

# RACQUETBALL

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Volume 19, Number 5 September - October 2005



## New Season, The Battle for #1

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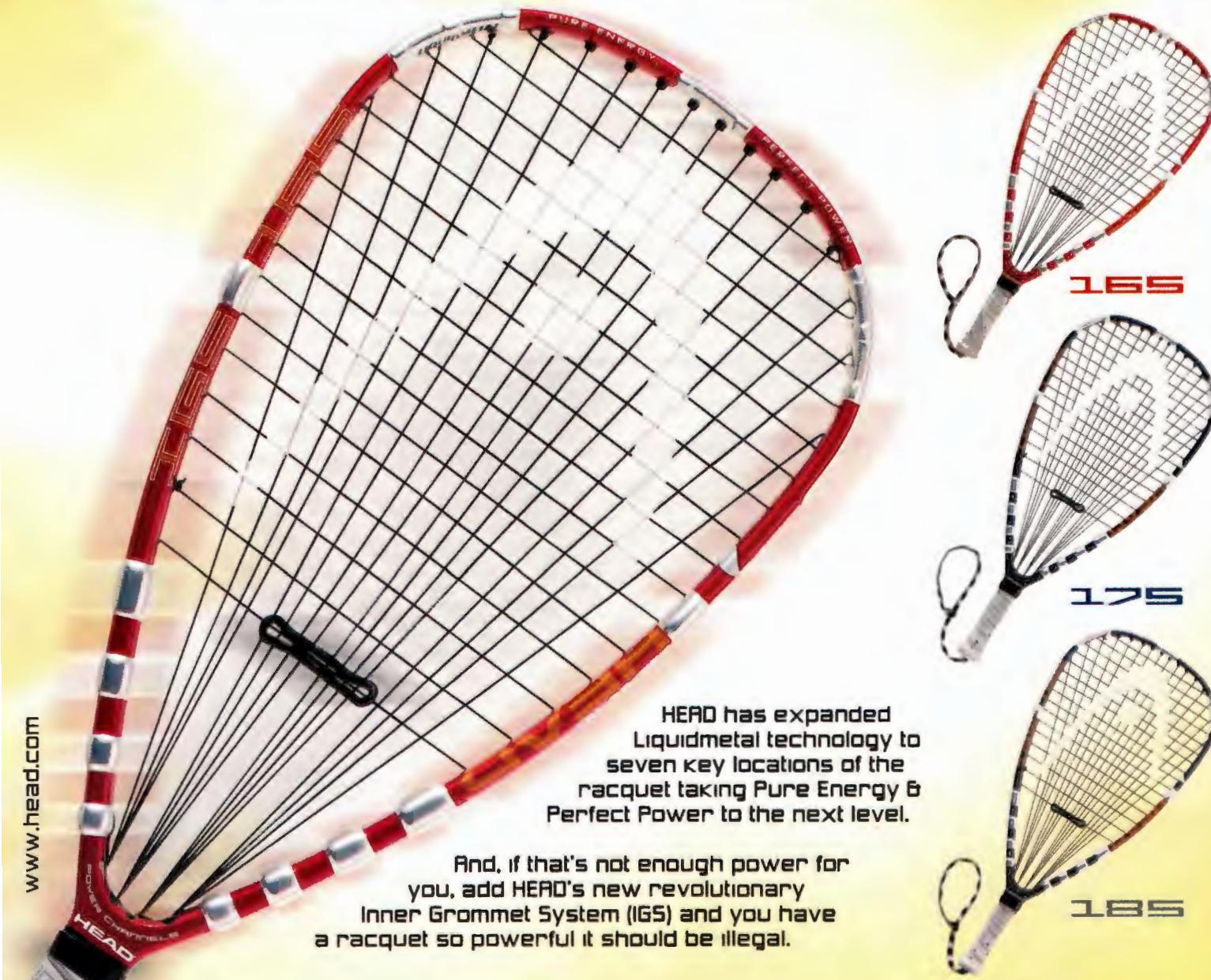
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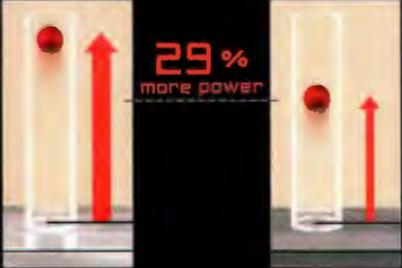
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US OPEN Preview  
Inside!



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SPORT GRAPHICS



## 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:

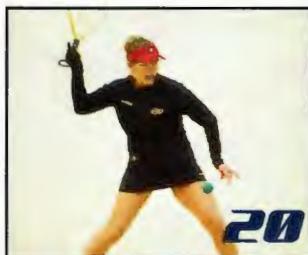
- **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT** - USAR values its members and will strive to provide the best possible member services at all levels.
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT** - USAR believes that racquetball is a lifetime endeavor and the benefits of health, recreation, and competition should be available to everyone. 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



## US Open Preview

Get the inside tips on how-to enjoy the US Open as both a player and spectator.



## Cheryl Guidnas

An interview with one of the most dominant female players to ever play the game.

What are her plans to re-gain the #1 ranking?



## Are you willing to take risk?

Most players, tournament directors, sponsors and club owners underestimate the value of insurance associated with sanctioned events.

What risks are you willing to take?

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# FROM THE TOP

## James Hiser, Ph.D.

USAR Executive Director



**A**t a recent meeting held in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, racquetball was for the time being, left off the 2007 Pan Am program. No, this is not the Olympics, but it is the second largest sporting event within this hemisphere, and

USA Racquetball along with the IRF is doing everything within our power to be included in the games. There are indications that racquetball may still be included, but nothing can be taken for granted as we continue to work with the USOC (United States Olympic Committee) and PASO (Pan American Sports Organization) to verify our inclusion.

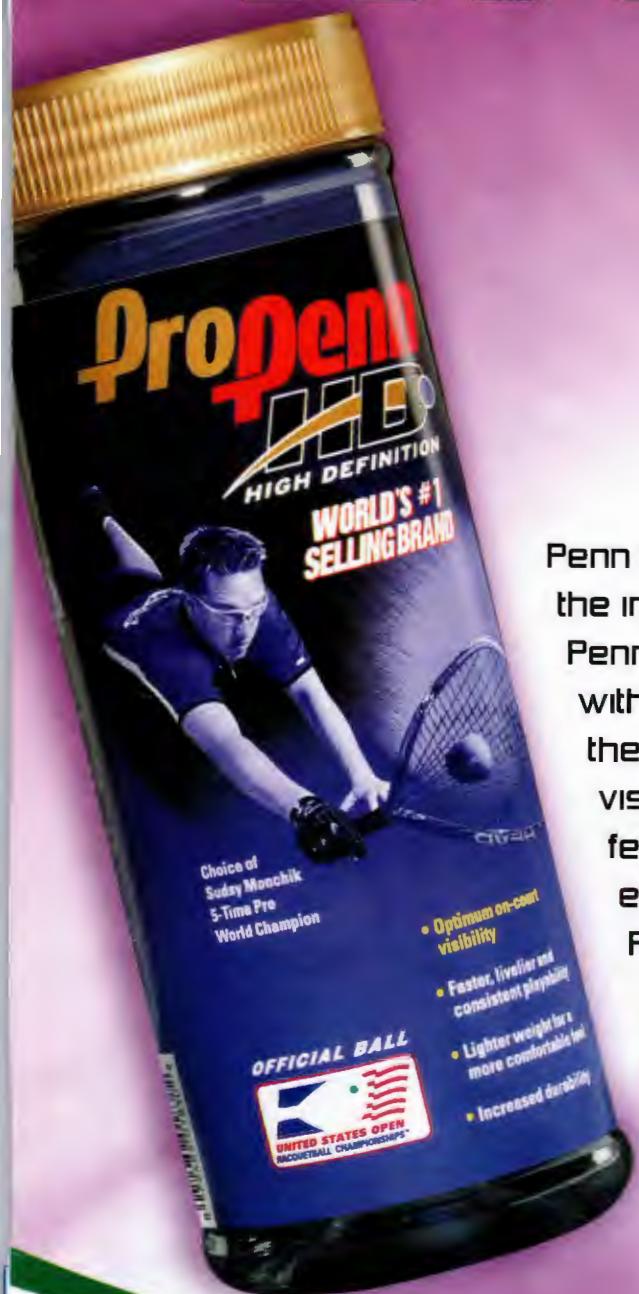
Every sport needs a pinnacle event for participation. An event which includes international recognition, Olympic aura, intense competition, and individual recognition. The Pan Am Games provides that for racquetball, not just USA Racquetball. It is an event that has driven the development of racquetball in both Central and South America and even Canada. For many of these countries inclusion in this event guarantees Olympic committee recognition, funding, and individual athlete support.

For the US it allows our elite athletes an opportunity to compete on the international scene in an Olympic style event. Inclusion guarantees USA Racquetball funding and USOC support. It exposes our sport, on the same platform, and with equal status to other Olympic sports such as swimming, track and field and even more importantly perhaps it also displays our sport to Olympic decision makers from other countries.

USA Racquetball understands the inclusion of racquetball in the Olympics would be a tremendous boost for the sport, but we also recognize our primary responsibility is to our members and development of the sport within our country. Although we continue to support the IRF and their efforts to popularize the sport throughout the world, 99% of our efforts concentrate on US development. The US still maintains a leadership role in international development. We will continue to support racquetball wherever it is played and maintain our objective of being the number one racquetball team in the world. Through careful planning, budgeting and foresight USA Racquetball will continue to offer its athletes tremendous opportunities for competition while at the same time developing and maintaining a strong recreational base and developmental pipe line within the United States.

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# PLAYERS HELPING PLAYERS



By RANDY STAFFORD, President, USAR Board of Directors



## Racquetball is Alive and Growing

The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association recently reported that racquetball participation was up 13.5%. This was the largest increase of any racquet sport. Tennis was up 5.9%, badminton was up 8.3%, and squash was down 38.7%. This is great news. By my count this adds about 675,000 new players to our sport.

Why and where is all this increase coming from? I know from the construction side, that there are lots of new racquetball courts being built. The larger chains are continuing to include courts in their new clubs. Lifetime Fitness, LA Fitness, 24 Hour Fitness, Gold's Gym and many smaller chains are including from 2 to 5 courts per club. Courts are still being built in many community centers, YMCA's, universities, corporate centers and residences.

Our equipment manufacturers are introducing new racquets and equipment at a fast rate. These new designs reflect the investment that they make each year in our sport and show their commitment to us as players. Outdoor racquetball is growing and even has their own ball. New balls, some slower, some different colors, are also being introduced by many manufacturers.

Racquetball clothes have evolved into a very trendy fashion, changing every year. There are even many shoes made especially for racquetball. Eye guards have gone into the fashion mode. There are even lines devoted to headbands, hats, shirts and gloves. Lately, I have seen paintings and prints becoming a regular at tournaments.

The amount of change that is happening to our sport is amazing. Our major tournaments are filled up and growing. The junior nationals were up 30 percent from the previous year. Major new interest is happening within our volunteer staff. The USA Racquetball committees are staffed with very qualified people and more waiting in line to serve.

Today is a great time to be involved in racquetball! Many people call me every week wanting to volunteer their time or talk with me about a racquetball business related idea. Please get involved and help our sport grow. There are many opportunities to help from volunteering at local tournament to helping us recruit new members. We need your help. And don't forget to include us in your charitable donation this year and be a part of our "Players Helping Players" campaign.

Randy Stafford  
President

## Players Helping Players Since January 1st, 2005

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Geoff Peters - \$10,000

Jim Hiser - \$10,000

Randy Stafford - \$10,000

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### Elite Level

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Houston Racquetball Assoc. - \$3,000

Alamo City Racquetball - \$1,000

Dave Negrete - \$4,000

Jan Stelma - \$1,300

### A Level (\$500+)

Aaron Krebs

Anonymous

Lance Gilliam

Jan Stelma

### B Level (\$250+)

Jeff Renaud

Duane Russell

James Woolcock

Leonard Marsocci

### C Level (\$100+)

Earl Acuff

Keith Calkins

Fran Davis

### Freedom Aquatic & Fitness Center

Johnny Hennon

Jo Kenyon

Dick Kincade

Caryn McKinney

Ed Remen

Shannon Wright

Mike Yellen

### Chin Aquatic Center

Roger Rydman

Kenneth Fife

Lola Markus

Nidia Funes

Pete Dean

Chuck Snyders

Gray Norris

Jo Houck

### CO Racquetball Assoc.

Andy Gutierrez

### D Level (\$50+)

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Blake Manning

Kenneth Brand

Geoff Peters

Wm. Rubenstein

Stanley Sessler

Richard Goldblatt

Jack Schubert

Col. John O'Donnell Jr.

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Nicholas Kokkinis

Walter Bryniavski

Tony Conte

Charles Kaiser

Michael Welsh

Otto Dietrich

Ray Gabel

Josh Hanford

Dennis Misal

Robert Sutherland

Earl Patterson

Marcus Huang

Burton Smith

Howie Rankin

Warner Samsen

Lt. Col. Joseph Studak

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Steven Markey

David Michalek

Roy Wheeler

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Michael Anderson

Robert Fournier

Gary Knapik

Margaret Gallo

Ronald Apperson

David Albert

Brad Schopieray

Glenn Yost

Sam Buffinton

Bobby Lindsey

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Craig Schaak

Mike Wells

Jack Zollo

Leonard Marsocci

Lynne Weisbart

Grant Morrill Jr.

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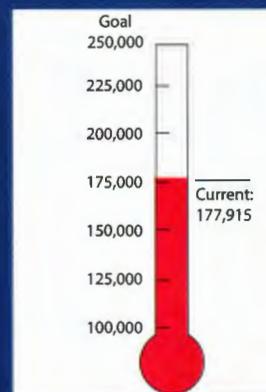
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CHOICE HOTELS  
**US OPEN**  
RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



November 16-20, 2005  
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**Special Racquetball Magazine  
2005 Choice Hotels  
US OPEN Preview**

Presented by:





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## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AS THE SPORT'S GRANDEST EVENT

By Doug Ganim

Well it's hard to believe but it is already time for the 2005 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships, scheduled for November 16-20 in Memphis, TN. What is even more unbelievable is that this year we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the US OPEN. It seems like just yesterday that the USA Racquetball Board of Director's made the decision to create our sports first Grand Slam style event. To celebrate that historic decision 10 years ago the Choice Hotels US OPEN Tournament Committee is pulling out all the stops. This year's event promises to be the best ever with a certain record turnout of both players and spectators. The purpose of this special Racquetball Magazine Preview Section is to give you an idea of what to expect at this year's tourney, whether you plan to attend or are forced to follow the action from home.

### Amateur Draws

The draw will be cut off at 750 players. At the time of this writing there are only about 350 spots left so if you want to attend make your move now. The amateur matches will be played primarily at Six50 TotalClub (formerly Wimbleton), Ridgeway Baptist Rec. Center, and The University of Memphis. No consolation divisions will be offered due to the huge draw and lack of available court time. I strongly recommend that all players enter two divisions (three if one of them is doubles) to get a full week of racquetball in.

The competition should be excellent in all of the 70+ divisions offered as we have competitors from all over the world entered into the tournament. The top four finishers in each division will receive oversized US OPEN medals, that weigh nearly 1 lb. each!

### Pro Match Tickets

There is no better place in the world to watch pro racquetball than at the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN Racquetball Championships. First of all, every top player in the world on the IRT, the WPRO (new Women's Pro Tour), and the LEGEND's Tour will be in Memphis. For the true racquetball enthusiast this means incredible matches to watch right from the round of 64. Second, ALL pro match courts are professionally wired for sound so spectators can hear every grunt, groan, and under -the -breath comment throughout every match of the tournament. The ball sounds like a missile being shot off so be sure to bring your earplugs if you have sensitive "flappers". Third, all the feature matches take place on the breathtaking made-for-TV portable stadium racquetball court. This engineering marvel has two walls made of crystal clear Lucite acrylic that is not only optically correct (no tinting, blurring, or bending of light) but is beautiful to behold. All the Lucite material is butted up against each other with Lucite "fins" providing the support. Even the "L" brackets are made of Lucite so the result is a seamless visual experience that makes you feel like you right in the court with the players.

The stadium seats about 1,000 fans and ticket sales have been hot. At the Oyou take the weekend off and come in to town for the parties and outstanding marquee pro matches. Call the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN now at (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to order your tickets NOW!





## **Parties, Parties, and More Parties!**

One of the things the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN is best known for is the evening social functions. For those planning to attend you can expect more of the same this year starting with the "free admission" Pro-Am Doubles for St. Jude on Tuesday evening, the all new "Players Gathering" at the Fox and Hound on Thursday evening, the Players Dance Party in the Pub on Friday evening and the largest bash of the year-the Saturday evening Grand Gala - THE PARTY WITH THE PRO's. Other activities include a special Wednesday evening Internationals Reception for all our "out of the country" guests and a weeklong Industry Trade Show in the Player's Hospitality Village featuring all the top racquetball manufacturers displaying the latest and greatest gear available in the sport. Look for returning special events this year including the IRT Champions Clinic and the IRT/WPRO Super Skills Challenge sponsored by The Legend's Tour!

## **Can't make it to Memphis?**

If you can't play in this year's tournament or even come in for the weekend to watch the featured matches and do some partying then the last resort is to follow the action from home. To help make this easier for you we will transform our website --[www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com)-- into a computer "window" for you to look in on the action at the tournament. Plans include offering frequent amateur division results posting, up to the minute pro match results, digital photography from throughout the event, streaming video of select pro matches, and web-radio voice interviews with top pro's as well as play-by-play voice streaming of the quarters, semi's, and finals.

Special thanks to our computer guru and webmaster Willie Tilton for spearheading this ambitious project for the Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN.

## **The Pro's**

As always, the focal point of the Choice Hotels US OPEN are the pro players and the incredible entertainment they provide as each player quests for the coveted US OPEN title. Anyone on tour will tell you that at the U.S. OPEN intensity is at its' highest so every match yields both players at 120% effort. The following pages provide some detailed insights about which players to keep your eye on at this year's Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN.



# TIPS FOR ATTENDING THE 2005 CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN

## Tip #1: ENTER EARLY!

The event has completely sold out each of the last three years. At 750 entries we cap the draw and last year we had to turn away nearly 50 people. Don't get shut out. Send in your entry today.

