Indoor Racquet Sports. "She always gave 100% in every match she played."

While family life will be her main focus, Kerri will continue to play and run the Wilson Tour for Hope pro stop in her hometown of Cincinnati.

"I will miss the camaraderie of the players and the cities I visited", she said. "It is time for me to focus on my family, so I will retire from the tournament scene full time."



LPRT Scholars

By Sarah Warhaftig

The LPRT, in partnership with the Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association (WSMRA), offered a new scholarship program for the first time this season. Applicants were judged on academic achievements, racquetball and non-RB-related extracurricular activities, and the applicant's specific achievements in the sport. Working through a large applicant pool, the committee selected six deserving young women ready to take on the pro game in earnest. The scholarship will help offset tournament expenses to encourage frequent tour competition to elevate their game.

"The applications were very impressive, and all of these ladies would be fine ambassadors of racquetball, their homelands, and the LPRT," said Cindy Tilbury of the WSMRA scholarship selection committee. All photos provided courtesy the named scholars.



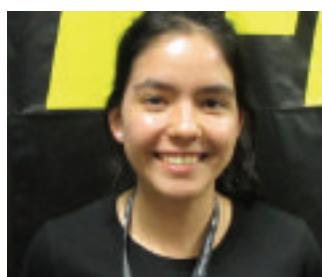
CAROLINA LUQUE

San Luis Potosi, Mexico

Sponsors: INHIDE, Gobierno del Estado de Hidalgo, Harrow

Dr. Marco Rivera put a racquet in his daughter's hand at age 11, inspiring a passion that earned Carolina a Mexican

Junior National Title and fueled her desire to compete on tour. Her parents, along with Ana Guevara, Erika Gomez, and Fred Peruta, have helped to shape this aggressive, fast and rhythmic player, who models her game after tour veterans Rhonda Rajsich and Paola Longoria. Her long-term plan is to open an athletic facility specializing in both racquetball and squash development.



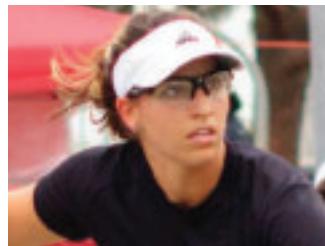
MARIA RENEE RODRIGUEZ

Santa Catarina Pinula, Guatemala

Current Home Club: Club La Villa
Sponsors: E-Force

Her father (at the time a reigning National Champion himself) introduced Maria to the sport, and she now credits early career

losses to her drive to train harder and become a student of the game. She's determined to gain the #1 spot in the world, combining an attack style of play with a strong drive serve and ability to cut off balls to keep up with the new athletic game style of the LPRT. Besides the influence of her parents, Maria has gained valuable training and knowledge from Coach Tom Travers.



AUBREY KIRCH O'BRIEN

Citrus Heights, CA, USA

Sponsors: Rollout Racquetball

Aubrey's first memorable career moment was winning the C division in a local tournament, followed by switching from competitive basketball to racquetball, and earning multiple national and world titles as a US Junior Team Member. She describes her game style as aggressive and mentally tough, never afraid to leave it all on the court. Coached by Jim Winterton, she is also grateful for husband Brad (a successful player himself), and her parents who helped launch and support her tour career.



CECI OROZCO

Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Sponsors: Gearbox

Introduced to the sport by her parents, Ceci started playing racquetball at the age of 14. She represented her state in her first tournament and was inspired by the atmosphere and

was ready to train. She holds multiple state titles and a national championship, and lists Veronica Sotomayor as her role model on tour. Combining outdoor skills with her indoor game creates an aggressive playing style, and her discipline for both racquetball and academics promise to help her thrive on the LPRT.



SHARON JACKSON

Atlanta, Georgia

Sponsors: Head, Williams Accounting and Consulting, LLC (Donald Williams)

Sharon Jackson picked up her first racquet at the age of five and, by age 8, she was a national champion. The very poised Jackson has an impressive

list of titles, including National Intercollegiates, Junior Worlds, a Pan-Am Racquetball Championships doubles bronze medalist, and USAR Female Athlete of the Year. Described as an aggressive player with a never-quit attitude, she credits her mom, as well as coaches Kelly Beane, Marcus Riggins, Dave Ellis and Natalie Crockett, for supporting her career.



MICHELLE KEY

Gilbert, AZ

Sponsors: Ektelon, Key Sports, PerfectFoodsBar

Born into a racquetball family, Michelle is a state, national and world champion whose fondest early memory was the "racquetball crib" her parents

designed using gear bags to keep her in sight while they trained. But she really took to the sport at 16 after her sister Danielle made the US Esprit Cup Team, which motivated her to be just as good. Her determination and hard work led her to ASU for collegiate team play, where she became the first in her family to graduate from college.



WOR Championships PACKS 'EM IN

By Mike Peters

Photos courtesy tour management

In the world of outdoor racquetball, it just doesn't get any better. The 4th annual 3 WallBall Championships claimed its traditional spot across from the Stratosphere Hotel & Casino in beautiful Las Vegas in September – featuring incredible 3 wall action, and 1 wall, plus all the top handball pros. If you've never seen small ball doubles on a one-wall handball court, you're missing some of the most exciting and athletic sports around. Over 700 players traveled to the event from as far away as London.

And that doesn't even take into consideration all the extra-curricular activities like the Ladies Night on Thursday, the annual pool party at the top of the Stratosphere, and for the adrenaline junkies, a 900-foot leap off of the Stratosphere or any of the thrill rides set at the top of the structure, including Insanity (not the workout!), X-Scream, and Big Shot. What a backdrop for a tournament that has already become a player favorite that is circled on the calendar months in advance. If you haven't experienced it yet, make plans for 2014 and book your rooms early!

Usually the most hotly contested division, the pro doubles offered up the biggest early round upset when local hero (and one time #1 ranked indoor pro) Bret Harnett and his partner Rick "Sodaman" Koll, took down the team of Rod "Thunder Mountain" Frontino and top 5 indoor pro Ben Croft, in two straight, 15-14, 15-11. They were later taken out by Mike Orr and Charlie Pratt (who lost to the eventual champions). Another surprising team was Brian "Easy Money" Pineda and his partner, Floridian Chris McDonald, who upset the #1 seed in the quarters, Robert "Ice-man" Sostre and a high flying Jose Rojas (fresh from his upset of #1 Kane Waselenchuk indoors the previous weekend). This one went two straight as well, 15-3 and 15-9.

Another new outdoor team mixed the old with the new, pairing seven-time World Indoor Champion Cliff Swain and 20-year-old Daniel De La Rosa to see if they could make some waves. And indeed they did, by ousting former Champions Kevin Booth and Greg Solis in the round of 16. Swain and De La Rosa were able to take down Booth and Solis in the cooler night air of Las Vegas, 15-9, 15-6. At the bottom of the draw, Rocky Carson and Alvaro Beltran were making their usual run, taking out Jesus Usterroz and Gabe Medina in the quarters.

So the first semi had Pineda/McDonald facing Craig Lane and Scott Davis. Davis and Lane had a tough battle getting by Swain and De La Rosa in the quarters in a tiebreaker. Lane had to adjust a bit, seeing his CPRT partner on the other side and having to go toe-to-toe with him in many rallies. And perhaps it was that battle, along with the desert heat, that got to Lane's partner Scott Davis, who made a valiant effort to give it a try at the start of their semifinal. But it was just too much, and a dehydrated Davis had to call it



Former top pro
Bret Harnett up
against Ben Croft.



Janel Tisinger keeps her cool
on the way to her title.

quits, sending Pineda and McDonald to their first-ever final.

On the bottom half, Rocky and Alvaro were able to outlast a tough team of Mike Orr and Charlie Pratt, running out the last three points of the tiebreaker to win 11-8. The final was a little anti-climactic, as Pineda and McDonald were unable to come up with the magic that got them there, losing a tough one, 15-1 and 15-9. Being as young as they are, this could be a team that has to be reckoned with for years to come.

Starting with mixed doubles play for the women, Jackie Paraiso and Robert Sostre won the pro mixed, by beating an always tough (and former championship) team of Greg Solis and Janel Tisinger. Janel was also the winner of the Pro Singles, beating Arizona native Michelle Key 11-4 in the tiebreaker. In the women's doubles final, Jackie Paraiso and Jessica Parilla beat Martha McDonald and Michelle Roberts in a match that had to be delayed because of the strong winds on Sunday. The score was 15-10 and 15-7.

And who can forget the "ironman" of our sport, the Iceman, Robert Sostre? Entered in the Men's Pro Doubles, CPRT Pro Doubles, Mixed Pro doubles, One wall Pro Doubles, and at least one paddle ball division, it's actually hard to keep track of him! He got titles in both Mixed Doubles and One wall doubles (a memorable match that saw him and his partner, Jose Rojas, barely edge out former New Yorker Jesus Ustarroz and current New Yorker Ritchie Miller in a fast-paced and exciting final), adding to his trophy case that includes many other titles in handball.

There are so many divisions at a tournament like this, but you can see all the results and the brackets at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=10607>. So go ahead and pull it up and look for all your favorite players. And more importantly, make sure that YOU are one of the players competing next year, September 17-21, 2014!

The 3 WallBall Championships marks the end of the summer WOR season. But don't blink, as there are tournaments and shootouts coming to a city near you soon. So keep spreading the word of outdoor racquetball, and the next time you enter, bring a friend or two with you, and turn them on to the greatest outdoor sport in the world. Let's grow the sport!

Penn

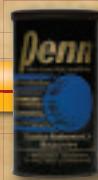
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All Roads lead to Vegas

LEGENDS LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

unable to close out the champs, losing 15-14 and then 15-10 in game two. Hogan had glimpses of his late 70's self for more than a few rallies, but he couldn't sustain it long enough to help his ailing partner. Peters received some bad news just before the tournament, with MRI findings that showed a torn ACL, torn PCL and torn meniscus.

A few side notes include the impressive ability to adapt to various court sizes and composition shown by Craig Lane, who happens to be on quite a roll in the CPRT Pro Doubles. Going back to the 3WallBall championships last year, Craig has won three titles in a row. He won Vegas last year with partner Jesus Ustarroz, then he won the WOR Championships and Vegas this year with partner Cliff Swain. When asked about how he is able to adjust to the different court environments, Lane stated, "It's just a matter of knowing the angles that are available with the different court sizes, and if the angles aren't there, just roll the ball." Many can attest to his ability to do both.

