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January/February 2006



CHOICE US OPEN Champions

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Christie VanHees

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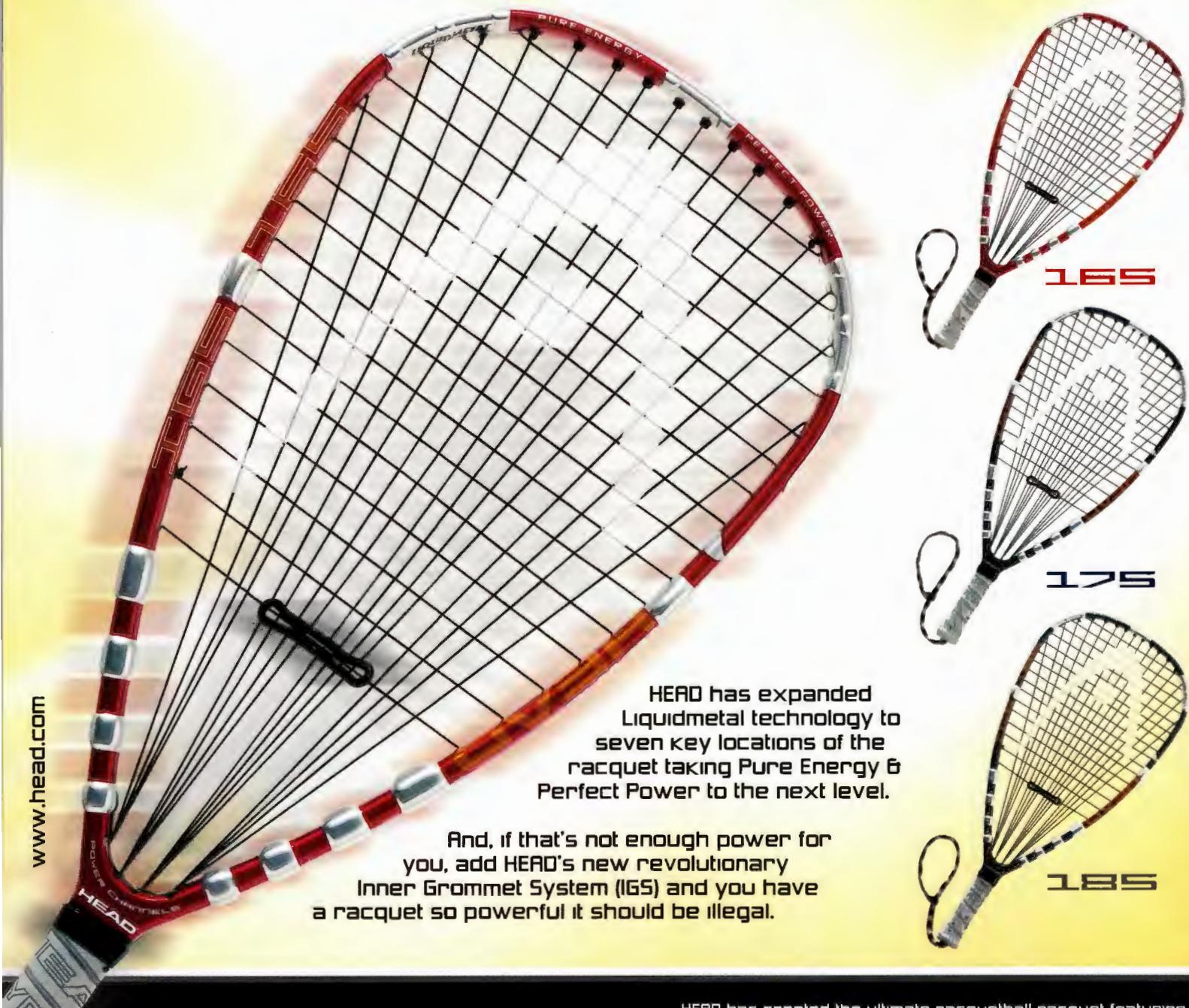
INSIDE

Choice US OPEN Review
Strandemo Rules Poster
Jr. Worlds Review



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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



Choice US Open Review

A complete review of racquetball's premiere event. Highlights, behind the scene stories and results.



Strandemo's Rules Poster

A pull-out poster explaining the penalty hinder rule. Pull-out and display in a prominent place within your club.



Junior Worlds

US Junior Racquetball Team takes second place for the third straight year. Results and articles on outstanding U.S. team performances.



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FROM THE TOP

James Hiser, Ph.D.

U S A R Executive Director



It's become obvious that racquetball player demographics have changed —currently over 75% of our members are 35+ years of age.
We need to attract younger

players to the game!

Two states in the U.S. have distinguished themselves through development of successful junior racquetball programs — Missouri and Oregon — and a few areas have built successful collegiate programs: Texas, Utah and the East Coast.

The key to success for all these programs lies with dedicated volunteers, but you may be surprised to hear that most of these programs were initiated by one, yes *one*, person who wanted to see junior racquetball succeed.

At first glance, you may look at a program of the magnitude of the Junior Oregon group and believe there's no way to develop such a program in your area.

Wrong! The Oregon program was initiated by one dedicated volunteer, Gary Kerwood, who went from school to school and club to club to get the program off the ground. He recruited other volunteers to help and eventually the initiative developed to where it is today. Similar stories of one individual leading the crusade for junior racquetball have surfaced in Missouri, Texas and Utah. We need dedicated individuals such as these in every state!

Different areas have different needs. For example, Missouri has a successful private school league while the Oregon High School league is based mainly in the public schools. These various recipes for success are available for anyone to follow. Interested volunteers should contact USA Racquetball for further information. The future of our sport requires an active junior program, so get involved and help grow junior programs within your state!

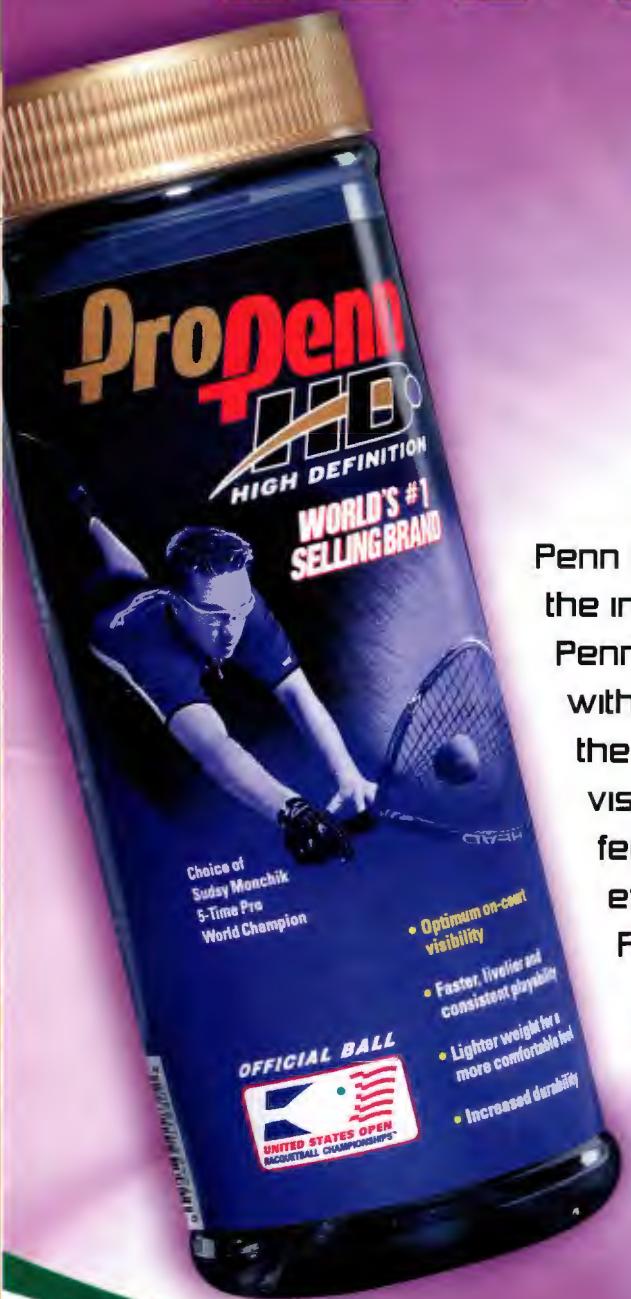


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PLAYERS HELPING PLAYERS

» **By RANDY STAFFORD, PRESIDENT, USAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHAT IS USA RACQUETBALL?

After serving on the USA Racquetball Board of Directors for three years now, I sometimes wonder if we are doing our job properly when people come up to me and ask, "Just exactly what does this association do?" I field questions ranging from: what are the areas we promote?...who "owns" the largest tournaments?... how much money does the association pay me for being on the Board? In this article I will outline just exactly who we are and what we do. In order to continuously improve as an association, we must be well-defined and understood by our own members.

USA Racquetball, a membership-based association, is the only official National Governing Body (NGB) for racquetball. Created by an act of Congress, we fall under the umbrella of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Many of our policies and guidelines are set by the USOC and we are duty-bound to follow them as an NGB. These include guidelines concerning memberships; national team members; international issues; insurance; the Board of Directors; arbitration issues; and promotion of our sport. Currently there are 47 other NGB's ranging from karate to swimming, baseball to bowling, etc.

Our USA Racquetball mission statement commits service to our members and to the promotion of racquetball. Currently we have over 14,000 full members and we sanction over 500 tournaments annually across the U.S. We host the largest tournaments in racquetball each year at different locations around the country. Our goal is to develop and promote all groups of competitive racquetball from juniors to seniors and everyone in between.

USA Racquetball headquarters is located in Colorado Springs and is staffed by a team of eight salaried individuals. Our Board of Directors guides the association and sets and monitors policy along with overseeing all facets of the organization. The Board charters numerous committees to evaluate and work in areas beneficial to our sport. These committees are staffed both with board members and non-board members. No board member earns a salary from the association and he/she must not have any conflicts of interest on voting issues.

Our organization is supported by a network of state associations. These state associations organize, run and/or monitor the tournaments and events within their respective states. We work closely with the states on memberships, tournaments, policies, monies, sanctioning, insurance and many other areas. The states are the lifeblood of our association because this is where our membership base is realized.

Corporate sponsors are important to our sport as well. They understand the need to promote racquetball and support our association. The monies, product and services they provide go directly back into supporting our sport. Many of these sponsors have stood by us for decades; without them, there would be no USA Racquetball.

We promote junior players with our Junior Council, U. S Junior Olympics, National Intercollegiate and National High School Championships tournaments. I myself started as a junior player many years ago in a program begun by our state association. In addition to our Juniors initiatives, we support many different groups of people who have developed their own associations. As an example, the National Masters Association says that the liability insurance we supply them is crucial to their existence.

USA Racquetball, as the only official governing body for our sport, has a mandate to honor our sport's best athletes and volunteers and we have been doing this for decades. The records are kept up to date for everyone to view. As new awards are earned, these people are honored and recorded in our racquetball history.

Our National Rules Commissioner provides a very important function -- he maintains the rules and facilitates necessary adjustments on occasion. We promote referring skills, teaching skills and camps for our young players. We now have online memberships, a tournament management system and a new ability-based ranking system that will continue to evolve. We have a shipping department that ships needed materials to each tournament for their use. And, we have a U.S. National Team with coaches for both adults and juniors. Last but not least, USA Racquetball runs several national tournaments annually, including the U.S. Open, National Singles and National Doubles.

As I write this article, I am reminded again of the immense scope of our association. Take a look at the magazine that carries this article: the work and effort our magazine requires is incredible. This bi-monthly magazine is the conduit for our racquetball partners to get their messages out and communicate to our members. From the many facets of our sport, including both the men's and women's pro tours, outdoor racquetball, seniors events, legends events, the international scene and local tournaments, the magazine is the way we all stay current. If it weren't for the magazine, it would be tough to follow our top players!

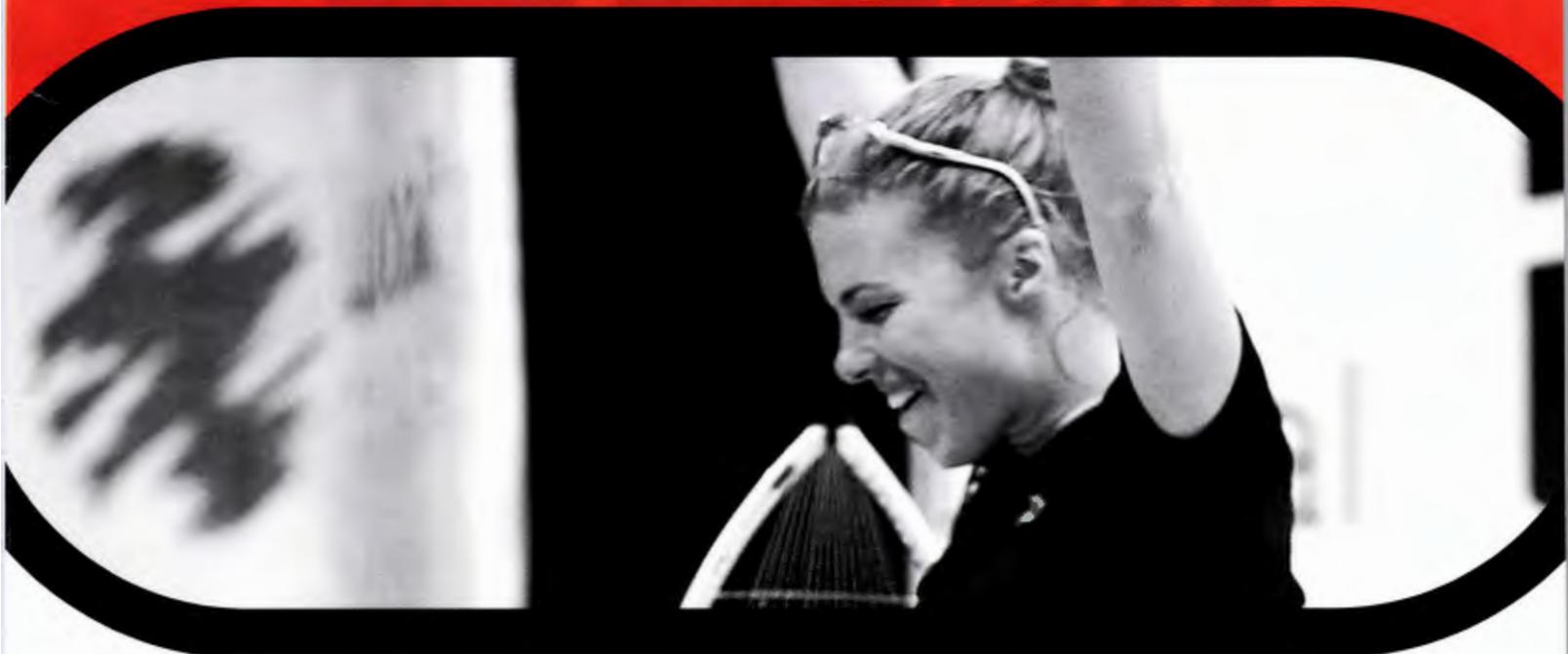
As our sport keeps changing, we will also evolve. We are revising our membership structure to keep up with times. A new e-membership and club membership has been approved. Our web site presence is professional and contains a huge amount of information; it is another focal point of our association. Our tournaments are bigger than ever and new grand prix events are in the works. New mega-centers for racquetball are in the planning stages. Corporate sponsors outside our industry are coming aboard in a big way, seeing value for their marketing dollars. Hey, did you know that racquetball participation was up 13 percent in 2004? This is great news for racquetball and I believe there will much more to come!

In this article I've described some of the areas your association impacts every day in the promotion of racquetball. To me, it's just mind boggling how much USA Racquetball does every day for our sport. Hopefully, as you've read this you've gained new appreciation for the scope of work and the efforts of those toiling behind the scenes.

I couldn't end this article without recognizing the many, many volunteers. Literally, there are hundreds of people who give their time in support of USA Racquetball; some have been doing so for decades. We need more people like them! Please look up your local state organization and get involved. And please don't forget, this association needs donations from our members in order to operate. The yearly membership fee doesn't completely provide the resources for us to do everything we want to do for racquetball, so please join in and give to USA Racquetball as you're able. Over the past three years, we've made huge strides for this great sport and with your help, it will continue!

All the best to you in '06!
Randy Stafford
USAR President

oncode



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You What a show

Articles by: Jeff Oliver & US OPEN Media Staff
Photos by: Geoff Thomsen & Mike Boatman

A tenth anniversary is reason to celebrate for many different occasions. Ten years in a marriage shows signs of solidity and lasting commitment. The ten-year high school reunion gives us a chance to see old friends and see how our life stacks up against theirs. The tenth birthday means you are now permanently in the double digits for age, and blowing all the candles out on the birthday cakes gets tougher from here on out.

The 2005 Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships celebrated its tenth anniversary this season in Memphis -- the event's home since its beginning in 1996. Much can be celebrated about the event's growth over the past decade, and memories from each

year will never be forgotten, but the 2005 US OPEN will top them all. From the first round of qualifying on Wednesday to the finals on Sunday, the 2005 US OPEN brought us some the best racquetball that has been played in the history of the sport, ever!



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IRT QUALIFIERS:

Forty-four players set out to try and capture one of coveted spots in the main IRT draw. The 16 players who made the cut represented six different countries, and seven of the players were from foreign countries. The international contingent included Canada's current National Champion Corey Osborne and Mexico's Ruben

Estrada, the reigning 14 & Under Junior World Champion. Three current US Junior Team members also advanced to the main bracket, including the reigning US Boys 18 & Under champion Chris Coy (pictured right).



Photo by: Jeff Oliver

IRT OPENING ROUNDS:



Photo by: Geoff Thomsen

Thursday is the day at the US OPEN where the serious contenders separate themselves from the pack, and those looking to join them need to put together a run. To advance to the quarterfinals, a player needs to not only win during the morning in the round of 32, but also in the round of 16 later the same day.

Looking to make a repeat performance of his semifinal run in the inaugural US OPEN in 1996, Woody Clouse knocked off the event's

No. 13 seed, Chris Crowther in the round of 64, 11-4, 9-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-7. Joining Clouse in the round of 32 was his fellow qualifier, Willie Tilton, who also took out one of the event's top seeds. This time it was No. 10 Kyle Veenstra, also falling in five games 11-7, 6-11, 3-11, 11-6, 11-4.

Unfortunately, neither Clouse or Tilton could win their evening matches to advance to the quarterfinals. Clouse fell to No. 4 Jason Mannino and Tilton returned to the radio booth with a loss to No. 7 Shane Vanderson.

Ben Croft had a barn burner with Colombia's Juan Herrera in a match that produced a series of patriotic chants from the crowd. Croft won the match, but had little success in the next round against No. 2 Jack Huczak. Of the U.S. Junior Team members in the main IRT draw Croft

advanced the furthest - into the round of 32.

Earlier, Javier Moreno defeated No. 12 Josh Tucker in a four game battle to earn a match-up with No. 5 Rocky Carson. Carson started slow against Moreno, losing the first two games, but settled in and took the last three to advance to the quarterfinals.

The upsets continued with Polo Gutierrez taking out No. 9 Jason Thoerner. Gutierrez jumped out with an 11-1 first game when, only to have Thoerner win the second game 11-7. The Chilean won the third 11-6, and then in the longest game of the tournament - and maybe ever on the IRT Tour - Gutierrez closed out the match, 21-19.

After his morning victory, Gutierrez looked forward to continuing his run of upsets with an evening match against No. 8 Mike Guidry. The two split the first two games, and in the fifth and deciding game youth out powered wisdom with Gutierrez winning the game 11-7, and the match. Gutierrez's prize for knocking out the event's No. 8 and No. 9 seeds was a date with the top-ranked player in the world and two-time defending US OPEN champion Kane Waselenchuk.

Waselenchuk cruised in his first three matches of the event, including a straight game victory in the second round over fellow Texan Brian Fredenberg (pictured left). The top seven seeds all reached the quarterfinals, and did so dropping just three games combined.