## Tip #2: ORDER TICKETS NOW!

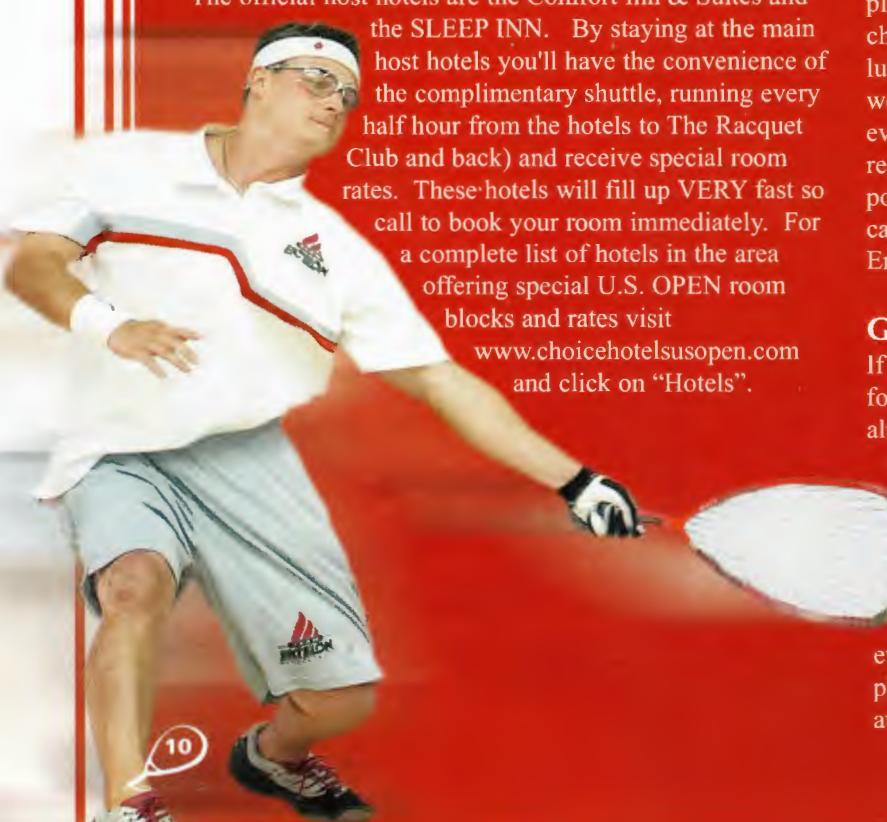
You must have a ticket to view any of the pro matches, and although the Stadium Court seats over 1,000 the event is always a sell-out from the quarters on. No-shows can free up some session tickets "at the door" but it's risky to wait. By far, the best deal is to purchase the ticket package (\$79) for unlimited viewing for all pro matches for the entire week -- this guarantees you a seat - but ticket packages are sold only in advance!

## Tip #3: ENTER TWO EVENTS

Court time restrictions (and the large draw) do not allow us to offer consolation divisions, so we strongly recommend that you enter two divisions so that you are guaranteed at least two matches. Although players are limited to just two divisions there are a couple of exceptions. First, if you would like to play "up" into the Men's or Women's Pro draw (perhaps just for the experience?) you can still play in two amateur divisions, for a total of three events. Second, if at least one of your divisions are doubles, you can play in any third event you choose. For these two exceptions only, a third event is permitted.

## Tip #4: STAY AT THE HOST HOTELS

The official host hotels are the Comfort Inn & Suites and the SLEEP INN. By staying at the main host hotels you'll have the convenience of the complimentary shuttle, running every half hour from the hotels to The Racquet Club and back) and receive special room rates. These hotels will fill up VERY fast so call to book your room immediately. For a complete list of hotels in the area offering special U.S. OPEN room blocks and rates visit [www.choicehotelsusopen.com](http://www.choicehotelsusopen.com) and click on "Hotels".



10

## Tip #5: BRING NICE CLOTHES AND YOUR DANCING SHOES!

One of the really fun parts of attending the U.S. OPEN is experiencing the many evening social activities offered, especially the Grand Gala - The Party with the Pro's. Racquetball or casual attire is not allowed at this bash so "dress to impress" will be the rule!

## Tip #6: LAST FLIGHT OUT ON SUNDAY

Make sure you book the very latest flight you can get home on Sunday. The Men's Pro final is the last match of the tournament and you won't want to miss it. A packed house, booming music, laser light show introductions and the television camera's make this an experience like no other in the sport. The match usually ends around 3:30 pm so any evening flight will do. Can't get a late flight out? Consider going home Monday morning. It will be worth it!

Keep these tips in mind when making plans to attend the 2005 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN and you will have the inside track. Lastly, if you really want to experience everything the event has to offer and you have a few bucks laying around earmarked for "gifts for myself" here are a couple ideas to treat yourself to the ultimate VIP weekend.

## PRO-AM DOUBLES FOR ST. JUDE

On the Tuesday night before the U.S. OPEN begins, a special fundraiser is held for the event's designated charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Have you ever dreamed of playing doubles with one of the best pro players in the world as YOUR partner? Well, here's your chance. For a \$250 donation to St. Jude you'll be one of 32 lucky amateurs to be paired up with top ranked men and women pros to compete in a single elimination draw. The evening will be fully catered and each amateur player will receive an autographed racquet from their pro partner. This popular event has sold out each of the last nine years, so call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to request a Pro-Am Doubles Entry. The first 32 paid entrants will get the spots.

## GOLD LUXURY BOX SEATING

If you really want to go first class, consider purchasing a four-person, courtside GOLD Luxury Box. Most are already reserved for event sponsors, but a very limited number are available for individual purchase. The cost is \$2,400 for the week and includes 4 GOLD All-Access credentials, a four-person stadium courtside Luxury Box with your name in (table service included), and unlimited access throughout the week to the fully catered PRO/GOLD lounge (only top 16 ranked pro's, event sponsors, and VIP's allowed). If you are interested, please call (614) 890-6073 to check Luxury Box availability for the 2005 U.S. OPEN.

## Pro-Am Doubles For St. Jude Children's Hospital

Want to treat yourself to an incredible racquetball experience while at the same time supporting a world-renowned charity devoted to caring for children with catastrophic illnesses? Well here may be your chance! On Tuesday evening Nov. 15th at the 2005 Choice Hotels US OPEN 32 lucky amateurs will team up with the top stars on the IRT and WPRO for a special Pro-Am Doubles tournament. A \$250 donation gets you into the draw, until 32 commitments are received. The evening features free food and drink, an autographed racquet from your pro partner, and a complimentary portrait with your pro partner.

Although this event has sold out each of the last nine years, at the time of this writing there are still a handful of spots left. If you are interested in participating, call (800) 234-5396 ext. 0 to check on availability.

## Attending the Choice Hotels US OPEN as a VIP!

A very limited number of four-person courtside luxury GOLD BOXES still remain for the 2005 Choice Hotels US OPEN. The cost is \$2,400 and includes four GOLD All-Access Credentials to the event. In addition to enjoying the pro matches from your private and comfortable courtside GOLD BOX, All-Access Credential holders have unlimited access to the exclusive Pro/GOLD Lounge throughout the event featuring free food and drink (beer, soda, water, wine, and champagne) during all hours. Event sponsors, top ranked men and women pro players, and GOLD BOX holders are the only VIP's permitted in the lounge.

At the time of this writing there were only three GOLD BOXES left. If you are interested please call Doug Ganim, Choice Hotels US OPEN Director, at (614) 890-6073 to check for current availability.

## THE LINEUP & LOWDOWN



### Line    Performance Factors/Burning Questions?

Kane Waslenchuk	2-3	Is everybody else just playing for second?
Cliff Swain	12-1	At 39 does he have one more in him?
Jason Mannino	6-1	Effort will not be an issue. Could be time for #2!
Shane Vanderson	8-1	Semi's in 2003 but is he ready to win it all?
Jack Huczak	3-1	Not if but when will he win his 1st US OPEN?
Alvaro Beltran	12-1	Does he have the fitness for back to back upsets?
Rocky Carson	8-1	Has yet to do really well at US OPEN. Is he due?
Mike Green	25-1	Glad to have him back but to win????
Jason Thoerner	75-1	Loves to beat the top guys but at the US OPEN??
Chris Crowther	70-1	Quarter's in 2003. Dangerous in 2005?
Christie VanHees	2-1	The queen is back on top. Back to back wins?
Cheryl Gudinas	3-1	Road to #1 runs through Memphis. She will bring it all.
Kerri Wachtel	6-1	Champ in 2001! Will the magic return?
Rhonda Rajsich	6-1	Has done it before (2002). Always plays her best in Memphis.
Kristen Walsh	8-1	Can beat anyone but must string together upset victories to win.
Adrienne Fisher	20-1	Has the power but lacks the game. When will she prove us all wrong?
Kim Russell	20-1	A veteran pro now married to Kane. Can the magic rub off on her?



# RETURN OF THE KING - IRT PREVIEW



By Eric Muller



The name "Kane" is of Celtic / Gaelic descent and stands for "tribute". In Japanese, Kane means "golden", and in Hawaiian, Kane is the word for "man". So, it is only fitting that fans taking Pilgrimage to racquetball Mecca in Memphis this November surely will pay tribute to racquetball's golden man, Kane Waselenchuk - a 2:1 favorite and once again my pick to win the US Open and become the first player to win three consecutive titles.

Picking the world number one to win the US Open is not exactly going out on a limb, but at this stage in his career, King Kane has earned the respect to be considered the favorite every time he steps on the court. While his '03 US Open victory was solid, his win in '04 was nothing short of spectacular. Those lucky enough to witness last year's final saw the best player in the world deliver the best performance of his career. In rolling out the final ball, Kane became the first man to win back to back US Open titles, and in dramatic fashion, serve notice that when he is healthy, no one is more lethal on the court.

Just as the outcome of the US Open is often a weather vane for the remainder of the season, and the '04 event was a prelude to the sort of commanding year folks had been expecting from a healthy Kane. When the dust settled on the '04-'05 season, Kane won eight tournaments (including the Pro Nationals) and lost only twice (to Swain in Stockton and Huczek in Dallas). Kane already has earned a place as one of the eight or ten greatest players in history. Another US Open crown and another #1 finish in '05 will be an important milestone in Kane's quest to breathe the rarified air of Hogan, Yellen, Swain and Monchik - the only players ever to finish #1 more than twice. While Kane maintains a healthy respect for the talents of his competitors, his confidence and ambition have grown over time. Kane likes being #1, he's comfortable with the pressures that come along with being #1 and he has no intention of relinquishing the spot to anyone.

While the smart money will bet on Kane, I believe the road to the '05 title will be substantially more difficult this year. The players with the best chance to prevent Kane from pulling off a hat trick are:



## Jack Huczek

Huczek's prospects for capturing his first US Open crown look bright. He closed out the '04-'05 season with a satisfying four game win over Kane in the finals of the Dallas pro stop, the last tournament of the year. The casual observer might argue that the match lacked significance

as Kane had already wrapped up the season. However, the reality is that the victory was the culmination of a season-long effort by Huczek to improve his game and mental toughness and find a way to win against his nemesis. Throughout the '04-'05 season, Huczek made steady progress against Kane, with each successive match a bit closer. In winning the last

match of the year, Jack went into the summer with tremendous confidence and hope for the future. I expect Huczek to reach his first Memphis final and test whether he has found a sustainable formula for success against Kane.



## Cliff Swain

A man who already has found his formula for success against all comers, Swain will once again be in the mix at the Open. Last season was a vindicating year for Swain. In winning two events and electrifying fans with gutsy wins

over Mannino in the quarters and Huczek in the semis of the Open, Swain proved that he still has the goods after two decades on tour. With wins over both Kane and Huczek last season, look for Swain to put it all on the line in Memphis as he attempts to win the event for the third time. Should he be able to avoid the handful of early round losses that plagued him last year, a win in Memphis will position Swain to make a serious play for a record seventh #1 season end finish.



## Jason Mannino

Mannino would be the first to tell you that the 2004 Open, with a quarter final loss to Swain, was a disappointment. In fact, '04-'05 marked the first time in years that Mannino did not win an event and he barely held on to a top four ranking. With a clear head and his back

feeling better than it has in years, I expect a complete resurgence from Mannino this season. Look for Mannino to win more of his close matches and put himself back into contention for the #1 ranking. In Memphis, I pick Mannino to reach the semis and push Kane to his limits. Should he be able to disrupt Kane's rhythm and smother every open ball, Mannino just may win his second US Open championship.



## Rocky Carson

Carson's respectable semi-final finish at the 2004 Open was his best performance yet in Memphis, and he should enter the event this year with great determination to reach his first final. However, Carson still has yet to take his game to a level where he is a

threat to compete for the #1 ranking. Carson will face a tough and determined opponent in the quarter finals, and I believe he will be in for a rocky road should he face Mannino or Vanderson.



## Alvaro Beltran

Beltran's loss in the 16's to Kyle Veenstra was characteristic of a generally disappointing season for Beltran. Nonetheless, Beltran is a determined competitor, and if he used the off season to train hard and retool his game, he will once again be a force to



reckon with on the IRT. Having said that, Beltran has not reached the semis at the Open since 2000, and given the dynamics surrounding some of the other players, I do not expect 2005 to be his year.



### Shane Vanderson

After an exciting run to the semis in the '03 Open, Vanderson was upset by Polo Gutierrez in the 32's last year. The loss was indicative of the growing pains Vanderson endured last season.

Nevertheless, Vanderson's talent is undeniable and with several strong events, including a finals appearance, he finished the year ranked 7th, the highest of his career. I expect Vanderson to notch some victories against Kane and Huczek this season, win at least one event and make a move toward the top four. '04 notwithstanding, Vanderson has had several strong performances in Memphis, and he is a threat to win the tournament this year.

### Mike Guidry

Guidry had nice run to the quarters last year in Memphis. With wins over every player during his long career, Guidry will not be afraid to compete with anyone in Memphis.



However, he will have to put together the performance of a lifetime to make it through the entire field this year.



### Kyle Veenstra

Last year Veenstra, the Cinderella story of the '04 Open, notched an impressive win against Beltran in the 16's and followed it up with a win later in the season against Mannino in Milwaukee. This year the top pros will be ready for Veenstra.



### John Ellis

Finally back from a multitude of injuries, Ellis returns to the IRT this season with a level of enthusiasm that hasn't been seen since the mid-90's. Ellis has been one of the most consistent performers at the Open, and he'll be looking to Memphis to show that he is ready to start winning big matches again. Ellis will be a most unpopular player with any top seeds that face him in the early rounds. The crowds will be with Ellis as he works to get his groove back.

### Honorable Mention:

**Josh Tucker** - with several gut wrenching losses last season, Tucker is ready to break through. Maybe Memphis will be his coming out party.

**Ben Croft** - as one of the more talented junior / collegiate players to come along in a few years, Croft will be looking to make a splash at the Open.

**Derek Robinson** - while he is retired from full-time competition, Robinson could make a problem for the top seeds if he decides to play Memphis.

**Ruben Gonzales** - popping a quarter at the Open is well within the grasp of the ageless wonder.

# WPRO PREVIEW

By David Watson



## September 2005

Welcome to the new WPRO! This will be one of the most exciting tours for the women with 14 events. Christie Van Hees finished the 2004-2005 season ranked #2, finally winning the overall #1 ranking. Christie is anxious to get the new season underway and defend her #1 ranking. Cheryl Gudinas, currently ranked #2, begins the 2005-2006 season just 17.5 points behind Van Hees and Cheryl will be mastering a plan to regain the #1 spot back. The women will have played 3 events before they come to Memphis and oh what a gathering it should be at the 2005 US Open!

Here's a preview of some of the tour's top players:



### #1 Christie Van Hees

Christie made a huge impact in the 04-05 season. Edging out Cheryl Gudinas for the first ever #1 ranking of a final season. Christie finished off the year by making 4 finals, winning the last two tournaments. She finished the season 2-3 against her rival #2

Gudinas, 1-0 against #3 Rajsich, and 1-0 against #4 Watchel. However, she's never been #1 at the year's end, and that is a different start for Christie in the 05-06 season. This alone could catapult her efforts to winning her second US Open crown. Odds 2-1



### #2 Cheryl Gudinas

By all accounts, Cheryl will continue to battle for that #1 spot and it doesn't look like she will back off any this season. Winning 2 of the 4 finals of the 04-05 season, and finishing the year in the #2 spot by only 17.5 points; the rankings are too close to make any predictions for this years outcome. It's almost not fair to not consider Cheryl the favorite to take home her third US Open crown. However, her rivals are nipping at her heels, they play tough in the big events and none is bigger than the US Open. Despite being the four-time defending tour champ; she may be considered an underdog once she makes the finals. Odds 3-1



### #3 Rhonda Rajsich

Rhonda maintained her #3 ranking on tour by the end of the 04-05 season; reaching the finals 3 out of the last 5 events. However, reaching the US Open finals and letting the championship slip away to Cheryl Gudinas after winning games 3 & 4;

Rhonda was unable to post a win against Gudinas and Van Hees in the 04-05 season. She'll have an opportunity to try to change that record this season. Rhonda will need great gets and long rallies in Memphis to take out Van Hees in a potential semi finals match up. Odds 4-1.



### #4 Kerri Watchel

Kerri has the #4 ranking after two seasons in the top three on tour. She also got shut out of the win column for the season after losing the first final of 2004 to Van Hees in Rosarito and then never again making it that far. Kerri needs to regain the form that she rode to the US Open crown in 2001. Kerri will be challenged to make the semis with potential threat of a talented top eight. Odds 5-1

### The rest of the field:



### #5 Kristen Walsh

Kristen, having reached the #4 spot in the 04-05 season, to date this is her highest ranking yet; now sitting in the #5 spot, a huge gap still remains between her and the top 3 players on the tour. Kristen needs to bring her excitement, athletic ability and mental toughness and be ready to give it all. Odds 7-1



### #6 Angela Grisar

Angela Grisar from Chile has earned her way up to the #6 spot with some very good appearances during the 04-05 season. Having her best win by defeating Van Hees after losing the first game 11-2, came back to win the next 3 straight to put her in her first semi final. With a solid effort and a big win in the semi's against Kerri Watchel, Grisar's first final appearance in Miami came against Rhonda Rajsich in a losing effort in 4; but what a great tournament! Angela's game could come alive, but will need consistency in the quarters to stay alive. Odds 8-1



### #7 Tammy Brown

Tammy is ranked #7, her highest ranking yet; but I think that there are still heights to reach. Tammy logged one of her best showings at Nationals in Houston in May after breaking through the semi's after a great match against Rhonda Rajsich and earning a spot on the US Team. She's got a great power game that can give players fits, and nobody wants to see her in their quarter of the draw. Tammy needs to find and maintain that mental toughness. Odds 7-1



### #8 Adrienne Fisher

Adrienne continues to show great promise, but also showed her inexperience with early round losses and needs to find that secret to get her beyond the quarter rounds. Adrienne needs confidence and a decent draw to have a chance at the semis. Odds 10-1

### **Predictions:**

We will leave that up to you!

See you in Memphis!

David Watson/WPRO Commissioner



# LEGENDS TOUR AGES LIKE FINE WINE

By Brian Pontelin

As we are in our fourth full season and my second as the Legend's Tour Commissioner, I am pleased to have the 2005 Choice Hotels U.S. OPEN on our schedule. For those of you that are unfamiliar with the Legend's Tour, we are offering a competitive circuit for some of the greatest players to ever play the game of racquetball. Most of these players and events are for the "old-timers" who are in the 45+ Age category. The names are synonymous with racquetball, players like Ruben Gonzalez, Marty Hogan, Dave Peck, and Dave Fleetwood. Most events are by invitation only, including this year's U.S. OPEN. The Legend's Tour would like you to sit back, relax, and enjoy as our players will take you back to a time when racquetball was pure, and the competition was fierce. You will see that our players are ageless, like fine wine. We sincerely hope that you enjoy the matches and your experience in Memphis.