MILITARY RACQUETBALL FEDERATION



MRF FUNDRAISER

The 3 WallBall World Championships also hosted the MRF Pro/Am Charity Doubles, with \$1,500 in proceeds benefitting the MRF's Racquetball Rehabilitation Clinics (RRC). Pros, amateurs and spectators alike participated in this worthy cause, with generous donations realized throughout the event.

The tournament was capped off once again with the NELLIS AFB's Honor Guard presentation of the National Colors during a Saturday night Sunset Ceremony. CPT JJ Guerrero, (US Army – ret) Wounded Warrior was the Guest of Honor, and spoke about how racquetball is a part of his road to recovery.

AMATEURS/PRO TEAMS (pictured with tournament directors Jack Hughes, Terry Rogers and Peggine Tellez)

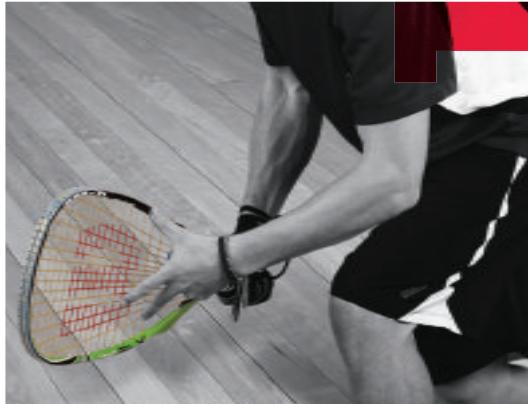
- JJ Guerrero/Aimee Ruiz
- Bree Paganetto/Bret Harnett
- Jared Campos/Craig Lane
- Sam Neer/Scott Davis
- Steven Harper/Janel Tisinger





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GOLDEN STATE Silver Anniversary

By Kendra Tutsch, WSMRA Board Chair

Did you play in one of the early Women's Senior/Masters? Perhaps the 7th annual, held in San Francisco in 1996? In a few weeks the WSMRA National Championships will head back to California for the sixth time in our 25-year history - to celebrate our Silver Anniversary in the Golden State! There is still plenty of time to enter online at www.wsmra.com. We invite all women players 35 and over to come participate in this great event!!

The tournament will be held at the beautiful Los Caballeros Racquet and Sports Club in Fountain Valley, California on the weekend of January 17-19, 2014 with "Fun Doubles" the afternoon of January 16. Los Cab has many amenities and is an ideal location - close to Southern California beaches and attractions such as Disneyland for some off-court fun in the sun!

From our first tournament in Madison, Wisconsin, the Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association has been an



organization dedicated to promoting racquetball as a lifetime sport. Our members and players are women 35 and over who want to compete at a high level and have fun at the same time. In this tournament you will find yourself competing against some of the best women players in the country, and have a great time doing it!

We stress fun, friends and good sportsmanship. You are never out of the draw at this singles round-robin tournament. You will meet new friends and play a lot of racquetball. We have upper and intermediate divisions for all age groups so there is a place for you. We work with Wilson Racquetball as our national sponsor to ensure a high-quality event every year. The WSMRA is a partner of USA Racquetball and donates a portion of funds raised in our yearly silent auction to support USAR programs. For more information please visit us at WSMRA.com and for updates like us on Facebook.

Banner photo courtesy Kendra Tutsch.



Ashaway's new PowerKill® line with PFT represents a significant advance in string technology for racquetball that will allow players to push their game to the limit. PFT creates an entirely new surface element of Zyex® filaments in the jacket of the string that increases durability and tension holding, and optimizes power. The new line consists of PowerKill Pro and PowerKill 17. See more at www.ashawayusa.com

String Power: ASHAWAY INTRODUCES NEW POWERKILL® RACQUETBALL STRING LINE WITH POWER FILAMENT TECHNOLOGY™

That "one thing leads to another" has certainly been true in the Ashaway R&D lab of late as the company has continued to experiment with different ways to utilize various combinations and constructions of Zyex® filaments in its racquet string products. Recently, the company announced a new PFT™ (Power Filament Technology™) wear layer, or "jacket," for its UltraKill® 16 Racquetball string. Now that concept has morphed into an entirely new line of PowerKill® strings for racquetball.

Said Ashaway's Steve Crandall, "Our new PowerKill line with PFT represents a significant advance in string technology for racquetball that will allow players to push their game to the limit. What we've done with PFT is create an entirely new surface element of Zyex filaments in the jacket of the string that increases durability and tension holding, and optimizes power. It also enhances loop strength to reduce frame breakage."

Zyex is a trade name for a high temperature, engineering grade polymer known as polyetheretherketone, or PEEK. PEEK materials like Zyex have several physical properties that recommend them for racquet strings, Crandall explained. Among other qualities, PEEK monofilaments and fibers are very tough and durable, and have excellent abrasion resistance. In tests measuring "thread on thread" abrasion - one of the key factors in string fatigue - PEEK multifilaments lasted more than five times as long as "bullet proof" aramid fibers.

"Ironically," said Crandall, "one of the very first applications for Zyex polymers was aerospace and automotive insulation to protect electrical wiring from abrasion damage. But when we started playing with it for string jackets, we had no idea it would be so good that it would inspire an entire new line of strings."

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UnitedHealthcare's Dave Tjaden presents the finalist awards to Rocky Carson, Kane Waselenchuk, Paola Longoria and Rhonda Rajsich.

UnitedHealthcare



UNITEDHEALTHCARE US OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Jeff Oliver,
US OPEN Media Manager

Waselenchuk & Longoria Write More Pages in Racquetball's History Book

Minnesota's Twin Cities once again opened its arms to the sport's greatest event of the season, to host the 2013 UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Racquetball Championships for the fourth consecutive year. More than 725 players from 43 states and 13 different countries converged on Downtown Minneapolis during the first week in October for a week of racquetball fun on and off the court.

The UnitedHealthcare US OPEN is the most prestigious annual event for both the professional and amateur player alike, boasting the largest total prize purse in the sport, with cash prizes in the pro divisions totaling more than \$65,000. One of the most exciting aspects is the "made-for-TV" portable racquetball court, set up in a stadium seating configuration, that allows viewing through all four walls for more than 1,200 spectators. From early rounds through the finals, all the top players are featured on the Stadium Court after being introduced to cheering crowds with booming music, a laser

light show, and beaming spotlights.

In addition to the marquee men's pro International Racquetball Tour (IRT), Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour (LPRT) and Classic Professional Racquetball Tour (CPRT – Men's 40 & Over) divisions, the event offers more than 80 USA Racquetball sanctioned singles and doubles divisions, fielded by age and skill.

This year, the US OPEN again enjoyed a successful partnership with UnitedHealthcare, one of the nation's leading health and well-being companies. UnitedHealthcare executives – including Dr. Healthy Hound! – were at the Target Center all week enjoying the action. More than 500 UnitedHealthcare employees also filled the stands to watch the opening round action on the Stadium Court. Other major sponsors included ACE, Dick's Sporting Goods, Coors Light, LIFE TIME FITNESS, Lewis Drug and MeetMinneapolis.

WASELENCHUK CAPTURES & RESETS MAJOR RECORD

Coming into Minneapolis, the armor of the world's number one player, Kane Waselenchuk, was dented more than it had been in many years. Jose Rojas, the young gun from the "209 Group" based in Stockton, Calif., had defeated Kane outright in a full match in the semifinals at the IRT stop in Kansas City just weeks earlier. It had marked Kane's first loss in a fully completed IRT match since January of 2009.

When the Men's pro draw for Minneapolis was finally released, most observers looked straight toward the possible semifinal re-match of Rojas and Waselenchuk on Saturday evening. But parked in the pivotal No.5 spot was the high-spirited Ben Croft, who has played extremely well at the event in recent years. To boot, his mental attitude would - in no way - permit Jose to simply cakewalk into the semis. In the most thrilling match of the tournament, Ben knocked off Jose 11-0, 10-12, 11-7, 7-11 and 11-4 to earn a semifinal challenge against Waselenchuk.

On the bottom half of the draw, all the seeds held to produce a No.2 versus No.3 semifinal between California's Rocky Carson and Mexico's Alvaro Beltran. Both players have long been considered viable threats to Kane's dominance, but neither have realistically stepped up the challenge. In this semifinal, Rocky took care of business against Alvaro to reach yet another US OPEN Final. On the top of the draw, the quarterfinal match against Jose took just enough out of Ben that his tank ran out against Kane. For the 50th faceoff in their careers, the US OPEN would feature an IRT Final match-up between Kane and Rocky.

The two have held the top ranking spots for quite some time now, but there's still a big gap between No.1 and No.2. Kane

won nine events last season; Rocky won three while Kane was injured. Before this year's final in Minneapolis, Kane had beat Rocky 46 times to just three defeats. Rocky held a respectable 70% winning percentage on the IRT, while Kane's was at 88%. In IRT Finals, Kane wins 89% of the time when a title is up for grabs; however, Rocky wins just 28% of the time in his finals appearances.

Already facing an uphill battle in the stat book and on the court, Rocky was battling possible history as well. Unlike Kansas City, Kane's focus on the grand stage was just too much. The greatest racquetball player in history needed just three games to defeat Rocky to win his ninth US OPEN Championship and his 71st IRT tournament victory. Both of Kane's new all-time records are unlikely to ever be broken.

LONGORIA CONTINUES TO SET HISTORIC BENCHMARKS

Paola Longoria, the No.1 female player in the world, is simply dominating the Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour (LPRT). Heading into the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN, she had won 22 consecutive tournaments and had a match winning streak that was approaching 100. While the LPRT field has seen shakeups galore, and with more and more international players moving up the ranks, it was expected that an upset or two might occur in Minneapolis. Without a doubt though, Longoria was the hands-down favorite to win yet another US OPEN title, no matter which hopefuls might step up to mount a challenge.

In the quarterfinals, all the top seeds held except for an upset by No.22 seeded Californian Janel Tisinger, who made her way into the final eight with a straight-game win over Maria Jose Vargas. Tisinger is a U.S. National Champion many times over and came to Minneapolis fresh off a World Outdoor



Waselenchuk serves up perfect southpaw form. Series by Roby Partovich.