IRT QUARTERFINALS:

The quarterfinals of the 2005 US OPEN produced four thrilling matches among seven of the sport's established elite players, and a breakthrough newcomer.

The action began with a five gamer between No. 5 Rocky Carson and No. 4 Jason Mannino (pictured right). Carson took the first game before Mannino stepped things up to take the second and third games, putting the pressure on Carson to respond, which he did. Carson then took the fourth game, 11-3, before closing out the match with tight 11-9 win in the fourth.

"Today was a tough battle," said Carson. "Anytime you play a top ranked IRT player, you know you're in for a battle. And when that match comes at the US OPEN, you know you've got to be on top of your game."

The next quarterfinal match also went five games as No. 3 Cliff Swain and No. 6 Alvaro Beltran battled it out in front of the crowd surrounding Stadium Court. Swain lost the first game 11-2 and looked to be in trouble until he turned things around midway through the second to even the match at a game apiece, 11-9. Swain then got things going big time in the third game, blanking Beltran, 11-0.

Beltran, however, didn't fold and came back to force a decisive fifth

game by taking the fourth 11-7. The fifth game was spectacular and worthy of weekend US OPEN play. Beltran appeared to be in control, serving match point at 10-9, before Swain decided that he wasn't going to lose. A side out and three-straight points ended the match with Swain pulling off the perfect shot in each situation, 12-10.



Photo by: Geoff Thomsen

Swain's next opponent, No. 2 Jack Huczak, played crisp against No. 7 Shane Vanderson, winning the first two games, 11-9, 11-2, before Vanderson found his groove in the third, going up 10-0 before eventually winning 11-3. The momentum wasn't enough to carry him into the fourth game and Huczak closed things out, 11-7, to move into the semifinal.

No. 1 Kane Waselenchuk continued his run towards a third-straight US OPEN title with a win over upset minded Polo Gutierrez. Waselenchuk cruised to wins in the first two games 11-2, 11-4, and after a fight by Gutierrez in the third, the native Canadian put the match away with an 11-9 win.

IRT SEMIFINALS:

The first semifinal was No.2 Jack Huczak (pictured right) versus No.3 Cliff Swain in a rematch of last year's semifinal – a fivegamer that Swain won. Huczak quickly took a two game lead on Swain, which included a doughnut in the first. Many began to wonder if Swain's gutsy performance Friday night to defeat Alvaro Beltran in five games had taken its toll.

That was when something seemed to change in Swain's demeanor and after winning the third game, 11-4, Swain smelled blood and began to start his comeback in earnest. He went on to narrowly win the fourth game, 11-9, then controlled the fifth, 11-3, to move into his record seventh US OPEN final.

"Someone asked me how I keep doing this and I just said, "How could I not?" Swain said. "I love coming here to play for you. I love playing on this court and in front of these fans."

Photo by: Geoff Thomsen



The other semifinal featured No.1 Kane Waselenchuk, who hadn't lost a game in two years at the US OPEN, versus No.5 Rocky Carson (pictured left). Carson made evident from the beginning that Waselenchuk would be in for a battle as he took the first game, 11-6.

Waselenchuk then stepped it up, taking the next two games and putting Carson on the ropes.



Photo by: Mike Boatman

Carson showed signs of hope by taking the fourth, 11-5, but then Waselenchuk seemingly squashed them having match point at 10-4. Carson, however, continued to battle and, after stringing together a few points, had the crowd raising the rafters with chants of "Rocky! Rocky!"

Just after tying the score at 10-10, Carson had his hopes dashed as Waselenchuk showed why he is the reigning two-time US OPEN Champion and closed out the match, 12-10.

"As much as I would like to win in three games, a win like this is more fulfilling," Waselenchuk said. "To be a true champion you have to beat your opponents when they are playing their best and Rocky was playing some incredible ball out there today."



Photo by: Geoff Thomsen

IRT FINAL:

In a rematch of last year's final Kane Waselenchuk faced off against Cliff Swain. Waselenchuk was looking to become the event's first three-time consecutive winner, while Swain was in the US OPEN final for the seventh time in the last ten years.

Waselenchuk's easy victory over Swain in 2004 (11-1, 11-3, 11-0) capped the most dominant US OPEN performance ever. This year Swain put up more of a fight, but still fell, 11-5, 12-10, 12-10.

Last year Waselenchuk became the only player in the tournament's history to win back-to-back titles and now can add "three-peat" to his list of accomplishments.

"All I ever wanted to do was just win one pro stop. I never thought I would be doing all of this," Waselenchuk said. "I'm going to let this one soak in. This is the best one so far."

After the match murmurs of Swain's retirement circulated among the crowd, but the sport's greatest player feels he still has plenty left.

"I could have easily been up two games to one, but instead I lost in three," Swain said. "I felt good and my swing felt good, but when I hit shots, they just didn't go where I wanted them to."

Waselenchuk's tournament win ran his all-time US OPEN record to 28-3, and he should be favored to build to his amazing US OPEN resume in 2006.



VanHees reaches for a forehand.



Rocky Carson and Kristen Walsh.



Light, camera, action!



The Venus Mission had a dancing on the tables!



Huczek lines up shot against Vanderson.



What a show! Packed stadium at the Choice Hotels US OPEN



US OPEN logo in ICE!



Samantha Salas hits the sweetspot!



TV Commentators Aaron Katz (left) and Shawn Royster.



Andy Hawthorne

All photos courtesy of Mike Boatmen and Geof Thomsen



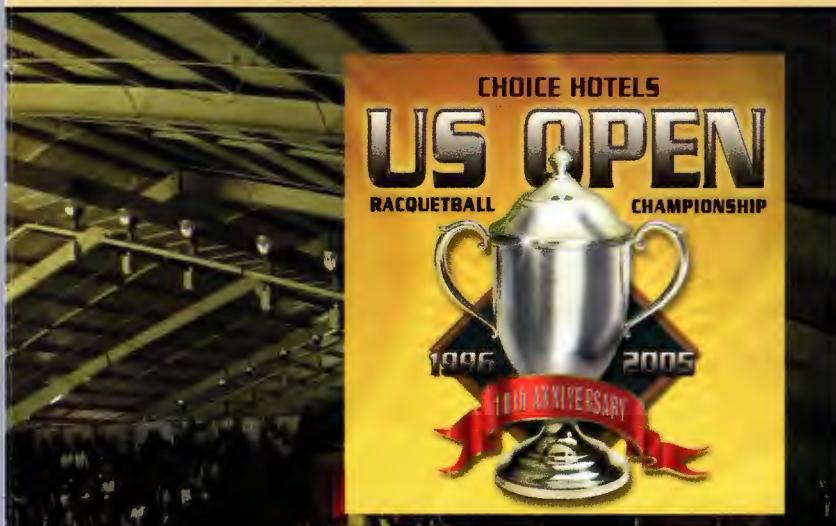
The amazing Cliff Swain.



Local media supporting event.



Rajsich dives against VanHees.



VanHees (left) and Rajsich at awards ceremony.



King "KANE" accepts Player of the Year from Negrete.



Kane flies for a forehand.



Kane and Swain again!



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Carson celebrates!



Women's Professional Racquetball Organization

Repeat or Comeback?

WPRO QUALIFIER AND OPENING ROUNDS:

The WPRO upsets started early with Canadian Jennifer Saunders' victory over No.8 Adrienne Fisher in four games. Fisher took the first game 11-9 before Saunders caught fire in the second, winning 11-2. Fisher appeared to be tired in the third game and ended up bowing out of the event with Saunders wins of 13-11, 11-6.

Adrienne's sister Kelley squeaked out a win in the round's only five-gamer over Canadian Lori-Jane Powell, extracting a bit of revenge not only for her sister, but the US as well. Fisher and Powell exchanged the first four games before Fisher took control in the fifth for the win, 11-8, 5-11, 12-10, 5-11, 11-2.

All other top seeds advanced through the first round with relative ease although Angela Grisar dropped a game to Karen Morton. Last year's darling, Paola Longoria of Mexico, had her US OPEN cut short by fellow country woman Samantha Salas, 11-8, 2-11, 11-7, 11-3.

In the round of 16, the bottom bracket of the WPRO draw was turned upside down as the defending champion made an early exit. Laura Fenton and Cheryl Gudinas have a long standing rivalry and another

chapter was added this year as Fenton shocked everyone by defeating Gudinas in four games, 7-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-6.

"It's not a shock that I won this match. I have always known that if I was healthy, I could beat all of the best players on tour," Fenton said.

Brenda Kyzer also provided an upset with a win over No.7 Kerri Wachtel in straight games, 11-4, 11-0, 11-9. Wachtel, who is carrying twins, didn't blame the pregnancy on her loss, but instead gave credit to her opponent.

"Brenda played very well today," said Wachtel. "When she had a set up, she put the ball away."



Photo by: Geoff Thom森

WPRO QUARTERS & SEMIS:

Fenton went on to defeat Kyzer later in the evening to earn her spot in the semifinals. There she would meet Rhonda Rajsich who earlier defeated Tammy Brown, 11-4, 11-7, 12-10.

No. 5 Kristen Walsh (pictured above) recorded a minor upset over No.4 Angela Grisar in a five-gamer 2-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5, to earn her chance to play No.1 Christie Van Hees in the semifinals. Van Hees defeated Diane Moore in the quarterfinals, 11-3, 11-4, 11-1.

Despite being decided in straight games, both of the women's semifinal matches provided the crowd with some entertaining racquetball. The day started out with Rhonda Rajsich defeating Laura Fenton (pictured right) by the scores of 11-5, 11-9, 11-5. Rajsich used her drive serves and some unbelievable diving gets to roll past Fenton in the semifinals.

The second WPRO semifinal between Christie Van Hees and Kristen Walsh had potential for a classic. Van Hees jumped out to a 5-0 lead in Game 1 utilizing a drive serve and taking advantage of mid-court set-

ups, eventually winning the game 12-10. It was all Van Hees from that point on as Walsh could never get setup to shoot, and when she did, she was having trouble putting the ball where she wanted.

Game 2 was over before it started with Van Hees ripping balls at every angle, winning 11-2 and Game 3 was a continuation with the score ending at 11-5 resulting in another US OPEN final for Van Hees.



Photo by: Mike Boatman



Photo by: Geoff Thom森

WPRO FINAL:

Top seeded Van Hees captured her second career US OPEN title by defeating No. 3 Rhonda Rajsich in four games. Rajsich took the first game 13-11, before Van Hees settled into a groove winning the next three easily, 11-4, 11-5, 11-4.

"I felt great heading into the match today, but was a little tight out there in the beginning," said Van Hees. "Someone told me to relax and have fun between games and I

realized that they were right."

Van Hees retired for two years shortly after winning the US OPEN in 2000 and has now come full circle by first regaining the number one ranking and now the sport's most prestigious title.

"I'm enjoying this one a hundred times more than the first one," she said. "I am more mature on the court and just happier with life in general."

The Amateurs Came To Play Too...

The Choice Hotels US OPEN Racquetball Championships has truly become a holiday tradition. For the 10th consecutive year, players from around the country have come to Memphis to not only watch racquetball's top athletes, but to also get on the court themselves.

Nearly 800 players took to the courts at The University of Memphis, WellWorx Sportsplex and Ridgeway Baptist Recreation Center in a variety of age and skill divisions. Once the top four finishers in each division were awarded their US OPEN medals – which weighed almost a full pound each – nearly 1,500 matches were played!

Congratulations to all who came and played and we'll see you next year.

Competitors By State & Country:

Tennessee - 71	Louisiana - 14	Oregon - 4
Texas - 56	North Carolina - 13	Utah - 4
Ohio - 48	Minnesota - 11	Washington - 4
California - 45	Oklahoma - 11	Wisconsin - 4
Florida - 44	New York - 10	Alaska - 3
Illinois - 33	Arizona - 8	Maine - 3
Georgia - 32	Pennsylvania - 8	New Hampshire - 3
Michigan - 28	South Carolina - 7	Hawaii - 2
Missouri - 26	Iowa - 6	Nebraska - 2
Kentucky - 23	Indiana - 6	Idaho - 1
Alabama - 22	Connecticut - 5	North Dakota - 1
Arkansas - 21	Delaware - 5	Nevada - 1
Mississippi - 18	New Jersey - 5	South Dakota - 1
Virginia - 18	Kansas - 4	Canada - 22
Maryland - 17	Massachusetts - 4	Other Countries - 66
Colorado - 14	New Mexico - 4	

2005 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Presented by USA Racquetball

The Racquet Club of Memphis • Memphis, Tennessee • November 16-20, 2005
Complete results and draw sheets can be found at www.choicehotelsusopen.com.

Amateur Finishers List

FINAL RESULTS

MEN'S AGE GROUP SINGLES

Men's 24 & Under • Finals
Charles Pratt (Portland, Ore.) def.
Darrel Miller (Union Grove, Wis.)
15-11, 15-11

Men's 25 & Over • Finals
Matthew Davenport (Saint Peters, Mo.) def. Chris Robinson
(McKinney, Texas) 15-12, 15-9

Men's 30 & Over • Finals
Aaron Metcalf (Jacksonville, Fla.)
def. Andy Gross (Kennesaw, Ga.)
15-14, 8-15, 11-9

Men's 35 & Over • Finals
Jimmy Lowe (Wahiawa, Hawaii)
def. Keith Minor (Channahon, Ill.)
15-12, 14-15, 11-4

Men's 40 & Over • Finals
Jimmy Lowe (Wahiawa, Hawaii)
def. Keith Minor (Channahon, Ill.)
WBF - Injury

Men's 45 & Over • Finals
Richard Mordachini (Oliver
Branch, Miss.) def. Michael
Anderson (Newaygo, Mich.) 15-
2, 15-14

Men's 50 & Over • Finals
Greg Campbell (Beaverton, Ore.)
def. Mike Robinson (Highland
Village, Texas) 15-3, 15-14

Men's 55 & Over • Finals
R.E. Montague (Jenkintown, Pa.)
def. Joe Lee (Honolulu, Hawaii)
15-9, 15-9

Men's 60 & Over • Finals
Ed Rermen (Apex, N.C.) def.
Horace Miller (Chicago, Ill.) 15-
12, 15-5

Men's 65 & Over • Finals
Leland Rients (Willmar, Minn.)
def. Dave Lund (Lansing, Mich.)
15-11, 15-4

Men's 70 & Over

Round Robin Winner: Paul
Banales (Tonopah, Ariz.)

Men's 75 & Over

Round Robin Winner: John
O'Donnell Jr. (Champaign, Ill.)

Men's 24 & Under A • Finals

Jansen Allen (Rice, Texas) def.
Ray White (New Bern, N.C.) 15-9,
13-15, 11-0

Men's 24 & Under B • Finals

Eobaldo Fumero A. (Costa Rica)
def. Javier Melendez (Costa Rica)
15-14, 15-14

Men's 24 & Under C • Finals

Roberto Santander (Venezuela)
def. Dayan Yamin (Miami, Fla.)
15-7, 15-14

Men's 25 & Over A • Finals

Brent McDade (Nashville, Tenn.)
def. Jeff Nelson (Bowie, Md.) 15-
7, 15-8

Men's 25 & Over B • Finals

Jason Levoy (Hollywood, Fla.)
def. Felton Cox (Bahamas) 15-5,
15-6

Men's 25 & Over C • Finals

Jeff Nungesser (Cordova, Tenn.)
def. Angel Rosa (Wentzville, Mo.)
15-3, 13-15, 11-0

Men's 35 & Over A • Finals

Mark Davis (Clearwater, Fla.) def.
Kory Duarte (Jacksonville, Ark.)
15-2, 15-12

Men's 35 & Over B • Finals

Stephen Rapp (Marionville, Mo.)
def. Roger Hertzberg (Humble,
Texas) 15-9, 15-11

Men's 35 & Over C • Finals

Jeffrey Van Horn (Boalsburg, Pa.)
def. Gerardo Sulic (Oak Park, Ill.)
15-5, 1-15, 11-9

Men's 45 & Over A • Finals

Derek Kazakos (Seminole, Fla.)
def. Lipscomb Davis (Nashville,
Tenn.) 14-15, 15-1, 11-3

Men's 45 & Over B • Finals

Michael Nichols (Fort Smith,
Ark.) def. Allen Lawrence
(Madison, Miss.) 10-15, 15-7,
11-9

Men's 45 & Over C • Finals

Danny Borden (Louisville, Ky.)
def. Robert Griffith (Northport,
Ala.) 8-15, 15-8, 11-9

Men's 55 & Over A • Finals

David Gross (Cordova, Tenn.)
def. Walt Charlton (Norman,
Okla.) 15-9, 15-13

Men's 55 & Over B • Finals

Billy Askins (Timpson, Texas) def.
Sez Ozden (Grovetown, Ga.) 9-
15, 15-5, 11-10

Men's 55 & Over C • Finals

Bob Lampley (Southaven, Miss.)
def. Greg Young (Mammoth
Lakes, Calif.) 15-13, 15-6

Men's A • Finals

Allan Hernandez (El Paso, Texas)
def. Brandon Stanley (Baton
Rouge, La.) 15-11, 15-6

Men's B • Finals

Alan Lanny Martin (Knoxville,
Tenn.) def. Mike Fitzsimmons
(Houston, Texas) No Score

Men's C • Finals

Dayan Yamin (Miami, Fla.) def.
Daniel Mullin (Lansing, Mich.)
15-6, 15-11

Men's D • Finals

Fabian Caballero (Davie, Fla.) def.
Jim Heirigs (Memphis, Tenn.) 15-
1, 15-7

Men's Open • Finals

Gilberto Mejia (San Ysidro, Calif.)
def. Gilberto De Los Rios
(Pueblo, Colo.) WBF - No Show

WOMEN'S AGE GROUP SINGLES

Women's 30 & Over / Women's 35 & Over • Finals

Vailana Lundstrom (Brooklyn
Park, Minn.) def. T.J. Baumbaugh
(Reston, Va.) 15-9, 15-3

Women's 24 & Under • Finals

Da'monique Davis (Tuscaloosa,
Ala.) def. Kelley Fisher
(Tuscaloosa, Ala.) 14-15, 15-11,
11-0

Women's 25 & Over

Round Robin Winner: Shannon
Feaster (Silver Spring, Md.)

Women's 40 & Over

Round Robin Winner: Debra
Tisinger (Simi Valley, Calif.)

Women's 45 & Over • Finals

Debra Tisinger (Simi Valley,
Calif.) def. Linda Moore
(Madison, Neb.) 15-10, 15-7

Women's 50 & Over

Round Robin Winner: Marsha
Berry (Louisville, Ky.)

Women's 55 & Over

Round Robin Winner: Susan
Kieffer (Nisswa, Minn.)

Women's A • Finals

Shannon Inglesby (Portland,
Ore.) def. Sharon Jackson
(Shelbyville, Ind.) 15-11, 15-1

Women's B • Finals

Holly Hettesheimer (Cincinnati,
Ohio) def. Tracy Cervoski
(Tallmadge, Ohio) 15-9, 15-13

Women's Open • Finals

Adrienne Fisher (Tuscaloosa,
Ala.) def. Claudine Garcia (Gun
Barrel City, Texas) WBF - Injury

FUN OFF THE COURT...

The Choice Hotels US OPEN produces a solid week of on the court action, but also plenty of non-stop fun off the hardwood. On Wednesday night an International Reception (pictured right) was held for all those players who traveled to Memphis from beyond US borders. On Thursday a Ladies Night was held at the Fox & Hound Sports Bar, located next door to The Racquet Club and a favorite hangout for all players. Friday evening brought the action to "The Pub" inside The Racquet Club of Memphis with a live DJ spinning the hottest tunes.

The nerve center of the US OPEN is the Player Village. Many activities including an extensive Industry Trade Show, pro autograph signing sessions, live stage with entertainment, concessions, cash bar and informational seminars were enjoyed by all.

Saturday evening topped off the party calendar with the gala racquetball bash of the year - The US OPEN "PARTY WITH THE PROS". More



Photo by: Mike Boatman

than 1,000 racquetball players and fans came to The Racquet Club Party Center for dinner and an evening of live entertainment featuring one of Tennessee's hottest dance bands, The Venus Mission.

