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# RACQUETBALL

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U.S. Racquetball Association  
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## Rivalry?

**Waselenchuk VS. Huczek**

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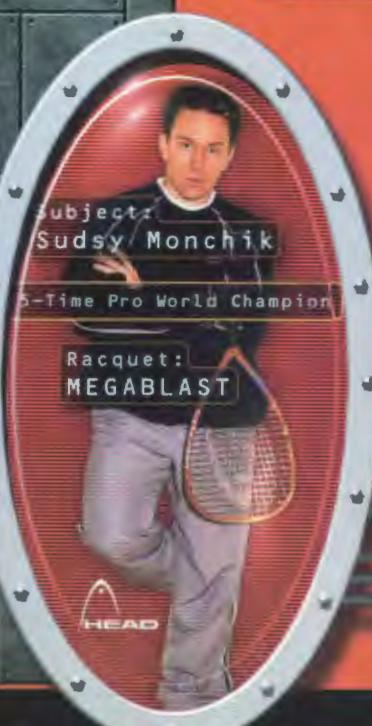
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## Mission Statement

USA Racquetball (USAR) is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide opportunities for members and enthusiasts to actively participate in the sport, through sanctioning of events, administration of programs and development of competitive teams.

## Vision Statement

To provide racquetball 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.

# FEATURES

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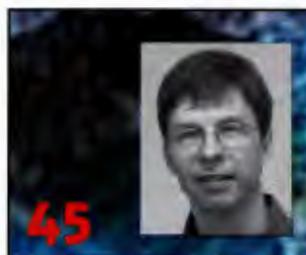
## Rivals?

Jack Huczak and Kane Waselenchuk are two of the brightest young stars on the IRT, but are they rivals?

**26**

## Junior Worlds

Adrienne Fisher (pictured) repeated as the girl's 18- world champion. Mexico also repeated, bringing home the World Cup for the second straight year.

**45**

## Catch the Wave

USA Racquetball Membership Director Kevin Joyce takes us through the ins and outs of the new on-line Membership Management System.



### USA Racquetball

Jim Hiser - Executive Director (130)  
Ivan Davis - VP/Marketing & Sales (124)  
Kevin Joyce - Membership Director (123)  
Luke St.Onge - International Director (131)  
Melody Weiss - Chief Financial Officer (122)

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# COUNTDOWN

10

years ago that skill levels were added to the National Singles Championships.

9

number of times the U.S. and Mexico had head-to-head match-ups in the finals of the 2003 IRF World Junior Championships.

8

months left until the 2004 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships take place in Memphis.

7

most consecutive women's team titles at the Intercollegiate Championships (University of Memphis, 1975-1981)

6

players have reached a final on the men's IRT this season.

5

players have reached a final on the women's LPRA tour this season.

4

the most times any male has won the Open division at the National Singles Championships.

3

times the No.1 ranking has changed hands this season on the IRT.

2

World Cup wins for Mexico's Junior National Team (2002, 2003).

1

number of national singles titles for Jeff Conine, member of the World Series Champion Florida Marlins (1985 boy's 18-).

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Frank Taddonio, President  
USA Racquetball Board of Directors



### CHANGING TIMES

It should be readily obvious to all of you by now that times are changing. The appearance, content and quality of this inaugural issue of the magazine is a clear message that USA Racquetball is making progress in our efforts to improve all aspects of our sport. Kevin Joyce has worked diligently through all sorts of challenges to bring the membership database on line. Jim Hiser, with a lot of help from others, initiated the rankings system that will definitely increase in accuracy over time.

Work has been ongoing to update and improve our website and, finally, we expect to establish the tournament management system promised to everyone during last year's Summit. It's easy to write about these projects and try to provide a status on their progress, but it has been an extremely arduous task to complete these monumental tasks in a timely manner. I can assure that everyone in the national office is working overtime to provide all of our members with the best possible support. I can say that with accuracy and first hand knowledge based on my recent visit to USA Racquetball headquarters.

Our financial situation is improving but not close to the goals set by our Executive Director, Jim Hiser. He has had to make some very difficult decisions, especially related to personnel, but I, and the board of Directors, support him and the direction that he is taking our organization.

The last nine months have literally been Fast and Furious while we strive for Fitness, but not always fun. However, the future of USA Racquetball is bright and we all ask for your support as we strive to be a better organization and support the states, as well as all of our members, to the best of our ability.

## SOUND OFF!

To send a letter to the editor for publication in RACQUETBALL Magazine, please send your name, address, telephone number, and the letter to:

Sound Off!  
1685 West Uintah  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904  
or e-mail to [RJohn@usra.org](mailto:RJohn@usra.org)  
subject line - Sound Off!

**USA Racquetball would like to thank Sport Graphics for their support in the printing and design of RACQUETBALL Magazine.**

# From the Top

Executive Directors Report

## James Hiser, Ph.D.



"Creating change, managing it, mastering it and surviving it is the agenda for anyone in business who aims to make a difference". This quote from a Fortune 500 CEO illustrates the challenges facing our industry as we continue to find solutions for increased participation.

In the past year our association has encountered numerous changes - new name, new interactive membership services, new ranking system, new marketing department, and new summit initiatives to mention only a few. Now, a new magazine publisher and format.

Why all the changes and what does the association hope to accomplish? Simply, what we were doing was not enough and in order to resolve our participation challenges, change was needed.

Our goals for the upcoming year are to return to the clubs, to the recreational players and to basic programming and promotions. We have worked diligently over the past year to improve services to our members and to our state associations. Although we will continue to work closely with our state associations, sanctioned events, and members, we will at the same time develop new initiatives to impact the recreational players.

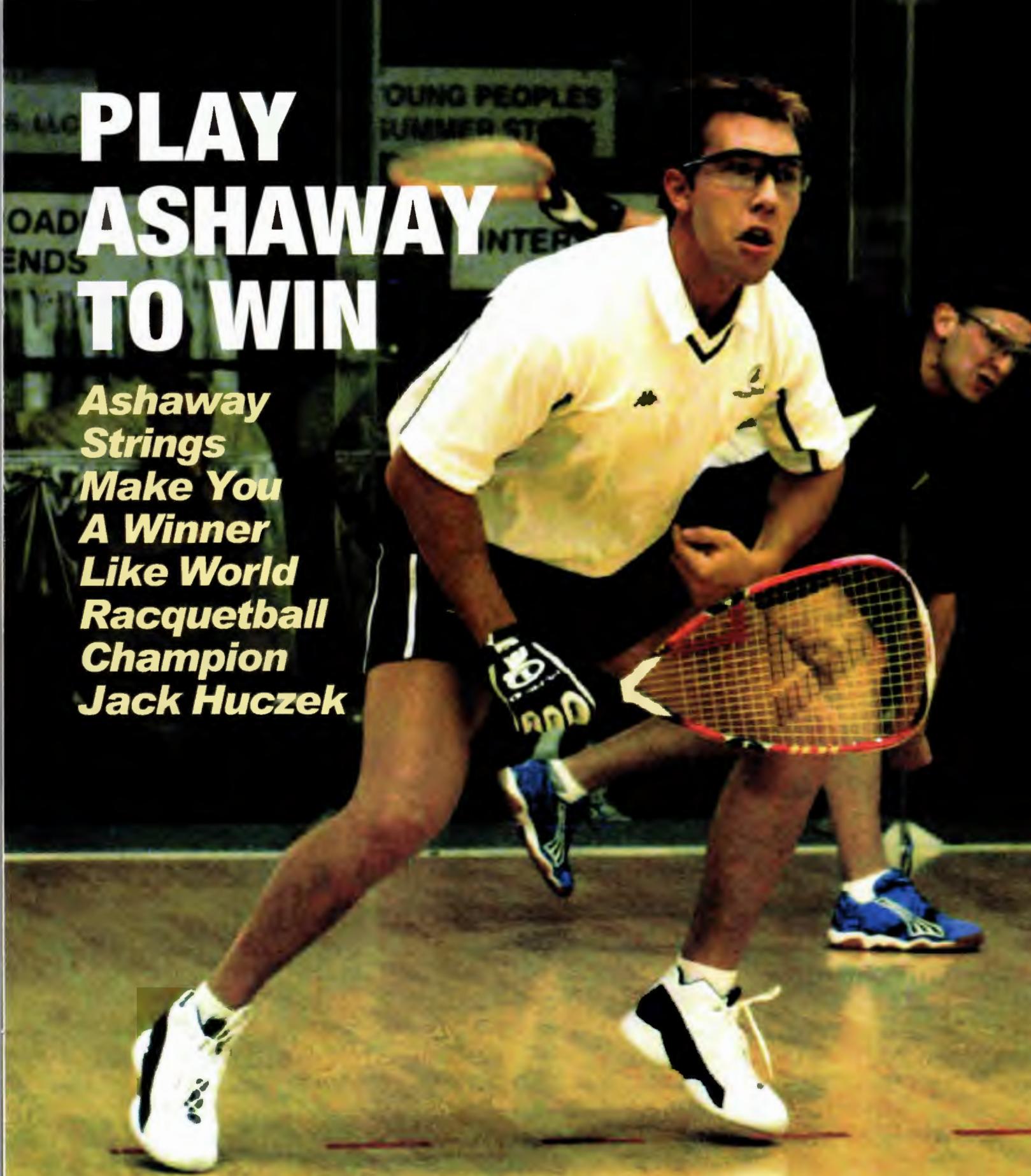
The new look for the magazine is an effort to attract new readers, advertisers and possibly even sponsors. Each issue of the magazine will include instructional, new programming ideas, and successful club promotions aimed at the recreational player and club programmer. We will also work closely with the racquetball manufacturers in their new efforts to return to grassroots development.

Coupled with the normal fiscal responsibilities of today's business environment the current objectives are both challenging and invigorating. In the past we have attempted to work closely with clubs, to implement grassroots programs and promote leagues. Although these programs enjoyed limited success, the new era of communication provides new opportunities for direct involvement with both management and players.

USA Racquetball looks forward to the changes ahead, and to a renewed interaction with our members and the racquetball community.

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A Winner  
Like World  
Racquetball  
Champion  
Jack Huczek*

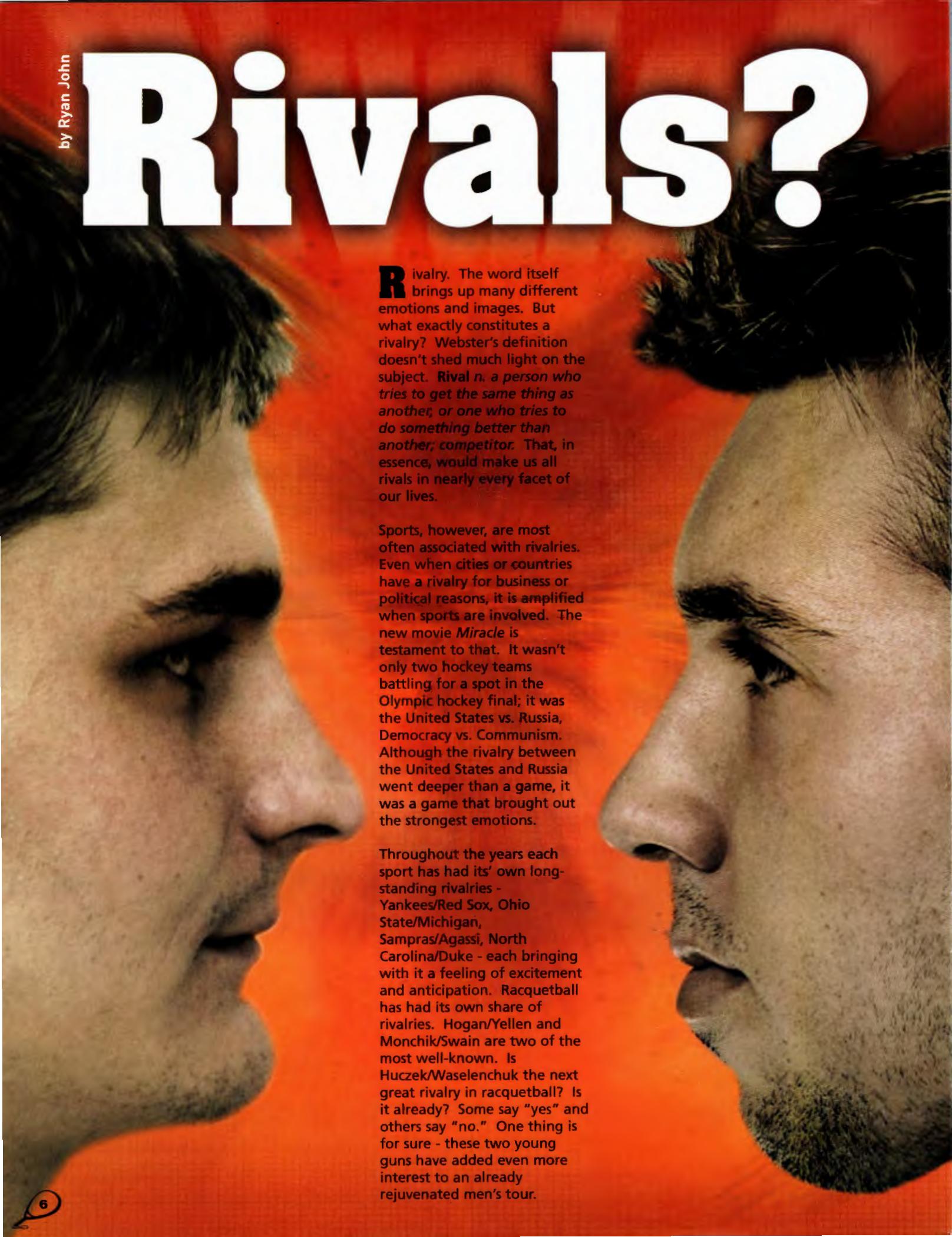


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# Rivals?



**R**ivalry. The word itself brings up many different emotions and images. But what exactly constitutes a rivalry? Webster's definition doesn't shed much light on the subject. *Rival n. a person who tries to get the same thing as another, or one who tries to do something better than another; competitor.* That, in essence, would make us all rivals in nearly every facet of our lives.

Sports, however, are most often associated with rivalries. Even when cities or countries have a rivalry for business or political reasons, it is amplified when sports are involved. The new movie *Miracle* is testament to that. It wasn't only two hockey teams battling for a spot in the Olympic hockey final; it was the United States vs. Russia, Democracy vs. Communism. Although the rivalry between the United States and Russia went deeper than a game, it was a game that brought out the strongest emotions.

Throughout the years each sport has had its' own long-standing rivalries - Yankees/Red Sox, Ohio State/Michigan, Sampras/Agassi, North Carolina/Duke - each bringing with it a feeling of excitement and anticipation. Racquetball has had its own share of rivalries. Hogan/Yellen and Monchik/Swain are two of the most well-known. Is Huczek/Waselenchuk the next great rivalry in racquetball? Is it already? Some say "yes" and others say "no." One thing is for sure - these two young guns have added even more interest to an already rejuvenated men's tour.

## IT'S A RIVALRY

An argument can be made that Jack Huczak versus Kane Waselenchuk is already the premier rivalry on the IRT. They have the right mix of similarities and differences for the making of a great rivalry and MTV is even considering featuring the two rising stars on an upcoming reality show called (what else?) Rivals.

They are both similar in age. Kane turned 22 just before winning the U.S. OPEN last November and Jack recently celebrated his 21st birthday in January.

"Because they are young and everyone else is getting old, it adds to the rivalry," said U.S. OPEN Director Doug Ganim. "They are the only ones from their generation of players to come out and make an impact on the tour."

The impact that they are making on tour is also similar. They have combined to take six of the first seven tour stops this season-claiming three wins apiece. They have each also held the coveted No.1 ranking at some point during the season. Kane moved into the No.1 spot after dominating the U.S. OPEN, but then forfeited the next two pro stops due to sickness and injury. Jack took advantage of Kane's absence and promptly claimed the top stop by posting a win in Cleveland and a second place finish in New York.

Both are also extremely athletic and bring a complete game with them when they walk onto the court. No ball is irretrievable and no shot is impossible for either of them. They can both play with power or finesse although Kane tends to lean more towards a power game and Jack prefers control.

Even though they have many similarities, they also are different in many ways. Jack plays right-handed, Kane is a southpaw, Kane plays more towards the crowd, Jack is more reserved, and they both come from different countries.

Jack was born and raised in Michigan and Kane hails from Canada. The two countries have had a long-standing racquetball rivalry and Canada is the only country, other than the U.S., to bring home the IRF World Cup.



"The U.S. and Canada have always competed for the men's title in international competition," said Jim Hiser, USA Racquetball Executive Director. "As the top players in each of their respective countries, Jack and Kane almost have an automatic rivalry."

Jack and Kane also have different styles both on and off the court. Kane is more inclined to be flashy and outgoing where Jack is more reserved and business-like. After a big shot, Kane might greet the crowd with a raucous fist pump or a yell. Jack, on the other hand, may just clench his fist or acknowledge the crowd with a nod, then gets right back to business. Both styles appeal to a diverse racquetball crowd and people tend to gravitate towards the player that most resembles their own style.

"I think that their differences in style play a factor in terms of enjoyment for the fans," explained Ganim. "But even without that, they would still be rivals."

Another factor often associated with rivalries is a genuine distaste for one's opponent. Both players are very careful when being interviewed and try to be politically correct when asked how they feel about each other, but it is hard to believe that they will be seen anytime soon having dinner together.

"What relationship? I really don't talk to the guy except on the court and you can't print most of that in the magazine," answered Kane when asked of his relationship with Jack. "It is what it is. I go about my business and he goes about his."

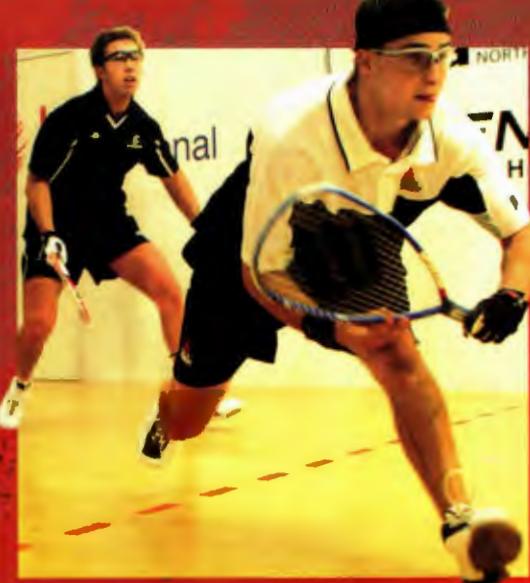
"I don't hate him or dislike him like I want to beat him up or anything," Jack replied when asked the same question of Kane. "But when I step on the court, no matter who I play, it's always for blood."

So they are rivals. Right??

## IT'S NOT A RIVALRY

There are still others that do not believe that Jack and Kane are a rivalry, although most agree that it has potential. Not surprisingly, neither Jack nor Kane feel that they have yet developed into a legitimate rivalry.

The country versus country, Canada versus U.S., argument may not lend much support towards a rivalry between Jack and Kane. Unlike the U.S. and Russia during the 80's, Canada



## What is a Rivalry?

I think the one thing that constitutes a rivalry is the intensity of a match between certain players and their hatred of losing to that player more than anyone else in the world.

-Brian Pointelin, West Jordan, Utah

To me it would be two people or two teams that are striving for the same goals and often end up in head-to-head competition.

-Jen Myers, Fruita, Colo.

Two people or two teams where the competition is especially intense or especially heated, and it tends to bring out the best in both. It has a little more meaning than others.

-Rhonda Rajsich, Phoenix, Ariz.

A rivalry is basically where either a great team or two great players compete and they trade wins and losses.

-Leo Vasquez, Houston, Texas

A rivalry is a competition that has some history, maybe a little bad blood, but it's not necessarily hatred. It's used as a motivational tool for training.

-Merle Walker, Cleveland, Ohio

When you are younger, it has to do with proximity. When you get older, it has to do with winning. Rivalries are created in professional sports.

-Rich Donnelly, Steubenville, Ohio

and the U.S. are friendly neighbors for the most part. That, coupled with nationality not playing a major role on the IRT and Kane's move to Austin, Texas, just about lays any international battle to rest.

One of the biggest knocks on the Jack/Kane rivalry is that Jack has never defeated Kane in an IRT event. In their last seven head-to-head matches, dating back to February of 2002, Kane has defeated Jack seven straight times. Three of those matches only needed three games to be decided and just one, their first pro meeting, went five games.

"People might look at it as one because of our age, but for it to be a rivalry don't you have to take turns beating each other?" Kane asked. "He's never beat me on the IRT."

Another reason that it may not yet be a full fledged rivalry is both players' relative newness to professional racquetball. Even though they have quickly risen to the top, both are just in their third full season on tour.

"I am awed that they have reached the top so fast, but they are not at the same level of Sudsy and Cliff yet - not even close," explained IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete, who knows that a heated rivalry would only help the IRT. "When they have battled for the No.1 spot 10 years in a row, then we can say they are there."

Jack agrees with the commissioner, "Right now I would say 'no' (to a rivalry) because we haven't played that much. We have only gone at it a few years. I think a rivalry is something that happens over a long period of time."

Not only haven't they been on the tour for very long, they haven't had that many head-to-head meetings, especially in big match-ups. Although they have combined to win six tour stops this season, they have yet to meet in a final.

"When they start to get some finals against each other under their belts, especially like a U.S. OPEN or a big money tournament like Chicago, then the rivalry will blossom," Negrete explained. "That hasn't happened yet."

So they aren't rivals. Right??

### RIVALS?

After gathering many different facts and opinions, it's still hard to tell. If Jack and Kane quit playing racquetball today would they go be mentioned in the same breath as Hogan/Yellen or Monchik/Swain? Probably not, but it is hard to dismiss that they have the potential to be just as well known.

Either way, the discussions have added excitement and drama to the men's tour. If it becomes the next great rivalry in racquetball it can only be good for the sport. Both players agree with that - even if they don't think that it is quite there yet.

"I think it adds excitement and interest and it's healthy for the sport," said Jack. "If it keeps enthusiasm and interest it will help the sport of racquetball grow."

