

CROSS COURTERLY

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Quotes of the Month...

"We must govern by the force of Life; not by the life of Force"

—James Carroll

"No, I was wearing a skirt",

—Patty Greene, when asked if she had any problem getting past security at Kirtland Air Force Base

"His Hairness is thinking about running for Governor of New York";

—Keith Olbermann about Donald Trump

"Boredom flourishes when you feel safe. It's a symptom of security."

—Eugene Ionesco

"I saw it out of the corner of my eye."

—Chris Pacheco, after being asked if he thought his shot were good

"I just lost my mother at the end of last year. She was one day shy of her 106th birthday."

—Fred Quesenbery

"A sonreir es vivir"

—Anonymous

"Do you mean my husband or my dog?"

—Mary Keenan, answering the question as to where her beautiful animal was...

President's Message

Thinking About Hiring a Club Pro?

The three most often heard reasons for not having a club professional on staff include; it is an unjustified expense, racquetball (and other court sports) do not generate revenue, and ignorance of ownership and management. A Club Pro's job description should include:

- ...being visible at the facility.
- ...developing continuity between club departments.
- ...enhancing the bottom line.
- ...facilitating member satisfaction and retention.
- ...instilling a professional environment.
- ...program development and growth.

While the club professional is not nor cannot be everything to everybody, they should attempt to identify a niche or small set of niches in their market. For example, grass roots programs, under 12 youth, or over 50 seniors. Care should be taken to prioritize these groups; yet, not to the exclusion of others.

The pro should have skills in communication, organization, and teaching. IHRSA (International Health and Racquet Sports Association) data have documented that the court sports (racquetball, handball, squash, paddleball, tennis) clientele retains a membership more than twice as long as those who do not use the courts and they spend more money while using the club. A function of membership satisfaction is keeping these members active with programming that makes sense, is enjoyable, and provides value. These individuals typically are already paying club dues. A club pro will be a leader and will delegate and network when necessary. They will turn their attention to the new member and not forget those that have been loyal over the years.

Whether your racquetball and court sport program is under-developed, developing, or developed, retaining a club professional is tantamount to a successful operation. Are aquatics personnel, personal trainers, spin teachers, yoga instructors, and other specialists a part of your staff? If not, then one or all of these potential income centers probably do not exist, or are ambling along to nobody's content. The likely answer to this question is that each department has a director and a cadre of instructors and/or facilitators. Why would a club operator not retain a racquetball

and court sport director (pro)? The infrastructure (courts) is already in place and the expense to maintain them on an annual basis is almost negligible.

A testimonial to the theme of this article comes from a member of the Olympic Athletic Club in Seattle, Washington. He writes to Dave Stob, certified club pro, "Your actions and participation, and the ways in which you do it, and you are helpful to the players and offer tips, goes a really long way...it makes a huge difference not only for the current players but for new ones considering joining."

In closing, having a club professional in place is productive to a facility which is looking to maintain community support and grow with the times. Securing a club professional who is certified and qualified, can give a club the edge over competition. The pro will be a conduit between your organization and other organizations, businesses, and associations, and the membership at large. The pro will help to drive sales, boost club energy, and keep existing members from seeking value elsewhere.

Gary Mazaroff

Article written in July/August, 2006 edition of Racquetball Magazine

IRF Rules....

The referee honors an equipment time out for Player A on Team I, because he broke his strings. Player A opens the court door, leaves the court to secure another frame from his bag. He does so within the designated thirty second time period allotted. In the interim, Player B on Team II leaves the court and secures a replacement glove. He had not asked permission to leave the court nor did he ask for an equipment time out.

Should Player B be charged a Time Out?

Answer in the next Cross Courterly

NMRA WEBSITE

The New Mexico Racquetball Association website can be visited at NMRacquetball.com. Registration forms for upcoming events, special interest stories, calendar of events, and more are available. If interested in sponsorship opportunities or you wish to be included on the email list, contact Patty Greene at: (505) 286-9553.