NIKON ALL-STARS SKILLS CHALLENGE

A mix of stars from the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) and the Women's Professional Racquetball Organization (WPRO) displayed their skills in a variety of challenges.

In the Accuracy Competitions, players were given one minute to hit targets placed on the front wall with different point values depending on the shot's degree of difficulty. For the backhand, Shane Vanderson smeared his competitors and in the forehand battle, Jason Mannino sweated out the win.

Prior to the start of the Lob Serve competition, US OPEN tournament director and the Skills Challenge emcee Doug Ganim asked if there were amateurs in the crowd who felt they could compete with the pros on this skill. Only one gentleman raised his hand, and was invited onto the court to see who could place the most lob serves into the box in the back left corner. Jason Mannino was the only Pro to earn a point in

the competition, and when Manny the Amateur put one in the box as well, he and Mannino went to a lob-off where the Pro eventually won out. But for his efforts and courage to battle the Pros, Manny walked away with a new digital camera courtesy of Nikon.



Photo by: Geoff Thomsen

In the featured competition of the night, several pros and amateurs smacked it out to see who could hit the ball the hardest. Brian Fredenberg from Texas peaked the radar gun at 186 m.p.h. to win the competition.

ST. JUDE PRO-AM DOUBLES

Local player Don Wade teamed up with No. 5 ranked Rocky Carson to win the 10th Annual St. Jude Pro-Am Charity Doubles Tournament. Wade and Carson defeated Gail Schaefer and top-ranked Kane Waselenchuk in a hard fought final, 15-11.

Wade, a sports reporter with the Memphis Commercial Appeal, earned his turn to be interviewed after "carry-

ing" Carson through the draw. "I need to figure out a way to make him look forty-five so that we can play age division doubles." Wade said.

The St. Jude Pro-Am Doubles sold out for the Tenth year in a row and raised \$8,000 for the hospital. In addition getting to play in the event and donate to a great cause, the amateurs received a signed racquet from their professional partner.



Photo by: Charles "City" Meredith

SILENT AUCTION FOR ST. JUDE

The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital annual silent auction fundraiser helped surpass the US OPEN ten year total of \$130,000 that has been donated to the Memphis hospital.

The Ruben Gonzalez original painting was acquired for \$700 and several bidders were in on that action. Additional big auction items were the cameras from Nikon, various tennis racquets and collector items from the White House and Air Force One. The auction proceeds of \$5,000

set a new event record. Combined with the \$8,000 raised in the Pro-Am Doubles event and the refereeing fees donated from players throughout the tournament, more than \$13,000 was raised this year.

A big and special thanks goes out to the auction donors and contributors and the many friends of racquetball that have made donations to this annual fundraiser. Through this effort, a bigger step has been taken for the children at St. Jude Children's Hospital and their families.



Photo by: Geoff Thomsen

Message from Event Director

On behalf of the Choice Hotels US OPEN Staff, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who joined us in Memphis for the 10th Anniversary of our sport's original "grand slam" event.

The US OPEN represents everything that is great about racquetball, and I am truly honored to play a small part in this event's success. Choice Hotels has sponsored this event since the beginning, and they recently signed on to be the title sponsor for another three years. A special thanks also goes out to Memphis and our host clubs – The Racquet Club of Memphis, The University of Memphis, WellWorx Sportsplex and Ridgeway Baptist Recreation Center.



We all come to Memphis to watch racquetball's best players and compete ourselves as well, but the true winner is St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In the ten years of the US OPEN, more than \$130,000 has been donated to support making differences in the lives of children and families in need.

I hope to see you all next year!

Doug Ganim, *Event Director*
US OPEN Racquetball Championships

Television Coverage Schedule

Royster Productions and The Tennis Channel have teamed up to produce and air selected matches from the 2005 Choice Hotels US OPEN. Starting in February 2006, The Tennis Channel will air a new match from this year's event each Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. (Eastern).

February 8
Men's Quarter-Final #1
(Carson vs. Mannino)

February 15
Men's Quarter-Final #2
(Swain vs. Beltran)

February 22
Men's Quarter-Final #3
(Huczek vs. Vanderson)

March 8
Men's Quarter-Final #4
(Waselenchuk vs. Gutierrez)

March 15
Men's Semi-Final #1
(Swain vs. Huczek)

March 22
Men's Semi-Final #2
(Waselenchuk vs. Carson)

March 29
Men's Final
(Waselenchuk vs. Swain)

April 5
Women's Final
(Van Hees vs. Rajsich)

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Site and Dates Set for 2006 Motorola IRT Pro Nationals

by Dave Negrete

The 2006 Motorola Pro National Racquetball Championships and USA Racquetball Adult Regionals are set for April 26-30, 2006. After a very successful event last year, Motorola has renewed its sponsorship for the coming year. The event will be held at Schaumburg Tennis Plus, owned and operated by the Schaumburg Park District. Additional clubs will be announced soon. Schaumburg is a northwest suburb about 20 minutes from O'Hare International Airport and 45 minutes from downtown Chicago.

Men's Pro Qualifying will begin on Wednesday and

Regional amateur matches will begin Thursday. The portable court will be present, creating racquetball's second grand slam event. The event will be televised on the Tennis Channel and details on other networks are being negotiated at this time. International players will be able to play in all divisions offered. The event will feature a Rock-n-Roll theme and promises to be cutting edge. The WPRO will also have a presence at the event this year.



A charity doubles event with the top 10 men will take place on Wednesday evening. Cost of playing with a professional will be \$500 with the funds going to the local chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Last year we raised over \$8,000 and we hope to exceed that amount this year.

VIP box seats are available for purchase by contacting Dave Negrete at negretz@comcast.net. Space is limited, so reserve your box now!

There will be a huge party on Friday night featuring local legends Dirty Deeds, an AC/DC tribute band, as well as the Party with the Pro's on Saturday evening at Prairie Rock Brewery, the event's food and beverage sponsor.

Look for entry and ticket information about the event in the next issue of Racquetball magazine or on our website www.irt-pronationals.com. I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago at the 2006 Motorola IRT Pro Nationals and USAR Adult Regionals!

Carson Wins New Mexico Open Title!

Midtown Sports & Wellness of Albuquerque, New Mexico and the New Mexico Racquetball Association kicked off the racquetball season with the New Mexico Pro Am Racquetball Classic. The event was the third IRT Satellite event of the season and featured some of the top players on the IRT. Tournament director Gary Mazaroff anticipated a large draw this year and got it, with players from all over the southwest invading Albuquerque from October 20-23, 2005. The event also featured a full ranking WPRO division as well as men's and women's skill divisions in singles and doubles.

Rocky Carson defeated fellow Californian Josh Tucker in three straight games to take his first New Mexico title. Carson returned serve very well and put away Tucker's mistakes at every opportunity, scoring a 4, 4, 9 victory in the final. Tucker never really got his serve going and when he did, Carson was there for some great returns. This was Carson's second straight satellite win, since he won the Lou Bradley Pro Am trophy two weekends earlier in Madison, Wisconsin. Josh Tucker fought off a tough Ben Croft in four games in the semifinals. Josh had his serve going and kept Croft off balance most of the match. A time out at 9-9 in the second game gave Tucker the breather he needed to finish out the game. Croft came back with some straight-in lobs to Tucker's forehand and Josh felt the altitude a little — Ben took advantage of this, winning the third. Both players made some great gets in this match. Game Four was all Tucker as he advanced on to meet Carson in Sunday's final. Carson, the #1 seed, had little

trouble with Mexico's Polo Gutierrez, finishing him off in three lackluster games. Polo mustered nine points in Game Three, mostly on Carson miscues.

Rocky and Josh spoke to the crowd after the match, answering many questions about the IRT, playing the game and the state of the game. Both players thanked the crowd and acknowledged Gary Mazaroff and his fine tournament staff for putting on a great event. Midtown Sports & Wellness is a great club for a pro stop — with assistance from the IRT, this tourney can become a full ranking event in the future. Thanks to the New Mexico Racquetball Association for their support and special thanks to Mark Bianchi and Ken Goldstein for their help with officiating this tournament.



Swain and Beltran Win Doubles Event in Chicago!

by Dave Negrete

On Friday evening of the Chicago Halloween Doubles event, all the top seeds advanced in the quarterfinals with relative ease. After a little scare in the first game (still winning 12-10) Cliff Swain/Alvaro Beltran settled down to defeat Keith Minor/John Amatulli in three games. Keith Minor of KWM Guttermen International is a sponsor of the event; both he and John Amatulli are active in keeping racquetball healthy in the Chicagoland area. The next match featured Tour Commissioner Dave Negrete and Eugene Coyle (fitness specialist to the pros) against Jack Huczak and Rocky Carson. Handling the Commissioner's trash talk, Carson and Huczak turned on the heat to win in three straight. The next match featured an odd team of lefties — the best in the world Kane Waselenchuk and multiple U.S. Doubles champion Mike Guidry — pitted against two-time 18-and-under World Junior Champion Ben Croft and one of the IRT's Top 12, Andy Hawthorne. Kane demonstrated why he is the best in the world and Guidry held up the left side to defeat Team Ektelon in three games. The last match of the evening proved to be the best as Team Head was well represented with Shane Vanderson and Josh Tucker advancing over Jason Thoerner and Kyle Veenstra in a five-game battle. This was the match of the night and the excited crowd rose to their feet numerous times throughout the match.

The semifinals began Saturday afternoon with a marquee match-up of Kane Waselenchuk/Mike Guidry vs. Cliff Swain/Alvaro Beltran. The match lived up to its expectations as the fans witnessed some awesome racquetball. The scores did not reflect the closeness of this match — there were some unbelievable rallies. Beltran traded shot for shot with Guidry in the front court during this match. Swain and Beltran took the match in 4 games 3, (3), 6, 5.

The next semifinal match featured the only team in the draw that had some experience playing together (Jack Huczak/Rocky Carson) facing Shane Vanderson and Josh Tucker. All bets were on Huczak and Carson coming out on top in this one but Shane and Josh had something to say about that. Playing some inspired ball with his dad in the stands, Vanderson lit up his backhand and Tucker began hitting missiles with his forehand as they took the momentum away in the second game, winning 13-11. They kept rolling in the next two and Jack and Rocky could never get a run going. Josh and Shane took the match in four games (7), 11, 6, 6.

The final was just as entertaining with Swain ripping serves, Beltran showing off his great hands, Tucker blasting forehands and Vanderson hitting backhands from everywhere. It was Swain and Beltran in the final, coming out on top but not



without a fight! Vanderson seemed to confuse the opponents in the second game with a lob down the middle; Cliff and Alvaro showed some indecision as to who should play the return and what type return to hit. Tucker re-killed most of the shots hit at

What a great IRT racquetball event with players making themselves available all weekend to the fans. Kane was seen giving some tips to local player Gary Dyrek in an empty squash court when he overheard Gary talking about how he was beaten in his first tournament match ever. Gary is a lefty, of course! Jack spent time talking to various fans in the stands during the finals, as did Rocky Carson and Mike Guidry. Carson came in early and presented clinics in Rockford and Schaumburg. Thoerner and Tucker were on hand to entertain the crowd on Saturday evening with some great play-by-play.

The pros did play for third and fourth with Carson and Huczak taking the match 6-4, 6-1 on a tennis court. It was Kane's first time with a tennis racquet in his hands. Will he follow in Swain's footsteps and give tennis a crack sometime in the future?

him, helping to take the second game. Swain and Beltran regrouped between games and began handling the serve with Beltran going to the ceiling and Swain ending most of the rallies. They won the match and the first IRT Doubles title in 5 years with scores of 4, (7), 9, 5. All players spoke after their matches, acknowledging each other and letting the fans know how much they enjoyed battling on the doubles court. Ed Arias from Proracquetball.net was there to film the entire event — go to the website to order a DVD of the match of your choice. Just click on the proracquetball.net icon on the IRT website to get there.

The IRT extends a special thanks to the great staff members who ran the event: Diane Bunker, Martha Huske, Julie Vincent and Liz Molitor. Also, thanks to John Massard of Elmhurst Extended Care and all the entrants who supported the event by playing in the amateur portion of the tournament. Your support of the IRT and Chicagoland racquetball does not go unappreciated. The IRT also thanks Leo and Sue Klimaitis, Keith Minor and Pat Taylor for their tremendous support.



International Racquetball Tour

Racquet for the Cure Tournaments

Take Off Across the US!



by Kerri Wachtel

At National Singles in Houston last May, the Ektelon Women's Advisory Council, formed in 2003 to encourage more women to play racquetball, launched a campaign to hold several nationwide Racquet for the Cure (RFTC) tournaments. This idea originated from the annual Denver RFTC tournament hosted by Council members Jean Gallagher and Marcia Richards who have put on an amazing event each February for the past 6 years. Linda Mojer has created a website (www.racquetforthecure.com) to check out where a tournament is located and to provide all the information needed to plan and execute an RFTC tournament. As of this writing, there have been three Racquet for the Cure tournaments that have raised over \$22,000 for breast cancer research!

The first tournament took place on August 27, 2005 in Peoria, Illinois (hometown of Susan G. Komen). This was a one-day tournament headed by Jim Maroon who got the idea from the presentation given by Cheryl Kirk and Kerri Wachtel in the Houston team meeting. The goals for the Peoria event were simple: raise money for breast cancer research and have a fun-filled event. In order to achieve these goals, a Planning and Fundraising Committee consisting of Jim Maroon, Pam Schubach, Terry Sutton, Traci Steen, Karen Carter, and Joann Kempthorne set objectives to have 50+ players enter the tournament and to raise between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Both goals were accomplished. The format was women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles (the latter so the men could also participate). After the tournament, an awards banquet, slide show, silent auction, and dance was held. Plans are underway for the 2006 tournament!

Sixty-five players participated in the Annual Vintage Doubles tournament held at the Petaluma Valley Athletic Club on November 11-13, 2005. Area Team Ektelon players (Vinnie Caramagno, Brian Dixon, Barry Lynes, Kim Cameron, Jack Hughes, Rick Ramirez, Terry Rogers, Alyse Cori, Nidia Funes, Nancy Large, Eric Schmidt, Louise Winters, and Ryan Wollitz) donated funds to help defray hospitality expenses and assisted in the sale of raffle tickets; several donated \$200 or more as tournament sponsors. This tournament held a special place in the hearts of many since the PVAV club owner is currently battling breast cancer. She was moved by the generosity shown by participants, guests, and sponsors. In addition, Team Ektelon players organized a separate O3 Pink racquet raffle selling tickets for \$5 per ticket. This raffle added \$500 to the overall donation of \$12,000 and made one young lady very happy!

Prairie Life Center was proud to host the first Racquet for the Cure tournament in Nebraska. The committee was lead by Julie Dvorak, Jane Fleming and Carrie Reitmeier. This was a one-day event offering women's singles and women's doubles as well as men's doubles and mixed doubles. Players from Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas traveled to share in the camaraderie. The business community supported this event wholeheartedly. With over 80 businesses donating services, products and cash, the committee was successful in putting together an impressive silent auction that raised over \$4,000. The Cruise for Two was the "big ticket item" and the pink Ektelon O3 racquet went for \$195! The women's events and the men's doubles started off the day at 8:00 a.m. Early afternoon brought the mixed doubles to finish the day

(this event was the largest with 18 teams participating). There were 47 players (21 women and 26 men). Over \$5,000 was raised from this tournament. Way to go!

These events are more than just racquetball tournaments. They are a celebration of courage, determination, perseverance, and *life*. They represent not only the memory of lives that remains in our hearts but also lives that loved ones are fighting to save and lives that have been reborn by winning a battle with the disease. I hope everyone who reads this will be encouraged to round up a few of their racquetball playing friends, talk to their club, and see if they can be a part of this new initiative for hope. Many resources stand ready assist you in getting your tournament off the ground — all it takes is the desire to make a difference! We hope to see your city on the growing list of RFTC tournaments for 2006 and beyond.





Outdoor Ektelon® Legend Retires

Brian Hawkes retires after 29 year racquetball career

Bordentown, NJ – Ektelon, the leader in racquet innovations, announced today that outdoor racquetball legend and lifetime Ektelon player, Brian Hawkes, is retiring from the sport.

Born in Granada Hill, CA, Hawkes began playing indoor racquetball in 1976 and quickly picked up the outdoor game in 1977. Hawkes' racquetball resume is impressive for both the indoor and outdoor game and is highlighted with 20 World and National Open and Pro Outdoor Singles Championships as well as 8 National Outdoor Doubles Championships.

"I fell in love with the outdoor game the first time I played it my freshman year in high school," said Hawkes. "What could be better than being under the sun and getting a tan while playing the sport I love. It's a great atmosphere outside and the people are great."

Pro Kennex Outdoor Series #1

To most, mid October means plans for settling in for a long winter. Not in Huntington Beach, California where Outdoor Racquetball is thriving. The Pro Kennex Outdoor Classic was blessed with 75-80 degree weather. Yielding over 30 entrants in the pro division, spectators and players were treated to a weekend of great barbecue and racquetball. In typical outdoor fashion, fans were lined up in lawn chairs at the perimeter of the courts awaiting the next great match. In the pro singles division, a center line was placed in the middle of the court spanning from the service box to the back of the court. Much like the IRT tour in the early 1990's, the server had the opportunity to serve where he wanted upon entering the box, but every serve thereafter was to be kept within the opposing quadrant. This rule dramatically increased the number of rallies and negated the effect of big serves that have become commonplace in the outdoor game.

The first quarterfinal match featured Jeff Johnson upsetting Son Nguyen. Craig "Clubber" Lane advanced past Kevin Booth and Jesus Ocana showed local indoor great Mike Orr the ins and outs of outdoor racquetball in a hard fought

win. Allen Kazem fell to Greg Solis in straight games. The semis began on Sunday with Greg Solis and Jesus "Zues" Ocana. For those that don't remember, Zues Ocana lost to long time indoor pro John Ellis 11-5 tiebreaker at the WOR Championships. Ocana was bringing the heat and backing it up with a tad bit of trash talking in his usual fashion that gathered fans. Solis seemed unaffected by the "smack" of the ball and the mouth by Ocana and used his outdoor savvy to advance to the finals. The second semifinal featured long outdoor pro Craig Lane and Jeff Johnson. Johnson seemed off his usual serve and rally style game and committed numerous unforced errors that Lane capitalized on to advance in straight games. After a five year hiatus from singles, Craig Lane found himself in the finals against his doubles partner Greg Solis. The doubles partners both came out serving big and bringing the typical outdoor heat needed to win, but again, Solis seemed unaffected by the power. The big serves were short lived for both players due to the newly implemented center service line. The quick hands and feet of Solis made a tough combination for Lane to overcome as he fell in straight games to Solis. With this win, Solis is well on his way to another title as the outdoor points champion.

In the pro doubles division, Solis and Lane were on a collision course with the newly formed team of Rob Hoff and Josh Tucker. Past national champs Solis and Lane found themselves facing the red hot team of Gary Martin and Pete Gauci. Martin and Gauci, fresh off of an impressive upset over Jeff Johnson and Rick Sandello, had a ton of momentum coming into the match. The momentum was short

In addition to his outdoor accomplishments, Hawkes also was an accomplished indoor player. He was formerly ranked #7 on the IRT Pro Tour, was a National Singles Champion in 1984 and National Doubles Champion in 1988. He was also a member of the 1989 and 1991 US Team.

"Hawkes is a great competitor and helped create awareness of the outdoor game during his long career," stated Scott Winters, General Manager, Indoor Court Sports for Prince Sports, Inc, "He has been an inspiration to all players, especially to juniors, both on and off the court."



lived after big serves and consistent re-kills by Solis and Lane seemed to stop Martin and Gauci cold. The past champs advanced in straight games, 15-1, 15-4. In a much more eventful semifinal, Hoff and Tucker faced Kevin Booth and Mike Peters. The always tough Booth and Peters came out in typical fashion by executing a well thought out game plan. The plan didn't last long as Tucker and Hoff began blasting forehands and hitting precise angles to keep Booth and Peters off of the court and off balance. The huge serve of Tucker and consistent play of Hoff was no match for Booth and Peters as the fell in straight games.