Racquetball title win in Las Vegas, so her reaching the quarterfinals wasn't too surprising. In the round, Janel faced off against Mexico's Susana Acosta and put up a great battle before falling in a 12-10 tiebreaker.

Acosta's win put her into the bottom half semifinal against four-time US OPEN Champion Rhonda Rajsich. Susana has ascended up the LPRT rankings in the past year and, after a dominating first game win, looked as if she was on her way to the finals. However, Rhonda's Stadium Court experience came through as she took the next three games to reach yet another title bid.

On the top of the draw, Paola cruised her way into the semifinals, minus a hiccup against Ecuador's Veronica Sotomayor, who took a single game win in the quarterfinals. Facing Longoria in the semifinals was her longtime doubles partner on the international stage, Samantha Salas Solis. In a match that lasted less than an hour, Longoria made quick work of Salas Solis in straight games of 11-1, 11-4, 11-3.

Much like the men's final, the women's final was a repeat of the past few years. The finals appearance for Rhonda was the 10th of her US OPEN career! Within that run, she had captured four US OPEN titles, but Longoria was on her heels with three. In the past 14 months, Paola and Rhonda themselves had faced off in the final of an LPRT event on 10 separate occasions. In each of those, Paola had been victorious. In this latest head-to-head, Rhonda made it competitive, but Paola went undefeated

to take her fourth US OPEN title, and tie Rhonda's record.

THE AMATUERS CAME TO PLAY TOO!

The UnitedHealthcare US OPEN is about much more than just the top professional players, with more than 750 amateur players hailing from around the US – and the World – fielded in the more than 80 amateur skill and age divisions.

Winners from the top Open Divisions

Men's Open Singles: Andree Parrilla (Mexico)

Women's Open Singles: Maiko Sato (Japan)

Men's Open Doubles: Aaron Granberg & John Goth (Minn.)

Women's Open Doubles: Aimee Ruiz (N.J.) & Janel Tisinger (Calif.)

Mixed Open Doubles: Daniel De La Rosa (Mexico) & Michelle Key (Ariz.)

Full results for all divisions at:

unitedhealthcareusopen.com

RACQUETBALL AFTER DARK

Of course the primary reason everyone made the trip was for the smashing of racquetballs, but just as important is all the off-court fun. Downtown Minneapolis is full of top quality restaurants, night clubs and other entertainment options that were filled with racquetball players all week long! At the main entrance to the Target Center is Hubert's, the official host restaurant and bar, which hosted the annual Ladies Night Out and was the top choice of many players as their venue to relax after a hard day on the courts. Also on the lineup was the annual "Player's Party" at The Shout House

on Thursday, where the dueling pianos always put on a good show. On Friday the nightlife returned to Huberts for the Racquetball Warehouse Player's Party. On Saturday, the sport's biggest bash of the year went down at Minneapolis' most popular hotspot, The Pourhouse. The top players in the world hit the dance floor with all their fans for a party that went into the early hours of the morning.

A TRADITION OF GIVING BACK

For the entire history of the United-Healthcare US OPEN, players and fans have helped support children's charities through fundraisers, winning items at the Silent Auction, donating their \$5 referee fees back or making other contributions. More than \$15,000 was raised this year to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, bringing the 18-year total of donations to more than \$340,000.

One of those fundraising highlights is the sell-out, kick-off Pro-Am Charity Doubles benefit that pairs 32 amateurs and pro tour stars for one exciting evening. This year it came down to Kane Waselenchuk/Sal Perconti vs. Charlie Pratt/ Coby Iwaasa in the final, where Waselenchuk and Perconti prevailed 15-6. "This is all about the kids and nothing else, and to be able to do it with the best players in the world makes it fun," said Perconti. And if he didn't have enough records already, partner Waselenchuk is the only pro to have won both the Pro-Am Charity Doubles event and the overall title in the same year, now twice (2010, 2013).



Longoria generates plenty of power in a small frame. Series by Roby Partovich.



If you want to call it a miracle, that's fine with Rick Schacht.

All Schacht knows is that he was once dead and now he's talking quite candidly about the day he will never, ever forget.

It's a day in which he was, yes, clinically dead.

"I wasn't breathing and I had no pulse," he said.

But through a series of — OK, we'll call them miracles — Schacht is still around today.

First you must know that Schacht, who lives in Pine Island, is one of the best racquetball players in southeastern Minnesota. In fact, back in January he was inducted into the Minnesota Racquetball Hall of Fame.

And so it was that — on Thursday, Oct. 3 — Schacht was playing a tie-breaking game at the 2013 U.S. Open Racquetball Championships which were being held at the downtown (Target Center) Life Time Fitness in Minneapolis.

"I remember being in the service box and berating myself because I felt so sluggish," he said. "I couldn't believe that I was that far out of shape. I turned around and yelled to myself, 'come on,' and then grabbed the ball getting ready to serve.

"All of a sudden I saw blue and thought to myself, 'for God's sake, you're going to pass out. I remember putting my hands on my chest, trying to catch my breath.

"The next thing I consciously remember was laying in the back of an ambulance."

But there were a series of events back at the fitness center that preceded the ambulance ride. We'll call them life-saving events.

The referee of his match immediately started giving him chest compressions.

One of the staff members placed an automated external defibrillator on Schacht. It turned out to be a building janitor who had received training on that device less than a month before.

Someone called 911 and there was a player from Texas who was playing on the court next door. He just so happened to have a bottle of Nitroglycerin tablets on hand since he had a heart problem of his own.

"Here," he said, "it looks like you can use this."

Now it was about five minutes after the cardiac arrest. From

MINNESOTA HALL-OF-FAMER *Just Thankful to be Alive*

By Paul Christian

Photo credit: Jerry Olson / Rochester Post- Bulletin

Excerpted by permission: Rochester Post-Bulletin, 10/29/2013

what Schacht was told, they kept doing the chest compressions and they shocked him three times, and finally got his heart back into rhythm.

With the help of the nitro, blood started to circulate and that's about the same time the ambulance showed up.

"Jo [Johnson] came over and pulled my oxygen mask up, and I told her, 'well, I guess I'm not going to make our doubles match tonight.'"

He also wanted to make sure someone had called his wife, Terri.

"They said, yes, and I thought, well, this isn't going to go very well."

Only ten minutes later, Schacht was rushed into the cath lab at Hennepin County Medical Center, where cardiologist Dr. Fouad Bachour performed the surgery. Within minutes after his arrival at the hospital, Bachour installed a life-saving stent, which soon resulted in normal blood flow. The stent was installed within 39 minutes by Bachour and his staff.

"Some people take 39 minutes to decide what to have for dinner," Schacht said. "This is all the time it took for my life to be saved."

"He happened to be in the right place at the right time," Bachour said. "If he was at home or walking in the woods, I'm afraid the outcome would have been different."

"To essentially drop dead while playing racquetball and then leave the hospital just 72 hours later with normal heart function, it's just amazing," Bachour said. "It's a testament to the excellent coordination of services, including the quick response from people at the scene."

Schacht may eventually head back to the racquetball court but unlike in days gone past, he's not overly concerned.

"Normally at this time of the year I would be playing at least four times a week and spending the other days getting in the best shape I can," he said. "That's not going to happen, of course, but do you know what, that's OK."

And no more will Schacht concern himself with winning or losing. "When all is said and done, I'm the biggest winner."

Read the full article online at the *Rochester Post-Bulletin*, posted October 29, 2013

From a follow-up blog post by Christine Hill from HCMC: On his way home from the hospital, less than 4 days after dying on the racquetball court at Lifetime Fitness, Schacht stopped by to thank the staff [whose quick work had saved his life]. "They were actually in the middle of a staff meeting talking about what happened when I showed up. They just looked at me and couldn't believe it. Someone said, 'this is the guy!' and then someone said, 'you look much better standing up than lying down.'"

Full write-up and more photos at <http://tinyurl.com/ombc137>

US OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

RESULTS

MEN'S IRT PRO		WOMEN'S LPRT PRO		CLASSIC CPRT PRO	
1ST	Kane Waselenchuk		Paola Longoria		Jimmy Lowe
2ND	Rocky Carson III		Rhonda Rajsich		Corey Osborne
MEN'S OPEN		WOMEN'S OPEN			
1ST	Andree Parrilla		Maiko Sato		
2ND	Coby Iwaasa		Cristina Amaya		
MEN'S DOUBLES OPEN		WOMEN'S DOUBLES OPEN		MIXED DOUBLES OPEN	
1ST	Aaron Granberg/John Goth		Aimee Ruiz/Janel Tisinger		Daniel De La Rosa/Michelle Key
2ND	Alejandro Landa/Polo Gutierrez		Sofia Rascon/Susana Acosta		Aimee Ruiz/Jansen Allen

OPEN AGE DIVISIONS	MEN'S	WOMEN'S
24 & Under	Andres Gomez	Cristina Amaya
25+	Dennis Myers	Youngcock Lee
30+	John Goth	Shannon Feaster
35+	Aaron Metcalf	Vallana Perrault
40+	CPRT	Tammarrian Rogers
45+	Brad McCunniff	Marie Gomar
50+	Jimmy Lowe	Janice Kennedy
55+	Ivan Sanchez	Debra Tisinger-Moore
60+	Joe Lee	Wanda Collins
65+	Gregory Hasty	
70+	Jeffrey Leon	Marion McBride
75+	Jack McBride	Shirley Barron
80+	John O'Donnell, Jr.	

PLAYERS REPRESENTED 14 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Argentina 5
 British Virgin Islands 1
 Canada 18
 Chile 2
 Colombia 5
 Costa Rica 6
 Ecuador 12
 Guatemala 9
 Japan 11
 Mexico 25
 Puerto Rico 1
 South Korea 6
 United States 563
 Venezuela 20



By all accounts, Debbie Tisinger Moore earned her 100th gold medal at the UnitedHealthcare US OPEN in Minneapolis this fall. Congrats!