"I think Jack and I could take racquetball to the next level," added Kane. "Not just us, but there are a lot of other great players out there right now that can do that."

|   |          |          |          |          |          |          |   |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| January 13, 1983 (age - 21)   | <b>B</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>B</b> | November 9, 1981 (age - 22)   |
| Warren, Michigan  | <b>W</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>S</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>L</b> | <b>E</b> | Edmonton, Alberta, Canada   |
| Rochester, Michigan   | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | Edmonton, Alberta, Canada   |
| Rochester, Michigan   | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | Austin, Texas   |
| ProKennex, Python, Ashaway,<br>RacquetMonkey.com  | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | Ektelon   |
| 5-6 days per week - Cardio: 1-1 1/2 hours, Weights:<br>1 1/2-2 hours, Court time: 1 hour, Stretching/Foot<br>drills: 1 hour | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | Court time: 1-1 1/2 hours - 5-6x's per week,<br>Cardio: 30 mins.- 1 1/2 hours - 3-4x's per<br>week, Weights: 1 hour - 3-4x's per week |
| In 3rd Season   | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | In 3rd season   |
| 4   | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | 3   |
| 3   | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | 3   |
| Sharon Huczak (Mother), Jim Floyd,<br>Dave Peck, Aaron Katz   | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | Darren Waselenchuk (father), and all the<br>people back home that played racquetball<br>when he was starting out.                     |
| Himself. "As long as I am prepared for<br>the match it doesn't matter who I play."  | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | Himself. "I feel like when I am on, no<br>one can beat me."   |
| Conditioning, mental toughness, and<br>consistency  | <b>H</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Z</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>C</b> | Power, quickness, and anticipation.   |

## HEAD-TO-HEAD

### 2003-2004 Season

U.S. OPEN

Waselenchuk def. Huczak

11-9, 11-5, 7-11, 11-6

### 2002-2003 Season

Long Horn Pro-Am  
New York City Pro-Am  
Summer Cooler Pro-Am  
XI IRF World Championships

Waselenchuk def. Huczak  
Waselenchuk def. Huczak  
Waselenchuk def. Huczak  
Huczak def. Waselenchuk

11-8, 11-6, 11-9  
11-9, 12-10, 11-6  
15-13, 11-2, 6-11, 11-5  
15-3, 15-14

### 2001-2002 Season

Pro Nationals  
North Carolina Open  
San Diego Open

Waselenchuk def. Huczak  
Waselenchuk def. Huczak  
Waselenchuk def. Huczak

11-9, 5-11, 11-7, 11-6  
11-3, 13-11, 11-3  
9-11, 11-2, 6-11, 11-8, 11-4

# Our Common Thread

Randy Stafford  
V.P. USA Racquetball Board of Directors



**D**uring the past several years of my racquetball participation, I have noticed something that is very interesting. Either in tournaments where I compete (some say I use "compete" loosely) or in the business of racquetball, I have found that the people I encounter in all levels of racquetball have something very unique in common. They all seem to have incredible, contagious, on-going fun when they play racquetball. More fun, from what I've seen, than any other type of sport or physical level activity.

For example, at the US OPEN, which is one of our largest tournaments, there are players, workers, vendors, volunteers, and many other people that are involved in the tournament. The "common thread" that ties us together is that almost all of these people have racquetball as a major part of their life, but it's seasoned with a flavor of fun, high spirits and camaraderie rare to sports today. Some have played for just a few years. Others, such as us old timers, have been around longer than dirt. We all band together in our unique sport during this time and the fellowship and camaraderie forged is very unique and fun.

The players come from all walks of life, something else unique to this sport, but everyone seems to have a great time. There is a long list of occupations and backgrounds. For instance, we have military personnel, nurses, doctors, salespeople, business owners, factory workers, executives, firemen, retirees, students, stay at home moms or dads, and kids, to name a few. The point is there are players from the entire spectrum of life, all enjoying something together that creates a special bond.

Our common connection is racquetball. I guess you could say we are somewhat of a cult as we hold on to our sport no matter what. We feverishly defend it to others outside our circle as one of the greatest individual sports ever created and take pride that we play a highly competitive, one-on-one sport unlike any other. We truly are a group of people that, no matter our background, all have a common ground and understand a part of each other that outsiders do not.

This powerful connection is a reflection of how racquetball affects our daily lives. I know from personal experience that it is nice to be known as a racquetball player for many reasons. Your friends think you must be a pretty good athlete to start with. A lot of respect is handed to us for competing in such a fast and aggressive sport. This common thread is powerful in that it gives us many friends from all walks of life and enhances our lives in many ways. In addition to the friends our sport

provides us, it also offers us health, good exercise, and a sense of belonging to a group unlike any other. Once you get involved in the sport, you understand what I am talking about.

The fun aspects of our sport are the greatest. One of the places where I play is probably typical of most places. The players are all cutting each other down and calling each other "easy" and saying things like "I am going to beat you so bad today you shouldn't even have showed up," and so on and so on. During play, their personality changes to some type of maniacal Mr. Hyde. Off the court, these players are usually quite pleasant. Basically, everyone is just riding the other player and trying to beat them at the same time. It is their way to have fun on the court and get their exercise at the same time. But, once done with playing, the crazy verbal abuse stops and life goes on like nothing ever happened.

At the U.S. OPEN, I put together a history booth that

portrays the path our sport has taken with all the equipment changes throughout the years. It is interesting to see the drastic changes we have had in



the racquets and balls, and quite a few tried and failed innovations during this time. But what has not changed are the people connected with racquetball. One year I

**"In addition to the friends our sport provides us, it also offers us health, good exercise, and a sense of belonging to a group..."**

laid out a pad of paper and asked everyone that came by to fill it out and put their name, age and when and where they started playing racquetball. It was so interesting to see all the different years and ages that people wrote down. One guy said he started playing in 1944, (now I have to wonder about that). The point is that at the U.S. OPEN, all the players, workers, and spectators have a "common thread" and that was a start date, albeit different, in a special group or extended family of racquetball.

# Players Helping

**T**he "Players Helping Players" campaign has begun again this year with a goal of \$75,000 for the year. Although no one has 'officially' stepped up to the Open Level (\$5000 & up), two anonymous donor's have contributed \$32,950. We have already received nearly 50% of our goal but continue to need your help in order to reach it. Help the sport of racquetball... **CONTRIBUTE TODAY!**

**Open Level (\$5,000 & up)**

*anonymous* - \$25,000

*anonymous* - \$7,950

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

*John Vohland* - \$1,500

**A Level (\$500 & up)**

*Steve Meltsner* - \$500

**B Level (\$250 & up)**

*William Sanderson* - \$250

*James Woolcock* - \$250

**C Level (\$100 & up)**

*Joe Houck* - \$100

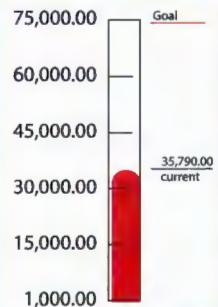
*Joe Lambert* - \$100

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

*Alan Tolliver* - \$50

*Bill Genarella* - \$50

**2004 Total Donations: \$35, 790**



As we move forward with our sport, we would like to add many more people with a new starting date. And we would like to offer to them the same kind of services that you have received in the past from our sport. In order for us to operate the USAR, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to promote racquetball, we need to have donated funds from our supporters, and such is the nature of the critter, it must be an ongoing donation of funds year-in and year-out.

This year is a major turning point for the USAR. More on this in the next issue, but right now we need everyone to help out with a donation so that we can continue to grow our sport. We cannot operate the USAR without donations from players like we use to be able to do. In the past we received major money from the USOC, and that has been cut to very little money in the past few years. Your donation will go directly to support racquetball and grow our sport. The amount is up to you, I just ask you to please support our sport so we can work for you and others that share our "common thread".

Randy Stafford  
VP USAR



# Players

# ON CAMPUS COLLEGIATE UPDATE

by Shane Wood, ECRC Executive Director



**T**he 2003-2004 Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC) Season is off and running and continues to grow at a rapid pace. With the help of USA Racquetball and Racquetworld.com, the ECRC has grown to a record high twenty-one (21) Colleges and Universities represented in the league. The student athletes all compete in an attempt to earn points towards the ECRC Cup so that they may showcase it at their respective schools.

Headed up by perennial contenders such as Penn State University, Clarkson University, University of Maryland, Bryant College, Rensselaer Poly-Technical Institute, Nichols College, Western New England College and SUNY-Binghamton, the ECRC has also brought in players from UMass-Amherst, Providence College, Worcester State College, St. John's University, University of New Hampshire, Albany Law School, Roger Williams University, Randolph-Macon College, Virginia Tech, Gordon College, University of Pittsburgh, Northeastern University and Wilkes University. These teams travel all over the Northeast, putting 110% on the courts and then, win or lose, shaking hands with a new friend from another college.

The ECRC already represents a large percentage of schools at the USA Racquetball Intercollegiate Championships each year and, with many more clinics planned at new schools, the percentage will continue to grow. The goal of the league is to have over 200 players from 30 colleges participate in the 2005 Northeast Collegiate Regionals, and the league is certainly on pace to achieve that

number. Hopefully other Colleges and Universities all over the country will continue to expand their racquetball programs. These programs will continue to give student-athletes an opportunity to participate in this wonderful sport, helping in the process to bring racquetball popularity to its highest levels in history.

As I have told all the athletes that have come through the ECRC over the last 10 years, with a little bit of hard work, a racquetball program can be started at any campus in the country at any time. Speaking from experience, I can assure you that being part of the racquetball team at Nichols College and being a part of the ECRC was one of the most memorable experiences of my life, and I encourage everyone out there to pursue the same.

If you are interested in starting a program, or you have a program at your school and would like to bring it to the next level, please feel free to contact me at any time on my cell phone at (508) 479-6597 (I'll request sometime before 2AM, but I have learned in the last few years that doesn't happen very often!), or by e-mail at [racquetballchamp@hotmail.com](mailto:racquetballchamp@hotmail.com).

If you are anywhere in the Northeast Region and you have students playing on your courts, I would love the opportunity to offer a free clinic to get things off the ground and get your school involved in the ECRC. If you are in other parts of the country, please contact me and I will lead you in the right direction. Hope to see you all on the courts soon.■

# JUNIOR MATTERS

Last June, 39 junior players and their families headed from Oregon to Manchester, New Hampshire for the USA Racquetball Junior Olympic Championships where Team Oregon earned its 12th consecutive National Team Championship. We are often asked what our "recipe for success" is. To put it simply, we try to get as many kids playing racquetball as possible. We then create opportunities for newer players to learn from our many, national championship caliber players. By watching and playing more experienced players, newer players are able to hone the skills they need to become better at the game.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** Of course it certainly takes a tremendous amount of dedication from many, many volunteers, most of which are parents. The Oregon Junior Racquetball Association (OJRA) also features "Tour Stops", as well as a High School League, which are structured as follows:

## **OJRA Tour Stops**

- › OJRA sponsors 5-6 monthly tournament "Tour Stops"
- › Typically about 80 kids participate in each Tour Stop
- › Tour Stops feature both age-based divisions and skill-based divisions
- › Juniors receive a T-shirt and can earn trophies in each event
- › Entry fee is free if it is a junior's first tournament

## **OJRA High School League**

- › This year 345 kids comprised a total of 34 teams from 27 different high schools
- › The league runs four tournaments in addition to the State High School Championships
- › Most schools recognize racquetball as a club sport, although some offer letters to qualified participants
- › Tournament matches are one game to 11. Players typically compete in five to six matches against those of similar ability
- › If a player wishes to compete in the league, but attends a high school that doesn't have a program, they are granted a one-year grace period and may compete for their next closest high school. To continue in the league for a second year, the player must establish a team at their high school with at least 2 other players.

These models have allowed many new juniors to catch "Racquetball Fever". As a result, many of the newer players have made commitments to attend both National and World Championship events. Players who participate in these events learn many new skills and return to their home clubs more excited than ever to improve their games!

Each state has its own unique format for a junior program. We offer others to share Oregon's "recipe for success" in the interest of continued growth to the great sport of racquetball!

Please check out the OJRA website at [www.oregonracquetball.org](http://www.oregonracquetball.org) for more information regarding the OJRA ! You can also contact myself (brucer@dprinc.com) or John Ferguson (ferguson85@comcast.net) for help on starting a program at your club.

Bruce Reid  
OJRA President

## **Who do you know that is an up-and-comer?**

In future issues of Racquetball Magazine we would like to highlight a junior player (not on the Junior National Team) that is on the move. To nominate a junior player, please send their name, contact information, and a summary of why you think they should be featured to:

RJohn@usra.org Subject: Up & Comers  
or mail to USRA, Attn: Up & Comers,  
1685 West Uintah,  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

## THE LEGENDS HAVE SOME FUN IN THE SUN

The Legends Tour was back in Coral Springs, Florida Feb 6-8 for the 2004 America's Cup International Racquetball Championships. The South Florida crowd was great as always and the play was as good as the weather.

### QUARTERFINALS

Top seeded Ruben Gonzalez defeated Todd O'Neil in a three-game thriller and Corey Brysman cruised past Scott Oliver in a quick two-gamer. Mike Ray got by Dave Johnson in two extremely tough games.

In the final quarterfinal match Marty Hogan and Gerry Price went to war! Price came out red hot and showed the power game and big backhand that were his career trademarks, easily defeating Hogan, 15-3, in the first. Hogan came back strong and

dispatched Price, 15-6, in the second. The tiebreaker was a seesaw affair that left Hogan and Price tied at 9-9. Hogan got in the box and served an extremely hard-Z to the forehand that elicited a weak return, which Hogan jumped all over to take a 10-9 lead. Hogan again went back to the forehand power-Z, forcing Price to skip a tough return and send Hogan on to the semifinals.

### SEMIFINALS

Hogan defeated Brysman in two extremely close games and Gonzalez took out Ray in three, setting up Sunday's final.

### FINAL

The final was anticlimactic as tired Gonzalez went down to a fresh Hogan, 15-11, 15-4, to end a great weekend.

## INTERVIEW WITH MARTY HOGAN

**RACQUETBALL:**  
How has the game changed since the 1970s, when you started your career.

**MARTY:**

**HOGAN:**  
The racquets are bigger and the balls are faster, and because of the equipment evolution it's become a faster game. That being said with the one serve rule and screen zones on the sides, the serve is emphasized less now than it was in the late seventies and eighties. I also think the athletes are better, but not as tough as the pioneers of the game.

**RB:** What do you mean by not as tough?

**MH:** Dr. Bud once won a tournament with a broken foot. Brumfield, Hilecher and Keeley played injured thru out there whole careers. I remember playing Dave Peck in Miami at the finals of The Tournament of Champions. Dave broke his finger in the first game and finished out the match. Once in Vegas, Brett Harnett and Ruben collided in mid court. I think Ruben fractured a rib, he was spitting up blood. Someone taped his ribs with an ace bandage and he went back in and finished the match. I played with pain in my injured knee more often than not, it was part of the game. Very few guys do that today. They skip events when they are injured or sick and quit before a match is over. We didn't do that.



**RB:** Who on today's tour, do you consider tough?

**MH:** Jason Mannino and Cliff Swain.

Jason came back from a "career ending injury" and you never hear him complaining or using it as an excuse. He shows up for every event, sick or injured. Swain is as tough as they come. He played a season on torn cartilage and ligaments in his knee. At the last event in New York, he dislocated a finger and let a random fan pull it back in place. Those guys are tough. They are throwbacks.

**RB:** Who are the top ten players of all-time excluding yourself.

**MH:** 1) Cliff Swain, Six times #1 and seven times #2. 2) Charlie Brumfield, ranked #1 or #2 for ten years in a row 1969-1978. 3) Dr. Bud Muhleisen. He dominated racquetball and paddleball in the 60's. 4) Sudsy Monchik, 5 times #1, the most talented player ever. 5) Mike Yellen 5 times #1, the first great big racquet player 6) Bill Schmidtke, 2 time #1. 1971 and 1974. The best pure forehand in the game. 7) Dave Peck, a real warrior and great strokes. #1 in 1982. 8) Ruben Gonzalez, thirty years in to his career and he hasn't lost a thing. #1 in 1988. 9) Jason Mannino, the greatest retriever in the history of the sport. A smart player. #1 in 2003. 10) Steve Keeley, the most underrated player of all-time. Dominated champs like Schmidtke and Yellen, never losing a match to either. Lost only one match in 1973, in the National Finals to Brumfield. Won over fifty matches and beat Brumfield three times in his best season.

**RB:** Who do you see as the next great champion?

**MH:** Kane certainly has the physical ability. He reminds me of a young Swain. Jack reminds me of a young Yellen or Keeley. I just don't know if Kane has the burning desire Cliff has. If he does, nobody can stop him.

**RB:** You recently attended The Junior World Championships in Orlando. What was your impression?

**MH:** I was shocked how advanced the kids are. I watched a ten year old girl named Veronica from Ecuador, she could have won the Women's Open in the Seventies. Her shot selection was unbelievable. I also watched a five year old Mexican boy, they called "Bon Bon." What a player. I tried to talk to him, but he thought I was with the IRF and trying to enforce a curfew, so he ran away. We had some great young American prospects as well.

The Rojas brothers from Stockton, CA are both exceptional. In the Boys 10 & under doubles the top two Mexican teams squared off against our top two teams in the semis. Joseph Lee and Dylan Reid played one team and Matt Hunter and Josh Hirsch played the other. The Mexican teams ended up taking both matches in tiebreakers, but what great matches they were.

**RB:** Who would you like to see on The Legends Tour, that doesn't play today?

**MH:** Mike Yellen would be great. I'd like to have Egan Inoue at every event, he brings allot of excitement. Jerry Hilecher and Davey Bledsoe would still put on a great show. I'd also like to get Jeff Conine out for a few events.

**RB:** That sounds great. Any other plans for 2004?

**MH:** I'm working on some new sponsorship deals and ways to work closer with USA Racquetball, the IRT and the LPR. I also plan to beat Dave Peck and Ruben Gonzalez at least ten times each this year.



**The Legends Tour**  
Classic Pro Racquetball

## 2003-2004 LEGENDS RACQUETBALL TOUR SCHEDULE & SCORECARD

|                 |                                  |                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Coral Springs   | Cliff Swain def Marty Hogan      | 15-7, 10-15, 11-6  |
| Las Vegas       | Marty Hogan def Mike Ray         | 15-10, 9-15, 11-9  |
| Portland        | Cliff Swain def Mike Ray         | 15-10, 15-9        |
| Fountain Valley | Cliff Swain def Corey Brysman    | 15-6, 14-15, 11-3  |
| Riverside       | Cliff Swain def Marty Hogan      | 15-9, 15-13        |
| San Juan        | Ruben Gonzalez def Marty Hogan   | 15-14, 12-15, 11-4 |
| Memphis         | Ruben Gonzalez def. Marty Hogan  | 11-15, 15-9, 11-7  |
| New York        | Ruben Gonzalez def. Mike Ceresia | 15-10, 15-11       |
| Coral Springs   | Marty Hogan def. Ruben Gonzalez  | 15-11, 15-4        |

April 2-4 Boston, MA Red Swain Memorial @ Metro South Athletic Club  
 April 16-18 New York, NY Double A Classic  
 April 31-May 2 Phoenix, AZ Legends Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University

For information concerning any Legends Tour events, contact Marty Hogan at 636-346-2305, send e-mail to [pvranch@aol.com](mailto:pvranch@aol.com), or go to [www.legendsrbtour.com.com](http://www.legendsrbtour.com.com).

## LEGENDS TOUR RANKINGS

(as of 2/10/04)

1. Cliff Swain (Braintree, MA)
2. Marty Hogan (St. Louis, MO)
3. Ruben Gonzalez (Staten Island, NY)
4. Dave Peck (Austin, TX)
5. Mike Ray (Hilton Head, N.C.)
6. Corey Brysman (Miami, FL)
7. Dave Johnson (Huntington Beach, CA)
8. Gregg Peck (Coppell, TX)
9. Steve Lerner (Riverside, CA)
10. Brett Harnett (Las Vegas, NV)
11. Gerry Price (San Ramon, CA)
12. Mike Ceresia (Burlington, Ontario)
13. Benny Koltun (Chesterfield, MO)
14. Todd O'Neil (Belleville, NE)
15. Doug Ganim (Westerville, OH)
16. Scott Oliver (Sacramento, CA)

## LEGENDS OF RACQUETBALL TRIVIA

- match the players to their accomplishments

1. Two-time Pro Racquetball Player of the Year, that was never ranked #1:
2. 1985 Ektelon Pro National Champion:
3. 1979 Pro Racquetball Rookie of the Year:
4. 1970 National Racquetball Champion:
5. Author of The Complete Book of Racquetball:
6. The Ektelon XL racket was named after and used by:
7. The only player to win: Four Pro/Open Nationals, the Three Wall Nationals, Two National Open Doubles, Two Paddleball National Singles and two Paddleball National Doubles:
8. Won Five points titles/World Championships but only two Player of The Year Awards:
9. Won his first pro title and the 1988 World Championship after age thirty five:
10. 1989 World Professional Racquetball Champion:

## THE LEGENDS TAKE NEW YORK

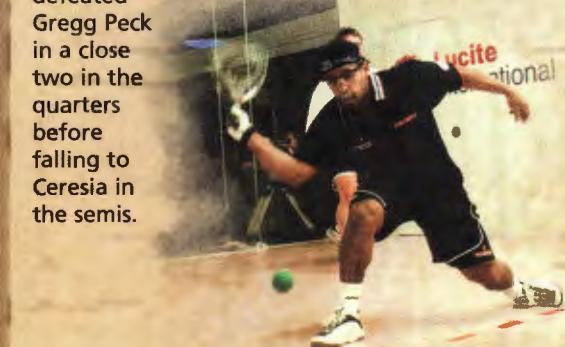
The Legends Tour was in Long Island for New York Pro-Am, January 16-18, 2004. The event was highlighted by an unbelievable semifinal showdown between Seven Time World Professional Champion, Marty "Smokin" Hogan and New York's own former World Champion, Ruben "Speedy" Gonzalez. Hogan came out strong. He was crushing every ball and mixing in powerful drive serves with deep lobs. Ruben was all over the court, hustling for every ball and re-killing everything.

Marty took the first game, 15-10, and looked unstoppable, but Ruben turned in to a fifty-one-year-old Superman in the second game. He flew thru the air and picked up shot after shot with dives that were as graceful as they were amazing. It seemed he got a little extra credit for hustle, as referee, Scott Hirsch missed a couple of two-bounce gets late in the game. Ruben took game two, 15-12, to send the match to a tiebreaker.

As great as the first two games were, the third was even better. Ruben and Marty went back and forth, point for point. Marty seemed to hit it even harder in the third and somehow Ruben seemed to move even faster. Marty stepped into the box trailing 8-9 in the breaker and exploded a drive serve that must have been 160MPH, just inches across the serve line, for an ace. He then followed with an equally hard and low serve, resulting in an easy forehand setup, which put the match on his racquet, 10-9. Would Marty go for a third drive and take Ruben out in his hometown? No, Marty had one last trick up his sleeve. Hogan switched the racquet to his left hand and announced to the crowd he'd finish the match lefty. Ruben responded by tossing his racket of the court and the former World Handball Champion said he'd play Hogan with his hands. Marty lobbed a serve to Ruben that caromed off the back wall. Ruben easily killed it and followed up with two more handball kills off Hogan setups to end one of the greatest matches in Legends history. The crowd exploded as they cheered on these two great athletes as only a New York crowd can.