The finals featured a court consisting of Rob Hoff holding two outdoor national titles. Solis with four, Lane with five. Josh Tucker was not out of place though. The Missouri transplant has found his niche outdoor and was out to prove he belonged in the finals. The indoor tourer wasted no time blasting serves in excess of 170 mph and kept both Lane and Solis on their heels.

The game plan of Hoff and Tucker was apparent from the beginning. They team in the "I" formation the entire match and didn't deviate. This seemed frustrate Lane and Solis as they were unable to consistently put the ball away, thus making costly errors. The title went to Hoff and Tucker in straight games and the two pulled off the upset in convincing fashion.



JUNIOR WORLDS

Juarez, Mexico

Outstanding US Performances

World Champions – World Cup

Jose Rojas (CA) – Boys 14s

Danny Lavelly/Chad McGuffey (OH) – Boys 14 Doubles

World Champions – Esprit Cup

Courtney Chisholm (MA)/Elizabeth Brenner (OR) – Girl's 12 Doubles

Joseph Lee (LA) – Boy's 12 Singles

Finalists – World Cup

Shannon Inglesby (OR) – Girl's 16 Singles (filling in for Michelle Key who injured her hamstring prior to the tourney)

Shannon Inglesby/Brittany Leggett (OR) – Girl's 16 Doubles

Ishmael Aldana/Jose Rojas (CA) – Boy's 16 Doubles

Finalists – Esprit Cup

Elizabeth Vargas (CO) – Girl's 8 Singles

Joseph Lee (LA)/Dylan Reid (OR) – Boy's 12 Doubles

Marko Rojas (CA) – Boy's 12 Singles

Performances of note

John Lindsey (OR) in the Boy's 10 singles got to the semifinals in his first Junior Worlds beating several tough Mexican competitors along the way.

Shannon Inglesby (OR) stepping up to play singles and doubles when Michelle Key pulled out of singles due to a pulled hamstring...Shannon had some issues herself with her right shoulder, but she played on and earned two silver medals.



Opening Ceremonies



World Champion Team Mexico

Matt McAdam (CO) grandson of Robert McAdam (TX), playing as a US Point Earner in the Boy's 8s played extremely well.

Jose Rojas (CA) - in winning the Boy's 14 singles World Championship had a great tournament throughout. With his mentor, John Ellis, there for part of the tourney he put on a racquetball demonstration for anyone that wanted to watch. Never letting the crowds get to him, he stayed focused and decisively won the title.

Danny Lavelly/Chad McGuffey (OH) great tournament in the Boy's 14 Doubles! Watching the tiebreaker in the finals was one of the most exhilarating experiences of the whole tourney...Danny was pumping his fist with every point and really getting the whole crowd involved.

Boys 12s All three competitors deserve credit here. Joseph Lee won the event beating teammate Marko Rojas in the finals. He also teamed with Dylan Reid in the doubles and just missed in the final in a tiebreaker. Dylan and Marko also had a real battle in the quarterfinals of the singles draw.

Boy's 18s – Chris Coy (OK) and Mike Keddie (NH) meeting in the quarters of the main draw. A 2 hour battle amongst friends and doubles partners. After winning, Chris had to turn around and play Gil De los Rios an hour or so later.

Courtney Chisholm (MA) carried banner in the Girl's 12 singles when her doubles partner, Elizabeth Brenner, lost early in the singles. Got to the semifinals and then teamed with Brenner (OR) to easily win the doubles world championship.



JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

HIGHLIGHT NOTEBOOK

By Cheryl Gudinas

When I decided to write an account of the 2005 Junior World Championships I was unsure how to begin.



While there have been numerous challenges and much hard work over the years, there have also been so many lifelong friends made along the way as well. Being involved with a team that, year after year, lives and breathes

integrity and sportsmanship, and working under head coach Kelley Beane, who not only breeds it but demands it, has been an honor and a privilege.

Every year the team goes through the process of players having to leave the team and moving on to go to college. This year we have had to say goodbye to veterans Jared Torres, Ashley Leggett, Katie Ferguson, and Captains Anthony Herrera and Kelley Fisher. Rarely do we have to say goodbye to a player who remains eligible to play but chooses to go a different direction. This year we had to do just that.

Shannon Inglesby, a junior standout from Oregon, came to Juarez to represent the Junior team in girls 16 doubles with partner Brittany Leggett. Both the coaches and Brittany knew that this would perhaps be Shannon's last event not only in juniors, but for the game in general. Shannon has chosen instead to pursue her talents as a star softball player and is aspiring to go on to Division 1 college softball, while studying to become a physical therapist. Unfortunately, with Shannon's focus being softball, there will be little time for her to continue to do both. Our team, and the coaches, will miss her strength on the court and know that not having her back leaves us with an emotional void as well.

I talked with Shannon in Juarez and since her return back to the states. Shannon was asked to step up for injured player Michelle Key, who had pulled her hamstring prior to the tournament and was unable to compete. We knew Shannon would be great in both divisions, but Shannon had reservations initially. "When I realized I might be taking the singles spot as well, I flipped out. I thought there was no way in the world I would make it out of the first round and couldn't get the thought out of my head. If I lost early, and the coaches put me in that spot for a reason and then I screwed it up, how I would deal with that, I wondered. But then I realized, you know, I am going to step up and do this. In the end, I did what I had to do, but also knowing that being under prepared for both divisions, and not being in as good of shape as I could have been for the physical demands of two divisions, I did not leave my best game on the court in Mexico. I am glad it was me that got to take Michelle's place and I know I did my best. That's all I can say."

I asked Shannon how she feels about her overall experiences with the team and about her potentially leaving racquetball behind to pursue her dream as a softball player. We had numerous discussions in Mexico about her leaving the game, and had many team meetings in which

Shannon seemed to be torn and melancholy about the thought of not being on the junior team again. There were many tears throughout the week and head coach Kelley Beane and I had numerous discussions about how Shannon would be missed if she ultimately made the decision to not return. "Shannon's a great athlete. She does everything we have asked of her. It is an honor to work with an athlete of her caliber. She makes our job as coaches easy. It is not often you get to work with someone like Shannon."

As Shannon reflects on her team and World experiences a few things stand out in her mind. "Knowing that this would be my last year wearing USA on my back and playing for my coaches made Worlds even tougher for me than it was physically playing two divisions. It was hard for me to be there in the first place. In nine years, I have made the best friends I the world, most of whom I talk with on a daily basis. Even though I may never see them again, I will keep in touch. The kids on the team since I was eight years old and coaches Shane Wood, Andy Pitock, Jen Meyer, Cheryl Gudinas, Mitt Layton, and Kelley Beane will never be forgotten. I cannot thank everyone enough for what they have done for me over the years.

"Leaving the game is the worst feeling in the world! Walking away from a sport that has taken up 9 years of your life is extremely hard. I know I will play High School Nationals, but that is most likely my last BIG tournament. It is very hard for some to believe. But, my dream is softball and I had to make a choice which way to go. Not a day goes by that I don't think of this...and that is the truth!"

Shannon's performance in Juarez was stellar. Being on all of Shannon's matches, I was lucky to see her play in what might be her last event (Don't think I didn't put myself on those matches by design...) to watch Shannon Inglesby play racquetball is pure joy. As a matter of fact, there is no one currently that I would rather watch. Shannon combines the tenacity and determination of Lynn Adams with the pure shot making and serving domination of Michelle Gould. To come away with 2 silver medals while admittedly putting in minimal time on the court due to other commitments, makes me wonder what Shannon's true potential is. But I know the answer to that. She could be the best the game has ever seen. I can only hope that one day I will have the opportunity to experience her fine play again.

From the US Team athletes and coaches: We love you and you will be missed. Best wishes in all your endeavors.

Thoughts of teammates

Brittany Leggett, silver medalist, girl's 16 doubles: "I hope every day that Shannon finds a way to come back again and play another Worlds, because I, as well as many other people, know that she would go far."

Danny Lavelly, silver medalist, boy's 16 doubles (with partner Chad McGuffey), and semi finalist, boy's 16 singles: Hopefully her finishes will leave a hunger for her to go back and compete again at the worlds, but I could not be more proud of her performance in Juarez as a team member and a friend.

Chad McGuffey, Boys 14 – Shannon works hard for what she wants and is an inspiration to us all – Please reconsider Shannon!

FINALS AND FINISHERS

Team USA

BOY'S SINGLES

- 18- Gil De Los Rios (Mexico) def. Armando Landa (Mexico) 15-7, 15-2
- 16- David Ortega (Mexico) def. Ruben Estrada (Mexico) 15-9, 15-10
- 14- Jose Rojas (USA) def. Alex Cardona (Mexico) 15-11, 15-4
- 12- Joseph Lee (USA) def. Marco A Rojas (Mexico) 15-4, 15-4
- 10- Rodrigo Garay (Mexico) def. Sebastian Ona (Bolivia) 15-6, 15-6
- 8- Andree Parrilla (Mexico) def. Alex Almada (Mexico) 7-15;15-4;11-7
- 8- MB Erick Garcia (Mexico) def. Jorge Lopez (Mexico) 15-9, 15-8
- 6- MB Javier Hernandez (Mexico) def. Juan Loreto (Mexico) 15-2, 15-3

GIRL'S SINGLES

- 18- Nancy Enriquez (Mexico) def. Samantha Salas (Mexico) 11-15, 15-13, 11-7
- 16- Paola Longoria (Mexico) def. Shannon Inglesby (USA) 15-0, 15-8
- 14- Christine Richardson (Canada) def. Paz Munoz (Ecuador) 15-9, 15-11
- 12- Veronica Sotomayor (Ecuador) def. Daniela Gascon (USA) 15-2, 15-0
- 10- Lucia Gonzalez (Mexico) def. Ximena Gonzalez (Mexico) 15-9, 15-8
- 8- Karla Gascon (Mexico) def. Elisabeth Vargas (USA) 15-8, 15-11
- 8- MB Karla Gascon (Mexico) def. Valeria Sandoval (Mexico) 10-11, 11-6, 11-5
- 6- MB Erika Manila (USA) def. Daryana Montiel (Mexico) 11-4, 10-11, 11-3



BOY'S DOUBLES

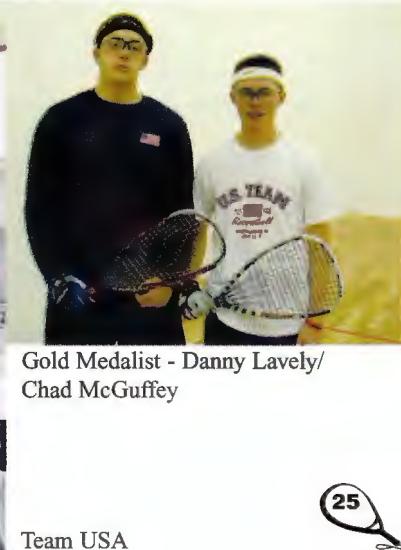
- 18- Gil De Los Rios/Juan De Los Rios (Mexico) def. James Landeryou/Ryan Smith (Canada) 15-11, 15-12
- 16- Ruben Estrada/David Ortega (Mexico) def. Ismael Aldana/Jose Rojas (USA) 15-11, 15-7
- 14- Danny Lavelly/Chad McGuffey (USA) def. Barret Husulak/Devyn Leibel (Canada) 15-13, 14-15, 11-4
- 12- Daniel De La Rosa/Guillermo Rivera (Mexico) Joseph Lee/Dylan Reid (USA) 15-12, 10-15, 11-5
- 10- Eduardo Garay/Omar Garay (Mexico) def. Miguel Jaimes/Alejandro Montiel 15-7, 15-8

GIRL'S DOUBLES

- 18- Samantha Salas/Nancy Enriquez (Mexico) def. Denise Haynes/Brandi Jacobson Prentice (Canada) 15-6, 15-6
- 16- Eleni Guzman/Paola Longoria (Mexico) def. Shannon Inglesby / Brittany Legget (USA) 15-14, 2-15, 11-3
- 14- Paz Munoz / Veronica Sotomayor (Ecuador) def. Ingrid Castellanos / Jessica Maldonado (Mexico) 15-6;15-2
- 12- Elizabeth Brenner/Courtney Chisholm (USA) def. Josselyn Loredo/Sofia Rascon (Mexico) 15-1, 15-2
- 10- Lucia Gonzalez/Ximena Gonzalez (Mexico) def. Karla Gascon/Karla Herrera (Mexico) 15-7, 15-3

Junior Mixed Doubles

- 10- Hollee Hungerford/John Lindsey (USA) def. Alicia Fladstol/Adam Manilla (USA) 15-13, 15-6
- 12- Elisabeth Brenner/Marco A. Rojas (USA) def. Joshua Hungerford/Amanda Lindsay (USA) 15-8, 15-7
- 14- Ana Saldena/Luis Tamez (Mexico) def. Majella Haverty/Jonathan O'Keeney (Ireland) 15-12, 15-8
- 16- Jenny Daza/Roland Keller (Bolivia) def. Christina Cordovo/Daniel Vasquez (Mexico) 15-2, 15-7
- 18- Sherrika Darnell (Australia)/Pablo Kurzbard (Argentina) def. Christopher Carey/Julie Skehan (Ireland) 15-5, 15-7



Gold Medalist - Danny Lavelly/
Chad McGuffey

Team USA



PRESIDENT: LAUREL DAVIS

Q. What would you say the key is to having a successful organization?

A. The key to a successful organization is having people who are willing to put the time in to make it successful, without expecting anything in return. The President's role is to attract and retain the volunteers while ensuring that you match capabilities, passion and time availability. It's a constant juggling act and you can never ignore it for more than a week or two to be successful.

Q. What is the number one complaint you hear as President?

A. The number one complaint currently is the inaccuracy of the USA Racquetball ranking system. Members are having a difficult time understanding why they don't appear in the same place in the rankings as they did under the old system and the difference between a "participation" based ranking system vs. a "results" based ranking system.

At tournaments, there are always opinions on match times, draws, hospitality, souvenirs, format etc.. We are fortunate in Illinois that we have a core group of regular tournament aficionados – BUT, they don't always like change, and we need to change to continue to attract new players into the sport.

Q. What are your most successful programs?

A. Our ISRA Travel League

Over 35 teams compete weekly in league play. A team match format is used. Teams accumulate points over the course of a long (6 month) season. The league has been in existence for over 25 years and is one way we keep players involved. Those who may no longer be able to play tournaments stay connected to competitive play through the Travel League. This year we even added a team from Indiana to the league. The ISRA Travel League is sanctioned and all players are required to be current USAR/ISRA Members throughout the season.

JTI (Junior Team Illinois)

JTI exists because of an excellent and dedicated group of Illinois parents. The team currently consists of about 40 players. They have rules and a code of conduct. There is structure and discipline – the team meets twice a week, every week to learn and improve from some of the best Coaches in the country, including Cheryl Gudinas, Andy Pitock and TJ Ferro. Players are coached by volunteers who help them continue to learn and improve. The clubs have been very generous in supporting JTI activities. Parents have been willing to travel to other states in order to allow players to participate in events against other states. This is the future of racquetball....and we have it right here in Illinois.

Q. If you could share some advice to a struggling state what would it be?

A. Don't try to do too much – pick your battles, whether it is a well run State Championship, a regular newsletter or website for communication, or collecting results for area and national rankings. Fewer things done well are better than more things done poorly. Doing too much leads to burnout.

Q. What would you consider your state's greatest accomplishment during your tenure?

A. Personally, this is one of those jobs that make you feel like you never do enough or do it well enough. But, we (not me) have accomplished much –
 Annual Awards Banquet at State Singles
 New website with lots of great information
 Automating the tournament entry/management process
 Improved newsletter mailed 4 times/year
 Attracted new board members and players
 Junior Team Illinois

Q. What makes Illinois racquetball special?

A. We have a unique mix of people. We have several board members and tournament directors who have been active in racquetball for over 25 years. People are passionate....and opinionated. There are different ideas on how to get where we are going, but we all want to go the same place.

ISRA State Board Members: Nearly 25 active volunteers comprise the ISRA Board including zone representatives, auxiliary board members and a governing board.

Laurel Davis received the 2003 State President of the Year award.

Membership Strength: 688 current members

State Population: 12,419,293

Major Universities:

Lake Forest College
 University of Illinois
 Northwestern University
 University of Chicago
 Southern Illinois University
 Loyola University
 DePaul University
 Northern Illinois University
 Note: All schools have racquetball courts

Lifetime Members (9): Keith Brown, Laurel Davis (ISRA Board), Russ Granata, Cheryl Kirk (ISRA Board), Leo Klimaitis, Christopher Lawson, Keith Minor, Geoff Peters (ISRA Board and USAR Board), and Ernesto Tan.

We have: The former National Rules Commissioner – Rich Clay
 USA Racquetball Board Member and Club Owner – Geoff Peters
 The IRT Pro Racquetball Commissioner – Dave Negrete
 The # 1 Ranked Female Professional Player – Cheryl Gudinas
 Two Junior National Team Assistant Coaches – Cheryl Gudinas and Andy Pitock



Membership Growth Challenge

Congratulations to the North Dakota Racquetball Association – they are the first to win the Membership Growth Challenge! They had .02585% of their state population who were USA Racquetball members at the end of November. Thank you for all your hard work and support. Which state will take this award next year? Ask your State Association how you can help them win the 2006 Membership Growth Challenge.

Results as of November 31, 2005

Previous Rank	Rank	State	Population	Current Members	% Population Members	1% of Population
1	1	North Dakota	642,200	166	0.02585%	6,422
2	2	Oregon	3,421,399	826	0.02414%	34,214
3	3	New Mexico	1,819,046	340	0.01869%	18,190
5	4	Alaska	626,932	101	0.01611%	6,269
4	5	Utah	2,233,169	342	0.01531%	22,332



Fran's HOUSE



Q: I AM CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT THE PROPER FOOTWORK IS FOR HITTING A SHOT. I HEAR SO MANY DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS AND I WANT TO KNOW THE PROPER FOOTWORK FROM THE MASTER HERSELF.

A: Footwork is probably the most critical part of hitting a ball during a rally, on the serve, on the return of serve or anytime for that matter. Your goal is to always try and be square to the sidewall when hitting a ball to maximize on power, gain consistency and obtain accuracy. By squaring up to the sidewall, you have a greater chance of using your legs and hips which is the source of power. This power is then transferred through your upper body via your torso to your shoulder, to your arm, to your wrist, to the racquet and then eventually to the ball.

So lets take a look:

A. During a rally and on the return of serve, when you are down and ready, you are square to the front wall. In order to get square to the side wall, you should do the following:

1. Down and ready (facing front wall)
2. Legs should be wider than shoulder width apart and knees slightly bent
3. Use the crossover step
 - a. Pivot on the foot the side of the court the ball is on which opens the hips
 - b. Push off with the opposite foot, crossover so you are now square to the sidewall
4. From this position, you can move to the ball and when you get there, you are ready to step into the ball and hit the ball properly

B. During a serve, you are already square to the sidewall so all you have to do is step into your serve (toward the front wall). You accomplish this by using a one step or a two step motion depending on you level of play or what serve you are going to hit:

1. Low hard serve – one or two step motion
2. Soft high serve – one step motion

The footwork in racquetball is no different than any other sport... Let's compare:

Racquetball	Other Sports
1) Server in racquetball – steps into serve	1) Batter in baseball – steps into pitch
2) Return of serve – square to front wall, then takes a crossover step before hitting so you are square to the sidewall	2) Infielder or outfielder in baseball – square to home plate, then takes a crossover step before throwing the ball
3) Hitting a ball in a rally (same as above)	3) Quarterback in football – square to offensive line, then drops back and then does a crossover step before throwing the ball
4) Hitting a ball in a rally (same as above)	4) A tennis player – square to the net, then a crossover step before hitting the ball

The reason I always stress proper footwork is because the ball is usually traveling in excess of over 100mph in ONLY a 20x40x20 box, which gives you much less time to react to the ball than in any other sport we mentioned.