SKILL DIVISIONS	MEN'S	WOMEN'S
Elite	Alejandro Romo Garcia	Sofia Soley
A	Craig Herr	Hollie Scott
B	Juan Francisco Cueva	Sara Leon
C	Carlos Acuna	Paulina Sempertegui
D	Jose Miramontes	Maria Munoz

DOUBLES	MEN'S	WOMEN'S
Elite	Lee Meinerz/Shawn Merrill	Vivian Schneider/ Judy Hulen
A	Ted Rohlwing/Wayne Nesbit	Janice Kennedy/ Kanesha Madison
B	David Singer/Jake Ryan	Jesica Haak/ Pam Klein
C	Angel Barreno/Gonzalo Blanco	Ivana Sempertegui/ Maria Munoz
19+	Jim Fanning/Larry Cashion	
35+	Bryan Killins/Corey Osborne	
45+	George Bustos/Ivan Sanchez	Claudia Andrade/ Carmen Hernandez
55+	Doug Kite/Mike Griswold	Terry Ann Rogers/ Wanda Collins
65+	David Olson/Fred Letter	
Centurion Open	Doug Ganim/Troy Stallings	
Centurion A	Eric Lindquist/Kent Vandehaar	
Doubles Centurion B	David Singer/ Lee Frick	

AGE/SKILL DIVISIONS	MEN'S	WOMEN'S
24 & Under/25+ A	Christian Chavez	
24 B	Juan Francisco Cueva	
24 C	Carlos Ochoa	Maria Munoz
25+ A		Heather Olson
25+ B	Samuel Gomez	Elizabeth Levine
25+ C	Adam Paulson	Brenda Granados
35+ A	Ted Rohlwing	Cindy Herceg
35+ B	Tom Janke	Nancy Davis
35+ C	Jorge Bacallao	Felicia Green
45+ A	Ryan Rowlands	Hiroko Asari
45+ B	Tom Janke	Robbie Mack
45+ C	John Provan	Marsha Johnson
55+ A	Rick Betts	Cheryl Jones
55+ B	Ronald Harris	Dotti White
55+ C	J. Hancuch	Joyce Satorius
65+ A	Ron Miller	
65+ B/C	Leonard Sonnenberg	

MIXED DOUBLES
Mixed Doubles Elite
Lee Meinerz/Vallana Perrault
Mixed Doubles A
Vivian Schneider/Juan Diaz
Mixed Doubles B
Esther Lozano/Richard Aal
Mixed Doubles C
Cecil McNair/Marsha Johnson
Mixed Doubles 30/40
Linda Moore/Troy Vanbemmelen
Mixed Doubles Centurion + A
Jon Wuerffel/Sara Noyes



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## CONTINUING THE *Making of a Champion*

by Fran Davis (The Coach) • Diana McNab (Sports Psychologist) • Dan Obremski (Fitness Expert)

**O**okay, let's continue "Making You a Champion" using the core principles of "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" as you build your championship racquetball game one assessment at a time. This will allow you to always complete the "Racquetball Success Triangle" we initially explained in the Winter 2010 issue of this magazine.

In the last issue, Fall 2013, I discussed "goal setting and keeping a training log in detail." These are key elements in developing a game plan and creating your championship game.

Now that we are in the height of the competitive season, this is the perfect time to take a look at how to "Overcome Adversity." Nothing in sport or life is 100% predictable; the key is to create and adjust through all kinds of adversity. The first step is to change your attitude about what is happening. The optimist sees obstacles as challenges, and the pessimist sees challenges as obstacles. It is all in your perspective.

As an athlete, you always have a choice about how you view things. Jason saw his opponents as key ingredients that would inspire him to play his game at higher levels. He loved adversity and rose to the occasion. He took negativity and used it as a teacher. He learned from every lesson, and it added to the thrill of the game. He studied every single aspect of the game, his opponent, the situation, and the challenge ahead of him. And he used every lesson learned as a new weapon in his competition game plan.

With this information, let's address the four skill areas needed to help make you a more consistent and positive player, a must in developing your championship game.

### 1-RACQUETBALL SKILLS

To minimize the adversities that may come up, you'll want to be as consistent as possible in all aspects of the physical parts of the game such as your strokes, serves, serve relocation, serve return, court position, shot selection, shots of the game, or any technical or strategic part of your game. It's time to drill.

Developing a drill session before entering the court will maximize your time and help you to become more consistent.

Here are a few examples, but do be creative and make up your own:

**ONE-HOUR SESSION**—Can be divided into two 30-minute segments, four 15-minute segments, or six 10-minute segments. During each segment, practice a different skill and keep track of results.

- For beginner players, attempt 10 and see how many you get. What's your percentage?
- For intermediate players, attempt 15 and see how many you get. What's your percentage?
- For advanced players, attempt 20 and see how many you get. What's your percentage?

**30-MINUTE SESSION**—Can be divided into two 15-minute segments, one 30-minute segment, or one 20-minute and one 10-minute segment.

- **Work your own amount of time, and divide into your own segments.**
- **What you practice and drill is based on what's working and not working in your leagues, tournaments, shootouts, or pickup games at the club.** You must pay close attention so your sessions are centered on correcting your weaknesses and reinforcing your strengths.
- **How long you drill is based on your goals, commitment level, and desires.** At a minimum, we recommend drilling for 10 to 15 minutes per week for every hour you play per week. So if you play three times per week, your drill session should be 30 to 45 minutes. Keep in mind that some practice time, no matter how minimal, is better than no practice at all. Also, the quality of your practice sessions is more important than the quantity of your practices. Our motto is "Don't just do it, do it right."

Rocky and Paola as well as the rest of my championship team do this to make sure they keep the adversities at a minimum. This will pay big dividends for them to play at the top of their games.

## 2-MENTAL SKILLS

Human beings are 100% in control of the thoughts and emotions upon which we choose to focus. Whatever we pay attention to and focus on, grows. If you are filled with negativity, doubt and fear, another adversity, that is what will grow in your mind. If you focus on being positive, happy, and fearless, that is what you will create. All of this is up to you. Everyday thoughts are random, but the ones we keep thinking about become our truth. So ask yourself these very questions: Do you want to be positive or negative? Do you want to be a winner or a loser? The choice is yours.

Jason, Paola and Rocky are very positive players on and off the court...it is evident in their games.

## 3-FITNESS SKILLS

This skill is often overlooked as many injuries (another adversity) occur because many people are not in shape to play racquetball. Rather, they play racquetball to get in shape. The stretching and conditioning program Diana and I recommend include all the sections: speed, agility, power and strength, balance, and stretching. Use the exercise sequence of two flexibility, one agility, two flexibility, two agility, two balance, three speed, two power and strength, and four flexibility. Always work flexibility first to get your body warmed up, and then progress to the areas of focus for that week. Remember that quality is more important than quantity when performing

the movements. You want to master the movements much the same as you master your racquetball technique.

Paola and Rocky have fitness trainers that work out with them on a regular basis.

## 4-NUTRITION SKILLS

Like your fitness skills, your nutritional skills are usually overlooked as many athletes suffer from dehydration, cramping and often run out of energy and cannot perform at their best. This is when injuries and burnout, another adversity, can occur as well as tanking during a match or tournament.

You want to make sure your eating habits are second to none and you drink lots of water. Your body and mind need this in order to think clearly and make intelligent decisions on the court so you can perform at your very best.

Jason, Paola and Rocky all know how to enjoy themselves, but it's about making better choices. It's a way of life for them.

For more information on the points made above, see my book, "Championship Racquetball", Chapters 8, 9, and 10.

*I hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction. Or buy my video, "Building Your Racquetball Dream House," my book, "Championship Racquetball," or my app if you can't make a camp at this time. For details go to [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com).*

# Championship Racquetball

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#1 Pro Player 2003

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- Pan American/World Championship Coach
- USOC National Coach of the Year 1997
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- USAR-IP Master Professional

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|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| January 17-19   | Sarasota, FL      |
| Jan. 31-Feb. 2  | Seattle, WA       |
| February 7-9    | TBD               |
| Feb. 28-March 2 | San Diego, CA     |
| March 14-16     | TBD               |
| March 21-23     | Las Vegas, NV     |
| April 4-6       | Findlay, OH       |
| May 2-4         | New Jersey        |
| July 18-20      | Millersville, MD  |
| August 8-10     | San Francisco, CA |

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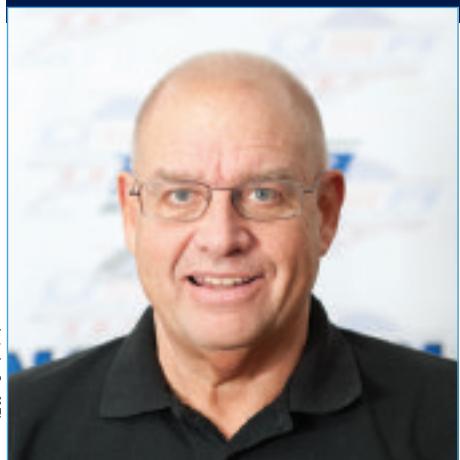
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# IT'S NOW LEGAL TO Carry the Ball?

■ by Otto Dietrich, USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner

photo by Geoff Thomsen



*“...it was still a “potential game-ending rally”  
thus making it appealable, even if no appeals remained...”*

**P**rior to September 1, “carrying” the ball was illegal -- a basis for the person doing that to immediately lose the rally. Of course, since then, doing that has been “okay” as long as the carry happened unintentionally. See Rule 3.13(b) for the exact wording.

Prior to the change, carries rarely happened, were called even less often (they were very hard for a referee standing off the court to detect with any certainty), and, most often, “offenders” were compelled to make the calls against themselves (a very honorable action, indeed, but one that often punished honest persons more often than it caught those who weren’t). Moreover, most carries that occurred were not done on purpose – they were unintentional.

So, while the change seemed to make very good sense for several reasons, in truth, I have received more questions about “legal carries” than before when they were not legal. So, here is how I see it. Double hits (touching) of the ball have been and still are illegal. If, in returning it, the ball happens to rest on the strings a bit longer than a hit – that it is, sort of slung or thrown, but it is apparent that really wasn’t the type of shot the player intended, then it is now legal -- the player does not have to call it upon himself, and play should go on.

Of course, the revised rule now puts the referee in the position of having to assess the player’s intent and then make a call only if he thought the shot was “carried” or “slung” on purpose. Opponents (or referees) no longer have to be concerned about a player’s having “carried” the ball” (it’s now legal), but only about their having done it on purpose (it’s not legal)!

*Here are answers to several questions I answered recently:*

**Bob asked:** In doubles, can the server switch sides while serving? We have a player who will switch from side to side depending on who he is serving to and have his partner go to where he was standing. I can’t seem to find anything in the rules.