## Ruben Gonzalez, "Rubes", Past US Open Champion (2003)

Ruben is the only player within this Legend's group that has never stopped playing competitive racquetball since his days on the Pro tour. Ruben is the 2003 US Open Champion, and also the 2004 Legends National Champion. He still plays numerous events every season including all the Legend's events, and other select tourneys such as the US National Singles and Doubles Championships. The most amazing thing about Rubes is that he is 53 years old! There is no question that Ruben Gonzalez is one of the greatest natural athletes to have ever played ANY sport. His energy and strategy are still awesome to watch with incredible gets and rally ending kills that will make your jaw drop. Look for him to reach the finals for a potential "war" against Marty Hogan in a re-match from last year.

## Marty "Smokin" Hogan, Defending US OPEN Champion

Marty Hogan is the 2002 and 2003 Legends National Champion, and also the defending US Open champ. To say that Marty can still play is an understatement. Marty is still considered by many to be the greatest player to have ever played the game. He captured the season end #1 ranking in 6 different years and during his prime "reign of terror" on the pro tour he captured nearly 70% of the events each season. He was the first player to introduce true power to the sport and was a superstar athlete that helped raise the popularity of racquetball.

Marty is still very competitive in squash, paddleball and racquetball as he continues to play full-time on the Legend's Tour. Marty is always entertaining to the fans, they will still see that he hasn't lost his touch or his phenomenal backhand.

Hogan will have his hands full with the older, but crafty, Ruben Gonzalez; the bulldog, Dave Peck; and also hometown favorite, Dave Fleetwood. Hogan still hates to lose and will be trying to make his fans happy as he tries to win back to back US Open titles.

## Dave Peck, The Bulldog

Dave Peck has also played a fair amount of competitive amateur age division ball since retiring from the pro tour and with quite a bit of success. Dave remains one of the original players on the Legend's Tour for the third straight year. Despite the fact that his mobility has become a problem over the last few years, his legendary forehand is still automatic, even at this stage of his career. Despite the lack of court time lately, his ferocious competitive drive that made him a champion is still present. Dave has been referred to as the "John McEnroe" of the Legend's Tour and the original "Bruiser" from back in the day. Dave placed third at the Legends National Championships and has been a semifinalist at the US Open the past two years. One of the great guys on the Legend's Tour, Dave is sure to entertain this year in Memphis, but a third place finish may be as good as it gets with this tough field of players.

## Dave Fleetwood, The Hometown Boy

Dave is a former top 5 player on the Tour. He played during the late seventies and early eighties while defeating the best players in the game, including Mike Yellen, Charlie Brumfield, Dave Peck, Davey Bledsoe, and Jerry Hilecher. After turning pro in 1977, following an Intercollegiate National title, Dave was voted as the IPRO Rookie of the Year. After playing the Catalina Tour for the first half of its inaugural year, Dave took a temporary vacation until 1987 when he came back to the courts to team with Brian Sheldon to finish second at National Doubles in the 30+ Age Group. Dave currently lives in Memphis with his wife Susan and kids Rachel (16), and Grayson (14) where he is in the Advertising business.

On behalf of the Legend's Tour, the Executive Director, the Board of the Legend's Tour, the sponsors, and all the players, I look forward to seeing everyone in Memphis and contributing once again to a very wonderful charity in St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Have fun enjoying the stroll down memory lane with the Legend's, enjoy the new young stars from the other tours, and remember to have fun while in Memphis.



# INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR

## 2005-06 SEASON SCHEDULE



ProPenn

AUGUST 25-28	NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA T1
SEPTEMBER 8-11	STOCKTON CALIFORNIA T2
SEPTEMBER 24-25	CHIHUAHUA MEXICO T3
OCTOBER 7-9	GRAND RAPIDS MI T3
OCTOBER 7-9	MADISON WI T4
OCTOBER 13-16	TORONTO CANADA T1
OCTOBER 20-23	ALBUQUERQUE NM T3
OCTOBER 27-30	CHICAGO ILLINOIS Doubles T1
NOVEMBER 3-6	LONG ISLAND OPEN NY T4
NOVEMBER 16-20	MEMPHIS TENNESSEE T1
JANUARY 12-15	ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA T1
JANUARY 19-22	LONG ISLAND NEW YORK T1
JANUARY 26-29	CHIHUAHUA MEXICO T3
FEBRUARY 9-12	CHICAGO ILLINOIS T4
FEBRUARY 9-12	SIOUX FALLS SD T2
FEBRUARY 16-19	DALLAS TEXAS T1
FEBRUARY 23-26	SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA T1
MARCH 2-5	SCHEREVILLE INDIANA T4
MARCH 9-12	COLORADO SPRINGS CO T1
MARCH 30-APRIL 2	BOSTON MASS T1
APRIL 6-9	CHESAPEAKE VIRGINIA T1
APRIL 26-30	MOTOROLA PRO NATIONALS CHICAGO ILLINOIS T1

*Dates and cities subject to change.*

*Other cities waiting to schedule possible events Greensboro, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Reno*

*TIER ONE    \*\* TIER TWO    \*\*\* TIER THREE    \*\*\*\* TIER FOUR*

*PRIZE MONEY DETERMINES TIER LEVEL*

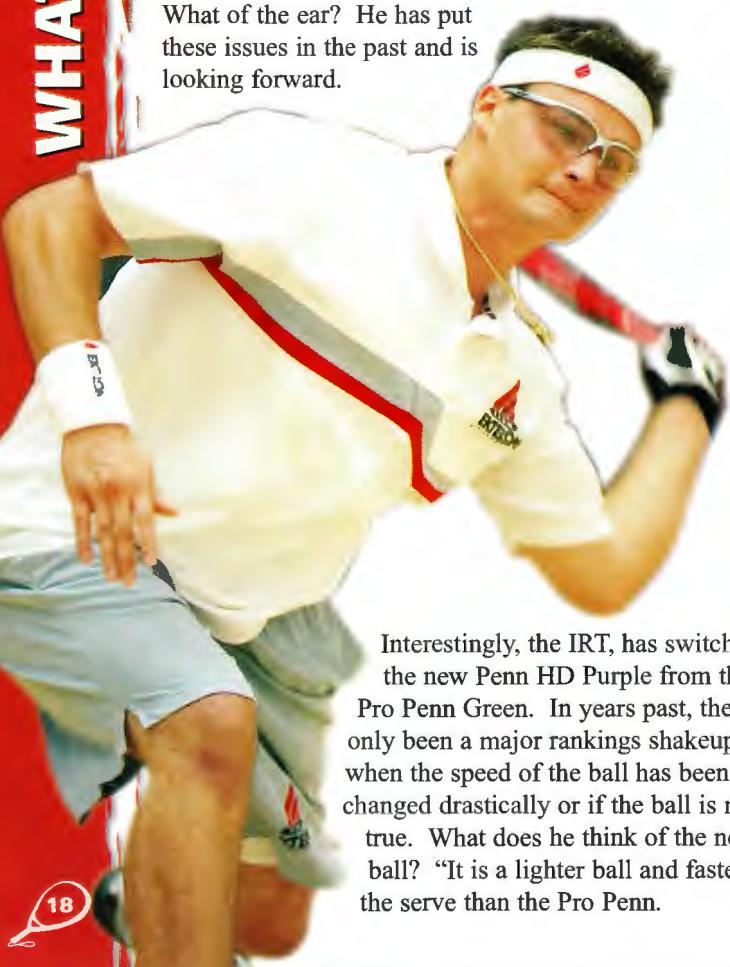
Kane Waselenchuk is clearly the most dominant player in the Men's Professional Game today. Last year, he decimated the competition by winning an impressive 9 tournaments including the majors, the US Open and the Motorola Chicago Open. We spoke with the World Number 1 recently from his home in Austin.

"My goal is to stay at the top of the game for as long as I can, to dominate the sport and to take racquetball to a whole new level" he states. The players he is looking to dominate and currently fill out the top 6 are Jack Huczek, Cliff Swain, Jason Mannino, Rocky Carson and Alvaro Beltran. This is a talented group but the main threat clearly comes from Huczek.

Huczek is hell bent on turning this supposed rivalry around. Waselenchuk will have none of it. "Since we started on tour, there was a lot of speculation as to who was going to be the next #1. This caused a lot of hype and motivated me to prove that I was going to be this player. Bottom line is there is just too much incentive for me when I play Jack" he states matter of factly. Kane has a 90 % winning percentage against Jack up until now. Waselenchuk has an edge in all of the major categories. He is more solid mentally, he hits the ball better, his hands are better and he improvises better. Huczek is an outstanding player but will have to continue to improve or be relegated to 2nd best for an extended length of time.

The rest of the group have shown flashes of brilliance but have not been able to break an egg against Kane for the past 2 seasons. Furthermore, if it weren't for an inner ear issue his years at the top would be at least 3 by now.

What of the ear? He has put these issues in the past and is looking forward.



Interestingly, the IRT, has switched to the new Penn HD Purple from the Pro Penn Green. In years past, there has only been a major rankings shakeup when the speed of the ball has been changed drastically or if the ball is not true. What does he think of the new ball? "It is a lighter ball and faster on the serve than the Pro Penn.

It plays totally different-it is fairly true speed during the rallies, but has different spins off the side and back walls. I think this ball will help my game because one of my best attributes is my serve, and the new ball off of the serve is very lively. In addition, the ball does not come off the back wall on the serve and if it does, it takes off." Obviously, he dominated with the old ball and says sheepishly "why on earth would I want a ball change after finishing number 1 the last 2 years?" However, he has accepted the change with a positive attitude and feels the 'ball will give us some separation from the 'old' tour-it makes our tour more dynamic.'

Waselenchuk loves to dissect his opponents games via video and studies them ad nauseum. This could explain part of his 'sixth sense' anticipation. "I watch for opponents tendencies, weaknesses and changes made from match to match (if any)." He feels that video analysis "has been one of the main contributors to my success at this point." Video analysis is not a state of the art concept. In fact, all of the top players spend a lot of time doing the same thing. However, Waselenchuk did not mention opponents strengths. He seems to watch and only see what will help him over the hump in tight matches. Also, he does not seem overly impressed with the competition and if he is-he is not saying a thing!

His preparation for the new season was focused on speed, footwork and agility training. "I did not spend excess time on the court since I feel very comfortable about where my game is. However, I spend time in other areas that I feel I can be better in, since there is always room for improvement" he mentions optimistically. Ladders, sprints, jump rope, strength training, stretching with basketball in the off season only have been his training tools in the off season. His court coverage is as good as anybody that has played the game. What is especially impressive is his ability to not just get the ball but do something with it on a full run, lunge or dive. He seems to run with his racquet fully cocked at all times.

He would like to see one change to the officiating on tour. "A ref specifically for the serve, sitting on the line. This ref could call foot faults and short serves." He feels the state of the officiating creates controversy but this happens in all sports. "Look at it from a player's perspective, this is our profession, this is what we do, so there will always be controversy when a player feels he got a bad call. In other sports, there is controversy too. Baseball managers run out of the dugout and get in the umpires face. Yes, there are times when situations get out of hand but in athletics, in any sport, there will always be controversy." Simply put, he has not had much to complain about recently.

Waselenchuk has stayed out of the politics of the IRT and spends his tournament time with his new wife Kim Russell. They are in a routine and that routine is based on winning racquetball tournaments. It is true that winning can become a habit and it has for this ultra talented Canadian. Furthermore, it does not appear that complacency is creeping into his game and we should him to produce some thrilling racquetball this season and beyond.

# Site and Dates set for 2006 Motorola IRT Pro Nationals



The 2006 Motorola Pro National Racquetball Championships and USA Racquetball Adult Regional are set for April 26-30, 2006. After a very successful event last year, Motorola has renewed its sponsorship for the 2006 event. The event will be held at Schaumburg Tennis Plus, which is owned and operated by the Schaumburg Park District. Additional clubs will be announced shortly. 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 the sport's second grand slam event in history. The event will be televised and details on 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.

We will have a charity doubles event with the top 10 men on Wednesday evening. Cost of playing with a professional will be \$500.00 with the funds going to a local chapter of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Last year we raised over \$8000.00 and hope to better that amount this year. You may contact Dave Negrete for details at negretz@comcast.net

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 as well as other great parties throughout the week.

Look for information about the event in the next racquetball magazine, [www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com) [www.irt-pronationals.com](http://www.irt-pronationals.com) or you can call 800-234-5396.

I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago at the 2006 Motorola IRT Pro Nationals and USAR Adult Regional.

Tournament Director and IRT Commissioner  
Dave Negrete

# INTERVIEW WITH WORLD CHAMPION

## CHERYL GUDINAS

**Q.** You have been very successful in both international and professional competition. What do you think is the secret of your success?

**A.** I workout diligently and try to maintain good conditioning all year. This allows me to stay relatively injury free. I also have an ability to focus and have been known for my mental toughness. Although the international events are somewhat more grueling since they are 7 to 10 days, I try to approach each competition in the same way - well prepared both mentally and physically.

**Q.** Your rivalry with Christie is well recognized. Comment on your rivalry and your plans to regain the #1 position.

**A.** My plans to regain #1, focus on being better prepared for Rhonda. My losing to Rhonda twice last season really cost me the #1 ranking. I find Rhonda very tough to play, and I need to prepare for her since I will probably meet her in the semis this season. I look forward to my rivalry with Christie. I know it has been motivating for me, and it is good for the tour and women's racquetball. It is kind of like the Ali/Fraser rivalry - Ali needs Fraser, and Christie motivates me to work harder.

**Q.** Many people complain about the pro's playing in Houston. Why do you play?



**A.** First of all it's my favorite tournament. I also feel playing on the US Team is a tremendous honor and very important. I have played Houston for 15 years and will continue to play unless there is a rule that prohibits my participation.

**Q.** You mentioned the US Team. You're a big supporter of international competition and the US Team. Why?

**A.** There is nothing in our sport that can compare to walking into a stadium, filled with 35 to 40,000 people, wearing a uniform representing your country and sharing the experience with hundreds of other athletes. When you get to this point, you know you have done everything right, that you deserve to be there and it makes you feel extremely proud of your country and your accomplishments. By supporting international racquetball we make all racquetball better. The tour events are better, international competition is better, and everything associated with racquetball seems to be better. There is no way I would not support the US Team or International competition.

**Q.** Many people don't realize how much you give back to the sport. Could you explain?

**A.** I have coached the US Junior Racquetball Team and have supported the Junior Team for the last seven years. I have also instructed at the High performance camp for many years. If a Junior Team member needs help, I won't turn them down. If someone is dedicated to becoming the best they can be, I owe it to them and to the sport to help them. What we do as coaches often affects players in other areas of their lives, and it is a great responsibility that I take very seriously. (Editors comment: Cheryl has coached the Junior Team for seven years and continues to coach juniors on weekends throughout the season for no fee).

**Q.** You have won every major title in racquetball. What are your goals for the upcoming season?

**A.** To regain my #1 position. I would also like to surpass Michelle Gould's record of eight Houston victories. I consider her one of the best female players ever, and it would be an honor to be in the record books next to her.

# The New WPRO

by Jim Hiser

## Another new ladies tour, why and what will be different?



The new tour, under the direction of David Watson, was formed to fill a void created after the demise of last year's tour. The previous promoter abandoned the tour mid-season leaving the ladies without financial support and little direction. David Watson stepped in last May and agreed to help the ladies. His challenge is formidable but with the support of the players and the racquetball community the tour may again be successful. Being commissioner of the tour for three years, I understand David's challenge. Unfortunately, without significant sponsor support from outside our industry the tour relies upon independent promoters to raise prize money funds. With other tours, and local events competing for the same resources, it is very difficult to raise the required finances to pay reasonable prize money, cover expenses and create an operating reserve.

The tour's most important resource are the players themselves. During my tenure as commissioner the ladies were always available to promote themselves, and the tour, and were instrumental in the tour's brief success. Today's tour has all the ingredients for renewed success. A great rivalry between two of the game's most dynamic players, young players that exhibit tremendous athleticism, international players that threaten an upset with every appearance and of course the basic charisma of watching the ladies compete.

The obstacles are significant and daunting but the opportunity is exhilarating. USA Racquetball will do whatever we can to support the ladies tour and wish it success. Will the tour be different? No one knows, but with the energetic leadership of Dave, the participation of the world's best female players, the support of the racquetball community and one just one big break of a possible national sponsor who knows what may happen!



## 2005-2006 WPRO Tour Schedule

Date	Location	Host Location
September 8-11, 2005	Rosarito Mexico	Rosarito Beach Hotel Resort
October 13-16, 2005	Gaithersburg MD	Lakeforest Sport & Health Club
October 20-23, 2005	Albuquerque NM	Midtown Athletic Club
November 16-20, 2005	Memphis TN	US Open - The Racquet Club of Memphis
December 8-12, 2005	Phoenix AZ	TBA
January 19-22, 2006	Greensboro, NC	TBA
January 26-29, 2006	Stockton CA Super Bowl Open	In-Shape Sports Club Westlane
March 16-19, 2006	Nashville TN	Nashville Downtown YMCA
March 23-26, 2006	Miami FL	University of Miami
April 26-30, 2006	Chicago IL	IRT Motorola Pro Nationals
TBA	Miami, OK	The Gym
TBA	Denver, CO	TBA
TBA	Portland, OR	TBA

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ORGANIZATION



# CAN YOU STAND THE HEAT?

## HAWKES CAPTURES 20TH PRO TITLE AT WOR-EKTELON CHAMPIONSHIPS



Hawkes claims title

### PRO SINGLES

Brian Hawkes, the unquestioned greatest player in the history of outdoor racquetball, felt he had something to prove after losing last year in the semi-finals of the WOR Championships. Hawkes who had a captured 19 previous titles, a record that will never be broken but's wanted 20 titles. Badly enough that he went into secret training months before the event and showed up at Golden West College's famous short wall courts to reclaim his title on a weekend of perfect Southern California weather. The only thing standing in his way were 32 of the best outdoor players in the world including top seed and defending champion

Rocky Carson, indoor superstars Cliff Swain & John Ellis, one wall legend Robert Sostre, and nemesis Greg Solis. These pros and others from Hawaii, New York, Mexico, Texas, Arizona, and California started play with one goal that Hawkes would not let happen: win the WOR Championships!

Hawkes, seeded 3rd had, a tough draw from the start a tough 2 game win over young IRT star Josh Tucker in the Round of 16, and a quarterfinal victory over outdoor veteran Greg Freeze put him on a collision course with Swain. Swain, playing in his first WOR Championship showed why he is a legend in the sport, adjusting immediately to the tough angles at Golden West and a brutal draw that saw him have to play 2nd seed Greg Solis in the Round of 16.

Swain used his famous serves as effectively outdoor as indoors as he beat Solis in 2 games and dominated Andres Herrera of Mexico in the quarters. As Hawkes & Swain headed towards a showdown of outdoor and indoor, Rocky Carson was cruising along in the top half of the draw. Carson won an easy 2 gamer in the Round of 16 over Rick Sandello and got a forfeit in the quarters from Son Nguyen. Ellis, returning from shoulder surgery and having not played outdoor for a number of years, was finding the toughest road to the semis. He needed an 11-5 tiebreaker win in the 16's to get past one of California's best Jesus Oceana and then had the best match of the quarters with New York's Robert Sostre winning 12 and 14. Ellis was down the entire second game but made up a 7 point deficit to join the semis.