Remember, proper footwork will help lead to the following:

1. More power which gives your opponent less time to react
2. More accuracy which allows you to put the ball where you want which should be as far away from your opponent as possible to force them to hit on the run creating more mistakes
3. More consistency which will give your opponent less set ups

The end result is you will be a better racquetball player...who wouldn't want that?

Good Luck!

Hope to see you at one of my camps for live personal instruction or the next best thing buy our video if you can't make a camp at this time. Go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com for details on both the video and camps.

GET WITH THE PROGRAM



By CONNIE MARTIN

brought in one new player to the sport in a year, we would double our number! Wouldn't it be great if instead of 5 million players in the US, we had 10 million. All it takes is each person who plays to be responsible for bringing in just 1 other person to the game they love!!!

*So many players may think their only responsibility is to play the game.
NOT TRUE!*

Now if that was all there was too it, we could stop this article now but we know that not all 5 million people love the sport as much as we do and that not all 5 million players are reading this article so...

How can we involve more people in Racquetball?

The Player...

Invite your non-playing friends in for a game with you.

Now, please, do not just take them on the court and annihilate them. That is a sure way of having them never come back! Give them the basics, run them around the court so they get a great workout and see what it is that keeps you coming back time and

time again. When you take a new person on the court, you don't have to give them all the rules, just the basics. Rally, rally, rally. Doesn't even matter if the ball bounces more than once before they hit it. You need to remember back to when you first got hooked on the game. Why did you and how did you?

Now if your club IS on the ball. They should offer some Potential Member specials so that the new people you are introducing to the game will come back again and again and again. Create

RACQUETBALL

February Special

Your Friend Can Join for Only \$50

Then just pay Monthly Dues and ... Includes

FREE RACQUET to the 1st 50 Memberships

Offer Expires Feb 28th, 2006

Membership includes RACQUETBALL and use of all Fitness Facilities!

that desire to play and they will hopefully become Members. Or if they are a Member already, to upgrade to a Racquetball Membership.

Whose Responsibility Is It???

What are you doing for RACQUETBALL?

What are you doing for your sport? So many of you who read this magazine are players and may think the only responsibility you have to the sport is to play it!

Not true! If you as players

The Club...

A couple of things a club can do to drum up interest in racquetball is to offer Member or Membership Specials.

1. Member Special: What a great time of year to send your Racquetball Members a couple of Free Guest Passes to bring in their friends to play with them. Make sure the Guest Pass has information includes their name and address so your Membership Director can contact them.

2. Membership Special:

Promote the Game from within your Membership. You can offer upgrade specials to your Fitness Membership or a Special just for Members Friends. This is an inexpensive way for a club to

advertise. Nice, informative, eye catching colored posters for inside the club. Have your Racquetball Director (Service Desk Employees when checking Members in) hand out flyers for them to give to their friends. Have your Aerobic Instructors make announcements in their classes. Include information in your Monthly Newsletter or on your Web or in your E-Letters to your Members. If you are going to offer a special make sure to take the time to PROMOTE it.

FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS!

Try RACQUETBALL for FREE!

Feb 16 or 23

Thursdays 10-11am or 6-7pm

Feb 18 or 25

Saturdays 9-10am or 11-12n

We'll provide use of the racquets, balls, eye guards, instruction & fun!!!

Members: Have your family members or friends or co-workers try the game you love! They can bring a Friend TOO, Sign up at the Service Desk today!

times during the promotion that people can come in and try the game out before joining. Have them bring another friend too! Let them know you will provide all the equipment and the instruction.

Besides an inexpensive joining fee, offer a Free Racquet to the first 50 Memberships that join on this promotion. Check with the Racquet Manufacturers for closeouts on last years models. Or let them know what you are doing and they will work with you. At Cascade Athletic Clubs we offer this promotion once a year and usually purchase racquets for \$15 to \$20 per racquet.

It is important to note (though many of my past articles have said the same) that if Clubs do not have programs to keep their existing Members involved at all levels of play, then having your existing Members help promote the sport may be useless. So Clubs, do your job. Hire a person to be responsible for your Members and your Programs. You won't be sorry!!!

If you have any ideas for upcoming articles for 'Get with the Program', please e-mail me at: Connie can be reached at: Connie.Martin@CascadeAthleticClubs.com

WHY PLAY RACQUETBALL?

- It's **EASY** to LEARN!
- It **BURNS FAT** and **CALORIES**.
- It's a great **CARDIO WORKOUT**
- It's **SOCIAL**.
- It's **FUN**!
- It **releases STRESS**.
- It Adds **VARIETY** and **excitement to your current workout routine**.
- It's **INEXPENSIVE** to PLAY.
- It's a game **FOR ALL AGES!**

CASCADE ATHLETIC CLUBS

PROPER CENTER COURT POSITION

BY SUDSY MONCHIK

In the last issue, I talked about "Watching the Ball" an extremely important factor in winning matches. Today I want to cover "Proper Center Court Position" another extremely important factor in winning matches...actually a MUST. No matter whether you are serving and going to relocate or you are in the middle of the rally, you want to get back into good center court position so you don't get beat by the pass or you don't get jammed. By being in "proper center court position" you are in the best position possible for the next shot.

Lets define "Proper Center Court Position" as being in the right place at the right time. Therefore, you are in position to get a majority of the balls. Since a majority of the balls (80-90% of all balls) wind up in the back half of the court the middle of the back half of the court behind the dotted line is center court (see pictures). This is the most advantageous position to be in because approximately 70% of all balls that have been hit will pass through that box or if you are in the box with one step and a reach, you can get to most balls and return them.

At this point, lets take a closer look at where you should position yourself depending on where the ball is and where your opponent is hitting the ball from. *Keep "The 30% Principle" in mind at all times when you are determining where you should position yourself. 30% of all balls can be killed from the dotted line. A kill shot is defined as a shot that hits 6" and lower on the front wall and bounces twice before the short line. The further back a person goes in the court and shoots the ball, the less likely they will be able to effectively kill the ball so their percentages go down drastically.*

With this in mind let's look at all the positions I have given you:



TRICK 1

Sudsy (offense) 35 feet and back
Fran (defense) is down and ready watching the ball and positioning herself in the back half of the center court box. Keeping the 30% principle in mind, she is protecting against the pass and giving up the kill and pinch



Sudsy (offense) moves up to 30 feet

Fran (defense) is down and ready, watching the ball and moves up ever so slightly still being in the back half of the center court box. Keeping the 30% principle in mind, she is protecting against the pass and giving up the kill and pinch

Sudsy (offense) at short line (off to the right)

Fran (defense) is down and ready, watching the ball and moves up toward the dotted line in the front half of the center court box. Fran is still protecting against the pass, but because I am closer to the target (front wall), my odds of effectively killing the ball goes up



TRICK 3



TRICK 4

Sudsy (offense) is at the front wall
Fran (defense) is down and ready, watching the ball and moves up to the dotted line, no further. She is protecting against the pass and giving up the kill and pinch. She already made one mistake and put me 2 feet from the front wall. If she moved up beyond the dotted line, she would be making a 2nd mistake and VERY be vulnerable to the pass, so she stays back

AGE SHOW

TRICK 5



Sudsy (offense) is at the short line (in the middle) Fran (defense) is down and ready, watching the ball and is slightly behind the dotted line protecting against the pass and giving up the kill and pinch

TRICK 6



Sudsy (offense) at dotted line
Fran (defense) is down and ready, watching the ball and drops back to the back half of the center court box to protect against the pass and giving up the kill and pinch

TRICK 7



Sudsy (offense) is deep in the court in the middle
Fran (defense) is down and ready, watching the ball and has one foot in the center court box approximately a step and a swing away from me protecting against the pass and giving up the kill and pinch

TRICK 8



Sudsy (offense) has Fran trapped
Fran (defense) is trapped on the wall as she never moved back to center court after she hit the shot so she is vulnerable to everything

A RULE OF THUMB

*If your opponent (offense) is shooting the ball and is 30 feet and up you want to be behind them.

*If your opponent (offense) is shooting the ball and is 30 feet and back you want to be somewhere in front of them:

a)if they are shooting from one side or the other side you are in the middle.

b)if they are shooting from the middle you want to be off to the left or right of them with one foot in the center court box.

I can't stress enough how important center court position really is...VERY...it's critical to winning or losing a match. This was one area I really zeroed in on when I am played the guys on tour...where were they standing and very often where were they not standing?

Believe it or not this is my basic strategy...put the ball as far away from my opponent as possible to force them to hit on the run. If I hit the ball where they are NOT I force them to hit on the run creating mistakes for me to capitalize on. You too can use this very simplistic strategy because if it works for me it WILL work for you. Give it a try and let me know how it works.

Please, I invite you to attend one of the camps with Fran Davis to learn this first hand or in the meantime pick up one of our videos, "Building Your Racquetball Dream House" with Fran, Jason and myself.... and check out Center Court (chapter 6) for more details . Go to www.FranDavisRacquetball.com .

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MOVERS &

SHAKERS

Racquetball Magazine recently had the chance to talk to Mark Griffin the driving force behind the scenes in the great plain city of Sioux Falls South Dakota.

Mark, tell us a little about how you got involved in the sport? – Well I began in college at ASU playing outdoors. Due to the heat there we played from 10pm to midnight when it was cooler. The university did not have the great complex that they do now. A few of my friends and myself would get together and played three or four times a week for the workout and fun.

After returning from college did you keep playing? – Yes I did. I came home from college and began playing at the Sioux Falls YMCA. I also began working in the family business for Lewis Drugs, which my father started in 1942. I would go to the club and play for the stress release. Racquetball is very popular in Sioux Falls and I got behind the Lewis Drug Pro-Am the year I came home from school 28 years ago. I felt it would be a great way to help to promote racquetball in the area.

Tell us a little more about the event- Well like I mentioned, this is the twenty eighth year we will be hosting the event at the Sioux Falls YMCA and with some great support from the community it has been a great success. Local racquetball enthusiast Troy Stallings has helped tremendously in running, organizing and getting some of the IRT pro's to come in every year. In the past we have had Hall of Fame players Ruben Gonzalez and Andy Roberts play and now of course the new generation of stars like Jack Huczek, Mike Guidry and Rocky Carson. We do our best to make sure the players are taken care of at the event not only by helping out the professionals with a large prize money purse and other perks but the amateur players are treated to full meals throughout the weekend, great raffle prizes such as DVD players, televisions and other great prizes. The event is one where everyone not only gets to witness some great racquetball but leaves knowing they had a great time at a great event and look forward to coming back again the next year. Mike Guidry mentioned to me that the best time to come to Sioux Falls is in February for this event. I really enjoy being involved in the event and will do so for many years to come.

What is your impression of the newer IRT players that have come to the event in recent years compared to those of the past?

- Ruben, Andy and Guidry stand out the most as I still receive phone calls from them. They played some great ball for the fans here. The new players such as Rocky and Jack are great. They have spent time with the juniors doing clinics and just hanging out talking with the players. I am very impressed with them, also with their level of play. It is great for the local players here to get a chance to see the best play. It has also helped cultivate a few good players from here like Troy and John Goth. We hope to get Kane to come here this year. His wife has played here in the past.

What level player would you describe yourself as? – I am a solid "A" player. I play a lot of doubles now. I am in the 50-age bracket and I am happy to say I have been fairly injury free. I still play three times a week at the YMCA.

How would you describe the state of the game now? – Well I know what I read and get from the Internet. It seems very stable. Here in Sioux Falls I know we are making an effort to bring the younger generation into the game. Troy is working hard at the YMCA to make it happen here and do our part.

How do you envision the sport in the future? – I would hope for faster growth of the sport and from all indications it seems to be on track. I believe developing a star or face to put in the spotlight and getting behind him or her would be a way to generate more interest for the sport. All other major sports have a face or superstar that has moved the sport to the next level. I think of what Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan did for basketball. Also getting the younger generation involved and giving the sport a try.



*Mark E. Griffin, President & CEO
Lewis Drugs, Inc.*

Mark E. Griffin is the Owner, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lewis Drug, Inc. since 1986. He attended both the University of South Dakota and Arizona State University Business School. He is currently active in many service, social and political clubs. Lewis Drugs has been the title sponsor for the Lewis Drug Pro-Am for twenty-eight years and continues to support the local racquetball community in the Sioux Falls area.

STRANDEMO'S *Strategies*



Steve Strandemo was inducted into USA Racquetball's Hall of Fame in 2005. Recognized as one, if not the best instructor during the 70's and 80's, Steve completed and published three instructional books on racquetball, organized the first instructors certification camp and was recognized as the master of fundamentals and strategy.

As a player Steve was ranked in the top 10 for 10 consecutive years during an era dominated by the Hall of Fame inductees such as Hogan, Yellen, Peck, and Hilecher. Steve was the first instructor to truly utilize video tape as an analysis and teaching tool and many of his theories and principles of teaching provide the basics for many of today's instructors.

Strandemo on Racquetball

I'd like to thank Racquetball Magazine and USA Racquetball for giving me the opportunity to write this instructional article along with our new two-page explanation of USA Racquetball rules. Hopefully, with our illustrative photos and racquetball advice, you'll be able to benefit from this material and improve your game.

In this article and future articles, I'm going to come at you straightforward with racquetball information that I guarantee will make you a better player and a lot tougher to beat!

Topics will be the powerful two step serving motion used with low drive and hard Z serves; aggressive relocation after these serves; the proper position and mentality used to return these difficult serves; playing off your opponent's left-up shots; open stance hitting in **Zone 2-3** (Zone 2 is the 5ft. area between the server's short line and the dotted line. Zone 3 is the 5ft. area behind the dotted line) when you have a quick reaction shot; and understanding all the different lob serves. Concepts you must understand if you're going to improve your racquetball skills.

Before we get into the actual instruction, we should have a discussion about a problem that has been with racquetball for the last 30+ years and it probably isn't going away soon. The problem is the **lack of understanding of the rules concerning hinders, avoidable hindars (penalty hindars), hitting lanes and screen serves**. This combination of problems has destroyed tons of matches, lots of friendships, and is continuing to occur every day all over the world. We all need to strive for a higher standard of understanding and intelligence about racquetball, and need to hold to that standard as we try to elevate our racquetball game. Playing within correct rules is the only true way to gain respect for our sport. Racquetball cannot grow in this country and around the world when you go to club after club and see players standing in each other's way, as they're attempting to hit their offensive shots (down-the-line, cross-court pass or pinch). When this occurs, offensive player have to significantly compromise their shot selection to avoid hitting their opponents; and often times end up hitting ceiling balls, tough angled pinches, and a lot of down-the-line shots. Many players unfortunately will never feel the true synergy of good racquetball until they become schooled on how to play, and be given the proper hitting lanes to hit their shots. When they acquire good information, players can then enjoy the excitement of strategically moving their opponent around the court to score points, win games, and even matches.

Let me categorize two groups of players that fit into this category. The first group has hundreds of players around the world enjoying our great sport who are totally unaware they're illegally standing in their opponent's way. This problem exists because they've never been exposed to good information, and therefore lack racquetball knowledge and understanding. Hopefully through these articles, the posters we've developed, and the instructional DVD's, we'll have a great chance to reach many of these players and make their playing experience more enjoyable. I believe any player that goes through a **good instructional experience** and learns how to play fundamentally sound, will probably never leave this sport because they know **racquetball is the best 60 minute workout they can get!** Having helped racquetball players since the mid 70's I also believe that people are good by nature and want to play correctly, and when shown these playing guidelines, will adjust their positioning and be a credit to the game.

As for the second group of players (trust me) I won't make a lot of friends in this group. **There is a small minority of players who stand in their opponent's hitting lanes on purpose because it gives them an unfair advantage on defense and they know exactly what they're doing and they have no problem bending the rules in order to help themselves win.** These players are subtle, often appearing to be moving out of their opponent's way in good rallies. But as their opponent is getting ready to hit, they always seem to be in the **cross-court passing lane**; forcing their opponent to hit either down the line or attempt a difficult pinch. (See poster foldout) By standing in the cross-court passing lane, they eliminate having to cover the opposite back corner and that makes life a lot easier for them on defense. I wish these players would be penalized with an avoidable hinder (penalty hinder) each and every time they make this move.

Unfortunately there is another situation that is a little more blatant in nature and occurs when one of their shots **rebound off the sidewall into the middle of the back court and they make little or no attempt to move to the side of the court to give their opponent his three offensive shots**. Examples of which are errant low drives, a hard Z that comes off the sidewall too much, lob serves that glance off the sidewall too far, or an offensive shot in the rally that kicks off the sidewall too much. These players block the cross-court pass, they block a straight shot to the front wall, and they will even block the down-the-line shot. Basically they take all the appropriate offensive shots away from the hitter, except for the pinch. (See poster foldout) This type of player often forces his **considerate opponent** to go to the ceiling when

he should have great offensive shots due to his opponent's errant shot. These should all be called avoidable hinders (penalty hinders). Please understand those individuals in the second group are a very small percentage of all racquetball players, but it is a group that really takes the fun out of the game for a lot other players. **And for all the rest of you who are successful and who are constantly watching your opponent hit, always giving the open hitting lanes to your opponent, keep doing what you're doing...I'm proud of you!**

Now For the Instruction

Let's get started with the actual instruction and make you a better player. The best foundation to start building this package is with a strong serving game, consisting of both low drive and hard Z serves, along with the understanding of how to return these difficult serves. **For the next sixty days I want you to develop a strong serving game and a good return-of-serve mentality. In the next issue of Racquetball Magazine we'll start to show you how these two hard serves complement each other, and build on the concept of solid relocation, and the server playing off his opponent's left-up returns.** Because a lot of good information is being conveyed, it's sometimes hard for readers to get the feeling of how these concepts play out on the court. So with this article and all future articles I will be making a 20-25 minute DVD/video of the instructional material. The DVD/video accompanying this article will show you all the mechanics of the low drive serve, hard Z serve, and the return of these serves. **I really want you to improve!** If there happens to be any ideas discussed in this article that aren't 100% clear, I want to demonstrate them on the court so it makes it easier for you to understand and incorporate into your game.



When serving a low drive serve, I work so hard to get that 1st bounce in Zone 2, because if it lands in Zone 2 I put incredible pressure on my opponent to react quickly and hit. If my opponent goes low with his return, there's a great chance it will be left-up and I'm 100% ready for that shot in Zone 2-3.

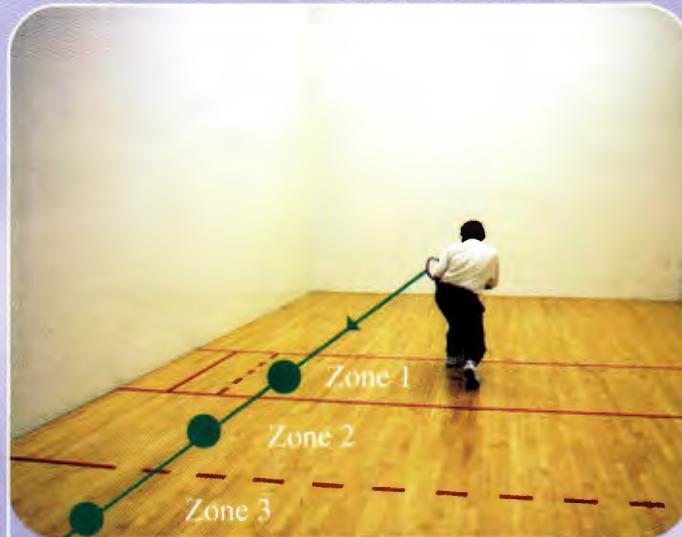
The Low Drive Serve

The objective of the low drive serve is to serve the ball so it will take 2 bounces before it reaches the back wall. To accomplish that you need the 1st bounce to be in **Zone 2**. The best way to make this happen is by making very low ball contact approximately 5 to 6 inches off the floor. From the service box in **Zone 1** hit an upward arc into the front wall approximately 13 to 14 inches off the floor. That will create another upward arc off the front wall that will make your serve land in **Zone 2**.