**Otto answered:** Switching sides between serves – in either singles or doubles – is perfectly legal as long as the serve is made and the partner is totally inside the non-serving partner’s box before the standard 10 seconds allowed after one rally ends and the next rally begins (see Rules 3.1 through 3.6)

elapses. The server can stand anywhere he wants to serve – even on top of his partner if he wants! There is nothing about this in the rulebook because they can do that!

More simply stated, the basic serving rules in doubles are much the same as singles since the server can stand anywhere in the service zone and serve to either opponent at any time. Most skilled doubles players tend to serve to the player directly behind them rather than cross-court which can put their non-serving partner (trapped along the wall) in some higher jeopardy of being hit by the return (that hurts) and also losing the rally due to his “failure to move” out of the straight-in path (which also hurts in a different way).

**Bill asked:** During a serve attempt, the server’s racquet hits the floor prior to the ball. Is this a fault serve or is the serve legal?

**Otto answered:** Quite frankly, there is nothing in the rulebook that addresses that. So, I guess that means it is legal. But, is it done on every serve or just by accident or perhaps just every once in a while? Of course, it might be damaging the floor, which would not be good. It also might be distracting to the receiver. I’d really have to know more about the practice to address how I would handle it.

**Spencer asked:** My question is about the “carry” rule. I was playing yesterday when someone called a “carry” on himself and another person opened the door and stated that there is no carry rule now. Has the proposal been finalized and what is the final say on the ruling? So, if the ball comes off the front wall, hits my racquet, and pops up in the air, does this mean I can hit it again?

**Otto answered:** The current version of the USA Racquetball rulebook does allow for carries as long as they are not done intentionally. That’s basically what the new rule says. See the opening paragraph of this article... Hopefully, that court “door” you mentioned wasn’t opened while play was still in progress since that is a dangerous and unsportsmanlike act. Lastly, with regard to your racquet, you are allowed only one touch of the ball, so, the answer to that is no, you can’t hit the ball twice!

# DO YOU HAVE A RULES/REFEREEING QUESTION?

Be sure to email it to me at [ODietrich@usra.org](mailto:ODietrich@usra.org) and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of *Racquetball Magazine*. I will personally answer every question I get, no matter how simple or complex it may be!

**Dave asked:** During a recent doubles match, the server basically stood to the left side and served down the middle to the receiving team. The receiver on the right side initially thought about returning the serve, then suddenly said to his partner "yours." That partner, who was effectively standing behind the server (again, the server was positioned legally in the serving zone but skewed left), suddenly exclaimed "screen serve." Of course, this resulted in discussion as to whether "screen" was the proper call. I realize there could be any number of variables, but could you please elaborate your view of what would constitute a screen in doubles? In my view, the rules as written seem to demur a bit and do not specifically speak to the doubles situation.

**Otto answered:** In doubles, teams must work together to win a rally. While it sounds like one of those receiving players may have been screened, the other one probably wasn't, but opted, instead, to let his "screened" partner take the ball and then claim that "they" couldn't see the ball. Bad choice! Tough luck! No screen serve in this case because in my estimation the player could have easily returned the ball; he just didn't! Sounds more like poor teamwork than a screen serve. The receiving team should re-think their strategy for returning such serves.

**Dick asked:** A question regarding a game-ending appeal. We had an instance where the tiebreaker score was 10-10. During the rally, the server hit a shot that the referee called a skip ball; therefore, it was side out. He's out of appeals (used all three) and can't appeal even though there are line judges. His argument is that it is a game-ending call, so he is allowed the appeal. My thought on it is that he is arguing a potential game-ending call and that is not covered under the game-losing appeal rule. His skip call meant the score was still 10-10?

**Otto answered:** Since both players had 10 points at the start of that rally, no matter who served, it was still a "potential game-ending rally" thus making it appealable even if no appeals remained! The appeal should have been allowed! See Policy B.7(d) in the rulebook. Interestingly, the policy also provides that even if both players had all three of their appeals left, this potential game-ending rally could have been appealed by either without it being counted toward their limit of three charged appeals per game.

## Always "Play by the Rules"

... and, if you don't have a copy of them, I encourage you to go online to review them at: [USARacquetball.com](http://USARacquetball.com).

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ABOUT WINTER?  
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# IMPROVED INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM *Makes the Grade*



Master Professionals Jim Winterton,  
Fran Davis, and Tom Travers  
(photo by Cheryl Kirk)

The USA Racquetball Instructor program focuses on bringing the very best INFORMATION, INNOVATION, and INSURANCE to those who provide racquetball coaching and instruction. Entering its fourth year, the Instructor Program has added many new features and components, including mobile apps. More than 200 people have gone through the certification process for this comprehensive and thorough program. The Program has even been recognized by the USOC as among the best across all sports.

## USA Racquetball Instructor Program Features

- Extensive training materials designed by the best in the business
- Best insurance coverage in the sport
- Continuing education and recertification to maintain high standards
- Mobile applications and resources
- Top notch partners (USOC, Dartfish, American Sports Education Program)
- CPR certification
- Background checks
- Extensive resource library (articles, videos, manuals, third-party assets)

## The People Behind the Program

The USA Racquetball Instructor Program has been developed by some of the most well respected teachers and coaches in the game. The three Master Professionals (Fran Davis, Tom Travers and Jim Winterton), along with Jim Hiser, have devoted thousands of hours to instilling their many years of knowledge and experience in the program.

### Fran Davis

A former top professional player and member of the Racquetball Hall of Fame, Fran has conducted more than 5,000 camps and clinics over the past two decades. She is a former U.S. National Team Coach and has coached many of the sport's top players, including Rocky Carson, Paola Longoria, Sudsy Monchik, Jason Mannino, Sharon Jackson, and Taylor Knoth. Fran is the co-author of the #1 selling "Championship Racquetball" book and "Building Your Racquetball Dreamhouse" video.

### Tom Travers

Tom picked up the sport in college and has been teaching clinics and lessons for more than 35 years. A retired school teacher, Tom capitalized on his education experience when previously coaching the U.S. National Team and presently as coach of the Guatemala National Team. A member of the Ohio Racquetball Hall of Fame, Tom is the author of "Mastery of Racquetball Singles and Doubles" and "Real Racquetball."

### Jim Winterton

Jim, a member of the Racquetball Hall of Fame, has more than 45 years of playing and coaching experience. He has served as Head Coach of the U.S. National Team, leading the Team to three victories in the Pan Am Games from 1995 to 2003. Jim currently coaches more than 30 racquetball players, most notably Kane Waselenchuk and Rhonda Rajsich. The author of "Racquetball Fundamentals" and producer of three DVDs, Jim is a pioneer in online coaching and often trains coaches in the art of coaching.

### Jim Hiser

Jim is a 25-year veteran of USA Racquetball and has been involved in nearly every facet of the game from the professional tours to championship administration and even serving as Executive Director of the Association from 2002 to 2012. He has utilized his PhD in Biology and vast experience in the sport to assist with the development of the Instructor Program curriculum. Jim continues to serve as Program Manager of USA Racquetball and manages the day-to-day activities of the Instructor Program.

### New Partners and Features

#### U.S. Olympic Committee

USA Racquetball has partnered with the USOC and its Team USA Mobile Coach Application, a coaching/instructor resource that provides information via a mobile app and a desktop companion site. Show video demonstration on court via the free app or email them directly to your students. The latest resources from both the USOC and USA Racquetball are available to all Instructor Program certified members. Check out the app at [mobilecoach.teamusa.org](http://mobilecoach.teamusa.org).



### Coming Soon

#### Coaching Certification

A course designed specifically for instructors who want to coach. Will include content on instruction, practice, team management, motivation and athlete safety.

#### Academic Course and Syllabus

Materials designed specifically for college and high school instructors who teach the basics of racquetball to students. Will include a text book, student tests, references and video demonstrations.

#### Event Director Certification

A course designed for those wanting to run quality USA Racquetball sanctioned events utilizing R2 Sports software and how to get the most out of this valuable tool.

Learn More and Sign Up for the Instructor Program at [USARacquetball.com](http://USARacquetball.com)!

#### Dartfish

USA Racquetball partner, Dartfish Express, provides easy ways to identify areas for improvement in your students and share your analysis with students and other experts. The USA Racquetball



Instructor Program Dartfish TV station provides an easy, quick platform to download videos from Master Professionals and other experts. Instructors can review video in slow motion, and break down shots with drawings, voice over comments, and text notes.



#### American Sport Education Program

In conjunction with the ASEP, the USA Racquetball Instructor Program makes a variety of online coaching and education courses available to participants. Many of these courses qualify for Instructor Program continuing education credits and help keep instructors updated with the most recent developments in sport.

From Raleigh, N.C. to Portland, Ore., Fullerton, Calif., to Minneapolis and points in between, the 2014 USA Racquetball Championship Season is on the horizon and sure to bring many moments to remember.

# DOUBLES TIME

47th National Doubles Championships • February 12-16  
Arizona State University • Tempe, Arizona

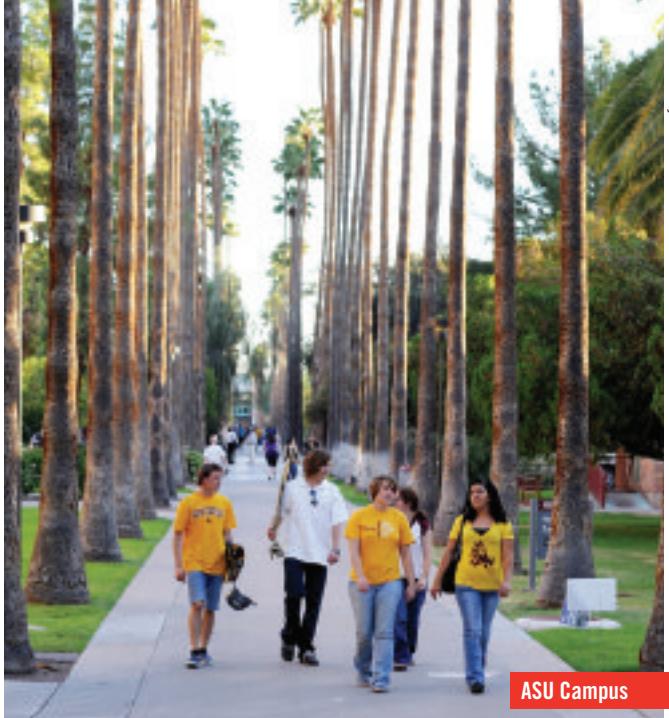
Once again the beautiful and recently renovated Student Recreation Center at Arizona State University will host the National Doubles Championships. This venue with 14 glass back wall courts on two levels, including a spectacular two-sided glass show court with stadium seating, showcases the blazing speed of the doubles game.