By the semis the crowds were everywhere, beach chairs lined up hours early to save the best spots, whole families sitting in the grass, and a couple guys hanging from the fences to see the best racquetball under the sun. In the first semi, Carson used his serve and great court coverage to dominate an obviously worn down Ellis 15-3, 15-4. Rocky would get the chance to defend his title, but no one at that time was sure against whom. Even veteran outdoor players were so impressed with Swain that the crowd was split as to who would win. The show they put on was amazing. Hawkes came out strong and used his famous serves to ace Swain 9 times in a 15-4 first game win. It looked like quick work for Hawkes, but Swain never gave in and seemed to improve every rally he played during the tournament, and he fought for a 15-14 win to force a tiebreaker. Everyone could feel the pressure as Swain scored the first point of the tiebreaker, but Hawkes methodically wore him down to reach the final with an 11-3 win. The finals were anti-climactic compared to the semis as Hawkes by this time seemed destined to reclaim his title no matter who he played. With over 400 watching and rooting for Hawkes to capture #20, he served his way to a 15-9, 15-10 victory and was mobbed on the court by his entire family.



Legend Hogan and Swain



Carson and Ellis Direct youth clinic

The only thing that slowed Hawkes down was himself as he served nine times at match point before raising his arms in victory.

#### TOURNAMENT NOTES:

The junior divisions were large and exciting with many of the future stars of WOR putting on a great show. In addition a women's Pro exhibition between Rhonda Rajsich and Kersten Hallander was a huge hit. Perfect Serve led by Paul Dylewski helped make the tournament a family event with live bands, a players lounge, and a kid's area including a bounce house, cotton candy, and snow cones. For the adults Pabst Blue Ribbon sponsored a player party Saturday night that was a hit. The great thing about the WOR Championships is the stars of the past who come out to spectate. Seen out in the sun this year were legends Charlie Brumfield, Dave Johnson, Bill Sell, and Jim Carson. Also seen in the crowd was Mike Martinez of ProKennex, Barry Marrassi of E-Force, and Scott Winters of Ektelon.

#### 2005 WOR-EKTELON CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS

<b>PRO SINGLES:</b>	Brian Hawkes
<b>OPEN SINGLES:</b>	Matt Robinson
<b>A SINGLES:</b>	Willie Tilton
<b>B SINGLES:</b>	Luis Espinoza
<b>MASTERS SINGLES:</b>	Art Pena
<b>18 &amp; UNDER:</b>	Ryan Schneider
<b>14 &amp; UNDER:</b>	Stiles Martin
<b>12 &amp; UNDER:</b>	Sam Barrera
<b>10 &amp; UNDER:</b>	David Nguyen
<b>PRO DOUBLES:</b>	Greg Solis / Craig Lane
<b>OPEN DOUBLES:</b>	Brent Huber / Chris McDonald
<b>A DOUBLES:</b>	Brent Huber / Chris McDonald
<b>JUNIOR DOUBLES:</b>	Sam Barrera / Stiles Martin
<b>MASTERS DOUBLES:</b>	Kevin Booth / Mike Peters
<b>WOMEN'S DOUBLES:</b>	Martha McDonald / Sheri Knecht
<b>MIXED DOUBLES:</b>	Jesus Ocana / Deby Pierce

#### PRO DOUBLES: SOLIS-LANE REPEAT AS CHAMPIONS

If you have never seen outdoor doubles, you have missed a great show. Power, control, diving on concrete, players hitting from another court after having been pushed off the court by a great angle, it is all part of doubles. Doubles is a huge part of outdoor, and the WOR Championships brought out the best as the 32 teams in the Pros all looked to take out defending champions Greg Solis & Craig Lane. The competition was brutal from the start with nine of the sixteen Rounds of 32 matches going to tiebreakers. Solis-Lane however cruised, to the semis with easy wins each round including a 15-1, 15-1 quarterfinal win over Jesus Ocana-Mark Naylor. Meeting the defending champs in the semis would be New York legends Robert Sostre-Freddy Ramirez who were at the WOR Championships for the first time and came to the event undefeated in doubles for their careers! The bottom half of the draw was a war zone, with no less then eight teams that could have won the tournament all battling with each other. Every match was a battle with tiebreakers and upsets being the norm. Second seed Gary Martin-Greg Freeze were upset in the 16's by Josh Tucker-Son Nguyen 11-5, third seed and the hottest doubles team in WOR over the last four months Kevin Booth-Mike Peters also had to go to a tiebreaker in the 16's beating veterans Scott McMasters-Ken Kaiser in a great match.

Booth-Peters grabbed their spot in the semis with a surprisingly easy quarter win over Carson-Rob Hoff. There was one other team in the bottom of the draw who was making some noise and improving every match. They seemed to go tiebreaker in every match but Cliff Swain-Marty Hogan continued to win. They barely escaped the Round of 16, beating Gabe Medina-Mike Beltran 11-5 and then took out Tucker-Nguyen after losing the first game to reach the semis. In the top Solis-Lane were showing why they are the best team outdoors as they blasted through Sostre-Ramirez in two games. This was a first for the New Yorkers, but wait until they get everyone on their home turf and the one wall courts! Swain-Hogan figured tiebreakers were working for them, so why not continue as they upset Booth-Peters 11-4 to make their first final appearance. Let's just say that with these four, the Fireballs were moving at unbelievable speeds. The gets and rallies were amazing as both teams had runs, but Solis-Lane won in two games defending their crown.

#### WORLD DOUBLES ONLY

#### CHAMPIONSHIP By Twayne M. Howard

On the final weekend in July, thirty-five outdoor racquetball enthusiasts came to St Clair Shores, MI to enjoy the sun, food and the camaraderie of the "Can You Stand the Heat" WOR Doubles Only Championship. The day did not disappoint. Tournament Directors Tom Blakeslee, Twayne Howard, Jack White, and Jim Panasiewicz put on an amazing show for this first annual event, and a great time was had by all. Now to the action.

In the Men's Open Division, Ron Barton and Greg Lewerenz defeated Jack White and Tom Blakeslee to win the championship. Ron and Greg will be next seen at their own WOR event on Belle Isle in Detroit. Jim Panasiewicz and Chris Kelly, Lewis Forrest and John Torres and Dave Smolinski and Paul Stanwick rounded out the draw.

Steve Gruber and Dan Mullin stormed through the Men's A/B Division without dropping a game. The new team of Rick Oswald & Pete Johns came in second. Don Cavell and Joe Trocchio and Twayne Howard and Bob Shurlow also competed.

The Men's C/D champions were Dan Greene and Gary Giblin. The father/son duo of Matt Barbusak and Matt Barbusak finished second. Ken Smith (who had never played outdoor before) and Steve Gruber and Don Ross and Larry Szembelan also competed.

The Men's 30+A/B champions were Todd Moen and Gregg Sporer. Todd and Gregg dropped only one game on the way to the championship. Twayne Howard and Bob Shurlow finished in second. Dan Mullin and Steve Gruber and Dan Greene and Joe Trocchio rounded out the draw.

Ron Barton and Thelma Howard defeated John Torres and Vivian Sanders to win the Mixed Championship. Pete and Debbie Johns, John Kutt and Marjorie Pendell, Gregg Sporer and Kathleen Servais, Rick Oswald and Lisa Stemple, and Larry Szembelan and Lorna Rose rounded out the draw.

Look for an even bigger and better event next year. We hope to see you there.

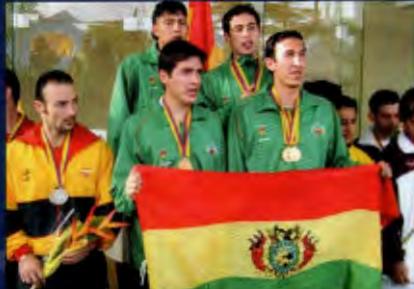


# International Racquetball Federation

## Bolivia

The 2005 Bolivarian Games have been concluded yesterday with a successful racquetball competition included. The team from Bolivia won all gold medals at the recent games in Colombia. The home team from Colombia places second, Venezuela third, Ecuador forth.

See all detailed results at  
[www.juegosbolivarianos2005.gov.co](http://www.juegosbolivarianos2005.gov.co)



### Mens Individual

1. Ricardo Monroy (Bolivia) 15/11, 13/15, 11/10
2. Plata Francisco Gómez (Colombia)
3. Marcelo Laprea (Venezuela)
3. Juan Gutiérrez (Colombia)

### Womens Individual

1. Jaque Parada (Bolivia) 15/11, 14/15, 11/7
2. María Gómez (Colombia)
3. Verónica Sotomayor (Ecuador)
3. Lily Geyer (Venezuela)

### Mens Doubles

1. Canedo/Zambrana (Bolivia) 15/8, 15/14
2. Balmori/Laprea (Venezuela)
3. Cueva/Ríos (Ecuador)
3. Gutiérrez/Rivas (Colombia)

### Womens Doubles

1. Romero/Caballero (Bolivia) 15-8, 15-10
2. Geyer/Reverón (Venezuela)
3. Gomez/Ardila (Colombia)
3. Sotomayor/Carpio (Ecuador)

### Womens Team

1. Bolivia
2. Venezuela
3. Ecuador
3. Colombia

### Mens Team

1. Bolivia
2. Colombia
3. Ecuador
3. Venezuela

More International Racquetball News at  
[www.internationalracquetball.com](http://www.internationalracquetball.com)

The team from Bolivia won all gold medals at the recent Bolivarian Games 2005 in Colombia. The home team from Colombia places second, Venezuela third, Ecuador fourth. See all details and results on the official event website. <http://www.juegosbolivarianos2005.gov.co/>



# Mexico

## Junior Worlds 2005:



The 2005 Junior Worlds promise to be the biggest event ever and the new club in Juarez that will be used as the site of the progressing and should be

finished by September 15. 11 courts will be included in this new facility.

# Racquetball Federation

## Guatemala



Jennifer Bendfeldt won the the 2nd National Tournament in Guatemala. Elissa de Bruns placed second, followed by

Patty Beltranena. In the Mens competition, Manolo Bendfelt defeated Juan Jose Salvatierra in the final, while Gustavo Morales placed third. This tournament was the first qualifying event for the Central American Games that will be held in Guatemala in December.

Marie-Josée Collet (France) succeeded in the Womens Singles division against Irish Susan Neary 6-15, 15-8, 11-8.

The Mens Team Germany won the European Mens Team Competition in an exciting final against the team from Austria, winning two out of three matches.



Team England placed third, while defending champion Ireland only got forth, after losing against Germany in the semi finals. Other places: 5th Poland, 6th Netherlands, 7th Belgium, 8th Scotland.

In the Womens competition, the Irish ladies were able to defend their team title against France, Germany placed third place. Complete results at <http://www.racquetball.de/euro2005/>

## European Racquetball Federation (ERF):



During the 2005 European Championships in Hamburg, Germany, the European Racquetball Federation (ERF) held it's annual

European Congress. This year was election year and the following officers have been elected for a 4-year term: President: Mr. Erik Meyer (BEL) Vice President: Mr. Mike Mesecke (GER) General Secretary: Mr. Michael Haverty (IRE) Treasurer: Mr. Karel Matla (NED).

## Germany European Championships 2005 in Germany:



Germany's Joachim Loof won the 2005 European Mens Singles title for the 7th time against his team maid Martin Klippel in an exciting match 15-14, 4-15, 11-4.

# Are You Willing to Take the Risk?

"One out of every four people will be involved in a lawsuit within the next twelve months."

Why sanction your racquetball event? No one ever seems to get hurt, the club already has insurance, players don't care about insurance, sponsors are happy with things the way they are, sanctioning costs too much money - are all common reason for NOT sanctioning an event. But are they valid?

According to John Denley, former racquetball player and insurance agent for Creative Agency Groups Inc of New Jersey, a company that insures numerous clubs, insurance is one of the most important benefits of sanctioning any event. "I personally would not hold or sponsor any event without it being sanctioned." Without sanctioning, the exposure to the club is just too great, why risk it?

Unfortunately many club owners do not even realize that by sanctioning an event their potential for exposure, in case of a lawsuit, is tremendously reduced. Most clubs do have insurance, any place from a \$1 million to a \$3 million umbrella policy. This insurance covers all incidents within the club and are normally aggregate policies which mean loss frequency (the number of claims) and severity of the claims are all considered when premiums are determined. Thus, if a club has numerous claims from swimming, aerobics, etc., a racquetball incident during the tournament is simply added to the club's claim number, and too many instances may result in higher premiums. With a sanctioned event, the club is named as co-insured under the racquetball events carrier which covers each event with a \$5 million policy. Thus a racquetball accident would not affect the club's insurance premiums or claim history.

Ben Simons, from Head/Penn Racquet Sports indicates sanctioning is extremely important for their company to sponsor an event. "Not only do we want to support the national association, we also need to assure as much protection for our products as possible and sanctioning does that." Dan Aderhold from Motorola indicates one of the first requirements for sponsorship is a guarantee of the five million dollar liability insurance. "It is an absolute necessity before we even consider sponsorship," states Dan. Since sponsors are also listed as insured parties for sanctioned events, they are often targets during a lawsuit. Without sanctioning any sponsor associated with the event may not only be included as part of the lawsuit but also be responsible for their own expenses or have to use their own insurance coverage thus exposing them to future higher premiums. Club owner and manager Ric Crosby from Atlanta, Georgia will not hold an event at his club unless it is sanctioned. "The reason we require sanctioning is because of the insurance and the protection it provides our club. The cost of sanctioning is so reasonable we could never afford not to sanction the event. We annually host a high school outing at the club and they pay between \$600-\$800 insurance for the one day event. When you compare that to racquetball and the coverage provided for our three day events, the decision to sanction is easy."

Also included in sanctioning is athlete accident coverage for athletes injured during an event. Although the deductibles are relatively high, players without insurance may use this as

primary insurance and with the rising cost of surgery, many accidents are still able to utilize the insurance benefits. Brian Pointelin, open player from Utah, received a torn tendon in his wrist diving at an event. "When I tore the tendons in my thumb and wrist, I wasn't sure how the insurance worked. When I called USA Racquetball to find out more information, I was relieved that they gave me all the details. It was definitely a relief to have insurance as a member of USA Racquetball and it helped me at a time I needed it most." Many players also do not understand the necessity of membership to substantiate insurance. If you are a member, playing in a sanctioned event and are seriously injured by a non-member (did not join for whatever reason), you as a member may not be insured. One of the requirements of insurance is that all players be members, otherwise the insurance company may legally void all insurance coverage. Thus, the reason for checking and verifying membership PRIOR to participation. Yes, insurance is a complicated and sometimes confusing issue but in our very litigious society, a very necessary component of every racquetball event.

Thus the answer to the opening question is yes - you don't have to sanction your event but your (club, tournament director, sponsor, etc.) exposure to potential damages and expenses is greatly increased and the benefits to participating players are significantly reduced.

**"One out of every four people will be involved in a lawsuit within the next twelve months."**

Insurance coverage is only one of the many benefits of sanctioning but perhaps the one benefit that would literally save a club or player from significant personal and financial loss.

## Insurance facts and Figures for General Liability

### Limits and Sub-limits for Liability

- 1,000,000 for each occurrence
- 5,000,000 for general aggregate per event
- 5,000,000 product/completed operations aggregate
- 1,000,000 personal injury
- 1,000,000 premises damage
- 5,000 medical expenses

### Insurance Fact and Figures for Sport Accident

- 25,000 max per occurrence
- 250 per tooth/1000 per occurrence
- Accidental death - 10,000
- Accidental dismemberment - 15,000
- Deductible - 7,500

### Paid Losses

2003	2002	2001	2000
38,400.00	38,115.70	13,700.68	7,830.03



**North Carolina State Director:  
Lynn Stephens**

**Q.** Lynn what would you say is the key to having a successful state organization?

**A.** A successful state must have a dedicated leader that has the time to spend on state issues. For me this is my hobby and I spend a lot of my spare time on racquetball, approximately 8-10 hours per week. I don't think it is necessary that every state president spend this much time but they must be willing to spend some time every week. Also the state president must have a strong board. This does not necessarily mean a lot of people but people who are willing to work and donate time. Every member of our board has assigned jobs and when they join the board they know exactly what they need to do. Finally as a board member you must listen to the members. They have great input and can help a great deal.

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

**A.** We really don't receive many complaints but at one time the major complaint was the membership fees, especially for people that only play one event. To reduce this resistance we now offer each new member (has not been a member for 3 years) a canvas bag with our logo, a t-shirt with our logo, a magazine, balls and other giveaways items like wrist-laces etc. that are donated. We find when we present this "membership package" to new members they are surprised and thankful and our complaints are almost nil.

**Q.** Do you have a successful junior program?

We have a good program but as I explained with the state association it is difficult to get dedicated people in each city (club) to spend the time necessary to grow the junior programs. Where we have these people (certain areas) we provide a CD with programming information, banners, water bottles and phone support.

**Q.** If you could give a tip of advice to a struggling state what would it be?

**A.** Develop a web site and maintain communication with your members. The website is very important since it provides an information link that can be updated frequently.

**Q.** North Carolina has a great referee program. Please explain?

**A.** We believe the main thing that separates recreational and league play from competitive play is officiating, thus referees are very important. About three years ago we contacted tournament directors and asked them if they would refund certified referees \$10 for every match they refereed. The state association would give classes, tests etc. at events but we needed help from the event directors to give an incentive to get certified. Most directors helped. We also feel the referee assessments are very important. We make sure certified referees can not only pass the test but also referee both singles and doubles matches. It took us 2 years to tweak the program but now we have a very extensive program and have doubled the number of certified referees in the state.

**Footnote** - Lynn and Debbie Bryant (also from North Carolina) have prepared a very extensive package (CD with test, diploma, clinic instruction etc.) that will replace the current USA Racquetball referee program. These packages have been sent to every state and are currently available for immediate use.

North Carolina is ranked 7th in the US based on total membership, offers a balanced sanctioned event calendar and various programs to the state members.

In 2002, Lynn Stephens was named "State President of the Year" for his outstanding efforts and leadership role.

**Members of Board:**

Debra Bryant	Mike Bourgeois
Darlene Heyer	Jamie Marsigli
Eric New	Pete Beckwith

**Population: 8 Million**

Number of Racquetball Members: 427

**Hall of fame Members:**

Ed Remen  
Earl Acuff  
Mary Low Acuff

**US Team Members:**

Mitch Williams

**Worlds Women's Champion:**

Mary Dee (Kirchoff) 1985

**Sporting Events:**

US Open Golf 1999, 2005

**Universities:**

Duke, UNC Wake Forest, NC State, East Carolina

**Industry:**

Tourism, Farming, Technology

**Special Board Program:**

Gives 2 \$500 Scholarships and 1 \$1000 grant in 2005  
Interview with the Prez!



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

## USA Racquetball Membership Benefits

- o Membership Card
- o Secondary Accident Insurance
- o Right to Participate in Sanctioned Events
- o National & State Event Entry Forms
- o USA Racquetball Merchandise Discounts
- o Choice Hotels International
- o Hertz Car Rental
- o United Airlines
- o Option for MBNA Visa Card
- o Rule Book (Published annually in magazine)
- o Racquetball Magazine (6 Issues)
- o Online Member Services
- o State Referee Program
- o Coaching Certification
- o National Training Camp (Held in August)
- o Qualify for US Adult & Junior National Teams
- o Annual Scholarships (Deadline to apply 6/15/2006)

## Frequently Asked Questions from Members (their identity has been protected)

"I received an email confirmation after I renewed my membership and it stated \$20 but I paid \$30. Where did the other \$10 go?"