When this happens, there's a **very high** probability your low drive serve will not come off the back wall - intended result! To get the most power into your low drive serve you should use good forearm technique by bending and extending your arm, a forceful wrist snap, and a good follow-through combined with an efficient two-step serving motion. Next relocate as hard and quickly as you can to **Zone 2-3**. As you are shuffling back, **watch your opponent** move to the back corner, and from his body language determine if he is going low with his return (down the line, cross-court or pinch) or high (ceiling ball). If the return is low, get back into **Zone 2-3** and get ready for his left-up shot; if the return is high, quickly retreat to the back of the court and evaluate the effectiveness of his ceiling ball return.

The Return of Serve (Low Drive)

To return a low drive serve your starting position should be 3 feet off the back wall using a backhand grip *if you change your grip*.



If the serve lands in **Zone 2**, it's not coming off the back wall and the receiver has to choose to be either offensive or kick the return to the ceiling. If the serve lands in **Zone 3** or deeper, always let it come off the back wall and be offensive with your return.

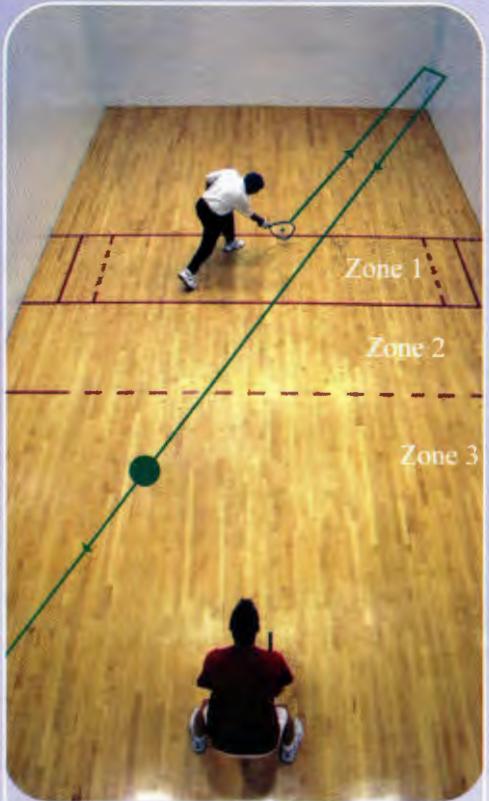
When you as a receiver see the serve come off the **front wall**, you immediately need to start to judge the height and angle of the serve to determine if it's going to take its 1st bounce in **Zone 2** or if it's going to land behind the dotted line (in **Zone 3** or deeper). Cues for using your mentality to return the low drive serve are as follows:

Situation 1: When you see the low drive serve angled correctly and landing in **Zone 2**, you must move to the back corner with a cross-over step and decide if you're going to be offensive with this return or if you're going to the ceiling **because it's not coming off the back wall**.

Situation 2: When you see the low drive serving coming off the front wall **a little too high** and you determine its 1st bounce is going to land behind the dotted line (in **Zone 3** or deeper) **always take the ball off the back wall and be offensive with your return**. (Either a down the line kill-pass, cross-court kill-pass, or pinch for a winner) Make sure you put immediate pressure on the server and make him pay for his missed serve. **Don't ever take this errant serve that comes off the back wall and go back to the ceiling!** There are useful tips, please read them again.

The Hard Z Serve

The characteristics of the hard Z are exactly the same as the low drive. Same low ball contact in the service box, same two-step serving



When serving a hard Z serve from a couple boards to the right of center; I have to hit very close into the front right corner to get the **exact ball angle** so the serve ends up **tight in the back left corner**.

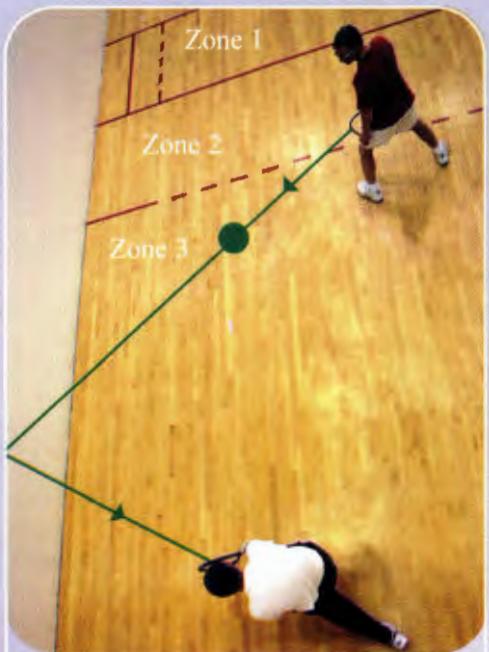
motion; only here you will angle the ball up more so it hits that front wall 4 ft. to 5 feet off the floor. The ball direction of the hard Z is front wall, sidewall, **1st bounce in Zone 3**, kicks into the opposite sidewall and hopefully dies as it angles near the back wall. Turning the correct way on hard Z relocation is crucially important for safety and efficiency.

Make sure, you're turning away from the ball, protecting the front of your body, and looking over your shoulder to see if your opponent is going low or high with their return. Use the same return-of-serve mentality we discussed with the low drive serve.

On the DVD you will be able to see the exact ball direction, how to turn on your relocation and how the serve reacts in the back corners. A great visual tool for you to use along with this article from Racquetball Magazine.

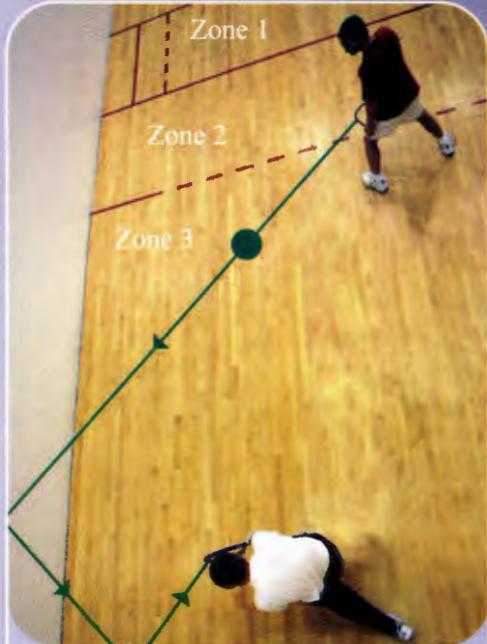
The Return of Serve (Hard Z)

Always, always, always let a hard Z bounce before you return it. After the **1st bounce in Zone 3**, you can



This photo shows the option of the hard Z serve landing in Zone 3; kicking into the left wall and rebounding out for an offensive shot. The server is watching his opponent; is out of the way, and is giving the receiver his 3 offensive shots.

choose to return it either offensively or defensively before it hits the sidewall; offensively or defensively after the sidewall, or even after it



This photo is meant for the many players receiving a hard Z serve that think each time their opponent serves a hard Z into the back left corner it's going to be a perfect un-returnable serve. You, as a receiver, need patience to let the Z serve run its entire distance and have faith that a lot of these serves are going to come off the sidewall/back wall for an offensive set-up.

There are so many defensive and offensive options in the back corners with the hard Z serve return that (while the illustrated photos in this article are a good start) I think the best way to thoroughly convey this information to you will be on the DVD.

Wrap Up

So that completes

your first instructional project. **For the next 60 days please work hard** on your low drive serve, concentrating on getting the first bounce in Zone 2 and then relocating. Next learn the hard Z with its ball direction and correct relocation, and lastly work on the return of these serves, looking for an offensive return first and a defensive return second. And do review this article from time to time.

Please get this homework done so you're ready for the next issue. I hope you'll have the opportunity to get the DVD and be able to watch this instructional video. **Remember, we're going to build your game together and you're going to get a lot tougher to beat.** I'm looking forward to our next lesson, thank you for your time, and Good Luck!

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May 19-21 - Lansing, MI
May 24 - San Diego, CA
June 9-11 - New Orleans, LA
July 21-23 - Boston, MA
July 28-30 - Woodbridge, NJ
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 DOB: m____/d____/yr____ Age on 3-10-05 _____ SHIRT SIZE: _____ (S - 2XL)

STARTING TIMES: First match times or opponents WILL NOT be provided before registration. You will receive your complete schedule when you check-in at registration. You must be prepared to play at 8:00 AM on Wednesday if you do not attend registration.

STARTING DAYS: *Change* All players, regardless of age/sex will start play on Wednesday 8 March.

HOST HOTEL: Hilton - Woodland Hills, 6360 Canoga Ave., Woodland Hills, CA, Ph 818-595-1000 (Call only this #) Rooms are limited. Make reservations now to guarantee a room. ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE: February 18, 2006. The special NMRA Rate is only \$95.00/night, single/double. After February 18, 2006, the NMRA rate may not be available

PLAYER MEETING: A player meeting at The Spectrum Club, Tuesday, Mar 7th, 5:15 PM.

REGISTRATION: Tuesday, March 7, 2006, 6:00 to 9:00 PM at The Spectrum Club. Free hospitality room at club is open after the player meeting. Come early to meet and greet friends and competitors.

HOST CLUB: The Spectrum Club, 22235 Sherman Way, Canoga Park, CA 91303. Ph 818-884-5034, Fax 818-227-8373, voicemail 818-380-3409

AmPRO CERTIFICATION CLINIC OFFERED: A 2-session AmPRO Certification Clinic will be offered on Monday and Tuesday, Mar 6-7, 2006. Get your AmPRO certification before the tournament. For NMRA members, of at least 6 months, NMRA pays \$75 of the clinic fee. Interested? Contact Gary Mazaroff: gmampro@aol.com, cell 505-321-1110, fax 505-256-1380, 505-266-9213 hm.

OFFICIAL BALL: EKTELON NMRA

OFFICIATING: All matches are self-refereed. Sportsmanship, integrity and camaraderie are your tourney guide words.

MATCH FORMAT: Round Robin. Saturday play-offs for multiple flights. Match format consists of 2 games, with bonus for each game won and for total points scored. Format may be altered, as required, by the tournament staff and NMRA.

USAR SANCTIONED AND USAR RULES: Sanctioned by the USAR as a Level 5 event. USAR Official Rules will govern competition, unless otherwise specified by the tournament director/NMRA. This includes the mandatory use of eyewear tested to ASTM F803 or CSA impact standards.

SELECT DIVISION(s)

*Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events,
 Second event must be doubles*

MEN / WOMENS *(circle gender)*

SINGLES	DOUBLES	MIXED
_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____

Doubles Partner(s): Please print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Check if you need us to find a doubles partner.

Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administers, waive & release any & all rights and claims that I may have against the NMRA, USAR, the Spectrum Club & their staff, & all sponsors or their respective agents, for any and all injuries or damages of any nature which I, my spouse or my guest(s) may incur as a result of my participation in this tournament.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FEES:

First Event	\$140 \$_____
Second Event	\$ 40 \$_____
Spouse/Guest(s)* (each)	\$ 65 \$_____
NMRA Membership ** (3yrs)	\$ 45 \$_____
USAR Membership (required)	\$ 30 \$_____
Total Due: \$_____	

* Spouse/Guest(s) Name(s): _____

**Check here if this is your first NMRA tournament

PAYMENT: Send entry form & payment (in U.S. dollars, no credit cards) made payable to NMRA.

Mail to: Debbie Tisinger – Tournament Director

C/O The Spectrum Club, 22235 Sherman Way Canoga Park, CA 91303

No refund of entry/spouse/guest fees after 2/22/06



Intercollegiate Racquetball Spotlight

By Shane Wood

ECRC Season continues on...

The 2005-2006 Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC) Season continued on December 2nd-4th in Albany, NY with the second meet of the year as 122 student-athletes from 19 schools were represented and competed with an atmosphere that only college racquetball can bring. Penn State University had a tremendous showing, sweeping the Mens, Womens and Overall team titles. Clarkson University, winners of the first meet, was right behind them in second place in the Mens and Overall divisions. The newly formed Binghamton University Womens squad, led by Womens Singles overall individual winner, Christina Vandling, took the second place spot in the Womens Team division. The top 5 teams were as follows:

Mens Team:

- 1.) Penn State – 1356 pts.
- 2.) Clarkson – 1310 pts.
- 3.) RPI – 1010.5 pts.
- 4.) Bryant – 832 pts.
- 5.) WNEC – 717.5

Womens Team:

- 1.) Penn State – 927 pts.
- 2.) Binghamton – 502 pts.
- 3.) WNEC – 481 pts.
- 4.) Bryant – 458.5 pts.
- 5.) Clarkson – 380 pts.

Overall Team:

- 1.) Penn State – 2358 pts.
- 2.) Clarkson – 1780 pts.
- 3.) Bryant College – 1320.5 pts.
- 4.) RPI – 1244 pts.
- 5.) WNEC – 1228.5 pts.

In individual competition, Chris Brown from RPI secured his second consecutive ECRC individual title, narrowly defeating Marc Moccia, Umass-Amherst, in a tiebreaker. In the Womens bracket, newcomer Christina Vandling, Binghamton University, continued her dominance this year with a straight game victory over Lauren LiGreci from Clarkson University. Other individual winners were Frank Tringale (Clarkson) in the Mens 2, Brandon Layo (Penn State) in Mens 3, Chris Capello (Penn State) in Mens 4 and Liz Eldridge (WNEC) in the Womens 2 division.

The parity in this league is unlike anything you'll see out there in the racquetball community. Utilizing the Olympic Format draws, there were eighteen matches that came down to 11-10, eleven of them coming on Sunday in crucial matches. That doesn't include the dozens and dozens of 11-9 or 11-8 matches that come in. With over 550 matches run over the weekend, hundreds of gallons of Gatorade, 60 feet of sandwiches eaten, 200 meatball subs and 40 large pizza's devoured over the weekend, we still found time to run a squash tournament in the middle of it all, won by Racquetworld's own Pat Bernardo. College racquetball here in the Northeast truly is unlike any events that you could ever attend, and it's due to the class, sportsmanship, hard play, and most importantly the friendships that these incredible athletes bring to the tournament each and every weekend. Thank you goes out as always to Racquetworld and Ektelon for your continued support of the ECRC, Collegiate Racquetball and racquetball in general. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you to the Court Club in Albany, NY for bringing us back time and time again. It's a first class facility and a very large supporter of racquetball. And of course the biggest thanks goes to all the athletes that participated and gave your heart and soul to compete on the court with the class and character that we should all emulate. It's definitely the way racquetball was intended to be played. We'll see you all again at Meet #3 February 3rd-5th hosted by Penn State University.

If you would like to see the complete team standings or individual results from any of the ECRC events, including the important yearly standings, or just gain a little more knowledge on the conference and how you can participate, please visit our website at www.ecrcracquetball.org or contact Shane Wood, Director, at racquetballchamp@hotmail.com or via cell at 508-479-6597.



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n POWER OR n PRO	129.95
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NATIONAL RANKING UPDATE



At first glance you will notice how different the rankings look, and many players may question their placement within the current list. Please remember the current list is only an initial starting point, and is only as accurate as the amount of information included. As we include more information the rankings will of course achieve greater accuracy. You may also notice the difference in age group listings. The new system is based upon skill levels of the players involved, thus making the division they compete in irrelevant except for comparison purposes. Each division includes everyone that qualifies for that division and thus will be much more accurate for seeding

purposes. As example, although Ruben Gonzales does not play any 50 plus events he may still be seeded one in 50 plus because of his victories against higher ranked open players.

States can still extract all state players from the national list to review the rankings of their own players. In the future, when more data is entered we will also create Open, A, B, etc. division breaks within the current list and include juniors.

For further clarification of typical ranking questions please go to ranking information under rankings at www.usaracquetball.com

NATIONAL RANKINGS

Female Over 25 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City	11	Alejandro Liz	San Antonio	24	Bennett Mary	Shoreline	37	Pisacane Gloria	Newberg
1	Van Hee Christie	Kelowna	12	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring	25	Kazanowski Marsha	Hawthorn	38	Fox Mary	Tuscaloosa
2	Gudines Cheryl	Isle	13	Moore Linda	Medford	26	Pomodoro Joanne	East Boston	39	Daniels Sandy	St. Paul
3	Rajesh Rhonda	Fountain Hills	14	Holton Debbie	Albuquerque	27	Shapiro Diane	Boulder	40	Fenton Carolyn	Albuquerque
4	Wachtel Keri	Cincinnati	15	Myers Janet	Charlotte	28	Spina Paule	Clinton Twp.	41	Pulick Rita	Rancho De Taos
5	Fenton Laura	Overland Park	16	Moroni Karen	Harrisburg	29	Prath-dor Diane	Renton	42	Berkeley Jane	Albuquerque
6	Brown Tammy	Belle	17	Wileyant Patty	Amarillo	30	Davis Laura	Jonesboro	43	Rogers Mae	Fresno
7	Shattuck Jo	Seattle	18	Keryon Syldina	Houston	31	Dexter Balne	Pleasanton	44	Thielman Patricia	Albuquerque
8	Powell Lori-jane	Seattle, Rm	19	Berseth Teressa	Fort Washington	32	Byers Sherman	Els Grove	45	Crawford Karen	Tempe
9	Moore Diane	Chula Vista	20	Key Karen	Gilbert	33	Ryan Kim	Sheridan	46	Collins Colleen	Saginaw
10	Gudines Cheryl	Griffith	21	Tanigan Solana	Glendale Beach	34	Peterson Nancy	Navarre Beach	47	Schaefer Sandy	Los Lunas
11	Gudines Cheryl	Gun Barrel City	22	Rehman Holly	Bronx	35	Meany Mary	Colorado Springs	48	Kelly Pauline	Park Ridge
12	Kyzer Brenda	El Minge	23	Galeazzo Loraine	Alex	36	Cooper Donna	Hunt	49	Brown Linda	Ephrata
13	Shattuck Jo	Leesville	24	Galeazzo Loraine	Hempstead	37	King Ants	Plumerville	50	Parra Claudia	Citrus
14	Hallander Kristen	Denver	25	Bryant Debra	Seaside Ferry	38	Berry Marsha	Louisville			
15	Rice Jacqueline	San Diego	26	Evans Meena	Advance	39	Luther Jere	Arlington			
16	Russell-wa Kim	Ramona	27	Milosi Cheryl	Clarence	40	Irwin Deborah	Brookfield			
17	Moore Diane	Austin	28	Evans Chris	Wheeling	41	Hill Julie	Stillwater			
18	Key Karen	Chula Vista	29	Wileyant Patty	Westfield	42	Holton Debbie	Matthew			
19	Foster Amy	Riverside	30	Wileyant Patty	St. Louis	43	Rogers Terry Ann	San Mateo			
20	Bailey Malls	Northfolk	31	Galeazzo Loraine	Corral Gables	44	Morrill Janet	Whitethorn			
21	Shattuck Jo	Dalhart	32	Holton Holly	Carmichael	45	Rasul Ginger	Wilhshire			
22	Alejandro Liz	San Antonio	33	Milosi Cheryl	Glen Ellyn	46	McKinnig Phd Jane	Concord			
23	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring	34	Lynch Marcy	Lansdale	47	Kronenfeld Nancy	Park Ridge			
24	Foster Shanon	Silver Spring	35	DiCicco Annalisa	Oak Park	48	Seary Kim	Waukesha			
25	Moore Linda	Madison	36	Stephens Peggy	Seaside Ranches	49	Mehegan Barbara	Colorado Springs			
26	Tsinger Debra	Simi Valley	37	MacLean Felicia	SL Petropolis	50	Lee Susan	Dove			
27	Myers Janet	Charlotte	38	Wileyant Patty	Puyallup						
28	Phoebe Paul	Arlington	39	Wileyant Patty	St. Louis						
29	Moore Diane	Hanover	40	Wileyant Patty	Cinncinati						
30	Dunn Heather	Prado Crossing	41	Wileyant Patty	Albuquerque						
31	Baumbaugh T.J.	Reston	42	Wileyant Patty	St. Louis						
32	Junkin Kristen	Burke	43	Wileyant Patty	Corral Gables						
33	Wileyant Patty	Amarillo	44	Wileyant Patty	Glen Ellyn						
34	Solomon Suzette	Indiansphere	45	Wileyant Patty	Lansdale						
35	Torres Lujana	San Luis Potosi	46	Wileyant Patty	Oak Park						
36	Moore Diane	Austin	47	Wileyant Patty	Seaside Ferry						
37	Bessett Stephanie	Lawrence	48	Wileyant Patty	St. Louis						
38	Foster Amy	Riverside	49	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
39	Bailey Malls	Northfolk	50	Wileyant Patty	Waukesha						