Ruben then went on to beat Mike Ceresia in two close games to take the title. Ruben had earlier beat Dave Johnson 11-2 tiebreaker in the quarters. Hogan took Todd O'Neil out in two in an earlier quarter. Dan Llacer defeated

Gregg Peck in a close two in the quarters before falling to Ceresia in the semis.



- Charlie Brumfield
- Craig Finger
- Ruben Gonzalez
- Brett Harnett
- Marty Hogan
- Steve Keeley
- Dave Peck
- Bill Schmidtke
- Cliff Swain
- Mike Yellen

# LPRA HAWAII

The Honolulu Club - Honolulu, Hawaii • January 15-18

## Round of 16

Cheryl Gudinas def. Laura Fenton 8, 8, 4

Christie Van Hees def. Lori-Jane Powell 5, 2, 5

Kristen Walsh def. Angela Grisar 2, 11, (7), (4), 9

Although she lost this close match, Angela continues to rise in the rankings. She has shot up to No.13 in her first season on tour.

Kersten Hallander def. Stephanie Munger 5, 6, 6

Rhonda Rajsich def. Rosy Torres 3, 6, 6

Adrienne Fisher def. Suzy Acosta 10, (15), 7, 4

Adrienne and Suzy combined to score 54 points as they split the first two games. But it was the current World Junior champ who prevailed over the Pan American Games doubles gold medalist in four.

Jackie Rice def. Jo Shattuck 4, 0, 1

Kerri Wachtel def. Denise Mock 0, 2, 1

## Quarterfinals

Cheryl Gudinas def. Christie Van Hees 0, (11), (9), 5, 5

Cheryl earned revenge for the loss handed to her by Christie at the U.S. OPEN in November. It wasn't the only five-gamer - every quarterfinal went this distance.

Kristen Walsh def. Kersten Hallander (14), 7, (0), 4, 4

Kristen brushed aside the doughnut she received in the third game to win the next two and take the match. The win moved her closer to Kersten in the battle for the No.4 spot.

Rhonda Rajsich def. Adrienne Fisher (8), (6), 7, 9, 10

Rhonda battled back after finding herself down 9-1 and two games to one in the fourth. The fifth game was a see-saw battle that Rhonda pulled out 12-10 for the match.

Jackie Rice def. Kerri Wachtel 6, (7), 7, (8), 7

Jackie skipped the U.S. OPEN, but didn't look like she missed a beat as she pulled out a close one over No.2 Kerri in five.

## Semifinals

Cheryl Gudinas def. Kristen Walsh 6, 5, 6

Kristen's athleticism wasn't enough to come up with a win as Cheryl dispatched her doubles partner in three straight games.

Jackie Rice def. Rhonda Rajsich (3), 8, 3, 6

After easily winning the first game, Rhonda became frustrated with some calls and non-calls on the court. Jackie took advantage of this to win the next three games.

Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice 4, 4, 3

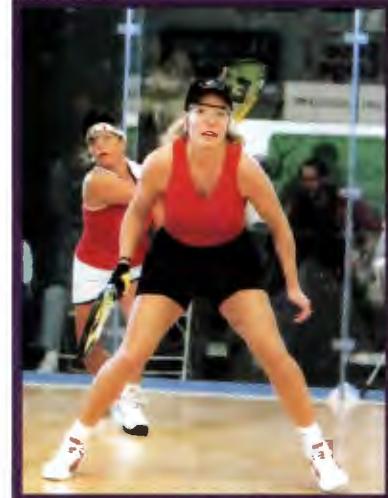
This was Cheryl and Jackie's first meeting in a final this season after facing off with a title on the line six times last season. Cheryl seemed to get better with each match and won for the fourth time in the five tournaments played this season.

## FINAL



## Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Season Rankings (Rankings through Honolulu)

| Points      | Player              | Hometown                    | Last Issue | Last Year |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. 1023.500 | Cheryl Gudinas      | Lisle, IL                   | 1          | 1         |
| 2. 529.750  | Kerri Wachtel       | Cincinnati, OH              | 2          | 3         |
| 3. 461.250  | Rhonda Rajsich      | Phoenix, AZ                 | 3          | 4         |
| 4. 311.500  | Kersten Hallander   | San Diego, CA               | 4          | 5         |
| 5. 269.750  | Kristen Walsh       | Salt Lake City, UT          | 5          | 8         |
| 6. 210.750  | Adrienne Fisher     | Centerville, OH             | 7          | 7         |
| 7. 198.000  | Jackie Paraiso Rice | El Cajon, CA                | 8          | 2         |
| 8. 177.250  | Kim Russell         | Austin, TX                  | 6          | 6         |
| 9. 156.250  | Christie Van Hees   | Kelowna, British Columbia   | 11         | NR        |
| 10. 143.000 | Brenda Kyzer        | Lexington, SC               | 9          | 10        |
| 11. 133.500 | Lori-Jane Powell    | Prince Albert, Saskatchewan | 10         | 11        |
| 12. 107.500 | Johanna Shattuck    | Denver, CO                  | 12         | 20        |
| 13. 95.250  | Angela Grisar       | Santiago, Chile             | 18         | NR        |
| 14. 85.500  | Amy Foster          | Fairlawn, OH                | 13         | 12        |
| 15. 100.000 | Susy Acosta         | Chihuahua, Mexico           | 14         | 9         |
| 16. 77.000  | Rachel Gellman      | Phoenix, AZ                 | 15         | 18        |
| 17. 76.750  | Doreen Fowler       | Rockville, MD               | 16         | 16        |
| 18. 76.500  | Stephanie Munger    | Anchorage, AK               | 21         | 21        |
| 19. 67.000  | Tammy Brown         | Boise, ID                   | 17         | 19        |
| 20. 58.750  | Karen Morton        | Erie, PA                    | 20         | 30        |



# LPRA

# 2004 AMERICA'S CUP

The Quad Athletic Club - Coral Springs, Florida • February 6-8

## Round of 16

Cheryl Gudinas def. Lupita Torres 1, 0, 3

Brenda Kyzer def. Jo Shattuck 7, 5, 6

Kristen Walsh def. Karen Morton 3, 3, 6

Kersten Hallander def. Ramona Von Ondaraza 6, 6, 2

Rhonda Rajsich def. Krystal Csuk 5, (7), (9), 5, 6

Rhonda was battling the flu and Krystal, but managed to pull out a five-game win in a battle between two former U.S. Intercollegiate champions.

Adrienne Fisher def. Angela Grisar 9, 9, (10), 8

Every game was close in this one, but Adrienne showed that she has improved enough to become a consistent quarterfinalist.

Christie Van Hees def. Suzy Acosta 7, 2, 1

Kerri Wachtel def. Diane Moore 6, 6, 6

## Quarterfinals

Cheryl Gudinas def. Brenda Kyzer (10), 2, 5, 8

Cheryl started out slow and Brenda came out with power to take a close first game. Cheryl kicked it up a notch and came out to win the next three games in impressive fashion.

Kristen Walsh def. Kersten Hallander 7, 5, (8), (4), 7

Kristen continued her assault on the No.4 spot by defeating Kersten in the quarterfinals for the second straight time. Kersten continued to battle after finding herself down two games to none, nearly pulling off the comeback.

Adrienne Fisher def. Rhonda Rajsich 3, 9, (2), (1), 8

Adrienne played spectacular and Rhonda wasn't 100%, resulting in a five-game win for the World Junior champion.

Christie Van Hees def. Kerri Wachtel 0, 6, (3), (4), 5

Christie came out of the gates on fire, serving up a doughnut in the first game. Kerri battled back in the third and fourth games, but Christie was at the top of her game in the fifth.

## Semifinals

Cheryl Gudinas def. Kristen Walsh 0, (7), 6, 5

Cheryl and Kristen met in the semifinals for the second tournament in a row. Kristen was able to take a game off Cheryl this time before succumbing in four.

Christie Van Hees def. Adrienne Fisher 9, 9, 9

Christie spoiled Adrienne's first semifinal appearance of the season by defeating her in three straight.

## FINAL

Cheryl Gudinas def. Christie Van Hees 4, (1), 4, 1

This was the third time that Cheryl and Christie have faced off this season. Christie defeated Cheryl in the U.S. OPEN semifinals, but Cheryl has won their last two meetings including this one in a trade of lopsided wins.

## 2003-2004 Ladies Professional Racquetball Association Schedule & Scorecard

Rosarito Beach Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel 11-6, 10-12, 11-8, 11-4

Charlotte Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel 11-7, 11-4, 5-11, 11-7

Albuquerque Cheryl Gudinas def. Kerri Wachtel 11-5, 11-8, 9-11, 11-1

Memphis Rhonda Rajsich def. Christie Van Hees 6-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-7

Honolulu Cheryl Gudinas def. Jackie Rice 4, 4, 3

Coral Springs Cheryl Gudinas def. Christie Van Hees 11-4, 1-11, 11-4, 11-1

February 13-15 Chicago, IL Schaumburg Tennis Center, 630-430-1478

February 20-22 Salt Lake City, UT Site TBA

March 12-14 Nashville, TN Site TBA

March 19-21 Baltimore, MD Site TBA

April 29-May 1 Phoenix, AZ Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University, 480-965-8900

For information concerning any LPRA events, contact Chris Wachtel at 513-383-0219, send e-mail to cwachtel@ladiesproracquetball.com, or go to [www.ladiesproracquetball.com](http://www.ladiesproracquetball.com).

## THE LPRA IN PARADISE

The Hawaii Amateur Racquetball Association (HARA) was the host for Hawaii's first ever LPRA/Military tournament January 15-18 and featured a total cash purse exceeding \$34,000. The first annual LPRA Hawaii Pro-Am and U.S. Armed Forces Invitational was held at the world famous Honolulu Club (Egan Inoue's home court!), with major military events held at Hickam Air Force Base and other divisions hosted on Oahu at two YMCA locations.

HARA, based in Honolulu, was formed in early 2003 by Edwin Mangual who, inspired by his love of racquetball and fitness, decided to help grow and support the many players, clubs, companies and other organizations involved in racquetball in the state. This special tournament was designed to offer local players the opportunity to see top pros from the LPRA and the nation's best military players compete for one of the largest purses in the sport. It also gave the LPRA and military players the chance to play in paradise!

This four-day tournament not only featured highly competitive play, but also the experience of a lifetime and the birth of a new LPRA tour stop. HARA, along with its tournament sponsors, NetApp, Northrop Grumman, Honolulu Club, YMCA Central and YMCA Nuuanu, Hickam AFB, ProPenn, and E-Force, plan to make the tournament an annual "must-attend" with parties, get-togethers and opportunities to see the beautiful islands of Hawaii. Look for it on next year's schedule and plan to attend.



Event Coordinator Angela Burth (right) presents NetApp's Jay Chabrow, President and General Manager (Left) and Dan Warmenhoven, CEO (Center) with a plaque for their support. Behind them are a few of the many military players that took part in the event.



# 2004 Cleveland Open

## Severence Athletic Club - Cleveland, Ohio • January 7-10

### Round of 16

- **Mitch Williams def. Kane Waselenchuk (9), (7), 8 Inj. FFT**

After winning the first two games, Kane looked to be in control until he came up woozy after making a diving get. At first it was thought that his inner ear problem had once again reared its ugly head. It was learned afterwards that he had contracted a stomach flu and that, combined with his medication for the ear problem, had left him dehydrated, leading to the dizzy spell.

- **Mike Green def. Mike Guidry 4, (12), 0, 6**
- **Rocky Carson def. Josh Tucker 5, 3, 7**
- **Cliff Swain def. Doug Ganim 5, 1, 9**
- **Jason Mannino def. Mike Dennison (9), 4, 3, (1), 10**
- **Alvaro Beltran def. Shane Vanderson (7), (3), 7, 3, 10**
- **Suds Monchik def. Derek Robinson (6), 10, 3, 7**

At first it looked as though Derek would be able to build upon his amazing run at the U.S. OPEN, but Sudsy put a stop to that. He found his groove in the second game and controlled the match from that point on to win in four.

- **Jack Huczak def. Ben Croft 4, 5, 4**

### Quarterfinals

- **Mike Green def. Mitch Williams 11, 7, 4**

Mike continues to improve with each IRT stop and reaches his first semifinal of the season, but most likely not his last. Mitch brought it in the first game, but was unable to sustain pace throughout.

- **Cliff Swain def. Rocky Carson 8, (3) 6, 0**

Cliff was able to avenge an earlier loss to Rocky at the Chicago stop - punctuated with a doughnut.

- **Jason Mannino def. Alvaro Beltran (7), 4, 8, 7**

No need to clean up the floor after this one, as two of the games best retrievers put on a diving clinic. Jason seemed to have rediscovered his game by disposing of Alvaro in four.

- **Jack Huczak def. Sudsy Monchik (6), 3, (6), 5, 7**

Jack outlasted Sudsy (who also suffered blisters) in their first match-up of the season. As expected, the crowd was left in awe.

### Semifinals

- **Cliff Swain def. Mike Green 10, (7), 5, (9), 1**

Cliff showed that he isn't quite ready to give up this racquetball thing and Mike showed just how much he has improved. After blowing leads in games two and four, Cliff made sure not to let Mike make any moves in the fifth.

- **Jack Huczak def. Jason Mannino 5, 2, 11**

Jack dominated the first two games with precision that left Jason visibly disturbed. Jason came to play in the third, even busting out the drive serve, but Jack was able to avoid the rush and squash any comeback attempt.

### FINALS

- **Jack Huczak def. Cliff Swain (9), 9, 4, (10), 10**

In a battle for the ages, Jack got past Cliff in an exciting five-gamer. Controversial calls marred the end of games four and five, but didn't take away from the fact that this was a great match. The win is Jack's third of the season and vaults him into the No.1 ranking for the first time.



### 2003-2004 International Racquetball Tour Schedule & Scorecard

|                |                                      |  |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| New Orleans    | Kane Waselenchuk def. Jason Mannino  | 14-12, 11-9, 11-4  |
| Stockton       | Jack Huczak def. Alvaro Beltran      | 6-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-4                                   |
| Alexandria     | Jack Huczak def. Cliff Swain         | 7-11, 2-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-9                             |
| Chicago        | Kane Waselenchuk def. Alvaro Beltran | 11-8, 11-5, 11-8   |
| Memphis        | Kane Waselenchuk def. Derek Robinson | 11-8, 11-6, 11-8   |
| Cleveland      | Jack Huczak def. Cliff Swain         | 9-11, 11-9, 11-4, 10-12, 12-10                           |
| New York       | Jason Mannino def. Jack Huczak       | 10-12, 11-2, 3-11, 11-5, 11-7                            |
| February 27-29 | San Diego, CA                        | San Diego Open @ American Athletic Club, 619-954-9802    |
| March 5-7      | Louisville, KY                       | Kentucky Pro Am @ University of Louisville, 270-304-4575 |
| March 18-21    | Greensboro, NC                       | Greensboro Open @ Sportscenter Triad, 336-841-0100       |
| April 1-4      | Boston, MA                           | Foxwoods Pro Am @ Metro South A.C., 508-588-3444         |
| April 22-25    | Las Vegas, NV                        | Chuck Minker Sports Center, TBA                          |
| April 29-May 1 | Phoenix, AZ                          | Pro Nationals @ Arizona State University, 480-965-8900   |



For information concerning any IRT events, contact IRT Commissioner Dave Negrete at 630-430-1IRT (1478) or send e-mail to negretz@mindspring.com, or go to [www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com).

# New York City Pro Am

## Sportime Athletic Club – Syosset, New York • January 15–18

### Round of 16

#### Jack Huczak def. Ruben Gonzalez 7, 4, (9), 0

Ruben showed flashes of old in the third game and took one off Jack, who is less than half his age. But Jack showed why he is the current No.1 in the fifth.

#### Alvaro Beltran def. Mike Green 6, 5, 9

#### Derek Robinson def. Sudsy Monchik 6, (9), 1, 8

Derek continued his great play this season and spoiled Sudsy's homecoming.

#### Cliff Swain def. Dan Llacer 8, 7, 7

#### Jason Mannino def. Mike Dennison 10, 2, 2

Mike nearly took Jason out at the last stop in Cleveland. This time Jason made sure not to take Mike's power as lightly and disposed of him in three straight.

#### Mike Guidry def. Josh Tucker 6, 0, 7

#### Rocky Carson def. Shane Vanderson (6), 10, (9), 3, 5

Rocky's experience proved the difference in this five-game battle between two of the nice guys on tour. Dan Fowler def. Kane Waselenchuk fft. Kane opted out of his second straight tournament. This time because of an inflamed tendon in his knee that he was advised to rest.

### Quarterfinals

#### Jack Huczak def. Alvaro Beltran 9, (6), (3), 5, 9

Alvaro took a commanding 9-4 lead in the fifth, but saw it slowly disappear as Jack chipped away until he had rattled off seven straight points to win the match.

#### Cliff Swain def. Derek Robinson 2, (11), (10), 3, 1

In a contest that went on until 1:30am, Cliff ousted Derek by dominating the end of the match.

#### Jason Mannino def. Mike Guidry (6), 6, 7, 4

Mike made his mark here last season by recording his first career pro win, but Jason wasn't in the mood for reminiscing.

#### Rocky Carson def. Dan Fowler (9), 8, (10), 4, 8

Rocky won his second straight five-gamer, but Dan was nearly able to take advantage of his first round Bye after Kane forfeited.

### Semifinals

#### Jack Huczak def. Cliff Swain 0, 5, 2

As with most sequels, the rematch of Cleveland's five-game thriller was not as good. Jack kept Cliff off-balance with relentless pressure and moved into his second straight final.

#### Jason Mannino def. Rocky Carson 7, 9, 5

Jason appeared determined and Rocky appeared injured - not a good combination. Jason cruised into his first final since New Orleans.

### FINALS

#### Jason Mannino def. Jack Huczak (10), 2, (3), 5, 7

Jason capped his homecoming with a much needed win in five-games over Jack. The victory throws Jason right back into the race for No.1 just when everyone was ready to count him out.



### MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISH



What a beginning of the season and start to the second half. Three different No.1's this season already! What Jason accomplished last season was awesome, the first player in 10 years to take over the number one position from Sudsy and Cliff. All along Kane has been slowly pushing and finally took over the position with his big win at the U.S. OPEN. And then here comes Jack Huczak, the third player to assume the ranking after our first event of the second half in Cleveland. As long as I have been in the sport I do not remember this happening and what a positive happening it is. The talent is incredible. Jason is still very much in the hunt after his win over Jack in New York and is beginning to relax and not feel the pressure of what it means to be No.1. Kane must overcome injury in order to compete for the ranking again. When Alvaro Beltran makes up his mind that he can win the big match watch out! Will Sudsy find the fire again to show the world that he can be No.1 again? Hopefully Cliff can enjoy the remaining time he competes on the IRT tour and make one more run for the No.1 spot. For answers to these questions and thoughts, stay tuned to the rest of the season at IRT-TOUR.com.

-Dave Negrete  
IRT Commissioner

### International Racquetball Tour Season Rankings

(Rankings through Syosset)

| Points | Player | Hometown         | Last Issue          | Last Year |
|--------|--------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1.     | 4039   | Jack Huczak      | Rochester, MI       | 2         |
| 2.     | 3703   | Jason Mannino    | San Diego, CA       | 3         |
| 3.     | 3311   | Kane Waselenchuk | Edmonton, Alberta   | 1         |
| 4.     | 3158   | Cliff Swain      | Braintree, MA       | 5         |
| 5.     | 2973   | Alvaro Beltran   | Tijuana, Mexico     | 4         |
| 6.     | 2906   | Rocky Carson     | Santa Maria, CA     | 6         |
| 7.     | 2459   | Derek Robinson   | Kennewick, WA       | 8         |
| 8.     | 2041   | Mike Green       | Burlington, Ontario | 10        |
| 9.     | 1947   | John Ellis       | Stockton, CA        | 7         |
| 10.    | 1915   | Mike Guidry      | Carrolton, TX       | 9         |
| 11.    | 1559   | Shane Vanderson  | Dublin, OH          | 12        |
| 12.    | 1489   | Josh Tucker      | Joplin, MO          | 14        |
| 13.    | 1249   | Sudsy Monchik    | Staten Island, NY   | 11        |
| 14.    | 1099   | Dan Llacer       | Rehoboth Beach, DE  | 15        |
| 15.    | 1078   | Mike Dennison    | Twinsburg, OH       | 16        |
| 16.    | 1068   | Dan Fowler       | Rockville, MD       | 19        |
| 17.    | 981    | Jason Thoerner   | Canton, GA          | 13        |
| 18.    | 896    | Chris Crowther   | Riverside, CA       | 18        |
| 19.    | 848    | Brent Walters    | Raleigh, NC         | 17        |
| 20.    | 602    | Ruben Gonzalez   | Staten Island, NY   | 20        |

acquetball Tour 

# Canadian

## National Doubles Team Selection

**A**t the Canadian National Doubles Team Selection event January 22-25 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Mike Green and his partner Tom O'Brien defeated the defending champion and top seeded team of François Viens and Corey Osborne, 10-15, 15-10, 11-0. Green is the current Canadian singles champion, and was the silver medalist in singles at last year's Pan Am Games.

In the women's final, defending Canadian doubles champions and No.1 seeds Josée Grand'Maître and Jennifer Saunders successfully defended their title against Lori Jane Powell, current Canadian singles champion, and Julie Neubauer, 15-8, 16-14.

This was also the first national tournament in some time for 10-time Canadian singles champion Sherman Greenfeld, who played with Mike Ceresia. They were seeded fourth, but lost their first match to No.5 Brian Istace and Kris Odegard, 10-15, 15-1, 12-10. Greenfeld indicated this was probably a one-time appearance, rather than a return to national competition.

The results of this tournament combined with results from the National Championships will be used to select the national team for this year's international events: The Tournament of the Americas in Ecuador in April and the World Championships in South Korea in August.

Complete results and photos appear on the Racquetball Canada website: [www.racquetball.ca](http://www.racquetball.ca).



Prentice, Grand'Maître, and Saunders



O'Brian, Green, Prentice, Viens, and Osborne

# English

## National Championships

Bedford's David Brett Williams won the English Nationals by defeating Suffolk's Andy Oswald 14-15, 15-7, 11-0, in the finals at the Alconbury Fitness Center. Essex's Wendy Hackett won the Ladies title and Suffolk's Tom Aburrow Newman added his National Junior Title to his European Title.

# Ireland

## Gannon & Gibny Win Leinster Open

The Leinster Open last weekend saw a big upset when local hero Jimmy Gannon defeated 13-time National Champion Noel O'Callaghan in 3 games. The Women's draw saw Elma Gibny win her first Women's Open division by defeating Geraldine Byrne in straight games.