BUCK PASSING

Steve Buck, long time racquetball player from Albuquerque, passed away from a heart attack in May. He was 52 years of age. Steve was a member of the Academy Court Club and Tom Young's Athletic Club.

THE HILL LIVES

July 7-9, 2006 marked the return to Los Alamos. The NMRA has not operated an event at the Los Alamos YMCA since 1991. The return tournament was called, "Back on The Hill". It is on the calendar for 2007.

WORLD JUNIORS IN TEMPE

The 18th IRF World Junior Racquetball Championships will be held at the Arizona State University Recreation Center between December 15th and 20th, 2006. Mexico will attempt to hold on to its previous two year honors of first in the world. Entry forms will be available from the IRF website at: Internationalracquetball.com.

17TH IRF WORLD SENIORS A BIG SUCCESS!

Albuquerque once again played host the World Seniors just before Labor Day weekend. Three clubs, 220 players, 14 countries, and 42 mixed doubles teams helped to provide a lot of entertainment! Check out the results in this newsletter.

JELSO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Racquetball Association Dr. Damian Jelso Memorial Scholarship application is available on line (NMRacquetball.com) for worthy student athletes. One must be a full time student at a recognized New Mexico College or University. Contact Joe Wittenbrink at (505)890-0096 for more information.

NM INVITATIONAL PRO AM

Check the NM Racquetball and IRT for the upcoming Pro Stop at Midtown Sports and Wellness in Albuquerque. October 26-29, 2006 are the dates: This year we have a full mens Pro Stop along with a host of amateur categories in singles and doubles. Sponsorship opportunities Are still available. If interested, email Gary Mazaroff at: gmmampro@aol.com.

WORLD SENIOR DOUBLES #2

The WSRC, German Racquetball Federation, ERF, and IRF will host the 2nd World Senior

Racquetball Doubles in June, 2007. This will be the encore event for WSRC Doubles, with the first event having been held in Paris, France in 2000. Men and women 35 and above may participate in Doubles and Mixed Doubles categories. Go to Internationalracquetball.com for more information. The dates are June 6-9, 2007.

I PRO INSTRUCTIONAL •

One thing that is upsetting when watching a match is a player's reluctance to use the allotment of time outs. Let's divorce ourselves from the pick up match at a venue whereby the 'workout' is what is most important. Courts are being utilized to the max and getting in extra rallies is more important than who wins. However; in tournament play, when one loses a game; he or she needs to assess the reasons for the outcome. Was it due to the opponent's overall superior prowess, a serve or two that came up short, or a misplayed set-up? Could it have been an errant return of serve? Perhaps it was due to a hybrid of reasons, including a short mental breakdown. In U.S. rules, one is still entitled to a short reprieve of thirty seconds, three times in games to 15 points (one minute each in International play).

Reasons for the break may be to towel off, to halt an opponent's momentum, to visualize a specific shot or serve, or just to catch a breath. As a perk, circumstances often extend the thirty seconds to much longer periods of time.

Most players are self taught and self coached. Those who are newer to the game often elevate their level of play based primarily on their athletic ability. With a limited knowledge of the intricacies and nuances of the game, stagnation, disappointment, and frustration will set in. Charting successes and failures from previous matches, having a training schedule which is lifestyle oriented, and working smart to overcome barriers of advancing age, injury, and more seasoned opponents are strategies for success that an instructor or coach can work into your game plan. For those who want to remain self taught or self coached, a simple thirty second time out can work wonders, allowing for:

- a deep breathing opportunity for relaxation;
- a change of glove or racquet;
- a short conversation with one who has been watching your match;
- a chance for your opponent to start overthinking;
- a chance for your opponent to forget how

• TOURNAMENT RESULTS •

- he or she earned their lead;
- a water or light food break;
- other!!

Without a doubt, the odds are in the favor of the person at the disadvantage to call a time out. Try it; the worst scenario is that the outcome is delayed.