Female Over 30 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City	11	Fenton Laura	Overland Park	24	Prath-dor Diane	East Boston	37	Steffen Joann	Alabama
1	Gudines Cheryl	Isle	12	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring	25	Pomodoro Joanne	Rehman Holly	38	Stevens Mary	Albuquerque
2	Wachtel Keri	Cincinnati	13	Moore Linda	Medford	26	Rogers Diane	Albuquerque	39	DeGraw Sandy	St. Paul
3	Fenton Laura	Overland Park	14	Holton Debbie	Albuquerque	27	Shapiro Diane	Boulder	40	Fenton Carolyn	Albuquerque
4	Brown Tammy	Belle	15	Wileyant Patty	Charlotte	28	Spina Paule	Clinton Twp.	41	Pulick Rita	Rancho De Taos
5	Grohn Angela	Santiago, Rm	16	MacLean Felicia	Harrisburg	29	Prath-dor Diane	Renton	42	Berkeley Jane	Albuquerque
6	Powell Lori-jane	Seattle	17	Evans Meena	Seaside Ferry	30	Davis Laura	Jonesboro	43	Rogers Mae	Fresno
7	Moore Diane	Chula Vista	18	Wileyant Patty	Houston	31	Dexter Balne	Pleasanton	44	Thielman Patricia	Albuquerque
8	Garcia Claudine	Griffith	19	Evans Chris	Wheeling	32	Byers Sherman	Els Grove	45	Crawford Karen	Tempe
9	Gudines Cheryl	Gun Barrel City	20	Wileyant Patty	Westfield	33	Ryan Kim	Sheridan	46	Collins Colleen	Saginaw
10	Foster Amy	El Minge	21	Wileyant Patty	St. Louis	34	Peterson Nancy	Navarre Beach	47	Schaefer Sandy	Los Lunas
11	Bailey Malls	Leesville	22	Galeazzo Loraine	Bronx	35	Meany Mary	Colorado Springs	48	Kelly Pauline	Park Ridge
12	Hallander Kristen	San Diego	23	Holton Holly	Alex	36	Cooper Donna	Hunt	49	Brown Linda	Ephrata
13	Rice Jacqueline	Remona	24	Milosi Cheryl	Hempstead	37	King Ants	Plumerville	50	Parra Claudia	Citrus
14	Russell-wa Kim	Austin	25	Lynch Marcy	Seaside Ferry	38	Berry Marsha	Louisville			
15	Bessett Stephanie	Lawrence	26	Evans Meena	Advance	39	Luther Jere	Arlington			
16	Foster Amy	Riverside	27	Wileyant Patty	Clarence	40	Irwin Deborah	Brookfield			
17	Bailey Malls	Northfolk	28	Wileyant Patty	Westfield	41	Hill Julie	Stillwater			
18	Shattuck Jo	San Antonio	29	Wileyant Patty	St. Louis	42	Holton Debbie	Matthew			
19	Alejandro Liz	Silver Spring	30	Wileyant Patty	Corral Gables	43	Rogers Terry Ann	San Mateo			
20	Moore Linda	Madison	31	Wileyant Patty	Glen Ellyn	44	Morrill Janet	Whitethorn			
21	Tsinger Debra	Simi Valley	32	Wileyant Patty	Lansdale	45	Rasul Ginger	Wilhshire			
22	Myers Janet	Charlotte	33	Wileyant Patty	Oak Park	46	McKinnig Phd Jane	Concord			
23	Wileyant Patty	Charlotte	34	Wileyant Patty	Seaside Ferry	47	Kronenfeld Nancy	Park Ridge			
24	Wileyant Patty	Remona	35	Wileyant Patty	St. Louis	48	Seary Kim	Waukesha			
25	Wileyant Patty	Arlington	36	Wileyant Patty	Westfield	49	Mehegan Barbara	Colorado Springs			
26	Shattuck Jo	Hanover	37	Wileyant Patty	Waukesha	50	Lee Susan	Dove			
27	Baumbaugh T.J.	Reston	38	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
28	Junkin Kristen	Burke	39	Wileyant Patty	St. Louis						
29	Wileyant Patty	Amarillo	40	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
30	Torres Lujana	San Luis Potosi	41	Wileyant Patty	St. Louis						
31	Moore Diane	Remona	42	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
32	Berseth Teressa	Overland Park	43	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
33	Shattuck Jo	El Minge	44	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
34	Tanigan Solana	Remona	45	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
35	Malibrodo Anita	Bronx	46	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
36	Moore Diane	Alex	47	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
37	Ramirez Claudia	Cassberry	48	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
38	Galloway Loraine	Hempstead	49	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
39	Bryant Debra	Adventure	50	Wileyant Patty	Westfield						
40	Wileyant Patty	Adventure									
41	Wileyant Patty	Clarence									
42	Evon Chris	Wheeling									
43	Gomez Vivian	Miami									
44	Washington Genevieve	Cincinnati									
45	Coplen Sheri	St. Louis									
46	Galeazzo Loraine	Corral Gables									
47	Wileyant Patty	Corral Gables									
48	Milosi Cheryl	Corral Gables									
49	Lynch Marcy	Corral Gables									
50	Dickerson Anitha	Corral Gables									

Female Over 35 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City	11	Evans Chris	Overland Park	24	Steffen Joann	East Boston	37	Steffen Joann	Alabama
1	Galeazzo Loraine	Griffith	12	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	25	Prath-dor Diane	Rehman Holly	38	Stevens Mary	Albuquerque
2	Fenton Laura	Overland Park	13	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	26	Rogers Diane	Albuquerque	39	DeGraw Sandy	St. Paul
3	Moore Diane	Griffith	14	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	27	Shapiro Diane	Boulder	40	Fenton Carolyn	Albuquerque
4	Kyzer Brenda	El Minge	15	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	28	Spina Paule	Clinton Twp.	41	Pulick Rita	Rancho De Taos
5	Shattuck Jo	Leesville	16	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	29	Prath-dor Diane	Renton	42	Berkeley Jane	Albuquerque
6	Hallander Kristen	Denver	17	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	30	Davis Laura	Jonesboro	43	Rogers Mae	Fresno
7	Wileyant Patty	San Diego	18	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	31	Dexter Balne	Pleasanton	44	Thielman Patricia	Albuquerque
8	Russell-wa Kim	Austin	19	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	32	Byers Sherman	Els Grove	45	Crawford Karen	Tempe
9	Wileyant Patty	Northfolk	20	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	33	Ryan Kim	Sheridan	46	Collins Colleen	Saginaw
10	Albrecht Eline	Dalhart	21	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	34	Peterson Nancy	Navarre Beach	47	Schaefer Sandy	Los Lunas

Female Over 40 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City	11	Fenton Laura	Overland Park	24	Prath-dor Diane	East Boston	37	Steffen Joann	Alabama
1	Fenton Laura	Overland Park	12	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring	25	Pomodoro Joanne	Rehman Holly	38	Stevens Mary	Albuquerque
2	Kyzer Brenda	El Minge	13	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	26	Shapiro Diane	Boulder	39	DeGraw Sandy	St. Paul
3	Galeazzo Loraine	Leesville	14	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	27	Spina Paule	Clinton Twp.	40	Fenton Carolyn	Albuquerque
4	Wileyant Patty	Leesville	15	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	28	Prath-dor Diane	Renton	41	Pulick Rita	Rancho De Taos
5	Evon Chris	Denver	16	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	29	Davis Laura	Jonesboro	42	Berkeley Jane	Albuquerque
6	Gomez Vivian	Miami	17	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	30	Lemon Paula	Pleasanton	43	Rogers Mae	Fresno
7	Washington Genevieve	Cincinnati	18	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	31	Fowler Doreen	Els Grove	44	Thielman Patricia	Albuquerque
8	Coplen Sheri	St. Louis	19	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	32	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	45	Crawford Karen	Tempe
9	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	20	Stephens Peggy	Quebec	33	Stevens Mary	Navarre Beach	46	Collins Colleen	Saginaw

**Male Over 25 Ranking December 2005**

Rank	Name	City
1	Swain Cliff	Brentree
2	Mennino Jason	San Diego
3	Gulsky Mike	Laden Ranch
4	Gulsky Mike	San Pedro
5	Gulsky Mike	Carrollton
6	Thommer Jason	Carlsbad
7	Robinson Derek	Littleton
8	Tucker Jeff	Laden Ranch
9	Vernisha Kyle	Wausau
10	Conrad Mike	Riverside
11	Gonzales Rubin	Staten Island
12	Liacens Dan	Dewey Beach
13	Monchik Sudsy	Lake Worth
14	Ellis John	Stadion
15	Green Mike	Burlington
16	Hogan Mike	Poway
17	Dennison Mike	Twinburg
18	Genin Doug	Westerville
19	Rivas Juan	East Boston
20	Morales Javier	Overland
21	Hartman Ken	Tempe
22	Fuentes Tino	Tampa
23	Gutierrez Juan	Miami
24	Fredenberg Brian	Dallas
25	Marlinus Julio	Brownsville
26	Bronfman Michael	Seattle
27	Ceresa Mike	Burlington
28	Shimizu Hiroshi	Neirina Tokyo
29	Metzoff Aaron	Jacksonville
30	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch
31	Pronstein Brian	Midwest
32	Anderson Jeff	Orlando
33	Rodas Tony	Lakewood
34	Karp Adam	Stockton
35	Lowe Jimmy	Wahska
36	Zalewski Christopher	Manchester
37	Gulsky Mike	Baldwins
38	Hannett Brett	Henderson
39	Frck Gregg	Coppell
40	Sable (sab David	Alpharetta
41	Benderich Rich	Virginia Beach
42	Gulsky Mike	San Antonio
43	Rehner Ryan	Wylie
44	Valentine Dale	Riverside
45	Foley Eric	Port Saint Lucie
46	Minor Keith	Channahon
47	Ellenman Richard	Frisco
48	Miner Jeff	Power Mound
49	Gross Andy	Kennebunk
50	Simms Donald	Oster Hill

Male Over 40 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Gonzales Rubin	Staten Island
2	Guttmann Doug	Westerville
3	Hogan Mervy	Chesterfield
4	Foley Eric	Port Saint Lucie
5	Thommer Jason	Burlington
6	Gonzales Rubin	Dewey Beach
7	Liacens Dan	Lake Worth
8	Monchik Sudsy	Stadion
9	Ellis John	Stockton
10	Green Mike	Burlington
11	Dennison Mike	Twinburg
12	Genin Doug	Westerville
13	Hogan Mervy	Chesterfield
14	Fredenberg Brian	Dallas
15	Bronfman Michael	Seattle
16	Ceresa Mike	Burlington
17	Shimizu Hiroshi	Neirina Tokyo
18	Metzoff Aaron	Jacksonville
19	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch
20	Pronstein Brian	Midwest
21	Anderson Jeff	Orlando
22	Rodas Tony	Lakewood
23	Karp Adam	Stockton
24	Lowe Jimmy	Wahska
25	Zalewski Christopher	Manchester
26	Gulsky Mike	Baldwins
27	Hannett Brett	Henderson
28	Frck Gregg	Coppell
29	Sable (sab David	Alpharetta
30	Benderich Rich	Virginia Beach
31	Gulsky Mike	San Antonio
32	Rehner Ryan	Wylie
33	Valentine Dale	Riverside
34	Foley Eric	Port Saint Lucie
35	Minor Keith	Channahon
36	Ellenman Richard	Frisco
37	Miner Jeff	Power Mound
38	Gross Andy	Kennebunk
39	Simms Donald	Oster Hill
40	Walker Howard	Bedford

Male Over 55 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Carson R O	Santa Maria
2	Layton Mirt	Jacksonville
3	Jennings Michael	Arlington
4	Clinton Joe	Orlando
5	Law Charles	Charlotte
6	Vincent Denny	Blacklick
7	Lee John	Beaumont
8	Roman Ed	Apex
9	Tadmoni Frank	Shoreline
10	Macmillan Ken	Albuquerque
11	Vanzant Ken	The Woodlands
12	Montague R.E.	Jenkintown
13	Lee Joe	Honolulu
14	Miller Joseph	Chicago
15	Monchik Sudsy	Poway
16	Dennison David	Commerce
17	Hiser Jim	Colorado Springs
18	Mickie Thomas	Gerland
19	Walaj William	Hillsborough
20	Wolfe Bill	Staten Island
21	Davis Mark	Newark
22	Shaw Bruce	New Carrollton
23	Bailey Jim	Norfolk
24	Baleh Mickey	Laguna Hills
25	Gelman Joe	Albuquerque
26	Diamond Steve	Sedona
27	Mashakha Peter	Lansdale
28	Hyden Michael	Fridley
29	Simmons Clarence	Gretna
30	Perrone Bill	Hutchinson
31	Hobby Gregory	Pearl
32	Loon Jeffrey	For
33	Jones Dan	Atlanta
34	O'Brien Dennis	Riverton
35	Werner Roger	New Orleans
36	Flowers Branch	Flowers Branch
37	Allen Peter	Virginia Beach
38	Jackson Michael	Shelton
39	Taylor Patrick	Barrington Hills
40	Wells Terry	Temple
41	Franks Robert	Trophy Club
42	Abram Terry	Kennesaw
43	Stanley Leon	Hamilton Cove
44	Bryant John	The Woodlands
45	Blakeslee Peter	Hot Springs
46	Ketler Peter	Marfield
47	Bell Lee	Madison
48	Metzoff Mitch	Somersworth
49	Draun Robert	Dover
50	Lowell Richard	Bedford

Male Over 70 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Snyder Dave	Austin
2	LeCompte Norbert	Dover
3	Buchner Carl	Holyoke
4	Hannett Ken	Byron
5	Towle Parker	Franklin
6	Hughes Jim	Prosper
7	Baudry Bill	Baton Rouge
8	Howard Jack	Torrence
9	Holly Jerry	Edina
10	Schreyer Jack	Edina
11	Sullins Robert	Menlo Park
12	Martin Mike	Arlington
13	Golden Mike	Golden
14	Stahl Jim	Commerce
15	McDonald Ronald	Hartville
16	Dunn Bill	Victoria
17	Siegel Frank	Edinburg
18	Frey Jack	Magnolia
19	Karmel Ken	Unknown
20	Bouchard Ronald	Bedford
21	Miller Joseph	Midway
22	Maltland David	Wheatland
23	Smith G. Duane	Arlington
24	O'Donnell John	Champaign
25	Lambert Joseph	Plano
26	Russell Duane	Lansing
27	McAfee Robert	Crowell
28	Studier J.W.	Wheaton
29	Reuter Anthony To	Las Vegas
30	Moore Ken	Grand Bay
31	Reid Sean	Orinda
32	Snowberger Campbell &	Myrtle Beach
33	Edwards Lewis	Pleasant Grove
34	Traylor Bill	Grand Rapids
35	Harrison David	Southport
36	Herren William	Wexford
37	Kurzman Stanley	Wexford
38	Palley Jim	San Luis Obispo
39	Wearne Mike	Palm Harbor
40	Pearman Daniel	Taos
41	Doyle Charles	Greenwood
42	Bentley Jerry	Albuquerque
43	Doyle Christophe	Weymouth

Male Over 30 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Swain Cliff	Brentree
2	Mennino Jason	San Diego
3	Gulsky Mike	Laden Ranch
4	Gulsky Mike	Carrollton
5	Gulsky Mike	Seattle
6	Liacens Dan	Dewey Beach
7	Monchik Sudsy	Lake Worth
8	Ellis John	Stadion
9	Green Mike	Burlington
10	Dennison Mike	Twinburg
11	Genin Doug	Westerville
12	Hogan Mervy	Chesterfield
13	Fredenberg Brian	Dallas
14	Bronfman Michael	Seattle
15	Ceresa Mike	Burlington
16	Shimizu Hiroshi	Neirina Tokyo
17	Metzoff Aaron	Jacksonville
18	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch
19	Pronstein Brian	Midwest
20	Anderson Jeff	Orlando
21	Rodas Tony	Lakewood
22	Stark Jeff	Colfax Hill
23	Frautsch Jim	Olympia
24	Stark Jeff	Edina
25	Leone James	Centfield
26	Rehner Ryan	Shaverburn
27	Valentine Dale	Port Saint Lucie
28	Foley Eric	Channahon
29	Minor Keith	Frisco
30	Ellenman Richard	Frisco
31	Miner Jeff	Power Mound
32	Gross Andy	Kennebunk
33	Simms Donald	West Sacramento
34	Stark Jeff	Brentwood
35	Do La Bough Noel	Austin
36	Lee John	Baldwins

Male Over 45 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Gonzales Rubin	Staten Island
2	Hogan Mervy	Chesterfield
3	Foley Eric	Port Saint Lucie
4	Carson R O	Santa Maria
5	Hannett Ken	Baldwins
6	Gulsky Mike	Orlando
7	Monchik Sudsy	Edina
8	Thommer Jason	Carrollton
9	Gulsky Mike	Seattle
10	Shimizu Hiroshi	Neirina Tokyo
11	Conrad Mike	Hannah Ranch
12	Gulsky Mike	Lake Worth
13	Liacens Dan	Wahska
14	Monchik Sudsy	Henderson
15	Hannett Brett	Frisco
16	Frck Gregg	Coppell
17	Sable (sab David	Alpharetta
18	Benderich Rich	Virginia Beach
19	Minor Keith	San Antonio
20	Ellenman Richard	Frisco
21	Miner Jeff	Power Mound
22	Gross Andy	Kennebunk
23	Stark Jeff	Colfax Hill
24	Frautsch Jim	Olympia
25	Gulsky Mike	Edina
26	Leone James	Centfield
27	Rehner Ryan	Shaverburn
28	Valentine Dale	Port Saint Lucie
29	Foley Eric	Channahon
30	Minor Keith	Frisco
31	Ellenman Richard	Frisco
32	Miner Jeff	Power Mound
33	Gross Andy	Kennebunk
34	Stark Jeff	Colfax Hill
35	Do La Bough Noel	Austin
36	Lee John	Baldwins

Male Over 60 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Roman Ed	Ayer
2	Vanzant Ken	The Woodlands
3	Miller Horace	Chicago
4	Mickie Thomas	Garland
5	Wells Tom	Staten Island
6	Bethel Mickey	Laguna Hills
7	Gelman Joe	Fpo
8	Leon Jeffrey	Atlanta
9	D'Ortino Michael	Richmond
10	Padilla Robert	New Orleans
11	Padilla Robert	Richmond
12	Padilla Robert	Richmond
13	Padilla Robert	Richmond
14	Padilla Robert	Richmond
15	Padilla Robert	Richmond
16	Padilla Robert	Richmond
17	Padilla Robert	Richmond
18	Padilla Robert	Richmond
19	Padilla Robert	Richmond
20	Padilla Robert	Richmond
21	Padilla Robert	Richmond
22	Padilla Robert	Richmond
23	Padilla Robert	Richmond
24	Padilla Robert	Richmond
25	Padilla Robert	Richmond
26	Padilla Robert	Richmond
27	Padilla Robert	Richmond
28	Padilla Robert	Richmond
29	Padilla Robert	Richmond
30	Padilla Robert	Richmond
31	Padilla Robert	Richmond
32	Padilla Robert	Richmond
33	Padilla Robert	Richmond
34	Padilla Robert	Richmond
35	Padilla Robert	Richmond
36	Padilla Robert	Richmond
37	Padilla Robert	Richmond
38	Padilla Robert	Richmond
39	Padilla Robert	Richmond
40	Padilla Robert	Richmond
41	Padilla Robert	Richmond
42	Padilla Robert	Richmond
43	Padilla Robert	Richmond
44	Padilla Robert	Richmond
45	Padilla Robert	Richmond
46	Padilla Robert	Richmond
47	Padilla Robert	Richmond
48	Padilla Robert	Richmond
49	Padilla Robert	Richmond
50	Padilla Robert	Richmond