# Germany Selects Players of the Year



Trevor Meyer

In an online voting campaign that began in November, the German Racquetball members have elected Yvonne Kortes and Joachim Loof (both of Hamburg) as the 2003 Racquetball Players of the Year. Loof claimed his 6th European Singles title in 2003 while Yvonne Kortes reached the European finals, only losing there to Joan Kennedy of Ireland.

## Meyer New German National Champion

Trevor Meyer from Hamburg has won the 23rd German National Championships, defeating 6-time European Champion Joachim Loof in the final 15-8, 15-9.

Loof succeeded against defending Champion and top seeded Martin Klippe in the semifinal, 15-5, 15-6. This match was the most unexpected result of the event.

## Mesecke New IRF Webmaster

In the last few months, the official website of the IRF has seen progress with updated information and news on the global development of our sport. Mike Mesecke from Germany has assumed the responsibility of keeping the site up-to-date. The goal is to create a gate to all racquetball playing countries in the world, which will offer easy access to information on what is going in Ireland, Australia, Korea, or Venezuela. Although not yet technically perfect, a new start has begun. Contributions, suggestions, and ideas are always welcome.

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

## UPCOMING IRF EVENTS

| DATE           | EVENT                                       | SITE                 | COUNTRY     |
|----------------|---|----------------------|-------------|
| March 10-14    | XXIII Campeonato Nacional Selectivo         | Coahuila             | Mexico      |
| March 13-14    | Japan National Doubles                      | TBA                  | Japan       |
| March 19-21    | Dutch Open                                  | Zoetermeer           | Netherlands |
| April          | Japan B, C Open 2004                        | Tokyo                | Japan       |
| April 04-11    | 17th Pan American Racquetball Championships | Cuenca               | Ecuador     |
| April 16-18    | 23rd German Open 2004                       | Hamburg              | Germany     |
| April 23-25    | 3rd English Open                            | Rendlesham           | England     |
| April 26-May 1 | Junior National Championships               | Charlottetown P.E.I. | Canada      |
| April 30-May 3 | Arklow Irish Open                           | Arklow               | Ireland     |
| May            | Japan Open 2004                             | TBA                  | Japan       |
| May            | North Japan Open                            | TBA                  | Japan       |
| May 6-9        | Copa Contry                                 | Monterrey            | Mexico      |
| May 15-16      | Belgian Open                                | Antwerp              | Belgium     |
| May 24-29      | Canadian National Championships             | Burlington, Ontario  | Canada      |
| May 26-31      | 37th USA Racquetball National Singles       | Houston, TX          | USA         |
| June           | Columbian National Championships 2004       | Bogota               | Columbia    |
| June           | 11th Korea Doubles Championships            | TBA                  | South Korea |
| June           | East Japan Doubles                          | TBA                  | Japan       |
| June           | West Japan Doubles                          | TBA                  | Japan       |
| June 11-13     | Torneo de Masters                           | Chihuahua            | Mexico      |
| June 23-26     | IRF 2nd World Senior Doubles Championships  | Colorado Springs     | USA         |

# INTERNATIONAL SCENE

INTERNATIONAL  
RACQUETBALL  
FEDERATION



The first thing I noticed when I went to the Ektelon Outdoor Nationals in Orange County was that I had landed in a parallel universe of racquetball! It wasn't so much the similarities between indoor and outdoor racquetball that I noticed. Of course the rules are pretty much the same, what we (indoor players) would call standard racquets and balls are still used and killshots still win rallies, but that is where it ends.

The first thing that hit me was the sun! Like so many who grew up playing racquetball, I never saw the sun. I thought tans were for tennis players or golfers. In the outdoor world, suntan lotion is more important than Gatorade, sunglasses more valuable than eyeguards, hats instead of sweatbands, and shirts are optional.

There is something new and exciting for an old indoor player when you can step on the court without going through a door and have a need to adjust to the location of the sun when trying to look up and also for the breeze on a lob serve. The buzz and party feeling at the event was tremendous and players relax in chase lounges between matches while watching some unbelievable play. The top players in outdoor not only have all the shots we see indoor, but can kill the ball from 50 feet away (that would be somewhere near the locker room at your club). The skill of the players, who dive on concrete floors, was only topped by the enthusiasm of the fans.

In the 70's all the top players from Brumfield to Hogan used to make an annual trip up from San Diego to the Outdoor Nationals for a chance to test their skills against the best outdoor players. The outdoor versus indoor battle still continues as IRT pro Rocky Carson battled, and lost, a great match in the semis to local Dave DiGeneva (spelling? USRA member). Only in this parallel universe of racquetball do top pros lose to local players, but it was also one of the most intense matches I have seen.

Outdoor players are friendly and willing to teach all us indoor players the finer points of the game and then blow us off the court just to let us know how much we have to work on. But the chance to play out in the fresh air with the sun above you and the beach beside you is an experience every indoor player should enjoy at least once.

by Hank Marcus  
World Outdoor Racquetball Executive Director

## 2004 Ektelon World Outdoor Racquetball Tournament Schedule & Results

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| January 11   | Rick Sandello/Greg Solis def. Rob Hoff/Jeff Johnson |   |
| February 8   | Dave Genevay/Rob Hoff def. Rick Sandello/Greg Solis |   |
| April 11     | Huntington Beach, CA                                | Shootout @ Edison Park 3-Wall                       |
| May 15-16    | Huntington Beach, CA                                | California State Championships @ Edison Park 3-Wall |
| May 28-30    | Waikiki, HI   | Hawaii Outdoor Open @ Fort De Russy                 |
| June 19-20   | Huntington Beach, CA                                | National Warm-ups @ Edison Park 3-Wall              |
| July 9-11    | Huntington Beach, CA                                | Outdoor Nationals @ TBA                             |
| August 20-24 | Detroit, MI   | Belle Isle Championships @ Belle Isle Park          |

For information concerning any WOR events, contact Robert Martinez at 714-376-8535 or send e-mail to [fmartinez1@socal.rr.com](mailto:fmartinez1@socal.rr.com), or go to [www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com](http://www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com).

world  
outdoor  
racquetball



# Get Ready for WOR!

**WOR is proud to bring the Ektelon Outdoor Racquetball Tour to the following locations:**

**Waikiki, HI**

**Orange County, CA**

**Detroit, MI**

**New York, NY**

**Las Vegas, NV**

**and more locations to be announced!**

# **WOR**

World Outdoor Racquetball

For more information please visit WOR's new website at [www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com](http://www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com).

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# 2004 USA RACQUET ELECTION

To vote, please follow the directions published on the pre-printed ballot booklet (voting is limited to those over 18), and voting will not be included with the National dues. You may vote by calling the national office at 719-635-5396 and presenting your membership card.



## ADAM KATZ

I was first introduced to racquetball at Bryant College, where I eventually started competing for the school including the 1989 Intercollegiate Nationals. After college, I continued playing throughout the U.S. and Japan while serving in the Navy.

After leaving the Navy, I settled in Colorado and began working with Junior Racquetball in 1998. I am currently the Colorado Junior Racquetball Coordinator and Leader of Team Colorado. I served briefly on the Colorado Board before leaving to devote more time to building the Junior Program, first at my club, then throughout the state. I have also run for the U.S. House of Representatives in both 2000 and 2002. I am AMPRO certified and spend most evenings at a club

in Colorado working with our many junior players. I currently run most Junior Tournaments in Colorado and make sure that we have at least 1 junior-only tournament every month during the season.

I have a very strong passion for racquetball and want to see it grow in this country again like it did during the 1980s. We are at a very critical time in racquetball's development and I want to help take racquetball to the next level.



## GEOFF PETERS

The racquetball community has become focused! Our leadership - USA Racquetball, the Pro Tours, the Manufacturers and our Club Owners are working together as never before. If elected to the Board, I will represent you, the player, in this important coalition!

As a State Board Member (21 years), Tournament Director (37 State/Regional Events), Club Owner (6 court facility), former USRA Board Member (Finance, Hall of Fame Committees) and avid player (yes, still in the A's after 30 seasons!); I have the background to represent both the players and our sport. In particular, I would like to ensure a voice for:

- Juniors, High School and Collegiate players - for whom we compete with other organized sports
- Female players - who represent a huge potential pool of cross-over participants
- Club players - who unknowingly benefit from the structure that the USRA brings to the sport
- Mature players - the Seniors and Masters who understand that racquetball is a lifetime sport

In the 9 - 5 (I only wish those were the actual hours) world, I am a Director of Procurement for Sears, having traded my frequent flyer bonuses and consulting assignments for more work/life balance. I look forward to contributing my business and financial expertise to USA Racquetball and our players.

# ALL BOARD TIONS

nd between these pages. Ballots are provided to adult USAR members only  
onal Singles entry. If your ballot is missing, you may request a numbered ballot  
p number. Deadline for receipt of completed ballots is FRIDAY, April 28, 2004.

AND THE CANDIDATES ARE...



## **PETER G. MCMILLIN**

I'd like to take this time to express to you why I feel I am qualified to serve on the board. I first started playing racquetball in 1976. I competed in my first tournament 1979 and enjoyed my first national competition in 1998. While residing in Washington, I was active in the Washington Racquetball Association and held the position of Eastern Washington Coordinator for WRA, with the emphasis on promoting memberships.

I moved from Washington in 2000 and am currently the California Amateur Racquetball Association Junior Coordinator and tournament QC director. I'm also a CARA Board Member and a member of USA Racquetball's Junior Council. I have also participated in the past two USA Racquetball Leadership Conferences.

I am an AMPro Certified Advanced Instructor, a Level 1 Referee, and am also very active and well known on the Internet racquetball newsgroup.

I have an incredibly positive attitude, which I share with all I come in contact with. I have an immense amount of energy and enthusiasm and pride myself on bringing out the best in others. I listen well, appreciate the ideas of others, and also enjoy sharing my thoughts and experience too.

I firmly believe that together we can make a huge difference in the future of racquetball in this country. Thank you for your consideration.



## **JAN STELMA**

As a current member of the board of directors, I know the difficult choices and decisions that have to be made in order for the association to be successful.

I have served both as Vice-President and Secretary of the national board. I would like to be re-elected so that I may continue to be involved in the numerous new programs and changes that have taken place in the past two years.

I am excited about the direction of the association and would like to continue my involvement towards greater fiscal responsibility and improved membership services. I believe my extensive experience on the North Carolina board for 10 years, owner of two clubs and tenure on the national board qualifies me for further involvement at the national level.



U.S. Junior World National Team



# PROKENNEX IRF JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSH

Orlando, FL December 17-21st

# MEXICO WINS TWO STRAIGHT

For the second straight year Mexico repeated as the winners of the World Junior Cup.

Although the US came prepared they fell one match short as Mexico won the World Cup division by only 14 points.

**N**ew Format Creates Three Separate Competitions. To equalize play and continue open participation the IRF implemented a new format similar to the format used at adult IRF events. The new format is separated into three separate competitions:

**THE WORLD CUP** - (18,16, & 14 Divisions) Restricted to designated players from each country. (2 singles, 1 doubles) who play a round robin schedule for seeding and then single elimination for points.

**THE ESPRIT CUP** - (12, 10 & 8) Each country designates 2 players per country that count for points but all divisions are open to anyone.

**THE FRIENDSHIP CUP** - (18, 16 & 14) Open to anyone who did not qualify for the World Cup division. These points do not count towards the World Cup Championships.

## WORLD CUP -

### FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

|                  |     |               |    |
|------------------|-----|---------------|----|
| 1. Mexico        | 256 | 6. Costa Rica | 28 |
| 2. United States | 242 | 7. Ecuador    | 15 |
| 3. Canada        | 98  | 8. Guatemala  | 8  |
| 4. Bolivia       | 57  | 9. Argentina  | 1  |
| 5. Venezuela     | 35  | 9. Australia  | 1  |

As expected the USA dominated the 18 and under divisions with Ben Croft and Adrienne Fisher winning both divisions. The Mexican team provided a glimpse of the future by not only winning both the 16 and 14 and under divisions in both boys and girls brackets but also placing 7 out of 8 finalists in these four divisions.

# CHANGE IN FORMAT

In the doubles divisions the US Team of Brandon Shoemaker/Travis Woodbury and Dominique Davis/Jesi Fuller won the 18 and under championships but again the Mexicans dominated the 16 and 14 divisions by beating the US Team in all four finals.

**BEST MATCH** • Joey Lakowske (USA) vs. Gilberto De Los Rios (Mexico) in 16 finals

**BIGGEST UPSET** • USA Charlie Pratt losing to Bolivian George Zambana in the first round.

**OBSERVATION** • Mexico's dominance in 14's and 12's indicates a strong team next year.

**WHO TO WATCH** • David Ortega (Mexico) - never lost a division championship in international competition.

# IPS

# ESPRIT CUP



## ESPRIT CUP FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

|                  |     |               |    |
|------------------|-----|---------------|----|
| 1. Mexico        | 350 | 5. Bolivia    | 46 |
| 2. United States | 343 | 6. Costa Rica | 30 |
| 3. Canada        | 109 | 7. Columbia   | 18 |
| 4. Ecuador       | 80  | 8. Venezuela  | 13 |

The US went into this competition missing two of its top players Jose Rojas (Boys 12) and Marco Rojas (Boys 10). Both players were unable to qualify for the team and although they played in the event were not able to earn points for the US. This absence was the difference between the US winning and losing. Jose won the Boys 12 and Marco ended up second to Joseph Lee in the Boys 10. Mexico won the Boys 6.

Veronica Sotomayor of Ecuador dominated the Girls 12 and 10 division. She won both finals giving up a total of 8 points in both matches. Mexico dominated the Girls 8 division.

In the esprit doubles division the Mexicans won both boys 12 and 10 divisions and Girls 12 divisions while the US Team of Elizabeth Brenner and Katlin Inglesby dominated the Girls 10 Division.

### MOST DOMINATING PERFORMANCE OF TOURNAMENT

Veronica Sotomeyer of Ecuador.

### BEST USA PERFORMANCE

Elizabeth Brenner and Katlin Inglesby in Doubles.

### USA FUTURE OBJECTIVE

Make sure the Rojas brothers make it to qualifying event.

# FRIENDSHIP CUP



## FRIENDSHIP CUP FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

|                  |
|------------------|
| 1. United States |
| 2. Canada        |
| 3. Mexico        |

Although the Friendship Cup does not count for points towards the worlds cup it does allow upcoming players who may qualify for their team in the future a platform for competition. Due to the large number of host country players the home team normally dominates but the opportunity for other countries to enter players creates a truly international competition.



Marco Rojas and Jose Rojas



Jose Cueva, Veronica Sotomeyer and Luis Cueva



Elizabeth Brenner, Jen Meyer and Kaitlin Inglesby

# WHY DID MEXICO WIN?

|                          | MEXICO   | USA   |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| <b>COACHING</b>          | Coaches have continual contact with their players sometimes on a daily basis                                   | Coaches only see players 2 or 3 times per season  |
| <b>TALENTS</b>           | Good talent and developing rapidly   | Strong fundamentals but lacking court time.   |
| <b>CULTURE</b>           | Racquetball is main activity in many areas - the press emphasis racquetball events and outstanding achievement | Secondary activity for many athletes who compete in other school sports - little or no press. |
| <b>NUMBER OF PLAYERS</b> | Juniors in 2 or 3 major centers but no organized high school or collegiate programs                            | Programs in 2 or 3 major centers but do have organized high school and collegiate programs    |
| <b>SUPPORT</b>           | Strong support from club and parents   | Limited club support - strong parent and organizational support                               |

## CONCLUSION

The opportunity to spend daily time with their coaches and the support of clubs to allow juniors on the courts on a daily basis provides the Mexican team the advantage of more court time. Although the US coaches are still more advanced with reference to knowledge and experience the absence of time with players does not allow consistent instruction.

Since there is no substitute for spending time on the court the reduced court time caused by additional activities results in additional problems for US Athletes.

## Mexican National Team



# 2004 U.S. National

## SINGLES PREVIEW

### THE CITY

Home of the Super Bowl and the 2004 Major League Baseball All-Star game. Houston has gone through a major revitalization with numerous new attractions. The new Astro Stadium and Bayou Cultural Centers are both within walking distance of the host hotel.

### THE HOTEL

The Hyatt Regency is without question one of the most elegant hotels to ever host a racquetball event. This year the Hyatt is also a major sponsor of the event. Only two blocks from the competition venue, the Hyatt's convenience and extra amenities make it racquetball's premier lodging facility.

### THE VENUE'S

The Downtown YMCA has hosted National Singles since 1983. With 20 available courts (16 at the YMCA and 4 across the street at the Met Club), matches will be done early, allowing time for everyone to enjoy the event parties. Also, consolation is available for all players who desire to play.

### THE PARTIES - PARTIES EVERY NIGHT!

**ON WEDNESDAY** - A VIP/Lifetime member party. This party is a special recognition for last season's national winners and all lifetime members. Also in attendance will be a number of top ranked pro players, national board members, and event sponsors.

**ON THURSDAY** - Penn Casino Night! An extravagant casino night featuring Southwest Casino productions. All tournament players will be given "seed" money to begin the evening. Great prizes, hor'dourves, and beverages.

**ON FRIDAY** - Party at the Bayou, an outdoor festival, two blocks from the hotel. Dancing, music, food, and special contests with great prizes. The Bayou is in the center of the downtown cultural area.

**ON SATURDAY** - A Starry Night of Racquetball! Racquetball's only awards banquet. Hall of Fame inductions and special recognition for last year's outstanding athletes. An opportunity to meet racquetball stars in an elegant festive setting. Dancing follows the award ceremony.

### THE COMPETITION

Test your skills against the best players in your skill or age group. If you want to play the best, this is the event for you!

### WHO WILL REPRESENT THE U.S.?

See the players who will represent the U.S. at the 2004 IRF World Championships in Seoul Korea. All matches held during prime time, at one venue, and with no admission.

**Don't forget to qualify - Play in your regional!**



# THE FINALS EXAM

1

**When did the US Nationals start in Houston?**

2

**Only one male person has won the men's open division 4 times, who?**

3

**One player has won over 26 national titles, who?**

4

**Which of the following players, completed in but never won Nationals?**

(A) Cliff Swain (B) Jason Mannino (C) Sudsy Monchik (D) Jack Huczak

5

**How many times did Michelle (Gellman) Gould win the Women's Open division in Houston?**

(A) 10 (B) 8 (C) 6 (D) 4

6

**Which of the following did NOT win back to back titles in the Open Division?**

(A) Adam Karp (B) Tim Doyle (C) Michael Bronfeld (D) Tim Sweeney

7

**Which of the following players never won 2 age divisions in the same year?**

(A) Janet Myers (B) Ed Remen (C) Debra Tisinger (D) Gerri Stoffregen

8

**Who was the youngest player to win the Men's or Women's Open in Houston?**

(A) Michelle Gould (B) John Ellis (C) Jack Huczak

9

**Who is NOT in the Hall of Fame?**

(A) Ruben Gonzalez (B) Marty Hogan (C) Michelle Gould  
(D) Dave Peck

10

**What player will be trying to win a record seventh straight championship in the same division?**

(A) Mitt Layton (B) Cheryl Gudinas (C) Sharon Hastings-Welty  
(D) Ed Remen

# 2004 USAR Qualifying Events



## APRIL 1-4

Quadrangle East Athletic Club - Coral Springs, FL

Ross Greenberg

954-753-8900 x206

## APRIL 15 - APRIL 18

Lynmar Racquet Club - Colorado Springs, CO

Eddie Meredith

719-598-7075

Spectrum Club - Canoga Park, CA

Debbie Tisinger

818-380-3409

Racquetball & Fitness Clubs of San Antonio, TX

Lance Gilliam

210-344-8596

Southern Athletic Club - Atlanta, GA

Ric Crosby

770-923-5400

Glass Court Swim & Fitness - Chicago, IL

Geoff Peters

773-935-9685

Central Courts - Minneapolis, MN

Bill Bredenbeck

763-572-0330

Executive Health & Sports Center - Manchester, NH

Kelley Beane

603-759-2729

Strongsville Recreation Center - Cleveland, OH

Doug Ganim

614-890-6073

Southern Athletic Club - Oklahoma City, OK

David Watson

918-541-0722

Cascade Athletic Club - Gresham, OR

Brian Anchetta

503-665-4142

Crystal City Sport & Health - Arlington, VA

Ed Willis

703-684-4146

## APRIL 22 - APRIL 25

Vetta Sports Club of Concord - St. Louis, MO

Dan Whitley

314-842-6363 x3

Sporttime of Syosset - Long Island, NY

Tom Keogh

718-429-8489

## MAY 26-31

### THE FINALS

2004 U.S. National Singles Championships

The Downtown Houston YMCA

Call 1-800-234-5396 to enter



# THE FINALS

## THE PLAYERS EVENT

If you are a player interested in competing against the best in your division - The Finals is the event for you!!

If you are a player interested in recognizing the sports greatest players, at the sports only national awards banquet - The Finals is the event for you!!

If you are a player interested in socializing with the "Who's who in Racquetball" - The Finals is the event for you!!

If you are a player interested in a variety of nightly free social events - The Finals is the event for you!!

If you are a player interested in viewing some of the greatest legends in the sport - The Finals is the event for you!!

If you are a player whose concern is convenience and luxury, with a venue just five minutes from one of racquetball's most luxurious host hotels - The Finals is for you!!

If you are a player who wants to be guaranteed two matches - The Finals is for you!!

**The Finals - the event for every racquetball player!!**

Qualifying competition is REQUIRED to participate in the 2004 37th USA Racquetball National Singles Championships - no exceptions!

**Waivers:** All legitimate waivers of qualifying competition at any of these events must be approved PRIOR to the scheduled regional weekend. All waivers must be directed to - and approved by - USA Racquetball. Individual regional tournament directors may not approve exclusions from play for any reason. Alaska and Hawaii residents are exempt from qualifying, as well as active duty overseas military.

For more information about the upcoming regional championships then please contact Kevin Joyce at 719/635-5396 ext. 123 or [kjoyce@usra.org](mailto:kjoyce@usra.org)

# WHAT'S THE GATE?



**Nick Blaszak from Portland, OR, asks:** In doubles, I sometimes serve the ball to the opponent on the opposite side of the court. In other words, I serve from the left (backhand side) cross court to my opponent on the right side. Ideally, I hope the ball will be low on the opposite wall and near the 'crack' in front of my opponent, so that it becomes a difficult serve to return. Well, sometimes I miss my target and the serve simply is a crosscourt drive to the far opponent. Then, that opponent holds up because he says he won't swing with my partner in front of him. I know that the rules allow for serving to either opponent in doubles. But can the opposition ever claim an AVOIDABLE hinder due to the fact that my partner, being in the 'box' and not having the time to exit, is in effect blocking a down the line shot?