17th IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships NM Sports & Wellness Clubs and Kirtland AFB; Albuquerque, New Mexico August 29-September 2, 2006

35+ Mixed	Shari Coplen (MO) & Woody Clouse (CO) def Tina Hagen (CO) & Alok Mehta (IND)
40+ Mixed	Karen Key (AZ) & Robert Lee (NM) def Cheryl Uher (NM) & Darryl Uher (NM)
45+ Mixed	Debra Tisinger (CA) & Carlos Ascunce (CUB) def Tammy West (CO) & Gary West (CO)
50+ Mixed	Joanne Pomodoro (MA) & Gary Mazaroff (NM) def Mary Keenan (CO) & Wayne Toyne (VA)
55+ Mixed	Shirley Parsons (CO) & Roger Barber (WY) def Susan Craig (NM) & Reed Barnitz (NM)
60+ Mixed	Mary Lou Furaus (AZ) & Jerry Northwood (AZ) def MeriJean Kelley (CA) & Hank Estrada (CA)
65+ Mixed	Mildred Gwinn (NC) & Aaron Vederoff (WA)
75+ Mixed	Lola Markus (IL) & Ralph Waddington (NM) def Louise Kiss (NM) & Wendel Hall (NM)
Womens 35+	Jean Halahan (NY) def Tina Hagen (CO)
Womens 40+	Lorraine Galloway (NY) def Lupita Jasso (MX)
Womens 45+	Debra Tisinger (CA) def Sheri Coplen (MO)
Womens 50+	Joanne Pomodoro (MA) def Mary Keenan (CO)

Womens 55+	Shirley Parsons (CO) def Susan Craig (NM)
Womens 60+	MeriJean Kelley (CA) def Mary Lou Furaus (AZ)
Womens 65+	Mildred Gwinn (NC) def Marquita Molina (CA)
Womens 75+	Lola Markus (IL) def Louise Kiss (NM)
Mens 35+	Woody Clouse (CO) def Jeff Wilson (VA)
Mens 40+	Keith Minor (IL) def Arturo Martin (MX)
Mens 45+	Burgess Raby (AZ) def Fred Johnson (NM)
Mens 50+	Rick Betts (CA) def Bill Yates (OH)
Mens 55+	Russ Montague (PA) def Sal Perconti (FL)
Mens 60+	Glenn Cunningham (OR) def Ron Burdo (VA)
Mens 65+	Leland Rients (MN) def Jerry Northwood (AZ)
Mens 70+	Toby DeCesare (NV) def Ken Karmel (NM)
Mens 75+	Skip Kiphart (TX) def Antonio Pineros (COL)
Mens 80+	Duane Russell (MI) def Dick Kincade (CO)
Mens 85+	Robert McAdam (TX) def William Gillio (CA)

UPCOMING EVENTS...

October 7-8	Meadow City, Rec Center; Las Vegas, NM
October 20-22	Riverpoint Classic & State Juniors, Riverpoint Sports & Wellness; Albq.
October 26-29	NM Invitational Pro Am, Midtown Sports & Wellness; Albq.
November 3-5	Four Corners, Royal Spa & Fitness Center; Farmington, NM
November 9-12	NM State Doubles, Midtown Sports & Wellness; Albq.
December 1-3	Snowball, Highpoint Sports & Wellness; Albq.
December 8-10	Otra Vez II, Taos Spa; Taos, NM

YOU MAKE THE CALL...

Is there a relationship between one's playing ability and his or her ability to officiate a match?

Odds are that the higher level players will have the tools to be quality officials; however, there is no guarantee. Higher skilled players are used to the nuances of the game at various levels; ie the speed of the ball, shots and shot selection, and spatial requirements. Some entry level players who demonstrate the ability to call matches, should do so at their level and below, until they grow to the point where they can handle the increasing demands of the higher levels of play. Good officiating requires an understanding of rules and their interpretation, as well as interpersonal skills such as listening, speaking, and knowing when to say nothing. Add to this the ability to view action and make accurate decisions instantaneously.

From the last issue...

Why should a rules committee be recognized on paper when a tournament begins?

Although there are many reasons, the following two stand out:

1. It showcases the professional environment of the event.
2. It provides a chain of command.

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