A portion of all membership fees remain in your state to assist your state association. If you renewed your membership at an event or with your state representative then the state withheld their portion upfront and submitted your membership application along with the national portion of the fee (\$20) for your membership to be processed.

"I renewed my membership at the . . . in April. Where is my membership card and magazine? You people cashed my check."

Well, unfortunately we still have not received your membership application from the event director but I will investigate. In the meantime if you can FAX or mail a copy of your receipt I would be happy to activate your membership immediately. NOTE: Event directors are asked to promptly submit memberships that are collected at events to avoid a lapse in service.

"I see there are some rankings online and I am ranked below a person that I can beat with my eyes closed. Can you fix that and move me ahead of him. He is bragging to people at our club."

No! The new national ranking program is active and match results are being entered on a daily basis. As more matches and names appear on the list everyone has to start somewhere and likely at the bottom unless you have previous match history.

Hopefully, your state will begin entering more event results into the ranking program but not until a full season's worth of events are entered will the data prove more accurate and you will receive a "true" national ranking. But, hey at least you are in the rankings and that is a great start.

"Thanks for the email reminder and postcard alerting me my membership came up for renewal on Aug 1. Do you think I should wait to renew at the . . . in November."

No! You will miss a couple magazines and if you wait to renew in November at the event you will likely not receive your next magazine until 2006 and miss being ranked and not receive state event announcements as well. Don't delay and renew today. Thirty bucks is not that much. I put my daughter in day care for one day and that costs me \$37.

"I am a tournament director and wanted to know why my event didn't appear in the magazine and is not on the calendar at [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)?"

Well, it appears that we have not received the sanctioning form from your state organization. If you paid the sanctioning fee of \$100 then I will follow-up for you. Place your sanctioned event requests early with your state representative for maximum exposure to receive all the benefits including - shipment of the tournament kit, listing (s) in Racquetball Magazine, mailing data, online calendar listing, and general liability coverage for your event.

## States on the Move

Your state association is comprised of volunteers that put in endless hours - unpaid - and receive minimal recognition for their efforts. Forty-eight states are incorporated and guided by an elected state president. We would like to welcome these newly elected state presidents: Michael White (Iowa), Steve Neighbors (Idaho) Kevin Danz (Montana) and William Dodge (Washington); a special thank you to recent presidents who have completed their terms: Ryan Davis (Iowa), Rhonda Gilderoy (Idaho), Charles Lee (Louisiana), Chad Eckley (Montana) and Tracy Drury (Washington). A complete listing of your state presidents can be found at [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com) > Directories > State Organizations.

**Current membership as of September 1, 2005:**

**13,147**



# USA Racquetball

## Gift Membership Application

**Gift of Membership TO:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Note to Gift Recipient:**Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**From:**Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership:**

US Only (Contact USA Racquetball for International Memberships)

<input type="checkbox"/>	USAR Adult	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	USAR Adult, 2 Years	\$ 60.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior (18- only)	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime	\$1000.00

 Tax Deductible Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_**Checks Payable to: USA Racquetball** Master Card  Visa Card Number: --- Exp: / CV #:   
  
(We do NOT accept AMEX or Discover)  
card)

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**Membership Growth Challenge**

Help your state win the Membership Growth Award by giving the gift of membership. Use the above form and sponsor a member or maybe give someone an early Christmas gift. Want to know your state's current rankings? See below. Rankings are based on the percent of state population who are current members as of July 31, 2005. State population figures come from the 2000 census.

46	Alabama	36	Georgia	13	Maine	19	Nevada
9	Alaska	34	Hawaii	23	Maryland	4	New Hampshire
14	Arizona	18	Idaho	27	Massachusetts	50	New Jersey
25	Arkansas	21	Illinois	33	Michigan	3	New Mexico
37	California	26	Indiana	10	Minnesota	44	New York
8	Colorado	42	Iowa	48	Mississippi	20	North Carolina
38	Connecticut	47	Kansas	6	Missouri	1	North Dakota
12	Delaware	35	Kentucky	40	Montana	28	Ohio
29	Florida	45	Louisiana	11	Nebraska	31	Oklahoma
2	Oregon	15	South Dakota	17	Vermont	32	Wisconsin
39	Pennsylvania	41	Tennessee	24	Virginia	7	Wyoming
43	Rhode Island	30	Texas	16	Washington		
22	South Carolina	5	Utah	49	West Virginia		

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## 50 Ways to Leave Your... Racquetball Court Intact

The 2004 Sporting Goods Manufacturers report indicated that participation for racquetball for 2004 was up 13.5 %. This is excellent news and the best reason for leaving your racquetball courts intact. I have listed 50 more reasons to do just the same. How many does your Club do?

### Planning...

1. Provide answers for the following three questions:
  - Where did we come from?
  - Where are we now?
  - Where are we going?

### Evaluate Your Current Racquetball Program...

2. After answering those questions, set up a goal-setting meeting with all your key players.
3. In the goal-setting meeting, give yourself a pat on the back for what you have accomplished to this point, then get down to business. Discuss what you need to do to improve your department. Remember, it is one of the Profit Centers of your Club. In the meeting, discuss the answers to #1, and list everything you already do and what you need to do.
4. From your discussions, concentrate on three major goals you wish to achieve in the next 12 months.
5. Make sure to write down, assign a person to do and set deadlines for achieving these goals.
6. Put together a racquetball wish list for the next 12 months and then next year you can discuss what you got (earned) on that list.

### Evaluate Your Current Staffing Situation...

7. Develop a Racquetball director/instructor job description
8. If you do not have one already, hire a full time or part time racquetball director.
9. Develop and install a policy to keep your service desk staff informed about racquetball
10. Develop and install a procedure to have staff know how to play and the rules of racquetball
11. Set up a special staff racquetball lessons program. Teach them how to play so they can enjoy the game and pass this excitement on to the members (and potential members)
12. Develop an incentive program for your racquetball director/instructor. You may wish to incorporate it into the goals you set up.

### Set Up An Annual Calendar...

13. Write down all the current programs you already do, need to do, want to do
14. Develop an annual or seasonal calendar of events and activities
15. Don't keep it a secret, post the annual or seasonal calendar

### Set Up A Consistent Cost Study Report...

16. Develop consistent record forms to use for all programs. You cannot track progress if you do not know how many people were in each program, how much money was made, etc.
17. Develop consistent application forms for all lessons and activities
18. Develop a 'To Do' check off sheet for special events. This sheet helps you not forget anything.
19. Develop a program tally sheet by activity for ongoing evaluation. This way you know 'where you were and where you are going'.

### Check Out The Competition...

20. What are other area clubs doing? Take note!
21. What is happening nationally? Read and become an active part of your state and national associations.
22. What are other area fitness competitions doing? Bowling alleys, the YMCA, tennis, etc.

## Advertising/Promotion...

23. Develop a Staff Log Book. Divide by Departments. This is where staff goes to find out about everything that is happening at the club for members.
24. Provide a seasonal brochure of racquetball activities and lessons. Send out to all members. Give to all potential members. Post on your racquetball bulletin board.
25. Have your own racquetball bulletin board
26. Send out special mailings to the membership promoting upcoming leagues, tournaments
27. Make announcements over the loud speakers 'Free Introductory Racquetball Lesson in court 3 at 7:00 pm, all members and their guests welcome.
28. Call call call call call call call call
29. Have special racquetball membership promotions
30. Offer a membership referral program
31. Give names of all non-members who participate in your programs to a membership director
32. Send in press releases and news releases often
33. Better yourself through continual self education. Become AmPRO Instructor Certified. Attend the IHRSA National Convention. Attend the National Singles and Doubles Championships. Help within area Racquetball Tournaments if you do not offer them. Get a degree, take a motivational course...
34. Write articles for anything!!! Your racquetball bulletin board... your monthly newsletter... your local paper... your state association newsletter... the Racquetball Magazine... your local school news paper.

## Provide Services to your Racquetball Membership

35. Provide a 'welcome to the club' letter to your new members
36. Set up an organizational structure for new members including a free introductory lesson and organized weekly programs to get them playing
37. Set up a racquetball directory for all members. This includes their names, phone numbers, level of play and when they can play.
38. Run free weekly introductory lessons to all your members and friends
39. Run free weekly round robins play (guaranteed to have someone to play)
40. Provide an "I need someone to play" service
41. Run monthly mini clinics for all levels of play
42. Provide a challenge court play
43. Provide a racquetball rules sheet complete with club policies
44. Run ongoing programs (weekly, monthly, annually) for all your members (guests and non-members)
  - competitive programs (leagues, traveling league, challenges, tournaments)

- social programs (mixers, theme events)
- annual 'racquetball membership meeting'
- manufacturers racquetball nights
- commitment based programs
- appreciation based programs

45. Provide qualified instruction for various levels of play.
  - Racquetball director does not teach - hire a teacher
  - certify your racquetball director through AmPRO
  - include groups and privates lessons for all levels of play
  - clinics and court work drill classes
  - specialty clinics for kids, adults, families, seniors
  - lesson/league programs for outside groups
46. Set up programs for specialty groups
  - a juniors racquetball program
  - set up a sensational seniors racquetball play
  - racquetball as an activity in your seasonal kids sports programs and summer camps
  - racquetball classes for local PE classes at grade, middle, high school, community colleges
  - offer families how to learn and play racquetball together
  - offer couples how to play racquetball together
  - offer a parent-child racquetball tournament
  - offer racquetball as an event during special family nights
  - host teams (and coaches) for the High School Racquetball League
47. Carry a selection of racquetball equipment for players
  - have a special order system for other products
  - offer a racquet demo program
    - offer a stringing service
48. Constantly evaluate and reevaluate your current racquetball program
49. Keep the courts clean, lights bright and floors dusted
50. Sign up to receive the 2005 Racquetball Programmer's Book by going to:  
[www.playracquetball.org](http://www.playracquetball.org)

## Grow The Game!

Want to improve your racquetball programs and publicize your facility nationwide absolutely free? Complete a club listing at [www.playracquetball.org](http://www.playracquetball.org) and receive a copy of the new 2005 Racquetball Programmer's Book compliments of the Racquetball Manufacturer's Council\*. The updated manual is scheduled for release this Fall, but your listing will be activated immediately so fill it out today! Thank you. Connie can be reached at: [clpsportscreations@verizon.net](mailto:clpsportscreations@verizon.net) For more programming ideas, visit [www.playracquetball.org](http://www.playracquetball.org)



## US Intercollegiate National Championship Set

By Shane Wood

The 2006 Intercollegiate National Championships will be held March 29th - April 1st at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Due to the size of the event, there will be some minor changes this year. First, Mixed Doubles will not be offered, as we just do not have enough time to run those divisions in conjunction with the event. Second, with the final details still being finalized by the Collegiate Council, there will be a referee clinic, prior to the event, to ensure that you will receive an informed and reliable official for all of your matches. Finally, the losers of the last match of the night on each court will be required to have themselves, somebody from their team, or a suitable replacement, at the courts for the first matches of the day to referee. We are falling behind in the morning without referees to get the matches started, so this is surely the best and most fair way to resolve that issue.

I look forward to seeing all of you in March and making this the largest and most exciting Collegiate Nationals ever. If there is any assistance we can lend to help you plan and get your team to the event, please e-mail Shane Wood at [racquetballchamp@hotmail.com](mailto:racquetballchamp@hotmail.com). Also, if you have any ideas that would help to improve

the event, we are always seeking those suggestions, and would love to work with all of you to make it happen.

### 2005 ECRC Summer Meet a Splash

The Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC) recently held its annual Summer Collegiate Competition at The Court Club in Albany, New York. This competition was formed to not only give the 2005 graduating class one last opportunity to compete as a Collegiate athlete, but also to bring in the 2005-2006 Freshman to collegiate racquetball and get this great sport boiling in their blood, having them leave with the excitement and anticipation of the next event.

In the middle of the hundreds of matches put off over the weekend, it's also an ECRC Summer Meet tradition to have our annual Barbeque, bringing everyone together and getting to know some of the freshman, while saying goodbye to last year's seniors.



# Junior Matters

By Ed Mazur

## Report from the Junior Council

What an exciting time for Junior Racquetball! Our Junior Racquetball Team has been selected and has just returned from the Olympic Training Center. Also a new Junior Council has been formed, complete with an Executive Board.

More importantly, we have some incredibly talented people who have accepted Chairmanship of these very important committees.

Watch for reports on these key areas in future issues:

Rules and Discipline Rex Fisher

USA Junior Team Carol Pellowski

Site Selection Jim Garner

Junior Development John Ellis

Awards Shane Vanderson

Seeding Jim Garner

If you want to help on a committee or two, please email me at [MazurFin@aol.com](mailto:MazurFin@aol.com), and I will get you to the proper committee chair. Please include areas of interest and all contact information

As our USA Junior Racquetball Team gets ready for the Junior World Championships in December, plans are to have an additional Training Camp for the Team! All of these things cost money, and frankly our USA Junior Team needs all the financial help it can get. There are also some rumblings, no pun intended, of an Esprit Level Team members Regional training camp. If we want to regain our Number one ranking in the World, we need training and funding. Send donations to USA Junior Team

C/O Professional Investors Life and Annuity, LLC

5 Forest Park Drive, Suite 202

Farmington, CT 06032

Att: Ed Mazur

All donations will benefit the USA Junior Racquetball Team!

In our next article, we are going to cover the various Junior Training Camps, and how you can participate. Wouldn't it be nice to spend time training with Hall of Fame Coach Jim Winterton or USA Head Coach Kelley Beane? Stay tuned for the Camp Primer, next issue. Learn how you can train with the best so you too can make the USA Junior Racquetball Team!

# "BUILDING YOUR PERFECT GAME"

# Fran's HOUSE



## Q: WHAT IS THE SIMPLEST STRATEGY I CAN FOLLOW TO WIN MORE OF MY LEAGUE MATCHES?

**A:**

Often players ask me that question at tournaments just before going into a match and I simply answer, "**DO NOT SKIP THE BALL.**" They look at me bewildered as they are expecting something more detailed and more sophisticated. Of course there are more elaborate answers and a complete game plan is recommended, but if you are looking for a "Simple but Quick" reliable way to beat your opponent in your league matches or at a tournament, this is a great start. Remember, every time you skip the ball, you now become your opponent's partner rather than their opponent. If you want to win more matches \*\*\*heed\*\*\* this philosophy, it works.

### A great example is this:

In a match between Jason Mannino and Cliff Swain a year ago, Jason lost the 1st game 4-11 and skipped 9 balls in that one game. After the first game, he made many adjustments, but the biggest one was when he won the next 3 games for the match, he only skipped 4 balls total in three games. What a huge difference.

Skipping the ball is a major mistake. It probably means you are trying to kill the ball too much. Try and remember if you can win the point with a pass or kill, always go for the pass. It is the highest percentage shot in racquetball.

### A great analogy is this:

In basketball, if you have one second left in the game and you can win the game on a lay up or a three pointer, which should you choose? Of course you should choose the lay up because it is the highest percentage shot in basketball.

Please, I know it sounds so simple and basic, but minimizing your skips is the key to you winning more league matches and tournaments for that matter. Jason Mannino, the #1 professional player in the world 2002/2003 and continues to be in the top 3 today, lives and dies by this philosophy. He is living proof that this philosophy works and works well.

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



# WHAT'S THE CALL?

By OTTO DIETRICH • USA RACQUETBALL NATIONAL RULES COMMISSIONER



“... how “close” the serve passed by the server and whether the receiver was “impaired by that closeness” are the two prime factors that determine whether a serve is a screen or not.”

Alan Beilgard, from Littleton, Colorado, has a question about where the partner stands during the serve in doubles. According to Alan, the rule [4.2(b)] states that the partner must have their back to (not necessarily against) the wall and both feet on the floor in the box when the ball is served.

Several “open level” players say that they can leave the box once the ball is served. They state that they can move directly forward (with their back still facing the side wall), staying behind the short line. They would be about three to five feet away from the wall once the ball passes the short line. Once the ball passes the short line, they turn and take their defensive position. Their argument (that this is allowed) is based on the fact that they have been doing it for years and no referee has yet to call them on it. However, it is my interpretation that their back must be to the wall, both feet must remain on the floor in the box and that they cannot leave the box whatsoever until the ball passes the short line. Which, if either, is correct?

**Otto Responds:** Please carefully re-read all of Rule 4.2(b) and also have those “several Open players” you speak of do the same. That rule also clearly says that the non-serving partner **CANNOT** leave the “box” (referring to the 18” by 5’ service box, not the 20’ by 5’ service zone) or that position (meaning standing erect with one’s back to the wall on feet on the floor) until the ball passes the short line. To step out of the service box before then is a foot fault--but also note that crossing the short line too soon is an immediate loss of the serve! Those are some rather severe penalties!

**“... how “close” the serve passed by the server and whether the receiver was “impaired by that closeness” are the two prime factors that determine whether a serve is a screen or not.”**

Just because a referee does NOT see or does NOT enforce a particular rule does NOT make it legal to do otherwise. I have always cautioned players to “play by the rules” at all times. That’s not just a cheap throw away line. The reason for this is that surely they will eventually encounter a skilled referee who WILL see and call such violations and when they do, the player will not only be penalized for the violation, but also have to change that aspect of their game right in the middle of playing one! A perfect example of this is the player who has developed a very effective drive serve, but one that results in his consistently stepping completely over the service line. He may get away with this rule violation in most matches. But as soon as he plays in a match that is reffed by someone who sees and calls it (as he should!), he will find that the referee has effectively taken that serve out of his arsenal in the middle of a game!

Tony Fanelli, from Pleasanton, California, wondered if Rules 3.9(g) and 3.9(h) regarding Illegal Drive Serve and Screen Serve, respectively, are mutually exclusive? In other words; just because the server

does not break the plane of the 3-foot zone on the side to which he/she is serving, isn’t it still possible to serve the ball in a manner that may be ruled a screen serve?

**Otto's Answer:** You are absolutely right -- those two rules are mutually exclusive in the sense that you can fully comply with one and still violate the other. For example, one can stand in the exact center of the court and still hit a screen serve, i.e. how “close” the serve passed by the server and whether the receiver was “impaired by that closeness” are the two prime factors that determine whether a serve is a screen or not.

Always “Play by the Rules” and, if you don’t have a copy, I encourage you to find and review them online at:

<http://www.usaracquetball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=83>

Do you have a rules/refereeing question? Be sure to email it to me at [ODietrich@usra.org](mailto:ODietrich@usra.org) and you might find it featured in an upcoming issue of Racquetball.



# FOOTWORK FOR THE RETURN OF SERVE



Presented By:



In the past few issues, I talked about the "Footwork on the Return of Serve" (May/June 2005) and the "Footwork for the Return of Serve Off of a Good Drive Serve" (July/August 2005).

Today, I would like to continue with the return of serve and discuss the "Footwork for the Return of Serve off of a Good Lob Serve." Lets define a "Good Lob Serve." It is when the ball's first bounce bounces between the short line and the dotted (or receiving line) and its second bounce ends up in the back corner and not playable off the back wall.