Your opponent CAN claim a penalty (formerly known as an avoidable) hinder if your partner is in the direct line to the front wall or the cross-court path. While you can serve to either of your opponents, if you watch any high caliber doubles play, you will soon note that serving to your partner's side of the court—especially a hard, drive serve—is very rare just because of the high potential of one's partner not having time to move, being in the way of the return of serve, and having the outcome be a penalty hinder.

I advise you to NOT use that serve unless you (1) have advised your partner in advance somehow and (2) are very confident of the outcome. Some may ask about the "no time to move issue", but since you could have served anywhere, you are the one who must live with the result.

by Otto Dietrich  
USA Racquetball National Rules  
Commissioner

**Unidentified Caller asks:** After a rally that the server won, he picked up the ball to serve again. Apparently, he suspected that it might be defective, so he struck the ball into the wall quite hard and, indeed, it did break in two. So, should they play the last rally over again because the ball was broken?

This rally should be played over—but probably not for the reason that you expect. Rule 3.13(f) says that the only proper way to check for a broken ball is to squeeze it by hand. If some other "test" shows the ball to be broken, then the outcome should work to the disadvantage of the person who checked it improperly.

Here it was the server who made the improper check, so the previous rally is automatically replayed. To better illustrate the impact of improper checking, picture what would have happened if the receiver had improperly "tested" this ball. If that had been the case, then the previous rally would NOT have been replayed. That's a big difference—especially if the ball was actually broken during that previous rally!

Always "Play by the Rules" and, if you don't have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them on-line at: <http://www.usra.org/usra/pub&ref/Rulebook.htm>. 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 the next issue of Racquetball.

**“... the only proper way to check for a broken ball is to squeeze it by hand.”**



# Get With the Program

by Connie Martin



Welcome to the first article of Get with the Program. The goal of this column is to give Racquetball Directors or Instructors new programming ideas to use at their clubs or community centers. And racquetball players, if you see something here you like and wish to share it with your club, please feel free to make a copy and give it to them.

For this opening article I would like to talk about the entire state of Oregon's commitment to racquetball. Lets start with the club owners first. The majority of club owners in Oregon support racquetball to its fullest degree! They meet to discuss racquetball, they hire people to service their racquetball playing members and they

support the associations for both adults (Oregon Racquetball Association) and the junior/high school players (The Oregon Junior Racquetball Association). But most of all, they PLAY RACQUETBALL! They are committed to the sport. Very few clubs take out any racquetball courts in Oregon and a few clubs have even recently added more courts!

The Oregon Racquetball Association (ORA) is still as solid as ever with a 10 tournament series tour. The smallest event has over 140 competitors on just a six-court facility. The largest is held in an 11-court facility and boasts nearly 300 players. Oregon is not that populous, yet I hear our tournament numbers are much higher than many other states.

The Oregon Junior Racquetball Association (OJRA) is also strong and has produced many national titles both individually and as a team. It is comprised mainly of two bodies - the Junior Tour and the High School League.

The Oregon High School League started seven years ago with just 10 players. It now has grown to 345 players from 27 different schools. To all you club owners, that's 345 potential members.

Here's how the program works. The clubs allow players from their local high school to practice at their facilities with non-members charged a very nominal fee to participate. Coaching is provided by volunteers mostly made up of parents and racquetball directors. The league runs for four months with matches taking place once a month on a Saturday. The best part is that the clubs donate the necessary 4-6 hours of court time needed to accommodate these matches!

For more information on the Oregon High School League visit [www.oregonracquetball.org](http://www.oregonracquetball.org). For help on starting up a high school league in your state contact John Ferguson at [ferguson85@comcast.net](mailto:ferguson85@comcast.net).

The clubs in Oregon are able to offer a variety of programs within their clubs for members. How? Because they have a Racquetball Director. Some are full-time time and others just part-time, but they all have someone directly responsible for servicing their members. The directors organize lessons, leagues, mixers, tournaments, and inter-club challenges. They also have PE Classes for the schools and include racquetball in kids sports camps. The club staff and membership staff are taught how to play so they can be excited about the game when they are talking with potential members.

I have talked with so many club owners from across the country who want to take out courts. When asked why, the initial reason is usually that they feel no one is playing racquetball anymore. I feel that the reason is they lack a racquetball director. They all have fitness and aerobic directors, so we need to convince them to add a racquetball director in order to keep our clubs intact.

So come on clubs, the challenge is on. I would love to write about your state in the future!

Connie can be reached at: [Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com](mailto:Connie@CascadeAthleticClubs.com)

**“they hire people to service their racquetball playing members...”**

**“...started seven years ago with just 10 players. It now has grown to 345 players...”**

# Marcy's Coaching Corner

## TRAINING TIPS FOR BODY AND MIND



### The 'Skinny' on Nutrition Fads



1

#### **LOTS OF PROTEIN AND NO CARBS.**

The only way this makes sense is a short term method of weaning your body from unhealthy sugars. After an induction phase of a week to 10 days, healthy carbs such as fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains should be brought back. As active athletes, we need a majority of our food intake as healthy carbs!



2

#### **'Carb-up' for competition by eating pasta the night before a tournament.**

The best pre-competition meal is what works for you. Hopefully you have been smart about your food intake all through your training. The idea that doing something different before a tournament may have a psychological impact (which may be reason enough to do it), but honestly, what you have eaten during the weeks and months before will have a greater impact on performance.



3

#### **FAT IS THE ENEMY.**

This is the flip side of a high protein diet. The problem here is not enough protein and too much carb. Also, healthy fats (such as omega 3's found in fish oils and flax seed oil) and monounsaturates (such as olive oil) actually enhance your diet by contributing needed nutrients that are found only in these foods. Fats also give us a sense of fullness after eating which can prevent binging at a later time.



4

#### **STARVATION**

I know people who swear by it, insisting that fasting is healthy or that one meal a day is sufficient. I'm not a fan (maybe because I like to eat 😊) but I think regularly filling our tanks helps keep the metabolism burning and functioning efficiently. There's nothing worse than a slow metabolism - ask anyone who has one!

# racquetball warehouse

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**T-shirt**

*signed by John Ellis*

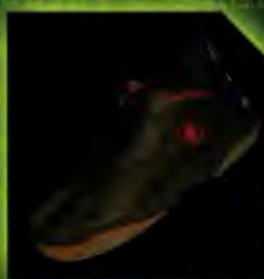
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Prince NFS  
III



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Bag

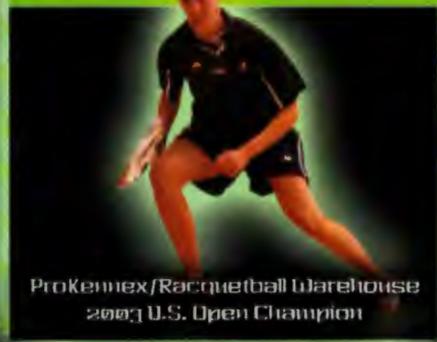
## pro player gallery up to 24 message board

read bios & check out the gear the pros use

Product Reviews, pro player talk & player tips

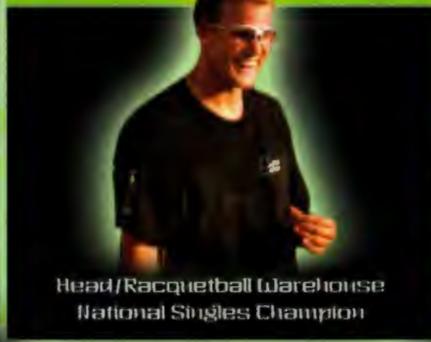
## meet our pro player staff

Rhonda Rajsich



ProKennex/Racquetball Warehouse  
2003 U.S. Open Champion

Rocky Carson



Head/Racquetball Warehouse  
National Singles Champion

John Ellis



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By Sudsy Monchick •  
March/April 2004

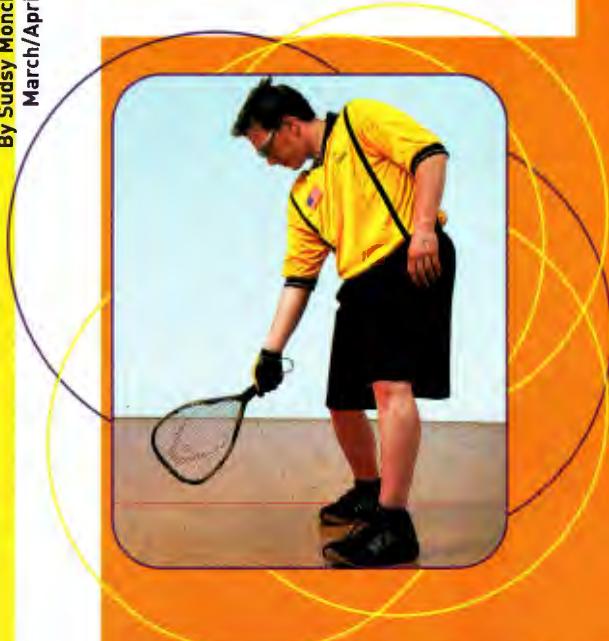
In the last two issues I covered some very basic components of my stroke mechanics... my magical "Grip Change" and my magical "Flat Backhand vs. a Curled Backhand". Today I want to remain on the same track and discuss more of my stroke mechanics... my magical "Flat Swing vs. a "Pendulum Swing".

The best male and female professional players, including me, use the flat swing because it is much more consistent unlike years ago in the Marty Hogan days when they used the pendulum swing which led to more inconsistencies.



## LET'S COMPARE THE TWO

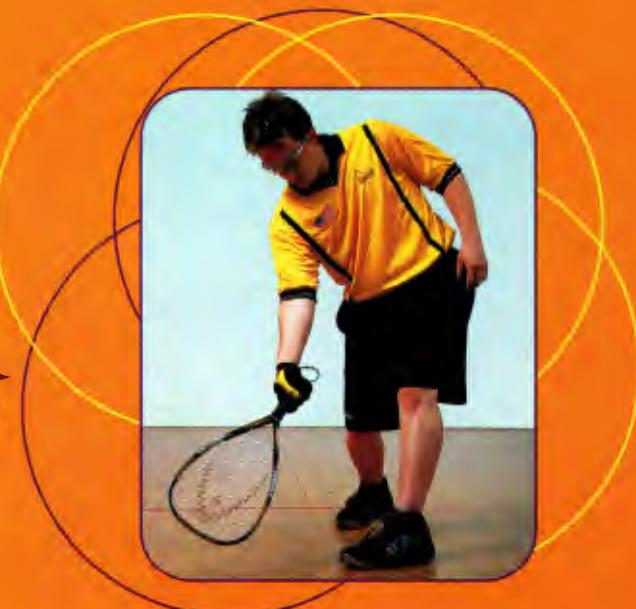
### PENDULUM



#### Trick #1

##### (HIT BEHIND)

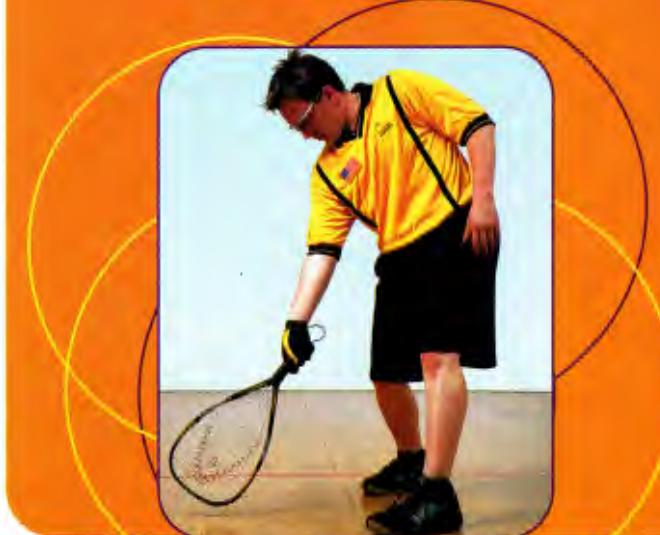
Racquet down and pointing to the floor...skip.



#### Trick #2

##### (HIT IN FRONT OF FRONT FOOT)

Racquet up and pointing up... ball up and floats, probably a set up.



#### Trick #3

##### (HIT OFF FRONT FOOT)

Racquet flat to front wall, but points down...good.

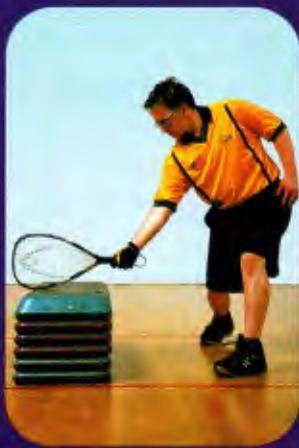


# FLAT

## Trick #1

### (HIT BEHIND)

Racquet flat, but slightly back and parallel to Floor...possible pinch.



## Trick #2

### (HIT OFF FRONT FOOT)

Racquet flush to the front wall... possible D-T-L.

## Trick #3

### (HIT IN FRONT OF FRONT FOOT)

Racquet still flat to front wall and slightly forward of my front foot ...possible cross court.



As you can see after examining both the Pendulum Swing and my Flat Swing, with the Pendulum Swing ONLY trick #3 gives you a good shot...trick #1 skips and trick #2 is probably a set up. With my magical "Flat Swing" Tricks #1, #2 and #3 are ALL good shots...possible pinches, D-T-L's or cross court's, no skips which is a must to remain consistent.

**My magical "Flat Swing" has helped me to capture the following:**

- The #1 IRT Pro Ranking 5 times
- The US Open 4 times
- Pan American Gold Medal
- The only Junior Player in history to win every age division in both singles and doubles.

So I invite you to check out "Build Your Racquetball Dream House" Camps and Videos for more details on my "Flat Swing" at [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com).



# When New Lob Serve

By John Ellis

2003 USA Racquetball  
National Doubles Champion

# W

## hat's up all you racquetballers out there?

# ?

**THAT'S RIGHT**, in today's game there is a new way of executing a lob-serve. I refer to this style as "slop" serving. Jason Mannino is currently the master of this service game style, but Jack Huczek isn't bad either.

The slop is a lob-serve of varied heights and spin. The goal is to have the serve bounce in between the short and encroachment lines, toward the corner, with a little side or under spin, jamming the receiver in the back corners. When hit perfectly, the ball will clip the sidewall deep in the backcourt and drop in the corner before it reaches the back wall. The returner is then left with the choice of trying an offensive shot from 35-40 feet or going defensive with their return. At the pro level, guys want you to shoot that serve from 38 feet.

Here are the finer points to the slop service motion. So, put some buckets in the corners, grab a bag of balls, and get to work.  
**GOOD LUCK!!**

### SETUP POSITION



1

Bend your legs more than you are probably used to on a lob serve. Be ready to move out of the service box and into center court position. Don't be afraid to choke up on the racquet handle just a little for extra control.

2



3



4



5



**Service Swing (Images 2-5):** Do not put too much arc into the motion. Use a controlled smaller backswing and follow through. Keep your legs bent and part of the strength behind the swing. More body, less arm, the more control you'll have. The toss is important. Be consistent with the toss to create deception on the direction of your serve. Practice adding spin to the ball by contacting the ball with a slightly opened racquet face. You will need to focus on adding just the right amount of force to ensure the serve crosses the short line. There is a little wrist action involved when going to your forehand side.

**Height & Speed:** Both should vary with this service pattern. If you're hitting a higher slope serve, than you should have less pace. Lower serves could then be hit a tad harder. Work on finding the right angles by noticing where to hit the ball off the front wall. Either way, this should always vary to once again add deception to your service pattern. Good players will get used to the same serve. Variety is what's important. Focus on getting that ball to bounce between the encroachment and service lines. Then add spin to angle the serve towards clipping the sidewall at 38 feet and dying.

#### THE ADVANTAGES TO THIS SERVICE STYLE ARE PLENTIFUL

- Easier to control the direction of the serve.
- Quicker to relocate into center court position.
- Frustrating style for your opponent.
- Uses less energy than drive serving
- It's okay to LOB serve on the first serve!!!

# THE POWER SERVE...

by Cliff Swain -  
6 Time Pro World Champion  
and Chris Evon.  
Ability Scale: Advance - Pro

People often comment on how impressive it is to watch the power serve of some of the top pros. Their impression is that power is what gives the server the advantage. Although power definitely helps, it is actually last on Cliff's list of four key points to effective power serving.

Power comes from good sound stroke mechanics. A good service game comes from creativity, intelligence, and guts. Check the list. Are you using all four techniques in your game?

## ACCURACY

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!** Just like buying a house or a business, there is nothing more important than hitting accurate angles and getting your serve to go exactly where you want it to go.

## DECEPTION

This article will describe two different ways to help make your serves deceptive. When you are deceptive, and accurate, you will force more weak returns, and keep your opponent off balance and out of control.

## VARIETY

There are two parts to variety. Changing your serves, and changing the "look" of your service motion. This article will show you two ways to change the look of your serves.

## POWER

Yes, last on Cliff's list. Develop good mechanics so you can hit your serves hard, with good accuracy, good deception, and with a lot of variety. Do this and you will dominate more opponents and win more big matches!

## BEING DECEPTIVE

1. Keep the look of your service motion and stride the same, but change the contact point depending on the serve.
2. Keep the contact point the same for a serve, but change your stride into the ball.

This series of pictures shows Cliff contacting the ball in the same place for the down the line drive serve, but changing his stride into the ball. By changing his stride, his opponent can never be sure of where the ball is going. Changing your stride can make it difficult to control the location of your serve. Be sure to practice your accuracy as you change your step.

One of the most common mistakes made while serving, is to change your mind in the middle of the toss. In order to give yourself the best odds at hitting great serves, always make your decision before you start your service motion. Your goal is not always to hit an ace, but to create a weak return from your opponent so you have the opportunity to put away the next shot. You can accomplish this, by being decisive, executing accurate serves, and by using **deception** and variety whenever possible.



# IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT POWER.

1



2



3



In this series of pictures, Cliff is setting up for and stepping in to the serve the exact same way every time. He simply changes his contact point. This makes it difficult for you opponent to **anticipate** your serve.

**PICTURE 1:**  
Drive serve, down the line.

**PICTURE 2:**  
Drive serve, cross court.

**PICTURE 3:**  
Hard Z or Jam serve.



# Fran's House

By Fran Davis • "Building Your Perfect Game" • March/April 2004



## QUESTION: What makes a Successful Doubles Team?

I & A

**ANSWER:** One of the biggest myths of doubles is: If you are a good singles player you'll be a

good doubles player. That couldn't be further from the truth. No matter how talented you are individually, when it comes to doubles two individuals must combine their talents to create a team. Teamwork is the key to success in doubles and it is through the 7 "C's," or components, that you learn what makes or breaks a doubles team.

### Let's take a closer look at these components:

#### ■ CHEMISTRY

- How well do you gel together as one unit on the court?
- How well do you work together as a team? i.e., communication, court coverage, strategies, etc.?
- How do you feel about your partner? Do you respect them? Have fun with them? Like them? Believe in them and trust them?
- Are you in sync both physically and mentally? Do you have a feeling of "oneness"? Do you move and think together instinctively and are you on the same wavelength?

**■ COVERAGE** - Proper court positioning and coverage is just as important in doubles as center court position is in singles. Generally, the team that can cover the court the most effectively wins. Usually modified side by side or periodically up and back is the most advantageous.

**■ CONTROL** - The elements in a match such as attitude, tempo, positioning, service strategy, game strategy, and shot selection must be controlled in order to create the best unity between doubles partners.

- Attitude - Being positive, having mutual respect for one another and complimenting one another.
- Tempo - Pace of the game both serving and rallying.
- Positioning - Being aware of the position of yourself and of your partner at all times is critical. You can often take advantage of the situation and use your partner to legally block out a shot you hit or your opponent hits, very similar to a "pick" in basketball.
- Service Strategy - Know your opponents strengths and weaknesses and be aware if they are a righty/lefty, two righties, or two lefties on a team. Talk to your partner and know what you are going to do...no surprises.
- Game Strategy - Play to the weaker player, keep the ball away from the player who is hot. Assess your opponents' strengths and weaknesses and play into their weaknesses as a team.

**■ COMMUNICATION** - Talk things out. Knowing how you both think and feel is crucial before, during, and after a match. One of the partners needs to be the "quarterback" by calling the ball and making the plays.

**■ COOPERATION** - Working together as a team...common goals/objectives.

**■ CONFIDENCE** - In yourself, in your partner, and in the team.

**■ CONTRAST** - Look for your opposite so you can compliment each other, i.e., balance of styles, personalities, etc.

You can contact me at [Fran@FranDavisRacquetball.com](mailto:Fran@FranDavisRacquetball.com) for more information or questions.

# Catch the Racquetball Wave on the Internet

We are online at [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org)  
by Kevin Joyce



**A**s we roll it out 2004, a lot of new and exciting online services are already in place through the Online Membership Management System. After working on the project for over a year, and learning what "migrating" data is, we have a new online membership service and some important information that outlines all of your new membership benefits and services planned for the future.

## WHY UPGRADE?

- Improve service
- Expand communication
- Provide online security for the member

## WHAT WON'T CHANGE?

- Membership Number
- Membership Origination Date
- Membership Expiration Date
- Association Status
- Certification History

## WHAT CHANGES TO EXPECT WITH THE ONLINE SYSTEM?

- Added security
- Member Customer History
- Membership History
- Instant Change of Address
- Men & Women National Rankings
- Certifications
- Subscriptions
- Search Upcoming Events
- Event registration

## WHAT UPGRADES CAN WE EXPECT IN THE FUTURE?

- Online voting
- Club Affiliation
- Sanctioned Leagues
- Shopping

### SCREEN 1

Here's the start. This is the login page where you will enter your user name and unique password.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHY WAS AN UPGRADE NEEDED?

- Aside from outgrowing the former membership database the reasons were obvious. Our members live fast paced lives and society today dictates a demand for technology. There is a current national staff of 8 people, 14 volunteer national board members, 50 recognized state affiliates, over 500+ sanctioned event directors and a massive state volunteer force. You can't stay connected to these people without it!

### HOW DO I LOGIN?

- "Activate Your Membership" from the homepage and complete the form requiring your first and last name, date of birth, membership number and email address. The system is checking for matches.
- Or, go directly to Member Login if you obtained your username and password. If you can't get in, send me an email. (KJoyce@usra.org)

### CAN I RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP ONLINE AND KEEP THE SAME MEMBERSHIP NUMBER?

- Yes, fast and securely. But, first do it from your personal membership profile. That way your original membership number and origination date will stay intact.

### HOW DO I KNOW MY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION WILL BE ACCURATE?

- Check it out! Go online and verify your membership status. Once you access the system you will be asked to complete your member profile with any missing information, such as phone number, date of birth and gender type. And if you don't want to provide your telephone number - we respect that. It is not required to be completed on your member record, but can be helpful to an event director trying to alert you that he just moved up your starting time to 6am due to large turnout.