Male Over 75 Ranking December 2005

Rank	Name	City
1	Buchner Carl	Holyoke
2	Hannett Ken	Reve
3	Martin Mike	Golden
4	Kaiser Charles	Pickerington
5	Miller Horace	Marion
6	Smith G. Duane	Arlington
7	O'Donnell John	Champaign
8	Lambert Joseph	Plano
9	Russell Duane	Lansing
10	McAfee Robert	Crowell
11	Simms Clarence	Orlando
12	Shaw Bruce	Orlando
13	Stahl J.W.	Austin
14	Snowberger Campbell &	Myrtle Beach
15	Traylor Bill	Hallowell
16	Harrel Dean	Abbotsford
17	Traylor Jeff	West Bend
18	Lang Tony	Burn Ridge
19	Hermann Donald	Holiday Inn
20	Johnson Kermit	Hartsburg
21	Wardell Col. Ben	San Antonio
22	Fralay Bill	Longview
23	Shiley Fred	Tacoma
24	Burg William	Orlando
25	Garcia Edward	Atlanta

Male Over 80 Ranking December 2005
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USA RACQUETBALL SANCTIONED EVENTS

EventStart	EventEnd	EventTitle	FacilityName	FacilityCity	FacilityState	EventPhone
JANUARY						
1/5/06	1/8/06	BRIDGING THE GAP FUNDRAISER	YMCA - LITTLETON FAMILY/HIGHLINE	LITTLETON CO	303-797-9629	
1/6/06	1/8/06	HAPPY NEW YEAR OPEN	THE ATHLETIC CLUB	PLAINS PA	570-696-2642	
1/6/06	1/8/06	RAIRIE LIFE WEST OPEN	RAIRIE LIFE CENTER (WEST)	LINCOLN NE	402-454-2765	
1/6/06	1/8/06	2006 AL TAMUCCI OPEN	FITNESS FIRST HLTH & RACQ CTR	FEEDING HILL MA	860-678-7806	
1/6/06	1/8/06	BUILD THE ARC 2006	COURTS PLUS OF NEW BERN	NEW BERN NC	252-633-2221	
1/6/06	1/8/06	FISHKILL WINTER FESTIVAL	ALLSPORT FITNESS CLUB-FISHKILL	FISHKILL NY	845-569-8083	
1/7/06	1/7/06	TO HECK WITH WINTER	THE FITNESS FORUM	SANFORD ME	207-324-1154	
1/12/06	1/15/06	BLIZZARD BASH	GOODSON RECREATION CENTER	CENTENNIAL CO	303-798-2476	
1/13/06	1/15/06	LOWCOUNTRY WINTER CLASSIC	ST. ANDREWS FAMILY FITNESS CTR	CHARLESTON SC	843-345-6219	
1/13/06	1/15/06	ALOHA OPEN	GENESYS ATHLETIC CLUB	GRAND BLANC MI	616-540-7925	
1/13/06	1/15/06	WINTER BLAST	LYNNWOOD BALLY'S TOTAL FITNESS	LYNNWOOD WA	425-347-1856	
1/13/06	6/15/06	POST HOLIDAY CLASSIC	POJAQUE WELLNESS CENTER	SANTA FE NM	505-321-1110	
1/13/06	1/15/06	WINTER CLASSIC RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT	CAPITOL RACQUET & FITNESS	BISMARCK ND	701-221-6855	
1/14/06	1/14/06	2006 NEW YEAR'S OPEN	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUET CL.	WILMINGTON DE	302-323-5706	
1/18/06	1/22/06	GRIFFITH MEMORIAL	COURTSPORTS ATHLETIC CLUB	EUGENE OR	503-687-2255	
1/19/06	1/22/06	NY CITY PRO AM - IRT EVENT	SYOSSET CLUB	SYOSSET NY	718-429-8489	
1/19/06	1/22/06	NC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (PRO STOP)	SPORTSCENTER TRIAD	JAMESTOWN NC	336-886-1266	
1/19/06	1/22/06	BOISE CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS	IDAHO ATHLETIC CLUB - BOISE	BOISE ID	208-888-7046	
1/20/06	1/22/06	DOUBLES DUEL	CONDITIONING SPA	GREELEY CO	970-352-0974	
1/20/06	1/22/06	2ND ANNUAL WINTER RACQUETBALL SNOWMAN CLASSIC	ROBIOUS SPORTS & FITNESS CTR	RICHMOND VA	804-330-2268	
1/20/06	1/22/06	8TH ANNUAL HOG CLASSIC	CLUB BOOM	ORMOND BEACH FL	386-672-4044	
1/20/06	1/22/06	LONGHORN OPEN	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS	AUSTIN TX	512-826-8394	
1/20/06	1/22/06	GREENBRIAR CLASSIC	GREENBRIAR ATHLETIC CLUB	INDPLS IN	317-897-5481	
1/20/06	1/22/06	5TH ANNUAL YMCA SPIRIT CAMPAIGN TOURNAMENT	YMCA - OF GREATER LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE KY	270-945-9695	
1/21/06	1/21/06	L/A ROLLOUT CENTRAL	MAINE ATHLETIC CENTER	LEWISTON ME	207-786-4820	
1/27/06	1/29/06	WOMEN'S SR / MASTRS RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-935-4723	
1/27/06	1/29/06	KACHINA INVITATIONAL	FITNESS CENTER	GALLUP NM	505-722-7271	
1/27/06	1/29/06	HARTSVILLE PRO-AM SHOUTOUT	YMCA - HARTSVILLE	HARTSVILLE SC	843-383-4547	
1/27/06	1/29/06	STUCK IN THE SNOW	MOORHEAD RACQUETBALL & FITNESS CENTER	MOORHEAD MN	218-233-0230	
FEBRUARY						
2/2/06	2/5/06	SUPERBOWL/STATE JUNIORS	RIVER POINT SWIM & RACQUET CLUB	ALBUQUERQUE NM	505-897-3716	
2/3/06	2/5/06	MAVERICK METROPLEX CHAMPIONSHIPS	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348	
2/3/06	2/5/06	MICHIGAN JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM BENEFIT	DAVISON RACQUET & FITNESS CLUB	DAVISON MI	810-287-9394	
2/3/06	2/4/06	RACQUET FOR THE CURE	DENVER ATHLETIC CLUB	DENVER CO	720-244-7654	
2/3/06	2/5/06	CENTRAL NY CHAMPIONSHIPS	GOLD'S GYM - DEWITT	SYRACUSE NY	315-473-0377	
2/3/06	2/5/06	WESTCHESTER CHAMPIONSHIPS	CLUB FIT JEFFERSON VALLEY	JEFFERSON VALLEY NY	914-528-6996	
2/4/06	2/6/06	PUYALLUP JUNIOR OPEN	BALLEYS WEST TENNIS	PUYALLUP WA	253-848-9493	
2/10/06	2/11/06	INDY OPEN	NOBLESVILLE ATHLETIC CLUB	NOBLESVILLE IN	317-879-8100	
2/10/06	2/12/06	ATHLETIC CLUB OF OVERLAND PARK WINTER CLASSIC 2006	ATHLETIC CLUB OF OVERLAND PARK	OVERLAND PARK KS	913-383-9060	
2/10/06	2/12/06	HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT	ABE MONToya REC CENTER	LAS VEGAS NM	505-321-1110	
2/10/06	2/12/06	DAVE SARMADI MITSUBISHI 2006 RACQUETBALL CLASSIC	ROANOKE ATHLETIC CLUB	ROANOKE VA	540-989-5758	
2/10/06	2/12/06	VALENTINE'S OPEN	BQE R/B CLUB	WOODSIDE NY	718-429-8489	
2/11/06	2/11/06	VALENTINE'S DAY SHOOTOUT	SPECTRUM HEALTH CLUB	SAN ANTONIO TX	210-344-8596	
2/11/06	2/11/06	VALENTINE'S CLASSIC	RACKET & FITNESS CENTER	PORTLAND ME	207-775-6128	
2/11/06	2/11/06	DOUBLE TROUBLE	COCOA COURT CLUB	HERSHEY PA	717-540-5111	
2/17/06	2/19/06	THE CLASSIC	THE SPORTS CENTER	FAYETTEVILLE NC	910-947-3029	
2/17/06	2/19/06	2006 WA STATE SINGLES	P.R.O. SPORTS CLUB	BELLEVUE WA	206-778-2040	
2/17/06	2/19/06	DURANGO CHAMPIONSHIPS	DURANGO SPORTS CLUB	DURANGO CO	505-321-1110	
2/17/06	2/19/06	ROYAL FORK CLASSIC	CENTER COURT FITNESS CLUB	GRAND FORKS ND	701-746-2790	
2/17/06	2/19/06	ADIRONDACK OPEN	QUEENSBURY RACQUET CLUB	GLENS FALLS NY	518-798-3020	
2/17/06	2/19/06	2006 PINCHSHOT MIDWEST INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	VETTA SPORTS CONCORD	ST. LOUIS MO	314-842-3111 ext3	
2/18/06	2/19/06	2006 DE STATE SINGLES	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUET CL.	WILMINGTON DE	302-323-5706	
2/18/06	6/19/06	CAPITAL CHALLENGE	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING MI	517-881-8584	
2/23/06	2/26/06	NMSW OPEN HIGHPOINT	RACQUET & SWIM CLUB	ALBUQUERQUE NM	505-293-5820	
2/24/06	2/26/06	PRIME TIME TOURNAMENT	LIFESTYLE FAMILY FITNESS	ST PETERSBURG FL	727-244-8239	
2/24/06	2/26/06	INDIANA STATE SINGLES	GREENBRIAR ATHLETIC CLUB	INDPLS IN	317-847-6563	
2/24/06	2/26/06	13TH ANNUAL AMERICAN FAMILY WINTER CLASSIC	AMERICAN FAMILY FITNESS (West End)	RICHMOND VA	804-330-3400	
2/25/06	2/25/06	ICICLE OPEN	ALLENTOWN RACQUETBALL CLUB	ALLENTOWN PA	610-821-1300	

EventStart	EventEnd	EventTitle	FacilityName	FacilityCity	EventPhone
MARCH					
3/3/06	3/5/06	Armatulli Open	OMNI 41 SPORTS COMPLEX	SCHERERVILLE IN	319-769-3033
3/3/06	3/5/06	2006 SC STATE SINGLES	ST. ANDREWS FAMILY FITNESS CTR	CHARLESTON SC	843-383-5202
3/3/06	3/5/06	US NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS	COURTHOUSE ATHLETIC CLUB NORTH	SALEM OR	719/635-5396
3/3/06	3/5/06	2006 NC STATE SINGLES	COURTS PLUS OF JACKSONVILLE	JACKSONVILLE NC	910-947-3029
3/3/06	3/5/06	2006 PA STATE SINGLES	ATHLETIC CLUB SOUTH	STATE COLLEGE PA	570-947-1097
3/3/06	3/5/06	WOOD VALLEY WINTER OPEN	WOOD VALLEY RACQUET	TOPEKA KS	316-992-5787
3/4/06	3/4/06	2006 ME STATE DOUBLES	CENTRAL MAINE ATHLETIC CENTER	LEWISTON ME	207-786-4820
3/8/06	3/11/06	NMRA MASTERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	SPECTRUM CLUB	CANOGA PARK CA	818-884-5034
3/10/06	3/12/06	LYNMAR CLASSIC	LYNMAR RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB	COLORADO SPRINGS CO	719-491-4703
3/10/06	3/12/06	Shelbyville Open	SHELBYVILLE ATHLETIC CLUB	SHELBYVILLE IN	317-392-3822
3/10/06	3/12/06	NY State Singles Championships	THE COURT CLUB	COLONIE NY	518-438-3935
3/17/06	3/19/06	PIRATE COUNTRY BLAST	PULSE ATHLETIC CLUB-GREENVILLE	GREENVILLE NC	252-756-9175
3/17/06	3/19/06	2006 WPRO Slamrock Shootout	YMCA - Downtown Nashville	Nashville TN	615-895-3679
3/17/06	3/19/06	2006 WPRO Slamrock Shootout	YMCA - Downtown Nashville	Nashville TN	615-895-3679
3/17/06	3/19/06	NORTHWEST OPEN	BELLINGHAM ATHLETIC CLUB	BELLINGHAM WA	360-676-1800
3/17/06	3/19/06	2006 TX STATE SINGLES	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON TX	281-812-4502
3/18/06	3/19/06	2006 DE STATE DOUBLES	KIRKWOOD FITNESS & RACQUET CL.	WILMINGTON DE	302-323-5706
3/23/06	3/26/06	GREAT BALLS OF FIRE PRO-AM	University of Miami	Coral Gables FL	305-446-5714
3/24/06	3/26/06	2006 NE STATE SINGLES	SPORTS COURTS OF LINCOLN	LINCOLN NE	402-454-2765
3/24/06	3/26/06	MARCH MAYHEM	Moorhead Racquetball & Fitness Center	Moorhead MN	218-233-0230
3/25/06	3/25/06	2006 ME STATE SINGLES	RACKET & FITNESS CENTER	PORTLAND ME	207-775-6128
3/29/06	4/1/06	US NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	TEMPE AZ	719/635-5396
3/30/06	4/2/06	CAC CHAMPIONSHIPS	COLORADO ATHLETIC CLUB-AURORA	AURORA CO	303-690-0369
3/31/06	4/2/06	2006 WI STATE SINGLES	Wisconsin Athletic Club - West Allis	WEST ALLIS WI	414-321-2500
3/31/06	4/2/06	2006 MN STATE SINGLES	Northwest Athletic Club - Hiway 100	Brooklyn Center MN	763-535-3571
3/31/06	4/2/06	2006 Tennessee State Singles & Doubles Championships	YMCA - Downtown Nashville	Nashville TN	615-895-3679
3/31/06	4/2/06	2006 MI STATE SINGLES	COLISEUM II RACQUET CLUB	TAYLOR MI	616-540-7925
APRIL					
4/1/06	4/1/06	APRIL FOOLS SHOOTOUT	THE SPORTS CENTER	FAYETTEVILLE NC	910-947-3029
4/20/06	4/23/06	2005 CO STATE SINGLES	Highlands Ranch Recreation Center	HIGHLANDS RANCH CO	303-738-9797
4/21/06	4/23/06	United States Southwest Regional Racquetball Championships	Spectrum Health Club	SAN ANTONIO TX	210-344-8596
4/26/06	4/30/06	MOTOROLA PRO NATIONALS AND USRA REGIONALS	Schaumburg Tennis Plus	SCHAUMBURG IL	630-430-1478
4/28/06	4/30/06	Fishkill Spring Fling	ALLSPORT FITNESS CLUB-FISHKILL	FISHKILL NY	845-569-8083
MAY					
5/4/06	5/7/06	CINCO DE MAYO	PUEBLO ATHLETIC CLUB	PUEBLO CO	719-561-3488
5/5/06	5/7/06	EAST COAST DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	WILMINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB	WILMINGTON NC	910-343-5950
5/5/06	5/7/06	NORTHWEST DOUBLES CHALLENGE	BALLY'S TOTAL FITNESS	KENT WA	253-431-3789
5/11/06	5/13/06	MEMBERS AND FRIENDS	YMCA - PIKES PEAK REGION	COLORADO SPRINGS CO	719-473-9622
5/24/06	5/29/06	US NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS	YMCA - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON	HOUSTON TX	719-635-5396
JUNE					
6/1/06	6/4/06	CHARITY TOURNAMENT FOR NF	P.R.O. SPORTS CLUB	BELLEVUE WA	206-227-1336
6/10/06	6/10/06	TRIPLE CROWN SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348
6/17/06	6/17/06	Summer Splat	Spectrum Health Club	SAN ANTONIO TX	210-344-8596
6/21/06	6/25/06	US NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS	MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB-LANSING	EAST LANSING MI	719-635-5396
JULY					
7/1/06	7/1/06	COLORADO STATE GAMES	LYNMAR RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB	COLORADO SPRINGS CO	719-491-4703
7/8/06	7/8/06	TRIPLE CROWN SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348
7/15/06	7/15/06	Hot Tamale	Spectrum Health Club	SAN ANTONIO TX	210-344-8596
7/26/06	7/29/06	NMRA MASTERS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	Northwest Athletic Club - Hiway 100	Brooklyn Center MN	763-535-3571
AUGUST					
8/12/06	8/12/06	TRIPLE CROWN SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348
SEPTEMBER					
9/8/06	9/9/06	TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPIONSHIPS	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348
OCTOBER					
10/13/06	10/15/06	2006 TX STATE DOUBLES	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348
10/28/06	10/28/06	Spookfest	Spectrum Health Club	SAN ANTONIO TX	210-344-8596
NOVEMBER					
11/3/06	11/4/06	2006 TX STATE SENIORS	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348
11/4/06	11/6/06	SPRING SHOOTOUT	Kildaire Farms Fitness and Racquetball Ctr	CARY NC	919-467-1852
11/15/06	11/19/06	2006 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS TN	719/635-5396
DECEMBER					
12/9/06	12/9/06	HOLIDAY SHOOTOUT	MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON TX	817-275-3348

The Inside Scoop

By Mike Ceresia

- 5 Time IRF World Champion
- 11 Time Canadian National Champion

Reality or Pipe Dream?

Guarded optimism lives within the racquetball community surrounding the exciting new Reno project and speculation that racquetball may be involved. Now, add a Las Vegas project to the hype. Are these facilities really going to happen? Will our game be involved? Let's examine Vegas and the massive opportunity at hand.

On the surface, Las Vegas makes a lot of sense for a special sports facility. The city, an excellent vacation and convention destination, ranks as the fastest-growing city in North America. Obviously, Vegas has a lot to offer anyone and sporting events have always quickened the pulse of this no-sleep joint. The city is the unofficial home of Professional Boxing and the NBA was sharp enough to see the city as a "can't lose" sports host last year. They were not disappointed.

What does any of this have to do with racquetball? Well, there have been ongoing conversations between the upper echelon of USA Racquetball and the Las Vegas Sports Group. The Vegas Group, Ultimate Sports Entertainment, Inc., wants to build "the most

extraordinary sports and entertainment resort in the World." The resort would be the home of sports events from boxing, to swimming, to (you guessed it) racquetball!

The three billion dollar project calls for 5,500 rooms plus over 50 sports facilities included. Add sports memorabilia, state of the art training facilities, one million square feet of convention space, sports product exhibitions, etc. and you start to have a pretty impressive venture.

Ultimate Sports Entertainment, Inc. has assembled a team of experts in their fields and is moving forward rapidly. The tentative completion date is sometime in 2008. Further speculation hints that land has been purchased and a major announcement could happen sometime in the near future.

Pessimists, naysayers and general negataries unite and tells us all why this project won't happen. Half full optimists – you have more to talk about and deservedly so. You have land purchases, pre-hype, pre-launch excitement, and the simple undeniable fact that the project makes since. Think about the possibilities for racquetball. While you're dreaming and hoping, visit ultimatesportsresort.com...suddenly the dreams have some backbone.

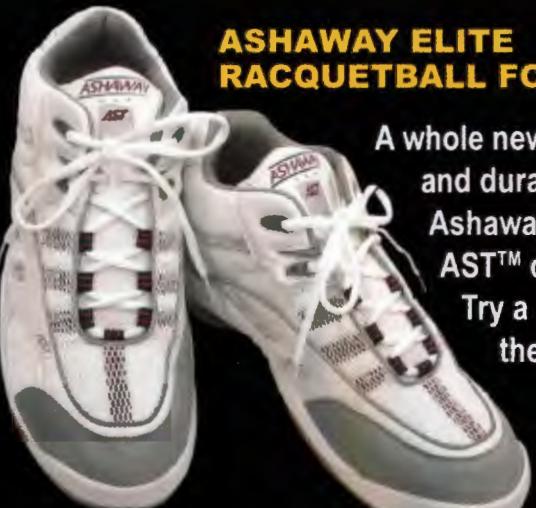


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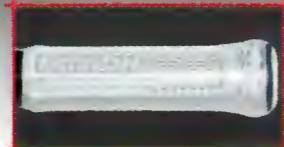
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