Racquetball is one of the fastest sports and it only gets faster when four of the best players in the world are on the court at the same time showcasing their skills. The shot making and agility needed to win this coveted Championship are truly amazing. Tensions run high as the players in the Men's and Women's National Team Qualifier Divisions compete for coveted spots on the U.S. National Team.

Doubles highlights the truly social aspects of racquetball. With doubles being a little easier on the body, it's a great opportunity to play in multiple divisions and make the most of your time in Tempe. Bring your favorite partner or let USA Racquetball find a great match for you. With divisions such as Mixed Doubles and Centurion (both players combined ages total 100 or more), it's a fun time for all. National Doubles is a great place to make lifelong friendships, reconnect with old friends, and enjoy the camaraderie of racquetball enthusiasts from across the country. Whether you are an Open level player or interested more in participating in skill and age divisions, this National Championship is sure to be a great fit.

Access to Tempe is simple, convenient, and cost effective, via Phoenix's Sky Harbor International Airport. Only a short shuttle ride away, the host hotels are located just a few blocks from the Student Recreation Center. No rental cars needed here. This year's host hotels include the Twin Palms and the FourPoints by Sheraton, which are offering great rates to Championship participants.

There are few better places to be in mid-February than Tempe, Ariz. With average high temperatures in the 70's, the location makes for a great winter escape. Double down and join us for fun in the sun at one of the most vibrant university campuses in the country!



ASU Campus



N Counter



Mill Avenue

# COMING BACK?

2013 Defending Doubles Champions ... will they mix it up?

## Men's Doubles US Team Qualifying

1st: Jansen Allen/Tony Carson

## Women's Doubles US Team Qualifying

1st: Aimee Ruiz/Janel Tisinger

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Men's Doubles Open  | Jason Geis/Jonathan Dunn         |
| Men's Doubles Elite | Doug Brown/Kennedy Clark         |
| Men's Doubles A     | Daniel Pischke/Richard Seiler    |
| Men's Doubles B     | Nick Richardson/Roby Partovich   |
| Men's Doubles C     | Erik Demar/Travis West           |
| Men's Doubles 24-   | Danny Sardina/Zachary Patterson  |
| Men's Doubles 25+   | Arthur Schmeiser/Charlie Stalder |
| Men's Doubles 30+   | Andy Hawthorne/Jeff Stark        |
| Men's Doubles 35+   | Mike Orr/Shawn Royster           |
| Men's Doubles 40+   | Jimmy Lowe/Tim Hansen            |
| Men's Doubles 45+   | Doug Ganim/Tim Sweeney           |
| Men's Doubles 50+   | Dave Azuma/Mike Lubbers          |
| Men's Doubles 55+   | Gilbert Cepeda/Jim Durham        |
| Men's Doubles 60+   | Howard Walker/Mark Baron         |
| Men's Doubles 65+   | Jeffrey Leon/Mike Pawka          |
| Men's Doubles 70+   | David Zabinski/Joseph Capozzoli  |
| Men's Doubles 75+   | Jerry Northwood/Rex Lawler       |

|                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Women's Doubles Open/Elite | Grace Hughes/Jessica Munoz        |
| Women's Doubles A          | Miriam McCloskey/Danielle Emerson |
| Women's Doubles B          | Jill Krenzelok/Amy White          |

## Women's Doubles 30+

Melody Gorno/Thao Le

## Women's Doubles 35+

Christie Noller/Mae Chin-Varon

## Women's Doubles 40+

Lori Soares/Roxanne Davis

## Women's Doubles 45+

Debra Tisinger-Moore/Mae Chin-Varon

## Women's Doubles 50+

Chris Evon/Terri Graham

## Women's Doubles 55+

Elaine Dexter/Linda Moore

## Women's Doubles 60+

Wanda Collins/Terry Ann Rogers

## Women's Doubles 65+

Mary Lou Furaus/Nidia Funes

## Women's Doubles 70+

Mildred Gwinn/Marquita Molina

## Mixed Doubles Open

Aimee Ruiz/Andy Hawthorne

## Mixed Doubles Elite

Dorcy Norton/Bobby Ferreira

## Mixed Doubles A

Devon Pimentelli/Danny Sardina

## Mixed Doubles B

Richelle Kulju/Steve Kowalski

## Mixed Doubles C

Mary Zordan/David Lovinger

## Mixed Doubles 25+

Janel Tisinger/Bryan Crosser

## Mixed Doubles 30+

Sarah Houghtailing/Rick Koll

## Mixed Doubles 35+

Mae Chin-Varon/Jonathan Dunn

## Mixed Doubles 40+

Cheryl Gudinas/Dale Millhollin

## Mixed Doubles 45+

Wanda Collins/Paul Julbes

## Mixed Doubles 50+

Terri Graham/Jimmy Lowe

## Mixed Doubles 55+

Elaine Dexter/Dave Azuma

## Mixed Doubles 60+

Terry Ann Rogers/Billy Cannon

## Mixed Doubles 65+

Nidia Funes/Fredrick Roe

## Mixed Doubles 70+

Mildred Gwinn/Price Thomas

See all results online at [usaracquetball.com](http://usaracquetball.com)



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### PRESENTING SPONSOR



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Tempe, Arizona

# HIGH SCHOOLERS RETURN TO PORTLAND

28th National High School Championships

February 26 – March 2

Multnomah Athletic Club

Portland, Oregon



Photos Courtesy City of Portland



**P**ortland, Ore., a hotbed of high school racquetball, will host the National High School Championships this year. This Championship returns to the Beaver State, which has produced many young prospects over the years. Recent local stand-outs Taylor Knoth and Connor Laffey have moved on to the college ranks, but Girl's defending champion Lexi York looks to make it three in a row in front of a home state crowd.

The long-standing Oregon High School Racquetball League will serve as the local organizing committee and is sure to make the Championships a great experience for all. Sprague High School, from nearby Salem, will look to defend its narrow 2013 victory over Beaverton (Ore.) High School in the overall Team competition. At the same time, a sizable contingent from the St. Louis High School Racquetball League will travel to The City of Roses to make its mark on the national scene.

Don't shy away from this great Championship just because you happen to be from a city other than Portland and St. Louis. Recent champions have come from cities all across

the country. The winners of the Boy's and Girl's #1 Gold Divisions earn spots on the U.S. Junior National Team. Plus, the opportunity to spend a few days with fellow high schoolers who love the sport is unparalleled. The Olympic format of the Championships helps ensure a good number of competitive matches for all.

Hosted by the beautiful Multnomah Athletic Club, the Championship is sure to be a great experience. This popular and lively city has grown in population by more than a third since the high school competitors of this Championship were born. Portland is consistently ranked among the most livable cities in the country and we'll be located very near the vibrant downtown area. Travel to and from Portland is easy and convenient. Once there, competitors and their families are able to navigate the city on the inexpensive light rail system, which serves the host clubs and hotel.

Come spend a great few days of racquetball with fellow high schoolers from around the country. Make a trip of it and enjoy all that the Pacific Northwest has to offer!

# COMING BACK?

Defending High School Champions

## BOYS #1 GOLD

Nicholas Riffel

## BOYS #1 GOLD DOUBLES

Alec Dehart / Connor Laffey

## GIRLS #1 GOLD

Lexi York

## GIRLS #1 GOLD DOUBLES

Ariana Guilak / Erin Bonzer

## MIXED #1 GOLD DOUBLES

Connor Laffey / Stephanie Herschbach

## TEAM

1. Sprague HS

2. Beaverton HS

3. Parkway West HS

4. Southridge HS

5. Sunset HS

6. Kirkwood HS

7. Lindbergh HS

8. Lincoln HS

9. Los Alamos HS

10. Sandy HS

## BOYS

1. St. Louis University HS

2. Parkway West HS

3. Sprague HS

4. Beaverton HS

5. Parkway North

6. Kirkwood HS

7. Sunset HS

8. Lindbergh HS

9. Desmet Jesuit HS

10. Lincoln HS

## GIRLS

1. Southridge HS

2. Cor Jesu Academy

3. Beaverton HS

4. Sprague HS

5. St. Joseph's Academy

6. Visitation Academy

7. Notre Dame HS

8. Nerinx Hall

9. Parkway West HS

10. Sunset HS

IF IT'S TOO FAST, THERE'S ALWAYS TENNIS.



28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 2, 2014 / PORTLAND, OREGON  
**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### ENTER:

[www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)  
 or call 719-635-5396

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MULTNOMAH  
 ATHLETIC CLUB  
 PORTLAND, OREGON

# COLLEGIANS HEAD EAST

42nd Wilson National Intercollegiate Championships  
March 11-15  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, N.C.

**A**fter spending the past three years at Arizona State University, this year's National Intercollegiate Championships will be held on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. This marks the first time the Championships will be held east of the Mississippi river since 1995. This year's Championship is sure to attract many quality players from collegiate conferences across the country, especially those in the East.

17 courts provide viewing from above and four featuring full back-wall glass and rows of seating for spectators, the Student Recreation Center at NC State will be a wonderful venue for this storied Championship. Located minutes from downtown Raleigh, competitors and coaches are sure to experience the best that southern hospitality has to offer. Raleigh offers mild temperatures in March and will provide a great escape from winter that will still have its grip on much of the country.

While the top players will be competing for positions on the U.S. National Team, the Olympic format of the Championship provides a good number of competitive matches for all.

Collegians from 41 schools competed last year. Some participated with full teams and others were the lone representative from his or her school. This Championship is an amazing time for all competitors. It's a wonderful week of fun racquetball competition and great camaraderie with fellow college students who love the sport. Join us in beautiful and bustling Raleigh for great racquetball and a great time!