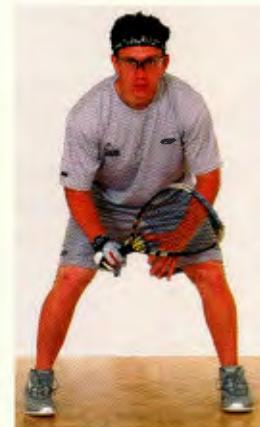
Remember what the purpose of the return of serve is...it's to get your opponent, the server, out of the middle and put them in the most difficult position to score which is the last 5 feet of the court. After you pull them out of the middle, you then want to move from the backcourt where you are receiving from, to center court. This neutralizes the server and allows you time to regain good center court position. In order to accomplish that, the ideal "Return off of a Good Lob Serve" is to take it back to the ceiling and move your opponent, the server, out of the middle.

There are 2 ways to achieve that:

- 1) You can WAIT for the ball in the back corner and then return it to the ceiling. This method does 3 things:
  - A) It puts you deep in the court (35 feet and back), the furthest position from the middle which is where you want to be to regain good center court position.
  - B) It gives your opponent plenty of time to get out of the service zone and relocate back into the middle ready for your return.
  - C) It puts "NO" pressure on the serve.
- 2) You can ATTACK the ball and move up on the lob serve and then return it to the ceiling. This method does 3 things:
  - A) It puts you in excellent court position as you are moving toward center court to return the ball.
  - B) It DOES NOT give your opponent as much time to get out of the service zone quickly and back to the middle, thusly they are generally too far forward and out of position.
  - C) It puts "LOTS" of pressure on the server...the element of surprise is present.

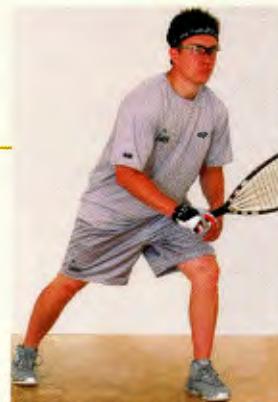
I advocate the 2nd choice of attacking and coming up on the lob serve because of all the benefits it provides. You are in better court position and it gives your opponent less time to relocate out of the service zone, thus putting more pressure on the server.

Let's take a look at how to do this:



## TRICK 1 DOWN AND READY

- Legs spread a little wider than shoulder width apart.
- Knees bent
- Bent slightly at the waist
- Racquet up and ready to go forehand or backhand
- Eyes on the ball



## TRICK 2 PIVOT

- Pivot your foot on the side that the ball is going to.
- This opens your hips so you can move in that direction.
- Move toward the ball
- Racquet begins to come up...so ERP (Early Racquet Preparation) is present

# MAGIC SHOW

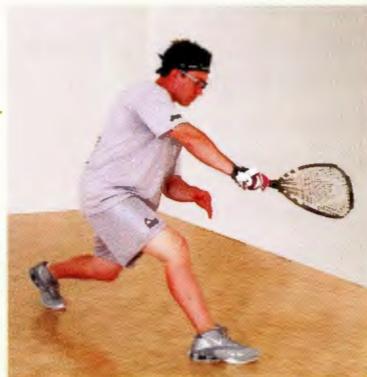


## TRICK 3 CROSSOVER STEP

- Crossover the pivoted foot
- Move toward the dotted line
- Racquet comes up

## TRICK 4 SWING/CONTACT POINT

- Hitting arm is fully extended
- Racquet head is up upon contact
- Hit off of lead foot getting under ball
- Move quickly and do whatever it takes to get the ball up
- Ball contact is waist to chest high
- Go to ceiling



## TRICK 5 FOLLOW THROUGH

- The racquet head is pointing to the back wall
- Chest and belly button is facing the front wall
- Eyes are looking up at the ball

The return of serve is a critical part of the game both at my level as well as your level. It sets the tone and tempo of the match. Remember, just as it was my job to get Cliff Swain out of the service box and put him in the back of the court so I could gain control of center court and force him to hit from deep in the court where the error percentages are much higher, it is your job to get your opponent out of the service box as well. Frequent passes and ceiling balls accomplish this goal, but today, we specifically talked about the "Footwork Off of a Good Lob Serve" where you want to attack and move up on the ball while going to the ceiling and putting your opponent in the back court. It is plain and simple, the more time your opponent spends in the back court and you in the front court, in good center court position, the more games/matches you will win.

Well, now you've got it...my magical "Return of Serve Off of a Good Lob Serve. This area is a pressure cooker at the professional level as well as the amateur level. Trust me, if you spend extra time practicing this part of your game, you will undoubtedly bring your game up a level or two...I did, even as the #1 ranked player in the world.

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. It has ALL of this in depth in chapter 8.....Return of Serve. Go to [www.FranDavisRacquetball.com](http://www.FranDavisRacquetball.com) for details.

# Ellistyle

**EKTELON**

## High Z-Ball

While in Houston for the Nationals I got a chance to talk with many racquetballers and occasionally they wanted to talk about my articles for the magazine. All of those conversations ended with me asking for a topic to write about. So the next few articles will be based on topics I received in Houston. My favorite was from an international player that asked me to talk about the High Z during the rally. No problem, I love the shot for its creativity.

The High Z is most effective from a defense mode while making a get or moving quickly to hit. Most often this shot is made within the service box next to either sidewall with the player hitting while moving forward from center court position. Likewise, the ball is usually about to bounce twice and the High Z is used as a defensive shot. Because the shot does not require getting the ball to the ceiling it becomes an easier shot to hit than the ceiling ball if thought of. Most players don't think to use this shot and they should.

The object of the High Z-Ball is to hit the shot high off the front wall next to the corner on the opposite side of the court with fairly good pace. The ball will then hit the sidewall high and fly across the court hitting the opposite side wall deep in the court and travel parallel with the back wall. From that point you hope the angle and speed were right so that it dies in the back corner on the side the ball first made contact with the front wall/sidewall. Remember to open your racquet face to get the ball up quickly and over exaggerate the angle so you don't end up giving your opponent an easy off the back wall set-up.

**Photo 1** Demonstrates the location of the shot from the backhand side. Notice how I'm in the service box, low to the ground simulating a get with my backhand.

**Photo 2** Shows the angle at which the shot is heading towards the front wall opposite corner.

**Photo 3** Should give you an idea of how high to hit the high z ball.



# 37 Secrets from the Pro Tour

On the next page you'll see a poster of the current "37 Secrets"

Below you'll see a glossary of terms and 3 quick things you can do to improve your skills.

## Glossary of Terms:

**Delivery height:** height at which you actually hit the ball relative to your body. Most players are conditioned to hit the ball when it is low, about shin high. A good idea, but if you *only* do this, you are ignoring another dimension of the court. Add some vertical control to your game by hitting your favorite shots from different delivery heights like knee, waist, and belly. You'll have to drop your hips for the higher ones, and adjust your intended target height as well.

**Target height:** the height of the intended target on any wall or ceiling.

**Drop your hips:** also known as get down or get low, but it is letting your hips drop evenly towards the floor, then performing whatever action you are doing. Everything is easier when you drop your hips

**Stay away:** Keep your hips and shoulders an equal distance away from the ball. Preferably the exact distance to the center of your strings.

**Mojo:** As in "Add some Mojo to it." To perform the desired action as though you 'own' it, and /or to add a little of your own style to it. Ask anyone who's seen a Sudsy Splat, a Mannino Dive or a Kane Anything.

By Jo Shattuck

## 4 Simple Secrets

How can I hit the wrap-around serve that kicks way out to the service line? *Stay away*, (see glossary) and then deliver it at waist high with a little topspin.

How can I hit the Z- serve that hits the sidewall and travels parallel to the back wall, not leaving any set up for your opponent? *Deliver* at waist high, to a waist high target. Reach past the ball with your racquet on contact, drag the racquet back toward your self as you hit. This adds a little backspin, stopping the forward motion of the ball when it hits the sidewall, so it shoots straight out.

How can I get more control on my ceiling balls? Let the ball stay on the strings for a microsecond longer during your stroke. You can also *drop your hips*, to get your hips under the ball. Then hit very slightly under the ball, with touch of backspin, to keep it from coming off the back wall.

How can I add my own *mojo*? Look in the next magazine for "See it? Feel it? Do it!" Read about mental cues that help players learn new skills.

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# See it? Feel it? Hear it?

Learn how to learn....

CAMPUS  
Earth

There are several methods, or cues people use to learn new behavior.

- Visual: when you see the new behavior as compared to the old behavior,
- Tactile: when you feel yourself perform the new behavior and compare the 'feeling' to the old behavior. (feel).
- Audio: when you relate to new information best when hearing it.

Most people learn best with a combination of cues. Knowing **how** you learn can be a powerful tool. If you can determine which way you learn best, you can help yourself learn faster, and change your bad habits more quickly by creating specific cues for yourself. I'll take you through a simple example changing of a student's racquet prep, and determining how he learns best.

Lets say I'm working with a student who has a big loop in their FH racquet prep. (His racquet travels through lots of unnecessary space before his swing.)

I'll instruct the student to pretend that there is a hook behind him, that he must hang his racquet on, and keep it there, as he begins your swing. The student will then look beside him, trying to 'see' the imaginary hook. This student is using visual cues to change his behavior.

Or I'll instruct the student to close their eyes and imagine a egg balanced on top of their racquet, and that they can't have excess motion before the swing, or else the egg will fall. They are then imagining what it might 'feel like' to balance a raw egg on the end of their racquet. A tactile cue.

Here are some contrasting words that may help you create your own cues. Whippy/compact, floppy/ tense, smooth/ choppy, loopy/efficient, wobbly/solid.

When the student makes the correction, he might say "When I do it right, it **feels** like my racquet is hovering beside me. He said it 'feels like' that's a tactile cue. Or he'll say- " I can 'see' the racquet hovering beside me for a longer time before I swing"- Seeing it - visual cue.

Then I'll have the student really exaggerate his mistake, for him to really 'feel' the mistake. And /or I'll imitate the mistake, I'll demonstrate the big loopy FH, and have him watch me, so he can 'see' the mistake.

Most of us use a combination all three ways to learn. This quick 15 second exercise will help you determine what may work best for you.

**TRY THIS:** Right now, think of your favorite pro, one that you want to play like. Close you eyes, and then describe to yourself out loud, that person playing a match. I'll wait... Ok ready? Did you visualize that player, and **see** the movements of their body and motions of their racquet, or did you imagine what it might **feel** like to hit/move like that player, did you **hear** the shots they hit? Did you use words like, easy, powerful, flowing, (feeling words) ? or quick hip rotation, flat swing, little steps, (seeing words). Only you know. You can find more information and video clips of instruction at [racquetballacademy.com](http://racquetballacademy.com)

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# Fast and Furious?



*What does the "personality" of your racket sport mean to your game?*

By Steve Crandall

Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Ashaway Racket Strings

Everybody knows that people have different personalities. But did you ever stop to think that sports do too? The personality of that sport affects your individual style of play, and even how you string your racket. Take racquetball and squash, for example. I play both competitively (in A League and C League, respectively), and here is what I've found:

## **Fast** vs **Form**

Racquetball is a dynamic game. The ball is hard and bouncy, making the game fast. Players must make decisions quickly as the ball moves around the court at very high speeds. With drive serves typically clocked at 100 to 130 mph, a player must think and act fast in order to make the right decision about how to return it.



Squash, on the other hand, is methodical. The ball is soft and slow, so players do a lot of moving to the ball, rather than waiting for the ball to come to them. For this reason, form is essential, as it helps perfect the mechanics of a player's swing, and allows for better control.

## **Furious** vs **Finesse**

In Racquetball, rallies are based on power, making the game furious at times. Racquetball's best shot is the "kill shot." Hit fast and low to the ground, it's an outright winner, or "rollout" at 6 inches or less above the floor! Players routinely dive to save shots from bouncing twice, and then bounce back up to recover and return to center court for the next shot.



Racquetball points last approximately 10 to 20 strokes, most hit with maximum power, with a few ceiling shots thrown in to allow a player to get back into a point. Racquetball players put their all into each shot, hoping that if it is furious enough, it will win them a point.

Squash requires that competitors play with finesse. Points are long, sometimes lasting 50 to 100 strokes. Outright winners, or "nicks," are few and far between, so a player needs finesse, and a style that allows him to consistently win points.

## **Fitness**

If there is any ground shared by racquetball and squash players, it is fitness. Whether a player needs horsepower to dive for that next shot or stamina to stay on the court for hours, fitness can make the difference between winning and losing a match. But fitness is not only a requirement for racquetball and squash, it is often a big part of the reason we play. That's why, in my view, there is no loser in a hard fought game of racquetball or squash.

## **Stringing it all Together**

Because of these distinctions between the racquetball and squash personalities, players usually make very different choices when it comes to stringing. Racquetball players may string their rackets looser for more power, while squash players might go tighter for increased control. Racquetball players hunt for thicker strings offering optimum durability, while thinner, textured strings are popular in squash. Gauge, tension, and materials are just a few factors to consider when making your choice.

If you are wondering how, specifically, the racquetball personality affects how you string your racket, look no further than the pros. Racquetball World Champion and #2 ranked IRT pro Jack Huczek uses a tough 16-gauge nylon polymer string from Ashaway, strung at a mid-range tension. Paired with his superb fitness level, this stringing style allows him to dominate the fast and furious worlds of amateur and professional racquetball. In comparison, Squash World Champion David Palmer replaces the Zyex(r) Ashaway strings in his racket before they break, to ensure consistent playability. Using an 18-gauge string strung tightly for better control, he relies on form, finesse and fitness to win.

Next time we will take a closer look at how the racquetball personality affects how you string your racket, and how you can use string to maximize the fast and furious elements of your game.

### *Photo Caption:*

*Racquetball World Champion and #2 ranked IRT pro Jack Huczek (diving) plays fast and furious with a 16-gauge, high-durability string from Ashaway, while World Squash Champion David Palmer uses Ashaway's 18-gauge PowerNick 18 squash string, for maximum playability and finesse.*

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# SOUND OFF!

## Dear USA Racquetball Staff:

I wanted to take a minute to write a note to you all expressing my appreciation for the effort and work you put into successfully organizing and running a major event like the 2005 USA Racquetball National Singles. This year was my tenth national Singles since my first back in 1983 and you keep making them better each year!

The facility looked great, check in was fast and easy, the matches all ran on time, the draw sheets were kept up to date and the DLP was wonderful. The projected screen made finding players much faster and tracking the time 'till my matches easier. The VIP status for lifetime members is much appreciated; the food in the tent was tasty and the atmosphere relaxing.

It's easy to complain when things go wrong but we rarely take the time to thank those responsible when things go right. So here you go a great big "THANK YOU". I hope I can look forward to many more years of National Singles at Downtown YMCA.

Sincerely,

Eric Jubin

Missouri City, TX

## Racquetball Comes to Afghanistan

By Frank T. Taddonio

I was fully prepared to put aside my racquetball game during my time serving in Afghanistan. The best I hoped for was finding a bare wall to hit against, and that turned out to be an impossible task. That all changed when I began to hear rumors about a racquetball court at a location called Camp Phoenix about twenty minutes away from my camp. Camp Phoenix is the temporary home for the 76th Infantry Brigade (Separate), an Indiana National Guard unit participating in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The rumor turned out to be true, thanks to the initiative and determination of a few innovative soldiers coupled with the generous support of several companies in the United States. The primary driving force behind installing a racquetball court was Major Dale Lyles, Task Force Personnel Officer, with the invaluable assistance of several industrious soldiers and morale welfare personnel. The court would not have been possible without the donation of expensive power equipment by MUSCO from Oskaloosa, Iowa. Additional equipment for use on the court was donated by Raquetworld.com. The court was completed in December 2004 and has been in use every day since then.

Scott Winters, Ektelon's General Manager for Indoor Court Sports, responded immediately to the idea of a racquetball clinic for soldiers based at Camp Phoenix by shipping a box filled with racquets, eyewear, gloves and balls. MAJ Lyles and I coordinated for a date and time, put up flyers and were pleasantly surprised when twenty-seven enthusiastic racquetballers participated in the event.

The group included players with a variety of skill levels, from a few beginners to veterans with years of experience. We covered equipment for the game, basic rules, forehand and backhand stroke fundamentals, basic game strategy and then finished with a relay race on the court while bouncing a ball. Thanks to Ektelon, every individual received something by the time the clinic was over. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to be on the court and learn more about the game. Most importantly, these great Americans appreciated a much-needed break from their duties of training and developing Afghanistan's National Army.



# INDUSTRY NEWS

## Ektelon® Expands Ball Line



Introduces New Fireball, Ideal for Outdoor Play  
Bordentown, NJ, June 20, 2005 - Ektelon, the leader in racquet innovations, is rounding out their racquetball line with the introduction of the new Fireball racquetball. The new Fireball, which is ideal for outdoor play, joins the Ektelon ball line as the fastest racquetball in the line.

"Supporting outdoor racquetball is an important initiative for us at Ektelon," stated Scott Winters, General

Manager, Indoor Court Sports for Prince Sports, Inc. "Outdoor racquetball is unique and exciting, requiring specific equipment designed for the extreme conditions of the outdoor game."

The Fireball is designed for ultimate outdoor racquetball play as well as indoor play. The Fireball is approved for use in sanctioned tournaments by USA Racquetball and World Outdoor Racquetball (WOR). The Fireball is also the official ball of WOR. The balls hot red color enhances visibility while the new seam line, now found on all Ektelon racquetballs, improves vision and tracking.

"It is exciting that the outdoor game now has its own unique racquetball that is specifically designed for outdoor play," stated Hank Marcus, Executive Director of WOR, "Ektelon involved WOR through the entire development process of the Fireball from the color to the playability. We provided feedback and play-testers for the Fireball to assure the ball met the strict standards of the outdoor game."

Along with the introduction of the Fireball, Ektelon also enhanced the rest of their ball line by adding a seam line to the Classic ball and their popular Premium Select ball. The seam line on all three balls improves visibility and tracking while giving Ektelon a unique look on the court that you won't find on any other racquetball.

### About Ektelon:

Based in Bordentown, New Jersey, Ektelon is a division of Prince Sports, Inc. Ektelon has enjoyed the longest, most successful reign of dominance in the sport of racquetball. Ektelon's heritage includes the introduction of more revolutionary technologies and programs to the sport of racquetball than any other company. Ektelon innovations include oversized racquetball racquets, the Racquet Taper System (RTS), Power Ring® racquets, O3 Engineered racquets, among others. For more information please visit [www.ektelon.com](http://www.ektelon.com).

## Huczek to Wear Ashaway's New Racquetball Shoes

Designed specifically for the rigors of racquetball, Ashaway's new 500i line incorporates Anatomic System Technology (AST) which allows the shoe to mold to the natural shape of the wearer's foot, increasing comfort and stability and reducing foot fatigue.



Says Ashaway-sponsored World Champion, Jack Huczek, "These shoes really give me the traction I need to romp around the court."

New Ashaway 500i Shoes made specifically for racquetball

Ashaway sponsored champion consulted on design

Ashaway, RI -- 2004 World Champion and current #2 ranked player Jack Huczek will help Ashaway Racket Strings launch their new line of

racquetball shoes. As part of a three year sponsorship deal, Huczek consulted on the design of the new Ashaway 500i shoe line, and will begin wearing them in tournaments this fall.