**SCREEN 2**  
*Main Info - Update your contact information, including your address, telephone numbers,*

### WHEN WILL THE UPGRADE BE COMPLETE?

- We will continue to improve and upgrade the online system throughout the year. It is a living tool that the members and volunteers have an opportunity to manage and shape. Like no other time in our sport, the membership will be able to provide the necessary feedback that will improve the service to all of our members.
- After the ranking system is up it will update itself instantly. You may actually refresh your browser and see that you slipped a notch in the rankings. As new events are sanctioned - pop! They are up. Record your league match - bling! Don't let me get ahead of myself. Some of these projects are in the works but the plans are well guided and overseen by the national board of directors

### WHAT TESTING WAS DONE ON THE SYSTEM AND WHEN DID THE PROJECT BEGIN?

- The USRA Board of Directors gave the go ahead for the project several years ago and it has been in the works, but the project didn't go into full swing until May 2003. We found a company, the Ai Group, could meet our requests. We reviewed the project once again with the national board of directors then moved forward with migrating the 88,000 records that comprise the various member contact groups. Testing was opened to our state affiliates.

### HOW WILL THIS CHANGE HOW MY MEMBERSHIP IS SERVICED?

- The biggest change is how we will do business day to day. All members renewing their membership online are instantly emailed a receipt and confirmation of their membership renewal along with a unique login/password to access the online membership system. This service isn't only for members that renew online either. Once the national office processes a membership that was submitted from a sanctioned event or mailed directly for renewal - and if we have a current email on record - then you will receive an email confirmation as well. This receipt can be printed and used as proof of membership at any sanctioned event in the United States prior to receiving your official membership card.

**SCREEN 3**  
*Membership Info - Displays your current membership status, state affiliation, and*

The screenshot shows a web-based membership information system for US Racquetball. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Member Home', 'My Info', 'My Account', 'Login Info', 'Change Password', and 'Logout'. The main content area is titled 'KEVIN JOYCE - (Member ID: 281147)'. It displays the following member details: Name: KEVIN JOYCE, Address: 1685 W Union, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904, United States, Email: joyce@usra.org, Phone: 719-635-5394 Ext. 123. Below this is a 'Membership History' section showing a single entry for Member ID 281147, Adult Membership, 10/29/1991 - 12/31/2004. The bottom of the page includes links for 'Men's Rankings', 'Women's Rankings', 'Other Links', and 'e-mail@usra.org'. A note at the bottom states '(\*) - Waiver form has not been received.'

club affiliation.

**SCREEN 4**  
**Certifications - Displays referee and coaching**

The screenshot shows a member profile for Kevin Joyce (Member ID: 281147). The top navigation bar includes links for Member Home, My Info, My Account, Login Info, Change Password, Logout, and Click Here to Renew. The main content area is titled "KEVIN JOYCE - (Member ID: 281147)". It displays basic member information: Name: KEVIN JOYCE, Address: 1685 W Uintah, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904, United States. It also shows contact information: Email: kjoyce@usra.org, Phone: 719-635-5396 Ext. 123. A "Certifications" tab is selected, showing a table titled "certification List (2)". The table lists two entries: "Referee - Level 1" with a start date of 10/29/1991 and an end date of 12/1/2004, and "Coach - Level 1" with a start date of 10/29/1991 and an end date of 12/1/2004.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I ALLOW MY MEMBERSHIP TO LAPSE?**

- We encourage all members to maintain their membership to "current" and not "lapsed" and alleviate the burden from tournament directors from around the country to process the membership for you. Stay on the Wave and Stay Current!

**WHO HAS THE LARGEST ROLE IN THE PROGRAM AND WILL BENEFIT THE MOST?**

- Our state associations and sanctioned event directors have the largest role in making the online event sanctioning, scheduler and ranking system work for the association members. Their efforts are key to making the whole thing work. We want them to be able to access the information that they need to promote the events, programs and activities that they conduct

on a daily basis in clubs throughout the United States. In the past we were mailing labels, mailing hard copy reports to verify membership at events, mailing rebate statements. Now, this can be done online by providing the same information as we did in the past but in a much more efficient and accurate manner.

**WHO CAN VIEW MY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION?**

- Each member profile is secure and unique to that member. Information such as order (customer) history only appears on the individual member record. No one outside of that member can access this sensitive information. Additional security features include encrypting your credit card number once your transaction is completed.

The screenshot shows a member profile for Kevin Joyce (Member ID: 281147). The top navigation bar includes links for Member Home, My Info, My Account, Login Info, Change Password, Logout, and Click Here to Renew. The main content area is titled "KEVIN JOYCE - (Member ID: 281147)". It displays basic member information: Name: KEVIN JOYCE, Address: 1685 W Uintah, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904, United States. It also shows contact information: Email: kjoyce@usra.org, Phone: 719-635-5396 Ext. 123. A "Rankings" tab is selected, showing a message: "- No Current Ranking for this person."

**certifications.**

**SCREEN 5**  
**Rankings - Displays your current ranking and competition history as they are entered into the system.**

## An Interview With...

Jim Winterton is the most successful coach in U.S. Team history. Jim was coach of five IRF World Champion teams, 10 Tournament of America teams, and three Pan American teams. Jim recently retired from U.S. team coaching due to hip replacement surgery and increased job responsibilities.

**RACQUETBALL Magazine** » What was your most memorable coaching experience?

**Jim Winterton** » Without a question the three Pan American Games. This is racquetball's Olympics and it was great to be the U.S. Coach.

**RM** » How is international competition different from U.S. competition?

**JW** » Once you have that American flag on your back everything changes. You're part of a team, playing not only for yourself, but also for your fellow teammates. In most countries people are cheering against us, sometimes very vocally, and the conditions, although rapidly improving, are not always ideal. In international competition, third place matches can be as important as first place matches.

**RM** » What can we do in the U.S. to recruit better coaches?

**JW** » Have regional coaching seminars, develop more high school and collegiate teams, and recognize the better coaches.

**RM** » Anything else you would like to say?

**JW** » TWO THINGS: FIRST I'd like to clear up the situation regarding my coaching of the Mexican team in 2000. I was not coaching the U.S. team at the time (my tenure had expired) and the IRF encouraged me to help. It was also a good test for me to see if I could take players from other countries and win. I realized when I was at the award ceremony, hearing the Mexican anthem, that my heart was with the USA. I cannot see myself coaching another country besides the USA again. I can see myself coaching other coaches in the USA and around the world if I am asked to, but never coaching directly against a USA athlete. SECOND; it was a great honor to coach the U.S. team. I got to work with the best athletes in our sport. Our men and women are mentally tough and great players. Most importantly our U.S. team members are great people to work with. It has been fun!

## Jim Winterton

Former U.S. National Team Coach

**RM** » What one thing would you caution your successor?

**JW** » Maintain the hierarchy. First, do what is best for the sport. Second, what is best for the USA. Third, what is best for the player. And last, what is best for the coach. And, as Spike Lee says, "Do the right thing!"

**RM** » What was your greatest challenge?

**JW** » To take a group of individual competitors, who spend all year competing against each other and mold them into a team.

**RM** » What one quality would you say each coach must have?

**JW** » Diana McNab the U.S. team sports psychologist used to say a great coach must have "nonjudgmental listening." This simply means listen to each athlete, understand that athletes are different and they require individual attention.



Coach Winterton (center) with Rocky Carson (left) and newly appointed U.S. National Team Coach Dave Ellis (right) at the 2003 Pan American Games.

**RM** » What one thing do you think could make the U.S. Team better?

**JW** » Make sure we recruit the best players to play on the team and monitor a more intense training program.

# National Team



**Name** ➔ Mike Dennison

**Nickname** ➔ Mike D



**National Team Appointments** ➔ 1

**Most Recent Qualifier** ➔ 2003 National Doubles Championships (2nd with Shane Vanderson)

**Sponsors** ➔ Ektelon, Team Butch

**Occupation** ➔ Mortgage Broker

**Date of Birth** ➔ February 15, 1974 (age - 30)

**Birthplace** ➔ Akron, Ohio

**Hometown** ➔ Twinsburg, Ohio

**Current Residence** ➔ Twinsburg, Ohio

**Biggest Influence** ➔ Father, Joe Dennison

**Strengths** ➔ Raw Power

**Training Schedule** ➔ Cardio - 3x's a week, Weights - 3x's a week, Court time - when he can

**Goals** ➔ Make the quarters at an IRT stop and win national singles.

## Did You Know?

➔ Not only does Mike hail from Twinsburg, site of the annual Twins Day Festival, but is also a twin himself with brother Dave.

## Did You Know?

➔ Janel began publicly singing as early as age 5.

After taking a break, she has resumed singing again at her church.

**National Team Appointments** ➔ 1

**Most Recent Qualifier** ➔ 2003 National Doubles Championships (2nd with Kersten Hallander)

**Sponsors** ➔ Wilson, Crew West

**Occupation** ➔ Retail Sales. Will attend BYU in fall of 2004.

**Date of Birth** ➔ March 13, 1983 (age - 21)

**Birthplace** ➔ Simi Valley, California

**Hometown** ➔ Simi Valley, California

**Current Residence** ➔ Moorpark, California

**Biggest Influence** ➔ Mother, Debra Tisinger

**Strengths** ➔ Drive Serves, Power

**Training Schedule** ➔ Cardio - 5x's a week, Court time - 3-4x's a week

**Goals** ➔ Try out the LPRA tour and gain more pro experience in the next year.



**Name** ➔ Janel Tisinger

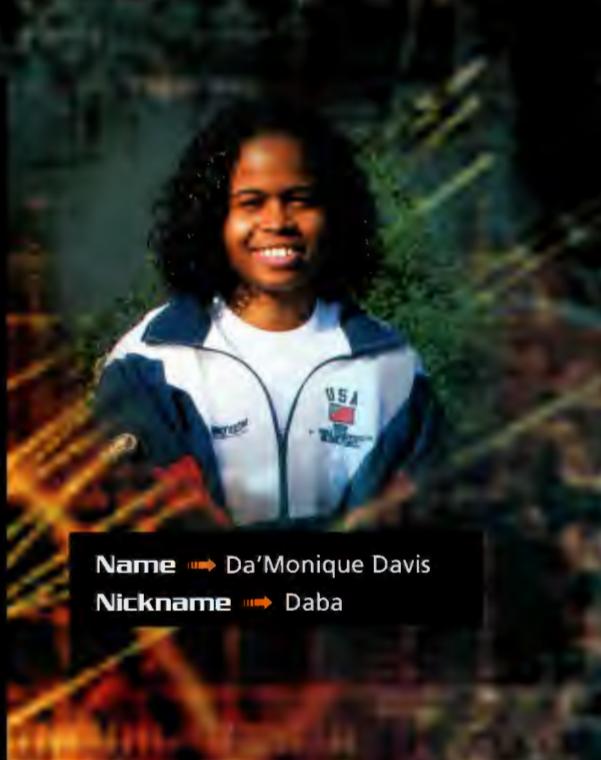
**Nickname** ➔ Janelly



# Spotlight

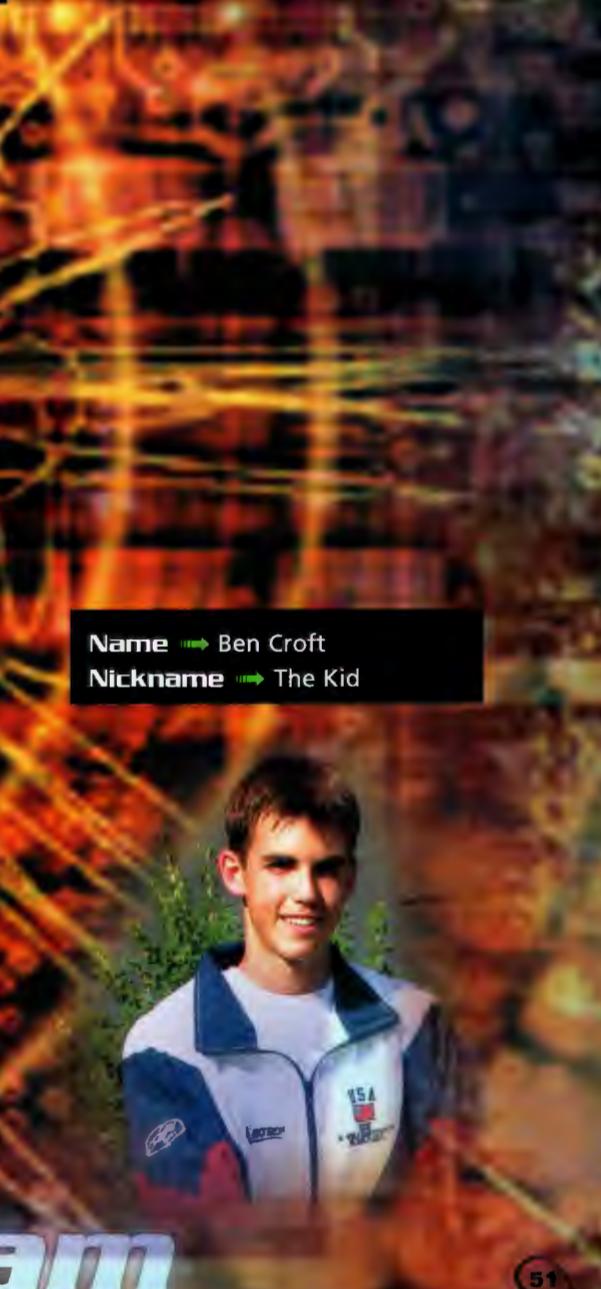


**Junior National Team Appointments** ➔ 2  
**Most Recent Qualifier** ➔ 2003 Junior Olympics  
(1st - 18- Girl's Doubles with Jesi Fuller)  
**Sponsors** ➔ Ektelon  
**School** ➔ University of Alabama  
**Date of Birth** ➔ April 16, 1985  
**Birthplace** ➔ Austin, Texas  
**Hometown** ➔ San Antonio, Texas  
**Current Residence** ➔ Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
**Biggest Influence** ➔ Kim "Balla" Russell  
**Strengths** ➔ Power forehand  
**Goals** ➔ To reach the top 5 on the LPRA tour and to become the first dominant African-American player.  
**Favorite Food** ➔ Hot Wings  
**Favorite Band** ➔ Nappy Roots  
**Favorite Other Sport** ➔ Basketball



**Name** ➔ Da'Monique Davis  
**Nickname** ➔ Daba

**Junior National Team Appointments** ➔ 2  
**Most Recent Qualifier** ➔ 2003 Junior Olympics  
(1st - Boy's 18- singles)  
**Sponsors** ➔ Ektelon, Ashaway  
**School** ➔ University of Southern Colorado  
**Date of Birth** ➔ February 11, 1985  
**Birthplace** ➔ Lake Forest, Illinois  
**Hometown** ➔ Lake Bluff, Illinois  
**Current Residence** ➔ Pueblo, Colorado  
**Biggest Influence** ➔ Father, Bob Croft, and Cliff Swain  
**Strengths** ➔ Quickness  
**Goals** ➔ Obviously, to be No.1 on the IRT, but first to make a living at it.  
**Favorite Food** ➔ Fettuccini Alfredo  
**Favorite Band** ➔ Dave Mathews  
**Favorite Other Sport** ➔ Golf



**Name** ➔ Ben Croft  
**Nickname** ➔ The Kid

## Junior Team

# Shakers & Movers

**S**cott Winters is the General Manager of Indoor Court Sports for Prince Sports, Inc. His responsibilities include Ektelon Racquetball, Prince Squash, and Prince Badminton.

While playing baseball for the University of California - Irvine, Scott was given a job managing the campus racquetball facility. This is where his career in racquetball began. He instantly fell in love with the sport and would often play for hours with his baseball teammates after closing the facility at night.

After leaving school for a year and a half to pursue a baseball career, he returned to continue his education, taking a position with a local club in Newport Beach. Upon graduation he was offered the position of Assistant Manager and began giving lessons. He then was hired as Manager and Club Pro of a new 12-court facility that opened just a few miles down the road.

Eventually Scott was hired out of the club business by Richcraft, one of his sponsors, to head their national sales and marketing department. Richcraft was a small company compared to his current employer, but it is there that he learned the ins-and-outs of the racquetball business.

He was also the president of the National Junior Council and helped form the California Amateur Racquetball Association (CARA), where he served as the first executive director for five years.

**Scott Winters**  
Chairman of the Racquetball Manufacturer's Council (RMC) and G.M. of Prince Sports, Indoor Court Sports.



**RACQUETBALL Magazine** What is your position within the RMC?

**Scott Winters** I am the current Chairman of the RMC. I communicate with the SGMA (Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association) on an on-going basis to supervise the budget. I also develop most of the administrative programs and processes and run our meetings.

**RM** Why was the RMC formed?

**SW** After the Supershow started to deteriorate, we lost our funding from the SGMA. At that time we decided to all pull together to try and develop ways to continue growing the sport. Doug Ganim deserves a lot of credit for his vision in this area.

**RM** What are the major goals of the RMC?

**SW** Our mission statement is simple - "Dedicated to grow the Sport"!. Our major goals are to raise the visibility of racquetball, exposing the sport to as many people as we can on a regular basis and to drive as many people as possible to racquetball facilities. We are developing programs to grow the sport, a website for players to find courts and opponents, and a programming manual to help people to develop programs within their clubs.

We are also excited about our ongoing 12-program schedule with the Tennis Channel and the three commercials that we produced that highlight the fun and fitness benefits of racquetball in an attempt to attract more people into the sport.

Another goal we have is to work more closely with IHRSA to promote the benefits of racquetball within clubs. Dave George will be coordinating an RMC booth at the IHRSA trade show and we are excited about the impact we expect to make at this year's show and the potential to grow together with them in the future.

**RM** Isn't it unusual for "competitors to join forces" - and what problems arise from such an arrangement

**SW** I don't know how unusual it is in other businesses, but it seems quite common in sporting goods. The tennis

industry has a similar group as the RMC and the SGMA supports many groups like ours.

The ability for us to function as a group doesn't happen over night. It takes time to develop a trust for each other. After all, we are all competitors and our jobs to some extent depend on taking a share from other companies. However, we all know that it is a lot better to try and grow the sport so everyone benefits rather than be totally focused on beating each other. The great thing about our group is that everyone brings a different strength and skill set to the party. It also helps that we have strong grassroots backgrounds within the sport and that we all have played a lot of racquetball. Most of us have known each other for 10 to 15 years.

**RM** Do you find it a conflict sometimes between your role with Ektelon and your position on the RMC board?

**SW** The main conflict for me is that my position with the RMC is taking up more and more time. We meet as a group five times a year and have several conference calls in between these meetings. As we grow, it will probably take more of our time.

**RM** What does your group feel is the biggest problem facing our sport today?

**SW** I can't speak for everyone in the group. However, I think we would all say that the number of players that expect free goods or to be sponsored is completely out of control. I don't think there is anything like it in any other sport.

**RM** What do you think is the most exaggerated problem "rumor" within our sport?

**SW** Too many people think that racquetball is dead. People that don't play the sport think that racquetball completely died-out during the mid 1990's. However, what they need to know is that it is still a sport that is thriving worldwide. There are still over 5 million people who play racquetball in the U.S. each year and courts continue to be built at a record pace in private homes and institutions every year.

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Issue of Racquetball Magazine



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# NATIONAL MASTERS RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

By Ron Pudduck

**T**he beginning, of what is now the NMRA, started at a tournament sponsored by the International Racquetball Association in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1971. It was at this tournament that Sam Caiazza of New Castle, PA dreamed up the idea of hosting a national invitational, age-level, round-robin tournament to be played on the two courts at the New Castle, YMCA. Sam invited 10 players who were 40 years of age or older to participate in this first singles round-robin tournament in November 1971.

This was an unusual tournament in many ways. Because Sam was a local sports hero, the city turned out and gave it their full support. Sam and his friends sold 100 lottery tickets for \$100 each-raising a total of \$10,000. At the banquet were the ten players and about 200 people from the community, who attended because everyone was interested in both racquetball and the lottery.

Sam and his committee took \$3500 to pay for hotel rooms, food, referees (one of the refs was Luke St.Onge), trophies and other tourney expenses. The remaining \$6500 was given away at

the banquet via a lottery. From this meager beginning, NMRA tournaments grew in size and number as the association continued to increase its membership. For the first several years referees were hired to handle the matches. Now, all NMRA tournaments are self-refereed and

**"You are never eliminated from play in NMRA tournaments!"**



## MEMBERSHIP IN THE NMRA:

Membership in the NMRA is for a period of three years and costs only \$45.00 for the full three year period.

New members receive a membership packet, all tournament mailings, the newsletter "RACQUETRacket," a complete NMRA Membership Directory with membership up-dates, and inclusion in a great group of people.

Ron Pudduck, President  
Phone: 734-426-8952  
Fax: 734-426-7522  
E-mail: NMRA@comcast.net

MeriJean Kelley, Vice-President  
Membership Coordinator  
Phone: 650-856-2292  
E-Mail: mkelley@aol.com  
NMRA website: [www.NMRA.info](http://www.NMRA.info)

The NMRA conducts two masters' championship tournaments each year

**\* \* \*National Masters Championships:**  
Singles, Doubles & Mixed-Doubles: held in March.

**\* \* \*International Masters Championships:**  
Singles, Doubles & Mixed-Doubles: held in July.

The location of tourney sites frequently varies to offer exposure to different geographical regions.

The NMRA welcomes all players 45+ years old, to participate in any of their two annual tournaments.

NMRA tournaments offer the best of full round-robin, self-refereed competition for masters' age players.

When you reach the age of 45+, remember there is someone out there who still wants you —The NMRA!



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| APRIL 27-28 | Seattle Athletic Club, Northgate; Seattle, WA • Gary Mazaroff (505)321-1110       |
| MAY 24-25   | Downtown YMCA; Houston, TX • Gary Mazaroff (505)321-1110 and Ken Woodfin          |

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American Professional Racquetball Organization • International Professional Racquetball Organization (Affiliate of USA Racquetball International Racquetball Federation Racquet Manufacturers' Council)



## Tina Wesson Returns to Survivor

You may remember Tina Wesson from the 2001 July/August issue of RACQUETBALL where she was featured on the cover after winning "Survivor: The Australian Outback." Tina was at it again, this time one of the contestants on "Survivor All-Stars." Unfortunately, her previous Survivor win made her a prime target and she was the first player to be banished from the islands.

"No one wants to be the first person voted off, and especially me, being a competitor," she said as she left the show. "But at the same time, I knew that if we did not win the Challenge, I would be the first one voted off. So I kind of expected it, but it doesn't make it any easier."

Since her first appearance on Survivor, Tina has been traveling around the country as a motivational speaker encouraging people to do whatever it takes in order to live a fulfilling life. The former Tennessee State racquetball champion (Women's B - 1998) still enjoys racquetball, as well as paddleball, running, swimming, and motorcycling.