# COMING BACK?

Defending Intercollegiate Champions

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mens #1 Gold</b>    | Taylor Knoth  |
| <b>Women's #1 Gold</b> | Kelani Bailey |

## Division One Overall Team Results

1. Oregon State University
2. Brigham Young University
3. University Of Missouri
4. Arizona State University
5. Colorado State University - Pueblo
6. North Carolina State
7. University Of Texas
8. University Of Arizona
9. University Of Florida
10. University Of South Florida

## Division One Men's Team Results

1. Oregon State University
2. Brigham Young University
3. Colorado State University - Pueblo
4. University of Missouri
5. North Carolina State
6. University Of Texas
7. Arizona State University
8. University Of Florida
9. University Of South Florida
10. Utah Valley University

## Division One Women's Team Results

1. Oregon State University
2. Arizona State University
3. Brigham Young University
4. University Of Missouri
5. University Of Arizona
6. University Of New Mexico
7. Purdue University
8. North Carolina State
9. Penn State University
10. Colorado State University - Pueblo



# FURTHER OUT IN 2014

## Singles Sizzles

47th National Singles Championships • May 21-25  
Meridian Sports Club • Fullerton, Calif.

National Singles is the place to test your game against the best your fellow countrymen and women have to offer. Our country's best players will be competing for positions on the U.S. National Team with two international competitions coming around the corner and the 2015 Pan Am Games coming soon. With divisions for every age and skill level, the Championship provides a great playing experience and opportunities for players to put their practice and training to the test. Meridian Sports Clubs will again host National Singles with its 23 high quality courts. Kick off summer over the Labor Day weekend with great racquetball and great friends in beautiful southern California.

## Junior Olympians Aim High

41st Wilson National Junior Olympics Championships  
June 25-29  
Highlands Ranch Community Center • Denver, Colo.

The premier junior racquetball championship in the United States is heading to the Mile High City. The nation's best junior players will compete for coveted positions on the U.S. Junior National and Esprit Teams ahead of the Junior World Championships to be held in Cali, Columbia in the fall. An

outstanding family destination, Denver offers mild summer weather, top-notch professional sports, world-class museums, and access to great hiking, white water rafting, and spectacular national parks. Flights to and from Denver are economical and convenient, with non-stop routes throughout the country. The Olympic format of the Championship provides for a great competitive experience for players of varying skill levels.

## The Best of the Best

19th UnitedHealthcare US OPEN Racquetball Championships  
October 8-12 • Lifetime Fitness Target Center  
Minneapolis, Minn.



UnitedHealthcare continues its Title Sponsorship of Racquetball's premier grand slam that will round out the 2014 USA Racquetball calendar in Minneapolis. This can't miss event

will have the best players from all over the world showcasing their talent in a venue that is unlike any other the sport has to offer. Minneapolis boasts convenient flights from all across the country, economical lodging, and public transportation that makes it a breeze to get around. The US OPEN offers the best players, the best parties, and more. Join us in Minneapolis next fall and experience the greatest racquetball show on earth!

MORE KILL SHOTS  
THAN A ZOMBIE MARATHON.



42<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 11 - 15, 2014 / RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### ENTER:

[www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)  
or call 719-635-5396

### PRESENTING SPONSORS



NORTH CAROLINA  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
Raleigh, North Carolina



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For the latest in USA Racquetball Sanctioned Events visit [USA.Racquetball.com](http://USA.Racquetball.com)

|                                             |                |                   |    |                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----|----------------------------------------|
| Coast to Coast California Open              | Jan. 3-5       | Reseda            | CA | 360 Health Club                        |
| Winter Freeze Racquetball Tournament        | Jan. 3-5       | Huber Heights     | OH | The Heights Racquetball & Fitness Club |
| One Day Men's Doubles                       | Jan. 4         | Lombard           | IL | Glass Court Swim & Fitness             |
| AZ WOR IV Battle Clash of Chavez            | Jan. 4-5       | Laveen            | AZ | Cesar Chavez Park                      |
| One Day Women's & Mixed Doubles             | Jan. 5         | Lombard           | IL | Glass Court Swim & Fitness             |
| Harbour Island Open                         | Jan. 9-12      | Tampa             | FL | Harbour Island Athletic Club           |
| MO Racquetball Blizzard -IRT Series Stop #2 | Jan. 10-11     | St. Louis         | MO | Vetta Sports-CONCORD                   |
| Pennsylvania State Doubles Championships    | Jan. 10-12     | York              | PA | Athletic Club Of York                  |
| Virginia State Doubles Championship         | Jan. 10-12     | Herndon           | VA | World Gate Sport & Health              |
| Izzi Racquetball Flex League                | Jan. 15-17     | Gillette          | WY | Campbell County Rec Center             |
| OSU Invite                                  | Jan. 16-19     | Corvallis         | OR | Timberhill Athletic Club               |
| WS/MRA National Championships               | Jan. 17-19     | Fountain Valley   | CA | Los Caballeros                         |
| Fran Davis Racquetball Camp Florida         | Jan. 17-19     | Sarasota          | FL | Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club           |
| Longhorn Open                               | Jan. 17-19     | Austin            | TX | Gregory Gym                            |
| Salina YMCA Mid American Classic            | Jan. 17-19     | Salina            | KS | Salina Family YMCA                     |
| St. Andrews Winter Classic                  | Jan. 17-19     | Charleston        | SC | St. Andrews Family Fitness Plus        |
| ADCOPE Winter Classic                       | Jan. 17-20     | Lewiston          | ID | Adcope Athletic Club                   |
| WOR Georgia Outdoor One Wall                | Jan. 18        | Savannah          | GA | Lake Mayer Community Park              |
| DARA State Doubles                          | Jan. 18-19     | Wilmington        | DE | Kirkwood Fitness                       |
| Garden State Open                           | Jan. 18-19     | Piscataway        | NJ | Rutgers The State University           |
| Lewis Pro-Am 36th Annual                    | Jan. 23-26     | Sioux Falls       | SD | Sioux Falls Family YMCA                |
| Grand Canyon State Winter Games             | Jan. 24-26     | Tempe             | AZ | ASU Student Recreation Complex         |
| VA Snowman Classic                          | Jan. 24-26     | Richmond          | VA | Midlothian Athletic Club               |
| Southwest Shootout                          | Jan. 25        | Kalamazoo         | MI | Bronson Athletic Club                  |
| Superbowl at Riverpoint                     | Jan. 20-Feb. 2 | Albuquerque       | NM | Riverpoint Sports & Wellness           |
| MO Pinchshot.com Midwest Championships      | Jan. 31-Feb. 2 | St. Louis         | MO | Vetta Sports-CONCORD                   |
| Fran Davis Racquetball Camp                 | Jan. 31-Feb. 2 | Seattle           | WA | Harbor Square                          |
| ISRA State Doubles                          | Jan. 31-Feb. 2 | Lombard           | IL | Glass Court Swim & Fitness             |
| E. Collegiate Racquetball Conf. - Meet #4   | Jan. 31-Feb. 2 | State College     | PA | I M Building- Penn State Main          |
| MACRC 3                                     | Jan. 31-Feb. 2 | Raleigh           | NC | NC State University - Carmichael Gym   |
| NC State Wolfpack Classic Championships     | Jan. 31-Feb. 2 | RALEIGH           | NC | NC State University                    |
| Northeast Junior Racquetball Championships  | Feb. 1-2       | Jefferson Valley  | NY | Club Fit                               |
| Florida State Singles Championships         | Feb. 7-9       | Sarasota          | FL | Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club           |
| Maverick Metroplex Championships            | Feb. 7-9       | Arlington         | TX | Maverick Athletic Club                 |
| 6th Annual Wichita YMCA Open                | Feb. 7-9       | Wichita           | KS | Robert D Love Central Branch YMCA      |
| Michigan Winter Senior Olympics             | Feb. 8         | Warren            | MI | Warren Racquet Club                    |
| Halloween Classic                           | Feb. 8-9       | Arlington Heights | IL | Forest View Racquet Club               |
| USAR National Doubles Championships         | Feb. 12-16     | Tempe             | AZ | Arizona State University               |
| MO High School JV3 State Championships      | Feb. 15        | St. Louis         | MO | Vetta Sports-CONCORD                   |
| Meijer State Games of Michigan              | Feb. 15-16     | Grand Rapids      | MI | Michigan Athletic Club                 |
| Oregon State Doubles                        | Feb. 20-23     | Eugene            | OR | Courtsports Athletic Club              |
| Boise Broken Balls                          | Feb. 21-22     | Boise             | ID | Boise State University                 |
| TORNADO ALLEY Racquetball Classic           | Feb. 21-23     | Wichita Falls     | TX | Bill Bartley Branch Family YMCA        |
| MACRC 4                                     | Feb. 21-23     | Lynchburg         | Va | Sports Racket - Liberty University     |
| NE Intercollegiate Regional Championships   | Feb. 21-23     | Bethlehem         | PA | 24/7 Fitness Club Bethlehem            |
| Battle by the Bay T4 Pro/Am                 | Feb. 21-23     | Corpus Christi    | TX | YMCA                                   |
| DARA Snowball                               | Feb. 22        | Wilmington        | DE | Kirkwood Fitness                       |
| MO High School Boys State Championships     | Feb. 22        | St. Louis         | MO | Vetta Sports-CONCORD                   |
| Merced Winter Shootout                      | Feb. 22-23     | Merced            | CA | Mellinium by In-Shape: Merced          |
| Motor City Rollout                          | Feb. 22-23     | Utica             | MI | Courtland Racquetball Club             |
| MO High School Girls State Championships    | Feb. 23        | St. Louis         | MO | Vetta Sports-CONCORD                   |
| USAR National High School Championships     | Feb. 26-Mar. 2 | Portland          | OR | Multnomah Athletic Club                |
| One Wall Ball                               | Mar. 1         | Savannah          | GA | Lake Mayer Community Park              |
| NMRA National Championships                 | Mar. 5-8       | Tucson            | AZ | Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club          |
| IRT Florida Spring Break Pro Am             | Mar. 6-9       | Tampa             | FL | Harbour Island Athletic Club           |
| Jack Daniels Shoot-Out                      | Mar. 7-8       | Meridian          | ID | IAC-Meridian                           |
| Capital Challenge                           | Mar. 7-9       | East Lansing      | MI | Michigan Athletic Club                 |
| Duboise Electric Pro-Am Classic             | Mar. 7-9       | Ft. Smith         | AR | World Class Fitness                    |
| New Jersey Open- LPRT Tier One              | Mar. 7-9       | Warren            | NJ | The Racquet Club at Warren             |
| USAR National Intercollegiate Championships | Mar. 11-15     | Raleigh           | NC | North Carolina State University        |
| Jewusiak Memorial Tournament                | Mar. 14-16     | Newport News      | VA | Riverside Wellness and Fitness Club    |
| CNRA State Singles Championships            | Mar. 14-16     | TBD               | CA | TBD                                    |
| Pennsylvania State Singles Championship     | Mar. 14-16     | Bethlehem         | PA | Bethlehem Racquetball Club             |
| DARA State Singles                          | Mar. 15-16     | Wilmington        | DE | Kirkwood Fitness                       |
| Oregon State Singles Championships          | Mar. 20-23     | Portland          | OR | Lloyd Athletic Club                    |
| 15th Annual Great Balls of Fire ProAm       | Mar. 21-23     | Coral Gables      | FL | University Of Miami Wellness Center    |
| MO State Championships                      | Mar. 21-23     | St. Louis         | MO | Vetta Sports-CONCORD                   |
| MRF Wingman Racquetball Tournament          | Mar. 21-23     | Abilene           | TX | YMCA - Abilene                         |
| Idaho State Tournament                      | Mar. 21-23     | Boise             | ID | IAC - State                            |
| Raising Some Racquet for Kids (IRT Tier 4)  | Mar. 21-23     | Cincinnati        | OH | Waycross Athletic Club                 |
| RAM State Singles Championships             | Mar. 28-30     | Davison           | MI | Davison Athletic Club                  |