"As a touring professional, I have a number of specific requirements for footwear," said Huczek, "including comfort, support, traction and light weight. This new 500i line has it all and more."

Designed specifically for the rigors of racquetball, Ashaway's new 500i line incorporates Anatomic System Technology (AST) which allows the shoe to mold to the natural shape of the wearer's foot, increasing comfort and stability and reducing foot fatigue. "Conventional sports shoes only offer support for two parts of the foot--the heel and the ball," said Steve Crandall, VP Marketing for Ashaway Racket Strings. "This innovative new line of footwear supports the whole foot and offers even distribution of pressure points."

"When they sent me the first pair, I asked them to increase the height to provide more ankle support," said Huczek. He also likes the other racquetball-specific features designed into the shoes, including the reinforced toe strip which prevents "dragging" wear, and the high-traction soles made of a special rubber compound engineered especially for court play. "These shoes really give me the traction I need to romp around the court. They're even good on slick court surfaces."

Ashaway's AST™ engineered racquetball shoes are constructed with multiple layers of support. An anatomically shaped insole made from a natural latex vulcanized rubber adds comfort. A highly shock-absorbent insert and a comfort-layer insert, both located at the heel, offer additional support. A direct injected phylon midsole is molded to the shape of the human foot, adding comfort and providing yet another layer of support.

"We got a lot of input for the development of these shoes," said Crandall, "from Jack as well as others. We feel we've come up with a winning combination of comfort, performance and durability that can help players at all levels increase their enjoyment of the sport and also improve their game."

# INDUSTRY NEWS

Ashaway Racket Strings are made by Ashaway Line & Twine Mfg. Co., the only U.S. manufacturer of string for squash, tennis, racquetball, and badminton. Operated by the Crandall family since 1824, Ashaway has been making racket strings since 1949, and is responsible for several important technical innovations. Ashaway is the Official String of USA Racquetball, the International Racquetball Tour, the Professional Squash Association and the Women's International Squash Players Association. Ashaway Line & Twine Mfg. Co. also makes braided products for medical and industrial applications.

For additional product information, contact:  
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Website: <http://www.ashawayusa.com>  
Email: [sales@ashawayusa.com](mailto:sales@ashawayusa.com)

Designed specifically for today's lightweight racquets, this new development in racquetballs offers players the ability to control the ball like never before as well as reduce arm fatigue for longer play. The new ProPenn HD produces less torque and less vibration dramatically reducing arm fatigue.

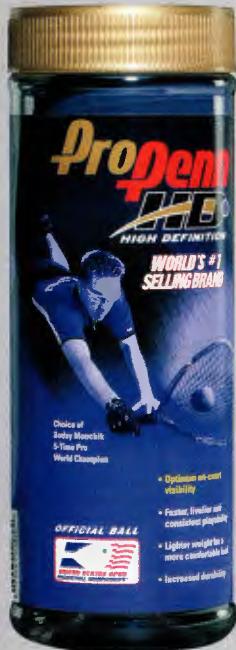
Not only has Penn introduced Pro Penn HD, but they have also moved all their Penn racquetballs to 3-ball cans with fresh new attractive labels. "Manufacturing the best racquetball in the world has always been our top priority at Penn. In addition, we take pride in offering our customers a great value when choosing Penn. In keeping with that spirit we are extremely pleased to now offer all our quality racquetball products exclusively in three balls cans for greater convenience and value for our customers" said Ben Simons, Penn Racquetball Business Manager. Pro Penn HD, Pro Penn, & Penn Ultra-Blue are now all available in 3-ball cans.

## Penn Launches Pro Penn HD

Revamps Packaging, Introduces 3-Ball Cans

PHOENIX - May 27, 2005 Penn revolutionizes racquetballs once again with the introduction of the new Pro Penn High Definition (HD). Penn high-performance Engineers joined forces with the top professional players in the world on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) to develop the ultimate racquetball. Better visibility, more speed, lighter weight and softer feel were the result of the collaborative effort. All IRT events are now using the Pro Penn HD ball exclusively.

Pro Penn HD offers approximately 10% more speed than Pro Penn, and has the ability to maintain the speed longer during even the most intense play. Extensive visibility tests to determine the optimum color for today's fast paced game were conducted both in the lab and on-court. The top players in the world agree that the Pro Penn HD is the most visible ball ever produced, even at speeds near 200 MPH!



HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports is a division of HEAD NV which owns such premier sporting goods brands as HEAD (tennis, racquetball, and squash racquets; alpine skis and boots; snowboards, bindings and boots; athletic and outdoor footwear; accessories and apparel), Penn (tennis balls and racquetball balls), Tyrolia (ski bindings), Mares and Dacor (both scuba diving equipment).

HEAD, manufacturer of the world's best-selling new tennis technology - Liquidmetal, is the #1 selling tennis racquet brand in Europe and #2 worldwide. Penn is the only tennis ball manufactured in the USA and holds the status of America's #1 selling tennis ball and the World's #1 selling racquetball. Penn is the official ball of the ATP Masters Series and other major international tournaments.

Media Contact:  
Megan Costello  
HEAD/Penn Racquet Sports  
602-447-2324



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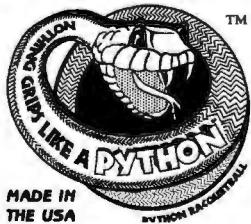
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# NATIONAL RANKING UPDATE

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](http://www.usaracquetball.com)

## NATIONAL RANKINGS

MEN'S		Men's 35+		Men's 50+		
Men's Open		Men's 40+		Men's 55+		
Rank	Name	City	Swain Cliff	Braintree	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island
1	Waselenchuk Kane	Austin	2	Robinson Derek	1	Travers Thomas
2	Huczek Jack	Rochester	3	Guidry Mike	2	Baron Mark
3	Swain Cliff	Braintree	4	Gahim Doug	3	Stallings Troy
4	Mannino Jason	San Diego	5	Llacerda Dan	4	Westerville
5	Robinson Derek	Littleton	6	Gonzalez Ruben	5	Dewey Beach
6	Carson Rocky	Ladera Ranch	7	Hogan Marty	6	Staten Island
7	Beltran Alvaro	San Ysidro	8	Bronfeld Michael	7	Chesterfield
8	Vanderson Shane	Noth Royalton	9	Ceresia Mike	8	Seaside
9	Green Mike	Burlington	10	Shimizu Hiroshi	9	Burlington
10	Tucker Josh	Ladera Ranch	11	Clouse Woody	10	Nerima Tokoyo
11	Monchik Sudsy	Lake Worth	12	Bosca Tony	11	Highlands Ranch
12	Guidry Mike	Carrollton	13	Lowe Jimmy	12	Lakewood
13	Thoerner Jason	Canton	14	Harnett Bret	13	Wahiawa
14	Hawthorne Andy	Tallmadge	15	Peck Gregg	14	Henderson
15	Ellis John	Stockton	16	Gilliam Lance	15	Coppell
16	Crowther Chris	Riverside	17	Valentine Dale	16	San Antonio
17	Ganim Doug	Westerville	18	Foley Eric	17	Riverside
18	Dennison Mike	Twinsburg	19	Sims Donald	18	Port Saint Lucie
19	Williams Mitch	Unknown	20	Stark Jeff	19	Cedar Hill
20	Llacerda Dan	Dewey Beach	21	Barrett John	20	Olympia
21	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island	22	Cole Christophe	21	Shavertown
22	Hogan Marty	Chesterfield	23	Sable (sab David	22	Flint
23	Moreno Javier	Lakeland	24	Hansen Tim	23	Alpharetta
24	Fuertes Tino	Tampa	25	Haab Bobby	24	Greencakes
25	Landa Alex	El Paso			25	Clinton
Men's 25+		Men's 40+		Men's 55+		
1	Swain Cliff	Braintree	1	Ganim Doug	1	Layout Mitt
2	Mannino Jason	San Diego	2	Gonzalez Ruben	2	Lew Charles
3	Robinson Derek	Littleton	3	Hogan Marty	3	Vincent Denny
4	Carson III Rocky	Ladera Ranch	4	Ceresia Mike	4	Lee John
5	Beltran Alvaro	San Ysidro	5	Lowe Jimmy	5	Taddonio Frank
6	Green Mike	Burlington	6	Harnett Bret	6	Mazaroff Gary
7	Tucker Josh	Ladera Ranch	7	Peck Gregg	7	Vanzandt Ken
8	Monchik Sudsy	Lake Worth	8	Gilliam Lance	8	Remen Ed
9	Guidry Mike	Carrollton	9	Foley Eric	9	Montague R.e.
10	Thoerner Jason	Canton	10	Sims Donald	10	Lee Joe
11	Ellis John	Stockton	11	Sable (sab David	11	Miller Horace
12	Crowther Chris	Riverside	12	Barrett John	12	Mannino Russell
13	Ganim Doug	Westerville	13	Hansen Tim	13	Dennis David
14	Dennison Mike	Twinsburg	14	Haab Bobby	14	Hiser Jim
15	Llacerda Dan	Dewey Beach	15	Watson David	15	Mckie Thomas
16	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island	16	Hassey Joseph	16	Welaj William
17	Hogan Marty	Chesterfield	17	Sanchez Ivan	17	Wolfe Bill
18	Moreno Javier	Lakeland	18	Bell Glenn	18	Daigle Mark
19	Fuertes Tino	Tampa	19	Travers Thomas	19	Shafer Bruce
20	Fredenberg Brian	Dallas	20	Baron Mark	20	Conway
21	Martinez Julio	Brownsville	21	Morris Jody	21	Clinton
22	Bronfeld Michael	Seaside	22	Minor Keith	22	Garland
23	Ceresia Mike	Burlington	23	Mervin Leonard	23	Hillsborough
24	Shimizu Hiroshi	Nerima Tokoyo	24	Stallings Troy	24	Staten Island
25	Metcalfe Aaron	Jacksonville	25	Layout Mitt	25	Newburgh
Men's 30+		Men's 45+		Men's 60+		
1	Swain Cliff	Braintree	1	Gonzalez Ruben	1	Vanzandt Ken
2	Mannino Jason	San Diego	2	Hogan Marty	2	Miller Horace
3	Robinson Derek	Littleton	3	Foley Eric	3	Mckie Thomas
4	Green Mike	Burlington	4	Hansen Tim	4	Wolfe Bill
5	Monchik Sudsy	Lake Worth	5	Haab Bobby	5	Las Vegas
6	Guidry Mike	Carrollton	6	Hassey Joseph	6	San Antonio
7	Thoerner Jason	Canton	7	Sanchez Ivan	7	Nederland
8	Ellis John	Stockton	8	Bell Glenn	8	Westlake
9	Ganim Doug	Westerville	9	Travers Thomas	9	Clinton
10	Dennison Mike	Twinsburg	10	Baron Mark	10	Herdon
11	Llacerda Dan	Dewey Beach	11	Mervin Leonard	11	Orlando
12	Gonzalez Ruben	Staten Island	12	Stallings Troy	12	Sioux Falls
13	Hogan Marty	Chesterfield	13	Layout Mitt	13	Jacksonville
14	Fredenberg Brian	Dallas	14	De Simone Ruben	14	Bedford
15	Bronfeld Michael	Seaside	15	Hodges Gregory	15	Troy
16	Ceresia Mike	Burlington	16	Peck Dave	16	Austin
17	Shimizu Hiroshi	Nerima Tokoyo	17	Hanno Jeffrey	17	Watertown
18	Metcalfe Aaron	Jacksonville	18	Luzar Jim	18	Brookfield
19	Clouse Woody	Highlands Ranch	19	Greer John	19	Enola
20	Pointelin Brian	Midvale	20	Kirkland Gordon	20	Orlando
21	Bosca Tony	Lakewood	21	Garabedian Edward	21	West Chester
22	Karp Adam	Stockton	22	Stafford Randy	22	Germantown
23	Lowe Jimmy	Wahiawa	23	Vohland John	23	Colorado Springs
24	Zalewski Christophe	Manchester	24	Lew Charles	24	Charlotte
25	Harnett Bret	Henderson	25	Warren Darryl	25	Harbor City


**Men's 65+**

1	Jackson Michael	Shelton
2	Stanley Leon	Hampton Cove
3	Drouin Robert	Somersworth
4	Lowell Richard	Dover
5	Graff Lee	Bend
6	Snyder Dave	Austin
7	Lawler Rex	Terre Haute
8	Miller Al	Wooster
9	Vercauteren Robert	Rollinsford
10	Lecompte Norbert	Dover
11	Harman Joe	Atlanta
12	Rients Leland	Willmar
13	Lazarow Michael	League City
14	Buschner Carl	Holyoke
15	Hardman Ken	Rye
16	Towle Parker	Franconia
17	Roever William	Dallas
18	Howard Jack	Torrance
19	Hoffpaur John	Houston
20	McKinley Charles	Arlington
21	Schoepppey Jack	Mena
22	Hughes Jim	Prosper
23	Baudry Bob	Baton Rouge
24	Sullins Robert	Arlington
25	Weimer Buck	Pueblo

**Men's 70+**

1	Snyder Dave	Austin
2	Lecompte Norbert	Dover
3	Buschner Carl	Holyoke
4	Hardman Ken	Rye
5	Towle Parker	Franconia
6	Howard Jack	Torrance
7	Schoepppey Jack	Mena
8	Hughes Jim	Prosper
9	Baudry Bob	Baton Rouge
10	Sullins Robert	Arlington
11	Martin Mike	Golden
12	Banales Paul	Tonopah
13	Alt Donald	Dublin
14	Kaiser Charles	Pickerington
15	Miller Joseph	Miami
16	Maitland David	Winsted
17	Stahl Jim	Commerce
18	Mcclwee Ronald	Huntsville
19	Dunn Bill	Victoria
20	Siegel Frank	Edinburg
21	Frey Jack	Magnolia
22	Karmel Ken	Unknown
23	Bouchard Ronald	Bedford
24	Gaul Roy	Houston
25	Holly Jerry	Fair Oaks Ranch

**Men's 75+**

1	Buschner Carl	Holyoke
2	Hardman Ken	Rye
3	Martin Mike	Golden
4	Kaiser Charles	Pickerington
5	Lambert Joseph	Plano
6	Russell Duane	Lansing
7	Mcadam Robert	Crowley
8	Acuff Earl	Asheville
9	Harry Sam	Harrisburg
10	Richard Hank	Asheville
11	Smith G. Duane	Arlington
12	Studak J.W.	Austin
13	Snowberger Campbell	Myrtle Beach
14	Myers Fred	Harrisburg
15	O'donnell John	Champaign
16	Miller Robert	North Augusta
17	Segal William	Atlanta
18	Doyle Christophe	Weymouth
19	Johnson Kermit	Harrisonburg
20	Marshall Col. Ben	San Antonio
21	Fraley Bill	Lexington

**Men's 80+**

1	Mcadam Robert	Crowley
2	Acuff Earl	Asheville
3	Harry Sam	Harrisburg
4	Richard Hank	Asheville
5	Studak J.W.	Austin
6	Snowberger Campbell	Myrtle Beach
7	Segal William	Atlanta
8	Marshall Col. Ben	San Antonio

**WOMEN'S**

1	Women's Open	
1	Van Hees Christie	Kelowna
2	Gudimas Cheryl	Lisle
3	Rajsich Rhonda	Phoenix
4	Walsh Kristen	Salt Lake City
5	Wachtel Kerri	Cincinnati
6	Brown Tammy	Boise
7	Grisar Angela	"santiago, Rm"
8	Fisher Adrienne	Tuscaloosa
9	Gellman Rachel	El Mirage
10	Moore Diane	Griffith
11	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
12	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
13	Rice Jacqueline	Ramona
14	Russell Kim	Austin
15	Powell Lori-jane	Calgary
16	Bailey Malia	Norfolk
17	Albrecht Elaine	Delaware
18	Acosta Susana	Chula Vista
19	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring
20	Feaster Shannon	Silver Spring
21	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
22	Foster Amy	Riverside
23	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
24	Shattuck Jo	Denver
25	Myers Janet	Charlotte

**Women's 25+**

1	Van Hees Christie	Kelowna
2	Gudimas Cheryl	Lisle
3	Rajsich Rhonda	Phoenix
4	Wachtel Kerri	Cincinnati
5	Brown Tammy	Boise
6	Grisar Angela	"santiago, Rm"
7	Gellman Rachel	El Mirage
8	Moore Diane	Griffith
9	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
10	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
11	Rice Jacqueline	Ramona
12	Russell Kim	Austin
13	Powell Lori-jane	Calgary
14	Bailey Malia	Norfolk
15	Albrecht Elaine	Delaware
16	Acosta Susana	Chula Vista
17	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring
18	Feaster Shannon	Silver Spring
19	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
20	Foster Amy	Riverside
21	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
22	Myers Janet	Charlotte
23	Dunn Heather	Prides Crossing
24	Bessent Stephanie	Lawrence

**Women's 30+**

1	Gudimas Cheryl	Lisle
2	Wachtel Kerri	Cincinnati
3	Brown Tammy	Boise
4	Grisar Angela	"santiago, Rm"
5	Gellman Rachel	El Mirage
6	Moore Diane	Griffith
7	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
8	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
9	Rice Jacqueline	Ramona
10	Powell Lori-jane	Austin
11	Bailey Malia	Calgary
12	Albrecht Elaine	Norfolk
13	Acosta Susana	Delaware
14	Fowler Doreen	Chula Vista
15	Feaster Shannon	Silver Spring
16	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
17	Tisinger Debra	Lawrence
18	Shattuck Jo	Harrisburg
19	Myers Janet	Prides Crossing
20	Dunn Heather	Fort Washington
21	Bessent Stephanie	

**Women's 35+**

1	Gudimas Cheryl	Lisle
2	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
3	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
4	Rice Jacqueline	Ramona
5	Russell Kim	Austin
6	Bailey Malia	Norfolk
7	Albrecht Elaine	Delaware
8	Acosta Susana	Chula Vista
9	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring
10	Feaster Shannon	Lawrence
11	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
12	Tisinger Debra	

**Women's 40+**

1	Kyzer Brenda	Leesville
2	Fenton Laura	Overland Park
3	Bailey Malia	Norfolk
4	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
5	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
6	Myers Janet	Chula Vista
7	Willyard Patty	Redondo Beach
8	Moore Linda	Madison
9	Acosta Susana	Redondo Beach
10	Fowler Doreen	Holiday Inn
11	Feaster Shannon	Redondo Beach
12	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
13	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
14	Shattuck Jo	Denver
15	Myers Janet	Charlotte
16	Acosta Susana	Chula Vista
17	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring
18	Feaster Shannon	Silver Spring
19	Alvarado Liz	San Antonio
20	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
21	Shattuck Jo	Denver
22	Myers Janet	Charlotte
23	Acosta Susana	Chula Vista
24	Fowler Doreen	Silver Spring
25	Feaster Shannon	Silver Spring

**Women's 45+**

1	Bailey Malia	Norfolk
2	Tisinger Debra	Simi Valley
3	Myers Janet	Charlotte
4	Acosta Susana	Holiday Inn
5	Key Karen	Gilbert

**Women's 60+**

6	Moore Linda	Madison
7	Maldonado Anita	Bronx
8	Evans Meena	Advance
9	Gopic Jacqueline	Coral Gables
10	Evon Chris	Wheeling
11	Molitor Liz	Glen Elyn
12	Lynch Marc	Lansdale
13	Stoffregen Gerri	Cincinnati
14	McKinney Mary	Springdale
15	Mickel Karen	Tucker
16	Kubany Sandy	Olney
17	Stephens Peggy	Louisville
18	Goodwin Sue	Tujunga
19	Richards Marcia	Littleton
20	Petronelli Roz	N. Easton
21	Green Karen	Waterford
22	Moekel Alice	Cincinnati
23	Bennett Mary	Shoreline
24	Chappel Diane	Brooklyn
25	Saad Paula	Clinton Twp.