Tina splits her time in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she was born and raised, and North Carolina, with her husband, Dale, and her two children, Katie, 16 and Taylor, 15.



## BACK COURTS

### 2004 Women's Senior/Masters: San Francisco AGAIN!!

109 Players from all parts of North America returned to the San Francisco area January 16-18, 2004 for the 15th Annual Women's Senior/Masters National Racquetball tournament at the Royal Athletic Club in Burlingame, CA under the direction of Terry Rogers and Jack Hughes of Racquetball Plus.

Early-arriving players gathered at the club on Thursday to meet friends, old and new, catch up on news and play some racquetball. Round-robin singles competition started on Friday, with matches scheduled in blocks to allow time for sightseeing. The tournament desk was manned by Jack Hughes and Vinnie Caramagno, who kept everything running smoothly- over 400 matches were played in two-and-a-half days on only 9 courts! The facilities and hospitality at the club were excellent— there was always food, snacks and occasionally California wine to be enjoyed while watching matches and socializing. Many generous sponsors donated outstanding merchandise to a silent auction, and the proceeds (over \$1,000!) were split between the USA Racquetball scholarship program and the Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association (WSMRA).

After 2 days of round-robin play, seeding for the playoff round of 8 in most age groups was finalized and quarterfinals began late on Saturday, followed by the traditional Saturday evening banquet, where everyone enjoyed a fun time, before Sunday's finish.

The WSMRA and all players express their appreciation to those who worked so hard to make the event such a success: Terry, Jack, the entire tournament committee, and also to Royal Athletic Club Owner John Michael and Manager Tina Kline for their support of women's racquetball.

Every year players new to the format and "old-timers" come to play and find out what a truly great and unique event this is, with some of the best racquetball competition anywhere. Next year's tournament will be held in Indianapolis at Greenbriar Athletic Club, January 14-16 2005, tournament director, Debbie Chaney. This is a level 5 tournament and also a regional qualifier for players in 45+ age groups.

Read the full story at the WSMRA's new web site:  
<http://my.execpc.com/~tutsch/WSMRA/main.html> or contact Kendra Tutsch at 608/592-2497, (kdtutsch@wisc.edu)

Submitted by Kendra Tutsch

IRT Pro Jason Mannino and his wife, Jen, recently had their second son. Jared Russell Mannino was born January 18, 2004, weighing 6 lbs, 15 oz. and 19" tall. As expected, the Mannino's were just as thrilled the second time around as they were the first.



"I love being a Dad. Having a son was the most wonderful feeling I had ever had, only to be out done by having 2 sons," Jason said. "I couldn't be happier and I only hope I have as good of a relationship with my boys as my father has with me."

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# INDUSTRY NEWS



## WILSON SIGNS VAN HEES



Wilson Racquet Sports has signed top professional racquetball player Christie Van Hees of Canada. Van Hees, a former #1 player and World Champion, has compiled a lengthy list of titles, including 6-time Canadian Junior Champion, 3-time Canadian National Champion, and 2000 U.S. OPEN Champion. She has also been a member of two Canadian National Pan American Teams.

She recently returned to the pro-tour after a two-year absence and plans to play on the LPRA fulltime. She finished 2nd at the 2003 U.S. OPEN Championships, only her second pro tournament since getting back in the game last fall, and became the first unranked player to go from qualifying to the final in racquetball's only "Grand Slam" event.

"Christie is the missing piece of our puzzle," stated Chris Evon, Marketing Manager of Wilson Indoor Racquet Sports. "We are excited to have another top woman representing Wilson. Christie shares our vision of promoting racquetball throughout the country and will conduct her own series of clinics as she travels competing on the pro tour."

INDUSTRY NEWS • INDUSTRY NEWS

## EKTELON SIGNS HISTORICAL AGREEMENT WITH THE IRF



Ektelon signed a three-year agreement with the International Racquetball Federation (IRF) becoming the 'Official Equipment Supplier' and 'Event Sponsor' to many of IRF's events for years to come. The international racquetball market has great potential and Ektelon wants to be at the forefront when this sport explodes worldwide, according to Scott Winters, General Manager for Ektelon.

"Racquetball is the best sport on the planet and we at Ektelon want to do everything we can do help grow this sport throughout the world," stated Winters. "Ektelon is excited about the promising future the international market has and looks forward to a long relationship with the IRF."

This historical agreement will support the development of the 4 IRF international regions as well as the key international events. A primary goal is to establish what the market is worldwide for racquetball and establish legitimate distribution outlets throughout the World.

The agreement between Ektelon and the IRF designates Ektelon as the 'Official Racquetball Equipment Supplier' of the IRF, including racquets, eyeguards, gloves, shoes, strings and bags. Ektelon will also be the 'Official Sponsor' of the following IRF events:

- 2004 and 2006 Adult World Championships
- 2004, 2005 and 2006 Pan American Championships
- 2004, 2005 and 2006 European Championships
- 2004, 2005 and 2006 Asian Championships
- 2004, 2005 and 2006 Junior Worlds.

"It is great that a company of Ektelon's stature has joined with us to develop racquetball worldwide and work closely with the IRF towards inclusion of racquetball on the Olympic program," stated Keith Calkins, IRF President. "We feel that with Ektelon's support, it could lead to the next big expansion of the sport!"

## WOR SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH HEAT ATHLETIC WEAR



World Outdoor Racquetball announced the signing of its first official product contract with HEAT Athletic Wear of Orange County, California. The agreement announced jointly by WOR Executive Director Hank Marcus and HEAT owners Richard Andrade & Robert

Martinez designates HEAT as the Official Apparel of WOR for the next 3 years. HEAT will be the exclusive designer and distributor of the WOR line of outdoor apparel in addition to producing outdoor event shirts and promotional products. "We are tremendously excited to be involved with HEAT right from the start," commented Marcus. "They have spent years involved with the outdoor game and are the perfect company to capture the attitude and excitement in clothing."

HEAT has been involved in the outdoor game since 1995.

"HEAT welcomes the relationship with WOR and, along with our lead designer, Nate Hendricks, we'll move forward to create a fresh new look for the outdoor player," commented Andrade.

WOR is the governing body of outdoor racquetball and organizing body behind the new Ektelon Outdoor Series.

For more information on WOR or outdoor racquetball in your area: [www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com](http://www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com)

INDUSTRY NEWS • INDUSTRY NEWS

## EKTELON NAMED OFFICIAL EVENT AND EQUIPMENT SPONSOR



Ektelon has signed a two-year agreement with USA Racquetball, which provides exclusive manufacturer rights for the Intercollegiate Championships, National Singles Championships, and National Doubles Championships. Ektelon is able to display and distribute approved merchandise at the designated national tournaments and events in addition to being named the official racquet of USA Racquetball.

In an effort to help bring more players into the sport, Ektelon has also agreed to conduct a youth clinic at each national event. USA Racquetball is responsible for delivering the prospective players and Ektelon will provide instructors to teach the basics of racquetball.

## HYATT NEW EVENT SPONSOR



The Downtown Houston Hyatt has been the official host hotel of the USA Racquetball National Singles Championships for over 25 years, but has now stepped up as a contributing sponsor towards USA Racquetball's marketing efforts. Proceeds from the three-year deal will be used to underwrite various events and activities to promote racquetball in conjunction with USA Racquetball's National Singles Championships.

## CREW WEST NAMED OFFICIAL SUPPLIER



Crew West and USA Racquetball have signed a one-year contract that gives distribution rights to the apparel company based in Phoenix. Crew West will supply all clothing for USA Racquetball National Teams and be allowed to set up a booth to sell merchandise at all USA Racquetball national events.

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### Fran's Credentials

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Questions? [video@FranDavisRacquetball.com](mailto:video@FranDavisRacquetball.com)

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March 12-14 Greensboro, NC

March 26-28 Las Vegas, NV

May 7-9 St. Louis, MO

May 14-16 Dallas, TX

June 4-6 Cleveland, OH

July 3-11-13 San Diego, CA

July 16-18 Boston, MA

July 23-25 Woodbridge, NJ

August 6-8 San Francisco, CA (Singles)

August 13-15 San Francisco, CA (Doubles)

F-1 MD/WA; Chicago, IL; FL; GA; NM

Summer 2-9 Aruba (Caribbean Island)

None? Upcoming camp dates...

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 March 17-21 Lynmar Classic Pro Am @ Lynmar Racquet & Health Club  
 March 18-21 North Carolina Open Championships Pro Stop @ Sportscenter Triad  
 March 18-21 Spring Doubles Tournament @ East Side Athletic Club  
 March 18-21 Spring Pinch LPRA Pro-Am @ Laurel Sport Fitness  
 March 19-21 Edens March Madness @ Edens Athletic Club  
 March 19-21 Fabulous Five Series #5 @ Southview Athletic Club  
 March 19-21 Green Mountain Open @ Racquet's Edge  
 March 19-21 Killshot Classic @ John Brown University  
 March 19-21 Luck O' the Irish Open @ Springfield Athletic Club  
 March 19-21 March Mayhem @ Moorhead Racquetball & Fitness Center  
 March 19-21 Northwest Open @ Bellingham Athletic Club  
 March 19-21 St. Paddy's Day Open @ Club Ultimate  
 March 19-21 Louisiana State Singles @ LSU Student Recreation Center  
 March 19-21 Missouri State Singles @ Vetta Sports-Concord St. Louis  
 March 19-21 Wyoming State Doubles @ Club Energize  
 March 23-27 2004 Utah State Singles @ Sports Mall  
 March 25-28 Fun Tournament @ Aurora Athletic Club  
 March 26-28 Baywinds Spring Open @ Baywinds Athletic Club  
 March 26-28 Big Chill 2 @ Northwest Fitness Center  
 March 26-28 Interbay YMCA Winter Classic @ Interbay Family YMCA  
 March 26-28 Killshot For Cancer @ Waverly Oaks Athletic Club  
 March 26-28 The Lite Open @ Athletic Club of York  
 March 26-28 2nd Annual Coastal Georgia Open @ Newman Fitness Center  
 March 26-28 Delaware State Singles @ Kirkwood Racquet & Fitness  
 March 26-28 Indiana State Singles @ Greenbriar Athletic Club  
 March 26-28 Kentucky State Singles @ Louisville Downtown YMCA  
 March 26-28 Nebraska State Singles @ Sports Courts  
 March 26-28 New Jersey State Singles @ Classic Athletic Club  
 March 26-28 Oklahoma State Singles & Juniors @ Thornton YMCA  
 March 26-28 Wisconsin State Singles @ Wisconsin Ath Club- West Allis  
 March 27-28 Illinois State Juniors @ Landmark Racquet & Health Club  
 March 28-30 Michigan State Singles @ Players Athletic Club

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| West Jordan, UT      | 801-347-9607 |
| Colorado Springs, CO | 719-598-4069 |
| Jamestown, NC        | 336-886-1266 |
| Milwaukee, OR        | 503-659-3845 |
| Laurel, MD           | 410-987-0980 |
| Chicago, IL          | 773-286-6700 |
| West St. Paul, MN    | 651-450-1660 |
| Essex Junction, VT   | 802-233-9917 |
| Siloam Springs, AR   | 479-204-1000 |
| Springfield, OH      | 937-399-2360 |
| Moorhead, MN         | 218-233-0230 |
| Bellingham, WA       | 360-676-1800 |
| Bedford, OH          | 440-942-2700 |
| Baton Rouge, LA      | 225-751-2773 |
| St. Louis, MO        | 314-531-0988 |
| Gillette, WY         | 307-686-7627 |
| Salt Lake City, UT   | 801-261-3426 |
| Aurora, CO           | 303-680-5569 |
| Huron, OH            | 419-433-2750 |
| Houston, TX          | 713-895-8688 |
| Tampa, FL            | 813-765-5120 |
| Waltham, MA          | 508-881-3953 |
| York, PA             | 717-764-8536 |
| Fort Stewart, GA     | 912-492-0694 |
| Wilmington, DE       | 302-674-9468 |
| Indianapolis, IN     | 317-847-6563 |
| Louisville, KY       | 270-497-4348 |
| Lincoln, NE          | 402-454-2765 |
| Fairfield, NJ        | 973-389-9978 |
| Tulsa, OK            | 918-541-0722 |
| West Allis, WI       | 414-321-2500 |
| Peoria, IL           | 630-969-4545 |
| Warren, MI           | 810-217-8668 |

# APRIL

April 1-4 Alaska State Singles @ The Alaska Club Midtown  
 April 1-4 Florida Regional @ The Quad Athletic Club  
 April 1-4 Foxwoods Pro-Stop @ Metro South Athletic Club  
 April 1-4 Colorado State Singles @ Denver Athletic Club  
 April 1-4 Illinois State Singles @ Chalet Fitness Center  
 April 1-4 New Mexico State Singles @ Highpoint Sports & Wellness  
 April 2-4 Fool's Day Folly @ Tri-City Court Club  
 April 2-4 Johnston Willis Chippenham Open @ Robious Sport & Health  
 April 2-4 Juniors Only Tournament @ American Family  
 April 2-4 Oregon Junior Tour Stop @ Courthouse Athletic Club North Salem  
 April 2-4 Pro Nationals Warm-up @ Arizona State University  
 April 2-4 Arizona State Singles @ World Class Fitness  
 April 2-4 Idaho State Doubles @ Fitness Inc.  
 April 2-4 Minnesota State Singles @ Northwest Athletic Club  
 April 2-4 North Carolina State Singles @ Sports Center  
 April 2-4 North Dakota State Singles @ Capital Racquet & Fitness Center  
 April 2-4 Wyoming State Singles @ Sheridan YMCA  
 3-Apr Dallas Series IV @ Landmark Fitness Factory  
 April 3-4 Eastern Indiana Open @ Health Connection  
 April 3-4 Old Mill Open @ Ole Mill Racquet Club  
 April 3-5 Spring Kick Off VI @ Central Penn Fitness  
 April 3-4 WNYRA Championships @ Bally's Health Club  
 April 4-6 5 Seasons Super7 Shootout Series @ Five Seasons Country Club  
 April 15-18 California Regional @ Royal Athletic Club  
 April 15-18 Colorado Regional @ Lynmar Racquet Club  
 April 15-18 Georgia Regional @ Southern Athletic Club

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Anchorage, AK       | 907-240-7178 |
| Coral Springs, FL   | 954-753-8900 |
| Brockton, MA        | 781-982-6029 |
| Denver, CO          | 720-931-6812 |
| Willow Springs, IL  | 773-251-4413 |
| Albuquerque, NM     | 505-890-0096 |
| Kennewick, WA       | 509-783-5465 |
| Richmond, VA        | 804-747-7833 |
| Richmond, VA        | 804-330-3400 |
| Salem, OR           | 503-330-0624 |
| Tempe, AZ           | 480-835-7555 |
| Ft. Smith, AR       | 479-646-4022 |
| Pocatello, ID       | 208-238-1302 |
| Brooklyn Center, MN | 320-251-3965 |
| Fayetteville, NC    | 910-947-3029 |
| Bismarck, ND        | 701-221-6855 |
| Sheridan, WY        | 307-674-7488 |
| Dallas, TX          | 972-392-1500 |
| Richmond, IN        | 765-935-9191 |
| Saint Johnsbury, VT | 802-879-7242 |
| Harrisburg, PA      | 717-564-4171 |
| Buffalo, NY         | 716-825-5043 |
| Westlake, OH        | 440-871-2811 |
| Burlingame, CA      | 650-349-9533 |
| C. Springs, CO      | 719-598-7075 |
| Lilburn, GA         | 770-935-9685 |

April 15-18 Illinois Regional @ Glass Court Swim & Fitness  
 April 15-18 Minnesota Regional @ Central Courts  
 April 15-18 New Hampshire Regional @ Exec Health & Sports Center  
 April 15-18 Ohio Regional Adult & Junior @ Strongsville Recreation Center  
 April 15-18 Oklahoma Regional @ Southern Athletic Club  
 April 15-18 Oregon Regional @ Cascade Athletic Club  
 April 15-18 Texas Regional @ Racquetball & Fitness Club  
 April 15-18 Virginia Regional @ Crystal Gateway Sport & Health  
 April 22-25 Missouri Regional @ Vetta Sports Clubs - Concord  
 April 22-25 New York Regional @ Sportset Of Syosset  
 April 23-25 Key Sports Classic Series @ TBA  
 April 23-25 Spring Swing @ Sport and Health Club  
 April 23-25 The Bragg Classic @ Riz-Epps Physical Fitness Ctr.  
 April 24-24 Wisconsin State Juniors @ Eau Claire Athletic Club  
 April 29 - May 2 Charity Tournament @ Pro Sports Club  
 April 29 - May 2 Cinco De Mayo @ Pueblo Athletic Club  
 April 30 - May 2 All Military Championships @ Greenbrier North YMCA  
 April 30 - May 2 Atlantic Coast Racquetball Championship @ Wilmington Athletic Club  
 April 30 - May 2 Oregon Junior State Championships @ Eastside Athletic Club  
 April 30 - May 2 Pro Nationals (Amateur Event) @ Arizona State University  
 April 30 - May 2 Ralph Temple Classic @ Patriots Park Gym  
 April 30 - May 2 Season's End @ Cedardale Athletic Club  
 April 30 - May 2 Sports Courts Open @ Sports Courts  
 April 30 - May 2 Spring Fling Cash Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet

Chicago, IL 773-935-9685  
 Columbia Heights, MN 763-572-0330  
 Manchester, NH 603-759-2729  
 Cleveland, OH 614-890-6073  
 Oklahoma City, OK 918-540-0315  
 Gresham, OR 503-665-4142  
 San Antonio, TX 210-344-8596  
 Arlington, VA 703-684-4146  
 St Louis, MO 314-842-6363  
 Syosset, NY 718-429-8489  
 Phoenix, AZ 480-545-1363  
 Myrtle Beach, SC 843-497-2444  
 Fort Bragg, NC  
 Ear Claire, WI 715-833-2201  
 Bellevue, WA 206-361-8853  
 Pueblo, CO 719-561-3488  
 Chesapeake, VA 757-366-9622  
 Wilmington, NC 910-343-5950  
 Milwaukee, OR 503-659-3845  
 Tempe, AZ 480-836-7555  
 Grovetown, GA 706-724-3644  
 Haverhill, MA 978-927-3923  
 Lincoln, NE 402-454-2765  
 Orlando, FL 407/645-3550

# MAY

May 1-1 Dallas Series V @ Landmark Fitness Factory  
 May 1-2 Pojoaque Warm-up @ Pojoaque Wellness Center  
 May 1-1 Shoot-Out Saturday @ Walton Life Fitness Center  
 May 1-2 Southeast Junior Regional @ The Quad Athletic Club  
 May 1-1 Arizona State Juniors @ Walton Life Fitness Center  
 May 7-9 Racquet for The Cure @ Idaho Athletic Club  
 8-May Dallas Open @ Landmark Fitness Factory  
 May 12-16 Oregon State Singles @ Lloyd Athletic Club  
 May 14-16 Mid-South Open @ Six50 Total Club  
 May 14-16 National Warm-up @ Club International  
 May 14-16 Spring Classic @ Vision Sports  
 May 14-16 Spring Junior Benefit Classic @ Orlando Fitness & Racquet Club  
 May 14-16 Tournament of Aces @ Tri City Leisure Center  
 May 15-15 National Warm-Up @ Northwest Fitness Center  
 May 21-23 Northwest Junior Regional @ Club Green Meadows

Dallas, TX 972-392-1500  
 Santa Fe, NM 505-455-9355  
 Bentonville, AR 479-204-1000  
 Coral Springs, FL 954-753-8900  
 Bentonville, AR 479-646-4338  
 Boise, ID 208-345-7599  
 Dallas, TX 972-392-1500  
 Portland, OR 503-245-7588  
 Memphis, TN 870-762-7195  
 Santa Fe, NM 505-473-9807  
 Asheville, NC 828-232-0668  
 Orlando, FL 407-679-3993  
 West Columbia, SC 803-422-3555  
 Houston, TX 713-895-8688  
 Vancouver, WA 503-330-0624



## National & International Events

INTERNATIONAL  
RACQUETBALL  
FEDERATION

March 24-28 USAR 32nd National Intercollegiate Championships  
 April 2-11 PARC 17th Tournament of the Americas  
 April 15-18 USAR Regional Championship Weekend  
 May 26-31 USAR 37th National Singles Championships  
 June 23-27 USAR 31st Junior Olympic Championships  
 July 21-24 NMRA International Masters Invitational  
 July USAR High Performance Training Camp  
 July 31-Aug. 7 IRF 12th World Racquetball Championships  
 Aug. 31-Sept. 4 IRF 15th World Senior Racquetball Championships  
 Sept. 29-Oct. 3 USAR 37th National Doubles Championships  
 Nov. 16-21 Choice Hotels 9th U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships

San Diego, Calif.  
 Quito, Ecuador  
 Nationwide  
 Houston, Texas  
 Eau Claire, Wisc.  
 West Allis, Wisc.  
 Colorado Springs, Colo.  
 Seoul, Korea  
 Albuquerque, N.M.  
 Phoenix, Ariz.  
 Memphis, Tenn.