|                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Randy Lam          | rjlam@hotmail.com              |
| Sam Wildovsky      |                                |
| Michelle Halverson | mdhalverson@yahoo.com          |
| Darold Key         | azor@azoutdoorracquetball.com  |
| Michelle Halverson | mdhalverson@yahoo.com          |
| Kim Roy            | kimberly_roy@hotmail.com       |
| Dan Whitley        | dwhitley@vettasports.com       |
| Daryl Rosidivito   | djrosidivito@yahoo.com         |
| Bill Milbach       | billracquetball@gmail.com      |
| Derek Izzi         | derek@izziracquetball.com      |
| Rob Durbin         | durbin-rob@comcast.net         |
| Jack Hughes        | rogerstar49@gmail.com          |
| Fran Davis         | camps@frandavisracquetball.com |
| Soly Kor           | solykor@gmail.com              |
| Alex Andresen      |                                |
| Shawn Dodd         | chevyscd25@yahoo.com           |
| Chuck Stivison     | nbenton@redlionlewiston.com    |
| Lemuel O'Neal      | sav_outdoor_rb@comcast.net     |
| Charles Mathers    |                                |
| Nancy Luyando      | newjerseyracquetball@gmail.com |
| Mark Burd          | markburd@yahoo.com             |
|                    |                                |
| Bonny Simpson      |                                |
| Daniel Mullin      |                                |
| Joe Wittenbrink    |                                |
| Dan Whitley        | dwhitley@vettasports.com       |
| Fran Davis         | camps@frandavisracquetball.com |
| Laurel Davis       | laurelmdavis@comcast.net       |
| Rob VanSchalkwyk   |                                |
| Phil Wheeler       | vadriveserve@gmail.com         |
| Lynn Stephens      | racquetball@gmail.com          |
| Tom Keogh          | iwing@clubfit.com              |
| Chad Bailey        | auchad99@gmail.com             |
| Leo Vasquez        | leo@themav.com                 |
| Scott Wolford      |                                |
| Chuck Van Hoose    |                                |
| Dave Negrete       |                                |
| Jim Hiser          | jhiser@usra.org                |
| Dan Whitley        | dwhitley@vettasports.com       |
| Twayne Howard      | thoward@prokennexusa.com       |
| Kent Hollingsworth |                                |
| Steve Purcell      | cjrake2@u.boisestate.edu       |
| Randy Lanford      | randylanford@yahoo.com         |
| Phil Wheeler       | vadriveserve@gmail.com         |
| Rob VanSchalkwyk   |                                |
| JoAnna Reyes       |                                |
| Charles Mathers    |                                |
| Dan Whitley        | dwhitley@vettasports.com       |
| John Ellis         | ellistyle@comcast.net          |
| Chuck Van Hoose    |                                |
| Dan Whitley        | dwhitley@vettasports.com       |
| Jim Hiser          | jhiser@usra.org                |
| Lemuel O'Neal      | sav_outdoor_rb@comcast.net     |
| Cindy Tilbury      | cindy.tilbury@att.net          |
| Kim Roy            | kimroy@mac.com                 |
| Chuck Stivison     | idahosplat@hotmail.com         |
| Daniel Mullin      |                                |
| Dann Schwinger     |                                |
| Jonathan Clay      | jonathan@wearrollout.com       |
| Jim Hiser          | jhiser@usra.org                |
| Carl Moody         |                                |
| Jack Hughes        | racquetballplus@comcast.net    |
| Daryl Rosidivito   | djrosidivito@yahoo.com         |
| Charles Mathers    |                                |
| Paul Maduell       | paul@maduellassociates.com     |
| Vivian Gomez       | greatballsmiami@aol.com        |
| Dan Whitley        | dwhitley@vettasports.com       |
| Jim Wildner        | jgwildner@gmail.com            |
| Chuck Stivison     | idahosplat@hotmail.com         |
| Fabrizio Mora      | fabrizio_mora@hotmail.com      |
| Twayne Howard      | thoward@prokennexusa.com       |



## THE ROAD AHEAD FOR THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAMS

### U.S. NATIONAL TEAM

2014 will be an action-packed year for the U.S. National Team as it tests itself against the best players from around the world in some of the final international competitions before the 2015 Pan American Games to be held in Canada. In 2014 there will be more international competitions than usual with three spread from April through August.

### 2014 U.S. NATIONAL TEAM INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Pan American Racquetball Championships

Santa Cruz, Bolivia

April 11-19

#### IRF World Championships

Burlington, Ontario, Canada

June 14-21

#### PASO Olympic Festival

San Luis Potosi, Mexico

August

### U.S. JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM

The National Junior Olympics Championships, which serve as the primary qualifier for the U.S. Junior National Team, will take place at the end of June in Denver. Following this, the Team will participate in its annual Camp in preparation for the 2014 Junior World Championships to be held in Cali, Colombia October 19-25.

Show your support of the U.S. National Teams by shopping for Official USA Racquetball gear at [wearrollout.com](http://wearrollout.com) (use promo code USARolls) or by donating to the Teams at [USARacquetball.com](http://USARacquetball.com).



# International Updates

## IRF World Junior Racquetball Championships

October 20-26, 2013: Sucre, Bolivia | Reported by Cheryl Kirk

### The International Perspective

IRF XXV Campeonato Mundial Juvenil de Racquetball 2013

**I**t was a long but very enjoyable week at the XXV World Junior Championships. With fourteen courts continually occupied from first thing in the morning until mid-evening, the IRF staff and referees were challenged with the task of keeping everything running smoothly and on time.

Fourteen countries competed: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Venezuela, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Argentina, US, Chile, Nicaragua, and Puerto Rico.

Players numbering 297 entered with 50% playing two divisions. There were 47 divisions competing: World Cup, Esprit Cup, and Challenger Cup featuring boys' and girls' age divisions, singles and doubles.

On Thursday, October 18, 47 journalists attended the press conference. These championships enjoyed great spectator attendance and outstanding press coverage in the newspapers, on television, and in special magazine publications. Televising nationally all day, there were a few delays due to the live television coverage schedule.

This is the first time players have not had to referee in the World Cup and Esprit Cup divisions. The IRF brought in twelve referees hailing from Argentina, Bolivia Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, the U.S., and Uruguay.

The new program with the monitors worked exceedingly well. The referees on courts 1-6 had electronic tablets as well as manual scorecards, and results were transmitted automatically to the tournament management system at the end of each match.

Players and guests were neither hungry nor thirsty! The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) served lunch to over 500 people each day at no charge. This was greatly appreciated by

Hosts and officials on the dais in Bolivia. Photo: Luke St. Onge.



the parents of the players who were so happy to receive this amenity. And, bottled water was freely available -- over 1,600 bottles each day were provided!

Transportation was excellent -- there were thirteen shuttles serving five hotels, ensuring no worries for players and guests in getting to the club on time for matches.

We are happy to report that there were no major injuries. However, the LOC ensured that medical personnel were on site each and every day in case they were needed.

Sponsors E-Force (for the last six years) and Penn (since the 1980's) have been great partners at this and all IRF events. They have our heartfelt appreciation for their support over the years.

The IRF wishes to thank Roberto Aracena, President of the Local Organizing Committee, for his tireless efforts in organizing all the behind-the-scenes details that went into executing an event of this magnitude.

## INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL FEDERATION • 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

### MAJOR EVENTS

- Pan American Racquetball Championships - Cali, Colombia (March)
- World Senior Doubles Championships - San Jose, Costa Rica (June)
- World Games - Cali, Colombia (July)
- World Senior Racquetball Championships - Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA (August)
- World Juniors - Sucre, Bolivia (October)
- Boliviano Games - Trujillo, Peru (November)

### NEW COURTS BUILT

Bolivia-35, Chile-4, Colombia-2, Costa Rica-4, India-2, Mexico-4, Peru-3, Russia-2, USA-20, Uruguay-2

### MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- Racquetball is accepted as a full medal sport in the Pan American Olympic Festival - August 2014.
- PASO racquetball coaching clinic awarded to Guatemala City, Guatemala - September 2014
- Two beautiful glass-walled championship courts were unveiled at the World Games in Cali, Colombia: a major legacy from the Colombian Federation.
- For the first time in the history of the IRF, no players in the World Cup or Esprit Cup divisions were required to referee at Junior Worlds in Sucre, Bolivia.
- A new draw program was used as part of the competition at the Junior Worlds in Sucre, Bolivia. The new program allows the referee to use an electronic pad to record the score that is then transmitted to a wireless monitor. Soon, the data will travel instantly back to the control desk and will be automatically relayed to the results page on the IRF website.
- The IRF will certify coaches as part of the overall development of a coaches program.
- The IRF Referee program is being upgraded and will be included in all major IRF events for 2014. The IRF will have five levels of certification. There will be a Referee incentive program for Level 4 and 5 Referees.
- At the extremely successful World Games in Cali, Colombia, the IRF was able to expose racquetball to many IOC members and areas of the world where racquetball is not yet developed.
- Keith Calkins was elected to the Association of Recognized International Sports Federations.

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