**Women's 50+**

1	Myers Janet	Charlotte
2	Key Karen	Gilbert
3	Evans Meena	Advance
4	Lynch Marc	Lansdale
5	Stoffregen Gerri	Cincinnati
6	Kuhany Sandy	Olney
7	Goodwin Sue	Tujunga
8	Richards Marcia	Littleton
9	Petronelli Roz	N. Easton
10	Green Karen	Waterford
11	Pratt Dianne	Renton
12	Pfahler Susan	Neptune Beach
13	Dexter Elaine	Pleasanton
14	Cooper Donna	Hurst
15	Berry Marsh	Louisville
16	Lutinner Jere	Arlington
17	Hernandez Tina	Miami
18	Rogers Terry Ann	San Mateo
19	McClung Phd Jane	Concord
20	Kronenfeld Nancy	Park Ridge
21	Mehegan Barbara	Colorado Springs
22	Lee Susan	Dover
23	Hastings-welty Sharon	Corvallis
24	Rogers Terry	Madera
25	Moyer Linda	Colorado Springs

**Women's 55+**

1	Stoffregen Gerri	Cincinnati
2	Rogers Terry Ann	San Mateo
3	McClung Phd Jane	Concord
4	Lee Susan	Dover
5	Hastings-welty Sharon	Corvallis
6	Vande Kieft Joan	Chicago
7	Kieffer Susan	Nisswa
8	Falso Agatha	Boca Raton
9	Parsons Shirley	Rangely
10	Huczek Sharon	Rochester
11	Marks Loretta	Aurora
12	Molina Marquita	Wasco
13	Lemon Paula	Broken Arrow
14	Brockbank Sharon	Boise
15	Sperling Paula	Albuquerque
16	Rush Judy	Hot Springs
17	Niaves Maria	Waunakee
18	Kovar Annabelle	Lincoln
19	Gwinn Mildred	Waxhaw
20	Kenyon Joanna	Tallahassee
21	Funes Nidia	Novato
22	Fisher Barbara	Masonville
23	Schaefer Gail	Randallstown
24	Palaski Cece	Ranchos De Taos
25	Markus Lola	Park Ridge

**Women's 60+**

1	Stoffregen Gerri	Cincinnati
2	Hastings-welty Sharon	Corvallis
3	Falso Agatha	Boca Raton
4	Marks Loretta	Aurora
5	Molina Marquita	Wasco
6	Kovar Annabelle	Lincoln
7	Gwinn Mildred	Waxhaw
8	Kenyon Joanna	Tallahassee
9	Funes Nidia	Novato
10	Schaefer Gail	Randallstown
11	Palaski Cece	Ranchos De Taos
12	Markus Lola	Park Ridge
13	Piscoran Gloria	Newberg
14	Desantis Joy	Oak Park

**Women's 70+**

1	Kenyon Joanna	Tallahassee
2	Markus Lola	Park Ridge



# USA RACQUETBALL SANCTIONED SCHEDULE

## SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 02-04	BEST OF TEXAS @ SPECTRUM HEALTH CLUB	SAN ANTONIO, TX • 210-344-8596
SEPTEMBER 09-11	FL REGIONAL DOUBLES @ THE BODY MILL	CLEARWATER, FL • 727-734-3418
SEPTEMBER 09-11	OUTBACK BLAST IT @ THE SPORTS CENTER	FAYETTEVILLE, NC • 910-947-3029
SEPTEMBER 09-11	TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPIONSHIPS @ MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX • 817-275-3348
SEPTEMBER 15-18	TIMBERHILL OPEN @ TIMBERHILL ATHLETIC CLUB	CORVALLIS, OR • 541-757-8559
SEPTEMBER 23-25	AMERICAN FAMILY FALL OPEN @ AMERICAN FAMILY FITNESS (WEST)	RICHMOND, VA • 804-382-7663
SEPTEMBER 23-25	FALL CLASSIC @ DOWD YMCA	CHARLOTTE, NC • 704-716-6100
SEPTEMBER 24-25	DALLAS DOUBLES SERIES 3 @ LANDMARK FITNESS CLUB	DALLAS, TX • 972-233-6774
SEPTEMBER 28-	38TH USAR NATIONAL DOUBLES @ ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	TEMPE, AZ • 719-635-5396
OCTOBER 02		

## OCTOBER

OCTOBER 01	SHOOTOUT ON THE BRAZOS @ BAYLOR UNIV-MCLAIN STUDENT CTR	WACO, TX • 54-644-0120
OCTOBER 01-02	2005 FALL KICK OFF @ THE ATHLETIC CLUB	PLAINS, PA • 570-696-2642
OCTOBER 07-09	JOSEPH COPPOLA SR. MEM. PRO-AM @ BATH AND RACQUET CLUB	SARASOTA, FL • 863-494-2975
OCTOBER 07-09	ROCTOBER RACQUETBALL RALLY @ PULSE ATHLETIC CLUB	GREENVILLE, NC • 252-756-9175
OCTOBER 12-16	CAPITAL CITY CHALLENGE @ COURTHOUSE ATHLETIC CLUB	SALEM, OR • 503-585-2562
OCTOBER 15-16	2005 TX STATE SENIORS @ MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX • 817-275-3348
OCTOBER 21-23	EAST COAST RACQUETBALL CHAMP. @ WILMINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB	WILMINGTON, NC • 910-343-5950
OCTOBER 22	DALLAS DOUBLES SERIES 4 @ LANDMARK FITNESS CLUB	DALLAS, TX • 972-233-6774

## NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 02-06	SUNSET TURKEY SHOOT @ SUNSET ATHLETIC CLUB	PORTRLAND, OR • 503-245-7588
NOVEMBER 04-05	FALL RICE RB SHOOTOUT @ RICE RECREATION CENTER	HOUSTON, TX • 719-648-4967
NOVEMBER 12	DALLAS DOUBLES SERIES 5 @ LANDMARK FITNESS CLUB	DALLAS, TX • 972-233-6774
NOVEMBER 12	TURKEY SHOOTOUT @ SPECTRUM HEALTH CLUB	SAN ANTONIO, TX • 210-344-8596
NOVEMBER 16-20	10TH CHOICE HOTELS US OPEN @ THE RACQUET CLUB OF MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS, TN • 719-635-5396

## DECEMBER

DECEMBER 07-11	BEAVERTON CLASSIC @ GRIFFITH PARK YMCA	BEAVERTON, OR • 503-645-3900
DECEMBER 10	MAVERICK ONE DAY SHOOTOUT @ MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB	ARLINGTON, TX • 817-275-3348
DECEMBER 17	WINTER ROLLOUT @ SPECTRUM HEALTH CLUB	SAN ANTONIO, TX • 210-344-8596

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October 7-9: Assumption, MA  
October 21-23: La Verne, CA  
Nov. 11-13: University of North Carolina, NC  
December 1-4: Army (Washington, D.C.)

**2006**

January 21-23: Quinnipiac University, CT  
February 4-6: Babcock, NC  
February 11-12: Assumption, MA  
February 12-13: Assumption, MA  
February 13-14: Milwaukee, WI  
February 17-18: Milwaukee, WI  
February 24-25: Babcock, NC  
February 26-27: Babcock, NC  
March 3-4: Babcock, NC  
March 10-11: Babcock, NC  
March 11-12: Babcock, NC  
March 12-13: Babcock, NC  
March 13-14: Babcock, NC  
March 17-18: Babcock, NC  
March 19-20: Babcock, NC  
March 21-22: Babcock, NC  
March 24-25: Babcock, NC  
March 26-27: Babcock, NC  
March 28-29: Babcock, NC  
March 30-31: Babcock, NC  
April 4-5: Babcock, NC

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**First Row:** Miguel Wiggins, Stefano Luconi, Pietro Luconi, Lucas Arias, Abraham Mercado, Samir Hojat, Veronica Klein, Coach Jo Shattuck, Instructor Rhonda Rajsich, Christopher Knight

**Second Row:** Instructor Josh Tucker, Instructor Shane Vanderson, Ray Firlie, Rod Buttars, John Isaza, RK Cox, Jose Miranda, Mike Fitzsimmons, Fernando Sierra

**Third Row Standing:** Instructor Eddie Meredith, Coach Jim Winterton, Cary Cardwell, Vik Maru, Ly Abbott, Monica Escobar, Patricia 'Patty' Herrera Belterana, Carolina Escobar, Dale Knott, John Sanderson, Genevieve Washington

**Fourth Row Standing:** Brandon Taylor, Cesar Padilla, Karl Boer, Zack Apperson, Felipe Alonso, John Craig Chisholm, Charlie Hostman, Evan Ussery, Vaughn Meyers, Alan Beilgard, Guiermo Rodriguez, Ed Arias, Scott Pickett, Coach Dennis Fisher

## HIGH PERFORMANCE CAMP

Just a quick note to let you know the USRA Elite Training Camp was AWESOME! Before coming to Colorado Springs I was very excited and really nervous because Coach Winterton told us to start training before we even came to the camp. He said the higher altitude can make it hard to train the first couple of days. He said it could make you sick if you were not prepared for it. I knew it was going to be tough and I was little afraid that I would not be able to keep up during the early morning runs. I thought I would be sucking wind and falling behind the group.

The camp and all the coaches were Great! I enjoyed meeting everyone, and really liked meeting other racquetball players from other countries. The U.S. Olympic Training Center was very impressive and the food was excellent! I learned a lot about my game and myself. Best of all, the camp helped me prove to myself that I can go the distance physically. I actually started to like the tough workouts and plan on continuing to train hard through the season. The camp has helped my game a lot. I now see myself moving to a new and much higher level of play. I can't wait to start playing on my High School racquetball team again this year and competing in tournaments.

I appreciate the opportunity to attend this elite training camp and I am very glad that I did. Plus, I didn't realize that Colorado is so Beautiful. Besides playing racquetball all week, I went up Pike's Peak on the Cog Railway to over 14,000 ft., I drove through Wolf Creek Pass and a rode mountain bikes with my Dad in Pagosa Springs.

This was a fantastic trip for me. I hope to come back next year and workout with all of you again. Thanks for everything. I hope to see you soon.

Charlie Hostman  
St. Louis, MO.

Coach Winterton,

I would like to personally thank you for your dedication to the art of coaching and the vigor you have for the sport of racquetball. The camp meet and exceeded all of my expectations. It was not easy but then again nothing in life worth while is easy. You have given me some tools in which to work with and I shall continue to refine my skills in a defined workout. It was strange this morning not getting up at 5AM to run around the lake.

If you recall we talked briefly about me working with Kane or Dave Peck. If I had my choice Dave would be preferred. Could you please e-mail or call Dave to see if he has an interest. My goals do include further coaching along with 5 other specific areas. Your staff made the camp a fun learning experience and I can not thank them enough either. I look forward to further correspondence with you. Also please extend a thank you to Mr. Hiser for pursing his dream to realization and the dedication toward our sport.

Regards,  
Mike Fitzsimmons

# The Inside Scoop

By Mike Ceresia

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

## Does racquetball need the Pan Am Games?

The Pan Am Games were first created as a proving ground for Olympic hopefuls and for countries within the group to gain some much needed exposure.

Additionally, many athletes would shine at the Pan Am Games and receive much needed recognition for themselves and our sport. Pan Am only sports were introduced supposedly, for sports with true potential to become Olympic Medal sports. Racquetball fell into this category and it is imperative our game continues to be involved and is included in the 2007 game in Rio.

The first time racquetball was in the games was in Buenos Aires in 1995. Unfortunately, many of the other sports were in Mar Del Plata, some four hours drive away. Although the racquetball competition received nominal fan fare, the participants, to a person, were thrilled to be involved in the first ever Pan Am Games for racquetball. The games were very different from the other international events held at the same facility. First, was the police escort through the city to the club. Imagine being on a Greyhound bus, your sport's only participants, with 2 police cars in front of you and 2 behind, as the driver pushed his way past the traffic. Second was the ACCOMMODATIONS! The athletes were housed at an old army base. This was a real Olympic size treat. The facility had not been in operation for a few years thus creating numerous challenges for the athletes. Third was the pagination. The opening ceremonies were held at a soccer stadium with over 40,000 spectators cheering for their favourite team. In the end a good time was had by all, thanks to the outstanding efforts of the organizing committee and other volunteers.

The 1999 and 2003 games were much better.

Racquetball had serious priority in Winnipeg, Manitoba with 2-Time World Champion Sherman Greenfeld reading the athletes oath and received National TV, radio and newspaper coverage. Unfortunately, the home team was missing 2 mainstay athletes after a major racquetball fiasco and Greenfeld could not deliver anything this late in his career.

The women's final between Van Hees and Gudinas was a thriller with a massive heap of controversy. This was

good! However, like the Olympics, the majority of the coverage was focused on the Gold Medal victories by the home country or other high profile sports. 2003 was great for the Dominican Republic and favourite daughter Claudine Garcia. Again, low profile but excellent for racquetball to be there politically and financially.

Now, racquetball is in a conundrum. It is clear that racquetball will not be an Olympic sport any time soon. It is also anticipated that funding to the North American Pan Am Games sports will be axed immediately if racquetball is not in the Rio De Janeiro 2007 games. The repercussions would be huge.

The majority of the Pan Am Games racquetball countries are extremely dependent on the funding given to them based on their inclusion to the games. USA Racquetball receives a large chunk of cash and Racquetball Canada receives about triple that amount. Athlete insurance, athlete funding, NGB funding, not to mention the pride of our Central and South American racquetball friends are all at stake.

The reality is that Pan Am only sports are being forgotten in the goody box. The insiders are hoping that the racquetball portion of the Pan Am group has a lot of magic up their sleeve. Racquetball is definitely on the bubble. International Racquetball remains a very important portion of the racquetball landscape and the sport is stronger with these games on the resume. Cross your fingers and hold your rabbit's foot tightly.

The announcement of the sports chosen is included in this issue. (This article was written prior to the decision of PASO regarding the inclusion of racquetball in the Pan Am Games).

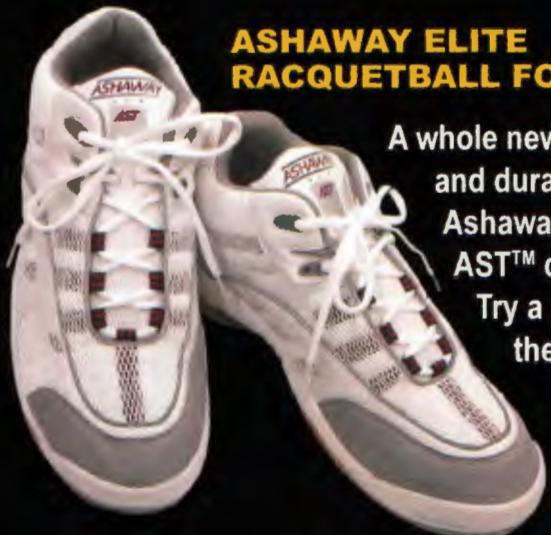
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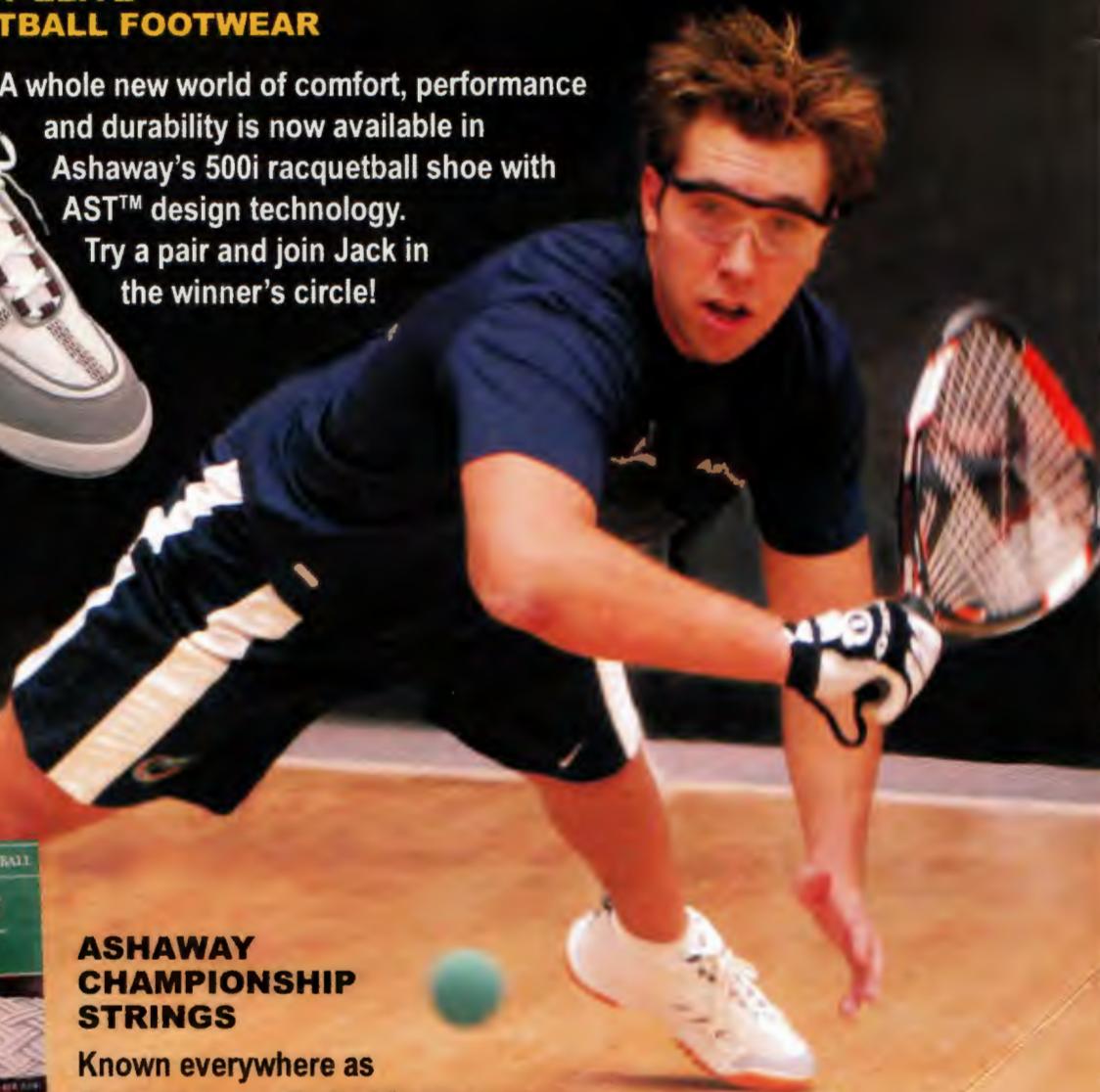
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