# USA Racquetball Top 10 National Rankings

## MEN'S OPEN

1. Mitch Williams, NC
2. Shane Wood, MA
3. Shane Vanderson, OH
4. Rocky Carson, CA
5. Ben Croft, IL
6. Tony Boscia, CO
7. Chris Crowther, CA
8. Brian Fredenberg, TX
9. Josh Tucker, MO
10. Gared Edmunds, KY

## MEN'S ELITE

1. Raymond Maestas, NM
2. Ralph Cuesta, FL
3. Alex Zamudio, IN
4. Rodrigo Urzua, FL
5. Ismael Aldana, CA
6. James Kostal, WY
7. Dana Maher, NM
8. Damon Peterson, IL
- 9t. Mike Adams, NC
- 9t. Greg Badger, CA

## MEN'S A

1. Jody Morris, TX
2. Marco Mijares, GA
3. Roberto Cantos, TX
- 4t. Marty Hammond, PA
- 4t. Eric Vought, OH
6. Tripp Isley, NC
7. Mark Bianchi, OK
8. Scott Mitchell, CO
9. Wade Reuther, WA
10. Kipp Atwell, LA

## MEN'S B

1. Rick Rubin, FL
2. Brandon Stanley, LA
3. David Levy, FL
4. Tim Page, PA
5. Dennis Whitehead, TX
- 6t. Joel Ernst, OH
- 6t. Sid Harshavat, IL
- 6t. Jason Hicks, KY
- 6t. Chigozie Ijeoma, FL
- 6t. Jeff Rengel, TX

## MEN'S C

1. Garry Carter, CA
2. Tim Kirk, TX
- 3t. Bob Reou, MI
- 3t. Scott Stoodley, NH
- 3t. Paul Tatz, AZ
6. Drew Toland, AR
- 7t. Jonathan Collins, FL
- 7t. Barry Cruthirds, MI
- 7t. Brandon McNab, TX
- 7t. Ray Meisner, IL

## MEN'S D

1. Mairo Moreira, CA
2. Jim Stein, PA
3. Jeff Van Horn, PA
4. Ron Maestas, NM
5. Armstead Williams, AR
- 6t. Jorge Bejar, GA
- 6t. Ron Collins, WA
- 6t. Jason Small, NJ
9. Mike Barrows, CO
10. Daniel Russell, TN

## MEN'S NOVICE

1. Greg West, NH
- 2t. Alex Bahls, NM
- 2t. Dusty Gallivan, TX
- 2t. Freddy Guevara, FL
- 2t. Bruce Hotchkiss, MI
- 2t. Michael Rivers, OH
- 7t. Pete McConnell, DC
- 7t. David Piper, AZ
- 9t. Matt Anderson, MA
- 9t. Logan North, OH

## MEN'S 24+

1. Marc Moccia, MA
2. Andy Hawthorne, OH
- 3t. Jack Huczek, MI
- 3t. Mitch Williams, NC
5. Matthew McElhiney, FL
6. Alejandro Herrera, FL
7. Chris Coy, OK
- 8t. Mike Gaffney, PA
- 8t. Shane Vanderson, OH
- 8t. Travis Woodbury, VA

## MEN'S 25+

1. Mike Orr, PA
- 2t. Mike Dennison, OH
- 2t. Jason Sylvester, NY
- 4t. Aaron Metcalf, FL
- 4t. Alain Pujolar, FL
- 4t. Dan Whitley, MO
7. Jason Colangelo, MD
8. German Herrera, FL
- 9t. Oscar Macias, TX
- 9t. Ryan Rodgers, TX

## MEN'S 30+

1. Aaron Metcalf, FL
2. Tom Fuhrmann, AZ
3. Dave Stark, NY
4. Brian Pointelin, UT
5. Jamal Harris, MD
6. Roberto Cantos, TX
- 7t. Brian Fredenberg, TX
- 7t. Chris Jones, OK
9. Marco Mijares, GA
10. Dave Bartscher, TX

## MEN'S 35+

1. Kelly North, KY
2. Dan Liacera, DE
3. Tony Feldstein, CO
4. John Barrett, PA
5. Sam Tolisano, NY
6. James Kostal, WY
7. John Collison, DE
8. Steve Goedker, MI
9. Ken Eade, NY
10. Eugene Coyle, IL

## MEN'S 40+

1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Dave Watson, OK
3. Eric Foley, MD
4. Bobby Haab, CT
5. Scott Cullins, GA
6. Tony Feldstein, CO
- 7t. Gustavo Farrell, TX
- 7t. Randy Forrest, FL
9. Sam Tolisano, NY
10. Noel De La Rosa, TX

## MEN'S 45+

1. Joe Hassey, NY
2. Mitch Smith, PA
3. Dave Milazzo, IL
4. John Greer, PA
5. Glenn Bell, TX
6. Glenn Leib, PA
7. James Jones, CA
- 8t. Glenn Loehr, VA
- 8t. Bud Mervin, FL
- 8t. Mike Murphy, OH

## MEN'S 50+

- 1t. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
- 1t. Darryl Warren, CA
3. Mark Baron, VA
4. Jim Luzar, WI
5. Gregg Mandell, IL
6. Mitt Layton, FL
7. Frank Taddonio, AZ
8. Russ Palazzo, CT
9. Sal Perconti, FL
10. Gary Peterson, MN

## MEN'S 55+

1. Bill Welaj, NJ
2. Greg Hasty, IL
3. Ed Remen, NC
4. Tom McKie, TX
5. Russ Mannino, CA
6. Dan Jones, GA
7. Bill Wolfe, NY
8. David Warner, MN
9. Mike Hylden, MN
10. Ed Storey, FL

## MEN'S 60+

1. Dan Jones, GA
2. Glenn Allen, VA
3. Warren Reuther, LA
4. Pat Taylor, IL
5. Chris Segura, UT
6. Reed Barnitz, NM
- 7t. Pete Keiser, OH
- 7t. Mitch Milewski, NH
- 7t. Roger Wehrle, GA
10. Leland Rients, MN

## MEN'S 65+

1. Lee Graff, OR
2. Rex Lawler, IN
3. Dave Snyder, TX
4. Michael Jackson, CT
5. Jerry Northwood, AZ
6. Ron Adams, CA
7. Ed Olah, IL
8. Grant Morril, PA
- 9t. Bob Drouin, NH
- 9t. Alan Dwyer, FL

## MEN'S 70+

1. Don Alt, OH
2. John O'Donnell, IL
3. Ken Karmel, NM
- 4t. Chuck Kaiser, MI
- 4t. Robert Miller, SC
- 6t. Joe Miller, FL
- 6t. Sean Reid, NV
- 6t. Jim Stahl, TX
- 9t. Paul Banales, AZ
- 9t. Wendell Hall, NM

## MEN'S 75+

1. Joe Lambert, TX
2. Duane Russell, MI
3. Carl Buschmer, MA
4. Dick Kincade, CO
5. Ken Yahiro, IL
6. Victor Sacco, NY
7. Michael Martin, CO
8. Philips Dulaney, VA
- 9t. Ray Gordon, ND
- 9t. Hugh Groover, AR

## MEN'S 80+

1. Robert McAdam, TX
2. Sam Harry, PA
3. Earl Acuff, NC
- 4t. Bill Matotan, NM
- 4t. J.W. Studak, TX
6. Stuart Strand, CA
7. Don Goddard, MT
8. Al Romero, NM
9. Wendell Hall, NM
10. Carlton Appleby, CA

## MEN'S 85+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Ben Marshall, TX
3. Walter Gardner, UT
1. Heather Dunn, MA
2. Denise Mock, TX
3. Malia Bailey, VA
4. Aimee Ruiz, NJ
5. Shannon Feaster, MD
6. Cheryl Gudinas, IL

7. Jo Shattuck, CO
- 8t. Laura Fenton, KS
- 8t. Rachel Gellman, AZ
10. Claudia Ramirez, FL

## WOMEN'S ELITE

1. Terese Beresford, VA
- 2t. Tina Hagen, CO
- 2t. Solanna Taragan, CA
4. Debra Bryant, NC
5. Tina Joslin, TX
- 6t. Jill Crouse, CA
- 6t. Jesi Fuller, NM
- 6t. Claudia Ramirez, FL
- 6t. Lisa Warshawsky, CA
10. Sandy Colello, ME

## WOMEN'S A

1. Suzette Solomon, IN
2. Diane Chappel, NY
3. Pat Sims, ME
4. Susan Lichtman, NY
- 5t. Tara Arnett, VA
- 5t. Esther McNany, CT
- 5t. Maria Vera, GA
- 5t. Christine Watson, TX
9. Deb Irvine, NH
10. Barbara Christensen, UT

## WOMEN'S B

1. Chandra Shaw, TX
2. Lori Good, IL
3. Priscilla Krammer, FL
4. Sandy Mercado, DE
- 5t. Diana Courtney, MI
- 5t. Shannon Inglesby, OR
7. Kara Mazur, CT
8. Karen Thurlow, IL
- 9t. Ping Chu, VA
- 9t. Umpapan Trakoontripop, NJ

## WOMEN'S C

1. Marci Laramee, TN
2. Jean Lerch, NH
3. Beth Gainer, PA
4. Janice Bell, GA
5. Aline Jackson, AR
6. Teresa La Brie, NH
- 7t. Kelly Carson, IL
- 7t. Cherie Evans, WA
- 7t. Nancy Hodges, OH
10. April Boyd, OK

## WOMEN'S D

1. Ashley Loyd, TN
2. Carolyn Watkins, IL
3. Haley Rollins, GA
4. Danielle Key, AZ
5. Sarah Warhaftig, CO
6. Richelle Kulju, WA
7. Cathy Doucet, NH
- 8t. Laya Lee, GA
- 8t. Debbie Vering, NM
10. Terry Tillotson, WA

## WOMEN'S NOVICE

- 1t. Shaocova Danes, FL
- 1t. Jackie Morrison, NY
- 1t. Jennifer Wells, TX
4. Courtney Chisholm, MA
5. Mandy Wittenbrink, NM
- 6t. Katherine Affeltranger, UT
- 6t. Lucy Avraamidou, PA
- 6t. Diane Bass, TX
- 6t. Monica Gotelaere, GA
- 6t. Courtney Hill, NM

**WOMEN'S 24+**

1. Lauren Deutsch, CA
- 1t. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
- 1t. Kristen Walsh, UT
4. Kelley Fisher, OH
5. Krystal Csuk, IL
- 6t. Melissa Borgwat, CA
- 6t. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 6t. Janel Tisinger, CA
- 6t. Da'monique Davis, TX
10. Sara Borland, IA

**WOMEN'S 25+**

1. T.J. Baumbaugh, VA
- 2t. Shannon Feaster, MD
- 2t. Rachel Gellman, AZ
- 2t. Kerri Wachtel, OH
- 5t. Jennifer Lynch, CO
- 5t. Aimee Ruiz, NJ
7. Ramona Von Ondarza, FL
- 8t. Stephanie Bird, OK
- 8t. Young-Mi Lee, CA
10. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ

**WOMEN'S 30+**

1. Heather Dunn, MA
2. Amy Foster, OH
3. Claudia Ramirez, FL
4. Jo Shattuck, CO
5. Lisa Warshawsky, CA
6. Paula Truman, ME
- 7t. Tina Hagen, CO
- 7t. Candi Hostovich, VA
9. Jennifer Hunter, TN
10. Fanny Scangle, FL

**WOMEN'S 35+**

1. Solanna Taragan, CA
- 2t. Lorraine Galloway, NY
- 2t. Denise Mock, TX
4. Felicia Mann, MI
- 5t. Anita Maldonado, NY
- 5t. Lisa Mayo, ME
- 5t. Patty Willyard, TX
8. Leah Upshaw, GA
9. Lynn Fonseca, GA
10. Sherron Boyea, CA

**WOMEN'S 40+**

1. Lorraine Galloway, NY
2. Malia Bailey, VA
3. Denise Mock, TX
4. Laura Brandt, FL
5. Shari Coplen, MO
6. Cheryl Miosi, NY
7. Terri Thornton, MN
8. Cyd Evans, NM
9. B.J. Ehrhart, CT
10. Jackie Gopie, FL

**WOMEN'S 45+**

- 1t. Linda Moore, NE
- 1t. Marcia Richards, CO
3. Liz Molitor, IL
4. Susan Pfahler, FL
5. Jere Luttner, TX
- 6t. Chris Evon, IL
- 6t. Debra Tisinger, CA
8. Jean Trimble, FL
- 9t. Julie Hill, OK
- 9t. Val Shewfelt, UT

**WOMEN'S 50+**

1. Debbie Chaney, IN
- 2t. Marsha Berry, KY
- 2t. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
4. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
5. Karen Key, AZ
6. Jere Luttner, TX
7. Kathy Dunham, IL
8. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
- 9t. Elaine Dexter, CA
- 9t. Susan Kieffer, MN

**WOMEN'S 55+**

1. Merijean Kelley, CA
2. Paula Lemon, OK
- 3t. Margaret Hoff, IL

**WOMEN'S 24-**

- 3t. Dee Stribling, NC
5. CeCe Palaski, NM
6. Sharon Huczek, MI
7. Paula Sperling, NM
8. Mary Petty, TX
- 9t. Mildred Gwinn, NC
- 9t. Jackie Jones, FL

**WOMEN'S 60+**

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

**WOMEN'S 65+**

1. Annabelle Kovar, NE
- 2t. Iona Baldwin, MO
- 2t. Jo Kenyon, FL
- 2t. Annabelle Kovar, NE
- 2t. Jo Penny, SC
6. Marilyn Hoagland, MN
7. Naomi Eads, MO
- 8t. Shirley Barron, KY
- 8t. Ellen Kropp, WA
10. Ellen McAfee, UT

**WOMEN'S 70+**

1. Lola Markus, IL
- 2t. Reta Harring, WI
- 2t. Louise Kiss, NM
4. Betty Railey, KY

**WOMEN'S 75+**

- 1t. Mary-Low Acuff, NC
- 1t. Reta Harring, WI
3. Mary Lou Kackert, NM

**WOMEN'S 80+**

1. Mary-Low Acuff, NC

**BOY'S 6-**

1. Thomas Santilli, CT
2. David Njoroge, CT
- 3t. Kyle Ulliman, OH
- 3t. David Zingale, AZ
- 5t. Skywalker Garcia, AZ
- 5t. Ralph Grillone III, MA
- 5t. Will Kszlywanos, CT
- 5t. Matt McAdam, CO
- 5t. Spencer Shoemaker, OH
10. Kevin Bierner, AZ

**BOY'S 6- MULTI-BOUNCE**

1. Spencer Shoemaker, OH
2. Kyle Ulliman, OH
3. Luke Meyer, WI
4. Matt McAdam, CO
- 5t. Ian Bellisario, AR
- 5t. Deryl Wray, OH
7. Conor Grammes, VA
8. Thomas Santilli, CT
9. Cory Richer, CO
10. Ralph Grillone III, MA

**BOY'S 8-**

1. Sam Reid, OR
2. Keegan North, OH
3. Chris Vosburg, MA
4. Ryan Coates, OH
5. Doug Brenner, OR
6. Zach Pellowski, WI
7. Adam Manilla, CO
8. Sean Cooperrider, FL
9. Matthew Wray, OH
10. Anthony DiMatteo, CT

**BOY'S 8- MULTI-BOUNCE**

1. Keegan North, OH
2. Anthony DiMatteo, CT
3. Doug Brenner, OR
4. Zach Pellowski, WI
- 5t. Paul Frondorf, VA

**WOMEN'S 24-**

- 5t. Chris Vosburg, MA
7. Jeffrey Locke, OR
8. Kyle Ulliman, OH
9. Jasper Jackson, AK
10. Adam Manilla, CO

**BOY'S 10-**

1. Dylan Reid, OR
2. Brad Falvey, WI
- 3t. Joey Lee, OR
- 3t. Logan North, OH
5. Sam Allen, CT
- 6t. Joseph Lee, LA
- 6t. Rion Ocampo, VA
8. Taylor Regier, OR
9. Andy McGuffey, OH
10. Timothy Lerow, FL

**BOY'S 12-**

1. Danny Lavelly, OH
2. Taylor Knott, OR
3. John-Craig Chisholm, MA
4. Billy Wainwright, OR
5. Trevor Snyders, IL
- 6t. Tyler Lienhart, VA
- 6t. Andrew Price, MI
8. James Fahey, CT
9. Taylor McDermott, TX
10. Sam Vargas Jr., CO

**BOY'S 14-**

1. Rick Sledzik Jr., MA
2. Ismael Aldana Jr., CA
3. Sean McGrath, IN
4. Allan Crockett, AL
- 5t. Nick Czatt, VA
- 5t. Tim Tilton, CO
7. Cody Sylvester, UT
- 8t. Jonathan Doyle, OH
- 8t. Tripp Isley, NC
- 8t. Brandon Ritschard, IL

**BOY'S 16-**

1. Charlie Pratt, OR
2. Joey Lakowske, OR
- 3t. Zach Apperson, OH
- 3t. Mike Keddie, NH
- 3t. Jordan Walters, NC
6. Darrel Miller, WI
- 7t. Rick Sledzik Jr., MA
- 7t. Daniel Stewart, KY
9. Andrew Gale, UT
10. Anthony Martin, UT

**BOY'S 18-**

1. Ben Croft, IL
2. Dan Sheppick, OR
3. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
- 4t. Marc Moccia, MA
- 4t. Dain Taylor, IN
6. Jose Flores Jr., CT
7. Scott Manship, MA
- 8t. Shane Karmelin, GA
- 8t. Joey Lakowske, OR
10. Phil Mathews, IL

**GIRL'S 6-**

1. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
2. Railey Zantop-Zimlinghaus, CO
3. Sidney Bercovich, AZ
- 4t. Amy Alonzi, CO
- 4t. Zosia Howard, CO

**GIRL'S 6- MULTI-BOUNCE**

1. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
2. Danielle Falvey, WI
3. Danielle Elder, MD
4. Alexis Brees, WI
5. Krystal Boyle, OR
- 6t. Erica Manilla, CO
- 6t. Railey Zantop-Zimlinghaus, CO

**GIRL'S 8-**

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
2. Micaela Garrison-Desany, MA
3. Lauren Lydon, NH
4. Parkes Kendrick, OR
5. Lauren Stanley, LA
- 6t. Nicole Bruns, VA
- 6t. Rebecca Nader, NH
- 6t. Nicole Ortega, AZ
- 6t. Kayla Pereira, MA
- 6t. Brooke Lynn Rushefsky, AZ

**GIRL'S 8- MULTI-BOUNCE**

1. Abbey Lavelly, OH
2. Lauren Stanley, LA
3. Elizabeth Vargas, CO
4. Hollee Hungerford, OR
5. Lauren Feder, SC
- 6t. Danielle Elder, MD
- 6t. Tessa Feemster, WA
- 6t. Micaela Garrison-Desany, MA
- 6t. Hannah Ocampo, VA
10. Krystal Boyle, OR

**GIRL'S 10-**

1. Kaitlin Inglesby, OR
2. Courtney Chisholm, MA
3. Elizabeth Brenner, OR
4. Tarryn Harborth, CA
- 5t. Jacquelyn Rosado, CT
- 5t. Samantha Rosado, CT
- 7t. Lily Berry, OH
- 7t. Abbey Lavelly, OH
9. Veronica Sotomayor, IL
10. Monique Horyza, CA

**GIRL'S 12-**

1. Danielle Key, AZ
2. Samantha Rosado, CT
3. Jacqueline Rosado, CT
- 4t. Nicole Grundman, MN
- 4t. Sheryl Lotts, OH
6. Wesley Toland, AR
7. Courtney Chisholm, MA
- 8t. Hayley Ross, ND
- 8t. Veronica Sotomayor, IL
10. Kaylea Henderson, OR

**GIRL'S 14-**

1. Kara Mazur, CT
2. Brittany Legget, OR
3. Shannon Inglesby, OR
4. Lilly Castillon, VA
5. Sharon Jackson, IN
6. Jennifer Fenton, KS
7. Dannielle Pimental, OR
8. Samantha McGuffey, OH
9. Hannah Oliver, CO
10. Sherrika Darnell, CA

**GIRL'S 16-**

1. Elise Wilson, CT
2. Kimberly Walsh, UT
3. Kelley Fisher, OH
4. Sarah Hettessheimer, OH
5. Ashley Willhite, OR
6. Ashley Legget, OR
7. Katherine Affeltranger, UT
8. Jackie Morrison, NY
9. Sarah Moyle, OR
10. Elizabeth Ferguson, OR

**GIRL'S 18-**

1. Adrienne Fisher, OH
2. Jesi Fuller, NM
3. Da'Monique Davis, TX
4. Elise Wilson, CT
5. Katie Ferguson, OR
6. Lauren Ritter, MO
7. Melissa Gransbury, OR
- 8t. Erin Egan, IL
- 8t. Ashley Legget, OR
- 8t. Betsy Rombach, MO

# When Racquetball Jumped the SHARK

By Eric Muller



You can't log onto a racquetball chat room without someone asking "what is it going to take for racquetball to reach the next level?" Putting aside the obvious question of how to

define the next level, it's no secret that racquetball jumped the shark about 25 years ago. In fact, we can actually pinpoint the exact moment - it was in 1980 when Marty Hogan bested the likes of Moses Malone, Lou Brock and Joe Theismann in ABC Sport's Superstars competition.

Why was Hogan's TV appearance the peak? During the late 1970's and early 1980's the sport was new. Racquetball-only clubs sprang up all over the country; a bevy of consumer product companies clamored to manufacture racquets and balls; local tournaments drew hundreds (or thousands in the case Al Seitleman's Long Island Open) of participants (a strong percentage of whom were actually women); the professional tour (while perhaps not as robust as some remember) offered attractive prize money; the top players of the day commanded five and six figure endorsement contracts from non-racquetball related sponsors. When Hogan appeared on the Superstars, it was a tacit acknowledgement that racquetball was a real sport played by real athletes.

The bubble burst in the mid 1980's, and today racquetball is somewhat stagnant. Racquetball courts are merely another amenity offered at full-service fitness facilities; one manufacturer, Head / Penn, enjoys a dominant position in racquetball products; local tournaments often attract less than 100 entrants (very few of whom are women); the professional tour has Cliff Swain playing for the same absolute dollars (not adjusted for inflation) that he was competing for some 20 years ago; at best one or two pros have meaningful non-racquetball related sponsors. When Shawn Royster appeared on NBC's Fear Factor last year, it was a tacit acknowledgement that racquetball players could eat pizza made of pig intestine and bile.

When lamenting the state of the sport, we must not be too quick to lay the blame at the feet of any particular individual or organization. Rather, we must acknowledge Adam Smith's "Invisible Hand": our experience over the past quarter century is *prima facie* evidence that economics, the laws of supply and demand, will always and forever dictate racquetball's place in the sports world.

The 70's and 80's salad days reflected the beginning of a market cycle. Racquetball was experiencing exponential growth, and naturally real estate developers, consumer product manufacturers, event promoters and opportunists jumped at the chance to make a buck. As racquetball's fad status quickly went the way of the Pet Rock and people stopped playing, the sport went into freefall (without a bungee cord). As in any efficient market where supply far outstrips demand, racquetball experienced a shake out. Club owners now realize that Spinning classes generate high capacity utilization for a 20 x 20 room (and also have figured out that those panel walls are not too difficult to bulldoze over); product sale volume dictates that only a handful of manufacturers generate sufficient revenue to cover fixed costs; tournaments receive less interest and therefore cut amenities in order to maintain profitability; the pros compete for only for what the market will bear; non-industry sponsors are hard to find because other marketing channels generate higher impressions per dollar.

So don't be disheartened - the racquetball euphoria of the 70's and 80's were merely an anomaly, a market bubble not dissimilar to the tulip-bulb craze from 1634-1637 or the dot.com bubble of the late 1990's. Just as Yahoo's stock price will never again reach \$200 per share, racquetball will never look like it did in 1980. Today our sport has a better organizational structure than at any time in recent history, so the challenge for racquetball's leadership in measuring our future successes is to look forward, not backward.

## Buy, Sell or Hold

For you racquetball investors, at the end of each column, I will evaluate a person, place or thing within the racquetball industry and provide an opinion as to whether you should buy, sell or hold

### Buy

#### JACK HUCZEK

limited downside; consistent earnings; good long term value creation

### Sell

#### ALVERO BELTRAN

has exceeded analyst expectations but is trading at a 52-week high

### Hold

#### KANE

#### WASELENCHUK

tremendous upside potential but high volatility could lead to significant losses

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